Julien Houle - Re: QUESTION

From: Angela Matchim
To: Bertrand, Sabrina
Date: 1/14/2013 11:05 AM
Subject: Re: QUESTION

there shouldn't be anything for our team at all, as far as I'm concerned. I'm taking a wait-and-see approach to this one.

>>> Sabrina Bertrand 1/14/2013 10:59 AM >>>
Will the lines for this question below need to be approved by SADM PSD?

>>> Alice D'Anjou 2013-01-14 10:04 >>>
Will be in touch with Sabrina shortly.
Alice

Alice d'Anjou
Senior Communications Advisor/
Conseillère principale en Communications
AANDC/AADNC
(819) 994-7333
alice.danjou@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
>>> Angela Matchim 1/14/2013 9:58 AM >>>
Please work with Sabrina as needed.

Sabrina - response to this call will be lead by RO (Alice)

>>> Carole Myers 1/14/2013 9:56 AM >>>
As discussed, yes pls action and also work with Angela who might have additional info to support our response.

>>> Alice D'Anjou 1/14/2013 9:41 AM >>>

Carol and Gen, this would fall under EIMD, and me, if you have not already actioned it. We have lines in progress on our statistical EIMD incident report that we can pull from as a start.

Let me know if you need me to move forward on this.

s.19(1)

Cheers,
Alice

Tim Groves, freelancer, APTN, (647) 892-6442, t [redacted] - Questions on security and intelligence issues surrounding "Idle No More".
1) Why has AANDC worked with the RCMP, CSIS and other intelligence agencies to monitor First Nations communities?
2) What is the purpose of AANDC's hot spots reports?
3) What sort of monitoring of First Nations activists is carried out by AANDC?
4) How did your Department respond to the 2007 and 2008 National Days of Action (NDA) called for by the AFN?
5) During the 2007 and 2008 NDA your Department ran an Operations Command Centre. What role and function did it serve? How did it coordinate with other government departments, law enforcement and

intelligence agencies?
6) Is AANDC running an Operations Command Centre or similar centre during "Idle No More" protests?
7) How do you compare your Department's response to the 2007 and 2008 NDAs with your response to "Idle No More"?
8) How was your Department involved in the RCMP based Aboriginal Joint Intelligence Group that ran from 2007 to 2010?
9) I have acquired records indicating that RCMP officers were working to establish a Joint Intelligence Group in December 2012, just as the "Idle No More" protests were picking up steam. Is AANDC involved in this program?
10) I'm planning to interview Pam Palmater for this article. Would you like to respond to any of the statement she has made in this article (http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/pamela-palmater/2012/01/csis-and-me-what-first-nation-activities-are-not-considered-p)?
Research ongoing. Deadline: Wed Jan 16th. (Geneviève Guibert)

Alice d'Anjou
Senior Communications Advisor/
Conseillère principale en Communications
AANDC/AADNC
(819) 994-7333
alice.danjou@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

From: Angela Matchim
To: Nemeth, Stephanie
Date: 1/14/2013 10:15 AM
Subject: Fwd: Angus Reid Poll: Few Canadians Are Hopeful Before Harper Meets Aboriginal Leaders
Attachments: Angus Reid Poll: Few Canadians Are Hopeful Before Harper Meets Aboriginal Leaders

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/9/2013 11:03 AM
Subject: Angus Reid Poll: Few Canadians Are Hopeful Before Harper Meets Aboriginal Leaders
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

For full report please go to http://www.angus-reid.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/2013.01.09_Aboriginal_CAN.pdf

Few Canadians Are Hopeful Before Harper Meets Aboriginal Leaders

More than half of respondents think the government has done a poor job handling health care, the environment, Aboriginal affairs and poverty.
As Prime Minister Stephen Harper is scheduled to discuss various concerns with Aboriginal leaders, many Canadians believe the impending meeting will be ineffective, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,008 Canadian adults, more than half of respondents (55%) think the meeting will be unsuccessful in improving relations between the federal government and Aboriginal people in Canada. Residents of Quebec (60%) and Ontario (56%) are particularly despondent.

Respondents to this survey were also asked whether the Canadian federal government has done a "good job" or a "bad job" in dealing with six policy issues since 2006.

While half of Canadians give the government positive marks on dealing with crime and public safety (51%) and the economy (50%), most provide a poor rating on health care (53%), the environment (53%), Aboriginal affairs (54%) and poverty (68%).

Two-in-five Canadians (43%) feel that relations between the federal government and Aboriginal people in Canada have worsened since 2006, while 38 per cent believe they have stayed the same and only seven per cent have seen an improvement.

Across the country, 55 per cent of respondents have seen, read or heard "a great deal" (24%) or "a fair amount" (31%) about the "Idle No More" campaign, while 45 per cent are not too aware or not aware at all about it.

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

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Pages 5 to / à 8

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From: Angela Matchim
To: Cellucci, Kim <Kim.Cellucci@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/11/2013 4:35 PM
Subject: Fw: Assembly of First Nations National Executive Release Statement: First...

>>> Shirley Anne Off 1/11/2013 4:33:43 PM >>>

>>> "Donovan, John" <John.Donovan@pco-bcp.gc.ca> 1/11/2013 4:32:41 PM >>>

John Donovan
Senior Analyst/Analyste principalCommunications and/et Consultations PCO -- Communications --BCP
Tel: (613) 957-5314
Facsimile: 613 957-5791

----- Original Message -----
From: Fox, Christiane
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2013 04:31 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Spassov, Jonathan; Donovan, John; McClymont, Donnalyn; Howard, Andrea; Ballantyne, Meena
Subject: FW: Assembly of First Nations National Executive Release Statement: First...

Assembly of First Nations National Executive Release Statement: First Nations United for Real Change
News release via Canada NewsWire, Toronto 416-863-9350

Attention News Editors

OTTAWA, Jan. 11, 2013 /CNW/ - Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, together with the AFN National Executive today released the following statement expressing the need to continue all efforts to achieve the transformative change required for First Nations in Canada:

First Nations United For Real Change

Through decades of advocacy by First Nations leaders, we have been unwavering. Generations of our leadership have delivered the same clear message to successive federal governments - for over a century!

Governments need to understand that our resolve is absolute.

From the battle against the destructive federal government White Paper in 1969, to the struggles to win Section 35 in the constitution in 1980, to the Charlottetown debates in the 90s, to our efforts to make effective the recommendations of the Royal Commission, 16 years ago, we have never wavered.

Our voices have always been clear. Continuing attempts to undermine our resolve, to divide our people have and will always fail.

Today, our work, in preparation for the meeting with the Prime Minister on January 11, 2013, stands on the shoulders of decades of Indigenous leadership.

Our demands are backed by one Supreme Court victory after another. We have the international endorsement and foundation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Today our people are standing up from coast to coast to coast - we acknowledge and give thanks to the awareness that has been brought through 'idle no more' through the actions of Chief Spence, Elder Robinson and Jean Sock. As leaders, our responsibility above all is to care for our peoples. We have heard their voices.

Governments need to understand: this will not change. We are absolute in our conviction, and in our determination to achieve our rights. We will fulfill our responsibilities to our ancestors and to our future generations.

Every day that we fail to act means a loss of opportunity for our citizens. Every day wasted means another First Nations child's life is wasted. It is time we broke through the paralysis and the endless broken promises. It is time to act.

Let us summarize, at the highest level, the demands of our people, of the First Nations:

-- Fundamental transformation in our relationship with the Government of Canada, NOW.
-- Real remedies and real change for our peoples NOW. And,
-- Action for our most vulnerable citizens, NOW.

Let us expand on each:

-- Transformation means a genuine commitment to treaty implementation and setting the fundamental rules, agenda and frameworks for their recognition and implementation.

-- Real remedies means delivering fair resolution of land claims through a clear reform of the claims process through the

recognition of inherent title and rights to deliver those solutions quickly. It also means an end to games about extinguishment, legislation that undermines our rights and a commitment to creating economic certainty and fairness.

-- And that means a fair share of revenues from resource development.

-- Action now on missing women, on safe communities, schools and drinking water means just what it says. No Canadian community would permit governments' failure to these basic guarantees. Neither will First Nations.

These changes will require real changes in the structure of the Government of Canada's relationship with us: changes to the Indian Act, to the Department, and to the mess of inter-departmental shared responsibilities for different files.

Here is a selection of the issues, long overdue in being given serious high-level attention by government that such a new structure could push the speedy implementation of:

-- All legislation must be unquestionably consistent with s.35 of the Canadian Constitution and the UNDRIP. Legislation and provisions of legislation as in C-38 and C-45 that contravene our rights must be reconsidered. We must have an environmental regulatory regime in this country that respects our rights. Legislation that tinkers around the edges of the Indian Act must stop and be replaced with support for First Nation government and nation re-building including a mechanism for our Nations to push away from the Indian Act as they determine.

-- to fulfill the original relationship, Canada must put in place an ongoing process that all new bills and policies of the federal government must be in full compliance with section 35 and consistent with international human rights standards.

-- only an immediate commitment to establishing a sustainable, effective and fair funding relationship respecting both our rights and responsibilities, that addresses health and safety needs without arbitrary and unfair caps, can sustain this new relationship. As successive Auditors-General have reported in sharp critiques, the existing financial structures, are unfair, inefficient, and destructive to the relationship.

Most urgently we need to address two ongoing disgraces: the treatment of our children and the treatment of the hundreds of cases of women who have gone

missing from our communities.

We need an immediate commitment to a "Commission of Inquiry on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls." Its mandate will include a focus on the murdered and missing Indigenous women, as well as the factors that lead to increased vulnerability among Indigenous peoples.

Secondly, we need a clear commitment for all our children. This government must commit that by 2015, the lifetime of this parliament, and advancing the motion passed by consensus of parliament to support Shannen's Dream, that every First Nations child will have access to a First Nations school that they are proud of, that respects and nurtures their languages and cultures, and is a safe and supportive place to learn.

These immediate and longer-term reforms and commitments are all within our capability and are achievable. The plans and the structures required have long been outlined by government agencies, public commissions and inquiries and by First Nations themselves.

Now we must be seized by this moment to achieve them once and for all. Now there must be the political will at all levels to get this done.

- The Assembly of First Nations National Executive Committee

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada. Follow us on Twitter @AFN_Updates and @AFN_Comms.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE, REMEDIES AND ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR FIRST NATIONS IMMEDIATELY

Emerging from First Nations dialogue and strategy sessions on January 9-10, 2013 in Ottawa the following are the elements of consensus as reflected at the conclusion of the discussion:

-- Commitment to an immediate high level working process with Treaty Nation leadership for establishing frameworks with necessary mandates for the implementation and enforcement of Treaties on a Treaty by Treaty basis, between the Treaty parties Nation-to-Nation.

-- Facilitating fair, expeditious resolution of land

Julien Houle - Fw: Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo News Conference - January 10, 2013

From: Angela Matchim
To: Sherif, Nihal <Nihal.Sherif@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Duschenes, Christopher <...
Date: 1/10/2013 8:23 PM
Subject: Fw: Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo News Conference - January 10, 2013
Attachments: 20130110C.wpd

FYI

>>> Pamela Monfils 1/10/2013 5:56:41 PM >>>
Fyi

>>> "MQ" <mq@mediaqin.com> 1/10/2013 5:51:53 PM >>>
Good Afternoon,

Attached is the transcript of the news conference held by Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, to set out clear expectations in advance of the January 11 meeting of a delegation, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper and members of Cabinet, that took place January 10, 2013.

Thanks and regards,

Dave Fletcher

Media Q Inc.
802-165 Sparks St, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5B9
Tel: 613-237-3123
Fax: 613-237-9234
Email: mq@mediaqin.com

Pages 13 to / à 16

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From: Angela Matchim
To: Mercier, Sylvie <Sylvie.Mercier@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Off, Shirley Anne <S...
Date: 1/8/2013 9:36 AM
Subject: Re: media lines- Idle no more?

Yes. Will do.

>>> Sylvie Mercier 1/8/2013 9:21:55 AM >>>
We should probably check with John D. and see if they have any preference. I'm pretty sure she has her talking points...

>>> On 1/8/2013 at 8:45 AM, in message <50EC22DC.11C : 155 : 43282>, Shirley Anne Off wrote:
> Can you get back to Catherine and Erin then. I will let them know you are
> contact.
>
>>>> Angela Matchim 1/8/2013 8:32:13 AM >>>We are pulling lines from dept
> perspective on the meeting
>
>>>> Shirley Anne Off 1/8/2013 8:25:21 AM >>>Has your team developed lines re mtg or
> is this all a lead out of Centre?
>
>>>> Catherine Francis 1/8/2013 8:23:39 AM >>>Hi Erin,
> I've cc'd Shirley-Anne Off who is the Director of the client services team
> here in Comms, and I'm sure she'd be happy to forward the relevant lines to
> you. If you have any other questions though, let me know.
> Thanks [redacted] s.19(1)
> Catherine.
>
>>>> Erin Macpherson 1/7/2013 6:11:49 PM >>>Hi Catherine,
>
> Minister Aglukkaq will be doing a CanNor announcement tomorrow afternoon
> (1:30pm) in Iqaluit. We have had confirmation from APTN and CBC that they
> will be in attendance. There may be some questions from media about Minister
> Aglukkaq's attendance at the meeting with the PM or the GOC's plans for the
> meeting on Fri. We don't have any media lines, but I'm wondering if AANDC has
> any holding lines that you may be able to share, just in case this should
> come up tomorrow.
> Thanks, Erin
>
>
> Erin Macpherson
> A/Communications Manager
> Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)
> Tel: (867) 667-3849
> Fax: (867) 667-3945
> erin.macpherson@cannor.gc.ca
> www.cannor.gc.ca
>

Julien Houle - Re: media lines- Idle no more?

From: Angela Matchim
To: Cellucci, Kim <Kim.Cellucci@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/8/2013 9:01 AM
Subject: Re: media lines- Idle no more?

I agree. Our lines should speak to cfng commitments, IA reform (high level)

>>> Kim Cellucci 1/8/2013 8:59:06 AM >>>
I will draft general lines from the PM's statementN but I think MO needs to provide direcion on this to HCMO.
Kim Giroux-Cellucci
Communications - AANDC
819-997-0185

>>> Angela Matchim 1/8/2013 8:32:13 AM >>>
We are pulling lines from dept perspective on the meeting

>>> Shirley Anne Off 1/8/2013 8:25:21 AM >>>
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Thanks
Catherine.

>>> Erin Macpherson 1/7/2013 6:11:49 PM >>>
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Thanks, Erin

Erin Macpherson
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erin.macpherson@cannor.gc.ca
www.cannor.gc.ca

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Julien Houle - Re: This evening

From: Angela Matchim
To: Vares, Thomas <Thomas.Vares@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/7/2013 4:51 PM
Subject: Re: This evening
CC: Bertrand, Susan <Susan.Bertrand@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; St. John, Chris <Chr...

Yes.

>>> Thomas Vares 1/7/2013 4:45:55 PM >>>
Angela - am I correct in assuming all media questions re audit and Idle No More will continue to be responded to by HQ.
TV

Thomas Markus Vares
Director, Executive Services and Communications
Directeur des services exécutifs et communications

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
25 St. Clair Ave. East
25 avenu St. Clair est
eighth floor - huitième étage
Toronto ON M4T 1M2 Canada
416-973-7839
Cell 647-393-1727

>>> Angela Matchim 1/7/2013 4:40 PM >>>
Thank you

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/7/2013 4:39:02 PM >>>
I am available for the most part. Angela, can you please ensure that Leea Litzgus and Thomas Vares are copied on any media requests as well? Thanks.

>>> Ron Hallman 1/7/2013 4:36 PM >>>
Chris Horton and I will be available for regular approval processes from our end.

>>> Angela Matchim 1/7/2013 4:33:37 PM >>>
Good Afternoon,

The calls are coming fast and furious to MO. We are anticipating that lead for addressing them will shift to Comms late this evening.

Can you advise who will be available from your team to assist Chris and I this evening?

Thanks
Angela

Julien Houle - Fwd: Re: Issues binder

From: Angela Matchim
To: Hotte, Céline
Date: 1/7/2013 2:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Issues binder
Attachments: Re: Issues binder

see the attached

Julien Houle - Re: Issues binder

From: Shirley Anne Off
To: Angela Matchim; Sylvie Mercier
Date: 1/7/2013 1:56 PM
Subject: Re: Issues binder
CC: Bernard Etzinger; Danielle White; Lesia Manchulenko; Lynne Newman; P...

If this helps, here's who to ask on my team

Attawapiskat :
Audit
Community - Carole Myers

Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women - Ian Ketcheson (or your team, not sure)

DRAP:
New Approach to modern treaty and self-government negotiations - Nicole Bauman
ARO/TC funding

Active Measures - Ian Ketcheson

Education - Ian Ketcheson

Consultation and Accommodation - James Sinclair

Crown Gathering 1st anniversary

Idle no More (we have general protest lines - you have this package already)

Northern Gateway - Pipelines - NrCan lead - may need to reach out to them directly

Repeal of Indian Act

Joint Task Force - Economic Development - Andrew Bisson (not sure if we need these in the issues binder)

NNC

Manitoba Flooding Impact in FNs - Carole

Kapyong Barracks Winnipeg - Carole or Nicole Bauman

Treaty Land Entitlement, SK and MB - Andrew Bisson (LED lead)

Ring of Fire, Ontario - Carole (I think)

UN Special Rapporteur

>>> Sylvie Mercier 1/7/2013 1:46 PM >>>
Here's the Table of Contents for the Binder. Angela can you task someone with collecting all media lines please.

Lynne and Danielle - I think our media lines will suffice for now - let me know if you think we need to add more.

Attawapiskat:
Audit
Community

Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

DRAP:
New Approach to modern treaty and self-government negotiations
ARO/TC funding

Active Measures

Education

Consultation and Accommodation

Crown Gathering 1st anniversary

Idle no More

Northern Gateway - Pipelines

Repeal of Indian Act

Joint Task Force - Economic Development

NNC

Manitoba Flooding Impact in FNs

Kapyong Barracks Winnipeg

Treaty Land Entitlement, SK and MB

Ring of Fire, Ontario

UN Special Rapporteur

Julien Houle - January 11th meeting - Complementary Issues Binder

From: Angela Matchim
To: Hotte, Céline
Date: 1/7/2013 1:53 PM
Subject: January 11th meeting - Complementary Issues Binder
Attachments: Issues binder

Celine,

Attached you will find the approved listing for a table of contents for the binder. Please work with the appropriate teams to assemble the binder. It should be organized electronically in a CIDM folder so that it can easily be accessed. All information needs to be ADM approved before it goes into the binder.

We will also require a print version of the binder - number of copies is to be determined. Please use the listing inside the attached as the basis for your Table of Contents. When it comes to production of the print version, we can ask for administrative staff to assist.

Let me know if you require assistance or direction on where to go for these lines. I can also show you a sample of a similar binder that was produced for the Crown First-Nations Gathering.

Note that we will need the full package no later than noon on Wednesday, January 9th.
Since the turnaround time is very tight, I would recommend that you communicate with all of the applicable communications advisors in one email.

Angela

Julien Houle - Fwd: Hot issues for Friday First Cut

From: Angela Matchim
To: Hotte, Céline
Date: 1/7/2013 12:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: Hot issues for Friday First Cut
CC: Bertrand, Sabrina; Cellucci, Kim
Attachments: Hot issues for Friday First Cut

Celine,

See attached - once we land on a table of contents for this binder, I will need you to lead on coordination. We will need it pulled together by Wednesday at noon.

Angela

Pages 28 to / à 35

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Julien Houle - Re: Idle No More- Media lines

From: Angela Matchim
To: Johnston, Cherie
Date: 1/15/2013 3:57 PM
Subject: Re: Idle No More- Media lines
CC: Cellucci, Kim; Mercier, Sylvie; St. John, Chris

Hi Cherie,

I just got out of a GoC meeting on tomorrow's Day of Action where it was confirmed that there is no overall lead for INM. Local police jurisdictions will respond to issues of public safety at the regional level. Where impacts of protests are felt, departments that are lead relating to the area impacted will lead (ie, if border slowdowns occur, CBSA will respond to media inquiries applicable to that issue).

The only media lines we are using are our general protest lines as follows.

Angela

General Protest Lines

Original CIDM Reference: 41847888

DMO approved/sent to MINO/October 19/12

Based on previously MINO approved material.

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

- The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of First Nation communities.

KEY MESSAGES:

- We recognize the public's right to engage in peaceful protests and lawful assembly.
- Most Canadian protestors, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are peaceful and law abiding.
- We encourage resolution of issues through dialogue in all cases.
- All Canadians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are subject to the laws of Canada and it is our expectation that respect for the law will prevail.

Re: The Department's role during protests:

- AANDC does not manage Aboriginal protests.
- Where protests affect essential services or public safety, the matter becomes a public

safety issue and falls under the jurisdiction of local law enforcement.

- On First Nation reserves, the police force of jurisdiction is the First Nation police force, the provincial police, or the RCMP, depending on the local situation.

- Should the delivery of essential AANDC programs and services to First Nations communities be compromised as the result of a protest-related situation, the department may provide support to the affected individuals/community(ies).

Re: Protests regarding issues that fall under provincial jurisdiction:

- The issue being raised by protestors is one of provincial jurisdiction. Specific questions are best addressed by the provincial government.

- We encourage resolution of issues through dialogue in all cases.

- Many natural resource development projects (including mining and mineral exploration, forestry, alternate energy production, land development, licences and permits), fall under provincial jurisdiction. Questions related to these specific issues are best addressed by the provincial government.

Re: Issues related to Crown land and the North which fall under federal jurisdiction:

- We recognize the public's right to engage in peaceful protests and lawful assembly.

- Most Canadian protestors, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are peaceful and law abiding.

- We encourage resolution of issues through dialogue in all cases.

- All Canadians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are subject to the laws of Canada and it is our expectation that respect for the law will prevail.

Re: AANDC's role in public safety and law enforcement on reserves

- AANDC does not manage law enforcement/policing on First Nation reserves, this responsibility falls to Public Safety Canada.

- On First Nation reserves, the police force of jurisdiction is the First Nation police force, the provincial police, or the RCMP, depending on the local situation.

- All Canadians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are subject to the laws of Canada and it is our expectation that respect for the law will prevail.

- For more information please contact Public Safety Canada.

Re: AANDC's role in assisting First Nations impacted by protests and related events:

- Should the delivery of essential AANDC programs and services to First Nations communities be compromised as the result of a protest-related situation, the Department may provide support to the affected individuals/community(ies).

- AANDC may also play a liaison role between First Nations and other stakeholders, if required.

Re: AANDC "spying," or "surveillance" of protests and/or related organizations, and/or individuals

- AANDC does not perform any type of "surveillance" of any individuals, groups or communities.

- Like all federal departments AANDC routinely assesses the public environment for events and trends that could inform policy decisions or impact our programs and services. As part of mandate, we also monitor events and trends that could affect the health, safety and security of First Nations communities.

- To this end we monitor emergencies such as fires and floods, and other significant events such as protests, on an ongoing basis.

- The information we gather is used for the sole purpose of informing departmental decision making and policy development.

Re: AANDC Emergency and Issues Management Weekly Situational Awareness Reports/Notifications/ Situation Reports

- These reports are prepared on a regular basis by AANDC's Emergency and Issues Management Directorate and are designed to provide situational awareness and basic, factual information for senior departmental officials.

- These are public documents, regularly shared with a variety of internal and external partners including the Assembly of First Nations.

Re: AANDC's role in emergency management:

- The main responsibility for emergency management rests with provincial and territorial governments. However, under the *Emergency Management Act* (EMA), each federal minister is responsible for identifying risks that are within or related to their area of responsibility and developing appropriate emergency management plans in respect of those risks.

- AANDC's National Emergency Management Plan applies to all emergencies that have the potential to impact the health, safety and security of First Nations on reserve.

- The most common emergencies affecting First Nations are floods, fires or failure of community infrastructure (i.e. critical roads, bridges, power, etc.) due to a natural

disaster, severe weather or accident.

- For more information on AANDC's role and responsibilities in emergency management please see the AANDC web site.

>>> Cherie Johnston 1/15/2013 3:49 PM >>>
Hi Angela,
Does the Branch have general media lines to address "Idle No More"? My program folks are asking.

Can you please advise?

Thanks,
Cherie

Cherie Johnston
LED- Communications Advisor
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
10 Wellington, Room 1900
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4
Telephone:(819) 994-7269
cherie.johnston@aandc.gc.ca
>>> Cherie Johnston 1/15/2013 3:40 PM >>>
Jody- Program is looking for general lines we might have on "Idle No More". Does the branch have anything, ML or Qs&As? Can u ask the POD?

>>> Verna Crossman 1/15/2013 3:33 PM >>>
Good afternoon Ladies!

I am working on a response letter for the Minister to an email regarding Idle No More. I would love to see any media lines or messaging that has been/will be developed on this topic.

Thank you,
Verna

Verna Crossman

Agente de programmes environnementaux | Environmental Program Officer
Direction des terres et des opérations environnementales | Lands and Environmental Operations Directorate
Terres et Développement économique | Lands and Economic Development
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada | Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
10 Wellington, 17D
Gatineau, QC. K1A 0H4

Téléphone | Telephone (819) 934-8373
Facsimile: (819) 953-1885

Merci de penser à l'environnement avant d'imprimer ce courriel/Thank you for thinking of the environment

Pages 34 to / à 39

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From: Angela Matchim
To: Sherif, Nihal
Date: 1/14/2013 4:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: A statement from National Chief Shawn Atleo on his decision to take a leave.
Attachments: A statement from National Chief Shawn Atleo on his decision to take a leave.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/14/2013 4:41 PM
Subject: A statement from National Chief Shawn Atleo on his decision to take a leave.
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

A statement from National Chief Shawn Atleo on his decision to take a leave.

First Nations citizens have just witnessed one of the most important chapters in our recent history. Through the pressure of the grassroots, the sacrifices made by Chief Spence and her fellow strikers, and the work of many regional Chiefs and the National Executive of the AFN, we have seized the attention of Canadians and of this government.

We forced open the door to the PMO and to the Governor-General. We achieved a commitment to the personal leadership of the Prime Minister, the Privy Council Office and other senior ministers. Now they know that the whole world is watching what progress we make. Now they understand the consequences of failure.

We have a responsibility to work together to push forward our work that relates to each of the eight elements that emerged from our discussions this week - on Treaty, on comprehensive claims, resource revenue sharing, action to assess and halt provisions of legislation that contravene our rights, on the urgent needs of our communities and justice for our missing women. We have leaders in place to ensure that detailed work gets done. And now we have the public commitment of this government and this Prime Minister that they will treat these issues as their priorities.

I am proud of the support we received from First Nations citizens and Chiefs across Canada, even during the most difficult days. There were many long conference calls, late night meetings, and frustrations in the past two weeks. I regret to have to tell you that those long days have caught up with me. This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now.

I ask that Regional Chief Augustine continue to chair and facilitate our National Executive meetings in my brief absence and that Regional Chief Bellegarde and Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould continue the work that they led this week on Treaty implementation and on comprehensive claims. As we did in the meeting on January 11 - we must seize the agenda and drive the next steps on each and every element. I encourage everyone to contribute fully to these next steps. I have also directed the senior staff of the Assembly of First Nations to mobilize staff working teams on these elements to provide the analysis and support required.

Finally as we have done from the very beginning, we continue to offer our support and prayers for Chief Spence, the hunger strikers and for all of our peoples standing up through peaceful demonstrations and protest. As we told the Prime Ministers - our voices, the voices of all of our citizens will not be silenced. We will drive change now.

Friends and colleagues, this has been a fateful moment in the decades of struggle by our peoples. We have secured important new ground. Now the harder, but less visible, work of turning promises into action begins. I look forward to working with all of you on those tasks in the weeks and months ahead. Together I am confident we ensure that this week marks the end of a long bitter chapter of paralysis and provocation in our relationship with the GoC, and that it truly is the beginning of a new chapter.

I will see you all very soon and will return re-invigorated and strengthened to work with you to drive this change together with all of you.

Kleco Kleco

I'm told Chief Atleo came down with the norovirus over the holidays in December.

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

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Julien Houle - ADVANCED COPY OF PRESS RELEASE from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya

From: <Flo.Nguyen@international.gc.ca>
To: <Diana.Graham@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, <Danica.Vaillancourt@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Date: 1/7/2013 1:17 PM
Subject: ADVANCED COPY OF PRESS RELEASE from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya
CC: <Latifa.Belmahdi@international.gc.ca>, <Frederique.Tsai-Klassen@internat...
Attachments: 2012-01-07 Press statement SR Anaya.pdf

Attached please see the advanced copy of the press release that the Special Rapporteur on the rights of the indigenous peoples, and preliminary views provided by GENEVA-HOM.

[redacted]

The press release and HOM's views were shared with AADNC/Celluci (copied here), and our MINO.

- Flo

FROM GENEVA-HOM:

[redacted]

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Julien Houle - Fwd: UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Request for Information re: Theresa Spence hunger strike-Delegated

From: Angela Matchim
To: Manchulenko, Lesia
Date: 1/7/2013 1:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Request for Information re: Theresa Spence hunger strike-Delegated
Attachments: UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Request for Information re: Theresa Spence hunger strike-Delegated

letter is attached.

Julien Houle - UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Request for Information re: Theresa Spence hunger strike-Delegated

From: Shirley Anne Off
To: Angela Matchim; Sylvie Mercier
Date: 1/7/2013
Time: 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Subject: UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Request for Information re: Theresa Spence hunger strike-Delegated
Place: Conference Call
CC: Bernard Etzinger
Attachments: Communication SR Anaya.pdf

Sylvie and Angela

I am happy to attend this call, but not sure if I'm the right person given UN angle. Let me know.

SA

>>> Patrick Brennan 1/7/2013 10:20 AM >>>

Good morning,

Christopher Horton and I participated in a call this morning with the Department of Justice, DFAIT and other government departments to plan Canada's response to the attached request for information from the UN SR on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Mr. James Anaya). The goal of our call is to determine who will be in a position to provide the required information, and to discuss timelines. As a reminder, in addition to asking whether the information that he has received is accurate, the SR has asked specifically:

-Whether a meeting is planned between Aboriginal Leaders, the PM and the GG.

-The extent to which indigenous peoples were provided an opportunity to provide input into provisions of Bill C-45 that affect them.

-Whether any measures are being taken to monitor Chief Spence's health.

Call in information is as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS EN FRANÇAIS

Participants

Le numéro à composer: RCN: (819) 997-9167, Sans frais: 1-866-885-0884

Appuyez sur le 1 pour les instructions en français ou sur le 2 pour les instructions en anglais

Appuyez sur le 1 (Pour participer à une conférence audio)

Entrez le code d'accès à 4 chiffres de la conférence: 8797#

INSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH

Participants

Number to dial: NCR: (819) 997-9167, Toll Free: 1-866-885-0884

Select 1 for French or 2 for English

Select 1 (To participate in an audio conference)

Enter the 4 digit Conference pass code: 8797#

Thanks,

Patrick

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From: Angela Matchim
To: Nemeth, Stephanie <Stephanie.Nemeth@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/14/2013 8:56 AM
Subject: Re: Can you dig up this poll/study?

Stephanie there was an Ipsos piece a week or two ago. Search words- poll, study, Aboriginal, First Nation.

Also Jayme Walker did a summary. Or maybe it was nik. Late summer 2012

>>> Bernard Etzinger 1/14/2013 8:53:36 AM >>>
Yes. For media

>>> Sylvie Mercier 1/14/2013 8:40:43 AM >>>
Does this help? it's from yesterday's media analysis.

EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES / ÉDITORIAUX ET COMMENTAIRES

As in the past two monitoring period, a strong majority of editorials and commentaries were neutral in tone toward the federal government. Of the 50 opinion piece, 47 (94 per cent) were neutral in tone, while two (four per cent) were negative, and just one (two per cent) was positive. This is a shift from the report of January 7th, in which 78 per cent were neutral, 17 per cent negative, and five per cent positive, and from the January 10th report, in which 89 per cent were neutral, 10 per cent negative and one per cent positive.

Some commentaries, such as a Toronto Star editorial (IN6, 12 January), maintained a cautious optimism that Aboriginal issues will be addressed, but it warned that although Prime Minister Harper listened to the growing voices of Aboriginal people, he will be judged ultimately be the actions he takes.

Others, like columnist Andrew Coyne (National Post, A1, 12 January, plus seven additional Postmedia publications) concluded the fact that the meeting took place at all is evidence that some progress has been made. He added, however, that what First Nations need to improve their lot is no different from other Canadians: the devolution of powers from the federal government and more open and transparent government on reserves.

Meanwhile, columnist Stephen Maher (Ottawa Citizen, B7, 12 January, plus five additional Postmedia publications) argued that for anything to be accomplished, the federal government and First Nations must build enough trust to be able to work together. For Prime Minister Harper, Maher maintained, this means having the willingness to approve expensive measures that do not advance his electoral interests, and for First Nations, it means setting aside their dislike of the Prime Minister to agree on an agenda that will garner the support of chiefs across the country who are divided on so many issues.

While the majority were neutral in tone toward the federal government, numerous commentaries were critical to varying degrees of Aboriginal people who have gone beyond protests to acts of civil disobedience.

A few, such as a Globe and Mail editorial (F8, 12 January), also criticized law enforcement agencies that refuse to enforce court orders for allowing Aboriginal protesters to set up and maintain blockades on rail lines and highways with impunity.

Others questioned the insistence by some Aboriginal leaders on having the Governor General attend the meeting.

A Calgary Herald editorial (A19, 12 January) asserted that the Queen's historic power over treaty rights is not a factor in modern day Canada.

A Globe and Mail editorial (F*, 12 January) acknowledged that while the presence of the Governor General at the meeting would be purely symbolic and would have been a violation of the Constitution because the meeting aimed to address matters of policy, his presence would have done no harm, and could have encouraged further meetings with a broader representation of First Nations chiefs.

Columnist John Robson (Ottawa Sun, 19 13 January) questioned whether the insistence by First Nations on meeting with the Crown has its basis on the belief that the Crown would order non-aboriginal people to go away and leave Canada for First Nations. He contended that if this is the case, it would not work because Canadians would not leave their country. Also commenting on threats by Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak to shut down the Canadian economy, Robson asked where Aboriginal people, such as those in Attawapiskat, believe they will get food, clothing or fuel if they bring the economy to its knees.

A Vancouver Sun editorial (D3, 12 January, and reprinted by the Saskatoon Star Phoenix, A8, the same day) pointed to the Governor General as the perfect metaphor for Aboriginal discontent, since both have constitutionally guaranteed rights, but moist Canadians believe those rights are mostly symbolic and ceremonial.

Columnist Chantal Hébert (Toronto Star, A16, 12 January) criticized Prime Minister Harper for failing to act on the progress made last year at the Crown-First Nations Gathering by effectively marginalizing AFN Chief Shawn Atleo.

Huit éditoriaux ont été répertoriés durant la période couverte par cette analyse. Bien que le ton soit généralement neutre, on compte un éditorial au ton négatif à l'endroit du gouvernement fédéral. La plupart des éditoriaux font référence aux revendications ; aux problèmes dans les réserves autochtones et; à la rencontre de vendredi entre les chefs autochtones et le premier ministre Stephen Harper.

Louise Leduc (La Presse, A14, 12 janvier 2013) soutient que la nouvelle crise autochtone a permis de rappeler à quel point le gouvernement et les autochtones s'enlisent dans des négociations territoriales dont on ne voit pas l'issue. En 2006, divers témoins entendus par un comité sénatorial avaient déjà évalué qu'au rythme où allaient les choses, il faudrait de 90 à 130 ans pour régler l'ensemble des revendications territoriales autochtones.

L'éditorialiste Jean Saint-Cyr (L'Acadie Nouvelle, 12, 12 janvier 2013) déplore qu'il existe encore aujourd'hui au Canada autant de communautés autochtones sans eau potable, sans logement adéquat. Il estime que les préjugés véhiculés à l'endroit des autochtones encouragent le gouvernement fédéral à faire traîner les dossiers, à ne les régler que partiellement quand des cas de crise surgissent.

Lysiane Gagnon (La Presse, A 25, 12 janvier 2013) soutient que Theresa Spence est le genre de chef qui nuit à l'image des autochtones. Elle rappelle qu'à même les 100 millions versés par Ottawa depuis 2005 à la réserve d'Attawapiskat, Mme Spence et son conjoint Clayton Kennedy empochent des revenus de 250 000$ par année libres d'impôt, ce qui équivaut à près d'un demi-million de dollars par année. Cela, pour gérer une réserve de quelque 1600 habitants. Elle estime qu'on ne peut reprocher au gouvernement Harper de s'attaquer au problème de la gouvernance des réserves.

Dans un éditorial au ton négatif, Pierre Jury (Le Droit, 18, 12 janvier 2012) soutient que le premier ministre Stephen Harper est réputé pour être un homme qui crée autour de lui un climat de crainte, un personnage froid et calculateur. Il n'a pas plus de sensibilité pour les rencontres avec les leaders autochtones, ni pour leurs doléances. Il souligne que depuis plusieurs années, M. Harper s'est contenté de faire de la figuration dans le dossier autochtone. Il précise que peu importe les discussions tenues hier, peu importe les progrès ou non qui ont pu être accomplis autour de la table, Stephen Harper a bel et bien senti qu'il y a un bout du tapis qui est en train de lui glisser sous les pieds. L'aile plus radicale du mouvement autochtone lui promet d'autres manifestations, et plus musclées encore. Certains Indiens sont passés maîtres dans l'art de bloquer des routes, sachant bien que l'armée ou la police n'a pas toujours le doigté pour intervenir. L'hiver indien ne fait que commencer pour Stephen Harper et il fait

mieux de se couvrir.

Manon Cornellier (Le Devoir, B2, 12 janvier 2013) soutient qu'il y a place à la fois pour les manifestations et les réunions, mais la solution ne se trouvera pas dans la rue. Le danger que posent le boycottage de certains chefs et un éventuel dérapage dans les prochains jours est de nuire à la cause autochtone en accentuant l'antipathie qu'expriment déjà certains Canadiens tout en minant le capital de sympathie gagné auprès des autres.

Denis

Julien Houle - For DM approval - addt'l Attawapiskat Qs and As

From: Angela Matchim
To: Senchuk, Barbara <Barbara.Senchuk@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/11/2013 5:23 PM
Subject: For DM approval - addt'l Attawapiskat Qs and As
CC: Nemeth, Stephanie <Stephanie.Nemeth@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Mercier, Sylvie ...
Attachments: NCR-#4931972-v16-CAEE_ATTA_AUDIT_RESULTS_REVISED_MEDIA_LINES_QS_&_AS.DOCX

Barbara,

For DM approval, following you will find additional Qs and As pertaining to the audit.

MO has requested these.

Sue, Ron, Anne and Bernie have approved.

Angela

>>> Stephanie Nemeth 1/11/2013 5:17:42 PM >>>
Attached and included are the additional Qs and As. Approvals are in document as well as embedded.

Thanks,
Stephanie

28. Is the Department going to conduct a forensic audit of Attawapiskat in response to allegations received about financial mismanagement and as a follow-up to issues raised in the comprehensive audit?

Currently, the Department is preparing a contract for further audit work to follow up on undocumented expenditures.

In order to recreate a record of the financial history of the community, and in response to calls from the community, the Minister has directed the department that additional audit follow-up work will be required. Suppliers and bank records will be examined in order to substantiate payments made, in light of missing documentation noted in Deloitte and Touche's 2012 comprehensive audit.

29. Is the Department going to pursue recovery of the funds for which no documentation could be found in the course of the comprehensive audit at the Attawapiskat First Nation?

The results of additional audit work will provide the information needed to make a recommendation with regard to recovery of funds from the First Nation.

30. Has the Department been in contact with the RCMP regarding the Attawapiskat audit?

In its comprehensive audit, the independent auditing firm found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of federal funding agreements. The Department has reviewed the results of the independent audit and the Management Letter and recovery of funds will proceed as per the practice of the Department. With regard to recommendations for AANDC's internal operations, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations with its federal partners. The Department has not been in contact with the RCMP regarding the Attawapiskat audit.

31. The 2011 Report issued by the Auditor General states, "In our view, many of the problems facing First Nations go deeper than the existing programs' lack of efficiency and effectiveness. We believe that structural impediments severely limit the delivery of public services to First Nations communities and hinder improvements in living conditions on reserves." In light of the results of the comprehensive audit, will the government now consider acting on the Auditor General's recommendations?

The Government is working with the AFN and with willing First Nations toward transformative structural changes. There are no quick fixes. We continue to focus on real, structural reforms and increasing the effectiveness of long-term investments.

Approved by:
Qs and As 28-31:
Sylvie Mercier, A/ADG, Communications – January 10, 2013
Susan MacGowan, CFO - January 11, 2013
Anne Scotton, CAEE – January 10, 2013
Ron Hallman, SADM RO - January 11, 2013
Bernie Etzinger, DG, Communications – January 11, 2013
DMO – Pending
MO – Pending

Julien Houle - Re: Fw: Ipsos poll on Idle No More

From: Angela Matchim
To: Nemeth, Stephanie <Stephanie.Nemeth@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/16/2013 3:52 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Ipsos poll on Idle No More

Only if you think it's relevant. Were you able to find the actual study?

>>> Stephanie Nemeth 1/16/2013 3:29:23 PM >>>
Yes, would you like me to add to the file any info that was not included from the article?

>>> Angela Matchim 1/16/2013 3:27 PM >>>
Is this the same as the one I sent u this morning?

>>> HQ Inform 1/16/2013 3:21:26 PM >>>
Ipsos poll shows views of Canadians in response to Idle no More.

http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5961

Jim Hurcomb

To access Newsdesk directly, visit http://newsdesk.
Pour l'accès direct à Infomedia, veuillez visiter http://infomedia

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How does the Government fund reserves?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) provides funding through transfer payments for programs, services and initiatives to First Nation, Inuit and Northern communities, government and individuals as well as to Aboriginal and Métis organizations.

AANDC uses various funding approaches to manage transfer payments related to its programs.

The type of funding approach that will be used will depend on a number of factors, such as the design and nature of a program, the program authority, the duration of the program or funding agreement and the level of risk associated with entering into a funding agreement.

AANDC's program funding levels are based on a range of factors. For instance, funds for infrastructure projects are largely project-driven, while operation and maintenance is based on the size and type of asset, cost-sharing provisions with the community and growth factors in the community.

Income assistance provides financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, etc. to elementary/secondary education is driven by the number of students attending kindergarten to grade 12.

Band support funding considers reserve location (remoteness), on-reserve population, number of AANDC programs and services administered, the dollar value and the number of approved positions related to the delivery of programs and services.

2. What controls are in place to ensure that Band Councils are spending federal funds in an appropriate way?

First Nations are held accountable for the use of public funds through the terms and conditions of funding agreements, which contain a "right to audit" provision.

AANDC has a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) responsible for supporting the department in all aspects of financial accountability. This includes monitoring, challenging and reporting on all activities related to financial management, contracting, procurement, asset management, information management and technology.

AANDC also has a Chief Audit and Evaluation Executive (CAEE) to ensure the department has the reliable and objective assurances and reviews needed to assess and mitigate risk, conduct audits and evaluations (internal and external), and continue to improve the department's overall performance.

In addition, the department has put in place an Audit and Evaluation Committee that includes external members to ensure a high level of rigor and objectivity in the oversight of AANDC's audits and evaluation reports.

3. What is a recipient audit?

The objective of the recipient audit was to provide assurance that funding provided to the Attawapiskat First Nation was spent for its intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and conditions of all funding agreements signed with AANDC. Because Deloitte could not come to a formal conclusion of the Audit, given the lack of documentation available from Attawapiskat First Nation, Specified Auditing Procedures were conducted. This analysis resulted in the conclusion by Deloitte that in the case of over 80% of the transactions, insufficient or no documentation was found.

For further information about the methodology that was used for this audit work, please contact Deloitte & Touche LLP.

4. What is a "comprehensive independent audit"?

The "comprehensive audit" examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community. This comprehensive audit covered the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. Specifically, the audit included an examination of:

- Attawapiskat's level of compliance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement and whether the funds were used for the intended purposes and in the manner required by the terms and conditions of the funding agreement; Attawapiskat's management and financial control practices;
- the integrity of any financial data that has been reported by Attawapiskat in the context of all funding agreements;
- the relationship of Attawapiskat funding arrangements with Mushkegowuk Tribal Council;
- an examination of the management control framework at AANDC focussing on housing;
- an examination of the management control framework of the Ontario Regional Office;
- compliance by AANDC with Treasury Board and departmental policies and directives governing transfer payments, monitoring, oversight and reporting.

5. Why was this audit initiated?

On November 30, 2011 the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development asked that a comprehensive audit be undertaken by an independent auditor to identify

how money has been spent and what oversight measures have been taken over the past five years.

6. What are the findings of the Comprehensive Audit Report?

The independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLP found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of federal funding agreements. Specifically, over 80 percent of the analyzed financial transactions made by the First Nation did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate.

As for the internal audit of the department, generally, management controls were found to be properly designed and effectively applied by the Department. The audit team also identified some areas where management controls, practices and processes could be improved, resulting in two recommendations. The audit's finding that AANDC's oversight measures for Attawapiskat First Nation could be improved has been accepted by AANDC. AANDC will work with federal partners to address recommendations to improve oversight measures.

7. What exactly was included in the internal audit?

This audit focused on an examination of the AANDC management control framework for housing and AANDC's relationship with other federal partners.

8. Who requested the audit? Didn't Chief Spence say she wanted the audit conducted?

In November 2011, a comprehensive audit was requested by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) due to concerns with the ongoing housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community.

Chief Spence publicly stated her support for the audit in December 2011 and concurred with the audit results shared with her in September 2012.

9. When did the audit committee approve the audit?

The Audit Committee recommended approval of the report by the Deputy Minister on Sept 28, 2012. The report was then formatted for approval and approved by the Deputy Minister on October 16, 2012.

10. Who is on the audit committee?

The AANDC audit committee, all external to the public service, consists of the following members:

- Ian Clark, Chair and professor at University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Governance;
- Nola Buhr, CA, PhD, professor of Accounting at the University of Saskatchewan;
- [redacted] Retired ex-ADM of AANDC and National Defence;
- [redacted] Retired ex-Deputy Minister of AANDC and Industry Canada; and
- [redacted] expert on evaluation and performance management.

11. Who did Deloitte and Touche LLP meet with in conducting their comprehensive audit?

In conducting this independent audit, representatives of the independent audit firm spoke to AANDC departmental officials at HQ and in the region as well as officials at Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Any questions as to who from the First Nation met with the independent auditing firm should be directed to Deloitte and Touche LLP and/or the Chief and Council.

12. Why was a Management Letter issued?

Due to the lack of documentation, a Management Letter was issued by the auditors (Deloitte), addressed to Chief Spence, Attawapiskat First Nation, highlighting the lack of:

- Supporting documentation for claimed expenditures
- Supporting documentation for processes and controls
- Formal job descriptions

Chief Theresa Spence was informed of the results on September 7, 2012, briefed on September 20 by Deloitte and AANDC officials and informed that the reports would be posted on the departmental website. The Management Letter will be published along with the reports.

13. What action will the Government take in response to the audit?

The Department has reviewed the results of the independent audit and the Management Letter and recovery of funds will proceed as per the practice of the Department.

Given the results of the independent audit, the region is working with the First Nation to strengthen the financial management and controls in this community.

With regard to recommendations for AANDC's internal operations, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations with its federal partners.

AANDC is reviewing the contribution agreements with the First Nation to ensure that they are being adhered to, with supporting paperwork. Any expenses that are proven ineligible will be recouped by the department.

14. The report includes some areas where AANDC management practices need improvement and Management Action Plan commitments. What changes, if any, will be undertaken in AANDC Headquarters and the AANDC Ontario North Regional Office in Thunder Bay as a result of the comprehensive audit?

AANDC acknowledges and agrees that there is room for improvement. With respect to the internal audit findings, the Department agrees with the findings and will work with federal partners to address these recommendations.

15. The comprehensive audit found that Attawapiskat FN was approved in the past for MLGs previously despite not meeting all of the criteria, but the community's last expression of interest was denied. Was this latest decision related to the audit?

No. The Attawapiskat First Nation submitted an expression of interest to CMHC for the construction of 30 housing units. The department was unable to sign off on their loan application given that the community was not able to demonstrate the necessary eligibility for the department to support a loan guarantee application.

Prior to receiving notification from CMHC that its Expression of Interest was declined, on May 31, 2012, AANDC officials informed Attawapiskat First Nation that it would be ineligible for an additional MLG for 30 homes because of its debt load and due to an inadequate number of serviced lots.

16. How much funding did the Attawapiskat First Nation receive from AANDC during the period of the audit between 2005-06 and 2011-12?

The Attawapiskat First Nation received $117 million in total AANDC funding in the period of the audit between fiscal year 2005-06 and fiscal year 2011-12.

17. What were the costs of the Comprehensive Audit?

AANDC costs to date are just over $300,000 for both components of the comprehensive audit.

18. Why did the Government allow this to happen? Why did it take an audit to determine the problem?

The general assessments conducted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 flagged Attawapiskat as a high risk organization when it comes to financial management. This means that the financial position (i.e., liquidity, sustainability, and working capital) was unfavourable. AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to support improvements in overall financial management as well as to ensure compliance in future with funding agreements.

19. How much money will the Department seek to recover and when?

The department is committed to the responsible stewardship of public funds. AANDC officials will, following discussion with the First Nation, determine an appropriate recovery amount and timetable while ensuring funding for the delivery of essential services.

20. Will you be making the audit report public and, if so, when?

The comprehensive audit report is now available on AANDC's website

21. When will you be reporting audit findings to the community?

On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter with the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council September 20, 2012. The comprehensive audit report will provided to the Chief and Council and is available on the AANDC website.

22. Is the comprehensive audit work that AANDC was conducting regarding the situation at the Attawapiskat First Nation complete?

Yes the audit work is complete. The report has been reviewed by the Audit Committee, comprised of five external members from outside the public service, and approved by the Deputy Minister. It is now available on the AANDC website.

23. Will the Government continue to provide funding to Attawapiskat even though they cannot explain what happened to millions of dollars in federal funding?

Funding continues to be provided under the funding agreement with the appropriate controls in place.

24. Why did it take so long to release the audit?

It is the practice of the department to have all audit reports reviewed and recommended for approval by the Deputy Minister. This is done by the AANDC Audit Committee, comprised of 5 external members – none of whom are public servants. The report of the Comprehensive Independent Audit went to the Audit Committee for consideration on September 28, 2012

Once approved, audit reports are then posted to the departmental website, as per Treasury Board guidelines (within 90 days upon completion).

They are reviewed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and translated ensuring accuracy and concordance between the two official languages.

25. Why are you releasing the audit now? Are you trying to discredit Spence? Are you releasing in response to the hunger strike?

The release of this independent audit in no way corresponds with Chief Spence's hunger strike.

Once approved, audit reports are then posted to the departmental website, as per Treasury Board guidelines (within 90 days upon completion).

They are reviewed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and translated ensuring accuracy and concordance between the two official languages.

26. Are there other Band Councils that cannot explain where federal funds go?

AANDC is conducting recipient audits of Band Councils, through independent auditing firms, on an ongoing basis to ensure that federal funds are accounted for.

27. How did AANDC respond to the urgent health and safety needs at Attawapiskat First Nation last winter?

Last winter, AANDC worked with the First Nation and partners to address urgent health and safety needs of the First Nation. Over $3 million was provided towards this specific

Background

The *Indian Act* requires that reserve land be designated before a First Nation can lease a part of its reserve land. (Lands in the lawful possession of a band member do not require a designation before being leased.) When a First Nation designates land, it allows a business partner to temporarily operate on a specified portion of the reserve while the First Nation retains its interest in the land. This arrangement allows First Nations to perpetually benefit from their lands. Financial institutions regard leases as assets, enabling First Nations to use them as collateral for securing loans or financing economic development projects. As the lessor, the Department grants leases on reserve land and administers them on behalf of the First Nation. In this role, the Department ensures the First Nation obtains fair market rent and that any activity on leased land respects the terms and conditions of the land designation and is compliant with regulations pertaining to the given activity.

Land designation currently takes an average of one to two years to complete and, largely due to the length of the process, deters investment and business activity instead of enabling economic development. The proposed amendments to the *Indian Act* would speed up this process by: 1) Reducing the voting threshold for a land designation to a simple majority vote; and 2) Allowing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, rather than the Governor in Council, to accept land designations.

Together, these changes would shorten the designation process by months and would allow First Nations to respond to economic development opportunities in a time frame closer to off reserve practices.

BIA II –Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act

FAQs:

Original CIDM Reference: NCR#3904849
MINO Approved: 05/02/12

Frequently Asked Questions

Date: October 19, 2012

Amendments to the Land Designation Sections of the *Indian Act*

Q1. What are First Nation designated lands?

A1. First Nation designated lands are reserve lands that a First Nation has agreed to lease for commercial, agricultural, recreational or other purposes. Similar to how a municipality would zone land for a specific purpose off a reserve, First Nations who operate under the *Indian Act* identify lands on their reserve for specific purposes following a land designation process. Designated lands remain reserve lands. When a First Nation designates land, it allows a business partner to temporarily run a business on a specified portion of the reserve while the First Nation retains its interest in the land. This arrangement allows First Nations to economically benefit from their lands and to manage them according to their by-laws.

Q2. Why is the Government of Canada proposing amendments to the designation provisions of the *Indian Act*?

A2. The proposed amendments to the designation provisions of the *Indian Act* respond to First Nations who have expressed frustration with the overly complex and lengthy process of designating land. For First Nations operating under the *Indian Act*, land designation is a prerequisite for economic development on reserve and is the legal instrument that permits leasing on First Nation land.

The proposed changes would speed up the process to designate lands and, as a result, provide greater flexibility for First Nations to take advantage of time-sensitive economic development opportunities.

Q3. What are the proposed amendments?

A3. The proposed amendments would expedite the process for designating lands administered under the *Indian Act* to further improve the ability of First Nations to take full advantage of potential economic development and investment opportunities on reserve. Specifically, they would:

- Lower the voting threshold to a simple majority from a majority-of-a-majority, rendering a second vote unnecessary.
- Change responsibility for approving designations to the Minister from the Governor in Council

Q4. What is the difference between a majority-of-a-majority and simple majority voting threshold?

A4. Majority-of-a-majority means that a majority of eligible voters must vote and that a majority of those who vote must vote in favour. Simple majority requires that a majority of those who participate in the vote, vote in favour of the settlement agreement, regardless of the number of persons eligible to vote.

Q5. What is the rationale for eliminating the need for a second vote?

A5. Imposing a majority-of-a-majority voting threshold to approve a land designation on a first vote is often an impossibly high threshold for the First Nation to meet. Statistics show that voter turnout in approximately 80 per cent of communities is regularly significantly below 50 per cent for the first vote. If the first vote is unsuccessful, the *Indian Act* requires that a second vote be held requiring a simple majority approval. This requirement to hold a second vote not only impedes them from pursuing time-sensitive economic opportunities, but also causes the First Nation to incur additional administrative costs.

The legislative amendments propose to reduce the voting threshold of the first vote to a simple majority, thereby making the process for a First Nation to approve a designation more efficient. Removing the second vote will increase the speed of the land designation process thereby enabling First Nations to better capitalize on economic development opportunities.

Reducing the voting threshold would be consistent with other approaches where, for example, a simple majority vote is currently sufficient to elect the Chief and Council of a First Nation, to accept multi-million dollar out-of-court settlements, and to accept a

settlement of a specific claim valued between $3-7 million. In comparison, the requirement to have a majority-of-a-majority vote for designations is unjustifiably high in light of the impediments it poses to economic development.

Q6. What is the rationale for removing the Governor in Council requirement?

A6. Following the First Nation community's vote, it typically takes several months to obtain the authorization of the Governor in Council for a land designation, making this internal-to-government step the lengthiest step of the land designation process. The proposed amendment would replace Governor in Council authority with Ministerial authority. This will help First Nations respond more quickly to business opportunities.

Q7. What is the current designation process and how will it change as a result of the proposed amendments?

A7. The main focus of the proposed amendments is to reduce delays within the land designation process, which currently takes an average of one to two years to complete. Currently, the process begins when a First Nation approaches the department to discuss its land development plans. The Department works with the First Nation to identify conditions of the land use, lease terms and licensing requirements. The land designation is voted on by the members of the First Nation according to the rules of the *Indian Referendum Regulations*. The department provides all eligible electors, including those living off-reserve with supporting documentation necessary to make an informed decision. If voter turnout is less than a majority, the band council may request that a subsequent simple majority vote be held. The designation is then submitted for Governor in Council approval. Upon approval, the land designation is then recorded in the Indian Lands Registry.

The proposed amendments would not change the current level of service provided to First Nations, including the initial discussions and planning and the community information meeting. The proposed amendments would only change the designation process in two areas by:

1. Reducing the voting threshold to one vote; and
2. Authorizing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, rather than the Governor in Council, to approve the land designation upon receipt of a band council resolution.

Combined, the changes are expected to reduce the time it takes to administer the land designations process by several months and create new economic opportunities on reserve.

Q8. Will information sessions on land designation continue to be provided to First Nations to ensure informed voting?

A8. There will continue to be a requirement to provide information sessions on land designation to First Nations to ensure informed consent. In accordance with the *Indian Referendum Regulations*, an information document is made available to the members of the First Nation, and at least one information meeting is held prior to the designation vote. The information document sets out the proposal and includes details such as the legal description of the lands, the environmental impact assessment, the appraised value of the lands, and the benefits and risks associated with the proposal. The information meeting provides an opportunity for the proposal to be discussed by the proponent and the First Nation members.

Q9. Is designated land the same as surrendered land?

A9. No. Land designation is frequently confused with land surrender. Under land surrender, the First Nation surrenders all of its interests in the land in question and it ceases to be reserve land. Under land designations, First Nations retain their rights and interests in the land.

Q10. Will the voting threshold for land surrenders also be reduced to a simple majority?

A10. No, the proposed amendments to lower the voting threshold to a simple majority would apply only to the land designation provisions, not to the land surrender provisions of the *Indian Act*. A successful majority-of-a-majority vote will continue to be a requirement for land surrender. This higher voting threshold is considered to be appropriate for land surrender given the implications of surrendering ownership and jurisdiction over reserve land.

Q11. Do the proposed amendments affect land management under the *First Nations Land Management Act* (FNLMA)?

A11. No. Since FNLMA First Nations do not operate under the land-related provisions of the *Indian Act*, the proposed amendments to land designation would not be applicable to them.

Q12. Will the proposed amendments affect individual ownership of reserve land?

A12. No, a certificate of possession verifies the lawful possession of reserve land by a member of the band. A land designation is not required to lease or otherwise manage individually owned lands. Land designation applies only to collectively owned land, which requires a community vote before it may be developed.

Q13. Would the proposed amendments to land designation apply to First Nation communities north of 60?

A13. Yes, the proposed amendments would apply to those reserves north of 60 that are governed by the *Indian Act*, including the Hay River Dene 1 Reserve (K'atlodeeche First Nation) and the Salt Plains No. 195 and Salt River No. 195 reserves (Salt River First Nation #195) in the Northwest Territories. The amendments would not apply to communities north of 60 that have self-government agreements or modern treaties in place.

Q14. Do the proposed amendments impact off-reserve members' rights to vote on a land designation, as provided by the *Corbiere* decision?

A14. No, eligible off-reserve members will continue to be able to exercise their right to vote on a proposed land designation.

Q15. Do these amendments affect lands held in possession by First Nation band members?

A15. No. Lands in the lawful possession of a band member do not require a designation before being leased.

Q16. Who will be affected by the amendments to the designation provisions of *the Indian Act*?

A16. These amendments will affect First Nations who designate lands under the *Indian Act*. They will not, therefore, affect self-governing First Nations or First Nations under the *First Nations Land Management Act*. As of September 2012, Canada has completed 18 comprehensive self-government agreements involving 32 communities and another establishing a public government in Nunavut, and as of October 1, 2012, 34 First Nations have been operating under the *First Nations Land Management Act*.

Q17. How many First Nations have to go to a second vote?

A17. Over the past five years, approximately 80 per cent of First Nation communities held a second vote.

Q18. What is the average number of months between the first and second vote?

A18. On average, the second vote is held four to six months after the first vote.

Duty to Consult

Media Lines

MO approved (from Budget 2012 package) – CIDM 4877437

POSITIONING STATEMENT

Canada takes its legal duty to consult with Aboriginal groups very seriously.

KEY MESSAGES

- Canada has a legal duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Aboriginal groups if it has been determined that treaty and Aboriginal rights could be impacted.

- Canada endeavours to meet its legal duty to consult through meaningful and direct consultation with Aboriginal communities to ensure that Aboriginal views are taken into consideration when making decisions on projects that could adversely affect their rights.

- The Crown has a legal duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate when contemplating conduct that might adversely impact potential or established section 35 or Treaty rights of Aboriginal groups as stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Haida* and *Taku River* decisions.

- The role of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is to coordinate with, support, and advise federal officials on fulfilling the legal duty to consult. This role is designed to lead to a whole-of-government approach to Aboriginal consultation.

- The Government of Canada takes it consultation obligations seriously and will consult Aboriginal groups should a federal activity have an adverse impact on an Aboriginal or Treaty right.

DFO - Fisheries Act Amendments re: Aboriginal Fisheries

Bill C-38/C-45 Budget Implementation Act and Cohen Report outcomes

CIDM Reference number: (From BC principals mtg - hot issues) NCR # 4877755

Media Lines

(provided by DFO)

KEY MESSAGES (Approved lines from DFO):

- The C-45 amendments to the Fisheries Act are merely aimed at clarifying/fixing provisions introduced in C-38. There is nothing new in the amendments that would relate in any substantial way to the Cohen Commission Report.

- The Department is moving from managing impacts in all areas that may or may not contain fish, to a fisheries protection program that manages threats to the recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries, such as fish habitat destruction, incidental killing of fish (other than by means of fishing), and aquatic invasive species.

BIA II: Navigable Waters Act amendments

CIDM Reference number: (From BC principals mtg - hot issues) NCR # 4877755

Media Lines

(provided by Transport Canada)

- The Government of Canada is committed to promoting and maintaining a safe transportation system.
- Building on efficiencies gained through the amendments to the Act in 2009, including the Minor Works and Waters Order, we will focus our resources on Canada's busiest waterways going forward. We will continue to protect navigation while also allowing both public and private infrastructure investments to occur in an expedient manner. Under our new navigation policy we will:
    - clearly list the major waterways for which regulatory approval is required prior to the placement or construction of a works;
    - expand the list of low risk works (like minor repairs on bridges) that can be pre-approved because they pose very little impact on safe navigation;
    - provide for new fines that escalate with the severity of the violation;
    - allow proponents of works in unlisted waters to opt-in and seek approval of their proposed work to give them additional legal certainty by allowing them to choose; and
    - change the name of this law to the *Navigation Protection Act* to reflect its historic intent
- The list of major waterways is focused. Those placed on it support busy commercial or recreational activity, are accessible by ports and marinas, and are often in close proximity to heavily populated areas. Nautical charts compiled by the Canadian Hydrographic Service, reliance on historical data from the Navigable Waters Protection Program as well as Statistics Canada numbers related to freight movement on Canadian waterways were used to compile the list.
- Transport Canada will provide educational material for builders including the rights of boaters and how to build safely.
- Transport Canada will continue to be present, responding to questions and providing guidance to builders.
- The federal government has discussed the list of waterways with the provinces and territories this past summer.

Julien Houle - Fwd: ADVANCED COPY OF PRESS RELEASE from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya

From: Angela Matchim
To: Mercier, Sylvie
Date: 1/7/2013 2:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: ADVANCED COPY OF PRESS RELEASE from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya
Attachments: ADVANCED COPY OF PRESS RELEASE from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya

Attached you will find DFAIT's assessment of the letter and NR. Our media lines should address the NR.

Kim is pulling together now.

Angela

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Pages 80 to / à 83

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13(1)(b), 15(1)

of the Access to Information Act

de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information

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Julien Houle - DECEMBER_10_SPOKESPERSON_BOOK

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Francois Beauregard; Patrick Brennan
Date: 1/7/2013 10:32 AM
Subject: DECEMBER_10_SPOKESPERSON_BOOK
Attachments: NCR-#4876862-v1-DECEMBER_10_SPOKESPERSON_BOOK.docx

Here is the spokesperson book that was developed on both topics as discussed last week for the SR NR.

I am in a meeting until 11. Let's discuss thereafter...

Thanks,
Kim

Spokesperson's Book

December 10, 2012

Table of contents:

- **General Protest Lines**
- **Chief Spence Hunger Strike/Call for PM/Crown meeting with Treaty FNs**
- **Budget Implementation Act**
  - Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act
    - Media Lines
    - FAQs - Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act
  - Duty to Consult
    - Media Lines
  - Fisheries Act Amendments re: Aboriginal Fisheries (DFO lead)
    - Media Lines (from DFO)
  - Navigable Waters Act amendments (Transport Canada lead)

Attawapiskat – Community Issues
- Media Lines
- Questions and Answers
- Benevolent Payment

FNLM
- Media Lines

ARO/Tribal Council Funding
- Media Lines

Crown First Nation Gathering First Anniversary
- Media Lines

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Pages 131 to / à 137

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Pages 136 to / à 138

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sont non pertinentes

Pages 139 to / à 142

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Julien Houle - BIA_II_-_LAND_DESIGNATION_AMENDMENTS_-_MEDIA_LINES

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Patrick Brennan
Date: 1/7/2013 11:18 AM
Subject: BIA_II_-_LAND_DESIGNATION_AMENDMENTS_-_MEDIA_LINES
CC: Angela Matchim; Francois Beauregard; Keith Smith
Attachments: BIA_II_-_LAND_DESIGNATION_AMENDMENTS_-_MEDIA_LINES

Hi Patrick,

Here are the lines on C-45 that I sent to Francois last week. These should have been in the spokesbook that I sent you earlier this morning. These would support the SR letter.

Call me if you want to discuss further. I will also be on the 11h30 call today.

Thanks,
Kim

Julien Houle - BIA_II_-_LAND_DESIGNATION_AMENDMENTS_-_MEDIA_LINES

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Francois Beauregard
Date: 1/4/2013 9:29 AM
Subject: BIA_II_-_LAND_DESIGNATION_AMENDMENTS_-_MEDIA_LINES
CC: Angela Matchim; Sylvie Mercier
Attachments: NCR-#4727658-v1-BIA_II_-_LAND_DESIGNATION_AMENDMENTS_-_MEDIA_LINES.doc

Salut François,

Voici nos lignes sur le C-45 en réponse de la lettre du SR. Tant que pour la situation avec Mme. Spence, le Ministère n'est pas le "lead" sur le sujet, et donc nous n'avons pas de lignes officielles. On peut s'en parler si tu veux.

Merci,
Kim

Date Updated/Approved: (10/17/12)
CIDM #HQ4658070

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA
RESPONSE TO MEDIA

(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

ISSUE: BIA II - Amendments to land designation sections of the *Indian Act* (09/17/12)

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

In the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development, the Government of Canada committed to modernizing lands management regimes to enhance the value of Aboriginal assets.

KEY MESSAGES

- Our Government continues to take concrete steps to build the conditions necessary for First Nation communities to participate more fully in Canada's economy.

- First Nations' land represents a tremendous asset that can create economic opportunities for First Nation people and communities.

- For First Nations operating under the *Indian Act* land designation is a powerful key to unlocking on-reserve economic development across Canada.

- The proposed amendments to the land designation provisions of the *Indian Act* respond directly to First Nations who have expressed frustration with the overly complex and lengthy processes currently involved in designating reserve land.

- The proposed amendments will speed up the process to designate reserve lands and, as a result, provide greater flexibility for First Nations to act on time-sensitive economic development opportunities.

- Amending the land designation provisions of the *Indian Act* is practical and incremental change that will increase economic development opportunities on reserve land while reducing red tape and unnecessary costs to Canada and First Nations.

Background

The *Indian Act* requires that reserve land be designated before a First Nation can lease a part of its reserve land. (Lands in the lawful possession of a band member do not require a designation before being leased.) When a First Nation designates land, it allows a business partner to temporarily operate on a specified portion of the reserve

while the First Nation retains its interest in the land. This arrangement allows First Nations to perpetually benefit from their lands. Financial institutions regard leases as assets, enabling First Nations to use them as collateral for securing loans or financing economic development projects. As the lessor, the Department grants leases on reserve land and administers them on behalf of the First Nation. In this role, the Department ensures the First Nation obtains fair market rent and that any activity on leased land respects the terms and conditions of the land designation and is compliant with regulations pertaining to the given activity.

Land designation currently takes an average of one to two years to complete and, largely due to the length of the process, deters investment and business activity instead of enabling economic development. The proposed amendments to the *Indian Act* would speed up this process by: 1) Reducing the voting threshold for a land designation to a simple majority vote; and 2) Allowing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, rather than the Governor in Council, to accept land designations.

Together, these changes would shorten the designation process by months and would allow First Nations to respond to economic development opportunities in a time frame closer to off reserve practices.

DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS:

Media Relations (or Regional Office)
PRIMARY HQ CONTACT
Media Inquiries Line Media Relations (819) 953-1160

PREPARED BY: James Sinclair, 819-994-4697

Pages 144 to / à 146

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Julien Houle - Fwd: Press Statement on Communication from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Sylvie Mercier
Date: 1/7/2013 11:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: Press Statement on Communication from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya
CC: Angela Matchim
Attachments: Press Statement on Communication from Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples - James Anaya

FYI

Pages 155 to / à 166

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Julien Houle - SR lines

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Angela Matchim
Date: 1/7/2013 3:53 PM
Subject: SR lines
Attachments: NCR-#4934638-v1-PSD_-_AERB_-_IRD_-_SR_on_the_Rights_of_Indigenous_Peoples_-_E_-_DMO_approved.docx

What do you think?

January 7, 2013
CIDM # 4934638
DMO Approved

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA
MEDIA LINES
(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

ISSUE:
Press Statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the protests and the hunger strike to be released on Tuesday, January 8 (Geneva time) (07/01/2013)

POSITIONING STATEMENT

- The Government is committed to taking the necessary steps that lead to tangible and lasting results by creating the conditions for healthier, more self-sufficient First Nation communities.

MEDIA LINES

Crown-First Nations Gathering – One-year anniversary

- The Government is working with the AFN and with willing First Nations toward transformative structural changes.
- There are no quick fixes. The Government of Canada will continue to focus on real, structural reforms and increasing the effectiveness of long-term investments.
- In trying to find practical solutions to real issues, work continues with willing partners to renovate programs, and develop approaches, including new legislation with the goal of improving the lives of First Nations.
- Progress continues to take place on delivering tangible and lasting results to ensure First Nations are well-positioned to fully participate in a strong Canadian economy.

UNDRIP :

- The endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) illustrates the Government's commitment to reconciliation and renewed relationships that are based on mutual understanding and respect.
- Our statement of support for the Declaration demonstrates our specific concerns with some of its provisions. We believe that this document can be interpreted within the context of our own legal framework and the Canadian Constitution.
- Our Government is already working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples on many of the issues addressed in the Declaration to foster opportunities for a better future for Aboriginal peoples in Canada.
- We are taking concrete actions on education, economic development, housing, child and family services, access to safe drinking water, and the extension of human rights protection and matrimonial real property protection to First Nations on reserve.
- We continue to make strides in the reconciliation and fulfillment of Aboriginal rights through negotiation of modern treaties and the settlement of specific claims.

- Canada will continue to work in partnership with other countries for the advancement of the cause of Indigenous rights around the world.

BACKGROUND

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. James Anaya, intends to issue a press statement tomorrow (Tuesday, January 8th) based on the letter he sent last week to Canada (i.e.: the protests and the hunger strike).

In his letter, the Special Rapporteur requests information (by end of January) on the following:

-Whether a meeting is planned between Aboriginal Leaders, the PM and the GG.
-The extent to which indigenous peoples were provided an opportunity to provide input into provisions of Bill C-45 that affect them.
-Whether any measures are being taken to monitor Chief Spence's health.

Justice Canada is the lead in drafting the response to Mr. Anaya's letter.

DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS:

Media Relations	**Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada**
PRIMARY HQ CONTACT Media Inquiries Lines Media Relations (819) 953-1160	**PRIMARY SPOKESPERSONS** Media Inquiries Line Media Relations 819-953-1160

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Pages 161 to / à 172

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Pages 173 to / à 182

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Julien Houle - Re: Idle No More - media lines

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca
Date: 1/8/2013 11:14 AM
Subject: Re: Idle No More - media lines

http://www.pm.gc.ca/fra/media.asp?category=3&featureId=6&pageId=49&id=5213

>>> <Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca> 08/01/2013 11:01 AM >>>
Bonjour Kim,

Comme mentionné lors de notre conversation téléphonique, nous apprécierions si vous pouviez nous envoyer les lignes les plus à jour concernant les manifestations Idle No More (dans les deux langues).

N'hésitez pas à me contacter s'il y a quoi que ce soit,

Barbara Harvey
Spokesperson | Porte-parole
Telephone: 613-995-1874 | Téléphone: (613) 995-1874
125 Promenade Sussex Drive
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

Pages 212 to / à 245

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Julien Houle - ML on Idle No More and PM Meeting

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Angela Matchim; Sylvie Mercier
Date: 1/8/2013 10:52 AM
Subject: ML on Idle No More and PM Meeting
Attachments: NCR-#4935833-v1-PSD_-_ML_-_Idle_No_More_and_PM_meeting_with_FN_delegation_-_E_-_DMO_Approved.docx

These are the same lines developed for the SR's Statement and the CFNG One-yr anniversary. I don't think we can say any more. Thoughts?

Kim

Pages 253 to / à 294

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Pages 255 to / à 264

are not relevant

sont non pertinentes

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Riou, Jonathan
Date: 1/11/2013 12:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: May I see incoming article for the response I am reviewing? Thanks.

Just sent to francie. she asked me directly

>>> Ian Ketcheson 1/11/2013 12:23 PM >>>
Published | Publié: 2013-01-09
Received | Reçu: 2013-01-09 2:03 AM THE STARPHOENIX (SASKATOON) (FINAL)
LOCAL, Page: A2

Feds ignore duty to consult First Nations
Pat Atkinson, The StarPhoenix

The sudden gatherings and "flash" round dances of thousands of citizens in cities across Canada as part of the Idle No More movement remind me of a visit several years ago to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology.

SIIT's board chair, Ray Ahenakew, thought that I, as then-minister of advanced education, should see the types of training and educational opportunities being offered to young First Nations people. The institute was focused on several new technologies and engaging students in the use of that technology.

Today, all those computer savvy young people are connected to each other and are using technology to organize such things as Idle No More events. So what has galvanized First Nations youth and their supporters that, on a moment's notice, they can be called into action?

This grassroots movement grew out of Saskatchewan as four women - Nina Wilson, Sylvia McAd-am, Jessica Gordon and Sheelah McLean - were concerned about the federal government's Bill 45, a 400-plus-page omnibus bill that was before Parliament this fall. The women were so worried about the environmental effects that provisions of the legislation would have on First Nations people and fellow Canadians that they organized "teach-ins" at various locations across Saskatchewan.

Idle No More is concerned about eight pieces of legislation included in the omnibus bill. Bill 45 contains amendments to the Indian Act and changes to how our environment is governed in Canada. This act passed before Christmas.

The bills before Parliament or the Senate are First Nations Financial Transparency Act, Family Homes on Reserve and Matrimonial Interests or Right Act, First Nations Elections Act, Indian Act Amendment and Replacement Act, Act to amend the Interpretation Act, First Nations Self-Government Recognition Bill and First Nations Private Ownership Act. First Nations people see several of these bills as a violation of indigenous and treaty rights.

The Supreme Court of Canada in a 2010 ruling seems fairly clear concerning government decisions that may adversely affect lands and resources, saying the government has a "duty to consult" any First Nations affected by the decisions.

In Prime Minister Stephen Harper's haste to amend the Indian Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Act, the government not only failed to consult MPs and Canadians, but also the First Nations people. In ramming through Bill 45 - the Jobs and Growth Act, 2012 - the government ignored its legal duty to consult First Nations.

But this is in keeping with the prime minister's approach to most matters. Procedures don't matter. Precedents don't matter. Treaties don't matter. Neither do the laws of the country. Harper has his agenda of jobs and growth, and that means resource development.

Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan says amendments to the Indian Act will help First Nations move at "the speed of business." The amendments allow First Nations communities to lease reserve lands, based on the support of a majority of those who show up at a meeting.

In the past, a band council needed the support of a majority of band members. But no longer. In addition, the minister now has the authority to call a band meeting or referendum for "the purpose of considering a surrender of the band's territory."

First Nation's democracy and treaties don't seem to matter to the government. Harper's approach to the environment is to reduce government overlap so that resource development can go ahead. There will be fewer environmental assessments and the focus will be on major projects only.

Pipelines will be exempt from the Navigable Waters Protection Act, which will now be called the Navigation Protection Act and only apply to less than one per cent of Canada's waterways. That means three oceans, 97 lakes and 62 rivers are protected. And when it comes to the Fisheries Act, only fish of commercial importance are protected.

Many of the resource developments and pipelines that concern the Harper government lie within traditional territories of First Nations people. Investment into those areas needs to be made and the prime minister doesn't have the time or inclination to consult.

Harper's approach to parliamentary democracy has now spilled beyond the House of Commons and First Nations people have something to say - whether the federal government likes it or not. And it appears that a lot of Canadians are listening. Maybe, just maybe, First Nations can get his government to put Canadians before development at any cost.

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Please refer to Important Notices page for the details.

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From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca; Mercier, Sylvie
Date: 1/8/2013 10:20 AM
Subject: Re: Idle No More - French media lines

Thanks. As mentioned, the lead for this falls elsewhere. Sylvie?

>>> <Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca> 1/8/2013 10:18 AM >>>
Good morning Ian,

I was wondering if the Idle No More media lines have been translated?

We only have them in English, and that would be very helpful if we could have the French lines. (our mission in Paris got a few phone calls and they would like to answer the reporters in French...)

Thanks a lot and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any question,

Barbara Harvey

Spokesperson | Porte-parole

Telephone: 613-995-1874 <tel:613-995-1874> | Téléphone: (613) 995-1874
<tel:%28613%29%20995-1874>
125 Promenade Sussex Drive
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca; Béchard, Pierre; Mercier, Sylvie
CC: Ian.Trites@international.gc.ca; Marie-Christine.Lilkoff@international.g...
Date: 1/7/2013 12:51 PM
Subject: Re: Idle No More - most recent media lines

Hi Barbara. I'm forwarding this to Sylvie Mercier, Associate DG. She'll know how best to help you.

>>> <Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca> 1/7/2013 12:12 PM >>>
Bonjour Pierre et Ian,

Serait-ce possible de partager avec nous vos dernières lignes médias sur Idle no More? J'imagine que depuis que le PM a accepté de rencontrer les chefs autochtones il y a eu des changements apportés aux lignes?

Merci beaucoup!

Barbara Harvey

Spokesperson | Porte-parole

Telephone: 613-995-1874 <tel:613-995-1874> | Téléphone: (613) 995-1874
<tel:%28613%29%20995-1874>
125 Promenade Sussex Drive
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

Pages 274 to / à 276

are duplicates

sont des duplicatas

Pat
6139549650

Pages 277 to / à 280

are duplicates

sont des duplicatas

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Inform, HQ <INFORM@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/4/2013 10:40 AM
Subject: Re: Media monitoring this weekend....

Or lesia who is acting for pam.

>>> Ian Ketcheson 1/4/2013 10:39:59 AM >>>
Can u followup with sylvie?

>>> HQ Inform 1/4/2013 10:25:44 AM >>>
Hi Ian. This would have to run by Bernie or Sylvie as she isn't an employee of AANDC. She does have access to our Newsdesk site as they do use Newsdesk as well.

Jim Hurcomb

To access Newsdesk directly, visit http://newsdesk.
Pour l'accès direct à Infomedia, veuillez visiter http://infomedia

>>> Ian Ketcheson 1/4/2013 8:51 AM >>>
Jim, see below from cbsa.

>>> "Giolti, Patrizia" <Patrizia.Giolti@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca> 1/4/2013 8:46:01 AM >>>

Good morning Ian – happy new year!
Wondering if/how AANDC is monitoring media over the weekend given the Idle no More planned activities and would it be possible to add CBSA to the mailing list?
Let me know and I will provide key contacts – thanks!

Pat
6139549650

Pages 280 to / à 283

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: ROLL-UP: Idle No More Event Schedule - January 3, 2013 - 17h00

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: mediamonitoring-surveillance@international.gc.ca <mediamonitoring-survei...
Date: 1/3/2013 5:04 PM
Subject: Re: ROLL-UP: Idle No More Event Schedule - January 3, 2013 - 17h00

Please correct aandc addresses. I sent corrections yesterday. Thanks.

>>> <mediamonitoring-surveillance@international.gc.ca> 1/3/2013 5:02:24 PM >>>
Good afternoon,

Please find attached the updated roll-up of events and demonstrations that are scheduled internationally in support of the "Idle No More" movement.

We appologize for the delay today.

Merci,

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Surveillante des médias / Media Monitor
Bureau des relations avec les médias / Media Relations Office
Tel.: (613) 944-1284
Fax: (613) 995-1405

Before printing think about our Environment. Avant l'impression, il faut penser à notre Environnement

Carol-Ann Pineault - Fw: FYI: Qalipu recent media coverage

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Young, Steve <Steve.Young@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/3/2013 9:26 AM
Subject: Fw: FYI: Qalipu recent media coverage
CC: Katelin.Peltier@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca <Katelin.Peltier@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; O...

Many thanks, steve, for sending these. Much appreciated.

>>> Katelin Peltier 1/3/2013 9:24:46 AM >>>
As an FYI below you will find recent media coverage regarding Qalipu.

The Western Star (Corner Brook)
Front, Thursday, January 3, 2013, p. 1
Qalipu applications continue to be reviewed
Diane Crocker

CORNER BROOK - The completion of the registration process for the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band continues to be the main objective for Chief Brendan Sheppard moving into 2013.

While staff at the band have other projects and initiatives they are working on, Sheppard said many of these things can't move forward until the registration process is completed. But the enrolment process is now under review by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. The review was prompted by the growing number of applications that had been filed seeking membership in Qalipu. More than 70,000 applications were received before the final enrolment phase ended in November, bringing the total for both stages to over 100,000.

"It's not something that I'm sure the department are jumping with joy about," said Sheppard of the numbers.

However, while no decisions on the process and what it will involve have been made, Sheppard thinks it will become more stringent and there will be many who won't qualify. But, he noted, the same thing occurred in the earlier enrolment phase. At this point in time, though, the agreement is being honoured and applications continue to be processed. Sheppard said two meetings on the issue are scheduled to take place this month.

"I'm sure the Government of Canada has no particular agenda to end without the applications being assessed and being reviewed," said Sheppard.

He said the current talks are something on which the band has to move carefully, "To make sure the best interests of the people who have applied is looked at."

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"Until we reach that there's many things somewhat left in limbo from a funding perspective."

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In terms of the other projects and initiatives the band is working on, Sheppard said it will continue to pursue all avenues where opportunities present themselves.

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Regional/Provincial, Thursday, January 3, 2013, p. 3
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"And also, for non-aboriginal people, we've gone from 2.4 million bodies of water in Canada being protected to about 155."

The only protected body of water in this province is Lake Melville in Labrador, which Cormier said is concerning because 80 per cent of North American salmon rivers are in this province.

While the Qalipu Band is not involved in the planning of the demonstration, Cormier has emailed an invitation to the event to ward councillor Brendan Mitchell. Mitchell, who represents the ward of Corner Brook, told The Western Star he would be attending.

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Katelin Peltier
Senior Communications Advisor | Conseillère principale en communications
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada | Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
10 Wellington, 19th Floor - 1900G | 10 rue Wellington, 19e étage - 1900G
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0H4

Telephone: | Téléphone: (819) 956-4004
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katelin.peltier@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Fw: just in case you havent seen them already

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Katelin.Peltier@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca <Katelin.Peltier@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/3/2013 9:17 AM
Subject: Fw: just in case you havent seen them already

Can u flip q story to relevant people?

>>> Steve Young 1/3/2013 8:46:53 AM >>>
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Regional/Provincial, Thursday, January 3, 2013, p. 3
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Carol-Ann Pineault - Qalipu

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Inform, HQ <INFORM@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Hurcomb, Jim <Jim.Hurcomb@aadnc-a...
Date: 1/3/2013 9:17 AM
Subject: Qalipu
CC: Young, Steve <Steve.Young@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>

Jim: can u get these out?

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: URGENT TAG approval required - Letter to the Editor - Guardian - Attawapiskat/IdleNoMore

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Paul Warren <Paul.Warren@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/2/2013 4:11 PM
Subject: Re: URGENT TAG approval required - Letter to the Editor - Guardian - Attawapiskat/IdleNoMore

Talk to sylvie whether we actually need to do other adms.

>>> Paul Warren 1/2/2013 4:11:07 PM >>>
Hi James,

As mentioned, we are looking for URGENT approval from TAG SADM on this letter to the editor.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks,
Paul

Product: Letter to the Editor
Subject: Attawapiskat/IdleNoMore
Purpose: Response to the Guardian, requested by MO
Deadline: **ASAP, 4:45 p.m.**
Notes: The following has been approved by A/SADM RO. Content in red is based on MO approved material. TAG related content appears in para 3. Guardian article follows, below.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

In regards to your January 2, 2013 article, "Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions," I would like to clarify a few points regarding the Government of Canada's support for the community of Attawapiskat and for First Nations across the country.

The Government of Canada is delivering concrete results for First Nation communities across Canada. Through targeted investments and strong partnerships, we are working to build a future in which First Nations are self-sufficient and prosperous, making their own decisions, managing their own affairs and making strong contributions to the country as a whole.

Since 2006, the Government of Canada has provided support to build over 10,000 new homes and renovated thousands more in First Nations across the country. We have provided funding to build over 30 new schools in First Nation communities and to renovate or repair more than 200 others. We have made significant investments in safe drinking water infrastructure, increased funding for child and family services by 25%, and settled over 80 outstanding land claims

Since 2011-2012, the federal government has provided Attawapiskat First Nation with $4.7 million in funding to address housing issues. Since 2006-2007, the $131 million total investment in that community includes $9.2 million for 17 new homes, 22 new modular

homes, renovations to another 29 homes and 33 serviced lots.

We remain committed to assisting Attawapiskat First Nation in addressing long-term housing challenges and we continue to urge community leaders to develop a housing strategy and set priorities for their community. In August 2012, in the absence of a concrete strategy, government officials met with representatives of Attawapiskat First Nation and other partners to establish a working group to develop short- and long-term strategies for housing in the community.

The Government of Canada respects its duty to consult with First Nations. Among the thousands of consultations conducted with First Nations every year, since 2010, I have personally visited 50 First Nations communities and had hundreds of productive meetings with chiefs, councillors and Aboriginal community members across Canada.

We will continue to work in partnership with First Nations to support strong, self-sufficient and more prosperous Aboriginal communities.

Hon. John Duncan,
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

>>>> HQ Inform 1/2/2013 10:38:55 AM >>>
> The Guardian (U.K)
>
> Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions
> Chronic underfunding of essential services and fears over land losses prompt
> Attawapiskat chief to go on hunger strike
>
> Chief Theresa Spence has been on hunger strike in a teepee across from
> parliament since 11 December. Photograph: Chris Wattie/Reuters
> When images of Canada's First Nations people living in mouldy shacks and
> frosty tents, without toilets or running water, emerged last year, Canadians
> were shocked.
>
> It was Canada's "Katrina moment" says Charlie Angus, New Democratic party
> member for Timmins-James Bay in north Ontario.
>
> Fast forward a year, and progress has been excruciatingly slow. The
> indigenous community only received 22 trailer homes to deal with the housing
> crisis. A construction trailer with three bathrooms and a kitchen still
> caters for around 50 people, according to Angus.
>
> As a result, the chief of the Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, has been on a
> hunger strike living in a teepee across from parliament since 11 December as
> winter descends on Canada's capital, Ottawa. She says she is willing to die
> for her people if the Queen and the prime minister, Stephen Harper, don't
> meet Canada's indigenous chiefs to discuss the treaty rights they signed with
> the crown.
>
> Many of Canada's aborigines live in what can only be described as developing
> world conditions.
>
> Chronic underfunding of essential social services and complete collapse of

> infrastructure on reserves results in high mortality, unemployment, substance
> abuse, suicide and incarceration.
>
> Early development is obstructed for children on reserves by a bureaucratic
> financial hole that gives 30% to 50% less educational funding than to other
> Canadian youngsters.
>
> Unrest is growing among Canada's First Nations as the conservative
> government makes sweeping changes to environmental protections and the Indian
> Act which many fear will fast-track the absolute surrender of indigenous
> territory, terminate treaty rights and endanger land and water in favour of
> economic gain.
>
> The past two weeks has seen the largest series of nationwide protests in two
> decades, and on Friday a grassroots-led campaign under the Twitter hashtag
> #IdleNoMore will see thousands in over a dozen cities across Canada, the US
> and UK take to the streets and call on Harper and Governor General David
> Johnston to enter negotiations with Spence.
>
> Pamela Palmater, lawyer, professor and director of the Centre for Indigenous
> Governance, believes the unprecedented changes to legislation combined with
> drastic cuts to native organisations will open up Canada's indigenous lands
> to mineral extraction sell-offs to China.
>
> The spokesman for the minister of Aboriginal affairs and northern
> development was asked what consultation process was conducted with First
> Nations before amending the Indian Act. Jason MacDonald didn't specify, but
> said the government conducts "over 5,000 consultations with First Nations"
> every year.
>
> First Nations chiefs across Canada disagree and after more than 250 of them
> wanting to discuss the budget bill were denied entry to the house of commons
> in early December, some rallied behind a grassroots campaign, Idle No More.
>
> Angus says that frustration and anger has built up for a long time as
> communities feel they are moving backwards while the government's attitude is
> increasingly dismissive and derogatory, "like a colonial power treating First
> Nations like a hostage population".
>
> The budget bill dismantles a 130-year-old environmental law removing from
> federal oversight 99.7% of Canada's 32,000 major lakes and over 99.9% of
> Canada's more than 2.25m rivers.
>
> This will disproportionately affect First Nations, as decades of
> underfunding and neglect have left 73% of all water systems and 65% of waste
> water systems on reserves at medium to high risk.
>
> The government can dismantle environmental protections, but First Nations
> still have constitutionally protected rights to be consulted and accommodated
> on any developments that could cause irreversible damage to their land.
>
> Earlier this year the government signed Angus's motion to close the funding
> gap between aboriginal children and the rest of Canadian children and
> Attawapiskat is set to get a new school 12 years after the previous one
> closed.
>

> Meanwhile, plans to build 30 houses this summer did not get a green light
> from the minister of Aboriginal affairs and northern development, John
> Duncan, whose press officer said they had made repeated offers to assist, but
> "the community has yet to submit a housing plan, nor are there any lots ready
> for any homes to be installed".
>
> Rather than provide state-of-emergency assistance last year, Duncan removed
> Spence's council's financial authority, blamed the housing crisis on its
> financial mismanagement, and placed them in third-party management, a move
> later ruled unreasonable by the federal court.
>
> As Spence approaches week three of her hunger strike, and indigenous people
> across the country and people as far away as Egypt and the UK have fasted in
> solidarity, there is little indication that Harper will meet her, portending
> turbulent times ahead.
>
>
>

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: mediamonitoring-surveillance@international.gc.ca
CC: Manchulenko, Lesia; Mercier, Sylvie; Off, Shirley Anne
Date: 1/2/2013 3:07 PM
Subject: Re: ROLL-UP: Idle No More Event Schedule - January 2, 2013 - 15h00

Hi there.

Can you use the e-mail addresses on cc for our folks? The original e-mail you sent had incomplete addresses.

Thanks
Ian.

>>> <mediamonitoring-surveillance@international.gc.ca> 1/2/2013 3:04 PM >>>
Good afternoon,

Please find attached the updated roll-up of events and demonstrations that are scheduled internationally in support of the "Idle No More" movement.

Merci,

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Frankie Leclair
Media Monitor / Surveillante des médias
Media Relations Office / Bureau des relations avec les médias
Tel: (613) 944-1284

mediamonitoring-surveillance@international.gc.ca

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Manchulenko, Lesia; Mercier, Sylvie
Date: 1/2/2013 11:59 AM
Subject: Fwd: RE: Mise à jour - manifestation "Idle No More" à Washington
Attachments: Idle no more - roll-up events- January 2 2013- 05h00.docx

fyi - dfait's roll-up. Interesting calendars at the bottom if we haven't already seen them.

>>> <Tristan.Landry@international.gc.ca> 1/2/2013 11:46 AM >>>
Ian,

Thanks for reaching out. As discussed, please find attached our roll-up of upcoming INM events around the world. This roll-up is updated on a daily basis. If this doc is of interest, please let me know and we will ensure that you (and any colleagues at AADNC) are copied.

Cheers,
T.
Tristan-E. Landry
Director, Media Relations Office | Directeur, Service des relations avec les médias
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

From: Harvey, Barbara -BCM
Sent: December 28, 2012 12:22 PM
To: 'Pierre Béchard'
Cc: Landry, Tristan -BCM
Subject: Mise à jour - manifestation "Idle No More" à Washington

Bonjour Pierre,

s.19(1)

Ce courriel est pour te laisser savoir (au cas où tu ne serais pas au courant) que nous nous attendons que ce lundi, 31 décembre, il y aura une manifestation "Idle No More" à notre ambassade à Washington. Notre mission est d'ailleurs déjà au fait.

Étant donné que nous sommes durant la saison des fêtes et que c'est assez tranquille côté médiatique, nous croyons qu'autant les médias canadiens qu'américains seront tentés de rapporter cette histoire.

N'hésite pas à me contacter s'il y a quoi que ce soit.

Bonne journée,

Barbara Harvey

Spokesperson | Porte-parole

Telephone: 613-995-1874 <tel:613-995-1874> | Téléphone: (613) 995-1874
<tel:%28613%29%20995-1874>
125 Promenade Sussex Drive
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

IDLE NO MORE
Scheduled international events, rallies, demonstrations

Last update: 02/01/2013 5:00 PM

Date	Time *(of event where it takes place)*	Location	Event name	Link to event
Jan. 2	11:00 am EST	Turtle Island, Akwesasne, ONT/NY	Akwesasne Border Shutdown	FB event
Jan. 2	7:30pm	Flatirons Mall, Broomfield, CO, USA	Flash Mob	Twitter
Jan. 5	?	CAN-US border: International Falls Minnesota and Fort Frances Ont.	Rally - Traffic Slow Down	No link
Jan. 5	7:00-10:00am	Woodstock/Houlton Border Crossing	Peaceful border blockade	FB event Link N/A
Jan. 5	8:00-11:00am	Niagara Falls Border Crossing	Peaceful border blockade	FB event
Jan 5	1:00pm	Unsure of exact location, Lancaster, PA, USA	Round Dance Flash Mob	Twitter FB event
Jan. 7	11:00am	Montana State Capitol in Helena Montana, USA	Idle No More Inauguration Day	FB event
Jan. 28	8:30am	Canada Gate - Entrance to Green Park, London, UK	London UK Solidarity Action	FB event
Feb. 28	12:00pm	Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis, USA	Minneapolis Solidarity Rally	FB event

Calendar can be found at this link.

Map of events can be found here.

From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Tristan.Landry@international.gc.ca
CC: Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca; Béchard, Pierre; Manchulenko, Lesi...
Date: 1/2/2013 11:52 AM
Subject: RE: Mise à jour - manifestation "Idle No More" à Washington
Attachments: Ketcheson, Ian.vcf

Many thanks, Tristan.

When you have updates, if you wouldn't mind sending to Sylvie Mercier, Shirley Anne Off, and Lesia Manchulenko that would be most appreciated. I've added them here.

Cheers,
Ian.

Ian Ketcheson
Gestionnaire | Manager
Direction générale des communications | Communications Branch
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada | Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
819.953.7921

Ian.Ketcheson@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

>>> <Tristan.Landry@international.gc.ca> 1/2/2013 11:46 AM >>>
Ian,

Thanks for reaching out. As discussed, please find attached our roll-up of upcoming INM events around the world. This roll-up is updated on a daily basis. If this doc is of interest, please let me know and we will ensure that you (and any colleagues at AADNC) are copied.

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T.
Tristan-E. Landry
Director, Media Relations Office | Directeur, Service des relations avec les médias
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

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Sent: December 28, 2012 12:22 PM
To: 'Pierre Béchard'
Cc: Landry, Tristan -BCM
Subject: Mise à jour - manifestation "Idle No More" à Washington

Bonjour Pierre,

[redacted] s.19(1)

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N'hésite pas à me contacter s'il y a quoi que ce soit.

Bonne journée,

Barbara Harvey

Spokesperson | Porte-parole

Telephone: 613-995-1874 <tel:613-995-1874> | Téléphone: (613) 995-1874
<tel:%28613%29%20995-1874>
125 Promenade Sussex Drive
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

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From: Ian Ketcheson
To: Manchulenko, Lesia; Mercier, Sylvie
CC: St. John, Chris; Warren, Paul
Date: 1/2/2013 11:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: IDLE NO MORE_HUNGER STRIKE_BINDER TABLE OF CONTENTS
Attachments: NCR-#4926710-v2-IDLE_NO_MORE_HUNGER_STRIKE_BINDER_TABLE_OF_CONTENTS.DOCX

Do either of you have the lines?

>>> Paul Warren 1/2/2013 11:32 AM >>>
Hi Ian - doesn't appear the binder included a set of lines specifically addressing IdleNoMore. I'll start with what I have...

>>> Chris St. John 1/2/2013 11:23 AM >>>
this is the ToC for the binder. I can maybe track down something if you think it will help.

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are not relevant

sont non pertinentes

Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: FYI - LETTER TO THE EDITOR - GUARDIAN UK - IDLENOMORE-ATTAWAPISKAT

From: Chris St. John
To: Warren, Paul
Date: 1/3/2013 4:24 PM
Subject: Re: FYI - LETTER TO THE EDITOR - GUARDIAN UK - IDLENOMORE-ATTAWAPISKAT

Thanks for sharing Paul, I'll keep it in my back pocket.

C

>>> Paul Warren 1/3/2013 11:20 AM >>>
FYI.
This is the letter to the editor of the Guardian developed yesterday. DMO approved, it is now with MO. Guardian article follows, below.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks,
Paul

>>>> HQ Inform 1/2/2013 10:38:55 AM >>>
> The Guardian (U.K)
>
> Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions
> Chronic underfunding of essential services and fears over land losses prompt
> Attawapiskat chief to go on hunger strike
>
> Chief Theresa Spence has been on hunger strike in a teepee across from
> parliament since 11 December. Photograph: Chris Wattie/Reuters
> When images of Canada's First Nations people living in mouldy shacks and
> frosty tents, without toilets or running water, emerged last year, Canadians
> were shocked.
>
> It was Canada's "Katrina moment" says Charlie Angus, New Democratic party
> member for Timmins-James Bay in north Ontario.
>
> Fast forward a year, and progress has been excruciatingly slow. The
> indigenous community only received 22 trailer homes to deal with the housing
> crisis. A construction trailer with three bathrooms and a kitchen still
> caters for around 50 people, according to Angus.
>
> As a result, the chief of the Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, has been on a
> hunger strike living in a teepee across from parliament since 11 December as
> winter descends on Canada's capital, Ottawa. She says she is willing to die
> for her people if the Queen and the prime minister, Stephen Harper, don't
> meet Canada's indigenous chiefs to discuss the treaty rights they signed with
> the crown.
>
> Many of Canada's aborigines live in what can only be described as developing
> world conditions.
>

> Chronic underfunding of essential social services and complete collapse of
> infrastructure on reserves results in high mortality, unemployment, substance
> abuse, suicide and incarceration.
>
> Early development is obstructed for children on reserves by a bureaucratic
> financial hole that gives 30% to 50% less educational funding than to other
> Canadian youngsters.
>
> Unrest is growing among Canada's First Nations as the conservative
> government makes sweeping changes to environmental protections and the Indian
> Act which many fear will fast-track the absolute surrender of indigenous
> territory, terminate treaty rights and endanger land and water in favour of
> economic gain.
>
> The past two weeks has seen the largest series of nationwide protests in two
> decades, and on Friday a grassroots-led campaign under the Twitter hashtag
> #IdleNoMore will see thousands in over a dozen cities across Canada, the US
> and UK take to the streets and call on Harper and Governor General David
> Johnston to enter negotiations with Spence.
>
> Pamela Palmater, lawyer, professor and director of the Centre for Indigenous
> Governance, believes the unprecedented changes to legislation combined with
> drastic cuts to native organisations will open up Canada's indigenous lands
> to mineral extraction sell-offs to China.
>
> The spokesman for the minister of Aboriginal affairs and northern
> development was asked what consultation process was conducted with First
> Nations before amending the Indian Act. Jason MacDonald didn't specify, but
> said the government conducts "over 5,000 consultations with First Nations"
> every year.
>
> First Nations chiefs across Canada disagree and after more than 250 of them
> wanting to discuss the budget bill were denied entry to the house of commons
> in early December, some rallied behind a grassroots campaign, Idle No More.
>
> Angus says that frustration and anger has built up for a long time as
> communities feel they are moving backwards while the government's attitude is
> increasingly dismissive and derogatory, "like a colonial power treating First
> Nations like a hostage population".
>
> The budget bill dismantles a 130-year-old environmental law removing from
> federal oversight 99.7% of Canada's 32,000 major lakes and over 99.9% of
> Canada's more than 2.25m rivers.
>
> This will disproportionately affect First Nations, as decades of
> underfunding and neglect have left 73% of all water systems and 65% of waste
> water systems on reserves at medium to high risk.
>
> The government can dismantle environmental protections, but First Nations
> still have constitutionally protected rights to be consulted and accommodated
> on any developments that could cause irreversible damage to their land.
>
> Earlier this year the government signed Angus's motion to close the funding
> gap between aboriginal children and the rest of Canadian children and
> Attawapiskat is set to get a new school 12 years after the previous one
> closed.

>
> Meanwhile, plans to build 30 houses this summer did not get a green light
> from the minister of Aboriginal affairs and northern development, John
> Duncan, whose press officer said they had made repeated offers to assist, but
> "the community has yet to submit a housing plan, nor are there any lots ready
> for any homes to be installed".
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> Rather than provide state-of-emergency assistance last year, Duncan removed
> Spence's council's financial authority, blamed the housing crisis on its
> financial mismanagement, and placed them in third-party management, a move
> later ruled unreasonable by the federal court.
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> As Spence approaches week three of her hunger strike, and indigenous people
> across the country and people as far away as Egypt and the UK have fasted in
> solidarity, there is little indication that Harper will meet her, portending
> turbulent times ahead.
>

Carol-Ann Pineault - Fwd: RE: Attawapiskat

From: Chris St. John
To: Scotton, Anne
Date: 1/3/2013 8:49 AM
Subject: Fwd: RE: Attawapiskat
CC: Achtoutal, Brahim

Good morning Anne, I was just about to call you back with regard to your voicemail when Sylvie informed me PCO got their hands on a copy. I'm not sure how, it didn't come through us in comms, perhaps the Minister's office?

I'll keep you both updated on what I hear about the posting date. I have your sticky note that indicates the 90 day deadline is Jan 24.

Thank you,

Chris

>>> Sylvie Mercier 1/3/2013 8:42 AM >>>

Guess they got it anyways...

>>> On 1/2/2013 at 5:20 PM, in message
<A9A563E28209734EA95FB82BA00494C608187B16@BCL4EXC4.b.net>, "Fox, Christiane"
<Christiane.Fox@pco-bcp.gc.ca> wrote:
> Thank you, much appreciated Sylvie. I have been added to the media clips and
> I understand next door just got a USB key with the audit so my paper version
> is fine, thank you.
> Are you doing analysis or any situational updates (I am getting the stuff
> from the Government Operations Centre) -- let me know...merci!
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Sylvie Mercier [mailto:Sylvie.Mercier@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca]
> Sent: 2013-01-02 2:23 PM
> To: Fox, Christiane
> Subject: Attawapiskat
>
> Hi Christiane,
>
> We are trying to get an e-copy of for you and should have something
> soon. We have included your name on our mailing list for the Idle no
> More packs as well.
>
> Feel free to contact me if you require anything more while Bernie is
> away.
>

Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Fw: The Guardian (U.K.): Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions

From: Chris St. John
To: Mercier, Sylvie
Date: 1/2/2013 11:45 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: The Guardian (U.K.): Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions
CC: Ketcheson, Ian; Manchulenko, Lesia

I chatted with Paul who is working on the letter. I don't have any idlenomore messaging but am checking with Angela is she is aware of any. There were no lines in the binders we produced, some info could maybe be pulled from Tab 2, the letters to Chief Spence and the draft news release that never went out. We received those via Pam.

>>> Sylvie Mercier 1/2/2013 11:16 AM >>>
Can you provide any messaging you might have to Ian's team for the letter...

>>> On 1/2/2013 at 11:11 AM, in message <50E45C16.5F0 : 250 : 6173>, Lesia Manchulenko wrote:
> Hi - MO would like a response drafted. Please and thanks
>
>>>> Bernard Etzinger 1/2/2013 10:42:16 AM >>>
> This is a pretty false account of how things in Atta have transpired. Can
> we check about doing an LTE?
>
>
>>>> HQ Inform 1/2/2013 10:38:55 AM >>>
> The Guardian (U.K)
>
> Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions
> Chronic underfunding of essential services and fears over land losses prompt
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> solidarity, there is little indication that Harper will meet her, portending
> turbulent times ahead.
>
>
>
>
> Jim Hurcomb
>
> Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du
> Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:
>
>
> For all AANDC-related clippings please go to
> http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx
>
> Les informations contenues dans Les manchettes sont fournies à AADNC
> exclusivement par abonnement et ne peuvent être diffusés à l'extérieur du
> ministère.
>
> The information contained in Top Stories is provided exclusively to AANDC by
> subscription and must not be circulated outside the department.
>

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Carol-Ann Pineault - overarching lines on idle no more

From: Chris St. John
To: Matchim, Angela
Date: 1/2/2013 11:18 AM
Subject: overarching lines on idle no more

Does our team have any? Paul is looking for them.

Pages 346 to / à 354

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Fwd: Re: Idle No More - media lines requested

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Lesia Manchulenko; Sylvie Mercier
Date: 1/9/2013 10:03 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Idle No More - media lines requested
CC: Angela Matchim

Thank you! I will advise DFAIT.

Kim

>>> Sylvie Mercier 09/01/2013 10:00 AM >>>
Kim,

Just discussed with Lesia - and the only lines we are using are the general protest lines. That's what the PMO is using and PCO. We are not speaking to the protest as all.

If they want to send their media calls here - that's fine however, we will be replying with our protest lines.

>>> On 1/9/2013 at 9:57 AM, in message <50ED853C.296 : 222 : 31886>, Kim Cellucci
wrote:
> Has PCO provided direction on this? Can you please advise?

Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Idle No More - media lines requested

From: Kim Cellucci
To: Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca
Date: 1/9/2013 10:12 AM
Subject: Re: Idle No More - media lines requested
CC: Angela Matchim; Lesia Manchulenko; Marie-Christine.Lilkoff@internation...

Salut Barbara,

Les lignes que nous vous avons partager cette semaine sont toujours les celles à utiliser. Les bureaux du premier ministre et du conseil privé utilise ses mêmes lignes eux aussi pour répondre aux questions sur les protestations. Nous n'avons pas de responsabilités de parler au sujet des raisons pour les protestations. Nous somme seulement responsable de répondre aux questions qui parviennent de notre mandat ministériel. Si ça devient un sujet de sécurité, il serait important que les organisations responsable y soit aviser et ils pourront en parler (tel que les forces policière ou la GRC).

Merci!
Kim

Kim (Giroux) Cellucci
Senior Communications Advisor / Conseillère principale en communications
Corporate and Strategic Planning / Planifications stratégiques et ministérielles
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada / Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
1900 - 10 rue Wellington St.
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4
Tel: 819-997-0185
Fax: 819-935-3555
kim.cellucci@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca
>>> <Barbara.Harvey@international.gc.ca> 09/01/2013 9:48 AM >>>
Bonjour Kim,

Plusieurs protestations en face de nos missions à l'étranger sont prévues dans les prochains jours et nous aurions besoin des nouvelles lignes le plus tôt possible.

Mon directeur et moi aimerions aussi confirmer avec votre département de la marche à suivre afin de donner les bonnes indications à nos missions: référer les journalistes à la déclaration du PM et transférer les appels à votre service des médias lorsque les questions traitent des raisons des protestations?

Je sais que vous m'avez expliquer que AADNC n'est pas vraiment le lead sur les protestations, mais nous aurions besoin de savoir qui va l'être (PMO?) afin de pouvoir référer les journalistes au bon ministère.

Merci beaucoup pour votre collaboration et n'hésitez pas à nous contacter s'il y a quoi que ce soit.

Barbara Harvey
Spokesperson | Porte-parole
Telephone: 613-995-1874 | Téléphone: (613) 995-1874
125 Promenade Sussex Drive
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada | Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

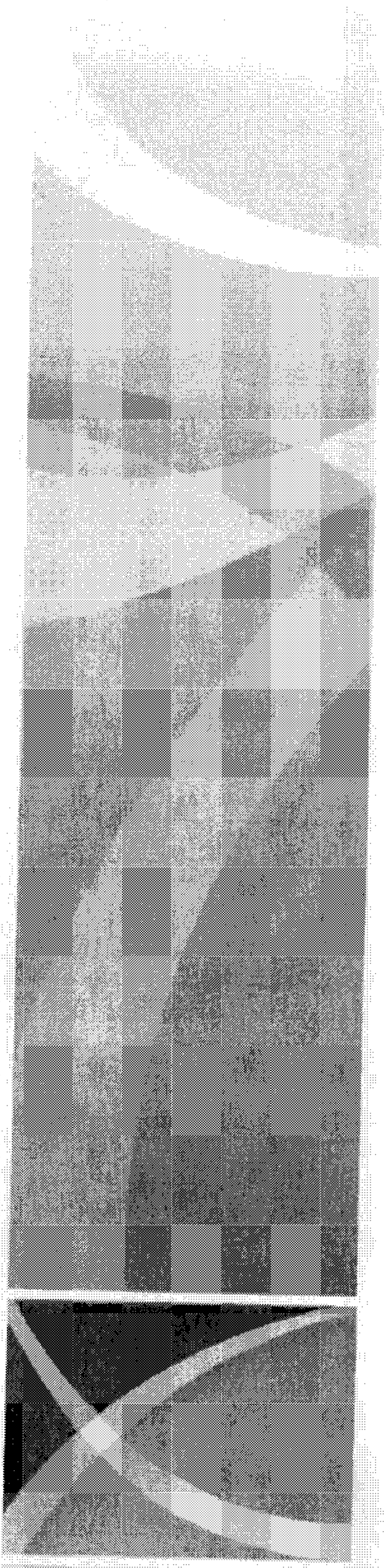
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Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada | Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada

Media Analysis / Analyse Médiatique



Idle No More Movement
January 4 (15:00) to 7, 2013

Le mouvement Idle No More
du 4 (15 h) au 7 janvier 2013

2013-01-07

NCR#4937182 - v1

Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
MEDIA ANALYSIS / ANALYSE MÉDIATIQUE
2013-01-07
Idle No More Movement
Le mouvement Idle No More

For the Period: January 4 (15:00) to 7, 2013
Pour la période : du 4 (15 h) au 7 janvier 2013

OVERVIEW / VUE D'ENSEMBLE

A total of 234 items pertaining to the Idle No More movement and the announcement of a meeting with First Nations leaders by Prime Minister Harper were surveyed in print and electronic media outlets, as well as Internet blogs and broadcast web sites, during the monitored period.

Hard news coverage accounted for 170 of the 234 items (73 per cent), while the remaining 64 (27 per cent) were editorials or commentaries.

Of the items surveyed, 35 (15 per cent) were carried by electronic media outlets and on the Web sites of major networks, while 199 (85 per cent) appeared in major daily newspapers.

Among the coverage surveyed, 188 items (80 per cent) appeared in English-language media outlets, while 46 (20 per cent) were carried by the French-language media.

Le traitement médiatique francophone compte 46 éléments de nouvelle, dont 4 éditoriaux et 3 commentaires, traitant du mouvement Idle No More et de la décision du premier ministre Stephen Harper de rencontrer les chefs autochtones. Parmi les dossiers qui ont généré l'intérêt des médias francophones, on compte les différentes manifestations et barrages routiers et ferroviaires qui ont eu lieu à travers le pays; la poursuite de la grève de la faim par la chef Spence et l'inquiétude soulevée par celle-ci; la décision du premier ministre Harper de participer à une rencontre avec les chefs autochtones du pays le 11 janvier prochain; et la remise en question de la gestion financière de la réserve d'Attawapiskat par la chef Spence.

Methodology: This analysis cannot provide an assessment of accuracies or inaccuracies in coverage since that information is held internally by AANDC, and the analysts are not privy to that data. Similarly, the analysis cannot provide a gap analysis that suggests areas for improvement since that is a matter of policy that must remain the exclusive purview of the department as part of its Strategic Communications Planning.

Media Sources: This analysis provides an assessment of the media environment on coverage pertaining to the Idle No More movement and the announcement of a meeting with First Nations leaders on January 11th by Prime Minister Harper. For that reason, news releases or newswire reports were excluded since only those reports published or broadcast publicly can provide an evaluation of the media environment that is both reflective and accurate. The Internet sources used in the compilation for this report does not include blogs or publications that do not have a mainstream publication presence, but does incorporate the internet sites for such broadcast media outlets such as *CBC*, *CTV*, *Global*, *Sun News Network*, *APTN*, *SRC*, *TVA*, and *TQS*. Reports surveyed on broadcast web sites were not counted if the story was aired on a newscast that appeared in supplementary transcripts provided by AANDC. Transcripts of news conferences were not included, but coverage of the newscast by electronic and/or print media do form part of this analysis.

Tone of Coverage: The assessment of tone for coverage does not rely on the number of negative words in a report compared with the total of positive words. Instead, discussions in this analysis relating to the tone of hard news coverage and editorial commentaries focus only on the context of that tone in relation to the federal government, its ministers, ministries and agencies -- with a specific focus on that tone as it relates to Minister Duncan and AANDC. For example, a commentary that was highly critical of Aboriginal stakeholders but neutral toward the federal government would be assessed as "neutral" in tone, even though the number of negative words might far exceed the neutral or positive words. Likewise, an article devoting 75 per cent of the allotted space to criticisms of an existing program, but praising the federal government's efforts to address those flaws through an initiative would be assessed as "positive" in tone toward the government, even though the vast majority of the item criticized the existing federal program.

The vast majority of coverage was neutral in tone toward the federal government. Of the 234 items surveyed, 226 (97 per cent) were neutral, while five (two per cent) were negative in tone, and three (one per cent) were positive.

Bien que le ton de la couverture médiatique soit généralement neutre, on note cependant un mécontentement envers le gouvernement fédéral quant à son silence dans le dossier des manifestations et de la grève de la faim de la chef Spence.

HARD NEWS COVERAGE / COUVERTURE DE LA NOUVELLE

All 170 hard news reports in both official languages relating to the Idle No More movement and the announcement of the meeting with First Nations leaders by Prime Minister Harper were neutral in tone toward the federal government.

Widespread coverage in Friday evening newscasts and in Saturday newspapers reported that a grassroots demonstrations and blockades continued, and Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike stretched into its 24th day, Prime Minister Harper agreed on Friday to a working meeting with key First Nations leaders on January 11th to discuss treaty rights.

Chief Spence said she will continue her strike until she is satisfied with the outcome of next week's meeting and ongoing discussions.

Mr. Harper's announcement failed to quell the anger fuelling the Idle No More movement, with protesters vowing on Friday to rally on a bridge leading to the U.S. border in southwestern Ontario on Saturday afternoon. Coverage concluded that the gathering is expected to do little to reduce the swell of protests being conducted under the banner of Idle No More as many First Nations chiefs expressed skepticism that concrete results would arise from the one-day meeting with Mr. Harper. There were also questions about who would be allowed to participate.

Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Shawn Atleo said the face-to-face discussion would be an opportunity for the government to honour its responsibilities.

Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council, which includes Attawapiskat, said last year's Crown-First-Nations gathering with Mr. Harper offered little direct time with the Prime Minister and only a limited number of chiefs could attend. Then, Chief Louttit also pointed out that just one month later, "the budget came out and just ripped us apart."

Reports on Saturday also noted it remains unclear whether a meeting between Mr. Harper and First Nations leaders will address concerns from the Idle No More movement that has seen aboriginal and non-aboriginal people demonstrate at home and internationally.

Coverage on Monday highlighted the meeting to be held on January 11th. None of the reports was viewed either as positive or negative toward the federal government. While there was relief that the meeting could bring an end to Chief

Spence's hunger strike and the risk to her life, reactions ranged from cautiously optimistic to doubt about whether anything tangible would result.

A single report on Monday noted that PMO spokesperson Andrew MacDougall said Mr. Harper will be joined at Friday's meeting by Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Greg Rickford, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, and Treasury Board President Tony Clement. The report noted Mr. Clement is responsible for government spending, but Mr. MacDougall also pointed out the Treasury Board President is responsible for economic development in northern Ontario. The Assembly of First Nations, led by Grand Chief Shawn Atleo, will lead a delegation expected to number about 30 representatives.

Some reports noted Conservative Senator Patrick Brazeau, who has said previously that Ms. Spence should be going through the "proper parliamentary process" rather than demanding a meeting with Mr. Harper, took to Twitter on Sunday to support the Prime Minister's actions.

Meanwhile, Chief Spence found an ally in another former prime minister. Former prime minister Paul Martin, who visited Ms. Spence in her teepee on Victoria Island on the weekend, said the hunger-striking Attawapiskat Chief is "an inspiration to all Canadians." Some reports pointed out that former Conservative prime minister Joe Clark had also visited Chief Spence on a previous occasion.

Throughout the weekend, coverage also highlighted major Idle No More protests that targeted Canadian travel routes, including blocking the bridge to the U.S. at Cornwall and halting rail traffic on the Ottawa-Montreal-Toronto VIA Rail corridor for a few hours on Saturday. A protest at the Seaway International Bridge near Cornwall (ON) prompted police to close the border crossing as a public safety precaution. Meanwhile, the border crossing between Sarnia (ON) and Port Huron (MI), and a stretch of Highway 403 in Hamilton (ON) were also temporarily shut down for Idle No More protests. Similar demonstrations were also held at the Peace Bridge between Fort Erie (ON) and Buffalo (NY), as well as the Peace Arch crossing in Surrey (BC). Some reports pointed out that these protests continued despite the Prime Minister's announced meeting with Aboriginal leaders. Coverage in the regional sections of daily newspapers frequently highlighted local protests across the country.

Also on Monday, *Toronto Star* correspondent Tonda MacCharles (A1, 7 January) reported that the federal government is concerned a damning independent audit of how federal funds are spent in Attawapiskat will inflame tensions in advance of Friday's meeting between Prime Minister Harper and First Nations leaders, according to an unnamed source who has seen the report. The government, however, maintains it is not deliberately withholding the document and it will be

released soon through "normal channels."

The audit, by Deloitte and Touche, is "severely critical" of how Chief Theresa Spence and the Attawapiskat Band Council have spent about $90 million in federal funds over the past five years. That analysis comes from a source who spoke to the *Star* but who refused to be more specific about its recommendations. The official, referring to protests that included a blockade of the railway between Toronto and Montreal that stranded more than a thousand VIA Rail travellers on four trains. "The dilemma now is this is a tense situation, and the government is extremely concerned how this will be perceived because it (the audit) is bad."

Andrew MacDougall, a spokesperson for Mr. Harper, denied the government is deliberately withholding the audit, and he would only reiterate Mr. Harper's comments last week that the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has a process to follow when it receives an audit, and that the government intends to release the document "along the normal schedule which we anticipate is in the not too distant future."

MacCharles noted that for the federal government, the convergence of the rolling First Nations protests, Chief Spence's hunger strike, and now the audit's damning findings have created a potentially explosive mix. Her report noted the audit apparently makes a number of recommendations to the federal government, but according to the source who has seen the audit, its findings are mainly directed at Ms. Spence and her council. MacCharles also pointed out that the audit should have been posted to the AANDC website by now, if the usual 60-day release timetable was followed.

Les médias francophones, tant du côté de la presse écrite que de celui des médias électroniques, ont abondamment fait état de la décision du premier ministre Stephen Harper de rencontrer les chefs autochtones du pays afin de rétablir le dialogue. On précise que lors de cette rencontre, prévue le 11 janvier prochain, le gouvernement entend discuter des relations fondées sur les traités, des droits des peuples autochtones et de développement économique.

Plusieurs articles et reportages ont également rapporté l'ampleur que prend le mouvement Idle No More à travers le pays alors que de nombreuses manifestations et barrages font leur apparition en guise d'appui à ce mouvement et à la grève de la faim de Theresa Spence. Cependant, au fil de la couverture, le vent semble tourner pour la chef d'Attawapiskat alors des articles indiquent que la gestion financière de Mme Spence et de son conjoint est de plus en plus mise en doute.

5 janvier (samedi) –

- Le premier ministre Stephen Harper annonce une rencontre avec les chefs autochtones du pays le 11 janvier prochain. La chef d'Attawapiskat Theresa Spence précise qu'elle ne mettra pas fin à grève de la faim pour autant et qu'elle attend la rencontre avant de se prononcer. Plusieurs chefs autochtones demeurent sceptiques face à cette rencontre avec le premier ministre et le ministre des Affaires autochtones, John Duncan.

- Le mouvement Idle No More prend de l'ampleur partout au pays et compte également tenir une journée de manifestation le 11 janvier. Des barricades sont érigées au Québec et en Ontario et des autochtones amorcent des grèves de la faim en appui à la chef Spence. Des manifestations ont aussi eu lieu au Nouveau-Brunswick et en Saskatchewan.

6 janvier (dimanche) –

- Des ponts et des passages ferroviaires sont bloqués au Québec, en Ontario, en Colombie-Britannique et dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Des manifestations ont été tenues à Québec, en Gaspésie et au Saguenay/Lac St-Jean. Le blocus ferroviaire est levé entre Toronto et Montréal.

- Le parti politique Québec Solidaire annonce son appui envers la chef Theresa Spence et le mouvement Idle No More. Cette formation politique estime que le projet de Loi C-45, qui redéfinit la protection des eaux navigables et qui modifie la façon de déterminer l'utilisation des terres des réserves, est un affront à la souveraineté des peuples autochtones.

- L'ex-premier ministre Paul Martin a rendu visite à Theresa Spence afin de lui témoigner son appui. Il soutient qu'elle est une source d'inspiration pour tous les Canadiens.

7 janvier (lundi) –

- Le quotidien *La Presse* rapporte que la firme Deloitte avait été mandatée par le gouvernement Harper pour vérifier les finances de la réserve ontarienne d'Attawapiskat et qu'elle n'a pas pu garantir au gouvernement l'utilisation à bon escient de ses subventions: pour 80% des transactions choisies dans le cadre de la vérification, la documentation était manquante ou insuffisante. On indique que le ministère n'a toujours pas

rendu public le rapport. La chef de la réserve, Theresa Spence, s'est refusée à tout commentaire à ce sujet.

- La rencontre qui devait se dérouler hier entre le porte-parole de Québec solidaire, André Frappier, et la chef de la réserve d'Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, a dû être annulée car elle était trop faible pour le rencontrer.

EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES / ÉDITORIAUX ET COmmentaires

Of the 64 editorials and commentaries that appeared over the weekend, a strong majority (50, or 78 per cent) were neutral in tone toward the federal government, while 11 (17 per cent) were negative in tone, and three (0.5 per cent) were positive.

A recurring theme in commentaries was that little can be expected from the coming meeting, as was the case with the meeting a year ago, unless First Nations suggest solutions for specific problems rather than making all-encompassing demands for more money without transparency for how taxpayers' money is spent. (15 items in various publications; neutral in tone)

A *Toronto Star* editorial (IN6, 5 January) contended that Prime Minister cannot continue his attitude of unilateral action as leader of a majority government when it comes to his dealings with First Nations. (one item; negative in tone)

A *Winnipeg Free Press* editorial (A14, 5 January) praised Mr. Harper for doing the right thing, both morally and politically, by agreeing to meet with First Nations leaders.

Columnists Tom Brodbeck (*Winnipeg Sun*, 5, 7 January) and Michael Den Tandt (*Ottawa Citizen*, A3, 7 January, plus two additional publications) asserted that little will be accomplished through meetings until the Indian Act is eliminated. (four items; neutral in tone)

Columnist Warren Kinsella (*Calgary Sun*, 18, 6 January, plus five additional publications) sharply criticized Mr. Harper and his government for refusing to meet with Chief Spence and adequately fund First Nations, while allowing Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to charge Cover Girl™ and Maybelline™ cosmetics to his expense account. (six items; negative in tone)

Columnist Murray Mandryk (*Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, A8, 5 January, and Regina Leader-Post, A8) criticized Prime Minister Harper for unilaterally changing First Nations' treaties through the omnibus budget legislation. (two items; negative in tone)

Columnists Ezra Levant (*Winnipeg Sun*, 9, 7 January, plus four additional publications on 6 January), and Peter Worthington (*Ottawa Sun*, 7, 5 January, plus two additional publications) criticized the spending by Chief Spence for some of the problems experience by the residents of Attawapiskat. (eight items; neutral in tone)

Quatre éditoriaux et trois commentaires ont été répertoriés durant la période couverte par cette analyse. Deux éditoriaux indiquent que la gestion des finances de la chef Theresa Spence est de plus en plus critiquée. Alors que le ton des quatre éditoriaux est neutre, on compte deux commentaires au ton négatif sur les trois répertoriés.

L'éditorialiste Jean-Jacques Samson (*Le Journal de Montréal*, 26, 5 janvier 2013) qualifie la grève de la faim de Theresa Spence comme une forme de chantage. Ils précisent que des journalistes ont fait état d'exemples de mauvaise gestion financière de la réserve d'Attawapiskat que Mme Spence dirige. Il soutient que les Theresa Spence de ce monde ne le feront jamais pleurer. Il souligne qu'il y a, en contrepartie, des chefs très sages comme Ghislain Picard, des députés issus de la relève comme Roméo Saganash, qui permettent à leurs commettants d'espérer une véritable amélioration de leurs conditions de vie par un démarchage professionnel qui incite au respect et à la compréhension des problématiques. Cet éditorial a aussi été publié dans Le Journal de Québec.

La journaliste Manon Cornellier (*Le Devoir*, B4, 5 janvier 2013) trace un portrait de la revue des éditoriaux dans le reste du Canada. Elle précise que la grève de la faim de Theresa Spence, l'inquiétude qu'elle suscite et les revendications autochtones portées par le mouvement Idle No More ont alimenté la chronique toute la semaine. Elle souligne également que de plus en plus de journalistes et de chroniqueurs fouillent le passé de Spence, sa situation financière et celle de son conjoint, et ils mettent en doute sa gestion.

Manon Cornellier (*Le Devoir*, A3, 7 janvier 2012) soutient que les communautés autochtones en ont assez de l'unilatéralisme, et c'est ce ras-le-bol qui a servi de bougie d'allumage au mouvement Idle No More. Selon elle, la mobilisation risque fort de se poursuivre au-delà de vendredi ou de la fin de la grève de la faim de la chef Spence. Elle indique que ce désir de changement pose un défi aux autochtones eux-mêmes, celui de l'unité et de l'expression de demandes intelligibles. Elle souligne que ni les autochtones ni le gouvernement ne détiennent la vérité, d'où la nécessité d'un réel dialogue. Le défi du gouvernement sera d'apprendre à écouter avec un esprit ouvert.

Véronique Laflamme et François Saillant, du FRAPRU, publient un commentaire au ton négatif (*Le Soleil*, 27, 5 janvier 2013) dans lequel ils confirment leur appui au mouvement Idle No More et à la grève de la faim de la chef Spence. Ils estiment qu'il est temps non seulement que les gouvernements, en particulier Ottawa, financent adéquatement la construction de logements dans les communautés autochtones, mais qu'ils respectent aussi l'ensemble de leurs droits, comme le Canada s'y est engagé en signant la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones. Ils indiquent que l'attitude colonialiste de "notre" gouvernement est une honte depuis trop longtemps.

Dans une lettre ouverte (*Le Devoir*, B5, 5 janvier 2013), Bernard Roy, professeur à l'Université Laval, soutient que tant que persistera l'hostilité envers les femmes et les hommes innus, micmacs, atikamekws, algonquiens, mohawks et autres ; tant que persistera leur non-inclusion dans tous les champs d'activités sociales, économiques et politiques, la pauvreté et l'exclusion persisteront et se développeront d'importantes problématiques de santé et sociales. Il dit avoir honte d'être citoyen de ce pays qui tolère autant de misère au sein de populations vivant sur son territoire. Il signifie sa solidarité envers le mouvement Idle No More initié par Theresa Spence, chef de la nation d'Attawapiskat.

Dans une lettre ouverte au ton négatif, une citoyenne de Québec (*Le Soleil*, 23, 6 janvier 2013) estime que la chef Spence de demande qu'une rencontre avec le premier ministre Stephen Harper pour discuter des conditions de vie des autochtones. Une demande simple, compréhensible pour le commun des mortels, une demande très claire. Elle reproche le silence du gouvernement fédéral à cette simple demande.

QUOTES / CITATIONS

Hard News Coverage / Couverture de la nouvelle:

Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, in a statement
"While some progress has been made, there is more that must be done to improve outcomes for First Nations communities across Canada."
Globe and Mail, A3, 5 January 2013.

Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, speaking to reporters following his announcement
"People have the right in our country to demonstrate and express their points of view peacefully as long as they obey the law, but I think the Canadian population expects everyone will obey the law in holding such protests."
Ottawa Citizen, A1. 5 January 2013.

Stephen Harper, premier ministre
«Nous avons fait des progrès, mais nous devons en faire davantage afin d'améliorer les perspectives des communautés des Premières Nations dans l'ensemble du Canada. ... Les gens ont le droit dans ce pays de manifester et d'exprimer leurs points de vue de façon pacifique, pourvu qu'ils respectent la loi.»
Le Devoir, A1, 5 janvier 2013

Stephen Harper, premier ministre
«C'est dans cet esprit de dialogue permanent que je participerai, en compagnie du ministre (des Affaires indiennes) Duncan, à une réunion de travail avec une délégation de dirigeants des Premières Nations coordonnée par l'Assemblée des Premières Nations le 11 janvier 2013. ... Le gouvernement du Canada et les Premières Nations entretiennent des relations durables fondées sur le respect mutuel, l'amitié et le soutien. Le gouvernement est résolu à renforcer ces relations»
Le Journal de Montréal, 45, 5 janvier 2013

Stephen Harper, premier ministre
«C'est l'Assemblée des Premières Nations qui va déterminer la composition de sa délégation.»
Le Quotidien, 16, 5 janvier 2013

Charlie Angus, député néodémocrate
«Je crois que personne au pays ne croit une minute que les jours où le premier ministre publie un communiqué de presse et se sauve par la porte arrière vont se poursuivre. Le mouvement à l'échelle du pays est bien plus grand que Theresa Spence. Il y a de la colère, de la frustration [...] Nous avons atteint un moment décisif et il est temps de rétablir cette relation.»
Le Devoir, A1, 5 janvier 2013

Philip Toone, député néo-démocrate de Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine
«Quand on fait preuve de solidarité, on peut avoir un impact. Le gouvernement Harper a déjà reculé dans le dossier de l'assurance-emploi. Mais il y a beaucoup de travail à faire. Avec Idle No More, on voit que les gens sont prêts à travailler ensemble. ... Il y a respect des deux bords. C'est quelque chose que le gouvernement Harper ne comprend pas. C'est ce manque de respect de sa part qui fait que ces lois nous causent du tort.»
Le Soleil, 7, 6 janvier 2013

Theresa Spence, Chief of the Attawapiskat First Nation
We will see what the results are, whether there really are positive results. There are a lot of issues that we need to express and really work together (on) as partners."
Globe and Mail, A3, 5 January 2013.

Theresa Spence, chef d'Attawapiskat
«Nous verrons s'il y a des résultats positifs, parce qu'il y a un tas de choses dont nous devons discuter.»
La Presse, A6, 5 janvier 2013

Theresa Spence, chef d'Attawapiskat
«Je suis débordante de joie d'entendre que la Couronne, le premier ministre et le gouvernement ont accepté de nous rencontrer. ... Je continuerai ma grève de la faim jusqu'à ce que la rencontre ait lieu. On verra les résultats. Beaucoup de sujets doivent être discutés.»
Le Quotidien, 16, 5 janvier 2013

Shawn Atleo, Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations
"We cannot and will not lose another generation to mistakes of past or by continuing a broken system perpetuated by government unilateralism. This is a true moment of reckoning of which we must seize to ensure a better future for our young people and all Indigenous peoples in this country. A fundamental transformation in the relationship between First Nations and Canada is surging under our feet."
Ottawa Citizen, A1. 5 January 2013.

Shawn Atleo, grand chef de l'APN
«Les Premières Nations sont prêtes et engagées quant au dur travail qui nous attend. Nous faisons cela depuis des décennies, et maintenant, c'est le temps du changement. Nous ne pouvons pas, et nous ne le permettrons pas, perdre une autre génération à cause des erreurs du passé ou en continuant avec un système brisé maintenu unilatéralement par un gouvernement.»
Le Devoir, A1, 5 janvier 2013

Shawn Atleo, grand chef de l'APN
«C'est une occasion pour le gouvernement du Canada d'honorer ses responsabilités envers les Premières Nations dans ce pays. On ne peut pas et nous n'allons pas perdre une autre génération en raison des erreurs du passé ou en continuant avec un système brisé, perpétué par l'unilatéralisme du gouvernement.»

Le Quotidien, 16, 5 janvier 2013

Ghislain Picard, chef de l'APN du Québec
«Disons qu'on a une nouvelle, c'est déjà sans doute un bon geste. Devant le silence qui s'éternisait, je pense qu'il faudra savoir quelle est la suite des choses du point de vue de gouvernement et de voir ce qu'on met sur la table, c'est quoi l'ordre du jour. A quoi peut-on s'attaquer. ... Elle (Spence) est en droit de s'attendre à beaucoup de la part du gouvernement. Comme je le disais un peu plus tôt, le niveau de confiance n'existe pas avec ce gouvernement. Pour moi, l'odieux pour rétablir ce lien de confiance repose entre les mains de gouvernement fédéral. Il n'y a rien ici nous permettant de constater qu'il y a une bonne foi qui existe quelque part, je pense qu'au lieu d'avancer, on recule.»
Radio-Canada, 4 janvier 2013

Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Deputy Chief
"It will not take just one meeting to fix (the) relationship that is broken. We will continue to hold the Prime Minister's feet to the fire. The issues we have are many and it will take a very constructive, a very meaningful process to begin to repair the damage to that relationship."
Ottawa Citizen, A1. 5 January 2013.

Alvin Fiddler, grand chef adjoint de l'APN
«Ça ne prendra pas qu'une rencontre pour réparer la relation qui est brisée. Et nous allons continuer de forcer le premier ministre à tenir parole et d'exiger que cette rencontre - si elle a lieu - entame ce processus.»
Le Devoir, A1, 5 janvier 2013

Stan Louttit, grand chef du conseil de Mushkegowuk
«Les chefs autochtones voudraient que le gouverneur général participe aussi à la rencontre, puisqu'il fait partie de l'équation, les traités ayant été signés avec la Couronne.»
Le Devoir, A1, 5 janvier 2013

Quentin Condo, membre du Conseil de bande de Gesgapegiag
«Cette bataille n'est vraiment plus entre les autochtones et les non autochtones. Nous sommes tous ensemble, nous sommes tous des Gaspésiens. Quand un gouvernement veut modifier les lois et les traités, il doit consulter les Premières Nations. Nous vivons à tous les jours à travers les différents traités. Les traités ont été signés en paix, en amitié.»
Le Journal de Québec, 22, 6 janvier 2013

Quentin Condo, membre du Conseil de bande de Gesgapegiag
«Le gouvernement Harper adopte des lois et en change d'autres sans consulter les autochtones et non-autochtones. Jusqu'à maintenant, il s'en tire parce que les gens ne se lèvent pas pour remettre en question ces lois. Ces changements nous affecteront, de même que nos enfants et petits-enfants. On ne peut faire confiance au gouvernement Harper et lui laisser prendre des décisions sans notre consentement.»
Le Soleil, 7, 6 janvier 2013

Ron Plain, spokesperson for the 13-day Aamjiwnaang First Nation blockade of a Sarnia spur rail line
"I would recommend that people continue the actions up until the point that promises made in that meeting are fulfilled."
Toronto Star, A6, 5 January 2013.

Paul Martin, former prime minister
"I just told (Chief Spence) that she'd become really an inspiration for all Canadians and that we were obviously concerned about her health and that she's got to talk care of herself."
Halifax Chronicle-Herald, B1, 7 January 2013.

Patrick Brazeau, sénateur conservateur
«Beaucoup d'argent (de subventions) est envoyé à Attawapiskat et quand tu vois les enfants si pauvres, là-bas, tu te demandes où s'en va l'argent. Plusieurs pensent qu'il est raciste de soulever ces questions. Moi, je pense qu'il est raciste de ne pas les poser.»
La Presse, A6, 5 janvier 2013

André Frappier, porte-parole de Québec solidaire
«Les modifications qu'ils font sur la préservation des lacs, des rivières, des territoires autochtones pour permettre une plus grande expansion du pétrole contre toutes protections environnementales.»
Radio-Canada, 6 janvier 2013

André Frappier, porte-parole de Québec solidaire
La lutte que Mme Spence mène et que les Premières Nations mènent également est notre lutte à nous aussi, nous sommes tous et toutes concernés
Le Soleil, 17, 7 janvier 2013

Cynthia Dow, porte-parole du mouvement environnemental Éco-vigilance Baie-des-Chaleurs
«Ce qu'elle fait constitue un grand acte de courage, tout comme les instigateurs du mouvement Idle No More. Les lois C-38 et C-45 sont des preuves que le gouvernement Harper ne respecte pas la démocratie et les règles parlementaires qui devraient s'appliquer quand des changements aussi importants sont adoptés. Ce sont des menaces à notre démocratie. Notre prospérité repose sur la richesse de notre environnement, et ces lois menacent nos habitats. On ne peut laisser cela aller.»
Le Soleil, 7, 6 janvier 2013

France Gros-Louis-Morin, résidente de Wendake et organisatrice de la mobilisation
«Il y en aura d'autres, et il y a déjà un groupe de Wendake qui parle d'organiser un voyage à Ottawa pour aller jeûner avec la chef d'Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, les trois jours avant sa rencontre avec Stephen Harper vendredi. ... J'ai connu personnellement Mme Spence à Toronto, j'ai visionné le documentaire d'Alanis Obomsawin sur Attawapiskat et je peux vous dire que je ne crois pas un mot des critiques concernant sa gestion de la réserve. ... Une grande part des lacs et des rivières qui étaient protégés ne le seront plus avec les nouvelles lois. L'impact est important pour les communautés autochtones qui sont très attachées à la terre mère.»
Le Soleil, 6, 6 janvier 2013

Isabelle Gros-Louis, porte-parole de la mobilisation
«Nous sommes tannés d'être des fantômes et on veut montrer notre vraie réalité. Les gens ne se posent malheureusement pas assez souvent la question à savoir pourquoi il y a tant de problèmes sociaux chez les Premières Nations.»
Le Soleil, 6, 6 janvier 2013

Editorials and Commentaries / Éditoriaux et commentaires:

Editorial
"If anything productive is going to come from Prime Minister Harper's Jan. 11 meeting with the Assembly of First Nations, we are going to have to see specifics. This must start with First Nations leaders detailing exactly what they want. Many Canadians are very sincere about wanting to end the plight in remote aboriginal communities. But Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has not made it easy for sympathetic Canadians. Chief Spence, who plans to remain on hunger strike until at least after the Jan. 11 meeting, did not effectively use the many media outlets and politicians who came to visit her to get her message out. All players at the meeting table must have a respect for the tax dollars pouring into reserves and also a desire to empower regular First Nations people."
Calgary Sun, 14, 5 January 2013 (plus five additional *QMI Agency* publications).

Editorial
"Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who is in the third week of a hunger strike, should be content, for the time being, that Prime Minister Harper will meet with a delegation of Native leaders, including herself, on Jan. 24, 2012. The prospect of such gatherings becoming a regular annual event is desirable in itself, even though Chief Spence's regrettable moral-pressure tactic may have been a factor in Mr. Harper's decision. Of course, one day's meeting will not solve the problems of the First Nations communities, and Mr. Harper will not and should not accede to all the Assembly of First Nations' proposals or demands. But there is a great degree of common interest. For their part, members of First Nations communities should welcome the federal government's Bill C-45, which would facilitate new revenues from leaseholds on what are, ultimately, their own lands. There is no need to take antagonism for granted, and Chief Spence should start eating soon."
Globe & Mail, F8, 5 January 2013.

Editorial
"Aboriginal frustration, fuelled by decades of neglect, prejudice and wilful deafness from the country's leaders, has built to a danger point. None of Prime Minister Harper's usual tactics - wilful silence, blaming the victims, imposing top-down solutions - is going to work this time. Three converging developments in early 2013 are propelling this issue to the forefront - A 26-day (and counting) hunger strike by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence; a proliferating grassroots protest called Idle No More; and a piece of legislation that stuck in the craw of First Nations, Métis and Inuit, as well as many non-Aboriginal Canadians. Mr. Harper has rejected Chief Spence's demand for a face-to-face to meeting, insisting she negotiate with Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. Mr. Harper has, however, agreed to meet a delegation of Aboriginal leaders next Friday.

There is no indication Mr. Harper is willing to discuss Bill C-45. Nor is Mr. Harper acknowledging the anger among Aboriginal young people. But Mr. Harper will emerge from his cone of silence. Welcome as Mr. Harper's belated concession is, the meeting has little chance of achieving his goal of building a relationship "based on mutual respect, friendship and support." Two barriers stand in the way. The first is Mr. Harper's belief that, as head of a majority government, he has the right to impose his agenda on Aboriginal peoples. The second is the 156-year-old Indian Act, which has come to symbolize Ottawa's failure to respect Native treaty rights and the failure of successive governments to address the chronic deprivation on reserves. But replacing the outdated legislation requires trust and patience, neither of which Mr. Harper has shown."
Toronto Star, IN6, 5 January 2013.

Editorial
"Prime Minister Harper has done the right thing, politically and morally, in agreeing to meet with the Assembly of First Nations on Jan. 11, although a single meeting will not result in the fundamental changes being sought by Aboriginal and other Canadians. On Friday, Chief Theresa Spence said she would not end her hunger strike, but she should. The Idle No More movement should also call a halt. The simple fact, however, is that solving the Aboriginal problem is a long-term project that has witnessed success and failure over the last 50 years. During that time, Canadians have become increasingly aware of the hardships of First Nations and the injustice they have suffered. As for specific complaints, the Tories, as usual, have done a poor job of explaining the policies that are causing so much rancor. Changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act, for example, are not a threat to Aboriginal resources. An amendment to a law that allows First Nations to lease their land has been described falsely as an act to allow for the sale of Aboriginal land, but all it does is speed up the process for possible lease deals that Aboriginal leaders themselves have sought so they can compete for economic development. Canadians should demand real and fundamental change for Aboriginal people, who also need to consider transformative policies. That is not, however, something that will result from Idle protests or threats of death by starvation."
Winnipeg Free Press, A14, 5 January 2013.

W. E (Bill) Belliveau, columnist
"The Idle No More movement was launched in October by four Manitoba women who felt that it was "urgent to act on current and upcoming legislation that not only affect First Nations people but the rest of Canada's citizens, lands and waters." On Dec. 11 Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence launched a hunger strike asking for a meeting with Prime Minister Harper and Governor-General David Johnston to discuss issues raised by the passage of Bill C-45 including matters of treaty rights, consultation and protection of natural resources. This week Pamela Palmater, a Mi'kmaq lawyer from the Eel River Bar First Nation in

northern New Brunswick and a failed Assembly of First Nations leadership candidate, grabbed the Idle No More platform claiming it is a grass roots movement representing the people of First Nations and does not include or represent the chiefs who are elected by Band membership. Idle No More is a protest movement. Chief Spence's hunger strike is a plea for help. Ms. Palmater is fighting the last AFN election in the guise of Idle No More. They are dissenters without legal status but they are also people with very real concerns. Some victories are won on the battlefield, some in the hearts and minds of people. There is no doubt that Chief Spence has succeeded well beyond anyone's expectations in winning the hearts and minds of the people across the country. The government's talking point that Mr. Harper met last year with First Nations leaders is tired and no match for Ms. Spence's determination. If Mr. Harper could reach out to AFN Chief Shawn Atleo as the duly elected leader of Canada's First Nations and offer to meet with him and his executive group, I suspect this hunger strike would be over."
Moncton Times and Transcript, D4, 5 January 2013.

Kathryn Blaze Carlson, in an analysis
"As recently as mid-December, Manny Jules and several chiefs voiced their disdain for the way the Indian Act governs land leasing, asking Parliament to get rid of certain provisions that add months, if not years, of delay. The Harper government heeded those calls and streamlined the process, but instead of garnering praise or even getting by with apathy, Ottawa was met with uproar and threats. More specifically, Prime Minister Harper was met with Idle No More, an Occupy-type movement that claims he only amended the Indian Act because of a malevolent agenda to sell off reserve lands, and a hunger strike launched by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence that became infamous last year over a housing crisis despite millions of dollars flowing into the community. The movement has been criticized for lacking a concrete agenda and for failing to put forth tangible solutions, but NDP MP Charlie Angus, whose riding includes Attawapiskat, defends the grassroots protest saying "it is there and it is tangible"
National Post, A1, 5 January 2013.

Tom Brodbeck, columnist
"Prime Minister Harper can have all the meetings he likes with native chiefs, and grassroots aboriginals can stage all the Idle No More protests they want. But the plight of First Nations in Canada will never end until we eliminate the racist and paternalistic laws that govern aboriginals in this country. Whatever land, or money in lieu of land, is owed should be granted. But there has to be an end game. And that end game should be that all Canadians are treated equally under the law and that all Canadians have equal access and benefit of the law. It's called human rights. Until we start seeing Canadian politicians, First Nations chiefs and grassroots protesters calling for those types of changes, the status quo will never change. There isn't enough fish broth in the world to make the

status quo work."
Winnipeg Sun, 5, 7 January 2013.

Michael Den Tandt, columnist
"When will Canadians, led by the country's one million Aboriginal People, face the inescapable? Reserves are incubators of misery. The entire moribund, ramshackle edifice supported by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development needs to be demolished. It is rotten at its core. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whom you might expect would be ideologically predisposed to scrapping the 1876 Indian Act - an explicitly racist tract whose continued existence in our law is a national disgrace - has until now been unwilling to go there. A year ago, at the last aboriginal conference in Ottawa, Mr. Harper steered clear of scrapping the Act outright, instead lauding "practical, incremental and real change." Yet incremental change, we have seen, barely makes a dent - if it makes it past the gate at all. But with the country facing the prospect of prolonged protest, if not Oka-style insurrection, can we avoid discussing it any longer? Idle No More, it seems to me, is a legitimate and not unsurprising response to systemic misery. It should not be about patching up the unfixable."
Ottawa Citizen, A3, 7 January 2013 (plus two additional *Postmedia* publications)

Lorne Gunter, columnist
"Chief Theresa Spence, who is on a soup-only diet in an attempt to force a meeting with Prime Minister Harper, is claiming Ottawa is violating her residents' treaty rights by not carving out for them a greater share of the resource revenues from their lands. In her complaint, Ms. Spence has been joined by participants in the Idle No More movement and by aboriginal leaders and activists across the country. But the truth about this Attawapiskat grievance is similar to the truth about the last one: The problem is not too little income, it's what the band and chief do with the revenues they have. It is interesting that the Idle No More leaders and Chief Spence want nothing to do with the Harper government's efforts to amend the Indian Act to give band councils greater freedom to make contracts with off-reserve companies. Instead the Idle activists and Spence simply want more money. But if money were the problem, aboriginal issues would all have been solved long ago."
Calgary Sun, 20, 6 January 2013 (plus three additional *QMI Agency* publications on January 6th and 7th).

John Ibbitson, columnist
"The Conservative government is making education reform the dominant priority in native affairs in 2013, at the expense of reforms to property rights. But although the confluence of a hunger strike and the aboriginal-rights movement known as Idle No More may have limited the scope of Stephen Harper's native-issues agenda, it will have little impact on his broader national mandate as Prime

Minister. When the Prime Minister meets with native leaders Friday, he is expected to affirm an offer to create a joint government-native working group on how Ottawa is implementing its treaty obligations, according to a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Mr. Harper will also commit to moving forward with a First Nations Education Act that would, on a voluntary basis, consolidate band schools into native-run school boards. The government also indicated last summer that it had plans to introduce legislation making it possible for natives to own their own property on reserves. But given the importance that the government attaches to the education reform bill, and the resistance of the chiefs stoked by Idle No More, property-rights reform has become a reform too far, at least for now."
Globe and Mail, A4, 7 January 2013.

Craig Kielburger and Marc Kielburger, co-founders of Free the Children, in an OpEd piece
"New Year's resolutions can allow us to focus and set priorities for a productive year. That applies to nations as well as individuals. Last year left Canada and the world facing some daunting challenges we have to tackle in 2013. On Aboriginal outrage: The situation will flare in 2013 unless our government fulfils the promises it made in January 2012 to work in partnership with aboriginal communities to address critical issues such as education, clean water, housing, and employment. If Canada and the world can make headway on these issues, we can all celebrate next New Year's Eve with the pride of real accomplishment."
Edmonton Journal, A15, 7 January 2013 (plus two additional publications on January 5th and 7th).

Warren Kinsella, columnist
"As a political contrasts go, it was stark. It came in the same week, too. In the very same week Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence was continuing a hunger strike, vainly seeking a meeting with Prime Minister Harper to discuss the Third World living conditions of Canada's First Nations, we learned his most senior minister -- Jim Flaherty -- had expensed makeup. That's right, makeup. Documents tabled in the House of Commons revealed Canada's Finance Minister, who makes about a quarter of a million a year, charged taxpayers nearly $130 to pay for makeup. For him. To be precise, Mr. Flaherty expensed $119.15 on "cosmetics" and $9.99 for "beauty supplies." It is unknown what Chief Spence thinks about this insanity. If Ms. Spence is disgusted by the likes of Mr. Harper and Mr. Flaherty, nobody could really blame her. Here she is, having to starve herself to get a meeting with Mr. Harper, but he still won't. All around the time we are finding out that Jim Flaherty thinks it's OK to charge taxpayers for his Cover Girl. Get that? They'll expense makeup. But they won't make time to meet Chief Spence."
Calgary Sun, 18, 6 January 2013 (plus five additional *QMI Agency* publications on January 6th and 7th)

Ezra Levant, columnist
"Journalists are skeptical of politicians, unless those politicians are Indian chiefs. Then reporters turn into stenographers, or even cheerleaders. Take a politician named Theresa Spence. What was Spence's purpose? She demanded a meeting with the Prime Minister and Governor General. And, to Stephen Harper's discredit, he caved in on Friday. What's on (Ms.) Spence's agenda? It couldn't possibly be for more money – her Attawapiskat Indian band has received $90 million from Mr. Harper so far, and has just 1,500 people there. It's just 300 homes. So why do so many in live in leaky, cold shacks? Not the chief; she has a sturdy, well-heated house and drives an Escalade. Those are questions reporters might ask white politicians. But lucky for (Ms.) Spence, she's Indian, so they don't."
Winnipeg Sun, 9, 7 January 2013 (plus four additional *QMI Agency* publications).

L. Ian MacDonald, columnist
"For obvious reasons, Prime Minister Harper could not agree to a meeting with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, now in the fourth week of her hunger strike on Victoria Island, in the shadow of Parliament Hill. No prime minister could ever give in to such a demand. But meeting the Assembly of First Nations and other Aboriginal leaders, as Prime Minister Harper announced Friday, is a face-saving solution for all sides. She could obviously be there. Meantime, Idle No More has been out there with flash mobs and blockades, lending Chief Spence moral support. For Prime Minister Harper, Idle No More is potentially dangerous to his political health, in that it could become a protest vehicle for anyone opposed to his government, on everything from climate change to pipelines."
Ottawa Citizen, B6, 5 January 2013.

Stephen Maher, columnist
"Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, issued a release Thursday inviting the governor general and prime minister to meet with chiefs on Jan. 24, in the hope that it would convince Chief Theresa Spence to end her hunger strike. On Friday, Harper's office issued a release stating that the Prime Minister would agree to meet with chiefs on Jan. 11. The release did not mention Spence or Idle No More, but do not doubt that Mr. Harper agreed to the meeting because of the hunger strike. Prime Minister Harper had ignored it until Friday, refusing to give in to blackmail. The PMO rejected approaches from the Assembly of First Nations, trying to get Spence to meet instead with Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. But the prospect of Chief Spence's death, and the spread of the Idle No More protests, posed a risk that the PMO could not afford to ignore."
Ottawa Citizen, A4, 5 January 2013 (plus five additional *Postmedia* publications).

Murray Mandryk, columnist
"What has set apart the Idle No More movement from other First Nations protests has been its genuineness. That said, Idle No More only will be successful if it remains true to itself as a grassroots movement that refuses to be high-jacked by First Nations leaders. Really, local leadership has been as big a problem for Aboriginal people to date as the government of Prime Minister Harper and Bill C-45. The Navigable Waters Act, The Indian Act Amendment and Replacement Act, the Family Homes of Reserve Matrimonial Interests of Rights Act, the First Nation Education Act, the First Nations Self-Government Recognition Bill, the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act, and the controversial First Nations Financial Transparency Act that demands Aboriginal groups open up all their books, upon penalty of losing funding. For Aboriginal people such laws can be crucial. And for a federal government to cavalierly alter such agreements - some of which relate back to the signing of treaties - in one omnibus bill is worthy of protest."
Saskatoon StarPhoenix, A8, 5 January 2013 (plus *Regina Leader-Post*, A8).

Craig Oliver, in an analysis
"The problem last time (Crown-First Nations Gathering) was that the agenda was too complex, too far reaching, too indigestible. This time it's much more focused on treaty rights and natural resource development. And there is common ground there if they can find it. For this reason, the Harper Conservative government believes that if Canada is going to be able to pay its bills in years to come and continue to have economic growth, it has to be selling our heavy oil and natural gas to Asia, especially to China, and that means pipelines now stalled across British Columbia to the west coast. And for Aboriginal people, if they can get some kind of shared partnership, maybe even equity or revenue, then that might be a way to break the cycle of poverty for them."
CTV National News, 23:00, 6 January 2013.

Jean-Jacques Samson, éditorialiste
«Les Theresa Spence de ce monde ne me feront jamais pleurer. Mais il y a, en contrepartie, des chefs très sages comme Ghislain Picard, des députés issus de la relève comme Roméo Saganash, qui permettent à leurs commettants d'espérer une véritable amélioration de leurs conditions de vie par un démarchage professionnel qui incite au respect et à la compréhension des problématiques.»
Le Journal de Montréal, 26, 5 janvier 2013

Jeffrey Simpson, columnist
"Large elements of Aboriginal Canada live intellectually in a dream palace, a more comfortable place than where they actually reside. Inside the dream palace, there are self-reliant, self-sustaining communities, or "nations," with the

full panoply of sovereign capacities and the "rights" that go with sovereignty. The obvious conflict between reality and dream pulls some Aboriginals to warrior societies; others to a rejection of dealing with the "Crown" at all; others to fights for the restoration of "rights" that, even if defined, would make little tangible difference in the lives of Aboriginal people; and still others, such as Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, to go on a hunger strike. Chief Spence demanded at the beginning of her strike a series of meetings with the Governor-General and Prime Minister Harper. This demand reflected a very old and very wrong idea that the "Crown" is somehow an independent agency with which Aboriginal "nations" have a direct relationship, whereas the "Crown" is nothing of the sort. Mr. Harper was correct in refusing a face-to-face meeting, since a prime minister should not be blackmailed into doing what any group or individual wants."
Globe and Mail, F9, 5 January 2013.

Monte Solberg, columnist
"Back in the day when our ancestors built Canada, I'm pretty sure they didn't go on listening tours. At different times we know they elected people who fiercely debated ideas, which is how the country was born. As often as not, they just went and did what needed to be done. They built business empires, opened up vast new territories, assembled armies and created entire new communities. This is what I don't understand with the Idle No More movement. Why are some Aboriginal bands enormously successful while others flounder? Is it because some were consulted more? Hardly. Is it because some have resources while others don't? No. Actually, some Aboriginal leaders long ago brought economic development, jobs and stability to their communities by, you know, leading. They were Idle No More long before it was a hashtag on Twitter. That's not to say Aboriginals don't have legitimate grievances. Often land claims take too long to resolve, but, shockingly, even under the Harper government many have been resolved, meaning billions of dollars in payouts and millions of acres of land for Aboriginals. Let's also remember that Aboriginals have constitutional protections including the "duty to consult" when their lands are affected, which the courts routinely uphold. Actually, in Canada, a lack of consultation is rarely the issue. More often than not, the real problem at every level is leaders who refuse to lead."
Toronto Sun, 19, 7 January 2013 (plus four additional *QMI Agency* publications).

Peter Worthington, columnist
"The hunger strike started by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence 25 days ago as a means of forcing a meeting with Prime Minister Harper (and/or Gov. Gen. David Johnston) seems to have worked. The Prime Minister is going to meet with Assembly of First Nations leaders next week and Chief Spence says she will attend. So what if it is not a private meeting, Chief Spence's presence is the face-saving compromise. There is irony in Chief Spence's hunger strike. Hers is not an ideological gesture like those IRA hunger strikers who died for their cause, but

a blackmail attempt to force Prime Minister Harper to pay attention to her. So Chief Spence and her supporters win this round, but the good folk of Attawapiskat still live in squalour. Prime Minister Harper probably feels he has more to gain by listening to her, even if he is unlikely to funnel more money to Natives, which is the bottom line of most Native protests."

Ottawa Sun, 7, 5 January 2013 (plus two additional *QMI Agency* publications).

Chart 1: Distribution of Coverage (Language)
Tableau 1: Distribution de la couverture (Langue)

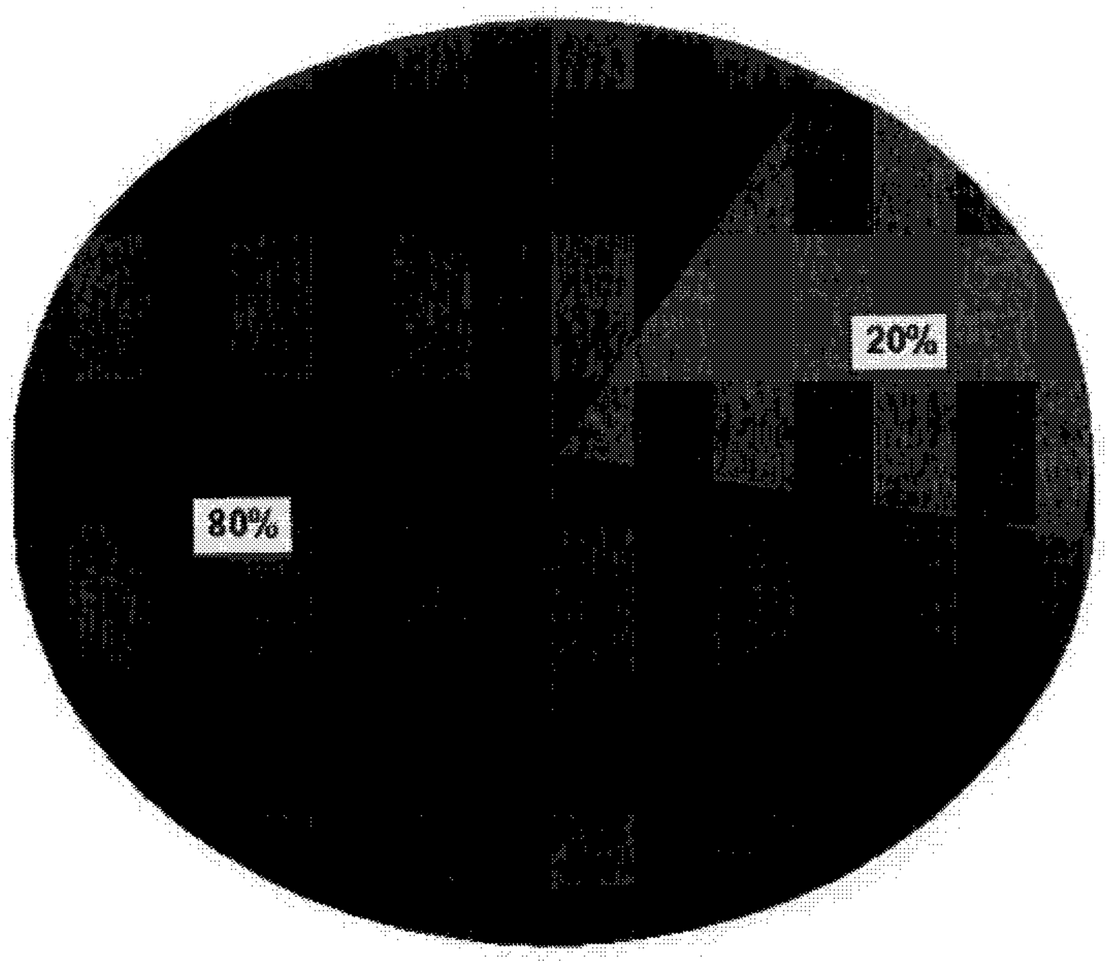


Chart 3: Distribution of Coverage (Media Source)
Tableau 3: Distribution de la couverture (Sources médiatiques)

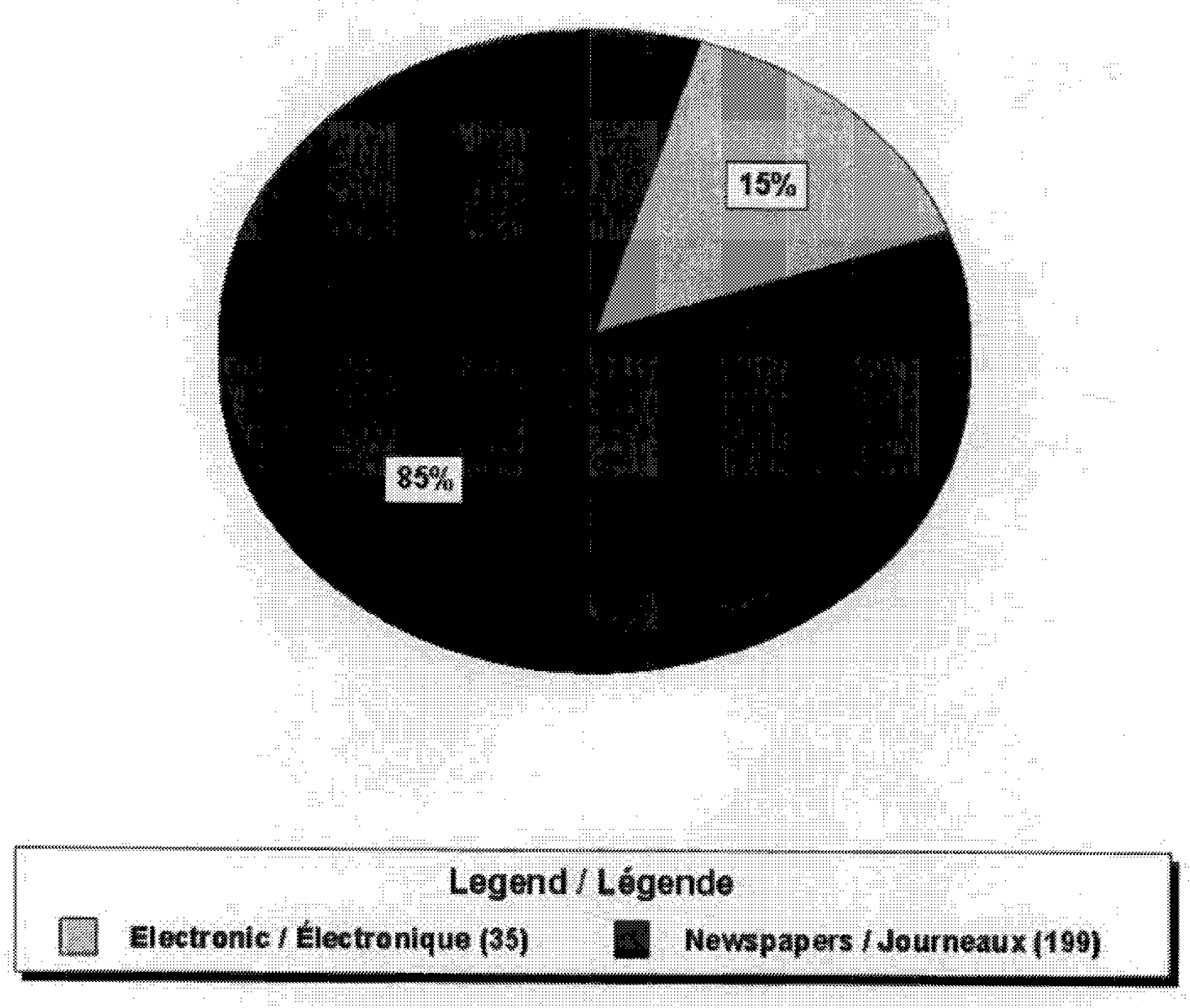


Chart 4: Distribution of Coverage (by Day)
Tableau 4: Distribution de la couverture (par jour)

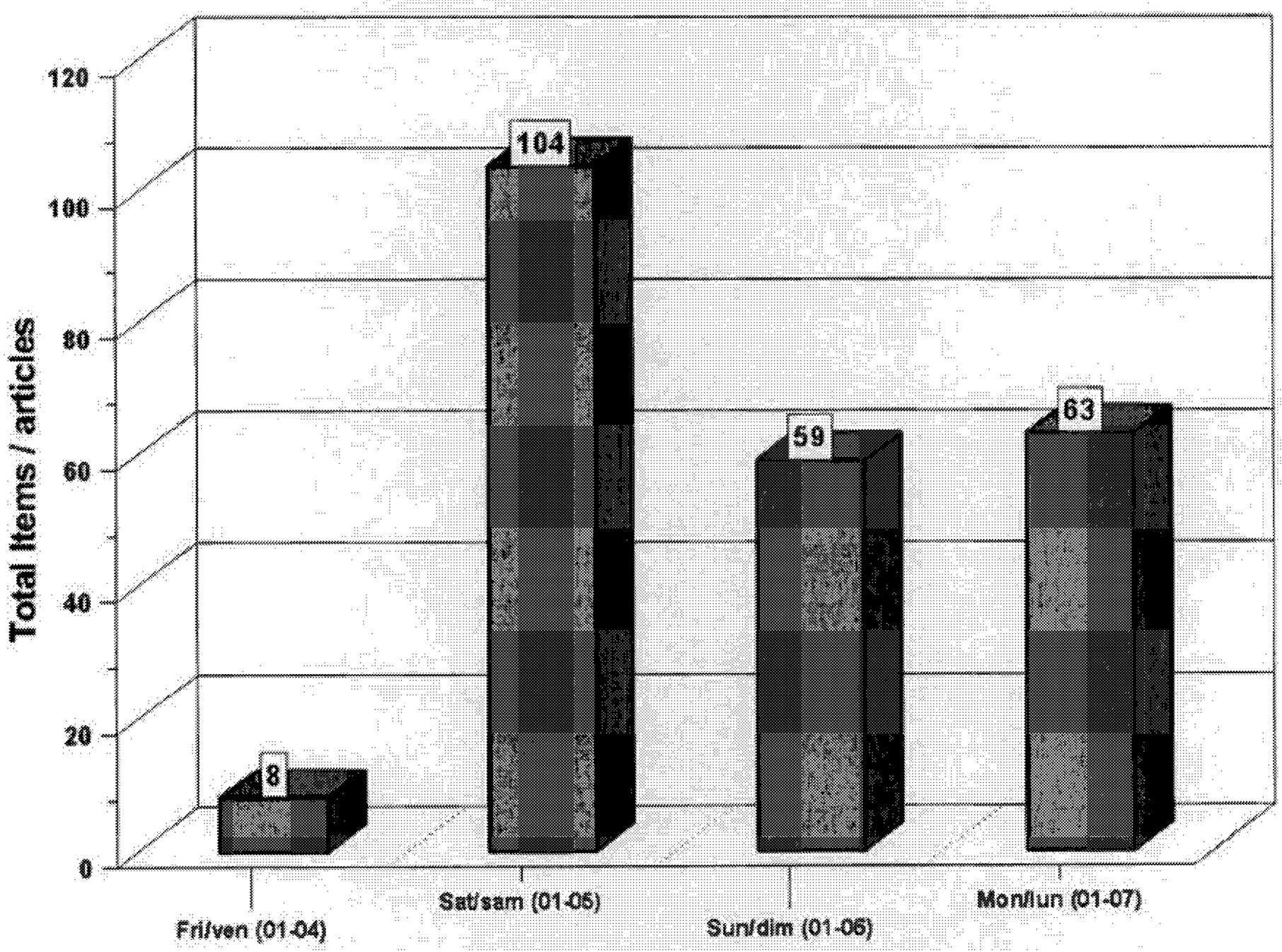


Chart 5: Distribution of Coverage (by Region)
Tableau 5: Distribution de la couverture (par Région)

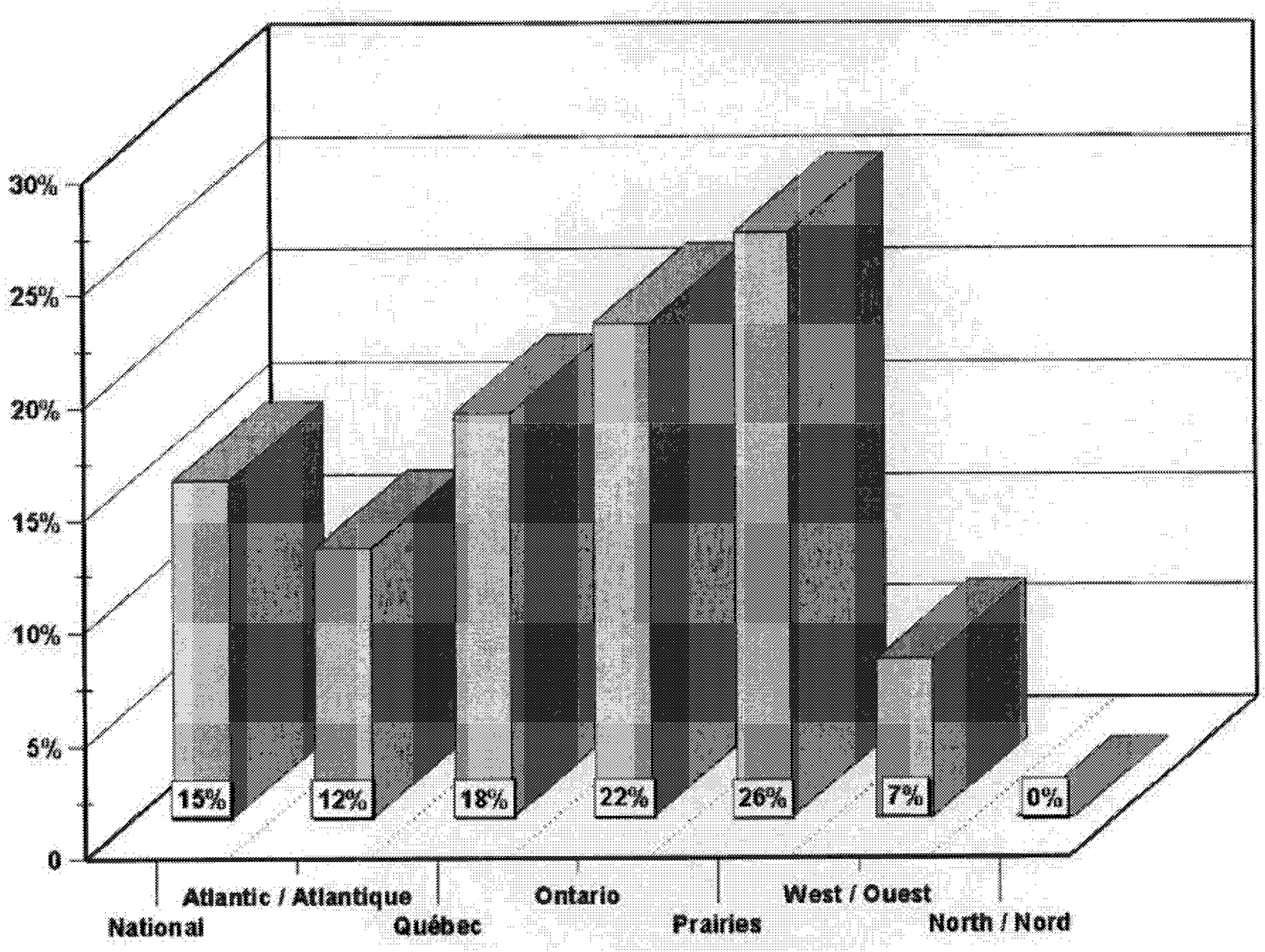
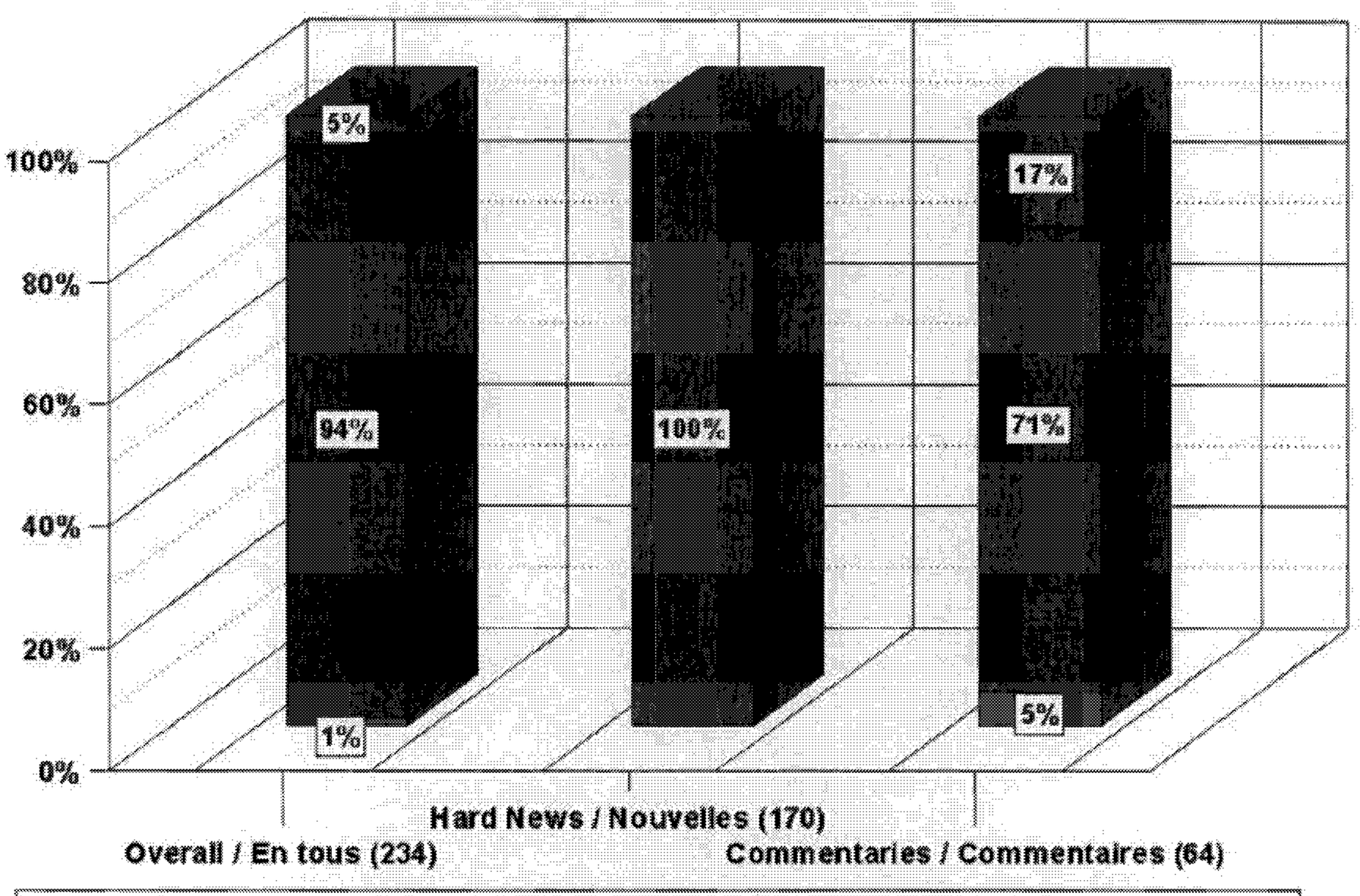


Chart 6: Tone of Coverage
Tableau 6: Ton de la couverture



Media Sources
Les sources médiatiques

APTN
Brantford Expositor
Calgary Sun
Calgary Herald
CBC Newsworld
CBC Radio
CBC Television Network
Charlottetown Guardian
CTV Network
CTV News Channel
Edmonton Sun
Edmonton Journal
Fredericton Daily Gleaner
Global National
Globe and Mail
Halifax Chronicle-Herald
Hamilton Spectator
Kingston Whig-Standard
L'Acadie Nouvelle
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Le Journal de Montréal
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London Free Press
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Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Fwd: QUERY: Media analysis

From: Chris St. John
To: Hashmi, Kareen; Hurcomb, Jim; Monfils, Pamela
Date: 1/8/2013 1:56 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: QUERY: Media analysis

That's great, thanks Pam!

>>> Pamela Monfils 1/8/2013 1:55 PM >>>
Hi Chris:

Attached is an analysis we had done for the weekend coverage. We'll be getting another one this Thursday as well. Unfortunately we have license restrictions and can't share the actual news clips with departments that aren't part of the Newsdesk agreement, of which Health is one.

Anyway, hope this helps them out.

P

>>> Chris St. John 1/8/2013 1:49 PM >>>
Hi Jim, do we have anything we can share with Health? At minimum Im thinking we have the media packages we included in the binders for the meeting on Dec 31.

Thank you.

>>> Janice Edgar <janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca> 1/8/2013 1:46 PM >>>
Hi Chris,

Has AANDC done a media analysis of the Idle No More / Chief Spence issues that you can share with us?

Janice Edgar
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Pages 384 to / à 389

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Fw: APTN News: Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide

From: Chris St. John
To: Matchim, Angela
Date: 1/8/2013 9:24 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: APTN News: Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide

you think, to what end, would the department consider doing a forensic audit of the FN?

>>> Angela Matchim 1/8/2013 8:53 AM >>>
Need a Q I guess?

>>> HQ Inform 1/8/2013 8:40:12 AM >>>
Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide
By Jorge Barrera
APTN National News

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's "life partner" says the federal Aboriginal Affairs department should finally launch the forensic audit requested by the community in 2004 if it's serious about tracking the millions of dollars that have flowed through the band's coffers.

Aboriginal Affairs on Monday released an audit done by Deloitte and Touche that found a missing paper trail for millions of dollars in funding flowing through Attawapiskat First Nation between 2005 and 2011. Attawapiskat has a population of about 1,828.

The audit, which examined funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Health Canada along with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, detonated like a grenade as First Nations leaders prepared for Friday's scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The audit, targeting the $104 million the northern Ontario community on the Attawapiskat River received between 2005 and 2011, examined 505 financial transactions, 400 from Aboriginal affairs and 105 from Health Canada, and found that 81 per cent of those transactions did not have the proper documentation and 61 per cent had none.

"We were unable to determine if the funds were spent for their intended purpose," said a Deloitte and Touche management letter to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, dated Aug. 28.

The auditors also noted that CMHC never bothered to tell Aboriginal Affairs about its own inspectors' findings that housing conditions were worsening in the community.

Spence's partner, Clayton Kennedy, who is also the band's former co-manager, said financial accountability had improved over the last two years in Attawapiskat, which posts all its financial documents online. He said none of the money was ever misappropriated and every dollar could be tracked by simply approaching the vendors and the banks involved. He said the department should call in the forensic audit requested by the community back in 2004.

"If everyone is so concerned about the lack of documentation, then fine, come back, start contacting the suppliers, go through the banks, get into it in a little more detail because I don't think you'll find any

were found to have incomplete documentation. Kennedy said those were entries he was trying to correct after staff duplicated invoices for capital projects which are handled by external accountants and project managers.

"I had to take them off the books of account," he said.

Kennedy said Attawapiskat, which has been in co-management for 10 years, was on the brink of bankruptcy when he took over.

Kennedy said the band was previously co-managed by BDO Canada from November 2009 to April 2010, but the band council decided to not continue with them after the firm asked for $400,000 a year over five years to do the job. Kennedy said he earned about $140,000 by comparison.

"Council was suspicious of the fact they hadn't done anything in six months in terms of producing financial statements," said Kennedy.

David Facca, a BDO partner in Thunder Bay, was involved, but said he wasn't authorized to comment when contacted by APTN National News.

Before BDO, the band was co-managed by George Lanouette, who has since died.

The band manager through the majority of the audit period, former chief Ignace Gull, was let go from his position in December 2011, said Kennedy.

Gull could not be reached for comment.

Kennedy said he's not surprised the auditors failed to find documentation for transactions dating back to 2005.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan called for the audit in December 2011 at the same time he imposed a third-party manager on the community, seizing financial control away from the band council and administration.

When the auditors landed in the community for two five day stints in early 2012, the band's staff was already working to the limit dealing with the third-party manager, who was from BDO Canada's Winnipeg office.

"My staff didn't have time to get to the nuts and bolts," he said. "We were worried about payroll and welfare payments that were withheld. I had to provide a raft of information...(The third party manager) wanted to take over all the payroll, he wanted all the information, personal information for every employee by program."

Kennedy said most of the band's accounting staff had "no knowledge of the majority of transactions." He said they pulled out boxes of files from a warehouse to meet the auditors' demands.

"My staff was preoccupied with operations and did not have a lot of time to devote to the auditor's queries," he

Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Fw: Al Jazeera: Canada's indigenous movement gains momentum

From: Chris St. John
To: Matchim, Angela
Date: 1/2/2013 11:01 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Al Jazeera: Canada's indigenous movement gains momentum

I'm getting these FYI emails from you yes.

>>> Angela Matchim 1/2/2013 11:00 AM >>>
You getting these?

>>> HQ Inform 1/2/2013 10:58:44 AM >>>
For the video report please go to: http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestoryamericas/2013/01/2013128271818863 4.html?utm_content=automate&utm_campaign=Trial6&utm_source=NewSocialFlow&utm_term=plustweets&utm_medium=MasterAccount

Canada's indigenous movement gains momentum
Are the country's First Nations groups being denied their rights and being targeted by the government?

Canada's Idle No More movement began as a small social media campaign - armed with little more than a hashtag and a cause.

"The movement's really been in play for a long time ... but the kind of spark was this legislative initiative by the Harper government which started with Bill C-45 but also includes 14 other pieces of legislation that's being imposed on First Nations people .... But Bill C-45 ... impacts both Canadians and First Nations .... And so what you had was an imminent threat, something that we couldn't put off for negotiations for 25 years, it was a piece of legislation that was being rushed through the House without any input or consultation. So we had no choice but to gather very quickly and react."

- Pamela Palmater, chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University

But it has grown into a large indigenous movement, with protests and ceremonial gatherings held almost daily in many of the country's major cities.

The movement is spearheaded by Theresa Spence, the leader of the Attawapiskat, a small native band in northern Ontario.

Spence is now 22 days into a hunger strike on Ottawa's Victoria Island, just across from the Canadian parliament.

Spence and other First Nations groups are demanding better living conditions for Canada's aboriginals, and they are angry at the country's government, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which they accuse of trying to erode their land and sovereignty rights.

Canada's aboriginal communities have long been disproportionately affected by poverty.

A recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives found that, in 2006, the average income for aboriginal people was just under $19,000, which is 30 percent lower than the $27,097 average for other Canadians.

Although that is a slightly narrower gap than 10 years previously, it would still take 63 years to achieve income parity.

The same study also found the annual income gap between other Canadians and aboriginals is $7,083 higher in urban settings, and $4,492 higher in rural settings.

"It is important to understand that Canada is currently being governed by a very extremist power .... The reality of Bill C-45, and the complete gutting of 30 years of environmental approvals enforcement and regulatory mechanisms [is that it will] significantly kick open the door for international investment in tar sands, and other unsustainable and harmful and devastating extractive industries, which disproportionately impact our native people and our way of life ... "

- Clayton Thomas-Muller, an indigenous rights activist

Another study by the Campaign 2000 advocacy group found that one in four children within First Nations families in Canada lives in poverty.

And First Nations groups say Bill C-45, which is one of their main concerns, is just the latest bid by the government to change laws protecting the rights of Canada's indigenous people.

Its changes affect all Canadians, not just First Nations.

The bill amends laws that govern waterways and environmental protection. Canada's government says the changes are necessary to clear up 'red tape' and protect the economy.

But First Nations protesters say their lands, treaty rights and sovereignty are being eroded.

They say they were never consulted while C-45 was under consideration, and that is a violation of Canadian law, even though native groups repeatedly asked Harper to meet with them to discuss their concerns.

They also point out that the government has repeatedly supported limits on First Nations' authority, despite promising not to approve any changes to the Indian Act.

Spence says: "It is time for everybody to work together. That means the government too – to treat us with respect and honour the treaty. The purpose of that treaty was to go in peace and honour each other and respect each other and slide together with the future, not to go separate ways. And this is what's been happening with the government. He's not listening or honoring our leadership.

"So that was the purpose of that treaty – to be partners. But we feel like the way it is right now we are more like a slave to the prime minister, not a partner."

So, are Canada's First Nations groups being targeted by the country's government? And what are the rights of the indigenous people?

Inside Story Americas, with presenter Kimberly Halkett, discusses with guests: Pamela Palmater, a lawyer and chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, Toronto, and Clayton Thomas-Muller, an indigenous rights activist and tar sands campaign co-director at the Indigenous Environmental Network.

Inside Story Americas invited several conservative MPs to join the panel but they all declined. However, John Duncan, the minister of aboriginal affairs and northern development, sent the following statement.

"The Minister and the parliamentary secretary have made repeated efforts to reach Chief Spence to engage in discussion on the issues she has raised. We will continue trying to engage the chief and other First Nation leaders to discuss how we can build on the progress we have made since 2006

- Built over 30 new schools
- Renovated over 200 schools
- Built over 10,000 homes and renovated thousands more
- Invested in safe drinking water systems
- Increased funding for child and family services by 25 percent
- Introduced legislation to protect the rights of women on reserves
- Settled over 80 outstanding land claims
- Invested in over 700 projects that link aboriginals to job training and counseling services

"We believe that working together is the best way to build on this progress."

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

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The information contained in Top Stories is provided exclusively to AANDC by subscription and must not be circulated outside the department.

Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Jan's Atta Qs

From: Chris St. John
To: Manchulenko, Lesia
Date: 1/7/2013 3:28 PM
Subject: Re: Jan's Atta Qs
Attachments: NCR-#4931972-v10-CAEE_ATTA_AUDIT_RESULTS_REVISED_MEDIA_LINES_QS_&_AS.DOCX

ok here you are.

>>> Lesia Manchulenko 1/7/2013 3:09 PM >>>
Hi Chris - As discussed, please ensure this exact text is reflected in the Key Messages/ Qs&As doc. Once you've revised, please send back to me and I'll flip it back to MO for finalization/approval. Thanks

Pages 429 to / à 470

are duplicates

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Fw: audit results release

From: Chris St. John
To: Phan, Trinh
Date: 1/7/2013 12:49 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: audit results release
CC: Edgar, Janice; Paine, Debbie; Small, Janine
Attachments: NCR-#4930194-v12-PSD_ATTA_AUDIT_RESULTS_RELEASE_DEPARTMENTAL_STATEMENT.DOC

voila

>>> Trinh Phan <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca> 1/7/2013 12:40 PM >>>
Thanks so much Chris. Do you have a copy of the news release that you can share?

Trinh

From: "Chris St. John" <Chris.StJohn@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
To: "Trinh Phan" <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Cc: "Debbie Paine" <Debbie.Paine@hc-sc.gc.ca>, "Janice Edgar" <janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-07 12:27 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: audit results release

Hi Trinh, I don't have a copy of the letter, but it will be posted online along with the other docs this afternoon (as far as I know). Attached are our lines and Qs & As which were just approved.

Thanks,

C

>>> Trinh Phan <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca> 1/7/2013 12:24 PM >>>
Hi Chris,

Can you send us your media lines and also the letter that is referenced in the clipping below. We are drafting HC lines and it be helpful to see how AANDC is positioning its messaging.

Thanks in advance,

Trinh

Trinh Phan
A/Senior Communications Executive/Gestionnaire principale des communications par intérim
Communications and Public Affairs Branch (CPAB)/ Direction générale des affaires publiques et des communications (DGAPC)
Health Canada/Santé Canada
Office/Bureau: Jeanne Mance B2139

Tel/Tél: 613-957-8735

From: Trinh Phan/HC-SC/GC/CA
To: "Chris St. John" <Chris.StJohn@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Cc: "Debbie Paine" <Debbie.Paine@hc-sc.gc.ca>, "Janice Edgar" <janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-07 10:26 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: audit results release

Thanks Chris. In case you haven't seen this yet:
Jan 7, 2013 9:32 AM ET
Attawapiskat audit finds 'no evidence of due diligence'
Deloitte finds average of 81% of files lack supporting documents from Ontario reserve
Source: cbc.ca/politics

The accounting firm hired to audit the finances of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation reserve in northern Ontario says there is little or no documentation for millions of dollars spent by the band, CBC News has learned.

The unreleased audit was requested by the federal government to ensure that the approximately $104 million it provided to Attawapiskat between April 2005 and November 2011 was spent as it should have been.

CBC News has obtained a copy of the audit. The funding was intended for housing, sewage, education and other services.

In a letter dated Sept. 20, 2012, that was written by Deloitte to Chief Theresa Spence and copied to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, that auditing firm says that of 505 transactions reviewed, more than 400 lacked proper documentation.

The letter says "an average of 81 per cent of files did not have adequate supporting documents and over 60 per cent had no documentation of the reason for payment."

The letter to Spence also says there is "no evidence of due diligence on the part of Attawapiskat of funding provided by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for housing projects and Health Canada for health-related projects."

Deloitte said it could not conclude that the payments made by the band council were in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements with the federal government.

Overall, it recommended:

Stricter enforcement measures.
More eligibility requirements.
More reviews of the First Nation's record-keeping.

The audit also noted "significant staff turnover" that had resulted in a "corporate memory loss" for transactions reported prior to 2010.

Some of the details of specific transactions are blacked out in the copy obtained by CBC News, but in some

cases, the report shows expenditures of five and six figures without any supporting documentation found by the audit.

Deloitte reported its finding to Spence in late August. It's not known what she or the band council did in response to the findings.

State of emergency declared last winter
The Attawapiskat First Nation was placed under co-management more than a decade ago – a measure taken by the federal government to attempt to improve financial administration.

The band's co-manager, Clayton Kennedy, acknowledged being in a romantic relationship with the band's chief, Spence. But he denied any conflict of interest.

Spence declared a state of emergency on the reserve in the fall of 2011, citing a critical need for housing.

On Nov. 30, 2011, the federal government appointed a third-party manager to oversee the band's operations, citing urgent health and safety issues and a need for immediate action to remedy the problems. Spence and the band council tried to block the move with a court injunction.

Amid much media coverage, the government pledged to provide emergency housing. About two dozen modular homes were built and trucked to the community over last winter's ice roads.

The third-party manager was removed April 19, 2012, based on progress that was made and the fact the First Nation returned to co-management.

PM to meet with chiefs from First Nations
Spence has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, camped out in an aboriginal education centre on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River between downtown Ottawa and Gatineau, Que. She's demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston to discuss what she characterizes as "treaty issues" between First Nations and the Crown.

Harper agreed to meet with chiefs from First Nations this Friday and Spence has said she will attend, but is not giving up her hunger strike until she sees the outcome of the meeting.

On Friday, reporters asked Grand Chief Stan Louttit, who represents the northern Ontario region that includes Attawapiskat, about the status of the audit, which the band council agreed to when the First Nations problems first came under scrutiny.

"It is very, very difficult to do business in a remote community," Louttit said. "The average Canadian out there, they see millions and millions, and they just get concerned and said, 'Hey, there's something going on there.'

"But I challenge those people, come to the community and look at the books, and come and live there for a couple of weeks and you'll see," he said.

"The audit speaks for itself," said Jan O'Driscoll, the press secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. "We agree with its conclusions and recommendations."

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2013/01/07/pol-attawapiskat-audit-monday.html?cmp=rss

From: "Chris St. John" <Chris.StJohn@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>

To: "Trinh Phan" <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Cc: "Debbie Paine" <Debbie.Paine@hc-sc.gc.ca>, "Janice Edgar" <janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-07 10:19 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: audit results release

Not yet, likely today.

>>> Trinh Phan <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca> 1/7/2013 10:00 AM >>>
Hi Chris,

Just following up to see if your dept has issued the news release and your audit report. As you may be aware, there's been media coverage on the audit already.

Thanks,
Trinh

Trinh Phan
A/Senior Communications Executive/Gestionnaire principale des communications par intérim
Communications and Public Affairs Branch (CPAB)/ Direction générale des affaires publiques et des communications (DGAPC)
Health Canada/Santé Canada
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From: "Chris St. John" <Chris.StJohn@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
To: "Trinh Phan" <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Cc: "Debbie Paine" <Debbie.Paine@hc-sc.gc.ca>, "Janice Edgar" <janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-04 03:58 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: audit results release

will do.

>>> Trinh Phan <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca> 1/4/2013 3:56 PM >>>
Hi Chris,

Great if you can share your news release once you have a final copy.

Thanks,
Trinh

From: "Chris St. John" <Chris.StJohn@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
To: "Trinh Phan" <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Cc: "Debbie Paine" <Debbie.Paine@hc-sc.gc.ca>, "Janice Edgar" <janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-04 03:06 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: audit results release

HI Trinh,

Yes, we have received word the audit results will be posted. Im not sure of timing though, that is still TBD. The results will be accompanied by a news release which is still in approvals at this time.

Thanks,
Chris

>>> Trinh Phan <trinh.phan@hc-sc.gc.ca> 1/4/2013 3:01 PM >>>
Hi Chris,

My FNIHB client informed me that their AANDC program counterpart Ron Hallman (AANDC) said that the results of the AANDC audit may be posted today. Do you have the status of this? Will AANDC be issuing a news release as well or just posting the audit on your website?

Thanks,
Trinh

Trinh Phan
A/Senior Communications Executive/Gestionnaire principale des communications par intérim
Communications and Public Affairs Branch (CPAB)/ Direction générale des affaires publiques et des communications (DGAPC)
Health Canada/Santé Canada
Office/Bureau: Jeanne Mance B2139
Tel/Tél: 613-957-8735
----- Forwarded by Trinh Phan/HC-SC/GC/CA on 2013-01-04 02:57 PM -----
From: "Chris St. John" [Chris.StJohn@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca]
Sent: 2013-01-04 11:41 AM EST
To: Mary Hand
Subject: audit results release

Hi Mary,

In light of the announcement of the meeting on the 11th of Jan, the release of the audit results has been postponed.

I will keep you posted regarding an eventual date of posting as we hear more.

Thank you,

Chris [attachment "NCR-#4931972-v9-CAEE_ATTA_AUDIT_RESULTS_REVISED_MEDIA_LINES_QS_&_AS.DOCX" deleted by Trinh Phan/HC-SC/GC/CA]

Statement

Deloitte and Touche LLP's independent and comprehensive audit of Attawapiskat First Nation released by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (January 7, 2013) – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) today released the results of the comprehensive and independent audit relating to the Attawapiskat First Nation's Management Control Framework which was carried out by Deloitte and Touche LLP.

In November 2011, Deloitte and Touche LLP were asked by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to complete a comprehensive audit. The audit was requested due to concerns with the housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community, which had received approximately $90 million in federal funding over the previous five years. Attawapiskat First Nation's on-reserve population is approximately 1,828, according to departmental records.

Deloitte and Touche LLP's comprehensive and independent audit covers the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. It consists of an audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation and AANDC to ensure that funding provided to the First Nation was spent for its intended purposes.

The independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLP revealed that over 80 percent of the analyzed financial transactions of the Attawapiskat First Nation lacked any or proper supporting documentation, and found no evidence of due diligence on the part of Attawapiskat First Nation in their use of public funds, including for housing. As a result, Deloitte and Touche LLP was unable to determine if the funds were spent for their intended purpose.

The audit's finding that AANDC's oversight measures for Attawapiskat First Nation could be improved has been accepted by AANDC. AANDC will work with federal partners to address recommendations to improve oversight measures.

On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter and the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit work were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council on September 20, 2012.

.../2

The Audit Committee recommended approval by the Deputy Minister on September 28, 2012. The Deputy Minister signed off on the audit on October 16, 2012. Consistent with Treasury Board guidelines, the audit is being posted to the departmental website within 90 days. It is now available on the Department's website (link to report).

Comment [d1]: Be sure to insert link. Also ensure that the link is live and connected to the appropriate web page.

- 30 -

This statement is also available on the Internet at www.aandc.gc.ca

For more information, please contact:

Minister's Office
Jan O'Driscoll
Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable John Duncan
819-997-0002

Media Relations
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada
819-953-1160

You can receive all our news and media updates automatically. For more information or to sign up for our Media Room RSS Feed, visit: www.aandc-aadnc.gc.ca/1info/rssinfo-eng.asp.

Pages 439 to / à 464

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From: Chris St. John
To: Hallman, Ron; MacGowan, Susan; Scotton, Anne
CC: Achtoutal, Brahim; Desrochers, Hélène; Dupuis, Phil; Horton, Christop...
Date: 1/7/2013 12:19 PM
Subject: CAEE_ATTA AUDIT RESULTS_REVISED MEDIA LINES_QS & AS
Attachments: NCR-#4931972-v9-CAEE_ATTA_AUDIT_RESULTS_REVISED_MEDIA_LINES_QS_&_AS.DOCX

Hello, attached are the DMO approved revised media lines and questions and answers to support the release of the audit results.

Thank you,

Chris

DMO Approved - January 7, 2013
CIDM HQ #4931972

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA

MEDIA LINES AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – RELEASE OF ATTAWAPISKAT COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT RESULTS

(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

ISSUE:

A comprehensive audit has been conducted relating to the Attawapiskat First Nation.

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

On November 30, 2011 the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development asked that a comprehensive audit be undertaken by an independent auditor to identify how money has been spent and what oversight measures have been taken over the past five years.

KEY MESSAGES:

- A comprehensive audit, covering fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012, was conducted to examine Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community.

- The objectives of the comprehensive audit were to provide assurance that:

  - funding provided to the Attawapiskat First Nation was spent for intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and conditions of all funding agreements signed with AANDC; and

  - The management control framework at AANDC was in place to ensure compliance with Treasury Board and departmental policies and directives governing transfer payments, monitoring and oversight, and reporting was functioning as intended.

- The results of the audit speak for themselves. |

- We support the recommendations of the independent audit.

- Results can be viewed on our website (link to audit results/materials)

BACKGROUND:

In November 2011, a comprehensive audit was requested by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) due to concerns with the ongoing housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community. This comprehensive audit covers the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. Since 2006, the Government of Canada has contributed over $90 million to the community of Attawapiskat. The comprehensive audit consists of an audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation to provide assurance that funding provided to the First Nation was spent for intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and condition of all funding agreement signed with AANDC and Health Canada; and, an internal audit of the AANDC management control framework, to understand how AANDC oversight measures for housing related to the Attawapiskat First Nation were applied during that same period.

The audit report work is now complete and has been reviewed by an Audit Committee, which is comprised of five members from outside the public service. It is now posted on the Department's website.

On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter and the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit work were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council on September 20, 2012.

The audit found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreements which is inconsistent with the requirements of the funding agreements with the Government of Canada. The auditing firm hired was unable to determine whether the funds were spent for their intended purpose and an analysis of selected transactions revealed that over 80 percent of the financial transactions analyzed did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate or in error.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How does the Government fund reserves?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) provides funding through transfer payments for programs, services and initiatives to First Nation, Inuit and Northern communities, government and individuals as well as to Aboriginal and Métis organizations.

AANDC uses various funding approaches to manage transfer payments related to its programs.

The type of funding approach that will be used will depend on a number of factors, such as the design and nature of a program, the program authority, the duration of the program or funding agreement and the level of risk associated with entering into a funding agreement.

AANDC's program funding levels are based on a range of factors. For instance, funds for infrastructure projects are largely project-driven, while operation and maintenance is based on the size and type of asset, cost-sharing provisions with the community and growth factors in the community.

Income assistance provides financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, etc. to elementary/secondary education is driven by the number of students attending kindergarten to grade 12.

Band support funding considers reserve location (remoteness), on-reserve population, number of AANDC programs and services administered, the dollar value and the number of approved positions related to the delivery of programs and services.

2. What controls are in place to ensure that Band Councils are spending federal funds in an appropriate way?

First Nations are held accountable for the use of public funds through the terms and conditions of funding agreements, which contain a "right to audit" provision.

AANDC has a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) responsible for supporting the department in all aspects of financial accountability. This includes monitoring, challenging and reporting on all activities related to financial management, contracting, procurement, asset management, information management and technology.

AANDC also has a Chief Audit and Evaluation Executive (CAEE) to ensure the department has the reliable and objective assurances and reviews needed to assess and mitigate risk, conduct audits and evaluations (internal and external), and continue to improve the department's overall performance. In addition, the department has put in

place an Audit and Evaluation Committee that includes external members to ensure a high level of rigor and objectivity in the oversight of AANDC's audits and evaluation reports.

3. What is a recipient audit?

- The objective of the recipient audit was to provide assurance that funding provided to the Attawapiskat First Nation was spent for its intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and conditions of all funding agreements signed with AANDC. Because Deloitte could not come to a formal conclusion of the Audit, given the lack of documentation available from Attawapiskat First Nation, Specified Auditing Procedures were conducted. This analysis resulted in the conclusion by Deloitte that in the case of over 80% of the transactions, insufficient or no documentation was found.

- For further information about the methodology that was used for this audit work, please contact Deloitte & Touche LLP.

4. What is a "comprehensive audit"?

The "comprehensive audit" examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community. This comprehensive audit covered the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. Specifically, the audit included an examination of:

- Attawapiskat's level of compliance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement and whether the funds were used for the intended purposes and in the manner required by the terms and conditions of the funding agreement; Attawapiskat's management and financial control practices;
- the integrity of any financial data that has been reported by Attawapiskat in the context of all funding agreements;
- the relationship of Attawapiskat funding arrangements with Mushkegowuk Tribal Council;
- an examination of the management control framework at AANDC focussing on housing;
- an examination of the management control framework of the Ontario Regional Office;
- compliance by AANDC with Treasury Board and departmental policies and directives governing transfer payments, monitoring, oversight and reporting.

5. Why was this audit initiated?

On November 30, 2011 the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development asked that a comprehensive audit be undertaken by an independent auditor to identify

how money has been spent and what oversight measures have been taken over the past five years.

6. What are the findings of the Comprehensive Audit Report?

The term "comprehensive audit" was used for this audit work since it examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community.

With regard to Attawapiskat's management control framework, the independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLP found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of federal funding agreements. Specifically, over 80 percent of the analyzed financial transactions made by the First Nation did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate.

As for the internal audit of the department, generally, management controls were found to be properly designed and effectively applied by the Department. The audit team also identified some areas where management controls, practices and processes could be improved, resulting in two recommendations. Working with federal partners, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

7. What exactly was included in the internal audit?

This audit focused on an examination of the AANDC management control framework for housing and AANDC's relationship with other federal partners.

8. Who requested the audit? Didn't Chief Spence say she wanted the audit conducted?

In December 2011, a comprehensive audit was requested by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) due to concerns with the ongoing housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community.

Chief Spence publicly stated her support for the audit in December 2011 and concurred with the audit results shared with her in September 2012.

9. When did the audit committee approve the audit?

The Audit Committee recommended approval of the report by the Deputy Minister on Sept 28, 2012. The report was then formatted for approval and approved by the Deputy Minister on October 16, 2012.

10. Who is on the audit committee?

The AANDC audit committee, all external to the public service, consists of the following members:

- Ian Clark, Chair and professor at University of Toronto's School of Public Policy and Governance;
- Nola Buhr, CA, PhD, professor of Accounting at the University of Saskatchewan;
- Brent Dibartolo; Retired ex-ADM of AANDC and National Defence;
- Harry Swain, Retired ex-Deputy Minister of AANDC and Industry Canada; and
- Kim Scott, expert on evaluation and performance management.

11. Who did Deloitte and Touche LLP meet with in conducting their comprehensive audit?

In conducting this audit, representatives of the audit firm spoke to AANDC departmental officials at HQ and in the region as well as officials at Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

From the First Nation, the following individuals were interviewed:

- Clayton Kennedy, Co-manager, Attawapiskat First Nation
- Ruby Wheesk, Program Manager, Attawapiskat First Nation
- Theresa Spence, Chief, Attawapiskat First Nation (e-mail communications only)
- Marie Chookoomin, Administration Clerk (e-mail communications only)
- Lorraine Koostachin, Payables Clerk
- Jennifer Paulmartin, Payables Clerk

12. Why was a Management Letter issued?

Due to the lack of documentation, a Management Letter was issued by the auditors (Deloitte), addressed to Chief Spence, Attawapiskat First Nation, highlighting the lack of:

- Supporting documentation for claimed expenditures
- Supporting documentation for processes and controls
- Formal job descriptions

Chief Theresa Spence was informed of the results on September 7, 2012, briefed on September 20 by Deloitte and AANDC officials and informed that the reports would be posted on the departmental website. The Management Letter will be published along with the reports.

13. What action will the Government take in response to the audit?

The Department has reviewed the results of the audit and the Management Letter and recovery of funds will proceed as per the practice of the Department. Given the results of the audit, the region is working with the First Nation to strengthen the financial management and controls in this community.

With regard to recommendations for AANDC's internal operations, the department will work with its federal partners and take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

14. The report includes some areas where AANDC management practices need improvement and Management Action Plan commitments. What changes, if any, will be undertaken in AANDC Headquarters and the AANDC Ontario North Regional Office in Thunder Bay as a result of the comprehensive audit?

AANDC acknowledges and agrees that there is room for improvement. With respect to the internal audit findings, the Department agrees with the findings and will work with federal partners to address these recommendations.

15. The comprehensive audit found that Attawapiskat FN was approved in the past for MLGs previously despite not meeting all of the criteria, but the community's last expression of interest was denied. Was this latest decision related to the audit?

No. The Attawapiskat First Nation submitted an expression of interest to CMHC for the construction of 30 housing units. The department was unable to sign off on their loan application given that the community was not able to demonstrate the necessary eligibility for the department to support a loan guarantee application.

Prior to receiving notification from CMHC that its Expression of Interest was declined, on May 31, 2012, AANDC officials informed Attawapiskat First Nation that it would be ineligible for an additional MLG for 30 homes because of its debt load and due to an inadequate number of serviced lots.

16. How much funding did the Attawapiskat First Nation receive from AANDC during the period of the audit between 2005-06 and 2011-12?

The Attawapiskat First Nation received $117 million in total AANDC funding in the period of the audit between fiscal year 2005-06 and fiscal year 2011-12.

17. What were the costs of the Comprehensive Audit?

AAANDC costs to date are just over $300,000 for both components of the comprehensive audit.

18. Why did the Government allow this to happen? Why did it take an audit to determine the problem?

The general assessments conducted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 flagged Attawapiskat as a high risk organization when it comes to financial management. This means that the financial position (i.e., liquidity, sustainability, and working capital) was unfavourable.

Attawapiskat First Nation has been under co-management since 2000, meaning that the council selected and contracted a co-manager to assist the council in remedying the default, developing sound management practices, restoring financial health, and building capacity.

AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to support improvements in overall financial management as well as to ensure compliance in future with funding agreements.

19. How much money will the Department seek to recover and when?

The department is committed to the responsible stewardship of public funds. AANDC officials will, following discussion with the First Nation, determine an appropriate recovery amount and timetable while ensuring funding for the delivery of essential services.

20. Will you be making the audit report public and, if so, when?

The comprehensive audit report is now available on AANDC's website

21. When will you be reporting audit findings to the community?

On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter with the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council September 20, 2012. The comprehensive audit report will provided to the Chief and Council and is available on the AANDC website.

22. Is the comprehensive audit work that AANDC was conducting regarding the situation at the Attawapiskat First Nation complete?

Yes the audit work is complete. The report has been reviewed by the Audit Committee, comprised of five external members from outside the public service, and approved by the Deputy Minister. It is now available on the AANDC website.

23. Will the Government continue to provide funding to Attawapiskat even though they cannot explain what happened to millions of dollars in federal funding?

Funding continues to be provided under the funding agreement with the appropriate controls in place.

24. Why did it take so long to release the audit?

It is the practice of the department to have all audit reports reviewed and recommended for approval by the Deputy Minister. This is done by the AANDC Audit Committee, comprised of 5 external members – none of whom are public servants. The report of the Comprehensive Audit went to the Audit Committee for consideration on September 28, 2012.

Once approved, audit reports are then posted to the departmental website. They are reviewed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and translated ensuring accuracy and concordance between the two official languages.

25. Why are you releasing the audit now? Are you trying to discredit Spence? Are you releasing in response to the hunger strike?

According to the department's audit approval process, the Attawapsikat audit report was reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee, which comprises five members from outside the public service. It was approved by the Deputy Minister in October 2012. In order for all parties to move forward on the recommendations and to address the issues in the report, the Department has provided the results to the Attawapiskat First Nation and posted the audit report on the AANDC website. Its posting on the AANDC website reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability to Canadians.

26. Are there other Band Councils that cannot explain where federal funds go?

This is a complex question that is being addressed by a series of recipient audits, conducted by AANDC through independent auditing firms.

27. How did AANDC respond to the urgent health and safety needs at Attawapiskat First Nation last winter?

Last winter, AANDC worked with the First Nation and partners to address urgent health and safety needs of the First Nation. Over $3 million was provided towards this specific situation, including the purchase, delivery and installation of 22 modular homes, the retro-fitting of the community's healing lodge in order to provide safe and temporary shelter, the renovation of existing houses that had previously been abandoned and substantial repairs to the ATCO trailer complex.

All of these initiatives were funded by AANDC and implemented at the request of the Chief and Council. In addition, this $3 million in funding was provided over and above the regular annual housing funding allocations.

Pages 474 to / à 491

are duplicates

sont des duplicatas

Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Fwd: Fw: Atta statement

From: Chris St. John
To: Raizenne, Brigitte
Date: 1/4/2013 3:24 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Fw: Atta statement
Attachments: NCR-#4850347-v1-CAEE_ATTAWAPISKAT_AUDIT_MEDIA_LINES_QS_&_AS.DOCX

here is a copy Brigitte, we don't share access beyond comms for these.

>>> Brigitte Raizenne 1/4/2013 3:22 PM >>>
Chris can you please give me access to the CIDMS # 4850347

Thanks

Brigitte Raizenne
Chief of Staff for CFO sector/
Chief Financial Officer Head

Dirigeant principale des finances

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada - Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
(819) 956-8192
Fax (819) 956-8193
Cell (613) 295-5406

>>> Chris St. John 1/4/2013 2:04 PM >>>
Here is the first draft of the Qs & As. There are places where I will need input from CFO and CAEE sectors, clearly marked. General comments also welcome SVP.

Chris

>>> Anne Scotton 1/4/2013 12:59 PM >>>
The only issue I see is having the reference to $90 million **for housing** in the release. The total includes all monies to the FN **including $ for housing** but the **$90 million is for all funding** not just housing.

Where are we on the revised Qs and As ? Anne

>>> Susan MacGowan 1/4/2013 12:23 PM >>>
looks fine. Sue

>>> Chris St. John 1/4/2013 12:18 PM >>>
It would appear we are back on again. Revised statement below for your approval.

Thank you,

Chris

Government of Canada Releases Results of a Comprehensive Audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (January 3, 2013) – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada today released the results of a comprehensive audit relating to the Attawapiskat First Nation.

In November 2011, Deloitte and Touche LLP were asked by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to complete a comprehensive audit. The audit was requested due to concerns with the housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community, which had received approximately $90 million in federal funding over the previous five years.

The comprehensive and independent audit covers the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. It consists of an audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation and AANDC to ensure that funding provided to the First Nation was spent for its intended purposes.

The independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLP revealed that over 80 percent of the analyzed financial transactions made by the First Nation did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate. The audit also found that there were areas for improvement within AANDC's oversight measures.

With respect to the internal audit findings, AANDC agrees with the findings and will work with federal partners to address these recommendations.

On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter and the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit work were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council on September 20, 2012.

The audit is now posted on the department's website (link to report).

DMO Approved
October 25, 2012
CIDM #4850347

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA
MEDIA LINES
(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

ISSUE:

A comprehensive audit has been conducted relating to the Attawapiskat First Nation.

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

The Government of Canada conducts this type of audit to ensure that funds are used for the purposes intended in contribution agreements and to examine a department's management practices and control framework in relation to the management of the funding recipient.

MEDIA LINES:

- A comprehensive audit, covering fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012, was conducted to examine Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community.

- The objectives of the comprehensive audit were to provide assurance that:

  - funding provided to the Attawapiskat First Nation was spent for intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and conditions of all funding agreements signed with AANDC; and

  - The management control framework at AANDC was in place to ensure compliance with Treasury Board and departmental policies and directives governing transfer payments, monitoring and oversight, and reporting was functioning as intended.

- The audit report has been reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is comprised of five members from outside the public service.

- The finalized and approved comprehensive audit report is now available on the AANDC website.

If asked what documents or reports have been shared with the community to date:

- On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter and the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit

NCR#4708998 - v1
NCR#4850347 - v1

work were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council on September 20, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2011, a comprehensive audit was requested by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) due to concerns with the ongoing housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community. This comprehensive audit covers the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. It consists of an audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation to provide assurance that funding provided to the First Nation was spent for intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and condition of all funding agreement signed with AANDC and Health Canada; and, an internal audit of the AANDC management control framework, to understand how AANDC oversight measures for housing related to the Attawapiskat First Nation were applied during that same period.

The audit report work is now complete and has been reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee, which is comprised of five members from outside the public service. It is now posted on the Department's website.

On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter and the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit work were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council on September 20, 2012.

The audit found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreements which is inconsistent with the requirements of the funding agreements with the Government of Canada. The auditing firm hired was unable to determine whether the funds were spent for their intended purpose and an analysis of selected transactions revealed that over 80 percent of the financial transactions analyzed did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate or in error.

DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS:

Media Relations	AANDC
PRIMARY CONTACT AANDC HQ Media Relations (819) 953-1160	**SPOKESPERSON** Anne Scotton, Chief Audit and Evaluation Executive (819) 934-1581

DMO Approved
October 25, 2012
CIDM #4850347

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

Q.1 Is the comprehensive audit work that AANDC was conducting regarding the situation at the Attawapiskat First Nation complete?

A.1 Yes the audit work is complete. The report has been reviewed by the Audit Committee, comprised of five external members from outside the public service, and approved by the Deputy Minister. It is now available on the AANDC website.

Q.2 What is a "comprehensive audit"?

A.2 The term "comprehensive audit" was used for this audit work since it examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community. This comprehensive audit covered the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. Specifically, the audit included an examination of:

- Attawapiskat's level of compliance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement and whether the funds were used for the intended purposes and in the manner required by the terms and conditions of the funding agreement;
- Attawapiskat's management and financial control practices;
- the integrity of any financial data that has been reported by Attawapiskat in the context of all funding agreements;
- the relationship of Attawapiskat funding arrangements with Mushkegowuk Tribal Council;
- identification of any concerns that may be of interest and value to AANDC and Attawapiskat.
- an examination of the management control framework at AANDC focussing on housing;
- an examination of the management control framework of the Ontario Regional Office;
- compliance by AANDC with Treasury Board and departmental policies and directives governing transfer payments, monitoring, oversight and reporting; and
- an examination of the department's relationship with other funders.

Q.3 Why was this audit initiated?

A.3 On November 30, 2011 the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development asked that a comprehensive audit be undertaken by an independent auditor to identify how money has been spent and what oversight measures have been taken over the past five years.

Q. 4 Will you be making the audit report public and, if so, when?

A.4 Audit reports are posted to the departmental website as soon as they are approved. They are reviewed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and translated ensuring accuracy and concordance between the two official languages. The comprehensive audit report is now available on AANDC's website.

It is the practice of the department to have all audit reports reviewed and recommended for approval by the Deputy Minister by the AANDC Audit Committee, comprised of 5 external members – none of whom are public servants.

Q.5 When will you be reporting audit findings to the community?

A.5 On September 7, 2012, AANDC sent a management letter with the recipient portion of the audit to Chief and Council. The findings and recommendations from the audit were discussed in a teleconference with Chief and Council September 20, 2012. The comprehensive audit report will provided to the Chief and Council and is available on the AANDC website.

Q.6 Is there any additional audit work underway relating to this First Nation?

A.6 The audit work on these matters is complete.

Q.7 Has the Department received any further allegations regarding this First Nation?

A.7 The Department has received allegations and these are currently at the assessment stage. Once the assessment is complete, a determination as to whether there are sufficient grounds to proceed with an investigation will be made.

Q.8 What are the current allegations about?

A.8 At this time, AANDC is not in a position to comment on the nature of the allegations or confirm whether sufficient evidence has been found to substantiate the allegations and thus warrant an investigation.

Q.9 Do the issues uncovered in the comprehensive audit justify in the Department's opinion the appointment last fall of a Third-Party Manager for Attawapiskat?

A.9 The role of the third-party manager was to address the urgent health and safety needs of the community. He was appointed based on the best information available at the time, and removed as soon as the urgent issues had been resolved. The audit firm, on the other hand, was hired to identify how money was spent and what oversight measures have been put in place both by the First Nation as well as the department over the past five years.

Q.10 What is a recipient audit?

A.10 The objective of the recipient audit was to provide assurance that funding provided to the Attawapiskat First Nation was spent for its intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and conditions of all funding agreements signed with AANDC. Because Deloitte could not come to a formal conclusion of the Audit, given the lack of documentation available from Attawapiskat First Nation, Specified Auditing Procedures were conducted. This analysis resulted in the conclusion by Deloitte that in the case of over 80% of the transactions, insufficient or no documentation was found.

For further information about the methodology that was used for this audit work, please contact Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Q.11 Why was a Management Letter issued?

A.11 Due to the lack of documentation, a Management Letter was issued by the auditors (Deloitte), addressed to Chief Spence, Attawapiskat First Nation, highlighting the lack of:

- Supporting documentation for claimed expenditures
- Supporting documentation for processes and controls
- Formal job descriptions

Chief Theresa Spence was informed of the results on September 7, 2012, briefed on September 20 by Deloitte and AANDC officials and informed that the reports would be posted on the departmental website. The Management Letter will be published along with the reports.

Q.12 How is it possible that an audit cannot be concluded?

A.12 There was no audit opinion expressed by Deloitte with respect to the recipient audit portion of the Comprehensive Audit.

Deloitte could not come to a formal expression of audit opinion because there was insufficient material for them to audit. The auditors' inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence and its possible effects on the statement of expenditure was assessed to be both material and pervasive by the auditors. As a result, the Independent Auditor's Report provides a disclaimer of opinion.

Q.13 What do you mean by "insufficient"?

A.13 Auditors need to see evidence of the reason for any expenditure. In this case, Deloitte was not provided with the invoices or other supportive documentation that they required for their audit work. In their analysis of selected transactions, over 80% had insufficient or no documentation.

Q.14 Why were Specified Auditing Procedures conducted?

A.14 As a consequence of the disclaimer of opinion by Deloitte, the auditors performed specified auditing procedures related to expenditures incurred by the Attawapiskat First Nation under AANDC funding agreements. The results

obtained are detailed in the report of Specified Auditing Procedures relating to the Attawapiskat First Nation.

Q.15 What exactly was included in the internal audit?

A.15 This audit focused on an examination of the AANDC management control framework for housing and AANDC's relationship with other federal funders. Observations related to the practices of other federal funders were communicated to their respective senior officials.

Q.16 What were the costs of the Comprehensive Audit?

A. 16 AANDC costs to date is just over $300,000 for both components of the comprehensive audit.

Q.17 Why is the audit being posted now, so close to being one -year since the First Nation's Declaration of Emergency related to housing and how is it impacting work with the First Nation on housing issues?

A.17 This comprehensive audit was ordered by the Minister in November 2011. Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence had requested a forensic audit prior to this.

The term "comprehensive audit" was used for this audit work since it examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community. This comprehensive audit covered the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012.

The timing of the posting of the report is not related to the one year anniversary of the First Nation's declaration of emergency. According to the department's audit process, the Attawapsikat audit report has been reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee, which is comprised of five members from outside the public service, and approved by the Deputy Minister, in October 2012. In order for all parties to move forward on the recommendations and to address the issues in the report, the Department has provided the results to the Attawapiskat First Nation and posted the audit report on the AANDC website. Its posting on the AANDC website reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability to Canadians, as well as results-based management.

With respect to the community's housing issues, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to develop sustainable housing solutions for its community.

With respect to the internal audit findings, the Department agrees with the findings and is committed to improvements in accordance with the report's recommendations and as outlined in the Management Action Plans. Generally, management controls were found to be properly designed and effectively applied by the Department. The audit team also identified some areas where management controls, practices and processes could be improved, resulting in

two recommendations. Working with federal partners, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

Q.18 The comprehensive audit found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of federal funding agreements-why wasn't AANDC acting on this sooner?

A.18 The general assessments conducted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 flagged Attawapiskat as a high risk organization when it comes to financial management. This means that the financial position (i.e., liquidity, sustainability, and working capital) is unfavourable.

The Attawapiskat First Nation has been under co-management since 2000, meaning that the council selected and contracted a co-manager to assist the council in remedying the default, developing sound management practices, restoring financial health, and building capacity.

AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to support improvements in overall financial management as well as to ensure compliance in future with funding agreements.

Q.19 The issues uncovered in the comprehensive audit seem to suggest that the First Nation should be put under third party management by the department again. Does AANDC agree? (pre-approved text)

A.19 Under the current Default Prevention and Management Policy which took effect in June 2011, defaulting on an agreement does not immediately trigger intervention or the appointment of a third party funding agreement manager; and third party financial administrators will only be used in exceptional situations where there is no willingness or capacity to deliver programs and services.

Decisions to intervene are not made lightly, and all intervention is directed towards the ultimate goal of First Nations managing their own affairs. AANDC assists funding recipients in their efforts to prevent the occurrence of circumstances that may give rise to defaults, in order to ensure the continuous delivery of services and the health and safety of community members.

On September 12, 2012, the Department received a copy of Attawapiskat First Nation's 60-day notice of termination letter to its expert resource (co-manager), dated August 28, 2012. The First Nation has advised departmental officials that it is anticipated that a new expert resource will be in place in late October 2012.

AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation and its expert resource and implement a Management Action Plan to achieve improvements in overall financial management and compliance with funding agreements.

Q.20 How does AANDC determine that third-party intervention is required?

A.20 The requirement for Third Party Funding Agreement Management is determined through the Default Assessment processes as set out in the AANDC Directive on Default Prevention and Management. Third Party Funding Agreement Management may be determined to be the most appropriate Default Management Strategy in the following circumstances:

- High risk default: a Default Assessment determines a Recipient's Overall Default Management Risk Rating is high;
- The Recipient is unwilling and/or unable to rectify its default situation;
- The implementation of the Management Action Plan, within the required timeframe, proves unsuccessful;
- Extraordinary circumstances dictate the need for a Third Party Funding Agreement Management.

Q.21 The auditing firm was unable to determine whether funds provided to the First Nation were spent for their intended purpose. Will AANDC seek to recover any of the funding provided to the First Nation? If so, how much funding are you seeking to recover?

A.21 The Department continues to review the results of the audit and the Management Letter as well to address them.

Q.22 The audit recommended that AANDC, in consultation with CMHC, give consideration to changing the Ministerial Loan Guarantee program such as stricter enforcement practices, strengthening inspection process, improving housing outcomes and revising the eligibility process. What is the AANDC's response?

A.22 As outlined in the Management Action Plan, AANDC concurs with this recommendation and will explore mechanisms and opportunities for addressing these issues.

Q.23 The audit also recommended that AANDC's Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program be reviewed and consideration given to revising eligibility requirements, establishment of a separate Housing Authority, establish performance indicators and discontinue the practice of allowing minor core capital to be used for the purposes of debt repayment. What is AANDC's response?

A.23 As outlined in the Management Action Plan, AANDC concurs with this recommendation and will explore mechanisms and opportunities for addressing these issues.

Q.24 The report includes some areas where AANDC management practices need improvement and Management Action Plan commitments. What changes, if any, will be undertaken in AANDC Headquarters and the AANDC Ontario North Regional Office in Thunder Bay as a result of the comprehensive audit?

A.24 AANDC acknowledges and agrees that there is room for improvement.With respect to the internal audit findings, the Department agrees with the findings and is committed to improvements in accordance with the report's recommendations and as outlined in the Management Action Plans. Generally, management controls were found to be properly designed and effectively applied by the Department. The audit team also identified some areas where management controls, practices and processes could be improved, resulting in two recommendations. Working with federal partners, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

Q.25 Given the reports that AANDC management practices both at HQ and the Thunder Bay office "need improvement", has the department found any other instances with other First Nations in Ontario where the same poor management controls were in place? If so, where? If not, will you be conducting other audits? (response provided by CAEE program)

A.25 The Comprehensive audit reviewed AANDC's management practices with regard to housing and the findings of the report would apply to the program regardless of the recipient of housing funds.

Q.26 Has there been any other audit-type work done looking at the operations/management of the Thunder Bay office or Ontario Regional Office in relation to First Nation funding? (response provided by CAEE)

A. 26 This audit was conducted to provide assurance on the management practices of the department and it was not limited to one specific regional office.

Carol-Ann Pineault - Fwd: MEDIA LINES - FOR TRANSPORT

From: Katelin Peltier
To: janice.edgar@hc-sc.gc.ca
Date: 1/3/2013 11:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: MEDIA LINES - FOR TRANSPORT
Attachments: NCR-#4925151-v1-MEDIA_LINES_-_FOR_TRANSPORT.DOCX

Hi Janice:

Happy New Year.

As per your discussion with Shirley Anne here are the lines we provided to Transport before Christmas. Nothing has changed.

Spokesperson's Book

December 10, 2012

Table of contents:

- **General Protest Lines**

- **Chief Spence Hunger Strike/Call for PM/Crown meeting with Treaty FNs**

- **Budget Implementation Act**
  - Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act
    - Media Lines
    - FAQs - Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act

  - Duty to Consult
    - Media Lines

  - Fisheries Act Amendments re: Aboriginal Fisheries (DFO lead)
    - Media Lines (from DFO)

  - Navigable Waters Act amendments (Transport Canada lead)

Crown First Nation Gathering First Anniversary

- Media Lines

General Protest Lines

Original CIDM Reference: 41847888

DMO approved/sent to MINO/October 19/12
Based on previously MINO approved material.

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

- The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of First Nation communities.

KEY MESSAGES:

- We recognize the public's right to engage in peaceful protests and lawful assembly.

- Most Canadian protestors, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are peaceful and law abiding.

- We encourage resolution of issues through dialogue in all cases.

- All Canadians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are subject to the laws of Canada and it is our expectation that respect for the law will prevail.

Re: The Department's role during protests:

- AANDC does not manage Aboriginal protests.

- Where protests affect essential services or public safety, the matter becomes a public safety issue and falls under the jurisdiction of local law enforcement.

- On First Nation reserves, the police force of jurisdiction is the First Nation police force, the provincial police, or the RCMP, depending on the local situation.

- Should the delivery of essential AANDC programs and services to First Nations communities be compromised as the result of a protest-related situation, the department may provide support to the affected individuals/community(ies).

Re: Protests regarding issues that fall under provincial jurisdiction:

- The issue being raised by protestors is one of provincial jurisdiction. Specific questions are best addressed by the provincial government.

- We encourage resolution of issues through dialogue in all cases.

- Many natural resource development projects (including mining and mineral exploration, forestry, alternate energy production, land development, licences and permits), fall under provincial jurisdiction. Questions related to these specific issues are best addressed by the provincial government.

Re: Issues related to Crown land and the North which fall under federal jurisdiction:

- We recognize the public's right to engage in peaceful protests and lawful assembly.

- Most Canadian protestors, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are peaceful and law abiding.

- We encourage resolution of issues through dialogue in all cases.

- All Canadians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are subject to the laws of Canada and it is our expectation that respect for the law will prevail.

Re: AANDC's role in public safety and law enforcement on reserves

- AANDC does not manage law enforcement/policing on First Nation reserves, this responsibility falls to Public Safety Canada.

- On First Nation reserves, the police force of jurisdiction is the First Nation police force, the provincial police, or the RCMP, depending on the local situation.

- All Canadians, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, are subject to the laws of Canada and it is our expectation that respect for the law will prevail.

- For more information please contact Public Safety Canada.

Re: AANDC's role in assisting First Nations impacted by protests and related events:

- Should the delivery of essential AANDC programs and services to First Nations communities be compromised as the result of a protest-related situation, the Department may provide support to the affected individuals/community(ies).

- AANDC may also play a liaison role between First Nations and other stakeholders, if required.

Re: AANDC "spying," or "surveillance" of protests and/or related organizations, and/or individuals

- AANDC does not perform any type of "surveillance" of any individuals, groups or communities.

- Like all federal departments AANDC routinely assesses the public environment for events and trends that could inform policy decisions or impact our programs and services. As part of mandate, we also monitor events and trends that could affect the health, safety and security of First Nations communities.

- To this end we monitor emergencies such as fires and floods, and other significant events such as protests, on an ongoing basis.

- The information we gather is used for the sole purpose of informing departmental decision making and policy development.

Re: AANDC Emergency and Issues Management Weekly Situational Awareness Reports/Notifications/ Situation Reports

- These reports are prepared on a regular basis by AANDC's Emergency and Issues Management Directorate and are designed to provide situational awareness and basic, factual information for senior departmental officials.

- These are public documents, regularly shared with a variety of internal and external partners including the Assembly of First Nations.

Re: AANDC's role in emergency management:

- The main responsibility for emergency management rests with provincial and territorial governments. However, under the *Emergency Management Act* (EMA), each federal minister is responsible for identifying risks that are within or related to their area of responsibility and developing appropriate emergency management plans in respect of those risks.

    - AANDC's National Emergency Management Plan applies to all emergencies that have the potential to impact the health, safety and security of First Nations on reserve.

    - The most common emergencies affecting First Nations are floods, fires or failure of community infrastructure (i.e. critical roads, bridges, power, etc.) due to a natural disaster, severe weather or accident.

- For more information on AANDC's role and responsibilities in emergency management please see the AANDC web site.

Chief Spence Hunger Strike/Call for PM/Crown meeting with Treaty FNs

MO Lines:

- Recently, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development had a successful meeting the National Chief where both parties reiterated their commitment to work together to develop the First Nations Education Act.

- We will continue to work in partnership with First Nations to support strong, self-sufficient and more prosperous Aboriginal communities.

RE: Meeting with Chief Spence (taken from media reports)

"The minister indicated this week that he was willing to meet with Chief Spence," said Jason MacDonald, spokesperson for Duncan, in an email. "We look forward to her response."

Parliamentary secretary Greg Rickford has also offered to fly up to Attawapiskat.

Budget Implementation Act II
Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act

Media Lines:

Original CIDM Reference: NCR#3904849
MINO Approved: 10/17/12

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

In the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development, the Government of Canada committed to modernizing lands management regimes to enhance the value of Aboriginal assets.

KEY MESSAGES

- Our Government continues to take concrete steps to build the conditions necessary for First Nation communities to participate more fully in Canada's economy.

- First Nations' land represents a tremendous asset that can create economic opportunities for First Nation people and communities.

- For First Nations operating under the *Indian Act* land designation is a powerful key to unlocking on-reserve economic development across Canada.

- The proposed amendments to the land designation provisions of the *Indian Act* respond directly to First Nations who have expressed frustration with the overly complex and lengthy processes currently involved in designating reserve land.

- The proposed amendments will speed up the process to designate reserve lands and, as a result, provide greater flexibility for First Nations to act on time-sensitive economic development opportunities.

- Amending the land designation provisions of the *Indian Act* is practical and incremental change that will increase economic development opportunities on reserve land while reducing red tape and unnecessary costs to Canada and First Nations.

Background

The *Indian Act* requires that reserve land be designated before a First Nation can lease a part of its reserve land. (Lands in the lawful possession of a band member do not require a designation before being leased.) When a First Nation designates land, it allows a business partner to temporarily operate on a specified portion of the reserve while the First Nation retains its interest in the land. This arrangement allows First Nations to perpetually benefit from their lands. Financial institutions regard leases as assets, enabling First Nations to use them as collateral for securing loans or financing economic development projects. As the lessor, the Department grants leases on reserve land and administers them on behalf of the First Nation. In this role, the Department ensures the First Nation obtains fair market rent and that any activity on leased land respects the terms and conditions of the land designation and is compliant with regulations pertaining to the given activity.

Land designation currently takes an average of one to two years to complete and, largely due to the length of the process, deters investment and business activity instead of enabling economic development. The proposed amendments to the *Indian Act* would speed up this process by: 1) Reducing the voting threshold for a land designation to a simple majority vote; and 2) Allowing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, rather than the Governor in Council, to accept land designations. Together, these changes would shorten the designation process by months and would allow First Nations to respond to economic development opportunities in a time frame closer to off reserve practices.

BIA II –Lands Designation amendments to Indian Act

FAQs:

Original CIDM Reference: NCR#3904849
MINO Approved: 05/02/12

Frequently Asked Questions

Date: October 19, 2012

Amendments to the Land Designation Sections of the *Indian Act*

Q1. What are First Nation designated lands?

A1. First Nation designated lands are reserve lands that a First Nation has agreed to lease for commercial, agricultural, recreational or other purposes. Similar to how a municipality would zone land for a specific purpose off a reserve, First Nations who operate under the *Indian Act* identify lands on their reserve for specific purposes following a land designation process. Designated lands remain reserve lands. When a First Nation designates land, it allows a business partner to temporarily run a business on a specified portion of the reserve while the First Nation retains its interest in the land. This arrangement allows First Nations to economically benefit from their lands and to manage them according to their by-laws.

Q2. Why is the Government of Canada proposing amendments to the designation provisions of the *Indian Act*?

A2. The proposed amendments to the designation provisions of the *Indian Act* respond to First Nations who have expressed frustration with the overly complex and lengthy process of designating land. For First Nations operating under the *Indian Act,* land designation is a prerequisite for economic development on reserve and is the legal instrument that permits leasing on First Nation land.

The proposed changes would speed up the process to designate lands and, as a result, provide greater flexibility for First Nations to take advantage of time-sensitive economic development opportunities.

Q3. What are the proposed amendments?

A3. The proposed amendments would expedite the process for designating lands administered under the *Indian Act* to further improve the ability of First Nations to take full advantage of potential economic development and investment opportunities on reserve. Specifically, they would:

- Lower the voting threshold to a simple majority from a majority-of-a-majority, rendering a second vote unnecessary.
- Change responsibility for approving designations to the Minister from the Governor in Council

Q4. What is the difference between a majority-of-a-majority and simple majority voting threshold?

A4. Majority-of-a-majority means that a majority of eligible voters must vote and that a majority of those who vote must vote in favour. Simple majority requires that a majority of those who participate in the vote, vote in favour of the settlement agreement, regardless of the number of persons eligible to vote.

Q5. What is the rationale for eliminating the need for a second vote?

A5. Imposing a majority-of-a-majority voting threshold to approve a land designation on a first vote is often an impossibly high threshold for the First Nation to meet. Statistics show that voter turnout in approximately 80 per cent of communities is regularly significantly below 50 per cent for the first vote. If the first vote is unsuccessful, the *Indian Act* requires that a second vote be held requiring a simple majority approval. This requirement to hold a second vote not only impedes them from pursuing time-sensitive economic opportunities, but also causes the First Nation to incur additional administrative costs.

The legislative amendments propose to reduce the voting threshold of the first vote to a simple majority, thereby making the process for a First Nation to approve a designation more efficient. Removing the second vote will increase the speed of the land designation process thereby enabling First Nations to better capitalize on economic development opportunities.

Reducing the voting threshold would be consistent with other approaches where, for example, a simple majority vote is currently sufficient to elect the Chief and Council of a First Nation, to accept multi-million dollar out-of-court settlements, and to accept a

settlement of a specific claim valued between $3-7 million. In comparison, the requirement to have a majority-of-a-majority vote for designations is unjustifiably high in light of the impediments it poses to economic development.

Q6. What is the rationale for removing the Governor in Council requirement?

A6. Following the First Nation community's vote, it typically takes several months to obtain the authorization of the Governor in Council for a land designation, making this internal-to-government step the lengthiest step of the land designation process. The proposed amendment would replace Governor in Council authority with Ministerial authority. This will help First Nations respond more quickly to business opportunities.

Q7. What is the current designation process and how will it change as a result of the proposed amendments?

A7. The main focus of the proposed amendments is to reduce delays within the land designation process, which currently takes an average of one to two years to complete.

Currently, the process begins when a First Nation approaches the department to discuss its land development plans. The Department works with the First Nation to identify conditions of the land use, lease terms and licensing requirements. The land designation is voted on by the members of the First Nation according to the rules of the *Indian Referendum Regulations*. The department provides all eligible electors, including those living off-reserve with supporting documentation necessary to make an informed decision. If voter turnout is less than a majority, the band council may request that a subsequent simple majority vote be held. The designation is then submitted for Governor in Council approval. Upon approval, the land designation is then recorded in the Indian Lands Registry.

The proposed amendments would not change the current level of service provided to First Nations, including the initial discussions and planning and the community information meeting. The proposed amendments would only change the designation process in two areas by:

1. Reducing the voting threshold to one vote; and
2. Authorizing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, rather than the Governor in Council, to approve the land designation upon receipt of a band council resolution.

Combined, the changes are expected to reduce the time it takes to administer the land designations process by several months and create new economic opportunities on reserve.

Q8. Will information sessions on land designation continue to be provided to First Nations to ensure informed voting?

A8. There will continue to be a requirement to provide information sessions on land designation to First Nations to ensure informed consent. In accordance with the *Indian Referendum Regulations*, an information document is made available to the members of the First Nation, and at least one information meeting is held prior to the designation vote. The information document sets out the proposal and includes details such as the legal description of the lands, the environmental impact assessment, the appraised value of the lands, and the benefits and risks associated with the proposal. The information meeting provides an opportunity for the proposal to be discussed by the proponent and the First Nation members.

Q9. Is designated land the same as surrendered land?

A9. No. Land designation is frequently confused with land surrender. Under land surrender, the First Nation surrenders all of its interests in the land in question and it ceases to be reserve land. Under land designations, First Nations retain their rights and interests in the land.

Q10. Will the voting threshold for land surrenders also be reduced to a simple majority?

A10. No, the proposed amendments to lower the voting threshold to a simple majority would apply only to the land designation provisions, not to the land surrender provisions of the *Indian Act*. A successful majority-of-a-majority vote will continue to be a requirement for land surrender. This higher voting threshold is considered to be appropriate for land surrender given the implications of surrendering ownership and jurisdiction over reserve land.

Q11. Do the proposed amendments affect land management under the *First Nations Land Management Act* (FNLMA)?

A11. No. Since FNLMA First Nations do not operate under the land-related provisions of the *Indian Act*, the proposed amendments to land designation would not be applicable to them.

Q12. Will the proposed amendments affect individual ownership of reserve land?

A12. No, a certificate of possession verifies the lawful possession of reserve land by a member of the band. A land designation is not required to lease or otherwise manage individually owned lands. Land designation applies only to collectively owned land, which requires a community vote before it may be developed.

Q13. Would the proposed amendments to land designation apply to First Nation communities north of 60?

A13. Yes, the proposed amendments would apply to those reserves north of 60 that are governed by the *Indian Act*, including the Hay River Dene 1 Reserve (K'atlodeeche First Nation) and the Salt Plains No. 195 and Salt River No. 195 reserves (Salt River First Nation #195) in the Northwest Territories. The amendments would not apply to communities north of 60 that have self-government agreements or modern treaties in place.

Q14. Do the proposed amendments impact off-reserve members' rights to vote on a land designation, as provided by the *Corbiere* decision?

A14. No, eligible off-reserve members will continue to be able to exercise their right to vote on a proposed land designation.

Q15. Do these amendments affect lands held in possession by First Nation band members?

A15. No. Lands in the lawful possession of a band member do not require a designation before being leased.

Q16. Who will be affected by the amendments to the designation provisions of *the Indian Act*?

A16. These amendments will affect First Nations who designate lands under the *Indian Act*. They will not, therefore, affect self-governing First Nations or First Nations under the *First Nations Land Management Act*. As of September 2012, Canada has completed 18 comprehensive self-government agreements involving 32 communities and another establishing a public government in Nunavut, and as of October 1, 2012, 34 First Nations have been operating under the *First Nations Land Management Act*.

Q17. How many First Nations have to go to a second vote?

A17. Over the past five years, approximately 80 per cent of First Nation communities held a second vote.

Q18. What is the average number of months between the first and second vote?

A18. On average, the second vote is held four to six months after the first vote.

Duty to Consult

Media Lines

MO approved (from Budget 2012 package) – CIDM 4877437

POSITIONING STATEMENT

Canada takes its legal duty to consult with Aboriginal groups very seriously.

KEY MESSAGES

- Canada has a legal duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Aboriginal groups if it has been determined that treaty and Aboriginal rights could be impacted.

- Canada endeavours to meet its legal duty to consult through meaningful and direct consultation with Aboriginal communities to ensure that Aboriginal views are taken into consideration when making decisions on projects that could adversely affect their rights.

- The Crown has a legal duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate when contemplating conduct that might adversely impact potential or established section 35 or Treaty rights of Aboriginal groups as stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Haida* and *Taku River* decisions.

- The role of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is to coordinate with, support, and advise federal officials on fulfilling the legal duty to consult. This role is designed to lead to a whole-of-government approach to Aboriginal consultation.

- The Government of Canada takes it consultation obligations seriously and will consult Aboriginal groups should a federal activity have an adverse impact on an Aboriginal or Treaty right.

DFO - Fisheries Act Amendments re: Aboriginal Fisheries

Bill C-38/C-45 Budget Implementation Act and Cohen Report outcomes

CIDM Reference number: (From BC principals mtg - hot issues) NCR # 4877755

Media Lines

(provided by DFO)

KEY MESSAGES (Approved lines from DFO):

- The C-45 amendments to the Fisheries Act are merely aimed at clarifying/fixing provisions introduced in C-38. There is nothing new in the amendments that would relate in any substantial way to the Cohen Commission Report.

- The Department is moving from managing impacts in all areas that may or may not contain fish, to a fisheries protection program that manages threats to the recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries, such as fish habitat destruction, incidental killing of fish (other than by means of fishing), and aquatic invasive species.

BIA II: Navigable Waters Act amendments

CIDM Reference number: (From BC principals mtg - hot issues) NCR # 4877755

Media Lines

(provided by Transport Canada)

- The Government of Canada is committed to promoting and maintaining a safe transportation system.
- Building on efficiencies gained through the amendments to the Act in 2009, including the Minor Works and Waters Order, we will focus our resources on Canada's busiest waterways going forward. We will continue to protect navigation while also allowing both public and private infrastructure investments to occur in an expedient manner. Under our new navigation policy we will:
    - clearly list the major waterways for which regulatory approval is required prior to the placement or construction of a works;
    - expand the list of low risk works (like minor repairs on bridges) that can be pre-approved because they pose very little impact on safe navigation;
    - provide for new fines that escalate with the severity of the violation;
    - allow proponents of works in unlisted waters to opt-in and seek approval of their proposed work to give them additional legal certainty by allowing them to choose; and
    - change the name of this law to the *Navigation Protection Act* to reflect its historic intent
- The list of major waterways is focused. Those placed on it support busy commercial or recreational activity, are accessible by ports and marinas, and are often in close proximity to heavily populated areas. Nautical charts compiled by the Canadian Hydrographic Service, reliance on historical data from the Navigable Waters Protection Program as well as Statistics Canada numbers related to freight movement on Canadian waterways were used to compile the list.
- Transport Canada will provide educational material for builders including the rights of boaters and how to build safely.
- Transport Canada will continue to be present, responding to questions and providing guidance to builders.
- The federal government has discussed the list of waterways with the provinces and territories this past summer.

- The protection of our waterways by the *Fisheries Act, the Species at Risk Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* will not be affected by the modernization of the Navigable Waters Protection Act.
- This initiative underscores the Government's ongoing commitment to reduce regulatory burden, paving the way to more jobs, growth and long-term prosperity.
- The Government of Canada is committed to achieving these goals without compromising the health, safety and security of Canadians, the economy or the environment.

Qs&As (Approved from Transport Canada):

Q. Will these changes impede Canadians ability to kayak, canoe, or otherwise use Canadian rivers, lakes, streams, etc?

A. No. The public right of navigation refers to the public's common law right to transit any waterways that are deep enough and wide enough to navigate. This right has been protected in the courts for years and continues to be protected under the Navigation Protection Act.

Many of Canada's laws are derived from Common Law, including the public right of navigation. The common law protects the right of navigation by treating things placed in water that interfere with navigation as obstructions that can be removed or abated if they cause damage or become a public nuisance.

Q. What's been done to consult and engage First Nations around these changes?

A. Aboriginal groups, industry and other stakeholders have been invited to participate in technical briefings to outline the steps taken to modernize the NWPA. Canada will continue to fulfill its duty to consult with Aboriginal groups where the federal Crown's conduct has the potential to adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights.

Crown-First Nation Gathering

Media Lines

NCR#4855755 - v1
Status of Approvals: DM approved

ISSUE :

Crown-First Nations Gathering – One-year anniversary (24/01/13)

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

- The Government is committed to taking the necessary steps that lead to tangible and lasting results by creating the conditions for healthier, more self-sufficient First Nation communities.

MEDIA LINES:

- The Government is working with the AFN and with willing First Nations toward transformative structural changes.
- There are no quick fixes. The Government of Canada will continue to focus on real, structural reforms and increasing the effectiveness of long-term investments.
- In trying to find practical solutions to real issues, work continues with willing partners to renovate programs, and develop approaches, including new legislation with the goal of improving the lives of First Nations.
- Progress continues to take place on delivering tangible and lasting results to ensure First Nations are well-positioned to fully participate in a strong Canadian economy.

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ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA
"IDLE NO MORE" DEMONSTRATION
MEDIA LINES
(not for external distribution – for use by spokespersons)

ISSUE:

Possible building occupation by a group of individuals from the *Idle no more* movement. All doors to the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière complex have been locked until further notice. Employees are asked to present their departmental identity card to the security guards at every entrance to the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière complex in order to access the building and all visitors must be pre-registered to access the building.

KEY MESSAGES:

- AANDC has received information pertaining to a possible building occupation by a group of individuals from the *Idle no more* movement. At this time this group of people is heading toward the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière complex.
- All doors of the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière complex have been locked until further notice as a precautionary measure.
- All visitors must be pre-registered to access the building. This can be done by filling out the form found at http://accesvisiteur-visitoraccess/dataentry_e.asp.

BACKGROUND/CHRONOLOGY

Throughout the afternoon on December 21, the *Idle no more* movement is demonstrating on Parliament Hill. The movement officially advised of their intent to occupy other AANDC buildings across Canada (Toronto, Quebec and Amherst). At this time, Security Officials from the Les terrasses de la Chaudière complex have identified a group of demonstrators heading toward our building. As such, heightened security measures have been put in place by AANDC's Security Division.

The Deputy Minister has requested, in accordance with Treasury Board Secretariat's Operational Security Standard, that the doors of the Les Terrasses de la Chaudière complex have been locked, employees need to present their identification card and visitors must be pre-registered to access the building.

DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

Media Relations (or Regional Office)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

PRIMARY HQ CONTACT	PRIMARY SPOKESPERSONS
Media Inquiries Line Media Relations 819-953-1160	Maryse Pesant Human Resources Director General, AANDC 819-997-9646

NCR#4918653 - v4

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Carol-Ann Pineault - Re: Commplan - draft - WFA

From: Marianne Belair
To: Hepditch, Laura; Riley, Toni
Date: 1/8/2013 2:48 PM
Subject: Re: Commplan - draft - WFA
CC: Sturko, Melissa
Attachments: DEVO.docx

Hi Toni!

Sorry it took me longer than expected to review... Here are my comments. I only looked at it from the DRAP stand point, and tried to give you some pointers on how WFA was presented. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions!

Marianne

Marianne Bélair
Conseillère principale en communications - communications internes/ Senior Communications Advisor - internal communications
Direction générale des communications/ Communications Branch
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada / Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
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>>> Toni Riley 1/7/2013 12:01 PM >>>
Here's are my efforts on this front. It is understood that much will evolve once some decisions have been made about who is affected and how ... recent developments on the MVRMA/EA front especially will factor into this .... the password is the same as the comms approach provided in December ... any questions, give me a call.
Cheers, T

COMMUNICATING WITH NAO STAFF REGARDING WORKFORCE ADJUSTMENT – PART 7 (INTERNAL)

ISSUE:
In the NWT, the devolution of land and resources to the GNWT is nearing completion. As part of NAO's obligations under the WFA Agreement, NAO staff will each receive a letter notifying them of their affected status. There are important differences about how staff in the NCR will be affected versus how staff will be affected in the NWT Region. Primarily those in the NCR and who remain with the NAO will be affected under WFA Part 1-6. They will become part of a newly restructured NAO. Some staff in the NCR may be surplused.

In the NWT Region, staff in devolved areas of responsibility will be affected under WFA Part 7 and will/may later receive a reasonable job offer from the GNWT. Others in the NWT Region, not in devolved areas but whose function has been folded into a restructured AANDC organization, will receive affected letters under Part 1-6.

It is critically important to clarify as early as possible how the organization is going to treat those positions, and consequently identify how those positions will be affected under the WFA. In addition, organizational changes have a major impact in the workplace and require timely, consistent, communications in order to effectively inform and engage the workforce during a time of transformative change.

PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT ANALYSIS: (this section can be revised once there is some input on the NCR perspective)

- Staff in the NWT region feel frustrated at what they perceive as a lack of meaningful information about devolution particularly as it pertains to how and when their positions will be affected; staff frequently comment that they perceive GNWT staff has more information than AANDC and that that senior management could share more information than it is regarding negotiations
- I would change the previous paragraph into something like:
    - As GNWT has been very forward in their communications regarding DEVO with regular emails/communiqué to its employees, AANDC employees may become frustrated by the lack of communications offered from the Department on the same subject…
- There is lingering unease resulting from the DRAP process which is compounding staff concerns about how they will be treated under devolution. In addition, increased workloads resulting from devolution have caused resentment and frustration amongst NWT staff who are

looking for certainty and transparency. Though a sustained and steady effort is being made and dozens of staffing actions are complete, it is not yet clear what impact this having on workloads or on staff morale.

- (External) Media interest in devolution has seen increased momentum since the signing of the AIP in January 2011. Coverage over the past year has focused largely on new groups signing on to the AIP and on the GNWT whose proactive approach to media relations has garnered mostly positive coverage.
- Regulatory reform has taken center stage in recent months as the *Northern Jobs and Growth Act* moves to final reading later this spring. The story converges with devolution often and with largely negative coverage for the federal government.
- Devolution also frequently pops up in stories, including most recently the *Idle No More campaign*, as one issue among others playing out on the territorial political scene. Coverage of the issue has been primarily regional garnering limited interest from national media outlets. Overall, coverage of devolution has profiled the views of the GNWT and Aboriginal groups, with the Government of Canada and federal spokespeople playing a minor role.
- The absence of specific information leading up to a Devolution Final Agreement fosters uncertainty and unease within the organization, with rumours and unhealthy speculation filling the information void.

NCR-NAO staff:

COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES:

- To support the HR process to inform affected NAO employees about their options and measures under the Workforce Adjustment Agreement , in the context of a final NWT Devolution Agreement and in respect of the new organizational structure of NAO, in NCR and in the NWT Region.
- To ensure that NAO managers are well trained, informed, and able to support and work closely with their staff to explain WFA-Part 7 in order to achieve a smooth transition of staff and transfer of programs and services to the GNWT.
- Similarly, to ensure that NAO managers are well trained, informed, and able to support and work closely with their staff to explain WFA-Parts 1-6 as it pertains to affected but non-transferring staff.
- To help affected employees understand their options, tools and the measures the Department has put in place to assist them and to encourage them to take an active role in finding new placements to the greatest extent possible.
- To encourage ongoing communications efforts with staff retained in the redesigned AANDC organization

Strategic Considerations:
In planning communication efforts, some strategic considerations may include, but are not limited to:

Timeline: A draft final Devolution Agreement is expected to be completed by April 1, 2013. Meeting this target date will be a challenge. Therefore, communications efforts should continue to be flexible and responsive to accommodate a possible date change. It will also be critical to communicate key milestones to staff in a timely manner throughout this transition.

MVRMA: the federal approach to transferring resource legislation has changed. This change will see more positions retained by a newly restructured AANDC. This will also affect the GNWT in that less positions will be transferring leaving them with less capacity than originally anticipated. On the other hand this will be good news for term employees seeking job security.

DRAP vs Devolution: It will be very important to convey the differences between the DRAP roll out and WFA requirements under Part 7/Type 2 delivery model. The DRAP roll out began in May. Clarification about the differences between the two should begin as soon as possible, even prior to the distribution of affected letters. This will limit confusion and increase staff and manager understanding.

NAO audience: This audience differs between NCR and the NWT Region in that the transfer of responsibilities affects staff differently. In the NWT Region this will mean that affected employees will also receive job offers from the GNWT while in the NCR that transfer of responsibilities will not be accompanied with job offers. NCR employees will either become surplus or will move on to different responsibilities within a reorganized NAO.

Affected Letters: Given employees will be affected differently this means that two types of affected letters will be issued to NAO employees.

Sequenced communications: The principles for the administration of WFA must be consistent, fair and reasonable in the treatment of affected employees. There will be at least 2 streams of notification under different parts of the WFA.

It is recommended that information regarding HR and organizational design be provided to staff as early as possible in a controlled and logically sequenced roll out. As an example, the GNWT has recently posted content to about its organizational design to their internet site. Staff can easily be directed there.That is, internal communications products and vehicles need to be identified and closely link WFA requirements to devolution milestones. This will increase staff understanding and build trust.

Joint Messaging with the GNWT: Some messaging related to the WFA communications roll out should be jointly delivered with the GNWT. This will ease transition issues between the two organizations, build trust and understanding, and could limit grievances.

There are likely different streams of joint messaging including but not limited to:

- emphasizing GNWT and AANDC working together to ease transition/transfer issues
- focus on finding and securing positions for term employees
- organizational design
- continued open and responsive communications that addresses issues as they arise

Other Federal Departments: Communications across departmental lines will be important. Initiative-specific impacts will need to be communicated directly to the appropriate authorities in other Departments on a timely basis.

Transparency: There is a high degree of public and media interest in devolution given the imminence of a draft final agreement. Communication with employees should be timely, accurate and transparent to ensure trust in the agreement, the process and in both governments. However, given the nature and volatility of negations, it is not possible to be proactive.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications play a crucial role in the change management process. Research shows that employees value face-to-face communication with their managers or supervisors above all other methods. Immediate supervisors are the preferred and most trusted source of communications and are relied upon to play a vital communication role within the organization. Supervisors and Managers explain messages from senior management, and tailor the information that is most relevant to their staff.

Messages (to be refined)

- Devolution is an historic step in the political and economic development of the NWT and a key part of the Government of Canada's Northern Strategy.
- The well-being of all employees is a priority for the Government of Canada as it moves towards the completion of a final Devolution Agreement.
- Staff will receive consistent and informed support from managers and senior management to ensure a smooth transition from the current AANDC-NAO.
- Mitigate impact on employees
- Keep service standards and levels throughout the transition
- Inform of the Job Market Unit and the Workforce Management Board

- Messaging about the unions, inviting employees to consult with them and union's role in WFA Continued responsibilities following DEVO (circumpolar science, fed coordination, regulatory improvement, support Chair of Arctic Council, etc.)
- Workforce Management information is available on HROnline. If you have any questions, you can call our 1-800 number or speak with your HR Advisor.
- AANDC will have some continued responsibilities such as circumpolar science, federal coordination, contaminated sites, regulatory improvement, supporting the Chair of Arctic Council, etc. As such, the new organizational capacity will see positions eliminated, while some will be created/retained.

Target Audiences:

Executives

EX have been trained on leading through transition and the application of WFA. They have also been briefed about the preliminary requirements for skills assessment and the use of the Job Marketplace measures that are now in effect. Consistent messaging and leadership from EXs across NAO will be an important part of transition.

Front-line Managers

Senior management will provide direction on how the organization will need to adapt to implement these changes. Management tables across the organization will be fully engaged in working through this process. Front-line managers are a trusted and credible source of information and will need to be fully briefed on the HR Chapter as well. Through formal and informal meetings and briefings, employees can use their managers as a source of accurate and trusted information about organizational changes. They will also play an important role in how the changes will take. Continued employee engagement in this process will hang heavily on the role that front-line managers play.

All NAO staff

All staff will be affected, albeit differently. That is, some will be advised that they are being given a reasonable job offer with the GNWT, while others will be retained in their positions (but in a newly redesigned organization), and unfortunately, some employees will be told that they have not been retained and that their positions will be declared surplus. Each of these groups will have unique communications needs. In addition, employees will need to be fully briefed on the HR Chapter.

NAO employees will need clear information about their situation and what options are available to them. Notification letters, notification meetings with their managers and HR staff will need to be carefully scripted to ensure accurate information and adequate sensitivity. A wide array of employee resources and support services will need to be in place in order to support these employees. This should include ensuring an Employee Assistance Program representative is on site on the day employees receive an Affected letter (similar to DRAP). It is also very important that they fully engage in the process of updating their resumes, preparing for interviews and navigating through the job review and selection process.

All staff will feel the effect of NWT devolution and the organizational changes that will follow. Staff will need accurate and timely information to limit rumours and speculation that can erode trust.

Bargaining Agents
These organizations are aware of how the WFA will be applied and to whom, and will need to be engaged as changes take place. They will be looking for transparency and consistency and there will be a close working relationship throughout the transformation process to ensure Bargaining Agents are well informed and fully engaged. Similar to the DRAP process, a management/union committee should be struck to facilitate communications.

Communications Approach:
A high-profile, multi-level and responsive communications approach is recommended to ensure that employees receive accurate and timely information about how they are affected under the WFA in the context of a final Devolution Agreement. Given the nature and volatility of negations, it is not possible to be proactive.

Communications Activities Vehicles and Assigned Responsibilities:
This messaging period will allow for the training and preparation of the leadership complement of the organization in anticipation of a draft devolution agreement.

<u>Phase 1: Pre-initialing ?</u>

Rollout:

- **What is the WFA chronological roll out required to meet legislated/policy requirements?**
- **What needs to happen, when?**

Messages from the ADM

The Deputy Minister held a key role in delivering messages about the budget and DRAP implication. However, it is recommended that the Assistant Deputy Minister, Janet King be the key spokesperson for NWT Devolution with support from both the Regional Director General, Kathryn Bruce and Stephen VanDine, Director General of Devolution and Territorial Relations.

These messages will be delivered through a variety of means to ensure optimal reach and consistency and consider sensitivities to the varied audiences. These include email, features on the NCR and regional intranet sites, Town Hall meetings, and videoconferences.

All possible avenues should be used to provide accurate and timely information across NAO. While specific details may not be immediately available, employees will need to begin to assess the impacts of these changes and determine what their own strategies (skills development, mobility, flexibility) will be to position themselves effectively within the changing organization.

Communicating Workforce Measures
During this period, employees will need to hear how the organization will be taking measures to help place affected employees in other positions for which they may be qualified. They will also hear about how the Work Force Adjustment Directive will be applied across government and the specific implications for the Organization.

Both of these measures focus on skills assessment as a key determinant for opportunities and outcomes. Managers are being trained in skills assessment. The process must be carried out in a fair, open and transparent manner. Employees will be encouraged to think about their skills and how they should approach career prospects in the light of changing organizational needs. Employees must become engaged in the process and take ownership of their part in the organizational transformation.

Tools & Products:

1. Info-notes to employees
   All-staff emails will be one of the primary means to convey consistent information across the organization.

2. Intranet Site
   The Intranet can be an effective resource for all employees that are seeking information or assistance concerning devolution. Though needs will be different in the NCR than in the region, the intranet could carry some/all of the following information as appropriate:

- ADM messages & videos
- FAQs
- Employees' Forum – post your questions or comments
- Applicable policies & procedures
- Templates
- Link to GNWT internet site
- Link to Job Market Unit & approved hiring placement opportunities
- Link to PSC priority system
- Employee assistance
- Training: skills development & learning plans; update your resume; interview skills
- Managers' Resource Centre on-line (pass code required):
  - Moving forward
  - Special role for managers
  - More on applying policies
  - Skills & competencies assessment process
  - Workforce Management Board & Job Market Unit
  - Q&As, best practices
  - Manager's Forum

3. "Town Hall" style meetings
   Face-to-face contact will be important to help employees to feel connected to the changes that will be coming. This will involve a high-profile role for the ADM as a primary spokespersons. To ensure consistent messaging, Town Hall meetings will be held in the NCR with videoconferencing connections to the regions, as well as regional visits, as appropriate.

4. Videoconferencing
   Videoconferences and webcasting will be used to enhance reach of Town Hall meetings or to connect horizontally with groups of employees (organizational group, sector or management level). Interactive technology will facilitate two way communications, Q&A sessions, etc. to ensure good information flow as well as a feeling of engagement.

5. Plain Language Summary of Human Resources Chapter
   This will help staff understand what the parties have agreed to and facilitate their conversations with their mangers, HR experts and the union.

Next Steps
Initialing of final agreement - Implementation and Progress

Reflect on progress made and identify further organizational evolution that will be necessary.

Final agreement – Implementation and Next Steps
This period will provide further clarity on organizational transformation for the next fiscal year. A communications approach will be prepared for this phase.

Ongoing Training & Capacity Building
Training and capacity building will be essential and ongoing throughout the transformation period. Mandatory training for managers is already underway, ensuring a more uniform approach to planning and implementation.

Carol-Ann Pineault - CAEE Attawapiskat Audit Results Additional Qs and As

From: Stephanie Nemeth
To: Anne Scotton; Ron Hallman; Susan MacGowan
Date: 1/4/2013 5:44 PM
Subject: CAEE Attawapiskat Audit Results Additional Qs and As
CC: Angela Matchim; Brahim Achtoutal; Brigitte Raizenne; Chris St. John; ...
Attachments: NCR-#4932670-v1-CAEE_ATTA_AUDIT_RESULTS_ADDITIONAL_QS_AND_AS.DOCX

Good Afternoon,

Attached are the **Attawapiskat Audit Results Additional Qs and As** for **URGENT APPROVAL.** Question 15's answer contains a table. If you are having trouble viewing, please refer to the attached file.

Thank you,
Stephanie

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – RELEASE OF ATTAWAPISKAT COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT RESULTS

(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

ONCE APPROVED THESE Qs & As WILL BE ADDED TO THE EXISTING SET OF MEDIA LINES AND Qs & As FOUND AT CIDM #4850347

1. What are the findings of the Comprehensive Audit Report?

The term "comprehensive audit" was used for this audit work since it examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community.

With regard to Attawapiskat's management control framework, the independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLP found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of federal funding agreements. Specifically, over 80 percent of the analyzed financial transactions made by the First Nation did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate.

As for the internal audit of the department, generally, management controls were found to be properly designed and effectively applied by the Department. The audit team also identified some areas where management controls, practices and processes could be improved, resulting in two recommendations. Working with federal partners, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

2. Who did Deloitte and Touche LLP meet with in conducting their comprehensive audit?

In conducting this audit, representatives of the audit firm spoke to AANDC departmental officials at HQ and in the region as well as officials at Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

3. Why did they only meet with one person from the Band Council?

Attawapiskat First Nations cooperated with requests the auditors to meet people. From the outset, the Chief indicated her support for an audit to be conducted.

4. What controls are in place to ensure that Band Councils spending federal funds in an appropriate way?

First Nations are held accountable for the use of public funds through the terms and conditions of funding agreements, which contain a "right to audit" provision.

AANDC has a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) responsible for supporting the department in all aspects of financial accountability. This includes monitoring, challenging and reporting on all activities related to financial management, contracting, procurement, asset management, information management and technology.

AANDC also has a Chief Audit and Evaluation Executive (CAEE) to ensure the department has the reliable and objective assurances and reviews needed to assess and mitigate risk, conduct audits and evaluations (internal and external), and continue to improve the department's overall performance. In addition, the department has put in place an Audit and Evaluation Committee that includes external members to ensure a high level of rigor and objectivity in the oversight of AANDC's audits and evaluation reports.

5. What action will the Government take in response to the audit?

The Department has reviewed the results of the audit and the Management Letter and recovery of funds will proceed as per the practice of the Department. Given the results of the audit, the region is working with the First Nation to strengthen the financial management and controls in this community.

With regard to recommendations for AANDC's internal operations, the department will work with its federal partners and take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

6. Will the Government continue to provide funding to Attawapiskat even though they cannot explain what happened to millions of dollars in federal funding?

Funding continues to be provided under the funding agreement with the appropriate controls now in place.

7. Are there other Band Councils that cannot explain where federal funds go?

This is a complex question that is being addressed by a series of recipient audits, conducted by AANDC through independent auditing firms.

8. Why did the Government allow this to happen? Why did it take an audit to determine the problem?

The general assessments conducted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 flagged Attawapiskat as a high risk organization when it comes to financial management. This means that the financial position (i.e., liquidity, sustainability, and working capital) was unfavourable.

Attawapiskat First Nation has been under co-management since 2000, meaning that the council

selected and contracted a co-manager to assist the council in remedying the default, developing sound management practices, restoring financial health, and building capacity.

AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to support improvements in overall financial management as well as to ensure compliance in future with funding agreements.

9. Why did it take so long to release the audit?

It is the practice of the department to have all audit reports reviewed and recommended for approval by the Deputy Minister. This is done by the AANDC Audit Committee, comprised of 5 external members – none of whom are public servants. The report of the Comprehensive Audit went to the Audit Committee for consideration on September 28, 2012.

Once approved, audit reports are then posted to the departmental website. They are reviewed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and translated ensuring accuracy and concordance between the two official languages.

10. Why are you releasing the audit now? Are you trying to discredit Spence? Are you releasing in response to the hunger strike?

According to the department's audit process, the Attawapsikat audit report was reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee, which comprises five members from outside the public service, and approved by the Deputy Minister, in October 2012. In order for all parties to move forward on the recommendations and to address the issues in the report, the Department has provided the results to the Attawapiskat First Nation and posted the audit report on the AANDC website. Its posting on the AANDC website reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability to Canadians, as well as results-based management.

11. How does the Government fund reserves?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) provides funding through transfer payments for programs, services and initiatives to First Nation, Inuit and Northern communities, government and individuals as well as to Aboriginal and Métis organizations.

AANDC uses various funding approaches to manage transfer payments related to its programs.

The type of funding approach that will be used will depend on a number of factors, such as the design and nature of a program, the program authority, the duration of the program or funding agreement and the level of risk associated with entering into a funding agreement.

AANDC's program funding levels are based on a range of factors. For instance, funds for infrastructure projects are largely project-driven, while operation and maintenance is based on the size and type of asset, cost-sharing provisions with the community and growth factors in the community.

Income assistance provides financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, etc. to elementary/secondary education is driven by the number of students attending kindergarten to grade 12.

Band support funding considers reserve location (remoteness), on-reserve population, number of AANDC programs and services administered, the dollar value and the number of approved positions related to the delivery of programs and services.

12. How much funding did the Attawapiskat First Nation receive from the Government

between 2005-06 and 2011-12?

The Attawapiskat First Nation has received $117 million in total Government funding between 2005-06 and 2011-12.

13. Who requested the audit? Didn't Chief Spence say she wanted the audit conducted?

In December 2011, a comprehensive audit was requested by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) due to concerns with the ongoing housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community.

Chief Spence publicly stated her support for an audit in December 2011 and concurred with the audit results in September 2012.

14. Annual audits are required to be filed with AANDC. Why were 80% insufficient and 60% non-existent supporting documentation not found? Why wasn't this caught?

Audited Financial Statements, not audits, are done by external auditors hired by the First Nation , based on information provided by the First Nation. The department does not receive the supporting documentation used by the external auditing firm.
The AANDC recipient audit done by Deloitte and Touche was based on an audit of randomly selected individual transactions and payments, over the five year period.

15. Which Ministers approved the $7.3 million in Ministerial Loan Guarantees to Attawapiskat ?

Minister in Office at Application Approval	Guaranteed Amount	CMHC Allocation Year	Date of Installment	Application Approval Date	Active Date	Status History (from Approval to Activation)
Minister Scott	$1,432,800.00	2004/2005	2008/03/01	2005/05/15	2005/12/15	
Minister Strahl	$1,350,000.00	2007/2008	2009/12/01	2007/08/29	2007/08/29	
Minister Strahl	$553,500.00	2007/2008	2009/08/01	2007/08/29	2011/03/14	- was pending activation since 2007/08/29
Minister Strahl	$750,072.00	2007/2008	2009/10/01	2008/09/12	2008/09/12	
Minister Strahl	$1,421,600.00	2008/2009	2009/08/01	2008/09/12	2011/03/14	- pending activation since 2008/09/12
Minister Duncan	$1,755,000.00	2009/2010	2012/04/01	2011/07/18	2011/08/10	- initiated 2010/11/08 - pending activation 2010/11/08 - canceled 2011/03/02 - inactivated 2011/03/02 - initiated 2011/05/19 - pending activation 2011/05/19 - awaiting approval 2011/07/12 - approved 2011/07/18 - activated 2011/08/10
Total	**$7,262,972.00**					

16. How can co-management be called intervention when they were in it for 10 years with this result?

Intervention is the term we used for a range of mechanisms which assist in the financial management of First Nations. Multiple co-managers were hired by the Attawapiskat First Nation over more than a decade.

17. What penalties will apply? Will there be any individual accountability for the co-manager?

Others?

Recovery of funds will proceed as per the practice of the department. The co-manager for the period of time in question is no longer employed by the First Nation. A new co-manager has been hired.

Pages 544 to / à 577

are not relevant

sont non pertinentes

From: Bernard Etzinger
To: Wernick, Michael <Michael.Wernick@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 9:09 AM Saturday, January 12, 2013
Subject: Fw: NTR607 (Thomas Mulcair)

>>> Command News <fp.NEWS.BETZINGER@commandnews.com> 1/12/2013 8:14:40 AM >>>
Profile: BETZINGER / My Drawer / Aboriginal (News) - Clip 15 (limit 100)
Jan 12 2013 08:14:00 - Source: NTR_AUDIO [La Presse Canadienne]

NTR607 (Thomas Mulcair)
NTR607.mp3 (Thomas Mulcair)
607 _ (Thomas Mulcair)

MP3 Audio: http://www.commandnews.com/audio/6/ntr607.mp3

-

OTTAWA. x--11s.

Theresa Spence entend poursuivre sa grève de la faim malgré sa rencontre d'hier soir avec le gouverneur général David Johnston.

La chef crie d'Attawapiskat s'est entretenue avec le représentant de la Reine au Canada, mais d'après son porte-parole, la réunion n'a donné que peu de résultats.

Pendant ce temps, la réunion d'hier entre le premier ministre Stephen Harper et certains leaders **>autochtones<** a pavé la voie à une autre rencontre qui devrait se tenir d'ici un mois.

En raison des derniers développements, le chef néo-démocrate Thomas Mulcair croit que Mme Spence devrait peut-être mettre un terme à sa grève de la faim...

A:...une telle situation. (Source: La Presse Canadienne)

-

-

(La Presse Canadienne)

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From: Bernard Etzinger
To: Wernick, Michael <Michael.Wernick@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 9:32 PM Friday, January 11, 2013
Subject: Re: CBC.CA: Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost

I miss Neil Macdonald

>>> Michael Wernick 1/11/2013 9:18:51 PM >>>
"National Affairs Editor"?

>>> Bernard Etzinger 1/11/2013 9:17:20 PM >>>
On the one hand too much has happened without proper consultation causing InM, but on the other hand nothing has happened since Kelowna.

Hall is not making sense.

>>> Michael Wernick 1/11/2013 7:59:33 PM >>>
Is the CBC so blindly anti-Harper they can seriously put someone out there to say nothing has happened since Kelowna? Wow!

>>> HQ Inform 1/11/2013 7:54:59 PM >>>
Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost
Chris Hall (CBC's National Affairs Editor)

The strongest image from Friday's meeting between Stephen Harper and the Assembly of First Nations didn't come from inside the room where the prime minister met with a small delegation of chiefs.

It came from outside, where hundreds of band members massed in front of the prime minister's office building demanding he come out in the rain to negotiate with them.

For many, the rally in front of Langevin Block was more than just a protest.

It was a poignant expression of how so many First Nations people find themselves on the outside looking in, when the relationship between them and the federal government — as defined by history — is supposed to be one of equals.

The standoff on Parliament Hill added to the crisis atmosphere, or what interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae called the "tragedy of errors," leading up to this meeting and which makes it so hard to conclude anything positive can emerge.

Instead of focusing on an agenda to address the pressing social needs faced by too many people living on reserves, instead of assessing what concrete measures could be taken to make First Nations more true partners in Canada's future, the meeting simply became a backdrop to the threat of more protests, blockades and an ever deepening rift between individual chiefs, and between First Nations and the federal government.

In the process, AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo's attempt to use this meeting as a springboard for "transformational change" failed.

His organization is clearly divided, with chiefs from Ontario and Manitoba refusing to attend Friday's talks.

Most of his agenda remains unrealized. And his own future at the helm of the AFN — after winning a second term with a commanding majority just six months ago — is suddenly unclear, with calls from some chiefs for a non-confidence vote on his leadership.

Stephen Harper also took a hit.

His dogged insistence that the meeting must go exactly as originally agreed, despite the changing dynamics in recent days, reinforced his reputation as inflexible.

And it further undermined Atleo, the one native leader with whom he had forged a strong working relationship.

Not surprisingly, neither Harper nor Atleo spoke publicly after the meeting.

The clear winners are the organizers of Idle No More, the grassroots movement that so unnerved the AFN in the past few weeks that every chief who spoke publicly in the days before the meeting made sure to praise them.

Idle No More the big winner in this current standoff, it looks like it has galvanized a new generation. Chief Spence has her followers as well. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)It doesn't matter that the movement's demand to "respect our treaties" is far from specific.

It also doesn't matter that the chiefs who sided with them late this week had their own shifting priorities in the internal politics of the broader First Nations' movement.

What does matter is that Idle No More has created a sense pf purpose that goes beyond the AFN.

Its organizers and social media campaign captured the imagination of a generation of young and increasingly militant aboriginal people who rallied across the country on Friday.

They are those who see little to be gained from annual meetings with the prime minister, and even less to be gained from the incremental change on this file that has been the hallmark of Harper's time in government.

The prime minister's approach made it all but impossible for Atleo to emerge Friday with something tangible from his list of demands going in.

Atleo won a commitment that First Nations files will receive a higher priority inside the Prime Minister's Office and its bureaucracy.

And he came away with a promise that he and Harper would meet again in the next several weeks.

But the tough issues: quicker resolution of land claims and treaty issues; a new financial arrangement that would tie federal payments to inflation and population; a school on every reserve; and a formal process that would bring Ottawa, the provinces and First Nations together to negotiate revenue sharing from the estimated $650 billion in potential resource development across the country, remain points of discussion.

Absent any concrete gains, the immediate future holds only the promise of more blockades and economic uncertainty.

Gordon Peters, grand chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians in Ontario, who boycotted the meeting with the prime minister in solidarity with Idle No More, said roads and railway lines could be targeted as early as today.

Just last January, Harper played host to native leaders and spoke of the significance of 2013 as the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, a document First Nations view as the basis of many unresolved land claims and self-government.

The prime minister talked then of the importance of ensuring aboriginal workers have the skills to work on resource projects, many of which are in or near their home communities.

Harper reiterated the same commitments this week. But with no clearer timetable of how he intends to achieve them.

And the truth is that very little has been done over the past seven years — since former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin negotiated the five-year, $5-billion Kelowna Accord with First Nations and premiers.

AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo, looks to have been bypassed. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)"We are here today because the descendents of the people who first occupied this land must have an equal opportunity to work for and to enjoy the benefits of our collective prosperity," Martin said then.

"Today the majority do not — because of gaps in education and skills, health care and housing, and limited opportunities for employment."

Harper, of course dismantled the accord. And the gaps persist.

The Conservative government's approach has been is to craft piecemeal programs to address specific issues, in some cases driven by crisis.

The ultimate goal of ensuring First Nations communities benefit directly from developing the country's resource sector, and so gain true self-sufficiency, folds neatly into the Conservatives view that a more prosperous future can be built if there's a shared commitment.

But that goal remains far off in the future. Today the talk is all about blockades and bringing Canada's economy to its knees until First Nations are treated as equal partners.

Words that seem more easily translated into action.

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

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From: Michael Wernick
To: JeanFrancois.Tremblay@ainc-inac.gc.ca <JeanFrancois.Tremblay@ainc-inac.gc.ca>
Date: 1:43 PM Wednesday, January 09, 2013
Subject: Fw: Treaty 8 Ag Benefit Claims - Update for January 2013

>>> [redacted] 1/9/2013 1:42:28 PM >>>Well said, [redacted]
The self-contradicting rhetoric and avoidance by this government needs to stop. In my short time with this file I have seen three different people assigned as the *legal representative*. Clearly it is a stall and delay tactic as they transition this position endlessly.

Thank you,

On Wed, Jan 9, 2013 at 11:32 AM, [redacted] wrote:

> Lyle. These same "repeat" vague. C. Y. A emails for the last two and
> 1/2 years are to say the least disappointing and lacking any credibility.
> Given the high profile that Chief. Spence has brought to outstanding.
> Treaty issues, one would think the. A. A. N. D. C would have an interest
> in responding to this long outstanding Treaty promise to demonstrate it
> commitment to fullfilling its acknowledged lawful obligations.... But it
> appears the. Crown (as represented by your. Dept) is lacking the moral
> integrity , commitment and honor required to meet its most basic
> constitutional responsibilities.
> In 40 years of dealing with The. Dept this 15 year file is,
> without doubt, the most disgraceful conduct I have seen. [redacted]
> ------Original Message------
> From: Lyle Henderson
> To: Steve Coutoreille
> To: Chief Roy Fabian
> To: Chief Vern Janvier
> To: Kapaweno. First. Nation.
> Cc: Jeremy Bouchard
> Cc: Lucy Langille
> Cc: Michelle Adkins
> Cc: Wendy Snelgrove
> Cc: Darcy Gurski
> Cc: Garry Laboucan
> Cc: Jerome Slavik
> Cc: Kevin Coueslan
> Cc: Ron Maurice
> Cc: Al Zariwny
> Cc: effieand@telus.net
> Subject: Treaty 8 Ag Benefit Claims - Update for January 2013
> Sent: Jan 3, 2013 8:01 AM
>
>
> Dear Chief:
>
> I am writing with respect to the Treaty 8 Agriculture Benefits claims.
>
> I would like to assure you that the federal negotiating team continues its
> internal work to obtain a financial mandate with respect to these claims as
> expeditiously as possible. I do look forward to provide you with more
> information in the new year.
>
> Also, Canada's legal counsel for these claims, Ms. Vivian Russell, [redacted]
> [redacted] Mr. Jeremy Bouchard has been assigned
> as Canada's legal representative.
>
> Of course, if you have any questions, I continue to be available by
> telephone at (819) 997- 3176 or email at lyle.henderson@aadnc-aandc<mailto:
> lyle.henderson@aadnc-aandc> .
>
> Sincerely,
>
>

>
> Lyle Henderson
> Manager
> Prairies/Atlantic/NWT
> Negotiations Directorate
> Specific Claims Branch
> Treaties and Aboriginal Government
> Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
> (819) 997-3176
>

--

[redacted]
Chipewyan Prairie First Nation
[redacted]
Office: 780-559-2259
Fax: 780-559-2213
[redacted]

s.19(1)

From: Michael Wernick
To: Schjott, Adam <Adam.Schjott@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 8:36 PM Tuesday, January 08, 2013
Subject: Re: For Approval: Attawapiskat Progress to Date web update

Ok with me.

>>> Adam Schjott 1/8/2013 8:24:43 PM >>>For approval please.

>>> Sarah Grace Ross 1/8/2013 7:54:50 PM >>>Hi Adam,
Apologies for not giving you a head's up on this item. It's still rather urgent but I believe it can wait until morning.
PRODUCT: Progress to Date web page for Attawapiskat
PURPOSE: The current page is significantly outdated (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1324661935029/1324662118331).

NOTES: Only the highlighted content is for approval. We're aiming to have this posted tomorrow morning as soon as it completes approvals.
Sarah-Grace

******

(Beginning in October of 2012 - all updates prior to this date have been fully approved)

October 9, AANDC reiterates in a letter its offer to assist the First Nation in updating the community's emergency plan as well as its concern that the approaching winter is shortening the number of days available for construction. October 22, AANDC again reiterates in a letter to Chief Spence the need for the First Nation to submit a closure plan for the ATCO trailer complex so that construction can begin before winter sets in. October 30, AANDC notifies the First Nation that the Department is prepared to provide it up to $300,000 to undertake emergency repairs needed to ensure that the ATCO trailer complex remains a warm, safe shelter for current residents in the winter of 2012-2013. November 15, the Attawapiskat Housing Strategy Working Group meets to discuss a draft options/plan for renovations to the ATCO trailer complex. November 20, the Attawapiskat Housing Strategy Working Group meets to review the revised scope of work for the ATCO trailer complex. December 4, AANDC advises the First Nation that the Department is prepared to approve funding for the cost difference between barge delivery and air delivery of fuel to meet the health and safety needs of the community. December 5, the Attawapiskat Housing Strategy Working Group finalizes the scope of work for the ATCO trailer complex and a budget of $309,700 was identified. December 21, AANDC advises the First Nation by letter that the Department will provide $97,387 to assist the First Nation with the delivery of essential fuel until winter roads become available in February 2013.

2013January 3, AANDC notifies the First Nation by letter that it has approved the ATCO trailer complex renovation project at a total estimated cost of $309,657. The letter states that $300,000 will be processed on the next amendment to the First Nation's funding agreement, of which $280,000 will be released, with $20,000 to be held in a pool. The letter indicates that the remaining $9,657 has been budgeted for the 2012-2013 fiscal year pending receipt and acceptance of reporting requirements. The letter also stresses that the First Nation is required to manage the project within the maximum approved funding amount as well as provide project completion, inspection and detailed financial reports on the project no later than April 30, 2013



Chelsea Vowel

Métis from Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta. BEd, LLB.

Attawapiskat: You Want to Be Shown the Money? Here it Is.

Posted: 12/ 6/2011 10:01 am

Attawapiskat Crisis , Attawapiskat Red Cross , Attawapiskat Stephen Harper , Chief Theresa Spence , Aboriginal Affairs , Aboriginal Funding , Attawapiskat , Attawapiskat Emergency , First Nations Funding , Canada Politics News

Reading the news coverage on Attawapiskat doesn't feel very healthy sometimes. There are so many racist rants and outright ignorant responses that it can bog you down. Where do you even begin, when the people making these comments do not seem to understand even the bare minimum about the subject?

Well, you can try to answer questions with facts. Here are some of those facts, if you're interested.

Harper said Attawapiskat got $90 million, where did it all go!?

Yes, Prime Minister Harper is apparently scratching his head about where $90 million in federal funding to Attawapiskat has gone. Many commentators then go on to make claims about lack of accountability and no one knowing what happens to the money once it is 'handed over' by the federal government.

Let's start simple.

First, please note that $90 million is a deceptive number. It refers to federal funding received since Harper's government came into power in 2006. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Attawapiskat received $17.6 million in federal funds (PDF). The document linked to shows the breakdown of federal funds in case you wanted to know how much is allocated to things like medical transportation, education, maternal health care and so on.

Thus, $90 million refers to the total of an average of about $18 million per year in federal funding since 2006.

[As an aside, you will often see the figure of $34 or $35 million in funding given to Attawapiskat a year. This actually refers to total revenues. As noted, federal funding was $17.6 million, and provincial funding was $4.4 million. The community brings in about $12 million of its own revenue, as shown here. So no, the "government" is not giving Attawapiskat $34 million a year.]

Okay fine, but where did it go?

Attawapiskat publishes its financial statements going back to 2005. If you want to know where the money was spent, you can look in the audited financial reports. This document (PDF), for example, provides a breakdown of all program funding.

Just getting to this stage alone proves false the claim that there is no accountability and no one knows where the money goes.

But $90 million could have built the community 360 brand new houses!

Assuming, as Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council has stated, that a new house costs $250,000 to build in Attawapiskat (with half of that being transportation costs), then yes, 360 new units could have been provided by $90 million.

However, this money was not just earmarked for the construction of new homes.

An important fact that many commentators forget (or are unaware of) is that section 91(24) of the Constitution Act of 1867 gives the Federal Crown exclusive powers over "Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians."

You see, for non-natives, the provinces are in charge of funding things like education, health care, social services and so on. For example, the Province of Ontario allocated $10,730 in education funding per non-native pupil in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. For most First Nations, particularly those on reserve, the federal government through INAC is responsible for providing funds for native education.

How is this relevant?

It helps explain why the entire $90 million was not allocated to the construction of new houses. That $90 million includes funding for things like:

- Education per pupil
- Education infrastructure (maintenance, repair, teacher salaries, etc)
- Health care per patient
- Health care, infrastructure (clinics, staff, access to services outside the community in the absence of facilities on reserve)
- Social services (facilities, staff, etc.)
- Infrastructure (maintenance and construction)
- A myriad of other services

These costs are often not taken into account when attempting to compare a First Nation reserve to a non-native municipality. In fact, many people forget that their own health care and education are heavily subsidised by tax dollars as well.

What's the point here?

How much money was actually allocated to housing in 2010-2011? Page 2 of Schedule A (PDF) shows us that out of the $17.6 million in federal funds, only $2 million was provided for housing.

Yes, even $2 million would be enough to eight brand new homes, if those funds were not also used to maintain and repair existing homes. The specific breakdown of how that money was spent is found in Schedule I.

Now, I admit I am confused about something. The Harper article states:

According to figures providing by Aboriginal Affairs, the Attawapiskat Cree band has received just over $3 million in funds specifically for housing and a further $2.8 million in infrastructure money since 2006.

That is actually less than I estimated it would be, going by the 2010-2011 figures. I estimated $10 million for housing, but INAC (now Aboriginal Affairs) is saying it was $5.8 million.

Anyway, that isn't too important. The point is, if INAC is correct, only $5.8 million has gone towards housing for Attawapiskat. At most that could have built the community 23 new houses, if Attawapiskat had merely let the older houses go without any repairs or maintenance for five years. Letting existing homes go like that is not a great strategy, however.

The point here is, $90 million sounds like a huge amount, but the real figures allocated to housing are much, much smaller.

Fine, they got $5.8 million for housing, surely that is enough?

Again, assuming 23 new homes were built, and all older homes were left without maintenance and repairs, and the people in charge of housing worked for free and there were no other costs associated with administering the housing program, Attawapiskat would still be experiencing a housing crisis.

It is estimated that $84 million is needed for housing alone to meet Attawapiskat's housing needs (you'll find those figures in a small table on the right, titled "Attawapiskat by the numbers").

The feds are just handing that money over and the Band does whatever it wants with it!

Many people seem to be labouring under the misapprehension that all or even most First Nations have self-governance and run themselves freely. This is far from the truth, but given that most Canadians are familiar with the municipal model, the confusion is actually understandable. It isn't as though Canada does a very good job of teaching people about the Indian Act.

Section 61(1)(a-k) of the Indian Act details that: "With the consent of the council of a band, the Minister may authorize and direct the expenditure of capital moneys of the band" for various purposes.

What this means is that Ministerial approval is actually a requirement before any capital expenditures can occur on reserve. In practice, a Band will generally pass a Band Council Resolution (BCR) authorising a certain expenditure (say on housing), and that BCR must be forwarded to INAC for approval.

That's right. Most First Nations have to get permission before they can spend money. That is the opposite of "doing whatever they want" with the money. Bands are micromanaged to an extent

unseen in nearly any other context that does not involve a minor or someone who lacks capacity due to mental disability.

Any claims that INAC has no control over what Bands spend their money on is false.

I would hope by now you'd ask the following question:

If INAC has to approve spending, why is Harper so confused?

There is a tendency to believe that our government officials do things in a way that makes sense. This, despite the fact that most of us don't actually believe this to be true. We want to believe. I know I do.

So upon learning that the federal government is the one in charge of providing services to First Nations that are provided to non-natives by the province, we might assume that the provision of these services are administered in a comparable manner.

Not so! And it actually makes sense why not, when you think about it for a moment. Have you ever seen a federal hospital, for example? No, because almost all hospitals are built, maintained, and staffed by the provinces. Thus, when a First Nations person needs to access health care, they usually cannot access federal infrastructure. They must access provincial infrastructure and have the feds rather than the province pick up the tab.

If only it were as easy as federal funding via provincial structures.

The auditor general of Canada speaks up.

The auditor general of Canada released a report in June of this year examining Programs for First Nations on Reserve. A similar report was published in 2006. This report identifies deficiencies in program planning and delivery by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Health Canada, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

The reports also provide a number of recommendations to improve these deficiencies. The 2011 report evaluated the progress made since the 2006 report, and in most areas, gave these federal agencies a failing grade.

Don't worry, there is a point to this, stay with me.

The 2011 report has this to say:

In our view, many of the problems facing First Nations go deeper than the existing programs' lack of efficiency and effectiveness. We believe that structural impediments severely limit the delivery of public services to First Nations communities and hinder improvements in living conditions on reserves. We have identified four such impediments:

- lack of clarity about service levels,

- lack of a legislative base,

- lack of an appropriate funding mechanism, and

- lack of organizations to support local service delivery.

I know this is going to look like mumbo jumbo at first, so let me break it down a little for you. This will help explain why millions of dollars of funding is not enough to actually improve the living conditions of First Nations people, particularly those on reserve.

Lack of clarity about service levels

As explained earlier the federal government is in charge of delivering services that are otherwise provided by the provinces to non-natives. The auditor general states:

It is not always evident whether the federal government is committed to providing services on reserves of the same range and quality as those provided to other communities across Canada.

Shockingly, the federal government does not always have clear program objectives, nor does it necessarily specify specific roles and responsibilities for program delivery, and has not established measures for evaluating performance in order to determine if outcome are actually met.

What!?

That's right. The federal government is not keeping track of what it does, how it does it, or whether what it is doing works. The auditor general recommends the federal government fix this, pronto. How can a community rely on these services if the federal government itself isn't even clear on what it is providing and whether the programs are working?

Lack of a legislative base

Provincial legislation provides a basis of clarity for services delivered by provinces. A legislative base for programs specifies respective roles and responsibilities, eligibility, and other program elements. It constitutes an unambiguous commitment by government to deliver those services. The result is that accountability and funding are better defined.

The provinces all have some sort of Education Act that clearly lays out the roles and responsibilities of education authorities, as well as mechanisms of evaluation. There is generally no comparable federal legislation for the provision of First Nations education, health care, housing and so on.

As noted by the AG, legislation provides clarity and accountability. Without it, decision can be made on an ill-defined "policy" basis or on a completely ad hoc basis.

Lack of an appropriate funding mechanism

The AG focuses on a few areas here.

Lack of service standards for one. Were you aware that provincial building codes do not apply on reserve? Some provincial laws of "general application" (like Highway Traffic Acts) can apply on reserve, but building codes do not. There is a federal National Building Code, but enforcement and inspection has been a major problem. This has been listed as one of the factors in why homes built on reserve do not have a similar 'life' to those built off reserve.

Poor timing for provision of funds is another key issue. "Most contribution agreements must be renewed yearly. In previous audits, we found that the funds may not be available until several months into the period to be funded," the auditor general states.

This is particularly problematic for housing as "money often doesn't arrive until late summer, past the peak construction period, so projects get delayed and their costs rise," the CBC says.

Lack of accountability.

It is often unclear who is accountable to First Nations members for achieving improved outcomes or specific levels of services. First Nations often cite a lack of federal funding as the main reason for inadequate services. For its part, INAC maintains that the federal government funds services to First Nations but is not responsible for the delivery or provision of these services.

The AG also refers to a heavy reporting burden put on First Nations, and notes that the endless paperwork often is completely ignored anyway by federal agencies.

Lack of organisations to support local service delivery

This refers once again to the fact that there are hardly any federal school or health boards, or federal infrastructure and expertise. Some programs are delivered through provincial structures, while others are provided directly by the federal government, with less than stellar results.

As the auditor general states, "**Change is needed if meaning full progress is to be realised.**" There is extreme lack of clarity about what the federal government is doing, why, how, and whether it is at all effective. No wonder Harper is confused!

Tired yet?

Don't worry, the commentators aren't finished, and neither am I.

The chief of Attawapiskat made $71,000 last year while her people live in tents!

Apparently we are supposed to be outraged at the excess involved here. This of course follows on the heels of a report by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation about 'jaw-dropping' reserve

salaries. It's become fashionable to rant about chiefs making more than premiers (though no one could make that claim here).

Attawapiskat publishes its salaries, travel expenses and honorariums (again, nothing being hidden here). Chief Theresa Spence was paid $69,575 in salary and honorariums in 2010-2011, and had $1,798 in travel expenses for a total of about $71,000.

If you are like most people, you don't spend a lot of time looking at what public employees actually make. What number wouldn't shock you in the absence of such context? $50,000? $32,000? I suspect any amount would be offered as some sort of proof of... something not right.

Well okay. Why don't we take a look at some other salaries? But first, note that Ontario Premier McGuinty made $209,000 in 2010, and apparently over 100 public service executives made more than he did. (This is a big deal to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, not me.)

It is difficult to do a really accurate comparison of salaries, because Ontario's Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act (doc) of 1996 only requires that salaries over $100,000 be reported. (In addition, if the salaries are reported elsewhere, they are not necessarily included in this report.) However, the annual reports are a fantastic resource. Here is the list of various public sector employees making over $100,000 a year. I offer this merely in order to ask, were you aware these people were making this amount of money?

I sure wasn't. These are salaries paid by tax dollars too. I have no idea if the director of Quality Services for the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation should be paid $147,437.58 a year. (Sorry to single you out, sir, I chose randomly.) If this corporation were in the news and having financial difficulties, I have no doubt this salary would be brought up as somehow relevant... but is it?

I don't know if it is. That's the point. I don't think the people bringing it up know either. I haven't been able to find a source listing the salaries of mayors of municipalities in Ontario to compare to Chief Spence's salary. Then again, I doubt anyone would seriously claim that if she worked for free, the housing crisis in Attawakpiskat would be over.

A good comment was sent to me recently on the issue of salaries that I'd like to share. "Whenever one is talking about the salaries of say a [premier or a] prime minister versus someone else, two things: 1) parliamentarians get very good pensions and for a relatively short time of service; 2) more particularly, a post like the prime ministership or the presidency of the United States opens up all kinds of doors for later life. So even if the salary is $200,000, the person is virtually guaranteed a very comfortably post-office life. Counsel in a big law firm. Paid corporate director. University professor. Etc. etc. I don't think we imagine that the Barrick Gold Corporations of the world will be banging down the door of a past chief of Attawapiskat in a comparable way."

I wonder what kind of pension Chief Spence can count on?

The more you know...

I know I haven't dealt with all of the accusations and arguments being made about Attawapiskat on various forums and comments sections of online news articles. However I think you now have

at least a base to begin with, whether you honestly just want to understand the situation a little better, or want to fight those comment battles.

Third party-management

An article by Michael Posluns sheds some light on what third party management means in practice.

A final word

Above all, my relations, don't let it get you down.

You will see people call for the abolition of the Indian Act, for the abolition of reserves and the "assimilation" of First Nations into "Canadian society." You will see horrible things said about aboriginal culture. What you will rarely see are people responding to facts. Don't be discouraged when facts are brushed off in favour of accusations. We do have the power to educate those around us, and even if we can't reach the most vocal of bigots, we can reach the "average" Canadian who is merely unaware rather than necessarily outright hateful.

This post previously appeared on Apihtawikosisan.wordpress.com.

From: Michael Wernick
To: Senchuk, Barbara <Barbara.Senchuk@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 3:39 PM Saturday, January 05, 2013
Subject: Re: CAEE_ATTA AUDIT RESULTS_ADDITIONAL QS & AS

Thanks. Still a chance it'll be this week.

>>> Barbara Senchuk 1/5/2013 3:38:26 PM >>>To close the loop on this...I've heard back from Ron - Joanne has been involved in all aspects but they will also ensure that Robin is briefed up quickly.

>>> Michael Wernick 1/4/2013 7:34:10 PM >>>Ok. Have Joanne W and Robin A been briefed on audit, management response and comms. Should take place next week. Robin will be starting in thunder bay around the time it is posted.

>>> Barbara Senchuk 1/4/2013 7:15:58 PM >>>For your approval

>>> Chris St. John 1/4/2013 7:07:08 PM >>>
Hi Barbara,

Below are revised Qs & As for DMO approval.

The Qs & As below have been approved by the following ADMs:

Susan MacGowan
Ron Hallman
Anne Scotton

Thank you,

Chris

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – RELEASE OF ATTAWAPISKAT COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT RESULTS

(not for external distribution - for use by spokespersons)

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ONCE APPROVED THESE Qs & As WILL BE ADDED TO THE EXISTING SET OF MEDIA LINES AND Qs & As FOUND AT CIDM #4850347

1. What are the findings of the Comprehensive Audit Report?

The term "comprehensive audit" was used for this audit work since it examined Attawapiskat's management control framework, as well as that of the department in relation to the management of this community.

With regard to Attawapiskat's management control framework, the independent auditing firm Deloitte & Touche LLP found a lack of financial management controls to support compliance with the terms and conditions of federal funding agreements. Specifically, over 80 percent of the analyzed financial transactions made by the First Nation did not have any documentation or the documentation was inadequate.

As for the internal audit of the department, generally, management controls were found to be properly designed and effectively applied by the Department. The audit team also identified some areas where management controls, practices and processes could be improved, resulting in two recommendations. Working with federal partners, AANDC will take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

2. Who did Deloitte and Touche LLP meet with in conducting their comprehensive audit?

In conducting this audit, representatives of the audit firm spoke to AANDC departmental officials at HQ and in the region as well as officials at Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

3. What controls are in place to ensure that Band Councils are spending federal funds in an appropriate way?

First Nations are held accountable for the use of public funds through the terms and conditions of funding agreements, which contain a "right to audit" provision.

AANDC has a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) responsible for supporting the department in all aspects of financial accountability. This includes monitoring, challenging and reporting on all activities related to financial management, contracting, procurement, asset management, information management and technology.

AANDC also has a Chief Audit and Evaluation Executive (CAEE) to ensure the department has the reliable and objective assurances and reviews needed to assess and mitigate risk, conduct audits and evaluations (internal and external), and continue to improve the department's overall

performance. In addition, the department has put in place an Audit and Evaluation Committee that includes external members to ensure a high level of rigor and objectivity in the oversight of AANDC's audits and evaluation reports.

4. What action will the Government take in response to the audit?

The Department has reviewed the results of the audit and the Management Letter and recovery of funds will proceed as per the practice of the Department. Given the results of the audit, the region is working with the First Nation to strengthen the financial management and controls in this community.

With regard to recommendations for AANDC's internal operations, the department will work with its federal partners and take the appropriate actions to address these recommendations.

5. Will the Government continue to provide funding to Attawapiskat even though they cannot explain what happened to millions of dollars in federal funding?

Funding continues to be provided under the funding agreement with the appropriate controls in place.

6. Are there other Band Councils that cannot explain where federal funds go?

This is a complex question that is being addressed by a series of recipient audits, conducted by AANDC through independent auditing firms.

7. Why did the Government allow this to happen? Why did it take an audit to determine the problem?

The general assessments conducted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 flagged Attawapiskat as a high risk organization when it comes to financial management. This means that the financial position (i.e., liquidity, sustainability, and working capital) was unfavourable.

Attawapiskat First Nation has been under co-management since 2000, meaning that the council selected and contracted a co-manager to assist the council in remedying the default, developing sound management practices, restoring financial health, and building capacity.

AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to support improvements in overall financial management as well as to ensure compliance in future with funding agreements.

8. Why did it take so long to release the audit?

It is the practice of the department to have all audit reports reviewed and recommended for approval by the Deputy Minister. This is done by the AANDC Audit Committee, comprised of 5 external members – none of whom are public servants. The report of the Comprehensive Audit went to the Audit Committee for consideration on September 28, 2012.

Once approved, audit reports are then posted to the departmental website. They are reviewed to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Privacy Act and translated ensuring accuracy and concordance between the two official languages.

9. Why are you releasing the audit now? Are you trying to discredit Spence? Are you releasing in response to the hunger strike?

According to the department's audit approval process, the Attawapsikat audit report was reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee, which comprises five members from outside the public service. It was approved by the Deputy Minister in October 2012. In order for all parties to move forward on the recommendations and to address the issues in the report, the Department has provided the results to the Attawapiskat First Nation and posted the audit report on the AANDC website. Its posting on the AANDC website reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability to Canadians.

10. How does the Government fund reserves?

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) provides funding through transfer payments for programs, services and initiatives to First Nation, Inuit and Northern communities, government and individuals as well as to Aboriginal and Métis organizations.

AANDC uses various funding approaches to manage transfer payments related to its programs.

The type of funding approach that will be used will depend on a number of factors, such as the design and nature of a program, the program authority, the duration of the program or funding agreement and the level of risk associated with entering into a funding agreement.

AANDC's program funding levels are based on a range of factors. For instance, funds for infrastructure projects are largely project-driven, while operation and maintenance is based on the size and type of asset, cost-sharing provisions with the community and growth factors in the community.

Income assistance provides financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, etc. to elementary/secondary education is driven by the number of students attending kindergarten to grade 12.

Band support funding considers reserve location (remoteness), on-reserve population, number

From: Michael Wernick
To: mballantyne@pco-bcp.gc.ca <mballantyne@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Date: 5:37 PM Wednesday, January 02, 2013
Subject: Fw: Faire suivre : Request from UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya for information on Chief Spence's hunger strike
Attachments: Communication SR Anaya.pdf

>>> Adam Schjott 1/2/2013 5:18:13 PM >>>Fyi

>>> Francois Beauregard 1/2/2013 5:16:12 PM >>>Bonsoir,

We've just been informed by DFAIT that Canada's mission in Geneva has received word from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SR) is now considering issuing a media release.

François

>>>

De : Francois Beauregard
À :Duschenes, Christopher; Etzinger, Bernard; Hallman, Ron; Schjott, Adam; Senchuk, Barbara; Shannon, Tara; Touchette, Josée; Wilkinson, Joanne
CC :Bertrand, Sabrina; Brennan, Patrick; Cellucci, Kim; Horton, Christopher; Matchim, Angela; Short, Christine; Smith, Keith; Villeneuve, Josée
Date : 1/2/2013 1:56 pm
Objet : Request from UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya for information on Chief Spence's hunger strike
Good afternoon,

You will recall that Mr. Anaya sent a letter to Canada in December 2011 requesting information on the socioeconomic situation in Attawapiskat. In response to his request, Canada provided information to Mr. Anaya and responded to additional questions he had related to Attawapiskat. Mr. Anaya also sent a letter to Canada in February 2012 expressing his interest to visit the country between March-August 2013. Canada has not yet responded to the February 2012 letter from Mr. Anaya.

Justice Canada is responsible for coordinating any potential response to Mr. Anaya's most recent letter. If AANDC input is required in any potential response, officials from the Intergovernmental and International Relations Directorate will contact your sector/regional office.

Please contact me should you have additional questions on this matter.

François Beauregard
Conseiller principal | Senior Advisor
Relations intergouvernementales et internationales | Intergovernmental and International Relations
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada | Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Tél./Tel.: 819-956-8218
Télécopieur/Fax: 819-997-3554
http://www.gcpedia.gc.ca/wiki/International_indigenous_issues

Pages 595 to / à 597

are withheld pursuant to sections

sont retenues en vertu des articles

13(1)(b), 15(1)

of the Access to Information Act

de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information

From: Michael Wernick
To: Bergeron, Joanne <Joanne.Bergeron@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 9:32 AM Wednesday, January 02, 2013
Subject: Re: Fwd: Fw: The manner in which Bill C45 was presented and passed fails to meet Canadian and International Standards of Democracy.

Thx. Nothing required.

s.19(1)

>>> Joanne Bergeron 1/2/2013 8:59:09 AM >>>Mr. Wernick,

FYI, the message below had been sent to the "Michael Wernick and Colleen Swords" e-mail account by [redacted]

Carl

>>> [redacted] 12/30/2012 11:57 AM >>>
Sent wirelessly from my BlackBerry device on the Bell network.
Envoyé sans fil par mon terminal mobile BlackBerry sur le réseau de Bell.
From: [redacted]
Date: Sun, 30 Dec 2012 09:17:02 -0700
Subject: The manner in which Bill C45 was presented and passed fails to meet Canadian and International Standards of Democracy.

Protests have been triggered by Bill C-45, which violates the rule of law as it has traditionally been defined through the democratization movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. Lumping together more than 550 provisions on more than 30 topics in a 443 page omnibus bill foreclosed the open public discussion and consultation that are essential according to both the Canadian constitution and the internationally defined democratic standard of prior informed consent. As such, the manner in which Bill C-45 was presented and passed fails to measure up to Canadian or international standards. Canadians are disturbed by this unprecedented retreat from democratic due process. Your refusal to meet as requested by Chief Spence reinforces deep concern about your government's conspicuous departure from our Canadian belief that peaceful and participatory methods of exchanging information, formulating policy and resolving disagreements are the foundation of democracy." Lawyers Right Watch Canada

http://www.lrwc.org/canada-arrange-meeting-requested-by-chief-spence-lawyers-rights-watch-canada-tells-pm/

From: Michael Wernick
To: Touchette, Josée <Josee.Touchette@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 5:16 PM Thursday, January 03, 2013
Subject: Re: Fwd: News Release pasted as per your request

Understood. First, fix the meeting and see how spence and InM react. Everything else will sort from there.

They seem to be off the idea of an Ops meeting thank goodness.

I wouldn't be surprised it pops into the p+p retreat somehow.

>>> Josée Touchette 1/3/2013 5:14:31 PM >>>
Spoke to Meena and she raised this - her understanding is that the NR will only be issued when we have the all-clear from the centre. Likely that the Jan 24 meeting will be the centre of gravity from which we'll plan for anncts, whether before or after.

>>> Barbara Senchuk 1/3/2013 5:10:51 PM >>>
For your approval. Ron, Sue and Anne have signed off. Anne has requested that the OCG and Deloitte also have a chance to see it before it goes out. I have alerted Josée's office that you will be reviewing.

>>> Sylvie Mercier 1/3/2013 5:06 PM >>>

Government of Canada Releases Results of a Comprehensive Audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (January 3, 2013) – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada today released the results of a comprehensive audit relating to the Attawapiskat First Nation.

In December 2011, a comprehensive audit was requested by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) due to concerns with the ongoing housing situation in the Attawapiskat First Nation community. This comprehensive audit covers the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2011-2012. It consists of an audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation to provide assurance that funding provided to the First Nation was spent for intended purposes and in compliance with the terms and conditions of all funding agreements signed with the Government of Canada; and, an internal audit of the AANDC management control framework, to understand how AANDC oversight measures for housing related to the Attawapiskat First Nation were applied during that same period.

The audit report work is now complete and has been reviewed by the AANDC Audit Committee, which is comprised of five members from outside the public service. It is now posted on the Department's website (link to report when live).

AANDC concurs with the recommendations of the independent auditor, Deloitte and Touche, and will explore mechanisms and opportunities for addressing the issues identified. AANDC is committed to working with the Attawapiskat First Nation to support improvements in overall financial management as well as to ensure compliance in future with funding agreements.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Minister's Office
Jan O'Driscoll
Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable John Duncan
819-997-0002

819-953-1160

Media Relations
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada

Pages 600 to / à 602

are not relevant

sont non pertinentes

Josée Touchette - Fw: Tr: FW: Letter to Govenor General from Chief Theresa Spence

From: Michael Wernick
To: Touchette, Josée <Josee.Touchette@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; colleen.swords@ain...
Date: 2013-01-16 12:46
Subject: Fw: Tr: FW: Letter to Govenor General from Chief Theresa Spence
Attachments: letter to GG Jan 15 2013.docx

>>> "Wallace, Stephen" <Stephen.Wallace@gg.ca> 1/16/2013 12:27:29 PM >>>
Please find attached a letter received by the Governor General from Chief Spence. In drafting our reply, any advice you may have would be most appreciated.

Warm regards,
Stephen Wallace

From: Cloutier, Annabelle
To: Wallace, Stephen
Sent: Wed Jan 16 10:09:05 2013
Subject: Tr: FW: Letter to Govenor General from Chief Theresa Spence

Voici la lettre en format electronique ainsi que le courriel et les coordonnÃ©es.

Annabelle

De : Info
Ã€ : Cloutier, Annabelle; Jaton, Patricia; Mousseau, Duncan
Cc : Morin, Antoine
EnvoyÃ© : Wed Jan 16 09:39:49 2013
Objet : FW: Letter to Govenor General from Chief Theresa Spence

Letter from Theresa Spence.

Gregory Kerr
Correspondence Clerk / Commis Ã la Correspondance
Office of the Secretary to the Governor General / Bureau du secrÃ©taire du gouverneur gÃ©nÃ©ral
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A1
Gregory.Kerr@gg.ca
Tel / TÃ©l 613-991-6659
Facsimile / TÃ©lÃ©copieur 613-998-8760
Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

s.19(1)

From: Clayton Thomas Kennedy [mailto:
Sent: January 15, 2013 4:45 PM
To: Info
Cc: Theresa Spence; Danny Matetewabin; bertie wapache
Subject: Letter to Govenor General from Chief Theresa Spence

s.19(1)

Afternoon
I attached a lettter for the Governor General from Chief Theresa Spence. As her partner I have forwarded the letter unsigned. I can be contacted by phone cell [redacted]
I would appreciated if this can be given to the Govenor General.
Thanks

Phone: (705) 997-2166

Fax: (705) 997-2116

ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION

P.O. Box 248
Attawapiskat, Ontario P0L 1A0

January 15, 2013

Governor General of Canada
Honorable David Johnston
Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A1

Dear Mr. Johnston;

It was a pleasure to be received by you and guests at the Great House January 11, 2013. I write this letter to stress the importance of the position that you hold in relation to the original treaties made with First Nations and the Crown and it is imperative that yourself and the Prime Minister be present at a meeting of all First Nation Chiefs to discuss concerns and renew the relationship with First Nations in Canada. This was requested and explained to you face to face by Chiefs and hunger strikers with honor, spirit and respect and the special value your position means to First Nations People.

I would like to go home with my family as would the other hunger strikers but feel we cannot. As requested I urge you to contact the Prime Minister to establish a meeting with all First Nation leaders and thus end our hunger strike.

There are immediate needs that our people require and that have been set out in prior Auditor General Reports relating to access to housing. Infrastructure provided through AANDC has been capped and funding agreements for housing operations underfunded; all of which are a necessity before developing subdivision housing. In addition AANDC controls the number of housing units available to First Nations followed by the need for a Ministerial Guarantee to approve CMHC mortgages. Chronic underfunding through AANDC has caused deficits that many First Nations face.

Set out below are other issues that need to be discussed with you and the Prime Minister of Canada:

1. **Frameworks and mandates for the implementation and enforcement of Treaties between Treaty parties Nation-to-Nation.**
2. **Reforming comprehensive claims policy based on inherent rights.**
3. **Resource sharing requiring the involvement of Provinces that currently reap all the royalties from Resource Development in our Traditional Lands.**
4. **A review of legislation C-38 and C-45 to ensure it is consistent with S35 of the Canadian Constitution.**
5. **A revised Fiscal relationship that is fair and sustainable removing arbitrary caps and includes indexing.**
6. **A National Public Commission of enquiry on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls.**
7. **Equity in capital construction of First Nation schools with funding parity with Provincial funding formulas.**

8. **A change in how government currently operates that should include direct oversight, a dedicated Cabinet Committee and Secretariat within the Privy Council Office with specific responsibility for the First Nation-Crown relationship to ensure implementation.**

From the outset our objective as hunger strikers was to achieve a meeting with you as Governor General, the Prime Minister and Chiefs for the purpose of tabling issues.
It was never our intent to meet with you, the Prime Minister and Chiefs as Hunger strikers.
With the utmost respect to you, I again urge you to contact the Prime Minister for a meeting with all First Nation Chiefs and yourself that allows the tabling of these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Theresa Spence
Attawapiskat First Nation

From: Brenda Kustra
To: Bernard Etzinger; Jean-François Tremblay; Josée Touchette; Michael We...
CC: Ron Hallman
Date: 2013-01-09 17:30
Subject: Re: Fwd: Friday Meeting at the Treaty Four Governance Centre
Attachments: Re: Fwd: Friday Meeting at the Treaty Four Governance Centre

additional note from Saskatchewan

Josée Touchette - Re: Fwd: Friday Meeting at the Treaty Four Governance Centre

From: Brenda Kustra
To: Riel Bellegarde <Riel.Bellegarde@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Ron Hallman <Ron.Ha...
Date: 2013-01-09 17:11
Subject: Re: Fwd: Friday Meeting at the Treaty Four Governance Centre

Thanks Riel.

>>> Riel Bellegarde 1/9/2013 5:10:49 PM >>>
Brenda this is what i raised on call

>>> Leslie Trobak 1/9/2013 4:05 PM >>>
As part of regional efforts to raise awareness among senior management team regarding upcoming events on Friday that coincide with the national meeting in Ottawa, below is an Idle No More event in Fort Qu'Appelle Treaty 4 Governance Centre. This is posted on the Idle No More website. Thanks to Cathy for spotting this one.:

Friday, January 11th, 2013.

The Idle No More founders and organizers are pleased to announce a one day national dialogue with Indigenous Chiefs including hereditary Chiefs to discuss Water, Land, Sovereignty and Treaty Relationships. We are also inviting 1 or 2 representatives from each community to join us.

The purpose of this one day event is to work towards understanding the grassroots movement known as Idle No More, and to gain the perspectives of Chiefs. This movement seeks to affirm self-determination and Indigenous sovereignty and protection of the land and water.

Outcome: a statement of understanding will be co-issued by the INM and the Chiefs in attendance.

When: Friday January 11, 2013

Time: 11:00am-4:00pm

Where: Ft. Qu'Appelle, Treaty 4 Governance Centre, Tipi room and by live streaming and virtual participation.

Contact: Jess Gordon
(jessicagordonconsulting@gmail.com)
Sylvia McAdam (smcadam03@yahoo.ca);
Nina Wilson (creethunder2001@yahoo.ca)

Pages 614 to / à 621

are duplicates

sont des duplicatas

From: Josée Touchette
To: Meena Ballantyne <meena.ballantyne@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-04 07:52
Subject: Re: Fw: Confidential/Time-sensitive FYI re Chief Theresa Spence hunger strike

Ack. Thx.

>>> "Ballantyne, Meena" <Meena.Ballantyne@pco-bcp.gc.ca> 1/3/2013 10:36:38 PM >>>
Fyi

----- Original Message -----
From: Charette, Janice
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 10:29 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Ballantyne, Meena; McCowan, Ian; Lilly, Meredith; McNamara, Joanne
Cc: Morgan, Ed; LeBlanc, Alfred
Subject: Fw: Confidential/Time-sensitive FYI re Chief Theresa Spence hunger strike

Please see message below from my Manitoba counterpart, fyi. Pls pass on to whomever you think needs to know.
Janice

----- Original Message -----
From: Eldridge, Jim [mailto:Jim.Eldridge@leg.gov.mb.ca]
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 10:20 PM
To: Charette, Janice; Quintal, Isabelle

s.13(1)(c)

[redacted]

Please pass on this information to whomever you feel should have it.

Many thanks, and may 2013 not be a year of too many surprises.

Best personal regards,
Jim Eldridge

Josée Touchette - Fwd: Transport Canada Contact Information as requested

From: Josée Villeneuve
To: Touchette, Josée
Date: 2013-01-03 09:51
Subject: Fwd: Transport Canada Contact Information as requested
Attachments: Immediate Notification UPDATE 19 First Nations Blockades for January 3, 2013

As requested. This is a TC lead.

Josee Villeneuve
Conseillère principale / Senior Advisor
Secteur des Politiques et orientation stratégique / Policy and Strategic Direction
Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint principal / Senior Assistant Deputy Minister's Office
Téléphone / Telephone : 819-994-7557
Courriel / E-mail : josee.villeneuve@ainc-inac.gc.ca

>>> Jean Fisk 1/3/2013 9:49 AM >>>
Hi Josée,

As requested, please find below the contact information for Transport Canada.

Please note that the most up-to-date information from the Government Operations Centre about blockades and other protest action was just sent to your SADM by EIMD. It is unlikely that Transport Canada would have anything new to add. Their latest update is attached.

Transport Canada EOC Line During "Idle No More"	**Centred'interventionQ-G@tc.gc.ca**	**1 866 827 3287**

Sorry for the delay. Please let us know if you require further assistance.

Jean Fisk
Emergency and Issue Management Directorate/Direction de la Gestion des urgences et des enjeux
Community Infrastructure Branch/ Direction Générale Des Infrastructures Communautaires
Regional Operations Sector/Secteur des Opérations régionales
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada/Affaires autochtones et développement du Nord canadien
Tel. 819-953-3500
Fax. 819-953-3594
jean.fisk@ainc-inac.gc.ca
EIMD Emergency Line/Ligne d'urgence de la DGUE: 819-997-6552
OPSCentreNOB@inac.gc.ca

Josée Touchette - Immediate Notification UPDATE 19 First Nations Blockades for January 3, 2013

From: Sitcen HQ - Centre d'intervention - AC <Centred'interventionQ-G@tc.gc.ca>
To: DL OTT SITCEN NOTIFICATION – IMMEDIATE INTERNAL<DLOTTIMMEDIATENOTIFICATI...
Date: 2013-01-03 09:21
Subject: Immediate Notification UPDATE 19 First Nations Blockades for January 3, 2013

DL – 2 – RELEASABLE TO AUTHORIZED FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS

UPDATE 19: First Nations Blockades for January3, 2013. (New information in red)

Ontario Region

Sarnia –The Sarnia blockade has been lifted as of midnight 2 January. Signals and engineering inspections were completed by 01:30 EST. CN will be moving goods non stop in order to get all the industries topped off. CN police will escort the trains through the reserve for the time being as all shipments are dangerous goods. (Source: Transport Canada Surface and Intermodal Security).

The following protests are anticipated on 5 January 2013:

- **Three Nations Crossing Bridge (Cornwall, ON)**
- **Blue Water Bridge (Sarnia, ON)**
- **Peace Bridge (Fort Erie, ON)**
- **Niagara Falls, ON, border crossing (possibly the Rainbow Bridge)**
- **Rail blockages are anticipated in the Tyendinaga area (will affect VIA Rail and CP Rail)**

Quebec Region

ViaRail Canada has advised that the blockade on Cascapedia subdivision (between Matapedia and Gaspé) has been cleared and tracks have been inspected. VIA Rail Train 16 will be in Matapedia around 09:30 - 10:00 EST this morning to receive passengers. No freight trains will be allowed through. (Source: Transport Canada Surface and Intermodal Security)

Via Rail Canada a indiqué que la manifestation sur la subdivision Cascapédia (entre Matapédia et Gaspé) est terminée et les voies ont été inspectées. Le train VIA 16 sera à Matapédia vers 9h30 – 10h00 HNE ce matin pour recevoir les passagers. Les trains de marchandises ne pourront pas passés. (Sûreté du transport terrestre et intermodal)

Prairie and Northern Region

No new information

Pacific Region

On 2 January 2013, hundreds of protesters descended on the lobby of Waterfront Station, a busy commuter hotspot where the SkyTrain, Canada Line and SeaBus meet downtown, to chant and

drum briefly before wrapping up at around 19:00 EST. (Source: Transport Canada Surface and Intermodal Security)

Synopsis: A number of First Nations blockades have been taking place since December 19th, 2012, in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Protests in Winnipeg, MN, Niagara Falls, ON and Edmonton, AB, (outside the Prime Minister's constituency office) are planned for today (December 31, 2012). Additional protests are planned for January 5th in Woodstock, ON, Fort Erie, ON, Niagara Falls, ON, Buffalo Narrows, SK, International Falls, MN, Hardisty, AB, and Vancouver, BC.

Source of reporting: *Transport Canada Surface and Intermodal Security (SIMS).*

Current Transport Canada Actions: Transport Canada is in contact with all federal partners as well as the Ontario Provincial Police.

Current Actions (other): Nil.

Initial analysis/impact assessment on Canadian Transportation System: Nil.

Notification provided to: DL OTT SITCEN NOTIFICATION – IMMEDIATE INTERNAL, RCMP NOC, Public Safety GOC, DND CJOC, AANDC, CP Police, TSA

Next Steps: Transport Canada will provide updates as necessary.

**This Information is preliminary and subject to change. Further, the information given for some occurrences may not have been verified / validated by TC. Therefore, caution should be used when using this information.

Josée Touchette - Re: For Approval - Letter to the Editor - Guardian (UK) - Attawapiskat/IdleNoMore

From: Josée Touchette
To: Schjott, Adam <Adam.Schjott@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
Date: 2013-01-02 18:40
Subject: Re: For Approval - Letter to the Editor - Guardian (UK) - Attawapiskat/IdleNoMore

Approved.

>>> Adam Schjott 1/2/2013 6:09:00 PM >>>
For approval please.

>>> Paul Warren 1/2/2013 6:01:25 PM >>>
For DMO approval
A/SADM RO approved. Content in red is derived from MO approved material. Original piece from the Guardian (UK) follows, below.
Thanks,
Paul

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

In regards to your January 2, 2013 article, "Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions," I would like to clarify a few points regarding the Government of Canada's support for the community of Attawapiskat and for First Nations across the country.

The Government of Canada is delivering concrete results for First Nation communities across Canada. Through targeted investments and strong partnerships, we are working to build a future in which First Nations are self-sufficient and prosperous, making their own decisions, managing their own affairs and making strong contributions to the country as a whole.

Since 2006, the Government of Canada has provided support to build over 10,000 new homes and renovated thousands more in First Nations across the country. We have provided funding to build over 30 new schools in First Nation communities and to renovate or repair more than 200 others. We have made significant investments in safe drinking water infrastructure, increased funding for child and family services by 25%, and settled over 80 outstanding land claims

Since 2011-2012, the federal government has provided Attawapiskat First Nation with $4.7 million in funding to address housing issues. Since 2006-2007, the $131 million total investment in that community includes $9.2 million for 17 new homes, 22 new modular homes, renovations to another 29 homes and 33 serviced lots.

We remain committed to assisting Attawapiskat First Nation in addressing long-term housing

challenges and we continue to urge community leaders to develop a housing strategy and set priorities for their community.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) is participating in the Attawapiskat First Nation Housing Strategy Working Group along with the First Nation, representatives of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council (MTC) and Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC), to further support the First Nation in developing its comprehensive community-based housing strategy.

This working group meets as required to develop a comprehensive, community-based housing strategy and is focusing its efforts on developing short- and long-term strategies to address housing for the residents of the Attawapiskat First Nation.

My department has committed to providing approximately $300,000 in 2012-2013 so that the First Nation can undertake emergency repairs needed to ensure that its trailer complex remains a warm, safe shelter for current residents this winter. We have also allocated $588,718 in core minor capital funding in 2012-2013 to address housing in Attawapiskat First Nation.

The Government of Canada respects its duty to consult with First Nations. Among the thousands of consultations conducted with First Nations every year, since 2010, I have personally visited 50 First Nations communities and had hundreds of productive meetings with chiefs, councillors and Aboriginal community members across Canada.

We will continue to work in partnership with First Nations to support strong, self-sufficient and more prosperous Aboriginal communities.

Hon. John Duncan,
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

>>>> HQ Inform 1/2/2013 10:38:55 AM >>>
> The Guardian (U.K)
>
> Rising anger of Canada's First Nations over living conditions
> Chronic underfunding of essential services and fears over land losses prompt
> Attawapiskat chief to go on hunger strike
>
> Chief Theresa Spence has been on hunger strike in a teepee across from
> parliament since 11 December. Photograph: Chris Wattie/Reuters
> When images of Canada's First Nations people living in mouldy shacks and
> frosty tents, without toilets or running water, emerged last year, Canadians
> were shocked.
>
> It was Canada's "Katrina moment" says Charlie Angus, New Democratic party
> member for Timmins-James Bay in north Ontario.
>
> Fast forward a year, and progress has been excruciatingly slow. The
> indigenous community only received 22 trailer homes to deal with the housing
> crisis. A construction trailer with three bathrooms and a kitchen still
> caters for around 50 people, according to Angus.
>
> As a result, the chief of the Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, has been on a

> hunger strike living in a teepee across from parliament since 11 December as
> winter descends on Canada's capital, Ottawa. She says she is willing to die
> for her people if the Queen and the prime minister, Stephen Harper, don't
> meet Canada's indigenous chiefs to discuss the treaty rights they signed with
> the crown.
>
> Many of Canada's aborigines live in what can only be described as developing
> world conditions.
>
> Chronic underfunding of essential social services and complete collapse of
> infrastructure on reserves results in high mortality, unemployment, substance
> abuse, suicide and incarceration.
>
> Early development is obstructed for children on reserves by a bureaucratic
> financial hole that gives 30% to 50% less educational funding than to other
> Canadian youngsters.
>
> Unrest is growing among Canada's First Nations as the conservative
> government makes sweeping changes to environmental protections and the Indian
> Act which many fear will fast-track the absolute surrender of indigenous
> territory, terminate treaty rights and endanger land and water in favour of
> economic gain.
>
> The past two weeks has seen the largest series of nationwide protests in two
> decades, and on Friday a grassroots-led campaign under the Twitter hashtag
> #IdleNoMore will see thousands in over a dozen cities across Canada, the US
> and UK take to the streets and call on Harper and Governor General David
> Johnston to enter negotiations with Spence.
>
> Pamela Palmater, lawyer, professor and director of the Centre for Indigenous
> Governance, believes the unprecedented changes to legislation combined with
> drastic cuts to native organisations will open up Canada's indigenous lands
> to mineral extraction sell-offs to China.
>
> The spokesman for the minister of Aboriginal affairs and northern
> development was asked what consultation process was conducted with First
> Nations before amending the Indian Act. Jason MacDonald didn't specify, but
> said the government conducts "over 5,000 consultations with First Nations"
> every year.
>
> First Nations chiefs across Canada disagree and after more than 250 of them
> wanting to discuss the budget bill were denied entry to the house of commons
> in early December, some rallied behind a grassroots campaign, Idle No More.
>
> Angus says that frustration and anger has built up for a long time as
> communities feel they are moving backwards while the government's attitude is
> increasingly dismissive and derogatory, "like a colonial power treating First
> Nations like a hostage population".
>
> The budget bill dismantles a 130-year-old environmental law removing from
> federal oversight 99.7% of Canada's 32,000 major lakes and over 99.9% of
> Canada's more than 2.25m rivers.
>
> This will disproportionately affect First Nations, as decades of
> underfunding and neglect have left 73% of all water systems and 65% of waste
> water systems on reserves at medium to high risk.

>
> The government can dismantle environmental protections, but First Nations
> still have constitutionally protected rights to be consulted and accommodated
> on any developments that could cause irreversible damage to their land.
>
> Earlier this year the government signed Angus's motion to close the funding
> gap between aboriginal children and the rest of Canadian children and
> Attawapiskat is set to get a new school 12 years after the previous one
> closed.
>
> Meanwhile, plans to build 30 houses this summer did not get a green light
> from the minister of Aboriginal affairs and northern development, John
> Duncan, whose press officer said they had made repeated offers to assist, but
> "the community has yet to submit a housing plan, nor are there any lots ready
> for any homes to be installed".
>
> Rather than provide state-of-emergency assistance last year, Duncan removed
> Spence's council's financial authority, blamed the housing crisis on its
> financial mismanagement, and placed them in third-party management, a move
> later ruled unreasonable by the federal court.
>
> As Spence approaches week three of her hunger strike, and indigenous people
> across the country and people as far away as Egypt and the UK have fasted in
> solidarity, there is little indication that Harper will meet her, portending
> turbulent times ahead.
>
>

Josée Touchette - Re: Idle no More: Update on CN Rail blockade in Sarnia

From: Margaret Buist
To: Sara Filbee <Sara.Filbee@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Sophie Radecki <Sophie.Rade...
Date: 2013-01-02 12:05
Subject: Re: Idle no More: Update on CN Rail blockade in Sarnia
CC: Daryl Hargitt <Daryl.Hargitt@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Christopher Horton <Chr...

Our research in HQ was completed over the last couple of days.

>>> Sara Filbee 1/2/2013 12:02:18 PM >>>
Agreed - thanks

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/2/2013 11:25 AM >>>
Given that this is apparently in court today (link http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2013/01/02/contempt-of-court-charges-laid-against-sarnia-blockade-for-not-shutting-it-down/), please ensure that the draft is in RDGO by end of day please. If the next steps include further research then that's fair ball, but we need to outline clearly what we know and what needs further research, including potential DoJ work. Thanks very much.

>>> Sophie Radecki 1/2/2013 11:13 AM >>>
Shannon has his team working on this. Will advise once I see a copy.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/2/2013 10:44 AM >>>
Shannon/Sophie/Margaret - do we have a draft almost ready to go through approvals? Thanks.

>>> Sara Filbee 12/28/2012 1:59 PM >>>
Thx!

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 12/28/2012 1:27:48 PM >>>Shannon, please ensure the information is in note format as requested and run through ESC for proper processing. Does anyone know who met with the Mayor and what the results/commitments were? Thanks

>>> Sara Filbee 12/28/2012 12:00:44 PM >>>Agree thx

>>> Margaret Buist 12/28/2012 11:59:27 AM >>>Region has the details gathered so far on the property. So they should start any note. HQ will work with them on the further research needed in the next few days. Not sure who was on the call with the City.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 11:56:17 AM >>>Hi
I think it should be put together in a note format - this issue is going to be with us for a while so we should have a handy summary that can easily be provided to folks who are requesting information.
Is this something that LED could do?
Thanks
Gail

>>> Sara Filbee 2012-12-28 11:41 >>>
so who is responding to Colleen - do you want me to forward this or can you put it together including the

results of the 11 am tc with the Mayor
thanks
Sara

>>> Margaret Buist 12/28/2012 11:34 AM >>>
Sara forwarded the one I sent previously to Colleen. I have a bit more technical detail and maps should Colleen wish those but not the salient details re previous grants and matching land descriptions to the surveys to determine if the land the rail line crosses over remains reserve or not.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 11:27:41 AM >>>
Thanks,
Will your folks put this information together in a short email to respond to Colleen's question? Please advise.
Thanks
Gail

>>> Margaret Buist 2012-12-28 11:25 >>>
The railway has had a right of way since 1948 subject to previous grants. These grants are what require research as well as comparing the land descriptions in the right of way and any grants to the surveys. This research will tell us whether the land through which the rail passes remained reserve or not.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 11:11:02 AM >>>
Hi Margaret

So, in response to the quote below from a member of the band, the department is saying that CN has a right of way, but that there may not be a permit to cross the land and we aren't sure about the status of the land? Further research is required. Have I got that right?

Thanks
Gail

"The rail line where we are standing is illegally on our property. They don't have a permit to cross our road, and they need a permit from both the band and Indian Affairs Canada," Plain explained. "That's why we've chosen that spot to take our stand."

Read more: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/attawapiskat-chief-s-hunger-strike-enters-3rd-week-as-protests-mount-1.1092627#ixzz2GMaxHYqr

>>> Margaret Buist 2012-12-28 11:04 >>>
Region and HQ are conducting research on the rail line and reserve lands. The rail has a right of way. We will need to review historical records likely at Library and Archives to determine if the land in question is still reserve land or not. We have some correspondence on file from 2009 from the FN to the railway company expressing concern about the history of the land but nothing since. There appear to be no specific claims involved. We have staff on holidays this week but can work on the historical research right after new year's. It is detailed research and will require some time.

>>> Leea Litzgus 12/28/2012 10:32:57 AM >>>
Just spoke to Shannon again he his doing his best to get something before 11:00am.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 10:29:11 AM >>>
Hi
Apparently there is a call with the Mayor of Sarnia at 11 this morning. would be important to have answers to the questions about the rail line and status of the CN right of way.
Thanks
Gail

>>> Leea Litzgus 2012-12-28 09:29 >>>
Shannon, we need a clear answer asap. Thank you, Leea

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 8:50:22 AM >>>
See below.

>>> Colleen Swords 12/28/2012 8:49:02 AM >>>
Any answer yet?

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/27/2012 3:16:33 PM >>>
We are on it.

>>> Colleen Swords 2012-12-27 15:09 >>>
Could you clarify with Ont Region what the status is of this rail line- chief says illegally on their land and note refs to permits that CN does not have. If this is incorrect we will need to correct it.

>>> HQ Inform 12/27/2012 2:21:27 PM >>>
CN Seeking Court Order to End Rail Blockade
CBC Radio One Windsor

Sarnia blockade organizers want more than promises
CTVNews.ca Staff

Rail blockade may lead to plant shutdowns
Bloomberg News; With Files From The Canadian Press

First Nation blockade of CN track in Sarnia, Ont., appears peaceful
Canadian Press
December 26, 2012

First Nations rail blockade and protest to expand to Sault Ste Marie
680News staff Dec 27, 2012

CN Seeking Court Order to End Rail Blockade
CBC Radio One Windsor

CN Rail is expected in court today, seeking a new court order to end a line blockade near Sarnia. The Aamjiwnaang First Nation blockade of the CN Rail line there began last friday as part of the national Idol no More protests to pressure the federal government to meet and discuss first nation issues. CN Rail got a court order last week, but officials say it was too broad for Sarnia police to enforce.

Sarnia blockade organizers want more than promises
CTVNews.ca Staff
Published Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012 8:25AM EST

First Nations protesters blocking a CN Rail line in Sarnia, Ont. for a seventh day Thursday are vowing not to leave until long after Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.

Ron Plain, a member of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation who`s acting as a spokesperson for the blockade, says their actions and the entire Idle No More movement is about more than securing more promises.

Our position here in Aamjiwnaang is not just about getting a meeting with the prime minister; it`s about following through on the commitments that are made when that meeting takes place, Plain told CTV's Canada AM from Sarnia.

Read more: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/sarnia-blockade-organizers-want-more-than-promises-1.1092627#ixzz2GGSMc2Wt
Last year, as you recall, Attawapiskat (First Nation in northern Ontario) was promised the world when everybody showed up at their door. None of those promises were fulfilled. What we are saying here in Aamjiwnaang is that we will keep the blockade up until we see that the promises that are going to be made are being fulfilled.

The week-old blockade is currently blocking a rail line that runs through Aamjiwnaang to several chemical and refining plants in what's been dubbed Chemical Valley. A court injunction has been issued to end the blockade, but Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley has said that so long as the demonstration is peaceful, police won't interfere.

Plain says the blockade doesn`t affect the agriculture industry not does it impact the public.

The rail line where we are standing is illegally on our property. They don't have a permit to cross our road, and they need a permit from both the band and Indian Affairs Canada, Plain explained. That's why we've chosen that spot to take our stand.

The blockade is earning a surprising amount of support from Sarnia residents, says Plain, noting many have come out to show their support, despite a snowstorm this week.

It`s been really surprising, he said. The member of Parliament from Guelph came by yesterday with hot chocolate and sweets. Complete strangers are dropping off Christmas presents. Someone came by dressed as Santa for the kids The Sarnia Police are bringing us coffee and in fact, one sat down with one of the drums and for a few songs.

So the mood of the people outside of the reserve and into the main population of Sarnia seems to be one of support.

Plain says many members of the blockade are taking inspiration from Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who is now in her third week of a hunger strike to bring attention to aboriginal issues.

She has been living in a teepee on an island in the Ottawa River since Dec. 11, subsisting on water, medicine tea and fish broth. She wants to organize a meeting with Harper, the governor general and First Nations leaders to discuss First Nations rights and treaties.

On Wednesday, Spence met with Liberal MP Justin Trudeau, who tweeted a photo with

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are not relevant

sont non pertinentes



Chief Theresa Spence – Attawapiskat - Ontario

Community represented

Chief Theresa Spence is the current chief of Attawapiskat First Nation, located in northern Ontario on the west coast of James Bay,

Community Profile

The Attawapiskat First Nation is a member of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council and a member of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. It has a population of 3,554 (1,880 on reserve and 1,455 off reserve).

The Attawapiskat First Nation is situated close to the De Beers Canada diamond mine and has an impact benefit agreement with De Beers. However, socio-economic conditions in the community have not improved (e.g. youth suicide, prescription drug abuse).

Perspectives

Hunger Strike: On December 11, 2012, Chief Spence began a hunger strike which she said would last until the Prime Minister and a representative of the Queen agrees to a meeting on Treaty issues. She has said that she will end her hunger strike depending on the outcomes of the January 11, 2012 working meeting with the Prime Minister and select Ministers. She is currently the face of the Idle No More campaign.

Housing: Attawapiskat First Nation declared a state of emergency in November 2011, over housing conditions in the community. The declaration received a significant amount of domestic and international media coverage. The declaration remains in effect.

School Project: A new elementary school is under construction in the community. The Department has approved the projected cost of $31,116,050. The project team has targeted the 2013-2014 school year for the completion of construction.

Third Party Management: In November 2011, the Attawapiskat First Nation was placed in third party management due to serious health and safety concerns. In April 2012, third party management was rescinded and the First Nation returned to co-management. In August 2012, the Federal Court ruled that the decision to appoint a third-party manager was unreasonable, and that the appointment was contrary to law.

From: OntarioESC
To: ONBrantford; ONSudbury; ONThunderBay; ONToronto
CC: Newslink Subscribers
Date: 1/4/2013 12:00 PM
Subject: **Noon Hour **ONTARIO NEWSLINK *****Prime Minister Harper***** to meet First Nation leaders Friday January 11, 2013 - Friday January 4, 2013

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National and Aboriginal News

Harper to meet with First Nations leaders on January 11.
Prime Minister Stephen Harper has agreed to meet with First Nations leaders next Friday, a move that may end the 25-day hunger strike currently being carried out by Chief Theresa Spence. Spence, chief of the Attawapiskat First Nation, will be welcome to take part in the meeting so long as the Assembly of First Nations supports her attendance, said CTV's Ottawa Bureau Chief Robert Fife. The meeting will focus on treaty rights and economic development within First Nations communities.
Read more: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/harper-to-meet-with-first-nations-leaders-on-jan-11-1.1100774#ixzz2H1bddcEX

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces meeting with First Nations leadership. (Ottawa, Ontario)

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement on a planned meeting with a delegation of First Nations leaders coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations:

"On January 24, 2012, I was pleased to participate in the historic Crown-First Nations Gathering. On that day, the Government of Canada and First Nations committed to making progress in the following areas:

Improving relationships and strong partnerships between Canada and First Nations respectful of Aboriginal and Treaty rights as recognized and affirmed in the Constitution Act, 1982;

Building effective, appropriate, transparent and fully accountable governance structures;

Empowering success of individuals through access to education and opportunity;

Enabling strong, sustainable, and self-sufficient communities;

Creating conditions to accelerate economic development opportunities and maximize benefits for all Canadians;

Respecting the role of First Nations' culture and language in our history and future.

"The Government and First Nations committed at the Gathering to maintaining the relationship through an ongoing dialogue that outlines clear goals and measures of progress and success. While some progress has been made, there is more that must be done to improve outcomes for First Nations communities across Canada.

"It is in this spirit of ongoing dialogue that, together with Minister Duncan, I will be participating in a working meeting with a delegation of First Nations leaders coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations on January 11, 2013. This working meeting will focus on two areas flowing from the Gathering: the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights, and economic development.

"The Government of Canada and First Nations have an enduring historic relationship based on mutual respect, friendship and support. The Government of Canada is committed to strengthening this relationship."

Le Premier ministre Stephen Harper annonce la tenue d'une rencontre avec les dirigeants des Premières Nations4 janvier 2013
Ottawa (Ontario)

Le Premier ministre Stephen Harper a fait la déclaration suivante aujourd'hui au sujet d'une rencontre prévue avec une délégation de dirigeants des Premières Nations coordonnée par l'Assemblée des Premières Nations :

« Le 24 janvier 2012, j'ai eu le plaisir de participer à la Rencontre historique entre

la Couronne et les Premières Nations. Ce jour-là, le gouvernement du Canada et les Premières Nations se sont engagés à réaliser des progrès relativement aux objectifs suivants :

Améliorer les relations et renforcer les partenariats entre le Canada et les Premières Nations, dans le respect des droits autochtones et issus des traités reconnus dans la Loi constitutionnelle de 1982;

Établir des structures de gouvernance efficaces, appropriées, transparentes et pleinement responsables;

Favoriser le succès d'individus par l'accès à l'éducation et à des perspectives d'avenir;

Habiliter les communautés de manière à les rendre fortes, viables et autosuffisantes;

Mettre en place les conditions qui accéléreront les possibilités de développement économique et maximiseront les bénéfices pour tous les Canadiens;

Respecter le rôle que jouent les cultures et les langues autochtones dans notre histoire et notre avenir.

« Lors de la Rencontre, le gouvernement et les Premières Nations se sont engagés à entretenir leurs relations au moyen d'un dialogue dans lequel sont clairement énoncés les objectifs poursuivis et le système de mesure des progrès et des réussites. Nous avons fait des progrès, mais nous devons en faire davantage afin d'améliorer les perspectives des communautés des Premières Nations dans l'ensemble du Canada.

« C'est dans cet esprit de dialogue permanent que je participerai, en compagnie du ministre Duncan, à une réunion de travail avec une délégation de dirigeants des Premières Nations coordonnée par l'Assemblée des Premières Nations le 11 janvier 2013. Cette réunion de travail sera axée sur deux domaines découlant de la Rencontre : les relations fondées sur les traités et les droits des peuples autochtones, ainsi que le développement économique.

« Le gouvernement du Canada et les Premières Nations entretiennent des relations durables fondées sur le respect mutuel, l'amitié et le soutien. Le gouvernement du Canada est résolu à renforcer ces relations. »

Harper to meet with First Nations chiefs Jan. 11.
Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike now in 25th day. Atleo

asks PM, GG to commit to urgent AFN treaty meeting.
(CBC News)

As Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike continues for its 25th day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office has announced that he will attend a "working meeting" with a delegation of First Nations chiefs on Jan. 11.

"This working meeting will focus on two areas flowing from the [2012 Crown-First Nations] Gathering: the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights and economic development," said a release issued Friday morning by the prime minister's office. "While some progress has been made, there is more that must be done to improve outcomes for First Nations communities across Canada."

On Thursday evening, an Assembly of First Nations effort to broker an end to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike and address the Idle No More protest movement appeared to have stalled, with Spence saying she can't sustain her hunger strike until the chiefs' previously-proposed Jan. 24 talks with the prime minister and Governor General.

Early Friday morning, a news release issued by Spence -- who, despite frigid temperatures, remains camped out with her supporters on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River between downtown Ottawa and Gatineau, Que. -- says that as the 25th day of her hunger strike begins, "her message is becoming more crucial."

"This is a crisis, and we cannot continue on this path of social indifference," Spence says in the release, reiterating her call for an "urgent" meeting on the implementation of treaties between First Nations and the Crown.

On Thursday, Spence's camp said this meeting needs to happen within 72 hours and suggested protests across Canada sympathetic to her cause could escalate.

Shawn Atleo, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, brushes off questions from reporters as he makes his way to a meeting with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence on Thursday. (Sean Kilpatrick/Canadian Press)Friday's statement quoted Spence spokesman Danny Metatawabin as saying the chief "cannot physically sustain her hunger strike" until Jan. 24, a meeting date proposed earlier by the Assembly of First Nations, which is calling for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston to meet with chiefs from across Canada on the first anniversary of their 2012 Crown-First Nations gathering.

Andrew MacDougall, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's spokesman, said on Twitter late Thursday that the prime minister would reply to the AFN's urgent

invitation to meet "in due course." His response mirrored one received from Rideau Hall earlier in the day also saying the Governor General would reply to the invitation "in due course."

National Chief Shawn Atleo and other regional chiefs from northern Ontario were on Victoria Island Thursday, meeting with Spence in an apparent effort to broker some sort of compromise solution that could respond to demands without further endangering anyone's physical well-being. Atleo said little as he left, however, apparently unsuccessful in his efforts.

It's not clear whether Spence would even accept a meeting between national chiefs and the prime minister as an adequate response to her demands, but it appears Spence could attend the Jan.11 talks.

Atleo has been meeting with officials from the prime minister's office behind the scenes in an effort to address not only Spence's hunger strike but the concerns of the Idle No More protest movement more generally.

Some involved with the movement have suggested theirs is a grassroots protest and the elected national chiefs cannot represent their interests because they are part of the system that has failed them in the past.

Protests escalate

Spence is not alone on her hunger strike. Cross Lake, Man., elder Raymond Robinson has also gone without food since Dec. 11.

The CBC's Adrienne Arsenault reports that while Spence is weak and reporting some pain, she remains upbeat and takes a daily walk with her friends and supporters.

Arsenault says Robinson is not faring as well, telling her yesterday that he's lost more than 30 pounds and is having trouble standing up straight because of his pain.

In a separate development, a release issued Friday morning by the Sikniktuk Mi'kmaq Rights Coalition in New Brunswick said the group has notified the RCMP that it plans to block CN Rail trains from transporting goods along the Highway 126 rail line in Adamsville, N.B., between now and Monday.

The release says the chosen location is a historical trading post where Mi'kmaq people bartered their handmade baskets for goods with local settlers.

Previously, Mi'kmaq protesters from Elsipogtog held a four-day traffic slow down

along Highway 11. The group is calling for recent federal legislation to be abolished or stopped, saying it infringes on their treaty rights and human rights.

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Charlie Angus + Stan Loutitt Press Conference.
(A full transcript is on order)

>> Nancy: We take you live to a news conference where Charlie Angus and Aboriginal leaders are commenting on the hunger strike and the news the Prime Minister is willing to meet with the Aboriginal leaders.

>>Charlie Angus: The awareness in Canada is how did we get to this point? How did we get to a moment where we had not one, not two, not three, but four people on hunger strikes and mass demonstrations across the country and rallies and blockades and a sense of frustration and a sense of a breach in the relationship with the First Nations people in this country. I think all of us have to look in the mirror and say why is it in 2013 that this breach has occurred. Our concern is for the health of the hunger strikers. Four weeks now we are get together danger zone. Our call to the Prime Minister is to show good faith here, understand that this is not a sign of weakness to meet. Repairing the breach in our relationship and the building of Canada is the role of a Prime Minister. That's the job of a leader at a tough time. If it's a chance for us to support this kind of dialogue between First Nations communities and the Prime Minister and the government of Canada and the Crown, then Canada will be a better place in 2013. At the end of the day it has to be said whatever your political viewpoints are, relations with the First Nations has reached a point where it's untenable. So many people are so visibly left behind. We spoke with Chief Spence yesterday. We urged her, we are concerned about her health. We also asked for the government to show a sign they are willing to meet and, thanks to the great work of National Chief Shawn Atleo, at the end of the day this issue is not going to go away and we are asking at this point for a sense of goodwill on all parties.

>>Stan Loutitt: Day 25 without eating is medically -- is showing results on Chief Spence. Though she is in good spirits and is upbeat, you can tell there is a toll on her well being, and time is of the essence in terms of getting a meeting and dialogue with the Prime Minister. There is a life on the line and it's very, very critical. What brought us to this stage, like MP Charlie Angus indicated, why is Chief Spence conducting a hunger strike? Why is she putting her life on the line on these issues that are very, very important to her? Part of it has to do with frustration. You try to make amends. You try to make the quality of life better but it falls on deaf ears, or takes years and years and years to deal with a particular issue in a community. Take for instance, over a year ago the Attawapiskat First Nation declared a state of emergency due to their housing. What did the

government do? Instead they told them you are mismanaging, you are not doing this right. You have to look after your own affairs. As you know, the court of law overruled that and they found that in fact the Minister had no right to do what he did. That emergency is still in effect, the community has not lifted that emergency. In a lot of our communities, there is no economy. There is no revenue besides the grants coming from the government. Why is that? Because we are put in a box called a reserve where we have no say in what happens outside of that box. A mining company can open up a mine 10 feet outside the reserve and make millions of dollars and they don't have any obligation to sit with that community 10 feet away from them and say we'll share in the revenues. There is no law that makes them to be able to come to that table. We want to share in the economy and share in the wealth of our lands. It means revenue sharing. These are the things the Chief asked me to talk about. She wants revenue sharing so our communities can prosper so we can grow and there can be things for the young people and things for the youth. We'll have nice housing, too, just like you do, so maybe we'll have nicer roads into the future. And we can't do that the way things are right now. How do we get to that point? We are asking the Prime Minister, let's get together, let's talk about the relationship that was forged between your forefathers and our forefathers. The treaty is as relevant today as it was then. It's the foundation of the relationship with the government. That's why it's important for the Chief to have a face-to-face discussion with the Prime Minister to open that dialogue to talk about the treaty and all these things will come out of that -- will be part of that discussion in terms of the economy, revenue sharing. Our land, education, everything falls into that. That's why it's very, very important and we are not going to shut the door on that. It will happen now, it will happen into the future, and we need to talk about it. We need to do public education. How many people in here know about the treaty or what a treaty is? We need to reach out and tell you about it. We need to dialogue. There has got to be a two-way dialogue because it's very, very important. That way you learn, that way we learn and together we prosper, together we get better and foster relationships. That's what the Chief wants. You are going to hear about it today and you will hear about it into the future. Her will to stay on course is strong. Outwardly she looks well, but I don't know what may be going on inwardly. I can only pray that she'll be well enough if the Prime Minister -- if in fact the meeting will happen soon. I dare say, that gesture is saving the life of a nation leader.

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Idle No More Protests for Saturday January 5, 2013
Idle No More march takes to 403 Saturday.
An aboriginal protester waves a flag during an Idle No More rally at Hamilton City Hall on Dec. 22.
Local supporters of the Idle No More movement are staging a march on Highway

403 in Hamilton Saturday afternoon. It's one of a number of protests planned for Jan. 5 across the country, including at the Queenston/Lewiston bridge and the Peace Bridge between Fort Erie and Buffalo. The grassroots movement broke out last month in support of Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike in Ottawa. She wants a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper to address disparities between First Nations and the rest of Canada.
http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/864058--idle-no-more-march-takes-to-403-saturday

Police ready for traffic delays for Idle No More protest in Timmins. The Timmins Police Service (TPS) has been informed of possible Idle No More peaceful protests within the City of Timmins on Saturday, January 5, 2013. Police say such protest activities may interrupt the normal flow of traffic. TPS reports it is working with those involved to minimize the impact on the traveling public and to ensure order and public safety.
**THE TIMMINS POLICE SERVICE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE JANUARY 5TH PROTEST LOCATION. DLE NO MORE WILL BE PROTESTING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY IN THE AREA OF HWY. 101 WEST - WEST OF GOVERNMENT ROAD BETWEEN 12 NOON AND 4:00 P.M.
http://www.timminstimes.com/2013/01/03/police-preparing-for-traffic-delays-for-idle-no-more-protest-in-timmins

Idle No More Ceremony Planned for US-Canada Border January 5, 2013.
(David P. Ball January 04, 2013)
With the Idle No More movement rapidly spreading outside Canada's borders - seeing Indigenous rights protests emerge as far away as Texas, New Zealand, New York and the United Kingdom - activists in Washington State and British Columbia are planning an action Saturday, January 5th that literally spans the frontier.
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/idle-no-more-ceremony-planned-us-canada-border-january-5-146738

B.C. First Nations leader looks to border rally, predicts more rail blockades.
(Category: NEWS Created on Thursday, 03 January 2013 13:28 Published Date By The Canadian Press)
KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs believes the Idle No More movement will continue to gain momentum, and he's preparing for a weekend rally at a major border crossing south of Vancouver.
http://www.firstperspective.ca/news/2805-bc-first-nations-leader-looks-to-border-rally-predicts-more-rail-blockades

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TRANSCRIPTION/TRANSCRIPTION
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DATE/DATE: January 4, 2013 11:00 a.m.
LOCATION/ENDROIT: NPT, OTTAWA, ON
PRINCIPAL(S)/PRINCIPAUX: Charlie Angus, NDP MP
Stan Louttit, Grand Chief
Alvin Fiddler, Deputy Grand Chief
Gilles Bisson, NDP MPP
Danny Metatawabin
SUBJECT/SUJET: NDP MP Charlie Angus, joined by National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Shawn Atleo, Grand Chief Stan Louttit, Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, a representative of Theresa Spence and NDP MPP Gilles Bisson, holds a news conference to discuss Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike.

Moderator: Hi everyone. Welcome to the National Press Theatre.

Bonjour tout le monde. Bienvenue au Théâtre national de la presse.

We are joined today by a couple of people. I will name them for you. NDP MP Charlie Angus, Grand Chief Stan Louttit, Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Danny Metatawabin and NDP MPP Gilles Bisson. If you have a question, raise your hand, I will do my best to acknowledge you, not all at the same time. And we will start with Mr. Angus. Go ahead please.

Charlie Angus: Good morning. We thank you for coming this morning. As you're probably aware, yesterday a group of northern leaders came down to meet with Chief Theresa Spence to determine the state of her health, to meet with you, also to meet with Grand Chief, National Chief Shawn Atleo about steps forward. So I'm proud that the representatives from our region were able to come down, as many of you probably know, Grand Chief Stan Louttit from the James Bay region, and Alvin Fiddler, who's done great work in our region, represents the Treaty 9 territories, of which Attawapiskat is part. Myself, Gilles Bisson and I are also the elected representatives and elected by people in Attawapiskat. Danny Metatawabin is here this morning, who will talk about the health of, of Chief Theresa Spence.

The, there is news out there apparently that the Prime Minister has agreed to a meeting with First Nation leaders. We take that as a, as a hopeful sign, as a good sign. We don't know any of the details yet so we can't really comment on how far this will go.

I think what we want to make clear this morning is having met Chief Theresa Spence and hunger striker Ray Robinson yesterday is the awareness in Canada is how did we get to this point? How did we get to a moment when we had not one, not two, not three, but four people on hunger strikes and mass demonstrations across this country, rallies,

blockades, a sense of frustration and a sense of a breach in the relationship between Canadians and First Nation people in this country that we've never seen before.

And I don't think any of us has the simple answer to how we got here or where we need to go, but I think all of us have to look in the mirror and say what is it in 2013 that this kind of breach has occurred? Our concern of course is for the health of the hunger strikers. At four, four weeks now is, we're getting into the danger zone so our call to the Prime Minister is to show good faith here. Understand that this is not a sign of weakness to meet, that repairing the breach in our relationship and building of Canada is the role of a Prime Minister. That is the job of a leader in a tough time. And if it's a chance for us to support this kind of dialogue between First Nation communities and the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada and the Crown, then Canada will be a better place in 2013.

I think at the end of the day, it has to be said, whatever your political viewpoints are, is that the situation in First Nation communities across this country has reached a point where it is untenable, that in a country as rich as ours, so many people are being so visibly left behind.

We spoke for a good time with Chief Spence yesterday. We urged her, we're concerned about her health. We also asked for the government to show a sign that they're willing to meet. And, and thanks also to the great work of National Chief Shawn Atleo, who was with us, who met, who's trying to do some negotiations. So maybe this can be the beginning of a, of a, of a new dialogue. We're hopeful, but at the end of the day, this issue's not going to go away and we're asking at this point for a sense of, of good will on all parties.

Stan Louttit: Thank you Charlie and good morning everybody of the, of the press. Day 25 without eating is, medically is, is showing results on, on Chief Spence. When we met with her yesterday, though she's in good spirits and, and talks upbeat about, about things, you can tell that there's a toll on, on her, on her well-being. And time again is of the essence in terms of getting a meeting and a dialogue with the, with the Prime Minister. There's a life on the line and it's very, very critical.

And what brought us to this stage? Like MP Charlie Angus indicated, why is Chief Spence conducting a hunger strike? Why does, why is she putting her life on the line on the, on these issues that are very, very important, important to her and to many, many Chiefs and people across this country? Part of it has to do with frustration. You try to make amends, you try to do things with the, with the government in terms of making our quality of life a little bit better than, than what it is, but a lot of times, it falls on deaf ears or it takes years and years and years and years to deal with a particular issue in a community.

Take for instance over a year ago, the Attawapiskat First Nation declared a state of emergency due to the state of their housing and, and the community. That's over a year ago. And what did the government do? Instead, instead they, they told them you're mismanaging, you're not doing this, this right, you can't look after your own affairs, we're

coming in. As you know, a court of law overruled that and they, they, they found that in fact, the Minister had no right to do what he did.

At any rate, that emergency is still in effect. The community has not lifted that emergency. In a lot of our communities, there's no economy, there's no, there's no revenue besides the grants coming from the government. And why is that? Because we're put in a box called a reserve where we have no, no say in terms of what happens outside of that box. A mining company can open up a mine 10 feet outside of that reserve and make millions of dollars and they don't have any obligation to, to sit with that community 10 feet away from them to say we'll, we'll share in our revenues. There's no law, nothing that makes them come, to be able to come to that table.

So we want to be able to share in the economy, share in the wealth of our, of our lands. And it means revenue sharing. These are the things that the Chief asked me to talk about. She, she wants revenue sharing so that our communities can, can prosper, so that we can grow, so there could be things for the young people, there could be things for the, for the youth. We'll have nice housing, housing too, just like you do. So that maybe we'll have nicer roads as well into the future. And we can't do that the way things are right now.

So how do we, how do we get to that point? How do we get to that point? We're asking the Prime Ministers let's get together. Let's talk about the relationship that was forged between your forefathers and our forefathers over 100 years ago. And the Prime Minister might say well, that was 100 years ago. Why don't we talk about today and not talk about that? That's old. But the treaty of 1905 in our case is as relevant today as it was then because it is the foundation of a relationship with the Crown. It is the foundation of the relationship with the government. And that's why it's important for, for the, for the Chief to, to have a, have a face to face, have a discussion with the Prime Minister to open that dialogue once again, to talk about the treaty.

And all these things will come out, out of that will be part of that discussion in terms of the econy, economy, revenue shar, sharing, our lands, education. Everything falls into that box. That's why it's very, very important. And we're certainly not going to shut the door on that. It'll, it'll happen now, it'll happen into the, into the future. And we need to, we need to talk about it. We need to do public education. How many people in here know about the treaty or what a treaty is? How many people in the country, in Ottawa, in, in Ontario know what a treaty is and what it's all about?

We need to reach out, we need to tell you about it. We need to dialogue. I mean, there's got to be a two-way dialogue in regards to the treaty cause it's very, very important. That way, you learn. That way, we learn. And together we prosper, together we get better, together we foster relationships. That's what we want to do and that's what the Chief, and that's what Chief, the Chief wants. Very, very important. You're going to hear about it today and you're going to hear about it into the, into the, into the future.

Chief Spence asked me to relay to you that she's, her, her will to stay on the course is

strong. I don't know, outwardly she looks well, but I don't know what's going on inwardly. I can only pray that she'll be, she'll be well enough and that the Prime Minister, if in fact a meeting's going to happen soon, hopefully that happens and I, I dare say that that gesture is saving the life of a, of a nation leader. (Native language)

Danny Metatawabin: First of all, I want to acknowledge the creator for allowing me, allowing us to see life again today. I'd like to acknowledge National Chief Shawn Atleo, his executive and all the Grand Chiefs, Chiefs across Canada for your extreme support. I acknowledge all the prayers, not only here in Canada, but globally across the world. This is a wake-up call. There is a spiritual awaking on behalf of First Nations people, Canada and all indigenous people across the globe.

Why did it have to come to this point where a woman or a man will say that they will sacrifice their life for the, for the benefit to help our First Nations people rebuild that nation to nation relationship? It's been a long time coming and we have to work together today and not continue to wait. I'm only a spokesperson for Chief Theresa Spence. I let the leaders do the work. I went to go see Chief Theresa this morning. She's well but you can tell her body is weak, signs of fatigue. But all those prayers help. At the same time, she's praying for all people in the, in the spirit of unity, hope, peace, in the spirit of justice, equality and fairness for all First Nations people.

We're all treaty people. We're all treaty people. No matter how you look at it, indigenous people were here first. We welcome, we welcome, we welcome you all in open arms. I think Chief Spence is only asking the same thing, you know. Show some kindness. The people, our grassroots people are looking for hope and we look to our leadership to work with us. And we need to be unified in all this. Like I said, Chief, Chief Spence is well, but you can show signs of fatigue. There are two other individuals on the hunger strike at the Victoria Island. And the first individual is Raymond Robinson. The second individual is Eugene Fox.

So you can tell that the body is taking a toll on them. Last night, they referenced that their stomachs are cramping. So, so time is of the essence here and that's why we're requesting, hoping for an urgent meeting, an urgent meeting right away. So we'll see what the news say afterwards, but I'm only here to speak for Theresa.

Alvin Fiddler: Good morning. Good morning everyone. My name's Alvin Fiddler. I'm a Deputy Grand Chief for Nishnawne Aski Nation, Grand Council Treaty 9 of which Attawapiskat is a, is a part of in Northern Ontario. First of all, i just want to acknowledge the land that we're in this morning, the territory of the Algonquin people. Like all of you here, we just received the word just a while ago, of a, an offer from the Prime Minister's office to meet next Friday. And we see that as a, as a good first step. But I just want to also reiterate what Chief Spence has been saying, that it is her wish that a, a meaningful, a respectful process be established to begin to address our issues. And it will not take just one meeting to fix that relationship that has been broken or that is broken.

We will continue to hold the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's feet to the fire to ensure

that that meeting next, if it does happen next Friday will begin to establish that process. That the issues that we have are many and that it will take a very constructive, a very meaningful process to begin to repair the, the damage to that relationship and to begin to address the issues that Chief Spence and others have brought forward.

And I also just want to again reiterate what our National Chief has been saying to, to the public, to all Canadians, that the work will continue and we invite all Canadians to, to join us in these efforts because our issues aren't just First Nation issues. It affects all Canadians. And as Danny has mentioned, that we are all the same, we are all treaty people, that our interests are your interests and once our issues are addressed in a very meaningful, in a respectful way, that all Canadians will benefit.

So we are, we're here today to show our support for, for Chief Spence and others who are fasting to bring these issues to the forefront.

Gilles Bisson: Mon nom c'est Gilles Bisson, je suis le député provincial du comté de Timmins–Baie James et avec Charlie, qui représente le fédéral, moi je représente le côté provincial, Attawapiskat est partie de notre comté et on a descendu avec, organisé cette rencontre hier avec la chef Mme Spence parce que le monde local, les leaders locals tels que Stan et autres, Charlie et moi-même sont inquiets de la situation que Mme Spence se trouve dedans et les autres qui sont présentement 25 jours sans manger. On voulait trouver une solution et c'était la raison qu'on a descendu hier et la raison qu'on a eu cette discussion avec elle et les chefs régionals, nationals et locals hier à l'Île Victoria.

Il faut se demander quoi qu'il y a de mal avec quoi qui se passe aujourd'hui quand ça prend quelqu'un comme Mme Spence et autres pour dire je refuse de manger parce que j'ai de besoin d'avoir une réunion avec mon premier ministre pour parler comment qu'on peut réparer premièrement le problème de dialogue qui manque entre les deux nations, et deuxièmement, comment qu'on arrive que il y a tant d'oublis quand ça vient à les conditions dans ces communautés-là.

Et quoi tu vois avec Mme Spence et je pense quoi tu vois avec quoi qui se passe avec Idle No More, c'est que le monde regarde et disent écoute, on sait pas quoi qu'il y a de mal, on ne sait pas qui qui est à blâmer. Tout le monde peut s'envouer (ph) le droit fédéral, provincial, local, qui qui a la raison du problème. Mais le monde se demande écoute, quand je regarde à ces communautés-là, les écoles ont les manques, des, doit obtenir, les opportunités économiques sont pas là. On regarde à la condition du logement qui est pas là. On regarde à l'infrastructure des communautés qui est pas là puis on dit il y a quelque chose mal avec ce portrait.

So toute que Mme Spence a demandé, c'est quoi les chefs et autres membres de communautés qui demandent ça fait longtemps assisons-nous ensemble. Ayez une discussion pour essayer de travailler pour être capable de tourner la page et trouver une manière d'aller en avance, qu'on peut offert à nos jeunes dans le futur un meilleur avenir qu'on a eu dans le passé. So donc, c'était la, la discussion qu'on a eue hier. On est content de voir que le premier ministre a accepté, ça de l'air à ce point icite,

possiblement de se rencontrer vendredi prochain. Mais on veut garder les pieds au fieu, comme on dit, les pieds au feu du premier ministre pour, pour s'assurer que cette rencontre-là va arriver.

Et n'oublions pas que Mme Spence va continuer dans cet état aller jusqu'à vendredi prochain. So donc, ça presse et on veut avoir une discussion entre les premières nations et nos gouvernements pour être capables de trouver une manière qu'On peut tourner la page puis on trouver une manière de mieux avancer les problèmes qui existent ça fait longtemps pour le futur.

Moderator: Je pense que ça, oui, donc we're going to open the floor to questions. I'll remind you to raise your hand. If you have a question, I'll put you on my list. The first one up is Gloria Galloway, Globe and Mail.

Question: Yeah, this is for Chief, Chief Fiddler. So last year, you met with the Prime Minister on the 24th as you both know, for a day. I don't know, did you, given what had happened out of that meeting, do you have great hopes that another meeting of that sort is going to turn the corner on the problems facing First Nations?

Stan Louttit: We always, always have hope that, that things will, will be better. Last year, last year, it was not very much time given in, in regard to our, our sitting down with the, with the Prime Minister. And there was only a restricted number of people that could be there as well. So I think if we're going to go into a, a Crown-First Nation gathering 2, if you will, this, this coming, this month, then, then I think we need to, we need to drive that, that agenda with, with the, with the Prime Minister. Last year, it was largely very restrictive and I'm always an optimist when it comes to those kinds of things and I'm hopeful that, that we can make some, some progress with a commitment to continue that, that dialogue moving forward.

Cause last year, it ended and one month later, the budget came about and, came out and no reflection on the spirit and intent of that Crown-First Nations gathering in January. In March, the budget came out and just totally ripped us apart. So that didn't work. So we're looking for better, better, better results this time around.

Question: As a follow-up, I, when I was talking to Chief Spence last week, she was saying that it needed to be not just a one-day meeting. It needed to be a week long meeting or even, or longer than that. And I, I, maybe I'm wrong, but it's hard to believe that Mr. Harper's going to devote that kind of time to this. If he, if he, if it's a one-day meeting, is that sufficient for Chief Spence? Maybe that's Danny's, but...

Stan Louttit: That would be, that would be a start but I think what we need is some sort of a commitment moving forward in terms of, of not just to let it die right there, that there needs to be more, more dialogue and more discussion moving forward cause that's what happened last year. It just, it just ended and that was that. So we need to have a process in terms of continuing that discussion.

Charlie Angus: I think what's important to point out here is that the Prime Minister has expressed his willingness to meet. So let's get that meeting and let's find out where we go from here. But I don't think anybody in this country thinks for a minute that the days when the Prime Minister comes in, puts out a press release and walks out the back door are going to continue. The movement across this country is much bigger than Chief Theresa Spence. There's anger our there, there's frustration and as, as Chief Louttit said, it's going to be about holding the government's feet to the fire. And I think that the Prime Minister needs to know that. It's, that this isn't going to work as a simple photo op.

So whatever form that that process takes, whatever forms of meetings and discussions, that's, that's to be worked out. But I think we've reached the tipping point and now, it's time to start repairing that relationship.

Moderator: Manon Cornellier, Le Devoir.

Question: Yeah, I want to come on the same issue. If we haven't get the answer, is Mrs. Spence going to continue her hunger strike until the meeting start or once the meeting is confirmed and it's organized and we know it will happen? Is it going to, is she intend to stop her hunger strike?

Danny Metatawabin: Chief Spence has made her statement that she will continue to do her hunger strike until the actual meeting happens. So she's very determined, strong spirited. There are times when meetings were called for by letter and these meetings ended up being cancelled for, you know, for various reasons, no fault to anybody. But she will stay on Victoria Island until, until the day of that actual meeting.

Question: And about the meeting, okay, you said you cannot just have a photo op or something, you know. You have one-day meeting and it's over because last year, you have experienced. So do you want from this meeting to end up with establishing a process of conti, continued dialogue? Is it going to be the objective if you get this meeting?

Danny Metatawabin: Of course. We need a start-up, a dialogue to initiate a process. Like someone was alluded to, we can't resolve all these issues and there are many various issues across each region. It's not going to take one day, it's not going to take two days. Within our ceremonies, you know, we do them four days and then we continue those ceremonies again at another time, for, for each season. But this is, like I said, time is of the essence here with respect to our, our fundamental, fundamental rights and we need to initiate that process immediately, as quickly as possible, you know. So again, that has to be discussed with the powers that be.

Charlie Angus: It's also important to point out it's not for us to lay down the conditions of how this meeting's going to go out. This is negotiations that will happen with the National Chief. We haven't seen any of this discussion yet, so I think

it's unfair for us to speculate and to get ahead of this. Let's see where the good will is. Let's see what they want to do. Certainly, an initial meeting is not going to solve this. Whether it's, whether it's further meetings, national Crown gathering, whether it's breakout groups, there's a lot of issues to be dealt with.

So that's what we're looking to, to, to, to see and we're hoping to be able to bring that good news back to Chief Spence that a door's been open, but let's see what, we leave this to, like, National Chief Atleo and, and his team who are meeting right now with the Prime Minister I assume, to, to, to figure this out. So once we know that what is, we're in a better position to say. But we just heard the news like you, so we're not in a position to, to lay down anything yet.

Moderator: Randall Palmer, Reuters.

Question: Good morning. I wonder if you could address the, the revelations that have been made by Sun Media about Chief Spence's salary and that of her, as the Sun describes it, her boyfriend or part of her household whereby she, he was making $850 a day or about $200,000 a year, and so the combined household income was $270,000 tax-free. Can you confirm those figures? And do you think that's justified in light of what she is complaining about?

Danny Metatawabin: I'm not here to comment on those.

Question: Are you denying them?

Danny Metatawabin: I'm not here to comment on that.

Moderator: David Akin, Sun News.

Question: Good morning and thank you very much for coming here today. My question is about Chief Spence's health in this, and the other hunger strikers. Are they under, are they under some medical care, are they seeing some doctors? Can you give us a little more, tell me how she is this morning and, and the other hunger strikers as well?

Danny Metatawabin: Okay. The only person I was able to see this morning was Chief Theresa Spence herself and she, she is well. She was sitting down on her cot, you know. She looked tired and fatigued but she, I asked her are you okay? And she said yes, she's fine and she's doing well and that she had a good night's rest. And as for the other two gentlemen, I didn't, I was not able to see them this morning but they looked tired last night, you know, and they have support systems there. And we care for these people 24 hours, seven days a week. So we're looking after them. So there is a nurse practitioner that comes every three or four days from the, the

Gilles Bisson: Wabinaw (ph) Health.

Danny Metatawabin: Wabinaw (ph) Health Institute. So, yeah.

Question: My follow-up is a more general one, about the, the first, the relationship of First Nations to each other. And there was an election for a Chief last summer of course. Chief Atleo was reelected. But there were some candidates who thought that he was too nice with the Conservatives, that he was too close to the Conservatives. And some, there is some thinking or observations that First Nations communities do not all agree amongst each other how the Crown relationship ought to be pursued, how protests ought to be conducted. And I'm wondering if there is discussions, well basically I'm asking you do you think Chief Atleo is the right person to be leading the AFN and whether the AFN is proceeding appropriately to try to resolve some Crown-First Nations issues?

Gilles Bisson: Well, I, I would just say, you know, here we are in the Press Gallery and I bet most of the Press Gallery don't agree with themselves. You know, the reality, they're individuals, they represent different parts of the world or different parts of Canada, but they're all working to one common objective and how you get there may be different by one or the other, but Chief Atleo was supported by the people that I've talked to that were there on Victoria Island, supported by the regional Chiefs, supported by the local Chiefs. We are all working towards the same direction and how we get there might be different, depending on the individual, Charlie or I or Stan might do something different, but we're all going in the same direction. I don't think quite frankly that's healthy.

Alvin Fiddler: Yeah, it's also important to note that I think the, the actions that our communities have taken that, over the last month, over the last two months, that it's galvanized our communities. It's, it's bringing people together. Our leadership, the grassroots, that it's important that we, you know, that we do this together. Otherwise, nothing will change. I think that's the message that we want to convey out there is that there is unity. I think there's an understanding that if we don't do this together, that status quo will remain. So I think, you know, that's the, that's the approach that all of us are taking, including the National Chief and the national executive, the regional leadership, the Chiefs at the community level, the grassroots people that we're in this together.

Gilles Bisson: I think it all, just quickly, I think it speaks to the frustration that we see in our communities. You know, I invite all of you to come and live a week in any of our communities on the James Bay or wherever it might be in this country and you'll see a situation that would probably frustrate you as well. And I think what you see is local citizens who say the only person I can talk to is my Chief cause they're the only ones in town or on reserve, as we say. And they're speaking out as best as they can to try to find a way to move the yardsticks forward so that they can have proper schools, proper economy opportunities, proper housing, etc., etc.

So there is a frustration and I think this, what this Idle No More movement has tapped into. So of course, you'll have different opinions, but at the end, we all accept that there's a problem and we all accept that we have to find a solution. And hopefully,

what'll come out of the process is that.

Moderator: We'll go to Tom Parry, CBC. I just want to point out before your question that I have a lot of people on my list. I understand you all have something to say

Unidentified Male: Okay. Very good.

Moderator: but we'll just try, try and keep it brief. Tom Parry, CBC.

Question: I'd like to throw this out to Chief or to Mr. Angus. What, what's the point of continuing the hunger strike? Chief Spence was asking for a meeting. The Prime Minister seems to have agreed to a meeting, so why continue the hunger strike?

Stan Louttit: It's, it's history, for the most part. Like Dan said, we've received letters of commitment many times only to, to, for nothing to happen. We've had commitments of meetings before only to see nothing happen. We want certainty. We want certainty for, that in fact for sure, something's going to happen. So until that meeting happens, then she'll, then she'll quit, quit her hunger strike and be part of that, that discussion. We want certainty. We, we've heard so many times in our history, and I can give you dozens and dozens of examples where we've become frustrated and no action's taken despite, despite words by, by, by leaders.

Charlie Angus: Well I think the issue as well, when we met with Chief Spence yesterday, she showed her determination to, she wanted a resolution. She wanted to see action. She wasn't going to sit out on Victoria Island for four weeks without seeing action. So we're not in a position right now to say what Chief Spence is going to do. We aren't, we aren't there because there was nothing on the table yesterday. Now, something appears to be on the table. So I think what's going to happen is it'll go back to the people who are with Chief Theresa Spence, the other hunger strikers, it's going to go back to the national leadership. They're going to talk. There's no suggestion up here that we're in a position to say what she's going to do or we should be in a position.

I think what we should allow is let's see what this dialogue is, let's see what the Prime Minister's saying and let's bring it back and then we can see where we're going. But we're not in a position here to speak on behalf of something that we, we haven't seen any of the details of.

Question I might just ask as a follow-up, and Chief Louttit and Mr. Angus, these numbers that Sun Media have put out about the spending and the salaries on the Attawapiskat reserve, do you have any concerns about that? Do you think that Chief Spence is running a tight enough ship?

Stan Louttit: You know, when, when the, when, like I said, when the community declared an emergency and when INAC made a, a move to, to tell the Chief and the community that the Chief in fact, and her council were in no position to run that community because of their concern about the money that you, that you talk about, one of the conditions that was, that was agreed to by the Chief is, is they said okay, if you don't believe us, call for a forensic audit. Examine us. Do what you need to do to satisfy yourselves. We're satisfied, but if you're not happy, you got questions, call a forensic audit.

So what they agreed to is a comprehensive audit, not just your regular audit, but a comprehensive audit that would be examining the, examine the funding that goes to Attawapiskat, how they're spent and how they're dealt with. That audit is done. And the community and the government, including INAC, or AANDC and Health Canada, of which are, are funders of programs in our community are, are in the process of reviewing that report and, and working together on the recommendations that are coming, are coming out of that.

So it's, it's, it's something they're working together on. And if a comprehensive audit or na offer for a further forensic audit is not, is not sufficient for, for, for people, then I don't know what is. There's just that perception out there. There's little Attawapiskat, 2,000 people, they get $60 million over five years. Wow, I can't fathom that. That's the problem. But in reality, in the remote North, where everything cost 20,000, 20 times more, the reality is that $60 million over five years, of which 30, 40, 50% of it goes to education, it's, it's reasonable. I've seen that. I've worked in that system for many, many years. And I can, and I can, and I can vouch for the fact that it's very, very difficult to do business in a remote community. Not like it is in Ottawa, not like it is in Timmins or anywhere else. Very, very difficult.

And you, and you have to, and you have to basically just try to do, do what, do what you can. But the average Canadian out there, they see millions and millions and, and they just get, get, get concerned and said hey, there's something going, going on there. But I challenge those people, come to the community and look at the books and come and live there for a couple of weeks. Then you'll see.

Alvin Fiddler: Just quickly, I want to just add to what Grand Chief Louttit is saying. I think the, the other standard line that's always put out there by government on a, on a bigger issue is in terms of how many billions of dollars they're giving to First Nations, whether it's 9 billion, 10 billion or 14 billion annually. Well my question to them would be how much of that money is actually reaching our communities where it's most desperately needed for housing, for infrastructure, for clean drinking water. And I think that's something that we always ask for, is that you're throwing out these figures out there. Well, how much of that is actually reaching our communities?

Moderator: Marieke Walsh, Global.

Question: Hi. I was wondering if one of you can respond to why

National Chief Atleo isn't here? All the press releases said that he would be here. Is there a reason for that, or...?

Charlie Angus: Well, I, I, I'll take blame for a misunderstanding when we were negotiating yes, well not negotiating but making a plan with, that Chief Atleo was going to meet us at Victoria Island. That was a misprint on our part. We were led in our delegation by Grand Chief Atleo and it was, it was, it was great to have him there. Os if there's any mess-ups on that front, I'll certainly be more than willing to be publicly spanked. I'm not the most perfect guy when it comes to my, my

Unidentified Male: Charlie. (Laughter)

Charlie Angus: my, dotting my t's and my i's sometimes, as Sister Frances Margaret would tell you. So that would be my fault.

Question: Okay. And just another question for, maybe it's for Danny or Chief Louttit, but some people are suggesting that Chief Spence's hunger strike is a bit more like a fast than a true hunger strike. Can you respond to that?

Danny Metatawabin: It's a hunger strike. It's not a fast, cause fasting is a ceremony itself and you only do, do it certain times of the season. So this is a hunger strike. She's only drinking liquids. I don't know how else to elaborate on that, but... Okay? Does that answer your question?

Question: Yes.

Moderator: Kristy Kirkup, Sun News.

Question You know, just going back to the apology, that historic apology in 2008, at that time, there seemed to be a lot of hope again about a renewed relationship, that this was, this was a move that was really going to, to open new doors. You know, you've been talking today about the fact that there's been a lot of talk but when it comes to action, there seems to be mistrust at the root of it, that, that action seems to be, it seems to be problematic to actually see change happen. So in terms of this government, do you feel as though that maybe, you know, your hopes were built up back in 2008 and they, they haven't come through on maybe fully living out the nature of that apology?

Stan Louttit: When we were, when we met with Chief Spence in the tepee yesterday, and when she spoke, she spoke very passionately, very emotionally about her time in a residential school. I'm a residential school survivor myself of several years. And she, and when, just like her, when the Prime Minister spoke to us on June 8th was it, 2008, she said I cried because for the first time, a national leader was standing up and taking ownership and telling me that I'm sorry for what we did to you. And the same thing happened to me. I cried when that happened because when the, the Prime Minister was standing up telling me and my family that I'm

sorry.

But I think what's happening following that, I think is the non-action that came out of that puts the integrity of that apology in question. So I think what, I think the Prime Minister has to build on that and not just say I apologize and that's good enough. Let's go on now. I think there's got to be continued, continued discussion. And this is part of it, what we're doing now, what is going to happen next week if it happens. This is part of it to continue that, that dialogue and not just let it, let it end. Cause, cause these, these, the, what happened to myself and many, many others is intergene, generational, it doesn't end with me. It's with my kids, my grandchildren. It'll go on. So

Alvin Fiddler: Yeah, it's just

Stan Louttit: we, we need to continue that process.

Alvin Fiddler: yeah, and just to quickly add on that, with respect to the apology, I think, and just to, I think another example of just how empty and how insincere that apology was, you know, the creation of the TRC, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. You know, they've had to take the government to court to try to access over four million documents related to that experience. And, and to me, and I think for the survivors, I'm not a survivor, I didn't go to residential school, but it just speaks to the government's action or inaction to do anything to try to deny the full history of that experience. And to me, that, that really painted a very clear picture on where this government is at.

Charlie Angus: I think we've seen from this Prime Minister moments when he shows a willingness to, to move forward, but then it's, it's not followed up. So the apology was certainly, I think, a historic moment. The other historic moment was this past February when every Member of Parliament voted for Shannon's Dream. Shannon was from Attawapiskat fighting for the principle that every First Nation child has the right to equal education. Chief Spence came down here, she spoke about how she, at that time, how Shannon would bring unity, people would see that there's a positive way of working together and we had that motion and everyone supported it.

But since then, all we've seen are press releases claiming actually that First Nation people get more money than other students, which is, is, is a bald faced lie. So it's one thing for Parliament to stand and say they're going to do something. It's another to follow through. So that's, that's part of the frustration. But again, I think today what we want to say is that we have now one more time, the Prime Minister stood up and said he will meet. So we have to, we have to say okay, let's meet. And then we'll, we'll put it over to the communities to say how is that meeting and how is it going to happen? And where are we going to go from here? But I think the days when it was just business as usual and a photo op are over. So...

Question: Just as a follow-up, you know, you were talking about First Nations education, but earlier Grand Chief Fiddler, you were talking about the need to educate non-indigenous Canadians about how their treaty (inaudible) about some of

the issues that are plaguing communities like yours for example, with the Oxycotin, contin crisis. So, you know, you know, the media's here, that national media's here, so what, what message do you want people to know about what's going on in, in the communities? What, what isn't being told about what's going on on the ground?

Alvin Fiddler: Well I mean, the, the key obviously is education, right? I think there has to be some fundamental changes in terms of curriculum, how all Canadians are being taught with respect to the history of this nation, that I think the way it is now, it's only a portion of that history is being taught to our, our children, whether they're black or white or First Nations. And I think that's the, our hope with the work that, that TRC's doing and also the, the National Research Centre that will be created following the TRC, that there'll be resources there, there'll be an opportunity there for, for all jurisdictions in the country to, to learn from that experience and to revise or to, to change their curriculums to ensure that all Canadian children are taught the full history of this nation.

Moderator: I still have five names on my list. Are you saying you're done or...?

Charlie Angus: Yeah, we have to

Moderator: Well, can you take a few more questions maybe? Cause people were quite patient.

Charlie Angus: How about two more?

Moderator: Two more?

Charlie Angus: How about two more? Two more, yeah.

Moderator: Two more? Okay. Well, we have Laura Stone from iPolitics.

Question: I have a question for Danny. I was wondering, we all found out before, as you did, we found out when this press conference was starting basically that the Prime Minister had agreed to this meeting next Friday. So what was your reaction to that? Because Chief Spence has been on the hunger strike for 25 days and the day after the Assembly of First Nations issues a call for a similar meeting, the Prime Minister agrees to that. There's no mention of Chief Spence in his statement. It's just talking about Aboriginal leadership, meeting with Minister Duncan and the Prime Minister. So what's your reaction? Do you consider this a victory, a partial victory? Do you, do you feel like you need the AFN to get this kind of work done?

Danny Metatawabin: When, when, when I heard in the back room there, tears started to come down my eyes and I had to hold off my tears because I wanted to share my tears with Chief Theresa and all the helpers that came to support her at the

island. Not only at the island, but from across Canada and across the world. I, I still want to go back and see Theresa and share this information however, if it's, it's a small step of a very big process that we have to go through to rebuild that nation to nation relationship, you know. That relationship had been tarnished for so many years now. Governments taking away, wants to take away our lands and give it to resource companies for their own benefit. Well, what about us First Nations people?

And that's why I say we need to rebuild that relationship. We want to work together. We want to help each other, you know. We don't want to be blamed for some of the questions that were asked here, you know. It's not our fault. It's the colonial process that put us in that state. Divide and conquer. You know, all those, all those things that has, has happened to us. And I commend Theresa, a woman, a grandmother, you know, for doing what she had to do. A long time in coming. I wanted to do this thing too and I shared, I shared, I shared with Grand Chief Stan Louttit, Grand Chief Stan Beardy that we need to take action now with respect to our treaty. And I'm glad that it's unfolding now. So I want to, I'm reserving my, I'm holding off my tears and I want to get back to the island.

Question: I guess just my question too was do you think that this would have happened if the AFN hadn't issued their statement yesterday asking for a meeting?

Danny Metatawabin: You know, Shawn Atleo has been with us since, since this thing's all started and I think Shawn's been working behind the scenes and I, I commend the, the efforts that he's made. I commend the, the leeway that have, you know, that has come to surface and you know, without him, without all the grassroots people, without all the Grand Chiefs and all that, and the letters of support, the, the, our non-Aboriginal friends and supporters, the letters, everything else, everything, you know. Thank you very much, you know. I don't know what else to say but thank you all very much.

Moderator: Okay, we'll go to last question and then I promise we're done. Stephanie Levitz, CP.

Question: At this point, it doesn't seem like the Governor General will be at that meeting, or at least the Governor General hasn't said. Does that matter?

Stan Louttit: I think the, the Governor General is part of that, part of that discussion, part of that equation. Treaties were with, with the Crown, the, the British Crown representing Canada back, back in the day. So symbolically, realistically, morally, it's, it's appropriate that, I think that the Governor General, on behalf of the, the Queen, make some kind of a statement as well. But like Danny said, and like the question before, we, or this is a good thing that's happening here, that the Prime Minister is finally seeing fit that there needs to be some, some dialogue. He's getting the message, he's seeing it in the papers. He's seeing it all over the place. And he's getting the message. And hopefully we can, we can get that, that, that same, same

reception from the Governor General's office as well.

Question: Just as a follow-up, you'd mention Grand Chief about resource sharing being one of the things that Theresa Spence would have, a sort of specific demand that she had. Is there anything else that, that's like that, that's tangible, that's, you know, more pointed than just we would like a meeting?

Stan Louttit: There are, there are many, many examples. I talked about the emergency, the housing, the poverty that exists, no economy, resource developers having their way, no law or legislation or policy saying that they need to talk to the community whereas if they're opening a mine beside your town, they have a duty under Ontario law in this case, to be able to your Mayor and council in regard to their activity. No such thing was with, with First Nations.

And for us to, to, to pave the way for a good future in terms of a stable economy and to be able to, to grow and prosper, we need to work with the governments, we need to work with resource developers. We can't just rely on impact benefit agreements that we're forced to negotiate. There needs to be a process in place where we get a piece of the, where we get a piece of the pie just like Ontario does, just like Canada does in terms of any kind of royalty, any kind of activity happening in, in, in the, in our lands. We need to get the, part of that as, as well so that we can begin to prosper, so that we can get out of the poverty that we're in.

Charlie Angus: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you for your time. Thank you very much. This concludes our press conference.

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DATE/DATE: January 4, 2013 14:00 ET
LOCATION/ENDROIT: Victoria Island, Ottawa, ON
PRINCIPAL(S)/PRINCIPAUX: Chief Theresa Spence, Attawapiskat First Nation
Raymond Robinson, Elder
Gene Socks (ph)
SUBJECT/SUJET: Media availability with Chief Theresa Spence to formally respond to the Prime Minister's intention to meet with First Nations leaders.

Moderator: Good afternoon, everybody. Chief Theresa Spence will make a very brief statement, along with Raymond Robinson and Eugene Socks (ph).

Unidentified Male: Gene.

Moderator: Gene Socks. Keep calling him Eugene. Sorry. Gene. And then I'll take over for any questions, answers. At this time they will not be answering questions. This is only a brief press release. So without… given the fact that we haven't seen an outline, a commitment letter from the Prime Minister's Office, so please give us that respect that we don't know the content or any details of this meeting that was called by the Prime Minister with the First Nations leadership come January 11th. But we'll get to that, and I'll try to do my best to address your questions.

Chief Theresa Spence: I just want to take this opportunity with my helpers and the supporters that have been with us since day one. And I want to acknowledge Raymond, who's come and stayed with me since (inaudible) behind me. So without his support, I don't think I would be here. And also, Gene, who's a warrior. He's here. He came all the way here to stay with me, and same with Craig, who's (inaudible) and I've been grateful for that. And also I want to thank my daughter that's been here, and my partner, Blake, and Danny, who's been there with the media. There were times I was unable to go to the media because I was feeling weak and I did my ceremony (inaudible). And my friends here, Michelline and Sylvia, who came all the way from Attawapiskat, so I'm… and all the supporters and the helpers, that I'm really grateful to them.

And you know, I'm just really overjoyed and also, you know, to hear the Crown and the Prime Minister and the government, that they're going to meet with us on January 11th. But I'll still be here on my hunger strike until that meeting takes place. So (inaudible).

Question: Will you attend that meeting personally, Chief?

Chief Theresa Spence: Yes, I'm taking my - Raymond and Gene with me and my supporters and my friends with me, and I'll be there with my Chiefs.

Question: And what do you need to hear to end your hunger strike from that meeting?

Chief Theresa Spence: We'll see what the results are, if there's really a positive results, because there's a lot of issues that we need to discuss and really work together as partners.

Moderator: OK, we'll address more questions afterwards. Right now we'll get Mr. Raymond Robinson to speak. Come on, guys.

Raymond Robinson: It's been a long journey. We took the stance, Chief Spence and I. And it's an honour to have finally joined forces with her to make a statement to the Crown, and to the whole world, that we stand in solidarity when it comes to our native First Nation issues. And if it wasn't for your support, your overwhelming support, your prayers, encouragements, you know, we wouldn't be standing here before you. And commend yourselves. It's not just our victory; it's all of us, our victory. We are all in this together, and we should have always been this together from day one. We would not been here to come this, to got through this. And I want to thank my son, Apteesh (ph), that journeyed with me to come take care of me, and also all the supporters. And I want to thank the Algonquin Nation for welcoming me to their sacred territory. I honour and will always be respectful of that.

And as Chief Spence stated, I'm going to remain here on my hunger strike until I see meat and substance go with that meeting. And that's all I'm going to say. And I thank to my wife, thank you to my wife, for having been there for me, to be out here (inaudible) your support and your love. I would not have been here. Also to my children and grandchildren. Thank you for being there always for me. And I want to leave all the questions to our spokesman. And thank you very much for everything. Megwich.

Unidentified Female: Megwich.

Moderator: I'll get Gene to speak. Gene Socks.

Unidentified Male: Sock.

Moderator: Sock. (Inaudible)

(Laughter)

Unidentified Male: (Off microphone)

Gene Socks: I am very honoured and humbled that I started my hunger strike with Chief Spence the first day that I came here, but I already known I was coming here. The vision I had and (inaudible) stop me. I was here, sent by the spirits to support

her, protect her in any which way that I could possibly could do. I've spoken with her the first day that I came. I told her I'll be here till the day that ends all. We have to come to the things that we cannot change, then we're just going to keep going until we go home. I knew we were going to go home one way or another, and I'm very honoured and humbled to be able... I was so pleased to meet you. I was grateful. And I'd like to thank all the (inaudible) that supporting us through your prayers that we got here this far. We still got six more days to go. And like, as she said, we're not going to give up. We'll never give up until all the issues are all answered. I am willing to stay here for all the nations, for her especially.

(Speaks in a native language without interpretation.)

Unidentified Female: (Speaks in a native language without interpretation.)

Gene Socks: Thank you.

Moderator: And so you've heard Chief Theresa Spence speak, Eugene Socks, and Raymond Robinson. So we'll continue. They will continue their hunger strike. Sorry. My apologies. I'm also emotional because I've been here since day one with Theresa, and we're all overwhelmed and overjoyed by the tremendous amount of support that we receive, not only here in Canada but across the world. And for now, we'd like to say thank you. And as Chief Spence alluded to, they will continue to remain here until the meeting begins. And based on the outcome of that first meeting on January the 11th, and we'll see what happens on that time.

Respectfully, right now, now is not the time to celebrate. And respectfully, this is a peaceful movement, and we acknowledge the word, and especially the Idle No More movement, the youth movement, the women, the men, and all the elders. And we're a peaceful nation, and we need to rebuild that nation, the First Nation relationship with Government of Canada. We want the Governor General to be a part of the discussion, not only the Prime Minister. We want the Ontario Premier to be a part of the discussion with all the First Nations leaders that will be able to attend this meeting somewhere on January 11th.

Question: So what about what you asked for has not been accommodated to date?

Moderator: Like Chief said, and Eugene and Raymond, they will continue to stay here until they're satisfied with the result of that meeting.

Question: So you're saying that the hunger strike can go on after January 11th?

Moderator: Yes.

Question: Are you looking for something specific to happen at that

meeting?

Moderator: The trading relationship. We need to rebuild that nation-to-nation relationship. And everything's all encompassing there, and I can't address everything at this point.

Question: Is the meeting what you wanted? Is that…?

Moderator: Yes. We acknowledge the commitment made by the Prime Minister's Office. We'll wait for the outcome of that meeting come January 11th.

Question: And it is a long time away, Chief Spence. How are you doing, and how are you going to hold up for another week at least?

Chief Theresa Spence: Well, through prayers and supports and, you know, drinking a lot of fluids, I'll be OK.

Moderator: She's getting a lot of support. She's cared for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So…

Question: What about the National Day of Action? Is that still going to happen?

Moderator: Which is on…?

Question: There's reports suggesting there's going to be a National Day of Action on the 16th. Do you guys have anything to do with that?

Moderator: No. That's Idle No More.

Question: Yes.

Moderator: We can't really answer that question. Yes. OK? Thank you all.

Question: Sorry (inaudible) there was a suggestion that, if there wasn't an answer within 72 hours, that there might be some mass demonstrations. And are you saying to people now, even though the hunger strike may go on, don't do the mass demonstrations? That's over, we've had the response?

Moderator: Well, they will - they can continue to do what they want. OK? I'm here for Theresa, along with Eugene and Raymond. So - but it's peaceful. We're a peaceful nation. You know, if Idle No More wishes to continue to do - show support by demonstrating, then they will do what they need to do.

Question: Do you feel connected at all to Idle No More?

Moderator: We're all a unified nation. At this point, we're all a unified nation, so yes.

Question: So at this point here--

Question: And do you know for certain--

Question: …this again, you're not going to end the hunger strike until you see the outcomes from this meeting?

Moderator: The meeting, when the meeting happens, and based on the outcome of that meeting. And afterwards, there needs to be a succession of meetings. Because all these issues cannot be solved in one meeting or two meetings.

Question: OK.

Moderator: And we need to have a series of meetings to address all these issues of poverty.

Question: So you're talking about sort of like a constitutional sort of double type of meeting where you have--

Moderator: OK, well, again, we'll have to address that when the meeting comes. We can't address-- answer that right now.

Question: And a nurse saw Chief Spence today. I'm just wondering if she can tell us what she did, what--

Unidentified Female: (Off microphone)

(Cheers)

Question: Chief Spence, how will you know when you can eat again? What is the measure that will say tonight I can eat?

Chief Theresa Spence: I'll worry about that when the day comes.

Moderator: Yes. Yes.

Question: Are you going to the meeting for sure on January 11th?

Unidentified Male: (Off microphone)

Chief Theresa Spence: Yes, I'll be there with my Chiefs.

Moderator: OK. Thank you all. This was only a brief statement. Thank you all for coming. Megwich.

(Speaks in a native language without interpretation.)

(Cheers)

Chief Theresa Spence: We love you.

TRANSCRIPTION/TRANSCRIPTION
NEWS CONFERENCE/CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE
Transcription prepared by Media Q Inc. exclusively for INAC
Transcription préparée par Media Q Inc. exclusivement pour AINC

DATE/DATE: January 11, 2013 10:30 a.m.
LOCATION/ENDROIT: Victoria Island Gate, OTTAWA, ON
PRINCIPAL(S)/PRINCIPAUX: Theresa Spence, Chief, Attawapiskat Nation
SUBJECT/SUJET: Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence holds a news conference.

Theresa Spence: Good morning everybody. There's been a lot of rumours that I've been, I've been changing my mind a lot, but that's not true. At the beginning, I made a statement that this meeting was, it was supposed to be with the Governor General and the Prime Minister. It's important for both of them to be there at the same time with the leaders, with all leaders, not just a few leaders. And I hear it's a working group meeting, but it's not. It's nation to nation with the Chiefs, to have this meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor. Cause you know, it's been so many years that they been getting away with, in violation of the treaty.

And we're giving this, this opportunity for them to, you know, to resolve the, the broken promises from the treaty. And then, all we were asking is a meeting and to sit down with them. We're not, it's not a new thing that's been happening and this meeting's been overdue for so many years. For example, you know, especially in a remote area, areas and other areas, that we need immediate needs and these are the demands that we need to sit down with the government and the Governor General. For example, infrastructure for our communities and housing and education and health and justice and revenue sharing, you know, like we

Unidentified Male: Where did the money go Chief Theresa?

Theresa Spence: we, we share the land

Unidentified Female: There'll be no questions.

Theresa Spence: we, we share the land

Unidentified Male: What did you do with the millions of dollars?

Theresa Spence: we, we share the land all these years and we never got anything from it. And

Unidentified Female: We will not take any questions please.

Theresa Spence: any, all the benefits is going to Canadian citizens except for us. You know, your ancestors came to our land. We even saved them. They escaped, they escaped from their country cause they were starving. And when

they came to our, our land, our ancestors welcomed them with open hands and they, they helped them out. So it's important for the government and the Governor General, you know, to understand about the treaties. Seems like they're forgetting about the treaty or they don't understand it. So right now, they're dishonouring, honouring the treaty.

And for the government, he makes false statements about funding. He doesn't give details where it goes. Most of the funding that we have, it goes back to you, to taxpayers, it goes out of our reserve. For example, if there's housing, we have to hire contracts, we have to order the materials from out of town and the shipment, we pay tax on that. Even we hire lawyers, that's from our reserve. Consultants, that's where the money goes. So it, when, when the Prime Minister makes the false statements, yes, Canadians are going to believe it. But for us, we know the truth. And there's a lot of times, the government pentalize (sic) us when we speak up.

For example, the third party we went through, we didn't have no funding for six months, but we survive it. So this is why this is important to renew this relationship, because this government has been abusing us, raping the land. You know, like he's so much in control and I'm surprised the Crown allow to give a Prime Minister the authority. It's the, it was the Crown that we made the treaty with, not the Prime Minister. They're the keepers. And right now, the way I feel, the Crown violated the treaty the day she give authorize (sic) to the Prime Minister to control everything.

You know, the treaty was not about control, it's about sharing, honouring and respecting each other. We've been doing that for so many years. You know, I know that the Prime Minister and the Governor, they all use the media to make look bad on us, but we, we don't do that. We tell the truth. He comes after my personal life, I don't even do that to him. Or we don't even do that to him, to go after his personal life. So the media, you need to get your facts straight before you put anything out because you're misleading Canadians. We're not misleading Canadians. We're there. All we want is justice, equal and fairness, which we're entitled. We, we haven't give, we, First Nations give you that already.

So we never change your lives. Why should you guys change our lives? We had our ways. Thank you.

Unidentified Female: Thank you very much. She's, she won't be open to any questions, I'm sorry.

Question: Why no questions? Why no questions today?

Unidentified Female: The questions, that's how it is going to go and there's, there's just

Question: But why no questions? If she's, if she's advocating transparency,

Unidentified Female: No.

Question: why no questions?

Unidentified Female: Because we already mentioned that before this all began. She's been on a 30-day, 30-day, 32-day hunger strike.

Question: She obviously can speak, why no questions? She obviously can speak.

Unidentified Female: Because that's just the rules how it's going to go today, so thank you very much for coming. And you're all going to have to head back that way. I promised to have a press conference

Question: So will she be attending the meeting?

Unidentified Female: this morning and that's how it's going to go. We're done. So

Question: But will she be attending the meeting with Stephen Harper?

Unidentified Female: You know what? If the Governor General is going to be there along with the Prime Minister, then she'll be there.

Question: So, if that's not the plan, she's not going?

Unidentified Female: That's what she's been asking for all this time. It's been quite in black and white for like how long?

Question: So, if he's not there, she's not going?

Unidentified Female: If who's not there?

Question: If the Governor General

Unidentified Female: If the Governor General is not there with the Prime Minister, this isn't, it's, it's not going to happen. And last night, you guys all reported, the Chiefs all stood in solidarity last night and we allowed media to come in to witness this. So you have to be reporting those facts, right? It's that our people are coming together and saying we need to have a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General in one room. Not

Question: So the hunger strike continues?

Unidentified Female: separate meetings. Yes, the hunger strike continues.

Thank you very much.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/14/2013 4:42 PM
Subject: A statement from National Chief Shawn Atleo on his decision to take a leave.
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

A statement from National Chief Shawn Atleo on his decision to take a leave.

First Nations citizens have just witnessed one of the most important chapters in our recent history. Through the pressure of the grassroots, the sacrifices made by Chief Spence and her fellow strikers, and the work of many regional Chiefs and the National Executive of the AFN, we have seized the attention of Canadians and of this government.

We forced open the door to the PMO and to the Governor-General. We achieved a commitment to the personal leadership of the Prime Minister, the Privy Council Office and other senior ministers. Now they know that the whole world is watching what progress we make. Now they understand the consequences of failure.

We have a responsibility to work together to push forward our work that relates to each of the eight elements that emerged from our discussions this week - on Treaty, on comprehensive claims, resource revenue sharing, action to assess and halt provisions of legislation that contravene our rights, on the urgent needs of our communities and justice for our missing women. We have leaders in place to ensure that detailed work gets done. And now we have the public commitment of this government and this Prime Minister that they will treat these issues as their priorities.

I am proud of the support we received from First Nations citizens and Chiefs across Canada, even during the most difficult days. There were many long conference calls, late night meetings, and frustrations in the past two weeks. I regret to have to tell you that those long days have caught up with me. This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now.

I ask that Regional Chief Augustine continue to chair and facilitate our National Executive meetings in my brief absence and that Regional Chief Bellegarde and Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould continue the work that they led this week on Treaty implementation and on comprehensive claims. As we did in the meeting on January 11 - we must seize the agenda and drive the next steps on each and every element. I encourage everyone to contribute fully to these next steps. I have also directed the senior staff of the Assembly of First Nations to mobilize staff working teams on these elements to provide the analysis and support required.

Finally as we have done from the very beginning, we continue to offer our support and prayers for Chief Spence, the hunger strikers and for all of our peoples standing up through peaceful demonstrations and protest. As we told the Prime Ministers - our voices, the voices of all of our citizens will not be silenced. We will drive change now.

Friends and colleagues, this has been a fateful moment in the decades of struggle by our peoples. We have secured important new ground. Now the harder, but less visible, work of turning promises into action begins. I look forward to working with all of you on those tasks in the weeks and months ahead. Together I am confident we ensure that this week marks the end of a long bitter chapter of paralysis and provocation in our relationship with the GoC, and that it truly is the beginning of a new chapter.

I will see you all very soon and will return re-invigorated and strengthened to work with you to drive this change together with all of you.

Kleco Kleco

I'm told Chief Atleo came down with the norovirus over the holidays in December.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/3/2013 9:33 AM
Subject: AANDC HEAD'S UP - Fwd: ST122-12F - Restricted Addendum - First Nations Protests
Attachments: RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION ADDENDUM TO ST122-12F First Nations Protests - Manifestations des Premières nations (3).pdf

Hello,
For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Public Safety Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

s.16(2)(c)

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819 997 6552

>>> GOC-COG <GOC-COG@[redacted]> 1/2/2013 7:24 PM >>>

(La version française sera envoyée sous pli séparé.)

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-3 Releasable to: AANDC, TC, CBSA, RCMP, CSIS, PUBLIC SAFETY, GOC, PS REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ST122-12F – Addendum - First Nations Protests

Provided to: AANDC, TC, CBSA, RCMP, CSIS, PUBLIC SAFETY, GOC, PS REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Not for further distribution.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted]

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

RESTRICTED Distribution Addendum to Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12F (Restricted Addendum)

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of 02 Jan 2013, 15:30 EST

Source(s) of reporting: Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Transport Canada, media/open source reporting.

Additional Restricted Information:

Potential bridge closures/disruptions planned for 05 Jan

The OPP indicated it is concerned about potential bridge closures/disruptions related to protest events, announced by Idle No More, for 05 Jan. The OPP expects slowdowns in the following areas:
- Three Nations Bridge (Cornwall)
- Blue Water Bridge
- Peace Bridge
- Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
- Highway 17 in Nipissing

A representative from the Blue Water Bridge Authority indicated they would not tolerate any bridge closures/slowdowns on the Blue Water Bridge, citing public safety issues.

The Peace Bridge Authority (PBA) mentioned that they will treat any disruption in the same manner as they would deal with other events, such as the Niagara Marathon, Friendship Festival, etc. They noted the organizers will be applying to the PBA to conduct a “parade” across the Peace Bridge. The organizers have committed that they will not conduct a blockade of the bridge and will be entering into a written agreement with the PBA. The PBA will shut down the U.S

bound curb lane for approximately an hour to accommodate the "parade". The other two lanes will remain open, one Canada-bound and one U.S.-bound. This event is scheduled to commence around 11:00 EST. It is anticipated that approximately 150-180 people will be participating. Participants will clear U.S. customs and then return to clear customs in Canada.

The OPP also advised it may be required to assist in Sarnia (rail blockade).

It was also discussed that social media indicated that Highway 403 at the Skyway may be impacted but this is unconfirmed.

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From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
CC: OPSCentre - NOB
Date: 1/16/2013 10:57 AM
Subject: AANDC HEAD'S UP- Immediate Notification - Idle No More First Nations Protests - Ambassador Bridge Winsor, ON - 16 January 2013.doc

Hello,

For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Transport Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819-997-6552

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>>> Sitcen HQ - Centre d'intervention - AC <Centred'interventionQ-G@tc.gc.ca> 1/16/2013 10:48 AM >>>

DL – 2 – RELEASABLE TO AUTHORIZED FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS

NOTIFICATION - THREAT/EVENT: Idle No More First Nations Protests – Ambassador Bridge Winsor, ON – 16 January 2013

Description of threat/event: At approximately 10:15 EST, 16 January 2013, a large convoy of protestors is headed towards a gathering point close to Ambassador Bridge in Winsor, ON. Approximately 175 cars and 12 buses (approximately 3 km long) are expected to reach Winsor at 11:30 EST.

Source of reporting: *Transport Canada Surface and Intermodal Security (SIMS), TC Ontario Region.*

Current Transport Canada Actions: The Situation Centre is monitoring the situation and continues to operate at activity level 1 (normal operations). The reporting may convert to national situation reports, as multiple events are expected to occur today.

Current Actions (other): Nil.

Initial analysis/impact assessment on Canadian Transportation System: Unknown at this point.

Notification provided to: DL OTT SITCEN NOTIFICATION – IMMEDIATE INTERNAL, DL OTT SITCEN NOTIFICATION – SIMS INCIDENT NOTIFICATION ABS, RCMP NOC, Public Safety GOC, DND CJOC, AANDC

Next Steps: Nil.

**This Information is preliminary and subject to change. Further, the information given for some occurrences may not have been verified / validated by TC. Therefore, caution should be used when using this information.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/4/2013 3:51 PM
Subject: AFN release on Crown-First Nations Gathering 2
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Looks Forward to Work Toward Achieving Fundamental and Meaningful Change Through Treaty implementation and Affirming Rights, Responsibilities

OTTAWA, Jan. 4, 2013 /CNW/ - Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo today welcomes the commitment by Prime Minister Stephen Harper for a focused working meeting between First Nation leaders scheduled for next Friday.

"This is an important and essential next step in our broad efforts to fully and meaningfully engage in a nation-to-nation relationship, as outlined in Treaties and in advancing First Nation inherent rights and responsibilities," said AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo. "This is an opportunity for the Government of Canada and Crown to honour their responsibilities with First Nations in this country. We look forward to engaging in urgent reforms in priority areas as led by First Nations and to build the solid foundation for tangible results for our peoples. First Nations are ready and committed to the hard work ahead. We have been doing this for decades, and now is the time for change. We cannot and will not lose another generation to mistakes of past or by continuing a broken system perpetuated by government unilateralism."

National Chief Atleo's comments follow a statement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper committing to a focused working meeting with First Nation leaders next Friday January 11, 2013. The National Executive of the Assembly of First Nations sent an Open letter on December 16, 2012 and an urgent invitation on January 1, 2013 seeking a commitment to a meeting between First Nations and the Crown.

Today is Day 25 of Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike, and follows continued calls, and increasing support, by leaders and grassroots citizens, for a meeting between First Nations and the Crown.

"On behalf of the AFN national executive, I commend all those standing up and standing together with Chief Theresa Spence, Elder Raymond Robinson and others asserting their rights and acting for positive change for our peoples," said National Chief Atleo. "This is a true moment of reckoning of which we must seize to ensure a better future for our young people and all Indigenous peoples in this country. A fundamental transformation in the relationship between First Nations and Canada is surging under our feet. We must return to our responsibilities as set out by all our ancestors and we must do that now. We will need all of our citizens engaged in driving change forward now in every First Nation and in every region."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 10:35 PM
Subject: APTN: Interview with Shawn Atleo
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

SOURCE: APTN-TV
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2013
REFERENCE: 1101doc6

PROGRAM: APTN NEWS
TIME: 20:50
LENGTH: 11:30 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN ATLEO

CHERYL MCKENZIE (APTN-TV): APTN News is breaking into programming for an interview with National Chief Shawn Atleo. It's been a roller coaster ride for the National Chief. For the past week, he's been lobbying chiefs to meet with the Prime Minister. We were trying to get him in for an interview during our regular newscast. We have him in the chair now. The meeting with the P.M. is over and the National Chief joins us live from our Ottawa bureau now.
Thank you very much for joining us, National Chief.
SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): Yes, thanks for having me.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Now, tell us, a lot of the pressure came over Bill C-45. What did the Prime Minister indicate to you about repealing that Act?
SHAWN ATLEO: Well, you know, the government, the Prime Minister recognized that all legislation that aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights absolutely have force and effect in constitutional law. And because of the grievances with these omnibus bills, but all legislation, including the Indian Act, chiefs have been pressing for so long, including the urgency of this moment and the rallying voices of our people which will not be silenced, including hunger strikers calling for treaty implementation as well as changing reforming the comprehensive claims this land negotiation process which is deeply flawed and based on denial, and attempts to extinguish our rights instead of recognition and implementation.
And we've been pressing for and continue to press for a commitment from the Prime Minister and a mandate to engage in treaty implementation and reforming comprehensive claims. And that mandate has been achieved. The Prime Minister committed not only to this work but that there would be high political oversight that includes the Privy Council Office.
What this means is that the treaty leaders now, because it's not for me to negotiate. My role was only to put forward the position of First Nations on these issues, including a number of others: resource revenue sharing, for example, so that we can have a fair share of the wealth and resources of our territories that is promised in treaty.
This is something that the Prime Minister agreed we have shared commitments and that we must get on with the work.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Now that is something that he said to you today, but also in last year's Crown First Nation gathering, he said he wasn't going to unilaterally rewrite the Indian Act, but the bills that are in Parliament actually do that.
SHAWN ATLEO: The Prime Minister conceded when he spoke, and he did use that word, he conceded that there needed to be prime ministerial oversight, that if left to the devices that bureaucracies overstep and attempt to trample and legislative initiatives do end up overstepping treaty and title rights.
And we made it very clear that our people reject those bills. And in fact, the bills, you know, are supposed to, their intention are to make it easier for companies to develop resources. Well, we've made it clear and we'll continue to make it clear that they won't have greater economic certainty, that the way forward is to see treaty rights implemented, which means that we have a fair share of the wealth and resources of our lands and that they're only developed with our free prior and informed consent.
And so the ability now to have direct prime ministerial engagement on matters of great concern for our people, including unilateral legislative development, we now have a forum potential that we did not have before. But it must be led by treaty nations and the leaders themselves as well as those who don't have treaties that are negotiating at what are called comprehensive claims negotiation tables.
And so those commitments I think including to all of the points that were raised on things like the need for a new fiscal relationship for fair and equitable funding, as a recognition that there needs to be fairness and equity and it must produce results. And so this work is not to be left, you know, for a long period of

time. The Prime Minister committed to engage early and immediately.
This means that in the coming weeks, we'll look to leadership to determine how to work with the Prime Minister on treaty implementation to put forward what it is that First Nations are seeking on a treaty-by-treaty and nation-by-nation basis. This is a mandate that was not there before. Our chiefs were, and I was so frustrated that after the Prime Minister committed to treaty implementation and comprehensive claims last January, that their bureaucrats within government were saying they had no mandate.
This was a direct contradiction including the unilateral actions. And so we raised and pressed these issues very hard today and the Prime Minister committed his direct involvement. That's the only way forward. Our leaders have been saying that there's any sense or hope that there could be change. And so on that front, there was movement today.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Tell us about that meeting today. Certainly the people were making their voices very much heard on the outside. What was the mood in the room?
SHAWN ATLEO: Well, the mood, I can describe it as respectful dialogue. Many were suggesting that it was the most time that's been spent by the Prime Minister. He stayed in the room for the entire time. I think we were there from 1h30 till five and listening to the powerful voices of the Idle no More rally that was surrounding the Prime Minister's Office. It added a sense of strength about that we're in a moment that we can't go back from, that our people will stand up for the land, for the water, for the air and that Canada will be stronger if we're working together and our children are supported, to have education where they're learning their languages and the best of our teachings and traditions, and as well as acquiring world-class skills so that they can, you know, have the jobs that they're seeking. And our nations can pursue resource development on a basis that they so desire.
Our people have always said we're not opposed to development. Just not... we just don't agree with it at every or any cost. It must be done sustainably. That's the obligation that we've got from the ancestors and that we have in our relationship with the environment around us.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: How confident are you that Prime Minister Harper's oversight is really going to implement the treaty relationship not only among his ministers but among the federal bureaucrats?
SHAWN ATLEO: I think there's a strong recognition that the power that First Nations have in the treaty and in our title and rights that are in Section 35, that the powers there in the people, the way that they're rising up, tremendous power that this is a moment that we've been saying, a tipping point maybe that's been coming for a long time. And it's being led by the young people. They're the leaders not of tomorrow. They're leading the way right now.
And the additional leverage that First Nations have is that Canada wants to develop $650 billion worth of natural resources across the country and we're moving ahead to a certain extent in a manner of disregard to our title and rights and treaty rights. I believe they now recognize that the only way the economy is going to be developed is if, as the Canadian Council of Chief Executives this last summer, all of the big CEOs said it must be done in full partnership.
Well, our ancestors said that at the outset of treaty and we've never received our fair share. And so it is incumbent and the responsibility of the Prime Minister and the Crown to honour and implement the treaty relationship with First Nations. This will require a lot of work. It's not work that is going to be undertaken. This was not about me negotiating for anybody, for any nation or for any treaty. My role is only to help push open the doors; but you know, it's our people. It's the urgency of the moment. It's the hunger strikers saying that we will not allow another Christmas/New Year's holiday go by with the kind of conditions we have. We simply must seek the transformative change that our people have always fought for. And, you know, I will join...
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes.
SHAWN ATLEO: ... all of our people in continuing to fight for that change.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes. Transformative change, we've talked about this in the past. Chiefs from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario were adamant that you do not attend this meeting. Some were threatening to force you out of your job. What do you say to that?
SHAWN ATLEO: I recognize the difficult moment that this presented because, you know, on December 31st, on New Year's Eve we have a national conference call with 50 or 60 chiefs on line and we all under the understanding, based on press conferences as well as press statements, that if we were to secure a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General that Theresa... Chief Theresa Spence would end her hunger strike.
I turns out that we all either didn't understand or there was a miscommunication because 24 hours later, you know, I had chiefs saying we need to go sit down with Chief Spence, which I did, which was one of a

number of occasions. And she said to me that she will continue until there's a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General.
So we continued to press that urgency, and as I was meeting with the chief from Manitoba last Friday I received a call and they said that they would be prepared to meet on Friday the 11th.
In that short period of a time, we didn't have a confirmation of the Governor General. And because of the relationship with treaty we continued to press and then the Governor General who, as we speak, is...
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes.
SHAWN ATLEO: ... receiving treaty leaders. And so it has been incredibly challenging. But let me...
CHERYL MCKENZIE: But today they talked...
SHAWN ATLEO: ... make this clear.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: ... about non-confidence in...
SHAWN ATLEO: Let me... let me just...
CHERYL MCKENZIE: ... you in taking their direction.
SHAWN ATLEO: Let me just make this clear. I respect all regions, and we had the majority of regions participating and represented in the meeting today with the Prime Minister. I did not have instructions from the executive to cancel the meeting that we had called for.
And you know, on the substance, on the issues of treaties, on comprehensive claims and the need for resource revenue sharing to address the challenges in the bills and the legislation, on the substance we had full unity when we were having these discussions this week. Where we were challenged was with, you know, the logistics of the meeting and the process of the meeting.
And so this, it's one meeting. What we need to see and what we pressed for with the Prime Minister was for him to meet with all of the chiefs. And he said, you know, when you're making progress, then those meetings can be particularly valuable. And so that door is open because that is my responsibility is to keep pushing that door open.
And so I do acknowledge it has been an incredibly challenging, most difficult week, but this is the hard work of seeking real change for our people.
And I will continue to listen to the voices of all of our leaders. I had so many from coast to coast to coast saying we have to make sure that our voices are heard. I heard people from all walks of our citizens saying that we must seize every opportunity to press our agenda forward.
Yes, I am deeply concerned about, you know, challenges in our unity. We are so diverse: over 50 languages, treaty/non-treaty. And it is a challenge for us to come together.
And I will say this as well: that you know, even the Assembly of First Nations...
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Okay.
SHAWN ATLEO: ... the way we're organized is something that we really need to closely look at...
CHERYL MCKENZIE: All right.
SHAWN ATLEO: ... to make sure that we're serving our people properly.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Okay. Well, just as your discussions will continue with government, ours will have to too for tonight. I'd like to thank you very much for coming in tonight, National Chief Shawn Atleo.
SHAWN ATLEO: Thanks for having me.
CHERYL MCKENZIE: Thank you very much. We'll now take you back to regular programming here on APTN.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
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Subject: APTN News: Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide

By Jorge Barrera
APTN National News

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's "life partner" says the federal Aboriginal Affairs department should finally launch the forensic audit requested by the community in 2004 if it's serious about tracking the millions of dollars that have flowed through the band's coffers.

Aboriginal Affairs on Monday released an audit done by Deloitte and Touche that found a missing paper trail for millions of dollars in funding flowing through Attawapiskat First Nation between 2005 and 2011. Attawapiskat has a population of about 1,828.

The audit, which examined funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Health Canada along with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, detonated like a grenade as First Nations leaders prepared for Friday's scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The audit, targeting the $104 million the northern Ontario community on the Attawapiskat River received between 2005 and 2011, examined 505 financial transactions, 400 from Aboriginal affairs and 105 from Health Canada, and found that 81 per cent of those transactions did not have the proper documentation and 61 per cent had none.

"We were unable to determine if the funds were spent for their intended purpose," said a Deloitte and Touche management letter to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, dated Aug. 28.

The auditors also noted that CMHC never bothered to tell Aboriginal Affairs about its own inspectors' findings that housing conditions were worsening in the community.

Spence's partner, Clayton Kennedy, who is also the band's former co-manager, said financial accountability had improved over the last two years in Attawapiskat, which posts all its financial documents online. He said none of the money was ever misappropriated and every dollar could be tracked by simply approaching the vendors and the banks involved. He said the department should call in the forensic audit requested by the community back in 2004.

"If everyone is so concerned about the lack of documentation, then fine, come back, start contacting the suppliers, go through the banks, get into it in a little more detail because I don't think you'll find any misappropriation of funds," said Kennedy, who was the band's co-manager between July 2010 and August 2012.

Kennedy was also the band's director of finance, band manager and co-manager between 2001 and 2004 and left the community until he was hired again.

Spence, who was deputy chief from 2007 to 2010, has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, consuming fish broth two or three times a day along with water and traditional medicine teas, to force a meeting between the prime minister, the governor general and First Nations leaders.

With the meeting now scheduled for Friday, Spence says she will continue to abstain from consuming solid foods until she is satisfied with its result.

Spence has developed a type of sainthood among many who travel from all over the country just to see her, give her gifts and pray for her.

She also has developed a fiercely loyal group of supporters and they barred media Monday from entering the log-fence compound on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River where Spence has been living in a teepee.

Attawapiskat's deputy chief George Mattinas told APTN National News all media were now banned from entering the community.

Spence has lost about 22 lbs since she began her hunger strike and a nurse who checked her on Monday noticed her blood-sugar level was dropping, said Kennedy. Kennedy also said Spence has been suffering pain from her stomach contracting from lack of food. He said she is not consuming any vitamins or supplements.

"She is extremely weak," said Kennedy. "I am concerned."

Kennedy said he's worried Spence continues to refuse solid food.

"I don't like where all this is heading in terms of her continuing," he said. "I think she's probably done enough...but it's her decision to do this."

Kennedy said he believes the government released the "comprehensive audit" to politically torpedo Spence and weaken the Idle No More movement, which shows no signs of abating through continued round dances, rallies and highway blockades across the country.

"It's a witch-hunt," he said. "This whole report that is being exposed as nothing more than a deflection to take pressure off the government because they are in the midst of protest by Indigenous people across this country and people around the world...they just needed to put something out to discredit the movement and discredit the chief, it's all part of politics."

Kennedy said the audit proves things improved after Spence became chief on Aug. 27, 2010.

"Prior to Theresa coming on as chief, there were problems," said Kennedy. "Hence that is why I was brought in by council, with the full knowledge of Aboriginal Affairs, to get things turned around and for the most part I did get them turned around."

The audit's examination of 400 Aboriginal Affairs transactions supports his assertion. Between 2009 and 2011, the audit found 31 transactions lacked supporting documentation. Between 2005 and 2009, the audit found 214 transactions lacked all supporting documentation.

"There was a lack of oversight, there was a lack of controls," said Kennedy. "It was all relatively young finance staff."

Kennedy cites as an example of several entries in the Deloitte audit on "write down of accounts payable" that were found to have incomplete documentation. Kennedy said those were entries he was trying to correct after staff duplicated invoices for capital projects which are handled by external accountants and project managers.

"I had to take them off the books of account," he said.

Kennedy said Attawapiskat, which has been in co-management for 10 years, was on the brink of bankruptcy when he took over.

Kennedy said the band was previously co-managed by BDO Canada from November 2009 to April 2010, but the band council decided to not continue with them after the firm asked for $400,000 a year over five

years to do the job. Kennedy said he earned about $140,000 by comparison.

"Council was suspicious of the fact they hadn't done anything in six months in terms of producing financial statements," said Kennedy.

David Facca, a BDO partner in Thunder Bay, was involved, but said he wasn't authorized to comment when contacted by APTN National News.

Before BDO, the band was co-managed by George Lanouette, who has since died.

The band manager through the majority of the audit period, former chief Ignace Gull, was let go from his position in December 2011, said Kennedy.

Gull could not be reached for comment.

Kennedy said he's not surprised the auditors failed to find documentation for transactions dating back to 2005.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan called for the audit in December 2011 at the same time he imposed a third-party manager on the community, seizing financial control away from the band council and administration.

When the auditors landed in the community for two five day stints in early 2012, the band's staff was already working to the limit dealing with the third-party manager, who was from BDO Canada's Winnipeg office.

"My staff didn't have time to get to the nuts and bolts," he said. "We were worried about payroll and welfare payments that were withheld. I had to provide a raft of information...(The third party manager) wanted to take over all the payroll, he wanted all the information, personal information for every employee by program."

Kennedy said most of the band's accounting staff had "no knowledge of the majority of transactions." He said they pulled out boxes of files from a warehouse to meet the auditors' demands.

"My staff was preoccupied with operations and did not have a lot of time to devote to the auditor's queries," he said.

Duncan's spokesman Jan O'Driscoll said the audit "speaks for itself" and the minister's office accepts "its conclusions and recommendations."

SIDEBAR

Kennedy says all donations accounted for

Clatyon Kennedy, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's life partner, said he wants to allay concerns raised in the media about a savings account he set up to for donations to support Spence's hunger strike.

So far, the account has received about $31,000 in donations and spent about $20,400 on expenses like hotels for support staff at the site and Spence's family along with food, stoves, gasoline and the rental of a car, he said.

Kennedy said he has kept all the receipts and will be providing a detailed breakdown of the spending to the major donors.

"I have the spreadsheets, I have the documentation, if anyone is worried," he said.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
Date: 1/16/2013 11:27 AM
Subject: APTN News: Day of Action events launched across the country
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Day of Action events launched across the country
APTN National News

From British Columbia to Nunavut, Alberta to Nova Scotia, rallies, round dances and blockades are expected Wednesday as part of a planned First Nations national day of action.

In Ontario, London District Chiefs Council Chair Greg Peters said the planned rally at the gates of the Ambassador Bridge, which connects Windsor, Ont., to Detroit, Mich., would be the biggest First Nations event the area has ever seen. Plans are to rally for about an hour, temporarily stopping cross-border traffic.

"This will be the biggest First Nation event that Windsor has ever seen," said Peters, who spoke to APTN while standing in a parking lot packed with 12 buses of supporters. "We want to send a message that depending on the numbers, should we decide to shut down the border at a future date that is possible, that it could be done.

A portion of Hwy 401 was shut down by police for the convoy to the bridge.

In Cayuga, Ont., near Hamilton, about 60 people from Six Nations rallied and round danced at the local court house Wednesday morning.

"The idle No More movement is connecting to the everyday injustices faced by Native people when they are dragged through the courts at the hands of the (Ontario Provincial Police) when they are standing up for their rights," said organizer Laura Lepper.

Lepper said the rally was partly in support of Theresa Toad Jaimeson who is facing charges from a Feb. 18, 2012, incident after a "anti-Native rights" activist walked into an area of land in Caledonia, Ont., that Six Nations reclaimed in 2006.

A spokesman for the OPP said the provincial police force would be focusing on preserving public safety throughout the day.

"I know there are various activities planned for various locations," said OPP Sgt. Peter Leon. "We are prepared to deal with them as they do present themselves."

Barrie, Ont., police warned drivers Wednesday morning to expect delays as a result of rallies.

Possible blockades are also expected in Ontario and Manitoba. Former Roseau River chief Terry Nelson told APTN National News there are plans to shut down the CP and CN rail lines in Manitoba.

CN, CP and VIA spokespeople said they have yet to receive any reports of rail blockades, but they are monitoring the situation.

In British Columbia, the Pat Bay Hwy in Vancouver Island is also expected to be blocked temporarily.

A highway blockade is also planned near Cardston, Alta., and in the Lubicon Lake nation in the same province plans traffic slowdowns throughout the oil fields in their territory.

"We're not out blocking the roads and shutting things down, we're not at that point." said Lubicon Coun. Bryan Laboucan, in a statement. "All we're doing here today is taking a few minutes to talk to people

visiting our territory whether for work or just passing through and educate them on our situation."

In Whitehorse a 24-hour prayer circle is expected to begin at about 6 p.m. local time. In Toronto, an Idle No More rally is planned for the British consulate at noon.

A march is planned in Kanesatake that will begin at the Pines near the cemetery that was once at the centre of the Oka crisis in 1990.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: APTN News: Idle No More rallies sweep country once again while PM meets with First Nations leaders
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Idle No More rallies sweep country once again while PM meets with First Nations leaders
APTN National News

OTTAWA-A massive round dance framed the lawn of Parliament Hill Friday while a group of First Nations leaders met Friday afternoon with Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a day that saw Idle No More rallies unfold across the country.

Despite opposition from many chiefs in Ontario, Manitoba, Northwest Territory and Saskatchewan chiefs, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo led a delegation of about 16 First Nations leaders to meet with the prime minister and several cabinet ministers.

During the meeting, thousands of people marched down Ottawa's Wellington Street which separates Parliament Hill from Langevin Block which houses the Prime Minister's Office. Rallies also unfolded across the country, from Whitehorse to Halifax, Yellowknife to Winnipeg, from Vancouver to Toronto to Montreal to Fredericton, thousands of people rallied under the banner of Idle No More. Nova Scotia also saw a rail blockade by members of Millbrook First Nation.

There were over 200 Idle No More related events around the world, from London, England, to Texas, to New Zealand.

"I am blown away, I am filled with pride, I am just standing here trying to take this in," said Molly Peters, a Mi'kmaq Idle No More organizer from Nova Scotia, who was standing on the steps of Parliament Hill watching the round dance slowly turn on the lawn below.

"I came for unity," said Stacie Landon, from Neyaahiinigmiing First Nation in Ontario. "I am here for my children's future."

Janice Trudeau, from unceded Wikwemikong First Nation, said she took the streets in Ottawa in solidarity with other Indigenous people.

"I came in solidarity with other Anishinabe people to form a united front against Harper," she said

And while the grassroots flooded the streets of Canada with round dances, songs and drums, fissures developed between First Nations chiefs over the meeting with the prime minister and some of his cabinet ministers.

A few hours before the 1 p.m. start to the meeting, chiefs from Ontario and Manitoba stated they would not be participating and warned that they would be initiating economic disruptions on Jan. 16.

"We can't live in poverty anymore while Canadians live this great life," said Grand Chief Gordon Peters of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. "We'll stop it the only way we can stop it...Stop the roads, stop the rails, stop the transportation of goods."

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, who marched Friday morning along with about 150 others, including Ontario and Saskatchewan chiefs to the door of the Langevin building, said Manitoba chiefs would be standing with the grassroots.

"Across the tables in this room and across the street paper crosses hands and artificial laws are made to control us. We are saying no more," said Nepinak as he stood at the gates to Parliament Hill and across

the street from Langevin.

Nepinak and Peters were among a number of chiefs who opposed the meeting. They wanted Gov. Gen. David Johnston to appear along with the prime minister and the chiefs wanted it to be held in a larger venue. Many said they also supported Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence who has been on a liquids-only hunger strike since Dec. 11. Spence had said she'd end her protest if the governor general and the prime minister met with First Nations leaders.

"It's important for both of them to be there at the same time with all leaders, not just some," Spence told reporters early Friday outside her Victoria Island compound where she's spent most of her days in a teepee.

Spence has said she'll continue to abstain from solid foods.

Yet, despite this opposition, Atleo led chiefs from the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan into the meeting with Harper. The AFN released a list of points they planned to discuss with the prime minister and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Treasury Board President Toney Clement and senior bureaucrats.

The AFN released eight points they planned to raise with the prime minister, including: creating a "high level process" to deal with the treaties, halt the implementation of sections of the Conservative's omnibus bills, Bill C-38 and Bill C-45 that impact treaty and Aboriginal rights, create a national inquiry on murdered and missing Indigenous women, create a framework for resource revenue sharing and a ensure every First Nations has a strong school.

The AFN also said they would be calling for a dedicated cabinet committee, with a secretariat inside the Privy Council, which is the prime minister's department, focused on the First Nations-Crown relationship.

Atleo's decision to go the meeting, however, may create political problems. Some chiefs in Ontario were openly musing about moving to oust him.

Serpent River First Nation Chief Isadore Day saidÂ Atleo endangered Spence's life by going to the meeting. He said Atleo's leadership was now at stake.

"Should you go, knowing the danger of death could have been assessed and prevented, I will not be the only Chief to ask for a vote of confidence against your leadership, but this letter serves that I will be the first in line," said Day, in an email sent to Atleo early Friday morning.

Jim Hurcomb

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Idle No More's thunder heard through walls of Prime Minister's Office
APTN National News

While Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo sat in the meeting room of the high-security Langevin Block building flanked by Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan and Treasury Board President Tony Clement he could hear the sounds of the Idle No More protest that had shut down the streets outside.

Atleo, who attended the meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper Friday despite heated pressure from Manitoba, Ontario and some Saskatchewan chiefs, said the sounds of the protests gave the meeting added weight.

"Listening to the power voices of the Idle No More rally that was surrounding the Prime Minister's Office, it added a sense of strength, that we are in a moment we can't go back from," said Atleo. "That our people will stand up for the land, the water, the air."

Atleo led a delegation of about 16 First Nations leaders to meet with the prime minister and several cabinet ministers.

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"Across the tables in this room and across the street paper crosses hands and artificial laws are made to control us. We are saying no more," said Nepinak as he stood at the gates to Parliament Hill and across the street from Langevin.

Nepinak and Peters were among a number of chiefs who opposed the meeting. They wanted Governor Genernal David Johnston to appear along with the prime minister and the chiefs wanted it to be held in a larger venue. Many said they also supported Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence who has been on a liquids-only fast since Dec. 11. Spence had said she'd end her protest if the governor general and the prime minister met with First Nations leaders.

"It's important for both of them to be there at the same time with all leaders, not just some," Spence told reporters early Friday outside her Victoria Island compound where she's spent most of her days in a teepee.

Spence has said she'll continue to abstain from solid foods.

Yet, despite this opposition, Atleo led chiefs from the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan into the meeting with Harper.

The AFN released a list of points they planned to discuss with the prime minister and Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, Clement and senior bureaucrats.

Atleo said the meeting lasted from about 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and it was done with a tone of "respectful dialogue."

Atleo said he felt the chiefs who attended the meeting managed to convince Harper that he needed to personally take charge of the issues between Canada and First Nations.

"The ability now to have direct prime ministerial engagement on matters of great concern for our people...including unilateral legislative development...We now have a forum...that we did not have before," said Atleo, in an interview with APTN National News. "It is incumbent and the responsibility of the prime minister and the Crown to honour and implement the treaty relationship with First Nations. It will require a lot of work."

Atleo acknowledged that many of the chiefs from Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were against the meeting because they wanted to stand behind Spence.

Spence is expected to continue her fast because the prime minister and the governor general did not appear together at the meeting.

Atleo said he understands the chiefs' position, but he has been pushing to meet Spence's demands which appeared to shift.

"On Dec. 31, on New Year's Eve, we had a national conference call with 50 or 60 chiefs on the line and that if we were to secure a meeting with the prime minister and governor general, that Chief Theresa Spence would end her hunger strike," said Atleo. "It turns out we all either didn't understand or there was miscommunication. Twenty-four hours later, I had had chiefs saying we need to go sit with Chief Spence and she said she would continue until there was a meeting with the prime minister and the government general."

On the Conservative government's side, Duncan said he felt the meeting was "constructive," but he wouldn't go into specifics about some of the demands the chiefs had like resource revenue sharing.

However, he did say that although it was discussed, Bill C-45 and Bill C-38 would not be repealed as requested by many First Nations across the country.

"We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there is every reason to proceed," said Duncan.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a release saying that Harper had a "good, frank dialogue with First Nations."

The prime minister says both sides did not agree on all matters, but First Nations brought "serious and important proposals to the table."

Harper says he will debrief his cabinet onFriday's meeting and committed to meeting with National Chief Shawn Atleo in the coming weeks to "review next steps."

The Prime Minister was initially going to attend only at the beginning and end but took part in the entire meeting, which went two hours longer than planned.

Serpent River Chief Isadore Day, who opposed Atleo attending the meeting, said many chiefs were "shocked" the meeting occurred.

Day said Atleo had no "business" talking about treaties at the meeting.

"I'd like to denounce the national chief even discussing treaties when the majority of the treaty communities weren't even at the table," said Day.

Day warned Atleo earlier in an email earlier in the day Friday that if he went to the meeting he could face a motion of non-confidence from chiefs.

"The talk is that a lot of people aren't happy, obviously, you know people are shocked, folks are saying that the best thing for people to do is take a bit of a step back and go home and do something thinking," said Day. "How could in one day, the national chief say we are united and that we are all standing behind Chief Spence and in the next day, take this entourage to a meeting. That is not sitting well with the majority of the chiefs in assembly."

Former National Chief Matthew Coon Come who was one of the first to arrive to the Langevin offices told reporters earlier that it would be a lost opportunity if chief didn't take advantage of the meeting.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts;...
Date: 1/16/2013 3:16 PM
Subject: APTN News: Manitoba blockade has shut down regional rail traffic: CN
Attachments: HQ Inform2.vcf

Manitoba blockade has shut down regional rail traffic: CN
APTN National News

A Manitoba rail blockade has shut down regional rail traffic, according to a spokesman for CN.

An APTN National News crew, including reporter Karen Gott, is following former Roseau River chief Terry Nelson who is spearheading the rail blockade in Manitoba. The chosen location sits about 90 km west of Winnipeg at the junction of Hwy. 1 and the Yellowhead Hwy. which is the major branch route to Western Canada. The RCMP is on the scene.

"Yes, I have just been advised that we now have a blockade in Manitoba," said CN spokesman Jim Feeny. "(It is) stopping train traffic in that region."

The rail blockade was expected to also target a CP rail line. CP could not be reached for comment.

The Tyendinaga Mohawks also they plan to shut down the CP and CN rail lines in Ontario as part of cross-country, National Day of Action events planned from British Columbia to Nunavut, Alberta to Nova Scotia. Mohawks from Tyendinaga have told APTN National News reporter Kenneth Jackson that they plan to shut down the rail lines at about 1 p.m. local time. The location for the blockade is unknown.

Another rail blockade is also expected to hit in British Columbia, according to APTN National News reporter Shirley McLean. The Gtixsan of Gitwangak said they would block the CN rail line between 10 a.m. local time and 6 p.m.

Rallies, round dances and blockades were expected from coast-to-coast-to-coast Wednesday.

In Windsor, Ont., about 1,000 people marched to the Ambassador Bridge which links the city to Detroit, Mich., said filmmaker Monica Virtue. Virtue said drummers were pounding away and a helicopter hovered over head as the march stopped briefly on their route, with the bridge looming in the distance.

"We are getting ready to walk over the bridge," said Virtue, in a phone interview.

In Ontario, London District Chiefs Council Chair Greg Peters said earlier in the day that the planned rally at the Ambassador BridgeÂ would be the biggest First Nations event the area has ever seen. Plans are to rally for about an hour, temporarily stopping cross-border traffic.

"This will be the biggest First Nation event that Windsor has ever seen," said Peters, who spoke to APTN while standing in a parking lot packed with 12 buses of supporters. "We want to send a message that depending on the numbers, should we decide to shut down the border at a future date that is possible, that it could be done.

A portion of Hwy 401 was shut down by police for the convoy to the bridge.

In Miramichi, NB, marchers took over the Centennial Bridge as part of nation-wide events.

In Cayuga, Ont., near Hamilton, about 60 people from Six Nations rallied and round danced at the local court house Wednesday morning.

"The idle No More movement is connecting to the everyday injustices faced by Native people when they are dragged through the courts at the hands of the (Ontario Provincial Police) when they are standing up

for their rights," said organizer Laura Lepper.

Lepper said the rally was partly in support of Theresa Toad Jaimeson who is facing charges from a Feb. 18, 2012, incident after a "anti-Native rights" activist walked into an area of land in Caledonia, Ont., that Six Nations reclaimed in 2006.

A spokesman for the OPP said the provincial police force would be focusing on preserving public safety throughout the day.

"I know there are various activities planned for various locations," said OPP Sgt. Peter Leon. "We are prepared to deal with them as they do present themselves."

Barrie, Ont., police warned drivers Wednesday morning to expect delays as a result of rallies.

Members of Alderville First Nation in Ontario are slowing traffic along Hwy. 45 which cuts through their territory. They are handing out pamphlets, coffee and juice..

Possible blockades are also expected in Ontario and Manitoba. Former Roseau River chief Terry Nelson told APTN National News there are plans to shut down the CP and CN rail lines in Manitoba.

In British Columbia, the Pat Bay Hwy in Vancouver Island is also expected to be blocked temporarily.

A highway blockade is also planned near Cardston, Alta., and in the Lubicon Lake nation in the same province plans traffic slowdowns throughout the oil fields in their territory.

"We're not out blocking the roads and shutting things down, we're not at that point." said Lubicon Coun. Bryan Laboucan, in a statement. "All we're doing here today is taking a few minutes to talk to people visiting our territory whether for work or just passing through and educate them on our situation."

In Whitehorse a 24-hour prayer circle is expected to begin at about 6 p.m. local time. In Toronto, an Idle No More rally is planned for the British consulate at noon local time.

A march is planned in Kanesatake that will begin at the Pines near the cemetery that was once at the centre of the Oka crisis in 1990.

The Algonquins Barriere Lake, Que., plan to slow down traffic on Hwy 117 to draw attention to their opposition of forestry projects on their land.

Jim Hurcomb

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Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada | Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada

DEC 2 0 2012

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

Chief and Council
Attawapiskat First Nation
P.O. Box 248
ATTAWAPISKAT ON P0L 1A0

4203-143
CIDM#544393

Re: 2011/2012 Audit Preliminary Review

Thank you for submitting your 2011/2012 audited financial statements. We have completed a preliminary review of your First Nation's audited financial statements for the 2011/2012 fiscal year.

During the course of our preliminary review there were a number of areas for which we require further information. We will contact your CEO, Wayne Turner, to set up a conference call to discuss these areas in detail.

We look forward to working with you and your Band administration to address the areas identified as quickly as possible so as to minimize the impact on your community.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Yves Chenier, Sr. Funding Services Officer, at (807) 624-5917 or by email at yves.chenier@aandc.gc.ca.

Joanne Wilkinson
A/ Regional Director General
Ontario Region

25 St. Clair Ave. East, 8th Floor
TORONTO ON M4T 1M2

cc: Robert Maguire, Director, Funding Services, AANDC
Max Johnson, Manager, Funding Services, AANDC
Yves Chenier, Sr. Funding Services Officer, AANDC

Canada

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 5:11 PM
Subject: BBC News: Boycott and protests over Canada native talks
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Boycott and protests over Canada native talks

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a group of First Nations chiefs have begun talks over treaty rights and native groups' historic grievances.

Friday's talks come amid raucous protests in Ottawa by native Canadians who have boycotted the meeting.

First Nations chiefs sitting out the talks are angered the governor general did not attend and dispute the terms of the talks.

Also on the agenda were resource revenue and environmental laws.

On Friday, Mr Harper and a group of native leaders met at government offices beside the Canadian parliament in Ottawa.

He was joined by several cabinet ministers, including Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board Secretary Tony Clement.

Among those skipping the talks was Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who went on hunger strike four weeks ago in protest against a budget bill that critics say weakens native land rights and environmental safeguards.

Governor General David Johnston - who is the representative of Queen Elizabeth but is not involved with everyday government matters - has offered to attend a separate ceremonial meeting with the chiefs after the discussions between the government and the delegation of First Nations chiefs.

And Mr Harper has offered to hold a second meeting with Mr Johnston and Ms Spence, the Globe and Mail has reported.

Ms Spence and other native leaders have said this would not be sufficient, arguing the treaty rights in question were first established under a royal proclamation.

In addition to Ms Spence, chiefs from the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and the North-West Territories have boycotted the talks.

"We want to see the governor general and the prime minister and have it opened up to all of the chiefs," said Perry Bellegarde, chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, according to the Globe and Mail newspaper.

"That's what we are saying, that's what Chief Spence is saying, and we support that and stand in solidarity."

The dissenting chiefs have also demanded Mr Harper come to them. They want the meeting be held in a larger room at Ottawa's Delta Hotel, where they are based, and have called for more chiefs to be involved.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo is attending the meeting after calling for unity on Thursday evening.

"We need to continue to stand united - chiefs, delegates," Mr Atleo said, according to broadcaster CTV. "If we are to be divided at a moment like this, the governments will see that."

Some chiefs are threatening a no-confidence vote over his attendance at the talks.

It is not clear how many chiefs were attending the meeting with Mr Harper.

The grassroots movement Idle No More, which has held protests across Canada, threatened to block major roads and rail lines in Ontario if its demands are not met, Grand Chief Gordon Peters told reporters on Friday.

Idle No More has also been critical of the First Nations leadership.

Since her hunger strike began, Ms Spence has faced questions about an audit of Attawapiskat's finances that showed a lack of documentation of how federal funds transferred to the nation were spent.

In a statement to reporters on Friday, she accused Mr Harper of making "false statements about funding".

"Most of the funding that we have, it goes back to your the taxpayers, it goes out of the reserve," she said, citing construction and consulting costs.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/12/2013 11:55 AM
Subject: BNN-TV: Framework agreement on First Nations land management
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

SOURCE: BNN TV
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2013
REFERENCE: 1101doc8

PROGRAM: HEADLINE
TIME: N/A
LENGTH: 9:34 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH KELLY LINDSAY

HOWARD GREEN (Host): As we told you at the top of the program, the Harper government today announced the inclusion of eight more First Nations groups to the framework agreement on First Nations land management, allowing them to assume greater control over their reserve land and resources. For more on economic development job opportunities and resource sharing in First Nations communities, I spoke with Kelly Lindsay, president and CEO of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council in Saskatoon. Well, Kelly, thanks very much for making time for us today. We appreciate it.
KELLY LINDSAY (President, CEO, Aboriginal Human Resource Council): Thank you.
HOWARD GREEN: You know, first of all, I just want to get your reaction to the announcement from the Harper government today. It says it is providing eight more First Nations with greater control over land and resources. How significant a development is that from your point of view?
KELLY LINDSAY: It's another step in the right direction. I think that all of these require many steps in the right direction, and you know, you hear a lot, and I think Canadians are asking themselves what does this all mean, the Idle No More, the hunger strike, and I think that what we try to do is focus on the similarities and the issues that all Canadians are facing, including aboriginal Canadians. So I do think this is a step in the right direction.
HOWARD GREEN: And so obviously there is a whole list of issues that are being dealt with and discussed, but because we cover business, I want to focus specifically on economic and specifically resource related issues. Can you give us some sort of sense what kind of resource deal or deals are being sought, given that we have so many resource related projects that we want to develop in this country?
KELLY LINDSAY: Well, just on the resource front, I think there's something like 500 projects that need to be developed, bringing in an estimated $500 billion worth of development. So that's just on the numbers side. But you know, businesses see aboriginal employment, aboriginal engagement and aboriginal business development as a business case. And we know that, I mean, just to put it in context, if every aboriginal Canadian in this country is employed and educated at the same rate as their fellow Canadians, our GDP, our gross domestic product would grow to $401 billion by 2027. Now, that's good news. That's what everybody wants to hear. Politicians want to hear it, Canadian taxpayers want to hear it, aboriginal leaders want to hear it, and every Canadian aboriginal family that wakes up every day shares the same challenges and issues that all Canadian families. They think about the four Es. They think about jobs for my kids, they think about education, economics and self-esteem. And I think drawing people towards those four Es, as you said, towards this business case, and getting people focused on targets for that, that's what this whole movement and this meeting with Harper is all about, is getting to the tangible issues and steps that we need to take to get there.
HOWARD GREEN: And so, you know, given the context of what the government's trying to do in the energy sector specifically, diversifying away from the United States, more focus towards Asia, pipelines, obviously, and we have extraordinarily complex issues in British Columbia because of this, what kinds of deals are necessary for everybody to be happy here?
KELLY LINDSAY: Well, I mean, you hear a lot of the noise with the Idle No More is about a shout and a cry. And I think the shout out is that, I mean, all Canadians have rights. We have property rights, legal rights, human rights. But when you think about your property, you know, if someone wanted to put a road through your property and didn't consult with you, just, you know, took it and you got no benefit, this is really, I think, what garners Canadians' understanding of what's happening with Idle No More and these movements, is that aboriginal communities are really no different than any village, hamlet, town or city in

this country. They feel they have rights. They want to be heard. They want a partner, and they want to see the benefits of resource developments. For the most part, I mean, I know aboriginal leaders in every province and territory. They're not against development. They want to be part of development. They are like any mayor that wants to make sure that there are jobs, there's economic development, there's social development in terms of schools, parks, swimming pools, the same type of things that we want in every Canadian community. That's what's not coming out loud enough in I think the Canadian understanding of what the issues are, that the issues are the same, and aboriginal people have been excluded from those issues, and it really is about building the partnership capital, and I've seen it work. Our organization does this. We see what happens when you get governments, the private sector and aboriginal people, and where there are union involvement required, there are union leadership at the table creating real economic inclusion with real social outcomes.

HOWARD GREEN: One viewer tweeted us today and asked the question why the chief who's on the hunger strike right now, Theresa Spence, pulled out of the meeting with Prime Minister Harper when she has been lobbying for this meeting. Do you have any idea why, and was that a good move?

KELLY LINDSAY: I mean, I can't comment on why she did it. I mean, I think that the hunger strike for me, I see every day aboriginal Canadians are hungry for inclusion. They want jobs. I know there's 400 aboriginal youth coming into the market. They want to be part of the economy. They want to be part of communities, and there really...

HOWARD GREEN: 400, sorry? You threw out a number there...

KELLY LINDSAY: 400,000.

HOWARD GREEN: 400,000.

KELLY LINDSAY: 400,000. We have a baby boom, and Canadians understand a baby boom. Howard, you and I are part of the baby boom. We have a baby boom in the aboriginal community. Half of the population is under 25 years of age. This is good news for employers. They see aboriginal people as a work force, and we need not just the resource sector, we need all employers to see aboriginal people as a work force, a solution to their skill shortages, as economic partners, as business owners. Aboriginal leaders that I know in this country are developing economic development corporations. They're developing entrepreneurship opportunities, and they are employing non-Native Canadians as well. It's a really good news story when you look inside aboriginal owned firms and the amount of diversity and employment they're creating for all Canadians.

HOWARD GREEN: And you know, we're just running out of time here, Kelly, about a minute left. Can you list off what you think are some of the most progressive resource companies in this country when it comes to engaging with First Nations people and employing them?

KELLY LINDSAY: I'll give you two examples on non-aboriginal and on the aboriginal side. On the non-aboriginal side, right in my backyard here in Saskatchewan, we've got companies like Cameco that have been doing this for 30 years. They're seeing second and third generation success inside aboriginal communities and families where people are going to work for Cameco each and every day. Syncrude. They've reached the $1 billion mark in procurement. That is giving goods and services contracts to aboriginal companies and growing those companies over the last 20 years. You've got companies like Syncrude and Suncor who care about aboriginal employment, not just in Alberta, but in places like Newfoundland, because there's a direct flight everyday from St. John's to Newfoundland to bring people to work in the oil sands. BHP, a company owned by Australia, working with indigenous Australians. They set up a unit here, headquarters in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They have a team, an indigenous team, and they are building the partnership capital they need to build their mines and be successful. Behr Gold, another good example of working in the communities. But on the aboriginal side, I'll give you three quickly.

HOWARD GREEN: Yeah?

KELLY LINDSAY: Chief Clarence Louis, Osoyoos First Nation. Small band, 460 people, more companies per capita than anywhere in Canada, creating more than 700 jobs, the majority filled by non-Native people, contributing $40 million to the economy with a world-class winery. You should try their Nk'Mip wine, Howard, with world-class golf course, tourism, and a message that it is about the economy, it's about jobs, and that's what Clarence Louis is espousing. Right here in the centre of Canada, you've got people like Chief Darcy Bear. You've got Membertou First Nation. These corporations like Membertou, $100 million-plus, 14 business operations. They're doing what Canadians hope is happening inside every community in this country, building real sustainable communities. The gaps are so far. We are closing the gaps. And we need to line up the government, the aboriginal people and the private sector boys to be

focused on those targets for change, and to deliver the social and economic conclusion we're all seeking.
HOWARD GREEN: Kelly, we have to leave it there. Many thanks for joining us.
KELLY LINDSAY: Well, thank you very much for having me.
HOWARD GREEN: Thank you. Kelly Lindsay, president and CEO of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council. TV

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/7/2013 7:30 PM
Subject: Canadian Lawyer: Judge 'troubled' by fraud case involving First Nations housing
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Judge 'troubled' by fraud case involving First Nations housing
Written by Glenn Kauth
Monday, 07 January 2013

For those baffled by the continuing confusion over alleged financial problems and the housing crisis at the Attawapiskat First Nation, a new ruling from the Ontario Superior Court in relation to a neighbouring James Bay-area reserve offers a fascinating look at some of the things that can go wrong.

A contract dispute over mould remidiation on Fort Albany homes has many troubling aspects for the judge. (Photo: The Tragically Hip/flickr)
In Mould Clean v. Fort Albany last week, Superior Court Justice Robbie Gordon ruled on a contract dispute between the Fort Albany First Nation and Mould Clean Laboratories Ltd. It centred in part on whether the company did, in fact, remediate a mould problem at 12 homes on the reserve.

The case dealt with a $1.2 million claim for work on the 12 homes and an earlier judgment for $1.6 million that included 24-per-cent interest per year. The James Bay winter road connects both Fort Albany and Attawapiskat, a community whose chief is currently on a high-profile hunger strike and that has been dealing with a housing crisis of its own in recent years.

According to the ruling, Mould Clean obtained judgment against Fort Albany on Aug. 4, 2010, for the $1.6 million. The company, however, received only $405,000 but took no steps to enforce the balance until August 2012, without notifying the band in advance of its intention to do so. By that time, the former chief who had consented to the judgment, Andrew Solomon, was no longer in office.

The work itself stemmed from a mould problem at 26 houses on the reserve. A 2008 report by B.H. Martin Consultants Ltd., titled "Fort Albany First Nation 26 Unit Mould Impacted Houses January 29, 2008," only identified 14 units for remediation and made no reference to the remaining 12 houses. According to the ruling, Mould Clean and Solomon entered into a contract later that year identifying the work in two parts: remediation on the 14 homes identified in the report at $1.4 million and further work on the 12 remaining units at a cost of $1.2 million. In the meantime, the band received a bank loan of $853,000 and funding of $568,000 from the federal government. The total roughly coincides with the cost of the work on the 14 homes. The federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development never provided the funding sought for the remaining homes.

In fighting the company's bid to enforce the judgment, the band argued Mould Clean never did the work on the 12 remaining units.

Just as there have been few solid answers on what happened to $90 million in funding provided to Attawapiskat as the band complained about its housing crisis, the court in Mould Clean found little proof either way on whether Mould Clean actually did the work on the 12 homes.

"The defendant's evidence that the work was not done is far from persuasive and really amounts to bare allegation," wrote Gordon in his Jan. 3 ruling.

"I would have thought that there might be tendered an affidavit from someone who had inspected the 12 units and could say there had been no mould remediation work done on them. No such affidavit was tendered. I would have thought that those persons in occupation of the 12 units might have provided an affidavit indicating the plaintiff had never worked on their homes and no mould remediation work was done. No such affidavit was provided. Instead the court was offered the evidence of current Chief Rex

Knapasweet, current executive director Brian Nakogee, and executive director when the work was undertaken, Lucie Edwards.

"It turns out Chief Knapasweet was not living in the community when the work was being completed and therefore has no firsthand knowledge of what work was or was not done. Brian Nakogee admitted to having no personal knowledge of what work was or was not done. Lucie Edwards' evidence on the issue of whether the work was done on the 12 units was: 'I'm not sure,' 'I don't know,' and 'I can't remember.'"

While Gordon found the plaintiff offered no proof of the work other than its word, the onus, he wrote, was on the band to prove otherwise.

"There is basically no evidence before me to establish the work was not completed," Gordon wrote.

As a result, Gordon found the defendant had failed to establish fraud and dismissed the band's motion to stay enforcement of the judgment and set it aside and for leave to file a statement of defence.

While he ruled in Mould Clean's favour, Gordon finished off his ruling with a few parting shots at the circumstances of the case: "That I have dismissed the defendant's motion should not be taken as an indication that I am not troubled by the manner in which the plaintiff's case has proceeded. That the judgment allows for interest at the rate of 24 per cent per year is troubling. That the plaintiff sat on the judgment for almost two years, amassing almost half a million dollars in interest is troubling. That the plaintiff would initiate its collection proceedings in the manner it did without some final demand for payment being made, I find troubling. However, none of this amounts to the proof of fraud necessary to set aside judgment."

Jim Hurcomb

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To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
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Subject: Canadian Manufacturing Magazine:
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Idle No More and First Nations protests set for nation's transportation infrastructure
CN and CP rail lines targeted, along with bridges and highways

WINDSOR, Ontario--Uncertainty is the word of the day when it comes to Canada's transportation network, as First Nations groups have scheduled marches, protests and blockades across the country.

As reported earlier this week, the Ambassador Bridge, which links Windsor, Ontario with Detroit Michigan, is one of the planned protest locations.

While Windsor Police originally said Idle No More, the First Nations protest movement, is organizing force behind the protest, a statement issued by one of the leaders of the action said that's not the case.

According to Delaware Nation Chief Greg Peters, today's event will be a peaceful march, but it won't be part of the Idle No More protest. He says the protesters just want to to show support for First Nation leadership. He added that the demonstration is aimed at showing Canadians that First Nations are peaceful and that all they want is their fair share.

Peters expects 500 people to participate in the March, which will move along Huron Church Road toward the bridge. They will hold a round dance and make speeches at the intersection of Huron Church and College Ave. Peters says the march might slow traffic and cause a little inconvenience for an hour but he says the group doesn't plan any blockades.

Just as Peters says the Windsor protest isn't actually part of Idle No More, blockades expected to occur on as-yet-unnamed CN and CP rail lines in Manitoba are also not part of the movement, according to the organizer.

APTN National News is reporting that former Roseau River chief Terrance Nelson, has said a "small group" of people will launch rail blockades today, but that the group is working independently from the main protest movement.

The news organization quotes Nelson as saying "This isn't a round dance, this will have consequences," adding "It will block everything going east and west."

APTN also reports "Idle No More's founders and organizers have distanced themselves from plans to launch blockades in several provinces on Wednesday."

In addition to the protests in Windsor and Manitoba, there are actions scheduled for across the country, including:

A unity march across the Centennial Bridge in Miramichi, New Brunswick, led by the Mi'kmaq Nations, scheduled between noon and 2:00PM local time.

A multi-band march that is expected to shut-down part of the Trans-Canada Highway near Nipigon, Ontario. It was scheduled to begin at 12:01AM and last until midnight.

A protest by the Tseshaht First Nation in Port Alberni, British Columbia, at the junction between Pacific Rim Highway Number 4 and Hector Road, scheduled from 11:00AM to 1:00PM local time.

A protest in Niagara Falls, Ontario on Highway 420 and Stanley Avenue

CBC.ca also has a partial list of scheduled protests, including marches in downtown Regina, Saskatchewan and Fredericton, New Brunswick, and a blockade of the QE II highway in Edmonton, Alberta.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/7/2013 8:21 PM
Subject: CBC As It Happens" Attawapiskat funding report
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE
DATE: JANUARY 7, 2013
REFERENCE: 0701doc2

PROGRAM: AS IT HAPPENS
TIME: 18:32 PM
LENGTH: 08:21 MINS

ATTAWAPISKAT

KAREN GORDON (Host): Today once again there are more questions than answers in Attawapiskat. This morning the CBC published a leaked Deloitte and Touche audit of the Ontario communities expenditures. The report was released just five days before Prime Minister Stephen Harper is to meet with First Nations leaders and it reflects quite negatively on Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence. The audit concludes that there is a lack of due diligence on the part of Attawapiskat's leadership to properly document how money is spent. The report says that without a paper trail there is no way of determining if public money is being used appropriately. Jackie Alto is a student at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and today she organized an Idle No More event at the school. Here's her reaction to the Attawapiskat audit, for the record.

JACKIE ALTO (Student): I mean Attawapiskat has been a troubled community for a long time now. Everybody is pointing fingers. And everybody has their own documentation that supports their stance. I think that, you know, having a goal of resolving things needs to come in order and I think that Chief Theresa Spence is doing the best that she can do in leading her people and her community.

GORDON: For the record that was Lakehead University student and Idle No More participant Jackie Alto speaking in Thunder Bay earlier today. Chelsea Vowel is a blogger who has analyzed and written extensively about Attawapiskat's financial records. We reached Chelsea Vowel in Montréal.

CAROL OFF (Co-Host): Ms. Vowel, what was your reaction when you heard about this report, this audit from Attawapiskat?

CHELSEA VOWEL (Blogger): I didn't have really much of a reaction other than the fact that, you know, the timing is a little suspect considering they had 90 days to publish this from when the deputy minister signed off on it in October. Why wait until the last minute? You know? They could have released this back in October.

OFF: But they also had to release this by January 16, the government did, so why do you think that it's a suspect release, a leak?

VOWEL: Well, yeah, and why was it leaked? Why not just release it? I mean it's coming right before the January 11 meeting with Stephen Harper and First Nations leaders so it sort of poisons the well a little bit I think. And, you know, again we're dealing with the situation where the government is saying look over there instead of at the issues that we want to talk about on January 11.

OFF: It will raise the question that Stephen Harper has issued since the... well for a couple years now about this. He keeps saying we can't keep shoving money at the situation in Attawapiskat or in any other community where there is... where he says a lot of money has already been spent. How do you respond to that?

VOWEL: I totally agree. And you know what, I actually hope that a lot of people do read this audit because this audit is not in fact an audit on, you know, whether money has been stolen or whatever people are saying out there. It's actually an audit on how various government entities communicate and work together. The name of the audit is it's An Audit Of Aboriginal Affairs And Attawapiskat First Nations

Management Control Framework. Okay? So it's looking at how is program delivery being affected on reserve, is it efficient, and, you know, are there any improvements that need to be made? Most of the recommendations in this audit are aimed at how Aboriginal Affairs can improve clarity and delivery of services as well as oversight. So, yeah, let's not just throw money at it, let's look at the recommendations that have been stated over and over and over again to improve this and actually do that.

OFF: But the audit also does point out that 80 percent of the files that involved money did not have adequate supporting documents. 60 percent no documents for the reason for payments. There wasn't adequate separation between the people getting the money and those spending it. And a lot of regularities on reporting. It doesn't say anywhere in the report that the money wasn't spent on what should have been, just that there was no paper trail.

VOWEL: Yeah, well, there's a huge issue with reporting and this has been a problem all along. The auditor general has talked about the huge burden that First Nations face in terms of reporting. They have to put in more paperwork than any other group out there and you're not dealing with people who have, you know, a dedicated group of financial whizzes who are able to work solely on filling out that paperwork, which is basically what they need. They don't have that. They have regular people who are doing two or three different jobs trying to get the paperwork in. So things slip under the cracks.

OFF: But I guess everything points to Chief Theresa Spence who's on a hunger strike looking... trying to get a meeting with Stephen Harper and to get more attention to the issues on native communities in Canada. Should Chief Spence have a lot of questions to answer for?

VOWEL: These issues with reporting have been a problem for a very long time and I keep going back to the auditor general because it's fantastic in-depth information there. And these issues with reporting have been talked about since 2003, again in 2006, again in 2011. One of the main issues that the auditor general points to as sort of interfering with this is again the heavy burden put on this. But it's also goes into issues like lack of clarity about who is funding what. It's uncertain what the outcomes are supposed to be, what outcomes are supposed be met. You know, how can we tell when housing is improved if we don't even set up criteria for saying this is the improvement. And this really isn't about Chief Spence. I mean Chief Spence became chief in 2010, right? From 2009 to when the audit started only 31 transactions occurred where there wasn't supporting documentation. The bulk of the lack of documentation came before that. There was improvement, right? And there has been a co-manager in place there for over 10 years. I mean if there's a problem there needs to be a collaborative process, not just a top-down finger pointing blaming the chief for this. This is not about Theresa Spence.

OFF: And you mentioned the auditor general's report which shows that there is a lot of problems with how the federal government does its job and what services it's supposed to be providing for First Nations communities. So do you think that that has to be examined as well? Is there going to be another auditor general's report on this?

VOWEL: Well probably because the auditor general keeps making recommendations about how to improve program delivery and it's not really being followed through with. The structural issues are really what's key here and what needs to be worked on. It's really easy to just wag fingers and say money stolen, money stolen. It's a lot harder to sit down and bang out solutions. And the audit that came out on Attawapiskat pointed out that there have been some positives, that Aboriginal Affairs and the First Nation have managed to work together to really improve some of these situations, to improve the clarity, the outcomes, and to delegate exactly who is in charge of everything because it's such a mess on reserve. A lot of the things that are normally provided by the provinces or municipalities, here it's all by federal agencies and none of them are really sure which one is their job and which one is, like, the job of CMHC or Health Canada. It's all mixed up.

OFF: Now the... Chief Spence and her hunger strike has been closely associated with the Idle No More movement. Do you think that this leaked report discredits that movement?

VOWEL: Well no, for two reasons. The report doesn't say what a lot of people think it says. And the other

reason is Idle No More is not about Chief Spence. So I don't think there's any need to worry about this. We're still moving forward with, you know, wanting to reset that relationship and talk about these issues. We want to fix this. And the top-down approach has been used now for however long, since the Indian Act has been put in place. It's not working, so why don't we try something different?

OFF: All right well maybe we'll hear something different coming out of the meeting on Friday.

VOWEL: I certainly hope so.

OFF: It's good to talk you Ms. Vowel. Thank you.

VOWEL: Thank you.

GORDON: Chelsea Vowel is a blogger and she teaches Inuit youth in Montréal.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: CBC As It Happens: CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL CANADIANS
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE PROGRAM: AS IT HAPPENS
DATE: January 8, 2013 TIME: 18:30 PM
REFERENCE: 0801dic2 LENGTH: 07:15 MINS

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL CANADIANS

KAREN GORDON (Host): More than 600,000 aboriginal people in Canada are now defined as Indians and that means the federal government may now have a lot more responsibility for aboriginals living on and off reserve. A federal court ruling this morning says that Métis and non-status Indians are indeed Indians under the Constitutional Act. That means they now fall under federal jurisdiction. The court case has been going on since 1999 and will likely continue on to the Supreme Court of Canada. Betty Ann Lavallée is the National Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Canadians which is one of the plaintiffs in the long-running case. We reached her in Ottawa.
CAROL OFF (Co-Host): Chief Lavallée what does this ruling mean for Métis and for non-status Indians?
BETTY ANN LAVALLÉE (National Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Canadians): What this ruling means for us now is finally we have recognition. Now we have the ability to enter into relationships with the Government of Canada. We're no longer going to be a hot potato being tossed back and forth between the federal and provincial governments.
OFF: You saw that Judge Phelan said that he... He chastised the federal government lawyers for actually trying to short-circuit this case, that they tried to prevent it even from coming to court. He said they tried to put your case into a kind of catch-22. So I'm just wondering how much political will you think there exists to actually proceed with this.
LAVALLÉE: Well if you're talking about all the 12 years of maneuvering and stalling that they imposed on us and the additional costs, yeah, they did try to stop this from coming forth. But the unfortunate is thing is, to me, because of those delays and the additional costs, that's good money that could have been spent on addressing some of the very issues that we are currently talking about today. And that's why I'm hoping, knowing this government is so fiscally conscientious on how dollars are spent that they will look at the benefits of having discussions that is going to give back to Canada's most disadvantaged people their self-worth, their dignity, their pride and realize the human potential that is going to flow as a result of this decision today.
OFF: We're watching a movement go across the country called Idle No More and it's... What we're hearing every day from First Nations people is the frustration with how the federal government has treated them, that they claim that it has not lived up to the fiduciary responsibilities for those people and those communities. So if the people who already have the status are desperately trying to get some recognition, why do you think that you'll be able to get any further?
LAVALLÉE: Well, you know, quite frankly the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, formally known as the Native Council of Canada, has actually been dealing with these issues for 41 years so we've actually had our own Idle No More movement ongoing but we've done it through the regulatory system. And the reason that we're all in this quagmire today is because of the archaic Indian Act. That is the stumbling block for a lot of the aboriginal peoples in Canada today. I mean we're talking about a piece of legislation that was never meant to substain (sic) the aboriginal population or the peoples within Canada. And let's hope that some of the amendments that are being floated by, that everybody including other aboriginal peoples and their representatives, to start really having an open dialogue on how we get rid of the Indian Act, how we start addressing the proper relationship, nation to nation, and start dealing with aboriginal and treaty rights.
OFF: The Indian Act as it's called is a statute of the Constitution Act of 1867 and that's exactly what you wanted to be under. And as you point out critics of that act and of the Indian Act say that it's racist, that it enshrines a paternalistic, degrading relationship between First Nations people and the, you know, the European settlers. Why would you want to be included in something that people... that First Nations

people are trying to get out of?
LAVALLÉE: We do not want to be included in the Indian Act. As a matter of fact we want to see the Indian Act go. We want to see historical relationships reestablish with governments. What we're talking about is the aboriginal and treaty right relationships with our First Nations. When I use the term first nations I'm talking about our historical nations, the Mi'kmaq nation, the Maliseet nation. I'm not talking about communities established by a statute that is treated the same way as you would any ordinary town or city.
OFF: And your sense is that being under the provisions of the Constitution Act of 1867 is the basis for being able to redefine that relationship.
LAVALLÉE: That's right. I mean being under the Constitution Act of 1867 has a section that clearly recognizes that aboriginal peoples in Canada have aboriginal rights and have treaty rights and that they are still as valid today as they were the day that they were signed. The Indian Act only came about shortly after that and it's a piece of federal legislation. It's poor policy, it's poor law, and it definitely has to go. Now I do agree with what Prime Minister Harper said, you can't just rip it up and throw it away because you're going to leave a huge gaping hole. But the fact is we've been through two constitutional talks and they failed. We've been through a Royal Commission of Aboriginal Peoples. That has failed. Kelowna has been thrown out the window. And we need to find a process where once and for all we can come back both as aboriginal peoples and the Government of Canada, and find a way to start addressing these issues because at the end of the day by addressing these issues we're going to build a bigger and a better Canada and aboriginal peoples will become part and parcel of the social fabric of this country.
OFF: Just to clarify for people, you say Kelowna. It's the Kelowna Accord which was negotiated by Prime Minister Paul Martin and abandoned by the Harper government.
LAVALLÉE: Exactly.
OFF: All right Chief Lavallée, thank you for speaking with us.
LAVALLÉE: Oh thank you very much for having me.
OFF: Bye-bye.
LAVALLÉE: Bye.
GORDON: Betty Ann Lavallée is the National Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Canadians.
Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
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SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE PROGRAM: AS IT HAPPENS
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2013 TIME: 18:32
REFERENCE: 1101doc4 LENGTH: 8:12 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF STAN LOUTTIT

UNIDENTIFIED: There's a lot of... there's 20, 30,000 people up North at home that are isolated. What's going to happen to them (inaudible) bill C-45. You're so (inaudible), Prime Minister.
UNIDENTIFIED: This hunger strike would have been finished a long time ago if people had listened and respected the wishes of the entire nation across this land. (CHEERING) This government does not seem to realize that they're putting themselves in a difficult, precarious, volatile situation by not listening to the voices, the wishes of the First Nations people.
KAREN GORDON (Guest Host): Today aboriginal people from across the country stood united outside Parliament buildings as part of Idle No More. And across the street, leaders from the Assembly of First Nations sat united inside the Prime Minister's office. But they were very clearly two distinct, separate groups. Leaders from Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories boycotted today's meeting in solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence. Among those who did not attend is Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council, which include Attawapiskat. We reached Chief Louttit in Ottawa.
CAROL OFF (Host): Chief Louttit, Chief Atleo has certainly indicated that he feels under a great deal of pressure to produce, and at this meeting and beyond, and that he has been accused of being too cozy with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. How does he regain his credibility in the eyes of people who are watching him right now?
STAN LOUTTIT (Grand Chief, Mushkegowuk Council): Well, I don't envy National Chief Atleo's position where he's in right now. He's elected by the chiefs of Canada, and there's not always unanimity on issues, so he's got to tread a fine line in terms of the issues. Take for example this meeting that's happening with the Prime Minister. There's nay-sayers across the country. There's provinces that are boycotting this particular meeting, and others that wish to attend, so he's in a very difficult way in terms of meeting the wishes of the chiefs across the country.
CAROL OFF: And you're among those who are boycotting this meeting. A number of Ontario chiefs are, and Manitoba. Are you upset that Chief Atleo chose to go to this meeting?
STAN LOUTTIT: Oh, I'm disappointed in the sense that there was no direct communication. We waited in the hotel conference centre most of the morning waiting for some indication from the AFN in terms of what the plan was or how they were proceeding or what kind of headway they were making n terms of the meeting agenda and those kinds of things. So yes, I'm a little bit disappointed that the meeting went ahead with such a large number of chiefs that are not attending.
CAROL OFF: And what danger is it right now for the Assembly of First Nations? Because if they have... they have to... those chiefs and Shawn Atleo are going to have to show that they are ahead of the troops and not trying to keep up with the Idle No More movement. So what do they have to do at this point to regain some of the credibility, or to regain some position of leadership?
STAN LOUTTIT: I think what has to happen is I think we cannot be satisfied with a small core group of chiefs meeting with the Prime Minister. I think they have to work to get some commitments from the Prime Minister's office that there's going to be future dialogue, that there's going to be future meetings, and turn around to work towards getting some unanimity across the country with the First Nation leadership, so that we're all on one page, and that we're all meeting and we all have a common voice, and we all have... working towards a same agenda. So I think a lot of work needs to happen.
CAROL OFF: We've heard some very strong statements coming out of the chiefs, out of Idle No More in the past days, Chief Nepinak in Manitoba. He said, "We have the warriors, we have the people who can bring the economy of Canada to its knees." We heard Gordon Peters from Ontario, a chief there, who said that people should be on notice that their investments are not safe. What are we to understand from

these messages?
STAN LOUTTIT: I think those are very, very legitimate statements that are being put forward by these chiefs, and I think we're seeing examples of that over the last few weeks, where major rail lines were disrupted, and also major road and highway systems that are being disrupted, and I think that's the growing frustration that we're seeing across the country, because we're going to be seeing more of that in all likelihood in the coming days and weeks due to one very simple reason: because we have been after the Prime Minister and the Governor General. I personally wrote to the Prime Minister and the Governor General to meet and to have a discussion, and not even a response. And when chiefs and leaders write to the Prime Minister and write to leaders to express certain issues and to meet and we don't get even an acknowledgement or response to our requests, you know, it frustrates leaders, and it frustrates, and it filters down to the community and the members, and they see and hear this.
CAROL OFF: It would seem that both for Stephen Harper and for Shawn Atleo, they both have to come up with something. They can't... this can't be perceived as just another get-together, and that they both need to show that they have done something to change this relationship. How high are the stakes for both those men today?
STAN LOUTTIT: It's very, very critical. If there is no outcomes, and there's nothing concrete that's coming out of any kind of a discussion, then again, the frustration mounts and the Idle No More movement increase, and so the stakes are high.
CAROL OFF: What will it take for Chief Theresa Spence to end her hunger strike?
STAN LOUTTIT: Her position has been very, very clear, right from day one when she started her hunger strike, that she would like to have an opportunity for a dialogue, and a conference with the Prime Minister and the Governor General representing the Queen. And that has been there right from the beginning. We've never had any response, not even any indication from the Prime Minister or the Governor General's office up until just last week, so where was the Prime Minister and where was the Governor General in that last month?
CAROL OFF: You have a lot of support from the general public in Canada who are following what's going on. There are of course lots who are opposing it and criticizing the First Nations, but there is support there. Do you fear that if Idle No More does turn into bringing the economy to its knees or attempting to do that, that you will lose the support of Canadians?
STAN LOUTTIT: That's always a danger, simply because people don't understand. And when people don't understand, they make assumptions and they make opinions that are not necessarily grounded or not necessarily true. So I think part of our job is to educate the general public in terms of our issues, and in terms of why the treaty's important. It's not just something that happened a hundred years ago in our case. It's something that's really, really relevant today, and I think the general public needs to understand that, and it's our job to be able to educate them. And once they know why we're saying the things we're saying and why we're doing the things we're doing, I think they're in a better position to understand and support us.
CAROL OFF: All right, we'll be watching. Chief Louttit, thank you.
STAN LOUTTIT: Thank you.
KAREN GORDON: Stan Louttit is the Grand Chief of Ontario's Mushkegowuk Council. We reached him today in Ottawa.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
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Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Attawapiskat chief to join PM meeting despite GG's absence
Theresa Spence will still attend Friday's 'working meeting,' her spokesman said this morning

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's spokesman says she still will attend Friday's "working meeting" between First Nations chiefs and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, despite the absence of Gov. Gen. David Johnston.

Earlier reports had suggested she may not attend, following Rideau Hall's announcement Tuesday that Johnston would not be part of the talks. But reached by CBC News on Wednesday morning, Spence's spokesman, Danny Metatawabin, said she will attend, provided her health is not an issue that day.

Johnston's spokesperson characterized the Friday session as "a working meeting with government on public policy issues," differentiating it from the nature of the 2012 Crown-First Nations gathering in which Johnston did participate as the Queen's representative in Canada.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has been declining solid food since Dec.11 and has demanded a meeting between the Crown and First Nations. (Sean Kilpatrick/Canadian Press)The key demand of Spence, who has been declining solid food since Dec.11 as a form of protest, is a meeting between the Crown and First Nations to discuss what she characterizes as "treaty issues."

Prior to Tuesday's announcement from Rideau Hall, Spence had been expected to participate in the meeting announced by Harper last Friday, as part of a group of chiefs from across Canada co-ordinated by Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo.

On Friday, she was leaving it open as to whether that meeting would be sufficient to meet her demands and end her hunger strike.

The Governor General was seen as an important participant for the meeting because he represents the Crown, which negotiated the original treaties with aboriginal people.

As of Wednesday morning, some confusion remains around Spence's exact feelings and intentions around Friday's meeting. Exchanges between journalists trying to visit Spence or speak with her spokespeople have been tense, with her representatives often keeping cameras and reporters at a distance and accusing the media of not conveying their message accurately.

Global News reported Tuesday that one of their television reporters and a photojournalist trying to visit Spence's isolated James Bay community was threatened with arrest and escorted back to the airport by the band police. Reporter Jennifer Tryon said the acting chief told her she had received a call from Spence, who wanted all the media to leave the community.

On Monday, a much-anticipated audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation's finances by accounting firm Deloitte was leaked to the media. The report revealed a significant lack of documentation and a "lack of due diligence" for the band council's expenditures of some $104 million of federal government funding between 2005 and 2011.

The audit also raised questions about whether federal officials provided sufficient oversight for the troubled community, whose administration has been under co-management with the federal government for more than a decade.

Spence characterized the release of the audit as a "distraction," with her camp suggesting its information

may be wrong and its release timed to discredit her.

Former national chief Phil Fontaine met with Spence on Tuesday, telling reporters afterwards outside her camp on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River that he was there to show support for her cause.

"Chief Spence has been very clear and focused on why she's here and why she took this action, and the least we could do is come here to show our support for her action," the former AFN leader said.

Fontaine did not comment specifically on Attawapiskat's finances, but said that Spence "has a lot of support out there." He is not attending Friday's meeting.

He also denied earlier reports that he was considering returning his newly announced Order of Canada as a form of protest.

"I think people know it's not the government that is responsible for this award," he said.

During a joint news conference on Parliament Hill with Thomas Boni Yayi, president of the Republic of Benin and chairman of the African Union, Harper told reporters Tuesday afternoon that his government "has a record of moving forward clearly step by step on a lot of issues," including the aboriginal file.

"I know that there are great challenges in certain aboriginal communities and we will continue through legislation, through meetings - not just the meeting this week, but the meetings we have had in the past, the meetings we will continue to have - to identify ways to move forward in the same way that we want to move forward for all Canadians: with the creation of growth, jobs and long-term prosperity for all communities," Harper said.

The Assembly of First Nations began holding strategy and planning meetings in Ottawa Tuesday to prepare for Friday's meeting. On Wednesday and Thursday, the AFN is expected to hold ceremonies and other forums to engage its membership and consult in advance of the talks.

Also on Friday, the grassroots protest movement Idle No More announced Tuesday that it's organizing a "one-day national dialogue" with indigenous chiefs to "discuss water, land, sovereignty and treaty relationships" at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan's Treaty 4 Governance Centre.

Jim Hurcomb

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Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

First Nations leader welcomes meeting with Harper
Duncan 'fumbled through' Attawapiskat housing crisis, First Nations leader says

The grand chief representing First Nations communities in the James and Hudson Bay areas including the northern Ontario community of Attawapiskat says he welcomes the decision by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to hold a "working meeting" with a delegation of First Nations leaders co-ordinated by the Assembly of First Nations next Friday.

In an interview airing Saturday on CBC Radio's The House, Stan Louttit, Grand Chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, told host Evan Solomon he was "pleasantly surprised' when the news of the meeting came 25 days into the hunger strike of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.

"The prime minister did the right thing," Louttit said.

While Spence was "overjoyed" at the news of a meeting with Harper, on Friday she said she would continue her hunger strike at least until the day of the meeting.

Unless there are "concrete results," said Louttit, "there is a chance that the hunger strike will continue after Jan. 11."

And while Louttit acknowledged that one meeting will not solve everything, he said he will be looking for "some commitment by the prime minister that there is going to be continuing dialogue, that there's going to be continuing discussions beyond Jan. 11."

Louttit called on First Nations leaders to "seize this opportunity with the prime minister, and that'll set the stage in terms of any future discussions that might be required with other government leaders including the premier, including the governor-general."

Harper said in a statement released Friday that the meeting, which will include Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan, is expected to focus on "the treaty relationship, aboriginal rights, and economic development."

Spence refused to meet solely with Duncan despite numerous attempts by the minister to do so.

"[I've dealt] with his little ministers before and they don't really work with us. They always put [on] a band-aid solution," Spence told CBC News on Dec. 27.

When asked about Duncan's handling of this file, Louttit told Solomon: "I want a new minister because he has shown with the Attawapskat crisis that he could not deal with that situation, that he fumbled through that process."

Louttit said he's not alone, that First Nations leaders would not only like to see a new minister in place but would also like to have some input into the selection of the next minister overseeing the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio.

In a separate interview airing on The House, Greg Rickford, the parliamentary secretary to the minister of Aboriginal Affairs, defended Duncan saying he has "nothing but admiration for the leadership he's shown on a number of key files, not the least of which would be education."

Rickford, who confirmed he will be attending the Jan. 11 meeting along with Harper, Duncan and "another minister," described the federal government as a "willing partner in a process that will focus on economic development on reserves and certainly issues around treaties."

Pam Palmater, a lawyer and Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, doubts there will be any concrete results stemming from next Friday's meeting.

In an interview with CBC News Network on Saturday, Palmater said she wouldn't even qualify this meeting as "a small step" forward.

Palmater said "oppressive legislation" and "significant budget cuts" is all that followed last January's gathering of the Crown-First Nations leaders.

But the parliamentary secretary to the minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development also defended the changes included in the second budget implemetation bill.

"With respect to Bill C-45, the changes to property leasing provisions, these changes respond directly to the request of a number of First Nations Chiefs to provide them with more flexibility," Rickford said.

Palmater, who is also an indigenous rights activist with the Idle No More movement said, the news of this meeting has had for effect to see their activities "ramped up" and there will be "more activities" in the lead-up to Friday's meeting including a "massive rally" in Ottawa.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/8/2013 7:20 PM
Subject: CBC.CA: GG won't attend PM's 'working meeting' with First Nations
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

GG won't attend PM's 'working meeting' with First Nations
First Nations chiefs, including Attawapiskat's Theresa Spence, to meet Harper Friday

Rideau Hall has told CBC News that Gov. Gen. David Johnston will not attend Friday's meeting between First Nations chiefs and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

In an email, Johnston's spokesperson characterized the Friday session as "a working meeting with government on public policy issues," differentiating it from the nature of the 2012 Crown-First Nations gathering in which Johnston did participate as the Queen's representative in Canada.

The key demand of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has been declining solid food since Dec.11 as a form of protest, is a meeting between the Crown and First Nations to discuss what she characterizes as "treaty issues."

Spence is expected to attend the meeting announced by Harper last Friday, as part of a group of chiefs from across Canada co-ordinated by Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo.

She has left it open as to whether that meeting would be sufficient to meet her demands and end her hunger strike.

On Monday, a much-anticipated audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation's finances by accounting firm Deloitte was leaked to the media. The report revealed a significant lack of documentation and a "lack of due diligence" for the band council's expenditures of some $104 million of federal government funding between 2005 and 2011.

The audit also raised questions about whether federal officials provided sufficient oversight for the troubled community, whose administration has been under co-management with the federal government for more than a decade.

Spence characterized the release of the audit as a "distraction," with her camp suggesting its information may be wrong and its release timed to discredit her.

Former national chief Phil Fontaine met with Spence on Tuesday, telling reporters afterwards outside her camp on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River that he was there to show support for her cause.

Fontaine did not comment specifically on Attawapiskat's finances, but said simply that Spence continues to have a lot of support. He is not attending Friday's meeting, and denied earlier reports that he was considering returning his newly announced Order of Canada as a form of protest.

During a joint news conference on Parliament Hill with Thomas Boni Yayi, president of the Republic of Benin and chairman of the African Union, Harper told reporters Tuesday afternoon that his government "has a record of moving forward clearly step by step on a lot of issues," including the aboriginal file.

"I know that there are great challenges in certain aboriginal communities and we will continue through legislation, through meetings - not just the meeting this week, but the meetings we have had in the past, the meetings we will continue to have - to identify ways to move forward in the same way that we want to move forward for all Canadians: with the creation of growth, jobs and long-term prosperity for all communities," Harper said.

The Assembly of First Nations began holding strategy and planning meetings in Ottawa Tuesday to

prepare for Friday's meeting. On Wednesday and Thursday, the AFN is expected to hold ceremonies and other forums to engage its membership and consult in advance of the talks.

Also on Friday, the grassroots protest movement Idle No More announced Tuesday that it's organizing a "one-day national dialogue" with indigenous chiefs to "discuss water, land, sovereignty and treaty relationships" at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan's Treaty 4 Governance Centre.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts;...
Date: 1/16/2013 7:48 AM
Subject: CBC.CA: Idle No More activities planned nationwide
Attachments: HQ Inform2.vcf

Idle No More activities planned nationwide

First Nations chiefs and activists are promising to stage Canada-wide protests today, as part of the Idle No More movement's national day of action.

Major cities across the country are bracing for serious traffic disruptions and possible blockades. Here is a partial overview of some of the Idle No More activities expected in several cities today (all times listed are local):

Fredericton, New Brunswick: March through the street starting at the St. Mary's First Nation at 11 a.m.
Miramichi, New Brunswick: A planned blockade of the bridge there, but not confirmation.
Montreal: An evening "teach-in" rally at 4 p.m. at the Centre Récréatif, Culturel et Sportif St-Zotique.
Toronto: A rally at the British Consulate (777 Bay St.) at noon.
Windsor, Ont.: A March and blockade of the Ambassador Bridge is expected to begin around 11 a.m.
Nipigon, Ont.: A blockade of Hwy. 11/17 is planned.
Cayuga, Ont.: A round dance and flash mob are being planned for 9:15 a.m. outside the town's court house.
Whitehorse: A prayer circle will be held at the Nàkwät'à Kų Potlatch House starting at 6 p.m.
Regina: A Reconciliation Ride and Walk will begin at around noon, with First Nations riders and drummers entering the city on Highways 6 and 11, then making their way to the provincial legislature.
Manitoba: Blockades and rallies are planned in The Pas in northern Manitoba and at the Fairford First Nation, north of Winnipeg, among other locations. Some CN and CP railway lines may also be targeted by demonstrators at noon.
Edmonton: Members of the Papaschase First Nation plan to block the QEII Highway near the entrance to their former reserve in south Edmonton. The two-hour blockade is scheduled for 1 p.m. near Gateway Park.
Vancouver Island: Members of the Saanich Peninsula First Nation will set up a blockade on the Pat Bay Highway for half an hour, starting at 11 a.m.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
Date: 1/15/2013 6:04 PM
Subject: CBC.CA: Michaëlle Jean compares some First Nations' living conditions to Haiti
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Michaëlle Jean compares some First Nations' living conditions to Haiti

Michaëlle Jean, a former governor general, is calling for aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians to "pull together" to put an end to living conditions in some First Nations communities that she says are comparable to what she witnessed in Haiti.

In an interview with CBC Radio Montreal's Daybreak, Jean spoke about the role she played as governor general, the Idle No More movement and the deplorable living standards in many of Canada's aboriginal communities.

Pressed on the issue of whether Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence should end her hunger strike, she declined to answer the question directly.

"You're better off alive to carry out this whole struggle," she said.

Spence, who has been living on a diet of fish broth, vitamins and tea since her hunger strike began on Dec. 11, has insisted she will continue the protest until she gets a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston in the same room to discuss "treaty issues."

In December, Spence said she was "willing to die for my people and the First Nations people."

Jean said she finds it troubling that so many aboriginal people take their lives because of a sense of powerlessness.

She told CBC's Daybreak that conditions in aboriginal communities, such as a lack of fresh drinking water, are "unacceptable."

"We have a Third World in Canada, and it's with our aboriginal peoples," Jean said.

Jean, who was born in Haiti and came to Canada as a child, is now the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's special envoy to Haiti.

"Unfortunately, you know, there are situations I see in Haiti that are very similar to what I see in our aboriginal communities," she said.

Canadian Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan responded to Jean's comments in a written statement today.

"We recognize that more work needs to be done," he said. "Last Friday's meeting was a positive step in that direction."

The minister cited a number of development projects accomplished by the federal government since 2006, including 30 new schools, more than 10,000 new homes, and investment in safe drinking water systems.

Jean agreed there have been some encouraging initiatives and good examples of economic development in some First Nations' communities but said she's hoping that a "real dialogue" will take place between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians.

She said instead of waiting for aboriginal people to start protesting in the streets, the general public must

be more proactive.

"It's not an aboriginal issue, it's a Canadian issue," she said.

As for the Idle No More movement, Jean said she was discouraged to see so much confusion around the meeting with the prime minister last week, a situation she described as "chaotic."

She said the priority should be unity, not only among First Nations people, but also between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people living in Canada.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: CBC.CA: Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost
Chris Hall (CBC's National Affairs Editor)

The strongest image from Friday's meeting between Stephen Harper and the Assembly of First Nations didn't come from inside the room where the prime minister met with a small delegation of chiefs.

It came from outside, where hundreds of band members massed in front of the prime minister's office building demanding he come out in the rain to negotiate with them.

For many, the rally in front of Langevin Block was more than just a protest.

It was a poignant expression of how so many First Nations people find themselves on the outside looking in, when the relationship between them and the federal government -- as defined by history -- is supposed to be one of equals.

The standoff on Parliament Hill added to the crisis atmosphere, or what interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae called the "tragedy of errors," leading up to this meeting and which makes it so hard to conclude anything positive can emerge.

Instead of focusing on an agenda to address the pressing social needs faced by too many people living on reserves, instead of assessing what concrete measures could be taken to make First Nations more true partners in Canada's future, the meeting simply became a backdrop to the threat of more protests, blockades and an ever deepening rift between individual chiefs, and between First Nations and the federal government.

In the process, AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo's attempt to use this meeting as a springboard for "transformational change" failed.

His organization is clearly divided, with chiefs from Ontario and Manitoba refusing to attend Friday's talks.

Most of his agenda remains unrealized. And his own future at the helm of the AFN -- after winning a second term with a commanding majority just six months ago -- is suddenly unclear, with calls from some chiefs for a non-confidence vote on his leadership.

Stephen Harper also took a hit.

His dogged insistence that the meeting must go exactly as originally agreed, despite the changing dynamics in recent days, reinforced his reputation as inflexible.

And it further undermined Atleo, the one native leader with whom he had forged a strong working relationship.

Not surprisingly, neither Harper nor Atleo spoke publicly after the meeting.

The clear winners are the organizers of Idle No More, the grassroots movement that so unnerved the AFN in the past few weeks that every chief who spoke publicly in the days before the meeting made sure to praise them.

Idle No More the big winner in this current standoff, it looks like it has galvanized a new generation. Chief Spence has her followers as well. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)It doesn't matter that the movement's demand

to "respect our treaties" is far from specific.

It also doesn't matter that the chiefs who sided with them late this week had their own shifting priorities in the internal politics of the broader First Nations' movement.

What does matter is that Idle No More has created a sense pf purpose that goes beyond the AFN.

Its organizers and social media campaign captured the imagination of a generation of young and increasingly militant aboriginal people who rallied across the country on Friday.

They are those who see little to be gained from annual meetings with the prime minister, and even less to be gained from the incremental change on this file that has been the hallmark of Harper's time in government.

The prime minister's approach made it all but impossible for Atleo to emerge Friday with something tangible from his list of demands going in.

Atleo won a commitment that First Nations files will receive a higher priority inside the Prime Minister's Office and its bureaucracy.

And he came away with a promise that he and Harper would meet again in the next several weeks.

But the tough issues: quicker resolution of land claims and treaty issues; a new financial arrangement that would tie federal payments to inflation and population; a school on every reserve; and a formal process that would bring Ottawa, the provinces and First Nations together to negotiate revenue sharing from the estimated $650 billion in potential resource development across the country, remain points of discussion.

Absent any concrete gains, the immediate future holds only the promise of more blockades and economic uncertainty.

Gordon Peters, grand chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians in Ontario, who boycotted the meeting with the prime minister in solidarity with Idle No More, said roads and railway lines could be targeted as early as today.

Just last January, Harper played host to native leaders and spoke of the significance of 2013 as the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, a document First Nations view as the basis of many unresolved land claims and self-government.

The prime minister talked then of the importance of ensuring aboriginal workers have the skills to work on resource projects, many of which are in or near their home communities.

Harper reiterated the same commitments this week. But with no clearer timetable of how he intends to achieve them.

And the truth is that very little has been done over the past seven years -- since former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin negotiated the five-year, $5-billion Kelowna Accord with First Nations and premiers.

AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo, looks to have been bypassed. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)"We are here today because the descendents of the people who first occupied this land must have an equal opportunity to work for and to enjoy the benefits of our collective prosperity," Martin said then.

"Today the majority do not -- because of gaps in education and skills, health care and housing, and limited opportunities for employment."

Harper, of course dismantled the accord. And the gaps persist.

The Conservative government's approach has been is to craft piecemeal programs to address specific issues, in some cases driven by crisis.

The ultimate goal of ensuring First Nations communities benefit directly from developing the country's resource sector, and so gain true self-sufficiency, folds neatly into the Conservatives view that a more prosperous future can be built if there's a shared commitment.

But that goal remains far off in the future. Today the talk is all about blockades and bringing Canada's economy to its knees until First Nations are treated as equal partners.

Words that seem more easily translated into action.

Jim Hurcomb

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Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Attawapiskat audit finds 'no evidence of due diligence'
Deloitte finds average of 81% of files lack supporting documents from Ontario reserve

The accounting firm hired to audit the finances of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation reserve in northern Ontario says there is little or no documentation for millions of dollars spent by the band, CBC News has learned.

The unreleased audit was requested by the federal government to ensure that the approximately $104 million it provided to Attawapiskat between April 2005 and November 2011 was spent as it should have been.

CBC News has obtained a copy of the audit. The funding was intended for housing, sewage, education and other services.

In a letter dated Sept. 20, 2012, that was written by Deloitte to Chief Theresa Spence and copied to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, that auditing firm says that of 505 transactions reviewed, more than 400 lacked proper documentation.

The letter says "an average of 81 per cent of files did not have adequate supporting documents and over 60 per cent had no documentation of the reason for payment."

The letter to Spence also says there is "no evidence of due diligence on the part of Attawapiskat of funding provided by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for housing projects and Health Canada for health-related projects."

Deloitte said it could not conclude that the payments made by the band council were in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements with the federal government.

Overall, it recommended:

Stricter enforcement measures.
More eligibility requirements.
More reviews of the First Nation's record-keeping.
The audit also noted "significant staff turnover" that had resulted in a "corporate memory loss" for transactions reported prior to 2010.

Some of the details of specific transactions are blacked out in the copy obtained by CBC News, but in some cases, the report shows expenditures of five and six figures without any supporting documentation found by the audit.

Deloitte reported its finding to Spence in late August. It's not known what she or the band council did in response to the findings.

State of emergency declared last winter
The Attawapiskat First Nation was placed under co-management more than a decade ago - a measure taken by the federal government to attempt to improve financial administration.

The band's co-manager, Clayton Kennedy, acknowledged being in a romantic relationship with the band's chief, Spence. But he denied any conflict of interest.

Spence declared a state of emergency on the reserve in the fall of 2011, citing a critical need for housing.

On Nov. 30, 2011, the federal government appointed a third-party manager to oversee the band's operations, citing urgent health and safety issues and a need for immediate action to remedy the problems. Spence and the band council tried to block the move with a court injunction.

Amid much media coverage, the government pledged to provide emergency housing. About two dozen modular homes were built and trucked to the community over last winter's ice roads.

The third-party manager was removed April 19, 2012, based on progress that was made and the fact the First Nation returned to co-management.

PM to meet with chiefs from First Nations
Spence has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, camped out in an aboriginal education centre on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River between downtown Ottawa and Gatineau, Que. She's demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston to discuss what she characterizes as "treaty issues" between First Nations and the Crown.

Harper agreed to meet with chiefs from First Nations this Friday and Spence has said she will attend, but is not giving up her hunger strike until she sees the outcome of the meeting.

On Friday, reporters asked Grand Chief Stan Louttit, who represents the northern Ontario region that includes Attawapiskat, about the status of the audit, which the band council agreed to when the First Nations problems first came under scrutiny.

"It is very, very difficult to do business in a remote community," Louttit said. "The average Canadian out there, they see millions and millions, and they just get concerned and said, 'Hey, there's something going on there.'

"But I challenge those people, come to the community and look at the books, and come and live there for a couple of weeks and you'll see," he said.

"The audit speaks for itself," said Jan O'Driscoll, the press secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. "We agree with its conclusions and recommendations."

Jim Hurcomb

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SOURCE: CBC RADIO
DATE: JANUARY 6, 2013
REFERENCE: 0601doc1

PROGRAM: CROSS COUNTRY CHECKUP
TIME: 16:10 PM
LENGTH: 07:30 MINS

GREG RICKFORD

REX MURPHY (Host): Well I'd like to begin today's program with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. The secretary is Greg Rickford. First of all Mister Rickford, thank you very much for agreeing to join us.
GREG RICKFORD (Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): It's my pleasure Rex and it's great to have this opportunity to talk with you.
MURPHY: It's a very complicated and I think to some degree quite sensitive subject so let's proceed if I may stage by stage. On the larger front -- we leave the motions of Chief Theresa Spence to the side for a second -- what's your understanding of the goals of the overall movement called Idle No More?
RICKFORD: Well I think, with respect, there's a couple of things Rex here in play. First of all in terms of various protests and demonstrations, look, I think this country… The people in this country have a right to demonstrate and express their points of view peacefully as long as they can obey the law and I think as a matter of public safety I think Canadians expect everyone will obey the law in holding such protests. And this time of year of course highways and rail lines may not be such a great idea to that end in terms of the public... the greater public safety issue. But with respect to Idle No More, look, you know, we as an intellectual and practical matter say we're willing partners in this. We do not and we cannot sit idly by, either side of this -- perhaps there's a couple of sides Rex - on resource development, particularly across northern Canada, without aboriginal human resources and without the very distinct and sometimes nuanced but very important environmental protections and perspectives that they bring to either a traditional environmental assessment process or a joint review panel. So those are important elements. They're structural in nature and to the extent that this... that this movement can advance the discussion that's reasonable and that, you know, respects as I said some of the public safety issues and the rule of law, I think that at the end of the day if placards are soon replaced with, you know, textbooks and instruments that we use in advanced skills and training for some of the work that's just on the horizon in many areas of Canada, particularly across northern Ontario, we will have all collectively said that it was a good process.
MURPHY: Okay. On one particular… Again I'm going to stay with particulars for now. On one particular, when we hear that some of the movement is very strenuously opposed to the changes that are mentioned in bill C45 and in particular those changes with relation to leasing native lands. I've read both sides of that one. I'd like your view on it. Is that a valid objection or is it not?
RICKFORD: Again, respectfully Rex, these changes respond directly to the requests of a number of first nations communities, their chiefs and council, to provide them with more flexibility. I think notably and substantively the decisions to lease out their land, particularly with the modifications considered in bill C45, remain voluntary. These are not imposed. These give first nations communities exactly what they offered, more flexibility. And take for example the Penticton Indian band, right on the border of the beautiful city of Penticton. They've got tremendous economic potential there. We understand that land designation has been a problem. It takes far too long to, as many chiefs will say, respond to the speed of business or act in the speed of business. And so this gives them more flexibility. But it's not imposed and furthermore this has come directly from the first nations communities themselves.
MURPHY: Okay.
RICKFORD: I think it's a correction substantively that addresses the problem.
MURPHY: What is both your own, your minister's, and for that matter the government because they all to some degree these categories do blend, where is Chief Theresa Spence in this? Is she now de facto spokesman for aboriginal protest? Is she, in your mind and the minds of the government, merely speaking

for her own circumstance? And what do you expect, if anything, comes out of whatever meeting there is next week when all the leaders plus Chief Spence do engage with the Prime Minister? I know that's a multi-barrel thing but they all cover the same topic.
RICKFORD: Well, yeah, that's casting the net wide as you might say out on the East Coast. We're... You know we're going to be meeting with National Chief Atleo and a delegation from the Assembly of First Nations. Any questions about who will be... who will compose that delegation should be left to them. But we will be focusing on treaties. We have been talking about a working group process. We'd like to engage that further. This is a step-by-step process flowing from the joint action plan that the minister and Chief Atleo had engaged in more than a year and a half ago. The Crown-First Nation gathering, a historic meeting of its kind, had a work plan, identified a number of activities which included, and most importantly, deal with aboriginal rights and economic (inaudible).
MURPHY: Are you in particular, and the government in particular, the delegation is up to the Grand Chief Atleo, is Chief Spence's meeting with the Prime Minister next week on, or is it not on? And is it a meeting with Chief Spence?
RICKFORD: Well, again Rex, I'm not trying to...
MURPHY: Can you say yes or no to that?
RICKFORD: I'm not skirting the question. What we... You know, we've engaged in a good faith process here to work with the Assembly of First Nations and have them determine the composition (inaudible).
MURPHY: Okay, but have you spoken directly to Chief Spence and said Chief Spence we'd like you to come to this meeting?
RICKFORD: I have not, no.
MURPHY: Has the minister?
RICKFORD: I'm not aware of that.
MURPHY: And obviously not the Prime Minister.
RICKFORD: I don't speak for him.
MURPHY: So if she shows up it's essentially she's going to another meeting.
RICKFORD: Um, well, as I said I think if the AFN is, you know, is considered her and other delegates, I know there will be regional and local chiefs from across the country represented. That would be a question put most appropriately to them.
MURPHY: Very last point, and this is going general again. Why do you think a movement like this emerges? What's the kernel of either misunderstanding, not understanding, or great dissatisfaction between both government and citizens of Canada and aboriginal people that gives rise to a movement of this kind?
RICKFORD: Well, you know Rex, as you had said in your preamble to the interview I think that there is a sense that mainstream politics, and if you trend the Idle No More movement quite recently there's been an inclination to take their own first nation... traditional first nation leadership to count on this particular matter. And what I think it says, and I think we all have a collective interest in, is taking the positives out of this, that is building on the successes that we've had. We know that consultation has been done on big-ticket infrastructure, social and economic infrastructure, water and sewer, education. We're having a lot of success with that and we'll be rolling out a process for consultation very soon. There are some exciting projects going on across the country that we require first nations human resources to be a part of and obviously for economic reasons we want to provide instruments, within or outside of the Indian Act if necessary, that are progressive in nature and get more... inspire more aboriginal children to finish their education, move on to skills training, and enter our workforce and build sustainable communities.
MURPHY: Okay. Mister Rickford I'd like to say I'm very grateful to you for agreeing to come on and starting off our program today. Thank you very much.
RICKFORD: I appreciate this opportunity. Thanks Rex and Happy New Year.
MURPHY: Good afternoon to you Sir. Greg Rickford is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He will be taking part in the January 11 meeting.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE
DATE: JANUARY 12, 2013
REFERENCE: 1201DOC7
PROGRAM: DAY SIX
TIME: 10:08
LENGTH: 18:23 MINUTES

ABORIGINAL MEETINGS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

BRENT BAMBURY (Host): It's the meeting that almost didn't happen, but in the end, Prime Minister Harper, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, and other government and First Nations leaders sat together in Ottawa on Friday. They discussed some of the issues the Idle No More movement has been rallying around. This, despite Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's refusal to attend, which triggered boycotts by chiefs in Ontario, Manitoba and elsewhere. They insisted the Governor General be there. He wasn't, but he did host his own reception at Rideau Hall. Heated rhetoric accompanied the boycotts. Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak said Idle No More could bring Canada's economy to its knees. Ontario chiefs threatened blockades of roads and railways this coming Wednesday. They told Atleo to skip the meeting. They said that they would move for a vote of non-confidence if he attended. All this suggests the leadership of First Nations is divided on how to move ahead. On Friday, we spoke with Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, who skipped the meeting. Chief Beardy, what's it like demonstrating outside Parliament Hill all afternoon on Friday?
STAN BEARDY (Ontario Regional Chief): It's pretty cold, and there's a lot of people here.
BRENT BAMBURY: So while this group has been on Parliament Hill, there've been meetings going on with the Prime Minister, and many chiefs, including yourself, did not want Chief Atleo to meet with the Prime Minister. Why not?
STAN BEARDY: Chief Spence is from Ontario. Chief Spence made clear that she wanted the Crown representative to be in the same meeting room as the leadership when the Prime Minister meets the leaders. Because in our culture, we place a lot of emphasis, the role of the Governor General. We see that as very significant in our treaty relationship with the Crown. We understand the Governor General represents the Queen, and for that reason, we still want a very high level discussions to talk about treaty relations and not policy development.
BRENT BAMBURY: So how do you feel about the fact that Chief Atleo decided to have the meeting anyway?
STAN BEARDY: I'm primarily responsible for Ontario... where I work, my responsibilities primarily lie with Ontario. I get my directives from chiefs in Ontario, and this time around, they said, well, we should not participate in those meetings at this point in time. The fact that the hunger strike is still on...
BRENT BAMBURY: So Chief Atleo does not have the backing, then, of Ontario chiefs, it sounds like. I know he doesn't have the backing of Manitoba chiefs as well. What does that mean for his leadership? Do you think his leadership is in crisis at this point?
STAN BEARDY: Well, one thing is that, you know, the last two, three days, two days, we have been talking about the message that needs to go to the government, but in terms of who attends was not conclusive. It's just like anywhere else, I guess, in the world. If you have ten premiers around the table with the Prime Minister, very seldom do you get consensus, but you make the best of it to try to deal with the issues and challenges at hand.
BRENT BAMBURY: But that makes it sound like you're saying that a meeting, even though it didn't meet the conditions of Chief Spence, that a meeting is better than no meeting at all. Do you believe that?
STAN BEARDY: Well, definitely I think it's important that we are both (inaudible) inside and outside. Idle No More needs to be there to create a voice for grassroots to say to the government that we're not happy with the sweep of legislation that's coming down that will have a direct impact on our aboriginal treaty rights, and the reason why we're not happy is there's a legal requirement, a duty to consult, and we were never consulted, let alone be accommodated, and that's where the frustration begins.
BRENT BAMBURY: I still... I'm trying to understand what it means that Ontario chiefs have boycotted this

meeting, and that the chief of the Assembly of First Nations decided to go. What does that mean for the leadership of First Nations people, and specifically for the leadership of Shawn Atleo at this point?
STAN BEARDY: Well, like anywhere else, within the AFN we have what we call a charter that covers how business is conducted. If that becomes the question that needs to be looked at in terms of consequences, whether he attends or not, the chiefs will have to reconvene at some point to deal with the issue, with the consequences, if any. But that's up to the chiefs to decide.
BRENT BAMBURY: Well, Ontario chief Gordon Peters has threatened a vote of non-confidence against Chief Atleo. Do you think there will be some kind of non-confidence vote on Atleo's leadership?
STAN BEARDY: As I said, chiefs in the near future will need to come together, to come together regardless. If that's one of the issues, is to look at the performance of the national chief, they have that privilege to do that at that time.
BRENT BAMBURY: But how can the Prime Minister be confident that he is negotiating with the First Nations leaders who have the support of the grassroots and the other chiefs? How can the Prime Minister be confident of that at this point?
STAN BEARDY: I think when we look at our statistics, you know, anything to make things better is a positive sign, and I think when you look at the legislation, the legislation's that coming down, as I mentioned, they infringe on our aboriginal treaty rights. We've had massive cutbacks in terms of our programs, services, and there's projected further cutbacks at the community level. And the people at First Nation level are just saying we cannot manage anymore.
BRENT BAMBURY: So just a couple of quick questions to clarify here. Yes or no: do you support the meeting that took place on Friday between Chief Atleo, other leaders, and the Prime Minister?
STAN BEARDY: As I said, it's important that, you know, if there's outside pressure by the Idle No More, but also, I think, there should be an inside, an opportunity to convey what it is we're looking for.
BRENT BAMBURY: And Chief, Wednesday will there be road or rail blockades in Ontario or other parts of Canada?
STAN BEARDY: We try our best not to inconvenience the general public. We try our best not to infringe on people's freedom to move back and forth. But definitely, Idle No More activities will continue.
BRENT BAMBURY: Chief Stan Beardy, thank you very much for talking to us today.
STAN BEARDY: Yes. You're most welcome.
BRENT BAMBURY: That's Regional Chief Stan Beardy with the Chiefs of Ontario. We reached him in Ottawa on Friday afternoon before the meetings had concluded.
On Friday it was announced that eight more First Nations signed on to a program that the federal government says will give them more control over managing their reserve lands, environment and resources. First Nations living on reserves don't own the land the same way most Canadians do. When you buy property in downtown Halifax, you acquire it through something called fee simple ownership. That means it's yours. You can sell it, develop it, put it in your will, whatever. The federal government and some First Nations leaders are working to make the same thing happen on reserves. They want fee simple ownership that would allow Native people to own reserve land. Individual property rights on reserves is a controversial idea. Some think it's a path to prosperity; others say that it erodes Native sovereignty. We've invited two guests to debate this idea. Dr. Christopher Alcantara teaches Political Science at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. He co-authored the book "Beyond the Indian Act: Restoring Aboriginal Property Rights". And Grand Chief Joe Hall is with the Stó:lÿ Nation in Fraser Valley in British Columbia. Welcome to you both.
JOE HALL (Grand Chief, Stó:lÿ Nation): Thank you.
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA (Professor of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University): Thank you for having us.
BRENT BAMBURY: Chief Hall, simply put, why don't individuals own land on reserves?
JOE HALL: Well, obviously the current legislation is such that the Indian Act holds lands, the Crown lands, but there's a deep rooted history with respect to actual ownership. The concept itself is foreign to aboriginal people, insofar as the land itself is to be used by the people, and is to be kept and protected and ensure that it's still productive, passing it on to future generations.
BRENT BAMBURY: So can you say that this idea of collective ownership is important, is vital to First Nations people right across Canada?
JOE HALL: It's absolutely critical. There are so many traditions and cultural practices that are tied to the land that there needs to be a continued collective control or jurisdiction on those lands.
BRENT BAMBURY: So there's a cultural argument for collective ownership, Dr. Alcantara. Why should

First Nations be allowed to sell their land if they so choose?
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: Well, first of all, on reserves, First Nations do have individual property rights. They have a number of different mechanisms: customary rights, certificates of possessions, and leases. So there are three types of individual private property, but these are flawed in a lot of ways, so our legislation is about correcting those flaws. So we think that this proposal, which is coming from First Nations themselves, is actually consistent with First Nations' traditions.
BRENT BAMBURY: But what are the benefits to the proposal? If those rights are given, then what is the value to the First Nations themselves?
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: Well, there's two values. One, the legislation would result in the transferring of underlying title from the Crown to the First Nation. So right now you buy a house. You have it, you own it. But the Crown actually owns the underlying title, which means they can expropriate the land, they can regulate the land. Under this legislation, that right would go to the First Nation. So now the First Nation would own this land collectively forever. Once they have that right, then they can create individual fee simple ownership. They can use their land more efficiently. They wouldn't have to go through Indian Affairs to get approval. They'll be able to get a mortgage for a loan and collateral for a loan, and able to unlock the economic potential of their home… of their land.
BRENT BAMBURY: So this is, to you, this is the absolute path to prosperity.
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: Well, no, I think it's a path for some First Nations. It's not going to be appropriate for all, but it will be one important tool, one tool among many that would allow First Nations to generate economic prosperity.
BRENT BAMBURY: So Chief Hall, if this is a tool to generate prosperity, it's a tool that's badly needed in a lot of Native communities; why wouldn't they take it?
JOE HALL: I'm not convinced that it's going to achieve what some of the founding principals that were spread with respect to why this is going forward. There a number of activities that are going on right now that have allowed First Nations to climb the economic ladder, if you will. But in my own opinion, I feel that this legislation is incomplete. There's a lot more that needs to be done. In fact, it's the old adage of, you know, two wrongs. Well, I think there's several wrongs don't make a right insofar as that there's insufficient land base for I would say all of the First Nations in Canada, and certainly I can speak knowledgeably of the reserves in my area, to even consider this, because of the fact that there's insufficient land base, it's compounding problems because it's asking, you know, First Nations to enter into a system, a foreign system of fee simple, and perhaps alienating their aboriginal rights and title. I can't help but feel that there's a systemic effort here to legislate the protection of lands away from the First Nations without doing the most… some of the more important steps of resolving the land question in this country and ensuring that the First Nations do have the land quantum that's necessary in order for them to succeed.
BRENT BAMBURY: Ok, so if I'm hearing you correctly, you're saying that you're worried that this legislation would take away from the land base that already exists, that First Nations now have as their own land, because they'd be able to sell it, and that that would lead to a lack of sovereignty?
JOE HALL: Well, not exactly. I think that what it's going to do, it's going to allow for the opportunity of developing fee simple portions on the land, and certainly the principal that was being chanted at the beginning was that it was going to create economic opportunities for First Nations. Well, I'm not convinced of that, because I think the wealth that's going to be generated from creating these fee simples is not going to be for the community as a whole, but is going to be more so for the individuals and/or the speculators.
BRENT BAMBURY: All right, so Chris, what do you think of that? What does that do to the community, if that's the case, if Chief Hall's right?
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: Well, I think he's right to be cautious. We really don't know what's going to happen. All this is theoretical. No one has actually tried it. On the other hand, the potential is significant. I think yes, there's concern about the loss of collective… collective benefits, collective rights. On the other hand, by transferring underlying title from the Crown to the First Nation, in a lot of ways, that guarantees the collectivity, the existence of the collectivity. The land will always belong to the First Nation. They will always have the power of expropriation, which is to take land for community purposes. They will always have the power of jurisdiction. They'll be able to pass laws and regulations to determine how lands are to be used and to be taxed. So I think in that sense, you know, there are enough collective benefits there. And then, yes, will there be benefits, will the benefits accrue to the individual? Yes, you know, an individual will get the land and be able to use that, leverage that land to develop wealth and secure funds,

but that kind of money also will come back to the bands through spin-off effects, right? If you're getting a mortgage to build a house and you build a house on the reserve, and you know, so now you've built a house. You own that house. You maintain that house. It raises the land values around you, and it generates wealth. There may not be direct economic benefits to the community, but there are substantial indirect benefits by unlocking this economic entrepreneurialship within First Nations communities.
BRENT BAMBURY: Ok, Chief Hall, what do you think of that, that having fee simple arrangements would mean that there would be an increase in land value, in property values and in prosperity overall, because of the economic benefits associated with somebody building a house and having a mortgage on that piece of land?
JOE HALL: Well, I'm not convinced that that's not happening right now, and I think it is happening to a large degree. My many years of work with the First Nations Finance Authority, we have seen an astonishing amount of development that's happened on reserves across Canada, because they've been able… and there's going to be even more now that they can leverage both their revenue, their property taxation or any of their assets, other source revenues; they can leverage that now to obtain affordable capital to build infrastructure in their communities. There has been good growth, and I think it can happen without entering into a fee simple arrangement, because just exactly… there's a lot of questions that are still needed to be answered, you know.
BRENT BAMBURY: Ok, Chris, critics of private ownership also point to what happened in the US when the Dawes Act was brought in. Can you explain what happened there?
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: Well, the Dawes, the United States, in the 1800s, early 1900s, the United States decided to impose individual property rights onto tribes in the United States with disastrous results. This proposal is completely different, because it's a completely voluntary process. It is a First Nation driven process, and it involves the transfer of underlying title. The Dawes Act did not involve that. So our legislation is quite different. If I can just respond to what Chief Hall is saying very briefly…
BRENT BAMBURY: Sure.
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: …he's right that, you know, that there's substantial economic development occurring on reserves. We just think that the First Nations Property Ownership Act should be another tool available to First Nations. You know, First Nations need a variety of toolkits to deal with economic development, and this would just be another. And the advantage of this one over the existing ones is that first of all, it increases the market. So right now under existing tools, your market is band members. So in the band, if you have a band of a hundred, that's your market. By going under the First Nations Property Ownership Act, you can sell to other band members. So within the tribal council, within nine or ten neighbouring First Nations, you could create a market that included them, or you could go with non-band members and non-aboriginal members, increasing the market even bigger. So that's a major advantage of this legislation, it's the ability to decide how big of a market you want. And the second advantage is by reducing what's called transaction costs, which are basically costs associated with doing business. So the time involved or the effort involved to sell something is significant under the Indian Act and under existing legislation. Under this legislation, the First Nations Property Ownership Act, those costs would be dramatically reduced, because you'd be eliminating all sorts of barriers and red tape that comes from the Crown.
BRENT BAMBURY: Chief Hall, does that sound appealing to you?
JOE HALL: Well, obviously the outcomes, if they could be guaranteed, absolutely. There is no guarantee that this is where it's going, and I think the governments, and particularly the Harper government has really not given First Nations any kind of reason to believe that this is going down the right path. You know, I know it's difficult to crystal ball as to what could come out of this, but it does create a little bit of a slippery slope that, you know, raises concern among First Nations that this may have been, you know, an assimilation agenda right from the start. But the whole issue and the concept or the desire to increase the markets for First Nations, no argument there. How we get there and is there a need to make any sacrifice along the way? That's the question that needs to be answered.
BRENT BAMBURY: Joe Hall, Christopher Alcantara, thanks a lot for being with us.
JOE HALL: Thank you very much.
CHRISTOPHER ALCANTARA: Ok, thank you.
BRENT BAMBURY: Dr. Christopher Alcantara co-authored the book "Beyond the Indian Act", and Grand Chief Joe Hall is with the Stó:lÿ Nation in British Columbia.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: CBC News Network: Former INAC Chief of Staff on Idle No More
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>>Suhana: Another look now at what the Idle No More movement is calling a day of action. My next guest says progress can be made on long-standing social issues, but it will take getting both sides to the table and having the right people involved. Jean-Sebastien Rioux served as Chief of Staff to a former Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs as it was called then. He's now a professor at the University of Calgary School of Public Policy. It seems like a no-brainer. Of course you're going to solve a problem if you get the two sides together and they talk. Doesn't that apply to everything?

>>Rioux: Well, it's getting the right people at the table and making sure that the progress never stops. And I think here the difficulty is that Idle No More is a broad-based, diffuse social media based movement with a specific beginning which is -- I think it was four of the clan mothers in Saskatchewan who were protesting the environmental elements in the omnibus C 45 bill and it morphs into this largest bill, we disagree with a whole bunch of stuff that the government of Canada is doing, and morphs into even more specific demands to have these meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor-General and writing letters to Buckingham Palace. So when it morphs into this big large, as one commentator said, theological issue, then that's where it becomes difficult because the government is just not set up to deal with these broad, unknowable issues.

>>Suhana: While the actions may have morphed, do you think the message has basically stayed the same? We need to deal.

>>Rioux: The message, absolutely, and I think the average Canadian sees very well the myriad social problems that indigenous people face. The conditions on many reserves, not all, many reserves have been described as third world, right here in Canada. And I think there's a lot that has to be done. But we do need, we the government of canada and society at large, we need to know who is the interlocueter, who represents the broad range of issues. And, of course, within that, there will be differences of opinion. I mean, even in our own democracy we have many political parties representing different interests, but at the end of the day you have to understand what represents sort of a broad-based coalition and an aggregation of the majority of the points of view within the First Nation community. For the government of Canada right now that's the AFN. So they need to be the legitimate interlocueter.

>>Suhana: What do you think the challenges are? From the movement I'm hearing you got to focus the issues, this broad spectrum can't be tackled unless you start prioritizing them. Let's look at both sides and what the challenges are.

>>Rioux: Well, the challenge to that is there's a universal call to get rid of the Indian Act. I mean, everybody you talk to says that that's the main stumbling block between these more modern relationships. But getting rid of the Indian Act won't get rid of a bunch of other things like the fiduciary responsibility the Crown has to Aboriginals across Canada. Another one is, let's say, do you give communities self-sufficiency and powers to raise their own funds and powers to manage their own affairs? In a lot of these communities the big issue is they're so far from economic opportunity, that you wonder how these funds -- let's call it taxation to provide public goods, how is that going to happen when there are so remote. There are no roads there, they're fly-in communities and no natural resources or opportunities up there. So getting rid of the Indian Act is an easy thing to say, but then getting to the next step is the crux of the issue.

>>Suhana: And has that crux of the issue reached a tipping point? We're expecting to see, not just demonstrations, peaceful demonstrations, but blockades today as well. Does that tell you something?

>>Rioux: Well, you know, I've faced these issues when I was in Ottawa and I think there is a lot of anger out there. And it's understandable. The Idle No More, you know, from everything I hear they want to make

this peaceful and they want to use this more as an educational opportunity. And i think what you're seeing today -- I saw the map that was projected there, and, yes, there are about a dozen events planned across Canada, the big one being the Ambassador Bridge. But we're talking about an hour, two hours. We're talking about peaceful rallies, teach-ins, things of that nature. And I think the average Canadian can live with that. They understand that there are pent-up frustrations, and I think First Nations by and large, they want to do this peacefully. And it doesn't serve any purpose for folks to be calling for getting -- you know, disabling the Canadian economy and things of that nature. That doesn't help their cause at all.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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>> Prime Minister Stephen Harper: People have the right in our country to demonstrate and express their points of view peacefully as long as they obey the law, but I think the Canadian population thinks everyone will obey the law in holding such protests.

>> Andrew: The Prime Minister's announcement of funding for the auto industry was sidelined by questions about Idle No More protests, and his upcoming meeting with First Nations leaders. Stephen Harper agreed to discuss treaty rights next week. The CBC's James Fitzmorris on Victoria Island, where Chief Theresa Spence is holding her hunger strike. We'll speak with him in a moment. First, Steven De Souza is at the Ford motor plant in Oakville, Ontario where Stephen Harper spoke moments ago. Break down what the Prime Minister said about the meetings and the Idle No More movement.

>> Reporter: It is interesting, because he never mentioned Idle No More by name or Chief Theresa Spence. What we talked about when referencing the January 11th meeting next week, he talked about it as a follow-up to previous meetings he has had with First Nations leaders, saying he wants to build on what they accomplished in those meetings and set further dates for more meetings. He was talking about the meeting he's having is a follow-up, rather than a response to what we have been seeing across the country with the Idle No More protests, and interestingly he said that it was really up to the First Nations leadership to decide the composition of their delegation to the meeting and didn't say that he would meet with Chief Theresa Spence directly, saying it is up to the First Nations leadership to decide if she will be a part of those meetings. Also, you heard him talk about, in that clip, about the protests, themselves, saying as long as they are kept peaceful and lawful, he says he doesn't really have a problem with them. Interestingly, though, he was asked by a reporter about some planned protests over the weekend that could shut down borders and, therefore, cross the legal line, and he didn't directly answer that question. In fact, he referred back to his early answer and then when asked again, in French, whether he's responding to the protests and calling the meeting, he again referred to his previous answer and did not answer again, directly.

>> Andrew: Chief Spence vows to continue her hunger strike until the meeting with the Prime Minister. This morning a group of Chiefs expressed concerns for her health and said the meeting with Harper would be wasted if it failed to yield meaningful progress. Joining me with more is James Fitzmorris in Ottawa. James, can you tell us about the concerns the Chief expressed today?

>> Reporter: They are concerned about Chief Spence's health. This is day 25 without solid food and they say she is starting to show the effects of the hunger strike. So they were here to increase pressure on Prime Minister Harper to agree to a meeting,. They were what the caught off guard on the announcement of the January 11th coming minutes before they decided to speak to the media. So, they say they are encouraged by the step and it is certainly a step forward and some are calling it a moral victory. But they are looking for more concrete measures. It is not just one meeting. Here's some of the reaction from earlier today.

>>Stan Loutitt: We are going to go into a Crown-First Nations gathering 2, if you will, this coming -- this month. Then I think we need to drive that agenda with the Prime Minister. Last year it was largely very restrictive, and I'm always an optimist when it comes to those kinds of things and I'm hopeful we can make progress with a commitment to continue that dialogue.

>>Reporter: As you heard there, the Chief is pointing out they did have a meeting with the Crown last year and didn't see any results from it and they are looking for a greater commitment than one meeting, and as you mentioned, also, Chief Spence will actually continue her hunger strike until the meeting is held and they don't want just a commitment and they say there are issues of trust and want to see the trust and want to see the meeting held before they give up the vigil on the island in the shadow of Parliament

Hill before the Chief will eat again.

>> Andrew: Let's talk about that. This is day 25 of Chief Spence's hunger strike. What is her condition?

>>Reporter: We haven't seen her yet here today. As you can see behind me there are a lot of people, as I said, holding vigil, and we understand though from people who have seen her earlier that she says she is doing well. She is in high spirits, but is showing signs of weakness and the effects of not having eaten solid food, as we say, in 25 days.

Jim Hurcomb

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>>Host: Let's speak with Grand Chief David Harper who joins us now live outside Parliament Hill. Grand Chief, I thought you were going to go to the meeting with the Prime Minister.

>>Chief Harper: We cannot go into the meeting with the Prime Minister. We have a hunger striker, and we don't know how many days left before his system starts shutting off. And we have a very, very important person, who is Chief Theresa Spence, who is also refusing to take any food, so we are very concerned. That is why we support the boycott of the meeting now.

>>Host: What are you making of Shawn Atleo and the AFN meeting with the Prime Minister?

>>Chief Harper: We are hoping and praying that something comes of it, and making sure they take the message to the Prime Minister stating that it is so important that we meet with the Governor-General and we have something tangible to work with. Each day and each hour and each minute that goes by is wasting time and this is an opportune time. Whatever comes out of that meeting right now will be the primary focus and what we'll be debating on for the next little while.

>>Host: How much faith do you have in an outcome if there is a divide?

>>Chief Harper: There is some divide, but we are standing together and most of the Chiefs are standing together in here today and we are pushing for the repeal of the Bill 45 that's so important here today and that is affecting throughout the country, There's five flash mobs happening in Manitoba. If nothing tangible concrete comes out of the meeting, we could see an increase in protests here over the weekend and you never know how long it's going to take.

>>Host: And we are seeing blockades right now along the rail lines.

>>Chief Harper: This is only the beginning and this is one of the things that we wanted to avoid. This is one thing we wanted to avoid, mobs like these happening. But it is happening and the government is not listening, and we say this to the Governor General, get the Prime Minister with you tonight and we meet with the three hunger strikers. Once that is done there will be concrete dialogue from there on.

>>Host: With all due respect, what conversation can you have with the Prime Minister and with the Governor-General in one room that you cannot have separately?

>>Chief Harper: One thing we need to do is talk about is treaty implementation. One of the messages we sent, and I was here over New Years while the MP's and the Prime Minister and the Senators were enjoying their holidays, the fact that I am strongly supporting Chief Spence is the fact that every day I see my children chiselling ice this morning and getting a pail of water from the lake and at the same time going outside to the outdoor toilet, for crying out loud, in 2013 in Canada. That is totally unacceptable. We have to have some tangible results and we have to move forward. This is a day and age where, as you see around us, is the world's biggest round dance happening and it will get much bigger if nothing tangible comes out of this today.

>>Host: As an outsider it sounds like you have to pick between Shawn Atleo or Theresa Spence.

>>Chief Harper: For me, I have to pick Chief Spence right now, and I am hoping that Shawn Atleo makes the right choice and brings the Prime Minister and Governor-General to meet with Chief Spence.

>>Host: What's happening behind you? We are watching this unfold on Parliament Hill. People are waling around in circles. What does that represent?

>>Chief Harper: This is a round dance that is happening. At the same time it's people coming together. Our First Nations leadership have come together supporting the Idle no More movement. And this is the kind of thing you're going to see right across the country. It's going to escalate. What we're asking for and what we are asking for is that there is no violence in these kind of demonstrations in this round dance. This is the people coming together, and this signifies that we are standing together as a nation and we are standing together as first peoples of this country, that we had enough.

Jim Hurcomb

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Subject: CBC News Network preview of meeting with PM
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>> Heather: The latest information we have has Shawn Atleo opening a summit in Ottawa with the Prime Minister. But what is unclear-- how many other Chiefs will take part. Margo McDermid is on the story. Looking ahead to this afternoon, the meeting itself, there is confusion, one could say disarray. What's the latest?

>>Reporter: The disarray that you mentioned stems from a big meeting last night in a hotel in Ottawa, where Chiefs from across the country spoke up and said, that they plan to meet with-- have some regional Chiefs and Shawn Atleo- meet with the Prime Minister wasn't good enough because they wanted the Governor General at the table when they meet with the Prime Minister. Now they see the Governor General, of course, as a representative of the Crown and the Queen who actually signed the treaties with them in the first place. And they say, they are talking about fundamental transformation with their relationship with the government in this meeting and their ongoing concerns about the fundamental laws that have been changed in the last couple of budgets. Now keep in mind, the Governor General has invited some AFN leaders to have dinner with him tonight, but the Chiefs say, no, no, we want him to be part of the working meeting. And they all stood up and said that we won't go if that does not happen. So Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories at least will not be at that meeting. So the head of the AFN, Shawn Atleo, was presented with a dilemma and he had a split with his own Nation. We understand he spent most of the night trying to sort it out with the Prime Minister's Office, and we heard that they have until noon today to sort it out. So it's going right down to the wire. Now for the Prime Minister's Office, they are saying, listen, we are happy to go ahead with the meeting as originally planned but the former AFN head Ovide Mercredi says that simply won't work. Here is more from him.

>> Mercredi: There is a very simple solution to this impasse and it just requires common sense by the Prime Minister. He should agree to meet with the Chiefs in a different venue, so that it will be more inclusive, more transparent.

>>Heather: He is certainly someone we've seen at these important summits in the past, and apart from this latest discussion, and we're hearing from police in Ottawa, too, Margo, that commuters have to be careful today because protests are likely throughout the city. What are you hearing?

>>Reporter: We're hearing that the "Idle No More" movement, which is sort of risen in parallel what we talked about with the Chiefs, they have planned a huge rally today, leaving Victoria Island Chief Theresa Spence, has been on a liquid only diet since before Christmas. They are planning to march to Parliament Hill today. That's a thousand people on Parliament Hill. And directly across the street is the Langevin Block, where the meeting is supposed to take place. And that's where they are supposed to see that happen. And nasty freezing rain also expected today. So interesting and intense couple of hours for most of the day in Ottawa.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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>>Evan: Joining me now from Regina is the Assembly of First Nation's Saskatchewan Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde. He was with Shawn Atleo throughout the week here in Ottawa. Regional Chief, give us a sense now about Shawn Atleo. What's his health like? Can you give us any details on why he's stepping aside temporarily?

>>Bellegarde: It's not so much stepping aside. He's just basically taking time to rest and recover from the flu. He's batting the flu bug for the last couple weeks, so he needs time to rest and recuperate from that. And that's all that's going on right now.

>> Evan: So he's just stepping aside -- or resting, rather. Let me be clear.

>>Bellegarde: Yeah.

>> Evan: I spoke to him late Friday night. He looked absolutely exhausted, Regional Chief, and I know the stress has been very intense on him. Is it just the Norwalk flu bug? There's nothing more? Has it been the stress of the situation?

>>Bellegarde: It's probably a combination of both, but he really was fighting that virus, and long hours from 6:00 a.m. in the morning until late at night, your body doesn't have that time to rest and recuperate. So he needs that time right now, and that's all that's going on. He needs to take that time so he can get better, come back and work.

Evan: I want to get at what it means in a minute, but I've literally, just minutes ago, our colleague Tom Perry just confirmed that Jean Sock, he's one of the three people on a hunger strike, a hunger action, however you want to describe it, along side, of course, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, he has just announced that he is ending his hunger strike. He says because his mother has cancer and he wants to see her. Any reaction to the fact that now one of the three has ended his protest?

>>Bellegarde: No. We hold the three fasters up in high regard and we thank them for their work and sacrifice. They've brought attention to the lack of treaty implementation. They want that nation-to-nation relationship restored and treaties finally honoured and implemented according to spirit and intent. We thank them for that because that helped push the whole resource revenue sharing file that we need to look at. We're all concerned with their health and well-being. You know, there are different Chiefs and leaders asking now for all of them to come and walk with us, you know. They can leave with honour and dignity for all that they've done.

>> Evan: Are you asking Chief Theresa Spence to end her protest, end her hunger strike, her fast and stop what she's doing now?

>>Bellegarde: Yeah, it's her call and her relationship with the creator, but all leaders across Canada, you know, we're saying -- and I'm saying personally, like, I'm concerned for her health and well-being, and, yes, it's time now to come and walk with us and stand with us in a very respectful way. They've done lots, and they can come with honour and dignity. Our elders are praying that way for that strength and that support -- our elders -- so they can see it's time to come and stand with us so we can continue this fight and dialogue with the Crown.

>> Evan: Just your sense of what she's doing now. I mean, obviously she says she won't stop until the Prime Minister and the Governor General meet together, the same request she has made from the very beginning. She remains steadfast in that. What do you tell her?

>>Bellegarde: Well, we've tried very hard to facilitate both of those meetings. The Governor General wasn't even going to come to the meeting with the Prime Minister, and then we worked very hard to make that meeting with the Governor General happen, which it did happen. Unfortunately not together, but we did meet with the Governor General, and we thank him for that and his renewed commitment to assist with treaty implementation and renewing that relationship with the Queen and the Crown, because that's who our treaty relationship is with, and with the high-level commitments from the Prime Minister's Office. I'm hoping that Cabinet mandate is there for implementation of treaties and section 35 and dealing with comprehensive claims so there's no further extinguishment of Aboriginal title and rights. Ee have to get that work done now.

>> Evan: Greg Rickford, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, is listening into this. He's on right after you. He was at those meetings. Now that National Chief Atleo is taking essentially a 10-day departure, the rest period, when will the next meeting be? Who will be at those next meetings? What are you looking for here from the AFN point of view?

>>Bellegarde: Well, again, Regional Chief Jody Wilson has the mandate and file for comprehensive claims. That work has to continue. I have the treaty file, and we've got to get the information from government exactly what are they proposing, exactly what are they suggesting in terms of what is that high-level commitment? Does it rest with the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister's Office? Is there a Cabinet mandate now, and if there is such a thing -- and then we want to bring that back out to our treaty First Nations because we facilitated that all week long, and treaty implementation was to be done treaty-by-treaty. We have to take that back. AFN isn't the treaty holder, but we can facilitate and get that moving and take that back out. There will be another meeting of our treaty leadership. It's just a matter of getting the information together first, and then we'll communicate out to them and bring them back together.

>> Evan: Chief Bellegarde, Idle no More, some have said, you know, there's going to be protests on Wednesday. Will there be blockades? Will there be protests? Idle No More leaders say they don't support blockades. What do you want to see happen on wednesday?

>>Bellegarde: Well, basically I support Idle No More and lift up the four women because it's all been done peacefully, and they've raised and shone a light on the atrocities of Bill C-45 that affects the land and water. They're peaceful, unifying rallies. That's what Idle No More is -- peaceful.

>> Evan: There could be blockades of bridges potentially.

>>Bellegarde: That's two separate things. That's not Idle No More January 16th. What you're seeing is the frustration in the level of different leaders across Canada that want to bring about transformational change because they're tired of seeing the lands and resources exploited. Now we've really got to say let's work together so that we can all benefit from the lands and resource wealth of this land. We're living in third world conditions. Like I've always said, Canada is rated number six in terms of quality of life on the United Nations human development index. We're 63rd. We have to change that, and part of that is resource revenue sharing with full inclusion of indigenous peoples.

>>Evan: You're supporting peaceful protests, you are not supporting blockades.

>>Bellegarde: Yes. because, again, we've got processes. I always say processes that unite rather than divide. We need to get cooler heads around the table and ensure that we move these issues and files forward collectively to bring about that change. We're all in this together, you know. I would urge Canadians to write the Members of Parliament, make sure treaties are honoured and implemented, write their Members of Parliament to make sure comprehensive claims are dealt with in a fair and expeditious manner. We're all in this together. Let's make sure we get our heads around the table, move these things forward. Let's hope for the future.

>> Evan: We'll be watching this very closely. AFN Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde on the ending of one of the hunger striker's protests today and on the illness that is forcing National Chief Shawn Atleo to take

some bed rest.

Jim Hurcomb

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INTERVIEW WITH CAROLYN BENNETT AND JEAN CROWDER

HANNAH THIBEDEAU (CBC-NN): We just heard from Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan commenting on today's meeting. He called it constructive and said both sides managed to build on progress and shared objectives. But of course the meeting was engulfed in controversy over the venue and who would and would not be at the table.
So do the deep divisions among First Nations leaders threaten progress going forward, or will today's meeting diffuse the escalating confrontation and chart the course for better federal - First Nations relationships and more prosperity on reserves.
Joining me now is NDP aboriginal critic, Jean Crowder and Liberal Aboriginal critic, Carolyn Bennett. Thanks for joining me today.
CAROLYN BENNETT (Liberal Aboriginal critic): Thank you.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Now, what do you make just first, I'm going to start with you, Ms. Crowder, of what you heard from Minister Duncan and also from Matthew Coon Come who came in just before?
JEAN CROWDER (NDP Aboriginal critic): Well, I think it's going to depend on whether there is concrete action as a result of this. And when we look a year ago to the crown First Nations gathering and although there was commitments made, there was no action. So it's going to be critical what happens in this next couple of weeks.
I think Matthew Coon Come came out and he sounded positive that there was some concrete action going to happen, but I have to say I was concerned about some of the things that Minister Duncan said. I mean he...
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Like what in particular?
JEAN CROWDER: Well, the consultation piece around that their duty to consult around the omnibus budget bills had been fulfilled and I would say that First Nations from coast to coast to coast would adamantly disagree with that. And what would have been valuable is to hear specifically what they meant by the duty to consult. The courts have laid it out, but it didn't sound to me like they were going to use those kinds of guidelines around consultation.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: And in fact, it seemed like Matthew Coon Come was more positive from the meeting than what we heard from the Minister.
JEAN CROWDER: That's right and then the Parliamentary Secretary just rhymed off a list of things that … that is nothing new to what they've always said in the past.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Carolyn Bennett, what was your reaction from…?
CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I wanted to be positive and I want this to be a baby step in the right direction, so that's where I'm coming from. I want this to go forward and… but I mean, the government on just in terms of that press conference is just tone deaf, standing up and saying the investments they've made. I mean if we were… and that they've fulfilled the duty to consult. We wouldn't have Idle no More if that was the case. Theresa Spence wouldn't be on a hunger strike if that was the case.
So we need now, if we're going to go forward, then there has to be some honest dialogue that talks about the truth. There have to be strategies. What, by when and how? There have to be working groups struck. There has to… we have to figure out how to get to the eight things that they AFN has talked about. The needs are urgent, absolutely urgent. The budget cuts that we'd seen last year are devastating and there's a budget coming up now and we've got to see urgent work to make sure that some of these gaps are closed between now and the 2013 budget.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Is it a positive move, Ms. Crowder, that the P.M. has agreed to a high level

process and dialogue within the next two weeks?
CAROLYN BENNETT: Yes, that is a positive step. That's encouraging that something is going to happen immediately. But again, there needs to be those concrete. We want to know what the outcomes, we want to know timelines, and we want to know who's going to be assigned responsibility because without that kind of framework, it would just drift away.
And that's really important for everybody, both First Nations and non-First Nations to understand what the commitment is of the Conservative government towards moving this process forward.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Now there have been calls for economic disruptions, including railway, highway, blockades for next Wednesday. How should the government react to prevent this from escalating further, or even trying to stop that from happening? Do you think that should continue then?
CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I think the grass roots want to be heard. The grass roots want a serious, meaningful engagement and... But so as we've heard through some of ... all of the chiefs that this is the asking, not telling. This is a time for the government to show that they're actually going to listen in a meaningful way and hear the concerns directly from the people. And I'm afraid that just the National Chief and the Prime Minister having high level dialogues is not going to fix what we're hearing.
We also need to see a process where the grass roots, the young people that have been so engaged in it, now do we get them involved in creating the solutions?
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: How do you that?
CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, you actually begin a conversation. Some of these meetings, I was at the Idle no More teach-in in North Bay. Working groups, tables, discussion groups working their way through the legislation. There's such an appetite to understand what's going on and how they can... that you have to be able to harvest the solutions from community. And that means this government is going to have to figure out the consultation is not a one-shot information session with sending out information. They've got to show that they're listening and this is so important, as Bob Rae said earlier today, that in this community, it takes time, it builds trust and they've got to show they're listening.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: What do you make of the split occurring within the First Nations ranks and we saw it with this meeting today? Is that going to be a challenge moving forward?
JEAN CROWDER: Well, it's going to be a challenge but I think it's important to remember that non-aboriginal communities don't speak with a united voice either. I mean, from coast to coast to coast, we have different points of view about a variety of things. Look to our federal Parliament. We have a party system and within parties people disagree.
So again, I think it's important that we respect the diversity of opinions within First Nations and that there are mechanisms to work with those dissenting opinions.
I think that diversity is important. It brings forward different points of view, different ideas. Idle no More is a really good example. I mean, we have a grass roots movement here that has energy, that has ideas, that is going to put pressure not only on the federal government but their own leadership. That's important.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Well, what about the violent threats that we're hearing from maybe a different group or a smaller faction of this group, but what do you make of the violent escalating?
CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I think the Idle no More has had a very peaceful important message and certainly at the information session I was at, every time things got a bit hot, the elders stood up with the eagle feather and things quieted down. That's the way they want to move forward, being seen as a peaceful movement and you know, I just hope today is the first day of us getting this right.
HANNAH THIBEDEAU: I want to thank both of you for coming in today and giving us the latest. I want to thank Jean Crowder and Carolyn Bennett. Thanks.
JEAN CROWDER: Thank you.
CAROLYN BENNETT: Thank you.

Jim Hurcomb

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>>Evan: We have more on this now with Greg Rickford. What do you make -- your quick reaction to Jean Sock, one of the hunger strikers, alongside Chief Theresa Spence, ending his protest today because his mother has cancer.

>>Rickford: Well, all I can do is wish him and his family well at this time. I'm not going to speculate on any of the other details, Evan, except to say that we'd like to see everybody end their hunger strike. It's just unfortunate that he has this family matter.

>>Evan: Shawn Atleo steps aside or takes rest because his doctor has told him he needs it for medical reasons now. Will this in any way delay the next meeting between the Prime Minister and Shawn Atleo?

>>Rickford: Well, I mean, when Shawn is in a position to come back I'm sure, as the Prime Minister actually said, I'm not sure you quoted him exactly, but he said he will be ready to meet with him at his convenience, that being National Chief Atleo. So, you know, National Chief Atleo has been working very hard. He was not well with the flu for a period of time under some very stressful conditions. We just wish him well. we're looking forward to the time and place when he gets back to work. and, in the meantime, we have Regional Chiefs that we have great relationships with to the extent that any other issues arise, but we're looking forward to moving this process forward.

>> Evan: You heard Regional Chief Bellegarde just on before you. I asked him what's next here, and he said they really want details on what these so-called high-level meetings will be. Will it be the PCO?. Has anything been fleshed out in terms of who will be at the meetings, how they'll take place? Has any of this been fleshed out yet?

>>Rickford: Yeah. What the agreement was, of course, that National Chief and, of course, the Prime Minister would go back to our respective stakeholders or constituents, if you will, that being Cabinet and Caucus, in the case of the National Chief, to get a sense from the regional Chiefs, and obviously regional Chiefs like Bellegarde and Jody Wilson Raybould are particularly important because they work the files for treaties and for land claims settlements. So they'll get a sense from them. The agreement was to go back, have those discussions, and then the National Chief and the Prime Minister would meet at their earliest convenience to start a process to flesh out those details. So there's responsibilities that rest with both sides, and I believe that that's what Regional Chief Bellegarde was referring to.

>> Evan: You heard from Chief Nepinak today trying to clarify some of his earlier statements when he had him on last week. He said there's a potential to bring Canada's economy to its knees. Some of the founders of the Idle No More movement on the weekend suggesting they don't support the blockades. Some other elements are saying blockades will be necessary or slowdowns. How will the police react if, indeed, there are blockades on critical bridges, or do you see the rhetoric as a sign that the tenor of this has changed?

>>Rickford: I see the rhetoric being toned down, that this reflects that we did have a positive meeting on Friday and that when we sit down and have cordial and respectful conversations as we did on Friday that we can get results. And so I think, and I appreciate Chief Nepinak for his comments today, I think it reflects a willingness by all parties to move forward. With respect to any protests, I mean, obviously our goal is to, you know, continue to respect peaceful protests, but as long as they stay within the confines of the rule of law, to the extent that the law should be applied. I think Canadians expect that, not just as a matter of law, but as a mater of public safety. so we're hoping that --

>>Evan: You know, I as that because of that Ontario Judge who said that his rules on a previous blockade were not being enforced. There has been a real politics around enforcement here because

nobody wants to spark a conflict. You know, it's a very tense situation.

>>Rickford: And we're hoping and we believe that what we've heard certainly since Friday, but particularly in the last day or so, Evan, that there is a desire by all folks, parties and stakeholders involved in this process, and Canadians in general, to get on and get down to business on the next steps that we've committed to, bring meaningful change in the key areas that we discussed. Hopefully we won't see anything that puts Canadians, any Canadian, in jeopardy as a matter of public safety, and that our results-driven process will continue in haste.

Jim Hurcomb

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DISCUSSION ON MÉTIS RULING

LAURA LYNCH (Guest Host): This could be a year of big change in the relationship between the federal government and Canada's Native communities. Today Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with some First Nations chiefs. It's fair to say neither the chiefs nor the Conservatives are satisfied with the present form of aboriginal governance. But many aboriginal people believe Ottawa intends to erode existing treaty and indigenous rights. That anger sparked the Idle No More movement. The movement may be a little vague in its aims, but it's become a rallying point that the Prime Minister and the chiefs can hardly ignore. What's more, this week the federal court made a ruling that could greatly increase the size of Canada's Indian population. It says the Métis and non-status Indians will be considered as Indians under the 1867 Constitution Act. Many celebrate the decision, but not all. With more on what the ruling means, I'm joined by Tony Belcourt, the founding president of the Native Council of Canada, now called the Congress of Aboriginal People, and he's in Ottawa. Hello.
TONY BELCOURT (Founding President, Congress of Aboriginal People): Good morning.
LAURA LYNCH: Could you tell me what the court victory means to you personally?
TONY BELCOURT: Well, I came to Ottawa in 1971 wanting to see the day that we did see this week when we would be recognized as being under federal jurisdiction. I'd like to clarify something. It's not that we want to be Indians, per se. A lot of Métis people or non-status Indian people have been able to register as status Indians within Indian... the Indian Act. We don't want to do that. That's now our goal at all. In 1939, the Supreme Court of Canada had a ruling called Re. Eskimos. The Quebec government took the federal government to court saying that the people who now we recognize fully as being Inuit rather than Eskimos, living in Northern Quebec, the federal government had the jurisdictional responsibility for them, not Quebec. And Quebec won that case, and as a result, the federal jurisdiction then fell for the Inuit people. And so the same thing has happened to us. There's no reason that the Métis people have to now be called Indians. In fact, we don't want to be. Not that we don't have Indian relations and share culture and history and so on. But we are a people all unto our own, as are the Dene or the Haudenosaunee, or the Inuit.
LAURA LYNCH: But are you welcoming this ruling?
TONY BELCOURT: Oh, absolutely.
LAURA LYNCH: Why?
TONY BELLCOURT: Well, there are... first of all, we have been political footballs. If we come to the federal government and we say look, we have to have ways to eradicate our poverty, to be able to deal with social issues that we have, that we want to be able to have economic development opportunities, that we want to have some redress of our land claims, the federal government's always turned us away and said, "Go see the provinces. We don't have responsibility to deal with you." So we go to the provinces and they kick us back to the federal government. Well, this has now been settled. The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with the Métis people. This means that programs and services, for example, that they have limited to the two people they now recognize they have jurisdiction for, IE status Indians and the Inuit, that these programs and services, we will now be able to access programs and services like that as well.
LAURA LYNCH: What are we talking about when you talk about services?
TONY BELCOURT: Well, we're talking about, for example, non-insured health benefits. We have a lot of people who, as the hardworking Métis people don't make enough money to be able to put it away for retirement. When they get sick or they can't work anymore or they're retired, they have, as most people do, a lot of health problems, and need prescription drugs and so on and can't afford them. Can't afford

glasses.
LAURA LYNCH: It's not just simply healthcare, though, is it?
TONY BELCOURT: No, it's not just simply healthcare. There's, for example, we have longstanding land claims grievances. We've had lands that were to be set aside for us in various places, and only to find them swindled away, taken out of our hands or settlers had moved in on our... in our homes when our people have been away on buffalo hunts, and took over our property, our houses. So we have these kinds of grievances, but the federal government's saying, "Well, we don't have responsibility for you," in the past have been able to simply say, "Well, we don't need to deal with you on this issue." The federal government has land claims... comprehensive land claims policy or specific claims policy. They exclude the Métis from being able to participate in that. There's a specific claims tribunal. We don't have access to that tribunal. Or we haven't had. Now this ruling will allow those doors to be open to us.
LAURA LYNCH: I'd like to bring someone else into the conversation now. John Lagimadiere is the publisher and editor of Eagle Feather News, and he's in Saskatoon. Good morning.
JOHN LAGIMADIERE (Publisher, Editor, Eagle Feather News): Good morning, Laura.
LAURA LYNCH: John, what is your reaction to the federal court decision?
JOHN LAGIMADIERE: My thought when I first heard of it was this is going to make for some very interesting times. I wasn't quite as elated as Tony, but you know, I wasn't in that generation where Tony and Harry Daniels and these folks had to fight that good fight. So it's good to see the former leaders', I guess, visions finally being realized through a federal court decision. But as a Métis citizen, you know, my rights didn't change, my life didn't change, but I know it does open up the door and that it's going to change the landscape down the future in Canada. My thing was, I never saw us as a set aside or as a different nation inside of Canada. I may have a bit of a different experience. And my thing was when I looked at how Riel negotiated our way into Canada...
LAURA LYNCH: Louis Riel, you mean.
JOHN LAGIMADIERE: Yeah, Louis Riel in the Manitoba Act in the late 1860s, I saw us coming into Canada as Canadian citizens with some provisions inside the Manitoba Act for Métis people regarding our language, our culture for Catholic schools, and as Tony said previously, some lands set aside for Métis. But not set aside independent like a reserve is, where it's held in trust outside of Canada, but as Canadian citizens. So I see myself as a Canadian citizen who happens to have Métis benefits. Up until maybe ten years ago, I didn't have any rights over and above your Canadian citizen, and even now today I just have one little very strictly defined hunting right. What this decision makes, all of a sudden I'm not an Indian under the Indian Act where I'm going to get benefits and have tax exemptions on reserves, because we don't have reserves. It's a future looking document, and we'll see where it goes, but as of today, you know, I'm still with a very strictly defined hunting right that I can't use here in Saskatchewan, because my traditional Métis territory is just outside of Winnipeg, Manitoba.
LAURA LYNCH: Well, Tony, I'm wondering, what has it meant to your identity, then, to lack this official status?
TONY BELCOURT: Oh, I've never had any problems in terms of my identity. I'm a Métis person one hundred percent, through and through.
LAURA LYNCH: But when you hear John talk about the way he identifies himself, simply as a Canadian with... as a Canadian who is a Métis. You seem to identify yourself in a slightly different way.
TONY BELCOURT: Well, I don't know that John and I necessarily disagree on things about this. These things are complex in many ways. First of all, the Métis are a people, one of the aboriginal peoples recognized... whose treaty and aboriginal rights are recognized in Canada's constitution. That means we as a people have collective rights, not just individual rights, but collective rights. The right to hunt and fish for food is recognized now as one of our rights as a collective, not as individuals. So it's very important for us to deal on that basis as a people if we want to be able to access our rights.
LAURA LYNCH: Do you think that John actually understands the full implications of this decision and of the historic fight that you have fought for recognition?
TONY BELCOURT: Oh, John's a smart man. He understands better than most people exactly what's going on. As he said, you know, we can't predict the future, but on the other hand, we have had people who have been fighting these battles ever since the days of Louis Riel, and you know, when I was a kid I grew up around the campfires listening to our older people talking about how we had lost at the Tosh, and what happened to our land. And they wanted to get the land back. How do we deal with these issues? These have been in the hearts and minds and soul of our people. Well, we were successful in being in the constitution, but when the federal government takes the position that, well, you don't have any rights

anyway. That doesn't really mean anything, because they've all been eroded, or they've been taken away, or you gave them up, or it's too late to deal with them, well, I think the clock has now come to midnight where the federal government's concerned, and they have no choice now but to deal with us.
LAURA LYNCH: John, you mentioned different generations, and I wonder whether you think that there are Métis who are of your generation who do generally, as you do, view this a bit differently, who say that the process is... the future steps should be a bit different than what the older generation would like to see.
JOHN LAGIMADIERE: Absolutely. I have a cousin, and we had a long talk about our Métis identity, and she's still living in the historic Métis community where our family's from. And you know, near the end of our conversation, she said, "John, you're assimilated." And I had to say yes. You know, I'm highly Canadianized. I'm very proud to be a Canadian, but I'm very embarrassed about our country's historical treatment of aboriginal people in Canada, and I do everything I can to bring that to the forefront and to change that. So yeah, there's the folks like Tony and Harry Daniels and Jim Sinclair that have all come before us. These guys grew up in a much different time where they had to almost literally bare-knuckle fight because of their ancestry and their background. You know, I've faced a little bit of racism in my time, but the road's been paved for me in a much different way. So the Métis passionate nationalistic fire burns a little bit different in a different way, and I'm taking my place in the country. Those guys had to fight for us to take our place in our country, and you know, guys in my generation in the mid-40s should be and are very grateful. You know, I talked once to former national leader Jim Sinclair. He's since deceased, a couple of months ago. And I said to him, you know, because at one time he could have been a status Indian. I think he did get a status, but he was also self-identified as a half-breed or a Métis. And I said, "Would you have preferred to have been treaty? Like, because of all those benefits there." And he says, "You know, when you look back at the past," he said, "no, because you know, sure, with treaty there's some benefits in health and education and some housing," he says, "but as Métis we're a free people. We didn't get set aside on reserves. We weren't under the thumb of the government and the Indian Act. We didn't have to go to residential schools." Some did, but on the whole, we didn't have to go to residential schools. So we were free to make our own decisions, and I think by being liberated, or not, you know, being treated like Indians from the start I think gave us a little bit of an advantage. But now with that simmering potential in there under the constitution defining us as Indians, our bucket of aboriginal rights is yet to be filled. And the potential there is huge, but you know, I've taken my place in Canada. I'm not... I'm not waiting for this list of rights to help, though I know there are lot of people that do need access to some of these rights to improve the conditions in some of their either remote communities where they may be.
LAURA LYNCH: Tony, when you hear views like that, how does that guide you as you move forward now? Because this has been, as you said, a very long fight. You've got this court ruling. You don't know whether the federal government's going to appeal, but if you do eventually win all the way through, then there is another negotiation. So how does what John say inform you as you go ahead and try to start negotiating a new relationship?
TONY BELCOURT: Well, I'm not one of the current elected leaders that they will have to deal with in the negotiations, but I'll tell you what guides me, is first of all, how I was raised and what I've dealt with all my life. But so do my children. Excuse me. My son, who's a filmmaker, lives in Toronto. He did a very, very tender look at the question of identity of First Nations people and Métis people today living in cities and wrestling with this whole question of who they are. And his film was called "Tkaronto". He did an interview yesterday on CTV, and he texted me to say that he was really nervous about being on that side of the camera. And then he sent a message to me again last night to say, you know, "(Inaudible) into it. I've been awakened. This Idle No More movement has certainly caught everybody's attention." He feels passionately, it's in his bones, it's in his blood, about being a Métis person. And I want to emphasize just because the jurisdictional issue says that we fall within that constitutional classification where the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction to legislate for, quote, "Indians and lands reserved for Indians," it doesn't mean that we've become Indians, any more than the Inuit have become Indians. And again, I don't disparage Indian people. I... you know, we are related. We share blood and land and culture. But we are a people all unto our own. The only thing that's changed now is that after... at long last, the federal government has been declared to be responsible for dealing with Métis people, and they can't get away from it anymore.
LAURA LYNCH: You raise another point there, though, that you talk about the relationship with Indian people. There has been fears in the past, and there have been at points backlash from the Indian community over the idea of granting more rights to the Métis community. Do you fear a backlash at all out of this ruling, or have you heard any backlash?

TONY BELCOURT: I haven't heard any backlash yet, and it may come. On the contrary, I got a phone call from regional chief Bill Erasmus, who was on his way down to Ottawa a couple of days ago, to congratulate me on the ruling, and to say, "You know, Tony, we are together in these... in all of these issues as peoples. And we have to work together." Now, that is music to my ears. I want to relate a conversation I had with National Chief George Emmanuel in 1971 when I first came to Ottawa. I wanted to meet with George and talk about how we would work together, and he said, you know, "Nobody wants me to meet with you. The federal government especially is saying, you know, George, if they recognize the Métis people, George, there's only a loaf of bread here. And the Métis people are... we're going to have to share that with the Métis people." And I said, "George, Ottawa's not a loaf of bread. Ottawa is a bakery. It's full of resources that we don't have access to. And you're not getting your fair share, George, and we don't get any of it. Let's fight together to make sure that we get exactly what our full entitlement should be."
LAURA LYNCH: John, would you like to go to the bakery and help yourself?
JOHN LAGIMADIERE: That's a great story, Tony. That's an awesome story. But you know, here in Saskatchewan, we've had situations when you talk about some of the splits, you know, I've talked to our provincial chief one time - this is, oh, ten years ago, and he happens to be back in power, Chief Greg (inaudible). I said, "You ever sit down and meet with Clem Chartier," who was then the president of Métis Nations Saskatchewan, who's now the Métis National Council president. He said, "No, I bumped into him once at a press conference." They had never gotten together and had a tea, even, for goodness' sake. And then about five years later, we had a provincial First Nation chief here that when it came to a justice inquiry that the Métis were going to be included in, he said, "Who wants to be here with these could-have-beens, should-have-beens, wanna-bes and coulda-bees?" So there's been some splits here in Saskatchewan between First Nations and the Métis organizations, because they do see sometimes that if Métis get some rights, IE let's talk about hunting, you know, if there's a Métis community near a First Nation, that all of a sudden this Métis community gets the right to hunt, that's going to impact the First Nation hunters as well, right? Because there's only so many deer and moose, and it has to be spread around. So there has been some resentment. But you know what? In the last three, four years, the current Métis Nation of Saskatchewan president has actually addressed for the first time in history the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and the FSIN chief has come for the first time in history and addressed the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. So we're seeing a bit of a shift here in Saskatchewan from some tense situations into, you know, we have to work more together. What this court case does is Daniel's decision might facilitate that being a little quicker, and with this Idle No More thing that's just rebounding and, you know, started right in this little city I'm sitting in, things are hot.
LAURA LYNCH: Ok, gentlemen, we're going to have to leave it there. There's still obviously I think a long way to run on the Métis situation and, as in all aboriginal peoples in Canada, but I thank you both for coming in.
TONY BELCOURT: Really appreciate the opportunity. Thank you.
JOHN LAGIMADIERE: My pleasure, Laura. Nice to hear Tony.
LAURA LYNCH: Tony Belcourt is the founding president of the Congress of Aboriginal People. He was in Ottawa. And John Lagimadiere is a publisher and editor of Eagle Feather News. He was in Saskatoon.

Jim Hurcomb

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DISCUSSION ON FIRST NATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY

THERESA SPENCE (Chief, Attawapiskat): The Prime Minister is really getting aggressive on our needs. Like, he doesn't communicate with us the way, you know, he's supposed to. He's making plans for our children's future. You know, that's our responsibility as chiefs. We're living in the third world, and this shouldn't be happening in this country. They're getting rich by our land. Everybody's using our (inaudible) except us, and there's no benefit for us. It's all going to the government.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI (Host): Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has a lot of issues with the federal government and has been on a month-long hunger strike to demand a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss them. It now appears as if Ottawa has some issues with Chief Spence as well. An accounting firm hired by the federal government to audit the finances of the reserve found little or no documentation for millions of dollars spent by the band. Supporters of Chief Spence say the audit was leaked to discredit her. Others say the question of transparency and accountability among band leaders is valid, and it applies to many reserves. To talk about all of this, I'm joined by three guests. Patrick Brazeau is the Conservative senator and former chief of the National Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. He is in Ottawa. Phyllis Sutherland is president of the Peguis Accountability Coalition. She is in Peguis, Manitoba. She's in Winnipeg, I think. And Niigaan Sinclair is a professor of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba. He is in our Winnipeg studio. Good morning to all of you.
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR (Professor, Native Studies, University of Manitoba): Good morning.
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND (President, Peguis Accountability Coalition): Morning.
PATRICK BRAZEAU (Conservative Senator): Bonjour.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau, let's begin with you. A spokesperson for Chief Spence said yesterday the timing of this leaked audit is all about discrediting her and diverting attention from the real issues. What do you make of that assertion?
PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, obviously I think Ms. Spence has many questions to answer following the audit to all Canadians, but more importantly to her own citizens living in Attawapiskat. And I think, and you know, I've said all along that, you know, perhaps what she tried to do in terms of gaining the government's attention was perhaps a smokescreen for what was truly happening in her own reserve community.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan Sinclair, what do you make of that view?
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Well, the audit is completely a smokescreen. This smokescreen is trying to distract from the tangible interests of the Idle No More movement, and that the Idle No More movement is deeply interested in what an abusive relationship looks like, and how it's come to be, and this abusive relationship, the epitome of that is happening right now in Attawapiskat. We see neglect, we see the lack of support, and apathy, and that's produced in that community, and as a result this Idle No More movement is deeply interested in what the outcomes of this are, and how we can fix this relationship.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, you are in Peguis, aren't you?
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: I am.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: I've got your... sorry about getting your location wrong. Chief Spence has become the de facto face of the Idle No More movement. What do you think of the news of this audit?
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: I think it was timed by the government in order to discredit her, and sure, we all want accountability and transparency with our leaders, but we all know that audits can be played with, depending on how they want to look. They can be made to look bad, which is what the federal government has done. I mean, the federal government sent their own auditors in there, and why don't they send them into all these other reserves that have been asking for the same thing? So the timing is very suspect to me.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: I should point out that it was an independent audit. It was not done by government people. It was a company.
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Who paid for the company? The federal government, right?
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: So is Chief Spence the right symbol or face of this movement?
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Well, my feeling is no matter who was... the government, they would have been... the government would have tried to discredit whoever it was, because the movement... (inaudible) government (inaudible), so they would have tried to discredit anybody, and I think the Idle No More movement is a good cause, and it's uniting our people, and I think they're going to keep going.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: And what about the issue of accountability, though? This audit is pointing out real discrepancies and real lack of documentation in spending.
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Well, I think... I think it has to happen on every reserve where accountability has to be put in place. But the government also has to step in and help with the process, because they are a lot of the problem. I mean, if something's wrong, they come in and they say, well, ok, you misspent here, you misspent there. You're going to have to pay that money back. And that's not good for the reserves, because in the end, the money that has to be paid back is coming off systems... it comes off, like, say it comes out of the education funding, it comes out of the health funding. And (inaudible)...
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Well, ok, who wants to get in there? Was that... Niigaan Sinclair, was that you?
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Yeah, if I could just intervene for a minute, one thing that's really important to differentiate is that Theresa Spence is an ally to the movement. She's not a head of the movement. She may be a symbol to the movement, but a symbol of a sick and very abusive relationship, in that as she continues with her hunger strike she is the epitome of a concerned with a government, and let's not forget that this audit equally damned the federal government, and that their neglect and that their inability to maintain support for a community that is emerging and needs infrastructure, needs support, and that many of these documents was simply in this audit... what was unveiled was that these documents were incomplete, and that the assumption is always that it's corruption, but it's...
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Well, there's no suggestion of corruption or fraud, but there is suggestion of lack of documentation for 81 percent of the files.
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Yeah, absolutely. Lack of infrastructure, absolutely. And that there's a chronic under-support and that there's deep needs at Attawapiskat. It is the epitome of an abusive relationship in this country.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau, what do you think of that view, that this is actually an abusive relationship?
PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, I think that's a lot of rhetoric. Look, being a former chief of a national aboriginal organization, I know how aboriginal politics plays out, obviously, and there is a lot of rhetoric. But let's not forget, even myself back in 2008 had developed and published a report entitled "Where Did the Money Go?" And basically that report asked three questions: where is the money going? Two, is it being spent on its intended purposes? And three, more importantly, are the funds reaching out to the grassroots people who have needs across this country? And I can tell you for a fact that this Prime Minister cares about aboriginal issues. I mean, no Canadian, including himself, and myself as a First Nations person want to see pictures of children living in poverty-stricken situations, but having said that, there has been an independent conducted in Attawapiskat. Obviously there are leaders, elected leaders who make decisions there in terms of where the funding gets spent. And obviously there's a lot of questions that this chief, this leader needs to answer. And like I mentioned earlier, specifically to her own community members, because there is significant amounts of money going into that community. Now, where's it being spent?
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Now, Patrick Brazeau, there are those who argue that Chief Spence's personal behaviour or actions on the reserve should be separate from what she is asking in terms of a better relationship between First Nations and the federal government about the better living conditions, self-governance. Is it possible for you to differentiate between the alleged lack of transparency and the goals and inspiration driving the Idle No More movement and Chief Spence's role in that?
PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, obviously whether we're talking about governments or First Nations leadership, obviously the government does work with a lot of First Nations leaders across this country, and obviously there'll be those who have opinions that, you know, that the relationship may be broken. Obviously we can always do better and work a lot harder in terms of developing that relationship, which is always an ongoing process. But just to suggest that just because one aboriginal leader in this country has

stated that the relationship is broken, well, that's in fact false. You know, the relationship is being worked on on a daily basis by this government to ensure that we move forward with solutions to improve the living conditions of First Nations people.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, is that your view? Is the relationship not broken?
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: To an extent it is. I think what the government has to do is listen to more of the grassroots people and their concerns. A lot of time we're overlooked, and I think the Idle No More movement is at the front of telling the government that, that you've got to listen to the people. It's not always about the leaders.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: But don't the leaders represent you, Phyllis? Are you suggesting that the Assembly of First Nations does not represent the grassroots adequately in dealing with the government?
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Yes, I mean, the grassroots people live with it. They know what's going on on the reserve. Whereas somebody in Ottawa doesn't really understand the realities of what's happening.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan Sinclair.
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Let's just lay it on the line that abuse is not rhetoric. That is preposterous to even suggest it. What we have out of here is we have a movement that is identifying very tangible goals, and that is identifying a Prime Minister who is not interested in collaboration, is interested in dictation, and that's the epitome of bill C-45. And that's the epitome of Attawapiskat, for that matter, that this community is in desperate need of support, and that blaming the Indian politics is exactly what this government's interested in doing, and diverting from the actual issues, which is a commitment to a reciprocal and responsible relationship of sharing the land and water. And that's what this movement is all about. This movement, this grassroots movement is directing our leadership, and some chiefs can choose to listen to this or not. But certainly this government is not listening to it, and the Idle No More protests are very interested in corruption, very interested in unveiling the corruption of not only chiefs, but also ministers and mayors and senators, all of whom have been suspicious with financial accounting of public funds.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: So if you're demanding accountability from everyone else, Niigaan Sinclair, shouldn't you... why is it not ok to demand accountability at Attawapiskat?
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Oh, absolutely, and I'm not in any way trying to defend the actions of any tribal government or any government, any chief or their government. But what we are seeing is we are seeing a deep need for infrastructure and education and health, and the support of those initiatives within those communities and the adequate, not the simple moving of funds within a framework, but the actual implementation of a real life relationship which is based on the treaties of family, not of friends. You abuse and you hurt your friends. But we have a family relationship here in Canada. That's what this country's all about.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, your organization is the Peguis Accountability Coalition. How much of an issue is transparency and accountability within First Nations leadership across Canada?
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: It's a big issue, and it's an ongoing fight to find out about our band finances, and I mean, information can be released and interpreted how they want you to see it. I mean, the cheques are signed by the leadership, whoever's doing the audit.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: So you're seeing an accountability issue on all fronts, you're saying. From both aboriginal leadership and the government. But for regular people on reserve, it's accountability on all sides.
PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: I think so, yes. Yes. I totally agree with that statement.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan?
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Do I believe in the responsibility of leaders? Absolutely. I've said many times that there are differences between chiefs and leaders. And chiefs not at all times have listened to the grassroots interests, which is the reasons why the Idle No More movement has been initiated, and the deep concern is around this Friday meeting of who will be attending, who will be representing First Nations peoples both on and off reserve throughout Canada, and that who is going to be sitting at that table to making these decisions? It's also very interesting that it is predominantly men, but this movement was driven by women. There are great issues in communities, but this is the outcome of a long relationship. Time and time again, I have to say that this relationship has been about the federal government recognizing certain leadership and not others. And that we see this as the epitome of this is going to happen probably at this Friday meeting.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Senator Brazeau, what do you make of that concern?
PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, look, obviously the Prime Minister will be meeting with First Nations leaders this coming Friday, and it is the Assembly of First Nations who will decide who their delegation will be at

that meeting, and you know, all I have to say as a First Nations person, obviously I have many thoughts on these issues, but I think what's important to note is that many people who support protests versus the process are the same ones who are also not respecting the process that exists in terms of having the Assembly of First Nations chiefs who are elected by their own citizens, who are there to represent them. And so I find it a little bit ironic that on the one hand, people are talking about, you know, protests and movements about supporting or demanding more accountability from their leaders, but at the same time don't respect the process that's in place that gives the opportunity for leaders to represent them and provide a voice for them at the table.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Now, Patrick Brazeau, you were once the chief of the National Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, and you just talked about asking where the money went. What challenges did you face tracking finances going in and out of aboriginal communities?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, it was very difficult, because there were too few leaders in between who would actually be open and transparent about where funding was spent for the benefit of their own community, but the report that I alluded to back in 2008 basically just posed three questions, and it was to get a national dialogue going with respect to the need for more accountability, because at the end of the day, you know, it's all about grassroots aboriginal people and their needs, and because I know for a fact that many Canadians, you know, have no trouble in providing funding for the benefit of First Nations people, but they also would like to be accounted for.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan Sinclair.

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Oh, absolutely. As a member of a… I live in Winnipeg. I'm deeply interested in asking Senator Brazeau's similar three questions to ministers that take joyrides on helicopters, to senators that take two paycheques for multiple homes and mayors that have conflict of interest guidelines. We have a deep problem with governance throughout this country, and it is evident in our very leadership at all layers, whether it be civic, provincial, federal, and then also at band level.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau.

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, I agree with that one hundred percent, but at the same time we have to be cautious that, you know, in terms of the non-aboriginal elected officials across this country, whether it's federal, provincial or local, you know, information is public information, which cannot be said with respect to aboriginal leaders. Not all financial information is public, because it is not legislated, and so obviously I know Ms. Sutherland well. I know that she has worked very hard, and you know, I was also a supporter of the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. And so these are the strides that we've done, you know, working with First Nations people.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau, what do you think of the Idle No More movement?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, I (inaudible) the fact that obviously people have the right to protest in this country, but having said that, I think that many supporters of Idle No More have not taken advantage of the political processes that we have in place for people to have their voices heard, whether it's in Parliament, whether it's in committees, whether it's proposing amendments or suggestions to improve upon legislation. You know, and I think that rather than respecting the processes that we do have in place, you know, regardless of if people take advantage of them or not, I think that they leave (inaudible) protests, and you know, I don't think that economic disruptions in this country are the right thing, because there are many First Nations people who work and pay taxes, just like non-aboriginal Canadians, that allow these tax dollars to go to communities, and for the benefit of aboriginal citizens.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Well, in the news today too, Alberta First Nations are set to launch a legal challenge against the federal government, saying they weren't adequately consulted over this omnibus budget bill. Is that more acceptable to you as an action, then? Court challenge?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, obviously, obviously First Nations communities will have, you know, the right to launch whatever complaints or legal actions that they may see fit, but at the same time, you know, governments in this country are elected to pass legislation. They're elected to pass budgets so they can spend money for the benefit of all Canadians, but you know, obviously we'll have to wait and see what really happens on that front.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, do you think that's a fair criticism?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Well, I think it is, yeah. I mean, what I want to say, too, is the process is not always working. The process doesn't work for the grassroots people. A lot of times things are passed whether it's by chief and council, their leaders, and the people aren't informed. Like, a lot of people have no idea what bill C-45 was about until it hit the news.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Ok, well, we have to leave it there. We're out of time. Thank you all for talking

to me this morning.
PATRICK BRAZEAU: Thank you.
NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Megwich.
ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: I've been speaking with Patrick Brazeau, Conservative senator and former chief of the National Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. He was in Ottawa. Phyllis Sutherland is the president of the Peguis Accountability Coalition. And Niigaan Sinclair is a professor of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba.

Jim Hurcomb

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DISCUSSION WITH CHRIS HALL AND TERRY MILEWSKI

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Well, to help us put everything we've talked about this morning into some kind of perspective, what it all means politically, I'm joined now by CBC National Affairs editor Chris Hall and by our senior political correspondent, Terry Milewski.
Gentlemen, good morning to both of you.
TERRY MILEWSKI (CBC Senior political correspondent): Good morning.
CHRIS HALL (CBC National Affairs Editor): Good morning.
EVAN SOLOMON: Let's start with going forward, the challenges ahead for the government and the challenges head for the aboriginal communities.
Chris Hall, let's start with the government. What are the challenges ahead?
CHRIS HALL: Well, I think Stephen Harper has to show that he is as committed indeed as he is in word to what the aboriginal community is putting forward. They want some very meaningful changes. They want treaty rights recognized, a land claims process, attention paid at the highest levels of his government to these kinds of issues: safe drinking water and schools in every reserve.
And I think they came away with talk and a commitment again to meet Shawn Atleo and Stephen Harper at some point down the road. But nothing really that concrete. And for the government I think they have to now show that they're willing to go beyond just the talk and to make this stuff really happen over the next short-term period because there's lots of pressure on Shawn Atleo and the AFN.
TERRY MILEWSKI: I agree with that, Evan. I think that the government has a problem with delivery. They have a bad track record so far as some of the chiefs are concerned. I talked to one gentleman that I've known for years, Grand Chief Ed John from B.C., who described to me how a year ago they had one of these big meetings and they agreed to get to work on the definition of treaty rights. And when they called up after the meeting and said okay, let's go on this, the reply was sorry, we don't have a mandate to discuss that.
So he was disgusted with the lack of delivery by the government and that is challenge. I think Chris is right. That's challenge number one for the government, no doubt about it. They've got to correct that impression that they don't deliver.
EVAN SOLOMON: The other challenge they have is the potential that some First Nations are also dissatisfied, so increased blockades, increased potentially, increased protests, and we've heard some talk about that on this program already, and of course Chief Theresa Spence whose hunger strike continues, Chris.
CHRIS HALL: Well, let me talk about what Shawn Atleo's challenges are. He has not got unanimity even amongst his own AFN leadership cadre. Idle no More, it's an amorphous group. Terry and I will probably disagree on this, but it seems to me they represent something new. Young, women, a new generation of people who are savvy and not prepared to wait any longer.
So for the First Nations leadership it also means coming away with something tangible and not agreeing to more studies, not agreeing to priorities being placed inside the government to deliver the things that they have talked about.
What struck me most about all of the demonstrations that took place, and I'm going to leave Theresa Spence out of it for a moment, what struck me most was that people who massed outside of Langevin Block on Friday was that they felt as though they were on the outside looking in yet again and are not prepared to accept that anymore.
And what really struck me is over the course of the last few days how many chiefs began their comments with saying we thank Idle no More for bringing to our attention the issues that are before them. And I thought there's a disconnect here and for, especially for Shawn Atleo, this is problematic going forward.

He was elected just six… or re-elected just six months ago with a big mandate. But there are people who are getting more attention from … than him right now from the media and certainly more attention from him from the aboriginal community.
EVAN SOLOMON: So you think he's hurt by this?
CHRIS HALL: I think he's badly hurt by this.
TERRY MILEWSKI: I think he's wounded. I think he can survive when people start to ask themselves one crucial question. And that is who are you going to talk to if you get rid of Shawn Atleo? Is the government going to talk to the people who don't want to even go in the meeting with them? Are those people who don't want to go in the meeting with the Prime Minister going to get more than Shawn Atleo got? I don't think so. I think people are going to pull back.
But I agree with Chris on this point, that it's impressive the degree to which leaders, some of whom we interviewed for example, Derek Nepinak, a year ago did not use any of the militant language that he now uses, the Grand Chief from Manitoba, that he uses today.
The Idle no More movement has lit a fire under these chiefs. They obviously know something that we in the media, I include myself, maybe didn't know about Idle no More, about its potential power.
EVAN SOLOMON: Terry, do you think that Chief Atleo brought enough back from this meeting? And he attended, as you say…
TERRY MILEWSKI: I say we don't know that yet.
EVAN SOLOMON: … divided.
TERRY MILEWSKI: We don't know until the government gives him what they say they'll give him. If they are talking, you know, an ongoing high level dialogue, yeah, yeah, yeah, you can say that means nothing. But it might mean something if indeed Atleo goes back to see the Prime Minister again and emerges, okay, we've got a work plan, we've got a committee, we've got something that I can show that our issues really are being addressed. And we're not getting the answer that I described a moment ago, namely oh, sorry, we don't have a mandate to do anything for you.
EVAN SOLOMON: Let's bring in now the Chief Theresa Spence factor. She has emerged as an enigmatic figure, both a symbolic figure and now she's clearly a political force. There's no doubt about it. People have invested political or ascribed political forces onto here. She poses a challenge both to the government and of course to AFN leadership like Shawn Atleo.
What do you make of this?
CHRIS HALL: Well, I don't know what she ultimately wants. She has changed her demands over time about meetings with the Prime Minister and the Governor General. You know, obviously the Governor General didn't happen. She continues this campaign of not eating solid food to drive home her point. But I take your issue here that she has become something more than what she intended to be, I suspect, going out of this. She represents the kind of dissatisfaction that many First Nations members feel with the government and with their own leadership. So I don't know ultimately what her end game will be but she is still continuing with this fast and we'll see how it all ultimately works out.
TERRY MILEWSKI: I think she's a little bit dangerous. I differ with, somewhat with Chris where I would say that she's been rather consistent in her demands. They've been sometimes ineptly interpreted by people around her. But the reason I think that she represents to some degree a danger is because look, I sat with her in a tent for half an hour and had a polite conversation with her. But clearly, this is not a woman who is … who knows how to get things done in the modern world.
I hate to be unkind, but and I know she has a lot of support and has tremendous popularity in the First Nations community across the country. Yes, she's a powerful force, but I don't think that this is necessarily the hero that First Nations people ought to be pursuing. I don't think this is what they need.
CHRIS HALL: That's a good point he raises because, you know, Terry has met with her. I have not. But when I look ahead, you asked about looking ahead. January 16th is a day of action from the chiefs. We've heard from Gordon Peters of the Iroquois and Alliance First Nations in Ontario about blockades, about interrupting transportation links. I think that's the first real challenge to the extent that do they follow through on these threats and to that extent does that get the attention not just of the broader government but also of the broader First Nations community?
EVAN SOLOMON: Last point on a political side here, we've talked about the challenges for Stephen Harper and those will be ongoing. What about for the other political players here, the opposition, Tom Mulcair, Bob Rae for the Liberals?
TERRY MILEWSKI: Yes, how do they become relevant here because I mean it's a difficult situation for the opposition. If they go too far in opposing the government on principle, which is what they're paid to do

as the opposition, are they going to be rallying behind people who are taking for example illegal actions, which is what some chiefs are now promising they will do. They're promising to bring the economy to its knees, shut roads and rails throughout Ontario, and warn foreign investors that Canada isn't a safe place to invest. It's very difficult for the opposition to get behind that kind of thing. They don't want to be on the wrong side of this, do they?
CHRIS HALL: No, but I would say that there is an opportunity here for Tom Mulcair and to a lesser extent Bob Rae because I'm not sure how long this movement transcends itself and he is just the interim leader. To promise more from First Nations, they are a young population. If they are galvanized enough to start voting, they can make a difference in many rural parts of provinces such as Saskatchewan, even urban Manitoba, Ontario. If they're smart, they'll figure out a way to make that fine line between supporting, not supporting illegal activities, yet supporting the grander cause of what the First Nations are talking about.
EVAN SOLOMON: Chris Hall, Terry Milewski, thanks.
TERRY MILEWSKI: Thank you.
CHRIS HALL: Thanks.
EVAN SOLOMON: So as we've been talking about all morning, this has been an extraordinary week. But is it the watershed moment for aboriginals in this country as the AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo has said? Will we look at this whole constellation of events this week and say this was the moment where it all changed? Is it too early to tell if this is a bump or a break in evolution or a revolution? Huge political challenges remain for parties on all sides as we've heard all morning.
But one fact has not changed. First Nations people live in poverty, more than any other people in Canada. So today I'm going to leave you with the words of the former Auditor General of Canada, Sheila Fraser. This comes from her 2011 report on programs for First Nations on reserves. Let's just remember what she wrote back then. She said the federal government and the First Nations will have to work together and decide how they will deal with numerous obstacles that surely lie ahead. Unless they rise to this challenge, however, living conditions may continue to be poorer on First Nations reserves than anywhere else in Canada for generations to come.
Thank you, Sheila Fraser. Warning me, yes, but has it finally been heard?
Jim Hurcomb

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DATE: JANUARY 12, 2013 TIME: 09:11
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INTERVIEW WITH GREG RICKFORD

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Also in the room alongside National Chief Atleo and Prime Minister Stephen Harper for that critical meeting was Greg Rickford. He's the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and he's with us now.
Good morning, Greg Rickford, and welcome to The House.
GREG RICKFORD (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): Good morning, Evan. Nice to be here with you.
EVAN SOLOMON: Take us inside what happened finally with as much anticipation about this meeting, what happened between the Prime Minister, the National Chief Shawn Atleo and your team and their team? What was the main accomplishment?
GREG RICKFORD: Well, I think that we found common ground. It was a polite, respectful and substantive meeting. It lasted three and a half hours long and importantly, all of the representatives of the delegation by the AFN had an opportunity to speak. We obviously had two primary topics for discussion. Treaty, treaty matters more broadly speaking, and then of course economic development. You can imagine quite quickly that there's some cross-fertilization in those two issues.
So the format changed somewhat to the extent that each person had an opportunity to make an intervention on specific points related to those two matters. The National Chief and the Prime Minister spoke frequently. They were very well engaged and the ministers who had planned to be speaking and driving discussions on each of the points, economic development and treaty relationships, had interventions when it was appropriate and on that subject matter.
EVAN SOLOMON: He had eight items on the agenda.
GREG RICKFORD: Yes.
EVAN SOLOMON: Not all of them clearly were dealt with. There are some three key points about a high level dialogue. People might not really understand what a high level dialogue is across the country. And how do you explain that through the Idle no More grass roots movement, the protesters that you saw, the chiefs that didn't attend to say what the government is doing now is enough to lower the tension?
GREG RICKFORD: Well, I think that high level in this context has two important characteristics. And they are that both the Assembly of First Nations and the Prime Minister agreed to go back to their regional chiefs, to their constituent members - more broadly speaking in our case it would be the cabinet specifically, the caucus - and to review today's discussion and generate ideas on both sides because this is about responsibilities with respect and follow up with what happened today and come back with the Prime Minister and the National Chief meeting on what the next steps would be.
High level after that will mean that any steering committee, working group, there were - you know, labels aren't so important at this point - on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims would evolve from those discussions.
EVAN SOLOMON: The climate has changed. Now you've got still Chief Theresa Spence boycotted the meeting because she said the Prime Minister didn't meet at the same time as the Governor General, though she attended the Governor General's residence later in the evening.
GREG RICKFORD: Um-hmm.
EVAN SOLOMON: Why did the government not just ask the Governor General come on down, sit with us? That's what the chiefs wanted. He would have alleviated a lot of tension.
GREG RICKFORD: Well, Evan, nobody disputes the importance of symbolism in this with respect to the Crown relationship. That was in our view something that occurred at the Crown First Nations gathering and we have always maintained that meetings in terms of next steps would be either checkups or

meetings that were policy related. And I think that you can understand pretty quickly, as Canadians do, that those policy discussions take place between stakeholders, that wouldn't be a forum for...
EVAN SOLOMON: But they view, you know that.
GREG RICKFORD: ... the Governor General to a necessary position for him to be in. That said, last evening there was an event with the Governor General that speaks to the importance of the symbolic relationship as between the Crown and the treaties.
EVAN SOLOMON: But she's still on her hunger strike, her hunger action, call it what you want.
GREG RICKFORD: Right.
EVAN SOLOMON: She's still driving a lot of... a lot of the momentum of the Idle no More movement. She's not necessarily connected to it, but she's become symbolic. Her symbolic power has become a political force. What does the government now do? What steps, to stop her from her hunger strike?
GREG RICKFORD: Well, our primary concern is for her health and safety and we have always maintained, and as a personal matter I hope that she discontinues it. I think it's time to focus on our, and achieve our shared objectives, build on the discussions that we've had around healthier, more prosperous and self-sufficient First Nation communities. And with respect to the outcomes of what people could take away today, to acknowledge that it's time to move forward on what we came to today in terms of an agreement, the common ground we found and build on those positive relationships and constructive cooperative ways of doing things. And that's what our focus was in this meeting today.
EVAN SOLOMON: So the Chief, Chief Atleo, did he bring up Chief Theresa Spence, the Idle no More movement? Was that a significant part of the meeting or not a part of it?
GREG RICKFORD: The meeting focused on the eight points that you had said earlier. And they were applied to the two themes that we had an understanding would be discussed. So in that context the focus was on those eight points they dealt with. Amongst other things, treaty land claims equity, benefit resource legislation, fiscal relationships, public inquiry, education and some discussion around government. So that's what the focus of the meeting was, and to that end the eight points were addressed and it was a good discussion.
EVAN SOLOMON: So for Shawn Atleo and for the government the last question will be is it enough? Is it enough to stop the hunger action? Is it enough to stop the protest? And here you had Manitoba chiefs like Chief Nepinak.
GREG RICKFORD: Um-hmm.
EVAN SOLOMON: Who threatened earlier this week to bring Canada, I'm quoting him...
GREG RICKFORD: Um-hmm.
EVAN SOLOMON: To its economic knees.
GREG RICKFORD: Right.
EVAN SOLOMON: With blockades or resource projects.
GREG RICKFORD: Yes.
EVAN SOLOMON: If this meeting did not bear fruit.
GREG RICKFORD: Yes.
EVAN SOLOMON: Has enough been accomplished? What's your response to Chief Nepinak? Has enough been accomplished to say the blockading will stop or the protests will stop?
GREG RICKFORD: Well, I think from the government's perspective, the answer to that question is yes and I think that what we've heard from people from the Assembly of First Nations that attended the meeting that the answer was also yes. There is no dispute about the fact that there's more work to be done. Hopefully the other constituents that weren't a part of this will join that discussion that the AFN knows, the Assembly of First Nations knows that it needs to have with them.
EVAN SOLOMON: But what if they don't? I mean, what if the blockades continue? And you've seen...
GREG RICKFORD: I can't... I can't speculate on that dynamic or really comment on it. But what I can say with respect to any protest, look, we respect peaceful protest that stays within or follows, obeys the rule of law. And furthermore I might add that as a matter of public safety, doesn't jeopardize every Canadian. Obviously particularly this time of year, some of the actions that are being contemplated pose a certain risk to all parties, including persons that may engage in those activities. So we encourage them to that end to not engage in any kinds of activities that put those two matters, public safety and the rule of law, in ... as issues.
EVAN SOLOMON: I've got to leave it there this morning. Mr. Rickford, always to have you on the program.
GREG RICKFORD: Well, thanks for having me.

EVAN SOLOMON: That's Greg Rickford. He's the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
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Subject: CBC The House: INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER
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SOURCE: CBC-R PROGRAM: THE HOUSE
DATE: JANUARY 12, 2013 TIME: 09:28
REFERENCE: 1201doc4 LENGTH: 06:00 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Now we've just heard from some of the critical people who took part in that meeting. But as we all know, many chiefs chose not to attend. They boycott the meeting. Instead they and other protesters took their discontent to the streets.
UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Are you guys ready? Are we going to let Harper know why we're here?
EVAN SOLOMON: Now a big force behind that protest on Parliament Hill as well as many others across the country in recent weeks, protests that included round dances and flash mobs and even blockades is the grass roots movement known as Idle no More. And one of the spokespeople for that movement is Pam Palmeter. She's also an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics Administration at Ryerson University. She's the Chair in Indigenous Governance and the Academic Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance. Last year she ran against Shawn Atleo to become the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. She's been in Ottawa all week and she joins me now.
Pam Palmeter, welcome to The House.
PAM PALMETER (Associate Professor in the Department of Politics Administration at Ryerson University, Chair in Indigenous Governance and the Academic Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance): Good morning.
EVAN SOLOMON: You, along with many others did not think that National Chief Shawn Atleo should attend the meeting. He did. I appreciate that you ran against him in the last election.
PAM PALMETER: Um-hmm.
EVAN SOLOMON: But now that you have seen what he's come out with, are you satisfied?
PAM PALMETER: No, I mean the fact that I ran against him the last election, the election's over with and he and I will never run against each other again because that's really like old news and kind of irrelevant to what's actually happening right now. The thing that's important right now is the fact that Shawn Atleo told all of the chiefs in various assemblies that you know, he's not a treaty holder. He's not a government. He doesn't have any aboriginal rights or interests as the National Chief of the AFN. His sole job is to kick down doors and hold them open for the chiefs. So the chiefs at this meeting that we... you know, at these meetings that we had all week said okay, that's what you said. Kick down the door to have a meeting, hold it open, and let us chiefs take the lead because we're the treaty holders.
That's what they asked him to do. And for someone who is supposed to represent the decisions of the chiefs, he should have respected that.
EVAN SOLOMON: You've emerged as one of the spokespeople for this Idle no More movement. What's going to happen now?
PAM PALMETER: Well, I mean, the Idle no More has really grown, so you know, there were the original four founders and there's a bunch of us spokespeople across the country, but really it's so huge now there's no one person that controls anything. And I think the Idle no More movement is really going to take different forms and different faces all across the country.
I think just from what feedback I got from grassroots people about what was happening is that the majority of feedback was that they were not happy, that the AFN was working against their interests and that they were going to have to really ramp up their activities, their public education. They're working in solidarity with Canadians to get done what needs to be done despite the fact that AFN has acted the way it has.
EVAN SOLOMON: So you're suggesting if you were to act on the fallout of this meeting, did it reduce tensions between First Nations and the government? Did it escalate tensions? Where would you fall?
PAM PALMETER: Oh, I think it escalated. I mean, I have no question it escalated. My only concern is that

I think it's imperative that First Nation leaders on the ground and the grass roots people continue with what it is that they're doing, to demand changes and continue working with Canadians to really keep that pressure on regardless of what's happening at the AFN.
I think AFN will be held to account but we really can't let that distract. But clearly, you know, despite what…
EVAN SOLOMON: But are you saying there might be a formal challenge to AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo's leadership?
PAM PALMETER: Well, I mean, that's not up to me. That's up to the chiefs. But that's one of the possibilities.
EVAN SOLOMON: All right, I've got to leave it there. I appreciate your time this morning. Thanks so much.
PAM PALMETER: Thanks for having me.
EVAN SOLOMON: That's Pam Palmeter, a spokesperson for the Idle no More movement.

Jim Hurcomb

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REFERENCE: 1201doc2 LENGTH: 11:00 MINUTES
INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN ATLEO

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Good morning. I'm Evan Solomon. That means it's time for The House. A controversial meeting, protesters in the streets, claims of progress, deep divisions, threats of disruptive action and the hunger strike continues.
Just what actually went on behind closed doors between the Prime Minister and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Shawn Atleo, and what happens now?
SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): It was an opportunity where the Prime Minister stayed for the entire meeting, which wasn't expected. We stayed together so that the Prime Minister could hear all of the leaders.
EVAN SOLOMON: The National Chief, Shawn Atleo, is here to give us the details of his meeting with the Prime Minister and how he's dealing with divisions within his own ranks. And did the government actually put enough on the table to reduce the growing tension with First Nations? Has enough been accomplished to say protest will stop?
GREG RICKFORD (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): Well, I think from the government's perspective, the answer to that question is yes.
EVAN SOLOMON: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Greg Rickford, who was also at that meeting, is here. And what about the Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence? She finally met with the Governor General last night at Rideau Hall, but when will she put an end to her hunger strike and will the Idle no More protest escalate? And I'll also speak with Idle no More spokesperson Pam Palmeter on what protesters will do next.
This House is now in session, Canada's most popular political affairs program, no question, period.
New promises from the federal government, new divisions among First Nations, new threats of more blockades. The hunger strike goes on while the fallout from Friday's meeting between the Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a group of cabinet ministers and the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, and a group of chiefs will likely continue for a long time.
But what was actually accomplished in the meeting? Well, take a listen to the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan and what he says was accomplished at the meeting.
JOHN DUNCAN (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister): Prime Minister agreed to a high level dialogue on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims. The Prime Minister agreed with the need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office. And the Prime Minister agreed to debrief the members of his cabinet and government on today's discussions and agreed to meet with the National Chief in the coming weeks to review next steps.
EVAN SOLOMON: So will the gathering and its outcome actually reduce tensions between the government and First Nations or will it have the opposite effect? We begin our special coverage this morning with the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Chief Shawn Atleo.
National Chief, good morning and welcome to The House.
SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): Good morning.
EVAN SOLOMON: It has been a very intense week for you, for aboriginal people across this land. Are you satisfied with what happened?
SHAWN ATLEO: The Prime Minister, in a meeting that we held yesterday committed to prime ministerial oversight to ensure that Privy Council is involved and admitted and recognized that that political oversight was necessary for there to be real change in the relationship between First Nations and Canada.
EVAN SOLOMON: Will this be enough to satisfy many chiefs who refuse to go? Some have said now that chiefs are very divided, chiefs from Ontario, chiefs from Manitoba, chiefs from Northwest Territories

refused to even attend the meeting. Is it enough?
SHAWN ATLEO: We had, you know, we had delegates from treaty and non-treaty. We had men and women, youth, and the chiefs were very powerful in their words about, especially about the grass roots movement that's forcing us, both of us, First Nations in Canada alike, to take heed at this moment. And the eight points that were presented were facilitated and they're key summary points that have been there for a long time.
Resource revenue sharing, the Prime Minister recognized that we have a shared objective of achieving resource revenue sharing, that the provinces are going to have to play a role in that, absolutely. In fact, he responded to all eight points. And so it was an opportunity where the Prime Minister stayed for the entire meeting, which wasn't expected. We stayed together so that the Prime Minister could hear all of the leaders. And also for rapid follow up, that this one is not something that will be just left because the urgency of this moment requires for us to get on with that work and he committed to doing that.
EVAN SOLOMON: And when will he meet with you next?
SHAWN ATLEO: Well, we're talking about work within the coming days and weeks. It's not ... it's not work again that I can myself negotiate, nor lead. Treaty leaders themselves will have the opportunity to explore how to implement this mandate that the Prime Minister is expressing so that we can get on with it treaty by treaty, nation to nation treaty implementation to transform the lives of our people and support lifting them out of poverty.
EVAN SOLOMON: National Chief, is there division amongst aboriginal peoples, First Nations and has that hurt your leadership?
SHAWN ATLEO: We have incredibly diverse First Nations and the Assembly of First Nations, the way we're constructed, the National Chief, myself, I'm elected by the chiefs and assembly. Each of our regional chiefs is elected down provincial boundaries. And to a large extent, you know, those... that structure does not reflect the original nations that we come from, 52 nations. I come from the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation, for example, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.
So, and this construct reflects an Indian Act that was part of the discussion that First Nations are saying we need to move beyond. So we all have I think, myself included as National Chief and my national organization, I think we've got to really reflect on our organization and consider and perhaps reconsider how it is that we do our work because we are so diverse. It's not just the voice of the National Chief. It's a wide diversity of voices.
But make no mistake. We pressed for and we called for this meeting and my executive did not give me instructions to do anything other than pursue the kind of change that our kids require, that they I think rightfully deserve at this moment. And absolutely, there were voices that suggested that we shouldn't meet. There were some regions that weren't represented. And I respect that. All voices need to be heard.
EVAN SOLOMON: National Chief, two other issues. First, the issue of Chief Theresa Spence. She ended up going to Rideau Hall last night to meet with the Governor General, as you know. But she says she's continuing her hunger strike. Have you talked to her? Do you want her to continue that hunger strike now? How ... what happens here?
SHAWN ATLEO: You know, the Idle no More and just the incredible explosion of grass roots movement coupled with the hunger strike initiated by Chief Spence, you know, I recall we sent out a letter on December 16th. We need a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General. And the press really started then. We pushed and pushed. And this is what Chief Spence is saying is we need to come to the table on a nation-to-nation basis based on treaty. There's been no mandate, no commitment from the Prime Minister to do that until this meeting that just occurred.
EVAN SOLOMON: So should she stop now?
SHAWN ATLEO: Well, I think that obviously the work continues. Her call for urgent action and a meeting with the Prime Minister and Governor General, you know, we had a national conference call, for example. We had 50 to 60 leaders on New Year's Eve and we sent out a call to the Prime Minister to meet on the 24th of January, which would be the one-year anniversary of the Crown gathering.
The challenge is is that all of us, 60, 50 chiefs, including a roomful that I was in, we had understood that if we achieved a meeting, that when it was announced that Chief Spence would end her hunger strike. Twenty-four hours later, you know, I was told, National Chief Shawn, the chief won't stop until the meeting actually happens. And so we went into high gear to press even harder for that meeting to happen even sooner because it was clear that we didn't understand or it wasn't communicated, you know, what exactly the implications were.
So we pressed for and received a commitment for a meeting on January 11th. Much sooner than we were

asking for. But it did mean a shorter timeframe. And you know, there are criticism, Evan, that I received last January. We had 180 chiefs in the room. We had hundreds of hours of speeches and presentations but no real dialogue to push for a real mandate from the Prime Minister until this happened just yesterday.
EVAN SOLOMON: So what do you tell Canadians listening to this now? Should they expect more blockades? What should we expect now in terms of action?
SHAWN ATLEO: We are... we are at a point that is different than any other point where our people understand that the bills that were passed, that there are elements that overstep treaty rights and title and rights and we pressed with the Prime Minister who readily admitted in our discussion that treaty rights and title and rights, they absolutely have constitutional legal implications.
The only way you can address those is at the highest political level. That commitment was obtained.
We now need to dig in and recognize and say to the Canadian public that the 650 billion in resource development that the country seeks to develop, you match that up with the fastest growing segment of the population which is First Nations under the age of 25 are the vast majority, they unfortunately are incarcerated at a higher rate than they graduate.
And we need to move quickly to match up the resource development potential where First Nations' right to free prior and informed consent is applied and that Bills C-45 and 38 were put into place with the notion that it would clear the way to make resource development easier and more quick to go through the regulatory processes.
EVAN SOLOMON: Right.
SHAWN ATLEO: Well, we made it clear, as I've made it clear that it will not create greater certainty. Move those processes along more quickly that it would cause greater uncertainty if you do not engage with First Nations.
So chiefs that are suggesting, you know, that there's massive economic implications, they're bang on.
EVAN SOLOMON: National Chief Atleo, it's been a very intense and busy week. I very much appreciate you coming on The House to tell us what happened and the ongoing implications. Thanks for being here.
SHAWN ATLEO: Thanks for having me.
EVAN SOLOMON: That's Shawn Atleo. He's the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/14/2013 8:31 PM
Subject: CBC World at Six: Update on Atleo and Idle No More
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

>>Host: After a week of rancorous debate and a meeting with the Prime Minister, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations is taking temporary medical leave. Shawn Atleo became ill with the Norall virus over the holidays and says his doctor has ordered him to take time to rest and recover. Atleo says the AFN was able to make progress at last Friday's meeting and he'll return to work soon. In Montreal Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke about the meeting.

>>Prime Minister Harper: I thought we had the good discussions with a number of Aboriginal leaders last week. Obviously we donít necessarily agree on everything but I think we had a good exchange of views and I certainly look forward to further conversations, particularly with the National Chief, when it's a convenient for him.

>>Host: Some First Nations leaders however say they're not satisfied. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, which boycotted Friday's talks, repeated its call for a joint meeting between the Prime Minister, the Governor General and First Nations Chiefs. And the Idle No More protest movement is calling for a national day of action this Wednesday. The collective nature of the Idle No More movement means that not everyone who is involved in it agrees with everything it's doing. But today there was some surprising criticism expressed by one of its pioneers. Sylvia McAdam was one of four Saskatchewan native women who founded the movement. The CBCís Jeff Leo caught up with her today and Regina.

>>Reporter: Sylvia McAdam is a mother of seven children who left her reserve in northern Saskatchewan for law school. When she returned she was struck by the poor and deteriorating conditions.

>>McAdam: I couldn't take the injustice any more.

>>Reporter: She and three friends believe the federal Conservatives are about to make things worse with the Omnibus budget bill C-45, which they say violates the treaties.
So they started to chat room on Facebook to rally First Nations people.

>>McAdam: We're gonna get off the couch we're not going to be Idle any more, she said. So why don't we just call it Idle No More, and the name just stuck.

>>Reporter: They're shocked the movement has received global attention.

>>McAdam: We're getting contacted from Africa, from New Zealand and I'll be in London England rallying there in front of Buckingham Palace.

>>Reporter: She says First Nation's people planning a blockade of border crossings and rail lines later this week don't speak for Idle No More.

>>MCadam; those portray a message of aggressiveness that is not peaceful .

>>Reporter: She says neither the Assembly of First Nations nor individual Chiefs like Theresa Spence speak for the movement either.

>>McAdam: History has shown that when movements like this happen if the leadership takes over it kills the movement.

>>Reporter: McAdam says Idle No More is all about protecting the land and water in Canada, and promoting indigenous sovereignty, although it's not clear exactly what that means. She says the movement is now pushing for a global Idle No More rally near the end of the month.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/7/2013 7:25 PM
Subject: CBC World At Six: Funding for Attawapiskat
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

>>Host: Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence says the federal government's audit of her bands finances is a distraction. Documents obtained by CBC news show there are few records to prove how millions of dollars were spent in Attawapiskat. The northern Ontario community made headlines in the fall of 2011 over a chronic housing shortage. Spence is several weeks into a hunger strike over government treatment of Aboriginal issue. The CBC's Tom Perry has the day's developments.

>>Reporter: They're trying to undermine the process here the movement of the people.

>>Reporter: To Danny Metatawabin, spokesman for Chief Theresa Spence, the audit into Attawapiskat's books is merely an attempt to discredit the Chief and the movement she's come to symbolize.

>>Metatawabin: Why are we undermining Attawapiskat? Why we trying to undermine Chief Spence, when it's all about nation to nation relationship? We should be undermining the Prime Minister. We should be undermining the Department of Indian Affairs who are creating that injustice.

>>Reporter: The picture painted by the audit is anything but flattering. A team of independent accountants from the firm Deloitte examined more than 100 million dollars worth of spending by the Attawapiskat Band on projects carried out between 2005 and 2011. The report says the vast majority, more than 80 percent of those projects, lack proper documentation to show how and why the money was spent. Most had no documentation at all. In a letter to Theresa Spence the auditors write "we were unable to determine if funds were spent for their intended purposes". They go on to say that having over 80 percent of selected transactions lacking any or proper supporting documentation is inappropriate for any recipient of public funds. Despite the audit's findings supporters of Theresa Spence continue to visit her on a tiny island in the Ottawa River where she's keeping up her fast, refusing to eat solid foods until a meeting this Friday between First Nation's leaders and the Prime Minister.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/4/2013 2:07 PM
Subject: Chief Spence "overjoyed"
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Moments ago Chief Spence announced she was "overjoyed" to hear about the meeting next week and hopes to attend. We will have a full transcript of the event later this afternoon.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/11/2013 10:30 AM
Subject: Chief Spence press conference

Chief Spence will not be attending the meeting today if both the Governor General and Prime Minister aren't in the room.

CBC is also reporting Ontario Chiefs have demanded the Prime Minister come to their hotel to meet or blockades of rail lines and roads in Ontario will begin January 16.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 7:46 PM
Subject: CKOM Regina: Minister John Duncan says Bill C-45 won't change
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Minister John Duncan says Bill C-45 won't change
Idle No More threatens massive blockades next week
Reported by David Kirton

It looks very much like Chiefs have already lost one of the big issues they had wanted to talk to the Prime minster about.

They had wanted the government to reconsider any parts of the omnibus budget bills that affected Treaty Rights.

But Aboriginal Affairs Minster John Duncan just told reporters - that's not going to happen.

"We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there is every reason to proceed," said Duncan.

Chiefs in Ontario are now threatening massive blockades this coming Wednesday.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 11:11 AM
Subject: CP: Aboriginal Protests Spence
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Aboriginal Protests Spence

OTTAWA - Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence is speaking out for the first time about how her reserve spends government money, saying most of what flows to her isolated James Bay reserve actually gets spent outside the community.

She says the money goes to to buy supplies and to pay contractors, consultants and lawyers.

A government-ordered audit, leaked earlier this week, found there is little documentation to back up Attawapiskat's spending.

Spence - who has been engaged in a protest for the past month on a frigid island upstream from Parliament Hill - dismisses the criticism, saying she's being tarred with false statements.

She's living on a diet of fish broth and tea to press for a meeting between First Nations leaders, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston.

Spence is expected to continue her hunger protest, since today's meetings aren't happening according to the terms demanded by the chiefs - on their turf, with both Harper and Johnston together.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 10:40 PM
Subject: CP: Agreement to talk some more leaves First Nations protests up in the air
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Agreement to talk some more leaves First Nations protests up in the air
By Bruce Cheadle
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - ``I have no idea what it'll do."

John Duncan's frank, if less than illuminating, assessment of the impact on aboriginal protests of Friday's hard-won negotiating skirmish may have been the most honest assessment of the day.

The aboriginal affairs minister was one of three full cabinet ministers who flanked Prime Minister Stephen Harper for more than four hours of politically fraught talks with some of the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.

The talks essentially led to agreement for more talks - which in the constipated world of First Nations' advancement in this country was portrayed as success, if not exactly a breakthrough.

``The prime minister agreed with the need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office," Duncan told a hastily arranged news conference on Parliament Hill.

``And the prime minister agreed to debrief the members of his cabinet and government on today's discussions and agreed to meet with the national chief in the coming weeks to review next steps."

Canadians can be forgiven if they feel they've seen this movie before.

Almost exactly a year ago, what was billed as an ``historic" meeting between Ottawa and First Nations ended with a joint statement ... promising more talks.

``We cannot undo the mistakes of the past, but we can learn from them and affirm that they will not be repeated," said the statement issued at end of a day-long meeting last Jan. 24.

``As partners in the Crown-First Nations gathering, we will maintain the relationship through an ongoing dialogue that outlines clear goals and measures of progress and success."

By October, however, the promised dialogue was so frustrating the First Nations leadership that Shawn Atleo, the accommodating national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, wrote a series of heated letters to the prime minister and his aboriginal affairs minister to complain of a ``loss of momentum."

``This is exacerbated by the federal government's broader legislative agenda, which has the potential for harmful impacts on First Nations, including changes to environmental regulation, fisheries and criminal justice," Atleo wrote Harper in a letter obtained by The Canadian Press.

Those same issues have since helped fuel the grassroots fire that is the Idle No More protest movement.

At the time, Atleo complained to Duncan that talks with officials from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada were going nowhere.

``First Nations leadership have keenly engaged in good faith to begin a dialogue only to be met by AANDC officials indicating that they have no mandate to even enter into discussions," he wrote the minister in October.

By that measure, Friday's talks _ although boycotted by chiefs from Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories _ moved the goalposts, in the words of former national chief Matthew Coon Come.

Having the PMO and PCO, the nerve centres of any federal government, promising to actively oversee native files should clear the cobwebs of bureaucratic inertia and impotence.

Duncan, pressed on the meaning of the promised ``high-level dialogue" that Friday's talks delivered, responded that PMO and PCO attention would assist ``those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre."

In other words, the squeaky wheel gets the grease _ a fitting aphorism given all the drama that preceded Friday's sit-down, which included street protests, hunger strikes and boycotts.

Ian Brodie, Harper's former chief of staff, noted earlier this week that any chiefs contemplating a boycott were misguided.

``I offer this as advice to anyone who thinks you accomplish more by not meeting the PM than by meeting him," Brodie wrote on Twitter.

``You don't."

Critics will say its a piece of advice that should work both ways for the prime minister.

``It shouldn't even be a big deal," Bob Rae, the interim Liberal leader, observed of the meeting just before the talks began Friday.

``It should be a regular occurrence, it shouldn't be something that causes headlines ... It is truly preposterous in our country at this point that we're allowing things to get this stage of confrontation where just the most fundamental premises of civility are not able to be observed."

Atleo emerged from the meeting wounded by internal divisions in the native movement and, like the aboriginal affairs minister, unwilling to predict an end to native protests.

``The voices of our people, they will not be silenced," Atleo said in an interview, adding First Nations will be demanding that promises are followed through.

``I believe that sense of urgency was heard by the prime minister."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/11/2013 12:14 PM
Subject: CP: Atleo allies speak up to salvage First Nations meeting with Harper
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Atleo allies speak up to salvage First Nations meeting with Harper
By Heather Scoffield
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - The relationship between Canada's First Nations and the federal government remained up in the air Friday, with a vocal faction of chiefs refusing to support National Chief Shawn Atleo and attend a scheduled meeting with Stephen Harper.

Other chiefs insisted the meeting with the prime minister must - and will - go ahead.

Top strategists from First Nations and the government were meeting frantically behind the scenes all morning in an attempt to define an agenda and a meeting venue that would serve to cool flaring tempers on all sides.

To add to the pressure, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence said she will persist with the month-long no-solid-food protest that became a catalyst for many chiefs, as well as Idle No More activists, who were taking to the streets to show their support.

One First Nations leader - Gordon Peters of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians - renewed a threat of widespread disruption next week unless Harper and Gov.-Gen. David Johnston come to a downtown Ottawa hotel to meet the chiefs on their own terms.

First Nations would move to ``stop roads, rails, transportation of goods,'' Peters said. ``We just have to walk out on our land and stop it.''

But more moderate voices are also beginning to speak up, publicly exposing their discomfort with the threatened boycott and expressing support for Atleo's plan to meet with Harper in his office later in the day.

``I'm really troubled by what looks to be a breakdown in discipline,'' said staunch Atleo ally Grand Chief Doug Kelly of the First Nations Summit in British Columbia.

He said the appearance of division is being spurred by a ``handful'' of chiefs from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario and does not reflect the negotiating mandate that chiefs have granted Atleo to speak on their behalf to the prime minister.

``We didn't vote for Theresa Spence as national chief,'' Kelly said.

Chiefs from Quebec and the East Coast say they want to go with

the national chief to meet the prime minister, if only to tell him they have little confidence in his government.

Nova Scotia's regional chief, Morley Googoo, says it's Spence who should resign, along with her ally - and Atleo rival - Pam Palmater, for creating chaos and division within the Assembly of First Nations by imposing irrational demands on the AFN leaders.

And one leader known for his hard-line approach in the past spoke up in favour of the Harper meeting, urging First Nations unity and backing Atleo's methods of handling the talks. Cree Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come - a former national chief who still has a circle of support - said he didn't come to Ottawa just to join a protest.

``If we are going to solve and deal with the First Nations issues in this country, we need to have a table, where we can iron out and put our demand to the prime minister. We are prepared to go to a meeting and put our demands on the table," Coon Come told reporters.

The Prime Minister's Office reiterated that they are still ready to meet, on terms earlier agreed to by the AFN.

``The Prime Minister remains available to meet on the basis previously agreed to," said spokeswoman Julie Vaux.

The renewed push for a meeting comes after a night of tumult, with chief after chief calling for a boycott and speaking out against Harper.

``The Assembly of (First Nations) as a great organization hangs in the balance. More critically, lives are at stake," one northern Ontario chief, Isadore Day, wrote in an emotional letter to Atleo this morning.

``I implore you to stop this meeting with the PM."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/7/2013 5:21 PM
Subject: CP: Chief counters release of audit with explicit demands from feds for change
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Chief counters release of audit with explicit demands from feds for change
By Bruce Cheadle and Stephanie Levitz
THE CANADIAN PRESS
The battle over the plight of Canada's First Nations is escalating amid accusations of a cynical public relations ploy by the Harper government and new demands by a hunger-striking chief.

Chief Theresa Spence, who has been on a liquid diet since Dec. 11, says she now wants elements of the Conservatives' latest omnibus budget bill repealed as soon as MPs return to Ottawa at the end of the month.

Spence had previously been seeking only a meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Governor General and First Nations leaders to discuss outstanding treaty matters.

The new demand comes as Ottawa releases a scathing audit of tens of millions of dollars in spending on Spence's Attawapiskat reserve, a troubled community on the shores of James Bay in northern Ontario.

The audit details an absence of basic accounting by the band council and ongoing indifference by federal government departments.

Spence's release calls the leaked audit a ``distraction'' designed to ``discredit'' Spence and her campaign to improve lives in First Nations communities.

Her spokesman, Danny Metatawabin, had earlier accused the Harper Conservatives of ``trying to undermine the process here, the movement of the people.''

The Deloitte audit - released publicly Monday by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development after being leaked to select media outlets on the weekend - catalogues more than $109 million in spending over almost seven years, much of it poorly documented, undocumented, or questionable.

The timing is explosive.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper agreed last Friday to meet with aboriginal leaders on Jan. 11. And while Harper was careful not to link the meeting to Spence's hunger protest, his decision was widely seen as a concession.

The damning audit was similarly interpreted as the Prime Minister's Office pushing back in the war for public opinion.

``It's an interesting way of shifting the blame," charged Carolyn Bennett, the Liberal critic for aboriginal affairs.

Repeated reports from the federal auditor general have highlighted financial reporting issues for First Nations since at a least 2002.

Bennett said if Aboriginal Affairs was doing its job and was unsatisfied with spending documentation, ``then the government can ask for them before it sends any more money."

The Attawapiskat audit was commissioned by Ottawa in December 2011 after Spence, with winter approaching, had declared a state of emergency over concerns about unsafe housing conditions in her remote community of about 1,800 residents.

The Conservatives questioned why the problem existed, given the millions provided to Attawapiskat over the years, and Ottawa briefly imposed an external manager on the band.

The Deloitte audit is the only comprehensive analysis of a band's finances that the government has posted on its website. It is unclear whether other First Nations have ever come under the same level of independent scrutiny, although three smaller reviews were undertaken last year of different bands after allegations of misspending.

Spence was first apprised of the audit's findings last Aug. 28 in a letter in which the Deloitte auditor wrote that ``there is no evidence of due diligence in the use of public funds, including funds for housing."

``In our opinion, having over 80 per cent of selected transactions lacking any or proper supporting documentation is inappropriate for any recipient of public funds."

According to Aboriginal Affairs, only 46 of Attawapiskat's 316 housing units are considered adequate, while another 146 need major work and 122 are placement.

The audit is not likely to burnish Spence's credentials as a high-profile native advocate.

Last February she wrote a public letter to the Queen, complaining that the federal government ``has taken the position that the First Nation mishandled its funding."

``This is simply not true," Spence asserted.

Among the sample 505 transactions a Deloitte auditor examined from April 2005 through November 2011, fewer than 20 per cent could be fully tracked and documented _ and 61 per cent had no

documentation at all explaining the reason for payment.

The sample of transactions includes $2.2 million spent on consultants, with two thirds of the 26 payments improperly documented.

``The independent audit from Deloitte and Touche LLP speaks for itself, and we accept its conclusions and recommendations," said Jan O'Driscoll, a spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan.

Those conclusions include some questions for federal officials as well as band management.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a Crown agency, must conduct a physical inspection of housing units every five years and found ``abnormal and accelerated deterioration of housing units" at Attawapiskat. CMHC also found housing management issues in a separate 2010 audit.

None of these findings were reported to Aboriginal Affairs, says the audit, because CMHC only passed along such reports ``if CMHC deemed there were significant issues or concerns."

The audit dryly adds that ``despite the nature of the findings noted by CMHC," no reports were kicked up the chain to the Aboriginal Affairs department.

The audit also found that only $3.6 million of Attawapiskat's $6.85 million in core capital housing funding was actually spent on house renovations and maintenance, with the rest being used for debt repayments. The practice, it found, is common among First Nations and Aboriginal Affairs is well aware of it.

The audit recommends the federal department no longer allow housing maintenance funds to be used for debt servicing.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/4/2013 2:22 PM
Subject: CP: Chief says she'll continue hunger strike until PM and native leaders meet
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Chief says she'll continue hunger strike until PM and native leaders meet

OTTAWA - Chief Theresa Spence says she's overjoyed that Prime Minister Stephen Harper has agreed to meet First Nations leaders, but she says she won't end her hunger strike until the meeting actually takes place next Friday.

Spence does say she plans to attend the meetings in person.

Harper has agreed to meet about 10 days earlier than the date the Assembly of First Nations had proposed in a bid to both calm protests and put an end Spence's nearly month-long hunger strike.

But Spence says she won't close her encampment on Victoria Island, where she has lived without solid food since Dec. 11.

The prime minister's office says the meeting next week will be co-ordinated by the Assembly of First Nations and will focus on treaty relationships, aboriginal rights and economic development.

It is being billed as a follow-through on talks in January 2012 when the government and First Nations committed to an ongoing dialogue.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 11:03 PM
Subject: CP: Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says
By Mike Blanchfield and Terry Pedwell
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Theresa Spence, the controversial First Nation chief whose month-long hunger protest has helped to fan the flames of the Idle No More movement, will continue to forgo solid food, a spokesman declared Friday.

Spence, who surprised many when she emerged from her island encampment to attend a ceremonial meeting with Gov. Gen. David Johnston, left Rideau Hall early with the sense that the gathering had accomplished little.

``It didn't feel too good inside that house ... but we stood up for your rights," Danny Metatawabin, who speaks for Spence, told gathered First Nations chiefs as he described the meeting as ``a show, a picture opportunity."

During Friday's ceremony, a wampum belt _ a traditional aboriginal symbol of diplomacy and partnership _ was mishandled, Metatawabin added.

``Sadly," he said, ``the hunger strike continues."

Spence, chief of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario, has been on a liquids-only diet for the past month, camped out on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, in hopes of securing a meeting with Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

A group of First Nations leaders did indeed meet with Harper on Friday for several hours prior to the chiefs descending on Rideau Hall to meet with Johnston. But Spence wants to meet both men at the same time.

When she joined her fellow chiefs at a downtown Ottawa hotel, Spence looked frail and tired, and walked gingerly with the help of several handlers.

At one point, she stood briefly in a room full of chiefs, wearing a headdress, to be feted by a group of aboriginal drummers. Her health is diminished, Metatawabin said.

``She's tired, she's weak. She's weakening. Got cramps in her stomach. We're all praying for her," he said.

``The body's stressed right now because of all the commotion of today."

Johnston offered Spence a ``special welcome'' and said he wanted ``to say how concerned I am about your health and that of Raymond Robinson and Jean Sock.'' Robinson and Sock are two aboriginals who are also staging hunger protests.

``My deepest wish is for the well-being of all Canadians, and for dialogue to always take place in a safe and healthy manner,'' said Johnston, in prepared remarks released Friday night by Rideau Hall. The meeting wrapped up shortly after 9 p.m. ET, a spokesperson said.

Robinson said he approached Johnston ``man to man'' and urged him to have an open dialogue with Harper in order to forge a relationship with First Nations that's truly ``nation to nation.''

``I am not going to quit,'' he said. ``The hunger strike continues.''

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan and several of Spence's fellow chiefs were among those publicly urging her to end her protest, saying her health is in danger and she accomplished what she set out to do.

``I had a personal friend who went on a hunger strike years ago, and it did great detriment to his health,'' Duncan said.

``I have been very much wanting to have a conversation with Theresa Spence, I've offered multiple times, and I expressed concern again today; there were many people in the room who expressed major concern.''

Harvey Yesno, Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which also includes Attawapiskat, said it's up to Spence whether she wants to continue her protest. But her reserve needs a leader, he noted.

``We're concerned about that, if she carries on,'' Yesno said in an interview. ``That's probably the most important thing.''

Stan Louttit, grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, told CBC he's urging Spence to call a halt to her protest.

``I ... told her, 'Look, you've made your point. You've won this victory. You've made Canadians aware .... You have done good for your people.'''

But Louttit said Spence is still holding out for a meeting with both Harper and the Governor General at the same time. ``That's the bottom line.''

Earlier Friday, a sprawling crowd of protesters swirled outside the Prime Minister's Office in the shadow of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill as Friday's controversial meeting between Harper and First Nations leaders got underway.

There were similar, smaller demonstrations across the country, including a rail blockade in Nova Scotia.

A crowd of about 3,000 people, according to police estimates, gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block where the meetings were taking place, chanting, drumming and waving makeshift banners.

Many then crossed Wellington Street and rallied in front of the Centre Block, brandishing flags and chanting along with the rhythmic beat of skin drums.

A sporadic cold drizzle fell all morning and into the afternoon, failing to dampen the spirits of protesters, even if it did leave some of the feathered headdresses in the crowd looking a little bedraggled.

The demonstrators began their march on Victoria Island, a nearby outcrop in the Ottawa River where Spence has been camped out. They returned to the island later in the day.

Aboriginal people now have an opportunity to hold the government to account for years of broken promises, Spence said before the rally began. ``This meeting's been overdue for so many years.''

Supporters of the Idle No More movement were also showing strength in numbers during protests in other parts of the country as well.

In Edmonton, Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation joined a gathering of several hundred people, where he warned of imminent economic disruption if steps aren't taken to rescind the Conservative government's controversial omnibus legislation.

``Highway 63 to the oilsands will be shut down. That will happen and I guarantee this,'' warned Adam, whose reserve is near the oilsands. ``I fear for the worst if the prime minister doesn't retract some of the bills that were passed.''

More than a dozen people blocked a Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro by placing wooden pallets and a car on the track in Truro. Via Rail said it took 53 passengers to Truro from Halifax by bus.

A noisy crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators also showed their support for First Nations in front of the convention centre in downtown Montreal.

Young people, union representatives and provincial politicians were in the group. Some waved Mohawk and Quebec flags and danced to the beat of native drums.

In Toronto, a few hundred gathered in Toronto's Dundas Square, drumming and chanting.

Stephanie Hashie, a member of the Ginoogaming First Nation who lives in Toronto, said she was there to celebrate her culture.

``It means our future,'' she said of the Idle No More movement. ``It means what's going to happen. We're not standing idle no more. We're not going to stand around and just let things happen.''

Spence, who has come under fire over a leaked audit report that found fault with bookkeeping practices in Attawapiskat, also spoke for the first time about how her Ontario reserve spends government money. She said most of what flows to the isolated James Bay community actually gets spent outside the community.

The money, she said, goes towards supplies and to pay contractors, consultants, lawyers _ and to taxes.

``Most of the funding that we have, it goes back to you, to taxpayers,'' she said.

A government-ordered audit, leaked earlier this week, concluded there was little documentation to back up Attawapiskat's spending.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
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Subject: CP: First Nations balk at meeting with Harper, put Atleo's leadership on the line
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

First Nations balk at meeting with Harper, put Atleo's leadership on the line

OTTAWA - Shawn Atleo's leadership as national chief of the Assembly of First Nations is on the line today amid demands from First Nations chiefs that he boycott talks with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Support among chiefs for the meeting evaporated overnight, as First Nations leaders instead declared solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.

Spence wants both Harper and Governor General David Johnston to be present at the meeting, and now First Nations leaders say they all want to meet the two men at a wide open meeting today at their downtown Ottawa hotel.

Some of them say if Atleo persists and heads into a smaller meeting with Harper in his office instead, he will have no mandate or credibility left.

At stake is the health of Spence - who been on a liquid-only diet for a month - and peace among the Idle No More protesters that have been filling Canadian streets.

Spence, meanwhile, was expected to hold a news conference this morning to declare whether she intends to continue her hunger protest.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
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Subject: CP: Harper, Atleo agree to more 'high level' talks on treaties in coming weeks
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Harper, Atleo agree to more 'high level' talks on treaties in coming weeks
By Heather Scoffield
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA _- A divisive, hard-won meeting between First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper ended Friday with the Conservative government agreeing to revisit historic treaties and speed up comprehensive land claims.

Despite rancourous boycotts by some chiefs and a door-pounding protest on the front steps of the prime minister's working office Friday, more than four hours of face-to-face talks set the stage for another round within the next month.

``We have achieved some movement today,'' Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said in a statement.

``The prime minister listened respectfully to chiefs and responded to all they brought forward and for the first time, provided a clear mandate for high-level talks on treaty implementation. Prime Minister Harper also committed to high-level discussions on comprehensive claims.''

But secondary demands - including a repeal of contentious sections of the government's omnibus budget bills - were dismissed or put off for another day.

And in order for the commitment to treaty talks to work, the Ontario and Manitoba First Nations who boycotted Friday's meetings will have to come back into the Assembly of First Nations fold.

That's because those are the country's two key regions governed by treaties, and they need to figure out how the broad strokes of Friday's agreement apply in their areas, said Grand Chief Edward John from the First Nation Summit in British Columbia.

``They need to be involved in the development of the modalities of that. The treaty First Nations need to step up and design this,'' said John, who attended the meeting.

First Nations in northern Ontario and Manitoba are among the most impoverished in Canada, and their people have long complained that Canada is not living up to its side of the treaty.

But the chiefs from those regions refused to attend the Harper meeting because it did not include the Governor General - a key demand since the treaties were signed by a representative of the Crown.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the talks with Shawn Atleo, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and about 20 other native leaders were ``frank'' and ``constructive,'' while acknowledging much work remains.

Perhaps most significantly, Duncan said the prime minister and the powerful Privy Council Office - the bureaucracy that supports the PMO - will now take an active role on ``those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre.''

In other words, one year after another highly symbolic meeting that was supposed to reset the relationship between Ottawa and First Nations, a sense of urgency may have emerged.

But the chiefs have yet to declare a victory because they've been down this road before, said John.

``Today I have to wait and see what transpires because we were already made promises that were not kept,'' he said.

Some might credit the restive, cross-country Idle No More native protest movement, as well as the month-long hunger protest by Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence, for any perceived momentum.

But a central tenet of Idle No More dissent is the government's overhaul of environmental oversight and protections of fisheries and waterways included in the massive budget bills rammed through Parliament last spring and last fall.

On that point, Duncan said the government saw no reason to make any changes and had fulfilled its constitutional duty to consult with First Nations beforehand.

``We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there's every reason to proceed,'' Duncan said.

He said prime minister makes sure ``that there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the First Nation leadership,'' regarding legislation.

Atleo and the chiefs in the meeting with Harper and his ministers pushed hard on that point, but made no progress, John said.

``That's the crux of the problem.''

Plus, Harper did not give any ground on First Nations' requests to set up a public inquiry on violence against aboriginal women _ a key demand for many grassroots protesters that has garnered support across the country.

Atleo did not immediately speak to the media after meeting the prime minister, opting instead to consult first with his large, divided constituency of chiefs.

It was not immediately clear whether the results of the meeting would be enough for the two sides to find enough common ground to re-establish Atleo's leadership, repair the Crown-First Nations relationship and quell restless protesters across the country.

Atleo's ability to recover politically from the schisms and drama of the past two days ``depends on the outcome of the meeting,'' said Harvey Yesno, grand chief for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which groups reserves across northern Ontario.

Yesno was among those who boycotted the meeting with Harper. But he said the Ontario chiefs are not ready to ask for Atleo's head simply because he met Harper against their will.

``There will be another time for that kind of discussion,'' said Yesno. ``We have to move things along.''

Most of the chiefs demanding a boycott are covered by historical treaties with the Crown, while Atleo comes from B.C., where there are no treaties. That background has always served as a sore point for Atleo among the chiefs of Ontario and Manitoba, and it's a long-standing division within the Assembly of First Nations, Yesno said.

If Atleo is able to deliver a concrete process to revisit historic treaties and modernize them - a process led by a powerful person in government, with strict timelines to deliver results - then his reputation would be restored, Yesno said.

Contrary to Harper's original plan, he stayed for the duration of the afternoon talks, along with several key cabinet ministers: Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board Secretary Tony Clement.

Missing from the government list was Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver, whom First Nations were hoping to meet to discuss a different way of sharing the bounty from natural resource extraction.

On the First Nations side, Manitoba, Ontario and Northwest Territories stuck to their guns and did not send high-level representation, according to lists of attendees from the government and from the Assembly of First Nations.

Indeed, Manitoba chiefs with headdresses and drums blocked one of the entrances to the building across the street from Parliament Hill, signalling their opposition both to Harper and to the Assembly of First Nations leaders inside.

One of the most strident hold-outs, Derek Nepinak, the grand chief of the Manitoba assembly of chiefs, told CBC late Friday afternoon that the significance was ``not necessarily what we accomplished politically.''

``We've been strung along on this Indian Act policy path where little funding announcements are made from time to time in these

trumped up meetings with the prime minister."

``We broke away from their containment tools today," said Nepinak, calling it ``a very great victory for our people."

Thousands of protesters filled the streets around Parliament Hill, chanting, dancing and demanding that Harper act to improve the conditions on reserves.

First Nations, including Spence, were also scheduled to meet separately with Gov.-Gen. David Johnston at Rideau Hall later Friday at a private ``ceremonial" meeting.

Jim Hurcomb

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Harper, Atleo agree to more 'high level' talks on treaties in coming weeks
By Heather Scoffield
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - A politically charged meeting between some First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper has ended with agreement for further ``high-level'' talks on treaties and comprehensive land claims.

Despite rancourous boycotts by some chiefs and a door-pounding protest on the front doors of the prime minister's working office Friday, the three hours of face-to-face talks set the stage for another round within the next month.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the talks with Shawn Atleo, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and about 20 other native leaders was ``frank'' and ``constructive,'' while acknowledging much work remains.

Perhaps most significantly, Duncan said the prime minister and the powerful Privy Council Office - the bureaucracy that supports the PMO - will now take an active role on ``those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre.''

In other words, one year after another highly symbolic meeting that was supposed to reset the relationship between Ottawa and First Nations, a sense of urgency may have emerged.

Some might credit the restive, cross-country Idle No More native protest movement, as well as the month-long hunger protest by Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence, for any perceived momentum.

Divisions, however, have been ripped in the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations over the logistics of a forced meeting that did not adhere to all the demands of Spence or the grassroots protest constituency.

Atleo did not immediately speak to the media after meeting the prime minister, opting instead to consult first with his large, restive constituency of chiefs.

Native leaders from Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories all boycotted the three-plus hour meeting with Harper after their demands that the talks be held on their chosen turf and with the Governor General attending were rebuffed.

What wasn't immediately clear was whether the meeting was enough for the two sides to find enough common ground to re-establish

Atleo's leadership, repair the Crown-First Nations relationship and quell restless protesters across the country.

Atleo's ability to recover politically from the schisms and drama of the past two days ``depends on the outcome of the meeting,'' said Harvey Yesno, grand chief for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which groups reserves across northern Ontario.

Yesno was among those who boycotted the meeting with Harper. But he said the Ontario chiefs are not ready to ask for Atleo's head simply because he met Harper against their will.

``There will be another time for that kind of discussion,'' said Yesno. ``We have to move things along.''

Most of the chiefs demanding a boycott are covered by historical treaties with the Crown, while Atleo comes from B.C., where there are no treaties. That background has always served as a sore point for Atleo among the chiefs of Ontario and Manitoba, and it's a long-standing division within the Assembly of First Nations, Yesno said.

If Atleo is able to deliver a concrete process to revisit historic treaties and modernize them _ a process led by a powerful person in government, with strict timelines to deliver results _ then his reputation would be restored, Yesno said.

On Friday evening, that remained far from certain.

Meanwhile, Chief Theresa Spence - whose liquid-diet protest on an island in the Otawa River just upstream from Parliament Hill has become a standard for the movement - was expected to continue her protest, according to chiefs who spoke to her Friday afternoon.

That the meeting with Harper took place at all was an achievement, of sorts, following a tumultuous Thursday night of talks that saw chief after chief reject the meeting outright.

``I do think that we have a responsibility here as leaders, and we need to be courageous and be able to go into this meeting and be able to present to the prime minister, and tell him this is what we want,'' said Quebec Cree Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come.

Coon Come's participation was significant because the former national chief is known for taking a hard line against the government.

Contrary to Harper's original plan, he stayed for the duration of the afternoon talks, along with several key cabinet ministers: Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board Secretary Tony Clement.

Missing from the government list was Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver, whom First Nations were hoping to meet to discuss a different way of sharing the bounty from natural resource extraction.

On the First Nations side, Manitoba, Ontario and Northwest Territories stuck to their guns and did not send high-level representation, according to lists of attendees from the government and from the Assembly of First Nations.

Indeed, Manitoba chiefs with headdresses and drums blocked one of the entrances to the building across the street from Parliament Hill, signalling their opposition both to Harper and to the Assembly of First Nations leaders who agreed to attend the meeting.

One of the most strident hold-outs, Derek Nepinak, the grand chief of the Manitoba assembly of chiefs, told CBC late Friday afternoon that the significance was ``not necessarily what we accomplished politically."

``We've been strung along on this Indian Act policy path where little funding announcements are made from time to time in these trumped up meetings with the prime minister."

``We broke away from their containment tools today," said Nepinak, calling it ``a very great victory for our people."

Thousands of protesters filled the streets around Parliament Hill, chanting, dancing and demanding that Harper act to improve the conditions on reserves.

First Nations, including Spence, were also scheduled to meet separately with Gov.-Gen. David Johnston at Rideau Hall later Friday at a private ``ceremonial" meeting.

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To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
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Subject: CP: Harper commitment to treaty talks will bring fundamental change: Atleo
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Harper commitment to treaty talks will bring fundamental change: Atleo
By Heather Scoffield
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - When the hard-won meeting between First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was finally over on Friday, the exhausted and contested chiefs said they could hardly believe what had been accomplished.

Despite rancorous boycotts by some chiefs and a door-pounding protest on the front steps of the prime minister's working office Friday, National Chief Shawn Atleo declared that Harper has finally agreed to top-level talks to modernize and implement the ancient treaties that were always supposed to bring peace and prosperity to First Nations.

There were early indications that what Atleo saw as a critical achievement, others saw as insufficient. Chief Theresa Spence, whose month-old fast has galvanized a cross-country grassroots protest movement, said the results of the meeting fell short of what was required for her to abandon her liquid diet.

Atleo defended what was delivered in the meeting with the prime minister.

``The implications here are massive,'' the grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations said in an interview after the four-hour meeting wrapped up.

Treaties, he says, determine aboriginal rights to the land, its resources and its uses. And while large parts of the country have looked to those treaties for decades or even centuries for salvation, the treaties have never been truly implemented, the chiefs say.

``What First Nations are seeking and what we will press for at the highest political level is recognition and implementation of our rights,'' Atleo said. ``That can only come from a political mandate. Well, the prime minister has just signalled engaging at that level.''

First Nations have long made clear that Harper can't expect to progress meaningfully with his ambitious natural resource agenda unless he deals with treaty rights first, Atleo added.

But the agreement at Friday's meeting is only a baby step down that road. The four hours of talks - between Harper, his officials and three cabinet ministers on the one hand and a couple of dozen First Nations representatives on the other - only sets the stage for

another round of discussions within the next month.

And in order for the commitment to treaty talks to work, the Ontario and Manitoba First Nations who boycotted Friday's meetings will have to come back into the Assembly of First Nations fold.

Ontario and Manitoba are two of the country's key regions governed by treaties, and chiefs from those province must assess and apply any of the broad strokes of Friday's agreement apply in their areas, said Grand Chief Edward John from the First Nation Summit in British Columbia.

``They need to be involved in the development of the modalities of that. The treaty First Nations need to step up and design this," said John, who attended the meeting.

First Nations in northern Ontario and Manitoba are among the most impoverished in Canada, and their people have long complained that Canada is not living up to its side of the treaty.

But the chiefs from those regions refused to attend the Harper meeting because it did not include the Governor General - a key demand since the treaties were signed by a representative of the Crown.

``Our leaders, there were some who in the end said they were surprised that the prime minister was making the kinds of commitments we heard," Atleo said.

But as the weightiness of his commitment set in, the leaders were also overwhelmed by the task in front of them.

``So when we sat and huddled as a delegation, we reflected on the deep challenges that we had."

But secondary demands - including a repeal of contentious sections of the government's omnibus budget bills - were dismissed or put off for another day.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the talks with Atleo and about 20 other native leaders were ``frank" and ``constructive," while acknowledging much work remains.

Perhaps most significantly, Duncan said the prime minister and the powerful Privy Council Office - the bureaucracy that supports the PMO - will now take an active role on ``those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre."

In other words, one year after another highly symbolic meeting that was supposed to reset the relationship between Ottawa and First Nations, a sense of urgency may have emerged.

But the chiefs have yet to declare a victory because they've been down this road before, said John.

``Today I have to wait and see what transpires because we were

already made promises that were not kept," he said.

Some might credit the restive, cross-country Idle No More native protest movement, as well as the month-long hunger protest by Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence, for any perceived momentum.

But a central tenet of Idle No More dissent is the government's overhaul of environmental oversight and protections of fisheries and waterways included in the massive budget bills rammed through Parliament last spring and last fall.

On that point, Duncan said the government saw no reason to make any changes and had fulfilled its constitutional duty to consult with First Nations beforehand.

``We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there's every reason to proceed," Duncan said.

He said prime minister makes sure ``that there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the First Nation leadership," regarding legislation.

Atleo and the chiefs in the meeting with Harper and his ministers pushed hard on that point, but made no progress, John said.

``That's the crux of the problem."

Plus, Harper did not give any ground on First Nations' requests to set up a public inquiry on violence against aboriginal women - a key demand for many grassroots protesters that has garnered support across the country.

It was not immediately clear whether the results of the meeting would be enough for the two sides to find enough common ground to re-establish Atleo's leadership, repair the Crown-First Nations relationship and quell restless protesters across the country.

``There's no question, it has been the most challenging moment that I personally can recall in our work," Atleo admitted. ``We've always known there is no easy way forward, and we said that to the prime minister today."

Atleo's ability to recover politically from the schisms and drama of the past two days ``depends on the outcome of the meeting," said Harvey Yesno, grand chief for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which groups reserves across northern Ontario.

Yesno was among those who boycotted the meeting with Harper. But he said the Ontario chiefs are not ready to ask for Atleo's head simply because he met Harper against their will.

``There will be another time for that kind of discussion," said Yesno. ``We have to move things along."

If Atleo is able to deliver a concrete process to revisit historic treaties and modernize them - a process led by a powerful person in government, with strict timelines to deliver results - then his reputation would be restored, Yesno said.

Contrary to Harper's original plan, he stayed for the duration of the afternoon talks, along with several key cabinet ministers: Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board Secretary Tony Clement.

Missing from the government list was Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver, whom First Nations were hoping to meet to discuss a different way of sharing the bounty from natural resource extraction.

Thousands of protesters filled the streets around Parliament Hill, chanting, dancing and demanding that Harper act to improve the conditions on reserves - cries that echoed through the meeting room as Harper and his team met the chiefs.

Asked whether those protests would subside now that Harper has committed to a treaty process, Atleo said he thinks his people will need to see evidence of change first - a belief that has added urgency to the process with Ottawa.

``I think the voices of our people, they will not be silenced."

Jim Hurcomb

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To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
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Idle No More rises up across Canada during First Nations meeting in Ottawa
By Terry Pedwell
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - A sprawling crowd of native protesters swirled outside the Prime Minister's Office in the shadow of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill on Friday as a controversial meeting between First Nations leaders and Stephen Harper got underway.

There were similar, smaller demonstrations across the country, including a rail blockade in Nova Scotia.

A crowd of about 3,000 people, according to police estimates, first gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block where the meetings were taking place, chanting, drumming and waving makeshift banners.

Some of those near one of the entrances even pounded on the doors in a futile attempt to either gain access or invite the prime minister outside.

Many then crossed Wellington Street and rallied in front of the Centre Block, brandishing flags and chanting along with the rhythmic beat of skin drums.

Raymond Robinson, a Manitoba elder who has spent the last 30 days fasting to back a demand that Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston meet native leaders together, said he's fed up.

``We were never respected as First Nations people of this land,'' Robinson said. ``They're always saying what's good for us. We know what's right for us.''

Robinson said he will stick to his liquids-only protest _ one of several that have been taking place over the last month alongside that of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.

``I'm going to continue until I get my demands met. I will not stand down until Harper meets with my chiefs with the Governor General present.''

A sporadic cold drizzle fell all morning and into the afternoon, failing to dampen the spirits of protesters, even if it did leave some of the feathered headdresses in the crowd looking a little bedraggled.

The demonstrators began their march on Victoria Island, a nearby outcrop in the Ottawa River where Spence has been camped out for more than a month, subsisting on a diet of fish broth and medicinal

tea. They returned to the island later in the day.

Earlier in the day, Spence looked frail - her voice shaky and her speech a bit disjointed - as she emerged to meet briefly with members of the media outside her makeshift island encampment.

Aboriginal people now have an opportunity to hold the government to account for years of broken promises, Spence said. ``This meeting's been overdue for so many years.''

Supporters of the Idle No More movement were also showing strength in numbers during protests in other parts of the country as well.

In Edmonton, Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation joined a gathering of several hundred people, where he warned of imminent economic disruption if steps aren't taken to rescind the Conservative government's controversial omnibus legislation.

``Highway 63 to the oilsands will be shut down. That will happen and I guarantee this,'' warned Adam, whose reserve is near the oilsands. ``I fear for the worst if the prime minister doesn't retract some of the bills that were passed.''

More than a dozen people blocked a Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro by placing wooden pallets and a car on the track in Truro. Via Rail said it took 53 passengers to Truro from Halifax by bus.

A noisy crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators also showed their support for First Nations in front of the convention centre in downtown Montreal.

Young people, union representatives and provincial politicians were in the group. Some waved Mohawk and Quebec flags and danced to the beat of native drums.

In Toronto, a few hundred gathered in Toronto's Dundas Square, drumming and chanting.

Stephanie Hashie, a member of the Ginoogaming First Nation who lives in Toronto, said she was there to celebrate her culture.

``It means our future,'' she said of the Idle No More movement. ``It means what's going to happen. We're not standing idle no more. We're not going to stand around and just let things happen.''

Chief Spence, who has come under fire over a leaked audit report that found fault with bookkeeping practices in Attawapiskat, spoke for the first time about how her Ontario reserve spends government money. She said most of what flows to the isolated James Bay community actually gets spent outside the community.

She says the money goes to buy supplies and to pay contractors, consultants, lawyers - and to taxes.

``Most of the funding that we have, it goes back to you, to taxpayers,'' she said in response to a question about reserve spending that was shouted over the objections of her handlers.

A government-ordered audit, leaked earlier this week, concluded there was little documentation to back up Attawapiskat's spending.

Spence said she has been the victim of false statements about her reserve's handling on money.

``It goes out of our reserve,'' she said. ``For example, if there's housing, we have to hire contractors, we have to order the materials from out of town and the shipment, we pay tax on that.

``We hire lawyers ... consultants _ that's where the money goes.''

Spence is expected to continue her hunger protest, since Friday's meetings weren't taking place according to the terms demanded by the chiefs _ on their turf, with both Harper and Johnston together.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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If Governor General won't be there Friday, neither will I: Attawapiskat chief

OTTAWA - Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence says she won't attend Friday's meetings between First Nations leaders and the federal government because Gov. Gen. David Johnston has said he won't be there.

Spence - engaged in a protest since Dec. 11, subsisting solely on fish broth and tea in an effort to secure Friday's meeting with Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper - is insisting on the Queen's representative in Canada being present.

``We have sent a letter to Buckingham Palace, requesting that Queen Elizabeth II send forth her representative, which is the Governor General of Canada," Spence said in a statement.

``I will not be attending Friday's meeting with the prime minister, as the Governor General's attendance is integral when discussing Inherent and treaty rights."

A spokesperson for Johnston has said he would not attend the sessions on Friday because they are working meetings with government on policy issues.

Spence said Johnston needs to attend the meetings because the talks are supposed to focus on the treaty rights that were established by the Royal Proclamation of 1793.

Spence says Canada is ``not acting in good faith," as evidenced by the federal government's release of an audit that shows a lack of documentation for tens of millions of dollars in spending by Spence's northern Ontario reserve.

``This is a time of crisis and this government of the day is not taking indigenous peoples concerns seriously," Spence's spokesman, Danny Metatawabin, said in the release.

``Canada should take notice and act honourably as their courts have directed the government on many occasions."

First Nations frustration has been manifesting across Canada for weeks in the form of the Idle No More protest movement, which seeks to push back against the Conservatives for threatening aboriginal treaty rights as set out in the Constitution.

The protests, ranging from temporary rail blockades and border closures to shopping-mall flash mobs, have drawn inspiration from Spence and her protest, which is playing out on a small island in the Ottawa River, not far from Parliament Hill.

When Harper agreed last week to hold a meeting, Spence said she would attend, but insisted she wouldn't decide whether to end her protest until after the meetings were concluded.

At a news conference Tuesday, Harper acknowledged the challenges facing many First Nations communities, but he said they also represent great opportunities.

``I know that in many aboriginal communities ... the challenges are very great, but the potential is very great as well," he said.

``We do have, for the first time in our history, economic development on a large scale occurring near where many aboriginal people live. We have a shortage of labour and lots of opportunity, and we want to make sure that those opportunities are available for aboriginal people and prosperity is available for them as we move forward."

The government will continue to push forward with ``legislation and other means," he added.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 10:54 PM
Subject: CP: Intimate meeting without Governor General was critical for Harper: sources
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Intimate meeting without Governor General was critical for Harper: sources
By Mike Blanchfield and Jennifer Ditchburn
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA When it comes to big conferences brimming with long speeches, pomp and circumstance, Stephen Harper's never been much of a fan.

So his preference for smaller, more intimate and practical working meetings became his office's bottom line as it navigated a roller coaster of negotiations with First Nations leaders over the past week.

The Governor General would stay at Rideau Hall. It would be crystal clear who had the power to make decisions.

``Our purpose was to have a meeting that was small enough that you could have a real discussion,'' said one government official who was inside the room Friday as the prime minister sat down with chiefs.

``You get 200 people in a room, it's not much of a meeting.''

Whether there was going to be a meeting at all was the subject of intense negotiations that spanned several days, including a last-ditch bid by First Nations elder statesman Ovide Mercredi to throw open the doors to more chiefs.

Mercredi tried unsuccessfully to convince the Prime Minister's Office it needed to heed the demands of many chiefs from across the country who wanted a bigger meeting, and also wanted Gov. Gen. David Johnston to be involved.

Mercredi couldn't conceal his disappointment.

``You have to see it this way: it's a reflection of what we can expect from this government,'' he said. ``It confirms the mistrust on the (part of) government. That's what it does.''

The meeting eventually took place in a rather bland conference room inside the Langevin Block, a stately sandstone building across from the Parliament buildings where Harper and his department - the Privy Council Office - do the bulk of their work.

The room was smudged with smoke to start things off on a good foot.

A First Nations elder said a prayer. Outside, the group could hear the chants of an Idle No More protest - 3,000 people strong,

according to police estimates - in the shadow of the Peace Tower.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, sat at the head of the table, nestled between Harper and his team.

The chiefs said their piece, but Atleo spoke for them most of the time, laying out each of his points. Harper said little until the end of the four-hour gathering, setting out exactly what his government was and wasn't prepared to do.

Rescinding or amending the controversial omnibus budget bill, for instance, was a non-starter.

There were no angry outbursts or abrupt departures. But the fact the meeting even took place was something of a victory for both Harper and Atleo.

Right up to the moment Atleo and his group of chiefs entered the building at around 1 p.m. Friday, there was uncertainty over whether the whole thing would come off. The lead-up included days of raucous, on-again, off-again negotiations.

Harper's chief of staff was the high-level point man for the government, engaged on the issue since a rail blockade in Sarnia before Christmas, one official said.

The Assembly of First Nations tasked three respected chiefs to develop a workable agenda for the meeting: Mercredi, Metis activist Perry Bellegarde and B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould.

The four met to hash out the structure of the meeting Wednesday night.

``There was a lot of opposition to attending a meeting where not all the chiefs would be included, also where the agenda was predetermined," Mercredi said.

``So we had a big discussion about crafting our agenda, together with the government and getting a process that would be inclusive, but also the governor general would be present."

Wright did make several concessions on behalf of the government. He agreed to open up the agenda beyond treaty negotiations and economic development, as originally proposed, and entertain discussion about housing, murdered and missing women and the impact on the environment of Harper's budget bills.

But the PMO wouldn't budge on the structure of the meeting - a crucial point for many of the bands from central Ontario and Manitoba whose treaties were signed by a representative of the Queen.

``We were trying to impress upon the government to include the Governor General in the meeting. And also to make it more open by having it televised. And but also we expressed for it to be inclusive," Mercredi recalled.

Harper's team did finally instruct the Governor General to hold a ceremonial meeting Friday evening at Rideau Hall. But there was no question of involving Johnston directly in the meetings themselves.

``Our real bottom line was that it couldn't be the same meeting because that line can't get blurred,'' said the official.

``We're the ones responsible here, we're the ones that can act and have to act. Not the Governor General. There's nothing he can do constitutionally, so we didn't want to give that impression.''

The chiefs continued to press Wright for Johnston's involvement, but to no avail. Mercredi broke the news to chiefs from across Canada during a meeting late Thursday at a downtown Ottawa hotel.

The room erupted in outrage.

``They weren't mad at me. They tried to send me to get a better meeting. They were mad at the government (for) not listening,'' said Mercredi.

``That's the reason why people are out there protesting, because the government is not listening.''

Regional groups of First Nations huddled Friday morning as the AFN made a last-ditch, unsuccessful effort to persuade the PMO to open up the meeting in order to unite all the chiefs.

For many of the treaty bands, it was too much to stomach, said Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in northern Ontario.

On the government side, Harper and his team bided their time, said little publicly, and waited for Atleo to work out exactly who was coming.

In the end, Harper got what he wanted - a smaller meeting with the AFN executive, some regional chiefs, and ultimately something to announce.

``We knew we couldn't get a desirable outcome unless we had a process that was small enough and representative enough, and Atleo pulled that together today,'' said the official.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts;...
Date: 1/16/2013 3:07 PM
Subject: CP: Peaceful aboriginal protests, temporary blockades crop up across Canada
Attachments: HQ Inform2.vcf

Peaceful aboriginal protests, temporary blockades crop up across Canada

Aboriginals and their supporters are blocking bridges, slowing traffic on highways and stalling a rail line as the Idle No More movement flexes its public muscles in a show of solidarity.

Hundreds are gathered at the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Ont., threatening to snarl the busiest Canada-U.S. border-crossing point.

A handful of flag-waving demonstrators have also stopped a train on a rail line an hour west of Winnipeg.

Marchers temporarily diverted traffic from a main bridge in Miramichi, the biggest city in northern New Brunswick.

The Algonquins of Barriere Lake have slowed traffic along Highway 117 in Quebec, about two hours northeast of Ottawa.

In northern Alberta, members of the Lubicon Lake Nation are planning information checkpoints on roads through the oilsands region.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/4/2013 1:58 PM
Subject: CP: PM offers First Nations meeting next week, but hunger strikes to continue
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

PM offers First Nations meeting next week, but hunger strikes to continue
By Stephanie Levitz
THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Stephen Harper has acquiesced to demands from First Nations leadership for a meeting amid ongoing protests by aboriginal activists.

Harper said the meeting will take place next Friday, about 10 days earlier than the date the Assembly of First Nations had proposed in a bid to both calm protests and put an end to one aboriginal chief's nearly month-long hunger strike.

But Chief Theresa Spence has so far given no indication that the setting of a date for a meeting will see her close up her encampment on Victoria Island, where she has been since Dec. 11 without solid food.

``We want certainty,'' Grand Chief Stan Louttit said Friday in explaining why the hunger strike would continue at least until the meeting takes place.

In the past, other promised meetings fell through, he said.

The meeting next Friday, to be co-ordinated by the Assembly of First Nations, will focus on treaty relationships and aboriginal rights and economic development, the prime minister's office said.

It is being billed as a follow-through on talks in January 2012 when the government and First Nations committed to an ongoing dialogue.

``While some progress has been made, there is more that must be done to improve outcomes for First Nations communities across Canada,'' Harper said in a statement.

``The government of Canada and First Nations have an enduring historic relationship based on mutual respect, friendship and support. The government of Canada is committed to strengthening this relationship.''

Harper did not acknowledge Spence's ongoing hunger strike when asked about the meetings at an event Friday in Oakville, Ont. And with regards to the broader Idle No More movement, he remained vague.

``In this country, people have the right in our country to demonstrate and express their points of view peacefully as long as they obey the law,'' he said.

``I think the Canadian population expects everyone will obey the law in holding such protests."

Protesters have threatened to shut down parts of the Canada-U.S. border on Saturday as part of ongoing protests.

The Idle No More movement has brought aboriginal communities together, suggested Alvin Fiddler, deputy grand chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, a regional advocacy network.

But there is a lot of work to do to repair the government's relationship with First Nations, though he called Harper's overture a ``good first step."

``It will not take just one meeting to fix that relationship that is broken," he said.

``We will continue to hold the prime minister's feet to the fire to ensure that meeting, if it does happen next Friday, will begin to establish that process."

Louttit said the one-day meeting between the two sides last year accomplished little in the long run. Next week's summit has to move things forward, he said.

``We're looking for better results this time around."

A key issue for First Nations leadership is revenue sharing from natural resources development.

For example, Spence's remote community of Attawapiskat, which is in northern Ontario, sits near a diamond mine.

While some band members as well as several new businesses are making decent money from the mine, the community remains impoverished.

Spence has been subsisting mainly on fish broth since Dec. 11, living in a tent on frigid Victoria Island on the Ottawa River, just upstream from Parliament Hill.

``She's well, but you can tell her body is weak," her spokesman, Danny Metatawabin, said Friday.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 1:12 PM
Subject: CP: On day of critical meetings, First Nations protest descends on Parliament Hill
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

On day of critical meetings, First Nations protest descends on Parliament Hill

OTTAWA - Native protesters are swirling outside the Prime Minister's Office in the shadow of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill as Stephen Harper prepares to meet First Nations leaders.

A crowd of about 3,000 people, according to police estimates, has gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block, home to the PMO.

They are chanting, drumming, waving flags and banners; some are even banging on the door.

A sporadic cold drizzle all morning has left feathered headdresses in the crowd looking somewhat bedraggled, but it has failed to dampen spirits.

The demonstrators began their march on Victoria Island, an outcrop in the Ottawa River upstream where Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has been camped for more than a month.

Spence told the gathered protesters that aboriginal people now have an opportunity to hold the government to account for years of broken promises.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/11/2013 9:57 AM
Subject: CTV News report on today's meeting and Idle No More
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

>>Marci: Not only is the division among Native Chiefs threatening today's summit with the Prime Minister, but it has prompted Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo to call for unity. I am joined by Megong Sinclair, he is a native studies professor at the University of Manitoba. He is in Winnipeg this morning. There are two schools of thought, those who say how much of a difference could this meeting make, if it even happens at this point? How do you clear up issues that have been going on for decades and decades in a couple of hours? Then there are those who say this could be the starting point that is necessary. Where do you fall among those two?

>>Sinclair: I think today is an inspiring and important day in our country's future. I see this day as being what democracy is truly about, and it is the change of a relationship that has been abusive, and a relationship of dictation by this government. and governments before that, and that First Nations people and Inuit and Metis, many of which are allied with us, are standing up and demanding recognition, demanding complicity, where as for many years, we have been simply dictated to.

>> Marci: That might be the case, but the divisions are there. Shawn Atleo yesterday pleading with native leaders, Chiefs, to come together on this and to stand united, but we're not seeing that. Manitoba Chiefs are not on side. Northwest Territories Chiefs aren't on side. Talk to me about those divisions and is how they play into all of this.

>>Sinclair: Well, in fact I see a great alliance. Chief Atleo committed to acting in the interests of the Chiefs, and I think the feelings were put best by Chief Wallace Fox last night at last night's very late meetings. He talked about the love the indigenous peoples have for this land, for this relationship with Canada and it was a very impassioned speech, much of which was in the language-- his traditional language, but also in english. Almost the entire room stood behind him, and those videos are available on youtube. I do not see a division here. In fact I see a collaboration. I see a discussion taking place, and this discussion will take place throughout the day.

>>Marci: How could you not see a division when you have Chiefs coming out and basically saying that they are going to side with Theresa Spence on this and they are not going to show up? At this point, our correspondent doesn't know if there will be a meeting.

>>Sinclair: Oh, absolutely. I'm not saying that this isn't a discussion, an on going discussion. It will happen throughout the day. The Prime Minister's Office has a real opportunity here to engage with the Chiefs. The Chiefs have made an offering to the Prime Minister's Office to come to a meeting including everyone, including the Governor General, who of course is the Queen's representative who is the signatory to the treaties, and that's a real exciting opportunity. However, it's not one that particularly looks good in the public eye with the Prime Minister and several hundred Chiefs, but that is what the relationship really should look like.

>> Marci: What do you see coming next as far as the Idle No More movement goes? We mentioned that Theresa Spence says she will not be at the table because she wants the Prime Minister and the Governor General to be at the same table. She is not interested in having a ceremonial meeting with the Governor General afterwards.

>>Sinclair: Well, what I see coming out of this meeting, there has been a real inspired sort of galvanization of the movement from what I can see. I'm quite involved with many people within the movement but also via social media. This movement will not stop. It may ebb and flow over time, but this is going to continue for a very long time. People in the movement are very invested, very aware and very educated about now the history of where this-- how this relationship after 500 years of inequality needs to be an equal one, an equal partnership. So where do I see this going? It wasn't going to be the small

private meeting I think the Prime Minister was hoping for, or a small memorandum of understanding which probably would go nowhere. We actually are seeing democracy, discussion, and what an equal partnership begins to look like. Canada has never seen this before. So it is somewhat different than what we have had in the past. So I'm not surprised that has made some people uncomfortable, but it is very exciting and inspiring.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 5:08 PM
Subject: Fox News: Meeting between Canada's PM and Aboriginal leaders divides Native Canadian community
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Meeting between Canada's PM and Aboriginal leaders divides Native Canadian community
Published January 11, 2013

TORONTO - Hundreds of Aboriginal rights protesters are marching in front of Canada's Parliament as Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Aboriginal chiefs attend a summit to discuss disagreements over treaty rights.

The meeting has created divisions among the Aboriginal community. Some chiefs are boycotting the meeting Friday because Governor General David Johnston, a representative of Queen Elizabeth II, is not attending. They argue his presence is imperative because the talks center on treaty rights first established by the Royal Proclamation of 1793.

Among those boycotting is Chief Theresa Spence, who launched a hunger strike a month ago to demand the summit.

The meeting comes almost two months after Aboriginal rights protests erupted against a bill that changes environmental oversight in favor of natural resource extraction. Protesters say the bill threatens treaty rights.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Ron Hallman <Ron.Hallman@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Bernard Etzinger <Bernard.E...
Date: 1/8/2013 8:47 AM
Subject: Fw: APTN News: Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide

Some interesting revelations here, including media being banned from the community.

>>> HQ Inform 1/8/2013 8:40:12 AM >>>

Attawapiskat Chief Spence's 'life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide
By Jorge Barrera
APTN National News

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's "life partner" says the federal Aboriginal Affairs department should finally launch the forensic audit requested by the community in 2004 if it's serious about tracking the millions of dollars that have flowed through the band's coffers.

Aboriginal Affairs on Monday released an audit done by Deloitte and Touche that found a missing paper trail for millions of dollars in funding flowing through Attawapiskat First Nation between 2005 and 2011. Attawapiskat has a population of about 1,828.

The audit, which examined funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Health Canada along with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, detonated like a grenade as First Nations leaders prepared for Friday's scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The audit, targeting the $104 million the northern Ontario community on the Attawapiskat River received between 2005 and 2011, examined 505 financial transactions, 400 from Aboriginal affairs and 105 from Health Canada, and found that 81 per cent of those transactions did not have the proper documentation and 61 per cent had none.

"We were unable to determine if the funds were spent for their intended purpose," said a Deloitte and Touche management letter to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, dated Aug. 28.

The auditors also noted that CMHC never bothered to tell Aboriginal Affairs about its own inspectors' findings that housing conditions were worsening in the community.

Spence's partner, Clayton Kennedy, who is also the band's former co-manager, said financial accountability had improved over the last two years in Attawapiskat, which posts all its financial documents online. He said none of the money was ever misappropriated and every dollar could be tracked by simply approaching the vendors and the banks involved. He said the department should call in the forensic audit requested by the community back in 2004.

"If everyone is so concerned about the lack of documentation, then fine, come back, start contacting the suppliers, go through the banks, get into it in a little more detail because I don't think you'll find any misappropriation of funds," said Kennedy, who was the band's co-manager between July 2010 and August 2012.

Kennedy was also the band's director of finance, band manager and co-manager between 2001 and 2004 and left the community until he was hired again.

Spence, who was deputy chief from 2007 to 2010, has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, consuming fish broth two or three times a day along with water and traditional medicine teas, to force a meeting between the prime minister, the governor general and First Nations leaders.

With the meeting now scheduled for Friday, Spence says she will continue to abstain from consuming

solid foods until she is satisfied with its result.

Spence has developed a type of sainthood among many who travel from all over the country just to see her, give her gifts and pray for her.

She also has developed a fiercely loyal group of supporters and they barred media Monday from entering the log-fence compound on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River where Spence has been living in a teepee.

Attawapiskat's deputy chief George Mattinas told APTN National News all media were now banned from entering the community.

Spence has lost about 22 lbs since she began her hunger strike and a nurse who checked her on Monday noticed her blood-sugar level was dropping, said Kennedy. Kennedy also said Spence has been suffering pain from her stomach contracting from lack of food. He said she is not consuming any vitamins or supplements.

"She is extremely weak," said Kennedy. "I am concerned."

Kennedy said he's worried Spence continues to refuse solid food.

"I don't like where all this is heading in terms of her continuing," he said. "I think she's probably done enough...but it's her decision to do this."

Kennedy said he believes the government released the "comprehensive audit" to politically torpedo Spence and weaken the Idle No More movement, which shows no signs of abating through continued round dances, rallies and highway blockades across the country.

"It's a witch-hunt," he said. "This whole report that is being exposed as nothing more than a deflection to take pressure off the government because they are in the midst of protest by Indigenous people across this country and people around the world...they just needed to put something out to discredit the movement and discredit the chief, it's all part of politics."

Kennedy said the audit proves things improved after Spence became chief on Aug. 27, 2010.

"Prior to Theresa coming on as chief, there were problems," said Kennedy. "Hence that is why I was brought in by council, with the full knowledge of Aboriginal Affairs, to get things turned around and for the most part I did get them turned around."

The audit's examination of 400 Aboriginal Affairs transactions supports his assertion. Between 2009 and 2011, the audit found 31 transactions lacked supporting documentation. Between 2005 and 2009, the audit found 214 transactions lacked all supporting documentation.

"There was a lack of oversight, there was a lack of controls," said Kennedy. "It was all relatively young finance staff."

Kennedy cites as an example of several entries in the Deloitte audit on "write down of accounts payable" that were found to have incomplete documentation. Kennedy said those were entries he was trying to correct after staff duplicated invoices for capital projects which are handled by external accountants and project managers.

"I had to take them off the books of account," he said.

Kennedy said Attawapiskat, which has been in co-management for 10 years, was on the brink of bankruptcy when he took over.

Kennedy said the band was previously co-managed by BDO Canada from November 2009 to April 2010, but the band council decided to not continue with them after the firm asked for $400,000 a year over five years to do the job. Kennedy said he earned about $140,000 by comparison.

“Council was suspicious of the fact they hadn’t done anything in six months in terms of producing financial statements,” said Kennedy.

David Facca, a BDO partner in Thunder Bay, was involved, but said he wasn’t authorized to comment when contacted by APTN National News.

Before BDO, the band was co-managed by George Lanouette, who has since died.

The band manager through the majority of the audit period, former chief Ignace Gull, was let go from his position in December 2011, said Kennedy.

Gull could not be reached for comment.

Kennedy said he’s not surprised the auditors failed to find documentation for transactions dating back to 2005.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan called for the audit in December 2011 at the same time he imposed a third-party manager on the community, seizing financial control away from the band council and administration.

When the auditors landed in the community for two five day stints in early 2012, the band’s staff was already working to the limit dealing with the third-party manager, who was from BDO Canada’s Winnipeg office.

“My staff didn’t have time to get to the nuts and bolts,” he said. “We were worried about payroll and welfare payments that were withheld. I had to provide a raft of information...(The third party manager) wanted to take over all the payroll, he wanted all the information, personal information for every employee by program.”

Kennedy said most of the band’s accounting staff had “no knowledge of the majority of transactions.” He said they pulled out boxes of files from a warehouse to meet the auditors’ demands.

“My staff was preoccupied with operations and did no

From: Sophie Radecki
To: Joanne Wilkinson <Joanne.Wilkinson@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Leea Litzgus <Lee...
CC: Greg White <Greg.White@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Pam Simpson <Pam.Simpson@aand...
Date: 1/9/2013 2:44 PM
Subject: Fw: ATR meeting at Attawapiskat January 9th
Attachments: Genivar Attawapiskat Capital Planning Study Map 2011_1.pdf

Here is summary of meeting today that Pam has relayed.

Sophie Radecki
Director, Lands and Economic Development
AANDC - Ontario Region
Sophie.Radecki@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

>>> Greg White 1/9/2013 2:42:59 PM >>>Here is Pam Simpson's debrief from the meeting this morning at Attiwapiskat:

The meeting commenced at 10:45 and ran until 12:00.
7 councillors attended - including the current acting chief Christine Kataquapit The FN's Lands and Resources Manager also attended.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) made their presentation regarding the land disposition process. I made a very short presentation on the ATR process. The ATR presentation was very short because the MNR presentation covered off most of the significant steps in our process. I had reviewed the MNR presentation in November prior to them making it to Chief Spence and all ATR information was correct.

There were few questions from the council regarding the process, however from the councillors comments it is clear that there is a divide regarding willingness to work through a process for ATR.

A number of the councillors indicated that it is their belief Attawapiskat did not sign Treaty 9 and all land in the area is therefore unceded. These councillors feel that a larger process of negotiation to determine the extent of the FN's land and a modern Treaty making process is appropriate. There were 3 councillors who supported moving ahead with the ATR process on a practical level in order to expand the reserve land base notwithstanding the ceded/unceded issue for now. These 3 councillors indicated that they feel that the FN should put together a negotiating team to move ahead with the ATR discussion based on the recommendations made by Genivar in the 2011 Capital planning study (see attached map-current discussions concern Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 only).

The councillors in attendance made it clear that the "ball" is in the FN's court and that they would contact both Ontario and Canada when they have made a decision regarding the path they want to take.

Separate from the meeting, the provincial negotiator and I agreed that we would work closely together in the next few weeks to determine some practical steps to move forward as a coordinated team should the FN choose to pursue the ATR route.

>>> Sophie Radecki 1/9/2013 10:12 AM >>>
Will do so as soon as we hear from Pam.

Meeting is to take place today so may not have contact from her until this afternoon.

Sophie Radecki
Director, Lands and Economic Development
AANDC - Ontario Region
Sophie.Radecki@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/9/2013 9:50:28 AM >>>
Hi Sophie - can you please provide an update from Pam on how the meetings in Attawapiskat are going? We need them for the briefing material going to HQ this morning. Thanks.

From: Christopher Horton
To: Shannon, Tara <Tara.Shannon@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Fuijkschot, Monica <Moni...
Date: 1/8/2013 10:07 AM
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Head's Up - M7751

Tara et al

On correspondence from chief spence, I understand region is maintaining an going pdf.

Joanne/Faye - Can you confirm?

Thanks

>>> Josee Beriault 1/8/2013 9:59:41 AM >>>Chris,

See attached incoming. I'm not sure to who I would send this to for support? PSD has lead. Let me know

Josee
M7751 - Meeting with First Nations Leadership - January 11, 2013
- due CU Jan 9, due Mo Jan 10, 2013

>>> Kristina Jensen 1/8/2013 9:25 AM >>>
We better open up a docket on this one. I see PSD as lead. Support will come from ESD, TAG etc. K

>>> Gayle Laroche 2013-01-07 13:27 >>>
Heads up, please see e-mail below for your action once we get confirmation of Chiefs that will be attending the meeting. Once we get confirmation from Tara, will forward the e-mail.

Gayle

>>> Tara Shannon 1/7/2013 1:19 PM >>>
We are putting together material for the Minister's meeting on Friday with the PM and Chiefs. Once we know which Chiefs will be in attendance, we'll need corporate's support in pulling all recent correspondence, including outstanding correspondence. We'll need this done on a priority basis.

Awaiting the list of Chiefs, we should pull all recent correspondence from the National Chief and Chief Theresa Spence. We should also pull any correspondence from other Chiefs re the Idle No More movement and/or Theresa Spence. Thanks Monica. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Barbara.

Tara

From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Monique Doiron <Monique.Doiron@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/15/2013 7:08 PM
Subject: Fw: Interesting

Fyi...

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/15/2013 5:10:00 PM >>>
The following tweet was featured an hour ago on APTN's website...

@kkirkup Some #Attawapiskat residents allege Spence didn't advise reserve she was going to Ottawa for personal protest beginning on Dec.11. #cdnpoli

From: Sheila Silva
To: Joanne Wilkinson <Joanne.Wilkinson@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Leea.Litzgus@aand...
CC: Faye Horne <Faye.Horne@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/11/2013 11:59 AM
Subject: Fw: Lock-Down

Fyi

Sheila Silva, CGA
Director, Corporate Services / Directrice de la Direction des services Ministériels
Ontario Region / Région de l'Ontario
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada /
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
25 St. Clair Avenue East, 8th floor
25, avenue St. Clair est, 8 étage
Toronto, ON M4T 1M2
Tel: (416) 973-6212
Fax / télecopieur: (416) 973-6472
Email / courrier électronique: sheila.silva@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

>>> Diane Levola 1/11/2013 11:56:50 AM >>>Good afternoon, everyone.

Please be advised that we are once again in lock-down mode for security purposes as a result of the "Idle No More" protest taking place in the downtown area.

As such, the main office doors will remain locked for the balance of the work day. The receptionist will manually open the doors for clients, as required.

Mall security and PWGSC have been advised.

For those of you working reception, if you encounter any security issues, please contact Mall Security.

Thanks.

Diane

From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Ron Hallman <Ron.Hallman@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; Colleen Swords <Colleen.Swo...
Date: 1/14/2013 11:27 AM
Subject: Fw: Message from the National Chief

In case you're not on this mailing list

>>> Assembly of First Nations<tcote@afn.ca> 1/14/2013 11:25:17 AM >>>----------
http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=ecc2a661b1&e=b1d79d1e87
http://www.afn.ca
January 14, 2013

Message from the National Chief

First Nations citizens have just witnessed one of the most important chapters in our recent history. Through the pressure of the grassroots, the sacrifices made by Chief Spence and her fellow strikers, and the work of many regional Chiefs and the National Executive of the AFN, we have seized the attention of Canadians and of this government.

We forced open the door to the PMO and to the Governor-General. We achieved a commitment to the personal leadership of the Prime Minister, the Privy Council Office and other senior ministers. Now they know that the whole world is watching what progress we make. Now they understand the consequences of failure.

We have a responsibility to work together to push forward our work that relates to each of the eight elements that emerged from our discussions this week – on Treaty, on comprehensive claims, resource revenue sharing, action to assess and halt provisions of legislation that contravene our rights, on the urgent needs of our communities and justice for our missing women. We have leaders in place to ensure that detailed work gets done. And now we have the public commitment of this government and this Prime Minister that they will treat these issues as their priorities.

I am proud of the support we received from First Nations citizens and Chiefs across Canada, even during the most difficult days. There were many long conference calls, late night meetings, and frustrations in the past two weeks. I regret to have to tell you that those long days have caught up with me. This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now.

I ask that Regional Chief Augustine continue to chair and facilitate our National Executive meetings in my brief absence and that Regional Chief Bellegarde and Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould continue the work that they led this week on Treaty implementation and on comprehensive claims. As we did in the meeting on January 11 – we must seize the agenda and drive the next steps on each and every element. I encourage everyone to contribute fully to these next steps. I have also directed the senior staff of the Assembly of First Nations to mobilize staff working teams on these elements to provide the analysis and support required.

Finally as we have done from the very beginning, we continue to offer our support and prayers for Chief Spence, the hunger strikers and for all of our peoples standing up through peaceful demonstrations and protest. As we told the Prime Ministers – our voices, the voices of all of our citizens will not be silenced. We will drive change now.

Friends and colleagues, this has been a fateful moment in the decades of struggle by our peoples. We have secured important new ground. Now the harder, but less visible, work of turning promises into action begins. I look forward to working with all of you on those tasks in the weeks and months ahead. Together I am confident we ensure that this week marks the end of a long bitter chapter of paralysis and provocation in our relationship with the GoC, and that it truly is the beginning of a new chapter.

I will see you all very soon and will return re-invigorated and strengthened to work with you to drive this change together with all of you.

Kleco Kleco

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
National Chief

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** follow on Twitter (http://twitter.com/AFN_Updates)
** friend on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Assembly-of-First-NationsAssemblee-des-premieres-Nations/229729327867)
** forward to a friend (http://us1.forward-to-friend.com/forward?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=ecc2a661b1&e=b1d79d1e87)
** unsubscribe from this list (http://afn.us1.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=7bcefe9235&e=b1d79d1e87&c=ecc2a661b1)
** update subscription preferences (http://afn.us1.list-manage1.com/profile?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=7bcefe9235&e=b1d79d1e87)
** view email in browser (http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=ecc2a661b1&e=b1d79d1e87)

From: Jim Hurcomb
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 12:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence News Conference - January 11, 2013
Attachments: 20130111G.wpd

>>> "MQ" <mq@mediaqin.com> 1/11/2013 12:33 PM >>>

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the transcript of the news conference held by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, that took place January 11, 2013.

Thanks and regards,

Dave Fletcher

Media Q Inc.
802-165 Sparks St, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5B9
Tel: 613-237-3123
Fax: 613-237-9234
Email: mq@mediaqin.com

From: Leea Litzgus
To: Mary Paterson
Date: 1/7/2013 1:43 PM
Subject: Fwd: CBC.CA: Attawapiskat audit finds 'no evidence of due diligence'
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

FYI

>>> HQ Inform 1/7/2013 10:25 AM >>>
Attawapiskat audit finds 'no evidence of due diligence'
Deloitte finds average of 81% of files lack supporting documents from Ontario reserve

The accounting firm hired to audit the finances of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation reserve in northern Ontario says there is little or no documentation for millions of dollars spent by the band, CBC News has learned.

The unreleased audit was requested by the federal government to ensure that the approximately $104 million it provided to Attawapiskat between April 2005 and November 2011 was spent as it should have been.

CBC News has obtained a copy of the audit. The funding was intended for housing, sewage, education and other services.

In a letter dated Sept. 20, 2012, that was written by Deloitte to Chief Theresa Spence and copied to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, that auditing firm says that of 505 transactions reviewed, more than 400 lacked proper documentation.

The letter says "an average of 81 per cent of files did not have adequate supporting documents and over 60 per cent had no documentation of the reason for payment."

The letter to Spence also says there is "no evidence of due diligence on the part of Attawapiskat of funding provided by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for housing projects and Health Canada for health-related projects."

Deloitte said it could not conclude that the payments made by the band council were in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements with the federal government.

Overall, it recommended:

Stricter enforcement measures.
More eligibility requirements.
More reviews of the First Nation's record-keeping.
The audit also noted "significant staff turnover" that had resulted in a "corporate memory loss" for transactions reported prior to 2010.

Some of the details of specific transactions are blacked out in the copy obtained by CBC News, but in some cases, the report shows expenditures of five and six figures without any supporting documentation found by the audit.

Deloitte reported its finding to Spence in late August. It's not known what she or the band council did in response to the findings.

State of emergency declared last winter
The Attawapiskat First Nation was placed under co-management more than a decade ago - a measure taken by the federal government to attempt to improve financial administration.

The band's co-manager, Clayton Kennedy, acknowledged being in a romantic relationship with the band's chief, Spence. But he denied any conflict of interest.

Spence declared a state of emergency on the reserve in the fall of 2011, citing a critical need for housing.

On Nov. 30, 2011, the federal government appointed a third-party manager to oversee the band's operations, citing urgent health and safety issues and a need for immediate action to remedy the problems. Spence and the band council tried to block the move with a court injunction.

Amid much media coverage, the government pledged to provide emergency housing. About two dozen modular homes were built and trucked to the community over last winter's ice roads.

The third-party manager was removed April 19, 2012, based on progress that was made and the fact the First Nation returned to co-management.

PM to meet with chiefs from First Nations
Spence has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, camped out in an aboriginal education centre on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River between downtown Ottawa and Gatineau, Que. She's demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston to discuss what she characterizes as "treaty issues" between First Nations and the Crown.

Harper agreed to meet with chiefs from First Nations this Friday and Spence has said she will attend, but is not giving up her hunger strike until she sees the outcome of the meeting.

On Friday, reporters asked Grand Chief Stan Louttit, who represents the northern Ontario region that includes Attawapiskat, about the status of the audit, which the band council agreed to when the First Nations problems first came under scrutiny.

"It is very, very difficult to do business in a remote community," Louttit said. "The average Canadian out there, they see millions and millions, and they just get concerned and said, 'Hey, there's something going on there.'

"But I challenge those people, come to the community and look at the books, and come and live there for a couple of weeks and you'll see," he said.

"The audit speaks for itself," said Jan O'Driscoll, the press secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. "We agree with its conclusions and recommendations."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/4/2013 4:41 PM
Subject: Fwd: Chief Theresa Spence Availability - January 4, 2013
Attachments: 20130104D.wpd; HQ Inform.vcf

Jim Hurcomb

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>>> "MQ" <mq@mediaqin.com> 1/4/2013 3:52 PM >>>

Good Afternoon,

Attached is the transcript of a media availability with Chief Theresa Spence, to formally respond to the Prime Minister's intention to meet with First Nations leaders, that took place January 4, 2013.

Please note, inaudibles in the transcript are due the event not being mic'd and the organizers keeping the media at a distance to Chief Spence making some of the comments made inaudible.

Thanks and regards,

Dave Fletcher

Media Q Inc.
802-165 Sparks St, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5B9
Tel: 613-237-3123
Fax: 613-237-9234
Email: mq@mediaqin.com

From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: John Schmied; Leea Litzgus; Peter Jones; Robert Maguire; Susan Bertr...
Date: 1/2/2013 1:58 PM
Subject: Fwd: Request from UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya for information on Chief Spence's hunger strike
Attachments: Request from UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya for information on Chief Spence's hunger strike

FYI and for the chronology please

From: Dana Peterson (Leea Litzgus)
To: Gloria Blizzard
Date: 1/11/2013 8:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: Review of morning media summary Jan. 11, 2013

thought you might find this interesting

>>> John Schmied 1/11/2013 8:35 AM >>>
Good morning,

Of the 52 top stories circulated by HQ this a.m., 50 are related to today's meeting with the Prime Minister, or Idle No More protests (representative stories #3 and #4).
Two additional stories carry potential collateral impact for the Region.

John

1. Band's ex-finance chief had money problems (Montreal Gazette) - *Attawapiskat FN's former co-manager declared bankruptcy five years*
before he took on the job. He declared debts of $24,380 and assets of $2,403 in his September 1996 bankruptcy filing.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's romantic partner - once in charge of the books at the troubled northern Ontario
reserve - has had his own money problems in the past.
Public records show Clayton Kennedy declared bankruptcy five years before he became the band's money man. He
declared debts of $24,380 and assets of $2,403 in his September 1996 bankruptcy filing.
Kennedy's money problems come to light as Attawapiskat and Spence face questions over a scathing audit of the
band's books that found a missing paper trail for millions of dollars between 2005 and 2011.
Part of the period covered by the Deloitte audit overlaps with Kennedy's second tenure as the band's co-manager.
Between 2001 and 2004, Kennedy was the band's director of finance, co-manager and band manager. He returned as
the band's co-manager and director of finance in July 2010 before leaving the job last summer.
Kennedy refused to speak about the bankruptcy when contacted by the Canadian Press.
A one-page summary available through the website of the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada provides
no further details about the nature of Kennedy's financial issues.
The bankruptcy office says Kennedy's paper file was destroyed last October. The office keeps hard copies of
bankruptcy records only for a limited time.
Kennedy defended the band's accounting practices in an interview this week with the Aboriginal Peoples Television
Network (APTN).
"If everyone is so concerned about the lack of documentation, then fine, come back, start contacting the suppliers, go
through the banks, get into it in a little more detail because I don't think you'll find any misappropriation of funds," he told
the network.
Kennedy completed four of the five necessary levels of training to be a certified general accountant between 1973 and
1979, according to an affidavit he swore after Spence declared a state of emergency over a housing shortage in
Attawapiskat.

Neither CGA Canada nor its provincial affiliates in Ontario and Manitoba - professional bodies that grant the CGA
designation - could find any record of Kennedy taking courses to become a certified general accountant.
"As far as our records show, there is no record of this individual as a member, a member in good standing, a certified
general accountant - whichever you want to phrase it - or as a student," said Amy Mulhern, a spokewoman for the Ontario
organization.
"That could also be that records dating back 40 years are pretty hard to find, if they haven't already been shredded or
destroyed at this point."
He says he has worked for several other First Nations in finance, project management and administration since 2000.
Documents show Kennedy incorporated a business called Moo Shum Enterprises in October 2003 - roughly two years
after he first started working in Attawapiskat.
In his affidavit, Kennedy said the company provides "expertise and advice primarily in the areas of finance and management."
The contract between Kennedy's company and the band shows he earned $850 a day. He told APTN that is well below
the going rate.

2. First nation, Winnipeg battle over water (Globe and Mail) - *Shoal Lake No. 40 Chief Erwin Redsky delivered a letter
to Stephen Harper on Thursday asking the Prime Minister to uphold the federal government's treaty obligations to Shoal Lake 40
in the face of anticipated pressure from the City of Winnipeg to expedite the approval process.*

Their community sits on a lake that has been the source of Winnipeg's drinking water for nearly a century, but residents
of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation still rely on bottled water brought in from Kenora, Ont. And despite their location in a region
popular with cottagers - about a two-hour drive west from Winnipeg - residents have been unable to benefit from tourism
because of concerns that development in the area could diminish the quality of water bound for the capital.
Now, a proposal by the City of Winnipeg to sell some of the water it draws from Shoal Lake to neighbouring
municipalities has the community frustrated and seeking support from the federal government as it tries to challenge those plans.
Chief Erwin Redsky delivered a letter to Stephen Harper on Thursday asking the Prime Minister to uphold the federal
government's treaty obligations to Shoal Lake 40 in the face of anticipated pressure from the City of Winnipeg to expedite
the approval process.
Mr. Redsky says his community's situation is symbolic of the broken relationship with the Crown often cited by those
involved in the Idle No More movement. With residents displaced and shut out from economic opportunities on their own
shores, he says Ottawa has repeatedly failed to uphold its fiduciary duty to protect the community's interests.
"We hope that this time around [the Prime Minister] will act in the best interests of first nations and our rights," he said.
The Shoal Lake dispute dates back to a century-old order by the International Joint Commission, a U.S. and Canadian

body that oversees shared-water issues. In 1914, the commission allowed Winnipeg to build an aqueduct to carry drinking
and sanitation water to the city from Shoal Lake.
Mr. Redsky says residents of Shoal Lake 40 were forced off their original village site by the construction of the
aqueduct. They moved to a nearby peninsula that straddled the border of Ontario and Manitoba, but that land became an
island when a diversion canal was built to channel swampy water away from the intake pipe, isolating the community and
forcing its members to cross the water or ice to accomplish tasks as basic as grocery shopping.
The community has also been stymied for decades in its attempts to develop a local economy, according to Mr. Redsky.
Commercial fishing was halted in Shoal Lake in the early 1980s, and a proposal to build cottages was opposed by the
City of Winnipeg, which feared the development would hurt its water supply.
Shoal Lake 40 eventually signed a deal with the city and the province agreeing to limit Shoal Lake 40 developments in
exchange for support from Winnipeg and Manitoba in pursuing alternative economic opportunities - something Mr. Redsky
says has yielded little in the way of employment opportunities so far.
After the City of Winnipeg announced plans to send some of the water it draws from Shoal Lake to neighbouring
municipalities through a shared services agreement, nearby Iskatewizaagegan 39 First Nation sought a judicial review,
which Shoal Lake 40 later joined.
The International Joint Commission wrote to the city last year, pointing out that the original, 1914 order that allowed it to
take water from Shoal Lake indicated that water was to be used to meet the city's drinking and sanitation needs. "The
provision of this water to neighbouring municipalities for the purposes of revenue generation appears to be inconsistent"
with that order, the letter states.
The city did not respond to questions about its plans on Thursday, citing ongoing litigation and preparation of its
submission to the commission.
But last month, the city's executive policy committee recommended that staff look to the federal government, the
province and neighbouring municipalities for support in its plans to request an "expedited decision" from the commission.
Genevieve Guibert, a spokeswoman from the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs, said the dispute is a matter for
the city, the province and the first nations to work out, adding, "We encourage them to work toward a mutually
acceptable solution." The department did not respond to other questions on Thursday.
Mr. Redsky said he hopes the federal government will support his community's efforts to ensure Winnipeg's plans get a
full commission review.
"That's all we want. You know, we want a fair hearing. We want the city, the province and Canada to understand our
situation," Mr. Redsky said. "It's devastating what my community has faced the past 100 years - and it continues to this
day."

3. Come to us, chiefs demand of Harper (Canadian Press) - *AFN's Shawn Atleo on Thursday night called for unity among*

First Nation Chiefs in advance of today's meeting with the Prime Minister. He admitted that the membership of the Assembly
of First Nations was divided.

A cloud of confusion has descended over a First Nations meeting with the Prime Minister on Friday, with several chiefs demanding that Stephen Harper meet them on their own turf on their own terms.
One region after another declared that it was supporting Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence in her call to refuse a
meeting with Mr. Harper unless Gov.-Gen. David Johnston was at his side. Their stand leaves the head of Canada's
largest aboriginal group - National Chief Shawn Atleo - largely isolated.
The internal turmoil is over logistics and process, and not over policy. After days and days of discussions, the chiefs and
delegates actually have a consensus on what their demands would be, if the prime minister and governor general ever do
meet with them.
As chief after chief got up to announce support for Chief Spence, who has been on a liquid diet since Dec. 11, Chief
Atleo eventually took the microphone on Thursday night to plea for unity. He admitted he had made mistakes and that the
membership of the Assembly of First Nations was divided. What he left unsaid was whether any meeting with Mr. Harper
would take place at all, or how he would proceed.
"This is not a perfect organization and I am not a perfect person. I accept a share of responsibility and I have responded
to criticisms from last January," Chief Atleo told a rowdy, crowded room of chiefs and delegates.
"We need to continue to stand united - chiefs, delegates.... If we are to be divided at a moment like this, the
governments will see that."
He then left the conference hall, with insiders indicating he would work through the night with his executives in order to
figure out the best way forward.
Some of his allies insisted he would meet with Mr. Harper and cabinet ministers as planned on Friday afternoon - in
private, in the prime minister's office with a relatively small delegation of chiefs.
Mr. Harper and a handful of ministers agreed to meet aboriginal leaders behind the Idle No More movement for four
hours on Friday. The Governor General has agreed to play host to them later in the day, at a separate ceremonial
meeting.
Chief Atleo himself suggested he would hold the meeting, and then push for a broader meeting on Jan. 24, and a
commitment to hold broad, open meetings with chiefs at regular intervals.
"We need them to commit to sit with you on a regular, ongoing basis, look you in the eye the way it was done in the
treaty-making, in a sacred manner. And let's transform this relationship. Because our kids are dependent on every single
one of us," he said.
But other chiefs said the only way any legitimate conversation would take place on Friday is if Mr. Harper and Gov.-Gen.
Johnston come to them, in a large open venue.
"The door's open. We expect the [prime] minister to come here and meet with us," said Murray Clearsky, southern grand
chief from Manitoba.
"If he doesn't we'll probably have to go home and regroup."
Chief Atleo's rival from last summer's elections for national chief was delighted with the turn of events.

"This is all good. We are standing up for our people again. The chiefs have said we're the decision-makers. We're going
to have a nation-to-nation relationship and this is good for our people. This is what they asked for," said Pam Palmater, an
expert in indigenous governance who is also a de facto spokeswoman for the Idle No More movement of grassroots
protesters.
"The chiefs have said we're not meeting with Harper. So if AFN decided to meet with Harper, it wouldn't be a valid
meeting. Because the AFN only has authority when chiefs give them authority. The chiefs have said we don't give them
that authority."

4. Several chiefs plan boycott of meeting with Harper (Saskatoon Star-Phoenix) - *A much-anticipated meeting Friday
between the Assembly of First Nations and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was hanging by a thread late Thursday, with the
AFN national chief still slated to attend, but several regions saying their chiefs would boycott the gathering - apparently including Saskatchewan's.*

A much-anticipated meeting Friday between the Assembly of First Nations and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was
hanging by a thread late Thursday, with the AFN national chief still slated to attend, but several regions saying their chiefs
would boycott the gathering - apparently including Saskatchewan's.
Regional representatives from Saskatchewan, the birthplace of the Idle No More protest movement, Ontario and
Manitoba have all said they will likely not attend Friday's meeting
AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo made an impassioned speech to a room full of about 200 chiefs at a downtown Ottawa
hotel Thursday night, praising the protesters and saying that he would press the government on treaty rights and for a
better revenue sharing model for resource development.
While Atleo was still to meet Harper, he said he wouldn't dictate which First Nations should go to the meeting. Atleo said
he was ready to take a hard stand with the Harper government if it failed to provide tangible results for First Nations
communities.
The tough talk and emotional pleas threatened to scuttle progress at a meeting that was hastily arranged after Harper
agreed to it one week ago.
Chiefs from Manitoba had taken a hard line on how the meeting should be structured, saying that a face-to-face with
Harper wasn't enough: they insisted Gov. Gen. David Johnston had to attend as well.
Sharp divisions were evident as up to 200 chiefs gathered at the hotel Thursday evening. Several chanted "support
Chief (Theresa) Spence," the chief from Attawapiskat, in northern Ontario, who has been declining to eat solid foods for a
month.
"No longer will the prime minister dictate to us," said Onion Lake First Nation Chief Wallace Fox.
"If we have to shut down this economy, then we will."
Atleo told the assembled chiefs at the hotel that last January's landmark Crown-First Nations gathering had no real
dialogue. If the same thing happens again, the government's billion-dollar resource development plans "will not be

realized" he said.
"This is an imperfect organization. I am an imperfect person," Atleo said. "I met with the executive of the Assembly of
First Nations ... (and) we will continue to press for the kind of response we've been asking for."
Earlier in the day, Atleo called the planned meeting a "moment unlike any other" in the history of Crown-First Nations
relations, and insisted that aboriginals and non-aboriginals alike "must be seized by this moment."
"There's no going back to where we've come from before this moment," Atleo told an afternoon news conference. "If the
Crown does not respond, if we don't find that Canadians are joining us and seeking to do the hard work of reconciliation, I
am concerned about the safety of our people."
"This is a fork in the road," he added. "This is the moment of reckoning and the tipping point that for so long we've said
was coming."
Harper and a handful of ministers have agreed to meet aboriginal leaders, including Atleo, for approximately four hours
on Friday. The Governor General has agreed to play host to them later in the day, at a separate ceremonial meeting.
The AFN leadership had insisted early Thursday that the meeting take place. Failure to even attend the meeting - and therefore
failing to achieve any results at all - would only exacerbate feelings of discontent and disconnect between aboriginals and a government they believe acts unilaterally without properly considering the impacts on First Nations
communities, the AFN said.
"This meeting must take place. It certainly isn't going to solve all of our challenges," said AFN British Columbia
Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould. "We look to the prime minister to be at the meeting, we look to him to make some
fundamental commitments. It's too important. Our people can't wait. We hear the voices of Idle No More ... We have to
have these discussions."
The AFN was still discussing what, exactly, it wanted out of the meeting. Generally, First Nations leaders seek a new
agreement on resource development in which aboriginals would have a greater say in how development takes place, as
well as earning more money from resource extraction on their territorial lands. Adding such revenues to a band council's
pockets would help, for example, build a school on every reserve and better fund education, Atleo said.
Also needed at Friday's meeting, Atleo said, is a "high-level" commitment from the government to create a long-term
plan to consult, meet, track and evaluate the progress on issues facing aboriginal reserves. That, the AFN believes,
would require a new "machinery of government" to be placed either inside the Prime Minister's Office or in the Privy
Council Office, the central bureaucracy that assists the prime minister and cabinet.
The Prime Minister's Office said Friday's four-hour working meeting with First Nations chiefs would be held at the
Langevin Block - across from Parliament Hill - and would be closed to media. Some chiefs tried in vain Thursday to have
Harper meet them at their downtown hotel. Then they demanded a larger venue for the meeting. The government has
said it has no idea how many chiefs will attend the meeting.
Harper was to hold a 30-minute opening session with Atleo Friday. That was to be followed by a session on the treaty
relationship and on aboriginal rights and economic development, which will be chaired by Aboriginal

Affairs
Minister John Duncan, Treasury Board president Tony Clement, and AFN regional chiefs Perry Bellegarde and Wilson-
Raybould.
It is during this session that chiefs from across the country were expected to present their specific treaty issues and
requests.
Harper and Atleo were to then join a broader discussion on the issues in late afternoon, setting the stage for another
First Nations-Crown gathering, likely around April, according to one regional chief.
"Our mandate tomorrow is to bring out a plan, a national plan on how we're going to deal with these issues," said Eel
Ground First Nation Chief Roger Augustine, the AFN regional chief for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
Johnston was to hold a "ceremonial meeting" at Rideau Hall on Friday evening, "following the working meeting with the
prime minister and government officials," according to a statement from Rideau Hall.
Manitoba First Nations chiefs and Spence had indicated early Thursday that they were boycotting Friday's meeting
with the prime minister unless Johnston was in the room with Harper. Spence was still declining solid food Thursday night.
A fiery Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak said his chiefs were looking for more than a minor policy shift Friday; they
want a major change in the relationship between the federal government and First Nations. He said he wanted to see a
new revenue-sharing model between First Nations and provincial and federal governments, along with co-management
between aboriginals and other governments of resource extraction, a key component of Harper's economic
development policy.
Nepinak said if the government didn't acquiesce to demands, aboriginals and the Idle No More protest movement had
the "people and numbers that can bring the Canadian economy to its knees."
"These are demands, not requests," he said. "We're demanding (Harper) agree with us because we have the true
power."

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/8/2013 10:03 PM
Subject: Global News: Chief counters release of Attawapiskat audit with explicit demands from feds for change
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Chief counters release of Attawapiskat audit with explicit demands from feds for change
Bruce Cheadle and Stephanie Levitz

OTTAWA -- The battle over the plight of Canada's First Nations escalated Monday amid accusations of a cynical public relations ploy by the Harper government and new demands by a hunger-striking chief.

Chief Theresa Spence, who has been on a liquid diet since Dec. 11, said she now wants elements of the Conservatives' latest omnibus budget bill repealed as soon as MPs return to Ottawa at the end of the month.

Spence had previously been seeking only a meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Governor General and First Nations leaders to discuss outstanding treaty matters.

"We are asking that the legislation related to (native) lands encoded in Bill C-45 must be rescinded as soon as Parliament resumes," Spence said in a release.

The new demand comes as Ottawa releases a scathing audit of tens of millions of dollars in spending on Spence's Attawapiskat reserve, a troubled community on the shores of James Bay in northern Ontario.

The audit details an absence of basic accounting by the band council and ongoing indifference by federal government departments.

Spence's release called the leaked audit "no more than a distraction of the true issue ... to discredit Chief Spence who is willing to lay down her life for a larger cause."

Her spokesman, Danny Metatawabin, had earlier accused the Harper Conservatives of "trying to undermine the process here, the movement of the people."

The Deloitte audit -- released publicly Monday by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development after being leaked to select media outlets on the weekend -- catalogues more than $109 million in spending over almost seven years, much of it poorly documented, undocumented, or questionable.

The timing is explosive.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper agreed last Friday to meet with aboriginal leaders on Jan. 11. And while Harper was careful not to link the meeting to Spence's hunger protest, his decision was widely seen as a concession.

The damning audit was similarly interpreted as the Prime Minister's Office pushing back in the war for public opinion.

While the government was required to release the audit by the middle of the month, the way it came to light is questionable, said NDP MP Paul Dewar, who described the report's release as a political choice, not one driven by policy.

"They prefer not to deal with problems; instead, they turn it into one of their political equations," Dewar said.

"It's brass-knuckle politics."

Repeated reports from the federal auditor general have highlighted financial reporting issues for First Nations since at a least 2002.

Carolyn Bennett, the Liberal critic for aboriginal affairs, said if the department was doing its job and became dissatisfied with spending documentation, "then the government can ask for (documentation) before it sends any more money."

The Attawapiskat audit was commissioned by Ottawa in December 2011 after Spence, with winter approaching, declared a state of emergency over concerns about unsafe housing conditions in her remote community of about 1,800 residents.

The Conservatives questioned why the problem existed, given the millions provided to Attawapiskat over the years, and Ottawa briefly imposed an external manager on the band.

The Deloitte audit is the only comprehensive analysis of a band's finances that the government has posted on its website. It is unclear whether other First Nations have ever come under the same level of independent scrutiny, although three smaller reviews were undertaken last year of different bands after allegations of misspending.

Spence was first apprised of the audit's findings last Aug. 28 in a letter in which the Deloitte auditor wrote that "there is no evidence of due diligence in the use of public funds, including funds for housing."

"In our opinion, having over 80 per cent of selected transactions lacking any or proper supporting documentation is inappropriate for any recipient of public funds."

According to Aboriginal Affairs, only 46 of Attawapiskat's 316 housing units are considered adequate, while another 146 need major work and 122 are placement.

The audit is not likely to burnish Spence's credentials as a high-profile native advocate.

Last February she wrote a public letter to the Queen, complaining that the federal government "has taken the position that the First Nation mishandled its funding."

"This is simply not true," Spence asserted.

Among the sample 505 transactions a Deloitte auditor examined from April 2005 through November 2011, fewer than 20 per cent could be fully tracked and documented -- and 61 per cent had no documentation at all explaining the reason for payment.

The sample of transactions includes $2.2 million spent on consultants, with two thirds of the 26 payments improperly documented.

"The independent audit ... speaks for itself, and we accept its conclusions and recommendations," said Jan O'Driscoll, a spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan.

Those conclusions include some questions for federal officials as well as band management.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a Crown agency, must conduct a physical inspection of housing units every five years and found "abnormal and accelerated deterioration of housing units" at Attawapiskat. CMHC also found housing management issues in a separate 2010 audit.

None of these findings were reported to Aboriginal Affairs, says the audit, because CMHC only passed along such reports "if CMHC deemed there were significant issues or concerns."

The audit dryly adds that "despite the nature of the findings noted by CMHC," no reports were kicked up the chain to the Aboriginal Affairs department.

The audit also found that only $3.6 million of Attawapiskat's $6.85 million in core capital housing funding was actually spent on house renovations and maintenance, with the rest being used for debt repayments. The practice, it found, is common among First Nations and Aboriginal Affairs is well aware of it.

The audit recommends the federal department no longer allow housing maintenance funds to be used for debt servicing.

That the audit pointed out the federal government also has a responsibility for oversight shouldn't be overlooked, Dewar said.

"At the end of the day, that means political accountability."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: Global News: Skepticism surrounds Harper meeting with First Nations
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Skepticism surrounds Harper meeting with First Nations
Derek Abma, Global News

OTTAWA - The meeting on Friday between First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Harper has consumed headlines for weeks, but experts - and Canadians themselves - are doubtful that progress will be made.

Survey results released Wednesday from Angus Reid Public Opinion show 55 per cent of those surveyed think this week's meeting will be "unsuccessful," versus 27 per cent who think it will be "successful" and 18 per cent who are unsure.

"I think the problem lies in the fact that we've done this before," said Angus Reid vice-president Mario Canseco. "We had all of the discussions about the Kelowna accord and things were supposed to be different. We were going to have a new relationship with the aboriginal communities, and then nothing came out of it."

The Kelowna accord was an agreement reached between the federal and provincial governments with aboriginal groups in 2005, which was never implemented after Liberal prime minister Paul Martin was defeated by the Harper Conservatives in the 2006 election.

The lack of optimism over Friday's meeting is shared by Robert Lovelace, former chief of the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation in eastern Ontario and currently a professor of aboriginal studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont.

"Most (native) people on the street, most people at the grassroots . . . they don't expect anything to come of this meeting," he said in an interview with Global News.

The survey comes after about a month of protests from the Idle No More movement, the demonstration of Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence in Ottawa of not eating solid food and a damning independent audit of financial management in her northern Ontario reserve.

Steve Courtoreille, chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation in northern Alberta, who was in Ottawa this week to file a court challenge against recent changes to federal environmental laws, told journalists on Tuesday that "nothing will happen" at Friday's meeting.

Lovelace went as far as to say the lack of substance from the meeting could set the stage for the dissolution of the Assembly of First Nations.

"In private, (Harper) is going to read the riot act to (Assembly of First Nations National Chief) Shawn Atleo and a few chiefs who he thinks he can bully into getting Indians back in line," he said.

"(Harper) is going to say, 'Get in line. We're going to create some photo ops and we're going to create an agenda that we can say is the right track to go, and you're going to settle everything else down,' " said Lovelace, addressing hopes that this meeting might put an end to Idle No More protests that have been happening across Canada.

Lovelace said other natives will see through the charade and this could be devastating to the legitimacy of the Assembly of First Nations.

Claude Denis, a professor of political studies at the University of Ottawa, said he expects minimal

progress at Friday's meeting largely because of the fundamentally different visions the government and native leaders have about what progress would look like.

"The gap is bigger than it's been in 30 years in terms of visions between the government and aboriginal people," he said.

"The way to economic development (for aboriginals) in the mind of the prime minister is through individual initiative, business, the freeing of the markets, etc., which means, among other things, changing the laws on land ownership and control on reserves and, more broadly, aboriginal land.

"Whereas aboriginal communities, and especially First Nations, are thinking in terms of basically political sovereignty as a prerequisite for them to engage in the kind of economic development that they want to design for themselves, not just follow the same route that right-wing economics would have them take."

In the survey, 43 per cent of those polled said relations between the federal government and aboriginals have worsened since 2006, when the Tories came to power. That compares to 38 per cent who said relations have stayed the same, seven per cent who said they have improved and 12 per cent who were not sure.

Canseco said the public puts blame on both the federal government and First Nations leaders for the current state of affairs, and this also plays into why they are not optimistic about this week's meeting.

"(The public is) not really convinced that the federal government will do what it needs to do to assuage concerns, and there's not a lot of confidence in the way First Nations leaders are going to be dealing with this," Canseco said. "It's almost a combination of 'we don't like the way either of them are doing things. How can we expect something good to happen when we don't trust either side?' "

The Angus Reid survey was done online with 1,008 respondents between Jan. 7 and 8. The results are considered to accurately reflect the population within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: Global West Block: Interview with Pam Palmater
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

>>Tom: Let's bring in Pam Palmater. She's a lawyer and spokesperson for the Idle No More movement. A lot of people looking at these images of the delays and disruptions on the border in particular might ask how on earth is that helping your cause? How is it getting public opinion on your side?

>>Palmater: When you think about it what we're trying to do is educate Americans and Canadians about how the Harper government's omnibus bills will impact both sides of the border. It is really hard to educate on the other side of the border when, you know, Canadian issues are not very high-profile. So by causing temporary, minor border slowdowns and handing out leaflets and giving out information, that's a direct way of informing both Americans and Canadians about what is happening. The ones that we have done in the past have been very successful, including the temporary highway and rail slowdowns and in some of those slowdowns we actually have people get out of their cars and join us on these slowdowns and want to ask more questions.

>> Tom: Let's go to the heart of the isue here. That is, what is the ultimate objective? What are you hoping to achieve? What is that one thing that the Prime Minister can say that will make you go ah, there we are. Situation resolved?

>>Palmater: There's nothing he can say that's going to say situation resolved because that's all we ever get from politicians is all of their flowery wording, and similarly, one meeting that's being called a first step isn't going to cut it either because we have had 5,000 first steps. What we need is the next step forward, an actual commitment to action. So I think at this meeting, the best Prime Minister Harper could do is come in and say, listen, we're going to put some good faith on the table and here it is. We will deal with the crisis in First Nation communities around lack of water, housing, sanitation, education, and we're going to do that immediately. And then we're going to set up a longer term process to deal with how we're going to deal with the lands and resources. If he made an actual commitment to that, that would be some form of success.

>> Tom: You mentioned Bill C-45, that was the budget implementation act, the omnibus bill. Are you calling on the government to withdraw the budget implementation act?

>>Palmater: Oh, yeah, at least the provisions that impact the lands, waters and First Nations, because it is not just C-45 and C-38, for example, there's about 14 pieces of legislation that's being imposed on First Nations without their knowledge, consent, and against their will. That's a very easy thing for the Prime Minister to do. All of those bills that haven't passed yet. Take them off the table until they get First Nation consent.

>>Tom: How in the end does all this end? Is there ever an end to this?

>>Palmater: Well, that's the whole point of this movement, and why we're asking Canadians to stand beside us, because we have got to deal with this treaty relationship once and for all. I mean, we started out with nation-to-nation relationships, we made a treaty promise to share the lands and resources, that we would all have wealth and prosperity. So far it has only been Canada. First Nations remain at the bottom of all socioeconomic indicators. That's not a just relationship. We need to work it out. Nobody wants to be here perpetually. We have to do something. There will be a greater flash point in the future.

>> Tom: Here is what might be an obvious question to some, and that is that if we have a number of northern communities, native communities that are uneconomic, that have got sort of systemic problems, why not move some of those communities? It has happened in other parts of Canada, when communities become non-sustainable. Is that something that might be looked at as well?

>>Palmater: I would say no, because you have to look at the root causes of the extreme poverty in those northern communities. Is it their location? Nine times out of 10, these northern communities are located next to diamond mines, oilfields, chromium deposits, they're in some of the most wealthiest places in Canada. The issue isn't the resources, it is that those resources aren't being shared with those communities and everybody else but those communities are benefiting from it. When you think about it, these communities are 100 percent controlled by Indian Affairs. Indian Affairs and the Indian Act has controlled everything that happens on First Nations for the last 150 years. So if there's any finger pointing to be done it is to look at the giant 5,000 person Indian Affairs bureaucracy and say, you are not doing your job.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Date: 1/16/2013 9:19 PM
Subject: Globe and Mail: First nations' growing voice pressures resource sector
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

First nations' growing voice pressures resource sector
By SHAWN McCARTHY

Virtually all the estimated $650-billion worth of resource projects that could be undertaken in the next decade involve native land claims or treaty rights

Canada's energy and mining companies are facing new challenges from first nations that are demanding the right to approve all resource projects on traditional territories and to participate in the revenues.

Saskatchewan Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde on Wednesday called on governments not to approve leases or other exploration rights unless companies can demonstrate they have properly consulted local aboriginal communities. He said resource companies should bring first nations into their planning at the earliest possible stages, and be prepared to treat them as full partners in development.

"We have to be involved in the economy - fully and no longer marginalized," Mr. Bellegarde said. "Because if we keep talking about self-determination as indigenous peoples, that's got to be linked to self-sufficiency."

Spurred by "Idle No More" protests, many of the country's chiefs met last week with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who committed to work more closely with them on treaty rights and economic development.

Chief Bellegarde is the lead spokesman for the Assembly of First Nations on treaty rights, and his comments echo demands from chiefs and protesters alike that aboriginal people must be given greater control over their traditional territory.

Ottawa has estimated there is $650-billion worth of resource projects that could be undertaken in the next decade, but virtually all of them involve native land claims or treaty rights, and will require companies and governments at the very least to consult and accommodate first nations before shovels can go into the ground.

First nations are increasingly resorting to legal challenges and direct action - such as protests and blockades of railroads and major highways - and some chiefs are threatening to disrupt economic activity to back their demands for a better deal from Canada.

Aboriginal leaders want the federal government to lead provinces and territories toward changes that would provide a share of resource revenues to their communities to finance social and economic development.

"The feds can help drive it in terms of a national strategy working with the premiers and first nations people throughout the different territories and provinces," Mr. Bellegarde said. "Under treaty, we didn't cede, surrender or relinquish everything - we agreed to share the land and resources," he said.

But Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said Ottawa has little role in the discussion of resource revenue sharing since it provinces own resources under Canada's constitution. And he ruled out any deal to dedicate a share of his province's substantial resource revenue with first nations.

"Our position will remain unchanged as long as I am premier, as long as this government is in office, that there will be no special deals for any group regardless of that group in terms of natural resource revenue sharing," Mr. Wall told reporters in Regina. The premier said aboriginal Canadians benefit from the

allocation of that revenue into roads, schools and hospitals, just as non-aboriginals do.

However, the premier said he is determined to see first nations participate more fully in the province's economy, especially with greater education and training.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan agreed that the provinces will have to deal directly with first nations on revenue sharing. But the federal minister said Ottawa will work with the provinces and industry to ensure aboriginal Canadians benefit fully from the looming opportunities offered by Canada's resource boom.

"We're on the right track but we're not sitting on the status quo," Mr. Duncan said.

"This is what got everybody's attention is that we need these projects to move forward," he said in an interview. "And in order for these projects to move forward, we need to be able to do it in partnership and collaboration. What the first nations are asking for is what we actually need to move forward."

Despite Mr. Duncan's hopeful attitude, aboriginal Canadians are increasingly impatient for real economic progress. And as political impasse threatens, Canada's resources companies face the risk of being caught in a maelstrom that will make project development far tougher, especially since many aboriginal communities are opposed to the federal government's legislation that streamlined environmental reviews for resource projects.

Companies already face obligations to work with first nations as part of the constitutional requirement to "consult and accommodate." Native leaders want to extend that obligation to the need to obtain "free, prior and informed consent" as spelled out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. (Ottawa endorsed the declaration but with a reservation that rejected the requirement for "consent.")

Oil and gas companies have a long history of such consultations, and they don't expect that to change, said David Pryce, vice-president at the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

"We're going to have to operate on the premise of business as usual and we'll see whether or not there are things individual companies need to deal with as they go about that," he said.

In the mining industry, companies routinely negotiate impact benefit agreements, said Pierre Gratton, president of the Mining Association of Canada. Mr. Gratton acknowledged many first nations are becoming more interested in equity stakes and full partnerships.

Jim Hurcomb

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Subject: Globe and Mail: Global TV crew kicked out of Attawapiskat
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

January 8, 2013

By GLORIA GALLOWAY

No outside media will be allowed into the Northern Ontario first-nations community until further notice
A television crew has been kicked out of of Attawapiskat and the woman who is acting as the chief while Theresa Spence is on a hunger strike says no outside media will be allowed into the Northern Ontario first-nations community until further notice.

A team from Global News in Toronto was given their marching orders on Tuesday by Acting Chief Christine Kataquapit.

"We were given instructions by the chief and council that we won't allow media until further notice in our community," Ms. Kataquapit told The Globe and Mail in a telephone interview.

A day earlier, an audit ordered by the federal government that found widespread bookkeeping irregularities in Attawapiskat's financial records between 2005 and 2011, was leaked to the media.

The audit by Deloitte did not find any evidence that funds had been misappropriated. But Ms. Spence, who has been subsisting on a diet of fish broth and herbal tea in Ottawa for four weeks to force a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor-General David Johnston, said its release was designed to discredit her.

It was the audit that led to the media ban, said Ms. Kataquapit. "We are just going to wait for the results of Chief Spence's meeting with the Prime Minister and government officials on Friday," before deciding if media will be allowed back into Attawapiskat, she said.

It could be a long wait. Mr. Johnston's office said Tuesday that he will not be at the meeting and Ms. Spence's spokesman said that means she may also decide not to show up.

But the Global team has been sent home. Jen Tryon, Global National's senior investigative correspondent, told Global anchor Dawna Friesen that she and her camera crew had just arrived at the hotel in Attawapiskat when they were told to leave by Ms. Kataquapit.

"We sort of laughed, thinking, joking," said Ms. Tryon, "but then she said the chief asked all media to leave the community. We looked at ourselves and realized it wasn't a joke, and they weren't going to allow anyone to speak to the media."

Ms. Kataquapit apparently called the police who told the news crew they would be arrested for trespassing and breaching peace if they didn't leave. The reporters were then escorted to the airport.

"A community member said, as we were waiting for the police to arrive, that he was shocked that this was going on," Ms. Tryon told Ms. Friesen. "Prior to this happening, we had gotten a welcome response from the community. They were eager to talk about what the audit was really about - how it wasn't showing the full picture of what was happening in Attawapiksat."

Although many first nations are accustomed to outsiders driving through their communities, the fly-in reserves in the North usually demand that any visitors receive an invitation from the chief or council before they arrive. The reserves are the property of the first nations.

Ms. Kataquapit said the Global team did not ask for that permission. "They just came in," she said, "and we just received a call from a band member here saying there was media in town."

Ms. Tryon told The Globe she called the band office on Monday and got no response then went to the office immediately after landing but there was no one there.

"And to be honest, I didn't think it was going to be that big a deal just showing up," she said, "because we just showed up the last time we came to Attawapiskat and it was fine."

The problems of Attawapiskat go back many decades. But it was media coverage last year that brought the deplorable living conditions of some of the community's members to international attention.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: globeandmail.com: First nations groups launch blockades, protests in Idle No More day of action
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

January 16, 2013
First nations groups launch blockades, protests in Idle No More day of action
By GLORIA GALLOWAY AND OLIVER MOORE

First nations groups launch blockades, protests in Idle No More day of action
Protests prompted by first-nations frustration with the federal government flared in at least five provinces Wednesday.

The "day of action" began quietly, but by mid-morning police in Ontario had restricted access to a major highway near Windsor, preparing for natives converging on the Ambassador Bridge to the United States. Police there said they expected the protest to be peaceful and not to block the bridge, which is the major trade crossing between Canada and the United States. But with hundreds expected, delays for motorists on the 401 may be inevitable.

And Tyendinaga Mohawks said they will shut down CP and CN rail at 1 p.m. The location and planned duration of the protest were not immediately clear.

The demonstrations were only a few of many planned for across the country. According to witnesses and news reports, protests were being held and roads blocked Wednesday in locations from coast to coast.

Earlier Wednesday, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty voiced concern that aboriginal protests could hurt the Canadian economy. Noting that real GDP in Canada is only expected to grow around two per cent this year, efforts should be made to avoid disruptions.

"This is not a time to have even more challenges to the Canadian economy," he said, while taking questions from reporters at an event in Ottawa. "Having said that, we're doing relatively well in the world, but additional challenges are not desirable. In terms of your question about the rule of law, local police forces are responsible for local law enforcement in Canada."

Disruptions were being felt in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick. Among the roads being targeted are an off-ramp of Highway 400 in Barrie, the border-crossing bridge in Sault Ste. Marie, the Pat Bay Highway in Victoria and the Westmoreland Bridge in Fredericton.

Also, the Algonquins of Barriere Lake in Quebec, north of Ottawa, promised to close Highway 117 "to draw attention to forestry operations that they oppose on their lands."

A two-hour blockade was also planned in Edmonton along the northound Queen Elizabeth II Highway, a major route into the city from Calgary. Another blockade was planned along Highway 55 near Cold Lake, a small city in eastern Alberta that's near the southern edge of the oil sands, and is home to a major Imperial Oil facility. Organizers there are pushing for Bills C-45 and C-38 to be rescinded. "We want them to get the message about what they're trying to do," organizer Mervin Grandbois, 55, said.

Chief Gordon Peters of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians has called for blockades of major transportation corridors throughout Ontario because Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused last week to sit down with all of the chiefs who wanted to talk to him about treaty rights and other concerns.

CN rail spokesman Jim Feeny said mid-morning Wednesday that they had seen no disruptions but were keeping a close eye on the entire network. The railway has previously sought injunctions to end

blockades but Mr. Feeny would not say what actions they will take if protesters stop the trains.

Other chiefs have promised blockading demonstrations will be carried out in their own provinces - Manitoba in particular. But Mr. Peters has been cryptic about exactly where blockades might occur - taking a "just watch us" approach.

He says he expects supporters of the grassroots protest group Idle No More to be the foot soldiers of the disruptions. At least one Idle No More organizer has said she opposes blockades and the group has occasionally been critical of first nations leadership. But it is a loosely constructed movement fuelled by the energy of native youth who may well heed Mr. Peters' call to action.

On the other hand, even Mr. Peters says he recognizes that protests such as those Wednesday risk alienating the broader population of Canada who the first nations are counting upon for support as they press for a greater share of resource revenues and increased dialogue with the government. He and other first nations leaders have said they want all demonstrations to be respectful and non-violent.

In a video statement posted online Tuesday, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkmsmjxhzqc&list=uulv1guxffj0wudtzdchsi_g] Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chris Lewis urged restraint by those officers handling protests.

"Whether we like it or not, the first nations people of Ontario have long-time disputes with government and we cannot solve those issues as a police service, he said. "As well, first nations have the ability to paralyze this country, by shutting down travel and trade routes. It is a difficult situation no matter how we view or address it. In policing these events we will be criticized, sometimes from all sides. Our response at all times needs to be measured, professional and sensitive. I'd rather be criticized for a decision to not jeopardize, take or lose lives, than for taking unnecessary aggressive action that undoubtedly will."

He also shot back at critics who have questioned seeming police inaction in the face of militancy, even when the officers had been instructed by court order to end protests, saying that their strategies are "difficult and complex to explain to the general public."

"The overall objective of the OPP is to work with all parties to ensure public and officer safety and to maintain orderly conduct and peace. This isn't us not doing our jobs, as some would have it, but in fact, it is our job," Commissioner Lewis said. "There may be situations requiring our immediate enforcement action, and we will at times do so. But otherwise, we will continue to investigate these incidents and we'll lay charges after the event where appropriate."

Regional chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) say they have struck crisis management teams to ensure that conflicts created by demonstrators do not get out of hand.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, the British Columbia Regional Chief of the AFN will hold a conference call with fellow chiefs Wednesday and is expected to tell them that disrupting the provincial economy is unproductive.

But many indigenous people disagree with her.

Arthur Manuel, the former chief of B.C.'s Neskonlith band, said in an open letter to chiefs and councillors on Tuesday that the British Columbia economy has not benefited indigenous peoples as it has the rest of the population.

"I urge the elected chiefs that support the Idle No More (INM) to get on the call and let the Regional Chief know that the Idle No More is a grassroots movement and that the Chiefs will not become a shield for the province," wrote Mr. Arthur, "especially because the province is unjustly rich and the INM is grassroots moment that is systemically made poor."

A possible closure of the main highway leading to Fort McMurray, Alta., the hub of the oil sands, seems

unlikely to take place - although there were rumblings about that earlier in the week. Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation said Tuesday there are no imminent plans to blockade Highway 63.

"However, the people are upset with the current state of affairs in this country and things are escalating towards more direct action," said Mr. Adam in a statement. "As a leader I have been talking to the people, talking with governments and industry to try and diffuse the situation that is coming to the surface. However, neither government nor industry seems willing to move on the issues and the people have said that enough is enough."

Shawn Atleo, the National Chief of the AFN, is taking time off to recuperate from a severe bout of stomach flu and exhaustion after last week's intense negotiating session with chiefs and then Mr. Harper.

A number of first nations leaders are upset that Mr. Atleo proceeded with the meeting even though Mr. Harper refused to meet the demand of Theresa Spence, the hunger-striking Chief of Attawapiskat, who wanted Governor-General David Johnston to be in the room.

Those schisms within the AFN could come into play in the future as the government tries to negotiate a way out of the unrest that is being demonstrated across the country by supporters of Idle No More.

But the executive of the AFN says the work of preparing for future talks with the government is carrying on in Mr. Atleo's absence and they are holding meetings to plot strategies going forward.

With a report from Bill Curry

Jim Hurcomb

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From: [redacted]
To: Leea Litzgus <Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/8/2013 8:47 PM
Subject: Happy new year and possible visit...

Hi Leea,

I hope you had a restful holiday season and that 2013 is going well so far!
I wanted to touch base with you regarding a possible visit in January.
Providing you are free for a short talk, the kids and I would really appreciate benefitting from your knowledge on Aboriginal issues (especially as of lately we have been talking a lot about the Idle No More movement). The grade sixes have been learning about modern Aboriginal issues such as land claims and some of the challenges of reserve life. In grade five, we have touched upon recent Aboriginal issues in relation to our unit on government. I have tried my best to be culturally sensitive and age appropriate as these are issues that I am particularly passionate about. If there's a time this week or next that you have a few minutes to chat, I would love to speak over the phone to bounce a few ideas off each other about a possible visit.

All the best,

[redacted]

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/14/2013 7:50 AM
Subject: Hill Times: Federal-First Nations relations yet to reach an all-time low
Attachments: HQ Inform2.vcf

Federal-First Nations relations yet to reach an all-time low, but 'with continued stupidity we could make it that way': former Indian Affairs DM
Ex-Indian Affairs bureaucrats critical of last week's politically-motivated timing of Attawapiskat audit release.

Photograph by Steve Gerecke, The Hill Times
Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, who boycotted Friday's meeting with the Prime Minister, makes his way through the thousands of Idle No More protesters blocking the entrance to the PMO.
By CHRIS PLECASH |
Published: Monday, 01/14/2013 12:00 am EST

Former bureaucrats of Indian Affairs and Northern Development are questioning the federal government's tactics in dealing with First Nations chiefs and the Idle No More movement after the release of an audit critical of financial management on Northern Ontario's Attawapiskat reserve just days before Prime Minister Stephen Harper was to sit down with First Nations leaders.

The leaked audit report was first reported by the CBC on the morning of Jan. 7, and was officially released less than three hours later by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AAND).

The CBC's parliamentary bureau declined to comment on its reporting of the leaked audit, and Jan O'Driscoll, spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan (Vancouver Island North, B.C.), would not confirm whether the department had intended to release the report on Jan. 7, or was forced to officially publish the report in response to the leak.

Under Treasury Board guidelines, the audit by accounting firm Deloitte and Touche had to be released within 90 days of it being signed off on by AAND Deputy Minister Michael Wernick on Oct. 16. The report's release could have technically been delayed until Jan. 14 -- three days after Mr. Harper's (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) meeting with Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo and other chiefs from across the country.

Chiefs from Manitoba and Ontario chose to boycott the meeting over the absence of Governor General David Johnston

Asked if he thought the timing of the audit's release was politically motivated, former Indian Affairs deputy minister Harry Swain responded, "Yes," but declined to elaborate, as he continues to serve on the audit committee for the department, which was renamed Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in 2011.

Mr. Swain, who served as deputy minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development during the 1990 Oka standoff, said that the Idle No More movement was much different from the armed standoff between First Nations and Canadian reservists over twenty years ago.

Mr. Swain, author of Oka: A Political Crisis and its Legacy, said that a mixture of militancy on both sides contributed to that crisis.

"It's nothing like that serious yet. With continued stupidity we could make it that way, I suppose, but I don't think we're there yet," he said.

"Those conditions don't apply now. ... It's much more a broad national concern about treaties and rights, and why governments aren't living up to the constitution and what the courts tell them to do," Mr. Swain

said of the Idle No More movement.

Mr. Swain stressed the need for the government to actively address the concerns being expressed by First Nations and aboriginal Canadians.

"There's been a long-standing request, demand, for a serious conversation about what the treaties mean. It's a question of successive governments, not just this one," he said. "If the government were to empower some senior representatives... with a mandate to get out in the field and listen and talk -- and I'd start with listen -- that would go a long way."

The audit, which reviewed more than 500 band transactions between 2005-2006 and 2011-2012, found that 80 per cent of the transactions "lacked any or proper supporting documentation." The impoverished community received $90-million in federal transfers over that time period.

The leak of the report -- whether it was officially approved or not -- caused chaos among First Nations chiefs and within the Victoria Island encampment of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has abstained from solid food for over a month to demand a meeting with Mr. Harper and Mr. Johnston. She was among the chiefs to boycott the meeting over Mr. Johnston's absence.

After weeks of granting media access to the Victoria Island compound, media were tightly restricted by Chief Spence's supporters following the leaked audit.

Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations accused the government of trying to delegitimize First Nations leadership ahead of the Jan. 11 meeting.

"I think the timing of the release, of course is to detract from what we're trying to do regarding inherent and treaty rights," Chief Bellegarde told The Hill Times following a meeting with First Nations chiefs ahead of last Friday's meeting. "If you can muddy waters and throw mud and try to make the First Nations leadership painted with a negative brush--that's what governments always try to do. Strategic words and tactics. They've got a strong media communications strategy and the timing is suspect. No question."

University of Carleton Public Administration professor Robert Shepherd, who has served in various capacities within Aboriginal Affairs and has also done consulting for the department, was also critical of the tactic.

"It just seems that if somebody was really trying to be sensitive in the department, could [they] not have held off on this audit for another week or couple of weeks? Does that really take a lot of effort? I really don't think so," said Prof. Shepherd, who specializes in public management and program evaluation.

He conceded that the audit highlighted problems with financial accountability in Attawapiskat, but said that the findings are partly related to conditions placed on band finances by AANDC.

"Most reserves have challenges in their management in this area, and there are capacity issues across many reserves," Prof. Shepherd explained. "The second part of this is that the level of funding makes bands do some creative things with their financing that may come into question with auditors."

"These are probably for very legitimate purposes, but that's aside from other things the auditor found in Attawapiskat's case where money may have been baldly misdirected of misspent on something... I suspect there's a mix of both - it's just not clear based on the evidence," he said.

Prof. Shepherd said that the financial relationship between bands and the department is "very complicated."

"There's a whole degree of complexity here that's not really coming out. Most of the reporting I've heard is just a simplistic reporting," he observed. "I wish the world was as simple, but it's not."

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Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: Hill Times: Idle No More movement led by aboriginal women
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Idle No More movement led by aboriginal women
And activists say the Idle No More movement is a challenge both to the traditional aboriginal leadership and to the Harper federal government.

CHRIS PLECASH |

Aboriginal women are leading the Idle No More movement, which activists say is as much about challenging traditional aboriginal leadership as it is about challenging the federal government.

Supporters of the month-old national aboriginal movement say that indigenous women's traditional status as decision makers is part of the reason that First Nations and aboriginal women have had such a prominent role in Idle No More.

Diane Kelly, a First Nations lawyer who was one of four women to challenge Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo in the organization's election last summer, said that aboriginal women are playing an important part in organizing and advocating for Idle No More.

"We have a very strong voice and I think this is something that's really brought that voice to the forefront," said Ms. Kelly, former Grand Chief of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3 territory. "[T]here's a lot of educated First Nations and indigenous women that are really moving this and keeping the issues going."

Indigenous activist Ellen Gabriel, who also challenged Mr. Atleo in last summer's AFN election, said that it's not a new trend for women to be on the frontlines of aboriginal movements.

"I think we're tired of the lack of progress that we have seen, and the role that women have traditionally played in indigenous societies has been one of more equality and decision making. I think that's what women are seeing," Ms. Gabriel said in a telephone interview from the Kanehsatake Reserve west of Montreal. "But it's not a new phenomenon. It's just the optics right now look like the women are the ones who are leading."

Ms. Gabriel, a spokesperson for Kanehsatake's Mohawk community during the 78-day Oka standoff in 1990, said that aboriginal youth have also been an important driver for the movement.

The movement was initially born out of a rally against Bill C-45, the federal government's 2012 fall budget implementation act, at a Saskatoon community centre in November. Saskatoon-based activists Sheela McLean, Sylvia McAdams, Nina Wilson, and Jessica Gordon are credited with taking the 'Idle No More' slogan from a Twitter hashtag to a nationwide movement against a wide range of federal policies affecting First Nations and aboriginal Canadians.

Participants in the movement say Prime Minister Stephen Harper's (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) government has weakened environmental protection laws without consultation, violated First Nations' treaty rights, and failed to follow through on commitments made under the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the January 2012 Crown--First Nations Gathering.

Mi'kmaq lawyer and academic Pam Palmater, who came in second to National Chief Atleo in last July's AFN election, has emerged as a spokesperson for the movement.

She has accused the federal government of attempting to implement "White Paper" policies aimed at weakening and assimilating native Canadians through multiple pieces of legislation, including budget implementation bills C-38 and C-45; Bill C-27, The First Nations Financial Transparency Act; Bill S-2, The

Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act; Bill S-6, The First Nations Elections Act; and Conservative MP Rob Clarke's (Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, Sask.) private member's Bill C-428, An Act to Amend the Indian Act.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who launched her controversial hunger strike on Ottawa's Victoria Island on Dec. 11 to coincide with the nationwide launch of Idle No More, has also emerged as a de facto leader to some, while other participants have distanced themselves from leadership by any First Nations chiefs.

"If we're trying to put a face to Idle No More -- 'who are the leaders?' -- it's being led by First Nations women," said Clayton Thomas-Müller, an Ottawa-based campaign organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network and a participant in Idle No More rallies.

Mr. Thomas-Müller praised the "four sisters from Saskatchewan," Ms. Palmater, and Chief Spence for their contributions to the movement, but added that the grievances of Canada's indigenous are too diverse to be represented by a small handful of spokespeople, or even political organizations like the AFN.

"The reality is that these four sisters in Saskatchewan are not qualified to speak on behalf of people living in the tar sands, or the First Nations in B.C. fighting the Enbridge [Northern] Gateway Pipeline, or the people from Barriere Lake Algonquin Nation fighting Quebec and the federal government and the forestry sector over their lands in Algonquin Park," he said. "You can't say any one group represents all First Nations in this country. It's not the AFN, it's not the Métis National Council, it's not Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, it's not the National Native Women's Association, and it's definitely not the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples."

Both Diane Kelly and Ellen Gabriel agreed that Idle No More was not only about challenging federal policies affecting native Canadians, but also challenging political organizations like the AFN to respond to the grassroots that are behind the movement.

"The AFN and other organizations may somehow be losing touch with the grassroots," Ms. Kelly said following a visit to Victoria Island last week. "I think obviously there's some tension. You've got diverse indigenous people from across this country, so how do you really make the AFN that beacon of power that it could or should be?"

Ms. Gabriel agreed, noting that Idle No More is in part a message to traditional First Nations and aboriginal political leadership.

"There's more people watching now the behaviour and the kind of advocacy that the Assembly of First Nations has been doing. They want better advocacy, and in a sense they're putting the leadership on notice [by] saying, 'This is what people want. You claim to represent us, so you have to put forward the concerns and wishes of the people and not the concerns and wishes of the government' -- which is what's been happening in the past," she told The Hill Times.

AFN National Chief Atleo faced challenges not only from the grassroots, but also from fellow chiefs last week as support for meeting with federal officials nearly collapsed when it was announced that Governor General David Johnston would not be in attendance.

Chiefs from Manitoba and Ontario boycotted the Jan. 11 meeting in a show of solidarity with Chief Spence, who refused to meet with the Prime Minister in Governor General David Johnston's absence.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs warned that without federal action the Idle No More movement "has the people and the numbers that can bring the Canadian economy to its knees"--a point echoed by Mr. Thomas-Müller.

"What's going to keep Idle No More active is this government's inability to relent to democracy, to actually

develop policies that are reflective of Canada and Canada's values, and not just of the base that put them into office," he said. "I don't see Friday's meeting in any way slowing down Idle No More. We're entering into mid-winter at this point, and summer's coming. It's going to be a hot one."

Both Ms. Kelly and Ms. Gabriel said that the key to keeping the movement's momentum going was to educate non-aboriginal Canadians and collaborate on challenging the policies of the federal government.

"We're not a violent people by nature -- indigenous or non-indigenous people--so I think we can continue to find avenues where we can work together, but on action items because there's enough rhetoric," Ms. Kelly said, adding that it was also time for First Nations to begin asserting inherent and treaty rights and stop looking to governments for permission.

"We just need to gather that confidence, empower ourselves, and just do it," she said.

cplecash@hilltimes.com

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
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Subject: Hill Times: The heroes and zeroes of First Nations uprising
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Riley: the heroes and zeroes of First Nations uprising
The hero, even if young activists don't see it this way, is Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo.

SUSAN RILEY |

GATINEAU, QUE.--Every political crisis throws up heroes and villains and the showdown provoked by Theresa Spence's hunger strike and the Idle No More movement is no exception.

For some, Spence is still a hero, although her reputation has been tarnished for many Canadians, perhaps unfairly, over revelations of shoddy, if not shady, book-keeping by her Attawapiskat band council.

At first glance, she seems less guilty of playing fast and loose with federal cash than Treasury Board President Tony "Gazebo" Clement. Nor did a recent audit into band financing turn up evidence of the crass palm-greasing that has led to mayoral resignations in Quebec and elsewhere.

Arguably, if there is waste, or nepotism, in Attawapiskat, it is an inevitable consequence of the paternalistic relationship between remote and impoverished First Nations' communities and their federal funders. Nothing about that blighted outpost makes sense, financial or otherwise.

Nor does Spence, despite her princely $71,000 salary, appear to be living a life of luxury. It's not as if she is working on her tan with assorted Senators and MPs on some Caribbean beach; she spent Christmas in a teepee on wintry Victoria Island. And she has given First Nations issues a profile and momentum they haven't had in years.

But, increasingly, she looks more like a sacrificial lamb than a leader, someone driven to desperate measures by frustration rather than self-aggrandizement. Her reputation has been damaged, not only by the audit, but through inexpert media relations and inconsistent demands.

The hero--even if young activists don't see it this way--is Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo. The degree of passion, intelligence, frankness and integrity he has shown would be admirable in any mainstream politician. Indeed, any federal party would be lucky to have him as a candidate.

Atleo scorched a reporter last week who asked if the ejection of a television news team from Attawapiskat was "appropriate." What about the murder of some 2,000 First Nations women, Atleo shot back, tearing up: "Is that appropriate?"

"Poverty is killing our people," he said. The Indian Act is a paternalistic throwback, but it is up to indigenous people to devise an alternative not Ottawa. The relationship between Canada's original inhabitants and government is dysfunctional and urgently needs repair, he insists--arguments he has been making to open microphones and closed ears for three years.

Crucially, Atleo understands the gap between his people and the rest of us--the vast ignorance of most Canadians about land claims, treaty rights, the history and cultural variety, and vitality of indigenous peoples. That ignorance is a barrier to a healthy and respectful relationship, a recipe for continued stalemate.

Among those who emerge from this crisis diminished is Gov.-Gen. David Johnston. He has been alternately invisible, or insensitive to adamant demands that he take up his historic role as protector of First Nations rights.

It will strike many as quaint, even anachronistic, but many native elders insist on the special relationship between the Crown (the Queen and her Canadian representative) and native Canadians. They point to a 1763 covenant signed by King George III that commits the British monarch to ensuring First Nations are not "molested or disturbed in the possession" of their traditional territories and hunting grounds.

In a letter to the Queen, Ontario regional chief Stan Beardy asked that Johnson and Harper meet with chiefs "as a minimal show of respect," adding that the "profound connection with the British Crown is seen by many First Nations as the ultimate line of defence."

Yet, throughout the crisis, Johnston has behaved like a junior factotum from the PMO, not a friend of indigenous people. Obviously, the role is ceremonial and without substantial power, but Johnston's predecessors have provided powerful symbolic support and solace to selected groups.

With Adrienne Clarkson it was the country's artists and northerners; with Michaelle Jean, it was immigrants and the marginalized. Johnston's preoccupations have been decidedly less lofty: fitness, universities, and hockey.

If anyone has been less impressive than Johnston, it is aboriginal affairs minister John Duncan-- although Prime Minister Stephen Harper has compensated for his minister's incoherence by playing a careful hand, compromising slightly without ever admitting it.

This crisis will pass, as they all do. The details will fade. But we will remember the players--some with more respect than others.

Susan Riley is a veteran political columnist.

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Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
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Subject: Huffington Post: Harper's Duty to First Nations Is Far From Done
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Harper's Duty to First Nations Is Far From Done

At the end of Friday's meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and First Nations leaders, it was astounding to hear the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs John Duncan tell the people of Canada that the Conservative Government has fulfilled its constitutional "Duty to Consult" First Nations on the legislation affecting them.

The impressive Idle No More movement was indeed spawned by the lack of consultation and imposition of the two omnibus bills C-38 and C-45 that have severely affected the environmental protection of traditional territories and the lakes and rivers that First Nations depend upon.

It was appalling to see the Minister start his press conference on Friday boasting about the government's "investments" which have clearly failed to begin to close the gap in social and economic outcomes. Instead of humility, we got a tone-deaf billboard. In spite of the commitment at last year's Crown First Nations Gathering to work towards this year's 250th Anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, absolutely no work has been done with the provinces to honour the treaties or to ensure that First Nations are able to share in the prosperity that is Canada. The failure of the government to even begin to deal with the imperative of sharing Canada's resource revenues fairly has resulted in relations with Canada's indigenous population reaching a dangerous tipping point. First Nations are pursuing their rights -- and winning -- in the courts. Thousands of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are demonstrating right across Canada through the Idle no More movement. Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, and other First Nations activists, remain on a hunger strike demanding the Prime Minister and the Crown come to the table in good faith to begin to repair a relationship that is in tatters.

We have to view last Friday's hastily organized meeting between the Prime Minister and Aboriginal leaders as trying to respond to the unprecedented expression of frustration as progress. The gravity of the crisis calls for concrete action. Beyond the moral obligation to deal with completely unacceptable social and economic gaps for Aboriginal Peoples, the Conservatives mishandling of this relationship and failure to consult could endanger what this government is hoping will be the engine of Canada's economic recovery -- natural resource development.

Unfortunately, the government's public follow-up to Friday's meeting raises some serious concerns. One of the key frustrations of Aboriginal people is the refusal of this government to fulfill its legal obligation to consult with them on matters that may impact their inherent and/or treaty rights. The fact that Minister Duncan indicated his belief the government has fulfilled its duty to consult on various controversial bills shows that the Conservatives still do not seem to grasp what true consultation means.

To suggest they have consulted with First Nations on the egregious omnibus Bills C-38 and C-45 is simply ridiculous. There were no prior consultations about changes to the Indian Act regarding Aboriginal Fisheries, First Nations land management and, in particular, major changes to environmental protection for their lands and waterways. Further, on the litany of other First Nations bills, the Conservatives have to understand that one way information sessions after decisions are made (when they rarely even go that far) do not constitute consultations.

In the same press conference, the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary followed the Minister's comments with a list of old talking points about the "progress" the government claims to have made on a host of First Nations' issues. This approach is very troubling and indicates that the Conservatives still don't understand what sparked this unprecedented grass roots movement or the profound frustration of Aboriginal Peoples across Canada. There has been no discernible progress made on the priorities set at the Crown First Nations Gathering of almost a year ago and claiming there has been only serves to further undermine the

government's already tarnished credibility.

Appallingly, the very next day the Minister's remarks were followed up by a government press release of a re-announcement of an inadequate allocation of money from the last budget for water and wastewater systems on reserve. The 2011 National Assessment of First Nations Water and Wastewater Systems identifies a $5.8-billion funding shortfall ($1.2 billion immediately and $4.7 billion over 10 years) to deal with the First Nations water and wastewater capacity gap and yet the Conservative government only provided 6 per cent of the resources their own review identified -- $330.8 million spread over two years -- in the last budget. Almost two years after the federal assessment there are 117 First Nations communities across Canada under Drinking Water Advisories, an increase of over 23 per cent since 2006, and the government has no long term plan to get a handle on this crisis.

In fact, for the past year the Conservatives' response to First Nations, Inuit and Metis with legitimate grievances has been to tell them that they just don't understand how much "progress" has been made. This government refuses to understand that their rhetoric and insensitivity is dangerously undermining an already strained relationship between the government and Aboriginal Peoples.

Last October, during an Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs' Meeting on Education the government cynically issued a press release with misleading funding numbers to deny a funding gap for First Nations students even existed. This cynical move prompted First Nations to reject the federal government's approach to education and further eroded the Conservatives' credibility as a partner.

The Conservatives defend their failure on First Nations education by saying they have "built 30 schools across the country and renovated 200 others." The real issue is that students attending school on reserve are funded at half to two-thirds the per-student annual rate of students in provincial systems and only one third of First Nations students on reserve are graduating high school. The graduation rate is not improving and instead of fixing the disgraceful education funding gaps, the Minister is actually denying they exist.

The Conservatives explain their refusal to deal with the on-reserve housing crisis by claiming that they have "built 10,000 homes" over the last six years. The fact is that they are simply trying to take credit for falling short of what should have been 13,800 homes built under funding levels pre-dating their government. They have also failed to deal with their own February 2011 federal evaluation of First Nations housing, which concluded that the housing shortage on reserves is severe and only getting worse with 20,000 to 35,000 new units needed to meet current demand. The Assembly of First Nations has identified a gap of as much as 85,000 units and the Conservatives have no long-term plan to deal with this situation. Despite overcrowding rates on reserves six times those of off-reserve and more than 40 per cent of on-reserve homes in need of major repairs, the Conservatives actually spent 43 per cent less on housing during the last fiscal year than in 2006/07.

First Nations know the realities of what they are facing and the Conservatives' dishonest talking points, aimed and convincing average Canadians they are making progress, are further undermining what little credibility they have with Canada's indigenous population.

Given the Aboriginal population is the youngest and fastest growing in Canada -- and that almost every natural resource development currently operating or planned is within 200 kilometres of a First Nations' community and on their traditional lands -- it is in all of our interests to turn this around. The Prime Minister must understand the gravity of this situation and the potential impacts on all Canadians.

This should not be a partisan issue. This is about rebuilding the trust between Canada and First Nations. The Conservatives need to throw away their condescending and misleading talking points and their pathetic re-announcements of re-announcements of inadequate Budget 2012 commitments and deal honestly with Aboriginal Peoples to develop lasting solutions for what are very complex problems.

We need the 96 per cent of non-aboriginal Canadians to understand and support the need for economic and social justice for the 4 per cent. Idle No More is doing its best to educate us all. They want us to understand that whether we drink the water, or swim in it, paddle on it or fish in it, we all should be

concerned with the omnibus bills. Their peaceful grassroots movement is inspirational.

This is an historic time. We have to eradicate the ignorance and deal with the racism. We need to use the anniversary of the Royal Proclamation to move forward on honouring the treaties that promised to share the land fairly and begin the process of replacing the Indian Act. We need to ensure that Canadian First Peoples, the fastest growing part of the population, will have the ability to lead us through these troubled times -- victims no more.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/10/2013 1:51 PM
Subject: Huffington Post: Idle No More -- Think Occupy, But With Deep Deep Roots
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Idle No More -- Think Occupy, But With Deep Deep Roots
Bill McKibben

I don't claim to know exactly what's going on with #IdleNoMore, the surging movement of indigenous activists that started late last year in Canada and is now spreading across the continent -- much of the action, from hunger strikes to road and rail blockades, is in scattered and remote places, and even as people around the world plan for solidarity actions on Friday, the press has done a poor job of bringing it into focus.

But I sense that it's every bit as important as the Occupy movement that transfixed the world a year ago; it feels like it wells up from the same kind of long-postponed and deeply-felt passion that powered the Arab spring. And I know firsthand that many of its organizers are among the most committed and skilled activists I've ever come across. In fact, if Occupy's weakness was that it lacked roots (it had to take over public places, after all, which proved hard to hold on to), this new movement's great strength is that its roots go back farther than history. More than any other people on this continent, they know what exploitation and colonization are all about, and so it's natural that at a moment of great need they're leading the resistance to the most profound corporatization we've ever seen. I mean, we've just come off the hottest year ever in America, the year when we broke the Arctic ice cap; the ocean is 30 percent more acidic than it was when I was born.

Thanks to the same fossil fuel industry that's ripping apart Aboriginal lands, we're at the very end of our rope as a species; it's time, finally, to listen to the people we've spent the last five centuries shunting to one side.

Eighteen months ago, when we at the climate campaign 350.org started organizing against the Keystone XL Pipeline, the very first allies we came across were from the Indigenous Environmental Network -- people like Tom Goldtooth and Clayton Thomas-Muller. They'd been working for years to alert people to the scale of the devastation in Alberta's tar sands belt, where native lands had been wrecked and poisoned by the immense scale of the push to mine "the dirtiest energy on earth." And they quickly introduced me to many more -- heroes like Melina Laboucan-Massimo, a member of the Cree Nation who was traveling the world explaining exactly what was going on.

When, in late summer 2011, we held what turned into the biggest civil disobedience action in 30 years in this country, the most overrepresented group were indigenous North Americans -- in percentage terms they outnumbered even the hardy band of Guilty Liberals like me. And what organizers! Heather Milton-Lightning, night after night training new waves of arrestees; Gitz Crazyboy of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta absolutely on fire as he described the land he could no longer hunt and fish.

In the year since, the highlights of incessant campaigning have been visits to Canada, always to see native leaders in firm command of the fight -- Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus in Yellowknife, or Chief Reuben George along the BC coast. Young and powerful voices like Caleb Behn, from the province's interior; old and steady leaders in one nation after another. I've never met Chief Theresa Spence, the Attawapiskat leader whose hunger strike has been the galvanizing center of #IdleNoMore but I have no doubt she's cut of the same cloth.

The stakes couldn't be higher, for Canada and for the world. Much of this uprising began when Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper rammed through Parliament an omnibus bill gutting environmental reviews and protections. He had no choice if he wanted to keep developing Canada's tar sands, because there's no possible way to mine and pipe that sludgy crude without fouling lakes and rivers. (Indeed, a study released a few days ago made clear that carcinogens had now found their way into myriad

surrounding lakes). And so, among other things, the omnibus bill simply declared that almost every river, stream and lake in the country was now exempt from federal environmental oversight.

Canada's environmental community protested in all the normal ways -- but they had no more luck than, say, America's anti-war community in the run up to Iraq. There's trillions of dollars of oil locked up in Alberta's tarsands, and Harper's fossil-fuel backers won't be denied.

But there's a stumbling block they hadn't counted on, and that was the resurgent power of the Aboriginal Nations. Some Canadian tribes have signed treaties with the Crown, and others haven't, but none have ceded their lands, and all of them feel their inherent rights are endangered by Harper's power grab. They are, legally and morally, all that stand in the way of Canada's total exploitation of its vast energy and mineral resources, including the tar sands, the world's second largest pool of carbon. NASA's James Hansen has explained that burning that bitumen on top of everything else we're combusting will mean it's "game over for the climate." Which means, in turn, that Canada's First Nations are in some sense standing guard over the planet.

And luckily the sentiment is spreading south. Tribal Nations in the U.S., though sometimes with less legal power than their Canadian brethren, are equally effective organizers -- later this month, for instance, an international gathering of indigenous peoples and a wide-ranging list of allies on the Yankton Sioux territory in South Dakota may help galvanize continued opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline, which would help wreck those tar sands by carrying the oil south (often across reservations) to the Gulf of Mexico. American leaders like Winona LaDuke of the White Earth Indian Reservation have joined in the fight with a vengeance, drawing the connections between local exploitation and global climate change.

Corporations and governments have often discounted the power of native communities -- because they were poor and scattered in distant places, they could be ignored or bought off. But in fact their lands contain much of the continent's hydrocarbon wealth -- and, happily, much of its wind, solar and geo-thermal resources, as well. The choices that Native people make over the next few years will be crucial to the planet's future -- and #IdleNoMore is an awfully good sign that the people who have spent the longest in this place are now rising artfully and forcefully to its defense.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: ONEmergencyManagement
To: Brock Worobel; Christopher Horton; Dana Peterson; Eileen McCarthy; E...
Date: 1/16/2013 4:00 PM
Subject: Idle No More - Caledonia ON

>>> Eileen McCarthy 01/16/13 16:00 >>>

FYI

Idle No More protestors have blockaded a highway near Caledonia, Ont.
A stretch of Highway 6 at the Caledonia bypass has been shut down by a group about 20 demonstrators
OPP are on the scene and there has been no action by police to remove the blockade.

From: ONEmergencyManagement
To: Brock Worobel; Christopher Horton; Dana Peterson; Eileen McCarthy; E...
Date: 1/15/2013 1:24 PM
Subject: Idle No More Jan. 16th Windsor

>>> Eileen McCarthy 01/15/13 13:24 >>>
Good Afternoon;
FYI only at this time.
Eileen

The following information concerning a possible protest aimed at the Windsor side of the Ambassador Bridge has been provided to the Ontario Regional Office by our Provincial sources.

· It has been reported that the Windsor Police and the OPP met with organizers of this event at the Caldwell First Nation office in Leamington on January 9, 2013. According to the Windsor Police Services, demonstrators from Southwestern Ontario First Nations are expected to meet at the En Route Travel Centre on Highway 401 westbound in Tilbury. They are expected to depart from the EnRoute centre at approximately 9:30am and to travel in a convoy along Highway 401 westbound, ending at University Mall at Huron Church Road and Tecumseh Road in Windsor. The OPP do not plan to escort the convoy, but will help the convoy get onto Highway 401 westbound safely.

· According to our provincial sources, the potential protest is being planned by First Nations groups in relation to the "Idle No More" movement.

It is reported that the OPP and Windsor Police will be the lead for traffic management and communications during the protest event on January 16. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation will provide traffic management support as needed.

From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Bernard Etzinger; Ron Hallman
CC: Christopher Horton; Faye Horne; Leea Litzgus
Date: 1/15/2013 5:10 PM
Subject: Interesting

The following tweet was featured an hour ago on APTN's website...

@kkirkup Some #Attawapiskat residents allege Spence didn't advise reserve she was going to Ottawa for personal protest beginning on Dec.11. #cdnpoli

From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
Date: 1/16/2013 10:29 AM
Subject: Investing News Network: First Nations Consultation: A Crucial Step for Mining Companies
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

http://resourceinvestingnews.com/48658-first-nations-consultation-mining-companies-canada-enbridge-northern-gateway-pipeline.html#.UPagDlJf_9w.twitter

First Nations Consultation: A Crucial Step for Mining Companies
Chad Fraser

Last week, Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs said that rising frustration from Canada's First Nations population could prompt Native people to block resource development in the country. Nepinak also demanded that First Nations be given more of a say over what happens to resources on their land.

First Nations issues continue to grab the national spotlight in Canada, and numerous demonstrations by the Idle No More movement have called for greater respect for Native rights in the country. "These are demands, not requests," said Nepinak in a January 10 Reuters article. "The Idle No More movement has the people -- it has the people and the numbers -- that can bring the Canadian economy to its knees. It can stop Prime Minister Stephen Harper's resource development plan.

Opposition from First Nations communities has caused problems for a number of resource projects. A recent high-profile example is Enbridge's (TSX:ENB7,NYSE:ENB) proposed 1,200-kilometer Northern Gateway pipeline, which would pump oil8 from Edmonton, Alberta to the BC coast. The line, which would run across land claimed by Aboriginal bands, has attracted opposition from some Native groups, which argue that there has not been enough consultation about the project.

Cases like that, along with rising demands from First Nations for greater control of natural resources, have raised questions about how miners should approach development on traditional Native lands.

"An important thing to understand is that the legal duty to consult rests with the Crown, not industry," said David Camp in a January 11 phone interview. Camp is a partner at the Vancouver office of law firm Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) and mainly practices in the area of Native law.

"However, businesses typically take the initiative," he added. "And it's very appropriate for them to do so, because they will likely have a long-term relationship, and the company obviously knows the project best. The company and the band will typically negotiate a mutual benefits agreement -- there are various names for it -- and once they've agreed to that, the band will tell the Crown that consultation is not needed."

An "entirely gray area"

Another thorny issue is what constitutes consultation and what happens if local bands do not give their consent for a mining project. "First Nations do not have a legal veto over a project," said Camp. "As a practical matter, they may cause delays to a project to the point where the commercial opportunity is lost. But if it goes to court, they will have a hard time saying the Crown has failed to properly consult if the First Nation itself has withdrawn from or obstructed the consultation process."

He added, "if they seek to overturn a Crown decision, the Crown will have to defend its record of consultation, which includes offering appropriate measures of accommodation. Industry needs to work

with the Crown to make sure the Crown has the best possible record of consultation."

"An important thing to keep in mind is that this is an entirely gray area," added Fred Pletcher, another partner at BLG's Vancouver office and chair of the firm's national mining group. "Projects have gone forward without consent, but permitting is an easier process if you have the support of local bands. Still, each project is fact specific and band specific. There are a wide range of factors -- right down to the personalities involved -- that weigh on the issue."

What both Pletcher and Camp see happening is a move to consult earlier in the exploration process. "Everybody has seen projects run into trouble due to this," said Pletcher. "No one is taking a cavalier attitude about it. Companies realize that consultation is not something that can be done in a couple of days, and that it is a long-term effort. I think they are approaching it in the right way."

Pletcher also pointed to recent changes to mining regulations in the province of Ontario that require First Nations consultation early on, before any work beyond collecting hand samples can be done on a property. "Ontario has taken the first step in bringing consultations forward into the exploration phase and putting it into law," he said.

Greater transparency would be a plus

So where does the process go from here? Camp, for one, would like to see a move toward greater transparency. "One of the most interesting developments I've seen is Alberta's discussion paper, where they talk about whether impact-benefit agreements should be made public. I think it would be helpful to know what other companies are doing; it would make for a healthier, more transparent system," he said.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/7/2013 6:47 PM
Subject: Ipolitics.ca: Lean records for Attawapiskat's federal funds 'inappropriate,' audit says
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Lean records for Attawapiskat's federal funds 'inappropriate,' audit says
By Laura Stone

There is little or no documentation about more than $100 million spent by the Attawapiskat First Nation, an "inappropriate" amount for the use of public funds, according to an independent audit prepared for the government.

The audit from Deloitte, released Monday, was commissioned by the federal government to examine how $104 million in funding for housing, sewage, education and administration, between April 2005 and November 2011 in the northern Ontario reserve had been spent.

Theresa Spence, Attawapiskat's chief since 2010 who's been on hunger strike on Ottawa's Victoria Island for four weeks, fired back Monday, calling the audit report "no more than a distraction."

A letter posted on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development website from Deloitte to Chief Theresa Spence, dated Aug. 28, 2012, says that 409 transactions -- or 81 per cent of the 505 transactions -- lacked proper documentation, and 60 per cent had no documentation.

"As a result, we were unable to conclude whether the claimed expenditures were in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreements between Attawapiskat First Nation and AANDC and Health Canada," says the letter.

"There is no evidence of due diligence in the use of public funds, including the use of funds for housing. In our opinion, having over 80 per cent of selected transactions lacking any or proper supporting documentation is inappropriate for any recipient of public funds."

The letter recommends that Attawapiskat implement appropriate "processes and controls" to demonstrate sound financial management and compliance with funding agreements with Aboriginal Affairs and Health Canada.

It also says the First Nation did not provide any job descriptions for those involved in financial management of funding agreements.

But a release issued by the Attawapiskat First Nation Monday afternoon called the report "a controversial leaked audit" that is "no more than a distraction of the true issue and to discredit Chief Spence who is willing to lay down her life for a larger cause."

"I remain steadfast on my journey and will not allow any distractions at this time to waiver the goal set forth," Spence, who barred reporters her Victoria Island camp Monday, said in the release.

Spence asked for legislation relating to reserve land leasing contained in government omnibus budget bill C-45 be rescinded as soon as Parliament resumes.

She also wants the government to implement treaty obligations under Section 35 of the Constitution, and for a process of resource revenue-sharing for indigenous peoples.

Spence, now on her 28th day of a hunger strike in which she consumes only liquids, said she is prompting others to take "the sacred fast for change."

"We must honour these efforts by seeking spiritual help and direction collectively at what will be seen as one of the most critical times that Indigenous Peoples have ever known," she said.

The statement also asked that those looking to visit Spence on Ottawa's Victoria Island arrive after 1 p.m. daily. Spence will not be taking visitors on Thursday "in preparation for the meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada."

Last week, the prime minister committed to meet this Friday with a delegation of leaders organized by the Assembly of First Nations.

Clayton Kennedy, Spence's partner and Attawapiskat's co-manager, said outside the locked gate on Victoria Island that the audit could be viewed as the government trying to discredit Spence.

"Look at the political situation. You have a situation where you have a movement by indigenous people across the country which is obviously putting a lot of pressure on the prime minister," he said.

"You have a chief who is engaged in a hunger strike. And it's well beyond Attawapiskat. These are national issues and a lot of them are related to treaty rights, land, revenue sharing, all of which I'm sure they'll have dialogue and discussions on Friday.

"The timing and release of it, you could view it as just trying to redirect and discredit Theresa. But I don't view it as such. The issues are much broader."

When asked about the findings of the audit, Kennedy said it's suggesting "a strengthening of internal controls and documentation," and that he agrees with that aspect.

"Those are healthy recommendations that any organization would want to put into effect."

Earlier in the day, Spence's spokesman Danny Metatawabin suggested to CBC that the audit was "absolutely" wrong and agreed that the government is trying to discredit Spence.

"They're trying to undermine the process, the movement of the people," he told CBC.

Danny Metatawabin leads a march from the Victoria Island camp to Parliament Hill, Monday. iPolitics/Matthew Usherwood"You have to understand what we're doing here. It's for all First Nations communities under the treaty, the nation to nation relationship," he said to CBC. "We should be undermining the prime minister. We should be undermining the department of Indian affairs for creating that injustice."

The Timmins-area Attawapiskat reserve made headlines during a housing crisis in November 2011 that saw families living in tents without insulation.

A spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the audit "speaks for itself.

"The independent audit from Deloitte and Touche LLP speaks for itself, and we accept its conclusions and recommendations," said spokesman Jan O'Driscoll.

NDP MP Paul Dewar said the audit is also an indictment of the Conservative government and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, because it makes recommendations about improving government practices, such as reviewing the Ministerial Loan Guarantee process and the Capital Facilities and Maintenance program, which relates to housing.

"It shows that the federal government has been failing in its fiduciary responsibility in terms of working with the First Nations," he said.

"There's been an acknowledgement by both CMHC and (the department of Indian affairs) that they need to do a better job working with each other, and of course working with the band council.

"There are a lot of lessons to be learned here."

Dewar said he finds the timing of the report's release "interesting," seeing as the prime minister is supposed to be meeting with First Nations at the end of the week.

The deputy minister signed off on the audit on October 16, 2012, with 90 days to be posted online.

"Instead of actually working with First Nations, the Conservatives are trying to play politics of the worst kind," said Dewar. "Instead of trying to solve problems, they want to just assert blame and wash their hands."

He added that it is up to Spence to explain to her community why the report found a lack of documentation about funding.

"It looks like there needs to be some work done here and she needs to respond to it as the leader," he said.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts;...
Date: 1/16/2013 3:21 PM
Subject: Ipsos poll on Idle No More
Attachments: HQ Inform2.vcf

Ipsos poll shows views of Canadians in response to Idle no More.

http://www.ipsos-na.com/news-polls/pressrelease.aspx?id=5961

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/8/2013 6:03 PM
Subject: January 11 Idle No More events update
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

For the latest schedules if Idle No More events planned for friday January 11, please go here;

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0ArPmzCvg7OwXdFQ2Wko4MDVLM0czbERSbml4Ulo4SFE#gid=0

Jim Hurcomb

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Internal Article / Article interne

CP: Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says

Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says

By Mike Blanchfield and Terry Pedwell

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Theresa Spence, the controversial First Nation chief whose month-long hunger protest has helped to fan the flames of the Idle No More movement, will continue to forgo solid food, a spokesman declared Friday.

Spence, who surprised many when she emerged from her island encampment to attend a ceremonial meeting with Gov. Gen. David Johnston, left Rideau Hall early with the sense that the gathering had accomplished little.

"It didn't feel too good inside that house ... but we stood up for your rights," Danny Metatawabin, who speaks for Spence, told gathered First Nations chiefs as he described the meeting as "a show, a picture opportunity."

During Friday's ceremony, a wampum belt - a traditional aboriginal symbol of diplomacy and partnership - was mishandled, Metatawabin added. "Sadly," he said, "the hunger strike continues."

Spence, chief of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario, has been on a liquids-only diet for the past month, camped out on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, in hopes of securing a meeting with Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. A group of First Nations leaders did indeed meet with Harper on Friday for several hours prior to the chiefs descending on Rideau Hall to meet with Johnston. But Spence wants to meet both men at the same time.

When she joined her fellow chiefs at a downtown Ottawa hotel, Spence looked frail and tired, and walked gingerly with the help of several handlers. at one point, she stood briefly in a room full of chiefs, wearing a headdress, to be feted by a group of aboriginal drummers. Her health is diminished, Metatawabin said. "She's tired, she's weak. She's weakening. Got cramps in her stomach. We're all praying for her," he said. "The body's stressed right now because of all the commotion of today."

Johnston offered Spence a "special welcome" and said he wanted "to say how concerned I am about your health and that of Raymond Robinson and Jean Sock." Robinson and Sock are two aboriginals who are also staging hunger protests. "My deepest wish is for the well -being of all Canadians, and for dialogue to always take place in a safe and healthy manner," said Johnston, in prepared remarks released Friday night by Rideau Hall.

The meeting wrapped up shortly after 9 p.m. ET, a spokesperson said. Robinson said he approached Johnston "man to man" and urged him to have an open dialogue with Harper in order to forge a relationship with First Nations that's truly "nation to nation." "I am not going to quit," he said. "The hunger strike continues."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan and several of Spence's fellow chiefs were among those publicly urging her to end her protest, saying her health is in danger and she accomplished what she set out to do. "I had a personal friend who went on a hunger strike years ago, and it did great detriment to his health," Duncan said. "I have been very much wanting to have a conversation with Theresa Spence, I've offered multiple times, and I expressed concern again today; there were many people in the room who expressed major concern."

Harvey Yesno, Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which also includes Attawapiskat, said it's up to Spence whether she wants to continue her protest. But her reserve needs a leader, he noted. "We're concerned about that, if she carries on," Yesno said in an interview. "That's probably the most important thing."

Stan Louttit, grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, told CBC he's urging Spence to call a halt to her protest. "I ... told her, 'Look, you've made your point. You've won this victory. You've made Canadians aware .... You have done good for your people.'" But Louttit said Spence is still holding out for a meeting with both Harper and the Governor General at the

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same time. "That's the bottom line."

Earlier Friday, a sprawling crowd of protesters swirled outside the Prime Minister's Office in the shadow of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill as Friday's controversial meeting between Harper and First Nations leaders got underway. There were similar, smaller demonstrations across the country, including a rail blockade in Nova Scotia. A crowd of about 3,000 people, according to police estimates, gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block where the meetings were taking place, chanting, drumming and waving makeshift banners. Many then crossed Wellington Street and rallied in front of the Centre Block, brandishing flags and chanting along with the rhythmic beat of skin drums.

A sporadic cold drizzle fell all morning and into the afternoon, failing to dampen the spirits of protesters, even if it did leave some of the feathered headdresses in the crowd looking a little bedraggled. The demonstrators began their march on Victoria Island, a nearby outcrop in the Ottawa River where Spence has been camped out. They returned to the island later in the day.

Aboriginal people now have an opportunity to hold the government to account for years of broken promises, Spence said before the rally began. "This meeting's been overdue for so many years." Supporters of the Idle No More movement were also showing strength in numbers during protests in other parts of the country as well.

In Edmonton, Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation joined a gathering of several hundred people, where he warned of imminent economic disruption if steps aren't taken to rescind the Conservative government's controversial omnibus legislation. "Highway 63 to the oilsands will be shut down. That will happen and I guarantee this," warned Adam, whose reserve is near the oilsands. "I fear for the worst if the prime minister doesn't retract some of the bills that were passed."

More than a dozen people blocked a Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro by placing wooden pallets and a car on the track in Truro. Via Rail said it took 53 passengers to Truro from Halifax by bus.

A noisy crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators also showed their support for First Nations in front of the convention centre in downtown Montreal. Young people, union representatives and provincial politicians were in the group. Some waved Mohawk and Quebec flags and danced to the beat of native drums.

In Toronto, a few hundred gathered in Toronto's Dundas Square, drumming and chanting. Stephanie Hashie, a member of the Ginoogaming First Nation who lives in Toronto, said she was there to celebrate her culture. "It means our future," she said of the Idle No More movement. "It means what's going to happen. We're not standing idle no more. We're not going to stand around and just let things happen."

Spence, who has come under fire over a leaked audit report that found fault with bookkeeping practices in Attawapiskat, also spoke for the first time about how her Ontario reserve spends government money. She said most of what flows to the isolated James Bay community actually gets spent outside the community. The money, she said, goes towards supplies and to pay contractors, consultants, lawyers - and to taxes. "Most of the funding that we have, it goes back to you, to taxpayers," she said.

A government-ordered audit, leaked earlier this week, concluded there was little documentation to back up Attawapiskat's spending.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CP: Intimate meeting without Governor General was critical for Harper: sources

Intimate meeting without Governor General was critical for Harper: sources

By Mike Blanchfield and Jennifer Ditchburn

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA When it comes to big conferences brimming with long speeches, pomp and circumstance, Stephen Harper's never been much of a fan. So his preference for smaller, more intimate and practical working meetings became his office's bottom line as it navigated a roller coaster of negotiations with First Nations leaders over the past week.

The Governor General would stay at Rideau Hall. It would be crystal clear who had the power to make decisions.

``Our purpose was to have a meeting that was small enough that you could have a real discussion,'' said one government official who was inside the room Friday as the prime minister sat down with chiefs. `You get 200 people in a room, it's not much of a meeting.''

Whether there was going to be a meeting at all was the subject of intense negotiations that spanned several days, including a last-ditch bid by First Nations elder statesman Ovide Mercredi to throw open the doors to more chiefs.

Mercredi tried unsuccessfully to convince the Prime Minister's Office it needed to heed the demands of many chiefs from across the country who wanted a bigger meeting, and also wanted Gov. Gen. David Johnston to be involved.

Mercredi couldn't conceal his disappointment. ``You have to see it this way: it's a reflection of what we can expect from this government,'' he said. ``It confirms the mistrust on the (part of) government. That's what it does.''

The meeting eventually took place in a rather bland conference room inside the Langevin Block, a stately sandstone building across from the Parliament buildings where Harper and his department - the Privy Council Office - do the bulk of their work. The room was smudged with smoke to start things off on a good foot.

A First Nations elder said a prayer. Outside, the group could hear the chants of an Idle No More protest - 3,000 people strong, according to police estimates - in the shadow of the Peace Tower.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, sat at the head of the table, nestled between Harper and his team. The chiefs said their piece, but Atleo spoke for them most of the time, laying out each of his points. Harper said little until the end of the four-hour gathering, setting out exactly what his government was and wasn't prepared to do.

Rescinding or amending the controversial omnibus budget bill, for instance, was a non-starter.

There were no angry outbursts or abrupt departures. But the fact the meeting even took place was something of a victory for both Harper and Atleo.

Right up to the moment Atleo and his group of chiefs entered the building at around 1 p.m. Friday, there was uncertainty over whether the whole thing would come off. The lead-up included days of raucous, on-again, off-again negotiations.

Harper's chief of staff was the high-level point man for the government, engaged on the issue since a rail blockade in Sarnia before Christmas, one official said.

The Assembly of First Nations tasked three respected chiefs to develop a workable agenda for the meeting: Mercredi, Metis activist Perry Bellegarde and B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould. The four met to hash out the structure of the meeting Wednesday night.

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"There was a lot of opposition to attending a meeting where not all the chiefs would be included, also where the agenda was predetermined," Mercredi said. "So we had a big discussion about crafting our agenda, together with the government and getting a process that would be inclusive, but also the governor general would be present."

Wright did make several concessions on behalf of the government. He agreed to open up the agenda beyond treaty negotiations and economic development, as originally proposed, and entertain discussion about housing, murdered and missing women and the impact on the environment of Harper's budget bills.

But the PMO wouldn't budge on the structure of the meeting - a crucial point for many of the bands from central Ontario and Manitoba whose treaties were signed by a representative of the Queen. "We were trying to impress upon the government to include the Governor General in the meeting. And also to make it more open by having it televised. And but also we expressed for it to be inclusive," Mercredi recalled.

Harper's team did finally instruct the Governor General to hold a ceremonial meeting Friday evening at Rideau Hall. But there was no question of involving Johnston directly in the meetings themselves. "Our real bottom line was that it couldn't be the same meeting because that line can't get blurred," said the official. "We're the ones responsible here, we're the ones that can act and have to act. Not the Governor General. There's nothing he can do constitutionally, so we didn't want to give that impression."

The chiefs continued to press Wright for Johnston's involvement, but to no avail. Mercredi broke the news to chiefs from across Canada during a meeting late Thursday at a downtown Ottawa hotel. The room erupted in outrage. "They weren't mad at me. They tried to send me to get a better meeting. They were mad at the government (for) not listening," said Mercredi. "That's the reason why people are out there protesting, because the government is not listening."

Regional groups of First Nations huddled Friday morning as the AFN made a last-ditch, unsuccessful effort to persuade the PMO to open up the meeting in order to unite all the chiefs.

For many of the treaty bands, it was too much to stomach, said Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in northern Ontario.

On the government side, Harper and his team bided their time, said little publicly, and waited for Atleo to work out exactly who was coming.

In the end, Harper got what he wanted - a smaller meeting with the AFN executive, some regional chiefs, and ultimately something to announce. "We knew we couldn't get a desirable outcome unless we had a process that was small enough and representative enough, and Atleo pulled that together today," said the official.

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CP: Harper commitment to treaty talks will bring fundamental change: Atleo

Harper commitment to treaty talks will bring fundamental change: Atleo

By Heather Scoffield

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - When the hard-won meeting between First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was finally over on Friday, the exhausted and contested chiefs said they could hardly believe what had been accomplished.

Despite rancorous boycotts by some chiefs and a door-pounding protest on the front steps of the prime minister's working office Friday, National Chief Shawn Atleo declared that Harper has finally agreed to top-level talks to modernize and implement the ancient treaties that were always supposed to bring peace and prosperity to First Nations.

There were early indications that what Atleo saw as a critical achievement, others saw as insufficient. Chief Theresa Spence, whose month-old fast has galvanized a cross-country grassroots protest movement, said the results of the meeting fell short of what was required for her to abandon her liquid diet.

Atleo defended what was delivered in the meeting with the prime minister. ``The implications here are massive,'' the grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations said in an interview after the four-hour meeting wrapped up. Treaties, he says, determine aboriginal rights to the land, its resources and its uses. And while large parts of the country have looked to those treaties for decades or even centuries for salvation, the treaties have never been truly implemented, the chiefs say.

``What First Nations are seeking and what we will press for at the highest political level is recognition and implementation of our rights,'' Atleo said. ``That can only come from a political mandate. Well, the prime minister has just signalled engaging at that level.''

First Nations have long made clear that Harper can't expect to progress meaningfully with his ambitious natural resource agenda unless he deals with treaty rights first, Atleo added. But the agreement at Friday's meeting is only a baby step down that road. The four hours of talks - between Harper, his officials and three cabinet ministers on the one hand and a couple of dozen First Nations representatives on the other - only sets the stage for another round of discussions within the next month.

And in order for the commitment to treaty talks to work, the Ontario and Manitoba First Nations who boycotted Friday's meetings will have to come back into the Assembly of First Nations fold. Ontario and Manitoba are two of the country's key regions governed by treaties, and chiefs from those province must assess and apply any of the broad strokes of Friday's agreement apply in their areas, said Grand Chief Edward John from the First Nation Summit in British Columbia. ``They need to be involved in the development of the modalities of that. The treaty First Nations need to step up and design this,'' said John, who attended the meeting.

First Nations in northern Ontario and Manitoba are among the most impoverished in Canada, and their people have long complained that Canada is not living up to its side of the treaty. But the chiefs from those regions refused to attend the Harper meeting because it did not include the Governor General - a key demand since the treaties were signed by a representative of the Crown.

``Our leaders, there were some who in the end said they were surprised that the prime minister was making the kinds of commitments we heard,'' Atleo said.

But as the weightiness of his commitment set in, the leaders were also overwhelmed by the task in front of them. ``So when we sat and huddled as a delegation, we reflected on the deep challenges that we had.''

But secondary demands - including a repeal of contentious sections of the government's omnibus budget bills - were

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dismissed or put off for another day.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the talks with Atleo and about 20 other native leaders were "frank" and "constructive," while acknowledging much work remains. Perhaps most significantly, Duncan said the prime minister and the powerful Privy Council Office - the bureaucracy that supports the PMO - will now take an active role on "those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre."

In other words, one year after another highly symbolic meeting that was supposed to reset the relationship between Ottawa and First Nations, a sense of urgency may have emerged.

But the chiefs have yet to declare a victory because they've been down this road before, said John. "Today I have to wait and see what transpires because we were already made promises that were not kept," he said.

Some might credit the restive, cross-country Idle No More native protest movement, as well as the month-long hunger protest by Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence, for any perceived momentum.

But a central tenet of Idle No More dissent is the government's overhaul of environmental oversight and protections of fisheries and waterways included in the massive budget bills rammed through Parliament last spring and last fall.

On that point, Duncan said the government saw no reason to make any changes and had fulfilled its constitutional duty to consult with First Nations beforehand. "We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there's every reason to proceed," Duncan said. He said prime minister makes sure "that there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the First Nation leadership," regarding legislation.

Atleo and the chiefs in the meeting with Harper and his ministers pushed hard on that point, but made no progress, John said."That's the crux of the problem."

Plus, Harper did not give any ground on First Nations' requests to set up a public inquiry on violence against aboriginal women - a key demand for many grassroots protesters that has garnered support across the country.

It was not immediately clear whether the results of the meeting would be enough for the two sides to find enough common ground to re-establish Atleo's leadership, repair the Crown-First Nations relationship and quell restless protesters across the country. `There's no question, it has been the most challenging moment that I personally can recall in our work," Atleo admitted. "We've always known there is no easy way forward, and we said that to the prime minister today."

Atleo's ability to recover politically from the schisms and drama of the past two days "depends on the outcome of the meeting," said Harvey Yesno, grand chief for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which groups reserves across northern Ontario. Yesno was among those who boycotted the meeting with Harper. But he said the Ontario chiefs are not ready to ask for Atleo's head simply because he met Harper against their will. "There will be another time for that kind of discussion," said Yesno. "We have to move things along."

If Atleo is able to deliver a concrete process to revisit historic treaties and modernize them - a process led by a powerful person in government, with strict timelines to deliver results - then his reputation would be restored, Yesno said.

Contrary to Harper's original plan, he stayed for the duration of the afternoon talks, along with several key cabinet ministers: Duncan, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board Secretary Tony Clement. Missing from the government list was Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver, whom First Nations were hoping to meet to discuss a different way of sharing the bounty from natural resource extraction.

Thousands of protesters filled the streets around Parliament Hill, chanting, dancing and demanding that Harper act to improve the conditions on reserves - cries that echoed through the meeting room as Harper and his team met the chiefs.

Asked whether those protests would subside now that Harper has committed to a treaty process, Atleo said he thinks his people will need to see evidence of change first - a belief that has added urgency to the process with Ottawa. "I think the voices of our people, they will not be silenced."

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Internal Article / Article interne

CP: Agreement to talk some more leaves First Nations protests up in the air

Agreement to talk some more leaves First Nations protests up in the air

By Bruce Cheadle

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - "I have no idea what it'll do."

John Duncan's frank, if less than illuminating, assessment of the impact on aboriginal protests of Friday's hard-won negotiating skirmish may have been the most honest assessment of the day.

The aboriginal affairs minister was one of three full cabinet ministers who flanked Prime Minister Stephen Harper for more than four hours of politically fraught talks with some of the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations. The talks essentially led to agreement for more talks - which in the constipated world of First Nations' advancement in this country was portrayed as success, if not exactly a breakthrough.

"The prime minister agreed with the need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office," Duncan told a hastily arranged news conference on Parliament Hill. "And the prime minister agreed to debrief the members of his cabinet and government on today's discussions and agreed to meet with the national chief in the coming weeks to review next steps." Canadians can be forgiven if they feel they've seen this movie before.

Almost exactly a year ago, what was billed as an "historic" meeting between Ottawa and First Nations ended with a joint statement ... promising more talks. "We cannot undo the mistakes of the past, but we can learn from them and affirm that they will not be repeated," said the statement issued at end of a day-long meeting last Jan. 24. "As partners in the Crown -First Nations gathering, we will maintain the relationship through an ongoing dialogue that outlines clear goals and measures of progress and success."

By October, however, the promised dialogue was so frustrating the First Nations leadership that Shawn Atleo, the accommodating national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, wrote a series of heated letters to the prime minister and his aboriginal affairs minister to complain of a "loss of momentum." "This is exacerbated by the federal government's broader legislative agenda, which has the potential for harmful impacts on First Nations, including changes to environmental regulation, fisheries and criminal justice," Atleo wrote Harper in a letter obtained by The Canadian Press.

Those same issues have since helped fuel the grassroots fire that is the Idle No More protest movement.

At the time, Atleo complained to Duncan that talks with officials from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada were going nowhere. "First Nations leadership have keenly engaged in good faith to begin a dialogue only to be met by AANDC officials indicating that they have no mandate to even enter into discussions," he wrote the minister in October.

By that measure, Friday's talks - although boycotted by chiefs from Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories - moved the goalposts, in the words of former national chief Matthew Coon Come.

Having the PMO and PCO, the nerve centres of any federal government, promising to actively oversee native files should clear the cobwebs of bureaucratic inertia and impotence.

Duncan, pressed on the meaning of the promised "high -level dialogue" that Friday's talks delivered, responded that PMO and PCO attention would assist "those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre." In other words, the squeaky wheel gets the grease - a fitting aphorism given all the drama that preceded Friday's sit-down, which included street protests, hunger strikes and boycotts.

Ian Brodie, Harper's former chief of staff, noted earlier this week that any chiefs contemplating a boycott were misguided.

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"'I offer this as advice to anyone who thinks you accomplish more by not meeting the PM than by meeting him," Brodie wrote on Twitter. "You don't."

Critics will say its a piece of advice that should work both ways for the prime minister. "It shouldn't even be a big deal,'' Bob Rae, the interim Liberal leader, observed of the meeting just before the talks began Friday. "It should be a regular occurrence, it shouldn't be something that causes headlines ... It is truly preposterous in our country at this point that we're allowing things to get this stage of confrontation where just the most fundamental premises of civility are not able to be observed."

Atleo emerged from the meeting wounded by internal divisions in the native movement and, like the aboriginal affairs minister, unwilling to predict an end to native protests. "The voices of our people, they will not be silenced," Atleo said in an interview, adding First Nations will be demanding that promises are followed through. 'I believe that sense of urgency was heard by the prime minister."

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APTN: Interview with Shawn Atleo

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INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN ATLEO

CHERYL MCKENZIE (APTNTV): APTN News is breaking into programming for an interview with National Chief Shawn Atleo. It's been a roller coaster ride for the National Chief. For the past week, he's been lobbying chiefs to meet with the Prime Minister. We were trying to get him in for an interview during our regular newscast. We have him in the chair now. The meeting with the P.M. is over and the National Chief joins us live from our Ottawa bureau now.

Thank you very much for joining us, National Chief.

SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): Yes, thanks for having me.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Now, tell us, a lot of the pressure came over Bill C-45. What did the Prime Minister indicate to you about repealing that Act?

SHAWN ATLEO: Well, you know, the government, the Prime Minister recognized that all legislation that aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights absolutely have force and effect in constitutional law. And because of the grievances with these omnibus bills, but all legislation, including the Indian Act, chiefs have been pressing for so long, including the urgency of this moment and the rallying voices of our people which will not be silenced, including hunger strikers calling for treaty implementation as well as changing reforming the comprehensive claims this land negotiation process which is deeply flawed and based on denial, and attempts to extinguish our rights instead of recognition and implementation.

And we've been pressing for and continue to press for a commitment from the Prime Minister and a mandate to engage in treaty implementation and reforming comprehensive claims. And that mandate has been achieved. The Prime Minister committed not only to this work but that there would be high political oversight that includes the Privy Council Office.

What this means is that the treaty leaders now, because it's not for me to negotiate. My role was only to put forward the position of First Nations on these issues, including a number of others: resource revenue sharing, for example, so that we can have a fair share of the wealth and resources of our territories that is promised in treaty.

This is something that the Prime Minister agreed we have shared commitments and that we must get on with the work.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Now that is something that he said to you today, but also in last year's Crown First Nation gathering, he said he wasn't going to unilaterally rewrite the Indian Act, but the bills that are in Parliament actually do that.

SHAWN ATLEO: The Prime Minister conceded when he spoke, and he did use that word, he conceded that there needed to be prime ministerial oversight, that if left to the devices that bureaucracies overstep and attempt to trample and legislative initiatives do end up overstepping treaty and title rights.

And we made it very clear that our people reject those bills. And in fact, the bills, you know, are supposed to, their intention are to make it easier for companies to develop resources. Well, we've made it clear and we'll continue to make it clear that they won't have greater economic certainty, that the way forward is to see treaty rights implemented, which means that we have a fair share of the wealth and resources of our lands and that they're only developed with our free prior and informed consent.

And so the ability now to have direct prime ministerial engagement on matters of great concern for our people, including unilateral legislative development, we now have a forum potential that we did not have before. But it must be led by treaty nations and the leaders themselves as well as those who don't have treaties that are negotiating at what are called

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comprehensive claims negotiation tables.

And so those commitments I think including to all of the points that were raised on things like the need for a new fiscal relationship for fair and equitable funding, as a recognition that there needs to be fairness and equity and it must produce results. And so this work is not to be left, you know, for a long period of time. The Prime Minister committed to engage early and immediately.

This means that in the coming weeks, we'll look to leadership to determine how to work with the Prime Minister on treaty implementation to put forward what it is that First Nations are seeking on a treaty-by-treaty and nation-by-nation basis. This is a mandate that was not there before. Our chiefs were, and I was so frustrated that after the Prime Minister committed to treaty implementation and comprehensive claims last January, that their bureaucrats within government were saying they had no mandate.

This was a direct contradiction including the unilateral actions. And so we raised and pressed these issues very hard today and the Prime Minister committed his direct involvement. That's the only way forward. Our leaders have been saying that there's any sense or hope that there could be change. And so on that front, there was movement today.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Tell us about that meeting today. Certainly the people were making their voices very much heard on the outside. What was the mood in the room?

SHAWN ATLEO: Well, the mood, I can describe it as respectful dialogue. Many were suggesting that it was the most time that's been spent by the Prime Minister. He stayed in the room for the entire time. I think we were there from 1h30 till five and listening to the powerful voices of the Idle no More rally that was surrounding the Prime Minister's Office. It added a sense of strength about that we're in a moment that we can't go back from, that our people will stand up for the land, for the water, for the air and that Canada will be stronger if we're working together and our children are supported, to have education where they're learning their languages and the best of our teachings and traditions, and as well as acquiring world-class skills so that they can, you know, have the jobs that they're seeking. And our nations can pursue resource development on a basis that they so desire.

Our people have always said we're not opposed to development. Just not we just don't agree with it at every or any cost. It must be done sustainably. That's the obligation that we've got from the ancestors and that we have in our relationship with the environment around us.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: How confident are you that Prime Minister Harper's oversight is really going to implement the treaty relationship not only among his ministers but among the federal bureaucrats?

SHAWN ATLEO: I think there's a strong recognition that the power that First Nations have in the treaty and in our title and rights that are in Section 35, that the powers there in the people, the way that they're rising up, tremendous power that this is a moment that we've been saying, a tipping point maybe that's been coming for a long time. And it's being led by the young people. They're the leaders not of tomorrow. They're leading the way right now.

And the additional leverage that First Nations have is that Canada wants to develop $650 billion worth of natural resources across the country and we're moving ahead to a certain extent in a manner of disregard to our title and rights and treaty rights. I believe they now recognize that the only way the economy is going to be developed is if, as the Canadian Council of Chief Executives this last summer, all of the big CEOs said it must be done in full partnership.

Well, our ancestors said that at the outset of treaty and we've never received our fair share. And so it is incumbent and the responsibility of the Prime Minister and the Crown to honour and implement the treaty relationship with First Nations. This will require a lot of work. It's not work that is going to be undertaken. This was not about me negotiating for anybody, for any nation or for any treaty. My role is only to help push open the doors; but you know, it's our people. It's the urgency of the moment. It's the hunger strikers saying that we will not allow another Christmas/New Year's holiday go by with the kind of conditions we have. We simply must seek the transformative change that our people have always fought for. And, you know, I will join...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... all of our people in continuing to fight for that change.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes. Transformative change, we've talked about this in the past. Chiefs from Manitoba,

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Saskatchewan, Ontario were adamant that you do not attend this meeting. Some were threatening to force you out of your job. What do you say to that?

SHAWN ATLEO: I recognize the difficult moment that this presented because, you know, on December 31st, on New Year's Eve we have a national conference call with 50 or 60 chiefs on line and we all under the understanding, based on press conferences as well as press statements, that if we were to secure a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General that Theresa... Chief Theresa Spence would end her hunger strike.

I turns out that we all either didn't understand or there was a miscommunication because 24 hours later, you know, I had chiefs saying we need to go sit down with Chief Spence, which I did, which was one of a number of occasions. And she said to me that she will continue until there's a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General.

So we continued to press that urgency, and as I was meeting with the chief from Manitoba last Friday I received a call and they said that they would be prepared to meet on Friday the 11th.

In that short period of a time, we didn't have a confirmation of the Governor General. And because of the relationship with treaty we continued to press and then the Governor General who, as we speak, is...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... receiving treaty leaders. And so it has been incredibly challenging. But let me...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: But today they talked...

SHAWN ATLEO: ... make this clear.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: ... about non-confidence in...

SHAWN ATLEO: Let me... let me just...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: ... you in taking their direction.

SHAWN ATLEO: Let me just make this clear. I respect all regions, and we had the majority of regions participating and represented in the meeting today with the Prime Minister. I did not have instructions from the executive to cancel the meeting that we had called for.

And you know, on the substance, on the issues of treaties, on comprehensive claims and the need for resource revenue sharing to address the challenges in the bills and the legislation, on the substance we had full unity when we were having these discussions this week. Where we were challenged was with, you know, the logistics of the meeting and the process of the meeting.

And so this, it's one meeting. What we need to see and what we pressed for with the Prime Minister was for him to meet with all of the chiefs. And he said, you know, when you're making progress, then those meetings can be particularly valuable. And so that door is open because that is my responsibility is to keep pushing that door open.

And so I do acknowledge it has been an incredibly challenging, most difficult week, but this is the hard work of seeking real change for our people.

And I will continue to listen to the voices of all of our leaders. I had so many from coast to coast to coast saying we have to make sure that our voices are heard. I heard people from all walks of our citizens saying that we must seize every opportunity to press our agenda forward.

Yes, I am deeply concerned about, you know, challenges in our unity. We are so diverse: over 50 languages, treaty/non-treaty. And it is a challenge for us to come together.

And I will say this as well: that you know, even the Assembly of First Nations...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Okay.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... the way we're organized is something that we really need to closely look at...

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CHERYL MCKENZIE: All right.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... to make sure that we're serving our people properly.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Okay. Well, just as your discussions will continue with government, ours will have to too for tonight. I'd like to thank you very much for coming in tonight, National Chief Shawn Atleo.

SHAWN ATLEO: Thanks for having me.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Thank you very much. We'll now take you back to regular programming here on APTN.

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CBC Power and Politics: Matthew Coon Come

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MATTHEW COON COME

HANNAH THIBEDEAU (Anchor): The meeting between the Prime Minister and First Nations leaders has just ended. There has been growing dissent among First Nations leaders, divided over whether to attend or boycott that meeting with the Prime Minister. Many frustrated First Nations chiefs refused to attend but about 20 others thought it was less important to have the Governor General at the table and more important to engage in dialogue with the Prime Minister and with government officials. But did they achieve any tangible results? Did today's meeting make any progress in repairing federal -First Nations relations, or did it only served to deepen the rift between First Nations chiefs right across this country?

Well joining me now is Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief of the Cree of Northern Québec and James Bay. Thanks for being here. You are fresh out of this meeting. Tell me what results came from it?

MATTHEW COON COME (Grand Chief): Well first of all let me say this, I'll make it very clear. I have been at protests, I have blocked forestry roads, I have been involved in the international community, and I've been involved in court cases. I never done a hunger strike but there's one thing I do know, at the end of the day you need to sit down face-to-face and have a discussion. I was torn when I went in there but I wanted to There was a great impasse among our First Nations people and I wanted to be able to build the bridge, I wanted to be able to put on the table certain demands for the Prime Minister and make a suggestion of how we can get out of the impasse. The meeting that we attended today I was surprised by the reaction of the Prime Minister. I felt that that ... I think he was really He moved a couple of posts forward.

THIBEDEAU: Which posts?

COON COME: I think there is a way out. We raised 8 different issues which I won't go into detail. We talked about the... sitting the table, a high level dialogue with the Prime Minister to sit at the table for the treaty process and also for the specific land claims. He agreed to a high-level process and a dialogue in which that will happen in the next couple of weeks. There will be a meeting. So what happens now is I think it's in our court now for the leadership, those treaty groups, those specific land claims groups, to regroup and say okay what are we going to present, are we going to go into this dialogue or not? Because we thought, I think, that the Prime Minister wasn't really willing to move, this is the meeting, this is it, nothing's going to happen after. So I think that there's an opportunity here to be able to address that issue.

At the same time I raised the issue of the resource revenue. In this country the premier of Alberta has agreed for a dialogue to discuss revenue sharing. The premier of BC talked about the revenue sharing, maybe not in the past but in the future. Our meeting as regional chiefs with the Premier Pauline Marois was going to talk about revenue sharing. We impressed upon the Prime Minister if he could assist. He said he was open, he was willing to look at a tripartite process if need be, and he said we don't receive any revenue ourselves, it's the provinces that receive that revenue. So

THIBEDEAU: So In that In that case that is you're pushing the Prime Minister to push the provinces to work along with First Nations about resource revenue sharing.

COON COME: Certainly there's a willingness there for an open dialogue and I think there is I hear words like let's assess it, let's look at it We raised the issue with the legislation. We raised the issue of the violence against women. We raised the issue of

THIBEDEAU: Let's go to the legislation. Let's go to the legislation. Sorry to interrupt, I just want to kind of break it down for our viewers. So when it comes to the legislation we had heard that First Nations leaders wanted the parts of the two omnibus bills that affected First Nations, such as changes to the Navigable Waters Act, the Fisheries Act, rescinded. Was

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there any indication from the Prime Minister that would happen?

COON COME: Well we certainly just put it on the table for a revisit....

THIBEDEAU: So it's only on the table.

COON COME: ... for the for those two bills that you mentioned. But that doesn't prevent our First Nations from launching a court case because they

THIBEDEAU: Which they have.

COON COME: Which they have. Yes. And I think grand council I think we'll intervene if we feel that there is an impact on the navigable waters and environmental process that we've already agreed to. But at least there is a willingness there for a dialogue and I think that that's crucial because we need to continue to talk. We need to find ways of how we're going to resolve these impasses. That's what we need.

THIBEDEAU: Those two chiefs from Alberta felt that the government didn't fulfill its duty to consent.

COON COME: What I feel

THIBEDEAU: Do you feel now that they will?

COON COME: What I heard

THIBEDEAU: Or... Sorry... Consult. Sorry.

COON COME: What I heard the Prime Minister say, he says he was willing to do... carry out his duty to consult. That's what I heard him say.

THIBEDEAU: Right. How big is that for you?

COON COME: Well for the Prime Minister to say that I think it's very crucial, it's important. And I think he's willing to The high-level dialogue for me was the highlight. These He was able to move the goalposts to be able to allow for a dial... And when you have meetings you can talk about anything. You're not limited to just talk about whatever issues because if there is an impasse and there is then you identify why is there an impasse, why are we not moving forward on treaties, why are we not moving forward on specific land claims and it has to do with surrenders, it has to do with ceding, well let's visit those. We need someone to have a mandate and I think the Prime Minister is willing to look at a mandate, is willing to look at a framework of how we can break this impasse.

THIBEDEAU: We heard from Chief Beaugard earlier. He was looking for, and many of the other chiefs, are looking for a new mechanism within the Prime Minister's Office or PCO. Did you get any indication of a new mechanism?

COON COME: It's unfortunate that Vice-Chief Beaugard did not attend the meeting. He had an opportunity and he missed that opportunity to express the views to the Prime Minister himself. He is the vice chief. I know he has a specific mandate but he was responsible not only just to speak for the chiefs of Saskatchewan but also for all the treaty groups and all the specific land claims groups. And I think he missed an opportunity. But we took that opportunity we had and tabled it ourselves and I think there will be a dialogue and there will be further reports that will be given by the national chief.

THIBEDEAU: But you didn't get a promise of a new mechanism.

COON COME: These are up for discussion in a In a three-hour meeting you cannot come up with a specific conclusion, recommendation. What you can agree to is certainly coming to say like we will have a dialogue, we understand we have a problem with a mandate, we'll look at the framework and we're going to try to figure out a way of how to get rid of all this impasse so we can all move forward. So to me that's moving the goalposts.

THIBEDEAU: Out of those eight points where else did you see movement?

COON COME: Well I think we raised The National Chief raised the issue of the violence against women, and he's willing to look at any new suggestions or concrete measures from the First Nations. And also.

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THIBEDEAU: Does that include an inquiry?

COON COME: Well (inaudible) inquiry. I think we've had so many inquiries. I think we need to look at some really concrete measures as to how to protect the women from exposing them to these whoever's out there trying to cause harm on them. At the same time I think also we talked about education, education is the number one party for the national chief and there's a commitment there to do consultations in regards to education.

THIBEDEAU: I want to thank you for your time. I'm going to take viewers right now -- I'm sorry if I interrupted you – I want to go live now to Parliament Hill.

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CBC As It Happens: INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF STAN LOUTTIT

SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE PROGRAM: AS IT HAPPENS

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2013 TIME: 18:32

REFERENCE: 1101doc4 LENGTH: 8:12 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF STAN LOUTTIT

UNIDENTIFIED: There's a lot of... there's 20, 30,000 people up North at home that are isolated. What's going to happen to them (inaudible) bill C-45. You're so (inaudible), Prime Minister.

UNIDENTIFIED: This hunger strike would have been finished a long time ago if people had listened and respected the wishes of the entire nation across this land. (CHEERING) This government does not seem to realize that they're putting themselves in a difficult, precarious, volatile situation by not listening to the voices, the wishes of the First Nations people.

KAREN GORDON (Guest Host): Today aboriginal people from across the country stood united outside Parliament buildings as part of Idle No More. And across the street, leaders from the Assembly of First Nations sat united inside the Prime Minister's office. But they were very clearly two distinct, separate groups. Leaders from Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories boycotted today's meeting in solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence. Among those who did not attend is Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council, which include Attawapiskat. We reached Chief Louttit in Ottawa.

CAROL OFF (Host): Chief Louttit, Chief Atleo has certainly indicated that he feels under a great deal of pressure to produce, and at this meeting and beyond, and that he has been accused of being too cozy with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. How does he regain his credibility in the eyes of people who are watching him right now?

STAN LOUTTIT (Grand Chief, Mushkegowuk Council): Well, I don't envy National Chief Atleo's position where he's in right now. He's elected by the chiefs of Canada, and there's not always unanimity on issues, so he's got to tread a fine line in terms of the issues. Take for example this meeting that's happening with the Prime Minister. There's nay-sayers across the country. There's provinces that are boycotting this particular meeting, and others that wish to attend, so he's in a very difficult way in terms of meeting the wishes of the chiefs across the country.

CAROL OFF: And you're among those who are boycotting this meeting. A number of Ontario chiefs are, and Manitoba. Are you upset that Chief Atleo chose to go to this meeting?

STAN LOUTTIT: Oh, I'm disappointed in the sense that there was no direct communication. We waited in the hotel conference centre most of the morning waiting for some indication from the AFN in terms of what the plan was or how they were proceeding or what kind of headway they were making n terms of the meeting agenda and those kinds of things. So yes, I'm a little bit disappointed that the meeting went ahead with such a large number of chiefs that are not attending.

CAROL OFF: And what danger is it right now for the Assembly of First Nations? Because if they have... they have to... those chiefs and Shawn Atleo are going to have to show that they are ahead of the troops and not trying to keep up with the Idle No More movement. So what do they have to do at this point to regain some of the credibility, or to regain some position of leadership?

STAN LOUTTIT: I think what has to happen is I think we cannot be satisfied with a small core group of chiefs meeting with the Prime Minister. I think they have to work to get some commitments from the Prime Minister's office that there's going to be future dialogue, that there's going to be future meetings, and turn around to work towards getting some unanimity across the country with the First Nation leadership, so that we're all on one page, and that we're all meeting and we all have a common voice, and we all have... working towards a same agenda. So I think a lot of work needs to happen.

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CAROL OFF: We've heard some very strong statements coming out of the chiefs, out of Idle No More in the past days, Chief Nepinak in Manitoba. He said, "We have the warriors, we have the people who can bring the economy of Canada to its knees." We heard Gordon Peters from Ontario, a chief there, who said that people should be on notice that their investments are not safe. What are we to understand from these messages?

STAN LOUTTIT: I think those are very, very legitimate statements that are being put forward by these chiefs, and I think we're seeing examples of that over the last few weeks, where major rail lines were disrupted, and also major road and highway systems that are being disrupted, and I think that's the growing frustration that we're seeing across the country, because we're going to be seeing more of that in all likelihood in the coming days and weeks due to one very simple reason: because we have been after the Prime Minister and the Governor General. I personally wrote to the Prime Minister and the Governor General to meet and to have a discussion, and not even a response. And when chiefs and leaders write to the Prime Minister and write to leaders to express certain issues and to meet and we don't get even an acknowledgement or response to our requests, you know, it frustrates leaders, and it frustrates, and it filters down to the community and the members, and they see and hear this.

CAROL OFF: It would seem that both for Stephen Harper and for Shawn Atleo, they both have to come up with something. They can't... this can't be perceived as just another get-together, and that they both need to show that they have done something to change this relationship. How high are the stakes for both those men today?

STAN LOUTTIT: It's very, very critical. If there is no outcomes, and there's nothing concrete that's coming out of any kind of a discussion, then again, the frustration mounts and the Idle No More movement increase, and so the stakes are high.

CAROL OFF: What will it take for Chief Theresa Spence to end her hunger strike?

STAN LOUTTIT: Her position has been very, very clear, right from day one when she started her hunger strike, that she would like to have an opportunity for a dialogue, and a conference with the Prime Minister and the Governor General representing the Queen. And that has been there right from the beginning. We've never had any response, not even any indication from the Prime Minister or the Governor General's office up until just last week, so where was the Prime Minister and where was the Governor General in that last month?

CAROL OFF: You have a lot of support from the general public in Canada who are following what's going on. There are of course lots who are opposing it and criticizing the First Nations, but there is support there. Do you fear that if Idle No More does turn into bringing the economy to its knees or attempting to do that, that you will lose the support of Canadians?

STAN LOUTTIT: That's always a danger, simply because people don't understand. And when people don't understand, they make assumptions and they make opinions that are not necessarily grounded or not necessarily true. So I think part of our job is to educate the general public in terms of our issues, and in terms of why the treaty's important. It's not just something that happened a hundred years ago in our case. It's something that's really, really relevant today, and I think the general public needs to understand that, and it's our job to be able to educate them. And once they know why we're saying the things we're saying and why we're doing the things we're doing, I think they're in a better position to understand and support us.

CAROL OFF: All right, we'll be watching. Chief Louttit, thank you.

STAN LOUTTIT: Thank you.

KAREN GORDON: Stan Louttit is the Grand Chief of Ontario's Mushkegowuk Council. We reached him today in Ottawa.

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CBC Power and Politics: INTERVIEW WITH CAROLYN BENNETT AND JEAN CROWDER

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INTERVIEW WITH CAROLYN BENNETT AND JEAN CROWDER

HANNAH THIBEDEAU (CBCNN): We just heard from Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan commenting on today's meeting. He called it constructive and said both sides managed to build on progress and shared objectives. But of course the meeting was engulfed in controversy over the venue and who would and would not be at the table.

So do the deep divisions among First Nations leaders threaten progress going forward, or will today's meeting diffuse the escalating confrontation and chart the course for better federal First Nations relationships and more prosperity on reserves.

Joining me now is NDP aboriginal critic, Jean Crowder and Liberal Aboriginal critic, Carolyn Bennett. Thanks for joining me today.

CAROLYN BENNETT (Liberal Aboriginal critic): Thank you.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Now, what do you make just first, I'm going to start with you, Ms. Crowder, of what you heard from Minister Duncan and also from Matthew Coon Come who came in just before?

JEAN CROWDER (NDP Aboriginal critic): Well, I think it's going to depend on whether there is concrete action as a result of this. And when we look a year ago to the crown First Nations gathering and although there was commitments made, there was no action. So it's going to be critical what happens in this next couple of weeks.

I think Matthew Coon Come came out and he sounded positive that there was some concrete action going to happen, but I have to say I was concerned about some of the things that Minister Duncan said. I mean he

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Like what in particular?

JEAN CROWDER: Well, the consultation piece around that their duty to consult around the omnibus budget bills had been fulfilled and I would say that First Nations from coast to coast to coast would adamantly disagree with that. And what would have been valuable is to hear specifically what they meant by the duty to consult. The courts have laid it out, but it didn't sound to me like they were going to use those kinds of guidelines around consultation.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: And in fact, it seemed like Matthew Coon Come was more positive from the meeting than what we heard from the Minister.

JEAN CROWDER: That's right and then the Parliamentary Secretary just rhymed off a list of things that that is nothing new to what they've always said in the past.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Carolyn Bennett, what was your reaction from?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I wanted to be positive and I want this to be a baby step in the right direction, so that's where I'm coming from. I want this to go forward and but I mean, the government on just in terms of that press conference is just tone deaf, standing up and saying the investments they've made. I mean if we were and that they've fulfilled the duty to consult. We wouldn't have Idle no More if that was the case. Theresa Spence wouldn't be on a hunger strike if that was the case.

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So we need now, if we're going to go forward, then there has to be some honest dialogue that talks about the truth. There have to be strategies. What, by when and how? There have to be working groups struck. There has to we have to figure out how to get to the eight things that they AFN has talked about. The needs are urgent, absolutely urgent. The budget cuts that we'd seen last year are devastating and there's a budget coming up now and we've got to see urgent work to make sure that some of these gaps are closed between now and the 2013 budget.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Is it a positive move, Ms. Crowder, that the P.M. has agreed to a high level process and dialogue within the next two weeks?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Yes, that is a positive step. That's encouraging that something is going to happen immediately. But again, there needs to be those concrete. We want to know what the outcomes, we want to know timelines, and we want to know who's going to be assigned responsibility because without that kind of framework, it would just drift away.

And that's really important for everybody, both First Nations and non-First Nations to understand what the commitment is of the Conservative government towards moving this process forward.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Now there have been calls for economic disruptions, including railway, highway, blockades for next Wednesday. How should the government react to prevent this from escalating further, or even trying to stop that from happening? Do you think that should continue then?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I think the grass roots want to be heard. The grass roots want a serious, meaningful engagement and But so as we've heard through some of all of the chiefs that this is the asking, not telling. This is a time for the government to show that they're actually going to listen in a meaningful way and hear the concerns directly from the people. And I'm afraid that just the National Chief and the Prime Minister having high level dialogues is not going to fix what we're hearing.

We also need to see a process where the grass roots, the young people that have been so engaged in it, now do we get them involved in creating the solutions?

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: How do you that?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, you actually begin a conversation. Some of these meetings, I was at the Idle no More teach-in in North Bay. Working groups, tables, discussion groups working their way through the legislation. There's such an appetite to understand what's going on and how they can that you have to be able to harvest the solutions from community. And that means this government is going to have to figure out the consultation is not a one-shot information session with sending out information. They've got to show that they're listening and this is so important, as Bob Rae said earlier today, that in this community, it takes time, it builds trust and they've got to show they're listening.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: What do you make of the split occurring within the First Nations ranks and we saw it with this meeting today? Is that going to be a challenge moving forward?

JEAN CROWDER: Well, it's going to be a challenge but I think it's important to remember that non-aboriginal communities don't speak with a united voice either. I mean, from coast to coast to coast, we have different points of view about a variety of things. Look to our federal Parliament. We have a party system and within parties people disagree.

So again, I think it's important that we respect the diversity of opinions within First Nations and that there are mechanisms to work with those dissenting opinions.

I think that diversity is important. It brings forward different points of view, different ideas. Idle no More is a really good example. I mean, we have a grass roots movement here that has energy, that has ideas, that is going to put pressure not only on the federal government but their own leadership. That's important.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Well, what about the violent threats that we're hearing from maybe a different group or a smaller faction of this group, but what do you make of the violent escalating?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I think the Idle no More has had a very peaceful important message and certainly at the information session I was at, every time things got a bit hot, the elders stood up with the eagle feather and things quieted down. That's the way they want to move forward, being seen as a peaceful movement and you know, I just hope today is the first day of us getting this right.

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HANNAH THIBEDEAU: I want to thank both of you for coming in today and giving us the latest. I want to thank Jean Crowder and Carolyn Bennett. Thanks.

JEAN CROWDER: Thank you.

CAROLYN BENNETT: Thank you.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC.CA: Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost

Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost

Chris Hall (CBC's National Affairs Editor)

The strongest image from Friday's meeting between Stephen Harper and the Assembly of First Nations didn't come from inside the room where the prime minister met with a small delegation of chiefs.

It came from outside, where hundreds of band members massed in front of the prime minister's office building demanding he come out in the rain to negotiate with them.

For many, the rally in front of Langevin Block was more than just a protest.

It was a poignant expression of how so many First Nations people find themselves on the outside looking in, when the relationship between them and the federal government as defined by history is supposed to be one of equals.

The standoff on Parliament Hill added to the crisis atmosphere, or what interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae called the "tragedy of errors," leading up to this meeting and which makes it so hard to conclude anything positive can emerge.

Instead of focusing on an agenda to address the pressing social needs faced by too many people living on reserves, instead of assessing what concrete measures could be taken to make First Nations more true partners in Canada's future, the meeting simply became a backdrop to the threat of more protests, blockades and an ever deepening rift between individual chiefs, and between First Nations and the federal government.

In the process, AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo's attempt to use this meeting as a springboard for "transformational change" failed.

His organization is clearly divided, with chiefs from Ontario and Manitoba refusing to attend Friday's talks.

Most of his agenda remains unrealized. And his own future at the helm of the AFN after winning a second term with a commanding majority just six months ago is suddenly unclear, with calls from some chiefs for a non-confidence vote on his leadership.

Stephen Harper also took a hit.

His dogged insistence that the meeting must go exactly as originally agreed, despite the changing dynamics in recent days, reinforced his reputation as inflexible.

And it further undermined Atleo, the one native leader with whom he had forged a strong working relationship.

Not surprisingly, neither Harper nor Atleo spoke publicly after the meeting.

The clear winners are the organizers of Idle No More, the grassroots movement that so unnerved the AFN in the past few weeks that every chief who spoke publicly in the days before the meeting made sure to praise them.

Idle No More the big winner in this current standoff, it looks like it has galvanized a new generation. Chief Spence has her followers as well. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)It doesn't matter that the movement's demand to "respect our treaties" is far from specific.

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It also doesn't matter that the chiefs who sided with them late this week had their own shifting priorities in the internal politics of the broader First Nations' movement.

What does matter is that Idle No More has created a sense pf purpose that goes beyond the AFN.

Its organizers and social media campaign captured the imagination of a generation of young and increasingly militant aboriginal people who rallied across the country on Friday.

They are those who see little to be gained from annual meetings with the prime minister, and even less to be gained from the incremental change on this file that has been the hallmark of Harper's time in government.

The prime minister's approach made it all but impossible for Atleo to emerge Friday with something tangible from his list of demands going in.

Atleo won a commitment that First Nations files will receive a higher priority inside the Prime Minister's Office and its bureaucracy.

And he came away with a promise that he and Harper would meet again in the next several weeks.

But the tough issues: quicker resolution of land claims and treaty issues; a new financial arrangement that would tie federal payments to inflation and population; a school on every reserve; and a formal process that would bring Ottawa, the provinces and First Nations together to negotiate revenue sharing from the estimated $650 billion in potential resource development across the country, remain points of discussion.

Absent any concrete gains, the immediate future holds only the promise of more blockades and economic uncertainty.

Gordon Peters, grand chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians in Ontario, who boycotted the meeting with the prime minister in solidarity with Idle No More, said roads and railway lines could be targeted as early as today.

Just last January, Harper played host to native leaders and spoke of the significance of 2013 as the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, a document First Nations view as the basis of many unresolved land claims and self-government.

The prime minister talked then of the importance of ensuring aboriginal workers have the skills to work on resource projects, many of which are in or near their home communities.

Harper reiterated the same commitments this week. But with no clearer timetable of how he intends to achieve them.

And the truth is that very little has been done over the past seven years since former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin negotiated the five-year, $5-billion Kelowna Accord with First Nations and premiers.

AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo, looks to have been bypassed. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)"We are here today because the descendents of the people who first occupied this land must have an equal opportunity to work for and to enjoy the benefits of our collective prosperity," Martin said then.

"Today the majority do not because of gaps in education and skills, health care and housing, and limited opportunities for employment."

Harper, of course dismantled the accord. And the gaps persist.

The Conservative government's approach has been is to craft piecemeal programs to address specific issues, in some cases driven by crisis.

The ultimate goal of ensuring First Nations communities benefit directly from developing the country's resource sector, and so gain true self-sufficiency, folds neatly into the Conservatives view that a more prosperous future can be built if there's a shared commitment.

But that goal remains far off in the future. Today the talk is all about blockades and bringing Canada's economy to its knees until First Nations are treated as equal partners.

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Words that seem more easily translated into action.

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CP: Highlights of how First Nations demands fared in talks with Harper

Highlights of how First Nations demands fared in talks with Harper

OTTAWA - The Assembly of First Nations entered Friday's meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper with eight demands. Here is checklist on how they fared:

Agreed - Commitment to a high-level process on treaty implementation.

Agreed - Commitment to speed up resolutions of land claims and affirmation of inherent rights.

Agreed - Designate decision-makers within the Privy Council Office to specifically oversee the Crown-First Nation relationship.

Partial headway - Harper agreed talks on resource equity should be part of the high-level process on treaty implementation, but also need to include provinces.

Partial headway - Make funding for First Nations sustainable, in line with growth of the population. Harper agreed this would be part of the treaty and comprehensive land claims discussions.

Partial headway - Guarantee schools for every First Nation. Harper agreed education is important but didn't make firm commitments.

Little headway - All legislation needs to be compatible with indigenous rights, and the parts of Harper's budget omnibus bills that contravene aboriginal rights need to be repealed. Harper agreed the government has a duty to consult with First Nations, but will not repeal the omnibus bills.

No - Set up a public commission to focus on murdered and missing aboriginal women.

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CBC Radio-Canada

The National

First Nations divided over a meeting with PM Harper

WENDY MESLEY

Participants: TERRY MILEWSKI, THERESA SPENCE, DEREK NEPINAK, GORDON PETERS, MATTHEW COON COME, **JOHN DUNCAN**

WENDY MESLEY (HOST):

- ONSCREEN: "Hope and Anger"

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): A tumultuous week comes to a climax. **First Nations** divided over a meeting with the Prime Minister.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN **ABORIGINAL** PROTESTOR): Matthew Coon Come went in. He should have never done that.

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): In Ottawa and across the country, we capture a day of hope and anger. Did anyone get what they wanted? -

This is itall week we've been counting down to today's meeting between **First Nation** leaders and the Prime Minister. But this was much more than a get-together; it's about the past, present and future of this country. The past is largely symbolized by the **Indian Act** and there's a growing demand to reinvent it. However, the relationship is not just about historic issues but current problems: conditions on reserves, control over resources like **water** , and **self-government** . And the future personified by **Idle No More** is young. About half of Canada's **Aboriginal** population is under 25 and that group is growing rapidly. So today all eyes were on that meeting with the Prime Minister. Senior correspondent Terry Milewski leads our coverage tonight. Terry?

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Well, Wendy, the build-up to this meeting may have been huge but the outcome is modest. It amounts to a continuing high-level dialogue between the two sides, which may not be enough to quiet the more militant voices.

ONSCREEN: "Day of Dialogue"

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1: (Victoria Island, Ontario) Move back. Move back.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): The day began with a rare statement, after a month of living on fish broth, from Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat. She insisted that today's meeting was no good without the Governor General, but as she listed the issues she was heckled about an embarrassing audit of her own band.

THERESA SPENCE (CHIEF OF THE ATTAWAPISKAT**FIRST NATION**): And revenue sharing, you know, like we

VOICE OF UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Where did the money go, Chief Theresa?

THERESA SPENCE (CHIEF OF THE ATTAWAPISKAT**FIRST NATION**): We shared a land we shared a land we shared a land all these years and we never got anything from it.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Later, Spence did refer to the audit saying the band's money went back to taxpayers and paid for contractors, lawyers, consultants.

ONSCREEN: (Protestor's placard) Chief Spence is my hero

THERESA SPENCE (CHIEF OF THE ATTAWAPISKAT**FIRST NATION**): Consultants, that's where the money goes.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): But Spence took no questions and returned to her teepee while her supporters joined a large protest on Parliament Hill. The mood of the marchers was determined and uncompromising.

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DEREK NEPINAK (GRAND CHIEF OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS): We stand with Chief Spence. And when she said no meeting without the Governor General, no meeting without our people, she meant it.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #2 (ABORIGINAL PROTESTOR): We're not afraid of Harper.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Some hardliners are planning more protests and blockades next Wednesday, the 16th, and it could get rough.

GORDON PETERS (GRAND CHIEF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IROQUOIS & ALLIED INDIANS): We will also go out on a massive campaign to be able to inform investors, both domestically and internationally, that unless they get our consent to be able to come into our territories, that their investments are not safe.

ONSCREEN: (Protestor's sign) We are #DividedNoMore

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): But not everyone is a hardliner. Despite signs saying "Divided no more," the fact is that Canada's First Nations are divided over today's meeting. Chiefs from Manitoba and Ontario refused to attend it, but those from the rest of the country did.

MATTHEW COON COME (GRAND CHIEF OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES): I didn't come here just to protest.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): This senior chief from Quebec said it didn't matter whether the Governor General was there or not.

MATTHEW COON COME (GRAND CHIEF OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES): I respect the people that want the Governor General to be present, but in this country our Constitution was already patriated and no Prime Minister would give his executive powers to a Governor General.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN #1 (ABORIGINAL PROTESTOR): Matthew Coon Come went inside and it broke our hearts.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): On the doorstep of the Prime Minister's Office, protesters shed tears as leaders like Matthew Coon Come and National Chief Shawn Atleo agreed to participate.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN #2 (ABORIGINAL PROTESTOR): We are being told that the National Chief is coming. You should go and tell him not to come.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): It didn't work. The meeting went ahead and a process was agreed to keep the work going.

JOHN DUNCAN (MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS): The Prime Minister agreed to a high-level dialogue on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims .

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Now for some of the chiefs such a dialogue counts as progress, but the government is not budging on the omnibus bills that the chiefs want scrapped. Tonight many of them went to a ceremony with the Governor General, but whether things now calm down or heat up is like so much else about this episode: not clear at all, Wendy.

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): Thanks so much, Terry. Terry Milewski.

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The National

AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo at the fork in the road

WENDY MESLEY

Participants: SHAWN ATLEO

WENDY MESLEY (HOST):

One of the major players at today's meeting was the National Chief of the Assembly of **First Nations** . Shawn Atleo joins us from Ottawa. So, National Chief, it sounds like some progress was made today. You got the ear of the Prime Minister, but do you still have the confidence of your people?

SHAWN ATLEO (NATIONAL CHIEF OF THE ASSEMBLY O**FIRST NATIONS**): The meeting today was an opportunity to put forward really eight key points that **First Nations** are seeking for fundamental change, the backdrop of which is the rally of our people and their voices will not be silenced; tremendous urgency and a tipping point that we're at calls for **treaty** implementation. There has been no mandate, changes to **comprehensive claims** , that is how the land question is negotiated. There's been no mandate on that. The Prime Minister committed at the highest level and out of his office as well as to ensure that the proper mechanisms are placed, including with Privy Council Office, that there must be a fundamental change and he is committed to talks at the highest level to get on with that work. This is something that chiefs have been calling for for a long time and it will require incredibly challenging work that does relate to a shared commitment with the Prime Minister to pursue **resource revenue sharing** , the lifting of our people out of **poverty** , and to address legislative challenges in the major bills like C-45 that were passed under the guise of making it easier to develop resources. That's simply

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): But you did not excuse me, but you did not have the mandate of all of the leaders of your community, so I'm wondering how do you put that back together? And have you been the victim of an attempted mutiny here?

SHAWN ATLEO (NATIONAL CHIEF OF THE ASSEMBLY O**FIRST NATIONS**): You know, the meetings that we had here were chaired by regional chiefs Perry Bellegarde with responsibilities for **treaty** as a portfolio area as well as Jody Wilson-Raybould from **British Columbia** , responsible for **comprehensive claims** .

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): But many senior chiefs did not attend and didn't want you attending.

SHAWN ATLEO (NATIONAL CHIEF OF THE ASSEMBLY O**FIRST NATIONS**): So the mandate that we have, you know, as was expressed just last week, full consensus from our entire executive was to push for a meeting on the 24th. We then met directly with Chief Spence and understood differently than what we had before that she wouldn't stop her hunger strike until a meeting actually occurred which compelled us to push for one as early as possible, which resulted in today.

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): So you don't think there is a problem? You think you're united again?

SHAWN ATLEO (NATIONAL CHIEF OF THE ASSEMBLY O**FIRST NATIONS**): We have full consensus on the substance of the issues that were pressed fully today by the delegation that went to the Prime Minister. It's going to require real work to follow through, but we have now a highest-level mandate from the Prime Minister. I cannot understate that the voices of our people have helped to create the level of urgency that only a fundamental transformation between **First Nations** and Canada, led by the Prime Minister, will allow us to see the potential that the door is now open.

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): We are out of time, thank you so much for making room in such a big day, so much at stake. Thank you. National Chief Shawn Atleo.

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The National

Idle No More protests held across Canada

WENDY MESLEY

Participants: CHRIS BROWN, REBECCA MOORE, IRIS LAUZON, GLENN AUGY, DEBORAH THOMAS, ERNEST SUNSHINE, CORRINA RUSS

WENDY MESLEY (HOST):

No one claimed responsibility for defacing the statue, but the **Idle No More** movement did declare this a day of action across the country and not only was there action, but also reaction to what was going on in Ottawa. Chris Brown has that part of the story tonight from Vancouver. Chris?

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): Well, Wendy, they're capping this day with a show of support in the heart of downtown at the corner of Burrard and Robson. For many sympathetic to the movement, today began with a sense of uncertainty but also of potentially momentous events.

ONSCREEN: "A New Day"

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): In Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, **Idle No More** supporters such as Rebecca Moore greeted the new day with optimism for the big meeting in Ottawa.

REBECCA MOORE ("**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia) I wish I could be there. I just don't know what to expect really but I'm just hoping for the best outcome.

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): In Winnipeg they marched symbolically to the new Museum of Human Rights.

IRIS LAUZON ("**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): (Winnipeg) I hope it's successful. I know it's only the beginning. I brought my grandchildren with me. I think it's important that they take part in this.

GLENN AUGY ("**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): There's probably not going to be a time like this in a long time.

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): And yet along with all the hope for peaceful change articulated today, there were also explicit reminders of the potential for trouble.

ONSCREEN: (Protestor's placard in Millbrook, Nova Scotia) Oh CANADA, our home NATIVE land

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1 ("**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): (Millbrook, Nova Scotia) I think he's scared. I think he's scared that Indians, we're actually standing up now.

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): Those words aimed right at Stephen Harper. And that threat to take **Idle No More** beyond words and peaceful gatherings echoed on the other side of the country in B.C. with Deborah Thomas of Kamloops. (Interview) You would support a blockade or something like that?

DEBORAH THOMAS ("**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): (Vancouver) You bet I would. You bet I would because you know what, he's not God. You know, he's our prime minister but he's not God.

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): As the meeting began in Ottawa, first reaction on the street that National Chief Shawn Atleo decided to attend appeared to go over well with the Vancouver crowd.

ERNEST SUNSHINE ("**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): Someone had to deal with Stephen Harper and like I'm glad that he went in, because if he didn't go in there would be no talks, there would be no nothing happening.

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): As they marched to city hall, word broke that the Prime Minister stayed for the entire length of the chiefs' meeting, and Corrina Russ of Haida Gwaii was pleased.

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CORRINA RUSS (**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): He's actually stayed? Wow!

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): (Interview) Is that good?

CORRINA RUSS (**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): Well, it can be, but then again is he really listening and hearing what he's being told?

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): (Voice over) Some saw the eagle flying over the Vancouver gathering as a positive omen. After the meeting broke, news that there would be more talks with the Prime Minister ahead was interpreted as modest progress.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #2 (**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): I feel that maybe we've got the public's attention.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #3 (**IDLE NO MORE**" SUPPORTER): We're going to wait and see. We can't really say anything, that, you know, that it actually means anything unless some action is actually taken.

CHRIS BROWN (REPORTER): And talking to some of those out here tonight, Wendy, the sentiment seems to be clearly that, yes, progress was minimal but at least it's a start.

WENDY MESLEY (HOST): Thanks so much, Chris.

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The National

Idle No More movement gathers outside Harper's office

WENDY MESLEY

Participants: LAURIE GRAHAM, JAMES JOHNSON, MEAGAN COMMONDA, KAREN ELIJAH, DAN DELEARY, LYNDA KITCHIKEESIC JUDEN

WENDY MESLEY (HOST):

So you saw protesters who tried to stop today's meeting. Well, on Parliament Hill today there were many **Aboriginal** voices who wanted to be heard. We asked Laurie Graham to spend the afternoon among them.

ONSCREEN: "A United Voice"

LAURIE GRAHAM (REPORTER): There may not have been unity among the chiefs today but in this crowd, about 3000 deep, a united voice.

JAMES JOHNSON (**AKWESASNE FIRST NATION**): (Ottawa) We're just hoping that our natural resources will be here for generations to come.

MEAGAN COMMONDA (KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABE**FIRST NATION**): I want to make sure that my son has, you know, a bright future and his kids, my grandchildren, and just to protect our Mother Earth.

(Chanting and drumbeats)

LAURIE GRAHAM (REPORTER): As drummers played, people stood for hours in the cold, respecting the barricades that prevented them from entering the Parliament buildings, respecting one another.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN (**ABORIGINAL** PROTESTOR): Are you feeling the love?

(Cheers and applause)

LAURIE GRAHAM (REPORTER): There's anger and frustration in this crowd but after talking to people, many also feel a tremendous amount of pride.

KAREN ELIJAH (ONEIDA**FIRST NATION**): People who thought that they didn't have a voice or had anything to say and now they can see that they do.

LAURIE GRAHAM (REPORTER): For Dan Deleary, an emotional day.

DAN DELEARY (CHIPPEWA OF THE THAMES**FIRST NATION**): I do this for my kids, I do this for my ancestors.

LAURIE GRAHAM (REPORTER): As the hours passed, the mood stayed positive. People from different **First Nations** , often with different agendas, joined hands to form a round dance, many say the largest they've ever seen.

LYNDA KITCHIKEESIC JUDEN (WHITESAND**FIRST NATION**): We are expressing the fact that we're going to work together even though there is dissension, that we're still all Indians and we stand together.

LAURIE GRAHAM (REPORTER): Together, and clearly determined. Laurie Graham, CBC News, Ottawa.

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (NATIONAL)
CANADA, Page: A5

PM agrees to 'high level' talks on treaty rights

Hunger strike continues

Jason Fekete and Jordan Press And Michael Woods, Postmedia News, The Canadian Press

OTTAWA . Prime Minister Stephen Harper and**aboriginal** leaders emerged from talks on Friday agreeing to hold "high level" discussions about **treaty rights** and claims.

However, the government doesn't plan changes to current budget legislation that**First Nations** oppose, said **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** , one of several ministers attending the four-hour meeting.

But it will in future ensure "there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the**First Nations** leadership" about government bills.

Mr. Duncan said Mr. Harper did agree to "high level" discussions about**treaty rights** and claims, which would include issues of **resource revenue sharing** , as well as "enhanced oversight" from Mr. Harper's office and the Privy Council Office.

Sharing revenues from resource development, Mr. Duncan said, would still require negotiations with the provinces. Assembly of **First Nations** Chief Shawn Atleo and Mr. Harper are to meet in the weeks ahead, he said.

"We have achieved some movement today," said Chief Atleo.

"The Prime Minister listened respectfully to chiefs and responded to all they brought forward and for the first time, provided a clear mandate for high-level talks on **treaty** implementation. Prime Minister Harper also committed to high-level discussions on **comprehensive claims** ."

Meanwhile, about 150**First Nations** chiefs visited Rideau Hall Friday night for a ceremonial meeting with Governor-General David Johnston - among them the Ontario chief who has been on a liquid-only diet.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's presence fuelled speculation she might finally end her protest, which was aimed at securing a meeting for **First Nations** leaders with both Gov.-Gen. Johnston and the Prime Minister.

Looking frail and tired, she walked with the help of several handlers.

At one point, she stood briefly in a room full of chiefs, wearing a headdress, to be feted by a group of**aboriginal** drummers. Her **health** , however, is seriously diminished, said spokesman Danny Metatawabin, who admitted surprise at her appearance at the hotel.

"She's tired, she's weak. She's weakening. Got cramps in her stomach. We're all praying for her," Mr. Metatawabin said.

"The body's stressed right now because of all the commotion of today."

In his message to chiefs, Gov. Gen. Johnston told Chief Spence, and two other hunger strikers, Raymond Robinson and Jean Sock, that he is concerned for their **health** .

Mr. Duncan, too, urged the chief to end the protest. "I had a personal friend who went on a hunger strike years ago, and it did great detriment to his **health** ," he said.

But her spokesman said Chief Spence will continue her fast.

"It didn't feel too good inside that house ... but we stood up for your rights," Mr. Metatawabin told gathered **First Nations** chiefs as he described the meeting as "a show, a picture opportunity."

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During Friday's ceremony, a wampum belt- a traditional aboriginal symbol of diplomacy and partnership - was mishandled, Mr. Metatawabin added.

"Sadly," he said, "the hunger strike continues."

Earlier in the day, some chiefs gathered on Parliament Hill and told reporters they weren't happy that AFN executives were at Mr. Harper's office. Their boycott was a sign of discontent with the federal government, but also with Chief Atleo.

Chief Perry Bellegarde, Saskatchewan's regional chief, who boycotted the meeting, said the absent chiefs had nonetheless sent written submissions into the meeting.

"We've put everything in writing and that's being discussed and dialogued right now."

Protests took place across Canada Friday as part of the **Idle No More** movement. A crowd of about 3,000 people, according to police estimates, gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block where the meetings were taking place, chanting, drumming and waving makeshift banners.

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (NATIONAL)
NEWS, Page: A1 / FRONT

Turbulence ahead

Even if Harper meets every demand, he will not solve the real problems facing aboriginals

Andrew Coyne, Postmedia News

It's not yet clear precisely what the Prime Minister and Assembly of **First Nations** chiefs accomplished at their meeting Friday, but the fact that they met at all, after the tumult and confusion of the preceding 24 hours, must be counted as achievement enough.

Rarely has the penchant of native leaders for what a former prime minister's chief of staff, Derek Burney, has called "theology" been on such open display. The whole future of the country seemed to hang on whether ministers and chiefs met in a hotel or in a government building, or whether the Prime Minister and the Governor-General attended at the same time or in sequence.

In the process, it became more evident than ever just how divided the AFN has become: among the other unresolved matters as I write are the future of AFN chief Shawn Atleo and, one has to think, the AFN itself, with much of the organization now in open revolt against his leadership. The proxy issue may have been whether to attend the meeting, but the broader conflict is foundational.

By their decision to participate, Mr. Atleo and his supporters were not just staring down the demands of what I've called the fundamentalists, many of whom have taken up the flag of the **Idle No More** movement. They were casting their lot with a more pragmatic, forward-looking vision of **natives** ' future. By no means were they signing onto the whole of the present government's reform agenda, but they were signalling a willingness to work with it. That took enormous courage, and it is vitally important that the government respond in kind.

There will be a battle for aboriginal public opinion in the coming weeks, as the fundamentalists seek to polarize the debate: Ontario's chiefs have promised to block every major road and rail line in the province next Wednesday, while a Manitoba chief went so far as a vow to "shut down this economy." Stephen Harper and the moderate chiefs will have to show progress to keep mainstream **aboriginal** opinion on side.

Much of the specific list of demands Mr. Atleo unveiled this week would seem quite reasonable: a commission of inquiry on violence against **aboriginal women** , a school on every reserve, and so on. On other matters, the divisions are less stark than some of the rhetoric would have you believe. Whatever you may have heard, no one actually disputes that we have a legal and moral obligation to abide by the **treaties** signed on our behalf, or those **aboriginal rights** identified by the courts.

At the same time, we are not obliged to accept every proffered interpretation of these, no matter how extravagant. Native leaders may insist, for example, that the federal government has a constitutional "duty to consult," not just on specific developments, but on any legislation touching on **aboriginal** interests, but that is still very much to be decided: either by the courts, or by negotiation.

There are reasonable discussions to be had on these matters - the prime minister has apparently indicated a willingness to consult more, and to engage in further talks on **treaty** implementation - as there is on speeding up the famously elephantine process for resolving **land claims** . But even if the government met every one of the native leaders' demands, that would not begin to address the real problems facing **aboriginal** people.

The emphasis of so many native leaders, even among the moderates, on legal, constitutional and political remedies - **treaties** , **land claims** , nation-to-nation negotiations and so on - reflects a misplaced fascination with top-down, government-driven, process-oriented solutions that would still leave too many **natives** on reserve too captive, not just to the federal bureaucracy, but to their own chiefs and band councils.

The same applies to the chiefs' latest demand, for a greater share of the revenues from resource development projects.

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While preferable in some ways to federal transfers, the likelihood is that control of these revenues would remain in the hands of the chiefs and their retainers, leaving their constituents as much dependent on their good graces as before.

What native people need to improve their lot is not hugely different than what any people need. Collectively, they need more control over how they are governed, meaning not just devolution of powers from the federal government, but more accountable and transparent government on the reserve. Individually, they need more of that indispensible tool of wealth creation, capital: human capital, i.e. education , and physical capital - the right to own property , and to borrow against it, the wellspring of so many business startups.

Land claims and treaty rights , however valid in law, cannot substitute for these essential reforms. Native people will lift themselves out of poverty , not by claiming wealth, but by creating it; not by making demands, but by making goods and services they can sell to others. Yet these are the very measures that have attracted the most opposition, whether from ideologues, who prefer to dwell on the inherent nature of aboriginal rights and the spiritual joys of communal ownership, or from chiefs, who fear losing their power and perks (but who are not above invoking the arguments of the ideologues).

We are headed for turbulent times. To keep things on track, leaders must keep talking, and stay focused on practical measures to improve the lives of ordinary native people . Leave the theology to the theologians. ILLUS: Patrick Doyle, The Canadian Press / Natives will lift themselves out of poverty by making goods and services to sell to others, writes Andrew Coyne.;

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
NATIONAL NEWS, Page: A4

PM meets chiefs, vows improved relations

Harper sits down with 22 native leaders even as Idle No More protests take to streets of Canadian cities

GLORIA GALLOWAY, KIM MACKRAEL AND ADRIAN MORROW

Stephen Harper is pledging to take a more hands-on role in managing the relationship between the government and Canada's **native people** , the head of the Assembly of **First Nations** says. The promise came during a five-hour meeting on Friday of 22 chiefs, Mr. Harper, and government officials that, at times, seemed unlikely to get off the ground. It suggests that the Prime Minister will now provide the momentum on such thorny issues as **treaty** negotiations, **resource revenue sharing** and **land claims** .

The talks carried on as as**Idle No More** protesters took to the streets of Canada, as an Ontario chief continued a hunger strike to press for change, as **first-nations** leaders threatened widespread disruptions and blockades, and as schisms within the AFN over the structure of the meeting had some chiefs arguing it should never have happened.

"We achieved some movement today," said Shawn Atleo, the National Chief of the AFN. "Every leader left with the sense that the Prime Minister is now prepared to lead and to take responsibility right from his office."

After a**first-nations** -Crown gathering a year ago, there was an expectation of movement on **treaty** implementation and **comprehensive claims** , Mr. Atleo said. But when **first nations** tried to move ahead on those issues, they were told there was no mandate from the Prime Minister, he said. "So we have now received, from the highest level, that political mandate," Mr. Atleo said.

There is also a commitment to continue discussions, he said. And although no schedule has been set for big gatherings that would be open to all chiefs, the door has been left open for them to occur, he said.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister **John Duncan** called the meeting constructive and said Mr. Harper agreed that there should be more oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office on certain issues.

The Prime Minister committed to "a higher level of oversight in terms of those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre," Mr. Duncan said.

The lead-up to the discussions was tumultuous, with **first nations** from Ontario and Manitoba and chiefs from other regions refusing to take part because the Prime Minister, who stayed in the room for the full meeting instead of leaving for part of the time as he had originally planned, unilaterally determined where it would be held and how many people would participate.

The government also insisted that Governor-General David Johnston, who held a ceremonial meeting with chiefs later in the day, could not be at the working meeting during the afternoon.

Governors-General do not usually get involved in the day-to-day business of government, but Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat insisted that he be there. When it was determined that he would not come, Ms. Spence refused to attend and other chiefs followed suit. She also said she would not end her hunger strike.

Many of the chiefs who boycotted the meeting remained angry on Friday - some saying Mr. Atleo should not have acceded to the government's demands.

But Mr. Atleo is not the only target of their frustration. Some **first-nations** leaders predicted repercussions for all Canadians in the weeks and days ahead, including blockades that are planned to shut down major transportation corridors in Ontario and other provinces on Jan. 15.

Before the meeting, thousands of people walked down Wellington Street in downtown Ottawa on Friday afternoon,

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carrying flags, chanting and beating on drums.

Speaking on the steps of Parliament Hill, Manitoba elder Raymond Robinson of Cross Lake said he has been fasting for the past month and is demanding the repeal of omnibus budget legislation known as Bill **C-45**.

"We are one nation," he told the crowd over a loud speaker. "If you want our lands . . . Over my dead body, Harper, are you going to take it."

Meanwhile, the founders of**Idle No More** held a meeting of their own, along with supporters and chiefs, at an **aboriginal** government building in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.

Part pep-rally, part strategy session, the assembled discussed ideas for keeping the movement going. They criticized the session with Mr. Harper, saying that it did not include discussions on the repeal of the omnibus legislation that spurred their protest.

"People are wondering why**Idle No More** is not in Ottawa. . . . We didn't go because we saw the agenda, and they're not even going to talk about removing those bills in Parliament. They're not even going to talk about removing the threats to land and **water**," said Sylvia McAdam, one of the movement's four founders. "They're going to talk about economic prosperity. Those words are beautiful, but it means we're going to have to give up our land."

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A3

PM, Atleo agree to 'high-level' talks

Both sides say meeting was successful

Jordan Press and Michael Woods And Jason Fekete, Postmedia News

They'll meet again.

Stephen Harper and **aboriginal** leaders didn't see eye to eye on everything at their talks Friday, but they have agreed that the prime minister and Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of **First Nations**, will meet in the coming weeks to have further "high-level" discussions.

Statements from Harper's office and from Atleo dubbed the meeting - held in Ottawa amid high tensions and with noisy demonstrations right outside the gathering - a successful first step after a week that thrust **aboriginal** issues into the national spotlight.

"We have achieved some movement today," Atleo said in a statement Friday night, adding Harper, "for the first time, provided a clear mandate for high-level talks on **treaty** implementation."

However, that movement didn't include any agreement on a key concern from **aboriginals** involved in the **Idle No More** protest movement: rescinding portions of the federal government's two budget bills that make changes to environmental assessments and the **Indian Act**. And with chiefs in Ontario and Alberta threatening blockades next week, the unrest appears to not yet have abated.

"I have no idea what it will do," **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** told reporters in Ottawa. "We agreed to have a meeting, we agreed to meet with people in order to talk about those things that will assist in working with **aboriginal** leadership that will help in terms of the community level for jobs, growth and economic opportunity."

Speaking to APTN News, Atleo said he believed the government now recognizes that it may have trod on **treaty rights** with its resource-development plans.

"I think there's a strong recognition that the power of **First Nations** have ... that the power is there in the people in the way that they're rising up," Atleo said in the television interview.

He also said he recognized the "difficult moment this presented," and the unity challenges within the AFN. A majority of regions were represented at the meeting in Harper's office, but regional chiefs from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, for example, refused to attend. The breakdown in unity was not related to the eight **aboriginal** demands of the government - "on the substance, we had full unity," Atleo said - but on the logistics of the meeting, specifically not having the Governor General in the room with Harper and his senior cabinet ministers.

"What we need to see and what we pressed for with the prime minister was to meet with all of the chiefs and what he said was, well, when you're making progress then those meetings can be particularly valuable. That door is open," Atleo told APTN News.

"It has been an incredibly challenging, most difficult week, but this is the hard work of seeking real change for our people."

The government agreed to three of the eight requests chiefs put forward Friday, including a "comprehensive" process to review claims and **treaty** implementation, which would also include potentially giving **First Nations** a bigger slice of revenues from the development of natural resources in their territories, which the AFN said is needed to help bring many **aboriginal** communities out of **poverty**.

"When we talk about **economic development** ... all of those things, such as resource revenues, are part and parcel of that discussion," Dun-can said. "The federal government does not receive resource revenues and so that's a question that really will involve the provinces and that was recognized by the room."

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Oversight is also expected to be enhanced, with Harper's office and the Privy Council Office, the central bureaucracy that aids Harper and his cabinet, more involved in providing "direction from the centre" on "sticky items," Duncan said.

A broader request from the AFN, and the wider **Idle No More** protest movement, was the rescinding of portions of the government's two budget bills - **C-38** and **C-45** - that **aboriginal** groups say will weaken environmental protection standards. They also say the bills violate **treaty rights**. That, Duncan said, was not accepted by the government.

Duncan emerged from four hours of discussion Friday night, in which Harper and senior ministers met with members of the Assembly of First Nations, to say the government doesn't plan changes to current budget legislation that **First Nations** oppose.

"We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there is every reason to proceed," Duncan said. But, he said, the government will ensure "there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the **First Nations** leadership" about future government bills.

After weeks of silence from the leader of the official Opposition regarding rising **aboriginal** tensions, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair emerged late Friday to say it appears things are now heading in the "right direction."

In an interview with Postmedia News, Mulcair said he was pleased with the outcome of Friday's meeting, even though it took far too long to get there. Mulcair said Harper made promises to **First Nations** a year ago and that there has "been a lack of leadership" with respect to followup ever since. ILLUS: Fred Chartrand, The Canadian Press / Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence before a ceremonial meeting with Gov. Gen. David Johnston Friday.; Ashley Fraser, Ottawa Citizen / Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak stands on the steps of Langevin Block after blockading the building, trying to speak with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. **Natives** took to the streets in Ottawa and across the country to protest in solidarity with the **Idle No More** movement.;

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CBC Radio-Canada

Le Téléjournal

Stephen Harper rencontre des leaders autochtones , pendant que d'autres leaders manifestent

PASCALE NADEAU

Participants: MARC GODBOUT, GHISLAIN PICARD, GREG RICKFORD, GORDON PETERS, , , ,

PASCALE NADEAU (ANIMATRICE) :

- Le gouvernement Harper promet de poursuivre le dialogue avec les Autochtones .

(Manifestants)

PASCALE NADEAU (ANIMATRICE) : Modestes progrès à Ottawa.

GREG RICKFORD (SECRÉTAIRE PARLEMENTAIRE DU**MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES AUTOCHTONES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DU NORD** CANADIEN) : Au haut niveau on va commencer tout de suite.

GHISLAIN PICARD (CHEF, ASSEMBLÉE DES**PREMIÈRES NATIONS** DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR) : C'est déjà à mon sens un pas important.

PASCALE NADEAU (ANIMATRICE) : Mais certains chefs ne décolèrent pas.

GORDON PETERS (CHEF, ASSOCIATION DES IROQUOIS ET DES**INDIENS** UNIS DE L'ONTARIO) : "Stop the roads, stop the rails, stop the transportation of goods." -

(Manifestants)

Ce devait être une rencontre pour apaiser la colère des**Autochtones** , c'est plutôt la zizanie et la confusion qui ont régné toute la journée. Des manifestations ont eu lieu partout au pays pendant qu'à Ottawa, le premier ministre s'asseyait finalement avec des leaders **autochtones** . Mesdames et messieurs, bonsoir. Une rencontre boycottée par certains chefs dont celle d'Attawapiskat. Mais coup de théâtre : Theresa Spence assiste finalement ce soir à une rencontre protocolaire avec le gouverneur général. On va y revenir avec vous dans un instant Daniel. Mais d'abord, Marc, cette rencontre a aussi exposé les dissensions au sein même des**Premières Nations** .

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Tout à fait Pascale. Et personne aujourd'hui ne s'attendait à des miracles, surtout pas avec le climat auquel on a eu droit au cours des derniers jours ici à Ottawa. Cela dit, ce soir, on sent chez certains leaders je vous dirais un optimisme, mais un optimisme très prudent. Est-ce que ce sera suffisant pour calmer la grogne et ramener l'unité au sein des chefs surtout, beaucoup trop top pour le savoir. La scène à l'extérieur des bureaux du premier ministre juste avant le début de la rencontre : pacifique, mais pour combien de temps.

MANIFESTANTE : "Tell him to listen to the people!"

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Certains ont tenté jusqu'à la dernière minute de convaincre leur chef de la boycotter.

CHEF MANITOBAIN : "My chiefs are right here! (Inaudible) to meet you!"

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Ceux du Manitoba et de l'Ontario ne se sont pas fait prier : ils ont tourné le dos à la rencontre, illustrant une dissension évidente. Mais d'autres, comme le grand chef Ghislain Picard, se sont joints à la délégation d'une vingtaine de leaders pour rencontrer le premier ministre.

GHISLAIN PICARD (CHEF, ASSEMBLÉE DES**PREMIÈRES NATIONS** DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR) : La relation est brisée, le lien de confiance n'existe pas.

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Pendant quelques minutes, la tension était dirigée vers celle qui a braqué les

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projecteurs sur la cause autochtone . "La Couronne a la responsabilité de protéger lestraités qui ont été signés, c'est pour ça que le gouverneur général doit être à la même table que le premier ministre", dit la chef d'Attawapiskat. Mais les discussions ont duré tout l'après-midi sans le gouverneur général. Stephen Harper y a pris part du début jusqu'à la fin, et le gouvernement a proposé ce qui suit :

GREG RICKFORD (SECRÉTAIRE PARLEMENTAIRE DU**MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES AUTOCHTONES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DU NORD** CANADIEN) : Un dialogue de haut niveau sur les relations de traités et les revendications.

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Réunion de travail positive, insiste le gouvernement qui consent à ce que les dossiers soient traités au plus haut niveau. Stephen Harper a d'ailleurs accepté de rencontrer à nouveau le chef de l'Assemblée des **Premières Nations** pour faire un suivi.

GHISLAIN PICARD (CHEF, ASSEMBLÉE DES**PREMIÈRES NATIONS** DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR) : Mais c'est déjà à mon sens un pas important. Il restera à évaluer qu'est-ce que ça veut dire, tout ça; qu'est -ce que ça veut dire pour les traités.

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Et ce soir, le gouverneur général recevait les chefs pour une rencontre protocolaire. Surprise : la chef d'Attawapiskat s'y est rendue. Mais ce n'est pas nécessairement pour autant la fin des manifestations et de la grogne. Le mouvement bloquera des routes, des chemins de fer et le transport de marchandises si l'exploitation illégale des ressources se poursuit, dit le grand chef ontarien.

GORDON PETERS (CHEF, ASSOCIATION DES IROQUOIS ET DES**INDIENS** UNIS DE L'ONTARIO) : "And if they don't stop it, we're going to stop it."

MARC GODBOUT (REPORTER) : Le chef national de l'Assemblée des**Premières Nations** a beau avoir obtenu un nouveau cadre de discussions, pour beaucoup de chefs, l'heure n'est plus aux discussions mais aux solutions. Et c'est ce qui complique la suite des choses. Marc Godbout, Radio-Canada, Ottawa.

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The StarPhoenix

THE STARPHOENIX (SASKATOON) (FINAL)
FORUM, Page: A8

Serious talks just beginning

The StarPhoenix

If one wants to understand just how great is the divide between Canada's aboriginal and non-aboriginal populations, the Governor General represents the perfect metaphor.

If most Canadians think of the Governor General at all, they consider the position symbolic and its holder a figurehead. But the Governor-General has real constitutional powers and has only been reduced to ceremonial status because when these powers were last exercised in 1926, that decision was rejected by voters.

Most Canadians, more or less, accept that they are adequately represented in the House of Commons and are content to have a non-responsible head of state. But aboriginals understand that, like the Governor General, they too have constitutionally and legally recognized authority that Canadians appear to believe is ceremonial.

They are a disparate population distributed from sea to sea to sea, but only represent some three per cent of Canada's population. When it comes to representing their democratic rights, Parliament doesn't speak for them.

Non-aboriginals complain about misspent funds on reserves. However, First Nations see that, for example, the lack of records on spending of the grants to the Attawapiskat reserve may not be ideal, but it isn't much worse than the lack of documentation the auditor general complained about when cabinet minister Tony Clement spent more than $50 million on 32 projects in his Muskoka riding for the G8 summit.

And Parliament has been hopelessly unable to deal with the complicated relationship between the two peoples.

For generations, this made little difference to non-natives . The federal government dealt from a position of power and met every crisis with a short burst of enthusiasm, followed by a constitutional conference or royal commission, then forgot about it.

The current spate of activity byFirst Nations , led particularly by the Saskatchewan-born Idle No More movement, however, is a harbinger of things to come. While Friday's meetings in Ottawa among some aboriginal leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper may have advanced some issues, anyone who thinks that talking about jobs or education will be enough to close this file hasn't been following the discussion.

First Nations increasingly understand they hold stronger cards than they have in the past. Canada is becoming increasingly dependent on the natural resources that exist on, under or near, and must travel through the forsaken corners of Canada they were allotted under the reserve system.

And the Supreme Court has ruled the government and developers have a duty to consult with theFirst Nations before they can begin to exploit these resources. While that decision is considered ambiguous enough by governments to ignore, it's clear the court ruling was meant to be more significant than that.

But Canada's natives are feeling empowered to seek an even more substantial meeting. Over the last generation, more First Nations members - particularly women - have been getting educated and are now connected through social media.

They may not have a cohesive message but, like the rest of us, they know what's right and what doesn't work. The Ottawa meetings and activities this week indicate that we have only just begun the process of trying to bridge that gap.

The editorials that appear in this space represent the opinion of The StarPhoenix. They are unsigned because they do not necessarily represent the personal views of the writers. The positions taken in the editorials are arrived at through discussion among the members of the newspaper's editorial board, which operates independently from the news departments of the paper.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC The House: INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN ATLEO

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INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN ATLEO

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Good morning. I'm Evan Solomon. That means it's time for The House. A controversial meeting, protesters in the streets, claims of progress, deep divisions, threats of disruptive action and the hunger strike continues.

Just what actually went on behind closed doors between the Prime Minister and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Shawn Atleo, and what happens now?

SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): It was an opportunity where the Prime Minister stayed for the entire meeting, which wasn't expected. We stayed together so that the Prime Minister could hear all of the leaders.

EVAN SOLOMON: The National Chief, Shawn Atleo, is here to give us the details of his meeting with the Prime Minister and how he's dealing with divisions within his own ranks. And did the government actually put enough on the table to reduce the growing tension with First Nations? Has enough been accomplished to say protest will stop?

GREG RICKFORD (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): Well, I think from the government's perspective, the answer to that question is yes.

EVAN SOLOMON: The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Greg Rickford, who was also at that meeting, is here. And what about the Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence? She finally met with the Governor General last night at Rideau Hall, but when will she put an end to her hunger strike and will the Idle no More protest escalate? And I'll also speak with Idle no More spokesperson Pam Palmeter on what protesters will do next.

This House is now in session, Canada's most popular political affairs program, no question, period.

New promises from the federal government, new divisions among First Nations, new threats of more blockades. The hunger strike goes on while the fallout from Friday's meeting between the Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a group of cabinet ministers and the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, and a group of chiefs will likely continue for a long time.

But what was actually accomplished in the meeting? Well, take a listen to the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Duncan and what he says was accomplished at the meeting.

JOHN DUNCAN (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister): Prime Minister agreed to a high level dialogue on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims. The Prime Minister agreed with the need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office. And the Prime Minister agreed to debrief the members of his cabinet and government on today's discussions and agreed to meet with the National Chief in the coming weeks to review next steps.

EVAN SOLOMON: So will the gathering and its outcome actually reduce tensions between the government and First Nations or will it have the opposite effect? We begin our special coverage this morning with the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Chief Shawn Atleo.

National Chief, good morning and welcome to The House.

SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): Good morning.

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EVAN SOLOMON: It has been a very intense week for you, for aboriginal people across this land. Are you satisfied with what happened?

SHAWN ATLEO: The Prime Minister, in a meeting that we held yesterday committed to prime ministerial oversight to ensure that Privy Council is involved and admitted and recognized that that political oversight was necessary for there to be real change in the relationship between First Nations and Canada.

EVAN SOLOMON: Will this be enough to satisfy many chiefs who refuse to go? Some have said now that chiefs are very divided, chiefs from Ontario, chiefs from Manitoba, chiefs from Northwest Territories refused to even attend the meeting. Is it enough?

SHAWN ATLEO: We had, you know, we had delegates from treaty and non-treaty. We had men and women, youth, and the chiefs were very powerful in their words about, especially about the grass roots movement that's forcing us, both of us, First Nations in Canada alike, to take heed at this moment. And the eight points that were presented were facilitated and they're key summary points that have been there for a long time.

Resource revenue sharing, the Prime Minister recognized that we have a shared objective of achieving resource revenue sharing, that the provinces are going to have to play a role in that, absolutely. In fact, he responded to all eight points. And so it was an opportunity where the Prime Minister stayed for the entire meeting, which wasn't expected. We stayed together so that the Prime Minister could hear all of the leaders. And also for rapid follow up, that this one is not something that will be just left because the urgency of this moment requires for us to get on with that work and he committed to doing that.

EVAN SOLOMON: And when will he meet with you next?

SHAWN ATLEO: Well, we're talking about work within the coming days and weeks. It's not it's not work again that I can myself negotiate, nor lead. Treaty leaders themselves will have the opportunity to explore how to implement this mandate that the Prime Minister is expressing so that we can get on with it treaty by treaty, nation to nation treaty implementation to transform the lives of our people and support lifting them out of poverty.

EVAN SOLOMON: National Chief, is there division amongst aboriginal peoples, First Nations and has that hurt your leadership?

SHAWN ATLEO: We have incredibly diverse First Nations and the Assembly of First Nations, the way we're constructed, the National Chief, myself, I'm elected by the chiefs and assembly. Each of our regional chiefs is elected down provincial boundaries. And to a large extent, you know, those that structure does not reflect the original nations that we come from, 52 nations. I come from the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation, for example, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

So, and this construct reflects an Indian Act that was part of the discussion that First Nations are saying we need to move beyond. So we all have I think, myself included as National Chief and my national organization, I think we've got to really reflect on our organization and consider and perhaps reconsider how it is that we do our work because we are so diverse. It's not just the voice of the National Chief. It's a wide diversity of voices.

But make no mistake. We pressed for and we called for this meeting and my executive did not give me instructions to do anything other than pursue the kind of change that our kids require, that they I think rightfully deserve at this moment. And absolutely, there were voices that suggested that we shouldn't meet. There were some regions that weren't represented. And I respect that. All voices need to be heard.

EVAN SOLOMON: National Chief, two other issues. First, the issue of Chief Theresa Spence. She ended up going to Rideau Hall last night to meet with the Governor General, as you know. But she says she's continuing her hunger strike. Have you talked to her? Do you want her to continue that hunger strike now? How what happens here?

SHAWN ATLEO: You know, the Idle no More and just the incredible explosion of grass roots movement coupled with the hunger strike initiated by Chief Spence, you know, I recall we sent out a letter on December 16th. We need a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General. And the press really started then. We pushed and pushed. And this is what Chief Spence is saying is we need to come to the table on a nation-to-nation basis based on treaty. There's been no mandate, no commitment from the Prime Minister to do that until this meeting that just occurred.

EVAN SOLOMON: So should she stop now?

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SHAWN ATLEO: Well, I think that obviously the work continues. Her call for urgent action and a meeting with the Prime Minister and Governor General, you know, we had a national conference call, for example. We had 50 to 60 leaders on New Year's Eve and we sent out a call to the Prime Minister to meet on the 24th of January, which would be the one-year anniversary of the Crown gathering.

The challenge is is that all of us, 60, 50 chiefs, including a roomful that I was in, we had understood that if we achieved a meeting, that when it was announced that Chief Spence would end her hunger strike.

Twenty-four hours later, you know, I was told, National Chief Shawn, the chief won't stop until the meeting actually happens. And so we went into high gear to press even harder for that meeting to happen even sooner because it was clear that we didn't understand or it wasn't communicated, you know, what exactly the implications were.

So we pressed for and received a commitment for a meeting on January 11th. Much sooner than we were asking for. But it did mean a shorter timeframe. And you know, there are criticism, Evan, that I received last January. We had 180 chiefs in the room. We had hundreds of hours of speeches and presentations but no real dialogue to push for a real mandate from the Prime Minister until this happened just yesterday.

EVAN SOLOMON: So what do you tell Canadians listening to this now? Should they expect more blockades? What should we expect now in terms of action?

SHAWN ATLEO: We are we are at a point that is different than any other point where our people understand that the bills that were passed, that there are elements that overstep treaty rights and title and rights and we pressed with the Prime Minister who readily admitted in our discussion that treaty rights and title and rights, they absolutely have constitutional legal implications.

The only way you can address those is at the highest political level. That commitment was obtained.

We now need to dig in and recognize and say to the Canadian public that the 650 billion in resource development that the country seeks to develop, you match that up with the fastest growing segment of the population which is First Nations under the age of 25 are the vast majority, they unfortunately are incarcerated at a higher rate than they graduate.

And we need to move quickly to match up the resource development potential where First Nations' right to free prior and informed consent is applied and that Bills C-45 and 38 were put into place with the notion that it would clear the way to make resource development easier and more quick to go through the regulatory processes.

EVAN SOLOMON: Right.

SHAWN ATLEO: Well, we made it clear, as I've made it clear that it will not create greater certainty. Move those processes along more quickly that it would cause greater uncertainty if you do not engage with First Nations.

So chiefs that are suggesting, you know, that there's massive economic implications, they're bang on.

EVAN SOLOMON: National Chief Atleo, it's been a very intense and busy week. I very much appreciate you coming on The House to tell us what happened and the ongoing implications. Thanks for being here.

SHAWN ATLEO: Thanks for having me.

EVAN SOLOMON: That's Shawn Atleo. He's the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

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APTN: Interview with Shawn Atleo

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REFERENCE: 1101doc6 LENGTH: 11:30 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN ATLEO

CHERYL MCKENZIE (APTNTV): APTN News is breaking into programming for an interview with National Chief Shawn Atleo. It's been a roller coaster ride for the National Chief. For the past week, he's been lobbying chiefs to meet with the Prime Minister. We were trying to get him in for an interview during our regular newscast. We have him in the chair now. The meeting with the P.M. is over and the National Chief joins us live from our Ottawa bureau now.

Thank you very much for joining us, National Chief.

SHAWN ATLEO (National Chief, Assembly of First Nations): Yes, thanks for having me.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Now, tell us, a lot of the pressure came over Bill C-45. What did the Prime Minister indicate to you about repealing that Act?

SHAWN ATLEO: Well, you know, the government, the Prime Minister recognized that all legislation that aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights absolutely have force and effect in constitutional law. And because of the grievances with these omnibus bills, but all legislation, including the Indian Act, chiefs have been pressing for so long, including the urgency of this moment and the rallying voices of our people which will not be silenced, including hunger strikers calling for treaty implementation as well as changing reforming the comprehensive claims this land negotiation process which is deeply flawed and based on denial, and attempts to extinguish our rights instead of recognition and implementation.

And we've been pressing for and continue to press for a commitment from the Prime Minister and a mandate to engage in treaty implementation and reforming comprehensive claims. And that mandate has been achieved. The Prime Minister committed not only to this work but that there would be high political oversight that includes the Privy Council Office.

What this means is that the treaty leaders now, because it's not for me to negotiate. My role was only to put forward the position of First Nations on these issues, including a number of others: resource revenue sharing, for example, so that we can have a fair share of the wealth and resources of our territories that is promised in treaty.

This is something that the Prime Minister agreed we have shared commitments and that we must get on with the work.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Now that is something that he said to you today, but also in last year's Crown First Nation gathering, he said he wasn't going to unilaterally rewrite the Indian Act, but the bills that are in Parliament actually do that.

SHAWN ATLEO: The Prime Minister conceded when he spoke, and he did use that word, he conceded that there needed to be prime ministerial oversight, that if left to the devices that bureaucracies overstep and attempt to trample and legislative initiatives do end up overstepping treaty and title rights.

And we made it very clear that our people reject those bills. And in fact, the bills, you know, are supposed to, their intention are to make it easier for companies to develop resources. Well, we've made it clear and we'll continue to make it clear that they won't have greater economic certainty, that the way forward is to see treaty rights implemented, which means that we have a fair share of the wealth and resources of our lands and that they're only developed with our free prior and informed consent.

And so the ability now to have direct prime ministerial engagement on matters of great concern for our people, including unilateral legislative development, we now have a forum potential that we did not have before. But it must be led by treaty nations and the leaders themselves as well as those who don't have treaties that are negotiating at what are called

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comprehensive claims negotiation tables.

And so those commitments I think including to all of the points that were raised on things like the need for a new fiscal relationship for fair and equitable funding, as a recognition that there needs to be fairness and equity and it must produce results. And so this work is not to be left, you know, for a long period of time. The Prime Minister committed to engage early and immediately.

This means that in the coming weeks, we'll look to leadership to determine how to work with the Prime Minister on treaty implementation to put forward what it is that First Nations are seeking on a treaty-by-treaty and nation-by-nation basis. This is a mandate that was not there before. Our chiefs were, and I was so frustrated that after the Prime Minister committed to treaty implementation and comprehensive claims last January, that their bureaucrats within government were saying they had no mandate.

This was a direct contradiction including the unilateral actions. And so we raised and pressed these issues very hard today and the Prime Minister committed his direct involvement. That's the only way forward. Our leaders have been saying that there's any sense or hope that there could be change. And so on that front, there was movement today.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Tell us about that meeting today. Certainly the people were making their voices very much heard on the outside. What was the mood in the room?

SHAWN ATLEO: Well, the mood, I can describe it as respectful dialogue. Many were suggesting that it was the most time that's been spent by the Prime Minister. He stayed in the room for the entire time. I think we were there from 1h30 till five and listening to the powerful voices of the Idle no More rally that was surrounding the Prime Minister's Office. It added a sense of strength about that we're in a moment that we can't go back from, that our people will stand up for the land, for the water, for the air and that Canada will be stronger if we're working together and our children are supported, to have education where they're learning their languages and the best of our teachings and traditions, and as well as acquiring world-class skills so that they can, you know, have the jobs that they're seeking. And our nations can pursue resource development on a basis that they so desire.

Our people have always said we're not opposed to development. Just not we just don't agree with it at every or any cost. It must be done sustainably. That's the obligation that we've got from the ancestors and that we have in our relationship with the environment around us.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: How confident are you that Prime Minister Harper's oversight is really going to implement the treaty relationship not only among his ministers but among the federal bureaucrats?

SHAWN ATLEO: I think there's a strong recognition that the power that First Nations have in the treaty and in our title and rights that are in Section 35, that the powers there in the people, the way that they're rising up, tremendous power that this is a moment that we've been saying, a tipping point maybe that's been coming for a long time. And it's being led by the young people. They're the leaders not of tomorrow. They're leading the way right now.

And the additional leverage that First Nations have is that Canada wants to develop $650 billion worth of natural resources across the country and we're moving ahead to a certain extent in a manner of disregard to our title and rights and treaty rights. I believe they now recognize that the only way the economy is going to be developed is if, as the Canadian Council of Chief Executives this last summer, all of the big CEOs said it must be done in full partnership.

Well, our ancestors said that at the outset of treaty and we've never received our fair share. And so it is incumbent and the responsibility of the Prime Minister and the Crown to honour and implement the treaty relationship with First Nations. This will require a lot of work. It's not work that is going to be undertaken. This was not about me negotiating for anybody, for any nation or for any treaty. My role is only to help push open the doors; but you know, it's our people. It's the urgency of the moment. It's the hunger strikers saying that we will not allow another Christmas/New Year's holiday go by with the kind of conditions we have. We simply must seek the transformative change that our people have always fought for. And, you know, I will join...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... all of our people in continuing to fight for that change.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes. Transformative change, we've talked about this in the past. Chiefs from Manitoba,

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Saskatchewan, Ontario were adamant that you do not attend this meeting. Some were threatening to force you out of your job. What do you say to that?

SHAWN ATLEO: I recognize the difficult moment that this presented because, you know, on December 31st, on New Year's Eve we have a national conference call with 50 or 60 chiefs on line and we all under the understanding, based on press conferences as well as press statements, that if we were to secure a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General that Theresa... Chief Theresa Spence would end her hunger strike.

I turns out that we all either didn't understand or there was a miscommunication because 24 hours later, you know, I had chiefs saying we need to go sit down with Chief Spence, which I did, which was one of a number of occasions. And she said to me that she will continue until there's a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Governor General.

So we continued to press that urgency, and as I was meeting with the chief from Manitoba last Friday I received a call and they said that they would be prepared to meet on Friday the 11th.

In that short period of a time, we didn't have a confirmation of the Governor General. And because of the relationship with treaty we continued to press and then the Governor General who, as we speak, is...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Yes.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... receiving treaty leaders. And so it has been incredibly challenging. But let me...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: But today they talked...

SHAWN ATLEO: ... make this clear.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: ... about non-confidence in...

SHAWN ATLEO: Let me... let me just...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: ... you in taking their direction.

SHAWN ATLEO: Let me just make this clear. I respect all regions, and we had the majority of regions participating and represented in the meeting today with the Prime Minister. I did not have instructions from the executive to cancel the meeting that we had called for.

And you know, on the substance, on the issues of treaties, on comprehensive claims and the need for resource revenue sharing to address the challenges in the bills and the legislation, on the substance we had full unity when we were having these discussions this week. Where we were challenged was with, you know, the logistics of the meeting and the process of the meeting.

And so this, it's one meeting. What we need to see and what we pressed for with the Prime Minister was for him to meet with all of the chiefs. And he said, you know, when you're making progress, then those meetings can be particularly valuable. And so that door is open because that is my responsibility is to keep pushing that door open.

And so I do acknowledge it has been an incredibly challenging, most difficult week, but this is the hard work of seeking real change for our people.

And I will continue to listen to the voices of all of our leaders. I had so many from coast to coast to coast saying we have to make sure that our voices are heard. I heard people from all walks of our citizens saying that we must seize every opportunity to press our agenda forward.

Yes, I am deeply concerned about, you know, challenges in our unity. We are so diverse: over 50 languages, treaty/non-treaty. And it is a challenge for us to come together.

And I will say this as well: that you know, even the Assembly of First Nations...

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Okay.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... the way we're organized is something that we really need to closely look at...

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CHERYL MCKENZIE: All right.

SHAWN ATLEO: ... to make sure that we're serving our people properly.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Okay. Well, just as your discussions will continue with government, ours will have to too for tonight. I'd like to thank you very much for coming in tonight, National Chief Shawn Atleo.

SHAWN ATLEO: Thanks for having me.

CHERYL MCKENZIE: Thank you very much. We'll now take you back to regular programming here on APTN.

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CBC The House: INTERVIEW WITH GREG RICKFORD

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INTERVIEW WITH GREG RICKFORD

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Also in the room alongside National Chief Atleo and Prime Minister Stephen Harper for that critical meeting was Greg Rickford. He's the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and he's with us now.

Good morning, Greg Rickford, and welcome to The House.

GREG RICKFORD (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): Good morning, Evan. Nice to be here with you.

EVAN SOLOMON: Take us inside what happened finally with as much anticipation about this meeting, what happened between the Prime Minister, the National Chief Shawn Atleo and your team and their team? What was the main accomplishment?

GREG RICKFORD: Well, I think that we found common ground. It was a polite, respectful and substantive meeting. It lasted three and a half hours long and importantly, all of the representatives of the delegation by the AFN had an opportunity to speak. We obviously had two primary topics for discussion. Treaty, treaty matters more broadly speaking, and then of course economic development. You can imagine quite quickly that there's some cross-fertilization in those two issues.

So the format changed somewhat to the extent that each person had an opportunity to make an intervention on specific points related to those two matters. The National Chief and the Prime Minister spoke frequently. They were very well engaged and the ministers who had planned to be speaking and driving discussions on each of the points, economic development and treaty relationships, had interventions when it was appropriate and on that subject matter.

EVAN SOLOMON: He had eight items on the agenda.

GREG RICKFORD: Yes.

EVAN SOLOMON: Not all of them clearly were dealt with. There are some three key points about a high level dialogue. People might not really understand what a high level dialogue is across the country. And how do you explain that through the Idle no More grass roots movement, the protesters that you saw, the chiefs that didn't attend to say what the government is doing now is enough to lower the tension?

GREG RICKFORD: Well, I think that high level in this context has two important characteristics. And they are that both the Assembly of First Nations and the Prime Minister agreed to go back to their regional chiefs, to their constituent members more broadly speaking in our case it would be the cabinet specifically, the caucus and to review today's discussion and generate ideas on both sides because this is about responsibilities with respect and follow up with what happened today and come back with the Prime Minister and the National Chief meeting on what the next steps would be.

High level after that will mean that any steering committee, working group, there were you know, labels aren't so important at this point on the treaty relationship and comprehensive claims would evolve from those discussions.

EVAN SOLOMON: The climate has changed. Now you've got still Chief Theresa Spence boycotted the meeting because she said the Prime Minister didn't meet at the same time as the Governor General, though she attended the Governor General's residence later in the evening.

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GREG RICKFORD: Um-hmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: Why did the government not just ask the Governor General come on down, sit with us? That's what the chiefs wanted. He would have alleviated a lot of tension.

GREG RICKFORD: Well, Evan, nobody disputes the importance of symbolism in this with respect to the Crown relationship. That was in our view something that occurred at the Crown First Nations gathering and we have always maintained that meetings in terms of next steps would be either checkups or meetings that were policy related. And I think that you can understand pretty quickly, as Canadians do, that those policy discussions take place between stakeholders, that wouldn't be a forum for

EVAN SOLOMON: But they view, you know that.

GREG RICKFORD: the Governor General to a necessary position for him to be in. That said, last evening there was an event with the Governor General that speaks to the importance of the symbolic relationship as between the Crown and the treaties.

EVAN SOLOMON: But she's still on her hunger strike, her hunger action, call it what you want.

GREG RICKFORD: Right.

EVAN SOLOMON: She's still driving a lot of a lot of the momentum of the Idle no More movement. She's not necessarily connected to it, but she's become symbolic. Her symbolic power has become a political force. What does the government now do? What steps, to stop her from her hunger strike?

GREG RICKFORD: Well, our primary concern is for her health and safety and we have always maintained, and as a personal matter I hope that she discontinues it. I think it's time to focus on our, and achieve our shared objectives, build on the discussions that we've had around healthier, more prosperous and self-sufficient First Nation communities. And with respect to the outcomes of what people could take away today, to acknowledge that it's time to move forward on what we came to today in terms of an agreement, the common ground we found and build on those positive relationships and constructive cooperative ways of doing things. And that's what our focus was in this meeting today.

EVAN SOLOMON: So the Chief, Chief Atleo, did he bring up Chief Theresa Spence, the Idle no More movement? Was that a significant part of the meeting or not a part of it?

GREG RICKFORD: The meeting focused on the eight points that you had said earlier. And they were applied to the two themes that we had an understanding would be discussed. So in that context the focus was on those eight points they dealt with. Amongst other things, treaty land claims equity, benefit resource legislation, fiscal relationships, public inquiry, education and some discussion around government. So that's what the focus of the meeting was, and to that end the eight points were addressed and it was a good discussion.

EVAN SOLOMON: So for Shawn Atleo and for the government the last question will be is it enough? Is it enough to stop the hunger action? Is it enough to stop the protest? And here you had Manitoba chiefs like Chief Nepinak.

GREG RICKFORD: Um-hmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: Who threatened earlier this week to bring Canada, I'm quoting him

GREG RICKFORD: Um-hmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: To its economic knees.

GREG RICKFORD: Right.

EVAN SOLOMON: With blockades or resource projects.

GREG RICKFORD: Yes.

EVAN SOLOMON: If this meeting did not bear fruit.

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GREG RICKFORD: Yes.

EVAN SOLOMON: Has enough been accomplished? What's your response to Chief Nepinak? Has enough been accomplished to say the blockading will stop or the protests will stop?

GREG RICKFORD: Well, I think from the government's perspective, the answer to that question is yes and I think that what we've heard from people from the Assembly of First Nations that attended the meeting that the answer was also yes. There is no dispute about the fact that there's more work to be done. Hopefully the other constituents that weren't a part of this will join that discussion that the AFN knows, the Assembly of First Nations knows that it needs to have with them.

EVAN SOLOMON: But what if they don't? I mean, what if the blockades continue? And you've seen

GREG RICKFORD: I can't I can't speculate on that dynamic or really comment on it. But what I can say with respect to any protest, look, we respect peaceful protest that stays within or follows, obeys the rule of law. And furthermore I might add that as a matter of public safety, doesn't jeopardize every Canadian. Obviously particularly this time of year, some of the actions that are being contemplated pose a certain risk to all parties, including persons that may engage in those activities. So we encourage them to that end to not engage in any kinds of activities that put those two matters, public safety and the rule of law, in as issues.

EVAN SOLOMON: I've got to leave it there this morning. Mr. Rickford, always to have you on the program.

GREG RICKFORD: Well, thanks for having me.

EVAN SOLOMON: That's Greg Rickford. He's the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

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CBC The House: INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER

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REFERENCE: 1201doc4 LENGTH: 06:00 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Now we've just heard from some of the critical people who took part in that meeting. But as we all know, many chiefs chose not to attend. They boycott the meeting. Instead they and other protesters took their discontent to the streets.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Are you guys ready? Are we going to let Harper know why we're here?

EVAN SOLOMON: Now a big force behind that protest on Parliament Hill as well as many others across the country in recent weeks, protests that included round dances and flash mobs and even blockades is the grass roots movement known as Idle no More. And one of the spokespeople for that movement is Pam Palmeter. She's also an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics Administration at Ryerson University. She's the Chair in Indigenous Governance and the Academic Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance. Last year she ran against Shawn Atleo to become the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. She's been in Ottawa all week and she joins me now.

Pam Palmeter, welcome to The House.

PAM PALMETER (Associate Professor in the Department of Politics Administration at Ryerson University, Chair in Indigenous Governance and the Academic Director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance): Good morning.

EVAN SOLOMON: You, along with many others did not think that National Chief Shawn Atleo should attend the meeting. He did. I appreciate that you ran against him in the last election.

PAM PALMETER: Um-hmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: But now that you have seen what he's come out with, are you satisfied?

PAM PALMETER: No, I mean the fact that I ran against him the last election, the election's over with and he and I will never run against each other again because that's really like old news and kind of irrelevant to what's actually happening right now. The thing that's important right now is the fact that Shawn Atleo told all of the chiefs in various assemblies that you know, he's not a treaty holder. He's not a government. He doesn't have any aboriginal rights or interests as the National Chief of the AFN. His sole job is to kick down doors and hold them open for the chiefs. So the chiefs at this meeting that we you know, at these meetings that we had all week said okay, that's what you said. Kick down the door to have a meeting, hold it open, and let us chiefs take the lead because we're the treaty holders.

That's what they asked him to do. And for someone who is supposed to represent the decisions of the chiefs, he should have respected that.

EVAN SOLOMON: You've emerged as one of the spokespeople for this Idle no More movement. What's going to happen now?

PAM PALMETER: Well, I mean, the Idle no More has really grown, so you know, there were the original four founders and there's a bunch of us spokespeople across the country, but really it's so huge now there's no one person that controls anything. And I think the Idle no More movement is really going to take different forms and different faces all across the country.

I think just from what feedback I got from grassroots people about what was happening is that the majority of feedback was

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that they were not happy, that the AFN was working against their interests and that they were going to have to really ramp up their activities, their public education. They're working in solidarity with Canadians to get done what needs to be done despite the fact that AFN has acted the way it has.

EVAN SOLOMON: So you're suggesting if you were to act on the fallout of this meeting, did it reduce tensions between First Nations and the government? Did it escalate tensions? Where would you fall?

PAM PALMETER: Oh, I think it escalated. I mean, I have no question it escalated. My only concern is that I think it's imperative that First Nation leaders on the ground and the grass roots people continue with what it is that they're doing, to demand changes and continue working with Canadians to really keep that pressure on regardless of what's happening at the AFN.

I think AFN will be held to account but we really can't let that distract. But clearly, you know, despite what

EVAN SOLOMON: But are you saying there might be a formal challenge to AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo's leadership?

PAM PALMETER: Well, I mean, that's not up to me. That's up to the chiefs. But that's one of the possibilities.

EVAN SOLOMON: All right, I've got to leave it there. I appreciate your time this morning. Thanks so much.

PAM PALMETER: Thanks for having me.

EVAN SOLOMON: That's Pam Palmeter, a spokesperson for the Idle no More movement.

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CBC The House: INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF DEREK NEPINAK

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INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF DEREK NEPINAK

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): Another key voice that emerged this week is that of Derek Nepinak, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. You may remember him. He's the one who threatened earlier to bring Canada's economy to its knees. He also chose not to attend the meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Well, where does he think things are now heading? Let's find out. Grand Chief Nepinak, welcome to The House.

DEREK NEPINAK (Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs): Good morning, Evan.

EVAN SOLOMON: In a very intense week, you were at the forefront. Why did you decide not to attend the meeting with the Prime Minister?

DEREK NEPINAK: We decided not to attend the meeting with the Prime Minister because Manitoba chiefs stood in unity with Chief Theresa Spence on what she's calling for. And it's not an Attawapiskat issue. It's an issue that's pervasive across the country, that's impacting our communities right across the board. Different chiefs take different approaches to interpreting the legacy of the Indian Act policy and legislation on our people. But Manitoba chiefs decided to stand with Chief Spence who's willing to put her life on the line to change the rules of the game.

EVAN SOLOMON: Now that you know the results of the meeting, they say they've got high level dialogues on treaties and other issues. Now that you've seen the agreements that Shawn Atleo has brought out, National Chief Atleo, is it enough for you?

DEREK NEPINAK: No, it's not enough for me because I think that there's a paradox, there's a paradox apparent in even saying high level meetings on treaties. Treaties were made, you know, with the grass roots people. We sat on the ground and the families within our communities envisioned a process, envisioned the benefits and the responsibilities and the new relationships coming out of treaty.

I don't believe that by establishing a new table with a few dollars sprinkled here and there, with high level as we call it bureaucrats or politicians is really going to impact at the end of the day at the grass roots level for the benefit of our people.

I've got no reason to put any faith in that kind of process because that's the kind of stuff we've been dealing with for 140 years now.

EVAN SOLOMON: So do you think National Chief Atleo failed to accomplish much in this meeting?

DEREK NEPINAK: I can't really say. You know, I don't like to put everything on our poor National Chief. Sometimes he gets held out and he takes shots for some of the things that happen within the very complex bureaucracies and very complex organizations and I think he's doing the best he can with the tools that he has and too many people now, or a lot of people I should say are standing up and saying we need something different.

EVAN SOLOMON: What do you mean by that? What does something different mean? I mean, you decided not to go there. Are there deep divisions now within the Assembly of First Nations?

DEREK NEPINAK: I think there have always been divisions. There's always been differences of opinion. And you know, now that we're at a point where push comes to shove, a lot of those matters that have been percolating in the

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background, they've got to come out front and centre now and the public is seeing it. They're seeing, you know, differences of opinion and differences in ways of managing these things.

You know, I look at what's happening. We've been calling for a transformation in the relationship and we don't believe that a new process dictated to us or prescribed to us by government bureaucracy is going to create the change we need.

EVAN SOLOMON: You've said earlier this week that the Idle no More and you have the warriors to bring Canada's economy to its knees if you weren't satisfied. Well, you didn't attend the meeting. You clearly aren't satisfied with the results. Will you attempt more blockades? Will there be an attempt to, as you say, to use your words, bring Canada's economy to its knees?

DEREK NEPINAK: I think what's going to happen is that we're going to continue to build the political capital we need, the capital that's invested with our young people. We're going to sit back. We're going to let them organize the way they need to organize. We're going to support them where we can and we're going to stand with them where we can. We're going to see how far it goes and I do believe that it is going to get to the point where our young people and the leaders and the warriors and everything will be standing together and it may lead to a point where, you know, certain industries may feel the impact. I mean, already I think the economy has felt the impact over the last number of weeks, over activities of Idle no More. And I think it's just going to

EVAN SOLOMON: So there will be more blockades. So you're saying more blockades.

DEREK NEPINAK: I think there's going to be more, yeah. Yeah, I can't say with any certainty because I'm not part of that. I stand on a diplomatic platform, always praying and hoping for the best. But you know, there's other there's other groups out there that are part of our indigenous movement that are planning and they're going to come out stronger.

EVAN SOLOMON: Grand Chief, you stood very much, as you say, in solidarity with Chief Theresa Spence. She is continuing her hunger strike, her hunger action. How does it end now?

DEREK NEPINAK: Well, I think that, you know, she's going to continue her position. We're going to continue to stand behind her. She has asked for a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Governor General, as well as the leadership of our people. And that's a fairly large forum. That's an open door process. The Prime Minister is going to have to reconsider whether or not he needs to stay behind tight, secured environments or whether or not he's comfortable enough to step out and engage with us in a good way.

EVAN SOLOMON: Grand Chief Nepinak, I always appreciate your time. Thanks for being on The House this morning.

DEREK NEPINAK: Thank you very much, Evan. I appreciate it. Migwetch.

EVAN SOLOMON: Derek Nipenak is the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

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CBC The House: INTERVIEW WITH GRAND CHIEF MATTHEW COON COME

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INTERVIEW WITH GRAND CHIEF MATTHEW COON COME

EVAN SOLOMON (CBC-R): So what does all this mean for the relationship between First Nations and the federal government, the future of the Idle no More movement and Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike?

Matthew Coon Come is the Grand Chief for the Grand Council of the Cree. He's also the former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and he also participated in Friday's meeting with the Prime Minister. Grand Chief Coon Come, welcome to The House.

MATTHEW COON COME (Grand Chief for the Grand Council of the Cree): Good morning.

EVAN SOLOMON: You've been in many negotiations.

MATTHEW COON COME: Yes.

EVAN SOLOMON: Take us inside that room with the Prime Minister. You spent hours with him.

MATTHEW COON COME: Umhmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: Out of all the things that you talked about, was there one thing that he said that struck you as important that perhaps made you emerge from that meeting satisfied?

MATTHEW COON COME: In any negotiations, one should enter into negotiations recognizing that you need, it's a give and take. If you're willing to just stick to your guns and not move you will succeed, so you might as well not enter into that room. But if you're willing to go in there and be able to present your demands and allow for the Prime Minister to reflect on what you have asked him, is this what he's going to do, there's so many things that we've asked him. But what was profound to me was that there will be a high level oversight of these negotiations, in which the Prime Minister will be involved between him and National Chief Atleo and we'll see where that goes.

EVAN SOLOMON: Tell me about the divisions.

MATTHEW COON COME: I mean, the Prime Minister could have said

EVAN SOLOMON: Clearly

MATTHEW COON COME: no, thank you very much, guys, and he could have walked out. But he didn't.

EVAN SOLOMON: Chiefs are clearly divided on the issue. When you walked in, very passionate voices.

MATTHEW COON COME: Umhmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: Some people wept, and you saw that. Has Shawn Atleo's leadership been permanently affected by the divisions? Chiefs from Ontario didn't attend. Chiefs from Manitoba didn't attend. Chiefs from the Northwest Territories didn't attend. How deep were the divisions?

MATTHEW COON COME: There are probably more people at home that weren't able to come down here that probably

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support the National Chief Atleo. They may not be demonstrating out on the streets but there's certainly a want, some movement in terms of solving and trying to establish a renewed treaty First Nations relationship in this country. Every leader has that challenge. It takes a courageous leader to be able to walk into a room, knowing that there's a division. And there is a division. But why use a double standard?

The Canadians have, I mean, five different parties. You have an opposition. You've got your NDP, Green Party, Liberals, Conservatives. You're not united, so why do you expect us to be united?

EVAN SOLOMON: Well, no, but every political leader

MATTHEW COON COME: But we are but

EVAN SOLOMON: wants to unite his own party or her own party.

MATTHEW COON COME: But that, yes, you can try that. But you must respect our diversities.

EVAN SOLOMON: Umhmm.

MATTHEW COON COME: Some are treaty groups. Some are very advanced. Some have specific land claims that they've settled. Some have land management they've settled. Some have IBA agreements

EVAN SOLOMON: Well, what do you say to the chiefs?

MATTHEW COON COME: that they've signed, you know.

EVAN SOLOMON: What do you say to the chiefs who decided not to attend?

MATTHEW COON COME: That is their choice. That is their choice. Each First Nation must decide whether they want to participate in the process or at least make every effort. I think if we are to get credibility in this country and if the First Nations want to go into the international community we must be seen that we have exhausted every avenue that is available to us in this country, that we make every effort to meet, to participate in the parliamentary process where in committees, aboriginal committees or the Senate committees to be able to use the courts and to be able to meet the prime minister of this country.

EVAN SOLOMON: Last question. You said before this meeting, Grand Chief, and I'm quoting you: There is a social time bomb. There is frustration. There is anger. There could be upheaval.

MATTHEW COON COME: Umhmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: And I certainly don't want to be responsible for the death of anyone.

MATTHEW COON COME: Yes.

EVAN SOLOMON: Nonetheless, Chief Theresa Spence continues her hunger action right now. What, the Idle no More movement continues. They say they might be continuing with more blockades, more protests, more flash mob. There's a range of activity.

MATTHEW COON COME: Umhmm.

EVAN SOLOMON: There have been threats by Chief Nepinak to bring Canada to its economic knees. What impact will this meeting have on Chief Theresa Spence?

MATTHEW COON COME: Well, let's go back to Idle no More. Each generation wants to have an input and wants to have a say in what happens in their own backyard. I support Idle no More because they want to see their leaders be able to resolve some of their deplorable living conditions. They want to see the implementation of their treaties, they want to see employment, they want to have a share in extraction of natural resources from their lands. And they want to get involved. That's cool. I think every one of us. I was 24 when I was a young chief.

EVAN SOLOMON: Yes.

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MATTHEW COON COME: I'm 56 right now, but I chose to be part of the process and I think I've done something for my nation that others only dream of. Now regarding Chief Spence, Chief Spence is entitled to what she's doing and that's her choice. And that's the tactic that she's using. And yes, she had an influence. I think we can thank her for that meeting. And but at the end of the day, there are many, maybe 300 Attawapiskats across this country. And that's her choice.

EVAN SOLOMON: But what could happen now? She says if the Prime Minister and the Governor General don't meet together she will continue.

MATTHEW COON COME: Well, I'm not sure

EVAN SOLOMON: Then what?

MATTHEW COON COME: I'm not sure who's advising her, okay? In this country, in the 80s, when we when our Constitution was patriated, the executive powers of the Queen were given to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is not going to relinquish his executive powers to a Governor General. That's the reality.

EVAN SOLOMON: So you're saying that she doesn't appreciate the legal process. Is that what you're saying?

MATTHEW COON COME: Well, I don't know who's advising her, you know, and I don't know who she surrounded herself with. But I think if one is to make some statements, you know, they have to be credible based on some at least some facts, on some knowledge, you know, and hopefully be able to compromise. You know, if there's a meeting with the Prime Minister, you know, are you going to attend, you're not going to attend?

EVAN SOLOMON: But are you urging her to stop her hunger action?

MATTHEW COON COME: If there's a I would hope that she would, you know, for her health. I think she succeeded, I think. The Governor General responded by saying I will meet. Maybe not the way she wanted it. The Prime Minister said that he was going to meet with the First Nations. So I think both have been done.

Because when you ask for something in this country and my experience in negotiations is it's a give and take. There has to be a save face, you know, for both sides, you know. And I certainly don't want the government of this country to say that, and blame it on the First Nations, you know.

EVAN SOLOMON: Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, a pleasure to have you on the program this morning.

MATTHEW COON COME: Always my pleasure.

EVAN SOLOMON: Matthew Coon Come is the Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Cree. He's also the former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

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MediaQ Transcript

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs John Duncan and Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Greg Rickford hold a news conference to discuss the meeting between the Government of Canada and First Nation leaders.

Hon. **John Duncan** : Good afternoon everyone. It is the start of a weekend for some of you. Since 2006, our government has taken concrete action on priorities like **education** , **economic development** and **housing** for the First Nations. We built new **schools** , invested in clean drinking **water** systems, built thousands of new homes, increased funding for services for the most vulnerable members of **First Nations** communities and invested in hundreds of projects to link **Aboriginals** with job training services.

At last year's historic Crown-**First Nations** gathering, Prime Minister Harper committed to building on that progress and today's meeting marks another important step in that direction. The Prime Minister participated in the full meeting and had a good, frank dialogue with all participants. While we're pleased with the constructive discussions that took place today, there's still more work to be done to improve living conditions and economic opportunities for **First Nation** communities.

The agreed upon agenda items for the meeting focused on**treaty** implementation and **economic development** . To that end, the Prime Minister agreed to a high level dialogue on the **treaty** relationship and **comprehensive claims** . The Prime Minister agreed with the need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister agreed to debrief the members of his Cabinet and government on today's discussions and agreed to meet with the National Chief in the coming weeks to review next steps.

Working together remains the best way to achieve our shared objectives of healthier, more prosperous and self-sufficient **First Nation** communities. Our government remains committed to working with those **Aboriginal** leaders who want to work with the Government of Canada to create jobs and growth in their communities.

At this time, I will turn the mic over to Parliamentary Secretary Rickford for a message in French. Thank you.

Greg Rickford: Merci monsieur le ministre. Bonsoir mesdames et messieurs. Depuis 2006, notre gouvernement a adopté des mesures concrètes relativement (sic) des priorités comme l'éducation, le**développement économique** et le logement pour les premières nations. Nous avons construit des nouvelles écoles, investi dans des réseaux d'**eau** potable, construit des milliards (sic) de nouvelles maisons, augmenté les fonds destinés aux membres les plus vulnérables des communautés des**premières nations** et investi dans ces cent ans (sic) de projets afin de diriger les **autochtones** vers les services de formation professionnelle.

Nous sommes satisfaits des discussions constructives qui ont, ont eu lieu aujourd'hui. Cependant, il reste du travail à faire pour améliorer les conditions de vie et les possibilités économiques des communautés des premières nations. À cet effet, le premier ministre est d'accord avec les suivants: un dialogue de haut niveau sur les relations de **traités** et les revendications; le besoin qu'il y a, ait plus d'attention de la part du bureau du premier ministre et du conseil sur les enjeux liés aux**premières nations** ; et résumer les discussions d'aujourd'hui aux membres du cabinet et du gouvernement et rencontrer le chef national Atleo dans les semaines à suivre pour réviser les prochaines étapes.

Alors la collaboration demeure la meilleure manière d'attendre (sic) notre objectif commune, qui est de voir les commaunu, les communautés des**premières nations** devenir plus saines, plus prospres (sic) et plus auto, autonome. Notre gouvernement demeure résolu collaborer (sic) avec les dirigeants **autochtones** qui souhaitent travailler avec le gouvernement du Canada afin de créer des emplois et de faivori, favoriser la croissance au sein de leurs communautés. Merci.

Question: Mr. Duncan, was anything achieved today that will stop the protests?

Hon. **John Duncan** : I think we achieved quite a bit today. And of course, our objective is to continue making progress in terms of working with **Aboriginal** leadership where we can create benefits for jobs growth, economic opportunities. So I

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can't really respond to the rest of your question because that's something that the meeting was not designed to achieve.

Question: Did you offer to change C-38 or C-45? Did you offer to amend it to address their concerns?

Hon. **John Duncan** : There was discussions around legislation. Our legislation indeed respects Section 35. That's a constitutional obligation that we have. And so we're proceeding in that way with all of our legislation.

Question: What does that mean? Are you doing anything differently about C-38 or C-45?

Hon. **John Duncan** : No, I think you can go back to the, the points that I described in terms of what the Prime Minister is committing to, and that includes ensuring that there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the **First Nation** leadership. And so we feel that we're, we're quite, we're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there's every reason to proceed.

Question: Mr. Duncan, January 16th, Ontario Chiefs have said they're going to block the roads, block the trains and that **investment** won't be safe. So that's not far way. What are you going to do about that?

Hon. **John Duncan** : Well, we, we've said before that, you know, Canadians have every right to protest, if they wish to do so as long as they do so in a lawful way. This is, this is a matter that will be up to the authorities at that time. We took the same position in Sarnia, as you know.

Question: Okay. Is there any suggestion that these future talks will involve any discussion of **resource revenue sharing** ? What was the response of the Prime Minister on that?

Hon. **John Duncan** : Well, the, the commitments on item 1 and 2 are dealing with **treaties** and dealing with **comprehensive claims** . When we talk about **economic development** , economic growth, jobs and economic opportunity, all of those things such as resource revenues are part and parcel of that discussion. And we don't, the federal government does not receive resource revenues and so that's a question that really will involve the provinces and that's, that was recognized by the, by the room.

Question: Are you prepared to do anything to, so that Theresa Spence will stop her hunger strike?

Hon. **John Duncan** : I've been, you know, very concerned about this. I had a personal friend who went on a hunger strike years ago and did great detriment to his **health** . I remember Elizabeth May when she had her hunger strike in Ottawa here and I talked to her on Day 14 of that and, and I like to think that I may have played a small part in her deciding at Day 17 to discontinue her hunger strike. I have been,

Question: (off microphone) so...

Hon. **John Duncan** : I've been very much wanting to have a conversation with Theresa Spence. I've offered multiple times and I expressed concern again today. There was many people in the room that expressed major concern.

Question: Why didn't you just invite the Governor General to the meeting?

Hon. **John Duncan** : The, those who wish to are meeting with the Governor General now, I understand and that was the appropriate response.

Question: That's not how they see it. They see him as being integral to their **treaty** , cause **treaties** in the past were in coordination with the, with the Queen, the monarchy and so on. Do you understand why they see it as such an important

Hon. **John Duncan** : We had a dis, we had a discussion

Question: (off microphone)?

Hon. **John Duncan** : about that and there's, there's a variety of opinions on that.

Question: When you say that there's going to be enhanced oversight from PMO and PCO, what exactly does that mean? Like, can you describe what, what will be different than the situation right now?

Hon. **John Duncan** : I think what we're really talking about is there times when as a department, as a Minister, we have

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some negotiations or some, something that's significant regionally or locally where we end up in a, in an impasse. And so resolution could potentially come earlier with, with knowledge. And so, there's just, rather than having for example, like Crown-First Nations gathering, rather than having a one-year report, the, the Prime Minister would like to have something more immediate so we can

Question: (off microphone) a quarterly report or...?

Hon. **John Duncan** : Something like that. I mean, these are all subject to further discussions with the, between the Prime Minister and, and the National Chief.

Question: J'aimerais poser une question en français à M. Rickford.

Greg Rickford: Oui.

Question: Hier, le chef Atleo a dit que les relations entre les premières nations et le gouvernement fédéral étaient at a crossroad. Est-ce que vous sentez que c'est la même chose vous aussi? Est-ce que vous sentez que on a tourné un point puis c'est à un point tournant en ce moment et que c'est un, un nouveau départ, si vous voulez entre des relations entre les **premières nations** et le gouvernement fédéral?

Greg Rickford: Oui. Nous sommes d'accord dans le sens que c'est clair que au cause de le rendez-vous aujourd'hui, que nous avons les, les objectifs spécifiques, c'est-à-dire un dialogue de haute niveau. On est d'accord avec la notion que sur les relations de **traités** et les reven, revendications, par exemple, et, et dans ce sens aussi, comme le ministre a déjà dit tout à l'heure que le besoin qu'il y ait plus d'attention de la part de, du bureau du premier ministre et conseil privé sur les enjeux liés aux **premières nations** . Ces deux choses représentent le sens que où nous sommes d'accord que à la haute niveau, on va commencer tout de suite dans quelques semaines par exemple avec, avec le chef national de, de découvrir les étapes prochaines et ça va passer dans l'autre niveau entre l'Assemblée, le chef national et notre ministère, ministre et le bureau du premier ministre.

Question: Donc le premier ministre va être davantage impliqué dans ce dossier là qu'il n'a été dans le passé, c'est ce que je peux comprendre?

Greg Rickford: C'est-à-dire plus impliqué dans le sens que le dialogue d'autres niveaux sur certaines choses comme le **traité** ou revendication va passer comme je veux dire, entre ces bureaux et le chef na, national et bien sûr le ministre.

Question: Pouvez-vous me décrire un peu le ton des dialogues, le ton du dialogue entre les ministres et les représentants des **premières nations** ? Est- ce que c'était un dialogue constructif, poli? Est-ce qu'il y avait de la frustration dans la, la pièce? Comment vous décririez le dialogue (inaudible)?

Greg Rickford: Absolument et très.

Question: Mr., Mr. Duncan,

Hon. **John Duncan** : We have one, time for one more question.

Question: can you, can you just explain what is a high level dialogue? What is that?

Hon. **John Duncan** : Well this is what I was talking about. The Prime Minister and the National Chief are expected to meet again in the weeks to come. That's what I call high level dialogue.

Question: Is that all that's changed today? Like, can you summarize what is the change

Hon. **John Duncan** : No, that's not all that's changed. I went through the

Question: Okay, if you could just summarize it for us so we know what's different.

Hon. **John Duncan** : I went through the three points. Basically, a commitment to, on the **comprehensive claims** and **treaty** implementation in terms of a process that will involve high level, you call it dialogue, and also that the Prime Minister has made a commitment that there will be a, an oversight, a higher level of oversight in terms of those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre.

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Question: What do you make of the fact that the Chiefs aren't united on this? Can Shawn, Shawn Atleo, is he the person you're supposed to negotiate when you've got all this disarray?

Hon. **John Duncan** : Shawn Atleo is the National Chief. That's, that's who we set the meeting up with.

Question: Are you confident this is going to put an end to the protests across the country? I mean, is this, is this what they were, is this what everybody was asking for?

Hon. **John Duncan** : I have no idea what it'll, what it'll do. We agreed to have a meeting. We agreed to meet with people in order to talk about those things that will assist in working with **Aboriginal** leadership, that will help in terms of the community level for jobs, growth and economic opportunity.

So thank you very much.

Question: The oversight on the sticky

Greg Rickford: Merci beaucoup. Merci.

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NATIONAL POST

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The true path to native dignity

National Post

Friday's meeting between Stephen Harper and **First Nations** leaders was supposed to represent a major step forward in Canada's relationship with **natives** . And some good may indeed come out of it. But the circumstances surrounding the meeting also turned it into a symbol of the dysfunctionality of that relationship.

The chiefs had several reasonable-sounding demands - such as a school and clean drinking **water** on every reserve. As Dr. Murray Trusler has noted in his letter-writing campaign to Ontario government officials, it is a scandal that residents of remote reserves do not have access to the same basic **health** and **education** standards as the rest of Canadians. The **First Nations** ' chiefs' request for a national inquiry into missing or murdered **aboriginal girls** and women is also reasonable.

What's more problematic is the Assembly of**First Nations** ' demand to expand its members' share of the proceeds from mining, forestry and other forms of resource -extraction. **Natives** groups already reap billions annually from such arrangements - both through formal agreements, and ad hoc informal deals that sometimes look more like shakedowns. In cases where **First Nations** become active partners in these commercial projects, as both trained workers and managers, the result can be healthy **economic development** . But too often, the payouts - whether justified under "**treaty** obligations" or not - end up being just another form of **welfare** . And as many **First Nations** leaders themselves are beginning to realize, that is not what **natives** need.

Nor is the answer for Ottawa to simply cut bigger cheques, delegate powers and get out of the way- which seems to be Bob Rae's preferred solution. Anyone who agrees with Mr. Rae should read John Kiedrow-ski's op-ed in Friday's edition of the National Post. As he notes, **First Nations** have had the authority to promulgate their own building codes since 1983. Yet only 2% of such communities have established codes that are consistent with provincial or national standards - which is the main reason many **native reserves** are so infested with mould and fire traps.

Friday's meeting almost didn't happen. At the last moment, some chiefs decided that it would be too undignified to meet Stephen Harper at the scheduled meeting on his terms, and instead insisted that Mr. Harper come to them, in a large open venue; and, furthermore, than the Prime Minister had to come with Governor-General in tow.

These chiefs' last-minute posturing may seem bizarre to many Canadians. Yet it will be well-understood by businessmen and businesswomen who have to negotiate land-use agreements and other contracts with **First Nations** . During the negotiations, there often is a great emphasis placed on the respect and entitlements owed to the **First Nations** chief. Meetings start and stop at his pleasure, or are postponed or cancelled or moved at short notice. Demands for money are made at strange-seeming times. Everyone involved, on the non-native side, is constantly on edge about offending some point of protocol.

There is a reason for this, and it is at the real root of Idle of No More: Native leaders are desperate to reclaim the dignity they rightly feel their societies have lost since first contact with European settlers. Such boycott gestures as took place on Friday may seem annoying and arbitrary to the rest of us. But the desire for dignity is a real hunger within all human societies. We should not laugh it off or roll our eyes.

But here's the real problem: In a capitalist nation such as ours, real dignity can never come to any society whose members know, deep down, that they are wholly dependent on others for what they have.

That is why the quest for native dignity through other, more symbolic ways, often is expressed in such a theatrical fashion, with Friday's on-again, off-again spectacle being merely the latest example. It is also why our academic, political and even commercial classes strain so mightily to recast **welfare** handouts as **treaty** entitlements and the like: It torments us to see people living without dignity, and we want to package the money in a way that gives them some.

But this trick never really works. **Welfare** is **welfare** .

In the final analysis, true dignity will have to come from real self-sufficiency - which means **education** , jobs and

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economic development . Everything else is secondary . When native reserves in this country are proud, productive components of the Canadian economy (which, to be fair, some already are), it will not matter which leader goes to which building to discuss which issue. Dignity will have been achieved in substance, and First Nations no longer will have to rely on its empty forms.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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EDITORIAL, Page: F8

Better to be inside than outside

Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat and the radical aboriginal activists who have appropriated the Idle No More movement have succeeded only in creating a regional rift among the chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations. This has overshadowed the practical conversations between the federal government and a part of the first-nations leadership, and also the actual progress on land-use agreements announced today. As Ian Brodie, a former chief of staff to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, sagely observed in a tweet, "I offer this as advice to anyone who thinks you accomplish more by not meeting the PM than by meeting him. You don't." Chiefs from Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta and the Atlantic provinces, along with Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, the Chief of the AFN - not intimidated by a threat of a no-confidence motion - recognized this truth, while chiefs from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories in effect denied themselves that valuable access. Indeed, some native protesters tried to obstruct their own leaders from entering the Langevin Block of the Parliament Buildings.

At the same time, Mr. Harper could, from the outset, have expressed the gracious side of his nature in making himself available for more than the initial half-hour, just as he unexpectedly stayed for the whole session last year, at the first Crown-First-Nations Gathering. Instead his presence for the full four or five hours was announced when it was about halfway through. It is not to diminish John Duncan, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, or Tony Clement, the President of the Treasury Board (always scheduled to be present throughout) to say that the early assurance of Mr. Harper's full participation would have added much authority to the discussions. Moreover, though any participation in these discussions by Governor-General David Johnston would have been a grave constitutional violation, his symbolic presence as a silent witness might have done no harm - and could have been a basis for subsequent, strictly private consultations between him and the Prime Minister.

It is welcome news that Mr. Harper wants a second meeting that includes Chief Spence. The petulant boycotters should now drop their obstructionism.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
COMMENT COLUMN, Page: F9

A long line of false starts, slow progress

JEFFREY SIMPSON

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In 1969, the recently elected government of Pierre Trudeau published a white paper on **Indian** policy.

Consistent with Mr. Trudeau's belief in individual but not collective rights, and reflective of the frustration about the lack of progress on **aboriginal** matters, the white paper recommended scrapping the **Indian Act** (which was what **Indians** said they wanted); delivering services through the same programs as for other Canadians; abolishing the **Indian affairs** special programs; and transferring Indian lands to **Indian** people and away from ownership by reserves. **Aboriginal** leaders furiously denounced the white paper as a recipe for assimilation. They said it rejected their special standing in Canada as the original occupiers of the land. They insisted it diluted their relationship with the Crown that dated to the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

Mr. Trudeau relented, not something he often did. Ever since, without much success, **Indian** leaders and governments have tried to develop a functional, "nation-to-nation" relationship.

It was always going to be a struggle. Not only did generations of mistrust corrode confidence, but it proved difficult to figure out how to give effect in fact, as opposed to rhetoric, to the "self-determination" of **aboriginal** nations that contained 612 bands (according to Statistics Canada's survey of 2006), on more than 2,600 reserves, many in remote areas with small land bases and populations that measured in the hundreds or few thousands of people - to say nothing of the fact that about half the **Indian** population had left the reserves.

Efforts to square this circle have rather predictably failed. **Aboriginals** , of course, place the entire blame on governments. The reality is, as one would expect, rather more complicated.

In 1992, a major effort to start serious **treaty** negotiations began in **British Columbia** , where only a small amount of territory is covered by **treaties** . With great fanfare, governments and the B.C. **aboriginal** leadership launched the B.C. **Treaty** Commission.

Two decades later, the results are depressingly modest. By provincial statistics, 60 **Indian** groups are negotiating, representing only about half the provincial total. The rest are not interested in participating. Only two groups have implemented **treaties** , three have completed final agreements, two more have advanced final agreements and one has an agreement in principle. (The Nisga'a **Treaty** preceded the post-1992 process.)

A year earlier, the federal government had created a royal commission. It took the better part of five years and went way over budget, but eventually produced five volumes. It tried to articulate a vision of a "nation-to-nation" relationship with an elaborate third order of government, an **aboriginal** parliament, regrouping (or aggregating) bands into larger units, new **treaties** , more land, a bigger share of resources.

But there was too much castle-in-the-sky thinking (which is why former Saskatchewan premier Allan Blakeney quit the commission), too much dreamy talk of how to create economic wealth for **aboriginals** , and an analysis that rested far too much on the separateness of **aboriginals** rather than what they had in common with other Canadians. Few concrete changes occurred.

Prime minister Brian Mulroney's government negotiated with the provinces and the **aboriginal** leadership a historic document - the Charlottetown Accord - that would have greatly expanded constitutional protections for **aboriginal rights** . The then-head of the Assembly of **First Nations** , Ovide Mercredi, campaigned tirelessly for the accord. Alas for him, a majority of **aboriginals** voted against it.

Then, as now, many **aboriginals** do not believe governments negotiate in good faith, and governments struggle to understand **aboriginals** ' bottom lines. It is a recipe for slow progress.

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There have been other false starts: the Kelowna Accord from the Paul Martin government that would have greatly increased federal monies for **aboriginal education** and **housing** was dropped by the Harper government. **Aboriginals** decry the **Indian Act** but efforts to change it largely go nowhere.

So yesterday, another meeting occurred, surrounded by controversy and fiery rhetoric, threats to bring the nation's economy to a halt, a meeting cobbled together quickly, with a shifting agenda and the likelihood of sustained progress almost nil, given past failures.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
FOCUS, Page: F3

'We do not want some paternalistic government to try and tell us what we should do'

STEVEN CHASE

Although he is best known for his fiction - Medicine River and Green Grass, Running **Water** , among many others - Thomas King is also a scholar of native history in Canada (where he has been based for decades) and the United States (where he was born). In his latest work, The Inconvenient **Indian** : A Curious Account of **Native People** in North America , the Cherokee writer presents an alternative account of the relations between **native people** and new arrivals. "Whites," he argues, have steadily ignored, marginalized and wreaked havoc on aboriginal people. We talked to Mr. King by phone from his home in Guelph, Ont., about his book and his take on a week of major **aboriginal** news. Your latest book is about the long struggle between natives and non-**natives** . Where does the **Idle No More** movement fit into that?

It's part of a continuum of protests that have been around since the 19th century. Each generation comes up with its own method for dealing with the problems that they see in the cities, on the reserves. Given the attitude of any number of governments - Liberal and Conservative - I am always surprised that there aren't more of these.

The current protests - not just **Idle No More** but also Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike - seem to speak to what you write in your book: "The primary way that Ottawa and Washington deal with **native people** is to ignore us."

I get asked as I go around, "What is Theresa Spence doing?" I don't answer that because she can speak for herself. What I do say is, "Do you really think that she wants to sit in a tepee on an island on a hunger strike?" She is doing this because everything else has been taken away. There aren't any other alternatives. The Conservatives have completely stonewalled **native people** , and with the recent omnibus bill it's very clear they're going back to a 1950s mentality - when the idea was to abrogate **treaties** , divide up native land and make it vulnerable for private enterprise. It's easy enough to do. What you do is, you starve reserves, you ignore them; it's not by chance that **water** services on reserves, for example, are as bad as they are, or **health** care and **education** . It's not the fault of **native people** .

What about those who feel that **natives** , such as those in Attawapiskat, should move somewhere less remote?

The idea has been that if **Indians** are in the way - if they're "inconvenient" - then we can move them. Now, it's "Let's just get rid of the reserves." That's because, in some cases, **native people** are sitting on some very valuable land. The other thing that's driving the government nuts is native bands are one of the last impediments to all of the the pipelines that they're trying to run through the country and a lot of the energy extraction work that they'd like to get on with.

You seem to have strong views of the Harper government.

I think Stephen Harper is offended by the fact there's a group of people in Canada that can stand in the way of what he considers to be progress. But **native people** aren't doing that, particularly. We're simply saying that on land that is ours, we want to live our lives our way. We do not want some paternalistic government to try and tell us what we should do.

It doesn't balance the scales by itself, but the Prime Minister did deliver the public apology for abuses at **residential schools** .

The apology is an easy thing to do. It's a ceremonial thing. It's like cutting a cake, it's like kissing babies. It means nothing unless you put some kind of action behind it.

Isn't there progress with this week's court decision, turning **Metis** people into **status Indians** ?

The ball is now with the federal government - and they're going to dribble it into a corner and leave it there.

You think so?

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They're not going to touch it. And there's nothing in the court decision that insists the government do anything. So it's sort of like the apology.

One solution you discuss in your book is to focus on "practical sovereignty." Can you explain?

Practical sovereignty is the sovereignty that any nation, no matter what size, has. Look at Canada: We think of ourselves as sovereign, and yet when it comes to border security, we have to work with the U.S. if we're going to be friends with them. Every nation develops their own sense of "practical sovereignty." The Mohawk, for example, produce their own passports. Not many places accept them, but that's not the point. The point is control of our own lives. I think that's what native bands and tribes will be looking at as these discussions go on. For instance, completely controlling our own membership. Controlling our land base and controlling any profits that come from that land base or any use of that land base. Right now, the federal government can force leases on tribes. That can't keep happening if we expect to succeed as nations.

Steven Chase is a national correspondent with The Globe and Mail.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
EDITORIAL, Page: B6

Fiasco on the Hill

Ottawa Citizen

As with many social movements, **Idle No More** has always been somewhat vague. On Friday, though, it became completely incoherent.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper finally agreed to a meeting, and asked the governor general to hold a ceremonial meeting afterwards. To many chiefs, including hunger striker Theresa Spence, that wasn't good enough. Many wanted the Governor General in the room for the working meeting, and they wanted it all to happen in a larger forum.

National Chief Shawn Atleo and some chiefs from across the country went to the meeting with the prime minister; others chose not to go. That's fine; **First Nations** are not monolithic. But then protesters booed people who did go into the Prime Minister's Office, and then some banged on the door and demanded that the prime minister come out to talk.

If you disagree with the terms of a meeting, why then go to that meeting venue and demand to meet?

Some warned of blockades and other economic disruptions to come. Spence slammed the media for getting the story wrong, then refused to answer reporters' questions.

As Liberal interim leader Bob Rae and others have pointed out, this should never have become so fraught, because Harper should be regularly engaging with **First Nations** leaders anyway. But the **Idle No More** message is getting lost in increasingly vitriolic debates about detail and protocol. The main principle the protesters seem to be standing on now is the involvement of the Governor General. On this they aren't likely to find widespread support.

The importance of the Crown in the history of **First Nations** is undeniable, but the idea that "the Crown" translates into a governor general who helps craft policy is unfounded. And it's not a very good reason to scuttle a belated, imperfect, but nonetheless significant attempt to listen and to move forward.

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EDMONTON JOURNAL

EDMONTON JOURNAL (FINAL)
IDEAS, Page: A19

First Nations' grievances deeply rooted in history

Graham Thomson, Edmonton Journal

If you want to understand the anger of Canada's **First Nations** on display at protests in Edmonton and Ottawa and around the country on Friday, you need a long memory. A history book would help, too.

Their frustration with the federal government goes back a ways, long before Stephen Harper became prime minister.

Oh, the Harper government has certainly irritated **aboriginal** people on many fronts, including with its omnibus bills **C-38** and **C-45** that are now facing a court challenge from two of Alberta's **First Nations** - the Mikisew Cree and Frog Lake - on the grounds that the legislation endangers the environment by weakening the Fisheries Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

The **First Nations** ' application also complains that the government enacted its legislation improperly by not first consulting with **aboriginal** peoples as required by the Constitution and legal precedent.

Harper is merely the most recent in a long line of prime ministers who have frustrated, angered and disappointed our **aboriginal** peoples. Given that the prime ministers derive their power from the ballot box, you can argue that, in fact, it is Canadians who have for decades been the source of that frustration, anger and bitterness.

Just take a look at our little corner of the world.

For most people, Edmonton's Klondike Days celebration (that morphed into Capital Ex and is now the ambiguously named K-Days) was simply a fun excuse to hold a parade, go on a midway ride and, for those inclined, dress up like a dandy of 1890.

Edmonton's connection with the Klondike Gold Rush has always been a bit of a stretch but is based on the historical fact that about 2,000 prospectors used the city from 1896 to 1899 as their **gateway** to the treacherous and ultimately futile overland route to the **gold fields** .

A fact often overlooked is that the gold rush kick started protests from **First Nations** . K-Days, thus, has its roots deep in historical dirt.

The opening of the Klondike, and similar historic episodes across the country, helped create some of the very problems the chiefs have been talking about this week, including their long-standing distrust of the federal government and their frustration over how to improve relations with Ottawa.

The gates to the Klondike were thrown open with the signing of **Treaty** 8 in 1899 that "extinguished" the rights of **aboriginals** and **Métis** to a huge portion of land encompassing northern Alberta as well as adjoining areas of Saskatchewan, **British Columbia** and the Northwest Territories.

Until the gold rush captured Ottawa's imagination, the federal government had little interest in the region or in local **natives** .

With the allure of gold in the Yukon, rumours of oil in Athabasca, the promise of rich agricultural land in the Peace district and the threat of violence everywhere, Canada's Northwest was suddenly of great interest to Ottawa.

In **Treaty** 8 the federal government acted as "buyer" of the land as well as official protector of native interests. Ottawa knew about the potential wealth of the land, but as agent for the **natives** it did nothing to alert them to its value. Conflict of interest is an understatement.

First Nations saw the deal as a "peace" **treaty** , a contract to share the land equally with the newcomers.

Ottawa viewed **Treaty** 8 as the largest **treaty** deal of the 19th century - some 325,000 square miles - which included the

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overland route through **British Columbia** to the Klondike.

The **Indian Act** only made things worse as aboriginals were physically forced to stay on **poverty**-ridden reserves. In Alberta, they weren't allowed to vote until 50 years ago. It is no wonder **aboriginals** have rarely seen eye to eye with Ottawa for the past century.

Maybe that's all about to change. On Friday, Harper met with chiefs in Ottawa - at least with those who didn't boycott the meeting after they learned the Governor General wouldn't be there.

In Edmonton last month, Premier Alison Redford and a dozen cabinet members met with chiefs representing Alberta's three **Treaty** areas to find ways to improve the social and economic life for people on **First Nations** communities, with an emphasis on **education** and **health** care.

As Redford pointed out, it was the first meeting of its kind in decades. There's no doubt Redford is sincere in her goals but unspoken is the fact the meeting was a public relations exercise, too.

Improving relations with **First Nations** - along with improving our environmental image - is part of building a "social licence" to convince the world in general, and our customers in particular, that Alberta is exploiting its natural resources responsibly.

A thorny issue, however, is that those are the very same natural resources that our **First Nations** say they intended to share, not give away, a century ago.

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The StarPhoenix

THE STARPHOENIX (SASKATOON) (FINAL)
FORUM, Page: A8

First Nations waste opportunity

Murray Mandryk, The StarPhoenix

Most depressing to grassroots **First Nations** - specifically, the **Idle No More** participants - will be how a golden opportunity was lost this week.

Some might be more harsh and suggest that this grassroots movement was sabotaged by its **First Nations** leaders. But sabotage suggests a deliberateness that might not be so clear in this case.

After all, is it really deliberate that no one seems to know any other way after more than a century of squabbling between **First Nations** leaders and the federal government - something that now has become a cottage industry?

The internal politicking and nasty confrontations that we saw in Ottawa - the antithesis of the inclusive, non-confrontational approach of **Idle No More** - has benefited no one other than **First Nations** leaders.

This was the saddest thing about the latest proceedings.

The issue is less about the chiefs' insistence that discussions with the federal government be confined to esoteric issues such as the role of the **treaties** , rather than practical issues such as finding jobs for **First Nations** people.

Let's accept, for a moment, the rational argument that jobs will not come until First Nations people are better trained and educated, and that education rights are contained in the **treaties** . Let's also acknowledge that achieving higher quality **education** in the **First Nations** community will not only be a painfully slow process, but also will be accompanied by a big price tag.

For this reason, the rest of society needs to be slightly more tolerant when **First Nations** people talk about **treaty rights** and perhaps even things such as sharing resource revenues.

However, there is a smart discussion to be had here, one that the chiefs could have advanced in Ottawa. But did we really hear anything that even vaguely resembled a smart discussion about **treaties** or **education** ?

What about non-status First Nations people who live off-reserve and aren't directly linked to reserve schools? How do we deal with truancy in inner-city **schools** whose principals tell you that it's now considered a victory when you see some **First Nations** children show up for school one day a week.

What did we hear about **post-secondary education** - which is in the jurisdiction of the provinces - which the chiefs seemed to have little interest in talking about in Ottawa?

Again, maybe as with jobs, delivering **education** is also a little too pedantic for an esoteric discourse on the **treaties** , the **Indian Act** or even whether the Queen's representative in Canada should be part of such discussions. As I was told in a tweet Thursday: "You can't talk about a new paint job if the foundation of the house is crumbling." But was this really about repairing the foundation? Did **First Nations** leaders really want a meeting, or did they prefer the drama of not having a meeting?

Watching the game of who would or would not attend the meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper - all in the name of trying to undercut political rivals to make them look weak before the chiefs vote for their next national leaders - one suspects it was more about the political drama. If only **Indian** politicians would put as much effort into finding solutions for grassroots **First Nations** people.

One also was struck by the thought that this surely cannot be what the grassroots really want. The goal of **Idle No More** surely can't be more of the same - a squabble over a system that perversely offers incentives for people to remain on reserves that aren't economically viable.

Isn't this contradictory to the empowerment that **Idle No More** participants got from travelling hundreds of miles just to

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take part in round dances in shopping malls? Isn't it independence that those who come from this hunter-gatherer culture still seek?

If **First Nations** people want to break the bonds of oppression, either from a "colonial" white society and government or even from their band leaders, isn't a well-paying job the means to achieve that independence?

But after watching the ease with which the First Nations leaders hijacked the process and turned it into the same, old threadbare debate and **First Nations** politics, one is disheartened.

This was a great opportunity for grassroots **First Nations** people to take charge of a new agenda. Instead, it very much appears to be an opportunity lost.

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NATIONAL POST

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EDITORIALS, Page: A18

Tone down the anger

Rex Murphy, National Post

As **aboriginal** chiefs and Prime Minister Stephen Harper prepared for Friday's on-again, off-again meeting, you could feel the sharpness in the air. There is anger; some of it - not all - justified. There was a state of confusion on both big and small things, from the Governor-General's role, to whether the Delta Hotel should be its venue.

But, more worrisome is the tone, the ratcheting up of frictions, and the deliberate for-getting by some - hard as it may be in this moment to believe - of how much progress between **natives** and Canadians there has been.

Cut-and-pasting Prime Minister Harper as a pure villain satisfies some shallow constituencies, I know. And going on with half-threats to bring the Canadian economy to its knees has great melodramatic appeal, but is of no help to anyone. Even those who don't, and can't, support Stephen Harper might wish to grant, at the very least, that he would like to see harmony and justice prevail in relations with native peoples as much as anyone, and more than most.

Going all radical, hitting the racial/racist buttons and constant invocations of empty pseudo-academic framings of "colonialist, settler, imperialist" mentalities do nothing but burn time, waste energy and alienate a large section of the public.

The biggest point continually to note is how deep a pool of genuine goodwill exists in Canada; how much most Canadians, certainly over the last three decades - perhaps because of the lingering guilt over **residential schools** - feverishly want an honest reconciliation. There's not a single serious citizen of this country who does not ardently wish for a better life and an honourable place for all **natives** in Canada. We cannot build on the goodwill that has been built up if it is denied, by **Idle No More** protestors and others, that goodwill is there.

For example, one of the highest moments of reconciliation occurred just a few years back, when Parliament made the historic apology to native peoples on **residential schools** and other brutal attempts at assimilation.

That day was a milestone. I recall in particular Grand Chief Phil Fontaine's speech as being something of a miracle of dignity and honour. Present also on the Commons floor were representatives of the Congress of **Aboriginal** Peoples, **Inuit** Tapiriit Ka-natami, **Métis** National Council and the **Native Women's** Association of Canada.

But looking back at the last week or two, it's hard to believe the apology was made, and accepted. It seems to have completely slipped out of memory. It has certainly been purged from the vocabulary and memory of the more radical elements in the current protests, some of whom actually call up the "genocide" word. There's been a rawness to the talk and exchanges of the last few weeks, a reaching for the hard words and the ugly ones, that we have not seen - gratefully - for a long time.

I do believe it is necessary to note, to mark the efforts - however incomplete - that have been made to reach accommodation, to jettison old and harmful approaches and language, to try to repair the damage that has occurred over history.

It is also necessary to keep in the front of peoples' minds how genuinely most citizens of this entire country would liketo see real and fair change. A refusal to ac-knowledge the birth of new attitudes and sensitivities will seriously, maybe fatally, wound the effort at reform and reconciliation.

We are in a moment when moral heroes may be made. Assembly of **First Nations** Chief Shawn Atleo deserves support and backing, the Prime Minister should be accepted as the honourable partner he is, and everyone should tone down the accusations and the anger. Without respect and trust between the parties, we have nowhere to go but down.

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Indian Act encourages acts of defiance

Doug Firby

CALGARY -- It has become very fashionable to engage in character attacks on hunger striker Theresa Spence, chief of the chaotic Attawapiskat community, a bleak Cree settlement in northern Ontario. She is, after all, an easy target. Her community is a textbook example of outrageous financial mismanagement and waste by the very people who are mandated to care for their people. National Post columnists like Christie Blatchford and Jonathan Kay have fulminated with indignation over the abuse.

A report that appeared on CBC television back in 2011, and gleefully cited by Kay, suggests, among other things, that there is no evidence to support the accusation Ottawa is to blame for the desperate status of some communities and Attawapiskat's troubles may in fact be the result of Spence's own incompetence.

Not everyone is knocking her; former prime minister Paul Martin visited her teepee on Victoria Island this month and declared her "an inspiration to all Canadians." Not sure where he gets that, but Martin, at least inadvertently, has a point.

The point is that this hunger strike and the **First Nations** protests it has triggered should not be judged by Spence's personal flaws, as egregious as they may be. These acts are instead rooted in century-old frustrations with the way Canada has dealt with its **Aboriginal** Peoples, and are a reminder that half-baked attempts to appease these disheartened people by throwing money at their communities will resolve absolutely nothing, only further entrenching a corrupt and dysfunctional system.

First Nations people are not so different from the rest of Canadians in one important sense -- they want real personal freedom; a freedom that gives them equal status to everyone else. Our successive governments have responded instead by giving them "special" status – letting them live on Crown-owned reserves and setting them up with cookie-cutter homes -- thereby sapping them of the personal incentives that drive people to their full potential.

In a 2008 **research** paper prepared for the National Centre for **First Nations Governance** , historian Ken Coates argues: "The **Indian Act** is no longer an uncontestable part of the **Aboriginal** landscape in Canada... (It) was simply a tool used by the **Government** of Canada to exercise near-total control over **First Nations** people."

The **Indian Act** -- its name is even racist by today's standards -- was written with the view that **First Nations** people are wards of the state, incapable of managing their own finances. It then set out conditions that would fulfill its own definition. It encouraged dependency, robbed **natives** of their culture and their spirit and disconnected them from the political process. It gave them fewer political privileges and personal rights than other Canadians.

Now, try to imagine for a moment how you would feel if you were born into a world where, by law, you have fewer rights than others, where you were told that another group's culture was the one to embrace -- not your own -- and where your basic material needs were to be supplied by this dominant culture. How would you feel?

I imagine you would feel a lot like today's **First Nations** people feel -- showing no regard for the homes that were built "for" you, squandering the money that was "given" to you and showing no regard for the **Indian** chiefs and councils mandated by federal legislation. In that context, should other Canadians really be so shocked about the tales of abuse and squalor emanating from these remote communities?

Real reform has been discussed for decades. In fact, Coates reported that the White Paper on **Indian Affairs** in 1969 proposed "elimination of **Indian reserves** , the end of the unique legal position of status Indians, the shift of services for Indians from the federal to provincial governments... the replacement of the collective rights of **status Indians** with greater integration with the individualistic Canadian mainstream."

But when the **Indian** establishment rose up against the White Paper, the federal Liberals lost their nerve and backed down.

Today, the need to eliminate the **Indian Act** is as great as ever, but the **First Nations** people resist because the

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federal government would also eliminate all special provisions and rights for status Indians. Harold Cardinal, who led the opposition in 1969, wrote: "We would rather continue to live in bondage under the inequitable Indian Act than surrender our sacred rights."

Self-government is on its way, but incrementally and through the back door, as with the Harper government 's contentious "budget" Bill C-45, which also changes legislation affecting matters such as reserve lands, waterways, the environment, the fishery and the Indian Act.

Although critics rue the deceitful tactic inherent in an omnibus bill, if it moves us closer to the goal of removing the Indian Act and establishing legitimate indigenous governments, then it's not a bad thing.

Until then, we must endure the theatrics of Theresa Spence, and other similar leaders who feed on the sense of entitlement fostered by this obsolete and perverse legislation.

Doug Firby is editor-in-chief of Troy Media and national affairs columnist.

--Troy Media

{Calgary AB}

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Canada's third solitude

Someone will have to write a new defining Canadian novel, but this time it will be called Three Solitudes. The new story would add a third "old race" that lives its "separate legend" side by side with the other two. Weeks of rising tension between **aboriginal** groups and the federal government forced a shotgun meeting on Friday, but there were no realistic expectations a magic solution would be signed, sealed and delivered following the four-hour sit-down with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Except, that is, on the part of many **aboriginals** whose anger and frustration is so deep, they won't take no for an answer.

The problem is it's not clear to what they will say yes, unless it involves immediate, fundamental change on their terms.

If only it were that simple.

Even when they were granted a meeting with the prime minister, some **aboriginals** decided it wasn't enough, either because the Governor General wasn't there or because it wasn't held in a location of their choosing.

Chief Theresa Spence refused to end her liquids-only diet, while the **Idle No More** movement spread out across Canada, blocking streets and rail lines to protest their continuing unhappiness. They didn't even wait for Friday's meeting to end before ramping up their threat to bring the Canadian economy to a halt.

Manitoba Justice Murray Sinclair, meanwhile, emerged as a voice of moderation, urging Chief Spence and the other fasters to start eating again and rejoin the debate. She risks looking foolish if she keeps fasting, particularly after accepting an invitation to visit Gov.-Gen. David Johnston Friday night.

Justice Sinclair, who is also head of the **Truth and Reconciliation** Commission, said he's been moved by the **Idle No More** movement, and so have thousands of ordinary Canadians.

Many people understand and empathize with **aboriginal** suffering and their feeling of historic humiliation, but unlike dictatorships, there are limits to the ability of a democracy to reverse a problem that has been festering for 400 years.

The Governor General, for example, is only a symbolic figure as the Queen's representative in Canada, and it would be a violation of the country's democratic tradition if he were expected to intervene in the dispute in a meaningful way.

When **aboriginals** met with the prime minister in Ottawa, they were in the right place with the right person.

Chief Spence and the Idle movement say they want change, but some **aboriginals** and their chiefs actually support different positions, including the government's plans to make it easier for reserves to lease land for **economic development** . The fact is **aboriginals** are not a homogenous group with a single strain of thought.

As in the rest of society, there are differences of opinion, and these also need to be accommodated and considered.

Other bands have successfully negotiated new land arrangements with the federal government under Mr. Harper, who has actually supported the **aboriginal** drive for economic and political independence.

His only condition is that it must be incremental and gradual because sweeping changes are too complex and impractical, and laced with minefields.

The **Indian Act**, for example, which governs large swaths of **aboriginal** life and which just about everyone agrees is loathsome, cannot be wiped away in one fell swoop and without more consultation.

It has taken too long for Canada to come to grips with the injustice suffered by aboriginal people. Canadian governments only began seriously considering the idea of **aboriginal** reform some 50 years ago, and the ideas, including a proposal that amounted to assimilation, have sometimes been poorly conceived.

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The level of understanding, today, however, is more informed. It may be painfully slow, but it is real.

As a character in Hugh MacLennan's Two Solitudes said: "Everything is blooming most recklessly."

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THE OTTAWA SUN (FINAL)
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Reforms on way for band elections

JESSICA MURPHY PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

OTTAWA -- As splits appeared between **First Nations** leaders gathered in Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper Friday, legislation is winding through Parliament to reform band elections.

Following a push by **First Nations** in Atlantic Canada and Manitoba, Ottawa tabled legislation a year ago to bring stability and **accountability** to the roughly 125 band elections held annually.

A number of those elections have been fraught with problems, including fraud.

Krista Brookes, senior policy analyst with the Atlantic Policy Congress, called the current system "antiquated" and badly in need of modernization.

"There's nothing in the **Indian Act** that prevents any fraudulent activities," she said, noting, for example, the buying and selling of mail-in ballots is not illegal under the current system.

Brookes said that 90% of **aboriginals** across Canada she surveyed called for stricter penalties. "People were shocked to hear that there weren't any."

Bands can choose to opt-in to the proposed legislation.

Terms will also be doubled, from two years to four. Roughly 40% of all band elections are appealed. While most appeals are tossed out, the process can take up to 18 months, effectively immobilizing councils for the bulk of the term.

B.C.'s Osoyoos Indian Band is considering developing its own electoral rules, following in the footsteps of many **First Nations**, said Chief Clarence Louie.

Parts of the current legislation is "way out to lunch" and can create "Jerry Springer-type elections," he said.

"Elections should be serious events, and not just taken up by political games."

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Chiefs plan day of action

KRISTY KIRKUP, PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

OTTAWA -- Some **aboriginal** leaders who openly oppose Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo are planning to launch a national day of action next Wednesday to demonstrate their frustration with the government.

The planned action could include a number of blockades and associated protests across the country.

The chiefs, including representatives from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario, said Friday demonstrations would be sparked on Jan. 16 if Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to get Gov. Gen. David Johnston to join discussions with **aboriginal** leaders.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has been staging a personal protest at Ottawa's Victoria Island for 32 days, also shared this demand, but Harper did not agree to that. Instead, Harper met with Atleo and others at his office in Ottawa on Friday afternoon despite protests outside in support of a discussion boycott.

Former AFN national chief Matthew Coon Come, who attended Friday's meeting, told reporters it was important to have dialogue with Harper to "lay down demands" made by **First Nations** leaders.

"At the end of the day, we have to talk. Face to face," Coon Come said prior to the talks. "There could be upheaval. I certainly do not want to be responsible for the death of anyone. ...Atleo does not have time to respond to his critics. I stand with him, I support him."

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Harper vows new focus on native issues

Les Whittington, Joanna Smith and Bruce Campion-Smith Toronto Star

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government promised a new focus on **First Nations** grievances after **aboriginal** leaders voiced their demands in a day of pleas, protests, warnings and high-level meetings around Parliament Hill.

After four hours of talks Friday, **First Nations** leaders came out of the meeting with a pledge from Harper for talks on **treaty** relationships and **comprehensive claims**.

Harper also promised to put an "enhanced oversight" on **aboriginal** issues in his office and the Privy Council Office, the powerful bureaucratic wing of the PMO.

That could mean a more active role for the government's top offices in resolving troublesome issues on the file.

And Harper and Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo will meet again in the coming weeks to put "some precision" on the issues agreed on Friday.

Atleo, who came under sharp criticism from other chiefs for even meeting with Harper, voiced some optimism after the session wrapped up.

"We have achieved some movement today," Atleo said in a statement. "The Prime Minister listened respectfully to the Chiefs and responded to all they brought forward and for the first time, provided a clear mandate for high-level talks on **treaty** implementation. Prime Minister Harper also committed to high-level discussions on **comprehensive claims**."

The meeting took place against a backdrop of rising tensions within the **First Nations** community, giving rise to the **Idle No More** movement, which has blocked highways and rail lines in recent weeks to press for action on their priorities.

Indeed, the high stakes of Friday's meeting was driven home by several thousand people who gathered for a boisterous demonstration across the street from Parliament.

In a statement, Harper's office said the "government remains committed to ongoing dialogue on **aboriginal** issues and to taking achievable steps that will provide better outcomes in **First Nations** communities."

"Everyone came to this meeting knowing we're not going to solve everything in one go. The key is to have our commitment to work with each other," said an official present at the meeting.

He described the tone as "very civil, very productive."

But "that's not to say any punches were pulled . . . it was a very frank discussion and there was a sense of urgency to it," the official said.

However, **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** told reporters the Conservative government will not give in to demands to reconsider the parts of the omnibus budget implementation bills **C-38** and **C-45** the Assembly of **First Nations** argued contravene their **treaty** and inherent rights.

The legislation streamlines regulations governing environmental protection, a shift that **aboriginals** see as an attack on their land and livelihoods, and was an impetus for the grassroots and growing **Idle No More** movement.

"We are quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there is every reason to proceed," Duncan said, adding the government realizes that giving native bands access to resource royalties is part of any discussion about improving **economic conditions** for **First Nations**. But any changes will have to be discussed with the provinces, which have jurisdiction over resources, he noted.

There were sharp divides among **First Nations** leaders whether Atleo should even attend the Harper meeting. Instead,

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they wanted the prime minister and Gov. Gen. David Johnston to meet on their terms.

Championing that position was Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has been on a hunger strike to force that meeting. However, in a surprise move, she left her wooden enclosure on Victoria Island, where she has spent the past month avoiding solid foods, to join other chiefs for a meeting with Johnston at Rideau Hall Friday night.

Spence, who is surviving on broth and tea, had refused to participate in the Harper meeting if Johnston didn't attend.

Spence joined a group of her fellow chiefs at a downtown Ottawa hotel before heading to Rideau Hall for the evening meeting described by officials as "ceremonial."

Her **health**, however, is seriously diminished, said spokesman Danny Metatawabin, who admitted surprise at her appearance at the hotel.

"She's tired, she's weak. She's weakening. Got cramps in her stomach. We're all praying for her," Metatawabin said.

Later, a group of chiefs, including Spence, said they walked out of the meeting feeling snubbed and complaining that traditional symbols like the wampum belt had been disrespected.

"Before the closing ceremonies we had to walk out . . . because somehow it felt like a show, a picture opportunity," Metatawabin told several hundred supporters at an Ottawa hotel.

"What's happening here is not done yet. It's not over yet," he said. "Sadly, the hunger strike continues. I didn't feel that honour. I didn't feel that privilege,"

In his comments to the chiefs at Rideau Hall, Johnston expressed a "special welcome" to Spence and voiced worries about her health along with the **health** of two others also on a hunger strike.

"My deepest wish is for the well-being of all Canadians, and for dialogue to always take place in a safe and healthy manner," Johnston said, according to a text of his remarks.

"I am confident that by working together in a spirit of respect, we can create the conditions in which **aboriginal** and non-**aboriginal** people can thrive equally, according to their hopes and dreams," he said.

With some angry chiefs threatening widespread disruption of roads and rail traffic, the federal government's efforts to respond to the growing **aboriginal** protest movement has taken on added urgency. ILLUS: Native protesters march toward Parliament Hill on Friday. **Aboriginal** chiefs stand at the main gate to Parliament Hill on Friday. Theresa Spence and Gov. Gen. David Johnston had a ceremonial meeting at Rideau Hall on Friday. **Aboriginal** and **First Nations** protesters march up Wellington St. in Ottawa on Friday as native leaders met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. An **aboriginal** demonstrator dressed as an eagle marches from Victoria Island to Parliament Hill in Ottawa during **Idle No More** protests. CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS Adrian Wyld/THE CANADIAN PRESS Fred Chartrand/THE CANADIAN PRESS Sean Kilpatrick/THE CANADIAN PRESS Patrick Doyle/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEWS, Page: A16

PM squanders chance to set new course

Chantal Hebert Toronto Star

Based on the events of the past week, Canada's constitutional earth is as scorched today as when the country's political establishment - including the **First Nations** leadership - got burnt in a national referendum two decades ago.

If anything, our collective will to undertake some heavy lifting to co-habit politically may have continued to decrease since the 1992 rejection of the Charlottetown constitutional accord.

In today's political **climate** , it would be impossible to even contemplate gathering the successors of the architects of the Charlottetown accord around the same table, let alone expect them to rally around a unanimous proposal on a comprehensive way forward on the constitutional front.

To wit, the difficulties in finding enough goodwill to hold Friday's half-day meeting involving a single order of government and only one of the many constituencies - albeit the most complex one - that fought for attention and accommodation at the time of the last failed constitutional round.

Yes, the approach of Stephen Harper's government has contributed to the most serious breakdown in the relationship between the **First Nations** and the Crown since the 1990 Oka crisis.

And yes, the current prime minister, through wilful neglect, has potentially squandered one of the best chances for productive dialogue with the **First Nations** by marginalizing Shawn Atleo, one of the most pragmatic interlocutors a federal government has had a chance to deal with in more than a generation.

Jim Prentice and Chuck Strahl, Harper's first two**Indian Affairs** ministers, grasped the crucial importance of maintaining bridges with the **First Nations** leadership. Sadly, once it had a governing majority and with a less politically astute minister on the front line, the Conservative government reverted to what many of its critics feel are its basic steamrolling instincts.

But at the end of the day, the current outpouring of **First Nations** frustration is also the culmination of a systemic and collective failure to take the bull of history by the horns.

That failure is not just exemplified by the **Idle No More** movement and the possible radicalization of a new **First Nations** guard in the face of perceived federal

hostility.

The presence in Quebec of yet another sovereigntist government is another token of unaddressed unresolved issues with another of Canada's founding peoples.

But these tensions are not just a result of the policy mindset of the party that happens to be in power on Parliament Hill

Canadians are quick to cast judgment on the Americans and the entrenched societal reflexes that prevent them from arriving at consensual outcomes on **health** care or on the place of guns in their society.

But some similar blockages have long crippled our national conversation and reduced the capacity of those who govern Canada to recast some fundamental

relationships.

Political will- as was shown at the time of the Meech and Charlottetown debates - has obvious limitations when it does not intersect with the popular will.

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Over the past few weeks, there are those who have been dismayed by the toxic tone of social media as the **First Nations** issue has heated up. But the Twittersphere is only providing a more public outlet for a visceral and polarizing current that systematically surfaces in tandem with any discussion of the place of the country's national minorities in modern-day Canada.

It was just easier to diminish the existence of that current back when it was not in plain sight.

Does not anyone remember the quasi-hysterical reaction and the over-the-top language that attended the adoption of a mere House of Commons resolution dealing with Quebec's national status in 2006 in some otherwise mainstream

quarters?

Or what about the vitriolic comments that so routinely make their way below media stories related to Quebec these days that many no longer take notice of them?

There are many admirable features to Canada's attachment to a civic form of nationalism, but the tendency to use it to refuse to come to terms with the distinctive elements that are at the root of the country's identity is not one of them.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.ILLUS: Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with **First Nations** leaders in Ottawa Friday after months of protests from the native community. Jason Ransom/PMO

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TORONTO STAR

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Harper must rebuild trust

If Prime Minister Stephen Harper didn't know he has all but "lost the trust" of many First Nations communities, and urgently needs to regain it, he knows now.

There was articulate if chaotic anger on Parliament Hill on Friday where thousands marched as Harper met with Assembly of **First Nations** Chief Shawn Atleo and other chiefs to discuss a litany of grievances that ranges across Crown obligations, **treaty** relationships, **aboriginal rights** and **economic development** . There were demonstrations in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and other cities. And the **Idle No More** movement threatened to block highways, rail lines and development unless Ottawa pays far more heed to the nation's 1.7 million indigenous people.

This is a crisis in the making that- if unaddressed - will spell trouble for the Conservative government's ambitious drive to develop $600 billion in natural-resource projects in the coming decade, on or around lands to which native communities have title or rights. Through their bullheaded attitudes, the Tories have provoked a reaction - including next Wednesday's national day of protest - that will not easily be defused.

Belatedly acknowledging the surge of discontent, Harper tried to tamp down the anger during his "working meeting" with Atleo and other chiefs. And on the Crown side, Gov.-Gen. David Johnston wisely held a ceremonial show of respect at Rideau Hall.

After the meeting, **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** confirmed that Harper has agreed to the ongoing "high-level dialogue" on **treaties** , claims and other issues that **First Nations** leaders have been demanding. That is a critical step forward.

But it will take more than a promise of more talk to impress those who identify with Attawapiskat hunger striker Chief Theresa Spence, an emblem of native frustration. That includes Ontario and Manitoba chiefs. After shaming Harper into agreeing to meet **First Nations** leaders, Spence unwisely rebuffed his offer of a meeting. Even so, her complaint that the Tories have "dishonoured **treaties** " and misled her people rings sadly true to many **native people** . Certainly the grassroots **Idle No More** movement is unlikely to be content with face-saving palaver, promises and processes. It wants action.

Nor should the Harper Conservatives take much comfort from the deep political fissures within the **First Nations** leadership that have been on display this past week, leading to frustratingly shifting demands and unpredictable tactics. No one benefits from anarchy.

At root, the **First Nations** ' demands are ambitious but not inherently unreasonable.

They want the Harper government to acknowledge its "duty to consult" before reneging on commitments such as the $5-billion Kelowna Accord or passing laws affecting their inherent rights and **treaty rights** . These protests were catalyzed by recent budget measures that expose native waterways and lands to industrial development and commercial traffic, and other top-down legislation that affects property rights on reserves and scrutiny of band funds.

They also seek a new "fiscal relationship" with Ottawa that will see more federal cash flowing for native jobs and **infrastructure** . And they aspire to rewrite arrangements between Ottawa and the provinces to give **natives** a share of the billions in resource royalties that flow to the provinces.

Divided though they may be in their approach, the **First Nations** are united in a sense that they have put up too long with marginalization, underfunded **schools** , poor **health** , substandard **housing** and unsafe drinking **water** . In Ottawa this week, they voiced their impatience. To his credit, Harper listened. But he will be judged on his actions.

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NATIONAL POST

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'Drive the final stake in the heart of colonialism'

Idle No More reflects the academic theory of indigenism

Joseph Brean, National Post

For all the noise about hunger strikes, boycott threats, railway disruptions and an audit leak, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's historic meeting with Indian chiefs was nearly derailed by a quirk of constitutional theory - the notion that Canada and its aboriginal groups are separate and equal nations.

Controversial but commonly held, this idea seemed to require the presence of the Queen, Canada's head of state, or at least her representative Governor-General David Johnston, who refused because it was a working policy summit.

A dinner with Mr. Johnston at Rideau Hall made for a compromise, but the knife-edged climax to Idle No More - at which Mr. Harper agreed to the need for greater oversight and to future high-level meetings, but which was still boycotted by several chiefs who threatened economic disruption until Ottawa agreed to meet on their terms, nation to nation - revealed the prominence of a theory known as in-digenism, according to which the land of Canada was stolen from self-governing peoples first by France, then by England, and lastly by the millions of immigrant "settlers" who have arrived since.

Though sparked by the housing crisis in Attawapiskat, Ont., and some controversial legislation, the Idle No More movement has drawn upon the rich vein of this theory that runs through academia in Canada, from social theorists to geographers.

It is a realm in which it is uncontroversial to call Canada an illegitimate, racist, colonial power, or to claim its government is now engaged in the genocide of its native peoples, or that non-native Canadians, especially those of European descent, are "colonizers," at best blind to their own bigotry and privilege.

In describing goals of Idle No More , Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo vowed to "drive the final stake in the heart of colonialism," and Manitoba Chief Derek Ne-pinak denounced "140 years of colonial rule in our territory." Likewise, on Friday in Kingston, Ont., a statue of its most famous son and Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald was defaced with red paint and graffiti reading "colonizer," "murderer," and "this is stolen land."

Even such major cities as Toronto and Vancouver are said to have been wrongly imposed on unceded land, just as European colonizers imposed themselves on "Turtle Island," or North America.

A key voice in this academic field is Pamela Palmater, an Idle No More spokeswoman and chair of the centre for indigenous governance at Ryerson University in Toronto. As a Mi'kmaq from New Brunswick who was once denied Indian status based on the impurity of her bloodline, Prof. Palmater compares herself to a survivor of residential schools , and claims Indians are in a race against "legislative extinction" imposed by the majority of Canadians.

"If we do not act now, there will be no status Indians left to maintain our communities and culture into the future," writes Prof. Palmater in Beyond Blood, her PhD thesis that is now used in university aboriginal studies courses.

"It's supposed to be nation to nation," she told reporters in advance of the meeting, saying Canada no longer gets to dictate the terms of its relationship with its indigenous people. "What we're going to do is show you how to be a respectful partner... If they refuse, that's their choice, but there will be consequences."

"The word 'nation' gets played with in the same way the word 'genocide' does," said John Borrows, chair of law, public policy and society at the University of Minnesota and an expert on Canadian indigenous governance .

Taiaiake Alfred, a professor of indigenous governance at the University of Victoria, said the word genocide is a "powerful emotional trigger," but that it nevertheless applies to Canadian Indians , now and in the past. He cited United Nations criteria for the crime, which include committing any of the following with intent to destroy a group, in whole or in part: killing their members, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to

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bring about the group's physical destruction, imposing measures intended to prevent births, or forcibly transferring children to another group."

"Our genocide, even if we accept that it's historical and ended technically with the **residential schools**, there's been no adequate reparations. There's been no reparations at all, really. The individuals themselves have been compensated to some degree, but when it comes down to it, the collectivities, the communities that were affected in terms of their ability to sustain themselves into the future, are not being provided with any kind of adequate redress," Prof. Tai-aiake said.

Among activists, such as the Occupy protesters, this theory of indigenism has also provided a basis for alliances between **indigenous** groups and anarchist or environmental groups, all of which tend to view the Canadian government as malicious and illegitimate. At the extremes, it has even seen **First Nations** chiefs welcomed by Iran's dictatorship as representative victims of Canadian genocide.

Tom Flanagan, a professor of political science at the **University** of Calgary and former advisor to Mr. Harper, said the theory that Canada was stolen from pre-existing nations is "standard fare among the academic left." He has seen it bubble up from law **schools**, where professors like Prof. Palmater have constructed elaborate arguments to validate the view that **Indians** were never conquered, and "paid in advance" by agreeing to share the land.

"The ideas are influential," he said, even though some of it might be "trash talk for the cameras."

"That's what's driving **Idle No More**. It's not new. This whole vision was widely articulated during the hearings on the Royal Commission on **Aboriginal** Peoples," Mr. Flanagan said.

If **First Nations** were truly nations, he said, then Mr. Harper's behaviour would be fairly called heavy-handed, for example, making changes to the **Indian Act** without their consent. But on this analysis, the same would be true of amending the criminal code, which also applies to **Indians**, or any other similar legislation.

"Personally, I think this is utterly impossible to implement. There wouldn't be any resource revenues if you implemented this political vision because nothing would ever get done. How would stuff get approved? How would pipelines get approved? How would railways function, crossing all these sovereign territories, having to get approval from 600 sovereign nations?"

Just as exposing white privilege is a key strategy of anti-racist campaigners, so is exposing settler guilt a key strategy of decolonization theory.

But whereas "white guilt" leads to moral paralysis, and is no help to anyone, Prof. Alfred said the concept of "settler guilt" contains an implicit recognition of inherited privilege, which implies a responsibility to address it and make amends.

"It's the opposite of guilt, which paralyzes. This is the creation of a sense of responsibility for action," he said.

He said many Indians identify as Canadians, though not to the degree that American Indians identify as Americans, which he sees as a regrettable, cautionary tale. He said that whether an **Indian** identifies as Canadian is largely determined by whether his nation is satisfied with its **treaty**, and that the idea of Canada as a "colonial" power stems from a recognition that the historical autonomy of **Indians** has been undervalued.

"From that perspective, you have an injustice that occurs when our existence as autonomous people ... is disrespected," Prof. Alfred said. "That's where the colonialism comes in, when our resources are used against our ownership, when our rights are ignored, when our ability to make laws and to run our affairs in the way that we always have been running them, on our own authority, when that's all disrespected in favour of an idea that we are under the authority of a people who came here after us, to which we never agreed."

Prof. Borrows compared the rancorous situation in Canada to the U.S. debate between constitutional originalism, which seeks answers only in the foundational documents, and so-called living constitutionalism, which takes into account the subsequent amendments, history and current context.

"We have two guilty parties on that [originalism] front in Canada," he said. "We have the Supreme Court of Canada, which says that **aboriginal rights** are only those things which were integral to the distinctive culture of **aboriginal** peoples prior to the arrival of Europeans... And then we also have some **indigenous** people who will make a similar kind of ori-ginalist claim, that we were here before others came, we had this **governance** and resources, and we have to

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return to that moment.

"Politics is never final," he added.

jbrean@nationalpost.com ILLUS: Andrew Vaughan, The Canadian Press / Once denied **Indian** status based on her bloodline, Pam Palmater compares herself to a **residential school** survivor.; Andrew Vaughan, The Canadian Press / **Idle No More** protesters block the Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro in Nova Scotia Friday.;

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (NATIONAL)
FINANCIAL POST, Page: FP1 / FRONT

Native entrepreneurs far from idle

'Some of these First Nations businesses are in overdrive'

Claudia Cattaneo, Financial Post

The **Idle No More** movement presents one face of Canada's **First Nations** : combative, frustrated with **government** , impoverished, opposed to resource projects while claiming entitlement to revenue sharing.

Aboriginal entrepreneurs such as Wilf Lalonde present the other face. He's a Cree from northern Alberta who sees big opportunities to work in and profit from oil and **gas** and other resource projects, and strives to make **First Nations self**-sufficient.

It's a side of First Nations that gets little notice next to the constant stream of grievances and the anti-development tough talk. But it's alive and pushing to make room for itself, fighting tensions between **First Nations** about how to deal with the extraction of resources on traditional lands and over who gets to benefit, and struggling to find funding and to convince the corporate community that **aboriginals** have the capacity and the resolve to deliver.

Mr. Lalonde wouldn't comment on **Idle No More** , saying it's political and he is no politician. He's taking a different path to prosperity.

"We are businessmen," Mr. Lalonde, a member of the Driftpile **First Nation** near Slave Lake, said in an interview in Calgary this week, where the group of **aboriginal** companies he leads, as yet unnamed, has set up an office to be close to energy company headquarters, bid for contracts and act as the go-to-guys for skilled and unskilled **aboriginal** labour.

"I think [**Idle No More** activists] are talking more of a resource share, but I am not sure that will ever come about," he said. "I think what will happen here is they have to create their own economic opportunities to be self-sufficient and run their own **self-government** ."

Mr. Lalonde is building on a growing number of entrepreneurial successes among Canada's First Nations. It started in Fort McMurray, with the leadership of Chief Jim Boucher of the Fort McKay **First Nation** , and then trickled down across the country as other **First Nations** took notice of the upside of business ownership.

The Fort McKay Group of Companies began in 1986 with one janitorial contract. It has since mushroomed into a series of enterprises that offer logistics, site services, fuel and lube delivery, environmental services and land-leasing operations to oil sands developers.

Nathan Elliott, president of **In**-sightwest **Research** , a Regina-based **research** and consulting firm that works closely with **First Nations** wanting to participate in the resource economy, said **aboriginal business** in the Wood Buffalo region around Fort McMurray, where there are five major bands, has grown in value to more than $1-billion a year in 2012, from $700-million in 2009.

Indeed, some businesses are now so large they are no longer competing as **aboriginal** enterprises, but going toe-to-toe with other service providers and beating them on contracts, Mr. Elliott said.

"The [Northern **Gateway**] **pipeline** quagmire, Attawapiskat, the hunger strike, are depictions that are in many ways unrepresentative of the successes that are going on in this country today," he said.

"What we see is that [the **aboriginal** community] isn't idling, that some of these **First Nations** businesses are in overdrive and ramped up to move ahead."

Jean Paul Gladu, president and chief executive of the Canadian Council of **Aboriginal Business** (CCAB), said Canada's **aboriginal** community is creating businesses at a faster rate than the general population, and many are in the resource area because many communities are located near projects.

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"The entrepreneurs are seeing the opportunity," he said. "The big energy companies are seeing the value in investing and procuring and employing aboriginal people and businesses and they are becoming quite successful."

A special report last year on Canada's aboriginal entrepreneurship written by Toronto-Dominion Bank economists with input from CCAB found "that the tide has shifted in the right direction" for aboriginal people and that there was "a renewed spirit of entrepreneurship in the air."

There are about 32,000 aboriginal businesses in Canada, both off and on reserve, and 51% are owned entirely or partially by women - compared to 47% for the general Canadian population, according to the report by TD's Derek Burleton and Sonya Gulati.

"The majority of firms are profitable - six in 10 reported a profit in 2010 and a third managed to boost annual revenues in 2010 despite the global downturn," the report found.

Mr. Lalonde's group is one of them. Over the past two years, it has acquired, restructured and built businesses to expand its offerings and take on larger and larger projects in the oil patch, including:

- Engine#9 Energy, a company representing a pool in Alberta and Saskatchewan of 1,600 aboriginals, from equipment operators to construction managers, who want to work in oil and gas and other resource areas;

- Integrated Minerals Technologies, which provides a system to build low-maintenance roads that provide year-round access to oil companies;

- Kheeran Inspection Services, which provides quality assurance and quality control to support oilfield construction;

- Sodergreen Mulching, with a large inventory of equipment and machinery for oilfield applications; and

- Tundraline Energy Services, also with a large equipment base for oilfield construction and vegetation control.

Funding for the acquisitions came from success in other operations, private sources and financial institutions.

The group is also building a not-for-profit arm specializing in the training of aboriginals and helping them with certification.

Steve Petterson, the group's financial director, said oil companies tend to have difficulties hiring and keeping aboriginal employees, while aboriginal workers find it difficult to get hired. Engine#9 Energy closes the gap by hiring aboriginals and then sending them to work for oil companies.

John Young, manager of aboriginal relations at Calgary-based Pem-bina Pipeline Corp., said energy companies welcome partnerships with aboriginal enterprises. Mr. Lalonde's efforts to employ aboriginals and upgrade their skills have promise, he added.

"I think a co-ordinated strategic competent workforce would be welcome in the industry throughout Canada," Mr. Young said.

Despite their common portrayal in the media and by Hollywood as anti-oil activists, some aboriginal groups are resource and energy infrastructure developers.

The Onion Lake Cree Nation, which straddles the Alberta/Saskatchewan border near Lloydminster, has a partnership with two oil companies from which it gets oil royalties. Part of the money goes into a trust and the remainder is reinvested in business development.

One Earth Oil & Gas Inc., a Calgary-based private oil-and-gas company, is run by Blaine Favel, a lawyer, Harvard MBA graduate and former chief of Saskatchewan's Poundmaker Cree Nation. The Hais-la Nation near Kitimat in northern British Columbia is a partner in two liquefied natural-gas export terminals. The Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in in the Northwest Territories were instrumental in reviving the proposed (but now shelved) Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline and then became part owners.

Mr. Lalonde said aboriginal companies tend to have greater success relating to First Nations affected by resource development. He said he wouldn't hesitate to bid for work on projects such as the Northern Gateway pipeline, which he

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believes is opposed by many First Nations in B.C. because they aren't seeing the opportunities.

"If you are able to put an additional 40 individuals from their band to work, and if they are working for around $100,000 with going market rates, simple math shows the types of numbers that are translated into income into the band," Mr. Lalonde said.

"That is what the chiefs like to see. What better way than getting their people who live in the area trained and certified so they can be a part of what is happening and share in the rewards?"

ccattaneo@nationalpost.com ILLUS: / Wilf Lalonde; Mike Ridewood For National Post / Steve Petterson, left, and Wilf Lalonde of Integrated Minerals bank on aboriginal achievements.;

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
NATIONAL NEWS, Page: A6

First nations losing appetite for small-step changes that tinker with Indian Act

BILL CURRY

The Conservative government's preference for small but steady progress on **aboriginal** issues has run up against a determined push by **first nations** for a more sweeping and ambitious recognition of Canada's **treaties** . The contrast in approaches was made clear early in the day Friday, as the federal government announced eight more **first nation** communities signed on to a framework on land management for reserves, a policy that allows band councils to opt out of 34 land-related sections of the **Indian Act**.

The framework, first approved by Parliament in 1999 under a Liberal government, allows participating **first nations** to develop their own land codes with the aim of making it easier to encourage **economic development** on reserves.

The announcement means there will soon be 69 **first nations** operating or developing their own land codes under the **First Nation** Land Management regime.

It is a clear example of Ottawa's preference for incremental changes to the **Indian Act** based on voluntary, "opt-in" provisions that avoid the need for getting all of the more than 600 **first nations** in Canada on board.

But it quickly became obvious as the day went on that the Assembly of **First Nations** has lost all appetite for small steps.

"Legislation that tinkers around the edges of the **Indian Act** must stop," states one of eight demands the AFN presented to Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Friday.

That will pose a challenge for Ottawa. Both Conservative and Liberal governments have moved in recent years toward voluntary changes to the **Indian Act**. The 1876 legislation that governs Canada's reserves is widely viewed as racist and paternalistic, but there is no consensus on what should take its place.

But the government's more recent moves to introduce measures via budget bills that affect **first nations** have fuelled recent protests. As a result, there is now a much stronger push from the **first nations** grassroots and leaders for an emphasis on **treaty rights** .

"This government's incredibly pig-headed and willfully blind about these issues," said **University** of Saskatchewan professor Jim Miller, who holds the Canada **Research** Chair in Native-Newcomer Relations.

Aboriginal Affairs minister **John Duncan** insists the government's bills are constitutional.

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LeDroit

LE DROIT
ACTUALITÉS, Page: 3 / FRONT

Les autochtones se font entendre à Ottawa

Joël -Denis Bellavance, La Presse

Puisqu'il craint une escalade des tensions au pays, Stephen Harper prend en main le dossier complexe des traités et des revendications des communautés autochtones et s'engage à rencontrer de nouveau le chef de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations (APN), Shawn Atleo, d'ici quelques semaines pour établir "les prochaines étapes à franchir".

Le dossier autochtone , propulsé au premier plan de l'actualité au pays au cours des dernières semaines par le mouvement Idle No More , la grève de la faim menée par la chef d'Attawapiskat Theresa Spence depuis un mois et une décision de la Cour fédérale favorable aux Métis, devient donc une priorité au plus haut échelon de l'appareil gouvernemental à Ottawa.

Au terme d'une rencontre de près de quatreheures avec le chef Shawn Atleo et une vingtaine de leaders autochtones, M. Harper a dit être "résolu à maintenir un dialogue permanent" au sujet des enjeux liés aux autochtones et à "franchir des étapes réalisables qui donneront de meilleurs résultats pour les communautés des Premières Nations ". Pendant la rencontre, quelque 3000 autochtones ont manifesté devant la colline parlementaire et des manifestations organisées par le mouvement Idle No More ont eu lieu dans des dizaines de villes au pays.

M. Harper a finalement assisté à toute la rencontre avec les leaders autochtones , alors qu'il ne prévoyait être présent qu'une heure en tout. Cette décision a permis un "rapprochement", selon un chef présent à la rencontre, et donné lieu à des échanges "cordiaux et respectueux".

"Le premier ministre a accepté d'entreprendre des dialogues de haut niveau au sujet des relations découlant des traités et des revendications globales . Le premier ministre a reconnu le besoin d'accroître la supervision du cabinet du premier ministre et du Bureau du Conseil privé relativement aux dossiers touchant les autochtones ", a fait savoir le bureau du premier ministre au terme de la rencontre.

Selon des informations obtenues par La Presse, le premier ministre s'est aussi montré ouvert à l'idée d'entreprendre des discussions au sujet d'une formule de partage des revenus provenant de l'exploitation des ressources naturelles une des demandes formulées par le chef Shawn Atleo en conférence de presse jeudi. Mais M. Harper a fait valoir à ses interlocuteurs que la gestion des ressources naturelles relève des provinces et que celles-ci doivent avoir leur mot à dire dans ces discussions.

"Nous avons réussi à faire avancer un peu les choses aujourd'hui", a déclaré en soirée le chef Shawn Atleo dans un communiqué de presse. "Le premier ministre a écouté respectueusement les chefs et a répondu à toutes les questions qu'ils ont soulevées. Et pour la première fois, il a donné un mandat clair pour un dialogue de haut niveau sur la mise en oeuvre des traités et sur les revendications globales ."

Loin de l'unanimité

La rencontre d'hier s'est déroulée malgré la décision de certains leaders autochtones du Manitoba et de l'Ontario de la boycotter, en guise de solidarité avec la chef Theresa Spence, parce que le gouverneur général David Johnston n'y participait pas.

Selon eux, la présence du gouverneur général était essentielle parce qu'il représente les intérêts de la Couronne, signataire des traités avec les peuples autochtones au XVIIIe siècle. Le gouverneur général a organisé une rencontre protocolaire avec des dirigeants des Premières Nations , hier en soirée, où Mme Spence a finalement décidé de s'y rendre. Malgré tout, elle compte poursuivre sa diète liquide, car elle se dit insatisfaite des résultats.

M. Harper a donné suite à certaines des demandes de l'APN. Mais il a écarté l'idée d'abolir des clauses des projets de loi "mammouths" C-38 et C-45 visant à mettre en oeuvre le dernier budget fédéral, notamment celles touchant la protection des eaux navigables.

En point de presse hier soir, le ministre des Affaires indiennes , John Duncan , a indiqué qu'il n'était pas en mesure

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de dire si les résultats permettront de satisfaire le mouvement Idle No More , qui prend de l'ampleur au pays. PHOTO: ETIENNE RANGER, LeDroitILLUS: Quelque 3000 autochtones ont manifesté devant le parlement, hier, alors que le premier ministre Harper a rencontré le chef Shawn Atleo et une vingtaine de leaders.

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The ChronicleHerald

THE CHRONICLEHERALD
FRONT, Page: A1

N.S. chiefs conflicted

Paul Mcleod Ottawa Bureau

Nova Scotia **First Nations** chiefs found themselves caught between their national leadership and a group of dissenting colleagues as they met Friday morning in Ottawa.

A national meeting of native leaders broke down into chaos and anger Thursday night when the Governor General refused to meet with them because of security concerns, said Pictou Landing Chief Andrea Paul. Friday morning, the planned meeting between native leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in doubt.

Paul said she first supported a boycott of the Harper meeting when she attended a meeting of 10 **Mi'kmaq** leaders from Nova Scotia, as well as some from Newfoundland and Labrador and one chief from Quebec.

But Paul changed her mind over the course of the meeting, and the group decided to send Membertou Chief Terrance Paul and Acadia Chief Deborah Robinson as Nova Scotia's representatives.

"The chiefs spoke about the importance of this meeting, about how this is the opportunity to represent our **Mi'kmaq** nation and to put our concerns on the table," said Paul.

"We have to think about our children and our people back home who are suffering every day. The prime minister needed to hear those concerns."

There is still disagreement on how to view the dissenting chiefs who boycotted the meeting.

Morley Googoo, regional chief for Nova Scotia, accused Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence and activist Pam Palmeter of stirring up divisiveness and undermining Assembly of **First Nations** Chief Shawn Atleo.

Googoo called on Spence to resign. Spence had become the face of the **Idle No More** protest movement after she began a hunger strike in December.

But Paul said local chiefs fully support Spence and her hunger strike. Chief Gerard Julian of

the Paq'tnkek **First Nation** in

Antigonish County said that while there are disagreements, everyone remains united behind the **Idle No More** movement.

"There's different opinions across **First Nations** communities, as there are in the non-native communities," he said.

"You're not going to get 100 per cent agreement as to which way we're going. But I do believe we are wanting to get to the same goal, but we are taking different paths in achieving those goals."

As Harper met with a few dozen **aboriginal** leaders, several Nova Scotia chiefs attended a large protest outside the Parliament buildings. The Chronicle Herald attempted to contact all 13 Nova Scotia **Mi'kmaq** chiefs Friday but most could not be reached.

Eskasoni Chief Leroy Denny said Friday afternoon before his cellphone cut out that he was going to visit Spence on Victoria Island.

(pmcleod@herald.ca) ILLUS: Waycobah **First Nation** Chief Morley Googoo says Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence should resign.

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
EDITORIAL, Page: B6

What First Nations people want

Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee, Ottawa Citizen

According to the sensational audit report leaked to media this week, the books of the Attawapiskat **First Nation** are actually in better shape since Theresa Spence became chief a couple of years ago. There was no indication of suspicious activity. Under the terms of the **Indian Act**, the federal **government** must approve every financial report submitted by **First Nations** .

And however it's being spent, the $17 million transferred annually by Ottawa to Attawapiskat is mere pocket change compared to the anticipated $6 billion in revenues to be reaped from a **DeBeers** diamond mine being constructed on the **First Nation 's** traditional territory there.

Funding for reserves is nickels and dimes when Canada's trillions of dollars in natural resource wealth is on the table, as it should have been in Friday's summit between the Harper Conservatives and **First Nations** voices from across Canada.

Sharing the wealth extracted by multinational miners, loggers and refiners is largely responsible for most Canadians enjoying one of the world's highest standards of living.

But the people from whose traditional lands the ore, lumber and petroleum products are extracted are asked to settle for a few dozen low-level jobs, and perhaps a company-sponsored Christmas party for kids in the closest **First Nations** community. They are the poorest, most underemployed, unhealthy inhabitants of this country.

Since the first Europeans asked North American **Indians** to sign **treaties** with them - to ensure that their citizens could enjoy safety while building new settlements - their governments have suffered progressively deteriorating amnesia about these legally binding agreements. In exchange for up-front gifts of materials and cash, perpetual **hunting** and **fishing** rights, exclusive land set-asides and other considerations like **education** and **health** care for future generations, the **Indians** agreed to let the newcomers occupy some of their traditional lands. They never under-stood that they were selling their lands - a foreign concept to them - or "surrendering" any rights.

While **treaties** are often trivialized by such adjectives as "ancient" in media reports and political discussions, the principles they established are lofty ones with legal and moral ramifications. Consider:

The Constitution Act, Canada, 1982, Section 35 (1): "The existing **aboriginal** and **treaty rights** of the **aboriginal** peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed."

Department of **Aboriginal Affairs** and Northern Development website, 2013: "The **Government** of Canada recognizes the **inherent right** of **self-government** as an existing **Aboriginal** right under section 35 of the Constitution Act."

The Supreme Court of Canada, Council of the Haida Nation **v. British Columbia** , 2004: "The **government** 's duty to consult with **Aboriginal** peoples and accommodate their interests is grounded in the honour of the Crown."

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2010: "Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or **self-government** in matters relating to their internal and local affairs."

The Harper **government** 's reluctance to translate these principles into action in its dealings with First Peoples is the reason for growing unrest across Canada. **First Nations** were led to believe these principles would form the agenda for last January's Crown-**First Nation** gathering, which turned out to be another photo-op with feathers.

We had hoped that these fundamental issues would form the basis of the agenda for this week's Ottawa summit, and kick-start an ongoing process to produce, once and for all, a **First Nations** action plan. The Harper **government** raised expectations by saying it wanted to restrict the agenda to **treaties** and **economic development** . This suited **First Nations** , who understand only too well that political autonomy goes hand-in-hand with economic **self**-sufficiency. A people's right to manage their own affairs means little if they can't feed themselves.

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Many factors contributed to the turbulence that surrounded attempts to stage a productive meeting this week. A major hurdle for **First Nations** leaders is trying to achieve consensus from constituents of 50 distinctly different historic Nations, comprised of treaty and non-**treaty**, on-reserve and urban citizens. And Canadians might not understand the significance to us of having at such historic meetings the official representative of the Crown, with whom our sacred **treaties** were agreed upon, for as long as the grass grows.

The first step in this journey will be for the prime minister to start living up to the words of the **residential school** apology he delivered in the House of Commons on June 11, 2008, a speech in which he said what was required was "a (new) relationship based on the knowledge of our shared history, a respect for each other, and a desire to move forward together with a renewed understanding that strong families, strong communities, and vibrant cultures and traditions will contribute to a better Canada for all of us."

Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee is a citizen of Aundeck Omni Kaning **First Nation**. He has served three terms as Grand Council Chief of the Anishina-\bek Nation.

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Times&Transcript

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT (MONCTON)
OPINION, Page: D6

First Nations need a common voice

Last week I suggested that Stephen Harper should reach out to National Chief Shawn Atleo as the duly elected leader of Canada's First Nations and offer to meet with the National Chief. I also suggested that if he should do so, the hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence's would be over. By coincidence the prime minister extended his hand to the national chief but that was not enough to end the hunger strike.

One of the problems with commenting on current affairs is that events can overtake you. For example, as I write this column, it's not clear whether the meeting between Assembly of First Nation (AFN) Chiefs and Prime Minister Harper will actually go ahead, nor is it clear whether the Governor General will join the meeting or simply host a "ceremonial" reception at Rideau Hall. One thing is certain; Canada is going to be dealing with the forces unleashed by the Idle No More movement and the camp-out of Chief Theresa Spence for months if not years to come.

A few things have become very clear in recent weeks: there is a divide within the Assembly of First Nations (the elected chiefs) and there is a divide between the chiefs and the band members who elect them and there appears to be little or no consensus about what First Nations want from the federal government. Mr. Atleo says "Poverty is killing his people" and laid out a number of agenda items including: treaty implementation, resource development, revenue-sharing and changes to environmental legislation contained in the government's Omnibus Bill C-45.

Representatives from Idle No More distanced themselves from the chiefs and called on the Assembly of First Nations to walk out of the meeting. Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Derek Nepinak told reporters that First Nations people have "nothing left to lose," pointing to problems with lack of housing , unsafe drinking water and poor health in the community. "We're not here to make requests. We're here to demand attention. And to demand an end to 140 years of colonial rule" he said.

Contrast Chief Nepinak with a young aboriginal who said "We are educated; we are informed. An educated indigenous person is much stronger and much more dangerous for governments than an armed indigenous person."

Ironically, management of this First Nations crisis may become the defining issue of Prime Minister Harper's term in office. The Idle No More movement has generated the strongest public opposition to his agenda in his seven years in office. Mr. Harper is not inclined to negotiate, preferring to dictate the terms through which he gets what he wants.

Former Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice warned against this approach twice in the past year. In June, he said, "the constitutional obligation to consult with first nations is not a corporate obligation. It is the federal government's responsibility." In September Mr. Prentice warned that pipeline projects were threatened by the failure to consult and accommodate First Nations rights and interests.

In the past, Mr. Harper's government has attacked the legitimacy of indigenous rights, the legal status of First Nations governments, the competency of First Nations leadership and the viability of reserves. He killed the Kelowna Accord. On the global stage, he stood almost alone in opposition to 144 other countries in voting against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Everything was made more difficult this week by a ruling from Federal Court Judge Michael Phelan that 200,000 Métis and 400,000 non-status Indians in Canada are also "Indians " under the Constitution Act and fall under federal jurisdiction. If Judge Phelan's ruling holds, Canada will have nearly two million people categorized as "Indian " and entitled to certain rights and benefits different from the rest of us.

"Divinely certain of the righteousness of their cause," First Nations have the capacity to cause a great deal of disruption to the government's natural resource agenda and to the economic life of this country. They also have the capacity to contribute greatly to the economic well being of this country.

We need to find agreement on practical, concrete measures to improve First Nation people's lives on reserves - from clean water to education to economic development - and we need to find agreement on how we free First Nations from the dictates of the Indian Act. It's in everybody's interest that we get it right.

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The ChronicleHerald

THE CHRONICLEHERALD
NOVASCOTIA, Page: A8

Native rights protest slows down train

Over 200 rally in Halifax as federal talks proceed

Michael Lightstone; Davene Jeffrey Staff Reporters

More than 200 native rights protesters drummed and danced in Halifax's Grand Parade on Friday while a smaller group delayed a Halifax-to-Montreal train and forced Via Rail to put dozens of passengers on a bus for the start of their trip.

Both events were aimed at drawing attention to the talks going on Friday between native leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa.

A Via spokeswoman said 53 passengers were placed on a motorcoach that took them to Truro from Halifax.

They were supposed to be on the Ocean, an overnight train to Montreal that makes several stops along the way, but Via management had to act due to an **Idle No More** rail line blockade.

The 53 bus riders were joined by 10 others who boarded the train in Truro, said Via spokeswoman Mylene Belanger.

She said the Ocean was at least 17 minutes behind schedule and is due to arrive in Montreal today at 9:15 a.m. local time.

Belanger said the blockade was east of Truro.

The train to Montreal was scheduled to leave Halifax at 12:20 p.m. Friday.

"So (passengers in Halifax) left on time, but by bus," Belanger said.

She said Via got wind of a protest and decided not to have the Ocean start its journey at the train station in Halifax.

"We heard about the possibility of a blockade," Belanger told The Chronicle Herald. "So we were able to prepare, to make sure our equipment was in Truro instead of Halifax."

On the Millbrook **First Nation**, a group of about 30 people had gathered at the blockade on Brooks Lane in the bitter cold by suppertime. Some people stood around a fire that burned on land beside the train tracks while others put up a teepee.

No trains were scheduled to pass through there Friday evening, but protesters said they didn't plan to go anywhere and any trains trying to pass today would be blocked.

"There's nothing coming through," said Kelly Wysote.

Protesters were sorry for any inconvenience they might be causing but they were running out of ways to get the prime minister's attention, Wysote said.

"There's a woman who's gone without food for more than 20 days," Wysote said, referring to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence "and (Harper) wouldn't even go meet her or talk to her."

Martin Sylliboy said the government needs to listen to**aboriginal** communities' concerns about **treaty rights**, environmental protection and natural resources.

"What we're doing is looking to exercise our right for a clean, bright, healthy future."

The Halifax gathering drew both**First Nations** and other people, and the mood in the crowd was one of unity.

"I came to stand in solidarity with my**Mi'kmaq** sisters and brothers and to stand up as a Canadian and demand that my

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government act honourably and respect its treaty obligations to the First Nations people of this country," said Halifax resident Martha Stiegman.

"The groundswell that we have seen over the last few weeks with the Idle No More movement I hope is the beginning of a kind of grassroots process of reconciliation that I think needs to happen," said Stiegman, who attended the gathering with her 14-month-old son strapped to her chest.

Another mother, Marina Young of Eskasoni, stood in the crowd with her daughter holding a placard.

"Bill C-45 and everything that it stands for I'm against it completely," Young said, referring to the Conservative government's omnibus budget legislation.

"I'm against it for my children. I'm against it for my family, for my people. I'm against it for Canadians. I believe that it affects our waterways. I believe that it is going to destroy our environment and that's what matters most."

She called on the country's chiefs to try and find common ground so they can "speak with one voice" in their efforts to strike resolutions between the federal government and aboriginal people.

For Dan McIsaac, a Metis from Annapolis Royal, coming to the Grand Parade was a way to support the talks but also to say that one meeting is not enough.

"We are going to be expecting more," McIsaac said.

With Michael Gorman,

Truro Bureau

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(djeffrey@herald.ca) ILLUS: Drummers chant during an Idle No More protest at the Grand Parade in Halifax on Friday. (Peter Parsons / Staff); Protesters block the Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro in Nova Scotia as part of the Idle No More protests on Millbrook First Nation near Truro on Friday.(Andrew Vaughan / CP)

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TORONTO STAR

TORONTO STAR (ONT)
NEWS, Page: A17

#idlenomore - hashing out an online movement

How a Twitter hashtag helped grassroots protests go viral, and connected isolated communities

Karissa Donkin Toronto Star

It started small, with about 100 people at a rally in Saskatoon, and became a political protest that has spread across Canada and into the national political discussion.

Idle No More and its rise have been driven by social media, a place where anyone - no matter how physically isolated they are - can participate in discussion and follow news if they have an Internet connection or smartphone.

Erica Lee, 22, is a **University** of Saskatchewan student who has been an activist for most of her life. People like Lee, young and tech-savvy, are the face of this movement. And social media is the tool that's allowing them to speak, she said.

"Traditionally, it's the chiefs and the people in power that have the ability to speak to the media, whereas now, people like me - **university** students who have been involved in this kind of stuff - are getting interviewed," Lee said.

"Social media allows the people who are actually directly involved and impacted by these kinds of movements . . . to have their voices heard."

Lee was at that small protest in November that's credited with starting Idle No More. Her involvement has spread online, where she manages the **Idle No More** Facebook page.

"It gives (people), especially in northern communities and rural **First Nations** communities, a chance to be connected with events and be inspired by other peoples' events that they might not have access to, that they aren't seeing on TV and in newspapers," Lee said.

The Facebook page started Nov. 29 and now has more than 63,000 likes and photos from protests and rallies all over the world.

The same day the Facebook page was born, Tanya Kappo was trying to find a way to help people in far-flung **First Nations** communities follow her teach-in on Louis Bull **First Nation** , south of Edmonton.

A day later, she wrote a tweet saying she would be live-tweeting the workshops. In that message, she included a hashtag - **#idlenomore** - that has since been used hundreds of thousands of times on Twitter, and in the process has created a central place to follow and spread news from **Idle No More** .

"It really evolved into a conversation on Twitter amongst anyone and everyone who's interested in **Idle No More**)," said Kappo, who lives in Edmonton.

"It continues to play an important role in getting the information out and building momentum."

According to an app called Makook, which has been tracking **Idle No More 's** Twitter activity, **#idlenomore** was mentioned on Twitter only 10 times on Dec. 1, the day after Kappo's first tweet.

On Dec. 10, protests and rallies took places across Canada as part of the "**Idle No More** Day of Solidarity" gave the **#idlenomore** hashtag a dramatic spike in popularity. It was mentioned in 11,416 tweets that day, Makook reports.

Twitter activity took off on Dec. 21, another day of protests across the country, with nearly 40,000 mentions of **#idlenomore** .

Ron Stagg, a history professor at Ryerson **University** , says social media has helped **First Nations** groups bridge some of the divisions that, in the past, prevented the unity needed for mass protest.

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"(Issues) were seen as local issues rather than national issues. What this group has done with social media is to make (them) into a national issue. In fact, it's even international," he said.

Joanne St. Lewis, a law professor at the University of Ottawa, said Idle No More has been the most focused use of social media in aboriginal activism. And while youth may not have started Idle No More, they're the people that have "captured" the movement, she said.

While social media has made it easier for many to participate in Idle No More, it's taking that involvement offline that could determine how long it lasts.

Megan Boler, a University of Toronto professor who studies the Occupy movement, said "Occupy would not have taken off" without the physical encampments in public places and face-to-face contact.

"The digital divide that exists between First Nations people in Canada and those of us who are living in urban areas is huge.

"Because of that digital divide, no doubt there are hundreds of thousands of First Nations people . . . who are not expressing themselves through social media." ILLUS: The Haisla First Nation in Kitimat, B.C., used the hashtag at a December protest. Tanya Kappo of Edmonton was the first to tweet #idlenomore as a hashtag. First Nations artist Dwayne Bird's Idle No More illustration, above left, is one of many distributed by young, tech-savvy protesters using social media to organize demonstrations and have their voices heard. THE CANADIAN PRESS file photo Ian Jackson for the Toronto Star BIRDWIRE MEDIA STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR file photo

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The London Free Press

THE LONDON FREE PRESS (FINAL
NEWS, Page: B1

National chief's foes planning national day of action

KRISTY KIRKUP QMI AGENCY PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

OTTAWA -- Some **aboriginal** leaders who openly oppose Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo are planning to launch a national day of action next Wednesday to demonstrate their frustration with the federal government.

The planned action could include blockades and associated protests across the country.

The chiefs, including some from Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, said Friday that protests would get rolling by Wednesday if Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to get Gov. Gen. David Johnston to join discussions with **aboriginal** leaders. (It was unclear whether Johnston's meeting with native leaders Friday night had changed that plan.)

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has been on a hunger strike for 32 days, also made this demand, but Harper did not agree to it.

Instead, Harper met Atleo and others at his office in Ottawa Friday afternoon despite protests outside in support of a discussion boycott.

Former AFN national chief Matthew Coon Come, who attended Friday's meeting, told reporters it was important to have dialogue with Harper to "lay down demands" made by **First Nations** leaders.

"At the end of the day, we have to talk face to face," Coon Come said before the talks. "There could be upheaval. I certainly do not want to be responsible for the death of anyone. . . . Atleo does not have time to respond to his critics. I stand with him, I support him."

During Atleo's bid for a second term as national chief, other candidates raised issues about his approach to dealing with the government.

Pam Palmater, who placed second in the race for AFN national chief, suggested Atleo turned the AFN into the "Assembly of Assimilation."

Months later, Palmater has become a vocal activist for the growing **Idle No More** movement, which is led by grassroots **First Nations** protesters. She also suggested Atleo's job could be on the line if he agreed to meet with Harper Friday, citing issues with a lack of a mandate from chiefs in the assembly.

Serpent River **First Nation** Chief Isadore Day says the Assembly of **First Nations** is not in disarray, but he suggests a discussion about the organization's overarching framework may be needed.

"What we are faced with is not so much an organization that is no good. It is just time to modernize the organization. Itis a new chapter in the organization we all rely on and depend on," Day said.

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THE WINNIPEG SUN (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: 4

The chief supporters

Idle protesters back leaders in boycott

NICOLE DUBE AND KEVIN ENGSTROM, WINNIPEG SUN

While many were critical of Manitoba chiefs for skipping a meeting with the prime minister, few detractors could be found at a series of local **Idle No More** protests on Friday.

There were multiple events scattered across the city and province on Friday as part of a national call to action by the **Idle No More** movement, coinciding with the prime minister's meeting with several **aboriginal** chiefs from across the country.

Manitoba chiefs, including Assembly of Manitoba Chief Derek Nepinak, declined the invitation when the governor-general wouldn't attend the working meeting with Stephen Harper.

There weren't any critics of that decision at the noon-hour protest in front of the human rights museum at The Forks.

While police cordoned off several city streets and redirected traffic, more than 150 people attended the peaceful protest, with many taking part in a traditional round dance before marching down Portage Avenue to join up with another **Idle No More** rally at the **University** of Winnipeg.

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Marcel French said the **Idle No More** protest isn't just about defending **aboriginal rights** for today, but for future generations as well.

"We see the environment being eroded, and the government needs to step up and honour the rights, honour the **treaties** ," said Seymour. "Hopefully with this movement going on, we (will) send a message to the government."

"The things that are going to be happening with some of the bills do affect our **water** and our earth, and we're here in a peaceful way to sort of try to bring attention to that," said Tricia Seymour, one of the organizers of the museum protest.

Conservative MP Shelly Glover, who is **Metis** , said Friday that opposition to a pair of government budget bills, **C-45** and **C-38**, is unwarranted. She noted one of the bills will reduce some of the red tape **First Nations** get bogged down in when leasing land to prospective businesses -- something the government was asked to address.

She also expressed disappointment that Manitoba chiefs declined meeting with Harper on Friday, saying dialogue between the two sides is key to improving the plight of **First Nations** in this province and this country.

"They've got to get to the table," she said. ILLUS: photo by Jason Halstead, Winnipeg Sun More than 150 **Idle No More** protesters took part in a peaceful protest at The Forks before marching down Portage Avenue to meet up with another rally at the **University** of Winnipeg.

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THE LONDON FREE PRESS (FINAL EDITORIAL/OPINION, Page: E1

IGNORED NO MORE

The Idle No More movement has opened the floodgates of opinion about First Nations

LARRY CORNIES

Disparate voices express common agenda: change

The **Idle No More** "flash mob" (not exactly the right phrase for a protest widely publicized at least two days in advance) at the corner of London's Dundas and Richmond streets at noon Thursday bore all the characteristics of a standard anti-government protest.

There were hand-drawn placards demanding the government "revoke **C-45**," the omnibus act that alters the levers of control over some lands and waterways. Another sign declared "Harper's treason is the reason," presumably with reference to those changes. Yet another proclaimed, " 'Our native land' says it all." But perhaps the most apocalyptic of them telegraphed the message that "your government and your bible [were] created by white, misogynist, bigots to gain power and control. Respect **First Nations** sovereignty – 8th fire prophecy." (The latter is a reference to an Anishinaabe prophecy, predating the arrival of Europeans in North America, that environmental and social catastrophe would be avoided if enough people of all races and spiritual traditions come together in mutual respect and wisdom.) As a half dozen drums beat steadily – and about 200 dancers of all ages and races moved rhythmically in two clockwise, concentric rings around them -- there were numerous conversations going on among bystanders. Some of the questions were playful, others serious. Some of the answers were accurate and clear, others baldly untrue.

At least one man wore a leather jacket proclaiming membership in "Crazy Indians Ontario." Many wore traditional native clothing and accessories. A few even sported scarves, masks or balaclavas, looking like Black Bloc wannabes.

The voices at the megaphone, passed from one impromptu orator to another, were similarly diverse.

One asked each person in attendance to bring one additional participant to the next **Idle No More** protest. Another denounced Ottawa's disregard for Native rights. Others asked that onlookers join the convergence of citizens on Ottawa at yesterday's meetings, or pleaded for respect for Mother Earth, or pledged support for Chief Theresa Spence, in the midst of a modified hunger strike in Ottawa (one mistakenly calling her "Spencer").

One of the more excitable among the speakers predicted future wars among tribes and races within Canada over resources such as **water** .

Within an hour, they were gone. The corner of Dundas and Richmond was back to being the semi-barren heart of the city.

The proponents, organizers and hangers-on of the national **Idle No More** movement are far from a united, single-minded force with a common agenda. Theirs is a populist collective of causes, most generally revolving around the growing disenfranchisement of **Natives** within Canada, the need to pull the environment back toward the centre of our national focus, and the need for mutual respect among Canadians of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, including **aboriginals** .

Last year, the Occupy movement seemed to attain the highest profile among Canadian protest campaigns, as it pointed, with some consistency and effect, at the growing gap between rich and poor, between the ultra-wealthy and seemingly entitled "1%" and the rest of us. Occupy's claims possessed merit, but lacked a certain rallying point and popular longevity, though work inspired by that movement is continuing.

Idle No More has a distinctly different feel about it. Though it's being spearheaded by a marginalized people, the movement is drawing upon millennia-old cultural traditions, physical and spiritual – in addition to the real-time politics of Ottawa -- to rally others to its cause.

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Idle No More 's emphasis on the sacred place of the environment at the centre of Canadian life and aspiration – against the background of the desire of the Harper government for expediency for the sake of development -- resonates with young Canadians especially and with many others at the centre and left of the national political spectrum.

It may be a diverse and, at times, incoherent populist movement that's not sure exactly where it's going. Its adherents may differ, in the wake of the leaked audit into the finances of the Attawapiskat reserve on how much support it should offer Spence. It may contain within itself a set of rivalries between Native factions that will at some point become more pointed and visible. And as this week's events have demonstrated, there are more moving pieces within **Idle No More** , the Assembly of **First Nations** and the government's grudging responses to them than in a Swiss watch.

But there is a certain irony in the fact that, even as the Harper government tries to draw the oxygen out of parliamentary debate over specific pieces of legislation through massive omnibus bills, that same oxygen appears to be fuelling movements such as **Idle No More** , which continue to burn ever brighter.

Larry Cornies is a London-based journalist and educator. cornies@gmail.com ILLUS: QMI Agency file photo photo by Derek Ruttan The London Free Press More than 300 people participate in a a noon hour **Idle No More** protest in downtown London Thursday. Their message resonated with some, irritated others.

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THE VANCOUVER SUN

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Ministers, chiefs must focus on practicality

With meeting in the books, the battle for aboriginal public opinion that will ensue will see fundamentalists attempt to polarize the debate

Andrew Coyne, Vancouver Sun

It's not yet clear precisely what the Prime Minister and Assembly of **First Nations** chiefs accomplished at their meeting Friday, but the fact that they met at all, after the tumult and confusion of the preceding 24 hours, must be counted as achievement enough.

Rarely has the penchant of native leaders for what a former prime minister's chief of staff, Derek Burney, has called "theology" been on such open display. The whole future of the country seemed to hang on whether ministers and chiefs met in a hotel or in a government building, or whether the Prime Minister and the Governor General attended at the same time or in sequence.

In the process, it became more evident than ever just how divided the AFN has become: among the other unresolved matters as I write are the future of AFN chief Shawn Atleo and, one has to think, the AFN itself, with much of the organization now in open revolt against his leadership. The proxy issue may have been whether to attend the meeting, but the broader conflict is foundational.

By their decision to participate, Atleo and his supporters were not just staring down the demands of what I've called the fundamentalists, many of whom have taken up the flag of the **Idle No More** movement. They were casting their lot with a more pragmatic, forward-looking vision of **natives** ' future. By no means were they signing onto the whole of the present government's reform agenda, but they were signalling a willingness to work with it. That took enormous courage, and it is vitally important that the government respond in kind.

There will be a battle for aboriginal public opinion in the coming weeks, as the fundamentalists seek to polarize the debate: Ontario's chiefs have promised to block every major road and rail line in the province next Wednesday, while a Manitoba chief went so far as a vow to "shut down this economy." Stephen Harper and the moderate chiefs will have to show progress to keep mainstream **aboriginal** opinion on side.

Much of the specific list of demands Atleo unveiled this week would seem quite reasonable: a commission of inquiry on violence against **aboriginal women** , a school on every reserve, and so on. On other matters, the divisions are less stark than some of the rhetoric would have you believe. Whatever you may have heard, no one actually disputes that we have a legal and moral obligation to abide by the **treaties** signed on our behalf, or those **aboriginal rights** identified by the courts. At the same time, we are not obliged to accept every proffered interpretation of these, no matter how extravagant. Native leaders may insist, for example, that the federal government has a constitutional "duty to consult," not just on specific developments, but on any legislation touching on **aboriginal** interests, but that is still very much to be decided: either by the courts, or by negotiation.

There are reasonable discussions to be had on these matters - the prime minister has apparently indicated a willingness to consult more, and to engage in further talks on **treaty** implementation - as there is on speeding up the famously elephantine process for resolving **land claims** . But even if the government met every one of the native leaders' demands, that would not begin to address the real problems facing **aboriginal** people.

The emphasis of so many native leaders, even among the moderates, on legal, constitutional and political remedies - **treaties** , **land claims** , nation-to-nation negotiations and so on - reflects a misplaced fascination with top-down, government-driven, process-oriented solutions that would still leave too many **natives** on reserves too captive, not just to the federal bureaucracy, but to their own chiefs and band councils.

The same applies to the chiefs' latest demand, for a greater share of the revenues from resource development projects. While preferable in some ways to federal transfers, the likelihood is that control of these revenues would remain in the hands of the chiefs and their retainers, leaving their constituents as much dependent on their good graces as before.

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What **native people** need to improve their lot are not hugely different than what any people need. Collectively, they need more control over how they are governed, meaning not just devolution of powers from the federal government, but more accountable and transparent government on the reserve. Individually, they need more of that indispensable tool of wealth creation, capital: human capital, i.e. **education** , and physical capital - the right to own **property** , and to borrow against it, the wellspring of so many business start-ups.

Land claims and **treaty rights** , however valid in law, cannot substitute for these essential reforms. **Native people** will lift themselves out of **poverty** , not by claiming wealth, but by creating it; not by making demands, but by making goods and services they can sell to others. Yet these are the very measures that have attracted the most opposition, whether from ideologues, who prefer to dwell on the inherent nature of **aboriginal rights** and the spiritual joys of communal ownership, or from chiefs, who fear losing their power and perks (but who are not above invoking the arguments of the ideologues).

We are headed for turbulent times. To keep things on track, leaders must keep talking, and stay focused on practical measures to improve the lives of ordinary **native people** . Leave the theology to the theologians. ILLUS: Adrian Wyld, The Canadian Press / National Chief of the Assembly of **First Nations** Shawn Atleo faces an uncertain future as many AFN leaders are in open revolt against his leadership following the meeting Friday with Stephen Harper.;

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THE VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER SUN (FINAL)
WESTCOAST NEWS, Page: A8

Proposed safe water law could cost B.C. millions: Metro Vancouver

Bill opens door to downloading federal responsibilities to provinces, towns

Tara Carman, Vancouver Sun; Vancouver Sun

Metro Vancouver is worried a proposed federal law could leave B.C. municipalities footing the bill for the hundreds of millions needed to provide safe drinking water and sewage treatment on First Nations ' reserves.

The proposed Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act, or Bill S-8, would let the federal government set enforceable health and safety standards for drinking water and sewage treatment on reserves, where the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction. Off-reserve, such standards are set and enforced by the provinces. But S-8 would also give a federal official broad powers to delegate the provision of drinking water and sewage treatment and enforcement of standards to third parties, which could include provincial and local governments.

This raises concerns for municipalities, including how they would recover the high cost of installing and maintaining these systems if they were required to do so, said Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin, who chairs Metro's aboriginal relations committee. He said municipalities were not consulted when the legislation was drafted.

"Nobody wants to deny First Nations reserves access to clean, safe drinking water ," he said. "We just want to make it as clear as we can: Are there financial implications? Is there going to be an ability for the local government to recover their investment ? And then, if there is a problem with the system on the reserve, who's responsible?" Metro is right to be concerned, said NDP MP Jean Crowder, who represents Nanaimo-Cowichan.

"The bill, S-8, does limit the Crown's liability and it's not clear where that liability will be downloaded to; whether it will be downloaded to First Nations , provinces, municipalities," she said.

"Say, for example, they deem that provincial regulations for waste water and drinking water will be the norm. What is the timeline and what are the resources that are required in order to meet those regulations?" Metro, in cooperation with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, plans to send a delegation to Ottawa to address the parliamentary committee considering the bill, which originated in the Senate and has passed first reading in the House of Commons. The delegation will request clarity on cost recovery and liability, and ask the federal government to acknowledge that local governments will be affected by law, Daykin said. An assessment of 290 water and sewage systems serving B.C. First Nations , done by the federal government in 2009-2010, identified 53 per cent as high risk and in need of immediate attention, 18 per cent as medium risk and 29 per cent as low risk. The same report estimated the cost of upgrades on First Nations reserves across Canada at $4.7 billion.

The report identified three Metro reserves where water quality "failed health " guidelines: Burrard (Tsleil-Waw-tuth), Semiahmoo and Mats-qui. None of those First Nations returned calls on Friday.

First Nations' responses to Bill S-8 has been mixed, but most oppose it, according to an Assembly of First Nations submission to the Senate. Some feel the legislation does not adequately recognize First Nations jurisdiction over water resources, while others worry that the federally imposed standards will be costly.

"It is clear to the AFN that Bill S-8 will impose substantial new costs and responsibilities on First Nations without a committed transfer of resources," the submission said.

"Currently, there are no legislative guarantees that an adequate level of funding will be provided to address dire needs of First Nations ."

The federal Aboriginal Affairs department did not respond to a request for comment on Friday.

RESERVE

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1. Barnston Island #3
2. Burrard Inlet #3
3. Capilano #5
4. Coquitlam #1
5. Coquitlam #2
6. Graveyard #5
7. Inlailawatash #4
8. Inlailawatash #4A
9. Katzie #1
10. Katzie #2
11. Langley #5
12. Matsqui #4
13. McMillan Island #6
14. Mission #1
15. Musqueam #2
16. Musqueam #4
17. Pitt Lake #4
18. Sea Island #3
19. Semiahmoo
20. Seymour Creek #2
21. Tsawwassen
22. Whonnock #1

FIRST NATION

Katzie

Tsleil-Waututh

Squamish

Kwikwetlem

Kwikwetlem

Katzie

Tsleil-Waututh

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Tsleil-Waututh

Katzie

Katzie

Kwantlen

Matsqui

Kwantlen

Squamish

Musqueam

Musqueam

Katzie

Musqueam

Semiahmoo

Squamish

Tsawwassen

Kwantlen

Sources: 2001Census Of Canada, Metro Vancouver

tcarman@vancouversun.com twitter.com/tarajcarman ILLUS: / Reserves and **water** Metro Vancouver fears municipal agencies across B.C. could be on the hook for improving **water** and sewer services to **First Nation** reserves under new federal regulations. Here is a look at the reserves in Metro. Some of the listed reserves do not have **housing** on them. Most of the major populated reserves in Metro Vancouver already have agreements for the provision of water with adjoining municipalities - including the Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish nations.; Stuart Davis, PNG Files / Municipalities have expressed concern about how they could recover the high cost of maintaining and installing **water** systems if they were required to do so. This sinkhole opened up in North Vancouver in July 2010 when a **water** main blew.;

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
ARGUMENTS, Page: B7

Difficult days ahead for the government and First Nations

Stephen Maher, Postmedia News

The first young men to leave Chief Theresa Spence's compound on Victoria Island this morning looked like warriors, proud and defiant.

They walked through the crowd, which parted for them, then led the march across the river to Parliament Hill in the freezing rain, walking beside drummers singing a Cree honour song, high and mournful and haunting.

People in the crowd told me they came to support **Idle No More** , to demand the government respect their **treaties** , to protest legislation that threatens the environment.

On Thursday night, at a fractious meeting at an Ottawa hotel, chiefs from across Canada split on whether leaders should attend a meeting with Harper on Friday. Pam Pal-mater, the Mi'kmaw **university** professor who Shawn Atleo defeated to become national chief, and who now seems to be functioning as the leader of the opposition, said Atleo lacked a mandate to go and could be removed from office.

A large, vocal minority of chiefs believe, like Spence, that the chiefs shouldn't meet with the prime minister unless the governor general is in the room.

The prime minister twice bent to Spence's will, first agreeing to a meeting with chiefs, then arranging for the governor general to hold a ceremonial meeting afterwards.

I suspect it would have been difficult for Harper to make a concession that would have won the approval of Spence, whose liquid-only hunger strike has inspired **First Nations** people across the country.

The marchers who I spoke with, though, said they thought Atleo was right to go to the meeting. The debate about the meeting seems to be driven by internal politics within the Assembly of **First Nations** .

Atleo, who comes from a non-**treaty British Columbia** band, seems to be more pragmatic and flexible than the **treaty** bands to the east, whose relationship with the government is more poisonous. His career is on the line.

Thursday night, several prominent chiefs, including Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, who ran against Atleo, and Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, who might run against him next time, announced they would support Spence and stay away from the meeting.

"We have the power," Nepinak told reporters. "The **Idle No More** movement has the people and the numbers that can bring the Canadian economy to its knees."

On Friday, after the marchers arrived on Parliament Hill, they gathered in front of the Langevin Building, where the prime minister was preparing to meet with Atleo and other chiefs.

Nepinak, looking impressive in a feathered headdress, came to the front door, where four Mounties had wisely decided to make a strategic retreat.

Nepinak, who could have been in the meeting room, banged on the big wooden doors.

"We're asking the prime minister to come out here," he said, and then gave TV interviews.

One door was open but Nepinak was banging on one that was closed, making a show of being turned away.

By having some leaders at the table and others in the street, **aboriginals** are presenting a strong negotiating position. Atleo can say to the prime minister: Do you hear the knocking on the door? You can work with us or them.

During the meeting, the assembly released a list of eight "elements of consensus": a working group for enforcing

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treaties , reform of the land claims process , resource revenue sharing , repeal of legislation that violates treaty rights , a "transformed fiscal relationship," a commission of inquiry into violence against indigenous women, a school in every community and a cabinet committee responsible for first nation -Crown relations.

This is a careful list, no doubt worked out with great difficulty. It would be difficult for the prime minister to agree to it. This is not his agenda, which may be difficult for him to accept, and after the meeting Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said little except that the prime minister will meet with At-leo again.

It would be difficult to give the chiefs nothing, and let the radicals take over.

Everything is difficult. As former auditor general Sheila Fraser explained in an exhaustive 2011 audit, the systems by which Ottawa provides services to First Nations are broken.

Ottawa is doing a terrible job providing health services, clean water , education and housing to aboriginals , and it is not getting better.

Some communities are doing very well, usually because they have good leadership and an independent source of income, but in too many others, the people live in misery.

According to an audit of Attawapiskat, Spence, the symbolic leader of this protest, did not manage her community's finances in an acceptable way, which means she is at least partly responsible for the terrible state of housing there.

To fix any of this, to mend poisoned relations and build systems that work for people now suffering, First Nations and the government have to build enough trust to work together. To do that, the prime minister would have to approve expensive measures that do not advance the interests of his electoral coalition, and First Nations would have to set aside their dislike of the prime minister and agree on agenda that can be sold to divided chiefs.

It's all difficult, but the alternatives - continued misery and increasing strife - are worse.

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CALGARY HERALD

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NEWS, Page: A21

For many aboriginals, life is better off the reserve

Mark Milke, For the Calgary Herald

With all the attention paid to the Idle No More movement and the off-again, on-again talks between some native chiefs and the prime minister, one basic fact about aboriginal life in Canada has been forgotten: Most aboriginals do not live on reserve and seem to be better for it.

That's an important fact that should be part of any debate about how to bring up the living standards of aboriginal Canadians.

Their general plight is already well known: When compared to other Canadians, Statistics Canada data show that proportionately fewer aboriginal Canadians finish high school, and of those that do, a smaller proportion will obtain post-secondary education . Also, aboriginals are less likely to be in the labour force, they will face higher unemployment rates, and their median earnings are less. They are thus more dependent on government transfers when compared with non-aboriginal Canadians.

However, what is less often articulated in much detail is how those aboriginals off reserve fare better than those aboriginals on reserve.

To see what I mean, some background is necessary to put that claim in context.

According to Statistics Canada, for census purposes, "Aboriginal identity" refers to people who self-identify as belonging to one or more of the following aboriginal groups: North American Indian, Metis or Inuit . According to the 2006 census (the 2011 results are not yet available) 1,172,790 Canadians placed themselves in one of those three groups or some combination thereof. Here's the thing: of those almost 1.2 million aboriginals, just 308,490 live on reserve, or barely over 26 per cent. Thus, fully 74 per cent of Canadians who self-identify as aboriginals do not live on reserve.

Yes, population on reserves has increased, partly because the population of self-identified "North American Indians" is growing. But as the statistics show, a greater proportion of that category of Canadians lived off reserve in 2006 when compared to 2001. Put simply, the off-reserve population is growing faster than the population on reserve.

Looking more closely, the aboriginals most likely to live on reserve are "North American Indians," or First Nations in more common parlance. Of that group, 300,755 out of 698,025 live on reserve, or 43 per cent (again, as of the 2006 census).

In other words, 57 per cent of Indians/First Nations people do not live on reserve. And that's up from 55 per cent who lived off reserve, as of the 2001 census.

A caveat: Census data differ from that recorded by the department of Aboriginal Affairs for reasons not germane here. But Aboriginal Affairs data show a similar pattern in its 1983 to 2010 tracking: a growth in the number of people on reserves, but a decline in the proportion of registered Indians on reserve.

So why does all this matter? Because additional data from Statistics Canada reveal that for those most likely to live on reserves (the "North American Indian" category), they have lower median incomes compared to other aboriginals . This is especially so if they reside on reserve.

For example, according to the 2006 census, for all aboriginals grouped together (and whether on or off reserve), the median earnings figure for someone who worked full time was $36,944.

But what is revealing is how that aboriginal category breaks down. Inuit had the highest median income at $44,440, with Metis next at $39,784. Indian/First Nations people (combining on reserve and off reserve) had a median income of just $34,209.

Remember, all of the foregoing statistics are for those who worked full time all year.

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Now break the "Indian" category down even further between those on reserve and those off reserve.

On-reserve Indians had a median income of $29,014.

In contrast, off-reserve Indians had a median income of $37,477. In other words, First Nations people/Indians who live off reserve have a median income that is almost $8,500 higher than their counterparts on reserve.

It's no secret as to why many reserves and the inhabitants thereon suffer: many are far from large urban centres. Most reserves are also not yet designed to foment any sort of property rights for inhabitants.

The combination of remoteness and anti-wealth creating collective structures (to say nothing of the politicization of reserve spending) means many reserves thus lack the economic, educational and career opportunities that accompany living near a major centre.

As native and non-native politicians alike ponder what to do about aboriginal policy, they should keep in mind this simple fact: For most of Canada's aboriginal population, life is better away from the reserve. That might explain why a majority of aboriginal Canadians, including a majority of North American Indians, choose not to live on reserves.

Mark Milke is a senior fellow with the Fraser Institute and author of Life is Better in the Cities.

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The London Free Press

THE LONDON FREE PRESS (FINAL EDITORIAL/OPINION, Page: E1

Chief Spence has Tories scared

WARREN KINSELLA

You might call it the Hamlet Principle. You know, from William Shakespeare's play of that name. Act 3, Scene 2, wherein Hamlet's mother famously observes another character "doth protest too much, methinks."

Not "protest" in the modern context, although that sort of protest is relevant here, too. No, in the Shakespearean era, "protest" meant as an affirmation, or an avowal.

Thus, the Hamlet Principle can be seen at work in a modern psychodrama, between Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, on the one side, and all of Canadian conservatism, on the other. Chief Spence is on a hunger strike, protesting the way in which the Conservatives treats First Nations . 'And Conservatives can lately be observed claiming Chief Spence is a liar and a fraud and a criminal, and even that she isn't really on a hunger strike at all.

This is where the "they doth protest too much" part comes in.

Because, the more that Conservatives bray and screech that they don't care about Chief Spence's truly brilliant campaign, the more Canadians suspect that they do. The more that these Cons insult her -- calling her every name they can conjure up, including "c--t" on a Sun News web page (since taken down) – the more that they look, well, scared.

Yes, scared. With every hateful, spit-flecked epithet they lob at her -- with the cacophony of conservative columnists, and the cyber-sewer of commenters who follow them -- Conservatives sound undeniably worried about what Chief Spence is achieving.

Because make no mistake, she is achieving plenty. She is attracting attention to her cause. Famous people are trekking to her tiny tent, located on a miss-it-if-you-blink bit of rock between Ottawa and Hull. International media are writing about her, and the grassroots Idle No More movement. Canadians are paying attention.

She is not doing any of this with showy Greenpeace-style media stunts, or demonstrations that massively inconvenience average citizens. She is not committing any acts of terror. She is simply saying she will not eat until she gets to meet with the Prime Minister. That's it.

If you pay any attention to conservatives, however, you would think Chief Spence is worse than Hitler, and that her hunger strike is a declaration of war. Against her, the full force of the Conservative government's army of propagandists have been deployed. She has been called some of the most disgusting things imaginable, but she has not responded in kind. Instead, she has been almost Gandhi-like in her dignity.

If Chief Spence is truly a threat -- and, with her weakened body, and her failing voice, it is hard to see how she could threaten anyone -- then Conservatives have pursued a genuinely idiotic strategy against her. Instead of making her infamous, they have made her famous.

Instead of ignoring her, they have revealed themselves to be obsessed by her. Instead of simply meeting with her, and making it a one-day story, their pigheaded stubbornness has made Chief Spence a folk hero who will be remembered for years to come.

Like I say, it's the Hamlet Principle. When they doth protest too much, you can always be reasonably assured that they're a bunch of goddamned liars.

warren.kinsella@sunmedia.ca ILLUS: photo by Paul Owen QMI Agency Aamjiwnaang First Nation Chief Chris Plain, right, shakes hands with Sarnia Police Chief Phil Nelson prior to a celebration at the CN rail blockade in Sarnia.

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Native rights, government wrongs

DAVID MCLAREN

It is telling that the **Idle No More** movement started with four **First Nations** women -- Nina Wilson, Sylvia McAdam, Jessica Gordon and Sheelah McLean, who gave the first **Idle No More** teach-in.

McAdam is a lawyer, as is Tanya Kappo, who first tweeted **#dlenomore** . Perhaps they are of the "new people" of the Anishinaabek Seventh Fire prophecy. Perhaps they are among those who refuse to see themselves as victims, but rather as human beings with rights being eroded. Time will tell, as it has told of past abuses and as it is telling of present wrongs.

In 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper gave the **Kashechewan First Nation** a choice: either stay where they were put in 1957 or move to Timmins. Stay in a place where you might get sick again from E. coli or lose your land and move to town. To become what? Beggars? Assimilated? The people suggested a third way and asked Harper to move them upstream, to their original home. He refused.

During Harper's apology to **Aboriginal** Canada for the **Indian residential school** system, a **First Nations** commentator on CBC Radio said, "At least it was well written."

I think it was Mary Simon, but I can't find the clip on the CBC website and queries have gone unanswered. It was her way of wondering if the apology was sincere and would ever lead to reconciliation.

Perhaps she had seen this sort of thing before. Such apologies are cheaply made and dearly bought. They give only the appearance of reconciliation, because only equals can be reconciled. An apology is insincere if made to people abused, for they are in no position to refuse it. But refuse it they must lest the apologizer take his apology as licence for some fresh offence.

Indeed, the ink was hardly dry on the apology when the federal government cancelled a scheduled increase in funding aimed at rescuing **First Nations** languages fading from decades in **residential schools** .

In 2011, Attawapiskat declared a **housing** emergency. Harper's first response was to blame the band. He even appointed a third-party manager, which the courts determined was neither warranted nor needed. What remains from that crisis -- and you can see it in comments posted on stories about Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's fast -- is the public perception that **First Nations** governments are corrupt.

They are not. Even the recently leaked audit of Attawapiskat's financial management makes no allegations of fraud or theft. It does, however, point out some serious lapses in accounting practices and its recommendations are aimed as much at the government as they are the **First Nation** .

In 2012, the Harper government passed two omnibus bills that somehow implemented the budget by weakening environmental laws that **First Nations** leaders use to protect their traditional territories.

As environmental lawyer Dianne Saxe puts it, "The cumulative effect of the government's changes to the Fisheries Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Navigable Waters Act is to dramatically reduce the protection to fish and waterways. This must be of concern to **First Nations** , indeed to all of us."

Now there is a suite of nine or 10 separate legislative initiatives that will directly affect how **First Nations** govern themselves.

Bill C-27, for example, the **First Nations** Financial Transparency Act. About time you say? Overkill, said Sheila Fraser, the former auditor-general. Would that **Indian Affairs** be held to the same standards? Fraser suggested as much in her 2006 and 2011 reports.

Bill S-8, the Safe Drinking **Water** for First Nations Act, doesn't actually provide safe drinking **water** to reserves. What it does is dump a bunch more regulations and reporting obligations on **First Nations** .

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The First Nations Private Property Ownership Act is still a twinkle in Tom Flanagan's eye, but when it hits the floor ofthe House of Commons it will, like the Dawes Act in the U. S,, do the dirty work of separating **First Nations** people from their land.

Consultation (and its obverse, accommodation), the Supreme Court of Canada has said, is the proper path to reconciliation. It is the only way to peacefully resolve the tangle of federal, provincial, **First Nation** and corporate jurisdictions, rights, claims and obligations. Besides, like it or not, it's the law.

Apparently the Harper government doesn't like it. If it consults at all, its consultation has all the substance and nourishment of a Cheeto. There was no consultation on the legislative changes described here and insufficient consultation (let alone accommodation) regarding the impact of the oilsands in Alberta or the large mining projects coming to the Ring of Fire in Ontario.

To make matters worse, the Harper government is slashing the budgets of**treaty** organizations such as the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council -- some by 50% to 70%. These organizations provide expertise to their member **First Nations** in a number of areas, including financial reporting and assistance in consultation with government and industry.

Meanwhile, provincial and federal governments are spending more money on tax breaks and subsidies to oil, gas and mining companies than they spend on **First Nation health** , **education** and **housing** .

And that, in case you're wondering, is why young **First Nations** people are **idle no more** .

David McLaren is an award-winning writer, living in Neyaashiinigmiing, home of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded **First Nation** on Georgian Bay. ILLUS: photo by Paul Morden QMI Agency The **Idle No More** protest movement came to Lambton Mall in Sarnia for Boxing Day. A large group of protesters danced in a circle inside the mall as several others sang and played drums. It followed a rally and march in Sarnia.

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Spence is symbol of wastrel chiefs

ERIC DUHAIME

The native leader of Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, should be praised for opening a long-expected and needed debate regarding the status of Indians in Canada.

I don't care if Spence was on a hunger strike or a low-fat diet while camping for the last month on an island in the Ottawa River, eating only fish stock to obtain a meeting with the prime minister and the governor general. With all the information that has came out over the last few days about the mismanagement of her small Northern Ontario community we now have a perfect example of what is wrong with our current way of treating the First Peoples.

Levant and the audit commissioned by the federal government showed us this week that more than 80% of the spending in Attawapiskat examined in the audit was done with insufficient or no paperwork at all.

A million dollars given here to a contractor without any kind of paper trail, Chief Spence and her boyfriend making more than $250,000 income without paying a penny in taxes, the $96,000 purchase of a second ice resurfacer for a community of 300 families are just a few examples from a list that goes on and on.

More than $100 million has been spent that way since 2005.

A bunch of elitist chiefs are wasting -- or worse -- millions and millions of our tax dollars while many aboriginals on the reserve are suffering, often being deprived of basic essentials such as tap water or electricity. And such a depressing and sad story could unfortunately be written about many reserves all across the country.

When the prime minister meets the chiefs Friday (excluding Spence), I truly hope he will have at heart, first and foremost, the interests of the poor on the reserves and the Canadian taxpayers, instead of trying to please a bunch of self -interested lobbyists dressed up as aboriginal chiefs.

Wouldn't it be the perfect timing for our prime minister to suggest abolishing the Indian Act all together?

My ancestors came to America 17 generations ago. The new immigrant who just became a citizen today has the exact same rights and responsibilities as me. That's great.

Why should we then give different rights and responsibilities to certain people based on their ethnic origins, or the date of arrival of their ancestors on the continent?

Not only has this policy created a certain form of racial segregation, but it has also led to a rotten regime.

The time has more than come to free aboriginals from their corrupted leaders and stop considering them as second -class citizens.

Thank you sincerely, Chief Spence, for opening our eyes to your specific reality and let's all hope the police will also open up their eyes to deal with those who took advantage of the old system for too long.

You are a true symbol of what went wrong for those of us who want to consider all Canadians equal and eliminate the discrimination that has impoverished our First Peoples.

eric.duhaime@sunmedia.ca ILLUS: photo by Tara Jeffrey QMI Agency Idle No More demonstrators protest at Sarnia's Blue Water Bridge.

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THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

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LOCAL / NEWS, Page: A1

Six Nations embraces Idle No More

Residents of Six Nations are supportive of the grassroots movement that has spread through social media. But can Canada's largest reserve find common cause with natives elsewhere?

Jon Wells

To those who do not share the history, bloodlines or mindset of **natives** , it might seem an arduous way to spend a Friday.

Before dawn yesterday 80 residents from the **Six Nations** reserve boarded two buses for a six-hour ride to Ottawa. Around dinnertime they started for home.

A long journey, yes. But not nearly as long or rocky as the one **natives** feel they have been on since first contact 500 years ago - when their forbearers inhabiting North America met European explorers.

Six Nations natives attended the Ottawa rally for **Idle No More** , a protest movement sparked by four women in Saskatchewan last November.

Those engaged in the movement wish to focus attention on protecting the environment and honouring treaty obligations. **Idle No More** gained additional attention from the controversial hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat reserve in Northern Ontario.

In one sense the **natives** of **Six Nations** and those from other reserves are of the same fabric. They are all descendants of the first people to inhabit the continent.

"Other names are put upon us- **natives** , **aboriginals** ; we are the people original to the land," says John Henhawk, who organized the bus trip. "We are Onkehonwe (pronounced own-gway-hoe-way)."

But in another sense residents of **Six Nations** have little in common with those in poorly developed, isolated Attawapiskat - or indeed with **natives** living in Canada's other 615 reserves.

Six Nations (its full name is **Six Nations** of the Grand River **First Nation**), located south of Brantford, represents six Iroquois nations and is the most populous reservation in the country, with more than 12,000 residents. (Another 12,300 live off reserve.)

While it's no Attawapiskat, **Six Nations** has its challenges. Just 480 of 2,194 homes on the **Six Nations** reservation have running water; the rest of the residents must retrieve **water** from the public works building on the reserve. (A sign upon entering Ohsweken, in the heart of the reservation, advertises Mr. Pinch **First Nation** Toilets, a portable toilet company.)

And yet an afternoon visit to the 182-square-kilometre reserve also reveals a sprawling, pretty and green community that is highly developed and prosperous in the native context, and in spots indistinguishable from most any rural-style village in Southern Ontario.

There are the ubiquitous tobacco shops with their neon-lettered display signs, but also near the reserve's core a strip mall-style plaza, radio station, fitness gym, library with wi-fi, Ohsweken raceway, and Turtle Island weekly newspaper ("North America's #1 Native Weekly Newspaper").

Six Nations Polytechnic school is located on Fourth Line, just up the road from the Burger Barn restaurant, that bustles with the lunchtime crowd.

Music on the airways from **Six Nations** ' CKRZ 100.3 FM, spun this afternoon by radio personality Al Sault, ranges from

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classic rock to native traditional.

On occasion a song crosses all lines and is a reminder of shared experience and blood:

"I don't believe it's all for nothing/It's not just written in the sand. You gotta play the hand that's dealt ya/That's what the old man always said."

That's from Fallen Angel, by Robbie Robertson, the legendary musician whose father was white and mother a Mohawk from **Six Nations**. Relatives on the reserve taught him to play guitar when he spent summers there.

An elected **Six Nations band council** member named Mark Hill sits in Hill's Snack Bar. (Hill is a common name on the reservation.)

The small café on Sixth Line has been in his family for 50 years.

"The quality of life here is better than in the more isolated (native) communities," he says. "We are fortunate to live here with the services we have, the successful business people we have."

To those who have never stepped foot on a reserve and expect to find grizzled elders lamenting the lot of their people, Mark Hill dissolves expectations.

At 22, he is the youngest representative ever elected to **band council**. He wears a grey pea coat, wields a smartphone, drives a slick car, and exudes the youthful energy of a man with lots on his plate and opportunity ahead of him.

In addition to working as a councillor, he attends **Six Nations** Polytechnic and is in the native **university** access program. Down the road he may attend Western **University** in London.

While he is proud of **Six Nations**, Mark Hill says comparing reserves is not what it's about, rather, it's finding common ground and one voice - and that's where he believes the **Idle No More** movement can be effective.

He says Idle can bridge rifts not just between Canadians and **natives**, but between the original peoples themselves across the country.

The size, location, and diversity of **Six Nations** means that even those who have lived their whole life on "the rez" have felt the judgmental sting of other **natives**.

Rob Hill, who drives a cattle truck for a Paris-based company, but has always lived on the reserve, tells the story of meeting a native in Alberta during a run out there a few years ago.

"I told him I was from **Six Nations**," he says. "And the guy said, 'Oh, **Six Nations**. You're an apple. Red on the outside, white on the inside."

It was, Rob Hill said, a jab at the fact there are whites who live on **Six Nations**, married to **natives**. Perhaps it was also a slight at the perceived prosperity of a reserve located in the heart of Southern Ontario.

"An apple - I had never heard that before. I was offended."

Donna Powless, who works as an educator on the reserve and lives there, says that "sometimes in the perceptions of our people we can get our wires crossed. But the (Idle) movement, through the social media, it can help."

Mark Hill says that no matter what, they must come together.

"That's where this movement will take us. If divided we will only stay divided, and the government will walk all over us."

While the young councillor may represent the future, in native culture the past is just as important, if not more so. On **Six Nations**, one prominent face of that past is Chief Arnold General, an Onondaga traditional hereditary chief. When the spring comes the man many call Arnie will turn 80. He is fighting some **health** issues but the voice is as strong as ever.

You might expect that a chief of the old school would find less favour with a social media-fuelled movement like Idle. That is not the case.

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"It's a wake-up call to humanity," he says. "It's creating awareness of what's happening with Bill C-45, and what will happen to your people and mine. There are large implications if it goes through."

He worries about the environment, about land development, water pollution. He laments - it's a small thing but drives him crazy - that he can't obtain an old fashioned paper balance book at his local bank, because the bank is "conserving resources" - even as ecosystems are being destroyed to build houses and highways.

"The old-timers like my great-grandfather said one day you'll see it happen; when the forest is gone, and the water is gone, what will you have left? They said just leave nature alone, build to suit yourself; a roof over your head, no fancy things. I've seen a lot of things in my life. The old-timers were right."

jwells@thespec.com

905-526-3515 ILLUS: Arnold General, one of 14 traditional chiefs of the Onondaga. At 79, he sees the power of social media. John Rennison, The Hamilton Spectator

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The Gazette

MONTREAL GAZETTE (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A8

Kahnawake Mohawks won't block bridge

Give negotiations a chance, says local band council

CHRISTOPHER CURTIS, The Gazette

Amid calls for radical action against the federal government , Mohawks of Kahnawake say they will not block the Mercier Bridge and are committed instead to finding a diplomatic solution to the country's growing aboriginal crisis.

On Friday, a group of Ontario chiefs called on First Nations across Canada to block highways and railroads in their reserves next week to highlight the many struggles their communities face. The statement came at an emergency meeting between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a delegation of aboriginal leaders seeking to calm the unrest fuelled by a nationwide indigenous protest movement known as Idle No More .

Two Mohawk council chiefs are at the Ottawa meeting.

"Obviously, we have plenty of grievances, but we have to give negotiations a chance," said Joe Delaronde, spokesman for the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake .

"Blocking bridges or roads is something we take very seriously. It's a last resort because we know how bad things can get with a blockade."

For several weeks during the 1990 Oka Crisis, the Kahnawake Mohawks blocked the Mercier Bridge, which links Montreal to the South Shore. The blockade put immense pressure on residents of the Mohawk territory. Some received death threats, others were pelted with rocks by white protesters, and a lingering tension remains between Kahnawake and neighbouring suburbs like Châteauguay and Delson.

Many aboriginal groups and leaders boycotted the Ottawa meeting, citing the need for meaningful action to bring an end to the many ills that afflict Canada's natives - which include Third World living conditions on some reserves, high instances of suicide and a staggering rate of violence against native women .

Diverging opinions over the meeting with Harper speak to a fundamental divide within the aboriginal community. Some of the most ardent supporters of the Idle No More protesters don't feel represented by their chiefs or the band council system put into place by the Indian Act nearly 150 years ago.

"The chiefs are complicit in the oppression of our people," said Stuart Myiow, of the Kahnawake Traditional Council. "In the mid1980s the prime minister created the Assembly of First Nations and appointed George Erasmus as its "grand poobah," so the minister of Indian Affairs could negotiate self-government with just one person instead of many."

Meanwhile, in Quebec's Gaspé region, members of a Mi'gmaq village met Friday to determine the future of a 16day-old railroad blockade on their territory. About 30 activists in the Listuguj First Nation have been camped out alongside the train tracks that pass through their land since Dec. 27, bringing railway traffic to a complete halt in eastern Quebec.

"We've been peaceful and we haven't had any kind of trouble from the police since this began," said Michael Isaac, a spokesperson for the local band council . "We feel like there's no choice for us, that we need to force action here."

ccurtis@montrealgazette.com Twitter: @titocurtis ILLUS: Geoff Robins, The Canadian Press / The Mohawk Council of Kahnawake 's spokesman, Joe Delaronde, said the council is committed to diplomacy, not blockades like this one on CN Rail tracks in Sarnia, Ont., on Jan. 2.;

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The Gazette

MONTREAL GAZETTE (FINAL)
EDITORIAL / OPED, Page: B7

What Idle No More tells us about the need for change

VANDNA SINHA and JENNIFER NUTTON, The Gazette

VANDNA SINHA is an assistant professor at the Centre for Research on Children and Families at McGill University. She works closely with First Nations organizations, and consulted with representatives from partner organizations in writing this.

JENNIFER NUTTON is a PhD student in the School of Social Work at McGill University.

Recent actions by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, the Assembly of First Nations, the Idle No More movement, First Nations communities and the federal government have drawn attention to two related but distinct issues.

The first is the need for Canada to fulfill its international, constitutional, treaty and fiduciary obligations in order to address long-standing disparities in the health, socioeconomic and educational services and opportunities available to First Nations and the general population.

The second is the need to improve the financial-management practices of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and of some First Nations communities.

Successfully addressing these issues will require sustained collaboration by First Nations and the federal government, with assistance from the provinces and territories.

There are serious and persistent structural impediments to the improvement of conditions in First Nations communities. The history of Canada is one in which the British Crown and its successors - federal, provincial and territorial governments - claimed control over large areas of First Nations lands. In many cases, Canada and its provinces/territories continue to reap revenues from use of these lands, to make unilateral decisions about land development, and even to limit First Nations' access to hunting and fishing.

The ongoing impact of these actions is evident in statistics on socioeconomic conditions. The median income for First Nations people on reserve in 2006 was less than half that of non-aboriginals, and the proportion of on-reserve people living in overcrowded housing was almost nine times that of non-aboriginal people. The federal auditor general's 2011 report noted that efforts to close the First Nations education gap have yet to yield results, that federal action on drinking-water quality in First Nations communities has not led to significant improvements, that there are serious gaps in preventive and front-line health and social services on reserve, and that the federal government has not committed to ensuring that child and family services on reserves are comparable to those in the rest of Canadian society.

Additional funding for health and social services, education and community/economic development is desperately needed. But additional funds will not be enough to address the underlying problems. Canada and First Nations must work together to find ways of directly addressing structural barriers and to ensure that legislation and programs support, rather than suppress, efforts to improve conditions in First Nations communities.

Discussion of financial-management practices has been fuelled by an audit examining Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's monitoring, oversight and reporting on housing funds and developments in Attawapiskat over a six-year period, during which the community was co-managed by the federal department. The audit revealed consistent errors in the paperwork submitted to, and accepted by, the department, and in the supporting documentation maintained by Attawapiskat.

The picture painted by the audit is in keeping with a 2006 report by the federal auditor general that described a system overwhelmed by paperwork, including more than 60,000 reports a year from over 600 First Nations. The report said that "four federal organizations required at least 168 reports annually from First Nations communities - many with fewer than 500 residents." In 2011, the auditor general found that the reporting burden remained high and concluded that "First Nations continue to spend time and resources to complete reports for (the federal department), but some of these reports may serve little purpose and may interfere with First Nations' ability to meet the needs of their members."

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The heavy burden of reporting requirements represents a systemic problem that can only be addressed through the collaborative redesign of reporting systems. The redesign must ensure that only necessary information is requested, that **First Nations** have the resources and capacities to provide this necessary information, and that **Aboriginal Affairs** and Northern Development Canada and other federal entities make efficient use of the information provided to them.

But addressing the barriers to improving the conditions in First Nations communities will require more than additional funds and a redesign of reporting systems, and more than an occasional meeting between **First Nations** and federal leaders. It will take a sustained, collaborative effort in which addressing the needs of **First Nations** communities is the No. 1 priority of all parties.

Regardless of her performance as an administrator, Chief Spence has shown remarkable courage as a leader: in refusing to eat solid food until the federal government engages on these issues in a credible manner, she has left no question that addressing the needs of her **community** is her first priority. The Assembly of First Nations and other **First Nations** organizations, which continue their advocacy efforts despite their budgets having been slashed in recent years, similarly prioritize the need of **First Nations** .

Whatever one may think of its tactics and strategy, the core purpose of the **Idle No More** Movement is to prioritize the needs of **First Nations** . The question now is whether the federal government will give these urgent matters the same priority and meaningfully engage with **First Nations** to find solutions.

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L'ACADIE NOUVELLE
ACTUALITÉS, Page: 5

Réunion avec Stephen Harper sous fond de controverse

Stéphanie Marin; Lina Dib, La Presse Canadienne

La réunion controversée entre le premier ministre Stephen Harper et certains leadersautochtones a pris fin, vendredi soir, alors que les parties ont exprimé le souhait de poursuivre le dialogue «à un haut niveau » concernant les traités et les revendications territoriales .

Malgré les appels au boycott de la part de nombreux chefsautochtones ainsi que des opposants qui ont tenté en vain de pénétrer à l'intérieur de l'édifice où se tenait la réunion, les pourparlers ont permis de paver la voie à une autre réunion qui devrait se tenir d'ici un mois.

Selon le ministre fédéral des Affairesautochtones , John Duncan , les discussions avec le chef national de l'Assemblée desPremières Nations , Shawn Atleo, ainsi qu'une vingtaine d'autres chefs autochtones ont été «franches » et «constructives ».

M. Duncan a toutefois reconnu qu'il y avait encore beaucoup de travail à accomplir.

Le leadership de M. Atleo et de l'Assemblée desPremières Nations demeure fragile, puisque plusieurs chefs autochtones s'opposent à ces discussions avec le gouvernement et lui ont demandé de boycotter la réunion avec M. Harper.

Cette réunion de travail s'était mise en branle en début d'aprèsmidi à Ottawa, alors que retentissaient sur la colline parlementaire tambours et chants traditionnels.

Les quelques milliers de manifestants qui ont convergé vers le Parlement, vendredi midi, se sont aussi dirigés vers l'édifice Langevin, de l'autre côté de la rue, qui abrite les bureaux du premier ministre Harper.

Les manifestants, qui se sont heurtés à des portes closes, ont essayé tout de même de pénétrer à l'intérieur de l'édifice, certains frappant avec grand bruit sur les portes.

Les chefs du Manitoba menaient la marche vers le bureau du premier ministre.

«Allez Stephen, mes chefs sont là. Viens nous voir. Pour parler de nation à nation. Sois un homme », a crié l'un d'eux plusieurs fois sous les fenêtres du premier ministre.

Le premier ministre, qui avait suscité la grogne de certains chefs après avoir annoncé qu'il ne serait présent que du début et de la fin de la rencontre, a décidé d'y assister au complet, a fait savoir son bureau.

Parmi ceux qui ont participé à la marche, se trouvaient beaucoup dAutochtones du mouvement de protestation «Idle No More » (la passivité, c'est fini), en habit cérémonial, dont des personnes âgées et des enfants, portant des affiches et des drapeaux de leurs nations, mais aussi des citoyens non autochtones qui voulaient apporter leur soutien à la cause.
PHOTO: La Presse Canadienne: Adrian Wyld ILLUS: Des milliers de manifestants ont convergé vers le Parlement, vendredi midi, avant de se diriger vers l'édifice Langevin, qui abrite les bureaux du premier ministre Harper.

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THE RECORD

WATERLOO REGION RECORD (FIRST NEWS, Page: A1

Chiefs declare progress, not victory

Harper, First Nations leaders agree to have more 'high-level' talks with chiefs absent at Friday's meeting

Heather Scoffield, The Canadian Press, with files from Record staff

A divisive, hard-won meeting between First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper ended Friday with the Conservative government agreeing to revisit historic treaties and speed up comprehensive land claims.

Despite rancorous boycotts by some chiefs and a door-pounding protest on the front steps of the prime minister's working office Friday, more than four hours of face-to-face talks set the stage for another round within the next month.

"We have achieved some movement today," Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said in a statement.

"The prime minister listened respectfully to chiefs and responded to all they brought forward and, for the first time, provided a clear mandate for high-level talks on treaty implementation. Prime Minister Harper also committed to high-level discussions on comprehensive claims."

But secondary demands - including a repeal of contentious sections of the government's omnibus budget bills - were dismissed or put off for another day.

And in order for the commitment to treaty talks to work, the Ontario and Manitoba First Nations who boycotted Friday's meetings will have to come back into the Assembly of First Nations fold. That's because those are the country's two key regions governed by treaties, and they need to figure out how the broad strokes of Friday's agreement apply in their areas, said Grand Chief Edward John from the First Nation Summit in British Columbia.

"They need to be involved in the development of the modalities of that. The treaty First Nations need to step up and design this," said John, who attended the meeting.

First Nations in northern Ontario and Manitoba are among the most impoverished in Canada, and their people have long complained that Canada is not living up to its side of the treaty.

But the chiefs from those regions refused to attend the Harper meeting because it did not include the Governor General - a key demand since the treaties were signed by a representative of the Crown.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said the talks with Shawn Atleo, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and about 20 other native leaders were "frank" and "constructive," while acknowledging much work remains.

Perhaps most significantly, Duncan said the prime minister and the Privy Council Office will now take an active role on "those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre."

In other words, one year after another highly symbolic meeting that was supposed to reset the relationship between Ottawa and First Nations, a sense of urgency may have emerged.

But the chiefs have yet to declare a victory because they've been down this road before, said John.

"Today I have to wait and see what transpires because we were already made promises that were not kept," he said.

A central tenet of Idle No More dissent is the government's overhaul of environmental oversight and protections of fisheries and waterways included in the massive budget bills rammed through Parliament last spring and last fall.

On that point, Duncan said the government saw no reason to make any changes and had fulfilled its constitutional duty to consult with First Nations beforehand.

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"We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there's every reason to proceed," Duncan said.

He said the prime minister makes sure "that there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the **First Nation** leadership," regarding legislation.

Atleo and the chiefs in the meeting with Harper and his ministers pushed hard on that point, but made no progress, John said.

"That's the crux of the problem."

Plus, Harper did not give any ground on **First Nations** ' requests to set up a public inquiry on violence against **aboriginal women** - a key demand for many grassroots protesters that garnered support across the country.

Atleo did not immediately speak to the media after meeting the prime minister, opting instead to consult first with his large, divided constituency of chiefs.

It was not immediately clear whether the results of the meeting would be enough for the two sides to find enough common ground to re-establish Atleo's leadership, repair the Crown-**First Nations** relationship and quell restless protesters across the country.

Atleo's ability to recover politically from the schisms and drama of the past two days "depends on the outcome of the meeting," said Harvey Yesno, grand chief for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which groups reserves across northern Ontario.

Yesno was among those who boycotted the meeting with Harper. But he said the Ontario chiefs are not ready to ask for Atleo's head simply because he met Harper against their will.

"There will be another time for that kind of discussion," said Yesno. "We have to move things along."

Most of the chiefs demanding a boycott are covered by **historical treaties** with the Crown, while Atleo comes from B.C., where there are no **treaties** .

The Assembly of **First Nations** entered Friday's meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper with eight demands. Here is a checklist on how they fared:

Agreed - Commitment to a high-level process on **treaty** implementation.

Agreed - Commitment to speed up resolutions of **land claims** and affirmation of inherent rights.

Agreed - Designate decision-makers within the Privy Council Office to specifically oversee the Crown-**First Nation** relationship.

Partial headway - Harper agreed talks on resource equity should be part of the high-level process on **treaty** implementation, but also need to include provinces.

Partial headway - Make funding for **First Nations** sustainable, in line with growth of the population. Harper agreed this would be part of the **treaty** and comprehensive **land claims** discussions.

Partial headway - Guarantee **schools** for every **First Nation** . Harper agreed **education** is important, but didn't make firm commitments.

Little headway - All legislation needs to be compatible with indigenous rights, and the parts of Harper's budget omnibus bills that contravene **aboriginal rights** need to be repealed. Harper agreed the government has a duty to consult with **First Nations** , but will not repeal the omnibus bills.

No - Set up a public commission to focus on murdered and missing **aboriginal women** .

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TIMES COLONIST

TIMES COLONIST (VICTORIA) (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A2

Harper tries to placate First Nations

Randall Palmer And David Ljunggren, Reuters; With Times Colonist File

Prime Minister Stephen Harper agreed in a meeting with **aboriginal** leaders on Friday to pay more attention to their demands, trying to mollify the **Idle No More** movement that has threatened to blockade roads and railways across the country.

Faced with a seemingly intractable situation that has confronted successive governments, Harper agreed to a high-level dialogue with the **First Nations** groups and to have his office take increased responsibility for their issues, **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** said.

"Working together remains the best way to achieve our shared objective of healthier, more prosperous and self-sufficient **First Nations** ," Duncan told a news conference.

Hundreds of **aboriginal** protesters blocked the main entrance to a downtown building where Harper was preparing to meet about 20 native leaders on Friday - demonstrating their frustration, but also highlighting a deep divide within the country's **First Nations** on how to push Ottawa to heed their demands.

The noisy blockade, which lasted about an hour, ended just before the meeting, even as other leaders chose to boycott the session with Harper.

In Nova Scotia, meanwhile, about 10 protesters blockaded a Canadian National Railway Co line near Truro on Friday, CN spokesman Jim Feeny said.

A truck had been partially moved on the tracks and was cutting off the movement of container traffic on CN's main line between Halifax and Eastern Canada, he said. Passenger services by Via Rail had also been disrupted.

In Victoria, about 400 people jammed Centennial Square on Friday afternoon to lend their voice to the **Idle No More** protest.

First Nations singers and drummers performed, while dancers wove their way through the crowd. Police remained largely out of sight during the peaceful demonstration.

Chiefs have warned that the protest movement is prepared to damage the economy unless Ottawa addresses the poor living conditions and high jobless rates facing many of Canada's 1.2 million **natives** .

Native groups complain that Canada has ignored **treaties** signed with British settlers and explorers that they say granted them significant rights over their territory.

The federal government spends about $11 billion a year on its **aboriginal** population, but living conditions for many are poor and some reserves have high rates of **poverty** , addiction, joblessness and suicide.

The meeting was hastily arranged under pressure from Theresa Spence, chief of the Attawapiskat **First Nation** in northern Ontario, who has been subsisting on a liquids-only diet for a month. The meeting took place in a building across from Parliament where Harper and his staff work.

Outside in the freezing rain, protesters in traditional feathered headgear shouted, waved burning tapers, banged drums and brandished banners with slogans such as "**Treaty rights** not greedy whites" and "The **natives** are restless."

Until midday on Friday, it was uncertain if the meeting would go ahead, with many native leaders urging a boycott and others saying it was important to talk to the government.

"Harper, if you want our lands, our native land, meaning everyone of us, over my dead body, Harper, you're going to do this," said Raymond Robinson, a Cree from Manitoba.

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"You'll have to come through me first. You'll have to bury me first before you get them," he shouted toward the prime minister's office from the steps outside Parliament.

The **aboriginal** movement is deeply split over tactics and not all the chiefs invited to the meeting turned up. Some leaders wanted Gov. Gen. David Johnston to participate.

Johnston declined, saying it was not his place to get involved in policy discussions. He instead later hosted a ceremonial meeting at his residence.

The elected leader of the **natives** , Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo, who led the delegation that met with Harper, said in a statement his people wanted a fundamental transformation in their relationship with Ottawa. He said they would press for a fair share of revenues from resource development as well as action on **schools** and drinking **water** . ILLUS: Chris Wattie, Reuters / **First Nations** protesters march toward Parliament Hill during a day of civil unrest that coincided with a meeting - boycotted by some chiefs - between **aboriginal** leaders and Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Friday. Thousands of protesters filled the streets, chanting, dancing and demanding that Harper act to improve the conditions on reserves.;

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THE DAILY GLEANER

THE DAILY GLEANER (FREDERICTON
MAIN, Page: A1

Idle No More protesters want to meet MP

First Nations | Federal Minister Keith Ashfield's support of Bill C-45 prompts 100 protesters outside Fredericton office

SHAWN BERRY Legislature Bureau

More than 100 people took their concerns about native rights to the offices of Fredericton MP Keith Ashfield on Friday morning.

Members of the Maliseet and Mi'kmaq communities, bolstered by non-native supporters, chanted and spoke outside the offices of New Brunswick's senior federal cabinet minister. Ashfield was away from his office during Friday's demonstration.

The action came as First Nations leaders met Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa. But it remained to be seen whether the two sides could find enough common ground to address the Crown-First Nations relationship and address the concerns of protesters across the country, who have been demanding a better quality of life for aboriginal communities.

About 3,000 people filled the streets around Parliament Hill demanding that Harper act to improve the conditions on reserves.

Meanwhile, more than a dozen people blocked a Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro, N.S., as part of the Idle No More protests. About 20 people from the Millbrook First Nation placed wooden pallets and a car on the track in Truro at about 1 p.m.

In Fredericton, Judy Acquin-Miksovsky was among those who welcomed the broader support for the movement.

"This is not just an aboriginal issue. This is an 'everybody' issue," she said.

Participants in the Idle No More movement are outraged over elements of omnibus budget legislation known as Bill C-45 that they say will lead to drastic changes to the protection of rivers, fisheries, the environment and the Indian Act. The movement has grown to also address the issue of lack of consultation with First Nations , particularly over the development of natural resources.

"I'm humbled by the unity we've come into. This is something we created ourselves. We didn't need anyone else to do it. We did it ourselves," said Acquin-Miksovsky.

Doreen Saulis, a member of the Tobique First Nation who lives in the Fredericton area, told Ashfield's executive assistant, Kevin Price, that she believes Ashfield's support for Bill C-45 is unacceptable.

Price agreed to Saulis' request for a meeting at a later date so members could meet with Ashfield to inform him about their treaties with the Crown.

"Minister Ashfield has been very clear: Locally he supports First Nations and has been working with First Nations people around the province," Price said.

Alma Brooks, a Maliseet elder, voiced concerns that the federal government is systematically destroying the way of life of native peoples in Canada.

"When you have a people and you deliberately plan to end their existence - that's genocide. That's what we're up against," she said.

Brooks said the rights of First Nations peoples are being steadily eroded.

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Maggie Connell, a Durham Bridge resident who showed up to lend support, wryly declared that she was thankful for Bill C45.

"I for one think it is the best thing that ever happened to us because over decades and decades there's been this little nipping away, but never enough to really piss people off. Maybe this is the issue," she said.

New Brunswick Green Party Leader David Coon said he hoped people would greet this as a turning point, not a crisis.

"We truly are at a fork in the road. We are at a fork in the road with our relationship and we are at a fork in the road with nature, with Mother Earth, with this planet. We can choose to go down the right path to a future that is going to be good for our children, our grandchildren and all of the living things."

The highly politicized meeting between Harper and**First Nations** leaders was underway in the prime minister's office late Friday afternoon.

Harper was to be joined by**Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** . **Health** Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board Secretary Tony Clement were to attend the meetings along with a number of government officials.

About 20 First Nations leaders attended the meeting, representing most areas of the country, including Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Roger Augustine and Chief George Ginnish of Eel Ground **First Nation** on behalf of New Brunswick's **First Nations** .

On the**First Nations** side, Manitoba, Ontario and Northwest Territories stuck to their guns and did not send high-level representation.

Quebec Cree Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come did attend, apparently siding with Atleo at a crucial time in his leadership.

"I do think that we have a responsibility here as leaders, and we need to be courageous and be able to go into this meeting and be able to present to the prime minister, and tell him this is what we want," Coon Come said.

- with files from The Canadian Press

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THE VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER SUN (FINAL)
CANADA & WORLD, Page: B1 / FRONT

Rift opens among First Nations chiefs

'Now is not the time for breaking ranks'

Peter O'Neil, Vancouver Sun

A B.C. aboriginal leader has denounced chiefs who publicly questioned the leadership of Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo on Friday.

Chiefs such as Gordon Peters, of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Nations in Ontario, had demanded Atleo and other AFN leaders boycott Friday's meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Peters questioned Atleo's leadership after the AFN leader, a British Columbian, went ahead with the meeting.

The bitter split in Canada's aboriginal leadership comes during what appears to be an unprecedented grassroots uprising, led by the Idle No More movement, to demand real change in government -First Nations relations.

"That really troubles me," said Doug Kelly, grand chief of the Sto: lo Tribal Council that represents eight First Nations in the Fraser Valley. "Now is not the time for coming apart at the seams. Now is not the time for breaking ranks and breaking discipline. Now is the time to stay together and continue to support one another to achieve change."

Kelly made the comment as Atleo and 19 other First Nations leaders, including three from B.C., met for several hours with Harper and a handful of his cabinet ministers, including Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan , MP for Vancouver Island North.

The meeting concluded with Harper agreeing to "enhanced oversight" by his office and ongoing "high level" dialogues with First Nations on the stalled comprehensive land claims negotiation process, by far the top issue for B.C. aboriginal leaders, according to a statement from Harper's office.

First Nations leaders, as well as a Tory-dominated Senate committee in a report last year, have complained that Ottawa's "take-it-or-leave-it" approach has resulted in only two treaties signed over two decades.

As the meeting took place, an estimated 4,000 aboriginal Canadians and their supporters rallied on Parliament Hill, with many of them denouncing the AFN leaders who were meeting with Harper.

Peters was asked several times by reporters if he and other chiefs will publicly declare a lack of confidence in Atleo, elected to his second term this summer.

"That's a question we'll have to deal with after this," Peters replied.

David Harper, grand chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (northern chiefs of Manitoba), said Friday he backed Atleo during the AFN leadership vote last summer but isn't sure whether that support will continue.

"This is a test for the national chief," Harper told the Winnipeg Free Press.

Stewart Phillip of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, who joined the Idle No More rally at Vancouver City Hall on Friday, said there is nothing in the AFN constitution about how to oust an elected national chief.

Phillip, who said the AFN shouldn't have met with Harper because of the prime minister's "overbearing and restrictive" conditions for the meeting, expressed concern about the open divisions within the aboriginal leadership.

But he said he's confident leaders will unite to take advantage of the momentum generated by the Idle No More movement.

Peters, the Ontario native leader, said First Nations will "block all the (transportation) corridors of this province" during a planned national day of protest on Wednesday.

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Neither Phillip nor Kelly used such aggressive language, though they didn't speak out against the use of civil disobedience tactics to force the government to make concessions.

"You're going to get demonstrations, you're going to get direct action," Kelly said. "Now some of it will be peaceful and legal, and I hope that will be a strong enough message to get our governments moving in the direction we need to move."

But he said the Sto: lo people have proven that so-called "direct action," such as unauthorized fishing on the Fraser River, has got the federal government's attention and forced policy changes. "If that's what it takes that's what it takes," he said. "It's not my first choice. My first choice is to sit at the table and work through these issues with good-faith negotiations."

The AFN released a list of the demands it put to Harper and his ministers, and they include the call for reform of the **comprehensive claims** process that has been stalled in B.C. - just two **treaties** finalized in two decades of negotiations.

They called for an end to "arbitrary caps" on funding for **First Nations**, the establishment of **schools** in every **First Nation** community, and the establishment of a "National Public Commission of Inquiry on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls."

And the AFN called on the Harper government to not implement provisions in its two omnibus budget bills which weaken several environmental laws, including the Fisheries Act, the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

Three other British Columbians were in the Harper meeting in addition to Atleo - AFN Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould, and **First Nations** Summit executive members Ed John and Doug White.

John expressed satisfaction with Harper's commitment to high-level oversight of the **treaty** process and said he isn't troubled by chiefs criticizing their national leader. "We live in a democratic country."

PONEIL@POSTMEDIA.COMILLUS: Andrew Vaughan, The Canadian Press / Protesters block the CN rail line between Halifax and Truro in Nova Scotia as part of the **Idle No More** protests Friday.;

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CALGARY HERALD

CALGARY HERALD (FINAL)
THE EDITORIAL PAGE, Page: A19

A lesson for dissidents

Chiefs who boycotted meeting will be on outside looking in

Calgary Herald

It was to be expected, of course, that one meeting could not even begin to address all the issues **First Nations** leaders brought to the table Friday when they sat down with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. It was also inevitable that the meeting, which ran for an hour beyond its scheduled finishing time, would end with a promise of more meetings.

But that doesn't mean nothing was accomplished Friday.

However, there is also a real danger that, for all the vows of high-level dialogue to come regarding **land claims** and **treaty rights**, progress and good will could be hijacked by the fractious elements. The **Idle No More** protesters are engaging in increasingly threatening forays into civil disobedience, and the chiefs who boycotted the meeting are declaring some sort of hollow victory, emphasizing their rift with Assembly of **First Nations** national chief Shawn Atleo.

The dissident chiefs need to realize that blackmail is not a bargaining tool. Nor do blockades of rail lines and similar actions generate anything but public animosity. The chiefs need to get behind Atleo, whom they themselves elected to speak and negotiate on their behalf. As **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** pointed out at a news conference Friday afternoon, Atleo is the man the government deals with.

It's curious to hear Derek Nepinak, a grand chief from Manitoba who refused to attend Friday's meeting, call the dissidents' boycott a "great victory." Nepinak told the media he felt "ecstatic about our drums and about our people today."

While Nepinak was busy declaring his ecstasy about the drumming, he missed the chance to be a productive part of the meeting and contribute to the real discussion that was happening in the Langevin Block without him. Drumming alone moves nothing forward. That the dissidents went so far as to try to prevent people from entering the building and joining the discussion is appalling, given the staggering array of problems on **First Nations** reserves that they claim they want resolved.

Meanwhile, Quebec Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come, whose decades of political experience the dissidents would do well to acknowledge, told CBC that Harper "moved a couple of posts forward," including the prime minister's willingness to hold consultations with **aboriginals** on issues affecting their land.

Those who absented themselves from the meeting, such as Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, only harmed their own cause and cemented their roles as bit players more interested in theatrics than in opening a dialogue and getting serious work done. Spence's anachronistic insistence on meeting with Gov. Gen. David Johnston, whose mandate is to remain apolitical, is another fruitless initiative. The most Johnston could, or should do, was to hold the ceremonial meeting with the chiefs Friday evening. The Queen's historic power over **treaty rights** is simply not a factor in modern Canada, and the reality is that **First Nations** leaders must deal with the federal government. The reality also is that disruptive action will only serve to undermine the discussion. What the dissidents are going to find is that the kind of meaningful dialogue they sought will take place without their input. It's unfortunate that they are not choosing to be part of the solution.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CP: Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says

Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says

By Mike Blanchfield and Terry Pedwell

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Theresa Spence, the controversial First Nation chief whose month-long hunger protest has helped to fan the flames of the Idle No More movement, will continue to forgo solid food, a spokesman declared Friday.

Spence, who surprised many when she emerged from her island encampment to attend a ceremonial meeting with Gov. Gen. David Johnston, left Rideau Hall early with the sense that the gathering had accomplished little.

"It didn't feel too good inside that house ... but we stood up for your rights," Danny Metatawabin, who speaks for Spence, told gathered First Nations chiefs as he described the meeting as "a show, a picture opportunity."

During Friday's ceremony, a wampum belt - a traditional aboriginal symbol of diplomacy and partnership - was mishandled, Metatawabin added. "Sadly," he said, "the hunger strike continues."

Spence, chief of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario, has been on a liquids-only diet for the past month, camped out on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, in hopes of securing a meeting with Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. A group of First Nations leaders did indeed meet with Harper on Friday for several hours prior to the chiefs descending on Rideau Hall to meet with Johnston. But Spence wants to meet both men at the same time.

When she joined her fellow chiefs at a downtown Ottawa hotel, Spence looked frail and tired, and walked gingerly with the help of several handlers. at one point, she stood briefly in a room full of chiefs, wearing a headdress, to be feted by a group of aboriginal drummers. Her health is diminished, Metatawabin said. "She's tired, she's weak. She's weakening. Got cramps in her stomach. We're all praying for her," he said. "The body's stressed right now because of all the commotion of today."

Johnston offered Spence a "special welcome" and said he wanted "to say how concerned I am about your health and that of Raymond Robinson and Jean Sock." Robinson and Sock are two aboriginals who are also staging hunger protests. "My deepest wish is for the well -being of all Canadians, and for dialogue to always take place in a safe and healthy manner," said Johnston, in prepared remarks released Friday night by Rideau Hall.

The meeting wrapped up shortly after 9 p.m. ET, a spokesperson said. Robinson said he approached Johnston "man to man" and urged him to have an open dialogue with Harper in order to forge a relationship with First Nations that's truly "nation to nation." "I am not going to quit," he said. "The hunger strike continues."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan and several of Spence's fellow chiefs were among those publicly urging her to end her protest, saying her health is in danger and she accomplished what she set out to do. "I had a personal friend who went on a hunger strike years ago, and it did great detriment to his health," Duncan said. "I have been very much wanting to have a conversation with Theresa Spence, I've offered multiple times, and I expressed concern again today; there were many people in the room who expressed major concern."

Harvey Yesno, Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which also includes Attawapiskat, said it's up to Spence whether she wants to continue her protest. But her reserve needs a leader, he noted. "We're concerned about that, if she carries on," Yesno said in an interview. "That's probably the most important thing."

Stan Louttit, grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, told CBC he's urging Spence to call a halt to her protest. "I ... told her, 'Look, you've made your point. You've won this victory. You've made Canadians aware .... You have done good for your people.'" But Louttit said Spence is still holding out for a meeting with both Harper and the Governor General at the

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same time. "That's the bottom line."

Earlier Friday, a sprawling crowd of protesters swirled outside the Prime Minister's Office in the shadow of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill as Friday's controversial meeting between Harper and First Nations leaders got underway. There were similar, smaller demonstrations across the country, including a rail blockade in Nova Scotia. A crowd of about 3,000 people, according to police estimates, gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block where the meetings were taking place, chanting, drumming and waving makeshift banners. Many then crossed Wellington Street and rallied in front of the Centre Block, brandishing flags and chanting along with the rhythmic beat of skin drums.

A sporadic cold drizzle fell all morning and into the afternoon, failing to dampen the spirits of protesters, even if it did leave some of the feathered headdresses in the crowd looking a little bedraggled. The demonstrators began their march on Victoria Island, a nearby outcrop in the Ottawa River where Spence has been camped out. They returned to the island later in the day.

Aboriginal people now have an opportunity to hold the government to account for years of broken promises, Spence said before the rally began. "This meeting's been overdue for so many years." Supporters of the Idle No More movement were also showing strength in numbers during protests in other parts of the country as well.

In Edmonton, Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation joined a gathering of several hundred people, where he warned of imminent economic disruption if steps aren't taken to rescind the Conservative government's controversial omnibus legislation. "Highway 63 to the oilsands will be shut down. That will happen and I guarantee this," warned Adam, whose reserve is near the oilsands. "I fear for the worst if the prime minister doesn't retract some of the bills that were passed."

More than a dozen people blocked a Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro by placing wooden pallets and a car on the track in Truro. Via Rail said it took 53 passengers to Truro from Halifax by bus.

A noisy crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators also showed their support for First Nations in front of the convention centre in downtown Montreal. Young people, union representatives and provincial politicians were in the group. Some waved Mohawk and Quebec flags and danced to the beat of native drums.

In Toronto, a few hundred gathered in Toronto's Dundas Square, drumming and chanting. Stephanie Hashie, a member of the Ginoogaming First Nation who lives in Toronto, said she was there to celebrate her culture. "It means our future," she said of the Idle No More movement. "It means what's going to happen. We're not standing idle no more. We're not going to stand around and just let things happen."

Spence, who has come under fire over a leaked audit report that found fault with bookkeeping practices in Attawapiskat, also spoke for the first time about how her Ontario reserve spends government money. She said most of what flows to the isolated James Bay community actually gets spent outside the community. The money, she said, goes towards supplies and to pay contractors, consultants, lawyers - and to taxes. "Most of the funding that we have, it goes back to you, to taxpayers," she said.

A government -ordered audit, leaked earlier this week, concluded there was little documentation to back up Attawapiskat's spending.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CP: Intimate meeting without Governor General was critical for Harper: sources

Intimate meeting without Governor General was critical for Harper: sources

By Mike Blanchfield and Jennifer Ditchburn

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA When it comes to big conferences brimming with long speeches, pomp and circumstance, Stephen Harper's never been much of a fan. So his preference for smaller, more intimate and practical working meetings became his office's bottom line as it navigated a roller coaster of negotiations with First Nations leaders over the past week.

The Governor General would stay at Rideau Hall. It would be crystal clear who had the power to make decisions.

``Our purpose was to have a meeting that was small enough that you could have a real discussion,'' said one government official who was inside the room Friday as the prime minister sat down with chiefs. `You get 200 people in a room, it's not much of a meeting.''

Whether there was going to be a meeting at all was the subject of intense negotiations that spanned several days, including a last-ditch bid by First Nations elder statesman Ovide Mercredi to throw open the doors to more chiefs.

Mercredi tried unsuccessfully to convince the Prime Minister's Office it needed to heed the demands of many chiefs from across the country who wanted a bigger meeting, and also wanted Gov. Gen. David Johnston to be involved.

Mercredi couldn't conceal his disappointment. ``You have to see it this way: it's a reflection of what we can expect from this government,'' he said. ``It confirms the mistrust on the (part of) government. That's what it does.''

The meeting eventually took place in a rather bland conference room inside the Langevin Block, a stately sandstone building across from the Parliament buildings where Harper and his department - the Privy Council Office - do the bulk of their work. The room was smudged with smoke to start things off on a good foot.

A First Nations elder said a prayer. Outside, the group could hear the chants of an Idle No More protest - 3,000 people strong, according to police estimates - in the shadow of the Peace Tower.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, sat at the head of the table, nestled between Harper and his team. The chiefs said their piece, but Atleo spoke for them most of the time, laying out each of his points. Harper said little until the end of the four-hour gathering, setting out exactly what his government was and wasn't prepared to do.

Rescinding or amending the controversial omnibus budget bill, for instance, was a non-starter.

There were no angry outbursts or abrupt departures. But the fact the meeting even took place was something of a victory for both Harper and Atleo.

Right up to the moment Atleo and his group of chiefs entered the building at around 1 p.m. Friday, there was uncertainty over whether the whole thing would come off. The lead-up included days of raucous, on-again, off-again negotiations.

Harper's chief of staff was the high-level point man for the government, engaged on the issue since a rail blockade in Sarnia before Christmas, one official said.

The Assembly of First Nations tasked three respected chiefs to develop a workable agenda for the meeting: Mercredi, Metis activist Perry Bellegarde and B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould. The four met to hash out the structure of the meeting Wednesday night.

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"There was a lot of opposition to attending a meeting where not all the chiefs would be included, also where the agenda was predetermined," Mercredi said. "So we had a big discussion about crafting our agenda, together with the government and getting a process that would be inclusive, but also the governor general would be present."

Wright did make several concessions on behalf of the government. He agreed to open up the agenda beyond treaty negotiations and economic development, as originally proposed, and entertain discussion about housing, murdered and missing women and the impact on the environment of Harper's budget bills.

But the PMO wouldn't budge on the structure of the meeting - a crucial point for many of the bands from central Ontario and Manitoba whose treaties were signed by a representative of the Queen. "We were trying to impress upon the government to include the Governor General in the meeting. And also to make it more open by having it televised. And but also we expressed for it to be inclusive," Mercredi recalled.

Harper's team did finally instruct the Governor General to hold a ceremonial meeting Friday evening at Rideau Hall. But there was no question of involving Johnston directly in the meetings themselves. "Our real bottom line was that it couldn't be the same meeting because that line can't get blurred," said the official. "We're the ones responsible here, we're the ones that can act and have to act. Not the Governor General. There's nothing he can do constitutionally, so we didn't want to give that impression."

The chiefs continued to press Wright for Johnston's involvement, but to no avail. Mercredi broke the news to chiefs from across Canada during a meeting late Thursday at a downtown Ottawa hotel. The room erupted in outrage. "They weren't mad at me. They tried to send me to get a better meeting. They were mad at the government (for) not listening," said Mercredi. "That's the reason why people are out there protesting, because the government is not listening."

Regional groups of First Nations huddled Friday morning as the AFN made a last-ditch, unsuccessful effort to persuade the PMO to open up the meeting in order to unite all the chiefs.

For many of the treaty bands, it was too much to stomach, said Grand Chief Harvey Yesno of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in northern Ontario.

On the government side, Harper and his team bided their time, said little publicly, and waited for Atleo to work out exactly who was coming.

In the end, Harper got what he wanted - a smaller meeting with the AFN executive, some regional chiefs, and ultimately something to announce. "We knew we couldn't get a desirable outcome unless we had a process that was small enough and representative enough, and Atleo pulled that together today," said the official.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CP: Agreement to talk some more leaves First Nations protests up in the air

Agreement to talk some more leaves First Nations protests up in the air

By Bruce Cheadle

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - "I have no idea what it'll do."

John Duncan's frank, if less than illuminating, assessment of the impact on aboriginal protests of Friday's hard-won negotiating skirmish may have been the most honest assessment of the day.

The aboriginal affairs minister was one of three full cabinet ministers who flanked Prime Minister Stephen Harper for more than four hours of politically fraught talks with some of the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations. The talks essentially led to agreement for more talks - which in the constipated world of First Nations' advancement in this country was portrayed as success, if not exactly a breakthrough.

"The prime minister agreed with the need to provide enhanced oversight from the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office," Duncan told a hastily arranged news conference on Parliament Hill. "And the prime minister agreed to debrief the members of his cabinet and government on today's discussions and agreed to meet with the national chief in the coming weeks to review next steps." Canadians can be forgiven if they feel they've seen this movie before.

Almost exactly a year ago, what was billed as an "historic" meeting between Ottawa and First Nations ended with a joint statement ... promising more talks. "We cannot undo the mistakes of the past, but we can learn from them and affirm that they will not be repeated," said the statement issued at end of a day-long meeting last Jan. 24. "As partners in the Crown -First Nations gathering, we will maintain the relationship through an ongoing dialogue that outlines clear goals and measures of progress and success."

By October, however, the promised dialogue was so frustrating the First Nations leadership that Shawn Atleo, the accommodating national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, wrote a series of heated letters to the prime minister and his aboriginal affairs minister to complain of a "loss of momentum." "This is exacerbated by the federal government's broader legislative agenda, which has the potential for harmful impacts on First Nations, including changes to environmental regulation, fisheries and criminal justice," Atleo wrote Harper in a letter obtained by The Canadian Press.

Those same issues have since helped fuel the grassroots fire that is the Idle No More protest movement.

At the time, Atleo complained to Duncan that talks with officials from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada were going nowhere. "First Nations leadership have keenly engaged in good faith to begin a dialogue only to be met by AANDC officials indicating that they have no mandate to even enter into discussions," he wrote the minister in October.

By that measure, Friday's talks - although boycotted by chiefs from Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories - moved the goalposts, in the words of former national chief Matthew Coon Come.

Having the PMO and PCO, the nerve centres of any federal government, promising to actively oversee native files should clear the cobwebs of bureaucratic inertia and impotence.

Duncan, pressed on the meaning of the promised "high -level dialogue" that Friday's talks delivered, responded that PMO and PCO attention would assist "those sticky items which are identified which could use some direction from the centre." In other words, the squeaky wheel gets the grease - a fitting aphorism given all the drama that preceded Friday's sit-down, which included street protests, hunger strikes and boycotts.

Ian Brodie, Harper's former chief of staff, noted earlier this week that any chiefs contemplating a boycott were misguided.

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"'I offer this as advice to anyone who thinks you accomplish more by not meeting the PM than by meeting him," Brodie wrote on Twitter. "You don't."

Critics will say its a piece of advice that should work both ways for the prime minister. "It shouldn't even be a big deal,'' Bob Rae, the interim Liberal leader, observed of the meeting just before the talks began Friday. "It should be a regular occurrence, it shouldn't be something that causes headlines ... It is truly preposterous in our country at this point that we're allowing things to get this stage of confrontation where just the most fundamental premises of civility are not able to be observed."

Atleo emerged from the meeting wounded by internal divisions in the native movement and, like the aboriginal affairs minister, unwilling to predict an end to native protests. "The voices of our people, they will not be silenced," Atleo said in an interview, adding First Nations will be demanding that promises are followed through. 'I believe that sense of urgency was heard by the prime minister."

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CBC Power and Politics: Matthew Coon Come

SOURCE: CBC NEWS NETWORK PROGRAM: POWER AND POLITICS

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REFERENCE: 1101doc5 LENGTH: 07:00 MINS

MATTHEW COON COME

HANNAH THIBEDEAU (Anchor): The meeting between the Prime Minister and First Nations leaders has just ended. There has been growing dissent among First Nations leaders, divided over whether to attend or boycott that meeting with the Prime Minister. Many frustrated First Nations chiefs refused to attend but about 20 others thought it was less important to have the Governor General at the table and more important to engage in dialogue with the Prime Minister and with government officials. But did they achieve any tangible results? Did today's meeting make any progress in repairing federal -First Nations relations, or did it only served to deepen the rift between First Nations chiefs right across this country?

Well joining me now is Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief of the Cree of Northern Québec and James Bay. Thanks for being here. You are fresh out of this meeting. Tell me what results came from it?

MATTHEW COON COME (Grand Chief): Well first of all let me say this, I'll make it very clear. I have been at protests, I have blocked forestry roads, I have been involved in the international community, and I've been involved in court cases. I never done a hunger strike but there's one thing I do know, at the end of the day you need to sit down face-to-face and have a discussion. I was torn when I went in there but I wanted to There was a great impasse among our First Nations people and I wanted to be able to build the bridge, I wanted to be able to put on the table certain demands for the Prime Minister and make a suggestion of how we can get out of the impasse. The meeting that we attended today I was surprised by the reaction of the Prime Minister. I felt that that ... I think he was really He moved a couple of posts forward.

THIBEDEAU: Which posts?

COON COME: I think there is a way out. We raised 8 different issues which I won't go into detail. We talked about the... sitting the table, a high level dialogue with the Prime Minister to sit at the table for the treaty process and also for the specific land claims. He agreed to a high-level process and a dialogue in which that will happen in the next couple of weeks. There will be a meeting. So what happens now is I think it's in our court now for the leadership, those treaty groups, those specific land claims groups, to regroup and say okay what are we going to present, are we going to go into this dialogue or not? Because we thought, I think, that the Prime Minister wasn't really willing to move, this is the meeting, this is it, nothing's going to happen after. So I think that there's an opportunity here to be able to address that issue.

At the same time I raised the issue of the resource revenue. In this country the premier of Alberta has agreed for a dialogue to discuss revenue sharing. The premier of BC talked about the revenue sharing, maybe not in the past but in the future. Our meeting as regional chiefs with the Premier Pauline Marois was going to talk about revenue sharing. We impressed upon the Prime Minister if he could assist. He said he was open, he was willing to look at a tripartite process if need be, and he said we don't receive any revenue ourselves, it's the provinces that receive that revenue. So

THIBEDEAU: So In that In that case that is you're pushing the Prime Minister to push the provinces to work along with First Nations about resource revenue sharing.

COON COME: Certainly there's a willingness there for an open dialogue and I think there is I hear words like let's assess it, let's look at it We raised the issue with the legislation. We raised the issue of the violence against women. We raised the issue of

THIBEDEAU: Let's go to the legislation. Let's go to the legislation. Sorry to interrupt, I just want to kind of break it down for our viewers. So when it comes to the legislation we had heard that First Nations leaders wanted the parts of the two omnibus bills that affected First Nations, such as changes to the Navigable Waters Act, the Fisheries Act, rescinded. Was

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there any indication from the Prime Minister that would happen?

COON COME: Well we certainly just put it on the table for a revisit....

THIBEDEAU: So it's only on the table.

COON COME: ... for the for those two bills that you mentioned. But that doesn't prevent our First Nations from launching a court case because they

THIBEDEAU: Which they have.

COON COME: Which they have. Yes. And I think grand council I think we'll intervene if we feel that there is an impact on the navigable waters and environmental process that we've already agreed to. But at least there is a willingness there for a dialogue and I think that that's crucial because we need to continue to talk. We need to find ways of how we're going to resolve these impasses. That's what we need.

THIBEDEAU: Those two chiefs from Alberta felt that the government didn't fulfill its duty to consent.

COON COME: What I feel

THIBEDEAU: Do you feel now that they will?

COON COME: What I heard

THIBEDEAU: Or... Sorry... Consult. Sorry.

COON COME: What I heard the Prime Minister say, he says he was willing to do... carry out his duty to consult. That's what I heard him say.

THIBEDEAU: Right. How big is that for you?

COON COME: Well for the Prime Minister to say that I think it's very crucial, it's important. And I think he's willing to The high-level dialogue for me was the highlight. These He was able to move the goalposts to be able to allow for a dial... And when you have meetings you can talk about anything. You're not limited to just talk about whatever issues because if there is an impasse and there is then you identify why is there an impasse, why are we not moving forward on treaties, why are we not moving forward on specific land claims and it has to do with surrenders, it has to do with ceding, well let's visit those. We need someone to have a mandate and I think the Prime Minister is willing to look at a mandate, is willing to look at a framework of how we can break this impasse.

THIBEDEAU: We heard from Chief Beaugard earlier. He was looking for, and many of the other chiefs, are looking for a new mechanism within the Prime Minister's Office or PCO. Did you get any indication of a new mechanism?

COON COME: It's unfortunate that Vice-Chief Beaugard did not attend the meeting. He had an opportunity and he missed that opportunity to express the views to the Prime Minister himself. He is the vice chief. I know he has a specific mandate but he was responsible not only just to speak for the chiefs of Saskatchewan but also for all the treaty groups and all the specific land claims groups. And I think he missed an opportunity. But we took that opportunity we had and tabled it ourselves and I think there will be a dialogue and there will be further reports that will be given by the national chief.

THIBEDEAU: But you didn't get a promise of a new mechanism.

COON COME: These are up for discussion in a In a three-hour meeting you cannot come up with a specific conclusion, recommendation. What you can agree to is certainly coming to say like we will have a dialogue, we understand we have a problem with a mandate, we'll look at the framework and we're going to try to figure out a way of how to get rid of all this impasse so we can all move forward. So to me that's moving the goalposts.

THIBEDEAU: Out of those eight points where else did you see movement?

COON COME: Well I think we raised The National Chief raised the issue of the violence against women, and he's willing to look at any new suggestions or concrete measures from the First Nations. And also.

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THIBEDEAU: Does that include an inquiry?

COON COME: Well (inaudible) inquiry. I think we've had so many inquiries. I think we need to look at some really concrete measures as to how to protect the women from exposing them to these whoever's out there trying to cause harm on them. At the same time I think also we talked about education, education is the number one party for the national chief and there's a commitment there to do consultations in regards to education.

THIBEDEAU: I want to thank you for your time. I'm going to take viewers right now -- I'm sorry if I interrupted you – I want to go live now to Parliament Hill.

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CBC As It Happens: INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF STAN LOUTTIT

SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE PROGRAM: AS IT HAPPENS

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2013 TIME: 18:32

REFERENCE: 1101doc4 LENGTH: 8:12 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF STAN LOUTTIT

UNIDENTIFIED: There's a lot of... there's 20, 30,000 people up North at home that are isolated. What's going to happen to them (inaudible) bill C-45. You're so (inaudible), Prime Minister.

UNIDENTIFIED: This hunger strike would have been finished a long time ago if people had listened and respected the wishes of the entire nation across this land. (CHEERING) This government does not seem to realize that they're putting themselves in a difficult, precarious, volatile situation by not listening to the voices, the wishes of the First Nations people.

KAREN GORDON (Guest Host): Today aboriginal people from across the country stood united outside Parliament buildings as part of Idle No More. And across the street, leaders from the Assembly of First Nations sat united inside the Prime Minister's office. But they were very clearly two distinct, separate groups. Leaders from Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories boycotted today's meeting in solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence. Among those who did not attend is Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council, which include Attawapiskat. We reached Chief Louttit in Ottawa.

CAROL OFF (Host): Chief Louttit, Chief Atleo has certainly indicated that he feels under a great deal of pressure to produce, and at this meeting and beyond, and that he has been accused of being too cozy with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. How does he regain his credibility in the eyes of people who are watching him right now?

STAN LOUTTIT (Grand Chief, Mushkegowuk Council): Well, I don't envy National Chief Atleo's position where he's in right now. He's elected by the chiefs of Canada, and there's not always unanimity on issues, so he's got to tread a fine line in terms of the issues. Take for example this meeting that's happening with the Prime Minister. There's nay-sayers across the country. There's provinces that are boycotting this particular meeting, and others that wish to attend, so he's in a very difficult way in terms of meeting the wishes of the chiefs across the country.

CAROL OFF: And you're among those who are boycotting this meeting. A number of Ontario chiefs are, and Manitoba. Are you upset that Chief Atleo chose to go to this meeting?

STAN LOUTTIT: Oh, I'm disappointed in the sense that there was no direct communication. We waited in the hotel conference centre most of the morning waiting for some indication from the AFN in terms of what the plan was or how they were proceeding or what kind of headway they were making n terms of the meeting agenda and those kinds of things. So yes, I'm a little bit disappointed that the meeting went ahead with such a large number of chiefs that are not attending.

CAROL OFF: And what danger is it right now for the Assembly of First Nations? Because if they have... they have to... those chiefs and Shawn Atleo are going to have to show that they are ahead of the troops and not trying to keep up with the Idle No More movement. So what do they have to do at this point to regain some of the credibility, or to regain some position of leadership?

STAN LOUTTIT: I think what has to happen is I think we cannot be satisfied with a small core group of chiefs meeting with the Prime Minister. I think they have to work to get some commitments from the Prime Minister's office that there's going to be future dialogue, that there's going to be future meetings, and turn around to work towards getting some unanimity across the country with the First Nation leadership, so that we're all on one page, and that we're all meeting and we all have a common voice, and we all have... working towards a same agenda. So I think a lot of work needs to happen.

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CAROL OFF: We've heard some very strong statements coming out of the chiefs, out of Idle No More in the past days, Chief Nepinak in Manitoba. He said, "We have the warriors, we have the people who can bring the economy of Canada to its knees." We heard Gordon Peters from Ontario, a chief there, who said that people should be on notice that their investments are not safe. What are we to understand from these messages?

STAN LOUTTIT: I think those are very, very legitimate statements that are being put forward by these chiefs, and I think we're seeing examples of that over the last few weeks, where major rail lines were disrupted, and also major road and highway systems that are being disrupted, and I think that's the growing frustration that we're seeing across the country, because we're going to be seeing more of that in all likelihood in the coming days and weeks due to one very simple reason: because we have been after the Prime Minister and the Governor General. I personally wrote to the Prime Minister and the Governor General to meet and to have a discussion, and not even a response. And when chiefs and leaders write to the Prime Minister and write to leaders to express certain issues and to meet and we don't get even an acknowledgement or response to our requests, you know, it frustrates leaders, and it frustrates, and it filters down to the community and the members, and they see and hear this.

CAROL OFF: It would seem that both for Stephen Harper and for Shawn Atleo, they both have to come up with something. They can't... this can't be perceived as just another get-together, and that they both need to show that they have done something to change this relationship. How high are the stakes for both those men today?

STAN LOUTTIT: It's very, very critical. If there is no outcomes, and there's nothing concrete that's coming out of any kind of a discussion, then again, the frustration mounts and the Idle No More movement increase, and so the stakes are high.

CAROL OFF: What will it take for Chief Theresa Spence to end her hunger strike?

STAN LOUTTIT: Her position has been very, very clear, right from day one when she started her hunger strike, that she would like to have an opportunity for a dialogue, and a conference with the Prime Minister and the Governor General representing the Queen. And that has been there right from the beginning. We've never had any response, not even any indication from the Prime Minister or the Governor General's office up until just last week, so where was the Prime Minister and where was the Governor General in that last month?

CAROL OFF: You have a lot of support from the general public in Canada who are following what's going on. There are of course lots who are opposing it and criticizing the First Nations, but there is support there. Do you fear that if Idle No More does turn into bringing the economy to its knees or attempting to do that, that you will lose the support of Canadians?

STAN LOUTTIT: That's always a danger, simply because people don't understand. And when people don't understand, they make assumptions and they make opinions that are not necessarily grounded or not necessarily true. So I think part of our job is to educate the general public in terms of our issues, and in terms of why the treaty's important. It's not just something that happened a hundred years ago in our case. It's something that's really, really relevant today, and I think the general public needs to understand that, and it's our job to be able to educate them. And once they know why we're saying the things we're saying and why we're doing the things we're doing, I think they're in a better position to understand and support us.

CAROL OFF: All right, we'll be watching. Chief Louttit, thank you.

STAN LOUTTIT: Thank you.

KAREN GORDON: Stan Louttit is the Grand Chief of Ontario's Mushkegowuk Council. We reached him today in Ottawa.

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CBC Power and Politics: INTERVIEW WITH CAROLYN BENNETT AND JEAN CROWDER

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REFERENCE: 1101doc3 LENGTH: 07:00 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH CAROLYN BENNETT AND JEAN CROWDER

HANNAH THIBEDEAU (CBC-NN): We just heard from Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan commenting on today's meeting. He called it constructive and said both sides managed to build on progress and shared objectives. But of course the meeting was engulfed in controversy over the venue and who would and would not be at the table.

So do the deep divisions among First Nations leaders threaten progress going forward, or will today's meeting diffuse the escalating confrontation and chart the course for better federal First Nations relationships and more prosperity on reserves.

Joining me now is NDP aboriginal critic, Jean Crowder and Liberal Aboriginal critic, Carolyn Bennett. Thanks for joining me today.

CAROLYN BENNETT (Liberal Aboriginal critic): Thank you.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Now, what do you make just first, I'm going to start with you, Ms. Crowder, of what you heard from Minister Duncan and also from Matthew Coon Come who came in just before?

JEAN CROWDER (NDP Aboriginal critic): Well, I think it's going to depend on whether there is concrete action as a result of this. And when we look a year ago to the crown First Nations gathering and although there was commitments made, there was no action. So it's going to be critical what happens in this next couple of weeks.

I think Matthew Coon Come came out and he sounded positive that there was some concrete action going to happen, but I have to say I was concerned about some of the things that Minister Duncan said. I mean he

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Like what in particular?

JEAN CROWDER: Well, the consultation piece around that their duty to consult around the omnibus budget bills had been fulfilled and I would say that First Nations from coast to coast to coast would adamantly disagree with that. And what would have been valuable is to hear specifically what they meant by the duty to consult. The courts have laid it out, but it didn't sound to me like they were going to use those kinds of guidelines around consultation.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: And in fact, it seemed like Matthew Coon Come was more positive from the meeting than what we heard from the Minister.

JEAN CROWDER: That's right and then the Parliamentary Secretary just rhymed off a list of things that that is nothing new to what they've always said in the past.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Carolyn Bennett, what was your reaction from?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I wanted to be positive and I want this to be a baby step in the right direction, so that's where I'm coming from. I want this to go forward and but I mean, the government on just in terms of that press conference is just tone deaf, standing up and saying the investments they've made. I mean if we were and that they've fulfilled the duty to consult. We wouldn't have Idle no More if that was the case. Theresa Spence wouldn't be on a hunger strike if that was the case.

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So we need now, if we're going to go forward, then there has to be some honest dialogue that talks about the truth. There have to be strategies. What, by when and how? There have to be working groups struck. There has to we have to figure out how to get to the eight things that they AFN has talked about. The needs are urgent, absolutely urgent. The budget cuts that we'd seen last year are devastating and there's a budget coming up now and we've got to see urgent work to make sure that some of these gaps are closed between now and the 2013 budget.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Is it a positive move, Ms. Crowder, that the P.M. has agreed to a high level process and dialogue within the next two weeks?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Yes, that is a positive step. That's encouraging that something is going to happen immediately. But again, there needs to be those concrete. We want to know what the outcomes, we want to know timelines, and we want to know who's going to be assigned responsibility because without that kind of framework, it would just drift away.

And that's really important for everybody, both First Nations and non-First Nations to understand what the commitment is of the Conservative government towards moving this process forward.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Now there have been calls for economic disruptions, including railway, highway, blockades for next Wednesday. How should the government react to prevent this from escalating further, or even trying to stop that from happening? Do you think that should continue then?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I think the grass roots want to be heard. The grass roots want a serious, meaningful engagement and But so as we've heard through some of all of the chiefs that this is the asking, not telling. This is a time for the government to show that they're actually going to listen in a meaningful way and hear the concerns directly from the people. And I'm afraid that just the National Chief and the Prime Minister having high level dialogues is not going to fix what we're hearing.

We also need to see a process where the grass roots, the young people that have been so engaged in it, now do we get them involved in creating the solutions?

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: How do you that?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, you actually begin a conversation. Some of these meetings, I was at the Idle no More teach-in in North Bay. Working groups, tables, discussion groups working their way through the legislation. There's such an appetite to understand what's going on and how they can that you have to be able to harvest the solutions from community. And that means this government is going to have to figure out the consultation is not a one-shot information session with sending out information. They've got to show that they're listening and this is so important, as Bob Rae said earlier today, that in this community, it takes time, it builds trust and they've got to show they're listening.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: What do you make of the split occurring within the First Nations ranks and we saw it with this meeting today? Is that going to be a challenge moving forward?

JEAN CROWDER: Well, it's going to be a challenge but I think it's important to remember that non-aboriginal communities don't speak with a united voice either. I mean, from coast to coast to coast, we have different points of view about a variety of things. Look to our federal Parliament. We have a party system and within parties people disagree.

So again, I think it's important that we respect the diversity of opinions within First Nations and that there are mechanisms to work with those dissenting opinions.

I think that diversity is important. It brings forward different points of view, different ideas. Idle no More is a really good example. I mean, we have a grass roots movement here that has energy, that has ideas, that is going to put pressure not only on the federal government but their own leadership. That's important.

HANNAH THIBEDEAU: Well, what about the violent threats that we're hearing from maybe a different group or a smaller faction of this group, but what do you make of the violent escalating?

CAROLYN BENNETT: Well, I think the Idle no More has had a very peaceful important message and certainly at the information session I was at, every time things got a bit hot, the elders stood up with the eagle feather and things quieted down. That's the way they want to move forward, being seen as a peaceful movement and you know, I just hope today is the first day of us getting this right.

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HANNAH THIBEDEAU: I want to thank both of you for coming in today and giving us the latest. I want to thank Jean Crowder and Carolyn Bennett. Thanks.

JEAN CROWDER: Thank you.

CAROLYN BENNETT: Thank you.

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nationalpost.com: Stephen Harper and Shawn Atleo agree to more high-level' discussions on treaties in coming weeks

Stephen Harper and Shawn Atleo agree to more high-level' discussions on treaties in coming weeks

OTTAWA They'll meet again.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and aboriginal leaders didn't see eye to eye on everything at their talks on Friday but they have agreed he'll meet again with the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Shawn Atleo, in the coming weeks.

The government remains committed to ongoing dialogue on aboriginal issues and to "to taking achievable steps" to improve the lives of First Nations people across Canada, according to a release late Friday from the Prime Minister's Office.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Harper agreed to "high level" discussions about treaty rights and claims, which would include issues of resource revenue sharing, as well as "enhanced oversight" from Harper's office and the Privy Council Office.

Atleo and Harper are to meet in the weeks ahead, he said. Atleo made no immediate comment.

Duncan emerged from four hours of discussion Friday night, in which Harper and senior ministers met with members of the Assembly of First Nations, to say the government doesn't plan changes to current budget legislation that First Nations oppose. But he said it will in future ensure "there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the First Nations leadership" about government bills.

Meanwhile, more than 100 First Nations chiefs were preparing to visit Rideau Hall Friday night for a ceremonial meeting with Governor General David Johnston among them the Ontario chief who has been fasting to protest government policies.

It wasn't known if Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence would end her liquid-only diet at the meeting, however.

Chiefs who boycotted the Harper meeting had wanted the Governor General to attend it, but Johnston planned instead to host them late in the day, after formal talks ended.

Speaking to protesters on Parliament Hill earlier in the day, some chiefs said they weren't happy that executives from the AFN were at Harper's office. Their boycott was a sign of discontent with the federal government, but also with AFN national chief Shawn Atleo, who was in the four-hour meeting with Harper along with aboriginal representatives from some, though not all, provinces.

Chief Perry Bellegarde, Saskatchewan's regional chief, who boycotted the meeting, said the absent chiefs had nonetheless sent written submissions into the meeting.

"We've put everything in writing and that's being discussed and dialogued right now."

Spence herself emerged briefly Friday morning from the teepee on an island in the Ottawa River, where she has been maintaining her fast for more than a month. She talked briefly about the hardships native Canadians face and urged the government to "renew" the relationship.

In a rambling but defiant statement, Spence decried the devolution of power in Canada from the Crown to the prime

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minister, and suggested the news media were misleading Canadians. A spokesperson said she would continue her liquid-only diet, which she has been on for the last month.

Not everyone felt she should continue her strike, however.

Murray Sinclair, the aboriginal chairman of the federally created Truth and Reconciliation Commission which emerged from the residential schools apology process praised a "new, bright and younger leadership" of Canadian aboriginals that make up the "Idle No More" movement, in the face of what he called "tremendously negative backlash and outright racism."

He said on his Facebook page that the movement, and Spence's protest, had achieved enormous results for aboriginal people, but he urged her to return to eating solid food.

Andrew MacDougall, Harper's director of communications, said the AFN talks with the prime minister were proceeding as planned and were aimed at addressing First Nations' concerns on the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights, and economic development.

For her part, Spence argued the federal government has for years been violating longstanding treaties with First Nations and that Friday's meeting should be an opportunity to help "resolve broken promises" and renew the Crown's relationship with aboriginals. First Nations deserve better housing, health care and revenue sharing from the federal government, Spence said.

"This government has been abusing us, raping the land," she added. "The treaty was not about control, it's about sharing, honouring and respecting each other."

Protests took place across Canada Friday as part of the Idle No More movement following a day of drama Thursday among First Nations chiefs and a week that catapulted aboriginal issues onto the front pages.

Bellegarde one of the leaders initially scheduled to meet with Harper on Friday said Thursday night he would not attend the talks and stood in solidarity with Spence and other leaders.

Indeed, the night before the meeting, many chiefs from across the country declared their support for Spence and demanded the prime minister and Governor General both attend the Friday working meeting, which Johnston did not do.

Pam Palmater, the Ryerson University professor who was Atleo's chief rival in last summer's national chief elections, suggested Atleo's decision to meet Harper undercut the validity of the AFN.

"Atleo has no choice but to listen to the chiefs, because he has no independent political authority," she added.

Chiefs are demanding the federal government respect long-standing treaty rights, create a new agreement on natural resource development and revenue sharing, and revisit contentious federal government legislation, including the Indian Act.

As well as voicing support for the hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence, Haisla members spoke of their opposition to the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project..The tough talk and emotional pleas threatened to scuttle progress.

Sharp divisions were evident as up to 200 chiefs gathered at the hotel Thursday evening.

"No longer will the prime minister dictate to us," said Onion Lake First Nation Chief Wallace Fox.

"If we have to shut down this economy, then we will."

Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae called on the Harper government to repair its relationship with First Nations.

"It is not a comedy of errors but it's a tragedy of errors that we find ourselves in this situation today," Rae said about the difficulty in having First Nations arrange something as simple as a meeting with the prime minister and Governor General.

Tom Mulcair, leader of the official Opposition, had planned to host 20 chiefs at his residence Thursday night, but the plan fell through as the chiefs were still wrestling over whether to attend Friday's meeting with the prime minister. Mulcair has been silent on this week's developments.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Mix 103 (Fort McMurray): Harper plans to meet with AFN National Chief in the coming weeks

Harper plans to meet with AFN National Chief in the coming weeks
Harper and First Nations leaders are unable to come to an agreement on all issues in today's meetings.

Harper and 20 First Nations leaders wrapped up their meeting earlier today.

Prime Minister Harper plans to meet with Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Shawn Atleo in the coming weeks.

Leaders are now meeting with Governor General, David Johnston, who was not in attendance of the earlier meeting with Harper.

A handful of chiefs, including Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation, were absent from the working meeting with Harper.

Some leaders from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories boycotted the Harper meeting, due to the absence of the Governor General.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Shawn Atleo, called for a united front last night, saying fractured leadership will not initiate change with the federal government.

The meeting's focus was on Bill C-45, legislation which alters treaty rights and curtails environmental protections.

As the meeting got underway, First Nations from the Fort McMurray area traveled to Edmonton to take part in a march to Canada Place, in tandem with the Idle No More Movement.

"It went really good in Edmonton and we got a lot of support from the people. I anticipate roughly between 400 and 500 people showed up in attendance," says Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief, Allan Adam. "It was good, peaceful and a lot of awareness came out of the whole discussion that was going on."

Adam says the support of today's protest will drive the movement even further.

"It brings momentum to the movement. It's in regards to solidarity of where it's time now that the people put their issues aside and their racism aside and then all come together and go up against the Harper government," says Chief Adam. "You got to remember that there was a UN delegation that was coming to Canada monitor the situation and Harper refused his green card. He refused the UN to come into Canada."

Adam also wants residents to know that if no change comes from today's meeting with First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Harper, major highways will be shut down across the country.

"But on the other flip note you know the message that was delivered today right from our speech is that if Canada does not retract Bill C-45 and C-38 and start working on a sovereign -to-sovereign, nation -to-nation building, they [protestors] are going to choke off every major highway in Canada. They are going to block off every access road to industry.

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"My position is that if nothing concrete comes out of what's going on with this whole movement in regards to Bill C-45 and C-38, we are going to shut down Highway 63 permanently until things are fixed up properly." says Chief Adam.

"We could avoid this whole thing happening, but it is up to Canada now."

The bill is considered the driving force behind the Idle No More Movement, which led to rallies and protests across the country.

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CBC.CA: Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost

Stephen Harper, First Nations and an opportunity lost

Chris Hall (CBC's National Affairs Editor)

The strongest image from Friday's meeting between Stephen Harper and the Assembly of First Nations didn't come from inside the room where the prime minister met with a small delegation of chiefs.

It came from outside, where hundreds of band members massed in front of the prime minister's office building demanding he come out in the rain to negotiate with them.

For many, the rally in front of Langevin Block was more than just a protest.

It was a poignant expression of how so many First Nations people find themselves on the outside looking in, when the relationship between them and the federal government as defined by history is supposed to be one of equals.

The standoff on Parliament Hill added to the crisis atmosphere, or what interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae called the "tragedy of errors," leading up to this meeting and which makes it so hard to conclude anything positive can emerge.

Instead of focusing on an agenda to address the pressing social needs faced by too many people living on reserves, instead of assessing what concrete measures could be taken to make First Nations more true partners in Canada's future, the meeting simply became a backdrop to the threat of more protests, blockades and an ever deepening rift between individual chiefs, and between First Nations and the federal government.

In the process, AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo's attempt to use this meeting as a springboard for "transformational change" failed.

His organization is clearly divided, with chiefs from Ontario and Manitoba refusing to attend Friday's talks.

Most of his agenda remains unrealized. And his own future at the helm of the AFN after winning a second term with a commanding majority just six months ago is suddenly unclear, with calls from some chiefs for a non-confidence vote on his leadership.

Stephen Harper also took a hit.

His dogged insistence that the meeting must go exactly as originally agreed, despite the changing dynamics in recent days, reinforced his reputation as inflexible.

And it further undermined Atleo, the one native leader with whom he had forged a strong working relationship.

Not surprisingly, neither Harper nor Atleo spoke publicly after the meeting.

The clear winners are the organizers of Idle No More, the grassroots movement that so unnerved the AFN in the past few weeks that every chief who spoke publicly in the days before the meeting made sure to praise them.

Idle No More the big winner in this current standoff, it looks like it has galvanized a new generation. Chief Spence has her followers as well. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)It doesn't matter that the movement's demand to "respect our treaties" is far from specific.

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It also doesn't matter that the chiefs who sided with them late this week had their own shifting priorities in the internal politics of the broader First Nations' movement.

What does matter is that Idle No More has created a sense pf purpose that goes beyond the AFN.

Its organizers and social media campaign captured the imagination of a generation of young and increasingly militant aboriginal people who rallied across the country on Friday.

They are those who see little to be gained from annual meetings with the prime minister, and even less to be gained from the incremental change on this file that has been the hallmark of Harper's time in government.

The prime minister's approach made it all but impossible for Atleo to emerge Friday with something tangible from his list of demands going in.

Atleo won a commitment that First Nations files will receive a higher priority inside the Prime Minister's Office and its bureaucracy.

And he came away with a promise that he and Harper would meet again in the next several weeks.

But the tough issues: quicker resolution of land claims and treaty issues; a new financial arrangement that would tie federal payments to inflation and population; a school on every reserve; and a formal process that would bring Ottawa, the provinces and First Nations together to negotiate revenue sharing from the estimated $650 billion in potential resource development across the country, remain points of discussion.

Absent any concrete gains, the immediate future holds only the promise of more blockades and economic uncertainty.

Gordon Peters, grand chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians in Ontario, who boycotted the meeting with the prime minister in solidarity with Idle No More, said roads and railway lines could be targeted as early as today.

Just last January, Harper played host to native leaders and spoke of the significance of 2013 as the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation, a document First Nations view as the basis of many unresolved land claims and self-government.

The prime minister talked then of the importance of ensuring aboriginal workers have the skills to work on resource projects, many of which are in or near their home communities.

Harper reiterated the same commitments this week. But with no clearer timetable of how he intends to achieve them.

And the truth is that very little has been done over the past seven years since former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin negotiated the five-year, $5-billion Kelowna Accord with First Nations and premiers.

AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo, looks to have been bypassed. (Chris Wattie / Reuters)"We are here today because the descendents of the people who first occupied this land must have an equal opportunity to work for and to enjoy the benefits of our collective prosperity," Martin said then.

"Today the majority do not because of gaps in education and skills, health care and housing, and limited opportunities for employment."

Harper, of course dismantled the accord. And the gaps persist.

The Conservative government's approach has been is to craft piecemeal programs to address specific issues, in some cases driven by crisis.

The ultimate goal of ensuring First Nations communities benefit directly from developing the country's resource sector, and so gain true self-sufficiency, folds neatly into the Conservatives view that a more prosperous future can be built if there's a shared commitment.

But that goal remains far off in the future. Today the talk is all about blockades and bringing Canada's economy to its knees until First Nations are treated as equal partners.

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Words that seem more easily translated into action.

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CP: Highlights of how First Nations demands fared in talks with Harper

Highlights of how First Nations demands fared in talks with Harper

OTTAWA - The Assembly of First Nations entered Friday's meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper with eight demands. Here is checklist on how they fared:

Agreed - Commitment to a high-level process on treaty implementation.

Agreed - Commitment to speed up resolutions of land claims and affirmation of inherent rights.

Agreed - Designate decision-makers within the Privy Council Office to specifically oversee the Crown-First Nation relationship.

Partial headway - Harper agreed talks on resource equity should be part of the high-level process on treaty implementation, but also need to include provinces.

Partial headway - Make funding for First Nations sustainable, in line with growth of the population. Harper agreed this would be part of the treaty and comprehensive land claims discussions.

Partial headway - Guarantee schools for every First Nation. Harper agreed education is important but didn't make firm commitments.

Little headway - All legislation needs to be compatible with indigenous rights, and the parts of Harper's budget omnibus bills that contravene aboriginal rights need to be repealed. Harper agreed the government has a duty to consult with First Nations, but will not repeal the omnibus bills.

No - Set up a public commission to focus on murdered and missing aboriginal women.

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CKOM Regina: Minister John Duncan says Bill C-45 won't change

Minister John Duncan says Bill C-45 won't change

Idle No More threatens massive blockades next week

Reported by David Kirton

It looks very much like Chiefs have already lost one of the big issues they had wanted to talk to the Prime minster about.

They had wanted the government to reconsider any parts of the omnibus budget bills that affected Treaty Rights.

But Aboriginal Affairs Minster John Duncan just told reporters - that's not going to happen.

"We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there is every reason to proceed," said Duncan.

Chiefs in Ontario are now threatening massive blockades this coming Wednesday.

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (NATIONAL)
NEWS, Page: A1 / FRONT

Fix bill or face 'chaos,' chiefs say

Blockade threats

Kathryn Blaze Carlson, National Post

First Nations leaders and **Idle No More** activists have promised only peaceful protests on their national day of action Wednesday, but once the snow melts and warmer weather sets in, key highways - including the main road to Alberta's Fort McMurray, a major oil production hub - could be blocked for days, weeks or even months, prompting what one chief called "chaos."

These latest threats of economic upheaval come at a fragile moment in **First Nations** -Crown relations, especially now that National Chief Shawn Atleo announced on Monday that a regional chief will take over his duties while he takes a "brief" doctor-ordered stress leave.

Athabasca Chipewyan **First Nation** Chief Allan Adam said that while there are no plans to shut down Highway 63, the only all-weather road to Fort McMurray, on Wednesday, the government should expect a months-long summer blockade if it does not repeal or amend its recently passed omnibus budget bill that made changes to the **Indian Act** and the Navigable Waterways Act.

"If we're going to shut down that highway, we're going to shut it down completely- and not just for one day," he said, warning that "every major highway across the country" would fall to a similar fate. "It's escalated to a point where people's frustrations are beginning to run out, and when people's frustrations run out, things happen."

In Southern Ontario, Grand Chief Gordon Peters of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians warned that Wednesday's planned disruption along Highway 401 near Windsor is just a taste of what could come if the Harper government does not acquiesce.

"We want to demonstrate some of the things we have the power to do," he said, adding that he plans to raise the issue of a longer highway blockade at a chiefs assembly sometime in the spring. "There would be chaos."

In an interview with the National Post, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chief Chris Lewis agreed that there would, indeed, be chaos if protesters shut down Highway 401 for days on end, though he emphasized the force's commitment to avoiding another **Ipperwash** - the 1993 standoff that saw **First Nations** protester Dudley George shot and killed by police.

"There would be a point where we'd have to take action," he said. "How we do it and when we do it is critical."

That fact is not lost on the Congress of **Aboriginal** Peoples, which sent letters to all the major police forces across the country on Monday asking them to avoid using "unnecessary force or tactics." Nor is it lost on Rob Clarke, an **aboriginal** Conservative MP and an 18-year veteran of the RCMP, who said he is "worried" about the looming protests, or **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** , who on Monday told Postmedia News that he expects police to step in if demonstrations lead to "things being shut down."

Activists warned last week they would wreak economic havoc across the country on Wednesday, with reports of at least one major protest shutting down a lane of traffic along the Ambassador Bridge, North America's busiest border crossing, that connects Southern Ontario with Michigan. Commissioner Lewis said the OPP has been in touch with the organizers, but said the bridge itself falls under the jurisdiction of Windsor Police.

"If people get pushed the wrong way, then [violence] could happen," Chief Adam said. "One wrong move ... one wrong spark, and it will erupt."

Idle No More blockades along Ontario rail lines have already provoked two court decisions since December, shining a bright light on the murky world of policing **First Nations** protests. For Commissioner Lewis, the OPP's main role is keeping the peace and protecting the public - and not, in any way, purporting to play a role in resolving the centuries-old issues

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underlying the protests.

For Grand Chief Peters, **First Nations** protests are "not a police matter," but rather a "political" one. When asked about an officer's duty to enforce the rule of law, he said it is not the officer's job to get involved because he should not "get caught up being the middleman."

While he and Chief Adam threaten road closures, several high-profile chiefs have gone to great lengths to distance themselves from such rhetoric. On Sunday night, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs released a statement saying Grand chief Derek Nepinak does not condone violence, and on Monday Grand Chief Stan Louttit - whose territory includes Chief Theresa Spence's Attawapiskat - said in an interview that protests should be strictly peaceful.

"I can't speak for [Chief Adam]," Grand Chief Louttit said. "We don't know what could happen, but we know the history of Oka, **Ipperwash** and **Caledonia** . When push comes to shove, yeah, it could end up in the balance, but that's not our intention."

A spokesperson for CN Rail said the company is "watching the situation closely." The RCMP did not provide comment before deadline Monday evening.

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (NATIONAL)
EDITORIALS, Page: A12

Aboriginal affairs - the new Conservative priority

National Post

Amid the circus-like environment surrounding Friday's meetings between the Prime Minister and native leaders, something useful was achieved: An agreement to continue high-level discussions to settle long-standing **aboriginal** complaints about the **treaties** signed by Canadian government representatives over the past 200 years.

It was nothing close to a panacea, but it was an important step- as recognized by Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo, who attended the meeting despite considerable resistance from other chiefs and native activists.

"The implications here are massive," he told The Canadian Press. "What **First Nations** are seeking and what we will press for at the highest political level is recognition and implementation of our rights.... That can only come from a politi cal mandate. Well, the Prime Minister has just signalled engaging at that level."

Even NDP leader Thomas Mulcair acknowledged the value of the talks. "There is progress because they're talking very openly now about ... an accelerated process for **treaty rights** ," he said.

By no means is the misery and injustice that exists on many reserves across the country solely the federal government's fault. Much of it is inherent to small, economically unviable habitations - **aboriginal** or not - exacerbated by the lack of private **property** ownership and deplorable **governance** . Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike had the ironic effect, thanks to a leaked audit report, of showing Canadians just how shoddy that band's financial management has been.

Still, the state of reserves like Attawapiskat is a national shame, and somehow it must eventually change. Having come this far, it is very much in the national interest that Mr. Harper follow up with a serious and sustained effort to work with reasonable **First Nations** representatives like Mr. Atleo on a level playing field - and he should make sure he is seen doing it.

At some point, gut-wrenching decisions will need to be made about the future of communities that are, in effect, 100% subsidized by Ottawa. Resolving all the disputed **treaties** is a massive undertaking. But in the meantime, Mr. Harper has been presented with some not-outrageous demands that might successfully build goodwill: a designated minister to work with **natives** and provincial premiers toward an agreement on resource -sharing (though the goal must be real **economic development** , not just enriching the on-reserve elites); a new federal funding formula (hard to oppose, given the epic failure of existing funding); a public inquiry into missing and murdered **aboriginal women** ; a school in every native community. (A tougher sell will be the demand that the Tories back off on its omnibus budget bill. Plenty of non-**aboriginal** Canadians are offended by the arrogance the bills represent, but that ship has sailed.)

The Conservatives may seem unlikely champions of reform on this front. They are widely regarded on the left as unem-pathetic, and their cancellation of the Kelowna Accord - whatever its transformational prospects really were - is an open sore. But in fact, on matters of **accountability** , **governance** , self-sufficiency and **economic development** , the Conservatives are relatively in step with moderate, forward-thinking chiefs and their constituents. Legislative changes making it slightly easier for reserves to lease their lands have broad support among **aboriginal** leaders, for example. Yet, in part because they were wrapped up in the latest omnibus bill, in part because there was little consultation and in part because of garden -variety paranoia, they became one of the primary motivating grievances behind the **Idle No More** movement. Every member of every **First Nation** gets a vote on these leases, yet they are being touted by radicals as a shameless land grab by the white man.

First Nations leaders should try harder to counter ridiculous scaremongering. And the government must up its game with consultations. This seems a reasonable tradeoff.

The problems facing Canadian **aboriginals** , seen as a whole, can appear insurmountable. But they are surmounted, partially or wholly, on individual reserves every year. There will always be extremists unwilling to work with Mr. Harper - or any other prime minister for that matter. **First Nations** are no monolith, as last week's chaos in Ottawa showed us. But the

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moderates seem to be offering Mr. Harper an opportunity. He should seize it.

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TORONTO STAR

TORONTO STAR (ONT)
OPINION, Page: A15

Natives succeed in getting PM's attention

Gillian Steward

Since our prime minister is so intent on pushing through ambitious resource development projects, should it be any surprise that his grand vision would boomerang into an explosion of resistance from **aboriginal** people?

Does it not occur to him that every time he makes public pronouncements about our resource riches being the path to prosperity, when he invites Chinese investors into the resource sector, that **aboriginal** people might feel somewhat resentful?

I suspect it doesn't occur to him even though his western base is home to thousands of**aboriginal** people who are not exactly invisible. They are very much present in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Kamloops . . . almost any western town or city, as well as the many reserves outside the cities.

Of course, the resource wealth he is talking about does not lie underneath Calgary, Toronto or Ottawa. It is much further afield. In many places the oil, minerals, timber and **water** are on or near land that has been inhabited by various **aboriginal** groups since before Confederation.

Yet many of these people are still stuck with miserable living conditions while other people have come in, taken what they wanted, left a mess, and then grown rich.

This is not new. But Harper's grand plans for rapid development of oilsands in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, the Ring of Fire in northern Ontario, for pipelines that will cross northern B.C. so the oil can be delivered to Asia, and his gutting of environmental legislation to protect waterways, certainly rubs salt into old wounds.

But this time around **aboriginal** people are much better prepared to confront a prime minister who doesn't seem to give a damn about their old wounds. The **Idle No More** movement that has brought more than a few thousand people to the streets and barricades was started by four women in Saskatchewan where **aboriginals** and **Métis** are a force to be reckoned with. By 2015 they will comprise 20 per cent of the population, with half under the age of 21.

Doug Cuthand, a long-time **aboriginal** columnist with the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, writes that many of these young people are educated and prepared to take up the cause.

"Not to receive a positive response from the government means growing frustration in Indian Country, coupled with ongoing civil disobedience that could see blocked highways, stalled resource projects and international condemnation."

Cuthand also points out that over the past 30 years **aboriginal** groups have been winning court cases in which they demanded recognition of their collective right to consultation, and in some cases compensation, before resource development gets underway on their lands.

"The Harper government and First Nations are on a collision course. The government wants to make Canada a major exporter of natural resources. **First Nations** , however, are claiming title and want serious consultation and **resource revenue sharing** ," Cuthand writes.

Success breeds confidence, as Harper saw last week.

This determination coupled with the resolve of Chief Theresa Spence, who is undergoing the rigors of a hunger strike right in the heart of Ottawa, has created a powerful narrative that moves people like never before.

In the meantime, the federal government and most of the media focus on the divisions in the movement. And to be sure there are divisions. But isn't that par for the course? Since when are people who are trying to achieve something always united on goals, strategies and tactics?

Does no one remember the U.S. civil rights movement? Martin Luther King is now widely recognized as a national hero.

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But when he was campaigning for basic rights for U.S. blacks, he was opposed by the Black Panthers and Malcolm X for being too accommodating.

It's not clear what will eventually come out of the meetings between **aboriginal** leaders and the prime minister. So far, Harper has said he will devote more personal attention to the **aboriginal affairs** file. We'll see.

Perhaps he could also consider naming a senior cabinet member to that portfolio instead of the usual merry-go-round of junior ministers. Just as **aboriginal** people get used to one, he disappears and the learning curve starts all over again.

But one thing is certain. **Aboriginal** people have succeeded in getting this prime minister's attention. Many other disgruntled Canadians, including premiers, have tried only to be ignored as Harper steamrolls ahead with his agenda. **Aboriginal** people actually brought him to the table and that is quite a feat in itself.

Gillian Steward is a Calgary writer and journalist whose column appears every other week. gsteward@telus.net ILLUS: Protesters drum during an **Idle No More** demonstration in downtown Montreal on Friday. Ryan Remiorz/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CBC Radio-Canada

The National

AFN leader Shawn Atleo takes doctor-ordered break

PETER MANSBRIDGE

Participants: TERRY MILEWSKI, DANNY METATAWABIN, RAYMOND ROBINSON, PERRY BELLEGARDE, SYLVIA MCADAM, WALLACE FOX, ARLEN DUMAS, STEPHEN HARPER, AARON PAQUETTE

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST):

- ONSCREEN: "Atleo Out"

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo is suddenly sidelined. What this could mean as the Idle No More movement keeps up its momentum. -

With the Idle No More protests, a meeting with the Prime Minister and more than a few interviews, we have certainly been seeing a lot of Shawn Atleo. Tonight Atleo is taking time off to rest under doctor's orders. Terry Milewski is on this one for us tonight from Ottawa. Terry?

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Well, Peter, it's proving impossible to keep up last week's high intensity. National Chief Shawn Atleo is taking a medical break and one of the three hunger strikers is giving up his protest.

ONSCREEN: "Taking its Toll"

DANNY METATAWABIN (SPOKESMAN FOR THERESA SPENCE): (Ottawalast Friday) The hunger strike continues.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): At a latenight session after Friday's meeting, Chief Theresa Spence was joined by two others who haven't taken solid food in a month.

RAYMOND ROBINSON ABORIGINAL HUNGER STRIKER): I'm not going to give up.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Ray Robinson pledged to carry on his protest alongside Spence, but the third striker, Jean Sock, is giving up to go home to his mother who has cancer. Many chiefs say the other two should give up too.

PERRY BELLEGARDE (AFN REGIONAL CHIEF FOR SASKATCHEWAN): (Regina) We are all concerned with their well-being and, you know, there are different chiefs and leaders asking now for all of them to come and walk with us, you know? And they can leave with honour and dignity for all that they've done.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): One ofdle No More 's founders went further saying Spence does not speak for her movement.

SYLVIA MCADAM (CO-FOUNDER, IDLE NO MORE): Idle No More is the face of all Indigenous people, all grassroots people. It's not just the face of one. We hardly have any communication with Chief Spence.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): As for National Chief Shawn Atleo, he had the flu before the last hectic week and is now taking time off on doctor's orders, but the unanswered question is how much energy the Idle No More movement still has.

WALLACE FOX (CHIEF, ONION LAKE CREE NATION): Stop the roads, stop the rails.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Despite last week's threats, nobody really knows what comes next.

ARLEN DUMAS (CHIEF, PUKATAWAGANFIRST NATIONS): (Winnipeg) These movements, the chiefs, we can't control them, you know? We can try to influence them but we don't control the movements of the people.

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TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): For his part, the Prime Minister said as little as possible.

STEPHEN HARPER (PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA): (Montreal) I thought we had good discussions with a number of **Aboriginal** leaders last week. Obviously we don't necessarily agree on everything but I think we had a good exchange.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): But Harper was the target of another lively exchange on Twitter. Edmonton artist Aaron Paquette dreamed up the hashtag "Ottawapiskat" and got a cascade of comments like this one poking fun at federal spending.

ONSCREEN: (Tweet) #Ottawapiskat chief spent $300,000 on sunscreen and bug sprayand $14,000 for glow sticks for G8-G20 summit in 2010.

AARON PAQUETTE (**FIRST NATIONS** ARTIST): If we can't laugh at it, we're going to take it so seriously that we get stuck and can't move forward at all.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Still, there won't be too much laughter if the **Idle No More** protests spread and if Chief Spence gets weaker. Peter?

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): All right, Terry, thank you. Terry Milewski in Ottawa.

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CALGARY HERALD

CALGARY HERALD (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A5

Atleo's leave won't slow progress: AFN

National chief taking time off to recuperate

Michael Woods, Postmedia News; With Files From Jordan Press

A surprise announcement by the national chief of the Assembly of **First Nations** that he is taking temporary sick leave won't stall the momentum of **First Nations** ' negotiations with the prime minister, the AFN said Monday - even as **natives** angry with the federal government prepared for a day of protest this week.

National Chief Shawn Atleo announced he is taking some time off to recover from illness after being ordered to do so by his doctor.

His statement came after he and some regional chiefs from the AFN met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper Friday to discuss **treaty** issues, concerns about the government's two budget bills and **economic development** on reserves.

In a letter posted to the AFN website, Atleo said many "long conference calls, late-night meetings, and frustrations" over the past two weeks had caught up with him.

"This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now," the letter reads.

After arranging last Friday's meeting with Harper, Atleo faced backlash from some **First Nations** chiefs, who wanted the meeting to take place in a larger venue and include the Governor General. Atleo appeared to grow paler and thinner as the week wore on, as he sought to reconcile divisions among the chiefs gathered in Ottawa.

Atleo's sudden leave prompted speculation Monday that it was a response to political pressure from dissenting factions within the **First Nations** community. Last week, several chiefs issued veiled threats that Atleo could lose his job if he attended Friday's meeting with Harper.

Atleo was diagnosed over the holidays with Noro-virus, a bad flu bug, and never fully recovered. Now, after a hectic few weeks, he has doctor's orders to stay in bed. It's likely he will be back within a week or so.

William G. Lindsay, director of the office for **aboriginal** peoples at Simon Fraser **University** , said he doesn't think the absence of Atleo's strong but moderate voice will hurt other moderate **First Nations** leaders.

"The vast majority of **First Nations** people, including leadership, are moderate," he said. "They want change, but they are also willing to negotiate."

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Regional Chief Roger Augustine, who also attended the meeting with Harper, will chair executive meetings in Atleo's absence.

Harper said he held good discussions with a number of **aboriginal** leaders last week.

"Obviously we don't necessarily agree on everything, but I think we had a good exchange of views, and I certainly look forward to further conversations, particularly with the national chief when it's convenient for him to do so," he said at a Montreal news conference.

Atleo last week said he thought the meeting achieved something, as Harper agreed to high-level talks about **treaty** implementation and comprehensive **land claims** .

But the promise of more discussion isn't enough for the **Idle No More** movement.

On Wednesday, protests will take the form of temporary traffic and border slowdowns across the country, said Pam Palmater, a Ryerson **University** professor who has emerged as a leading spokesperson for the movement.

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"There will be some rare instances where some Canadians will be inconvenienced for a short period of time," she added. "So far, the majority of Canadians have been very understanding."

Idle No More organizers are also calling for a worldwide day of action on Jan. 28, the day the House of Commons resumes. When asked how much the protests could escalate, Palmater said Idle No More is committed to nonviolent protest. ILLUS: / Pam Palmater; Adrian Wyld, The Canadian Press / Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo says many "long conference calls, late-night meetings, and frustrations" have taken a toll on his health .;

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
NATIONAL NEWS, Page: A1

Ailing national chief Atleo takes sick leave at critical time

GLORIA GALLOWAY

The head the Assembly of First Nations is stepping aside temporarily on doctor's orders as tensions within his organization and a rift with other chiefs are intensifying.

Shawn Atleo, the national chief of the AFN, announced Monday that the long days and nights of the past two weeks, when first nations leaders were preparing for the five-hour session last Friday with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, have caught up with him. He is suffering from the norovirus and exhaustion.

Mr. Atleo has decided to withdraw just as schisms within his organization are becoming more pronounced, raising the risk that future agreements with the government will be ignored or rejected by native factions.

Derek Nepinak, the grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, issued a statement Monday saying the news media have made heroes of Mr. Atleo and his followers because that helps maintain the existing power structure.

"The truth, however, is that the true heroes are those people who have broken free from the dictates of colonial powers' schemes and refused to participate in trumped up meetings that lead to no tangible outcomes for the benefit of our communities and the families relying on us," Mr. Nepinak said.

But Doug Kelly, the grand chief of the Sto:lo Tribal Council in British Columbia and a friend of Mr. Atleo, says the forces working against the national chief are being propelled by those who resent his re-election last July.

"I think there is a breakdown in our discipline and that breakdown is caused by dissatisfaction or sour grapes with election outcomes," he told The Globe. "Some chiefs did not get the memo that their candidate lost, the election is over. So now they are threatening to go after the national chief, they are threatening a non-confidence vote. It's all nonsense."

After securing Mr. Harper's commitment last week to take a more direct hand in first nations issues, Mr. Atleo said in a statement Monday that "we must seize the agenda and drive the next steps on each and every element."

He has turned the job of preparing for the next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 24, over to Perry Bellegarde, the regional chief for Saskatchewan, and Jody Wilson-Raybould, the regional chief for British Columbia. Ms. Wilson-Raybould said in a telephone interview that Mr. Atleo's leave will in no way affect the effort first nations leaders are making to create a strong negotiating position in advance of the next meeting.

As the AFN executive puts together its bargaining strategy, protests are being planned for Ontario and parts of the Prairies on Wednesday by chiefs who boycotted the meeting last week because, they said, it was conducted on terms established by Mr. Harper and not the first nations .

Specifically, the Friday meeting did not meet the demands of Theresa Spence, the chief of Attawapiskat who is five weeks into a hunger strike, that Mr. Harper and Governor-General David Johnston be in the same negotiating room with the first nations leaders.

Grand Chief Gordon Peters of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians , who last week called for the Wednesday day of action, said resentment over Mr. Atleo's decision to go ahead with the meeting over the objections of other chiefs remains - but he didn't criticize him directly. Mr. Peters said Monday that he had seen no official word from the AFN about what was achieved last week. But the protests, he said, will go ahead.

The only way the impasse between the government and the first nations can be resolved, Mr. Peters said, is if Mr. Harper agrees to a "paradigm shift" - one that started to consider treaties as international documents between nations rather than domestic contracts. "It means they have to start from square one again," he said.

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TORONTO STAR

TORONTO STAR (ONT)
NEWS, Page: A4

Atleo steps aside with norovirus

Follows doctor's orders to take a break from First Nations top job

Tonda MacCharles Toronto Star

Amid rising discontent among **aboriginal** grassroots and dissension in the ranks of Assembly of **First Nations** chiefs, National Chief Shawn Atleo is stepping briefly aside for **health** reasons, he announced suddenly Monday.

Atleo, who was visibly thinner and pale last week, is not quitting the job but suggested the stress of the past weeks has taken a toll. B.C. regional chief Jody Wilson-Raybould confirmed Atleo had been battling a norovirus over the holidays and was not contagious, but not yet fully recovered.

In a statement released by the AFN, Atleo said he is following doctor's orders in taking a break.

"I am proud of the support we received from **First Nations** citizens and chiefs across Canada, even during the most difficult days. There were many long conference calls, late-night meetings, and frustrations in the past two weeks. I regret to have to tell you that those long days have caught up with me. This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now."

Atleo said grassroots pressure and the "sacrifices made by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence and her fellow strikers, and the work of many regional chiefs and the national executive of the AFN" were successful in seizing the attention of Canadians and the Conservative government, and called for the work to continue in his absence.

Meanwhile, the Star has learned one of Spence's companions on Victoria Island, Joseph Jean Sock, a **Mi'kmaq** from **Elsipogtog** , N.B., ended his hunger strike Monday and was returning home.

Atleo has been viewed as an intelligent, pragmatic counterpart for Prime Minister Stephen Harper to deal with, but efforts of **First Nations** to work with the federal government appeared to have stalled after last year's **aboriginal** summit, as the government's attention shifted to an aggressive resource development agenda and improving economic ties with China.

At a news conference in Montreal, Harper said he looked forward to speaking further with Atleo "when it is convenient for him to do so."

Asked about concerns that the **Idle No More** protesters and chiefs threatening blockades could slow his resource-development agenda, Harper said his government would continue to focus in the coming year on "creating the growth, creating good-paying jobs for Canadians, and laying the groundwork for prosperity for all Canadians whether they're aboriginal or non-**aboriginal** now and in the future generations."

Atleo won re-election just six months ago as national chief of the Assembly of **First Nations** , and during his "brief absence" he named New Brunswick and P.E.I. Regional Chief Roger Augustine to step in and chair the organization's national executive meetings.

Atleo gave no interviews Monday. "I will see you all very soon and will return reinvigorated and strengthened to work with you to drive this change together with all of you." ILLUS: Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo, seen Friday, was re-elected to his post six months ago. CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (ALL BUT TORONTO)
NEWS, Page: A1 / FRONT

Protests peaceful for now, Chiefs say

'One wrong spark'

Kathryn Blaze Carlson, National Post

First Nations leaders and **Idle No More** activists have promised only peaceful protests on their national day of action Wednesday, but once the snow melts and warmer weather sets in, key highways – including the main road to Alberta's Fort McMurray, a major oil production hub--could be blocked for days, weeks or even months, prompting what one chief called "chaos."

These latest threats of economic upheaval come at a fragile moment in**First Nations** -Crown relations, especially now that National Chief Shawn Atleo announced on Monday that a regional chief will take over his duties while he takes a "brief " doctor -ordered stress leave.

Athabasca Chipewyan **First Nation** Chief Allan Adam said that while there are no plans to shut down Highway 63, the only all-weather road to Fort McMurray, on Wednesday, the government should expect a months -long summer blockade if it does not repeal or amend its recently passed omnibus budget bill that made changes to the **Indian Act** and the Navigable Waterways Act.

"If we're going to shut down that highway, we're going to shut it down completely-- and not just for one day," he said, warning that "every major highway across the country" would fall to a similar fate. "It's escalated to a point where people's frustrations are beginning to run out, and when people's frustrations run out, things happen."

In Southern Ontario, Grand Chief Gordon Peters of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians warned that Wednesday's planned disruption along Highway 401 near Windsor is just a taste of what could come if the Harper government does not acquiesce.

"We want to demonstrate some of the things we have the power to do," he said, adding that he plans to raise the issue of a longer highway blockade at a chiefs assembly sometime in the spring. "There would be chaos."

In an interview with the National Post, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chief Chris Lewis agreed that there would, indeed, be chaos if protesters shut down Highway 401 for days on end, though he emphasized the force's commitment to avoiding another **Ipperwash** -- the 1993 standoff that saw **First Nations** protester Dudley George shot and killed by police.

"There would be a point where we'd have to take action," he said. "How we do it and when we do it is critical."

That fact is not lost on the Congress of**Aboriginal** Peoples, which sent letters to all the major police forces across the country on Monday asking them to avoid using "unnecessary force or tactics." Nor is it lost on Rob Clarke, an **aboriginal** Conservative MP and an 18-year veteran of the RCMP, who said he is "worried" about the looming protests, or **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** , who on Monday told Postmedia News that he expects police to step in if demonstrations lead to "things being shut down."

Activists warned last week they would wreak economic havoc across the country on Wednesday, with reports of at least one major protest shutting down a lane of traffic along the Ambassador Bridge, North America's busiest border crossing that connects Southern Ontario with Michigan. Commissioner Lewis said the OPP has been in touch with the organizers, but said the bridge itself falls under the jurisdiction of Windsor Police.

"If people get pushed the wrong way, then [violence] could happen," Chief Adam said. "One wrong move ... one wrong spark, and it will erupt."

Idle No More blockades along Ontario rail lines have already provoked two court decisions since December, shining a bright light on the murky world of policing **First Nations** protests. For Commissioner Lewis, the OPP's main role is keeping the peace and protecting the public -- and not, in any way, purporting to play a role in resolving the centuries-old issues

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underlying the protests.

For Grand Chief Peters, **First Nations** protests are "not a police matter," but rather a "political" one. When asked about an officer's duty to enforce the rule of law, he said it is not the officer's job to get involved because he should not "get caught up being the middleman."

While he and Chief Adam threaten road closures, several high-profile chiefs have gone to great lengths to distance themselves from such rhetoric. On Sunday night, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs released a statement saying Grand chief Derek Nepinak does not condone violence, and on Monday Grand Chief Stan Louttit -- whose territory includes Chief Theresa Spence's Attawapiskat -- said in an interview that protests should be strictly peaceful.

"I can't speak for [Chief Adam]," Grand Chief Louttit said. "We don't know what could happen, but we know the history of Oka, **Ipperwash** and **Caledonia** . When push comes to shove, yeah, it could end up in the balance, but that's not our intention."

A spokesperson for CN Rail said the company is "watching the situation closely." The RCMP did not provide comment before deadline Monday evening.

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THE CALGARY SUN (FINAL)
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Defensive stance denies reality

RICKY LEONG

Before I say anything else, let's get one thing out of the way right now: There is no refuting Canada's **First Nations** have been the victims of racism.

Decades and centuries ago, misguided Crown and church attempts to integrate Native peoples and essentially erase their culture came dangerously close to what we'd call genocide today.

On the issue of **residential schools**, a program partly financed with federal money, the government issued a historic apology in 2008.

The actions of the Crown towards **First Nations** in the bad old days can't be dissociated from racist attitudes of that era. There is really no other way to see it.

For too many years, governments adopted now-questionable stances on other matters of culture and integration.

Such policies as the Chinese head tax immediately comes to mind.

From the end of the construction of the transcontinental railway in 1885 to the mid 1920s, immigrants from China were charged an extra, exorbitant fee -- a thinly veiled attempt to keep Chinese from settling here. Government gave up on the veil in 1923, ending the head tax but passing a law abolishing Chinese immigration entirely.

The federal government eventually apologized for that racist policy, too.

Japanese Canadians also felt the brunt of the federal government's cultural myopia and systemic racism.

The internment of Japanese Canadians and the seizure of their assets during the Second World War was advertised as a security measure against spies and infiltrators from warmongering imperial Japan.

We would eventually learn Canadian police and military officials had no evidence or fear of a home-grown attack.

Those policies were the easy way for the state to appease scared, xenophobic segments of Canadian society -- policies that eventually prompted an official **government apology** in the 1980s.

Just because some policy issues can be framed by questions of culture, racism and discrimination, doesn't mean it's always appropriate to do so.

My disdain for the political positions of Quebec separatists

doesn't mean a hatred of Quebec's people or culture.

My opposition to Chinese state ownership of oilsands assets without economic reciprocity doesn't correlate to any kind of racist attitudes against Chinese people. (Besides, the irony would be unbearable.)

Which brings us to the current nationwide discussion of Native issues brought on by the **Idle No More** movement.

There are very many things going wrong in Native communities and they need to be addressed.

There is no reason for **housing** to resemble shanty towns from the developing world.

Native children who live on reserves should not be denied the opportunities afforded to children who live off reserve.

Native communities should not have to put up with more **health** issues, substance abuse or crime than any other

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community in Canada.

Our **First Nations** should challenge the government if they believe they are being wronged with respect to treaties signed with the Crown.

The state definitely has a role to play in helping our **First Nations** communities.

But whatever solution is derived, it should involve some discussion of how our **First Nations** can help themselves alleviate the crises affecting far too many people.

And it shouldn't exclude scrutiny over how certain Native bands are run and how government monies are dispersed and spent on reserve.

This line of thought isn't racist: It's the same questioning faced by all levels of government in Canada and it's an essential component of a healthy political democracy.

To dismiss any of the criticism of Native administration as racism only serves to deflect discussions that need to take place if there's any hope of resolving any of the long-standing issues affecting **First Nations** communities.

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The London Free Press

THE LONDON FREE PRESS (FINAL EDITORIAL/OPINION, Page: A6

Natives can't have what they want

JOHN ROBSON

The Theresa Spence hunger strike, **Idle No More** movement and associated demonstrations have revealed a worryingly deep streak of utopian militancy among Canadian **Aboriginals** . Their cosmic demands and ominous rhetoric are both driven by ideas that must be digested sympathetically, then rejected with courteous, but absolute firmness.

Last Thursday, Derek Nepinak, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, warned, "The **Idle No More** movement has the people, it has the people and the numbers that can bring the Canadian economy to its knees.

"... We have the warriors that are standing up now that are willing to go that far. So we're not here to make requests. We're here to demand attention and to demand an end to 140 years of colonial rule."

It's tempting to brush it off. But Nepinak is not an idiot. An outstanding student and athlete in his youth, he got the Rne Creek **First Nation** out of a deep financial hole before his peers chose him for higher office. He speaks for far too many **Aboriginals** . And his threat to cripple Canada's economy is far from idle.

Here I strongly recommend retired colonel Doug Bland's Uprising (which my wife and I helped edit), a scarily plausible novel about a militant **Aboriginal** attack on Canada's transportation and energy **infrastructure** . Cooler heads must prevail, because anything resembling Bland's scenario would be a disaster for all Canadians, **Aboriginal** and otherwise. But Nepinak's logic points that way.

Especially given his demand for "an end to 140 years of colonial rule."

It sounds ludicrously vague, but people's words reflect their thinking. And the reason so many **Aboriginals** have been demanding the governor general attend their meeting with Stephen Harper is not that they misunderstand the role of the Crown within Canada.

It's that, in Theresa Spence's words, "It was the Crown that we made the **treaty** with, not prime minister. They're the keepers."

When **Aboriginal** leaders describe their relationship to Canada as "nation to nation," they mean it literally. They believe their ancestors signed **treaties** with the British Crown to live peacefully side by side with what later became the nation of Canada but separately from it.

They believe "Canada" has violated those **treaties** not in technical ways like underfunding **schools** but by invading them. And they think the Queen can, and can be persuaded to, order the Canadian government to back off and leave them alone on much of what we think of as "Canada." Ever since the settlement of Canada by Europeans became an overwhelming reality for **Aboriginals** , this dream has been repeated around campfires and kitchen stoves. Huge numbers of them really believe it.

It's tempting to ask where such people think residents of, say, Attawapiskat will get food, clothing or fuel if they "bring the Canadian economy to its knees."

But we're liable to get back the fantasy of living like the ancestors: Nepinak's own online biography characteristically includes that as a child, he "observed his great grandparents living the ways of his people; **hunting** , **fishing** , gardening, smoking fish, tanning moose hides and other traditional activities."

As if you could feed and clothe some 300,000 Aboriginals now living on reserves with flint arrows and hand-plaited nets. But this is a side issue. The key point is the British Crown will not order the white man to go away, taking every other non-**Aboriginal** race with him, and if it did, we wouldn't go. There is no need to be rude, but we must be absolutely clear about it because, for far too many **Aboriginals** , it is the only thing that will satisfy them.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Rabble.ca: Who has blocked progress for First Nations people?

Who has blocked progress for First Nations people?

By Karl Nerenberg|

The 1950 Japanese film Rashomon tells the story of a crime as related by four witnesses, who have four very different accounts.

The truth of the matter lies somewhere in the conflicting versions; but we're not too sure where.

Talking to folks, here in Ottawa, about the current state of Aboriginal Canada is a very Rashomon-like experience.

Ethnic rights? Lack of accountability and transparency? Big salaries for chiefs?

Take, for example, The Consultant, who has done work for Aborginal organizations, who says they can be difficult to deal with, self-interested, and do not always pay up promptly.

He recognizes the historic injustices we, of the majority society, have inflicted on First Nations; but is not sure how we might have done things differently.

After all, he says, we've doing better than Australia, have we not?

Like Pierre Trudeau, many decades ago, and many other Canadians today, The Consultant is uncomfortable with the Aboriginal demand for rights and "privileges" on what he conceives to be an "ethnic" basis.

He also worries about the much reported inflated salaries of some Chiefs, the apparent lack of effective democracy on many reserves, and the now-notorious questions of accountability and transparency on reserves such as Attawapiskat.

So, while he has, deep down, a principled belief that Canada must do much better on such basic matters as First Nations education, The Consultant does seem to agree with the view of many commentators (such as Jeffery Simpson of the Globe and Mail) that much of what is wrong in First Nations country is the fault of First Nations people themselves.

No time to bother with C-38 or C-45

As for the proximate causes of the current First Nations movement -- our Consultant must admit that he is quite unaware of the many affronts to First Nations' rights cosseted in the government's two budget omnibus bills.

Surprisingly for an economist and one-time government official, The Consultant confesses that he has been too busy to pay much heed to the abolition of Navigable Waters protection, the radical changes in the Fisheries Act or any of other Harper government stealth assaults that – as Immanuel Kant said on first reading the Scot David Hume's Treatise on Human Nature -- roused Aboriginal Canadians out of their "dogmatic slumbers" and gave birth to Idle No More.

Wants Canadians to learn more about First Nations

Another witness in this Rashomon-like drama is all too keenly aware of all of those Conservative government assaults.

He is the highly-respected, Former Senior Public Servant, and he has no use for what Harper has chosen to do through the sneaky mechanism of budget implementation legislation.

He does not think changes to the Fisheries Act, and all the rest, are problematic only because of their impact on First Nations. He worries about their impact on all of us.

He also thinks Canadians have a lot to learn about First Nations Treaties and what they mean, and about the concrete

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situation in First Nations communities.

To The Consultant's argument that First Nations people get extended health care benefits and free post-secondary education, unlike the rest of us, the Former Public Servant replies that those are, in fact, very mitigated benefits.

For most First Nations people on reserves, health care means a simple local nursing station.

To see doctors or get any sort of serious treatment they have be shipped out, far from home, to a major centre.

Well-meaning but often relatively inexperienced and under-resourced nurses have to engage in triage to decide which cases are serious enough to merit the cost of sending patients out for treatment.

Then, as well, the social and economic health factors for Aboriginal communities are all bad: lack of proper sanitation, poor drinking water, mouldy and overcrowded housing, hugely expensive food, lack of treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, and much more.

And health benefits, the Former Senior Public Servant explains, such as they are, are only available on reserve.

As for higher education – again, access is limited by the under-funded and second class primary and secondary education system -- which means that very few First Nations youth get the necessary qualifications to get into college or university. For those who do qualify, access to free tuition passes through the band councils, and is definitely not automatic.

'Natives are so divided we cannot get anything done'

Our respected Former Public Servant knows all that and much more.

But, having worked on the Aboriginal file in government, he also knows that there are huge barriers to getting anything done.

And, in his view, the virtual impossibility of reaching a degree of consensus among Aboriginal groups on almost any proposed reforms is one of the highest of those barriers.

However, when you put the following argument to the Former Senior Public servant, he cannot help but to at least partly agree.

The argument is that the Harper government happily proceeded with the many measures in the two budget omnibus bills, to which they had to know there would be considerable Aboriginal opposition. Not unanimous opposition, mind you. Some First Nations bands and First Nations people welcomed changes to the Indian Act to make it easier for bands to lease land, for instance. And some bands and Aboriginal individuals agree that the Navigable Waters Act could be an impediment to economic progress.

So the First Nations were divided on these proposals, as on so much else, even if most were not in favour.

Harper didn't worry about that lack of consensus, because First Nations interests were not uppermost in his government's mind in those cases. There were other powerful interests at play -- mining and oil companies, for instance.

And so it was full speed ahead and damn all torpedoes, whether from Aboriginals or environmentalists or former Conservative cabinet ministers.

However, when it comes to matters where there are no powerful economic interests at stake, such as First Nations education, any degree of division with Aboriginal Canada is sufficient to paralyze the government.

What is stopping reforms to First Nations education?

The fact is if First Nations education were as much a priority for this Prime Minister as pipelines, oil drilling and mining, he would have done something about it by now.

He would have taken the bull by the horns, confronted the deep divisions among First Nations groups, engaged the provinces, and crafted practical solutions.

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The government has the tools it needs on Aboriginal education – in the form of multiple studies, including its own National Panel that reported last February -- it just lacks the leadership and political will to make anything happen.

The respected Former Senior Public Servant knows that First Nations are simply not a priority for this Prime Minister.

Big betrayal of First Nations: Killing the Kelowna Accord

When former Prime Minister Paul Martin wanted to make the Kelowna Accord happen he invested considerable energy into it, and brought all the players around the table.

On education, just to focus on that one issue, had Kelowna been implemented six years ago, by now it would have made a big difference in the quality of classroom education for First Nations youth, on and off reserves.

Instead, what did Harper do almost as soon as he was sworn-in, in 2006? Scrap Kelowna, even though all provinces and First Nations leaders had agreed to it.

When we talk about the barriers to progress from the Aboriginal side we too easily forget betrayals such as the killing of the Kelowna Accord.

Ditching Kelowna echoes earlier betrayal in the 1980s

The futile series of Federal-Provincial-Aboriginal conferences on self-government that were triggered by the Constitution Act of 1981 (and its now famous "Section 35") were another example of bitter betrayal by the majority society.

In that case, the dice were loaded against the First Nations people.

The conferences were a last minute addition to the package of constitutional amendments that had started as Pierre Trudeau's effort to add an amending formula and Charter of Rights to a "patriated" Canadian Constitution.

Until almost the end of that process, more than thirty years ago, First Nations people were almost completely shut out.

Then, begrudgingly and at the very end, Trudeau and the Premiers added in Section 35, which recognizes and affirms "existing aboriginal and treaty rights."

The word "existing" is key here, because the white men who signed the deal thought it meant that nothing much would change for the Canadian majority, or for, as they then were called, "the Indians."

The Aboriginal groups wanted much more, back then.

They wanted a positive affirmation of inherent aboriginal and Treaty rights to land, resources and self-government. Lacking leverage, they had to settle for Section 35.

In practice, that Section, has in fact, come to mean far more than the Constitution's "white fathers" anticipated in 1981.

That's why Aboriginal Affairs John Minister Duncan had to say, just the other day, that the government believed it had satisfied Section 35 requirements in its omnibus budget legislation.

It is now universally accepted that Section 35 imposes an obligation on all governments to make sure that none of their legislation derogates from the existing Aboriginal or Treaty rights of First Nations.

As for the two omnibus Bills, C-38 and C-45, it is, in fact, very doubtful that any government lawyers even examined that Section 35 issue and advised on it, before the government proceeded.

The courts will now decide whether or not Harper's government properly respected its constitutional duty to fully consider the interests of First Nations.

However, back in 1981, the question of self-government institutions, with a fiscal and land base to support them, was paramount to First Nations.

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The Constitution's authors pushed any specific response to those demands off to a series of meetings to take place after the new constitutional provisions had been implemented.

And they imposed the new amending formula -- consent of the federal Parliament plus no less than seven provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the population – on any tangible measures that might result from those meetings.

Failure and frustration because the 'whites' could not agree!

There were four First Ministers meetings from 1984 to 1987 which, in the end, failed to reach the necessary level of agreement.

In retrospect, some optimists see the whole exercise as a minor win for First Nations because both the federal government and a number of major provinces, notably Ontario, supported a constitutional amendment that would have created self-government institutions.

In the end, though, the result was failure and frustration.

The consequences for the vast Canadian majority were negligible. Life could carry on as usual.

The consequences for Aboriginal Canadians were the bitter fruit of rejection and something quite close to a betrayal of the promise of 1981 wiht its mitigated "Section 35" victory.

Of course, all of this is now somewhat vague ancient history, now, both to The Consultant and to the respected Former Public Servant.

George Santayana's oft-misquoted aphorism about those who forget their history being condemned to repeat it has never been truer.

There are other perspectives in this Rashomon -like tale.

They will have to wait for tomorrow or the next day.

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THE EDMONTON SUN (FINAL)
EDITORIAL/OPINION, Page: 15

First Nations need help -- but also need to help themselves

RICKY LEONG

Before I say anything else, let's get one thing out of the way right now: there is no refuting Canada's First Nations have been the victims of racism.

Decades and centuries ago, misguided Crown and church attempts to integrate native peoples and essentially erase their culture came dangerously close to what we'd call genocide today.

On the issue of residential schools, a program partly financed with federal money, the government issued a historic apology in 2008.

The actions of the Crown towards First Nations in the bad old days can't be dissociated from racist attitudes of that era. There is really no other way to see it.

QUESTIONABLE

For too many years, governments adopted now-questionable stances on other matters of culture and integration. Such policies as the Chinese head tax immediately comes to mind.

From the end of the construction of the transcontinental railway in 1885 to the mid-1920s, immigrants from China were charged an extra, exorbitant fee -- a thinly veiled attempt to keep Chinese from settling here. Government gave up on the veil in 1923, ending the head tax but passing a law abolishing Chinese immigration entirely.

The federal government eventually apologized for that racist policy, too.

Japanese Canadians also felt the brunt of the federal government's cultural myopia and systemic racism.

The internment of Japanese Canadians and the seizure of their assets during the Second World War was advertised as a security measure against spies and infiltrators from warmongering imperial Japan.

We would eventually learn Canadian police and military officials had no evidence or fear of a home-grown attack.

Those policies were the easy way for the state to appease scared, xenophobic segments of Canadian society -- policies that eventually prompted an official government apology in the 1980s.

Just because some policy issues can be framed by questions of culture, racism and discrimination, doesn't mean it's always appropriate to do so.

My opposition to Chinese state ownership of oilsands assets without economic reciprocity doesn't correlate to any kind of racist attitudes against Chinese people. (Besides, the irony would be unbearable.)

Which brings us to the current nationwide discussion of native issues brought on by the Idle No More movement.

There are very many things going wrong in native communities and they need to be addressed.

SHANTY TOWNS

There is no reason for housing to resemble shanty towns from the developing world.

Native children who live on reserves should not be denied the opportunities afforded to children who live off-reserve.

Our First Nations should challenge the government if they believe they are being wronged with respect to treaties

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signed with the Crown.

The state definitely has a role to play in helping our **First Nations** communities.

But whatever solution is devised, it should involve some discussion of how our **First Nations** can help themselves alleviate the crises affecting far too many people.

And it shouldn't exclude scrutiny over how certain native bands are run and how government monies are dispersed and spent on reserve.

This line of thought isn't racist: it's the same questioning faced by all levels of government in Canada and it's an essential component of a healthy political democracy.

To dismiss any criticism of native administration as racism only serves to deflect discussions that need to take place if there's any hope of resolving any of **natives** ' long-standing issues.

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THE WINNIPEG SUN (FINAL)
EDITORIAL/OPINION, Page: 9

More cash no answer for reserve squalor

LORNE GUNTER

Back in the fall of 2011 when Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence was first in the news, Mark Milke of the Fraser Institute produced a fascinating comparison of her reserve's budget versus budgets for similar-sized non-aboriginal communities across the country.

Milke pointed out that Attawapiskat, a settlement with fewer than 1,600 residents, had an annual operating budget of nearly $32 million. Meanwhile, Atikokan, Ont., near Thunder Bay had almost 3,300 inhabitants -more than double that of Attawapiskat - and yet spent just $8.4 million providing municipal services. That's one-quarter the budget for a town with twice the population, or $20,140 per capita in Attawapiskat versus $2,550 in Atikokan.

Spence's complaint back then was that her reserve had too few houses for residents because Ottawa was giving it too little money. Milke's point was that there was no shortage of funds, so the cause of Attawapiskat's problems must lie elsewhere.

There are legitimate rea-s ons why a reserve such as Spence's might have to spend significantly greater amounts providing services. For instance, while Atikokan is hardly central, Attawapiskat is truly far away from industr ial civilizat ion. What's more, in Attawapiskat much of the employment is based on jobs created by the band government, whereas in Atikokan the private sector is the big employer. Plus the band is nearly the sole source of housing and health care.

Still, location and menu of services cannot come close to explaining the vastly greater sums spent at Attawapiskat, especially given the widespread squalor on the reserve.

This time, Spence, who is on a soup-only diet in an attempt to force a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is claiming Ottawa is violating her residents' treaty rights but not carving out for them a greater share of the resource revenues from their lands.

But the truth about this Attawapiskat grievance is similar to the truth about the last one: The problem is not too little income, it's what the band and chief do with the revenues they have.

As Paul Hebert, Vice-President of Government Relations for the Mining Association of Canada, told the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development last March, the DeBeers diamond mine near Attawapiskat has awarded $325 million in contracts to on-reserve companies over the past five years, including $51 million in 2011, the last year for which detailed numbers are available.

On top of that, Mr. Hebert explained, "Of the 500 employees at De Beers Victor Mine, 100 are from Attawapiskat. That's 20% of the workforce from that one community."

That money does not go to Chief Spence and her band council , but it is enough to start a healthy economic revival in a small community. The council in any non-aboriginal town of 1,600 would be over the moon if a new corporation came into their region and did $50 -75 million in spin-off business with local companies. The jobs, the taxes, the local purchases would go a long way to covering the municipal government's operating expenses.

It is interesting that the Idle No More leaders and Chief Spence want nothing to do with the Harper government's efforts to amend the Indian Act to give elected band councils greater freedom to make contracts with off-reserve companies. Instead the Idle activists and Spence simply want more money.

But if money were the problem, aboriginal issues would all have been solved long ago.

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THE KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD

THE KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: 9

CAW: Blockades could cripple us

PROTEST: First Nations demonstrations on Wednesday could 'shut down production' at Canadian auto and truck plants, warns Canadian Auto Workers boss

JESSICA HUME, PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

OTTAWA -- The Canadian Auto Workers Union warns that if "economic disruptions" planned for Wednesday escalate to full-on blockades, the economy could indeed be brought to its knees.

First Nations groups behind the **Idle No More** movement have planned major disruptions at corridors across the country including highways, railways and border crossings, in what they call a "Day of Action" to protest environmental legislation and lack of respect for treaties.

While some chiefs have called for peaceful protests and have urged activists to respect the law, others have taken a harder line.

Grand Chief of the Manitoba Chiefs Derek Nepinak last week threatened to "bring the Canadian economy to its knees."

One target is the Ambassador Bridge, North America's busiest border crossing, connecting Windsor, Ont., to Detroit, Mich. Each year, 25 million people cross the bridge and more than $130 billion in goods are transported across it.

Ken Lewenza, president of the CAW, told QMI Agency that if the "disruption" planned for the bridge turns into a full blockade or goes on for longer than four hours, it "could shut down production" at auto and truck plants.

"It's safe to say that anything beyond four hours would definitely create the potential for lost production in Canadian assembly plants," he said. "We're talking about 40-to 50,000 employees here. So there's no question that any kind of delay, even if it doesn't shut down an assembly plant, would create significant financial consequences."

Auto-manufacturing plants use a just-on-time policy, meaning parts arrive at a given plant on the same day they are to be assembled.

The good news, Lewenza said, is that the biggest plant-- Windsor Chrysler – will be closed Wednesday for inventory.

Sgt. Matthew D'Asti with the Windsor police said his force will closely monitor protests and decisions will be made Wednesday whether to arrest any individuals breaking the law.

"Our main priority is to keep people safe, including the protesters," he said.

Because **Idle No More** has no central organization, it is difficult to determine every site targeted for protest, but actions this weekend focus on major routes including Hwy. 63 to Fort McMurray, Alta., and routes near Calgary's Bow River.

Asked what the government is doing to prevent significant economic disruptions from taking place, the Canada Border Services Agency replied that "it will be business as usual at all of CBSA ports of entry."

"We will update travellers should there be service interruptions or longer wait times, as per our usual protocol," CBSA spokesman Jean D'Amelio Swyer said.

jessica.hume@sunmedia.ca ILLUS: photo by Cheryl Brink QMI Agency A young boy leads a march across the Seaway International Bridge into Cornwall, Ont., recently as part of an **Idle No More** protest. **First Nations** groups behind the protest movement have planned major disruptions on Wednesday at corridors across the country including highways, railways and border crossings.

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TIMES COLONIST

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CAPITAL & VAN. ISL., Page: A3

Idle No More to block Pat Bay

Wednesday protest along ferry, airport routes

Judith Lavoie, Times Colonist

Anyone heading for a ferry or to the airport Wednesday morning should leave early or plan an alternative to the Pat Bay Highway.

Idle No More protesters plan to block both sides of the highway at Mount Newton Cross Road shortly after 11 a.m., and organizers are uncertain how long the blockade will last.

"I don't know how long it's going to be blocked for. People will determine that at the time," said Tsawout elder Eric Pelkey, one of the organizers.

"We need to get our point across and, if we know people are listening, we will move," he said.

Murray Sampson, a member of Tsartlip **First Nation** and **Idle No More** organizer, said efforts will focus on the highway and there are no plans to block West Saanich Road, which provides an alternative route to the ferry terminal and airport.

The blockade is unlikely to last longer than a bad ferry lineup, Sampson said. "It's disruptive, but our lives have been disrupted for over 150 years now," he said.

"People just want to have their voices heard," said Sampson, adding that **Idle No More** objectives, such as protection of the environment, apply equally to **First Nations** and non-**aboriginal** Canadians.

"It's about peace, about working together. It's not just about our rights being deteriorated."

Although the protest is being organized from the Tsawout **First Nation**, it is expected that **Idle No More** supporters from across southern Vancouver Island will attend.

Saanich Peninsula concerns centre around lack of recognition for the Douglas **Treaties**, said Pelkey, Tsawout senior **treaty** officer.

"We have been to court numerous times and had the treaty ratified in B.C. Supreme Court, but the government still fails to recognize, honour and implement the **treaty**."

Sidney/North Saanich RCMP Sgt. Wayne Conley said police will meet with organizers today. "We are hoping to find out a little bit more about their plans."

It is likely RCMP, who are responsible for **First Nations** policing, will assist Central Saanich police, he said.

Conley, who is hoping the protest will be more about information and visibility than a blockade, said blocking both sides of the highway would mean traffic would have to be rerouted. "But it's all speculation until we know what they are doing," he said.

Volunteers are being asked to help with traffic control, Pelkey said. "And, if the RCMP want to give us a hand, that would be great."

Terry Stewart, spokesman for Victoria International Airport, said staff will keep an eye on the situation and, if it looks as if there are significant delays, information will be posted on the airport's webpage, Facebook and Twitter.

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TIMES COLONIST

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NEWS, Page: A2

First Nations appointments to salmon commission not renewed

James Keller, The Canadian Press

The federal government has allowed the only two First Nations appointments to a Canada-U.S. commission that manages Pacific salmon to lapse, prompting aboriginal fishermen to accuse Ottawa of shutting them out.

The Pacific Salmon Commission was set up as part of the 1985 Pacific Salmon Treaty, which governs how salmon are managed and shared off the West Coast.

Each country appoints eight people to the commission: four commissioners and four alternates, though in practice all eight are treated as full members.

Traditionally, Canada has had one First Nations commissioner and one First Nations alternate, but the most recent aboriginal commissioner, Grand Chief Saul Terry of the Bridge River Indian Band, north of Vancouver, wasn't reappointed after his term ended in March of last year. Ottawa has yet to name a replacement.

The First Nations alternate commissioner, Russ Jones of the Haida Nation, hasn't been formally reappointed since his term expired last March, though he isn't sure whether that means he's on or off the commission.

Jones said he's still permitted to attend and participate in commission meetings, but the Fisheries Department has stopped covering his travel expenses and he's been unable to get any explanation from the federal government.

"Currently, there are no First Nations commissioners appointed, although I have been participating as I can," Jones said in an interview ahead of a major Pacific Salmon Commission meeting taking place this week in Vancouver.

"It certainly does [present a problem], especially when we have high First Nation participation in the fisheries."

The Pacific Salmon Commission referred questions about the roster of commissioners to Ottawa.

The federal Fisheries Department declined to comment about when, or even if, it would reappoint First Nations members to the commission, responding with a brief written statement that said decisions are "pending." The department did not answer a question about Jones's status as an alternate commissioner.

The Fisheries Department's written statement also ignored questions about concerns that First Nations aren't adequately represented on the commission.

The lack of First Nations representation on the commission comes as Canada and the U.S. renegotiate a key provision of the treaty known as the Fraser River annex, which governs sockeye and pink salmon from the Fraser River.

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Winnipeg Free Press

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Native agenda rises

the time the snow melts, either.

Canada's **aboriginal** people scored a major victory Friday when Prime Minister Stephen Harper agreed to make **treaty rights** and other grievances a top-level priority that would receive what the prime minister called "enhanced oversight" by his office. It doesn't mean that any of the numerous outstanding grievances will be resolved immediately, and the government refused to back down on some key stumbling blocks, including the recently passed omnibus bill that some **aboriginals** claim tramples on their rights.

But native concerns now have the highest profile since the constitutional debates under former prime ministers Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney. As a result of Friday's meeting, they've been elevated from a departmental responsibility to one of major national importance.

The grassroots **Idle No More** movement and the hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat **First Nation** in northern Ontario led to the sudden turnaround in national priorities, but there were other factors, too.

It's doubtful, for example, that anything would have been achieved on Friday without the constructive, respectful leadership of Chief Shawn Atleo of the Assembly of **First Nations** , who regrettably is now taking a medical leave.

And despite the fact previous polls have shown most Canadians don't rate aboriginal issues very high on their list of priorities, public opinion is playing a role. Many Canadians may not understand the intricacies of the **aboriginal** -Canadian relationship, which almost requires degrees in law and history to fully comprehend, but they are aware of native suffering and they expect Mr. Harper to manage the file in a way that produces progress and avoids further acrimony.

It may be unfair that the weight of**aboriginal** history has fallen upon this prime minister alone -- the blame goes back hundreds of years -- but the fact is he is the country's leader at a critical moment in time and it is his responsibility to move the file forward.

Under all these circumstances, the protesters can rightly claim to have made a difference, but they risk losing their influence -- the moral high ground, according to them – if their demonstrations escalate into acts of violence.

The **Idle No More** movement has achieved all that can be reasonably delivered in the short term.

The paternalistic and racist **Indian Act**, which governs every aspect of native life on reserves and which was originally intended as a tool of assimilation, should have been eliminated decades ago, but the political will didn't exist. (Actually, the Trudeau government wanted to do just that, but **aboriginal** leaders rejected it because it failed to recognize their special place in Canada.)

The legislation governs every aspect of**aboriginal** life on reserves, including their right to vote, which wasn't granted until 1961. Even the right to move freely in the country was restricted.

During the last 50 years, the government's approach has been to modify and slowly dismantle aspects of the**Indian Act**, but the process was flawed and the political will for substantial change did not exist.

The Harper government recognizes the Act is an impediment to a renewed relationship, but it has taken the position it cannot be eliminated without replacing it with new agreements on a broad range of issues, including funding, resources, individual and group rights, **health** care and so on.

This is a reasonable approach and one that would recognize **aboriginals** as a unique group with special rights, but it does require consultations, not just with more than 600 **Indian** chiefs, but with reserve residents, too. It's one thing to want to repeal the **Indian Act**, but new laws and **treaties** must replace it, and these must have the consent of those who will be affected.

The process shouldn't take another 10 years, but it won't be done by the time the snow melts, either.

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CTV - CANADA AM

Idle No More member says meeting with PM was not enough

THOMAS MULCAIR (Leader of the Opposition): I would sincerely call upon Chief Spence to realize that there has been a step in the right direction, to try to see if now if we can keep putting pressure on the government to follow through.

[Taped segment ends]

IEN: That was NDP leader Thomas Mulcair on CTV's "Question Period" Sunday, calling on Chief Theresa Spence to end her hunger strike. Spence's actions have in part helped fuel the **Idle No More** movement. This past weekend thousands of demonstrators continued to take part in protests right across the country.

Idle No More spokesperson Pamela Palmater is with me this morning.

Good to have you here.

PALMATER: Thanks for having me.

IEN: I want to start right there with what Mr. Mulcair had to say and about Chief Spence, because there was a meeting with the Prime Minister, there was a meeting with the Governor General. He says: Okay, steps have been made, she should end the strike now.

What do you think?

PALMATER: Well, I mean, with all due respect to Mr. Mulcair, he's missing the point. He's missing what was actually asked for by **Idle No More** weeks before Chief Spence started her protest, what the chiefs were talking about in their assembly, and then what she was protesting about.

IEN: So, what is the point?

PALMATER: It was that we had to deal with the immediate threat, which was the legislation. So, **C-38**, **C-45** and all the other pieces of legislation that were being opposed on **First Nations** that would be devastating to our lands and waters. That was the spark that started this whole **Idle No More** movement. Not a word was mentioned in that meeting except for Harper to say we're not going to deal with that legislation.

And the other issue was also the funding cuts to the First Nation organizations and **First Nation** communities, communities that are already in a crisis on things like **water**, **housing** and **infrastructure**. Nothing was even mentioned about that.

And what she wanted, what Chief Spence wanted, what **Idle No More** wanted and what the chiefs wanted was a nation-to-nation meeting. So, between the Prime Minister and the Governor General and all **First Nation** leaders. That has been the request since the very beginning. That didn't actually transpire.

So, I'm not sure why Thomas Mulcair or anybody else would be saying: Okay, Chief Spence, you're good now, give up your hunger strike.

IEN: Well, what did transpire though was a clear division between the AFN and what activists, grassroots people, wanted.

PALMATER: Mmhm.

IEN: Tell me about that division, why you came out and you said: Listen, the AFN didn't represent what we wanted.

Tell me more about that.

PALMATER: Well, the division is even greater than that. So, you have the AFN which is a political organization which was very divisive this week and wasn't representing what the majority of chiefs who were in Ottawa were saying.

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And they clearly said during that week leading up to those meetings -- of which I was there, I was carrying a proxy -- specifically said: AFN, listen, you said you would kick down the doors and open them up for the chiefs, because the chiefs are the representatives and the decision-makers. You've opened the door. Now step back and let us do our job. We are the ones who represent the people.

And they didn't do that. And, worst than that, the majority of the chiefs there arrived at a consensus by the end of the week and said: Listen, here's how the meeting is going to take place if it takes place at all. And they set out how it was going to take place. During the night, the Assembly of First Nations went on and made its own arrangements and decided to go to the meeting anyway despite what the majority of chiefs said. That's a clear division between the people who are the decision-makers and the leaders.

IEN: And does that division have to be rectified --

PALMATER: Yes.

IEN:-- before anything is done?

PALMATER: Well, I would think so. Because the AFN, in theory, is supposed to be representing the First Nation leaders who in turn represent their grassroots people. If they're not even listening to the First Nations leaders, well, there's no chance that they're going to be representing the grassroots people.

And, look, at the end of the day, who loses? Out of this meeting was there a promise for anything but more high-level meetings, to have more high-level meetings to maybe talk about a potential high-level process?

IEN: Idle No More , are you calling for ramped-up protests on Wednesday?

PALMATER: Well, I think that Idle No More has really expanded. So, there's a variety of things that are going to be happening and --

IEN: Are you in favour of the protest on Wednesday?

PALMATER: Oh yes, most definitely. For my part, we're definitely ramping up the protests, rallies, teach-ins, round dances. But they're all peaceful. That's the thing.

And what's really interesting about Idle No More is they're all grounded in our culture. Because we're trying to share the information with Canadians about how this impacts them in a way that's safe and shares our culture.

IEN: But when you, you know, there are blockades at rail lines and border crossings. Do you think that that kind of disruption works? Is that the message that you want to send to the public?

PALMATER: Well, I'd say about 95 percent of our activities are all very, um, very low key. So, marches, rallies, handing out leaflets. For the very few that we have that are temporary traffic slowdowns or temporary border slowdowns, we also include our culture. In that, we also include leaflets, information and discussion with Canadians. And what we've found actually is that even at the traffic slowdowns and at the temporary border slowdowns, people get out of their cars and ask questions and say, "Well, we want to know what's happening, and how can we help?" Some of them have even joined.

So, we're reaching Canadians. We're trying to find the best way to do that. But at the same time, we have to send a very strong message to Harper, that just because he had a meeting with the AFN doesn't mean he dealt with any of the issues that are impacting First Nations and Canadians with regards to our lands and waters.

IEN: Good to have you here, Pamela.

PALMATER: Thank you.

IEN: Thanks for coming in.

Pamela Palmater, Ryerson University's Centre for Indigenous Governance

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
COMMENT, Page: A13

Bypass the chiefs

The protesters have a legitimate movement, but the events of recent days have illustrated the fractures and failings of first nations leadership and the whole rotten system. We need to give individual Indians the resources for education , mobility and a better life

GORDON GIBSON

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What to make of the events involving Canada's native people in recent days?

The country's most famous hunger striker has declined to declare victory and moved the aspirational goal posts after successfully hijacking the Prime Minister's schedule. Canadians are divided as to whether she's another Mother Teresa or an incompetent small-town administrator on a highly publicized weight-loss program. The **Idle No More** movement has seen demonstrations across the land, so far peaceful but with no sign of peaking. Yet the movement has no coherent program or leadership. Spokespeople demand a shifting grab bag of change.

The **Indian** establishment is fractured. The nominal leadership of the Assembly of **First Nations** has met with the Prime Minister with no tangible results beyond national chief Shawn Atleo succumbing to exhaustion. Numerous other chiefs have rejected that process, challenging their elected leader and threatening serious civil disorder.

Treaty negotiations across the country are stalled. On-reserve **poverty** reigns despite immense public expenditure. Cries of "genocide" and "colonialism" rive the air. Topping it all, a federal judge has issued a ruling effectively doubling the number of legally recognized **Indians** in Canada.

How to parse these events?

Begin with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence. Were her reserve truly a sovereign nation, it would be a failed state. The waste of money, inadequacies of **governance** and favouritism have been so clearly documented as now to be common parlance. Her people continue to suffer dreadfully and this must be addressed, but the chief herself is a spent force. The more forcefully the spotlight shines, the more rapidly her credibility will melt.

Idle No More will have a similar transience. Did Occupy Wall Street make a difference? Sadly, no. The concerns of this movement are legitimate, too. But it shares Occupy's weaknesses: no coherent leadership, no defined program, no institutional continuity. It is just another demonstration of the power of social media. The only real question is whether true damage to persons, property or the economy is caused in the process, at which point sympathy will be lost.

Which brings us to the chiefs. **Idle No More** is a direct cri de coeur , a commentary by ordinary **Indian** people on the legitimacy of their leaders. And on many reserves, that point is so well taken.

All over the world, when you put large powers into the hands of small governments, you are looking for waste and corruption and extended family control using outside taxpayers' money. The average reserve population in Canada is well under 1,000, mostly young. If the **Indian** people had to rely only on their chiefs, they would be in trouble. Fortunately, they can also rely on a deep well of sympathy and concern among Canadians generally, which could be the key to eventual progress.

The chiefs, through the AFN, have just released eight points of demand. Some are sensible, such as guarantees for ongoing high-level attention. This is essential. The problems are so deep and complex that they require sustained prime ministerial authority.

Some are to be expected, such as the call for lots more money.

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Some are half-right. One is the call for a school on every reserve. Of course, every child needs access to good schooling, and in isolated situations, it has to be on the reserve. But reserve schools as currently managed are a well-known betrayal of their children. They are interfered with politically and find staff almost impossible to keep. Outcomes are generally better at provincial **schools** . But when the government came up with a plan to create **Indian** -managed school boards to take the politics out of the existing situation, the chiefs shot it down, as they do with every perceived threat to their power.

The AFN has also demanded resource sharing. Good idea, but it requires consent of the provinces, which own the resources.

One of the demands is nonsense. The idea of required consultation with **Indians** on government legislation that affects all Canadians equally cannot be taken seriously.

Some chiefs have threatened to blockade the country this week. This will not be progress. It will harm their cause and undermine the rule of law.

And so it goes. The judge's creation of about 600,000 new Indians will be appealed for years. In the end, even if jurisdiction is confirmed, it need not be exercised. (After all, thanks to not being Indians, **Metis** have done much better.) Although, you never know with this government - it is in the process of inventing as many as 70,000 new **Indians** in Newfoundland with a new annual medical and educational bill in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Treaty negotiations? The situation is a disgrace. In **British Columbia** , 20 years and $1-billion in negotiating costs have produced exactly two new **treaties** , with maybe two or three more to come in the near term. And there are almost 200 B.C. bands. I have sat for almost four years on the **Indian** side of one of these tables and I can report that the governments (not their representatives at the table, who are powerless) are negotiating in bad faith.

What is the way out?

First, unless the Prime Minister gets deeply involved, little progress will be made. The whole rotten system is suffering from a deficit of attention, imagination and determination.

Second, we have spent way too much time and treasure on chiefs and not nearly enough on **Indians** . Send much less money to the chiefs and put it directly to individuals and families. Give individuals the resources for mobility: cash and **education** . Half of **status Indians** have already voted with their feet and left the reserves for a better life.

Third, pay the provinces to deliver the social programs, such as **health** and **welfare** , that they deliver reasonably well for the rest of us. Take the management away from **Indian Affairs** .

Upon every confused sea, a sailor needs a guiding star. The individual is the fixed point here. Follow that and we will make a safe harbour.

Gordon Gibson is the author of A New Look at Canadian **Indian** Policy: Respect the Collective; Promote the Individual.

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Times&Transcript

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT (MONCTON)
OPINION, Page: D7

Should aboriginal community reexamine reserve life?

MARK MILKE TROY MEDIA COLUMNIST ?

CALGARY - With all the attention paid to the **Idle No More** movement and the off-again on-again talks between some native chiefs and the prime minister, one basic fact about **aboriginal** life in Canada has been forgotten: Most **Aboriginals** do not live on reserve and seem to be better for it.

That's an important fact that should be part of any debate about how to improve the living standards of **Aboriginal** Canadians.

Their general plight is already well-known: When compared to other Canadians, Statistics Canada data shows that proportionately fewer **Aboriginal** Canadians finish high school and of those that do a smaller proportion will obtain **post-secondary education** . **Aboriginals** are also less likely to be in the labour force, they will face higher unemployment rates, and their median earnings are less. They are thus more dependent on government transfers when compared with non-**Aboriginal** Canadians.

However, what is less often articulated in much detail is how those Aboriginals off-reserve fare better than those **Aboriginals** on-reserve.

To see what I mean, some background is necessary to put that claim in context.

According to Statistics Canada, for census purposes, "**aboriginal** identity" refers to people who self-identify as belonging to one or more of the following **aboriginal** groups: North American Indian, **Métis** or **Inuit** . According to the 2006 census (the 2011 results are not yet available) 1,172,790 Canadians placed themselves in one of those three groups or some combination thereof.

Here's the thing: of those, almost 1.2 million Aboriginals, just 308,490 live on reserve, or barely more than 26 per cent. Thus, fully 74 per cent of Canadians who self-identify as **Aboriginals** do not live on reserve.

Yes, populations on reserves have increased, partly because the population of self-identified "North American Indians" is growing. But as the statistics show, a greater proportion of that category of Canadians lived off-reserve in 2006 when compared to 2001. In other words, the off-reserve population is growing faster than the population on reserve.

Looking more closely, the **Aboriginals** most likely to live on reserve are "North American Indians" or **First Nations** in more common parlance. Of that group, 300,755 out of 698,025 live on-reserve, or 43 per cent (again, as of the 2006 census).

In other words, 57 per cent of Indians/**First Nations** people do not live on reserve. And that's up from 55 per cent who lived off-reserve, as of the 2001 census.

A caveat: Census data differs from that recorded by the department of **Aboriginal** Affairs for reasons not germane here. But **Aboriginal Affairs** data shows a similar pattern in its 1983 to 2010 tracking: a growth in the number of people on reserves but a decline in the proportion of registered Indians on reserve.

So why does all this matter? Because additional data from Statistics Canada reveals that those most likely to live on-reserves (the "North American Indian" category), have lower median incomes compared to other **Aboriginals** .

For example, according to the 2006 census, for all **Aboriginals** grouped together (whether on or off-reserve), the median earnings figure for someone who worked full-time was $36,944.

But what is revealing is how that **Aboriginal** category breaks down. **Inuit** had the highest median income at $44,440 with **Metis** next at $39,784. Indian/**First Nations** people (combining on-reserve and off-reserve) had a median income of just $34,209.

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Remember, all of the foregoing statistics are for those who worked full-time all year.

Now break the "Indian" category down even further between those on-reserve and those off-reserve.

On-reserve Indians had a median income of $29,014. In contrast, off-reserve Indians had a median income of $37,477. In other words, **First Nations** people/Indians who live off-reserve have a median income that is almost $8,500 higher than their counterparts on-reserve.

It's no secret as to why many reserves and the inhabitants suffer: many are far from large urban centres. Most reserves are also not yet designed to foment any sort of property rights for inhabitants.

The combination of remoteness and anti-wealth creating collective structures (to say nothing of the politicization of reserve spending) means many reserves thus lack the economic, educational and career opportunities that accompany living near a major centre.

As native and non-native politicians alike ponder what to do about aboriginal policy, they should keep in mind this simple fact: For most of Canada's **Aboriginal** population, life is better away from the reserve. That might explain why a majority of **Aboriginal** Canadians, including a majority of North American Indians, choose not to live on reserves.

? Mark Milke is a Senior Fellow with the Fraser Institute and author of Life is Better in the Cities.

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TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

NEW BRUNSWICK TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL
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Canada, your seams are showing

Based on the events of the past week, Canada's constitutional earth is as scorched today as when the country's political establishment - including the **First Nations** leadership - got burnt in a national referendum two decades ago.

If anything, our collective will to undertake some heavy lifting to co-habit politically may have continued to decrease since the 1992 rejection of the Charlottetown constitutional accord.

In today's political **climate**, it would be impossible to even contemplate gathering the successors of the architects of the Charlottetown accord around the same table, let alone expect them to rally around a unanimous proposal on a comprehensive way forward on the constitutional front.

To wit, the difficulties in finding enough goodwill to hold Friday's half-day meeting involving a single order of government and only one of the many constituencies - albeit the most complex one - that fought for attention and accommodation at the time of the last failed constitutional round.

Yes, the approach of Stephen Harper's government has contributed to the most serious breakdown in the relationship between the **First Nations** and the Crown since the 1990 Oka crisis.

And yes, the current Prime Minister, through wilful neglect, has potentially squandered one of the best chances for productive dialogue with the **First Nations** by marginalizing Grand Chief Shawn Atleo, one of the most pragmatic interlocutors a federal government has had a chance to deal with in more than a generation.

Jim Prentice and Chuck Strahl, Prime Minister Harper's first two **Indian Affairs** ministers, grasped the crucial importance of maintaining bridges with the **First Nations** leadership. Sadly, once it had a governing majority and with a less politically astute minister on the front line, the Conservative government reverted to what many of its critics feel are its basic steamrolling instincts.

But at the end of the day, the current outpouring of **First Nations** frustration is also the culmination of a systemic and collective failure to take the bull of history by the horns.

That failure is not just exemplified by the **Idle No More** movement and the possible radicalization of a new **First Nations** guard in the face of perceived federal hostility.

The presence in Quebec of yet another sovereigntist government is another token of unaddressed unresolved issues with another of Canada's founding peoples.

But these tensions are not just a result of the policy mindset of the party that happens to be in power on Parliament Hill

Canadians are quick to cast judgment on the Americans and the entrenched societal reflexes that prevent them from arriving at consensual outcomes on **health** care or on the place of guns in their society.

But some similar blockages have long crippled our national conversation and reduced the capacity of those who govern Canada to recast some fundamental relationships.

Political will- as was shown at the time of the Meech and Charlottetown debates - has obvious limitations when it does not intersect with the popular will.

Over the past few weeks, there are those who have been dismayed by the toxic tone of the social media as the **First Nations** issue has heated up. But the twittersphere is only providing a more public outlet for a visceral and polarizing current that systematically surfaces in tandem with any discussion of the place of the country's national minorities in modern-day Canada.

It was just easier to diminish the existence of that current back when it was not in plain sight.

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Does not anyone remember the quasi-hysterical reaction and the over-the-top language that attended the adoption of a mere House of Commons resolution dealing with Quebec's national status in 2006 in some otherwise mainstream quarters?

Or what about the vitriolic comments that so routinely make their way below media stories related to Quebec these days that many no longer take notice of them?

There are many admirable features to Canada's attachment to a civic form of nationalism but the tendency to use it to refuse to come to terms with the distinctive elements that are at the root of the country's identity is not one of them.

Chantal Hébert is a syndicated columnist for the Toronto Star.

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THE CALGARY SUN (FINAL)
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GRAND CHIEF

Clarence Louie took his band from rags to riches

MICHAEL PLATT

Idle No More ? Chief Clarence Louie was never idle in the first place.

That's not to mistake one of Canada's hardest-working **First Nations** leaders as a fan of Canada's **Indian Act**, or an apologist for lousy federal land deals, broken promises or **residential schools** .

When it comes to **First Nations** getting the smelly end of the stick from Ottawa, the leader of the Osoyoos **Indian** Band is about as scathing a critic as they come.

He recently branded the federal Department of Fisheries "a bunch of idiots" for allowing fish farming along a fragile Okanagan river, and he says the Harper government could use a good tongue lashing.

"Sometimes that's the only way-- every government needs to be hollered at once in a while and every individual does too," says Louie.

"We all need to be scolded -- I still get scolded; the old timers scold me. Everyone needs a kick in the rear now and then – it doesn't matter who you are."

What makes Louie different is his refusal to place all the blame outside the reserve, using past injustices and historic misery as an excuse to wallow in **poverty** .

If he has barbed words for the colonial past which sent Canada's reserves into a downward spiral, Louie often saves his sharpest criticism for the defeatist attitude which continues to hobble Canada's **natives** .

"If your life sucks, it's because you suck," he's been heard to say at **First Nations** speaking events. Ouch.

It gets better: Louie doesn't shy away from telling other chiefs and band members that the days of blaming the federal government for your woes are over -- and the time has come to help yourselves.

"With **Idle No more** , it's great to talk about **treaty** issues and **land claims** and the environment and all that," he tells the Sun.

"But there also has to be talk about jobs and the idleness of unemployment and the great depression of unemployment rates that exist on most of our **First Nations** . That's half the problem, right there."

It's one thing to have a sharp tongue-- but Louie has also shown he has one of the sharpest minds in Canadian politics.

Last fall, the Osoyoos **Indian** Band landed a $200-million federal prison contract, bringing another 240 full-time jobs to the reserve's new industrial park near Oliver, B.C..

It's great news, though jobs aren't in short supply on the 32,000-acre south Okanagan reserve.

The arid reserve is home to 470 band members and holds the distinction of owning the most businesses per capita of any **first nation** in Canada – so many that it has imported workers from 35 less-affluent bands.

Under Louie's leadership, which started in 1985, Osoyoos **Indian** Band has gone from rags to riches, from **Indian Affairs** bankruptcy management to economic self-sufficiency.

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A**First Nation** forced to labour on U.S. fruit farms is now an enviable power in the Okanagan, pumping millions into the local economy and employing hundreds of people.

Since Louie founded the Osoyoos **Indian** Band Development Corp. in the early 1980s, the reserve has launched more than half a dozen major projects, including a luxury resort, golf course and a construction company.

The band's vineyard, planted before Louie was named chief, now operates as Nk'Mip Cellars, and has won awards as the top winery in B.C. – and proceeds go towards helping the reserve's desert ecosystem.

Critics have blasted Louie for forgetting his culture and

heritage – but the money earned through business helped the band open the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre to promote traditions.

"Everything costs money – talk is cheap, whether it's environmental cause, cultural causes, spirituality, religion. Everything costs money," says Louie.

"Unsettled **land claims** and broken **treaties** , those things still need to be addressed. But at the same time, we have to focus on creating jobs and making money."

Louie's demands for**natives** to improve their own lot might be branded racist if it came from anyone but a successful **First Nations** leader – but Louie doesn't downplay the **Idle No More** movement.

Idle No More has accomplished a lot in the sense of awareness and the media, and it's in every newspaper I've had in my hands today -- so it's good that it's raised **First Nation** issues in this country," he says.

"Normally, it gets swept under the rug."ILLUS: 3 photos Since the 1980s, the Osoyoos **Indian** Band Development Corp. has launched several major projects including a golf course and a luxury resort.

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THE VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER SUN (FINAL)
CANADA & WORLD, Page: B3

Disconnect growing between First Nations, non-aboriginals

Barbara Yaffe, Vancouver Sun

In the ongoing conflict between Canada's First Nations and Ottawa, there is a silent partner - the non-aboriginal community.

And many in that community are losing patience, both with aboriginal threats of civil disobedience and Stephen Harper's handling of the file.

An Angus Reid poll late last week revealed 54 per cent of Canadians surveyed earlier this month give the Harper government a poor rating on aboriginal affairs. Nor have First Nations given Canadians much confidence about their management prowess.

A recent report detailing a lack of financial documentation on Chief Theresa Spence's Attawapiskat reserve only confirmed suspicions about dubious spending. This is no small matter. The feds spend more than $10 billion a year on aboriginal programs.

From the non-aboriginal perspective, Spence, on a liquid diet since beginning her protest on Dec. 11, is probably the worst possible poster child for First Nations governance.

The northern Ontario enclave of 1,500 - which received $334,465 in welfare payments in 2010-11 - pays Spence a $70,000 salary, tax free, and is governed by no fewer than:

. 14 paid chiefs and council members;

. two paid administration staff;

. five paid unelected officials - including a $45,276 (tax free) "daycare manager;"

. a dozen paid "education authority" officials.

Acting band chief, Wayne Turner, in 2010 claimed nearly $70,000 in travel expenses.

Public perceptions about aboriginal governance matter. If Ottawa is to expand treaty rights or boost funding for First Nations, Harper will want to have public support, particularly from his Conservative base.

At this point, that base is no doubt deeply concerned about the ongoing demands by aboriginals, some of whom are threatening blockades to disrupt Harper's resource-dependent jobs-and-growth plan.

Meanwhile, a Federal Court of Canada decision last week could see some 404,000 Metis joining 840,000 Indian-status Canadians already in the queue for federal benefits.

Such benefits include financial help for post-secondary education; on-reserve social programs and health benefits; exemption from GST and income tax for reserve residents.

"This is a potential powder keg," Harri Jansson, former chair of Vancouver's Board of Trade, told me last week.

He calls the aboriginal benefits a "gravy train. The anger is starting to build among non-Indians."

The Harper government, aware of taxpayer frustration, in November introduced Bill G-27, the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, requiring chiefs to make public their salaries.

For their part, the chiefs tend to blame on-reserve poverty on Ottawa.

Many non-aboriginals reject such an interpretation, and yearn to see aboriginals themselves address their problems -

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by getting their young people educated, and training band members for northern resource jobs near reserves.

They're probably wondering why, relatively speaking, so few native communities have penned lucrative revenue-sharing agreements with resource companies operating in the north.

Wondering, too, how it is that a select number of reserves are taking their own initiative and prospering.

B.C.'s Osoyoos Band is one. Chief Clarence Louis, back in 2006, delivered a speech to a Fort McMurray aboriginal audience, and warned: "Blaming government? That time is over."

Louis' 400-member reserve, admittedly in a prime Okanagan location, operates a resort, golf course and winery.

Asserts the reserve's website: "Band people honour the hard-working, self-supporting lifestyles of our ancestors by developing our own economy through our business initiatives."

You get the sense, even if this band were in a remote location, these folks would have found ways to be industrious.

Why don't other bands follow this reserve's example? Why aren't chiefs at least ensuring that on-reserve youth stay in school?

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LE DEVOIR

LE DEVOIR
POLITIQUE, Page: A3

Le chef Shawn Atleo en congé forcé

Cette absence survient au terme d'une semaine marquée par des divisions chez les Autochtones

Marie Vastel

Ottawa -- Shawn Atleo a réussi à obtenir une rencontre avec le premier ministre vendredi dernier, mais les négociations pour y parvenir ne se seront pas faites sans heurts. Incapable de combattre un virus contracté pendant les Fêtes, le chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations (APN) prend un congé maladie.

Shawn Atleo s'était fait discret en marge de la réunion qu'il a tenue avec Stephen Harper, accordant peu d'entrevues dans les jours entourant la rencontre. Lundi, par voie de communiqué, il a annoncé qu'il se retirait temporairement, sur ordre de son médecin qui lui a recommandé de se reposer. Son porteparole a précisé qu'il souffrait d'un norovirus- une forme de gastro-entérite - et qu'il n'avait pas eu suffisamment de temps pour s'en remettre. " J'ai le regret de vous dire que ces longues journées m'ont rattrapé ", a expliqué M. Atleo aux membres de l'APN.

Il parle toutefois d'une " brève absence ". " Je vous verrai très bientôt, et je vais revenir revigoré et avec plus de force pour travailler avec vous afin de mener ce changement ensemble avec vous tous ", conclut-il.

Ce congé forcé survient toutefois au terme d'une semaine mouvementée pour Shawn Atleo, qui a été la cible de vives critiques de la part de représentants autochtones de l'Ontario et du Manitoba, qui ont boycotté la rencontre avec Ottawa vendredi en accusant le chef national de ne pas respecter leur volonté en acceptant une réunion sans la présence du gouverneur général et dont l'ordre du jour avait été dressé par le premier ministre plutôt que par eux-mêmes. Ils ont même été jusqu'à le menacer d'un vote de censure afin de lui retirer son mandat de trois ans remporté l'été dernier.

Mauvais moment

Semblant prendre acte de ces divisions, Shawn Atleo appelle dans son communiqué les chefs du pays à se serrer les coudes. " Nous avons la responsabilité de travailler ensemble [...] Nous avons en place les leaders pour s'assurer que le travail soit fait. Et maintenant, nous avons un engagement public de la part du gouvernement et de ce premier ministre à l'effet qu'ils traiteront ces dossiers comme une priorité. "

Mais le retrait de Shawn Atleo arrive à un mauvais moment, puisqu'au terme de sa rencontre avec la délégation de l'APN le premier ministre s'était engagé à revoir le chef national dans les prochaines semaines pour faire le suivi. De passage à Montréal, M. Harper a indiqué qu'il espérait pouvoir continuer à travailler avec lui sous peu. " J'ai hâte d'avoir d'autres conversations, particulièrement avec le chef national quand cela lui conviendra ", a-t-il réagi au retrait de M. Atleo.

Rencontre incertaine

Le sort d'une rencontre qu'espérait tenir l'APN la semaine prochaine demeure également incertain. Avant que M. Harper convoque les chefs autochtones , Shawn Atleo avait lancé sa propre invitation pour le 24 janvier. Son bureau travaille toujours pour qu'elle ait lieu. Au bureau du ministre des Affaires autochtones , John Duncan , on a indiqué qu'il " reste prêt et disposé à rencontrer les chefsautochtones ".

A l'issue de la réunion la semaine dernière, le premier ministre a par ailleurs promis " des dialogues de haut niveau " sur les questions autochtones et que celles-ci seraient à l'avenir sous la supervision de son propre bureau et du bureau du Conseil privé. Ni le bureau du premier ministre ni celui du ministre Duncan n'ont par contre été en mesure de préciser hier quelle serait la structure de cet outil de supervision. Les détails n'auraient pas encore été décidés, explique-t-on en coulisses.

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TIMES COLONIST

TIMES COLONIST (VICTORIA) (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A2

National chief's leave to delay Ottawa talks

Heather Scoffield, The Canadian Press

A sudden medical leave announced Monday by the head of Canada's largest **aboriginal** organization will delay - but not derail - pivotal talks between **First Nations** and Stephen Harper, says **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** .

In an interview with The Canadian Press, Duncan said there's little hope a one-on-one meeting between Harper and National Chief Shawn Atleo can still take place by Jan. 24 - a date that was floated during their contentious meetings last week.

The two leaders had agreed to talk to their respective teams and regroup soon in order to set out a concrete plan to implement the agreements reached last week on re-examining ancient **treaties** and **aboriginal rights** .

Duncan said he does not expect Atleo, a member of Ahousaht **First Nation** on the Island's west coast, to return to work for at least another two weeks. Still, he said backroom work on the agreements reached last Friday will continue as planned, involving top officials from the government and the Assembly of **First Nations** .

"No one has got certainty for when the national chief will return, but I took it that it would be at least two weeks away," Duncan said. "But we were thinking ... it would be at least that long before any further meeting got underway."

Atleo announced Monday that his doctor has ordered him to take a "brief" sick leave despite the AFN being in the midst of a political crisis, with some chiefs and **First Nations** citizens questioning the group's authority.

Atleo came down with the flu before Christmas and never had a chance to beat it, said Jody Wilson-Raybould, the regional chief for **British Columbia** and one of the key AFN officials tasked with mapping out how to implement the agreements with Harper to revisit **treaty** and **aboriginal rights** . She said Atleo could return in a matter of days.

Atleo said the meetings and frustrations over the past two weeks simply caught up with him.

"This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now," he said in a statement.

"I will see you all very soon and will return re-invigorated and strengthened to work with you to drive this change together with all of you."

Atleo has been the target of much criticism from other chiefs and **First Nations** people for agreeing to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper last week.

After a week of intense meetings, Atleo had managed to pull together a consensus on what topics the meeting should address. But he was not able to persuade Harper to have Gov. Gen. David Johnston attend - a key demand of a faction of chiefs, including fasting Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.

Several leading chiefs said the assembly should have refused the meeting, because it didn't take place on their terms, and on their turf. Chiefs from Manitoba, Ontario, Northwest Territories and some from Saskatchewan boycotted the Harper meeting and instead protested in the streets outside the Prime Minister's Office.

After the meeting, criticism continued to pour in. And Spence insisted on maintaining her liquids-only protest, despite mounting calls for her to declare victory.

"There is a growing sentiment and concern around her **health** , and a recognition that she can in fact leave with dignity," said Wil-son-Raybould, pointing to the thousands of people who have rallied for **First Nations** rights across the country and to the commitments Harper has made.

"I would hope that Chief Spence would consider ending her hunger strike."

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Atleo's absence will leave a big, if temporary, vacuum in Crown-First Nations politics.

Atleo was re-elected last summer for his second three-year term. He won solid backing despite his opponents saying that he was too cosy with Harper and the federal government.

And while the federal Conservatives don't think of him as a close ally, Harper made it clear Monday that he considers Atleo the point person on First Nations issues - especially as he gears up for a follow-up meeting with chiefs.

"I thought we had good discussions with a number ofaboriginal leaders last week. Obviously we don't necessarily agree on everything, but I thought we had a good exchange of views," Harper said Monday in Montreal.

"I certainly look forward to further conversations, particularly with the national chief, when it's convenient for him todo so."

Atleo has named Regional Chief Roger Augustine, who represents chiefs from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, to chair and facilitate executive meetings in his absence. He said he has also asked senior staff to set up "working teams" to support the complicated preparations that are required to make good on the agreements reached last week with Harper.

But after taking the weekend to reflect on how to handle recent events, Idle No More activists say they are going ahead with a national day of protest this Wednesday - and taking pains to encourage peaceful, non-violent activity.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples issued a statement Monday urging would-be protesters and activists to ensure their actions are peaceful - and citing the 1995 police shooting death of native protester Dudley George at Ipperwash Park as a reminder to police of the potentially tragic consequences of unwarranted aggression.

"True Warriors protect the weak, and I ask our young people to not let frustration lead to unnecessary violence," said Ron Swain, national vice-chief with the congress. "I understand that aboriginal rights, treaty rights [and] cultural integrity are issues to fight for, but in Canada we are fortunate to have the rule of law." ILLUS: Adrian Wyld, The Canadian Press / National Chief Shawn Atleo said Monday he has been forced to take a medical leave due to the flu.;

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THE VANCOUVER SUN

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CANADA & WORLD, Page: B2

B.C. chief urges halt to economic protests

Minister joins in appeal to avoid blockades

Peter O'Neil, Vancouver Sun

Federal **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** and one of Canada's senior **First Nations** leaders, Jody Wilson-Raybould of Vancouver Island, are calling on **aboriginal** demonstrators to avoid economic disruption during a planned national day of protest on Wednesday.

Wilson-Raybould, the B.C. regional chief for the Assembly of **First Nations** , said she and other senior West Coast native leaders hope to hold a conference call with B.C. chiefs today.

She said she will advise them not to follow the lead of some chiefs east of the Rockies who vowed last week to shut down Ontario's transportation corridors, Manitoba's mining industry, and the Alberta highway that leads to the heart of the oilsands sector around Fort McMurray.

"I will certainly be speaking about the reality (that) shutting the country down economically will have an impact on everyone, including our **First Nations** ," Wil-son-Raybould, who describes herself as a strong backer of the grassroots **Idle No More** movement, told The Vancouver Sun.

"Our communities benefit from the economy in **British Columbia** . We need to be strategically thoughtful," said the 41-year-old former Crown prosecutor and the daughter of longtime B.C. **aboriginal** leader Bill Wilson.

While Wilson-Raybould and Duncan disagree strongly on several aspects of B.C.'s bogged-down **treaty** process, Duncan said in a separate interview that he shares her views on civil disobedience.

"My message is that working together is better than creating confrontation," Duncan said. "As long as it's just a protest about **aboriginal** issues, that's one thing. But if it's a process that leads to things being shut down and so on, I would expect (law enforcement authorities) would step in."

AFN national chief Shawn Atleo, who is also from Vancouver Island and whose leadership was questioned by some chiefs last week, announced Monday he was taking time off on the advice of his doctor.

"I regret to have to tell you that those long days have caught up with me. This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now," Atleo said in a statement.

Atleo said Roger Augustine, the AFN's regional chief from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, will chair AFN executive meetings. Wilson-Raybould will continue to play the lead role in the AFN in the **comprehensive claim** process, a huge issue for **First Nations** in B.C., according to the AFN news release

Only two **treaties** have been finalized in B.C. despite more than 20 years of talks and more than half a billion dollars spent by **First Nations** on negotiations, with the majority of that money either lent or given by the federal government.

Duncan said Harper's commitment last week to "high-level" discussions on the **comprehensive claim** process will make it easier for him to push matters through the federal bureaucracy.

But he said Ottawa has already made progress since last fall, when he announced a new "results-based" approach that puts emphasis on negotiations that are most likely to lead to success.

"We saw a new degree of seriousness from some of the tables that are now recognizing that, guess what, if there isn't any real sign of progress, the federal government's going to withdraw. So I would say there have been some very positive movements since the month of September in **British Columbia** on **treaty** negotiations."

But Duncan wouldn't make any predictions on whether any of the dozens of B.C. **First Nations** involved in negotiations

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will achieve breakthroughs in 2013.

He said there are too many uncertainties, including political shifts in communities that are often triggered by internal opposition to pending deals from opponents who exploit social media.

Another serious impediment cited by both Duncan and Wilson-Raybould was the issue of conflicting claims. The federal government still hasn't ratified in Parliament the treaty with the Yale First Nation. That tentative deal is being opposed by the much larger Sto: lo Tribal Council, due to Sto: lo concerns about conflicting fishing rights on the Fraser River.

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L'ACADIE NOUVELLE
ANALYSE, Page: 15

Harper laisse passer la chance de s'engager dans une nouvelle voie avec les Premières Nations

L'attitude du gouvernement de Stephen Harper a suscité la plus profonde dégradation de la relation entre les Premières Nations et la Couronne depuis la crise d'Oka de 1990.

Chantal Hébert

Compte tenu des événements de la semaine dernière, la terre constitutionnelle du pays est aussi brûlée aujourd'hui qu'elle l'était à l'époque où la classe politique du Canada - y compris les dirigeants des Premières Nations - ont été échaudés dans un référendum il y a 20 ans.

Au contraire, notre volonté collective à s'attaquer aux questions difficiles en vue de coexister sur le plan politique n'a cessé de diminuer depuis le rejet de l'Accord constitutionnel de Charlottetown, en 1992.

Dans le climat politique actuel, on pourrait difficilement envisager d'asseoir à une même table les successeurs des maîtres d'oeuvre de l'Accord de Charlottetown et encore moins s'attendre à ce qu'ils se rallient à une proposition unanime concernant une solution étoffée en matière de constitution.

A preuve la difficulté à trouver la bonne volonté nécessaire pour tenir la rencontre d'une demi-journée de vendredi dernier faisant participer un seul ordre de gouvernement et seulement un des nombreux groupes d'électeurs du pays - même s'il s'agit du groupe le plus complexe - qui se sont battus pour qu'on les écoute et qu'on réponde à leurs besoins lors de la dernière ronde constitutionnelle infructueuse.

Oui, l'attitude du gouvernement de Stephen Harper a suscité la plus profonde dégradation de la relation entre les Premières Nations et la Couronne depuis la crise d'Oka de 1990.

C'est aussi un fait que le premier ministre, par négligence volontaire, a peut-être laissé passer une des meilleures chances de nouer un dialogue fructueux avec les Premières Nations en marginalisant Shawn Atleo, chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations et l'un des protagonistes les plus terre à terre avec qui le gouvernement fédéral a eu l'occasion de négocier depuis plus d'une génération.

Jim Prentice et Chuck Strahl, les deux premiers députés ministres des Affaires indiennes, saisissaient l'importance cruciale d'entretenir des relations avec les dirigeants des Premières Nations. Hélas, dès que les conservateurs ont obtenu un gouvernement majoritaire et confié le ministère à un député moins perspicace sur le plan politique, ils sont revenus à ce que bon nombre de leurs détracteurs estiment être un instinct primaire de bulldozer.

En fin de compte, les expressions actuelles de la frustration des Premières Nations sont aussi le résultat d'un refus systémique et collectif de tailler dans le vif de l'Histoire.

Ce refus n'est pas seulement illustré par le mouvement « Idle No More » et l'éventuelle radicalisation d'une nouvelle garde des Premières Nations face à une hostilité perçue du fédéral.

La présence au Québec d'un nouveau gouvernement souverainiste est un autre symbole de questions en suspens et non résolues avec un autre peuple fondateur du Canada.

Néanmoins, ces tensions ne sont pas tout simplement le résultat de la perspective stratégique du parti qui est au pouvoir sur la Colline parlementaire.

Les Canadiens n'hésitent pas à juger les Américains et les réflexes sociaux bien ancrés qui les empêchent d'aboutir à des ententes consensuelles sur les soins de santé ou sur la place des armes à feu dans leur société.

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Or, des blocages semblables paralysent notre conversation nationale depuis longtemps et ont amoindri la capacité des dirigeants du Canada à moderniser des relations fondamentales.

La volonté politique - comme celle présente lors des débats sur l'Accord du lac Meech et de Charlottetown - comporte des limites manifestes lorsqu'elle s'éloigne de la volonté du peuple.

Ces dernières semaines, certains ont été consternés par le ton toxique des médias sociaux à mesure que l'enjeu des **Premières Nations** prenait de l'ampleur. Cependant, la twittersphère ne fait que donner un moyen d'expression plus publique à un courant viscéral et polarisant qui surgit systématiquement en même temps que toute discussion sur la place des minorités nationales dans le Canada d'aujourd'hui.

Il était tout simplement plus facile d'amenuiser l'existence de ce courant à l'époque où il était imperceptible.

Personne ne se souvient de la réaction quasi hystérique et excessive ayant accompagné l'adoption d'une simple résolution de la Chambre des communes portant sur le statut national du Québec en 2006 dans certains milieux dominants à tous autres égards?

Que dire des commentaires vitrioliques qui sont si souvent laissés au bas d'articles web portant sur le Québec par les temps qui courent que bien des lecteurs n'y prêtent plus attention?

Il existe une foule de qualités admirables associées à l'attachement du Canada à une forme civique de nationalisme, néanmoins, la tendance à y recourir pour refuser d'accepter les éléments distincts qui sont à la base même de l'identité du pays n'est pas du nombre. PHOTO: La Presse Canadienne: Ryan Remiorz ILLUS: Les expressions actuelles de la frustration des **Premières Nations** sont aussi le résultat d'un refus systémique et collectif de tailler dans le vif de l'Histoire.

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LA PRESSE

LA PRESSE
DÉBATS, Page: A19

L'apartheid canadien

Lysiane Gagnon

Faut-il abolir les réserves? A tout le moins, fermer celles qui, trop reculées, n'offrent ni emploi ni perspective d'avenir, et maintiennent les Indiens dans l'état malsain d'assistés sociaux perpétuels?

Ne pourrait-on pas affecter les milliards de dollars consacrés en vain à ces ghettos misérables au transfert des communautés à proximité de centres urbains, dans des habitations décentes, et à de vastes programmes d'éducation et de formation professionnelle pour les jeunes **autochtones** ?

C'est ce que dicterait la logique, tout autant que le simple respect dû à ces populations qui forment l'équivalent d'un tiers-monde dans l'un des pays les plus prospères de la planète.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau y avait déjà songé. Il trouvait, non sans raison, que le système des réserves était une invention raciste, analogue à l'apartheid sud-africain. En 1969, Jean Chrétien, alors **ministre des Affaires indiennes** , publiait un livre blanc visant l'abolition de la **Loi sur les Indiens** et leur assimilation dans la population en tant que minorité ethnique.

Ce fut le tollé chez les chefs autochtones, qui ne voulaient pas entendre parler de la dissolution des réserves, sous prétexte que cela marquerait la mort des cultures **autochtones** ... et aussi, bien évidemment, parce qu'en perdant leur base territoriale de pouvoir, ils auraient perdu leur statut et leurs privilèges.

Il y a des réserves qui s'en tirent. Or, elles ont toutes une caractéristique en commun, celle d'être à proximité d'un centre où il y a des possibilités d'emploi et des ressources éducatives.

Grâce à leur emplacement au coeur de la région montréalaise, les Mohawks de**Kahnawake** jouissent des revenus d'un club de golf et de casinos (sans parler du marché de la cigarette), en même temps que de la possibilité, pour les membres de la réserve, d'avoir un emploi libre d'impôt dans la métropole.

Les Hurons-Wendat se tirent également fort bien d'affaire... mais la réserve**Wendake** est en banlieue de Québec.

A West Vancouver, les Indiens Squamish se sont enrichis en louant une partie de leurs terres à un énorme centre commercial. A Vancouver, le magnifique terrain de golf de l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique, situé en territoire indien, rapporte beaucoup à ses propriétaires.

A Ossoyoos, dans la vallée de l'Okanagan, les Indiens Nk'mip ont loué une partie de leurs terres à une société viticole, en échange d'emplois et d'une formation à la viticulture pour les membres de la réserve... qui gèrent maintenant un hôtel de tourisme situé près du vignoble.

Ce sont ces exemples instructifs qui ont mené le gouvernement Harper à introduire dans le projet de loi **C-45** un amendement à l'antique **Indian Act** pour faciliter aux bandes indiennes la location d'une partie de leurs terres, en leur épargnant les procédures fastidieuses dont se plaignent depuis longtemps les chefs de bande les plus entreprenants.

Cette initiative est vilipendée par la chef Spencer et d'autres radicaux, sous prétexte que tous les chefs des 600 bandes n'ont pas été consultés et que certains s'opposent par principe à la location de terres ancestrales. Faudrait-il attendre l'unanimité chez les chefs (qui ne s'entendent pas sur bien des sujets) avant de permettre aux bandes les plus dynamiques d'accéder à l'autonomie financière - et à la dignité qui va avec?

Tout n'est pas qu'une question d'argent. L'isolement géographique est un facteur crucial. Ainsi, les Cris du Québec sont devenus collectivement milliardaires avec la paix des Braves, mais leurs réserves souffrent d'insondables problèmes sociaux, et 92% des jeunes Cris, sans diplôme ni qualifications, sont voués au chômage. L'élimination des réserves sans avenir et sans espoir signerait-elle l'arrêt de mort des cultures**autochtones** ? Réponse: non, au contraire. La suite jeudi.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - Northern Gateway : les audiences perturbées par une manifestation

Northern Gateway : les audiences perturbées par une manifestation
Mise à jour le mardi 15 janvier 2013 à 0 h 23 HNE

http://www.radio -canada.ca/regions/colombie -britannique/2013/01/15/001 -debut-audiences -northern -gateway -manifestation - vancouver.shtml

Des milliers de personnes se sont réunies, malgré une rare chute de neige à Vancouver, pour souligner le début des audiences sur le projet d'oléoduc de Northern Gateway.

Les opposants au projet ont été stimulés, lundi, par la campagne nationale de protestation Idle No More qui a regroupé des membres des Premières Nations venant d'aussi loin que le district du North Coast de la Colombie -Britannique.

Les manifestants se sont donné rendez-vous au Victory Square avant d'amorcer leur marche vers le lieu des audiences, au centre -ville, pour lancer un message au comité de passage en Colombie -Britannique.

Le comité entendra les commentaires du public au sujet du controversé projet visant à livrer du pétrole issu des sables bitumineux de l'Alberta vers un port pétrolier du North Coast.

Eddie Gardner, un membre de la nation Sto:lo, s'est adressé à la foule et critiqué le Parti conservateur pour les changements aux lois environnementales qui, selon lui, auront une influence sur la révision de Northern Gateway et de projets futurs.

M. Gardner a également affirmé que le gouvernement Harper avait l'une des stratégies les plus agressives au monde en ce qui a trait aux combustibles à teneur élevée en carbone.

« Stephen Harper est déterminé à étendre les sables bitumineux. Le Canada commence à prendre conscience du véritable programme de [Stephen] Harper... Il est l'un des plus grands ennemis de l'environnement. »

L'oléoduc transporte le pétrole des sables bitumineux vers un port à Vancouver, et un projet de prolongement évalué à 4,3 milliards de dollars plus que doublerait la capacité du tracé, long de 1100 kilomètres.

Le comité de révision, qui se penche sur le projet de Northern Gateway, doit tenir huit jours d'audiences communautaires à Vancouver au cours des prochaines semaines. Des rencontres semblables ont déjà eu lieu à Victoria, et une journée complète de déclarations doit avoir lieu à Kelowna plus tard en janvier.

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Radio-Canada - La décision de la Cour fédérale fait réfléchir les Métis

La décision de la Cour fédérale fait réfléchir les Métis
Mise à jour le lundi 14 janvier 2013 à 14 h 15 HNE

http://www.radio -canada.ca/regions/saskatchewan/2 013/01/14/002 -metis -reactions -decision -sask.shtml

Des Métis de la Saskatchewan ont applaudi la décision rendue la semaine dernière par la Cour fédérale qui leur accorde le statut d'Indien au sens de la Loi ainsi qu'aux Autochtones vivant hors réserve, mais certains se demandent s'il existe un revers à la médaille.

Un journaliste métis, John Lagimodiere, souligne que comme ses ancêtres ne vivaient pas dans une réserve, ils ont pu mieux profiter de l'expansion économique du Canada.

Il soutient que les taux de chômage des Autochtones, plus élevés que la moyenne, et une éducation moins poussée que celle des Métis, prouvent que la protection des Premières Nations par Ottawa ne les a pas vraiment aidés.

« Nous sommes allés un peu plus loin en raison de notre liberté », a expliqué M. Lagimodiere.

Son point de vue n'est pas partagé par d'autres Métis.

La Réginoise Norma Jean Byrd, par exemple, estime que sa communauté a beaucoup souffert du manque d'avantages sociaux.

« Ils ont survécu sans l'aide du gouvernement, aucune ration, rien », constate -t-elle.

Le jugement de la Cour fédérale mentionne à ce propos un document gouvernemental de 1972 qui rappelait que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits étaient les Canadiens les moins bien lotis du pays.

Le débat pourrait cependant être de courte durée si Ottawa décide de faire appel de la décision.

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Radio-Canada - Premières Nations : le chef Atleo prend congé pour des raisons de santé

Premières Nations : le chef Atleo prend congé pour des raisons de santé

http://www.radio -canada.ca/nouvelles/societe/2013 /01/14/002 -atleo -chef-repos -sante.shtml

Le chef national de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations (APN), Shawn Atleo, quitte temporairement ses fonctions pour des raisons médicales.

Dans un communiqué diffusé lundi, M. Atleo explique que son médecin lui a ordonné de prendre du repos. La durée de ce congé est pas précisée, mais il le qualifie toutefois de bref.

Shawn Atleo a mené de front les négociations et assumé la coordination de la rencontre entre les nations autochtones et le premier ministre vendredi dernier.

La principale décision prise lors de cette réunion est que le dialogue entre les Autochtones et le gouvernement se tiendra au plus haut niveau.

Ainsi, le Conseil des ministres superviserait les prochaines étapes du dialogue.

Il avait été convenu lors de la rencontre avec Stephen Harper qu'une autre rencontre avec l'APN aurait lieu d'ici un mois, pour déterminer les prochaines étapes des pourparlers.

Par ailleurs, M. Atleo avait été critiqué par certains chefs autochtones qui ont boycotté la rencontre.

Ils ont estimé que M. Atleo s'était fait le complice du gouvernement, remettant en question son aptitude à présider l'APN.

Le chef Atleo précise dans son communiqué que la suite des négociations avec le gouvernement sera menée par le chef régional Perry Bellegarde et la chef Jody Wilson -Raybould.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC World At Six: Update on Atleo and Idle No More

>>Host: After a week of rancorous debate and a meeting with the Prime Minister, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations is taking temporary medical leave. Shawn Atleo became ill with the Norall virus over the holidays and says his doctor has ordered him to take time to rest and recover. Atleo says the AFN was able to make progress at last Friday's meeting and he'll return to work soon. In Montreal Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke about the meeting.

>>Prime Minister Harper: I thought we had the good discussions with a number of Aboriginal leaders last week. Obviously we donít necessarily agree on everything but I think we had a good exchange of views and I certainly look forward to further conversations, particularly with the National Chief, when it's a convenient for him.

>>Host: Some First Nations leaders however say they're not satisfied. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, which boycotted Friday's talks, repeated its call for a joint meeting between the Prime Minister, the Governor General and First Nations Chiefs. And the Idle No More protest movement is calling for a national day of action this Wednesday. The collective nature of the Idle No More movement means that not everyone who is involved in it agrees with everything it's doing. But today there was some surprising criticism expressed by one of its pioneers. Sylvia McAdam was one of four Saskatchewan native women who founded the movement. The CBCís Jeff Leo caught up with her today and Regina.

>>Reporter: Sylvia McAdam is a mother of seven children who left her reserve in northern Saskatchewan for law school. When she returned she was struck by the poor and deteriorating conditions.

>>McAdam: I couldn't take the injustice any more.

>>Reporter: She and three friends believe the federal Conservatives are about to make things worse with the Omnibus budget bill C-45, which they say violates the treaties.

So they started to chat room on Facebook to rally First Nations people.

>>McAdam: We're gonna get off the couch we're not going to be Idle any more, she said. So why don't we just call it Idle No More, and the name just stuck.

>>Reporter: They're shocked the movement has received global attention.

>>McAdam: We're getting contacted from Africa, from New Zealand and I'll be in London England rallying there in front of Buckingham Palace.

>>Reporter: She says First Nation's people planning a blockade of border crossings and rail lines later this week don't speak for Idle No More.

>>MCadam; those portray a message of aggressiveness that is not peaceful .

>>Reporter: She says neither the Assembly of First Nations nor individual Chiefs like Theresa Spence speak for the movement either.

>>McAdam: History has shown that when movements like this happen if the leadership takes over it kills the movement.

>>Reporter: McAdam says Idle No More is all about protecting the land and water in Canada, and promoting indigenous sovereignty, although it's not clear exactly what that means. She says the movement is now pushing for a global Idle No More rally near the end of the month.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC.CA: Idle No More activities planned nationwide

Idle No More activities planned nationwide

First Nations chiefs and activists are promising to stage Canada-wide protests today, as part of the Idle No More movement's national day of action.

Major cities across the country are bracing for serious traffic disruptions and possible blockades. Here is a partial overview of some of the Idle No More activities expected in several cities today (all times listed are local):

Fredericton, New Brunswick: March through the street starting at the St. Mary's First Nation at 11 a.m.

Miramichi, New Brunswick: A planned blockade of the bridge there, but not confirmation.

Montreal: An evening "teach-in" rally at 4 p.m. at the Centre Récréatif, Culturel et Sportif StZotique.

Toronto: A rally at the British Consulate (777 Bay St.) at noon.

Windsor, Ont.: A March and blockade of the Ambassador Bridge is expected to begin around 11 a.m.

Nipigon, Ont.: A blockade of Hwy. 11/17 is planned.

Cayuga, Ont.: A round dance and flash mob are being planned for 9:15 a.m. outside the town's court house.

Whitehorse: A prayer circle will be held at the Nàkwät'à K Potlatch House starting at 6 p.m.

Regina: A Reconciliation Ride and Walk will begin at around noon, with First Nations riders and drummers entering the city on Highways 6 and 11, then making their way to the provincial legislature.

Manitoba: Blockades and rallies are planned in The Pas in northern Manitoba and at the Fairford First Nation, north of Winnipeg, among other locations. Some CN and CP railway lines may also be targeted by demonstrators at noon.

Edmonton: Members of the Papaschase First Nation plan to block the QEII Highway near the entrance to their former reserve in south Edmonton. The two-hour blockade is scheduled for 1 p.m. near Gateway Park.

Vancouver Island: Members of the Saanich Peninsula First Nation will set up a blockade on the Pat Bay Highway for half an hour, starting at 11 a.m.

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NATIONAL POST

NATIONAL POST (NATIONAL)
NEWS, Page: A1 / FRONT

Idle founder rejects blockades

Says dangerous disruptions 'not the purpose'

Kathryn Blaze Carlson, National Post

Idle No More 's co-founder is distancing the movement from Wednesday's planned **First Nations** blockades and from Chief Theresa Spence, saying the grassroots movement is so far hosting only "peaceful" **education** events and has no leader.

Sylvia McAdam, one of the movement's four originators, stressed in an interview with the National Post that chiefs- not **Idle No More** co-founders - are behind Wednesday's planned blockades along a key southern Ontario highway and a busy bridge to Michigan.

Those kinds of highly disruptive protests, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chris Lewis warned in a YouTube video released Tuesday, highlight the reality that **First Nations** demonstrators "have the ability to paralyze" this country by shutting down travel and trade routes - an approach Ms. McAdam said she does not endorse, at least not now.

"A lot of our children and elders are involved in the **Idle No More**] activities, so their safety is our priority," she said. "If you have an impromptu blockade that doesn't follow the legal permits, then you're irritating the public and that's not the purpose behind **Idle No More** ."

The purpose, she said, is to educate Canadians about indigenous sovereignty and **treaty rights** , although she acknowledged that the movement has already spiraled to include so many other causes that it risks diluting its core message.

"When you begin to go into that realm of **Idle No More** is 'save the gophers,' then you're losing the vision," she said.

Ms. McAdam, a consultant who lives on Saskatchewan's Whitefish Lake reserve, also made the distinction between the movement and Attawapiskat Chief Spence, who started a liquid diet around the time **Idle No More** ramped up late last year and has since been married to movement in the eyes of many Canadians.

"We're both headed in the same direction, but the grassroots movement of Idle No More is the face of all grassroots people," Ms. McAdam said. "**Idle No More** has no leader. The founders might be considered guides or maintaining the vision, but **Idle No More** has no leader or official spokesperson."

Ms. McAdam said the co-founders have no planned **Idle No More** events for Wednesday, a national day of action declared by chiefs unsatisfied with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's response to their demands so far. Aside from rallies and round-dances at various locations across the country, chiefs in Ontario say they are planning to slow traffic on Hwy. 401 and along the Ambassador Bridge.

The Windsor Police Service, which is responsible for policing the bridge, said in a news release that officers have been in touch with the protest organizers. Contrary to Ms. Mc-Adam's characterization of the event, though, the statement refers to the demonstration as an "**idle no more** protest" - demonstrating, perhaps, the degree to which people associate **First Nations** action with **Idle No More** .

Windsor police said a "peaceful walk" is planned to begin at 11 a.m. along Hwy. 401 toward the bridge, and while the release says protesters will "assemble at the foot of the bridge" before walking back to the road, there has been some indication the protest will move onto Ambassador Bridge. In an interview Monday, Oneida Chief Joel Abram said protesters plan to rally in one of the lanes and block traffic, but later amended that to say the group will stay off the bridge.

Kris Grogan, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman responsible for the state of Michigan, said Wednesday will be "business as usual" for the American patrol because the planned activity appears slated for the Canadian side of the bridge.

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All the while, Ms. McAdam said she and the other co-founders are focusing on Jan. 28, an **Idle No More** international call to action whose main event is a Parliament Hill protest as MPs return to the legislature after their winter break.

Earlier this week, two **First Nations** leaders warned that once the snow melts and warmer weather sets in, key highways - including the main road to Alberta's Fort McMurray, a major oil production hub - could be blocked for days, weeks or even months, prompting what one chief called "chaos."

Although Ms. McAdam dismissed blockades as an effective form of protest generally, she said **Idle No More** co-founders and elders are specifically considering a future blockade along the Enbridge Northern **Gateway** pipeline in B.C. and Alberta.

kcarlson@nationalpost.com @kblazecarlson ILLUS: Robin Rowland, The Canadian Press / **Idle No More** protesters march in Kitimat, B.C.; Peter Wilson, Postmedia News / **'Idle No More** has no leader,' Sylvia McAdam, author and one of **Idle No More 's** co-founders, says.;

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The Province

THE PROVINCE (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A13

Accountability on reserves worries Canadians

Most say native leaders not managing funds

Michael Woods, Postmedia News

More than four out of five Canadians don't want more money sent to**aboriginal** reserves unless proper, independent audits are conducted to ensure financial **accountability** .

And fewer than one in three thinks the money spent by the federal government on reserves is well-managed by the native leaders and communities who receive it, according to an exclusive Ipsos Reid poll conducted for Postme-dia News.

The issue of**accountability** on **First Nations** ' reserves wasn't on the radar until recently, according to Ipsos Reid CEO Darrell Bricker. "People are looking for explanations and they're pointing at a lot of people here," he said, adding **accountability** isn't seen as just an issue among non-**aboriginals** .

He suggested Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's much-publicized protest fast, which has gone on for over a month, hasn't achieved much traction with Canadians. Indeed the poll showed Spence, who was still continuing to refuse solid foods as of Tuesday, has only a 29 per cent approval rating among Canadians. Thirty-eight per cent of those surveyed approved of the grassroots **Idle No More** movement, which was reportedly planning a day of protest Wednesday.

Spence came under fire last week after an audit of Attawapiskat's finances dating back to 2005 showed evidence of mismanagement and a lack of financial documentation. She dismissed the audit as an attempt to discredit her.

The Assembly of**First Nations** , whose leadership took heat from some **aboriginal** chiefs for meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other government officials last Friday, had the highest approval rating in the poll, at 51 per cent nationally.

Harper personally drew the approval of 46 per cent of those polled for his actions on the **aboriginal** file - an encouraging number for the prime minister considering his Conservative government was elected in 2011 with less than 40 per cent of the popular vote, the pollster noted.

Canadians' overall level of concern about the problems plaguing **First Nations** communities is solid, but remains unchanged from two years ago, despite the **Idle No More** movement and Spence's action, the poll indicates. Sixty-three per cent of Canadians think the federal government should act to raise the quality of life for **Aboriginal** peoples, the same as in July 2010.

Canadians are frustrated with the conditions on some First Nations reserves but are pointing fingers at everyone involved, the poll shows. While only 27 per cent feel that the Harper government generally is being fair and reasonable on **First Nations** issues, fewer - only 17 per cent - think Canada's **First Nations** are being fair and reasonable.

The Ipsos online panel surveyed more than 1,000 Canadians and is considered accurate to within plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, 95 per cent of the time. ILLUS: The Canadian Press / An Ipsos Reid poll for Postmedia says Canadians want the quality of life for **Aboriginal** peoples raised.;

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
EDITORIAL, Page: A12

Harper and Atleo need each other

L. Ian MacDonald, Citizen Special

Brian Mulroney used to say, "You dance with the one you came with." That's what Stephen Harper and Shawn Atleo are doing.

Everything else is just noise, on the margins of the dance between the prime minister and the grand chief of the Assembly of **First Nations** .

Atleo's leadership has been undermined by dissident chiefs, who boycotted the meeting with Harper last Friday, and were angry at him for attending.

Which didn't prevent the absent chiefs from sending a written submission into the meeting. "We've put everything in writing and that's being discussed right now," one of the chiefs told the National Post.

Well, either you're at the table, or you're not. And they weren't.

Which puts them in a bad place. Or as Lyndon Johnson famously said, "Better to have them inside the tent pissing out, than outside pissing in."

If they want to be on the inside, the dissenting chiefs need to get back onside with Atleo, who on Monday announced that on the advice of his doctor, he was taking a 10-day medical leave due to all the stress of recent days.

But as he and former national chief Matthew Coon Come both said after Friday's meeting, they moved a couple of important yardsticks.

They sure did, and under incredible duress from their own side, including the critical chiefs, the insurgent **Idle No More** movement and, not least, Theresa Spence with her subsistence diet of liquids and fish broth, and her endless demands that kept changing by the hour.

What did Atleo and the participating chiefs get? They got the PM's attention, as well as his agreement to hold further "high-level talks," and "enhanced oversight" of the **aboriginal** file by the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Office.

This means **First Nations** issues will be on the desk of the PM's chief of staff, Nigel Wright, and the clerk of the Privy Council, Wayne Wout-ers. In terms of setting the policy agenda in Ottawa, it doesn't get any better than that.

"We achieved some important movement today," Atleo said after the four-hour summit at the PM's Langevin Block office. "Every leader left with the sense that the prime minister is now prepared to lead and to take responsibility right from his office ... so we now have received, from the highest level, that political mandate."

Some of the issues on Atleo's shopping list might have to wait for another day. A school on every reserve, for example. With a reserve school dropout rate of over 60 per cent, there is enough blame to go around, both in Ottawa and the reserve communities, starting with absent parents and a lack of role models for students.

But in terms of pathways to prosperity, it's no mystery. **First Nations** prosper when their local economies are linked to sustainable development of energy and natural resources in their territories.

Consider the different outcomes of James Bay Cree in northern Ontario and Quebec. Spence's Attawapiskat reserve in northern Ontario is an example of a deeply troubled community. On the Quebec side of James Bay, the Cree have been partners with Quebec in energy development since the 1975 agreement that enabled the development of the James Bay hydro projects.

The Cree became partners, rather than opponents of the massive development. Among other things, they got an airline,

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First Air, out of the deal.

At the signing ceremony with premier Robert Bourassa, chief Billy Diamond spoke of partnership and "brotherhood." This is the community that produced Matthew Coon Come, who studied law at McGill **University** .

The northern Quebec Cree are not alone as models to prosperity. Atleo is from British Columbia, where **First Nations** have negotiated successfully with successive B.C. governments.

The most important piece of Canadian journalism coming out of the summit was Claudia Cattaneo's article on **aboriginal** business leadership in the Financial Post last Saturday, where she reported **aboriginal business** activity of "more than $1 billion a year in 2012" in the Fort McMurray oilsands region, "up from $700 million in 2009."

This is where the media are missing a big story- under-reporting success, and over-reporting people banging drums and making noise.

But here's the most important thing: Harper and Atleo, the dance partners, are now invested in each other's success.

L. Ian MacDonald is former chief speech writer to Brian Mulroney and former head of the public affairs division at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. He writes for the Montreal Gazette on Wednesdays.

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TORONTO STAR

TORONTO STAR (ONT)
NEWS, Page: A6

PM can't afford to lose Atleo as a partner

Tim Harper Toronto Star

Canada's fractured **aboriginal** leadership is on the cusp of two crucial mistakes.

Barring an 11th-hour attack of rationality, the country's chiefs appear bent on sabotaging the leadership of Shawn Atleo, the duly elected national chief of the Assembly of **First Nations** .

Wednesday, blockades of highways and bridges are expected, perhaps brief and peaceful, but likely longer, more intense and more dangerous as spring arrives.

Either would signify a setback for a grassroots movement that has rightly moved a just cause to public consciousness.

The two in tandem would squander all the work and sacrifice of respected elders and young protesters alike over the past two months.

Atleo has taken himself out of the game, at least temporarily, and it is an open question as to whether he will be at the table in just over a week when another meeting is scheduled.

If he is there, he will be carrying diminished capital.

A fractured opposition may serve Harper well in elections, but a fractured **aboriginal** leadership does him no favours.

If the prime minister cannot deal with Atleo as a trusted interlocutor, he is dealing with the unknown and he has lost a moderate voice to a more radical element that will shut down his plans to build the Canadian economy on resource extraction and exports.

Harper should shed his cloak of incrementalism and give the gravely wounded Atleo what used to be called in constitutional talks a "deliverable" - a substantive "give" that Atleo can take back to the chiefs as proof positive that their message has been heard and progress is being made.

But it could be too late in the game for that.

Atleo's many enemies, aided and abetted by those who were defeated in last summer's AFN election, are so deeply entrenched in the notion that Ottawa must deal with them on a nation-to-nation basis that anything Harper gives the chief would be rejected as a sop, a token, so that Harper and Atleo can return to their game of protect the status quo.

Others dismiss any pro-Atleo writings and commentaries as a bid to prop him up so there can be no progress for **aboriginals** .

Atleo may have fallen to the flu and exhaustion, but his decision to step aside will be seen as another sign of weakness by those who draw their inspiration from Chief Theresa Spence's fast.

In a series of tweets Tuesday morning, **Idle No More** spokesperson and defeated AFN candidate Pam Palmater urged her followers not to "lose heart over what the AFN did," an apparent reference to Atleo's attendance at last Friday's meeting with Harper. "Our leaders and peoples are standing together now in this movement to protect our futures. Many argue unity above all, but we must avoid unifying ourselves into oblivion by blindly following the government path. Let's unify around our sovereignty."

OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis released an internal video Tuesday in which he rightly rejects calls for a more aggressive response to the protests, pointing to more than 60 **Idle No More** protests without a single injury to a demonstrator, an officer or a member of the public.

He acknowledged **First Nations** members have the potential to paralyze the nation by shutting down transport and

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trade routes. He said it is not up to the OPP to solve historical **aboriginal** grievances. Lewis's calm hand is so far to be applauded, but that doesn't mean that lengthy and more frequent blockades in the future will not test the resolve of his officers and the public.

An intellectual knowledge that the status quo no longer is acceptable when it comes to the treatment of the country's **aboriginals** can melt in a hurry if you are stopped in a highway blockade or unable to cross a border or your business is badly damaged.

Harper allowed this situation to erupt with his single-minded focus on the $650 billion in resource riches he wants to move to export.

Others saw it coming.

Days after the 2011 election, Charles McMillan, a former adviser to Brian Mulroney, told an Ottawa audience the government-**aboriginal** file had fallen into horrible disrepair and a "shocking" incremental approach to the situation was being noticed by the rest of the world.

If Harper is belatedly coming to this realization, he can hardly be expected to negotiate with a gun to his head, with transport and economic disruptions threatened.

He can only do it in an atmosphere of trust and this is no time to change his dance partner.

Tim Harper is a national affairs writer. His column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday. tharper@thestar.ca ILLUS: **Aboriginal** chiefs appear bent on sabotaging the leadership of Shawn Atleo, leader of the Assembly of **First Nations**, writes Tim Harper. Adrian Wyld/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
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Taxpayers group touts native

poverty fixes Give full control of lands, help youth off poor reserves

Larry Kusch

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation wants Ottawa to grant **First Nations** full control over their lands while helping young **aboriginal** people leave "economically bleak" communities in search of a better life. The influential lobby group is also calling on the federal government to get rid of the **Indian Act** and end such special treatment as reduced prison sentences for **aboriginal** people and a separate **Aboriginal** Arts Office, which provides funding to native artists.

"All Canadians should be treated the same by government," CTF spokesman Colin Craig told a press conference in Winnipeg Tuesday.

Craig said the "dysfunctional" system of **aboriginal** reserves and its "terrible results" are "Canada's most shameful legacy."

The taxpayers federation is proposing several policies to end **aboriginal poverty** , including giving **First Nations** full control over their lands by the end of the year. It would mean **aboriginal** communities would no longer require Ottawa's permission to develop, lease or sell reserve land. The CTF also recommends individual families own their own homes on reserve.

The organization said the **aboriginal** community and taxpayers would both benefit if government helped young people leave struggling reserves to obtain jobs and better their **education** . It emphasized any program to accomplish this should be voluntary.

'No economy to be had'

"Is it right to continue throwing hundreds of millions of dollars into these communities when most people can see that there's no economy to be had?" Craig said.

Asked if some of the federation's ideas amounted to a call for the assimilation of **First Nations** people, Craig said: "That's not the word that I'll use. The word that we'll use is transition to where there are better opportunities for people, much the same way that many people on reserves have already left."

The federation also urged the federal government to experiment with the direct funding of band members rather than writing cheques to band governments. Band councils could then tax their members for services. The CTF said this would ensure more funds reach people in need, "rather than getting caught in administration."

The taxpayers federation has had the ear of the Harper government on **aboriginal** issues in the past – successfully lobbying the feds to force chiefs to reveal their salaries and benefits.

The federation did not run its ideas past **aboriginal** leaders before publicizing them on Tuesday, but Craig said the group did consult with "grassroots" people.

Manitoba's main **aboriginal** lobby group, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, refused to comment on the federation's proposals Tuesday.

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The ChronicleHerald

THE CHRONICLEHERALD
INFOCUS, Page: B1

Taxpayers group

First Nations need more control

The Canadian Press

OTTAWA - An influential lobby group says Ottawa needs to ditch the **Indian Act** and give **First Nations** more control over their land to end **aboriginal poverty** .

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has close ties with the federal Conservatives, and its campaign to open up chiefs' books to the public was instrumental in recent legislation to publish salaries and benefits.

Now the group says the key to eliminating the cycle of**poverty** on reserves is for Ottawa to treat **First Nations** people like everyone else.

"For the sake of kids living in**poverty** on too many reserves, we don't need another decade with more social programs and tinkering," said Colin Craig, the group's Prairie director.

"We need a new approach, one that treats all Canadians the same and connects **aboriginal** people with jobs and opportunities."

That means Ottawa should get rid of legislation such as the**Indian Act**, parts of the Criminal Code that allow for reduced sentences, as well as arts grants for **aboriginals** - while respecting **treaties** and the Constitution, he said.

The federation also says band members should be able to own their homes, and develop, lease or sell their reserve land without Ottawa's permission.

The group is also proposing a pilot project that would see**funding** go directly to band members, and then have the **band council** tax some of it back to pay for services.

"Whatever the Harper government decides to move ahead with, it should first discuss the changes with grassroots taxpayers and grassroots people living on reserves," Craig said in a statement.

His proposals are bound to be controversial.

The federation made many enemies among**First Nations** leaders when it published a list of high salaries going to chiefs and pushed for legislative changes.

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The Gazette

MONTREAL GAZETTE (FINAL)
EDITORIAL / OPED, Page: A17

After Friday's First Nations summit, what's next?

Stephen Harper needs help solving this major problem - and Paul Martin can help

IVY WEIR, The Gazette

is a former editor-in-chief of The Record in Sherbrooke.

Our capacity to delude ourselves appears to know no boundaries. The **Idle No More** movement speaks to far too many past failures in our relationship with **aboriginal** peoples.

We act as if we had discovered Canada, if as there were no people here when European immigrants arrived. That we were welcomed upon our arrival should surely have earned our eternal gratitude. Instead, seeing them as savages, viewing them as heathens, led us to conclude, arbitrarily, that their best hope was to become like us.

With that arrogant and self-righteous attitude, we proceeded to implement policies designed to satisfy that goal. The first step in reinventing them demanded first erasing their identity, then supplanting it with our own Euro-Canadian model. To isolate them, we herded them unto unproductive land that we didn't want, territory we called reserves. Punitive measures were enacted should any attempt be made to leave these reserves.

Then we passed legislation allowing the RCMP to forcibly remove generations of children from their mothers' arms and threaten jail to parents who resisted. **Residential schools** were created to strip children of their individuality. Heads were shaved, clothes were burned and brothers and sisters were deliberately separated. Children were warned not to bond with each other and give comfort. They were punished for speaking their own language.

Years later, when some of them returned home, they could not speak to or understand their parents. Our so-called Christian churches played a role in guiding them toward conversion. The physical and sexual abuse that occurred in these **schools** has been well-documented, but can never be assuaged.

Flash forward to today, and the new federal omnibus legislation creating major changes to navigable waters and **fishing** habitats without first consulting **First Nations** leaders, something that breaches **treaty rights**. The duplicitous white man's mode of operation had not changed. Royal Commissions and **Truth and Reconciliation** undertakings have withered or been shelved. As Saturday Night magazine put it in 1907, more than a century ago: "Even war seldom shows as large a percentage of fatalities as does the **education** system that we have imposed on our **Indian** wards."

We have been very good at erasing their culture, and we have ringside seats to the evidence of that. Whether through mammoth dam construction or the wholesale upheaval inflicted upon their lands and **water** by mining and industrial development, we have seen to the irreversible erosion of their culture and way of life. The deliberate slaughter of sled dogs belonging to the **Inuit** revealed the depths to which we would stoop. Reserve life has spawned turmoil in the lives of remaining inhabitants. A perpetual cycle of violence lives on as dysfunctional families struggle with substance abuse, **poverty** and the absence of hope. Had our agenda been to nurture mental illness and disease, we could not have been more successful. Alarming suicide rates, obesity, hepatitis, diabetes and now a higher-than-average rate of HIV positive tests prevail. Fewer than average graduate from high school, more than average people our jails.

We appear to think we can implant a credible justice system in such faraway countries as Afghanistan or Haiti while in our own backyard **aboriginals** live in conditions equally squalid, without our full attention and without credible policies to correct what we have created. In an hour-long interview recently on CBC Radio with Michael Enright, the 75-yearold Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations and a man who has spent a lifetime promoting **social** justice, allowed that his one regret was ignoring the plight of native peoples at home.

One promising option begs consideration. Stephen Harper could rise above partisan politics and appoint former prime minister Paul Martin to continue the work he began with the Kelowna Accord. This accord was the product of serious and arduous negotiations that promised a new beginning, a new measure of trust. Adequate funds to implement the policy would be essential, not to mention less costly than roadblocks and business interruptions.

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If all Canadians everywhere demanded such action, Harper would have no choice.

This is an edited version of a commentary that appeared Monday in The Record in Sherbrooke.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
NATIONAL NEWS, Page: A4

AFN leaders urge peaceful demonstrations

GLORIA GALLOWAY

As first nations protesters take to the streets to force the federal government pay more heed to native issues, leaders of the Assembly of **First Nations** say they are taking steps to ensure that the demonstrations and disruptions do not get out of hand. A day of action to express dissatisfaction with a meeting last week between an AFN delegation and Prime Minister Stephen Harper will go ahead on Wednesday in Ontario and Manitoba and perhaps other parts of Canada, but **first nations** leaders are cautioning their members to keep the demonstrations peaceful.

Roger Augustine, the AFN regional chief of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island who will chair meetings of the organization's executive while national chief Shawn Atleo recuperates from a severe bout of illness, said on Tuesday that he and the other regional chiefs have created a crisis response unit "to make sure that the safety and security of our folks out there is looked after."

Demonstrators plan to slow traffic coming across the Ambassador Bridge from the United States at Windsor, Ont., the biggest economic corridor in Canada. They also plan to block Highway 55 near Cold Lake, Alta., near the southern edge of the oil sands.

"I think it's really important that there is some control," Mr. Augustine said. "You have to consider the**health** and safety access of the people in the communities."

Chiefs who are instigating the day of action have called upon supporters of**Idle No More** , a grassroots protest movement that began in December, to block transportation corridors. The group is independent of the chiefs and has said it does not support blockades, but its followers may join protests Wednesday.

Jody Wilson-Raybould, the AFN regional chief for British Columbia, will hold a conference call with other chiefs on Wednesday, and has said she will tell them actions that hurt the economy hurt everyone, including **first nations** people.

But many chiefs disagree.

Mr. Atleo came out of last week's meeting saying he had a commitment that Mr. Harper would take a direct hand in**first nations** issues - something that many chiefs greeted as a positive step toward dealing with problems that have left many native communities languishing in abject **poverty** .

Other **first nations** leaders, however, are furious that the meeting went ahead after Mr. Harper rejected a demand by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who is on a hunger strike, to have Governor-General David Johnston in the room. And they are angry that Mr. Atleo allowed Mr. Harper to limit the number of chiefs who attended.

Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations said he is unaware of any demonstrations planned in his province but would support them as long as they are respectful and non-violent. "What you are seeing," he said, "is just the frustration level that's been built up over centuries of oppression and injustice, and economic marginalization - lands and resources being exploited without involvement or anything coming back to indigenous peoples."

Chief Isadore Day of the Serpent River **First Nation** in Ontario said many chiefs now realize demonstrations are the only logical course of action. "We want to make sure that there is a new dialogue and a much greater understanding that Canadians have around the issues that are facing **first nations** and ultimately all Canadians."

He is among those disappointed with Mr. Atleo for meeting with Mr. Harper despite the objections. Many don't agree that Ms. Spence should continue her hunger strike, Mr. Day said, but they do believe they had an obligation to back her in making her statement.

Continuing with the meeting was not acceptable, Mr. Day said. "We needed to demonstrate true solidarity, and the national chief needed to demonstrate very strong leadership on this issue. And he [Mr. Atleo] did not."

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With a report from Josh Wingrove

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

GLOBE AND MAIL (METRO)
COMMENT COLUMN, Page: A15

So aboriginals are divided. Aren't we all?

JEFFREY SIMPSON

jsimpson@globeandmail.com

The past is never dead. It's not even past.

-William Faulkner

It's easy to lose count of the breathless recent commentaries portraying aboriginal peoples as "divided." Just last week, they say, **aboriginal** leaders failed to agree on whether and where to see the Prime Minister, whether to demand that the Governor-General be present, whether to embrace the **Idle No More** movement, whether to defy the law by blockading streets and rail lines. What else is new? But it's not just **aboriginals** divided this way. The last time anyone looked, Parliament was divided, too.

There are always divisions between Ottawa and the provinces, and inside provinces themselves. In mainstream newspapers and electronic media, different voices expound on the issues of the day. From business lobbies to gay-rights advocates, from unions to dairy farmers, interest groups fight to protect their gains and, if possible, expand on them.

Just as non-aboriginals disagree, so do **aboriginals** . The notion that some underlying unity of purpose and shared history exists among them is largely a myth - except for the almost universal experience of having been dispossessed and poorly treated.

Even that myth doesn't hold much with some**aboriginal** groups that have thrown off the history of dispossession, signed modern agreements with governments or otherwise just got on with building a better life for their people, such as the Cree in northern Quebec or British Columbia's Osoyoos, Musqueam or Westbank bands, among others.

More than 600 chiefs select the grand chief of the Assembly of**First Nations** . He or she is their spokesperson, but since the chiefs very seldom agree unanimously on much - just as in non-**aboriginal** society - the grand chief is on a short leash. No wonder the current grand chief, Shawn Atleo, has taken sick leave.

A prime minister is surrounded by MPs and, in a looser sense, by party members across the country; a grand chief is surrounded by chiefs, who are leaders in and of themselves. Chiefs give orders; backbenchers take them. The difference is profound.

It is said that a few chiefs are corrupt, while others are incompetent. Has anyone read the news about the Quebec corruption inquiry, which has already toppled mayors and may yet shake the foundations of provincial politics? Toronto Mayor Rob Ford does not appear to be in any way corrupt, but neither does he appear very competent to run the country's largest city. He and Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, heroes to their admirers, have much in common as administrators.

There are dozens of distinct linguistic and cultural groupings of Indians in Canada, with sub-units among groups, as with the six groups inside the Iroqouis Confederacy and the five within the **Dene Nation** . The Cree and Ojibwa are the most numerous; others have fewer than 1,000 people. Only a minority of Indians still speak their native languages.

Within these distinct linguistic and cultural groups, there are divisions upon divisions. Two bands, side-by-side, might take entirely different views. One will refuse to recognize Canadian sovereignty, the other will do so and deal with government.

Of 617 bands, according to the Indian Registry, 120 had more than 2,000 members, with the 20 largest having between 5,000 and 25,000. But 58 per cent had fewer than 1,000 people. And since almost half of band members on average live off-reserve, that leaves many on-reserve populations of just a few hundred.

Some will live near resources that can be extracted for profit; others have the misfortune to live nowhere near such

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resources. Some live close to mainstream society and can establish fruitful relations; others are so isolated as to make relations fleeting. About half now live in cities, with varying links back to the reserves.

Many successful Indians in the arts, business, law, medicine, universities and other fields are proud of their heritages and retain links to their communities, but they have integrated to varying degrees in mainstream society and made their peace with this double existence.

There will always therefore be divisions, just as there were long before "white" settlers arrived, Indian mythology to the contrary. Indians' sense of the past - the memories that animate their various actions today - will never go away.

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EDMONTON JOURNAL

EDMONTON JOURNAL (FINAL)
CITY & REGION, Page: A3

Papaschase to block QEII near their former reserve

Elise Stolte, Edmonton Journal

Members of the Papaschase First Nation plan to block the QEII Highway Wednesday afternoon near their former reserve in south Edmonton.

The blockade is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. near Gateway Park, which has an access road to allow vehicles trapped by the blockade to turn around.

Papaschase Chief Calvin Bruneau said the protest is part of a national day of action called by First Nations chiefs, and he hopes those inconvenienced by the delays will understand. "The Government of Canada has inconvenienced us for 100 years," he said.

The Papaschase signed onto Treaty 6 on Aug. 21, 1877, and received a reserve covering much of what is now southeast Edmonton. In 2001, nearly 1,000 Papaschase descendants took the government to court, arguing they had been illegally kicked off and scattered to other communities because the Canadian Pacific Railway wanted the right of way.

Their case was headed for trial in 2008 but was thrown out on the grounds the Papas-chase are not a federally recognized band and too much time had passed.

Bruneau said his community is joining the Idle No More movement to warn other First Nations that the loss of land that happened to them could now happen to other bands more easily.

Changes to the Indian Act included in Bill C-45 make it easier for a First Nation to surrender land. The amendments eliminate the requirement to have more than half of the voting population cast votes in support of the decision.

Bruneau said the protest will be in support of the Idle No More movement.

Idle No More supporters have been protesting the omnibus federal budget bill, which received royal assent Dec. 14.

They are calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to consult with First Nations before implementing the many portions of the bill they say impact on treaty rights.

In addition to changing the Indian Act, the budget bill greatly reduces protection for waterways and fish habitat through changes to the Navigable Waters Act, the Fisheries Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Bruneau said the Conservatives have ignored their legal duty to consult with First Nations. Many First Nations want changes to the Indian Act, he said, but "let's sit down and work at making these changes together."

Bruneau said organizers of Wednesday's QEII blockade have informed the city and police of their plans.

A police spokesman confirmed police plan to have officers on scene for traffic control and public safety.

Meanwhile, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam said he does not know of any plans to block Highway 63, a major route to the oilsands, on Wednesday.

He has previously warned that road blocks will be set up if no progress is made in talks with Ottawa. First Nations in Cold Lake have organized a road block on Highway 55 and 892, planned for 8 a.m. Wednesday and expected to last most of the day.

Shannon Houle, an assistant with the Idle No More founders, said the rally in Cold Lake and a similar rally at on Highway 41 near the Kehewin First Nation, will only slow traffic.

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Idle No More supporters will be handing out information packets to motorists and then letting them through.

In Cold Lake, the road will be blocked intermittently as women and children hold a round dance, symbolizing peace and friendship, in the intersection.

Protesters are planning a global day of action Jan. 28, the day parliament resumes in Ottawa.

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The London Free Press

THE LONDON FREE PRESS (FINAL
NEWS, Page: B1

Spence gets little support, Ipsos poll indicates

DAVID AKIN, QMI AGENCY PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

OTTAWA -- Even as **First Nations** activists threaten blockades that could harm the economy, Canadian public opinion appears squarely set against those activists.

Ipsos Reid, in a poll released Tuesday, found about two-thirds of Canadians believe Canada's aboriginal peoples receive too much support from federal taxpayers; that **aboriginal** peoples

are treated well by the government; and that native peoples bring most of their problems on themselves.

That said, the poll also found two-thirds of Canadians believe the federal

government must act now to improve quality of life for Canada's **aboriginal** peoples.

And, when asked whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government or Canada's **First Nations** were "being reasonable", a majority -- 56% – said "none of the above."

The poll was taken between Friday and Monday, after a week of high-profile protests in Ottawa and across the country, many of them associated with the **Idle No More** movement, a broad grassroots movement that, its founders and adherents say, is frustrated with both Ottawa and current **First Nations** leadership.

In its poll, Ipsos tried to measure the credibility of the many different actors involved in last week's drama. It found First Nations leaders, including Assembly of **First Nations** led by National Chief Shawn Atleo, had the approval of 51% of Canadians. Harper had the approval of 46% of Canadians for the way he dealt with last week's events. (Those who voted Conservative in the last election gave him a 78% approval rating).

But the**Idle No More** movement received the approval of just 38% of Canadians.

And Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence was viewed approvingly by just 29% of Canadians.

"These data show that the national leadership of Canada's First Nations have distinguished themselves as the representatives for Canada's **First Nations** in the minds of Canadians, and that Prime Minister Stephen Harper maintains a credible position, especially with his voters," Ipsos said in its release.

"It's also clear that Attawapiskat Chief Spence is struggling to build public support."

For this survey, Ipsos surveyed 1,023 Canadians using an online interview.

The pollster's method is widely used and, according to the industry association of which the pollster is a member, is believed to be capable of producing accurate results.

The pollster claims its results are accurate to within 3.5 percentage points.

David Akin is QMI Agency's Parliamentary Bureau ChiefILLUS: photo of Shawn Atleo

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THE OTTAWA SUN (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: 18

Chiefs divided on Idle worship

KRISTY KIRKUP, PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

On the eve of a national day of action, **aboriginal** leaders and grassroots **First Nations** remain divided on the use of civil disobedience and economic blockades to bring attention to plights of their people.

Some chiefs, who openly oppose Assembly of **First Nations** National Chief Shawn Atleo, have been leading the charge to roll out blockades Wednesday in provinces including Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

These leaders, including Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, wanted Atleo and other **aboriginal** leaders to boycott a Friday meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper because Gov. Gen. David Johnston was absent.

But some grassroots **First Nations** have suggested the momentum generated by the **Idle No More** movement, which has led to weeks of peaceful protests, may have been taken up by chiefs who have their own agendas.

"I think most of the wise ones would want to push for a peaceful demonstration," said one Attawapiskat **First Nation** band member, suggesting some chiefs are "opportunists."

In an interview with CTV's Question Period on Sunday, an **Idle No More** co-founder also suggested she wasn't on board with blockades at this time.

"Right now, the vision of **Idle No More** is that we're peaceful and we're working within the means of the legal boundaries," said co-founder Sylvia McAdams.

Atleo and other chiefs, including former Assembly of **First Nations** national chief Matthew Coon Come, decided to meet with Harper on Friday behind closed doors despite opposition demonstrated outside. ILLUS: photo of SHAWN ATLEO
Seeks peace

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TORONTO STAR

TORONTO STAR (ONT)
NEWS, Page: A6

OPP defend hands-off approach to protests

Warn Idle No More 'activities' could tie up 400-series highways

Karissa Donkin Toronto Star

The Ontario Provincial Police say they don't plan to change the way they have been handling **Idle No More** protests.

In a taped message posted on YouTube Tuesday, OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis said First Nations groups could "paralyze" Canada by "shutting down travel and trade routes," but that it's not the OPP's job to solve disputes between **First Nations** communities and government.

Last week, an Ontario Superior Court judge slammed the OPP for not doing enough to stop a protest that stranded hundreds of passengers on a main rail line between Toronto and Montreal.

"I'd rather be criticized for a decision to not jeopardize, take or lose lives than for taking unnecessary aggressive action that undoubtedly will," Lewis said.

The OPP's defence came a day before protests are scheduled from coast to coast as part of **Idle No More** . The provincial police say "protest activities" could cause traffic delays on 400-series highways.

Police in Windsor warn there could be delays on or around the Ambassador Bridge.

"Our initial reports indicated anywhere from 300 and up (will attend the protest) but we really do not know what to expect," Windsor police Sgt. Matthew D'Asti said.

One lane of the Nipigon Bridge in northwestern Ontario will also be blocked Wednesday afternoon as protesters walk across to the Hwy. 11/17 junction for a rally.

"We want to offer to the people who are passing some information on the bills that Prime Minister (Stephen) Harper should be revoking," said Chief Arlene Wawia, of the Red Rock Band.

"That's all I'm asking them to do is take those bills and read them and understand what they mean to the lakes and rivers and to the land."

Dan Doreen of Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory was at the CN Rail blockade near Kingston that OPP was criticized for not stopping.

The injunction order stopping that protest expired Tuesday, but Doreen said there aren't plans to resume blocking the tracks Wednesday. Many people can't take time away from work in the middle of the week to protest, he said.

CN Rail will be watching closely for blockades Wednesday, but it's too early to say what kind of action it will take against any, spokesman Jim Feeny said.

In Toronto, organizer Wanda Nanibush expects at least 1,000 people to rally at the British Consulate-General starting at noon.

Plans are also in place for a public forum in Victoria, a candlelight vigil in Calgary and rallies in Vancouver and Montreal on Wednesday. ILLUS: Sarnia police Chief Phil Nelson meets with Chief Chris Plain of the Aamjiwnaang **First Nation** at the blockade of CN tracks in Sarnia Jan. 2. **Idle No More** protesters block the border crossing between Canada and the U.S. in Sarnia on Jan. 5. The OPP says it is not their job to solve disputes between **First Nations** communities and government. Geoff Robins/THE CANADIAN PRESS GEOFF ROBINS/the canadian press

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TIMES COLONIST

TIMES COLONIST (VICTORIA) (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A1 / FRONT

Protesters set to block Pat Bay Highway today

Idle No More march to start about 11 a.m., detours ahead

Judith Lavoie, Times Colonist

The Pat Bay Highway between Island View Road and Mount Newton Cross Road will be closed to traffic in both directions this morning during a protest planned by **Idle No More** .

The blockade, organized by Saanich Peninsula **First Nations** to bring attention to treaty and environmental issues, will start about 11 a.m. with a march from the Tsawout **First Nation** band office on Tetayut Road, to Mount Newton Cross Road and the highway.

"At that time, both sides of the highway will close down. For the safety of everyone, it's in their best interest that weclose down the whole highway," said Central Saanich Police Cpl. Pat Bryant.

The blockade is likely to last about half an hour, but, depending on the number of demonstrators, it could take another half-hour to clear the highway, and there will be traffic delays, he said.

Northbound traffic will be diverted at Island View Road to East Saanich Road and then north on Central Saanich Road, rejoining the highway at Mount Newton Cross Road.

Southbound traffic will be diverted to Amity Road, south to Central Saanich Road and rejoin the highway at Island View Road.

Saanich Peninsula Hospital has been told about the demonstration, Bryant said.

"And, if there's any emergency, people will be allowed to make their way there. That will not be a concern," he said.

Tsawout elder Eric Pelkey, one of the protest organizers, said a meeting was held Tuesday morning with representatives from the RCMP, Central Saanich police and the Transportation Ministry.

"They made a request to us not to close the highway, but we said we were going to do it anyway, so they said they would help us to make sure everyone is safe," Pelkey said.

At least 300 people have said they will be at the demonstration, Pelkey said.

Bus services are ensuring they have detour plans in place.

Pacific Coach Lines plans to leave the Victoria terminal at the usual times and use alternate routes. B.C. Transit will post bus detours on its website.

"We have not been informed about the protest through any official channels, so we can only prepare for what we think might happen," said B.C. Transit spokeswoman Meribeth Burton. "We are going to be adaptable."

Routes affected are No. 70 and No. 81.

Idle No More demonstrations are being held across the country with the overall aim of "a revolution that honours and fulfils indigenous sovereignty, which protects the land and **water** ," according to the grassroots movement's mission statement.

In Victoria, a teach-in and public forum will be held at 7 tonight at the **University** of Victoria's First People's House.

The Where Do We Go From Here teach-in features indigenous **governance** professor Taiaiake Alfred and Victoria poet laureate Janet Rogers.

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On Saturday, Idle No Protesters are planning to gather at Mayfair mall at 1 p.m. Another demonstration is planned for Jan. 26 with protesters marching from Centennial Square to the legislature at 11 a.m.

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The ChronicleHerald

THE CHRONICLEHERALD
NOVASCOTIA, Page: A5

Shubenacadie chief eyes better days after audit

Spending restraint, economic advances seen as essential

Michael Gorman Truro Bureau

INDIAN BROOK- Chief Rufus Copage believes better days are ahead for the people of the beleaguered Shubenacadie **First Nation** .

In an interview Monday, two months after being elected chief, Copage said **band council** is focused on working toward more prosperous times. That means belt tightening, addressing past struggles and pursuing **economic development** opportunities.

"We've had to try to have tighter reins on spending," the chief said.

To that end, donations have been restricted to emergencies and an annual tradition of providing money to community members at Christmas was forgone this year.

"There's no sense giving out money that we don't have," he said.

Those weren't easy decisions to make, but Copage believes the community will understand such action as long as he and the council remain open about their plans and the band's finances.

The band is waiting for the results of a forensic audit into past operations and finances, which auditors have told him should be ready by the end of the month, Copage said.

While he wouldn't talk about specifics before the audit is delivered, Copage said the **band council** would deal with whatever issues arise from its findings.

"We'd like to see people being charged for the wrongdoing, if there's any people that can be pinpointed," he said.

With a new band manager and accountant hired shortly before the last **election** , Copage said the current council is trying to work on big picture issues while letting managers do their day-to-day jobs, rather than micromanaging.

One of the greatest challenges facing the community is the lack of **economic development** . Copage said he hopes that will change this spring when the band moves ahead with development plans for land it owns in Hammonds Plains.

Financing for the first project, a band-owned building with 45 video lottery terminals and a convenience store, is in place, the chief said. The committee overseeing the project is expected to have conceptual drawings soon.

Asked whether the audit results would impact development plans, Copage said the issues aren't related. While councillors must address the past, they must also work on improving the future, he said.

"Hammonds Plains, regardless of how the forensic audit comes out, we're going forward with it."

The band's limited finances were further extended in the fall when the community faced problems with its **water** system, which resulted in an extended do not drink advisory. Bottled **water** was provided during that time.

Although everything is back to normal, Copage said dealing with the problem cost about $400,000.

The chief credited the community for its patience during the process as well as the willingness to work together and help those in need. **Water** is an ongoing issue, but Copage said the band is drilling a new well and plans to build a new pumping station in hopes of preventing further problems.

(mgorman@herald.ca) ILLUS: Rufus Copage, chief of Shubenacadie **First Nation** , says the band is tightening spending

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with an eye toward a prosperous future.(Mike Gorman / Truro Bureau)

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yellowknifer

YELLOWKNIFER

Next steps for Idle No More

Talk of blocking road to diamond mines

Laura Busch Northern News Services

The next move for participants in the **Idle No More** movement seem unclear during the fallout of an Assembly of **First Nations** meeting with the Harper government in Ottawa last Friday.

Organizers of **Idle No More** remain adamant demonstrations will continue until there are further discussions on native rights violations in Canada, finally implementing **treaty** agreements and protecting lands and waters from short-sighted development projects. A faction of chiefs, including Gordon Peters, the grand chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied **Indians**, are calling for **First Nations** to block transportation routes across the

country on Dec. 16.

At Friday's protest, former Dene national chief Noeline Villebrun alluded to this event, saying that the next step for protesters would be to "block the road to the mines."

However, Dene national Chief Bill Erasmus said Monday he had heard of no such event, although he did not rule out this form of more aggressive protest in the North.

"I don't want to theorize on that. We've never done that here but it is possible," he said. "That would have to happen with the concurrence of our leadership. It's something we need to talk about."

To date, all **Idle No More** demonstrations in the territory have been peaceful, making the role of the RCMP to help organizers facilitate these events and ensure public safety, said Sgt. Barry Ledoux, who is in charge of **aboriginal** policing for the territory.

"Everyone has the right to a peaceful protest and the freedom of expression. What we are there for is to ensure the safety of participants and onlookers. Our role is to remain impartial," he said.

The **Dene Nation** plans to hold an information session this Thursday to educate the public on issues faced by native peoples in the North and throughout Canada, said Erasmus.

Most lands in the NWT are subject to **Treaty** 8 or **Treaty** 11, and neither of these documents surrender native lands to the state, said Erasmus.

"We were never conquered," he said.

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The ChronicleHerald

THE CHRONICLEHERALD
OPINION, Page: A9

Working together for future of First Nations, all Canadians

Candice Paul; Deborah Robinson

There are great economic opportunities emerging in Atlantic Canada, especially in the natural resources sector. As these opportunities are advanced, it is important that **First Nation treaty rights** are respected and our environment is protected for future generations of all Canadians.

On Jan. 11, Atlantic First Nation chiefs joined National Chief Shawn Atleo and hundreds of chiefs from across the country in Ottawa to show their support for the grassroots **Idle No More** movement and Chief Theresa Spence, and to meet with the prime minister to discuss and provide solutions to the challenges currently facing **First Nation** communities.

Idle No More has created a respectful dialogue and a high level of citizen engagement regarding important issues facing all Canadians. We are encouraged by the number of non-native Canadians who have joined with us to show their support and demand the change we all want to see - the protection of Canada's natural resources for future generations.

While in Ottawa, our message was very clear. National Chief Atleo and Atlantic First Nation chiefs called on the government of Canada to stop passing laws and legislation that erode our **First Nation treaty rights**. We made it clear to the prime minister that we believe it is the responsibility of the government to work closely and consult regularly with **First Nation** people to ensure sustainable **economic development** across the country.

We also shared our concern with the prime minister regarding the Jobs and Growth Act (formerly known as **C-45**), an omnibus budget bill that received royal assent on Dec. 14 and is now law. Through this omnibus bill, amendments were made to the **Indian Act**, Navigational Protection Act, Environmental Assessment Act, Fisheries Act and Employment Insurance Act, without any proper consultation with the Atlantic **First Nation** communities.

The amendments to these acts will have negative implications within the **Mi'kmaq**, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and **Innu** communities. We advised the prime minister, his cabinet colleagues and senior officials that Atlantic **First Nation** chiefs and communities reject the implementation of the Jobs and Growth Act and changes in policy and regulations that will adversely impact **aboriginal** and **treaty rights**.

The prime minister agreed that there is a critical need to improve the relationship between the government of Canada and **First Nation** communities across the country.

The prime minister committed to moving forward with a clear mandate for high-level discussions on **treaty** implementation and **comprehensive claims**. We are pleased that the government of Canada has committed to an ongoing dialogue with us in order to advance this important mandate.

First Nation communities in Atlantic Canada require strong and stable relationships and innovative results-based partnerships with all levels of government to promote change and to support the continued growth of **First Nation** participation in the economy.

In order to achieve parity with all other Canadians, we believe economic **investment** in **First Nation** communities must empower and support economic self-reliance and independence.

The future of the Canadian economy is tied to the success of **First Nation** people. Our youth are the fastest growing population in Canada, and we are ready to provide highly skilled and educated workers to join the **workforce** and contribute to the economic growth of this country.

Canadian First Nation peoples are united in their determination to see fundamental change. And Atlantic chiefs are pleased that the government has a mandate to work with all **First Nation** communities to ensure we achieve full respect of our **treaty rights**.

We look forward to enhancing our relationship with the government of Canada so we can work together to advance sustainable, long-term prosperity for Atlantic Canada, and all Canadians.

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Chief Candice Paul and Chief Deborah Robinson are co-chairs, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat.

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TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

NEW BRUNSWICK TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL
OPINION, Page: A9

Does Aboriginal opportunity lie off reserve?

Mark Milke Commentary

Aboriginal life in Canada has been forgotten: Most **aboriginals** do not live on reserve and seem to be better for it.

That's an important fact that should be part of any debate about how to improve the living standards of **Aboriginal** Canadians.

Their general plight is already well-known: When compared to other Canadians, Statistics Canada data shows that proportionately fewer **Aboriginal** Canadians finish high school and of those that do, a smaller proportion will obtain **post-secondary education** . Also, **Aboriginals** are less likely to be in the labour force, they will face higher unemployment rates, and their median earnings are less. They are thus more dependent on government transfers when compared with non-**Aboriginal** Canadians.

However, what is less often articulated in much detail is how those **Aboriginals** off-reserve fare better than those **Aboriginals** on-reserve.

To see what I mean, some background is necessary to put that claim in context.

According to Statistics Canada, for census purposes, "**Aboriginal** identity" refers to people who self-identify as belonging to one or more of the following **Aboriginal** groups: North American Indian, **Métis** or **Inuit** . According to the 2006 census (the 2011 results are not yet available) 1,172,790 Canadians placed themselves in one of those three groups or some combination thereof.

Here's the thing: of those almost 1.2 million **Aboriginals** , just 308,490 live on reserve, or barely more than 26 per cent. Thus, fully 74 per cent of Canadians who self-identify as **Aboriginals** do not live on reserve.

Yes, populations on reserves have increased, partly because the population of self-identified "North American Indians" is growing. But as the statistics show, a greater proportion of that category of Canadians lived off-reserve in 2006 when compared to 2001. In other words, the off reserve population is growing faster than the population on reserve.

Looking more closely, the **Aboriginals** most likely to live on reserve are "North American Indians" or **First Nations** in more common parlance. Of that group, 300,755 out of 698,025 live on-reserve, or 43 per cent (again, as of the 2006 census).

In other words, 57 per cent of Indians/**First Nations** people do not live on reserve. And that's up from 55 per cent who lived off-reserve, as of the 2001 census.

A caveat: Census data differs from that recorded by the department of **Aboriginal** Affairs for reasons not germane here. But **Aboriginal Affairs** data shows a similar pattern in its 1983 to 2010 tracking: a growth in the number of people on reserves but a decline in the proportion of registered Indians on reserve.

So why does all this matter? Because additional data from Statistics Canada reveals that those most likely to live on-reserves (the "North American Indian" category), have lower median incomes compared to other **Aboriginals** .

For example, according to the 2006 census, for all **Aboriginals** grouped together (whether on or off-reserve), the median earnings figure for someone who worked full-time was $36,944.

But what is revealing is how that **Aboriginal** category breaks down. **Inuit** had the highest median income at $44,440 with **Metis** next at $39,784. Indian/**First Nations** people (combining on-reserve and off-reserve) had a median income of just $34,209.

Remember, all of the foregoing statistics are for those who worked full-time all year.

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Now break the "Indian" category down even further between those on-reserve and those off-reserve.

On-reserve Indians had a median income of $29,014. In contrast, off-reserve Indians had a median income of $37,477. In other words, **First Nations** people/Indians who live off-reserve have a median income that is almost $8,500 higher than their counterparts on-reserve.

It's no secret as to why many reserves and the inhabitants thereon suffer: many are far from large urban centres. Most reserves are also not yet designed to foment any sort of property rights for inhabitants.

The combination of remoteness and anti-wealth creating collective structures (to say nothing of the politicization of reserve spending) means many reserves thus lack the economic, educational and career opportunities that accompany living near a major centre.

As native and non-native politicians alike ponder what to do about aboriginal policy, they should keep in mind this simple fact: For most of Canada's **Aboriginal** population, life is better away from the reserve. That might explain why a majority of **Aboriginal** Canadians, including a majority of North American Indians, choose not to live on reserves.

Mark Milke is a Senior Fellow with the Fraser Institute and author of Life is Better in the Cities.

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THE EDMONTON SUN (FINAL)
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Blockade not imminent

Highway 63 safe for now, says chief

JACKIE L. LARSON EDMONTON SUN

Threat of a Highway 63 blockade is postponed -- for now, said Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan **First Nation**.

"At this time we have no plans to organize or facilitate the organization of a roadblock on Highway 63 for January 16 or any set date. However, the people are upset with the current state of affairs in this country and things are escalating towards more direct action," Adam said Tuesday.

The road's the main artery between the oilsands -- Alberta's economic lifeblood -- and the rest of the world.

Alberta's budget revenues are already stinging from declines in the price of oil; Highway 63 links Fort McMurray with markets, human resources and equipment.

Robin Campbell, Alberta's minister of**aboriginal affairs**, said Tuesday he wouldn't comment on **Idle No More**, calling it a "federal issue."

But Adam, whose band is based near Fort McMurray, said both federal and provincial governments have blindsided Canada with weakened environmental legislation and a weakened public review process.

Adam said his community has challenged applications by Shell Oil Canada, and has asked for better environmental protection measures.

"To date all we have seen is nothing more then meetings and lip service," he said, adding that the oil, gas and pipeline industries got legislative concessions in good time.

Federal legislative changes within Bill**C-45** and Bill **C-38** "will expedite Canada's abilities to extract billions of dollars in profits from indigenous lands while most of our communities **live in poverty** and some without basic services like clean drinking **water**," Adam said, calling his people " the canaries in the coal mine."

Adam didn't rule out a future blockade of Highway 63.

He seeks federal repeal of the bills or at least removal of amendments rejigging terms of acts, including the Navigable Waters Protection, Fisheries, Environmental Assessment, National Energy Board and the **Indian Act**.

Meanwhile, the Papaschase **First Nation** will be holding a blockade on the QEII Highway south of Edmonton Wednesday.

On its website, the**First Nation** said it will be a "peaceful protest in support of **Idle No More** and Chief (Theresa) Spence."

The protest is planned for 1 p.m. near **Gateway** Park on the southern outskirts of the city. ILLUS: photo ALLAN ADAM 'Escalating'

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The Gazette

MONTREAL GAZETTE (FINAL)
WEST ISLAND, Page: C6

Idle no more actions an important step in improving dialogue

MARLA NEWHOOK, Freelance

Not since the Oka crisis has an issue polarized our country more so than the **Idle No More** movement and the plight of **First Nations** people.

You can't open a newspaper, or turn on the radio or TV without hearing commentary, both negative and positive, about Chief Theresa Spence and her hunger strike, Bill **C-45** and the **Idle No More** movement. It has lit a fire under the collective butts of both native and non-**natives** alike and has even garnered support from outside our borders.

However, even in a time of political correctness, it still seems perfectly reasonable by some people to vilify Canadian **aboriginals** and denigrate them with racial slurs. I've heard them being referred to as "**welfare** bums" always looking for a handout, and much, much worse.

Critics of **Indian Affairs** should keep in mind that any transfer payments made to band councils and reserves are the result of **treaties** that our government has negotiated and signed with **First Nations** people; **treaties** that they seem to have conveniently forgotten in recent months.

By shedding light onto a bill such as **C-45**, which would see widespread changes to environmental protection and **First Nations** land rights, we should be thanking them for opening our eyes to Prime Minister Stephen Harper running roughshod over our constitutional rights.

As Wab Kinew, a multi-talented, multi-faceted Anishinaabe (who has become, in my opinion, the most relevant speaker on Canadian **aboriginal** issues), has said, it's "not just an **Indian** thing" anymore.

Proposed tactics by **aboriginal** protesters, like blockading railways, have been met with both heavy criticism and equally strong support.

But have we already forgotten that Montreal was held hostage by "striking" students for months on end, inconveniencing motorists, commuters and fellow students alike? It was a movement that managed to topple a provincial party and result in the proposed tuition hikes being taken off the table.

Wab Kinew succinctly points out that any **Idle No More** gatherings up to now have been non-violent, unlike the rioting students, who caused millions of dollars not only in damage but in economic losses, as well as costs to the city.

I received my **Indian** status last year under Bill C-3, the Gender Equity legislation, which reinstated status to **native women** who were stripped of it after marrying non-native men.

I can only observe from the sidelines the struggle that **First Nations** people are going through, but perhaps if I had grown up on the reserve in Moose Factory, in Ontario, where I was born, I'd be in a completely different situation.

The issues are too complex and impossible to resolve in just a couple of short meetings between **First Nations** leaders and government representatives. There are decades of exploitation, abuse, neglect and a long history of broken promises to just forgive and forget and move on.

If **aboriginals** are to forge ahead and build a better future, it's only fitting that they assert themselves and make their voices heard.

The **Idle No More** movement may be just the catalyst needed to spark meaningful dialogue between native and non-native leaders to finally put the past where it belongs.

Marla Newhook is a journalist and mother of two. She works part time at West Island Citizen Advocacy as the publicity representative. She is a resident of Pincourt.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Press Newswire

Manitoba cottages sue First Nation over newly imposed taxes

BUFFALO POINT, Man. _ Hundreds of non-native property owners with cottages on Manitoba reserve land are taking the Buffalo Point First Nation to court over new property taxes imposed on them last year.

The suit contends the taxes violate a long-standing lease agreement with cottagers, some of whom have held leases for decades.

The suit asks the court to overturn the tax laws and order the taxes to be repaid along with costs of the court challenge.

Everything changed last year for the cottagers after Ottawa approved Buffalo Point's application to go ahead with economic development under a 2005 law called the First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act.

The law allows pre-approved reserves to kick-start their economic engines through property taxes and other measures.

A statement from federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan says there's nothing wrong with the way Buffalo Point is enacting its tax laws.

"The First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act enables First Nations to participate more fully in the Canadian economy and promote private investment while meeting local infrastructure needs," said the statement from Duncan's office.

"The Act greatly expands the opportunity for First Nations to best utilize their property tax and other source revenues to promote First Nation capital investments and facilitate economic growth in their communities."

Neither Buffalo Point Chief John Thunder nor the lawyer for the cottagers could be reached for comment.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

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The London Free Press

THE LONDON FREE PRESS (FINAL
NEWS, Page: B1

#IdleNoMore

SUSAN BATSFORD, GRAPHICS EDITOR, TWITTER @SBATS1

Idle No More is a grassroots protest movement of Canada's **First Nations** people. They have been protesting federal legislation that, they say, takes away environmental protection and ignores the government's **treaty** obligations to its indigenous inhabitants.

IN THE BEGINNING ...

Nov. 10, 2012: Jessica Gordon, Sheelah McLean, Sylvia McAdams and Nina Wilsonfeld organized an event in Saskatoon over concerns Bill **C-45** would erode indigenous rights (called it **Idle No More**).

One week later: Events held in other cities, including Regina, Winnipeg and Prince Albert. One month later: National Day of Action across Canada. Two months later: Protests have been held globally.

Bill**C-45** Introduced by Harper government Oct. 18; passed into law Dec. 14

Implements numerous measures which activists claim weaken environmental protection laws and amends Canada's **Indian Act** without consulting **First Nations** (FN), further eroding their sovereignty.

Some key objections:

INDIAN ACT

FN communities can now lease designated reserve lands if majority attending a meeting called for that purpose vote to do so, regardless of how many show up. Previously, approval required majority support of eligible voters.

Idle No More claims this allows for easier opening of **treaty** lands and territory.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT

Major pipeline/power line projects aren't required to prove they won't damage a navigable waterway it crosses, unless waterway is on list prepared by transportation minister. Courts will continue to protect unlisted waters under the common law. The name of the act is now the Navigation Protection Act.

Idle No More claims this removes protection for thousands of lakes and rivers in Canada.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Reduces number of projects that require assessment.

Idle No More objects to faster approval process.

KEY PLAYERS

JESSICA GORDON, SHEELAH McLEAN, SYLVIA McADAMS AND NINA WILSONFELD: Organized first event.

ATTAWAPISKAT CHIEF THERESA SPENCE:

Started hunger strike on Victoria Isl. on Dec. 11 to support movement (key demand was meeting between Crown and **First Nations** to discuss "**treaty** issues").

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER:

Eventually agreed to meeting; Spence pulled out unless GG would participate.

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GOV. GEN. DAVID JOHNSTON:

Seen as important participant for meeting because he represents Crown, which negotiated original **treaties** with **aboriginal** people.

SHAWN ATLEO:

Assembly of **First Nations** (AFN) national chief.

JOHN DUNCAN:

Aboriginal Affairs minister. ILLUS: infographic by Tara Corran/QMI Agency Map source: **idlenomore** .ca 2012 PROTESTS

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

OTTAWA CITIZEN (FINAL)
NEWS, Page: A4

Martin, Jean urge Spence to end her fast

Fellow faster Jean Sock quit Monday to visit gravely ill mother in New Brunswick

Michael Woods, Postmedia News

Former prime minister Paul Martin and former governor general Michaëlle Jean are the latest prominent Canadians calling on Chief Theresa Spence to end her protest fast.

"I think she has accomplished a great deal," Martin told Postmedia News on Tuesday. "But I believe that she should now start focusing on her own health ."

"I think she's a very courageous woman," he added. "Right now, herhealth should come first."

Martin's voice is the latest in a chorus of eminent voices- including **Aboriginal Affairs** Minister **John Duncan** , NDP leader Tom Mul-cair, **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** head Justice Murray Sinclair and a host of **First Nations** chiefs - imploring the Attawapiskat chief to halt her liquid-only diet, which has reached its 36th day.

Jean also appealed for an end to Spence's protest. "You're better off alive to carry out this whole struggle," Jean told CBC Tuesday.

Martin visited Spence on Jan. 5 in her teepee on Victoria Island, where she has been protesting in hopes of securing a **treaty** meeting for First Nations leaders with both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston present. **First Nations** leaders met with both men separately last Friday, but Spence remained steadfast in her demand they be at the same table.

Martin called her "an inspiration to all Canadians" in comments to CTV's Question Period after he met her.

On Monday, one of Spence's fellow protesters broke his fast after 28 days. Jean Sock, from Elsipogpog, N.B., said his mother was gravely ill and he was heading home to support her.

Before he left office in 2006, Martin brokered the Kelowna Accord between **aboriginal** organizations and the federal and provincial governments. The accord called for $5.1 billion in spending over five years in **education** , **housing** , **health** care, **economic development** and skills training for **First Nations** people. The Conservative government scrapped the accord shortly after it took office in February 2006.

Since leaving office, Martin has devoted much of his time to**aboriginal** issues in Canada through the Martin **Aboriginal** Initiative.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - Audiences Northern Gateway : 5 manifestants accusés à Vancouver

Audiences Northern Gateway : 5 manifestants accusés à Vancouver
Mise à jour le mardi 15 janvier 2013 à 20 h 33 HNE

http://www.radio -canada.ca/regions/colombie -britannique/2013/01/15/005 -002-manifestants -accuses -northern -gateway -vancouver.shtml

Cinq manifestants ont réussi à déjouer la sécurité et se sont introduits dans la salle d'audience de la Commission d'examen conjoint du projet Northern Gateway en fin de matinée mardi.

Pour y arriver, ils ont reçu de l'aide d'une sixième personne qui se trouvait dans la salle.

Les six personnes ont été arrêtées.

Cinq d'entre elles ont été accusées de voies de fait par un intrus parce qu'elles ont refusé de quitter la salle, malgré la demande des policiers.

Lors des audiences de Vancouver, comme ce fut le cas pour celles de Victoria, les spectateurs doivent suivre les travaux par circuit fermé dans un hôtel autre que celui où ont lieu les audiences.

La Commission dit avoir choisi ce processus afin d'éviter que les manifestants qui s'opposent au projet de pipeline ne perturbent les audiences.

Un des accusés, Sean Devlin, a dénoncé la Commission en la qualifiant de ruse publicitaire.

Les cinq accusés devront comparaître en cour la semaine prochaine.

Entre temps, la porte -parole de la Commission d'examen conjoint, Annie Roy, a déclaré que la sécurité entourant les audiences de Vancouver restera la même.

D'après un reportage de Catherine Marineau -Dufresne.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - Le blocage de routes durant les manifestations Idle No More est déconseillé

Le blocage de routes durant les manifestations Idle No More est déconseillé
Mise à jour le mardi 15 janvier 2013 à 10 h 18 HNE

http://www.radio -canada.ca/regions/alberta/2013/0 1/15/001 -blocage -routes -idle -no-more -deconseille.shtml

Tandis que la police de Calgary évalue si des accusations doivent être déposées en lien au blocage d'un pont, samedi dernier, des organisateurs d'événements Idle No More déconseillent de recourir à ce type d'action.

Chantal Chagnon est l'une d'eux. Elle était de la manifestation de samedi, sur le pont de la 14e Rue à Calgary, mais affirme avoir quitté les lieux aussitôt que les protestataires ont commencé à bloquer le pont.

Selon Mme Chagnon, les organisateurs d'événements associés au mouvement Idle No More doivent s'assurer que le mouvement demeure pacifique.

Elle dit que d'autres manifestations sont prévues pour réclamer l'abrogation de la loi de mise en oeuvre du budget, longtemps connue sous le nom de projet de loi C-45 avant de recevoir la sanction royale le 14 décembre.

Pour sa part, Michael Smith, étudiant métis de l'Université de Calgary, estime que le mouvement va dans une mauvaise direction.

« Plus la contestation continue, plus on s'éloigne de la capacité d'avoir un dialogue constructif. Pas juste en haut niveau, entre le premier ministre et le chef de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations, mais aussi dans la rue, entre vous et moi , a déclaré l'étudiant.

Le Service de police de Calgary indique qu'il évalue toujours si des accusations doivent être déposées en lien avec le blocage de la 14e Rue samedi. Si c'était le cas, il pourrait s'agir d'infractions aux règlements municipaux, au Code de la route ou au Code criminel.

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LA PRESSE

LA PRESSE
DÉBATS, Page: A17

Un rayon de soleil

Idle No More offre un leadership jeune et tout neuf

Claudette Carbonneau

Difficile de faire preuve d'optimisme à tout crin quant à l'issue de la crise autochtone . Pourtant, ce n'est certainement pas l'urgence d'agir qui fait défaut dans ce dossier.

Rappelons simplement que le Canada se classe au 8e rang quant à l'indice de développement humain mis en place par l'ONU, alors que les communautés des Premières Nations au Canada arrivent au 78e rang mondial. Une véritable honte pour un pays riche et développé comme le Canada.

Certes, certaines communautés s'en tirent mieux que d'autres, mais le fossé qui les sépare des nonautochtones est tel qu'on ne peut plaider l'exception. Dans bien des cas, nous devons reconnaître que le tiers-monde existe bel et bien chez nous.

L'histoire pèse comme une chape de plomb sur ce dossier avec son lot d'incompréhensions, ses relents de colonialisme et parfois aussi une dose énorme de culpabilité qui freine, chez les plus ouverts, le nécessaire esprit critique qui favoriserait un déblocage.

Il y a enfin, et non sans raison, les rapports de ces communautés avec les gouvernements qui sont empreints d'une immense méfiance. De plus, la société civile majoritaire a trop longtemps fait preuve d'indifférence, quand ce n'est pas d'attitudes discriminatoires ou racistes à l'égard des autochtones .

Le vrai rayon de soleil dans ce magma de grisaille, c'est Idle No More . Un leadership jeune, frais, tout neuf. Un mouvement citoyen qui repose sur des femmes à l'origine. Un mouvement qui fait de l'espace aux autochtones des réserves, comme aux Métis et à ceux qui vivent hors réserve et qui constituent aujourd'hui 60% des autochtones du pays. Un mouvement qui se réclame du pacifisme et qui fait appel à un rapprochement entre les Blancs et les autochtones. Un mouvement qui rejette le cynisme pour prôner l'action citoyenne. Un mouvement qui s'inscrit dans la modernité et qui n'a pas peur de revendiquer la juste place des autochtones au sein de la société dans laquelle nous vivons tous.

La plus grande force de ce mouvement, c'est de briser le moule des approches uniquement basées sur le juridique et les revendications territoriales . Ce faisant, il montre du doigt la situation de quasi-apartheid dans laquelle la loi des Indiens nous a tous enfermés. Certes, Idle No More n'a pas tout inventé. Je me souviens de Ghislain Picard qui marchait sur un fil de fer lors du sommet de Mashteuiatsh pour tenter d'avancer sur le travail, sur le développement social et économique... Aujourd'hui, c'est la société civile autochtone qui parle haut, fort et clair! Tant mieux.

Bien sûr, il y a loin de la coupe aux lèvres. Mais pour avancer, il faut d'abord pouvoir démarrer. A ce chapitre, c'est plutôt réussi. Stephen Harper, qui ne s'est jamais distingué par sa souplesse ou son intérêt pour la question autochtone , a fait quelques volte-face utiles. Il s'est enfin assis, après avoir mis le feu aux poudres avec ses lois mammouths. Il faudra maintenant compter sur un mouvement qui continue de pousser, sur l'intelligence politique du premier ministre et sur son habileté à voir venir les crises. Le discours des chefs qui se sont présentés à la rencontre semble avoir pris du tonus et surtout cible des pistes plus porteuses en parlant de partage des ressources naturelles, d'éducation, de développement économique, etc.

On a beaucoup comparé Idle No More à des mouvements comme Occupy, comme le mouvement étudiant. Pour moi, le principal apport d'Idle No More, c'est d'abord la dynamique qu'il impulse sur le leadership autochtone et dans l'ensemble du dossier, en ouvrant des pistes nouvelles pour sortir des éternels culs-de-sac. La pire chose que l'on pourrait faire, ce serait de tenter d'opposer Idle No More au nécessaire travail politique des chefs qui ont voulu s'y inscrire.

L'auteure est exprésidente de la CSN. PHOTO: photo michel tremblay, le quotidien ILLUS: La plus grande force d'Idle No More , c'est de briser le moule des approches uniquement basées sur le juridique et les revendications

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territoriales . Sur la photo, une manifestation ayant eu lieu à Chicoutimi la semaine dernière.

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L'ACADIE NOUVELLE
ÉDITORIAL, Page: 14

Quand on n'a que le gouvernement

Jean Saint-Cyr

Revenons sur la question autochtone. Un des reproches souvent adressés aux Premières Nations touche à la gouvernance dans les communautés autochtones et l'usage qui est fait de l'argent fédéral qu'elles administrent.

Comme dans la société blanche du Canada, toutes les communautés ne sont pas administrées de la même façon. S'il est vrai que plusieurs communautés autochtones accumulent des déficits importants, d'autres sont administrées de façon exemplaire. Mais les problèmes de gestion effectuée par les conseils de bande sont beaucoup plus répandus que les Autochtones eux-mêmes ne voudraient le voir.

Interpellé par l'animateur Michel C. Auger sur les ondes de la radio de RadioCanada, l'ex-premier ministre Paul Martin n'a pas hésité une seconde quand on lui a demandé à qui attribuer la faute de la mauvaise gestion: aux gouvernements. Comment cela? Il faut remonter aux premières heures de la fondation de notre pays pour comprendre où se situe le problème.

Le rapport de la Commission royale d'enquête sur les peuples autochtones cite le rapport annuel de 1876 du ministère de l'Intérieur qui s'exprimait ainsi à propos de la responsabilité du gouvernement fédéral à l'endroit des Autochtones : «Notre Loi sur les Indiens repose en général sur le principe selon lequel les Autochtones doivent être maintenus sous notre tutelle et traités comme les pupilles ou les enfants de l'État. La sagesse et le devoir nous enjoignent de faire accéder l'Indien, par l'éducation et d'autres moyens, à un niveau supérieur de civilisation en l'encourageant à assumer les privilèges et les responsabilités d'un citoyen à part entière. »

Vingt-sept ans auparavant, le gouvernement fédéral avait d'ailleurs entrepris, avec l'aide de l'Église catholique, «d'éduquer les sauvages». Le gouvernement et l'Église ont ouvert, à partir de 1849, des pensionnats pour les jeunes Autochtones. La mission était simple: éradiquer toute trace de la culture amérindienne chez leurs pensionnaires. Le rapport de la commission écrit à ce sujet: «Les chefs des Églises et du gouvernement avaient conclu qu'il était possible de résoudre le problème de l'indépendance et de la sauvagerie des Autochtones en enlevant de leur famille les très jeunes enfants et en les envoyant passer huit ou neuf ans dans un pensionnat, loin de chez eux, où on leur inculquerait les moeurs de la société dominante» Ainsi, au lieu de respecter la culture et les traditions autochtones tout en les éduquant pour améliorer leur autonomie dans un contexte de changement, après les avoir dépourvus de leur culture et de leurs moeurs, on les a violés et on a abusé systématiquement des enfants qu'on «prélevait» dans les communautés autochtones. Belle éducation!

Quand tout est mis en place pour désorganiser un peuple sur tous les plans, spirituels comme matériels, il ne faut pas s'attendre à ce qu'il se comporte selon les normes que nous, comme société, lui avons imposées, des normes que nous ne respectons pas toujours nous-mêmes. La saga des F35, comme le faisait remarquer un porte-parole autochtone, en est un bon exemple...

Habituellement, les communautés autochtones prospères et bien administrées sont dans des régions à proximité de centres urbains dont l'activité économique peut leur profiter. Mais pour les communautés autochtones isolées, loin des grandes artères de circulation, il n'est pas rare de constater que pratiquement la seule activité économique dans la communauté provient des fonds fédéraux visant le fonctionnement des écoles et des établissements de santé (quand il y en a) et l'assistance sociale aux résidants sans travail. Or, il est généralement reconnu que l'éducation et la santé sont déjà sous-financées. Les communautés autochtones n'ont pas suffisamment d'accès à des fonds de développement économique, et quand ils sont disponibles, ce sont habituellement les fonctionnaires fédéraux qui prennent les décisions, qui choisissent quels projets seront lancés, perpétuant ainsi le rapport de tuteur à pupille, un lien de dépendance totale, dénuée de toute possibilité d'initiative.

C'est en réintroduisant le respect et la fierté dans les communautés autochtones, en guérissant le tissu social que nous avons détruit, que la société canadienne enrayera les problèmes de gouvernance et de corruption qui côtoient le suicide et la violence familiale dans trop de communautés des Premières Nations. Historiquement, sous sommes à la source du problème, il nous appartient de contribuer à la solution.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC World Report: Prime Minister extends an "olive branch"

>>Host: The Prime Minister extended an olive branch but some say the promise of a meeting won't put an end to an aboriginal movement called Idle No More. For weeks people have been gathering across the country to express frustration over the strained relationship with the federal government. The CBC's Megan Thomas has more.

>>Reporter: Idle No More rallies like this one in Sudbury have rippled across the country in recent weeks, sometimes holding up traffic, sometimes entertaining shoppers with flash mob dancing. Serpent River Chief Day says the Idle No More movement is not going away, but may change shape now that Ottawa has shown signs of responding.

>>Chief Day: I think in terms of the type of action now it's not possibly going to be so much boots on the ground as it is people sitting at table working through these things.

>>Reporter: News that the Prime Minister plans to sit down with Aboriginal leaders also does defused some of the tension around Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike. She is still refusing food until she attends the meeting on Friday. Timmins-James Bay MP Charlie Angus says much will depend on what happens there.

>>Angus: I think it's important to point out here is that the Prime Minister has expressed his willingness to meet. So let's get that meeting and let's find out where we go from here.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Global West Block: Interview with Pam Palmater

>>Tom: Let's bring in Pam Palmater. She's a lawyer and spokesperson for the Idle No More movement. A lot of people looking at these images of the delays and disruptions on the border in particular might ask how on earth is that helping your cause? How is it getting public opinion on your side?

>>Palmater: When you think about it what we're trying to do is educate Americans and Canadians about how the Harper government's omnibus bills will impact both sides of the border. It is really hard to educate on the other side of the border when, you know, Canadian issues are not very high-profile. So by causing temporary, minor border slowdowns and handing out leaflets and giving out information, that's a direct way of informing both Americans and Canadians about what is happening. The ones that we have done in the past have been very successful, including the temporary highway and rail slowdowns and in some of those slowdowns we actually have people get out of their cars and join us on these slowdowns and want to ask more questions.

>> Tom: Let's go to the heart of the isue here. That is, what is the ultimate objective? What are you hoping to achieve? What is that one thing that the Prime Minister can say that will make you go ah, there we are. Situation resolved?

>>Palmater: There's nothing he can say that's going to say situation resolved because that's all we ever get from politicians is all of their flowery wording, and similarly, one meeting that's being called a first step isn't going to cut it either because we have had 5,000 first steps. What we need is the next step forward, an actual commitment to action. So I think at this meeting, the best Prime Minister Harper could do is come in and say, listen, we're going to put some good faith on the table and here it is. We will deal with the crisis in First Nation communities around lack of water, housing, sanitation, education, and we're going to do that immediately. And then we're going to set up a longer term process to deal with how we're going to deal with the lands and resources. If he made an actual commitment to that, that would be some form of success.

>> Tom: You mentioned Bill C-45, that was the budget implementation act, the omnibus bill. Are you calling on the government to withdraw the budget implementation act?

>>Palmater: Oh, yeah, at least the provisions that impact the lands, waters and First Nations, because it is not just C-45 and C-38, for example, there's about 14 pieces of legislation that's being imposed on First Nations without their knowledge, consent, and against their will. That's a very easy thing for the Prime Minister to do. All of those bills that haven't passed yet. Take them off the table until they get First Nation consent.

>>Tom: How in the end does all this end? Is there ever an end to this?

>>Palmater: Well, that's the whole point of this movement, and why we're asking Canadians to stand beside us, because we have got to deal with this treaty relationship once and for all. I mean, we started out with nation-to-nation relationships, we made a treaty promise to share the lands and resources, that we would all have wealth and prosperity. So far it has only been Canada. First Nations remain at the bottom of all socioeconomic indicators. That's not a just relationship. We need to work it out. Nobody wants to be here perpetually. We have to do something. There will be a greater flash point in the future.

>> Tom: Here is what might be an obvious question to some, and that is that if we have a number of northern communities, native communities that are uneconomic, that have got sort of systemic problems, why not move some of those communities? It has happened in other parts of Canada, when communities become non-sustainable. Is that something that might be looked at as well?

>>Palmater: I would say no, because you have to look at the root causes of the extreme poverty in those northern communities. Is it their location? Nine times out of 10, these northern communities are located next to diamond mines, oilfields, chromium deposits, they're in some of the most wealthiest places in Canada. The issue isn't the resources, it is that those resources aren't being shared with those communities and everybody else but those communities are benefiting from it. When you think about it, these communities are 100 percent controlled by Indian Affairs. Indian Affairs and the Indian Act has controlled everything that happens on First Nations for the last 150 years. So if there's any finger

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pointing to be done it is to look at the giant 5,000 person Indian Affairs bureaucracy and say, you are not doing your job.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - RDI en Diret - Attawapiskat Rapport Deloitte

Attawapiskat Rapport Deloitte

Programme: RDI en direct

Date: lundi, le 7 janvier, 2013

Heure: 11H00

SIMON DURIVAGE: lundi 7 janvier. Bonjour, mesdames et messieurs. D'abord, la réserve d'Attawapiskat, dont la chef Theresa Spence mène une grève de la faim, est gérée de façon problématique, selon la firme comptable Deloitte. Ottawa lui avait confié le mandat d'examiner les finances de la réserve ontarienne. Des millions de dollars sont dépensés sans qu'on sache à quoi l'argent a servi. Denis Ferland, les dépenses ne sont pas justifiées dans 80 des cas.

DENIS FERLAND: Il y a un problème de documentation. Il y a eu cette crise du logement qui avait amené le fédéral a nommé une sorte d'administration d'urgence. Mais il y avait aussi une commande passée à Deloitte d'effectuer une vérification des procédures et mécanismes administratifs et financiers. On a examiné en détail des dépenses, 505 transactions en particulier, ce financement obtenu du Canada. Deloitte ne se dit pas en mesure de tirer des conclusions dans 126 cas. Dans 60 % des cas, il y absence totale de pièces justificatives pour voir si des fonds ont été dépensés aux fins prévues. Ce que dit Deloitte, la conclusion que l'on tire, est qu'on ne peut pas parler de diligence raisonnable, ce qui est requis habituellement de par la loi sur les relations financières du Canada.

SIMON DURIVAGE: On peut penser que ce rapport soit une fuite voulue.

DENIS FERLAND: C'est ce que dit le porte- parole de Mme Spence. Elle n'est pas loin d'ici. Vous avez parlé de sa grève de la faim. Elle est ici à Ottawa. Elle n'a pas parlé aux médias directement. Elle se concentre sur sa grève de la faim. Elle dit que c'est justement pour discuter de problèmes comme ceux-là que l'on se réunit et on accuse le gouvernement de vouloir discréditer Mme Spence et de vouloir saboter tout le mouvement dont on est témoin depuis un mois. On dit que le gouvernement continu d'être malhonnête et à manquer de respect dans le traitement des autochtones. Ce n'est pas très bien à quatre jours de cette rencontre importante. - Merci.

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DOSSIER ATTAWAPISKA LE TÉLÉJOURNAL

DOSSIER ATTAWAPISKA LE TÉLÉJOURNAL MIDI GENEVIÈVE ASSELIN RECOIT EN ENTREVUE LE POLITICOLOGUE THIERRY RODON' TITULAIRE DE LA CHAIRE DE RECHERHE SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENt DU NORD : LUNDI 7 JANVIER 2013 11H30 AM

GENEVIÈVE ASSELIN (JOURNALISTE) Un peu plus tôt, Denis Ferland nous disait que la firme de loi ne pouvait voir si les subventions ont été utilisées à bon escient à Attawapiskat. Je poursuis avec le politologue Thierry Rodon. Il est titulaire de la Chaire de recherche sur le développement du Nord, à Université Laval. Absence totale de pièces justificatives sur 400 des 505 transactions, des subventions gouvernement fédéral. Surpris?

THIERRY RODON (POLITICOLOGUE) Bonjour, Mme Asselin. Je pense qu'il faut replacer tout cela en contexte. Les conseils de bande sont financés par le fédéral selon la loi sur les Indiens ils sont redevables au fédéral pour ses hommes. Le problème qui se pose, c'est que contrairement aux municipalités, où les électeurs payent des taxes, le conseil de bande sont redevables au fédéral. Ca pose le problème de l'imputabilité. Autre problème, c'est du financement de programmes. Ils n'ont pas la liberté de décider ou ils mettent l'argent. Alors tout cela crée une situation assez complexe. Depuis l'arrivée des conservateurs au pouvoir, on demande de plus en plus de compte au conseil de bande, c'est-à-dire d'écrire des rapports de plus en plus nombreux. A un moment donné, les organisations passent leur temps à faire des rapports. C'est assez complexe, tatillon et on est plus capable de même travailler sur la mise en place de programmes. Attawapiskat, je ne connais pas la situation. Je n'ai pas lu l'étude non plus. Mais c'est une situation que tous les conseils de bandes vives. Le problème, c'est que le financement vient toujours de notre organisme qui décide ce que l'on doit faire avec. C'est un problème majeur pour les communautés à l'automne.

GENEVIÈVE ASSELIN (JOURNALISTE) Est-ce que vous diriez que le problème identifié par la firme comptable est généralisé à travers le pays?

THIERRY RODON (POLITICOLOGUE) :- Je ne sais pas. Que certaines communautés rendaient compte de façon extrêmement diligente, j'en suis sûr. La question n'est pas là. Certains lorsqu'il y a des problèmes bons groupe e assez de milliers de rapports et bons occupés de la population en priorité. A Attawapiskat et je ne connais pas la situation.

GENEVIÈVE ASSELIN (JOURNALISTE S'il y avait 1+ grande imputabilité des avis citoyens et des lasers, si le conseil de bande pouvait lever leur propre taxe plutôt que de faire appel à des subventions du fédéral, la gestion serait peut-être meilleure?

THIERRY RODON (POLITICOLOGUE) On le voit avec le gouvernement du Nunavut. Ce sont eux qui décident où ils mettent l'argent. Ca fonctionne assez bien. Il y a des moyens, mais c'est parce qu'on est dans une logique coloniale ou c'est un ministère qui gère le conseil de bande, qu'il émet sous tutelle. Même les municipalités ont plus de liberté d'un conseil de bande. Les conseils de bande ont les responsabilités en éducation. Tous les programmes sociaux sont gérés par le conseil de bande. Il gère beaucoup d'argent dans des programmes, mais qui sont déterminés par quelqu'un d'autre. Si on prend l'éducation, depuis 1996, le financement de l'éducation a été bloqué. Le financement est en train de diminuer pour les écoles de Premières Nations. Certains vont se servir d'une autre enveloppe pour financer l'éducation, comme le ferait tout gouvernement responsable.

GENEVIÈVE ASSELIN (JOURNALISTE) Que pensez-vous du fait que ce rapport de loi coule aujourd'hui alors que le chef d'Attawapiskat Theresa Spence fait une grève de la faim pour discuter avec le premier ministre Harper

THIERRY RODON (POLITICOLOGUE) dans un bon temps pour le gouvernement Harper. Je ne peux affirmer qu'il en fait exprès. J'en sais rien. Je ne peux me prononcer là-dessus.

GENEVIÈVE ASSELIN (JOURNALISTE) :Thierry Rodon, merci

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Internal Article / Article interne

RDI EN DIRECT - La grève de la faim poursuivie

RDI EN DIRECT- La grève de la faim poursuivie LUNDI 7 JANVIER 2013

SIMON DURIVAGE: D'ailleurs, Stephen Harper a finalement annoncé qu'il rencontrera leurs leaders la semaine prochaine pour discuter du traité fédéralautochtone et du développement économique. Des solutions pourtant existent. Elles ont été clairement identifiées par le rapport Erasmus -Dussault publié il y a 16 ans, mais n'ont pas eu de suivi. On revient sur les enjeux de la question autochtone avec l'un des auteurs de ce rapport, le juge à la retraite René Dussault. Bonjour. Rappelez -nous dans quelles circonstances vous avait -on demandé de vous pencher sur la question des autochtones?

RENÉ DUSSAULT (JUGE À LA RETRAITE) - La commissiion royale a été créée en 1991 à la suite des événements d'Oka et de Kanesatake. Et il y avait le contexte du lac Meech. Au Manitoba on avait refusé de voter favorablement. Dans ce contexte, on avait indiqué aux autochtones qu'on créerait une commission royale. Le mandat n'a pas été préparé par Ottawa, mais par un ancien juge de la cour suprêmendus a demandé de couvrir tous les aspects de la relation du Canada avec les autochtones. Autant sur le plan fédéral que dans des champs de compétence des provinces.

SIMON DURIVAGE: - On n'a pas le temps de faire le tour, mais en gros, on parle de l'absence d'un plan d'ensemble dans la gestions autochtones. On gère ça au cas?

RENÉ DUSSAULT (JUGE À LA RETRAITE) - On avait recommandé en 1996, sur 20 ans, des propositions pour combler de 50 % l'écart économique entre les autochtones et l'ensemble de la population. Egalement, on avait proposé une stratégie détaillée sur 20ha pour faire en sorte que la capacité d'agir des autochtones soit renforcée. Ca voulait dire l'éducation, la santé, la justice, économie?ar la suite, de prévoir l'autonomie gouvernementale ou les autochtones pourraient générer davantage leurs propres...

SIMON DURIVAGE: Une sorte de troisième un gouvernement.

RENÉ DUSSAULT (JUGE À LA RETRAITE)A l'époque on l'avait appelé comme ça. L'important, c'est qu'on l'avait recommandé, de réédifier les nations autochtones et de construire l'autonomie gouvernementale sur une cinquantaine de nations. Alors, il y avait évidemment de l'action qui devait survenir du côté des autochtones s'il le voulait évidemment du côté des gouvernements. Je m'empresse de dire qu'une commission royale fait son meilleur effort et remet aux parties concernées le dossier et il lui appartient évidemment au gouvernement et aux autochtones.

SIMON DURIVAGE: Quels sont les qu'on pourrait appliquer tout de suite.

RENÉ DUSSAULT (JUGE À LA RETRAITE)- Des recommandations pour la formation des professionnels de la santé pour en arriver à 10 000 personnes également matière d'éducation, des recommandations extrêment importantes. Qui serait applicable. La difficulté, c'estque les gens qui viennent du Nord, il faut avoir des services d'accueil pour s'assurer qu'on ne les perde pas dans les trois ou quatre derniers mois dans les grandes villes. Que l'on puisse obtenir un tour de diplomation satisfaisant, ce qui n'est pas encore le cas.

SIMON DURIVAGE: Malheureusement, le temps est déjà écoulé. Je vous remercie infiniment. Merci. Je vous laisse làdessus. Merci

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CTV Question Period: PS Rickford on January 11 meeting

>> Kevin: We requested the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs John Duncan to join us today. He could not. So we're joined on the phone by the Parliamentary Secretary Greg Rickford. I want to begin, Mr. Rickford, by recalling the six commitments agreed to one year ago, and ask you why the meeting this friday is only going to tackle two of them, economic development and treaty implementation. Does that mean the other four are pretty much going nowhere?

>>Rickford: It doesn't mean that at all, Kevin. Look, we know that structurally here, obviously speeding up work on treaty, implementing a treaty working group is a top priority. It goes hand in hand with some of the structural challenges that remain for economic development. These were two priorities recognized and put forward by the Assembly of First Nations and Chiefs, Regional Chiefs and local Chiefs from across the country. It's an extension of our discussion flowing from the Crown First Nations gathering and, in fact, from the joint action plan that Chief Atleo and Minister Duncan engaged in some six or eight months before the Crown First Nation gathering. So these are the two top pieces that have been brought forward, and we're looking forward to meeting and talking substantively about those two key points on Friday.

>> Kevin: But we just heard the Grand Chief of Manitoba saying that the education initiative is bogged down, that the economic action plan committee hasn't even been struck and that was supposed to happen months ago. I mean, this is sounding a lot like a pretty dysfunctional process. So, you know, why continue doing what's not really working?

>>Rickford: Well with all due respect, I don't share the view of that Regional Chief. In fact, the education process is well under way. The uptake on the internet alone, with respect to communities and regions, groups of First Nations communities member organization of regional organizations, has been robust and there's a lot of enthusiasm for rollout early this year that will bring in consultations from coast to coast to coast with respect to an education agreement.

>> Kevin: All right. Some of these Chiefs, and, you know, we heard Chief Nepinak say even within the AFN there's division so there's a lot of politics on every level going on here. One of the ideas that's come up is a special joint committee to deal with resource revenue sharing. At the meeting on friday, will there be some progress on actually figuring out who gets what?

>>Rickford: I think we need to take the preemptive steps of talking about and clarifying treaty. Obviously at committee right now we've heard hundreds of witnesses and consultations from them at the standing committee on land use planning and land management. There are currently progressive pieces of legislation. For example, the Land Management Act, Kevin, that not only gives First Nations communities better opportunities to derive economic benefits from their land, but to also protect their lands environmentally, importantly, part of C-45, which I remain somewhat confounded why there's so much negative feedback about that is with respect to the ability to lease land. These are complaints that were put forward by First Nations communities, and we've responded to them, and they will and already have brought significant economic benefits, and, in fact, Kevin, don't interfere with the treaty process.

>> Kevin: I'm running out of time, Mr. Rickford. I have one more question for you, and that is whether or not the Prime Minister has yet invited the Governor -General to attend Friday's meeting as the First Nations leaders want him to be there?

>>Rickford: I'm not aware of the entire composition of the delegation. I do know that the Prime Minister will be there, Minister Duncan and myself, and the AFN will determine the composition of their own delegation.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Global TV West Block: PS Rickford on Idle No More

>>Tom: We asked Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan to come on the program. He was not available. His Parliamentary Secretary is. Greg Rickford joins us. Let me start with you on the ongoing protests, Mr. Rickford. What is your view of the ongoing protests even though a meeting has been set up for next week?

>>Rickford: First of all, going back to before the Crown First Nation gathering, there was a joint action plan that was done by the Minister and the National Chief Atleo focusing on land claims, governance, education, some of the issues mentioned by the previous guest (Pam Palmater). At the time of the Crown First Nations gathering, we arrived at a work plan and a variety of things we wanted to move forward. We know these are long-term challenges, Tom. We have remained committed to them. As recently as November, National Chief Atleo met with the Prime Minister and set up future meetings to follow progress and ensure we're making progress on all of these items. So we have faith that the First Nations will determine the composition of a delegation later this week and will move forward, continue to move forward on the key pieces, particularly economic development and treaty work.

>> Tom: I'm not sure I heard an answer as to how you feel about the protests, but let's --

>>Rickford: I will answer that, Tom. In terms of various protests and demonstrations, you know, in this country, people have the right to demonstrate and express points of view peacefully, as long as they obey the law, and certainly don't, from a public safety perspective, jeopardize transportation infrastructure. I think the Canadian population expects everybody to respect the law in holding such protests. Beyond that, we would leave that to local law enforcement officials.

>> Tom: Let's go very quickly to the substance. The Idle No More group said, you just heard them, they said remove elements of the Budget Implementation Bill from the table, specifically the navigable waters act, environmental review provisions in that Act as well. First of all, are you prepared to do that? Secondly -- this is really important -- were the Aboriginal communities and leaders consulted in advance of this legislation being presented?

>>Rickford: There are numerous examples of where we have performed extensive consultations and responded directly to the requests of First Nations Chiefs to provide them with more flexibility. The clauses in Bill C-45 with respect to decisions to lease out their land not only remain voluntary for First Nations but have significantly and positively impacted communities like the Penticton Indian Band, sitting there on the edge of the beautiful city of Penticton. Fond du Lac First Nations, communities that can develop jointly with the private sector in major resources. Ring of Fire, Tom, is another example. We have First Nations communities, contrary to what has been said just previously, working through an environment assessment process. They're generating small business activities in their communities and they're developing capacity in land mapping. That process is well under way. To say that Bill C-45 has a negative impact on that is simply untrue.

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CBC.CA: Attawapiskat audit finds 'no evidence of due diligence'

Attawapiskat audit finds 'no evidence of due diligence'

Deloitte finds average of 81% of files lack supporting documents from Ontario reserve

The accounting firm hired to audit the finances of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation reserve in northern Ontario says there is little or no documentation for millions of dollars spent by the band, CBC News has learned.

The unreleased audit was requested by the federal government to ensure that the approximately $104 million it provided to Attawapiskat between April 2005 and November 2011 was spent as it should have been.

CBC News has obtained a copy of the audit. The funding was intended for housing, sewage, education and other services.

In a letter dated Sept. 20, 2012, that was written by Deloitte to Chief Theresa Spence and copied to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, that auditing firm says that of 505 transactions reviewed, more than 400 lacked proper documentation.

The letter says "an average of 81 per cent of files did not have adequate supporting documents and over 60 per cent had no documentation of the reason for payment."

The letter to Spence also says there is "no evidence of due diligence on the part of Attawapiskat of funding provided by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for housing projects and Health Canada for health-related projects."

Deloitte said it could not conclude that the payments made by the band council were in accordance with the terms and conditions of funding agreements with the federal government.

Overall, it recommended:

Stricter enforcement measures.

More eligibility requirements.

More reviews of the First Nation's record-keeping.

The audit also noted "significant staff turnover" that had resulted in a "corporate memory loss" for transactions reported prior to 2010.

Some of the details of specific transactions are blacked out in the copy obtained by CBC News, but in some cases, the report shows expenditures of five and six figures without any supporting documentation found by the audit.

Deloitte reported its finding to Spence in late August. It's not known what she or the band council did in response to the findings.

State of emergency declared last winter

The Attawapiskat First Nation was placed under co-management more than a decade ago a measure taken by the federal government to attempt to improve financial administration.

The band's co-manager, Clayton Kennedy, acknowledged being in a romantic relationship with the band's chief, Spence. But he denied any conflict of interest.

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Spence declared a state of emergency on the reserve in the fall of 2011, citing a critical need for housing.

On Nov. 30, 2011, the federal government appointed a third-party manager to oversee the band's operations, citing urgent health and safety issues and a need for immediate action to remedy the problems. Spence and the band council tried to block the move with a court injunction.

Amid much media coverage, the government pledged to provide emergency housing. About two dozen modular homes were built and trucked to the community over last winter's ice roads.

The third-party manager was removed April 19, 2012, based on progress that was made and the fact the First Nation returned to co-management.

PM to meet with chiefs from First Nations

Spence has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, camped out in an aboriginal education centre on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River between downtown Ottawa and Gatineau, Que. She's demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston to discuss what she characterizes as "treaty issues" between First Nations and the Crown.

Harper agreed to meet with chiefs from First Nations this Friday and Spence has said she will attend, but is not giving up her hunger strike until she sees the outcome of the meeting.

On Friday, reporters asked Grand Chief Stan Louttit, who represents the northern Ontario region that includes Attawapiskat, about the status of the audit, which the band council agreed to when the First Nations problems first came under scrutiny.

"It is very, very difficult to do business in a remote community," Louttit said. "The average Canadian out there, they see millions and millions, and they just get concerned and said, 'Hey, there's something going on there.'

"But I challenge those people, come to the community and look at the books, and come and live there for a couple of weeks and you'll see," he said.

"The audit speaks for itself," said Jan O'Driscoll, the press secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. "We agree with its conclusions and recommendations."

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Roy Green Show: Interview with Pam Palmater

SOURCE: CORUS RADIO NETWORK PROGRAM: ROY GREEN SHOW

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2013 TIME: 15:07

REFERENCE: 0601doc2 LENGTH: 27:30 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER

ROY GREEN (Corus Radio Network): Former Prime Minister Paul Martin saying that Chief Teresa Spence from Attawapiskat is an inspiration to all Canadians. The Idle No More movement is under way in Canada. As you know, we talked about this yesterday and took some phone calls and the question is does it really have the support of First Nations people, of First Nations peoples across the country? Does it make a sustainable case that the federal government is riding roughshod over aboriginal communities and treaties with First Nations.

Pamela Palmeter joins me on the Roy Green Show on the Corus Radio Network. She is the Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University. She's also a lawyer and law professor and she's an activist with Idle No More. She ran for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.

Ms. Palmeter, Pamela, it's good to have you back on the program. We only had a few minutes with you about two weeks ago.

PAM PALMATER (Chair in Indigenous governance at Ryerson University): Yes. No, thanks for doing this and highlighting the movement.

ROY GREEN: Well, we want to hear from you and we'll also tell our callers that the phone lines are open at 1-877-399-9898, 1-877-399-9898. You can talk to Pamela Palmeter about what she has to say and what her sense is about the Idle No More movement and the relationship between the federal government of Canada, this one particularly, and First Nations peoples.

Now Prime Minister, former Prime Minister Paul Martin said that Chief Spence is an inspiration to Canadians. Did you get a sense that you were getting a better, I don't want to use the word "deal", but was there more respect from a Liberal government, maybe the Liberal government of Paul Martin as brief as it was, than you are, than you're getting from the current federal government?

PAM PALMATER: Well, we're definitely getting no respect at all from the current federal government. But I mean, you have to look at this, all of this problem didn't start overnight. I mean, we have gone through many successive Conservative and Liberal governments at the federal level, you know, for generations. And they have all had a hand in the very oppressive colonial policies that have been imposed on First Nations people.

So think of, you know, residential schools. I mean, it was Prime Minister Trudeau himself who tried to introduce the White Paper, the 1969 White Paper which would which would ensure our assimilation. And, you know, here we are in 2013 and now it's Harper who's trying to legislate our assimilation. So while the working relationship seemed to be a little bit better under the Liberal government, you have to look at everything that's happened with each successive government. It was the Liberal government that put the two per cent funding cap on education for First Nations people which made, which created the education crisis. Yet it's the Conservative government who leaves the cap in place.

So I think they've all had a hand in it and they all had some accounting to do.

ROY GREEN: I went back and I read a column which you wrote for the Ottawa Citizen on the 28th of December.

PAM PALMATER: Umhmm.

ROY GREEN: And you did mention, and I'm quoting you here, an aggressive legislative assimilation plan.

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PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: From the Harper government. What exactly is the Harper government attempting to do in that regard?

PAM PALMATER: Okay, so generally what happens in terms of legislation dealing with First Nations people, you know, there will be one piece of legislation trying to address something either under the Indian Act or something to do with self government or specific claims or something and it's a process that's worked on for a very long time, you know, with First Nation organizations or communities and the government.

What this Harper government has done is decided, you know, kind of some basic things right up front. One, he wants to integrate First Nations people into Canadian society and he's said that in all of his speeches related to First Nations, his election platforms and so on and so forth.

And the other thing he said is that he wants to unlock First Nation lands for the benefit of Canadians. So those are really two key code words that come from the White Paper and come from legislation, even American legislation, you know, as old as the Dodds Act. And so if you look, I mean, you really have to look at all of the legislation. You can't just look at C-38 and C-45 because they're omnibus bills. You have to look at the legislation dealing with First Nation elections, matrimonial property on reserve, water rights, the accountability bill, the bill to repeal the Indian Act, the self-government bill, and it goes on and on and on and on.

And if you pick out, if you actually look at all of that legislation and ignore what the happy titles say and delve deep into it, what it's doing is it's putting more federal control over First Nations people while at the same time introducing legislation that will break up Indian reserves and make those lands available for sale to non-Indians and large corporations like Enbridge, for example.

ROY GREEN: Okay, I'm listening very carefully to what you're saying and I'm referencing as well the column that you wrote.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: And I want to keep everything under the umbrella of the Idle No More movement.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: Because that's what people are talking about now.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: So now the issue is about treaty signed between First Nations and the Crown and you wrote in the Ottawa Citizen column, here is the quote: The core treaty promised that we would all live together peacefully and share the wealth of this land.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: The problem is that only one treaty partner has seen any prosperity. And if I may continue, and I'd like to address all of this, it's going to take me about 30 seconds, go on to write that Canada has become prosperous and the Canadian standard of living has become significantly high while First Nations have, quote, been subjected to purposeful chronic underfunding of all their basic human services like water, sanitation, housing and education.

And you write, this has led to crises like the housing crisis at Attawapiskat. The counter-argument, and by the way

PAM PALMATER: Umhmm.

ROY GREEN: I hate seeing what happens to people who don't have clean water, who have I thought what happened at Oka was an absolute disgrace. So I mean, that's just my point of view on those two issues.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: But the counter-argument that I hear on air and I read in emails is that the federal government, and I think

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there's some value to this counter-argument, the federal governments have delivered billions of dollars over the decades to First Nations communities and that much or at least some of that money has been misspent, perhaps by band councils and chiefs and to the detriment of their own band members and residents on band land.

PAM PALMATER: Yes, yes, you know what? I am so glad, when the media raised this because you hear it in commentary, you see it on the commentary on line, it's the rhetoric that's used in the House of Commons, but it is not based on fact. And if we're going to have this conversation, we have to have the facts.

And then here are the facts. The $9 billion that are appropriated every year for First Nations, over a third of that goes just to sustain the 5,000 army bureaucracy at Indian Affairs. And keep in mind many of those people make six figure salaries, they all have professional development, they have leave, sick leave, family leave. They have trips overseas. We just saw about those in the media.

I mean, this and they only have one mandate. So if you think about $3 billion or $4 billion which goes just to sustain the Indian Affairs bureaucracy, and their one mandate is to improve the social well-being and economic prosperity of First Nations in this country, and you look at all the socio economic statistics which show everything is getting worse for us health, life span, birth rates, economic prosperity, education over a 20 year time span getting worse.

They continue to fail at their jobs. Yet, they continue to increase in size and get better pay.

ROY GREEN: I said yesterday on the air I don't know how much money is actually gobbled up by the Ministry itself.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: I mentioned that on the air yesterday.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: But is there an argument?

PAM PALMATER: No,

ROY GREEN: Is there truth to

PAM PALMATER: No!

ROY GREEN: Is there truth to the position that monies that do make their way to the band councils and the chiefs have been if not routinely then certainly

PAM PALMATER: No.

ROY GREEN: significantly misspent.

PAM PALMATER: No, that's actually not a fact. Research was done into that and looked at all of the audits for all of the 615 First Nations across the country to determine how many of those audits indicated, and some of them are forensic audits, how many of those audits indicated in any way the possibility of actual corruption in terms of some chief was taking money for himself to fly to Florida or whatever kind of misspending. Less than three per cent had any kind of evidence whatsoever that might have led to any kind of misspending or corruption charges, less than three per cent. That's a lower corruption rate than all the municipalities, provinces and federal government itself in terms of its own misspending. And the other thing that people have to realize, there's a lot of myths about these millionaire chiefs in Canada. The facts on the ground however is there has never been a millionaire chief in this country ever. The average salary of our leaders is $36,000.

Thirty of our leaders don't make any salary. And compare that to the average salary of Canadians. Forty-six thousand dollars. Our leaders have to manage nations and treaty rights, federal, provincial, municipal types powers. They have to manage people, you know, sometimes tens of thousands of people. And compare that to say a librarian who makes $100,000 to manage books.

I mean, we've got to have the proper conversation and the facts on the table.

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ROY GREEN: Well, that's why I'm talking to you.

PAM PALMATER: Yes, and our poverty is not caused by misspending by chiefs. It is caused by the purposeful chronic underfunding of the federal government which the federal government itself has admitted, it has said one of the primary reasons why we have 30,000 aboriginal children in foster care, which is more than during the residential school time, it's because of our failure to provide equitable funding like we provide to the provinces for child and family services.

ROY GREEN: Okay, let me get you to hold on. I have to take a break. We'll come back with Pamela Palmeter and your calls at 1-877-399-9898, 1-877-399-9898. Perhaps you've heard something that you want to respond to, something you want to react to, a question you want to ask.

Pamela Palmeter is the Chair of Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University. She's a lawyer and a law professor, an activist with the Idle No More movement and she ran for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.

There is of course also then the question that was raised yesterday on the air. And we talked about Chief Teresa Spence and listeners in emails and on the air wondered about actually about the 90 million in federal monies how that was spent, along with money from the De Beers Mining Company and does Chief Spence deserve to have become a symbol of First Nations frustration. All right?

There's legitimate questions, straightforward questions when I communicated with Pamela Palmeter about what we do on the air. The idea was to be straightforward and deal with the issues that people want to deal with and take the calls and answer the questions as you have them.

So we'll come back with your calls on the Green Show on the Corus Radio Network.

(break)

ROY GREEN: Send your emails to roy@roygreenshow.com and you can follow me on Twitter @theroygreenshow. Pamela Palmeter is my guest. She is an activist with Idle No More. She's a lawyer, university law professor at Ryerson University, First Nations band member from New Brunswick and ran for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.

I'll get to the phone calls in just a second, Pamela, but I just want to read you an email that came in from Victor in Richmond, B.C. He writes: Your guest perpetuates the myth that the only budget related to First Nations is Indian Affairs. In fact several federal departments such as Natural Resources, Health and Fisheries have aboriginal budgets. Here in B.C. five ministries have aboriginal departments. Across Canada, there are over 50 federal and provincial departments with aboriginal programs. Total spending is far above the 9 billion quoted and closer to 16 billion. Against this, there are 3,300 elected Indian politicians in Canada, about one for every 50 voting age adults.

PAM PALMATER: Okay, so it's true there are multiple federal and provincial departments across the country that assign budgets and staff to aboriginal issues. It doesn't mean a penny of that goes to any indigenous people whatsoever. So if you think about Justice Canada, they actually have a gigantic budget that's dedicated solely to litigating against First Nations people, providing advice to First Nations government departments on how to resist aboriginal and treaty rights. They're one of the only departments that have seen massive increases in their spending. I think it's something like 38 per cent in the last couple of years in a time of austerity, but not a penny of that goes to indigenous peoples. All of that money is used to fight indigenous peoples.

ROY GREEN: One of the complaints yesterday was there's a lack of transparency on what happens to the money, and that's right across the line, from the political, starting with the political

PAM PALMATER: Umhmm.

ROY GREEN: side of things and going all the way to the indigenous people. And is that a fair argument, a fair position to take?

PAM PALMATER: It's actually one of the myths that are perpetuated by Indian Affairs and other politicians about the lack of accountability for First Nations. And I used to be a director of Lands and Trusts at Indian Affairs. I also used to work at Justice Canada, so I know the inside system very well.

Umm, here's the thing with any finances that go from federal departments to First Nations. Regardless of where they get it

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from, Natural Resources or Indian Affairs, they must account for every single penny that they get from the federal government on a regular basis. Now the average is anywhere between 150 and 238 reports a year per first nation. It works out to about one report every three days.

ROY GREEN: So what was going on then at Attawapiskat when the federal government said $90 million was delivered to the band council and they wanted to put a third party manager in charge?

PAM PALMATER: Oh, and that's a really good question because first of all, the funds that they were talking about, from the time they were in power from 2006 to 2012, so over a period of six years, and they weren't just including Indian Affairs funding. So it made it look like wait a second, last year we gave them $90 million. What did they do with it?

That's not the case. You're talking about on average 17 million a year going to Attawapiskat to pay for everything that the federal, provincial and municipal governments pay for regular provincial residents. So education, housing, infrastructure

ROY GREEN: Um-hmm.

PAM PALMATER: the band office, that kind of thing.

ROY GREEN: Okay, now you wanted to hear from you wanted to hear from callers.

PAM PALMATER: Yes, definitely.

ROY GREEN: And I've been delaying getting them on the air. We have a minute here before we take a break at the half hour.

PAM PALMATER: Sure.

ROY GREEN: We'll then continue with more. Here's Dan in Toronto. Go ahead, Dan.

CALLER: Hi, Roy, and hello to your guest. I just want to say I have two friends who are native, who had lived on reserve and they confide in me and said the only way things are going to change is if they close down the reserves and assimilate everything. These people have nothing to do with the reserves anymore. They have careers, jobs, they're professionals. They're doing very well. They told me you could throw $50 billion a year at it and nothing will change.

ROY GREEN: All right, Dan, I appreciate your call. Does that make you angry, Pamela, that kind of

PAM PALMATER: Uh, no, it doesn't make me

ROY GREEN: commentary?

PAM PALMATER: There's I mean, lots of Canadians.

ROY GREEN: I'm not saying getting angry at Dan.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah, yeah.

ROY GREEN: It's just the commentary.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah, yeah. The commentary, because it's an uneducated commentary, yeah, we all have friends from different backgrounds who may have beefs with their communities or whatever. I mean, you can always find someone who doesn't like Prime Minister Harper, for example. It doesn't mean the beefs against them are correct, but shutting down the reserve, no First Nation person has ever come out and publicly said, no First Nation leader has come out and publicly said yeah, let's get rid of reserves. The fact of reserves is not the problem.

ROY GREEN: All right, hold on to that thought. Hold on to that thought please because I have to take a break. We have to take our satellite break and then we'll come back with Pamela Palmeter with your calls at 1-877-399-9898.

I'll go directly to the phones when we come back.

(break)

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ROY GREEN: Pamela Palmater is with me, Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, lawyer and law professor, activist with Idle No More.

And Pamela, I want to get some calls on in the minutes we have left, but you... do you want to finish the thought that you had just prior to the break?

PAM PALMATER: And where were we again?

ROY GREEN: Why don't we take another call? I kind of lost track of where we... It was somebody, caller Dan in Toronto had said...

PAM PALMATER: Oh, yes.

ROY GREEN: ... that some of his friends had left the reserve...

PAM PALMATER: Oh, yes.

ROY GREEN: ... and said the only way to proceed was to close reserves.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah. Yeah, and there's no First Nation leader asking for reserves to be closed because the problems that exist on some reserves have nothing to do with the fact that communities live on a certain piece of land. It really has everything to do with the federal government's, you know, chronic underfunding and maintained control over everything that happens on reserve.

ROY GREEN: All right. Mike is in White Rock, British Columbia. Mike, go ahead, please.

CALLER: Oh, hi, Roy, yeah, and Pamela. Pamela, you seem to be fairly educated and you will probably realize...

ROY GREEN: She has a PhD in... in... in law, so yeah.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah. Yeah.

CALLER: Yes. You probably realize that the people that came from Eastern Europe or came from Wales or Scotland or Ireland, who had everything stolen away from them settled countries like Australia and the United States and Canada. They had nothing. They got of their own two feet. So the best gift that the elders, the native elders could give to their people and the generations that will come after them, their children, whatever, is to hand back to the government all of the money they're getting and pick themselves up by their own two feet and get back and be contributors to the Canadian society.

ROY GREEN: All right, Mike. Thank you. Pamela, what do you say to that? This is not the first time you've heard that?

PAM PALMATER: Umm, no. It's a common misconception. It's the myth of how Canada was built that immigrants came over here, they had nothing and they just, you know, through hard work they all managed to become wealthy and prosperous.

The reason why Canada and the United States became such power countries is because they stole all of the land and resources from indigenous peoples; and then the labour that was needed to kind of make these powerhouses was they brought in slaves from Africa and stole the labour. So they stole the lands and resources and they stole the labour. It's a myth to think that people just came over here and made Canada into what it is.

ROY GREEN: But here's the... here's the question then. Is there... is there an interest in a significant percentage of aboriginal people, First Nations people in this country to let's use the word assimilate, to ... I forget what... what Mike's word ....

PAM PALMATER: Yeah.

ROY GREEN: ... was, was assimilate or blend in to the greater Canadian community and really create one community?

PAM PALMATER: No there isn't. And... and there shouldn't be an expectation of that either. Keep in mind we're treaty partners. So we're intermarried. We like working and living, you know, amongst one another and having good relations.

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But the fact of the matter is is that we're sovereign, independent indigenous nations with our own cultures, languages and ways of life. And...

ROY GREEN: What does sovereign... what does sovereign nations mean in the context that you're delivering it?

PAM PALMATER: It means we're self-determining. We have the right to choose for ourselves what our version of the good life will be, just like other nations have that right to determine for themselves. And we're the original owners of these lands. We have own laws, our own governments, trade networks, alliances, that kind of thing, that have never been displaced. And we want that right to be self-determining which is recognized internationally to be respected.

ROY GREEN: Okay. I want to get some more calls but I want to just carry up on that... follow up on that point that you just made and...

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: ... to the discussion. What exactly is the objective, or what are the objectives of Idle No More? Where is Idle No More headed? You write that you expect the movement to increase in intensity...

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: ... because you don't believe the federal government of Canada is ready to, quote, "sit down and work this out peacefully any time soon". The word "peacefully" got my attention.

PAM PALMATER: Yes, and I believe that. I'm not trying to be pessimistic. I'm being realistic. I have studied this stuff my whole life and been in it. Where the governments go and this particular government's very clear about what policy and legal direction it's headed.

This government has got one objective and it's an aggressive resource development objective to make as much money as it can, giving our resources to countries like China and that kind of thing. So that means something. That means they have to remove all impediments.

You have C-38, C-45 which removes environmental and water protections, one of the sparks for our Idle No More movement, and we want that legislation repealed. But not just that legislation. The other 10 pieces of legislation which are trying to assimilate our communities against our will and...

ROY GREEN: Okay, so I understand that...

PAM PALMATER: Yeah.

ROY GREEN: ... from what you said, but when the word... when you... when you... when you say that...

PAM PALMATER: Oh, okay.

ROY GREEN: ... they're not ready to sit down and work this out peacefully any time soon...

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: ... and then I read also that when, as far as the Idle No More movement is concerned, country-wide economic disturbances are...

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: ... are planned.

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

ROY GREEN: What... what are we talking about here? What... what's...

PAM PALMATER: Okay, so...

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ROY GREEN: ...what's on the table?

PAM PALMATER: Yeah, okay, so what's on the table is Idle No More is a peaceful movement and it's going to remain peaceful on our part. When I said peacefully, what I'm referring to is the fact that Canada often deals with us in a very violent nature. So even if we peacefully stand up for our rights you'll see land claims protesters have been shot. They use the military against our communities. You know, that kind of thing. So peaceful on our part, but I don't expect that Harper will remain peaceful much longer.

In terms of our activities, and you know, ramping things up, I'm talking about ramping things up across a whole level of spectrums like public education, media, reaching out the international community. It doesn't necessarily mean an escalation in... in violence, for example, because we're promoting only peaceful acts.

ROY GREEN: Okay. And when you talked about violence, violent acts, you're talking about Oka, you're talking about Ipperwash and situations like that.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah. What the federal and provincial governments have done to First Nations.

ROY GREEN: Okay. Jackie's in Kelowna, British Columbia. Jackie, go ahead please.

CALLER: Hi. To the lady there, I'm in favour of your Idle No More protest, but I'm going to tell you something. You said there's never been any millionaire chiefs in Canada. You're very wrong. Have you ever heard of the West Bank First Nations?

PAM PALMATER: Yes.

CALLER: Yeah. Well, former Chief Ron Derrickson was a millionaire when he became chief. Our chief now, Robert Louie, is also a millionaire.

PAM PALMATER: Um-hmm.

CALLER: So please don't say there's no millionaire chiefs in Canada because there are. And there are throughout the Okanagan.

PAM PALMATER: Okay. So that's a really good point.

CALLER: Yes.

PAM PALMATER: So keep in mind the conversation that we were talking about was the federal funding that flows to First Nations.

CALLER: Oh. Oh, no. They didn't make their money through federal funding.

PAM PALMATER: No. No.

CALLER: Absolutely not.

PAM PALMATER: No. What I'm talking about is there's never been a chief who's ever drawn a million dollar salary out of federal funds.

CALLER: No.

PAM PALMATER: There's lots of independent leaders who may have side businesses and that kind of thing.

CALLER: Yeah.

PAM PALMATER: But there's never been a millionaire chief from federal funding.

ROY GREEN: Jackie... Jackie, I take it you're aboriginal?

CALLER: No, I'm not. But...

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ROY GREEN: Okay.

CALLER: ... but I do believe in... in what's going on. And we have a Prime Minister in this country that rules by decree. He's a dictator because he passes omnibus bills, one after another, after another, and he hides every little thing he wants in there. And not even the people that we elected have a right to even talk about it in Parliament. They're not given that right.

ROY GREEN: Well, I tell you...

CALLER: And to me...

ROY GREEN: Thank you, Jackie.

CALLER: ... that's dictatorship.

ROY GREEN: Okay, Jackie. They... he was elected by our old tried and true system, the parliamentary vote.

And I think that Mr. ... I forget his name now. Who was the Liberal leader? What's happening? Mike Ignatieff.

PAM PALMATER: Michael Ignatieff.

ROY GREEN: Yeah, he was his... he was own worst enemy.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah.

ROY GREEN: He really was. He... the way he talked down to Jack Layton in that debate, nobody really cares about what you have to say, Mr. Layton. They only care about the two important parties the Conservatives and the Liberals. And we saw what happened.

Pamela, I'm sorry but we have... we've used up our allotted time here. I would like to have you back on the show.

PAM PALMATER: Any time.

ROY GREEN: And take some more calls and talk to us about this issue because it is key to... to... well, it's key to everybody in the country.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah. It's public education and thank you so much. These are all awesome questions.

ROY GREEN: All right, I appreciate the time. Thank you.

PAM PALMATER: Thanks. Bye, bye.

ROY GREEN: Bye. Pamela Palmater on the Roy Green Show on the Corus Radio Network. We will have her back. There's a lot of emotion that gets... come out when we talk about aboriginal issues, First Nation issues; and I think there are times we, you know, we just have to deal with the questions. The best way to deal with an issue is to talk about it and... and to get... see if we can find common ground.

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Internal Article / Article interne

APTN News: Federal court gives "huge" victory to Metis and non-status Indians

Federal court gives "huge" victory to Metis and non-status Indians

APTN National News

Metis and non-status Indians won a "huge" victory Tuesday when the Federal Court of Canada ruled they fall under the federal government's responsibility.

It took years to get to this point, but the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples called the ruling a victory that was worth the wait.

"We're pleased. It's a start. It's a huge decision. It really has brought forward that Metis and non-status Indians are now recognized," said a spokesperson for CAP who added more information will be available at a news conference Tuesday afternoon in Ottawa. "We will be responding in-depth once our legal has given more in-depth view of the potential impacts."

The ruling means Metis peoples are the responsibility of the federal government and can negotiate treaties and issues such as education, health and tax exemptions.

However, the court didn't order the government to begin negotiations. So when, and if, that happens remains in question.

"The evidence concerning non-status Indians establishes that such persons were considered within the broad class of Indians,'" said Justice Michael Phelan "The situation regardingÅ Metis was more complex."

Phelan said nevertheless, Metis generally are often treated as Indians and have similar limitations, as well as suffer the same burdens and discrimination.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC the Current: DISCUSSION ON FIRST NATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY

SOURCE: CBC RADIO ONE PROGRAM: THE CURRENT

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2013 TIME: 8:40

REFERENCE: 0801doc1 LENGTH: 19:44 MINUTES

DISCUSSION ON FIRST NATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY

THERESA SPENCE (Chief, Attawapiskat): The Prime Minister is really getting aggressive on our needs. Like, he doesn't communicate with us the way, you know, he's supposed to. He's making plans for our children's future. You know, that's our responsibility as chiefs. We're living in the third world, and this shouldn't be happening in this country. They're getting rich by our land. Everybody's using our (inaudible) except us, and there's no benefit for us. It's all going to the government.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI (Host): Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence has a lot of issues with the federal government and has been on a month-long hunger strike to demand a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss them. It now appears as if Ottawa has some issues with Chief Spence as well. An accounting firm hired by the federal government to audit the finances of the reserve found little or no documentation for millions of dollars spent by the band. Supporters of Chief Spence say the audit was leaked to discredit her. Others say the question of transparency and accountability among band leaders is valid, and it applies to many reserves. To talk about all of this, I'm joined by three guests. Patrick Brazeau is the Conservative senator and former chief of the National Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. He is in Ottawa. Phyllis Sutherland is president of the Peguis Accountability Coalition. She is in Peguis, Manitoba. She's in Winnipeg, I think. And Niigaan Sinclair is a professor of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba. He is in our Winnipeg studio. Good morning to all of you.

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR (Professor, Native Studies, University of Manitoba): Good morning.

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND (President, Peguis Accountability Coalition): Morning.

PATRICK BRAZEAU (Conservative Senator): Bonjour.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau, let's begin with you. A spokesperson for Chief Spence said yesterday the timing of this leaked audit is all about discrediting her and diverting attention from the real issues. What do you make of that assertion?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, obviously I think Ms. Spence has many questions to answer following the audit to all Canadians, but more importantly to her own citizens living in Attawapiskat. And I think, and you know, I've said all along that, you know, perhaps what she tried to do in terms of gaining the government's attention was perhaps a smokescreen for what was truly happening in her own reserve community.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan Sinclair, what do you make of that view?

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Well, the audit is completely a smokescreen. This smokescreen is trying to distract from the tangible interests of the Idle No More movement, and that the Idle No More movement is deeply interested in what an abusive relationship looks like, and how it's come to be, and this abusive relationship, the epitome of that is happening right now in Attawapiskat. We see neglect, we see the lack of support, and apathy, and that's produced in that community, and as a result this Idle No More movement is deeply interested in what the outcomes of this are, and how we can fix this relationship.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, you are in Peguis, aren't you?

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PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: I am.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: I've got your sorry about getting your location wrong. Chief Spence has become the de facto face of the Idle No More movement. What do you think of the news of this audit?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: I think it was timed by the government in order to discredit her, and sure, we all want accountability and transparency with our leaders, but we all know that audits can be played with, depending on how they want to look. They can be made to look bad, which is what the federal government has done. I mean, the federal government sent their own auditors in there, and why don't they send them into all these other reserves that have been asking for the same thing? So the timing is very suspect to me.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: I should point out that it was an independent audit. It was not done by government people. It was a company.

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Who paid for the company? The federal government, right?

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: So is Chief Spence the right symbol or face of this movement?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Well, my feeling is no matter who was the government, they would have been the government would have tried to discredit whoever it was, because the movement (inaudible) government (inaudible), so they would have tried to discredit anybody, and I think the Idle No More movement is a good cause, and it's uniting our people, and I think they're going to keep going.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: And what about the issue of accountability, though? This audit is pointing out real discrepancies and real lack of documentation in spending.

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Well, I think I think it has to happen on every reserve where accountability has to be put in place. But the government also has to step in and help with the process, because they are a lot of the problem. I mean, if something's wrong, they come in and they say, well, ok, you misspent here, you misspent there. You're going to have to pay that money back. And that's not good for the reserves, because in the end, the money that has to be paid back is coming off systems it comes off, like, say it comes out of the education funding, it comes out of the health funding. And (inaudible)

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Well, ok, who wants to get in there? Was that Niigaan Sinclair, was that you?

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Yeah, if I could just intervene for a minute, one thing that's really important to differentiate is that Theresa Spence is an ally to the movement. She's not a head of the movement. She may be a symbol to the movement, but a symbol of a sick and very abusive relationship, in that as she continues with her hunger strike she is the epitome of a concerned with a government, and let's not forget that this audit equally damned the federal government, and that their neglect and that their inability to maintain support for a community that is emerging and needs infrastructure, needs support, and that many of these documents was simply in this audit what was unveiled was that these documents were incomplete, and that the assumption is always that it's corruption, but it's

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Well, there's no suggestion of corruption or fraud, but there is suggestion of lack of documentation for 81 percent of the files.

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Yeah, absolutely. Lack of infrastructure, absolutely. And that there's a chronic under-support and that there's deep needs at Attawapiskat. It is the epitome of an abusive relationship in this country.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau, what do you think of that view, that this is actually an abusive relationship?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, I think that's a lot of rhetoric. Look, being a former chief of a national aboriginal organization, I know how aboriginal politics plays out, obviously, and there is a lot of rhetoric. But let's not forget, even myself back in 2008 had developed and published a report entitled "Where Did the Money Go?" And basically that report asked three questions: where is the money going? Two, is it being spent on its intended purposes? And three, more importantly, are the funds reaching out to the grassroots people who have needs across this country? And I can tell you for a fact that this Prime Minister cares about aboriginal issues. I mean, no Canadian, including himself, and myself as a First Nations person want to see pictures of children living in poverty-stricken situations, but having said that, there has been an independent conducted in Attawapiskat. Obviously there are leaders, elected leaders who make decisions there in terms of where the

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funding gets spent. And obviously there's a lot of questions that this chief, this leader needs to answer. And like I mentioned earlier, specifically to her own community members, because there is significant amounts of money going into that community. Now, where's it being spent?

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Now, Patrick Brazeau, there are those who argue that Chief Spence's personal behaviour or actions on the reserve should be separate from what she is asking in terms of a better relationship between First Nations and the federal government about the better living conditions, self-governance. Is it possible for you to differentiate between the alleged lack of transparency and the goals and inspiration driving the Idle No More movement and Chief Spence's role in that?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, obviously whether we're talking about governments or First Nations leadership, obviously the government does work with a lot of First Nations leaders across this country, and obviously there'll be those who have opinions that, you know, that the relationship may be broken. Obviously we can always do better and work a lot harder in terms of developing that relationship, which is always an ongoing process. But just to suggest that just because one aboriginal leader in this country has stated that the relationship is broken, well, that's in fact false. You know, the relationship is being worked on on a daily basis by this government to ensure that we move forward with solutions to improve the living conditions of First Nations people.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, is that your view? Is the relationship not broken?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: To an extent it is. I think what the government has to do is listen to more of the grassroots people and their concerns. A lot of time we're overlooked, and I think the Idle No More movement is at the front of telling the government that, that you've got to listen to the people. It's not always about the leaders.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: But don't the leaders represent you, Phyllis? Are you suggesting that the Assembly of First Nations does not represent the grassroots adequately in dealing with the government?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Yes, I mean, the grassroots people live with it. They know what's going on on the reserve. Whereas somebody in Ottawa doesn't really understand the realities of what's happening.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan Sinclair.

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Let's just lay it on the line that abuse is not rhetoric. That is preposterous to even suggest it. What we have out of here is we have a movement that is identifying very tangible goals, and that is identifying a Prime Minister who is not interested in collaboration, is interested in dictation, and that's the epitome of bill C-45. And that's the epitome of Attawapiskat, for that matter, that this community is in desperate need of support, and that blaming the Indian politics is exactly what this government's interested in doing, and diverting from the actual issues, which is a commitment to a reciprocal and responsible relationship of sharing the land and water. And that's what this movement is all about. This movement, this grassroots movement is directing our leadership, and some chiefs can choose to listen to this or not. But certainly this government is not listening to it, and the Idle No More protests are very interested in corruption, very interested in unveiling the corruption of not only chiefs, but also ministers and mayors and senators, all of whom have been suspicious with financial accounting of public funds.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: So if you're demanding accountability from everyone else, Niigaan Sinclair, shouldn't you why is it not ok to demand accountability at Attawapiskat?

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Oh, absolutely, and I'm not in any way trying to defend the actions of any tribal government or any government, any chief or their government. But what we are seeing is we are seeing a deep need for infrastructure and education and health, and the support of those initiatives within those communities and the adequate, not the simple moving of funds within a framework, but the actual implementation of a real life relationship which is based on the treaties of family, not of friends. You abuse and you hurt your friends. But we have a family relationship here in Canada. That's what this country's all about.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, your organization is the Peguis Accountability Coalition. How much of an issue is transparency and accountability within First Nations leadership across Canada?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: It's a big issue, and it's an ongoing fight to find out about our band finances, and I mean, information can be released and interpreted how they want you to see it. I mean, the cheques are signed by the leadership, whoever's doing the audit.

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ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: So you're seeing an accountability issue on all fronts, you're saying. From both aboriginal leadership and the government. But for regular people on reserve, it's accountability on all sides.

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: I think so, yes. Yes. I totally agree with that statement.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan?

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Do I believe in the responsibility of leaders? Absolutely. I've said many times that there are differences between chiefs and leaders. And chiefs not at all times have listened to the grassroots interests, which is the reasons why the Idle No More movement has been initiated, and the deep concern is around this Friday meeting of who will be attending, who will be representing First Nations peoples both on and off reserve throughout Canada, and that who is going to be sitting at that table to making these decisions? It's also very interesting that it is predominantly men, but this movement was driven by women. There are great issues in communities, but this is the outcome of a long relationship. Time and time again, I have to say that this relationship has been about the federal government recognizing certain leadership and not others. And that we see this as the epitome of this is going to happen probably at this Friday meeting.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Senator Brazeau, what do you make of that concern?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, look, obviously the Prime Minister will be meeting with First Nations leaders this coming Friday, and it is the Assembly of First Nations who will decide who their delegation will be at that meeting, and you know, all I have to say as a First Nations person, obviously I have many thoughts on these issues, but I think what's important to note is that many people who support protests versus the process are the same ones who are also not respecting the process that exists in terms of having the Assembly of First Nations chiefs who are elected by their own citizens, who are there to represent them. And so I find it a little bit ironic that on the one hand, people are talking about, you know, protests and movements about supporting or demanding more accountability from their leaders, but at the same time don't respect the process that's in place that gives the opportunity for leaders to represent them and provide a voice for them at the table.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Now, Patrick Brazeau, you were once the chief of the National Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, and you just talked about asking where the money went. What challenges did you face tracking finances going in and out of aboriginal communities?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, it was very difficult, because there were too few leaders in between who would actually be open and transparent about where funding was spent for the benefit of their own community, but the report that I alluded to back in 2008 basically just posed three questions, and it was to get a national dialogue going with respect to the need for more accountability, because at the end of the day, you know, it's all about grassroots aboriginal people and their needs, and because I know for a fact that many Canadians, you know, have no trouble in providing funding for the benefit of First Nations people, but they also would like to be accounted for.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Niigaan Sinclair.

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Oh, absolutely. As a member of a I live in Winnipeg. I'm deeply interested in asking Senator Brazeau's similar three questions to ministers that take joyrides on helicopters, to senators that take two paycheques for multiple homes and mayors that have conflict of interest guidelines. We have a deep problem with governance throughout this country, and it is evident in our very leadership at all layers, whether it be civic, provincial, federal, and then also at band level.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau.

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, I agree with that one hundred percent, but at the same time we have to be cautious that, you know, in terms of the non-aboriginal elected officials across this country, whether it's federal, provincial or local, you know, information is public information, which cannot be said with respect to aboriginal leaders. Not all financial information is public, because it is not legislated, and so obviously I know Ms. Sutherland well. I know that she has worked very hard, and you know, I was also a supporter of the First Nations Financial Transparency Act. And so these are the strides that we've done, you know, working with First Nations people.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Patrick Brazeau, what do you think of the Idle No More movement?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, I (inaudible) the fact that obviously people have the right to protest in this country, but having

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said that, I think that many supporters of Idle No More have not taken advantage of the political processes that we have in place for people to have their voices heard, whether it's in Parliament, whether it's in committees, whether it's proposing amendments or suggestions to improve upon legislation. You know, and I think that rather than respecting the processes that we do have in place, you know, regardless of if people take advantage of them or not, I think that they leave (inaudible) protests, and you know, I don't think that economic disruptions in this country are the right thing, because there are many First Nations people who work and pay taxes, just like non-aboriginal Canadians, that allow these tax dollars to go to communities, and for the benefit of aboriginal citizens.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Well, in the news today too, Alberta First Nations are set to launch a legal challenge against the federal government, saying they weren't adequately consulted over this omnibus budget bill. Is that more acceptable to you as an action, then? Court challenge?

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Well, obviously, obviously First Nations communities will have, you know, the right to launch whatever complaints or legal actions that they may see fit, but at the same time, you know, governments in this country are elected to pass legislation. They're elected to pass budgets so they can spend money for the benefit of all Canadians, but you know, obviously we'll have to wait and see what really happens on that front.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Phyllis Sutherland, do you think that's a fair criticism?

PHYLLIS SUTHERLAND: Well, I think it is, yeah. I mean, what I want to say, too, is the process is not always working. The process doesn't work for the grassroots people. A lot of times things are passed whether it's by chief and council, their leaders, and the people aren't informed. Like, a lot of people have no idea what bill C-45 was about until it hit the news.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: Ok, well, we have to leave it there. We're out of time. Thank you all for talking to me this morning.

PATRICK BRAZEAU: Thank you.

NIIGAAN SINCLAIR: Megwich.

ANNA MARIA TREMONTI: I've been speaking with Patrick Brazeau, Conservative senator and former chief of the National Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. He was in Ottawa. Phyllis Sutherland is the president of the Peguis Accountability Coalition. And Niigaan Sinclair is a professor of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - Cour fédérale : victoire pour les Métis

Cour fédérale : victoire pour les Métis
Mise à jour le mardi 8 janvier 2013 à 10 h 20 HNE

http://www.radio -canada.ca/regions/manitoba/2013/ 01/07/006 -decision -metis -autochtones -hors -reserve -statut.shtml

Les Métis et les Autochtones vivant hors réserve sont des Indiens au sens de la Loi. C'est ce qu'a statué mardi matin la Cour fédérale, en réponse à la demande de jugement du Congrès des peuples autochtones et de plusieurs Métis et Indiens non inscrits.

« a) les personnes qui sont des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits, tel que décrit dans les motifs du jugement, sont des "Indiens" au sens de l'expression "Indiens et terres réservées pour les Indiens", qui figure au paragraphe 91(24) de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867. » Extrait du jugement de la Cour fédérale
La Cour ne s'est cependant pas avancée à confirmer si le gouvernement fédéral avait à remplir des obligations fiduciaires à leur endroit, ni sur leur droit d'être présents aux négociations.

À l'heure actuelle, Ottawa est responsable des programmes gouvernementaux touchant les Indiens inscrits et les Inuits, alors que les provinces gèrent les relations avec les Métis et les Autochtones hors réserve. En vertu du jugement, Ottawa pourrait donc devoir leur offrir les mêmes programmes qu'aux membres des Premières Nations inscrites.

Sébastien Grammond, doyen de la section de droit civil de la Faculté de droit de l'Université d'Ottawa, et qui a témoigné à titre d'expert juridique pour les Autochtones, estime que la Cour a rejeté la demande de jugement sur les obligations fiduciaires du gouvernement pour des motifs de procédure.

Par contre, il précise qu'il découle du jugement que le gouvernement fédéral devra négocier avec les Métis et les Indiens sans statut au sujet de leurs revendications et leur offrir des services et des programmes similaires à ceux qu'il offre aux membres des Premières Nations.

« Ce n'est pas une obligation justiciable, mais sur le plan politique, il est évident que la déclaration d'aujourd'hui entraîne des conséquences sur le plan des services et des programmes qui doivent être offerts. [] Avec ce jugement-là, le gouvernement devra justifier les distinctions qu'il établit entre les différents groupes autochtones, ou au moins justifier politiquement pour quelles raisons il donne des avantages à l'un, mais pas à l'autre. » Sébastien Grammond, doyen de la section de droit civil de la Faculté de droit de l'Université d'Ottawa
Un porte-parole du ministère des Affaires autochtones a précisé que le ministre examinait la décision de la Cour pour déterminer la prochaine étape.

Le Congrès des peuples autochtones estime que le jugement pourrait toucher plus de 600 000 personnes dans tout le pays.

En détail

La poursuite avait été déposée en décembre 1999 par le Congrès des peuples autochtones et son ancien président, Harry Daniels. Le Congrès des peuples autochtones, M. Daniels, lequel est mort en 2004, et d'autres Métis demandaient premièrement que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits soient inscrits comme des Indiens au sens de l'article 91 (paragraphe 24) de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 du Canada.

L'article 91 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 définit les pouvoirs exclusifs du Parlement du Canada. Son paragraphe 24 énonce « l'autorité législative exclusive du parlement du Canada » sur les questions touchant « les Indiens et les terres réservées pour les Indiens ».
Les demandeurs exigeaient deuxièmement que la Cour statue que le gouvernement fédéral a une obligation fiduciaire envers eux et que troisièmement, ils ont le droit de négocier des traités avec le fédéral.

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Internal Article / Article interne

RDI: Les Métis et les Indiens non-inscrits sont des Indiens en vertu de la Constitution canadienne.

RDI (Le Réseau de l'information - News) Programme: RDI en direct - Entrevue avec Sébastien Grammond, doyen de la faculté de droit civil de l'Université d'Ottawa et témoin expert dans cette cause

Date: mardi, le 8 janvier, 2013 - Heure: 9h30 - 12h00 (tous les temps EST)

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Les Métis et les Indiens non-inscrits sont des Indiens en vertu de la Constitution canadienne. C'est ce qu'un jugement de la cour fédérale est venu confirmer ce matin. Cette décision devrait changer la nature des relations entre les Métis et les Indiens non-inscrits, on les estime à 600 000 au pays et le gouvernement fédéral. Reste maintenant à voir de quelle façon puisque le jugement d'aujourd'hui rejette le principe selon lequel le gouvernement fédéral serait fiduciaire des Métis et des Indiens non-inscrits. On en parle maintenant avec Me Sébastien Grammond, doyen de la faculté de droit civil de l'Université d'Ottawa et témoin expert dans cette cause. Rappelez-nous brièvement les éléments sur lesquels la Cour fédérale devait statuer?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: C'était une déclaration comme quoi les Métis et les Indiens sans statut constituent des Indiens entre guillemets, sur lequel le Parlement fédéral en compétences. Il faut savoir que jusqu'ici, le Parlement disait au gouvernement fédéral, ail compétence sur les premières nations, les bandes indiennes si vous voulez, les Inuits, mais il refusait de reconnaître qu'il avait compétence aux responsabilités pour les gens qui ne sont pas inscrits selon la loi sur les Indiens ou pour les Métis, ou pour les autres Autochtones.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Ceux qui ne vivent pas sur des réserves entre autres?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: Entre autres. C'est un tournant important est le message principal de cette décision.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Cela touche 600 000 personnes cette décision met une part de ce jugement dit que finalement oui, on reconnaît les Indiens non inscrits et les Métis mais on dit que le gouvernement n'a pas à être fiduciaire, qu'est-ce que ça veut dire?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: Ce n'est pas tout à fait exact. La cour n'a pas rendu de déclaration à ce sujet pour des motifs de procédure parce que la déclaration demandée était trop vague et il n'y avait pas de contexte factuel précis. Mais la cour dit quand même de découle de la compétence fédérale sur ces gens-là que le gouvernement fédéral a une obligation fiduciaire. Donc, le gouvernement devra négocier avec les métis et les Indiens sans statut au sujet de leurs revendications.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Qu'est-ce que c'est que le devoir de fiduciaire du gouvernement?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: C'est un concept c'est assez flou je l'admets. Je pense s'agit essentiellement d'un concept de morale selon lequel les tribunaux ont jugé la conduite du gouvernement envers les peuples autochtones. Et ce que c'était dans le fond c'est que le gouvernement ne peut pas adopter une attitude purement légaliste, ne peut pas, disons, faire des négociations très serrées ou enfin utiliser des tactiques peu recommandables dans ses discussions avec les autochtones. Il doit négocier de façon honorable. C'est un peu le sens de cette expression de devoir de fiduciaire.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Et de gouvernement et fiduciaire de certains groupes que ça veut dire que l'obligation d'offrir des services de base, certains services en particulier?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: Ce n'est peut-être pas une obligation justifiable, mais sur le plan politique et il est évident que la déclaration d'aujourd'hui entraîne des conséquences sur le plan des services ou des programmes qui doivent être offerts. Ce qu'il faut savoir c'est qu'en général, il y a des exceptions mais général les services offerts par le gouvernement général visé les Indiens inscrits et là avec ça, le gouvernement fédéral va être obligé de justifier les distinctions qu'il établit entre les différents groupes autochtones. Ou tt le moins le justifie politiquement pourquoi il donnait davantage à leur est non pas aux autres.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Le fait que la cour fédérale ait décidé de demeurer flou quant au devoir de fiduciaire du gouvernement fédéral, est-ce que ça fait en sorte que les groupes autochtones pourraient porter cette décision en appel dans cette partition judiciaire ?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: Je ne peux pas me prononcer là-dessus. J'ai été témoin expert pour le congrès des peuples autochtones. Je n'ai pas eu de discussions avec eux sur leur stratégie. J'imagine que le gouvernement fédéral portera la cause en appel parce qu'évidemment, c'est contraire à la position qu'il défendait. Est-ce que le congrès des peuples autochtones d'en un appel incident? Je ne peux pas le prédire Il est trop tôt. Mais il est clair que l'affaire n'en restera pas là. Je pense que c'est une cause qu'il ira jusqu'à cour sup rême.

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LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES: Pourquoi cela a pris 13 ans et que ça a été aussi long jusqu'à maintenant?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: Le gouvernement fédéral a utilisé beaucoup de moyens pour tenter de faire rejeter la cause. Pour tenter de ralentir les procédures, pour s'objecter à la preuve. Il y a eu vraiment une utilisation des moyens procéduraux. C'est une cause aussi qui est complexe sur le grand large et qui a exigé la preuve de plusieurs historiens, des tonnes d'archives. Ce n'est pas surprenant, c'est peut-être déplorable.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES: Si le gouvernement fédéral ne portait pas la cause en appel et qu'elle était appliquée complètement qu'este que ça change pour les 600 000 personnes?

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: Demain matin, rien, mais au cours des mois qui viennent de ce que le Congrès des Peuples Autochtones et d'autres groupes vont présenter des demandes au gouvernement que le gouvernement va être obligé de revoir ses politiques à égard des groupes sans statut. Et trouver une manière d'assurer disons, disons, une certaine cohérence à la manière dont ils traitent les différents groupes autochtones. Ca ne veut pas dire un traitement absolument égal. Les circonstances sont différentes mais il va falloirun réexamen des politiques du gouvernement fédéral.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES: On pourrait voir les groupes représentés dans les négociations entre le gouvernement et les groupes autochtones.

SÉBASTIEN GRAMMOND: On parle beaucoup de l'assemblée des premières nations mais il y a d'autres groupes représentatifs que représentent les gens qui habitent hors des réserves et qui n'ont pas de statut, les associations métisses également. Ca vat être un changement très important si le jugement d'aujourd'hui tient.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES: Monsieur Grammond, merci d'avoir été avec nous.

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CP: Metis and non status Indians declared 'Indians' under Constitution Act: court

Metis and non status Indians declared 'Indians' under Constitution Act: court

By Heather Scoffield

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - The federal government's responsibilities for aboriginal peoples just got a whole lot bigger.

After more than 13 years of legal wrangling, the Federal Court ruled on Tuesday that Metis and non-status Indians are indeed "Indians" under a section of the Constitution Act, and fall under federal jurisdiction. The decision helps to clarif y the relationship between Ottawa and the more than 600,000 aboriginal people who are not affiliated with specific reserves.

"The recognition of Metis and non -status Indian as Indians under section 91(24) should accord a further level of respect and reconciliation by removing the constitutional uncertainty surrounding these groups," writes Federal Court Judge Michael Phelan.

While the decision does not go so far as to declare that the federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to the group, it says such duties would flow automatically now that their standing has been clarified.

"There is no dispute that the Crown has a fiduciary relationship with aboriginal people both historically and pursuant to section 35 (of the Constitution)," Phelan writes. However, he adds: "That duty is not an open -ended undefined obligation but must be focused on a specific interest."

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and several Metis and non-status Indians took the federal government to court in 1999 alleging discrimination because they are not considered "Indians" under a section of the Constitution Act. They argued they are entitled to some or all of the same rights and benefits as on-reserve First Nations members. They say that includes access to the same health, education and other benefits Ottawa gives status Indians; being able to hunt, trap, fish and gather on public land; and the ability to negotiate and enter treaties with the federal government.

The congress and the Metis and non-status Indians involved in the case alleged in court documents that they've been the victims of "deprivations and discrimination" by the federal government.

The decision is widely expected to be appealed, and the federal government's reaction on Thursday suggested it was contemplating taking another go at it.

"We are reviewing the court's decision to determine the next steps," said Jan O'Driscoll, spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. "Our government continues to work in partnership with all aboriginals across Canada to address shared priorities such as education, economic development and jobs." He noted that the Federal Court said its decision is not about "the interpretation or application of particular rights either under the Constitution or under specific agreements , nor is it about aboriginal rights."

In other words, the court did not get specific about what the federal government should actually do now that Metis and non -status Indians fall into the broader category of "Indians."

"The court is not prepared to make some general statement concerning fiduciary duty," Phelan's ruling states. "Given the declaration of right in respect of section 91(24), one would expect that the federal government would act in accordance with whatever duty arises in respect of any specific matter touching on the nonclarified fiduciary relationship."

Phelan plowed through constitutional and aboriginal history going back to before Confederation to come to the conclusion that Metis and non-status Indians should actually be considered Indians under modern law. The case for Canada's 400,000 non-status Indians was more clear-cut than the case for the 200,000 Metis, but on balance, historical evidence

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weighs in favour of the Metis too, he wrote.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - RÉACTION DU MINISTRE DUNCUN AU JUGEMENT SUR LES MÉTIS

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Programme: RDI en direct - Mardi, le 8 janvier, 2013

RÉACTION DU MINISTRE DUNCUN AU JUGEMENT SUR LES MÉTIS

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Bonjour, mesdames et messieurs. Un jugement qui pourrait toucher jusqu'à 600 000 personnes au pays. La Cour fédérale est d'avis que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits sont des Indiens au sens de la constitution canadienne, au sens de la loi donc. Denis Ferland, le tribunal reconnait donc un statut officiel aux Métis et aux Indiens non inscrits.

DENIS FERLAND (CORRESPONDANT) Il faut se rappeler que c'est reconnu, ce statut, en vertu de la constitution originale de 1867. Les Métis et des Indiens non inscrits rejoignent les autres. Ils deviennent des interlocuteurs incontournables pour le gouvernement fédéral refilait à leurs demandes aux provinces, en disant que ce n'était pas de sa compétence. Pour des questions de territoire par exemple. Ce l'on espère qu'on a consulté ce matin, cette obligation de fiduciaire découle de la compétence imposée par le jugement au gouvernement fédéral et ça des conséquences en général, les services offerts par le gouvernement fédéral visent des Indiens inscrits et les Inuits. Maintenant on va être un guide de justifier la différence de traitement entre les deux.

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES Les parties ont réagi?

DENIS FERLAND (CORRESPONDANT) Pour le gouvernement fédéral, ça change beaucoup de choses. Il y a possibilité d'appel On dit qu'on examine le jugement et les démarches ultérieures, qu'on ne veut pas commenter maintenant Les groupes Métis et d'Indiens non inscrits tiendront un point de presse autour de 13 heures 37 après -midi ici à Ottawa.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC News Network: Albert Bands take federal government to court

A full transcript of this event has been ordered.

>>>Suhana: We're watching live as another Aboriginal story unfolds. This is a look live from Ottawa where Chiefs from two Alberta bands are holding a news conference, challenging the government's right to change laws that affect First Nations groups without consulting them. We'll listen in live.

>>Chief Steve Courtoreille: -- traveled all the way from Fort Chip, my community. I'm Chief of the Mikisew Cree First Nation. I'm here today to announce we will be asking the federal court conduct a judicial review of the way the federal government developed and passed Bill C-38 and Bill C-45. Specifically we want the court to find the government had a duty to consult us about the changes they were making to important environmental laws, such as the Fishery Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act. These laws are a critical part of how the government of Canada keeps the promises it's made in our treaties. They provide rules and processes that protect our traditional lands and waterways and ensure we are involved in decisions that impact them. Now the Harper government has changed these laws without even discussing it with us. It is trying to cut us off of the process more and more. With these two Bills the government has reduced its own role in the environmental assessment which also reduces our ability to be consulted by the federal government about developments in our traditional territory. The changes also allow the government to avoid having to do anything to deal with the potential adverse effects of development on First Nations through mitigation or compensation. We cannot continue to allow the government of Canada to disrespect our treaty relationship and its legal duty to consult with First Nations before making decisions that affect our treaty rights. Because of our treaty rights and our special status in the Constitution of Canada, we can do something about this issue. I'm here to say this is not just an Aboriginal issue; this is an issue for all Canadians. All Canadians should be very concerned about this issue. I encourage everyone, Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal alike, to find out what is in these Bills and what they mean for our environment, our water and our wildlife. Bill c-38 and C-45 completely abolish much of the existing environmental protection and environmental assessment processes that existed for our rivers, for our fish habitat and for species at risk. You may wonder what we hope to achieve by doing this. Our goals are clear: We are asking the courts to confirm that what the government did is not legal, order the government to engage in real consultation with us, order the government to stop implementing these two Bills until consultation has been completed, and act as a referee as the consultation takes place to make sure they're done properly. Over the years, the courts have made it clear that all levels of government must consult with First Nations when they're making plans or decisions that could potentially affect our treaty rights. I'm proud to say that my First Nation was part of creating this legal precedent in 2001. My people, under the Chief and Council, sought a judicial review of the decision of the Minister of Canadian Heritage to approve the construction of a winter road through a portion of the Mikisew territory located through the Wood Buffalo National Park. We argued we had not been adequately consulted, and the Minister had not made effort to minimize the impact of the road on our treaty rights. In 2005, under the Chief and Council, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a unanimous decision that the Crown had breached its duty to consult and its obligation to respect the existing treaty rights of Mikisew. I am frustrated but determined as I stand here today and ask how many times must we go to the court to ask the government to respect its own laws. Thank you.

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Internal Article / Article interne

CBC News Network: Report on Metis status ruling

>>Suhana: We're just getting reports of a major decision. It came minutes ago from the federal court, and it has ruled that under the constitution, Metis and non-status Indians are the same as First Nations people who live on reserves. That ruling could have a major impact on the more than 600,000 Aboriginal people who do live off reserve. Asha Tomlinson is in our newsroom, she's gathering all the details. What's at issue in this case?

>>Reporter: Well, of course this is the initial interpretation of this federal court decision handed down as you mentioned just moments ago. But in court documents, this was filed by the Congress of Aboriginal People along with several other Metis groups, so the court documents they say they weren't entitled to the same kind of rights because they lived off reserve. access to the same health and education benefits. They want to be allowed to hunt, to trap, fish and gather on public land. and they want the ability to negotiate and enter into treaties with the federal government. So these are some of the rights and benefits that they were fighting for that now it seems that the federal court has ruled in favour of. So this court battle was launched in 1999, so it's been quite a long time and the groups did allege in court documents as well that they have suffered from deprivations and discrimination because they weren't considered Indian under the Constitution Act. So this is a big development as you just mentioned. We're seeing Bob Rae, Liberal interim leader, tweeting about this saying federal court ruling that Metis and so-called non-status Indians are still Indians under the Constitution is huge. We have also put in a quick call to the leader of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. He also says that this is huge, that this is a major development and he's going to break that down and give us reaction. We will check with him shortly along with the news conference at 1 p.m. eastern.

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Internal Article / Article interne

Radio-Canada - LES METIS DORENAVANT CONSIDERES COMME DES INDIENS AU SENS DE LA LOI,

TÉLÉJOURNAL RADIO -CANADA (RDI) Mardi 8 janvier, Bulletin de 10H00

LES METIS DORENAVANT CONSIDERES COMME DES INDIENS AU SENS DE LA LOI,

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES : La Cour fédérale vient de rendre un jugement qui vient préciser le statut de Métis et d'Indiens noninscrits au pays. Denis Ferland, les demandeurs voulaient que les deux termes, Métis et Indiens non inscrits, soient reconnus au sens de la loi. Est-ce que le Tribunal leur donne raison?

DENIS FERLAND : -Oui, sur la reconnaissance constitutionnelle de leur statut d'Indien. Les Métis de pays et les Indiens non-inscrits, 600 000 personnes à travers le pays deviennent -ce arrivée chez les Inuits. Le gouvernement fédéral qui souvent rejetait chez les provinces la compétence pour gérer les dossiers de ces personnes, lorsqu'ils étaient tant de leur fournir des services de discuter du traité, il ne pourra plus le faire avec ce même argument. La Cour cependant ne reconnaît pas et il faudra voir l'impact réel de tout cela, on lit le jugement, ne reconnaît pas au fédéral d'obligations de fiduciaire à l'égard de ces gens-là. Il a rejeté cette partie de la requête en jugement déclaratoire. On tente de rejoindre les deux parties. Il y a possibilité d'appel des deux côtés. C'est une victoire importante mais partielle. Le fédéral peut appeler de la première partie

LECTRICE DE NOUVELLES : Cent pages à lire finalement avec beaucoup d'attention pour savoir ce que ça contient. Ce sera intéressant de connaître les réactions. La cour fédérale se penche sur d'autres dossiers portant sur les autochtones. Conférence de presse présentement.

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Radio-Canada - La cour fédérale statue que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits sont des Indiens

La cour fédérale statue que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits sont des Indiens
Mise à jour il y a 2 minutes

http://www.radio -canada.ca/regions/manitoba/2013/ 01/07/006 -decision -metis -autochtones -hors -reserve -statut.shtml?isAutoPlay=1

La Cour fédérale a statué ce matin que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits sont des Indiens, un jugement qui toucherait jusqu'à 600 000 personnes.

La décision de la Cour fédérale fait suite à une poursuite déposée en décembre 1999 par le Congrès des peuples autochtones et son ancien président, Harry Daniels.

Les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits demandaient d'être sous l'autorité du gouvernement fédéral. À l'heure actuelle, Ottawa est responsable des Indiens inscrits et des Inuits, laissant les relations gouvernementales avec les Métis et Indiens sans statut sous la gouverne des provinces.

L'avocat ontarien Sébastien Grammond, qui a témoigné à titre d'expert juridique pour les Autochtones, explique que les provinces n'offrent pas de traitement distinct pour les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits.

« Les gouvernements provinciaux vont souvent avoir comme réaction de dire "ben, vous êtes des citoyens comme les autres et nous n'allons pas vous offrir de programmes distincts de ceux que nous offrons au reste de la population". » Sébastien Grammond, doyen de la section de droit civil de la Faculté de droit de l'Université d'Ottawa
Les Métis et les Autochtones vivant en ville pourraient donc avoir droit aux mêmes programmes que les Premières Nations inscrites, si la décision de la cour allait en leur faveur. Pour l'avocate manitobaine Aimée Craft, une telle décision mènerait à « la possibilité d'ouvrir des négociations pour une reconnaissance territoriale chez les Métis».

Elle ne déterminerait toutefois pas quels seraient les services auxquels auraient droit les Métis, précise Me Craft.« C'est simplement pour une déclaration qu'en droit, les Métis tombent sous cette catégorie particulière, et ensuite, viendront les négociations», expose la juriste.

Selon le Congrès des peuples autochtones, le jugement toucherait plus de 600 000 personnes à travers le pays. Le gouvernement fédéral pourrait porter la décision en appel.

En détails

Le Congrès, M. Daniels, lequel est décédé en 2004, et d'autres Métis demandaient premièrement que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits soient inscrits comme des Indiens au sens de l'article 91 (paragraphe 24) de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 du Canada.

L'article 91 de la Loi constitutionnelle de 1867 définit les pouvoirs exclusifs du Parlement du Canada. Son paragraphe 24 énonce « l'autorité législative exclusive du parlement du Canada » sur les questions touchant « les Indiens et les terres réservées pour les Indiens ».
Les demandeurs exigeaient deuxièmement que la Cour statue que le gouvernement fédéral a une obligation fiduciaire envers eux et que troisièmement, ils ont le droit de négocier des traités avec le fédéral.

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Internal Article / Article interne

APTN News: Attawapiskat Chief Spence's life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide

Attawapiskat Chief Spence's life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says band has nothing to hide

By Jorge Barrera

APTN National News

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's "life partner" says the federal Aboriginal Affairs department should finally launch the forensic audit requested by the community in 2004 if it's serious about tracking the millions of dollars that have flowed through the band's coffers.

Aboriginal Affairs on Monday released an audit done by Deloitte and Touche that found a missing paper trail for millions of dollars in funding flowing through Attawapiskat First Nation between 2005 and 2011. Attawapiskat has a population of about 1,828.

The audit, which examined funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Health Canada along with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, detonated like a grenade as First Nations leaders prepared for Friday's scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The audit, targeting the $104 million the northern Ontario community on the Attawapiskat River received between 2005 and 2011, examined 505 financial transactions, 400 from Aboriginal affairs and 105 from Health Canada, and found that 81 per cent of those transactions did not have the proper documentation and 61 per cent had none.

"We were unable to determine if the funds were spent for their intended purpose," said a Deloitte and Touche management letter to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, dated Aug. 28.

The auditors also noted that CMHC never bothered to tell Aboriginal Affairs about its own inspectors' findings that housing conditions were worsening in the community.

Spence's partner, Clayton Kennedy, who is also the band's former co-manager, said financial accountability had improved over the last two years in Attawapiskat, which posts all its financial documents online. He said none of the money was ever misappropriated and every dollar could be tracked by simply approaching the vendors and the banks involved. He said the department should call in the forensic audit requested by the community back in 2004.

"If everyone is so concerned about the lack of documentation, then fine, come back, start contacting the suppliers, go through the banks, get into it in a little more detail because I don't think you'll find any misappropriation of funds," said Kennedy, who was the band's co-manager between July 2010 and August 2012.

Kennedy was also the band's director of finance, band manager and co-manager between 2001 and 2004 and left the community until he was hired again.

Spence, who was deputy chief from 2007 to 2010, has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11, consuming fish broth two or three times a day along with water and traditional medicine teas, to force a meeting between the prime minister, the governor general and First Nations leaders.

With the meeting now scheduled for Friday, Spence says she will continue to abstain from consuming solid foods until she is satisfied with its result.

Spence has developed a type of sainthood among many who travel from all over the country just to see her, give her gifts

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and pray for her.

She also has developed a fiercely loyal group of supporters and they barred media Monday from entering the log-fence compound on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River where Spence has been living in a teepee.

Attawapiskat's deputy chief George Mattinas told APTN National News all media were now banned from entering the community.

Spence has lost about 22 lbs since she began her hunger strike and a nurse who checked her on Monday noticed her blood-sugar level was dropping, said Kennedy. Kennedy also said Spence has been suffering pain from her stomach contracting from lack of food. He said she is not consuming any vitamins or supplements.

"She is extremely weak," said Kennedy. "I am concerned."

Kennedy said he's worried Spence continues to refuse solid food.

"I don't like where all this is heading in terms of her continuing," he said. "I think she's probably done enoughbut it's her decision to do this."

Kennedy said he believes the government released the "comprehensive audit" to politically torpedo Spence and weaken the Idle No More movement, which shows no signs of abating through continued round dances, rallies and highway blockades across the country.

"It's a witch-hunt," he said. "This whole report that is being exposed as nothing more than a deflection to take pressure off the government because they are in the midst of protest by Indigenous people across this country and people around the worldthey just needed to put something out to discredit the movement and discredit the chief, it's all part of politics."

Kennedy said the audit proves things improved after Spence became chief on Aug. 27, 2010.

"Prior to Theresa coming on as chief, there were problems," said Kennedy. "Hence that is why I was brought in by council, with the full knowledge of Aboriginal Affairs, to get things turned around and for the most part I did get them turned around."

The audit's examination of 400 Aboriginal Affairs transactions supports his assertion. Between 2009 and 2011, the audit found 31 transactions lacked supporting documentation. Between 2005 and 2009, the audit found 214 transactions lacked all supporting documentation.

"There was a lack of oversight, there was a lack of controls," said Kennedy. "It was all relatively young finance staff."

Kennedy cites as an example of several entries in the Deloitte audit on "write down of accounts payable" that were found to have incomplete documentation. Kennedy said those were entries he was trying to correct after staff duplicated invoices for capital projects which are handled by external accountants and project managers.

"I had to take them off the books of account," he said.

Kennedy said Attawapiskat, which has been in co-management for 10 years, was on the brink of bankruptcy when he took over.

Kennedy said the band was previously co-managed by BDO Canada from November 2009 to April 2010, but the band council decided to not continue with them after the firm asked for $400,000 a year over five years to do the job. Kennedy said he earned about $140,000 by comparison.

"Council was suspicious of the fact they hadn't done anything in six months in terms of producing financial statements," said Kennedy.

David Facca, a BDO partner in Thunder Bay, was involved, but said he wasn't authorized to comment when contacted by APTN National News.

Before BDO, the band was co-managed by George Lanouette, who has since died.

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The band manager through the majority of the audit period, former chief Ignace Gull, was let go from his position in December 2011, said Kennedy.

Gull could not be reached for comment.

Kennedy said he's not surprised the auditors failed to find documentation for transactions dating back to 2005.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan called for the audit in December 2011 at the same time he imposed a third-party manager on the community, seizing financial control away from the band council and administration.

When the auditors landed in the community for two five day stints in early 2012, the band's staff was already working to the limit dealing with the third-party manager, who was from BDO Canada's Winnipeg office.

"My staff didn't have time to get to the nuts and bolts," he said. "We were worried about payroll and welfare payments that were withheld. I had to provide a raft of information(The third party manager) wanted to take over all the payroll, he wanted all the information, personal information for every employee by program."

Kennedy said most of the band's accounting staff had "no knowledge of the majority of transactions." He said they pulled out boxes of files from a warehouse to meet the auditors' demands.

"My staff was preoccupied with operations and did not have a lot of time to devote to the auditor's queries," he said.

Duncan's spokesman Jan O'Driscoll said the audit "speaks for itself" and the minister's office accepts "its conclusions and recommendations."

SIDEBAR

Kennedy says all donations accounted for

Clatyon Kennedy, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's life partner, said he wants to allay concerns raised in the media about a savings account he set up to for donations to support Spence's hunger strike.

So far, the account has received about $31,000 in donations and spent about $20,400 on expenses like hotels for support staff at the site and Spence's family along with food, stoves, gasoline and the rental of a car, he said.

Kennedy said he has kept all the receipts and will be providing a detailed breakdown of the spending to the major donors.

"I have the spreadsheets, I have the documentation, if anyone is worried," he said.

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From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Ron Hallman
Date: 1/8/2013 1:19 PM
Subject: Just in case

I haven't heard Kerry on any of the daily calls so forwarding this just in case - participation for Friday at the end of the transcript. Perhaps we should be doing a joint RO/NAO call?

CYFN ISSUES
WHITEHORSE/CBC RADIO NEWS (7:30 A.M.)
JANUARY 8, 2012

ELLYN JONES: Dene national chief Bill Erasmus is calling on the federal government to sit down
and consult with first nation leaders to develop a consistent auditing process. This comes after the
release of a scathing federal audit on the Attawapiskat FN's finances in Ontario. Erasmus says it's
hard for a first nation to get used to all the different guidelines.
"They can't unilaterally develop
policies for audits on their own because it's a government to government and what that means is that
we ought to be able to sit down and agree on what the terms of funding are, how the work ought to
proceed, the reporting mechanisms, the template and so on. But the CYFN grand chief Ruth Massie
says her organization has no trouble keeping up with funding paperwork.

RUTH MASSIE: Before our funds in t he Yukon flow to us from Yukon government or Canada,
you always have to send in a report prior. If there's any discrepancies you just don't any more money
and we've never had an issue in receiving any of our contribution agreements and we've actually had
kudos over the years from the auditor general's office on the accountability.

JONES: Massie says she's unable to attend the upcoming meeting with PM Stephen Harper
on Friday. Eric Fairclough, chief of the LSCFN will be representing Yukon first nations.
-30-

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/7/2013 9:10 PM
Subject: Letter from Ontario Chiefs to PM
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

The letter from Chiefs of Ontario to Prime Minister Harper in support of Chief Spence can be found at:

http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/sites/default/files/files/lettertoPMStephenHarperJanuary72013%20.pdf

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/4/2013 10:23 AM
Subject: Live event at 11 this morning.
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

A note that CBC News Network will be carrying this event live at 11 a.m. A transcript will be provided asap.

New Democrat MP Charlie Angus, joined by National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Shawn Atleo, Grand Chief Stan Louttit, Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, a representative of Theresa Spence and NDP MPP Gilles Bisson, will hold a news conference to discuss Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/8/2013 9:59 PM
Subject: macleans.ca: Robert Nault, former Indian affairs minister, on the First Nations protests
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Robert Nault, former Indian affairs minister, on the First Nations protests
John Geddes

Robert Nault is watching the First Nations protests now dominating Canadian news from a unique perspective. As Jean Chrétien's Indian affairs minister from 1999 to 2003, Nault tried to modernize the way reserve communities manage their finances and elect their councils. But the Assembly of First Nations vilified him for it, and the Liberal government abandoned his reform push after Paul Martin took over from Chrétien as prime minister. Nault now divides his time between Northern Ontario and British Columbia, working as a consultant and negotiator for First Nations communities. He spoke with Maclean's by phone today; this is an edited version of the conversation:

Q What do you think would need to happen for the "Idle No More" protests to open a path toward real progress?

A I think we have to get away from just the government and the Assembly of First Nations, and start looking at some form of all-party committee that's been given a green light to work with Aboriginal leadership.

Q Why has progress been so painfully slow, or non-existent, for so long?

A One problem is that we're trying to do this nationally, with all First Nations at the table all at the same time, when they are all at different stages in their preparedness or willingness to see change. What you've got to do is allow First Nations to opt in when they are ready. Start with First Nations in British Columbia, where they seem ready to move forward. And start with education.

Q Why tackle education first?

A You need to get away from a single reserve, often a small community, having a school board and all the structure that goes with it. You have to connect First Nations education with the rest of the education system, which is provincially run.

Q But wouldn't that require complicated negotiations between the federal government, with its responsibility for First Nations, and provincial governments, with their education jurisdiction? You're not suggesting provinces pay for schooling on reserves, are you?

A I just think they need to be connected. Teachers can't be isolated because they work in a First Nation community. That's why you see teachers quitting so often. They really do need the support that goes with being part of a larger group. We wouldn't transfer jurisdiction for First Nations education to provinces. We would connect them together so they could have greater success. First Nations education is being underfunded grossly, and because of that kids are not getting the same education on reserve and they do off reserve.

Q Because of the reforms you attempted as Indian affairs minister, your name is sometimes associated with calls for band councils to be made more accountable. What do you think of the Conservative government's First Nations Financial Transparency Act?

A Well, it's a very small piece of the puzzle. I never looked at transparency from the aspect of First Nations being transparent for the federal government; I looked at it as transparency for First Nations citizens. That's the way it should work, not the First Nations being accountable to Ottawa. There's a lot more to governance than that. The biggest problem [for small reserve communities] is they are having

trouble keeping up with the paperwork because they don't have the staff to do it. They never have. That's been overlooked over and over again.

Q What do you think of Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike?

A I don't think that's the way to approach this. You create a pressure cooker. No matter what the Prime Minister does next Friday [in his planned meeting with an Assembly of First Nations delegation, including Spence] he won't meet expectations, because it's not that simple. It's not appropriate for elected leaders to put their lives at risk. I don't think we need to go that far in our country.

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

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From: Public Affairs Team
To: Inform, HQ
Date: 1/10/2013 6:03 PM
Subject: Media Relations Report: January 10, 2013

HQ

COMPLETED

Meagan Wohlberg, Northern Journal, (867) 872-3000 ext 24, news@norj.ca - Would like to know if the federal government is looking to appeal the federal court decision made this week on the rights of Metis and non-status Indians, or whether they will begin work on, perhaps, changing policy around Aboriginal affairs. What are the next steps? Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert) s.19(1)

Kevin Ma, St. Albert Gazette, (780) 460-5537, [redacted] - Would like to get a comment on the federal court decision on Metis & non-status Indians. Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Julie Drapeau, CIEU-FM Radio Carleton, (418) 364-7094 poste 31, information@cieufm.com - Rapports financiers. Elle voudrait savoir à quel niveau d'intervention sont les communautés suivantes en date d'aujourd'hui: Micmacs de Gespagepiag, Gespeg et Listigug. J'ai confirmé que la communauté des Micmacs de Gespagepiag est présentement sous bénéficiaire tel qu'indique notre page web. Les communautés des Micmacs de Gespeg et Listuguj ne sont pas sous gestion de manquement. (Michelle Perron)

Maude Montembeault, Radio-Canada, (819) 269-0529, maude.montembeault@radio-canada.ca - La journaliste demande pourquoi les Première Nations de Wemontaci et Manawan sont sous intervention? Je lui ai indiqué qu'il est impossible pour le département de divulguer cette information pour des raisons de confidentialité. Elle demande aussi quelles sont les conséquences si une Première Nation ne soumet pas ses états financiers à temps? Je lui ai donné l'information approuvée suivante: En fonction des modalités de leur entente de financement avec AADNC, certains bénéficiaires de financement doivent présenter chaque année des états financiers consolidés vérifiés. Ces documents doivent être présentés dans les 120 jours suivant la fin de l'exercice (qui est normalement le 31 mars), soit au plus tard le 29 juillet. Les états financiers doivent respecter les normes canadiennes généralement acceptées en matière de comptabilité. Les fonctionnaires d'AADNC continuent de travailler avec les Premières Nations pour améliorer la production de rapports et régler les questions liées aux rapports encore attendus.
AADNC mettra fin au financement pour les services qui ne sont pas essentiels à la santé et à la sécurité des collectivités des Premières Nations dont les états financiers consolidés vérifiés sont en retard de plus de 30 jours. (Michelle Perron)

Jean-Philippe Robillard, Radio-Canada, Montreal, cell (514) 704-4277, jean-philippe.robillard@radio-canada.ca - Nous avons répondu aux 2 dernières questions du journaliste:
1) Quel était le budget du ministère en 1990, 2001, 2005 et 2007?
· 2007-08 - $7.3 billion
· 2005-06 - $5.9 billion
· 2001-02 - $7.5 billion
5) Quel est le déficit budgétaire de chaque communauté?
AADNC ne révèle pas les déficits ou les surplus budgétaires des collectivités des Premières Nations. (Geneviève Guibert)

peter@lobbymonitor.ca - Referred by MO. Contribution agreements between the Federal Government and national aboriginal organizations like the AFN and Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. I sent him the following link to our web page: Disclosure of Grant and Contribution Awards (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/prodis/grtcon/12-13-q2/index-eng.asp). (Geneviève Guibert)

ONGOING

Alistair MacDonald, Wall Street Journal, alistair.macdonald@wsj.com - Referred by MO.
1) I read that Canada spends an additional $6300 per year on aboriginals than the average Canadian. Is there indeed a number on how much more or less is spent by the state on aboriginals, or within that, First Nations?
AANDC is responsible for the majority of federal programs and services that support Aboriginal people and Northerners. According to the 2012-2013 Main Estimates, AANDC will spend approximately $7.8 billion (see chart below). Of this, approximately 83 per cent goes directly to recipients through transfer payments. Much of this funding ensures that Aboriginal people have access to basic services comparable to those provided to other Canadians through provincial, municipal and territorial governments. These services include education, housing, community infrastructure (water and sewage systems), social support services and other benefits. In addition to expenditures for basic services, the department promotes economic development, negotiates and oversees the implementation of comprehensive and specific claim settlements, and implements practical forms of self-government. (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1332787097473/1332787167708)
2) Do Status Indians pay taxes?
In general, Aboriginal people in Canada are required to pay taxes on the same basis as other people in Canada, except where the limited exemption under Section 87 of the Indian Act applies. Section 87 says that the personal property of an Indian or a band situated on a reserve is tax exempt. Inuit and Métis people are not eligible for this exemption and generally do not live on reserves. The exemption in Section 87 of the Indian Act has existed since before Confederation. It reflects the unique constitutional and historic place of Aboriginal people in Canada. The courts have held that the exemption is intended to preserve the entitlements of Indian people to their reserve lands, and to ensure that the use of their property on their reserve lands is not eroded by taxes. Employment income earned by a Status Indian working on a reserve is considered tax exempt. The courts have stated that factors such as the location of the duties and residence of the employee and employer must be considered to determine whether the income will be considered tax exempt. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) or Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) generally do not apply to purchases by Status Indians if the purchase is made on a reserve or is delivered to a reserve by the vendor or the vendors agent. For additional information, please contact the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.
3) What is aboriginal?
"Aboriginal peoples" is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. The Canadian constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people: Indians (commonly referred to as First Nations), Métis and Inuit. These are three distinct peoples with unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. More than one million people in Canada identify themselves as an Aboriginal person, according to the 2006 Census. (source: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013785/1304467449155)
4) What is the percentage of Canada that is classified as First Nations?
According to 2006 Census, more than half (623,470) of the 1,172,790 people identifying themselves as members of at least one of Canada's Aboriginal groups, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, resided in urban areas. Of this urban Aboriginal population, almost 34%. (213,945) lived in five cities: Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto. (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014298/1100100014302)
5) I read that they had Canada's fastest birth rate. Is that correct?
The population of Status Indians on reserve has a higher proportion of youth (under 24 years old) than the population of Canada as a whole. (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eFor) your questions related to crime rates and alcoholism, you'll have to contact the Department of Justice and Health Canada respectively. (Jan 9)
The reporter then sent follow up questions this morning:
1) When you say, though, that AANDC will spend approximately $7.8 billion. But is that extra? The calculation I am trying to make is how much more, or less, the government spends on an aboriginal over the national average.
2) Also, do you happen to know what percentage of First Nations actually live on reserves?
Research ongoing. (Geneviève Guibert)

Kim Mackrael, Globe and Mail, (613) 566-3645, cell (416) 459-3046, kmackrael@globeandmail.com - Referred by MO. Shoal Lake is challenging a bid by the City of Winnipeg to sell water from Shoal Lake

(which also provides the city of Winnipeg's drinking supply) to CentrePort Canada, the major inland port development in Winnipeg. Winnipeg is asking the federal government to support it as it seeks approval from the International Joint Commission (IJC), which oversees the Great Lakes. The First Nation says it is looking for assurances that Ottawa will uphold its fiduciary responsibility - and not side with the City of Winnipeg to promote the sale of the water (which would also benefit CentrePoint).
1) Has Aboriginal Affairs been involved in this issue to this point?
2) The City of Winnipeg is asking for the IJC approval process to be expedited. Will Aboriginal Affairs support the First Nations' requests for the approval to go through the regular process?
3) Shoal Lake #40 FN argues that many of their problems date back to an Indian Affairs decision one century ago to allow the city of Winnipeg to build an aquaduct on their reserve. The FN was moved to an area that is now essentially an island and hasn't been allowed to build anything and thus support its economy. Can you respond to this claim, please? (Jan 9)
She also sent 2 follow up questions this morning:
4) The First Nation says it proposed a plan to get an all-weather road that would involve a three-way cost - sharing between the City of Winnipeg, the province of Manitoba and the federal government. It says the city and province are on board, but the federal government hasn't agreed to spend the money. Can you tell me if that's true, and why?
5) Also, I understand the government decided not to build a water filtration plant for the community because it turned out to be more expensive than expected. Is that correct? Why does the community have to get its water in bottles from Kenora when it lives on the lake that is the source for Winnipeg's drinking water?
I provided her with a response to her 1st question:
1) This issue is a matter between the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the First Nations. We encourage them to work towards a mutually acceptable solution.

Research ongoing for the rest of her questions. Deadline: 6pm tonight. (Geneviève Guibert)

Louise Leduc, La Presse, (514) 973-0748, louise.leduc@lapresse.ca - Sait-on pour combien de revendications particulières le Canada a rejeté la demande? Et si c'est possible, pour combien de revendications globales les demandes ont-elles été rejetées? Cette demande requiert un suivi. (Geneviève Guibert)

Steve Rennie, CP, (613) 231-8614, steve.rennie@thecanadianpress.com - Attawapiskat audit. Has the Department been in contact with the RCMP regarding the Attawapiskat audit? Research ongoing. (Michelle Perron)

Maude Montembeault, Radio-Canada, (819) 269-0529, maude.montembeault@radio-canada.ca - La journaliste a parlé au Chef d'Obedjiwan et il confirme que des représentants du ministère visiteront la communauté la semaine prochaine en réponse d'une plainte de plusieurs membres contre le Chef pour fraude financière. Peut-on confirmer et avons-nous des détails au sujet de la plainte?

Quelle est la raison? Requiert un suivi. (Michelle Perron)

Jessica Murphy, Parliamentary Bureau, Sun Media, (613) 380-8206, cell (613) 617-1318, jessica.murphy@sunmedia.ca - Looking for information on First Nations elections under the purview of Aboriginal Affairs. 1) What kind of oversight does Aboriginal Affairs offer to First Nations for band elections? 2) What is the federal process when there is a contested band election? 3) Does the government ever request help from Elections Canada in managing band elections? 4) How many private investigators are currently working with Aboriginal Affairs to investigate problems with band elections? Research ongoing. Deadline: Today. (Geneviève Guibert)

Brooks DeCillia, CBC, Calgary, (403) 521-6234, brooks.decillia@cbc.ca - Audits and evaluation. Are audits only available when a FN is under TPM? Where can you find summaries of the audits on our web page? Research ongoing. (Geneviève Guibert)

From: Public Affairs Team
To: Inform, HQ
Date: 1/15/2013 6:00 PM
Subject: Media Relations Report: January 15, 2013

HQ

COMPLETED

Jeffrey Simpson, Globe and Mail, (613) 566-3602, (mailto:jsimpson@globeandmail.cp)**jsimpson@globeandmail.com** - Indian Register. How many registered Indians in each 615 First Nations? I gave him the link to the Indian Register from our website (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1337012719332/1337012786429). (Michelle Perron)

Shari Okeke, CBC radio, Montreal, (514) 597-6649, cell (514) 951-7389, shari.okeke@cbc.ca - Looking for a comment/reaction to former GG Michaëlle Jean's comments about aboriginals communities living in 3rd world conditions (similar to Haiti). It would be a pre-taped phone interview (which will be part of a report on her comments). Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Barbara Yaffe, Vancouver Sun, (604) 267-9667, byaffe@vancouversun.com - Has the Minister ever visited Attawapiskat? Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Abby Wiseman, CBC Vancouver, "All Points West" radio show, (604) 662-6777, abby.wiseman@cbc.ca - Hoping to talk to Minister Duncan or his Parliamentary Secretary on their show tomorrow (preferably live interview at 4:10 BC time - 1:10 pm Ottawa time - or pre-taped if live interview is not possible). This is regarding talks between the AFN and the federal government. They would like to talk about what happened last Friday and what is the Dept's next step? Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

s.19(1)

Brielle Morgan, Carleton University student in journalism writing for Nanutsiaq News. [redacted] - Nunavut Food Security Symposium. She wants to interview representatives from the NNC Advisory Board on the upcoming symposium. I suggested she contact the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board directly. (Michelle Perron)

YK

ONGOING

Shirley McLean, APTN, (867) 333-1366 - Is working on a more in-depth piece on the spirit and intent of land claims in Yukon. She would like to speak with someone who can give Canada's position on the implementation of the agreements. FNs say the original spirit and intent of the territory's ground-breaking agreements has been lost. She would like Canada to weigh in. Follow-up call will be placed to reporter today. Yukon Comms will engage regional Governance directorate and HQ Comms representing Implementation Branch to decide best way forward. In progress. (Denise Antle)

NWT

ONGOING

Wayne Rivers, APTN, (867) 873-2862 ext 103 - The reporter called requesting access to the Giant Mine Townsite near Yellowknife in order to conduct an interview with a former resident on it being named one of "Canada's ghost towns to visit" in a recent MacLean's blog article. The townsite is closed to the public for health and safety reasons, but access has been granted to media in the past. His request is being considered. If granted, the reporter will be provided with some background information that explains why

the site is closed to the public. (Yose Cormier)

Jack Danylchuk, Northern Journal, [redacted] - The reporter has been following the Slave River Report file closely, and is following up as he was out of the country when it was released in November. The Slave River Report Summary was emailed to him. An interview request is anticipated at a later date. (Tricia Melander-Forde)

From: Public Affairs Team
To: Inform, HQ
Date: 1/4/2013 5:05 PM
Subject: Media Relations Report: January 4, 2013

HQ

COMPLETED

Ken Wong, Station de radio CIAU-FM, Radisson, QC, (418) 262-7163 - Demande d'entrevue en français au sujet de la Chef Theresa Spence. Referred to MO. (Michelle Perron)

Corvett Hancey, CBC News Now (live newscast), (416) 205-2924, corvett.hancey@cbc.ca - Live on-camera interview with the Minister on Saturday preferably (or Sunday if it's better for him) on Idle No More and the Jan 11 meeting that was announced today. Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Megan Thomas, CBC, Sudbury, (705) 688-3241, megan.thomas@cbc.ca - The Moose Cree Wetum Road (winter road that connects Moose Factory to the Ontario highway system). 1) What is the Dept contribution? 2) She heard they're still waiting for a formal contribution, do we know when they can expect our funding? (Jan 2)
Response provided: AANDC informed Moose Cree First Nation by letter in November 2012 that AANDC would be providing $329,122 to the First Nation for a new winter road that will connect the First Nation to the Ontario highway system this winter. The Province of Ontario and First Nations cost-share construction, and operations and maintenance of the winter roads network. AANDC's funding assists in offsetting the First Nations' costs to construct and maintain the winter roads. This funding is part of 2012-2013 fiscal year allocations. The Department is currently processing the funding on a priority basis. The First Nation should receive the funds in the coming weeks. (Geneviève Guibert)

From: Public Affairs Team
To: Inform, HQ
Date: 1/7/2013 5:58 PM
Subject: Media Relations Report: January 7, 2013

HQ

COMPLETED

Laura Stone, I Politics, (613) 216-9638, cell (613) 794-8082, laurastone@ipolitics.ca - Is the audit by Deloitte & Touche on Attawapiskat available? I sent her the link to our web page "Comprehensive Audit: Attawapiskat First Nation" (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1350995206662/1350995589197). (Geneviève Guibert)

Martin Girard, Radio-Canada, Montreal, (514) 597-3991, martin.girard-inf@radio-canada.ca - Il aimerait une entrevue à la caméra avec Anne Scotton au sujet du rapport de Deloitte & Touche (du 28 septembre 2012) pour discuter des raisons de cet audit sur Attawapiskat. Deadline: Ce matin à 11h15 sinon cet après-midi. Cette demande a été transférée au bureau du ministre. (Geneviève Guibert)

Stéphanie Marin, Presse canadienne, (613) 231-8639, stephanie.marin@lapressecanadienne.com - Vérification de Deloitte sur Attawapiskat. 1) Pourquoi est-ce que la vérification a été mise en ligne aujourd'hui? 2) Pourquoi pas avant, puisque la vérification est en date du 28 septembre? Cette demande a été transférée au bureau du ministre. (Geneviève Guibert)

Susan Lunn, CBC, Ottawa, (613) 288-6614, susan.lunn@cbc.ca - Audit on Attawapiskat. 1) How many other reserves have been audited in the last 5 years? 2) Is this common occurrence? 3) Is there a list of criteria that have to be met before an audit is asked for? Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Wendy Stueck, G&M, (604) 631-6618, wstueck@globeandmail.com - Release of Attawapiskat's audit today. 1) How many audits are under way currently? 2) What are their status? 3) What is the policy/practice of the Dept for releasing audits? Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

John Robson, Sun News, (613) 255-5491, john.robson@sunmedia.ca - What changes to leasing and sale of land under the Indian Act were made by Bill C-45? Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

ONGOING

Bill Curry, Globe and Mail, (613) 566-3617, bcurry@globeandmail.ca - Would like to speak with someone on Bill C-45, more specifically on absolute surrenders and changes to the Indian Act. Research ongoing. (Geneviève Guibert)

From: Public Affairs Team
To: Inform, HQ
Date: 1/9/2013 5:58 PM
Subject: Media Relations Report: January 9, 2013
Attachments: NCR-#4937989-v1-LBS_-_Final_1.docx; GG 2006 Census _1.xls

HQ

COMPLETED

Bill Curry, Globe and Mail, (613) 566-3617, bcurry@globeandmail.ca - Would like to speak with someone on Bill C-45, more specifically on absolute surrenders and changes to the Indian Act. (Jan 7) General Counsel Paul Salembier granted a very brief background interview during which he confirmed with the reporter and explained that the amendments to the Indian Act are only about leasing and not about surrendering reserve lands. A Fact Sheet on Land Base Statistics was also provided to the reporter (see attached). (Geneviève Guibert)

Jason Fekete, Postmedia, Ottawa, (613) 369-4811, jfekete@postmedia.com - Funding and population numbers. 1) He's looking for the most recent population numbers for Aboriginals, Métis, and Inuit. Do we have a report that shows the total population for each group? 2) The reporter saw on our web page that our total budget is $7.8B and he would like to know how broken down, more specifically how much exactly is spent administration?
Response provided:
1) I gave him the latest stats from the 2006 Census (see table attached) and the link to our web page "Registered Indian Population by Sex and Residence 2011" (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1351001356714/1351001514619). 2) I gave him the link to the "2012–2013 Financial Overview – December 2012" web page (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1335368665496/1335368754793) where he can see a pie chart showing our budget's breakdown and where he can see that our Administrative Overhead represents 3% of our budget (or $209M). (Geneviève Guibert)

Kim Taylor-Galway, CBC, for the National News Network, (416) 205-6886, kim.taylor-galway@cbc.ca - Live 5 min on-camera interview with the Minister on "Idle No More" (either tomorrow afternoon or Friday afternoon). Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Paul Bickford, NewsNorth, (867) 874-2802, editor@ssimicro.com - Court decision Metis & non-status Indians. The reporter would like get a comment from the Minister's office on yesterday's court ruling. Referred to MO. (Michelle Perron)

Michel Munger, La chaîne Argent, TVA, Montreal, (514) 526-9251, michel.munger@tva.ca - Jugement de la cour par rapport aux Métis et Indiens non-inscrits. Le jounaliste aimerait une entrevue en français pour discuter de l'impact financier que cette extension aura pour le ministère? Référé au bureau du ministre. (Michelle Perron)

ONGOING

David Akin, Sunmedia news, (613) 380-8214, david.akin@sunmedia.ca - List of First Nations under intervention. I directed him to the most recent "Report by Region on List of Recipients with Default Management Under Way" from our website (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1308848096847/1308848167117).
He then asked: For those in default management, is there a date associated with their change in status? I'm particularly interested in those currently in third-party management and would like to know how long each FN have been in 3rd Party Management? Research ongoing. (Michelle Perron)

Jean-Philippe Robillard, Radio-Canada, Montreal, cell (514) 704-4277, jean-

philippe.robillard@radio-canada.ca - 1) Quel était le budget du ministère en 1990, 2001, 2005 et 2007? 2) Quel est le taux de chômage des autochtones? 3) Combien de personnes vivant sur les réserves touchent de l'aide sociale? 4) Combien sont sous intervention (gestion par un bénéficiaire, cogestion, et séquestre-administrateur)? 5) Quel est le déficit budgétaire de chaque communauté?
Pour la question 2: Le taux de chômage de la population autochtone âgé de 25 à 64 ans au Canada basé sur le recensement de 2006 est de 13 %.
Pour la question 3: Pour l'année fiscale 2010-2011, le taux national dans les réserves pour le programme d'aide au revenu était de 34.4%, ce qui représente un total approximatif de 165 000 bénéficiaires.
Pour la question 4: Je lui ai envoyé le lien suivant à notre page web: "Rapport par région de la liste de bénéficiaires qui font l'objet d'un manquement en cours" (http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fra/1308848096847/1308848167117).
Ses questions 1 et 5 demandent un suivi. (Geneviève Guibert)

Angie Bonenfant, Radio-Canada, (613) 288-6759, angie.bonenfant@radio-canada.ca - Revendication de la Communauté Algonquine de l'Île Kettle. Elle demande si nous avons une mise à jour de la revendication sur notre site web. Requiert un suivi. (Michelle Perron)

John Geddes, Maclean's Magazine, (613) 231-8402, john.geddes@macleans.rogers.com - Community Well-Being Index. What is the most recent CW index? The reporter read on our web page that it's done every 5 years from 1981 to 2006? Shouldn't there be one for 2011? He would also like to talk to someone on how the CW Index is done and how useful it is? (Jan 8)
An interview is being scheduled with Eric Guimond, Director of the Strategic Research Directorate, some time next week. (Geneviève Guibert)

Kim Mackrael, Globe and Mail, (613) 566-3645, cell (416) 459-3046, kmackrael@globeandmail.com - Referred by MO. Shoal Lake is challenging a bid by the City of Winnipeg to sell water from Shoal Lake (which also provides the city of Winnipeg's drinking supply) to CentrePort Canada, the major inland port development in Winnipeg. Winnipeg is asking the federal government to support it as it seeks approval from the International Joint Commission (IJC), which oversees the Great Lakes. The First Nation says it is looking for assurances that Ottawa will uphold its fiduciary responsibility - and not side with the City of Winnipeg to promote the sale of the water (which would also benefit CentrePoint).
1) Has Aboriginal Affairs been involved in this issue to this point?
2) The City of Winnipeg is asking for the IJC approval process to be expedited. Will Aboriginal Affairs support the First Nations' requests for the approval to go through the regular process?
3) Shoal Lake #40 FN argues that many of their problems date back to an Indian Affairs decision one century ago to allow the city of Winnipeg to build an aquaduct on their reserve. The FN was moved to an area that is now essentially an island and hasn't been allowed to build anything and thus support its economy. Can you respond to this claim, please?
Research ongoing. Deadline: Tomorrow morning. (Geneviève Guibert)

From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts;...
Date: 1/16/2013 9:26 PM
Subject: National Post: First Nations protesters block rail lines as demonstrations roll out across Canada
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

First Nations protesters block rail lines as demonstrations roll out across Canada

Provincial police say they are trying to open the lines of communication with several people who are blocking rail lines east of Belleville.

Sgt. Christine Rae says train traffic has been halted and officers are monitoring the situation in the remote area in Tyendinaga Township.

Via Rail says the blockade is affecting the movement of trains between Toronto-Montreal and Toronto-Ottawa in both directions and that passengers are being moved around the site by ground transportation.

Rae says police became aware of the blockade at about 1:50 p.m. Wednesday at a location where CN and CP lines intersect, about half a kilometre west of Shannonville Road.

The protesters haven't yet been identified by police but the blockade comes as many groups are participating in a day of action in support of First Nations across Canada.

"We are trying to open lines of communication at this point with the people who are at the scene that are blocking the rail," Rae said.

"That is the first step in ensuring that the police do their job, and that is protecting the peace and ensuring everyone has a safe environment to do their protest."

Mylene Belanger of Via Rail said no passengers had been stranded on trains but she had no further information.

"We know that it will probably impact between 10 and 20 trains," she said.

Via Rail released a statement Wednesday saying it was dealing with the situation but that delays could be expected.

"Although this situation will cause substantial additional expenses and force our employees to work long hours, Via Rail's foremost priority is to ensure that our customers reach their destinations as comfortably and safely as possible," it said.

Meanwhile, several hundred protesters blocked an entrance to the Ambassador Bridge as part of the day of action.

Marchers, including members of several southwestern Ontario First Nations, converged just short of the busy international bridge's entrance today, with many carrying flags and signs calling on the federal government to listen to aboriginal concerns.

There is a line of transport trucks about a kilometre long, waiting to get by.

Organizers have said the protest will not be a blockade but a peaceful march that's not part of the Idle No More protests that have been held across the country in recent weeks.

"We'll inconvenience people for an hour," Chief Greg Peters from the Delaware First Nation told the Windsor Star. "We've been inconvenienced for 200 years. It's all about unity and it's all about education."

Elsewhere in Canada, Aboriginals and their supporters blocked bridges, slowed traffic on highways and stalled a rail line in Manitoba as protesters flex their public muscles in a show of solidarity.

Tensions have been at a historic high in recent weeks, with the Idle No More rallying support behind a wide array of aboriginal calls for reform and Attawapiskat chief Theresa Spence staging a five-week-long hunger strike in Ottawa.

Wednesday's protests share themes, and likely members, with Idle No More, but the group's co-founder has tried to distance the movement from any blockades, saying Tuesday that they were hosting only "peaceful" education events.

First Nations leaders and Idle No More activists have said that once the snow melts and warmer weather sets in, key highways -- including the main road to Alberta's Fort McMurray, a major oil production hub -- could be blocked for days, weeks or even months, prompting what one chief called "chaos."

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam said earlier this week that while there are no plans to shut down Highway 63, the only all-weather road to Fort McMurray, on Wednesday, the government should expect a months-long summer blockade if it does not repeal or amend its recently passed omnibus budget bill that made changes to the Indian Act and the Navigable Waterways Act.

"If we're going to shut down that highway, we're going to shut it down completely -- and not just for one day," he said, warning that "every major highway across the country" would fall to a similar fate. "It's escalated to a point where people's frustrations are beginning to run out, and when people's frustrations run out, things happen."

In an interview with the National Post, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chief Chris Lewis agreed that there would, indeed, be chaos if protesters shut down Highway 401 for days on end, though he emphasized the force's commitment to avoiding another Ipperwash -- the 1993 standoff that saw First Nations protester Dudley George shot and killed by police.

"There would be a point where we'd have to take action," he said. "How we do it and when we do it is critical."

At issue are two huge and complicated pieces of legislation stemming from last year's budget, of which more efficient natural resource extraction was the centrepiece.

Bill C-38, which passed in June, completely overhauls Canada's environmental assessment law, redefines protections for fish and gives the federal cabinet new decision-making powers on resource development.

Environmentalists and First Nations alike say the changes allow mining and energy companies to steamroll over their concerns, and rush into resource extraction without properly accounting for harm to animal habitats.

But an analysis by lawyers at Fraser Milner Casgrain says the changes also impose new responsibilities on corporations when it comes to dealing with First Nations. Plans for resource extraction will need to take into consideration any effect on aboriginal health, socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, and historical sites.

C-45, the second omnibus budget bill, received royal assent in December. It overhauls protections of waterways by dramatically changing the Navigable Waters Act, as well as changing the Fisheries Act and the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act.

"Is this the appropriate thing to do for the economy at the expense of future generations?" said Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, protesting Wednesday along with hundreds of others alongside a northern

Ontario highway, shouting to be heard over a line of transport trucks slowed by the demonstration.

"We want to have a source of clean drinking water."

Behind the scenes, there may be some wiggle room as the federal government goes about crafting regulations on how to implement C-45. Harper and his officials indicated as much to chiefs who met with him and several cabinet ministers last week, insiders say.

"The PM did say that the law is now passed, but the regulations in many cases still need to be worked out, and that will involve consultation," said one government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

That's unlikely to do much to assuage the deep concerns shared by environmentalists and First Nations, said Megan Leslie, the NDP environment critic.

"The Conservatives could certainly say we'll add that lake or river to the (protected waters) list," she said. "But that's tinkering around the edges. They (chiefs and protesters) are concerned with the overall omnibus bill."

Still, she said the Conservatives have shown that they will move on legislation if they think it's not right. Included in C-45, for example, were two major changes to the just-passed C-38.

"I think there's absolutely room to figure out what to do here," Leslie said.

Companies need a solution just as much as First Nations and environmentalists, added Anna Baggio, director of conservation land use planning with CPAWS Wildlands League.

Baggio is on the front lines of proposed mining development in northern Ontario, and she sees companies working hard to get the 'social license' they need to obtain First Nations support and go ahead with resource extraction.

If the public does not have confidence in the government's environmental oversight, businesses will find it even more difficult to proceed, she said.

"From a big business standpoint, if the government wants 'responsible resource development', there are things you have to put in place to be sure it is responsible."

But even if Harper stands his ground and does not entertain changes to the two omnibus bills, First Nations have two more cards to play, Beardy said.

For one, the protest movement has only just begun and will amplify once the weather warms up, he said. His northern Ontario group was on the highway for hours Wednesday in -15 C temperatures.

"Something has to be really wrong to do that," Beardy said.

Plus, aboriginal people still have legal rights that will likely trump the most recent federal legislation, he added, pointing to protections of aboriginal rights in the constitution.

Indeed, there is already one lawsuit, with two Alberta First Nations asking for a judicial review of the bills, claiming the federal government did not fulfil its duty to consult with First Nations before passing the legislation.

Forcing First Nations to go to court is not a sustainable response, Leslie said.

Files from Kathryn Blaze Carlson, National Post, and Heather Scoffield, Canadian Press

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 8:05 PM
Subject: nationalpost.com: Stephen Harper and Shawn Atleo agree to more 'high-level' discussions on treaties in coming weeks
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Stephen Harper and Shawn Atleo agree to more 'high-level' discussions on treaties in coming weeks

OTTAWA - They'll meet again.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and aboriginal leaders didn't see eye to eye on everything at their talks on Friday but they have agreed he'll meet again with the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Shawn Atleo, in the coming weeks.

The government remains committed to ongoing dialogue on aboriginal issues and to "to taking achievable steps" to improve the lives of First Nations people across Canada, according to a release late Friday from the Prime Minister's Office.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Harper agreed to "high level" discussions about treaty rights and claims, which would include issues of resource revenue sharing, as well as "enhanced oversight" from Harper's office and the Privy Council Office.

Atleo and Harper are to meet in the weeks ahead, he said. Atleo made no immediate comment.

Duncan emerged from four hours of discussion Friday night, in which Harper and senior ministers met with members of the Assembly of First Nations, to say the government doesn't plan changes to current budget legislation that First Nations oppose. But he said it will in future ensure "there is regular knowledge of any concerns that may come from the First Nations leadership" about government bills.

Meanwhile, more than 100 First Nations chiefs were preparing to visit Rideau Hall Friday night for a ceremonial meeting with Governor General David Johnston - among them the Ontario chief who has been fasting to protest government policies.

It wasn't known if Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence would end her liquid-only diet at the meeting, however.

Chiefs who boycotted the Harper meeting had wanted the Governor General to attend it, but Johnston planned instead to host them late in the day, after formal talks ended.

Speaking to protesters on Parliament Hill earlier in the day, some chiefs said they weren't happy that executives from the AFN were at Harper's office. Their boycott was a sign of discontent with the federal government, but also with AFN national chief Shawn Atleo, who was in the four-hour meeting with Harper along with aboriginal representatives from some, though not all, provinces.

Chief Perry Bellegarde, Saskatchewan's regional chief, who boycotted the meeting, said the absent chiefs had nonetheless sent written submissions into the meeting.

"We've put everything in writing and that's being discussed and dialogued right now."

Spence herself emerged briefly Friday morning from the teepee on an island in the Ottawa River, where she has been maintaining her fast for more than a month. She talked briefly about the hardships native Canadians face and urged the government to "renew" the relationship.

In a rambling but defiant statement, Spence decried the devolution of power in Canada from the Crown to the prime minister, and suggested the news media were misleading Canadians. A spokesperson said she

would continue her liquid-only diet, which she has been on for the last month.

Not everyone felt she should continue her strike, however.

Murray Sinclair, the aboriginal chairman of the federally created Truth and Reconciliation Commission -- which emerged from the residential schools apology process -- praised a "new, bright and younger leadership" of Canadian aboriginals that make up the "Idle No More" movement, in the face of what he called "tremendously negative backlash and outright racism."

He said on his Facebook page that the movement, and Spence's protest, had achieved enormous results for aboriginal people, but he urged her to return to eating solid food.

Andrew MacDougall, Harper's director of communications, said the AFN talks with the prime minister were proceeding as planned and were aimed at addressing First Nations' concerns on the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights, and economic development.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl DyckFour-year-old Lily Mervyn, whose mother is Metis and father is of Cherokee heritage, holds a sign while attending a First Nations Idle No More demonstration with her family at the Douglas-Peace Arch crossing on the Canada-U.S. border near Surrey, B.C., on Saturday January 5, 2013..For her part, Spence argued the federal government has for years been violating longstanding treaties with First Nations and that Friday's meeting should be an opportunity to help "resolve broken promises" and renew the Crown's relationship with aboriginals. First Nations deserve better housing, health care and revenue sharing from the federal government, Spence said.

"This government has been abusing us, raping the land," she added. "The treaty was not about control, it's about sharing, honouring and respecting each other."

Protests took place across Canada Friday as part of the Idle No More movement -- following a day of drama Thursday among First Nations chiefs and a week that catapulted aboriginal issues onto the front pages.

Bellegarde -- one of the leaders initially scheduled to meet with Harper on Friday -- said Thursday night he would not attend the talks and stood in solidarity with Spence and other leaders.

Indeed, the night before the meeting, many chiefs from across the country declared their support for Spence and demanded the prime minister and Governor General both attend the Friday working meeting, which Johnston did not do.

Pam Palmater, the Ryerson University professor who was Atleo's chief rival in last summer's national chief elections, suggested Atleo's decision to meet Harper undercut the validity of the AFN.

"Atleo has no choice but to listen to the chiefs, because he has no independent political authority," she added.

Chiefs are demanding the federal government respect long-standing treaty rights, create a new agreement on natural resource development and revenue sharing, and revisit contentious federal government legislation, including the Indian Act.

Robin Rowland/The Canadian PressMembers of the Haisla First Nation march in Kitimat, B.C. as part of a rally in support of the Idle No More movement on Sunday Dec 30, 2012. As well as voicing support for the hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence, Haisla members spoke of their opposition to the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project..The tough talk and emotional pleas threatened to scuttle progress.

Sharp divisions were evident as up to 200 chiefs gathered at the hotel Thursday evening.

"No longer will the prime minister dictate to us," said Onion Lake First Nation Chief Wallace Fox.

"If we have to shut down this economy, then we will."

Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae called on the Harper government to repair its relationship with First Nations.

"It is not a comedy of errors but it's a tragedy of errors that we find ourselves in this situation today," Rae said about the difficulty in having First Nations arrange something as simple as a meeting with the prime minister and Governor General.

Tom Mulcair, leader of the official Opposition, had planned to host 20 chiefs at his residence Thursday night, but the plan fell through as the chiefs were still wrestling over whether to attend Friday's meeting with the prime minister. Mulcair has been silent on this week's developments.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: OntarioESC
To: ONBrantford; ONSudbury; ONThunderBay; ONToronto
CC: Newslink Subscribers
Date: 1/4/2013 4:00 PM
Subject: ONTARIO NEWSLINK *Four O'Clock Report*for Friday January 4, 2013
Attachments: 20130104A.wpd

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Ontario Newslink is a service of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada-Ontario Region Executive Services and Communications Directorate (ESC). This report is an internal document intended for Department employees only. Ontario Newslink contains summaries of news items, and is not intended to reflect the Department's position or policy on any issue. ESC is not responsible for the accuracy, currency or the reliability of the content provided in the links. All commentary material shared through Ontario Newslink reflects solely on the opinion of the producer of the content. Please reply to this message, or contact OntarioNewslink@inac.gc.ca to request transcripts of items that appear in this report. Please Note: Some transcripts may be subject to availability.

National Aboriginal News

Local businesses offer food, clothes, and services to support Theresa Spence's hunger strike.

OTTAWA -- Two Ottawa businesses are donating their time and services to help Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence as she continues to her hunger strike for aboriginal treaty rights.
Read more:
http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Local+businesses+offer+food+clothes+services+support+Theresa+Spence+hunger+strike/7776473/story.html#ixzz2H2KR4FWN

First Nations leaders hopeful for progress after Harper's offer to meet. First nations leaders say they are cautiously optimistic that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's offer to meet next Friday will turn a page on the relationship between their people and the government but they stress that it cannot be a one-day event.
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/first-nations-leaders-hopeful-for-progress-after-harpers-offer-to-meet-next-week/article6938970/

Charlie Angus News Conference.
For the full transcript, please see the attachment below, 20130104A.wpd.

CBC News Network: Reaction to announcement of the January 11th meeting with Chiefs.

>> Prime Minister Stephen Harper: People have the right in our country to demonstrate and express their points of view peacefully as long as they obey the law, but I think the Canadian population thinks everyone will obey the law in holding such protests.

>> Andrew: The Prime Minister's announcement of funding for the auto industry was sidelined by questions about Idle No More protests, and his upcoming meeting with First Nations leaders. Stephen Harper agreed to discuss treaty rights next week. The CBC's James Fitzmorris on Victoria Island, where Chief Theresa Spence is holding her hunger strike. We'll speak with him in a moment. First, Steven De Souza is at the Ford motor plant in Oakville, Ontario where Stephen Harper spoke moments ago. Break down what the Prime Minister said about the meetings and the Idle No More movement.

>> Reporter: It is interesting, because he never mentioned Idle No More by name or Chief Theresa Spence. What we talked about when referencing the January 11th meeting next week, he talked about it as a follow-up to previous meetings he has had with First Nations leaders, saying he wants to build on what they accomplished in those meetings and set further dates for more meetings. He was talking about the meeting he's having is a follow-up, rather than a response to what we have been seeing across the country with the Idle No More protests, and interestingly he said that it was really up to the First Nations leadership to decide the composition of their delegation to the meeting and didn't say that he would meet with Chief Theresa Spence directly, saying it is up to the First Nations leadership to decide if she will be a part of those meetings. Also, you heard him talk about, in that clip, about the protests, themselves, saying as long as they are kept peaceful and lawful, he says he doesn't really have a problem with them. Interestingly, though, he was asked by a reporter about some planned protests over the weekend that could shut down borders and, therefore, cross the legal line, and he didn't directly answer that question. In fact, he referred back to his early answer and then when asked again, in French, whether he's responding to the protests and calling the meeting, he again referred to his previous answer and did not answer again, directly.

>> Andrew: Chief Spence vows to continue her hunger strike until the meeting with the Prime Minister. This morning a group of Chiefs expressed concerns for her health and said the meeting with Harper would be wasted if it failed to yield meaningful progress. Joining me with more is James Fitzmorris in Ottawa. James, can you tell us about the concerns the Chief expressed today?

>> Reporter: They are concerned about Chief Spence's health. This is day 25 without solid food and they say she is starting to show the effects of the hunger strike. So they were here to increase pressure on Prime Minister Harper to agree

to a meeting,. They were what the caught off guard on the announcement of the January 11th coming minutes before they decided to speak to the media. So, they say they are encouraged by the step and it is certainly a step forward and some are calling it a moral victory. But they are looking for more concrete measures. It is not just one meeting. Here's some of the reaction from earlier today.

>>Stan Loutitt: We are going to go into a Crown-First Nations gathering 2, if you will, this coming -- this month. Then I think we need to drive that agenda with the Prime Minister. Last year it was largely very restrictive, and I'm always an optimist when it comes to those kinds of things and I'm hopeful we can make progress with a commitment to continue that dialogue.

>>Reporter: As you heard there, the Chief is pointing out they did have a meeting with the Crown last year and didn't see any results from it and they are looking for a greater commitment than one meeting, and as you mentioned, also, Chief Spence will actually continue her hunger strike until the meeting is held and they don't want just a commitment and they say there are issues of trust and want to see the trust and want to see the meeting held before they give up the vigil on the island in the shadow of Parliament Hill before the Chief will eat again.

>> Andrew: Let's talk about that. This is day 25 of Chief Spence's hunger strike. What is her condition?

>>Reporter: We haven't seen her yet here today. As you can see behind me there are a lot of people, as I said, holding vigil, and we understand though from people who have seen her earlier that she says she is doing well. She is in high spirits, but is showing signs of weakness and the effects of not having eaten solid food, as we say, in 25 days.

Idle No More protest greets Harper outside Ford plant.
(DOMINIK KUREK / OAKVILLE BEAVER / @halton_photog)
Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to Oakville's Ford Assembly Plant was met with the Idle No More movement Friday morning.
http://www.insidehalton.com/news/article/1561460--idle-no-more-protest-greets-harper-outside-ford-plant

Harper renews $250M auto innovation fund
Automotive Innovation Fund established in 2008 to support auto industry.
http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2013/01/04/pol-automotive-innovation-fund-harper-ford-plant.html

TVA - Grève de la faim de Theresa Spence - Stephen Harper va rencontrer les Premières Nations.

http://tvanouvelles.ca/lcn/infos/national/archives/2013/01/20130104-114329.html
Agence QMI: Le premier ministre Stephen Harper a indiqué vendredi qu'il allait rencontrer les chefs des Premières Nations, le 11 janvier prochain.
http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/articles/restricted/2013/01/nau201313514760285.htm
http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/ontario/2013/01/04/006-harper-autochtones-rencontre.shtml
http://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/quebec-canada/politique-canadienne/201301/04/01-4608358-idle-no-more-rencontre-au-sommet.php

Ezra Levant: Documents show plenty of money flowing through Spence's reserve. Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's household made as much as $250,000 in the fiscal year ending March 2011. As the leader of the remote northern Ontario reserve stages a hunger strike in Ottawa, demanding that Prime Minister Stephen Harper meet with her to discuss the third-world conditions in her community, documents show that plenty of cash is moving through the settlement. Financial audits show that while Spence was paid $71,377 as current chief, her partner, Clayton Kennedy, was also employed as the reserve's co-manager. Kennedy's consulting company, Moo Shum Enterprises Inc, charges $850 per day - working out to $221,000 per year.
http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/politics/archives/2013/01/20130103-200333.html

See Also
The Scandals of Chief Theresa Spence and Attawapiskat.
http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/2070949556001

First Nations groups stage Idle No More protests in New Brunswick.
FREDERICTON -- Members of the Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick staged an Idle No More protest Friday along a busy highway near Fredericton, vowing to stay until Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.
Read more: http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/first-nations-groups-stage-idle-no-more-protests-in-n-b-1.1100914#ixzz2H2FJezso

National - Commentary
Aboriginal-federal relations in for rough year.
Doug Cuthand, Special to The StarPheonix
The year end has seen the birth of an international movement that began right here in Saskatchewan. The Idle No More movement is heading into the new year with a full agenda of flash mobs, demonstrations and blockades planned to liven up things.
http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/articles/unrestricted/2013/01/ain201314518247412_7.htm

Idle No More: What do we want and where are we headed?
By Pamela Palmater| January 4, 2013
I have been honoured by the request of the Idle No More Founders to be one of their organizers and spokespersons. Working within this movement was a natural extension of the work we already do in First Nations with leaders and citizens.
http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/pamela-palmater/2013/01/what-idle-no-more-movement-really

Opinion: Idle No More protests choose the wrong targets.
In the wake of the Idle No More protests that have blocked railway lines and have hinted at more mischief, multiple grievances have been advanced in place of clear-headed analyses. But none of the slogans, clichés and guilt-tripping get to the bottom of why some Aboriginals, especially on reserves, are in a sorry state.
Read more:
http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Opinion+Idle+More+protests+choose+wrong+targets/7773434/story.html#ixzz2H2Defwak

Full Comment
Barbara Kay on Theresa Spence: You call that a 'hunger strike'? If Chief Spence actually intends to starve herself to death, she is going about it the wrong way. What Chief Spence seems to be on is more like a detox "diet" than a fast.
http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/01/04/barbara-kay-on-theresa-spence-you-call-that-a-hunger-strike/

Ezra Levant - Positive Changes for First Nations.
What's next for Idle No More?
http://beforeitsnews.com/opinion-conservative/2013/01/video-ezra-levant-whats-next-for-idle-no-more-2552704.html
Did You Know? The Indian Act prevents Aboriginal farmers from selling their produce off reserve?

Michael Den Tandt: Harper needs to concede defeat to Spence, if only symbolically. There are justifications for Prime Minister Stephen Harper's staunch (some would say stubborn) refusal to meet with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, who has been on a hunger strike since Dec. 11.
http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2013/01/03/michael-den-tandt-harper-needs-to-concede-defeat-to-spence-if-only-symbolically/

National and International Idle No More: Planned Protests for Saturday January 5, 2013

Idle No More Ceremony Planned for US-Canada Border January 5, 2013.
(David P. Ball January 04, 2013)
With the Idle No More movement rapidly spreading outside Canada's borders seeing Indigenous rights protests emerge as far away as Texas, New Zealand, New York and the United Kingdom activists in Washington State and British Columbia are planning an action Saturday, January 5th that literally spans the frontier.
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/idle-no-more-ceremony-planned-us-canada-border-january-5-146738

B.C. First Nations leader looks to border rally, predicts more rail blockades.
(Category: NEWS Created on Thursday, 03 January 2013 13:28 Published Date By The Canadian Press)
KAMLOOPS, B.C. - The president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs believes the Idle No More movement will continue to gain momentum, and he's preparing for a weekend rally at a major border crossing south of Vancouver.
http://www.firstperspective.ca/news/2805-bc-first-nations-leader-looks-to-border-rally-predicts-more-rail-blockades

Idle No More Okanagan heads for the border.
Following up on their successful rally on Dec. 21, the Idle No More organizers in the Okanagan Valley are planning another event, this time at the Canada/U.S. border.
http://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/news/185669251.html

#IdleNoMore #NWT: New Dehcho Bridge to be closed off.
"Dehcho Bridge to be closed off - Saturday, January 5th - Fort. Providence - Peaceful protest.
http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/mediamentor/2013/01/idlenomore-nwt-new-dehcho-bridge-be-closed

Idle No More Protests,
http://ereyes312.tumblr.com/post/39639102287/nitanahkohe-adailyriot-thecomababies

Ontario and Regional Aboriginal News
Mother of First Nations sexual assault victim wants public inquiry. Thunder Bay, Ont., mother says systemic racism leads to First Nations women being targeted by perpetrators.
The mother of a First Nations woman whose reported abduction and sexual assault is under investigation by police in Thunder Bay, Ont., as a possible hate crime calls the incident "horrific," and is pushing for an inquiry into violence

against aboriginal women.
http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/story/2013/01/04/tby-rape-victim-mother-speaks.html
*
Sex assault victim told 'they're gonna do it again'.
Support worker says First Nations women in Thunder Bay are at risk. As police in Thunder Bay investigate a possible hate crime against a First Nations woman, a support worker says solving the case is more important than the label it is given.
http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/story/2013/01/03/tb-first-nations-sex-crimes-thunder-bay.html

Ontario Mining: Shaky investment markets [in Northern Ontario] forces driller offshore - by Ian Ross (Northern Ontario Business - January 2, 2013) Although some companies and the province laud Ontario as being one of the best mining-friendly jurisdictions in the world, Courte said that perception has changed.
http://www.republicofmining.com/category/ontarios-ring-of-fire-mineral-discovery/

Ring of Fire: Male Newsmaker of the Year [Neskantaga Chief Peter Moonias] - By Shawn Bell (Wawatay News - January 3, 2013) Northern Ontario's First Nations Voice: http://wawataynews.ca/
Neskantaga Chief Peter Moonias burst into the national media's attention in the spring when he announced to the world that he would stop a bridge to the Ring of Fire from being built over the Attawapiskat River, by any means possible.
http://www.republicofmining.com/category/ontarios-ring-of-fire-mineral-discovery/

Cayuga Museum Receives Replica Wampum Belt for Returning Haudenosaunee Spiritual Objects. (Gale Courey Toensing January 04, 2013) The Onondaga Nation has presented the Cayuga Museum of History and Art with a replica of a Haudenosaunee Confederacy wampum belt in appreciation for the return of 21 objects of spiritual significance to the confederacy's Six Nations.
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/cayuga-museum-receives-replica-wampum-belt-returning-haudenosaunee-spiritual-objects-146736

Short Hills deer hunt moving forward.
The aboriginal deer hunt at Short Hills Provincial Park is moving forward. After a conference call Thursday morning between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the two sides agreed the harvest will be held Saturday and Sunday and again Jan. 12-13 as planned.
http://www.forterietimes.ca/2013/01/03/short-hills-deer-hunt-moving-forward

Idle No More

Taking part. THUNDER BAY -- Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins hopes to be a part of the much-anticipated meeting with prime minister Stephen Harper next week.
http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/256060/Taking-part

Idle No More Planned Protests for Saturday January 5, 2013
Idle No More march takes to 403 Saturday.
An aboriginal protester waves a flag during an Idle No More rally at Hamilton City Hall on Dec. 22.
Local supporters of the Idle No More movement are staging a march on Highway 403 in Hamilton Saturday afternoon. Its one of a number of protests planned for Jan. 5 across the country, including at the Queenston/Lewiston bridge and the Peace Bridge between Fort Erie and Buffalo.
http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/864058--idle-no-more-march-takes-to-403-saturday

Cornwall Police Traffic Alert for Idle No More March Across Seaway International Bridge - Akwesasne - January 5, 2013.
Cornwall, ON- On Saturday, January 5th, 2013 at approximately 10:00 a.m., an Idle No More Protest Activity will be taking place on the International Bridge.
http://cornwallfreenews.com/2013/01/cornwall-police-traffic-alert-for-idle-no-more-march-across-seaway-international-bridge-akwesasne-january-5-2013/

Police ready for traffic delays for Idle No More protest in Timmins. The Timmins Police Service (TPS) has been informed of possible Idle No More peaceful protests within the City of Timmins on Saturday, January 5, 2013.
Police say such protest activities may interrupt the normal flow of traffic. TPS reports it is working with those involved to minimize the impact on the traveling public and to ensure order and public safety.
**THE TIMMINS POLICE SERVICE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE JANUARY 5TH PROTEST LOCATION. IDLE NO MORE WILL BE PROTESTING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY IN THE AREA OF HWY. 101 WEST OF GOVERNMENT ROAD BETWEEN 12 NOON AND 4:00 P.M.
http://www.timminstimes.com/2013/01/03/police-preparing-for-traffic-delays-for-idle-no-more-protest-in-timmins

Idle No More protesters planning to block Blue Water Bridge traffic on Saturday.
Local members of the Idle No More movement plan to block traffic on the Canadian side of the Blue Water Bridge for one hour Saturday.
http://www.theobserver.ca/2013/01/04/idle-no-more-protesters-planning-to-block-blue-water-bridge-traffic-on-saturday

Featured Media
BACKTRACKS: TOM FLANAGAN
Bill C-45 simply makes it easier for first nations to lease land. (By TOM FLANAGAN) Special to The Globe and Mail Published Saturday, Dec. 29 2012, 7:00 AM EST

One of the most inflammatory, but inaccurate, claims coming from the Idle No More movement is that Bill C-45, the second budget implementation act, has deliberately made it easier to sell off Indian reserves. A little background information is necessary to understand what has actually happened.

Many first nations have achieved economic success by leasing portions of their reserves for shopping centres, industrial parks, residential developments, casinos and anything else that might make money. Such projects create jobs and generate property tax revenues that first nations need to provide better services for their members.

Yet, success has been hard won because of cumbersome procedures prescribed by the Indian Act. Designation of land for leasing had to be approved by majority vote in a referendum or band meeting for which the quorum was a majority of members - in other words, approval by a majority of a majority. If, as usually happened, the quorum was not achieved, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs could authorize a second meeting dispensing with the quorum.

This two-stage procedure typically added six months to the duration, and tens of thousands of dollars to the cost, of designation. At the other end, approval for designation had to be granted by order-in-council - that is, a formal resolution of the federal cabinet signed by the Governor-General - meaning more months of delay.

First nations pursuing economic development have complained for years that the slowness of these procedures caused extra expense and sometimes even the loss of lucrative projects to competing jurisdictions able to move more quickly. Bill C-45 responded to these long-standing concerns by making two changes: (1) replacing approval by order-in-council by approval of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; and (2) replacing the requirement for a majority of a majority with simple majority rule - the same way the chiefs of first nations are elected.

These amendments do not force first nations to do anything. They only make it easier for those who want to lease land to do so. And only leasing is involved; the rules governing sales of reserve land remain unchanged.

The House of Commons standing committee on aboriginal affairs considered

these amendments on Nov. 19, and several prominent aboriginal leaders gave evidence. All agreed that the changes would streamline the designation process. Some wanted to dispense with community referendums and federal approval altogether, thus giving first nations the same power to manage their lands that Canadian municipal governments enjoy. Even the lawyer representing the Assembly of First Nations cautiously endorsed the substance of the amendments while opposing their passage, saying there hadn't been adequate consultation with first nations.

Consultation has become a shibboleth of our time. It is, indeed, an essential part of democracy, but it can also become a constraint on freedom. Prolonged consultation may give some people a veto to prevent other people from exercising their own rights. In this case, there was well-documented dissatisfaction of numerous first nations, extending over many years, with the rigidity of Indian Act leasing rules. The government responded to their complaints by amending the Indian Act, thus making it easier for them to take initiatives to improve the welfare of their own people. Nothing in these amendments requires other first nations to do anything at all.

This, by the way, is in accord with first nations' long political tradition of fierce independence. That's why they call themselves "first nations" rather than "first nation"; they are many peoples with their own unique histories and visions of the future. The consultations required to modernize and eventually replace the Indian Act should not become a straitjacket for those first nations that have already begun to determine their own economic future.

Tom Flanagan is professor of political science at the University of Calgary and a campaign manager for conservative parties.

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From: OntarioESC
To: ONBrantford; ONSudbury; ONThunderBay; ONToronto
Date: 1/16/2013 9:56 AM
Subject: ONTARIO NEWSLINK - Wednesday January 16, 2013

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National and Aboriginal News

Read all of today's top news headlines and stories from HQ NewsDesk, http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

In an effort to repair a relationship that is “broken,” First Nations leadership, community organizations and law enforcement officers came together Tuesday night to discuss two ongoing police investigations involving First Nations people and next steps toward ensuring community safety.
http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2013/01/16/police-services-nan-want-better-community

As northern Alberta organizers of the Idle No More movement warn of plans to blockade Highway 63 near Fort McMurray, people in the region are bracing for the impact the disruption could bring.
http://nationtalk.ca/story/idle-no-more-blockade-of-highway-63-could-affect-oilsands-area-economy-global-edmonton/

Electronic dance music (EDM) deejay Classic Roots from Thunder Bay, also known as 24-year old Josh DePerry, is packing up his equipment and cardigans this month.
http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2013/1/15/dj-classic-roots-chasing-dream_23964

Treaty #3 Elder Tobasonakwut Kinew passes.
http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2013/1/15/treaty-3-elder-tobasonakwut-kinew-passes_23963

Possible protests to block highways including Highway 17.
http://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/2013/01/16/possible-protests-to-block-highways-including-highway-17

'Two canoes'? Uh, no: Non-aboriginals largely paid for both canoes and do most of the paddling in each, too.
http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/straighttalk/archives/2013/01/20130116-072743.html

Training Opportunities for First Nations in Ring of Fire.
http://news.ontario.ca/maa/en/2013/01/training-opportunities-for-first-nations-in-ring-of-fire.html

From: OntarioESC
To: ONBrantford; ONSudbury; ONThunderBay; ONToronto
CC: Newslink Subscribers
Date: 1/4/2013 11:01 AM
Subject: ONTARIO NEWSLINK for Friday January 4, 2013

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National and Aboriginal News

Chief demands meeting within 72 hours. Theresa Spence has been subsisting on liquids since Dec. 11 to prod the PM and Governor-General into talks with aboriginal leaders.

(GLORIA GALLOWAY) Canada's native leaders have petitioned the Prime Minister and the Governor-General to gather three weeks from now to discuss perceived failings in the treaty relationships - but an Ontario chief on a hunger strike to force such a meeting says she can't wait that long. Theresa Spence, the chief of the impoverished community of Attawapiskat, who has been fasting for 24 days to demand the face-to-face discussion, has told her supporters and other native leaders that a meeting must occur withing the next 72 hours, and she will not start eating until it has begun. Raymond Robinson, an elder from the Cross Lake First Nation in Manitoba, is foregoing food along with her.
http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/articles/unrestricted/2013/01/ain20131521772575 5_68.htm

CBC News Network will be carrying this event live at 11 a.m.
A transcript will be provided ASAP. New Democrat MP Charlie Angus, joined by National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Shawn Atleo, Grand Chief Stan Louttit, Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, a representative of Theresa Spence and NDP MPP Gilles Bisson, will hold a news conference to discuss Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike. (HQ Inform)

First Nations groups stage Idle No More protests in New Brunswick. (The

Canadian Press January 4, 2013)
Members of the Kingsclear First Nation are staging an Idle No More protest along a busy highway near Fredericton and say they'll stay until the prime minister meets with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.
http://www.timescolonist.com/news/national/first-nations-groups-stage-idle-no-more-protests-in-new-brunswick-1.39723

Idle No More Ceremony Planned for US-Canada Border on January 5, 2013.
(David P. Ball January 04, 2013)
With the Idle No More movement rapidly spreading outside Canada's borders - seeing Indigenous rights protests emerge as far away as Texas, New Zealand, New York and the United Kingdom - activists in Washington State and British Columbia are planning an action Saturday, January 5th that literally spans the frontier.
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/idle-no-more-ceremony-planned-us-canada-border-january-5-146738

Protest swamps mall. Tension grows as movement spreads.
(Charles Hamilton, The StarPhoenix - With Postmedia Files From Jordan Press)
Mall employees stood in store entranceways and watched as hundreds of protesters converged on The Centre mall on Eighth Street in the latest demonstration of Idle No More in Saskatoon. Even though the demonstration was peaceful, some of the stores closed their doors as more than 500 protesters sang and danced to the beat of hand drums. The signs at Thursday's rally ranged from anti-Stephen Harper slogans to calls for action on environmental issues. http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/articles/unrestricted/2013/01/ain20131452841927_7.htm

Macleans.ca
Theresa Spence hunger strike working to a crescendo.
The Attawapiskat chief's refusal to eat solid food has attracted significant media attention almost from the beginning, but it's naturally taken on greater urgency as the days and weeks pass.
http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/01/04/spence-hunger-strike-working-to-a-crescendo/

National Features-Commentary
David Moscrop
Chief Theresa Spence may fall victim to liberalism's blind spots. The liberal revolution never made it to Attawapiskat. Not that this Northern Ontario community necessarily wanted it to. That's because liberalism, with its claims of being universal and impartial, is neither.
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/chief-theresa-spence-may-fall-

victim-to-liberalisms-blind-spots/article6912711/

Conservative Media
Toronto Sun - Chief Spence on a Diet!
Steady diet of delusions: Hunger-striking chief demands PM's attention for week (or two).
That's not a hunger strike, it's a diet. Good for you, Chief Spence. You've joined the millions of Canadians who've pledged to drop a few pounds this New Year. A noble goal, to be sure, but hardly a great spiritual or political achievement.
http://www.torontosun.com/2013/01/02/steady-diet-of-delusions-hunger-striking-chief-demands-pms-attention-for-week-or-two

Theresa Spence Is More the Problem Than Solution.
Yoni Goldstein writes that Prime Minister's Harper stubborness is the only reason why he hasn't met with Chief Spence. Yoni also thinks Chief Spence won't starve to death. He also doesn't like what Idle No More is bringing to the table. Young people will be moving on to the next hashtag du jour.
http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/yoni-goldstein/theresa-spence-hunger-strike_b_2406802.html
Yoni Goldstein: "No, I have no sympathy for Chief Spence. She and other native leaders are the biggest reason why native reserves are mostly hellholes, filled with poverty, addiction, lack of education and general misery."

Chief gives Ottawa 72 hours. Misguided hunger strike is manufacturing dissent.
(Peter Foster, National Post)
Nobody would deny the desperate conditions on many native reserves. Most Canadians are genuinely concerned and frustrated at how little improvement has been brought by the billions spent. However, to imagine that problems of poverty, ill health and poor education are best addressed - let alone solved - by histrionic threats, social-mediated mob scenes or blocked roads or rail lines is dangerous delusion.
http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/articles/unrestricted/2013/01/ain201314347578984_1.htm

How we got to attawapiskat.
Understanding the tragedy of modern native policy means going back to the men who gave us the original 1905 James Bay Treaty.
http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/articles/unrestricted/2013/01/ain201314346718699_1.htm

International Features
The Navajo Nation Zoo: Part Animal E.R., but All Fun.

(Lee Allen January 02, 2013) More than 100 animals of 50 different species can be found at the Navajo Nation Zoo and Botanical Park in Window Rock, Arizona the only Native American owned and operated zoo in the country.
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/navajo-nation-zoo-part-animal-er-all-fun-146684

(Special Feature) Elephants may drive Bardot to join Depardieu in Russia exile. (By Angus MacKinnon [AFP])
PARIS -- Cinema legend Brigitte Bardot on Friday threatened to follow actor Gerard Depardieu out of France unless two elephants under threat of being put down are granted a reprieve.
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gDGgogzp8c8KmSMXrgmDNhqYa6Tg?docId=CNG.fbe95ad819e8fa9e4de85fa90fb3930a.581

Arrests - Idle No More
Police Arrest Five at Metro Denver's Third Idle No More Round Dance.
(Carol BerryJanuary 03, 2013)
A Round Dance in support of the First Nations' Idle No More movement drew security guards' attention and police involvement at a mall in Broomfield, a community north of Denver, where four adults and a teenager were arrested for trespassing on January 2.
http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/article/police-arrest-five-metro-denver%E2%80%99s-third-idle-no-more-round-dance-146728

Ontario + Regional Aboriginal News
Health story of the year. The epidemic of prescription drug abuse in First Nation communities.
http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2013/1/3/health-story-year_23926

News story of the year: Chief Theresa Spence holds hunger strike.
http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2013/1/3/news-story-year-chief-theresa-spence-holds-hunger-strike_23927

MP lends support to Attawapiskat Chief.
http://www.thesudburystar.com/2013/01/04/mp-lends-support-to-attawapiskat-chief

Ontario News + Idle No More
Aamjiwnaang plans for roving blockades of Sarnia oil refineries. (A trailer, debris and a smouldering fire was all that was left at the former site of the Sarnia blockade Thursday. By Kenneth Jackson APTN National News)
Sarnia - When members of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Sarnia agreed to

shut down their blockade of a CN Rail line Wednesday at midnight that was believed to be the end of it. But it's not over.
Saturday they will attempt to block traffic on the Blue Water Bridge that also serves as the US/Canada border access.
http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2013/01/04/aamjiwnaang-plans-for-roving-blockades-of-sarnia-oil-refineries/

Another rally planned.
The "Idle No More" movement plans to hold a peaceful rally at the Bluewater Bridge. Youth Activist Vanessa Gray says at 10 am Saturday, Aamjiwnaang members will meet on the Pt Edward waterfront at the Soul's Memorial.
http://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2013/01/04/another-rally-planned/

Today's Featured Media
1. When aboriginal conflicts aren't stranger than fiction.
(By Christie Blatchford, Postmedia News January 3, 2013)

Christie helps explain to readers the difference between fact and fiction in Chief Spence's hunger strike.

Chief Theresa Spence of Northern Ontario's Attawapiskat First Nation sits in the sun on Victoria Island, a few hundred metres from Parliament Hill, on the 15th day of her hunger strike. Spence says she will eat only when Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Johnston agree to meet with First Nation leaders to talk about the treaty relationship.Photograph by: Teresa Smith/Ottawa Citizen , Postmedia NewsI started to read Doug Bland's novel Uprising in 2009, shortly after it was first published.

I didn't finish only because I was then embroiled in my own non-fiction account of the native occupation in Caledonia, Ont., three years earlier. As always for me, this is a time of great writer-ly insecurity, and I was afraid both of distraction and of being intimidated unto paralysis by the excellence of someone else's book.

I still haven't quite made my way through Uprising's almost 500 pages, despite an all-day effort, but reading it now is considerably creepy-crawlier than it was before, amid the widespread protests, hunger strikes, flash mobs and assorted other actions of the aboriginal Idle No More movement.

Lt.-Col. (retired) Bland, until 2011 the chair of Defence Management Studies at Queen's in Kingston, was already a respected author when Uprising was released, but not of fiction.

In fact, he says, he wrote the first draft "as a typical academic book," realized afterwards that the only people who would read it were other academics, and did it again as fiction.

It is fiction too, but barely reads or feels like it. What it feels like is possible.

The story is one of armed revolution, or insurrection, by aboriginal young people trained and led by a disciplined core of native veterans of the Canadian army, all of them brought together by a charismatic aboriginal leader named Molly Grace.

Almost equally fed up with and disdainful of the "white settlers" and the "white Indian" chiefs who have played footsie with Canadian governments for decades, Grace harnesses all the disaffection that has been simmering for so long, both on reserves and within the lonely hearts of many of those who leave them and succeed.

As one of the book's characters, ex-warrant officer Will Boucanier, once says, "The white man's economy took away the reasons, the rhythms of the old ways, turning tradition into inertia, ignorance and stale custom. But it didn't bring (native) people into its rhythms either; it left them wandering like vagrants between a world that no longer existed and one they couldn't enter."

Grace's solution -- her "third way," neither to remain on reserves, in too many instances scratching out an existence, nor assimilation into the Canadian mainstream -- is to take back the land by force.

Lt.-Col. Bland's three decades in the Canadian Forces -- his intimate knowledge of how the army establishment works and how the political one often doesn't -- render this scenario plausible.

What really makes it so is that the fictional conditions underlying the uprising in the book so mirror the reality of modern Canada.

First, it is fact not fiction that the real target of the uprising, Canada's energy transportation system - the oil and gas pipelines, oilfields and storage and production facilities in the west, the James Bay hydro facilities in northern Quebec - is not merely vulnerable to attack, but also virtually impossible to defend even if a government was so inclined.

Second, also fact not fiction, the Canadian Forces, and its all-native Ranger program in the North, provide a natural home for young aboriginal Canadians who have few jobs or other opportunities. It is also fact that some of the country's most able, even distinguished, soldiers are natives.

Third, again fact not fiction, some reserves -- famously Akwesasne, the huge Mohawk reserve near Cornwall, Ont., which straddles three borders (Ontario, Quebec and New York State) and is a jurisdictional nightmare -- are already islands unto themselves.

And fourth, on the rare occasions where natives have risen up -- most recently in Caledonia but also in Oka and Ipperwash -- authorities have bungled matters, either over-reacting or, as in the case of the OPP in Caledonia, barely reacting at all. Consider even the recent blockade of a CN Rail line in Sarnia, part of Idle No More, which ended early Thursday, but persisted for almost two weeks despite court orders.

As Andy Bishop, the book's chief of defence staff, tells the waffling defence minister as he dithers about what to do about the increasingly real signs that the country is under threat, "My worry is that very few national leaders, or opinion makers, or members of the courts, seem willing to accept the central notion that as a first principle a liberal democracy has the right to defend itself against anti-democratic elements in its midst."

That's, ah, fiction. Of course it is.

The book is available still -- from Dundurn Books in hard copy and on Amazon and Kobo -- so I won't give so many details as to spoil it for new readers.

But the story ends with running gun battles in Winnipeg streets, a bomb in Montreal, violent takeovers of army bases and power facilities, casualties and death on both sides - and in the coming apart of Canada.

As the fictional U.S. president remarked, still bewildered, in an address to her nation, "How could anyone understand quarrels about land in a country overwhelmed by its space; arguments about language between people who rarely spoke to each other; solemn quibbling about which group was or was not a distinct society in a nation that had officially declared itself multicultural?"

That last bit, about ridiculous quarrels in a sprawling and empty land? That, methinks, is both fact and fiction.

Read more:
http://www.canada.com/When+aboriginal+conflicts+aren+stranger+than+fiction/7773044/story.html#ixzz2H1Tgnu75

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/4/2013 12:53 PM
Subject: PM Harper responds to questions on meeting with Chiefs at Toronto auto announcement
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

>>Reporter: I understand you are meeting with the Chiefs on the 11th. I don't know if that includes Chief Spence, but the question is, why now? And are you worried about this movement spiraling out of control, snow balling, as it were, similar to the occupy movement or the student protests in Montreal?

> Prime Minister Stephen Harper: First of all, just the origin of this, as you know we had the historic Crown First Nations gathering last year and we arrived at a work plan on a number of things we want to see move forward. Obviously, these are long term challenges but we are committed to addressing them. I met with the National Chief Atleo in November about setting up future meetings to follow progress and ensure we are making more progress on all of the items. So we are following up on that. The Assembly of First Nations will determine the composition of their own delegation. Look, my only comment in terms of various protests and demonstrations is the following. In this country, people have the right in our country, to demonstrate and express their points of view peacefully. as long as they obey the law. But I think the Canadian population expects everyone will obey the law in holding such protests.

>>Reporter: The Idle No More movement said they plan to shut down the borders, I think on Saturday. I wonder what your response is and would you allow that to happen?

>>Prime Minister Stephen Harper: I've already answered the question about protests.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: ONEmergencyManagement
To: Brock Worobel; Christopher Horton; Dana Peterson; Eileen McCarthy; E...
Date: 1/16/2013 10:41 AM
Subject: Possible Protests Jan. 16, 2013

>>> Eileen McCarthy 01/16/13 10:41 >>>
Below is a listing of possible Idle No More activities for Ontario Region today. This is an FYI only.

Thank,
Eileen

Hwy 3 / Huron Church Rd.- Ambassador Bridge (Windsor)
TC has just reported that the convoy has left the Tilbury Staging Area with approximately 175 personal vehicles and 12 buses. Estimated time to Windsor is now 1130 EST

Hwy 12 - Brechin
The OPP has confirmed that this Event has been Cancelled

Three Nations Crossing Bridge - Cornwall
Potential bridge blockade

Hwy. 28 Bridge Crossing - Trent Severn Waterway - Burleigh Falls
13:00 Rally

Duckworth St. at Hwy. 400 - Barrie
10:00 - 14:00 Rally

Hwy. 652 & Translimited Road (185 Km NE of Cochrane
Blockade

Lake Helen Reserve - Nipigon
12:00 Peaceful march, Nipigon Bridge to Hwy 17 junction. Possible blockade of Hwy. and rail line.

Cayuga Courthouse
Round dance

Intersection of Falls Ave. & Hwy. 420 - Niagara Falls
15:00 Solidarity walk, round dance at base of Clifton Hill

Hwy. 527 - Gull Bay
Blockade, traffic slow down

Hwy 17 at Christine Lane (15km west of North Bay)

At 830hrs a friendly protest has started, duration unknown at this time. The OPP on site has reported there will be no closures, traffic will be delayed as protestors distribute pamphlets.

Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge (SSM)

Local media is reporting that a protest is planned for the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge from 1200hrs-1700hrs.

Junction of Hwys 129/101 (200km NE of SSM)

At 812hrs a friendly protest has started at Junction 129/101 with intermittent closures and delays. The OPP is on-site and monitoring, and it is expected to continue until 1600hrs. The highway is not expected to be closed but a traffic slowdown will occur as protestors distribute pamphlets.

Hwy 17 West of Kenora - Iskatewizaagegan First Nation (Shoal Lake #39)

OPP has advised that protestors plan to stop commercial motor vehicle traffic on Hwy 17 west of Kenora and the Duration of protest is 1300hrs-1600hrs.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/7/2013 10:47 AM
Subject: PS Rickford on Global TV Wet Block
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

>>Tom: We asked Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan to come on the program. He was not available. His Parliamentary Secretary is. Greg Rickford joins us. Let me start with you on the ongoing protests, Mr. Rickford. What is your view of the ongoing protests even though a meeting has been set up for next week?

>>Rickford: First of all, going back to before the Crown First Nation gathering, there was a joint action plan that was done by the Minister and the National Chief Atleo focusing on land claims, governance, education, some of the issues mentioned by the previous guest (Pam Palmater). At the time of the Crown First Nations gathering, we arrived at a work plan and a variety of things we wanted to move forward. We know these are long-term challenges, Tom. We have remained committed to them. As recently as November, National Chief Atleo met with the Prime Minister and set up future meetings to follow progress and ensure we're making progress on all of these items. So we have faith that the First Nations will determine the composition of a delegation later this week and will move forward, continue to move forward on the key pieces, particularly economic development and treaty work.

>> Tom: I'm not sure I heard an answer as to how you feel about the protests, but let's --

>>Rickford: I will answer that, Tom. In terms of various protests and demonstrations, you know, in this country, people have the right to demonstrate and express points of view peacefully, as long as they obey the law, and certainly don't, from a public safety perspective, jeopardize transportation infrastructure. I think the Canadian population expects everybody to respect the law in holding such protests. Beyond that, we would leave that to local law enforcement officials.

>> Tom: Let's go very quickly to the substance. The Idle No More group said, you just heard them, they said remove elements of the Budget Implementation Bill from the table, specifically the navigable waters act, environmental review provisions in that Act as well. First of all, are you prepared to do that? Secondly -- this is really important -- were the Aboriginal communities and leaders consulted in advance of this legislation being presented?

>>Rickford: There are numerous examples of where we have performed extensive consultations and responded directly to the requests of First Nations Chiefs to provide them with more flexibility. The clauses in Bill C-45 with respect to decisions to lease out their land not only remain voluntary for First Nations but have significantly and positively impacted communities like the Penticton Indian Band, sitting there on the edge of the beautiful city of Penticton. Fond du Lac First Nations, communities that can develop jointly with the private sector in major resources. Ring of Fire, Tom, is another example. We have First Nations communities, contrary to what has been said just previously, working through an environment assessment process. They're generating small business activities in their communities and they're developing capacity in land mapping. That process is well under way. To say that Bill C-45 has a negative impact on that is simply untrue.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/9/2013 10:56 AM
Subject: Rabble.ca: The true scandal of First Nations' funding -- not the Deloitte and Touche version!
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/karl-nerenberg/2013/01/true-scandal-first-nations-funding-not-deloitte-and-touche-ver#.UO2PD8r-fH8.twitter

The true scandal of First Nations' funding -- not the Deloitte and Touche version!
By Karl Nerenberg| January 9, 2013

It's sad to report, but the strategic leak of the Deloitte & Touche audit of Theresa Spence's Attawapiskat band seems to have had its desired impact.

The leak has tarnished the reputation of a woman who has only been Chief since 2010 -- the audit goes back to 2005 -- and it has significantly distracted national attention from the fundamental issues at stake.

For example, a friend of mine -- who, admittedly, has a busy life and may not follow these matters as closely as some -- asked if the dressing down Deloitte and Touche gave Spence means the Attawapiskat Chief Spence might actually be going to jail. Was she, perhaps, trying to commit suicide, this friend asked, to avoid a life behind bars?

It might sound like an oddly naïve question -- but you have to remember that most Canadians are preoccupied their own very full lives. Chief Spence's fast and all the issues associated with it are only flickering media images on the outskirts of their awareness. And so, if you tell them a lurid story of what seems like improper handling of millions of (taxpayers) dollars, with no context and no background, they'll naturally be impressed.

And, by the way, of the 409 transactions in Attawapiskat that Deloitte and Touche said lacked proper documentation, only about 30 were conducted on Spence's watch -- pretty small beer for the current band Chief, and nothing approaching any sort of scandal, let along crime!

But that's not the real point. The real point is the way in which the system for providing First Nations services is fundamentally flawed.

When she was Auditor General, Sheila Fraser repeatedly warned that the management and funding system the Government imposes on First Nations would almost inevitably lead to problems of the sort Deloitte and Touche identified in Attawapiskat.

Fraser's most recent damning report on the entire system came out in June of 2011.

It got some scattered media attention at the time, but was generally treated as "same old, same old" -- not as the unmitigated scandal Fraser evidently thought it was.

In the fall of 2011, when Aboriginal Affairs officials went before the Commons Public Accounts Committee to answer to Fraser's charges, no media -- except for rabble.ca -- thought that worthy of any coverage.

A leaked auditor's letter to Chief Spence -- dated last August and lacking any specific detail -- gets breathless "CBC has obtained a copy" coverage.

A departmental response to a thoroughgoing critique of First Nations funding and services throughout Canada gets zero coverage.

Sadly, it seems the best way to get the mainstream media's attention is to make them believe you've given them some kind of "scoop." It sure worked for this week's leaker.

The fact is, however, that the only way to make sense of the Attawapiskat audit is to read it in the context of what Fraser says about the whole system.

So, for those who missed it the first time, here are some of the former Auditor General's key points.

What's wrong with 'contribution agreements?'

First, Sheila Fraser explains that the federal government uses those strange beasts called "contribution agreements" to fund the delivery of services on First Nations reserves, and then she bluntly states:

"We see several problems with the use of this funding mechanism for the provision of core government services."

The first problem is the lack of targets or expected outcomes, a basic feature of sound administration.

"While the agreements state the services or actions to be provided, they do not always focus on service standards or results to be achieved.

Then, there is the issue of gaps in funding, gaps which force First Nations to scramble and improvise.

"Most contribution agreements must be renewed yearly ... we have found that the funds may not be available until several months into the period to be funded ... Consequently, First Nations must often reallocate funds from elsewhere to continue meeting community service requirements."

As well, Fraser notes that the agreements do not define who is responsible for what:

"The use of contribution agreements between the federal government and First Nations may also inhibit appropriate accountability to First Nations members. It is often unclear who is accountable to First Nations members for achieving improved outcomes or specific levels of services..."

'A significant reporting burden for small First Nations'

And then Fraser gets to the nub of the problem that Deloitte describes (but fails to explain).

That is the issue of the onerous and inappropriate level of paperwork, record-keeping and reporting imposed on First Nations -- an issue Fraser had raised on many occasions with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, to no avail:

"Contribution agreements involve a significant reporting burden, especially for small First Nations with limited administrative capacity. Communities often have to use scarce administrative resources to respond to numerous reporting requirements stipulated in their agreements. We followed up on Aboriginal Affairs efforts to reduce the reporting requirements of First Nations and found progress to date to be unsatisfactory..."

Fraser also underscores the constant financial insecurity to which the federally-mandated system subjects First Nations:

"The use of contribution agreements to fund services for First Nations communities has also led to uncertainty about funding levels. Statutory programs such as land claim agreements must be fully funded, but this is not the case for services provided through contribution agreements. Accordingly, it is not certain whether funding levels provided to First Nations in one year will be available the following year. This situation creates a level of uncertainty for First Nations and makes long-term planning difficult..."

Finally, the former Auditor General points out the challenges that small and relatively poor First Nations communities face in providing complex services that, elsewhere in Canada, are provided by larger, well-resourced entities such as school boards:

"The federal government established each First Nation band as an autonomous entity and provides separate program funding to each. Many of these First Nations are small, consisting of communities that often have fewer than 500 residents. There are more than 600 First Nations across Canada. Many of them are hampered by the lack of expertise to meet the administrative requirements for delivering key programs within their reserves. They often do not have the benefit of school boards, health boards, or other regional bodies to support the First Nations as they provide services to community members."

And that is just a small part of the Auditor General's withering critique of abject federal government failure in the provision of basic services to First Nations.

It is a critique that Sheila Fraser repeated frequently throughout her tenure.

In her final report, on her way out in June 2011, Fraser came as close as a public servant can to throwing up her hands in despair and frustration.

She had to conclude that the federal government had failed, over a period of many years, to adequately deal with the vast majority of her recommendations.

Now, if there's a scandal worthy of national media attention it is in what Canada's Auditor General found, systemically and throughout the country; not in what Deloitte and Touche uncovered in one Northern Ontario community.

Anyone have a brown envelope?

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/15/2013 7:35 AM
Subject: Rabble.ca: Who has blocked progress for First Nations people?
Attachments: HQ Inform2.vcf

Who has blocked progress for First Nations people?
By Karl Nerenberg|

The 1950 Japanese film Rashomon tells the story of a crime as related by four witnesses, who have four very different accounts.

The truth of the matter lies somewhere in the conflicting versions; but we're not too sure where.

Talking to folks, here in Ottawa, about the current state of Aboriginal Canada is a very Rashomon-like experience.

Ethnic rights? Lack of accountability and transparency? Big salaries for chiefs?

Take, for example, The Consultant, who has done work for Aborginal organizations, who says they can be difficult to deal with, self-interested, and do not always pay up promptly.

He recognizes the historic injustices we, of the majority society, have inflicted on First Nations; but is not sure how we might have done things differently.

After all, he says, we've doing better than Australia, have we not?

Like Pierre Trudeau, many decades ago, and many other Canadians today, The Consultant is uncomfortable with the Aboriginal demand for rights and "privileges" on what he conceives to be an "ethnic" basis.

He also worries about the much reported inflated salaries of some Chiefs, the apparent lack of effective democracy on many reserves, and the now-notorious questions of accountability and transparency on reserves such as Attawapiskat.

So, while he has, deep down, a principled belief that Canada must do much better on such basic matters as First Nations education, The Consultant does seem to agree with the view of many commentators (such as Jeffery Simpson of the Globe and Mail) that much of what is wrong in First Nations country is the fault of First Nations people themselves.

No time to bother with C-38 or C-45

As for the proximate causes of the current First Nations movement -- our Consultant must admit that he is quite unaware of the many affronts to First Nations' rights cosseted in the government's two budget omnibus bills.

Surprisingly for an economist and one-time government official, The Consultant confesses that he has been too busy to pay much heed to the abolition of Navigable Waters protection, the radical changes in the Fisheries Act or any of other Harper government stealth assaults that -- as Immanuel Kant said on first reading the Scot David Hume's Treatise on Human Nature -- roused Aboriginal Canadians out of their "dogmatic slumbers" and gave birth to Idle No More.

Wants Canadians to learn more about First Nations

Another witness in this Rashomon-like drama is all too keenly aware of all of those Conservative

government assaults.

He is the highly-respected, Former Senior Public Servant, and he has no use for what Harper has chosen to do through the sneaky mechanism of budget implementation legislation.

He does not think changes to the Fisheries Act, and all the rest, are problematic only because of their impact on First Nations. He worries about their impact on all of us.

He also thinks Canadians have a lot to learn about First Nations Treaties and what they mean, and about the concrete situation in First Nations communities.

To The Consultant's argument that First Nations people get extended health care benefits and free post-secondary education, unlike the rest of us, the Former Public Servant replies that those are, in fact, very mitigated benefits.

For most First Nations people on reserves, health care means a simple local nursing station.

To see doctors or get any sort of serious treatment they have be shipped out, far from home, to a major centre.

Well-meaning but often relatively inexperienced and under-resourced nurses have to engage in triage to decide which cases are serious enough to merit the cost of sending patients out for treatment.

Then, as well, the social and economic health factors for Aboriginal communities are all bad: lack of proper sanitation, poor drinking water, mouldy and overcrowded housing, hugely expensive food, lack of treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, and much more.

And health benefits, the Former Senior Public Servant explains, such as they are, are only available on reserve.

As for higher education -- again, access is limited by the under-funded and second class primary and secondary education system -- which means that very few First Nations youth get the necessary qualifications to get into college or university. For those who do qualify, access to free tuition passes through the band councils, and is definitely not automatic.

'Natives are so divided we cannot get anything done'

Our respected Former Public Servant knows all that and much more.

But, having worked on the Aboriginal file in government, he also knows that there are huge barriers to getting anything done.

And, in his view, the virtual impossibility of reaching a degree of consensus among Aboriginal groups on almost any proposed reforms is one of the highest of those barriers.

However, when you put the following argument to the Former Senior Public servant, he cannot help but to at least partly agree.

The argument is that the Harper government happily proceeded with the many measures in the two budget omnibus bills, to which they had to know there would be considerable Aboriginal opposition. Not unanimous opposition, mind you. Some First Nations bands and First Nations people welcomed changes to the Indian Act to make it easier for bands to lease land, for instance. And some bands and Aboriginal individuals agree that the Navigable Waters Act could be an impediment to economic progress.

So the First Nations were divided on these proposals, as on so much else, even if most were not in favour.

Harper didn't worry about that lack of consensus, because First Nations interests were not uppermost in his government's mind in those cases. There were other powerful interests at play -- mining and oil companies, for instance.

And so it was full speed ahead and damn all torpedoes, whether from Aboriginals or environmentalists or former Conservative cabinet ministers.

However, when it comes to matters where there are no powerful economic interests at stake, such as First Nations education, any degree of division with Aboriginal Canada is sufficient to paralyze the government.

What is stopping reforms to First Nations education?

The fact is if First Nations education were as much a priority for this Prime Minister as pipelines, oil drilling and mining, he would have done something about it by now.

He would have taken the bull by the horns, confronted the deep divisions among First Nations groups, engaged the provinces, and crafted practical solutions.

The government has the tools it needs on Aboriginal education -- in the form of multiple studies, including its own National Panel that reported last February -- it just lacks the leadership and political will to make anything happen.

The respected Former Senior Public Servant knows that First Nations are simply not a priority for this Prime Minister.

Big betrayal of First Nations: Killing the Kelowna Accord

When former Prime Minister Paul Martin wanted to make the Kelowna Accord happen he invested considerable energy into it, and brought all the players around the table.

On education, just to focus on that one issue, had Kelowna been implemented six years ago, by now it would have made a big difference in the quality of classroom education for First Nations youth, on and off reserves.

Instead, what did Harper do almost as soon as he was sworn-in, in 2006? Scrap Kelowna, even though all provinces and First Nations leaders had agreed to it.

When we talk about the barriers to progress from the Aboriginal side we too easily forget betrayals such as the killing of the Kelowna Accord.

Ditching Kelowna echoes earlier betrayal in the 1980s

The futile series of Federal-Provincial-Aboriginal conferences on self-government that were triggered by the Constitution Act of 1981 (and its now famous "Section 35") were another example of bitter betrayal by the majority society.

In that case, the dice were loaded against the First Nations people.

The conferences were a last minute addition to the package of constitutional amendments that had started as Pierre Trudeau's effort to add an amending formula and Charter of Rights to a "patriated" Canadian Constitution.

Until almost the end of that process, more than thirty years ago, First Nations people were almost completely shut out.

Then, begrudgingly and at the very end, Trudeau and the Premiers added in Section 35, which recognizes and affirms "existing aboriginal and treaty rights."

The word "existing" is key here, because the white men who signed the deal thought it meant that nothing much would change for the Canadian majority, or for, as they then were called, "the Indians."

The Aboriginal groups wanted much more, back then.

They wanted a positive affirmation of inherent aboriginal and Treaty rights to land, resources and self-government. Lacking leverage, they had to settle for Section 35.

In practice, that Section, has in fact, come to mean far more than the Constitution's "white fathers" anticipated in 1981.

That's why Aboriginal Affairs John Minister Duncan had to say, just the other day, that the government believed it had satisfied Section 35 requirements in its omnibus budget legislation.

It is now universally accepted that Section 35 imposes an obligation on all governments to make sure that none of their legislation derogates from the existing Aboriginal or Treaty rights of First Nations.

As for the two omnibus Bills, C-38 and C-45, it is, in fact, very doubtful that any government lawyers even examined that Section 35 issue and advised on it, before the government proceeded.

The courts will now decide whether or not Harper's government properly respected its constitutional duty to fully consider the interests of First Nations.

However, back in 1981, the question of self-government institutions, with a fiscal and land base to support them, was paramount to First Nations.

The Constitution's authors pushed any specific response to those demands off to a series of meetings to take place after the new constitutional provisions had been implemented.

And they imposed the new amending formula -- consent of the federal Parliament plus no less than seven provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the population -- on any tangible measures that might result from those meetings.

Failure and frustration because the 'whites' could not agree!

There were four First Ministers meetings from 1984 to 1987 which, in the end, failed to reach the necessary level of agreement.

In retrospect, some optimists see the whole exercise as a minor win for First Nations because both the federal government and a number of major provinces, notably Ontario, supported a constitutional amendment that would have created self-government institutions.

In the end, though, the result was failure and frustration.

The consequences for the vast Canadian majority were negligible. Life could carry on as usual.

The consequences for Aboriginal Canadians were the bitter fruit of rejection and something quite close to a betrayal of the promise of 1981 wiht its mitigated "Section 35" victory.

Of course, all of this is now somewhat vague ancient history, now, both to The Consultant and to the respected Former Public Servant.

George Santayana's oft-misquoted aphorism about those who forget their history being condemned to repeat it has never been truer.

There are other perspectives in this Rashomon-like tale.

They will have to wait for tomorrow or the next day.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: Thomas Vares
To: Wilkinson, Joanne
Date: 1/8/2013 10:19 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Fwd: Head's Up - M7751

Spoke do Monica and suggested we go back two years Nov as there seems to be media interest re the housing issue etc.

TV

Thomas Markus Vares
Director, Executive Services and Communications
Directeur des services exécutifs et communications

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>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/8/2013 10:08 AM >>>
We are keeping what we have but we don't get everything from HQ necessarily. We can share what we have with Monica to contribute toward the full package. Thomas, please follow up with Monica. Thanks.

>>> Christopher Horton 1/8/2013 10:06 AM >>>
Tara et al

On correspondence from chief spence, I understand region is maintaining an going pdf.

Joanne/Faye - Can you confirm?

Thanks

>>> Josee Beriault 1/8/2013 9:59:41 AM >>>Chris,

See attached incoming. I'm not sure to who I would send this to for support? PSD has lead. Let me know

Josee
M7751 - Meeting with First Nations Leadership - January 11, 2013
- due CU Jan 9, due Mo Jan 10, 2013

>>> Kristina Jensen 1/8/2013 9:25 AM >>>
We better open up a docket on this one. I see PSD as lead. Support will come from ESD, TAG etc. K

>>> Gayle Laroche 2013-01-07 13:27 >>>
Heads up, please see e-mail below for your action once we get confirmation of Chiefs that will be attending the meeting. Once we get confirmation from Tara, will forward the e-mail.

Gayle

>>> Tara Shannon 1/7/2013 1:19 PM >>>
We are putting together material for the Minister's meeting on Friday with the PM and Chiefs. Once we know which Chiefs will be in attendance, we'll need corporate's support in pulling all recent correspondence, including outstanding correspondence. We'll need this done on a priority basis.

Awaiting the list of Chiefs, we should pull all recent correspondence from the National Chief and Chief Theresa Spence. We should also pull any correspondence from other Chiefs re the Idle No More movement and/or Theresa Spence. Thanks Monica. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Barbara.

Tara

From: Bernard Etzinger
To: Wilkinson, Joanne <Joanne.Wilkinson@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/6/2013 9:25 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Media Relations Report: January 4, 2013

s.19(1)

I'd have to check. [redacted] I'll get back to you ...

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/6/2013 9:23:08 PM >>>Bernie - do you know who added the last line on Moose Cree? We had specifically not made a time commitment given that it is not entirely within our control. Cheers

>>> Susan Bertrand 1/5/2013 11:22:28 AM >>>I note that a line was added by HQ/MO re: Moose Cree funding for winter roads.HQ

COMPLETED

Ken Wong, Station de radio CIAU-FM, Radisson, QC, (418) 262-7163 - Demande d'entrevue en français au sujet de la Chef Theresa Spence. Referred to MO. (Michelle Perron)

Corvett Hancey, CBC News Now (live newscast), (416) 205-2924, corvett.hancey@cbc.ca - Live on-camera interview with the Minister on Saturday preferably (or Sunday if it's better for him) on Idle No More and the Jan 11 meeting that was announced today. Referred to MO. (Geneviève Guibert)

Megan Thomas, CBC, Sudbury, (705) 688-3241, megan.thomas@cbc.ca - The Moose Cree Wetum Road (winter road that connects Moose Factory to the Ontario highway system). 1) What is the Dept contribution? 2) She heard they're still waiting for a formal contribution, do we know when they can expect our funding? (Jan 2)
Response provided: AANDC informed Moose Cree First Nation by letter in November 2012 that AANDC would be providing $329,122 to the First Nation for a new winter road that will connect the First Nation to the Ontario highway system this winter. The Province of Ontario and First Nations cost-share construction, and operations and maintenance of the winter roads network. AANDC's funding assists in offsetting the First Nations' costs to construct and maintain the winter roads. This funding is part of 2012-2013 fiscal year allocations. The Department is currently processing the funding on a priority basis. The First Nation should receive the funds in the coming weeks. (Geneviève Guibert)

From: Ron Hallman
To: Scotton, Anne <Anne.Scotton@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>; MacGowan, Susan <Susan.M...
CC: Wilkinson, Joanne <Joanne.Wilkinson@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/4/2013 5:53 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Revised Qs and As

Ok thanks Anne.

>>> Anne Scotton 1/4/2013 5:43:13 PM >>>Ron,
I have put my comments after your comments , in italics....

>>> Ron Hallman 1/4/2013 5:26 PM >>>
Sorry, was on a conf call with BC. These look good; a few questions and comments for consideration:

#3 - response doesn't appear to answer the question. The auditors met with more than one person, Chief Spence sent all enquiries to Clayton Kennedy

#5 - how much do we anticipate recovering (80%?) And is this really feasible?; even over a period of years this would be a big amount and only slow their community's progress on multiple fronts. the response says "as per the practice of the department" which will have to take all those things into account - as well as what Health is doing _ which may mean further explanation of some expenditures reduces the recoverable amount

#7 - saying it is a complex prob being looked at in a series of recipient audits sounds like there is a broad review going on to root out bad guys; can we say recipient audits are done at random and where capacity or performance gaps are identified, we work with the FN to improve compliance. the answer to this is really "yes", but the recipient audits are risk-based and will show us where weaknesses are. we do not have the results of year one of the recipient audits yet

#8 - I recall being told several times that the FN had been implementing its MAP and improving in terms of its fin mgmt from when it first went into co-management; should we acknowledge some degree of progress even while confirming that we don't de-escalate until appropriate? the audit contradicted that impression at the time

#13 - did Chief Spence actually "concur" with the findings in Sept, as opposed to just not refuting them? yes, she was asked if she agreed (Concurred) and she responded affirmatively, she went on to ask for further funding for training in financial management etc.

>>> Susan MacGowan 1/4/2013 4:16:06 PM >>>
This is the other set of questions. SuePVI

Claudine Gagnon
Directrice principale du Centre d'expertise des paiements de transfert auprès du dirigeant principal des finances / Senior Director, Transfer Payments Centre of Expertise with the Chief Financial Officer
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Tel: 819 997-0667
claudine.gagnon@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
>>> Phil Dupuis 2013-01-04 16:06 >>>
Chris,

Attached you will find the revised Qs and As relating to the release of the comprehensive audit. These revisions were jointly developed by Anne Scotton and Brahim Achtoutal from (AES), Claudine Gagnon and John Tucciarone (CFO) and Joanne Wilkinson, RDG Ontario Region.

Phil

Phil Dupuis
Director, Risk Management
Directeur, gestion des risques
Audit and Evaluation Sector | Secteur de la vérification et de l'évaluation
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From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Susan Bertrand
CC: Christopher Horton; Faye Horne; Gail Mitchell; Leea Litzgus
Date: 1/2/2013 4:24 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: URGENT RDG approval required - Letter to the Editor - Guardian - Attawapiskat/IdleNoMore

OK, please check with HQ Comms on potential for double-checking the numbers with the program experts - I take comfort in their having been previously approved but we cannot be too careful when it comes to numbers and this file in particular.

We should also say "approximately $300K" on the commitment for emergency repairs as I believe the ast estimate was about $305K which I agreed to in principle - but I don't believe we have the final plan or MCA in from the FN yet.

Thanks again.

>>> Susan Bertrand 1/2/2013 4:18 PM >>>
This from our current approved media lines and Qs and As:

AANDC is participating in the Attawapiskat First Nation Housing Strategy Working Group along with the First Nation, representatives of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council (MTC) and Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC), to further support the First Nation in developing its comprehensive community-based housing strategy.

The working group meets as required to develop a comprehensive, community-based housing strategy and is focusing its efforts on developing short- and long-term strategies to address housing for the residents of the Attawapiskat First Nation

AANDC has committed to providing up to $300,000 in 2012-2013 so that the First Nation can undertake emergency repairs needed to ensure that the ATCO trailer complex remains a warm, safe shelter for current residents this winter. AANDC has also allocated $588,718 in core minor capital funding in 2012-2013 to address housing in Attawapiskat First Nation.

Yves and Ken are not in the office today and I also understand that Sheila is not in; however, I can assure you that the media lines containing numbers are a copy and paste from our current approved housing lines and therefore, the numbers have been previously approved.

If you would like further approvals, I will indicate to HQ that we will require more time to run through approvals.

Susan

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/2/2013 4:08 PM >>>

Can you please work on a line to replace the August 2012 line - I really don't like how it narrows all the work that we have done.

>>> Susan Bertrand 1/2/2013 4:07 PM >>>
I did not receive any heads-up about this.

Susan

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/2/2013 4:05 PM >>>
OK, please have Yves and Ken review the specific numbers. I find this line odd - "In August 2012, in the absence of a concrete strategy, government officials met with representatives of Attawapiskat First Nation and other partners to establish a working group to develop short- and long-term strategies for housing in the community." Why are they including it? I'm sure one of the media lines on what we have been doing is better and more comprehensive than this - makes it sound like there was one meeting in August and nothing since.

Had HQ given you a heads-up that this was being prepared?

>>> Susan Bertrand 1/2/2013 4:00 PM >>>
Joanne,

I just received this and HQ is asking for it by 4:30 p.m. I'll review the information specific to Attawapiskat to ensure that it reflects our current media lines.

Susan

From: Emily Theriault <emily@lindenschool.ca>
To: Leea Litzgus <Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/16/2013 12:53 PM
Subject: Re: Happy new year and possible visit...

Hi Leea,

No problem! How about either Thursday, January 31 or Thursday, February 7th from either 10:10-11:10 or 11:10-12:10?

It was great chatting yesterday, and I really love the idea of bringing in the Indian Act for the girls to see. Also, perhaps you could share a bit about how the Indian Act impacted women and the more recent changes that came about to allow women to reclaim their status and what this reclamation means in terms of identity, lifestyle, etc.?

Thanks again for volunteering your time and effort, Leea:)

Emily

On Tue, Jan 15, 2013 at 5:34 PM, Leea Litzgus <
Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca> wrote:

> Hi Emily, great to talk to you today. I now have to be in Thunder Bay Jan.
> 28 & 29. Can we schedule another date, possibly Jan 31st, Feb 1, 6 or 7?
> Sorry for the inconvenience, Leea
>
> >>> Emily Theriault <emily@lindenschool.ca> 1/14/2013 11:17 PM >>>
> Hi Leea,
>
> What an unfortunate typo that I missed in my previous email!
>
> Tomorrow at 9:30 is great. I'll be looking forward to it.
>
> Talk to you soon!
>
> Emily
>
>
>
>
> On Mon, Jan 14, 2013 at 6:04 PM, Leea Litzgus <
> Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca> wrote:
>
> > Hi Emily, would 9:30 am tomorrow morning work? Regards, Leea
> >
> > >>> Emily Theriault <emily@lindenschool.ca> 1/10/2013 8:17 PM >>>
> > Hi Leea,
> >
> > I hope your wee is going well. On Monday I'm free to chat between 10:10
> and
> > 10:45 and from 11:45-12:40 or on Tuesday from 9:00-11:00. Do any of these
> > times work for you? You can reach me at Linden at 966-4406.
> >
> > Looking forward to hearing from you!

> >
> > Emily
> >
> >
> > On Wed, Jan 9, 2013 at 3:14 PM, Leea Litzgus <
> > Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca
> > > wrote:
> >
> > > Hi Emily and Happy New Year,
> > >
> > > Thank you for your email, I would be very happy to talk to the
> students.
> > > I
> > > think it will be easier for me to call you so just let me know when a
> > good
> > > time through the day is and we can set something up. Best, Leea
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Leea Litzgus
> > > Associate Regional Director General
> > > Ontario Region
> > > Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada>>> Emily Theriault <
> > > emily@lindenschool.ca> 1/8/2013 8:47 PM >>>
> > > Hi Leea,
> > >
> > > I hope you had a restful holiday season and that 2013 is going well so
> > far!
> > > I wanted to touch base with you regarding a possible visit in
> January.
> > > Providing you are free for a short talk, the kids and I would really
> > > appreciate benefitting from your knowledge on Aboriginal issues
> > (especially
> > > as of lately we have been talking a lot about the Idle No More
> movement).
> > > The grade sixes have been learning about modern Aboriginal issues such
> as
> > > land claims and some of the challenges of reserve life. In grade five,
> we
> > > have touched upon recent Aboriginal issues in relation to our unit on
> > > government. I have tried my best to be culturally sensitive and age
> > > appropriate as these are issues that I am particularly passionate
> about.
> > > If
> > > there's a time this week or next that you have a few minutes to chat, I
> > > would love to speak over the phone to bounce a few ideas off each other
> > > about a possible visit.
> > >
> > > All the best,
> > >
> > > Emily
> > >
> > >
> > >
> >
> >

>
>

From: Monica Fuijkschot
To: Joanne Wilkinson; Margaret Buist; Sara Filbee; Shannon Doyle; Sophie...
CC: Christopher Horton; Daryl Hargitt; Faye Horne; Gail Mitchell; Leea L...
Date: 1/4/2013 12:29 PM
Subject: Re: Idle no More: Update on CN Rail blockade in Sarnia

Docket not tagged "urgent". We have pulled the docket and are working on it now as a priority, it will be brought down to LED shortly for ADM approval. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance,

Best Regards

Monica Fuijkschot
Secrétaire du Ministère par intérim / Interim Corporate Secretary
Affaires autochtones et développement du nord canadien / Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
10 Wellington, Gatineau, Québec
t. (819) 994-2218
f. (819) 953-4413

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/4/2013 10:41 AM >>>
According to the system, it's with the Corporate Secretariat so copying Monica to see if she can pull it out for urgent processing - it was marked urgent here but not sure how that translates through the system. Cheers.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/4/2013 10:08 AM >>>
It was signed off here yesterday with instructions to route through LED-HQ...Susan, can you please track in the system? Thanks

>>> Sara Filbee 1/4/2013 10:07 AM >>>
will we see it today?

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/3/2013 7:31 AM >>>
Yes, the note will be updated this morning.

>>> Margaret Buist 1/3/2013 7:15:02 AM >>>
This morning's news on ctv saying the blockade is ended.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/2/2013 11:25:02 AM >>>
Given that this is apparently in court today (link http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2013/01/02/contempt-of-court-charges-laid-against-sarnia-blockade-for-not-shutting-it-down/), please ensure that the draft is in RDGO by end of day please. If the next steps include further research then that's fair ball, but we need to outline clearly what we know and what needs further research, including potential DoJ work. Thanks very much.

>>> Sophie Radecki 1/2/2013 11:13 AM >>>
Shannon has his team working on this. Will advise once I see a copy.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/2/2013 10:44 AM >>>
Shannon/Sophie/Margaret - do we have a draft almost ready to go through approvals? Thanks.

>>> Sara Filbee 12/28/2012 1:59 PM >>>
Thx!

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 12/28/2012 1:27:48 PM >>>Shannon, please ensure the information is in note format as requested and run through ESC for proper processing. Does anyone know who met with the

Mayor and what the results/commitments were? Thanks

>>> Sara Filbee 12/28/2012 12:00:44 PM >>>Agree thx

>>> Margaret Buist 12/28/2012 11:59:27 AM >>>Region has the details gathered so far on the property. So they should start any note. HQ will work with them on the further research needed in the next few days. Not sure who was on the call with the City.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 11:56:17 AM >>>Hi
I think it should be put together in a note format - this issue is going to be with us for a while so we should have a handy summary that can easily be provided to folks who are requesting information.
Is this something that LED could do?
Thanks
Gail

>>> Sara Filbee 2012-12-28 11:41 >>>
so who is responding to Colleen - do you want me to forward this or can you put it together including the results of the 11 am tc with the Mayor
thanks
Sara

>>> Margaret Buist 12/28/2012 11:34 AM >>>
Sara forwarded the one I sent previously to Colleen. I have a bit more technical detail and maps should Colleen wish those but not the salient details re previous grants and matching land descriptions to the surveys to determine if the land the rail line crosses over remains reserve or not.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 11:27:41 AM >>>
Thanks,
Will your folks put this information together in a short email to respond to Colleen's question? Please advise.
Thanks
Gail

>>> Margaret Buist 2012-12-28 11:25 >>>
The railway has had a right of way since 1948 subject to previous grants. These grants are what require research as well as comparing the land descriptions in the right of way and any grants to the surveys. This research will tell us whether the land through which the rail passes remained reserve or not.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 11:11:02 AM >>>
Hi Margaret

So, in response to the quote below from a member of the band, the department is saying that CN has a right of way, but that there may not be a permit to cross the land and we aren't sure about the status of the land? Further research is required. Have I got that right?
Thanks
Gail

"The rail line where we are standing is illegally on our property. They don't have a permit to cross our road, and they need a permit from both the band and Indian Affairs Canada," Plain explained. "That's why we've chosen that spot to take our stand."

Read more: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/attawapiskat-chief-s-hunger-strike-enters-3rd-week-as-protests-mount-1.1092627#ixzz2GMaxHYqr

>>> Margaret Buist 2012-12-28 11:04 >>>
Region and HQ are conducting research on the rail line and reserve lands. The rail has a right of way. We will need to review historical records likely at Library and Archives to determine if the land in question is still reserve land or not. We have some correspondence on file from 2009 from the FN to the railway company expressing concern about the history of the land but nothing since. There appear to be no specific claims involved. We have staff on holidays this week but can work on the historical research right after new year's. It is detailed research and will require some time.

>>> Leea Litzgus 12/28/2012 10:32:57 AM >>>
Just spoke to Shannon again he his doing his best to get something before 11:00am.

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 10:29:11 AM >>>
Hi
Apparently there is a call with the Mayor of Sarnia at 11 this morning. would be important to have answers to the questions about the rail line and status of the CN right of way.
Thanks
Gail

>>> Leea Litzgus 2012-12-28 09:29 >>>
Shannon, we need a clear answer asap. Thank you, Leea

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/28/2012 8:50:22 AM >>>
See below.

>>> Colleen Swords 12/28/2012 8:49:02 AM >>>
Any answer yet?

>>> Gail Mitchell 12/27/2012 3:16:33 PM >>>
We are on it.

>>> Colleen Swords 2012-12-27 15:09 >>>
Could you clarify with Ont Region what the status is of this rail line- chief says illegally on their land and note refs to permits that CN does not have. If this is incorrect we will need to correct it.

>>> HQ Inform 12/27/2012 2:21:27 PM >>>
CN Seeking Court Order to End Rail Blockade
CBC Radio One Windsor

Sarnia blockade organizers want more than promises
CTVNews.ca Staff

Rail blockade may lead to plant shutdowns
Bloomberg News; With Files From The Canadian Press

First Nation blockade of CN track in Sarnia, Ont., appears peaceful
Canadian Press
December 26, 2012

First Nations rail blockade and protest to expand to Sault Ste Marie
680News staff Dec 27, 2012

CN Seeking Court Order to End Rail Blockade
CBC Radio One Windsor

CN Rail is expected in court today, seeking a new court order to end a line blockade near Sarnia. The Aamjiwnaang First Nation blockade of the CN Rail line there began last friday as part of the national Idol no More protests to pressure the federal government to meet and discuss first nation issues. CN Rail got a court order last week, but officials say it was too broad for Sarnia police to enforce.

Sarnia blockade organizers want more than promises
CTVNews.ca Staff
Published Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012 8:25AM EST

First Nations protesters blocking a CN Rail line in Sarnia, Ont. for a seventh day Thursday are vowing not to leave until long after Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence.

Ron Plain, a member of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation who`s acting as a spokesperson for the blockade, says their actions and the entire Idle No More movement is about more than securing more promises.

Our position here in Aamjiwnaang is not just about getting a meeting with the prime minister; it`s about following through on the commitments that are made when that meeting takes place, Plain told CTV's Canada AM from Sarnia.

Read more: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/sarnia-blockade-organizers-want-more-than-promises-1.1092627#ixzz2GGSMc2Wt
Last year, as you recall, Attawapiskat (First Nation in northern Ontario) was promised the world when everybody showed up at their door. None of those promises were fulfilled. What we are saying here in Aamjiwnaang is that we will keep the blockade up until we see that the promises that are going to be made are being fulfilled.

The week-old blockade is currently blocking a rail line that runs through Aamjiwnaang to several chemical and refining plants in what's been dubbed Chemical Valley. A court injunction has been issued to end the blockade, but Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley has said that so long as the demonstration is peaceful, police won't interfere.

Plain says the blockade doesn`t affect the agriculture industry not does it impact the public.

The rail line where we are standing is illegally on our property. They don't have a permit to cross our road, and they need a permit from both the band and Indian Affairs Canada, Plain explained. That's why we've chosen that spot to take our stand.

The blockade is earning a surprising amount of support from Sarnia residents, says Plain, noting many have come out to show their support, despite a snowstorm this week.

It`s been really surprising, he said. The member of Parliament from Guelph came by yeste

From: Colleen Swords
To: Joanne Wilkinson <Joanne.Wilkinson@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Etzinger, Bernard...
Date: 1/14/2013 11:33 AM
Subject: Re: Message from the National Chief

Hadn't seen. Thanks Joanne.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/14/2013 11:27:50 AM >>>In case you're not on this mailing list

>>> Assembly of First Nations<tcote@afn.ca> 1/14/2013 11:25:17 AM >>>----------
http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=ecc2a661b1&e=b1d79d1e87
http://www.afn.ca
January 14, 2013

Message from the National Chief

First Nations citizens have just witnessed one of the most important chapters in our recent history. Through the pressure of the grassroots, the sacrifices made by Chief Spence and her fellow strikers, and the work of many regional Chiefs and the National Executive of the AFN, we have seized the attention of Canadians and of this government.

We forced open the door to the PMO and to the Governor-General. We achieved a commitment to the personal leadership of the Prime Minister, the Privy Council Office and other senior ministers. Now they know that the whole world is watching what progress we make. Now they understand the consequences of failure.

We have a responsibility to work together to push forward our work that relates to each of the eight elements that emerged from our discussions this week – on Treaty, on comprehensive claims, resource revenue sharing, action to assess and halt provisions of legislation that contravene our rights, on the urgent needs of our communities and justice for our missing women. We have leaders in place to ensure that detailed work gets done. And now we have the public commitment of this government and this Prime Minister that they will treat these issues as their priorities.

I am proud of the support we received from First Nations citizens and Chiefs across Canada, even during the most difficult days. There were many long conference calls, late night meetings, and frustrations in the past two weeks. I regret to have to tell you that those long days have caught up with me. This weekend, my doctor ordered that I take some time now to rest and recover and I have agreed with my family that I do this now.

I ask that Regional Chief Augustine continue to chair and facilitate our National Executive meetings in my brief absence and that Regional Chief Bellegarde and Regional Chief Wilson-Raybould continue the work that they led this week on Treaty implementation and on comprehensive claims. As we did in the meeting on January 11 – we must seize the agenda and drive the next steps on each and every element. I encourage everyone to contribute fully to these next steps. I have also directed the senior staff of the Assembly of First Nations to mobilize staff working teams on these elements to provide the analysis and support required.

Finally as we have done from the very beginning, we continue to offer our support and prayers for Chief Spence, the hunger strikers and for all of our peoples standing up through peaceful demonstrations and protest. As we told the Prime Ministers – our voices, the voices of all of our citizens will not be silenced. We will drive change now.

Friends and colleagues, this has been a fateful moment in the decades of struggle by our peoples. We have secured important new ground. Now the harder, but less visible, work of turning promises into action begins. I look forward to working with all of you on those tasks in the weeks and months ahead. Together I am confident we ensure that this week marks the end of a long bitter chapter of paralysis and

provocation in our relationship with the GoC, and that it truly is the beginning of a new chapter.

I will see you all very soon and will return re-invigorated and strengthened to work with you to drive this change together with all of you.

Kleco Kleco

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
National Chief

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** follow on Twitter (http://twitter.com/AFN_Updates)
** friend on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Assembly-of-First-NationsAssemblee-des-premieres-Nations/229729327867)
** forward to a friend (http://us1.forward-to-friend.com/forward?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=ecc2a661b1&e=b1d79d1e87)
** unsubscribe from this list (http://afn.us1.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=7bcefe9235&e=b1d79d1e87&c=ecc2a661b1)
** update subscription preferences (http://afn.us1.list-manage1.com/profile?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=7bcefe9235&e=b1d79d1e87)
** view email in browser (http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=9ecfc4d0646e1736f945a8cd8&id=ecc2a661b1&e=b1d79d1e87)

From: Joanne Wilkinson
To: Anne Scotton; Ron Hallman; Susan MacGowan
CC: Adam Schjott; Barbara Senchuk; Brahim Achtoutal; Chris St. John; Chr...
Date: 1/4/2013 4:58 PM
Subject: Re: Some answers to additional questions that may be asked
Attachments: Table

Please find a table attached that outlines the MLGs under various Ministers. Thanks.

>>> Anne Scotton 1/4/2013 4:04 PM >>>
Please see the answers to some additional questions :

1. Annual audits are required to be filed with AANDC. Why was 80% insufficient and 60% non-existent supporting documentation not found. Why wasn't this caught?

Answer: Audited Financial Statements (**not audits**)are done by external auditors hired by the First Nation , based on information provided by the First Nation. The department does not receive the supporting documentation used by the external auditing firm.
The AANDC recipient audit done by Deloitte and Touche was based on an audit of randomly selected individual transactions and payments, over the five year period.

2. Which Ministers approved the $7.3 M in MLGs to Attawapiskat ?

Answer: Minister Duncan, none; Minister Strahl tbc; Minister Prentice tbc

3.How can co-management be called intervention when they were in it for 10 years with this result?

Answer: Intervention is the term we used for a range of mechanisms which assist in the financial management of First Nations. Multiple co-managers were hired by the Attawapiskat First Nation over more than a decade.

4.What penalty will apply? Will there be any individual accountability for the co-manager? Others?

Answer: Recovery will proceed as per the practice of the department. The co-manager in the period is no longer employed by the First Nation. A new co-manager has been hired.

From: Robert Maguire
To: Joanne Wilkinson <Joanne.Wilkinson@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
CC: Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca <Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>
Date: 1/11/2013 11:58 AM
Subject: Re: URGENT Fw: Canadian Lawyer: Judge 'troubled' by fraud case involving First Nations housing

Of course.
Bob Maguire

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/11/2013 11:21:05 AM >>>
We will need to discuss next week why we can do the over-ride now but couldn't before when we were being asked about it.

>>> Robert Maguire 1/11/2013 11:12 AM >>>
Thanks Max for sharing details to Joanne and her questions. Joanne if you need anything more for the discussions please call and if I am not in circle with elder I can discuss.
Bob Maguire

>>> Max Johnson 1/11/2013 10:51:41 AM >>>
The authority to approve the over ride is at the Director level.
Total override for February will be as follows:
Elementary/Secondary $244,959
Indian Government Support $112,906
Education Facilities O&M $130,014
Other Facilities O&M $62,552
TOTAL $550,431
I will sign this off today and it will make the February 1 run, which is being processed Monday. fyi., I recall only one incident where CFO was involved and that was the recent Kashechewan fuel emergency funding involving a separate supplier, not sure why we involved CFO other than for information purposes.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/11/2013 10:36 AM >>>
Bob, please confirm. Am meeting with the Chief at 1 pm today.

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/11/2013 9:11:28 AM >>>
We can chat more later than - I don't understand why we can do the over-ride now but couldn't before in this case. So I can advise up the line and the Chief this afternoon that the over-rides will proceed for the $600K or so outlined in Peggy's email? If so then when will the FN actually receive the money? Thanks

>>> Robert Maguire 1/11/2013 9:07:29 AM >>>
Joanne

We can ask, I don't think it is needed, but we only asked CFO for permission to escalate the audit report which was special and almost never done. I am not recalling the other precedents you may be thinking of but I feel the policy permits managerial overrides with a director approval and we can make regional decisions. I recommend it go and can approve it being released in light of possible program interruptions and avoiding undue hardships.

As an aside I checked with Sharon and it is normal for Director approvals only.

Bob Maguire

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/11/2013 8:10:18 AM >>>
Do we need CFO approval for the over-rides? Seems to me when these questions were asked some time ago that was the case but want to be sure. Thanks.

>>> Robert Maguire 1/11/2013 7:57:36 AM >>>
Let's proceed with the halt overrides and document the essential svc and safety reasons. Append all the emails below as back up.

Max can you sign in my absence?

If there are concerns with the approach Max please raise them. I will watch for your advice but I on the basis of information I have seen this seems reasonable.

Bob Maguire

>>> Peggy Nolan 1/11/2013 7:49:14 AM >>>
Good Morning:

Please find attached the Notification of Reporting Requirements for Albany as requested.

The overdue reports continue to halt 15% of the block and all targeted funding. It is recommended that a limited override be approved to release the following:

Elementary/Secondary $244,959
Indian Government Support $112,906
Education Facilities O&M $130,014
Other Facilities O&M $62,552
Fuel-freight differential $71,057 (once amendment finalized)
Other Protection (flood watch($25,000 (once NOBA finalized)

The release of these funds will address the health and safety risks to the community residents by ensuring that essential services are not disrupted and by ensuring that the First Nation has the ability to adequately prepare for the upcoming flood season.

thanks,
P.

>>> Robert Maguire 1/10/2013 4:46 PM >>>
I confirmed with Ken that Peggy will send you a revised reporting list and look at over rides.
Bob Maguire

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 1/10/2013 3:06:49 PM >>>
Thanks very much. If there is any change between now and tomorrow morning, please advise as I may be on a conference call with the Chief tomorrow. If you could also re-send the list of outstanding reports and review to ensure that anything for which we could seek an over-ride has been addressed, that would be very helpful. Thanks again.

>>> Robert Maguire 1/8/2013 10:27 AM >>>
Ken was able to advise the following this morning Joanne.

"Albany First Nation has $943,278 in halted 2012/2013 funding. The FN also has $530,239.50 in PAYE. There have been no halted funding releases in the past 30 days. The FN administration has been preoccupied with the court case. We continue to work with the Executive Director in order to get outstanding reports submitted."

Robert (Bob) Maguire
Director Funding Services

AANDC, Ontario Region

Robert.Maguire@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

This message will be saved in CIDM

416-973-1281 direct line
416-525-2800 cellular

My Executive Assistant - Melanie.Gaboury@aandc.gc.ca
416-973-9290
>>> Robert Maguire 08/01/13 6:29 AM >>>
Ken and Peggy:

Good morning and Happy New Year.

Could you advise me on the latest reporting situation at Albany and updates on halted funding releases that have taken place over the past 30 days to pass to the RDG.

Thanks in advance.

Bob
Bob Maguire

>>> Joanne Wilkinson 8:29 PM January 7, 2013 >>>
Hi there - what's the latest on the provision of reports / release of previously halted funding for Albany? Thanks very much.

>>> HQ Inform 1/7/2013 7:30:11 PM >>>
Judge 'troubled' by fraud case involving First Nations housing
Written by Glenn Kauth
Monday, 07 January 2013

For those baffled by the continuing confusion over alleged financial problems and the housing crisis at the Attawapiskat First Nation, a new ruling from the Ontario Superior Court in relation to a neighbouring James Bay-area reserve offers a fascinating look at some of the things that can go wrong.

A contract dispute over mould remidiation on Fort Albany homes has many troubling aspects for the judge. (Photo: The Tragically Hip/flickr)
In Mould Clean v. Fort Albany last week, Superior Court Justice Robbie Gordon ruled on a contract dispute between the Fort Albany First Nation and Mould Clean Laboratories Ltd. It centred in part on whether the company did, in fact, remediate a mould problem at 12 homes on the reserve.

The case dealt with a $1.2 million claim for work on the 12 homes and an earlier judgment for $1.6 million that included 24-per-cent interest per year. The James Bay winter road connects both Fort Albany and Attawapiskat, a community whose chief is currently on a high-profile hunger strike and that has been dealing with a housing crisis of its own in recent years.

According to the ruling, Mould Clean obtained judgment against Fort Albany on Aug. 4, 2010, for the $1.6 million. The company, however, received only $405,000 but took no steps to enforce the balance until August 2012, without notifying the band in advance of its intention to do so. By that time, the former chief who had consented to the judgment, Andrew Solomon, was no longer in office.

The work itself stemmed from a mould problem at 26 houses on the reserve. A 2008 report by B.H. Martin Consultants Ltd., titled "Fort Albany First Nation 26 Unit Mould Impacted Houses January 29, 2008," only identified 14 units for remediation and made no reference to the remaining 12 houses. According to the ruling, Mould Clean and Solomon entered into a contract later that year identifying the work in two parts: remediation on the 14 homes identified in the report at $1.4 million and further work on the 12 remaining units at a cost of $1.2 million. In the meantime, the band received a bank loan of $853,000 and funding of $568,000 from the federal government. The total roughly coincides with the cost of the work on the 14 homes. The federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development never provided the funding sought for the remaining homes.

In fighting the company's bid to enforce the judgment, the band argued Mould Clean never did the work on the 12 remaining units.

Just as there have been few solid answers on what happened to $90 million in funding provided to Attawapiskat as the band complained about its housing crisis, the court in Mould Clean found little proof either way on whether Mould Clean actually did the work on the 12 homes.

"The defendant

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-3 Releasable to: AANDC, TC, CBSA, RCMP, CSIS, PUBLIC SAFETY, GOC, PS REGIONAL DIRECTORS

(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

RESTRICTED Distribution Addendum to Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12F (Restricted Addendum)

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **02** Jan 2013, **15:30** EST

Source(s) of reporting: Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Transport Canada, media/open source reporting.

Additional Restricted Information:

Potential bridge closures/disruptions planned for 05 Jan

The OPP indicated it is concerned about potential bridge closures/disruptions related to protest events, announced by Idle No More, for 05 Jan. The OPP expects slowdowns in the following areas:

- Three Nations Bridge (Cornwall)
- Blue Water Bridge
- Peace Bridge
- Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
- Highway 17 in Nipissing

A representative from the Blue Water Bridge Authority indicated they would not tolerate any bridge closures/slowdowns on the Blue Water Bridge, citing public safety issues.

The Peace Bridge Authority (PBA) mentioned that they will treat any disruption in the same manner as they would deal with other events, such as the Niagara Marathon, Friendship Festival, etc. They noted the organizers will be applying to the PBA to conduct a "parade" across the Peace Bridge. The organizers have committed that they will not conduct a blockade of the bridge and will be entering into a written agreement with the PBA. The PBA will shut down the U.S bound curb lane for approximately an hour to accommodate the "parade". The other two lanes will remain open, one Canada-bound and one U.S.-bound. This event is scheduled to commence around 11:00 EST. It is anticipated that approximately 150-180 people will be participating. Participants will clear U.S. customs and then return to clear customs in Canada.

The OPP also advised it may be required to assist in Sarnia (rail blockade).

It was also discussed that social media indicated that Highway 403 at the Skyway may be impacted but this is unconfirmed.

Ongoing blockade in Sarnia

CN lawyers appeared in Ontario Superior Court in Toronto last week to have an earlier injunction, ordering an end to the blockade, extended for an indefinite period of time.

The Police Chief of the Sarnia Polices Services was ordered to appear in court on 02 Jan to justify his actions through the two injunctions. Superior Court Justice John Desotti indicated the Police Chief must find a means to enforce a court injunction issued on 21 Dec to end the blockade by FN protesters. Justice Desotti later adjourned court proceedings until 12:00 EST on 03 Jan. FN spokesperson Ron Plain agreed to work with protesters to end the blockade on 02 Jan. Of note, it was reported on 31 Dec that the Aamijwnaang Band Council does not support the rail blockade.

Assessment/Analysis: The GOC assesses that the court adjournment was likely initiated to provide time for all parties involved to find a peaceful resolution in order to avoid being found in contempt of Court when proceedings resume on 03 Jan.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@

s.16(2)(c)

From: John Schmied
To: Litzgus, Leea; Wilkinson, Joanne
CC: Bertrand, Susan; Britt, Linda; Broussard, Joan; Cudmore, Jennifer; C...
Date: 1/11/2013 8:35 AM
Subject: Review of morning media summary Jan. 11, 2013

Good morning,

Of the 52 top stories circulated by HQ this a.m., 50 are related to today's meeting with the Prime Minister, or Idle No More protests (representative stories #3 and #4).
Two additional stories carry potential collateral impact for the Region.

John

1. Band's ex-finance chief had money problems (Montreal Gazette) - *Attawapiskat FN's former co-manager declared bankruptcy five years*
before he took on the job. He declared debts of $24,380 and assets of $2,403 in his September 1996 bankruptcy filing.

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's romantic partner - once in charge of the books at the troubled northern Ontario
reserve - has had his own money problems in the past.
Public records show Clayton Kennedy declared bankruptcy five years before he became the band's money man. He
declared debts of $24,380 and assets of $2,403 in his September 1996 bankruptcy filing.
Kennedy's money problems come to light as Attawapiskat and Spence face questions over a scathing audit of the
band's books that found a missing paper trail for millions of dollars between 2005 and 2011.
Part of the period covered by the Deloitte audit overlaps with Kennedy's second tenure as the band's co-manager.
Between 2001 and 2004, Kennedy was the band's director of finance, co-manager and band manager. He returned as
the band's co-manager and director of finance in July 2010 before leaving the job last summer.
Kennedy refused to speak about the bankruptcy when contacted by the Canadian Press.
A one-page summary available through the website of the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada provides
no further details about the nature of Kennedy's financial issues.
The bankruptcy office says Kennedy's paper file was destroyed last October. The office keeps hard copies of
bankruptcy records only for a limited time.
Kennedy defended the band's accounting practices in an interview this week with the Aboriginal Peoples Television
Network (APTN).
"If everyone is so concerned about the lack of documentation, then fine, come back, start contacting the suppliers, go
through the banks, get into it in a little more detail because I don't think you'll find any misappropriation of funds," he told
the network.
Kennedy completed four of the five necessary levels of training to be a certified general accountant between 1973 and
1979, according to an affidavit he swore after Spence declared a state of emergency over a housing shortage in
Attawapiskat.
Neither CGA Canada nor its provincial affiliates in Ontario and Manitoba - professional bodies that grant the CGA

designation - could find any record of Kennedy taking courses to become a certified general accountant.
"As far as our records show, there is no record of this individual as a member, a member in good standing, a certified
general accountant - whichever you want to phrase it - or as a student," said Amy Mulhern, a spokewoman for the Ontario
organization.
"That could also be that records dating back 40 years are pretty hard to find, if they haven't already been shredded or
destroyed at this point."
He says he has worked for several other First Nations in finance, project management and administration since 2000.
Documents show Kennedy incorporated a business called Moo Shum Enterprises in October 2003 - roughly two years
after he first started working in Attawapiskat.
In his affidavit, Kennedy said the company provides "expertise and advice primarily in the areas of finance and management."
The contract between Kennedy's company and the band shows he earned $850 a day. He told APTN that is well below
the going rate.

2. First nation, Winnipeg battle over water (Globe and Mail) - *Shoal Lake No. 40 Chief Erwin Redsky delivered a letter
to Stephen Harper on Thursday asking the Prime Minister to uphold the federal government's treaty obligations to Shoal Lake 40
in the face of anticipated pressure from the City of Winnipeg to expedite the approval process.*

Their community sits on a lake that has been the source of Winnipeg's drinking water for nearly a century, but residents
of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation still rely on bottled water brought in from Kenora, Ont. And despite their location in a region
popular with cottagers - about a two-hour drive west from Winnipeg - residents have been unable to benefit from tourism
because of concerns that development in the area could diminish the quality of water bound for the capital.
Now, a proposal by the City of Winnipeg to sell some of the water it draws from Shoal Lake to neighbouring
municipalities has the community frustrated and seeking support from the federal government as it tries to challenge those plans.
Chief Erwin Redsky delivered a letter to Stephen Harper on Thursday asking the Prime Minister to uphold the federal
government's treaty obligations to Shoal Lake 40 in the face of anticipated pressure from the City of Winnipeg to expedite
the approval process.
Mr. Redsky says his community's situation is symbolic of the broken relationship with the Crown often cited by those
involved in the Idle No More movement. With residents displaced and shut out from economic opportunities on their own
shores, he says Ottawa has repeatedly failed to uphold its fiduciary duty to protect the community's interests.
"We hope that this time around [the Prime Minister] will act in the best interests of first nations and our rights," he said.
The Shoal Lake dispute dates back to a century-old order by the International Joint Commission, a U.S. and Canadian
body that oversees shared-water issues. In 1914, the commission allowed Winnipeg to build an aqueduct to carry drinking

and sanitation water to the city from Shoal Lake.
Mr. Redsky says residents of Shoal Lake 40 were forced off their original village site by the construction of the
aqueduct. They moved to a nearby peninsula that straddled the border of Ontario and Manitoba, but that land became an
island when a diversion canal was built to channel swampy water away from the intake pipe, isolating the community and
forcing its members to cross the water or ice to accomplish tasks as basic as grocery shopping.
The community has also been stymied for decades in its attempts to develop a local economy, according to Mr. Redsky.
Commercial fishing was halted in Shoal Lake in the early 1980s, and a proposal to build cottages was opposed by the
City of Winnipeg, which feared the development would hurt its water supply.
Shoal Lake 40 eventually signed a deal with the city and the province agreeing to limit Shoal Lake 40 developments in
exchange for support from Winnipeg and Manitoba in pursuing alternative economic opportunities - something Mr. Redsky
says has yielded little in the way of employment opportunities so far.
After the City of Winnipeg announced plans to send some of the water it draws from Shoal Lake to neighbouring
municipalities through a shared services agreement, nearby Iskatewizaagegan 39 First Nation sought a judicial review,
which Shoal Lake 40 later joined.
The International Joint Commission wrote to the city last year, pointing out that the original, 1914 order that allowed it to
take water from Shoal Lake indicated that water was to be used to meet the city's drinking and sanitation needs. "The
provision of this water to neighbouring municipalities for the purposes of revenue generation appears to be inconsistent"
with that order, the letter states.
The city did not respond to questions about its plans on Thursday, citing ongoing litigation and preparation of its
submission to the commission.
But last month, the city's executive policy committee recommended that staff look to the federal government, the
province and neighbouring municipalities for support in its plans to request an "expedited decision" from the commission.
Genevieve Guibert, a spokeswoman from the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs, said the dispute is a matter for
the city, the province and the first nations to work out, adding, "We encourage them to work toward a mutually
acceptable solution." The department did not respond to other questions on Thursday.
Mr. Redsky said he hopes the federal government will support his community's efforts to ensure Winnipeg's plans get a
full commission review.
"That's all we want. You know, we want a fair hearing. We want the city, the province and Canada to understand our
situation," Mr. Redsky said. "It's devastating what my community has faced the past 100 years - and it continues to this
day."

3. Come to us, chiefs demand of Harper (Canadian Press) - *AFN's Shawn Atleo on Thursday night called for unity among*
First Nation Chiefs in advance of today's meeting with the Prime Minister. He admitted that the membership of the Assembly

of First Nations was divided.

A cloud of confusion has descended over a First Nations meeting with the Prime Minister on Friday, with several chiefs demanding that Stephen Harper meet them on their own turf on their own terms.
One region after another declared that it was supporting Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence in her call to refuse a
meeting with Mr. Harper unless Gov.-Gen. David Johnston was at his side. Their stand leaves the head of Canada's
largest aboriginal group - National Chief Shawn Atleo - largely isolated.
The internal turmoil is over logistics and process, and not over policy. After days and days of discussions, the chiefs and
delegates actually have a consensus on what their demands would be, if the prime minister and governor general ever do
meet with them.
As chief after chief got up to announce support for Chief Spence, who has been on a liquid diet since Dec. 11, Chief
Atleo eventually took the microphone on Thursday night to plea for unity. He admitted he had made mistakes and that the
membership of the Assembly of First Nations was divided. What he left unsaid was whether any meeting with Mr. Harper
would take place at all, or how he would proceed.
"This is not a perfect organization and I am not a perfect person. I accept a share of responsibility and I have responded
to criticisms from last January," Chief Atleo told a rowdy, crowded room of chiefs and delegates.
"We need to continue to stand united - chiefs, delegates.... If we are to be divided at a moment like this, the
governments will see that."
He then left the conference hall, with insiders indicating he would work through the night with his executives in order to
figure out the best way forward.
Some of his allies insisted he would meet with Mr. Harper and cabinet ministers as planned on Friday afternoon - in
private, in the prime minister's office with a relatively small delegation of chiefs.
Mr. Harper and a handful of ministers agreed to meet aboriginal leaders behind the Idle No More movement for four
hours on Friday. The Governor General has agreed to play host to them later in the day, at a separate ceremonial
meeting.
Chief Atleo himself suggested he would hold the meeting, and then push for a broader meeting on Jan. 24, and a
commitment to hold broad, open meetings with chiefs at regular intervals.
"We need them to commit to sit with you on a regular, ongoing basis, look you in the eye the way it was done in the
treaty-making, in a sacred manner. And let's transform this relationship. Because our kids are dependent on every single
one of us," he said.
But other chiefs said the only way any legitimate conversation would take place on Friday is if Mr. Harper and Gov.-Gen.
Johnston come to them, in a large open venue.
"The door's open. We expect the [prime] minister to come here and meet with us," said Murray Clearsky, southern grand
chief from Manitoba.
"If he doesn't we'll probably have to go home and regroup."
Chief Atleo's rival from last summer's elections for national chief was delighted with the turn of events.
"This is all good. We are standing up for our people again. The chiefs have said we're the decision-makers. We're going

to have a nation-to-nation relationship and this is good for our people. This is what they asked for," said Pam Palmater, an
expert in indigenous governance who is also a de facto spokeswoman for the Idle No More movement of grassroots
protesters.
"The chiefs have said we're not meeting with Harper. So if AFN decided to meet with Harper, it wouldn't be a valid
meeting. Because the AFN only has authority when chiefs give them authority. The chiefs have said we don't give them
that authority."

4. Several chiefs plan boycott of meeting with Harper (Saskatoon Star-Phoenix) - *A much-anticipated meeting Friday
between the Assembly of First Nations and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was hanging by a thread late Thursday, with the
AFN national chief still slated to attend, but several regions saying their chiefs would boycott the gathering - apparently including Saskatchewan's.*

A much-anticipated meeting Friday between the Assembly of First Nations and Prime Minister Stephen Harper was
hanging by a thread late Thursday, with the AFN national chief still slated to attend, but several regions saying their chiefs
would boycott the gathering - apparently including Saskatchewan's.
Regional representatives from Saskatchewan, the birthplace of the Idle No More protest movement, Ontario and
Manitoba have all said they will likely not attend Friday's meeting
AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo made an impassioned speech to a room full of about 200 chiefs at a downtown Ottawa
hotel Thursday night, praising the protesters and saying that he would press the government on treaty rights and for a
better revenue sharing model for resource development.
While Atleo was still to meet Harper, he said he wouldn't dictate which First Nations should go to the meeting. Atleo said
he was ready to take a hard stand with the Harper government if it failed to provide tangible results for First Nations
communities.
The tough talk and emotional pleas threatened to scuttle progress at a meeting that was hastily arranged after Harper
agreed to it one week ago.
Chiefs from Manitoba had taken a hard line on how the meeting should be structured, saying that a face-to-face with
Harper wasn't enough: they insisted Gov. Gen. David Johnston had to attend as well.
Sharp divisions were evident as up to 200 chiefs gathered at the hotel Thursday evening. Several chanted "support
Chief (Theresa) Spence," the chief from Attawapiskat, in northern Ontario, who has been declining to eat solid foods for a
month.
"No longer will the prime minister dictate to us," said Onion Lake First Nation Chief Wallace Fox.
"If we have to shut down this economy, then we will."
Atleo told the assembled chiefs at the hotel that last January's landmark Crown-First Nations gathering had no real
dialogue. If the same thing happens again, the government's billion-dollar resource development plans "will not be
realized" he said.
"This is an imperfect organization. I am an imperfect person," Atleo said. "I met with the executive of the

Assembly of
First Nations ... (and) we will continue to press for the kind of response we've been asking for."
Earlier in the day, Atleo called the planned meeting a "moment unlike any other" in the history of Crown-First Nations
relations, and insisted that aboriginals and non-aboriginals alike "must be seized by this moment."
"There's no going back to where we've come from before this moment," Atleo told an afternoon news conference. "If the
Crown does not respond, if we don't find that Canadians are joining us and seeking to do the hard work of reconciliation, I
am concerned about the safety of our people."
"This is a fork in the road," he added. "This is the moment of reckoning and the tipping point that for so long we've said
was coming."
Harper and a handful of ministers have agreed to meet aboriginal leaders, including Atleo, for approximately four hours
on Friday. The Governor General has agreed to play host to them later in the day, at a separate ceremonial meeting.
The AFN leadership had insisted early Thursday that the meeting take place. Failure to even attend the meeting - and therefore
failing to achieve any results at all - would only exacerbate feelings of discontent and disconnect between aboriginals and a government they believe acts unilaterally without properly considering the impacts on First Nations
communities, the AFN said.
"This meeting must take place. It certainly isn't going to solve all of our challenges," said AFN British Columbia
Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould. "We look to the prime minister to be at the meeting, we look to him to make some
fundamental commitments. It's too important. Our people can't wait. We hear the voices of Idle No More ... We have to
have these discussions."
The AFN was still discussing what, exactly, it wanted out of the meeting. Generally, First Nations leaders seek a new
agreement on resource development in which aboriginals would have a greater say in how development takes place, as
well as earning more money from resource extraction on their territorial lands. Adding such revenues to a band council's
pockets would help, for example, build a school on every reserve and better fund education, Atleo said.
Also needed at Friday's meeting, Atleo said, is a "high-level" commitment from the government to create a long-term
plan to consult, meet, track and evaluate the progress on issues facing aboriginal reserves. That, the AFN believes,
would require a new "machinery of government" to be placed either inside the Prime Minister's Office or in the Privy
Council Office, the central bureaucracy that assists the prime minister and cabinet.
The Prime Minister's Office said Friday's four-hour working meeting with First Nations chiefs would be held at the
Langevin Block - across from Parliament Hill - and would be closed to media. Some chiefs tried in vain Thursday to have
Harper meet them at their downtown hotel. Then they demanded a larger venue for the meeting. The government has
said it has no idea how many chiefs will attend the meeting.
Harper was to hold a 30-minute opening session with Atleo Friday. That was to be followed by a session on the treaty
relationship and on aboriginal rights and economic development, which will be chaired by Aboriginal Affairs
Minister John Duncan, Treasury Board president Tony Clement, and AFN regional chiefs Perry

Bellegarde and Wilson-
Raybould.
It is during this session that chiefs from across the country were expected to present their specific treaty issues and
requests.
Harper and Atleo were to then join a broader discussion on the issues in late afternoon, setting the stage for another
First Nations-Crown gathering, likely around April, according to one regional chief.
"Our mandate tomorrow is to bring out a plan, a national plan on how we're going to deal with these issues," said Eel
Ground First Nation Chief Roger Augustine, the AFN regional chief for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
Johnston was to hold a "ceremonial meeting" at Rideau Hall on Friday evening, "following the working meeting with the
prime minister and government officials," according to a statement from Rideau Hall.
Manitoba First Nations chiefs and Spence had indicated early Thursday that they were boycotting Friday's meeting
with the prime minister unless Johnston was in the room with Harper. Spence was still declining solid food Thursday night.
A fiery Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak said his chiefs were looking for more than a minor policy shift Friday; they
want a major change in the relationship between the federal government and First Nations. He said he wanted to see a
new revenue-sharing model between First Nations and provincial and federal governments, along with co-management
between aboriginals and other governments of resource extraction, a key component of Harper's economic
development policy.
Nepinak said if the government didn't acquiesce to demands, aboriginals and the Idle No More protest movement had
the "people and numbers that can bring the Canadian economy to its knees."
"These are demands, not requests," he said. "We're demanding (Harper) agree with us because we have the true
power."

From: John Schmied
To: Litzgus, Leea <Leea.Litzgus@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Wilkinson, Joanne <Joann...
CC: Bertrand, Susan <Susan.Bertrand@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca>; Britt, Linda <Linda....
Date: 1/12/2013 12:54 PM
Subject: Review of morning media summary Jan. 12, 2013

All but one story circulated today deal with yesterday's meeting in Ottawa.
Two stories of interest are below.

John

CKOM Regina: Minister John Duncan says Bill C-45 won't
change
Minister John Duncan says Bill C-45 won't change
Idle No More threatens massive blockades next week

Reported by David Kirton

It looks very much like Chiefs have already lost one of the big issues they had wanted to talk to the Prime minster about.

They had wanted the government to reconsider any parts of the omnibus budget bills that affected Treaty Rights.
But Aboriginal Affairs Minster John Duncan just told reporters - that's not going to happen.

"We're quite comfortable that we have met our constitutional obligations with those bills and we believe there is every
reason to proceed," said Duncan.

Chiefs in Ontario are now threatening massive blockades this coming Wednesday.

Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food,
spokesman says
Chief Theresa Spence will continue to forgo solid food, spokesman says
By Mike Blanchfield and Terry Pedwell

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA - Theresa Spence, the controversial First Nation chief whose month-long hunger protest has helped to fan the
flames of the Idle No More movement, will continue to forgo solid food, a spokesman declared Friday.

Spence, who surprised many when she emerged from her island encampment to attend a ceremonial meeting with Gov.
Gen. David Johnston, left Rideau Hall early with the sense that the gathering had accomplished little.

``It didn't feel too good inside that house ... but we stood up for your rights," Danny Metatawabin, who speaks for Spence,
told gathered First Nations chiefs as he described the meeting as ``a show, a picture opportunity."

During Friday's ceremony, a wampum belt - a traditional aboriginal symbol of diplomacy and partnership - was
mishandled, Metatawabin added. ``Sadly,'' he said, ``the hunger strike continues.''

Spence, chief of the troubled Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario, has been on a liquids-only diet for the past
month, camped out on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, in hopes of securing a meeting with Johnston and Prime
Minister Stephen Harper. A group of First Nations leaders did indeed meet with Harper on Friday for several hours prior to
the chiefs descending on Rideau Hall to meet with Johnston. But Spence wants to meet both men at the same time.

When she joined her fellow chiefs at a downtown Ottawa hotel, Spence looked frail and tired, and walked gingerly with the
help of several handlers. at one point, she stood briefly in a room full of chiefs, wearing a headdress, to be feted by a
group of aboriginal drummers. Her health is diminished, Metatawabin said. ``She's tired, she's weak. She's weakening. Got cramps in her stomach. We're all praying for her,'' he said. ``The body's stressed right now because of all the commotion
of today.''

Johnston offered Spence a ``special welcome'' and said he wanted ``to say how concerned I am about your health and
that of Raymond Robinson and Jean Sock.'' Robinson and Sock are two aboriginals who are also staging hunger protests.
``My deepest wish is for the well-being of all Canadians, and for dialogue to always take place in a safe and healthy
manner,'' said Johnston, in prepared remarks released Friday night by Rideau Hall.

The meeting wrapped up shortly after 9 p.m. ET, a spokesperson said. Robinson said he approached Johnston ``man to
man'' and urged him to have an open dialogue with Harper in order to forge a relationship with First Nations that's truly ``nation to nation.'' ``I am not going to quit,'' he said. ``The hunger strike continues.''

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan and several of Spence's fellow chiefs were among those publicly urging her to end her protest, saying her health is in danger and she accomplished what she set out to do. ``I had a personal friend who
went on a hunger strike years ago, and it did great detriment to his health,'' Duncan said. ``I have been very much wanting to have a conversation with Theresa Spence, I've offered multiple times, and I expressed concern again today; there were
many people in the room who expressed major concern.''

Harvey Yesno, Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which also includes Attawapiskat, said it's up to Spence whether
she wants to continue her protest. But her reserve needs a leader, he noted. ``We're concerned about that, if she carries
on,'' Yesno said in an interview. ``That's probably the most important thing.''

Stan Louttit, grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, told CBC he's urging Spence to call a halt to her protest. ``I ... told
her, 'Look, you've made your point. You've won this victory. You've made Canadians aware .... You have done good for your people.' But Louttit said Spence is still holding out for a meeting with both Harper and the Governor General at the same time. ``That's the bottom line.''

Earlier Friday, a sprawling crowd of protesters swirled outside the Prime Minister's Office in the shadow of the Peace
Tower on Parliament Hill as Friday's controversial meeting between Harper and First Nations leaders got underway. There
were similar, smaller demonstrations across the country, including a rail blockade in Nova Scotia. A crowd of about 3,000
people, according to police estimates, gathered outside the sandstone building known as Langevin Block where the
meetings were taking place, chanting, drumming and waving makeshift banners. Many then crossed Wellington Street and
rallied in front of the Centre Block, brandishing flags and chanting along with the rhythmic beat of skin drums.

A sporadic cold drizzle fell all morning and into the afternoon, failing to dampen the spirits of protesters, even if it did leave
some of the feathered headdresses in the crowd looking a little bedraggled. The demonstrators began their march on
Victoria Island, a nearby outcrop in the Ottawa River where Spence has been camped out. They returned to the island
later in the day.

Aboriginal people now have an opportunity to hold the government to account for years of broken promises, Spence said
before the rally began. ``This meeting's been overdue for so many years.'' Supporters of the Idle No More movement were
also showing strength in numbers during protests in other parts of the country as well.

In Edmonton, Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation joined a gathering of several hundred people,
where he warned of imminent economic disruption if steps aren't taken to rescind the Conservative government's
controversial omnibus legislation. ``Highway 63 to the oilsands will be shut down. That will happen and I guarantee this,''
warned Adam, whose reserve is near the oilsands. ``I fear for the worst if the prime minister doesn't retract some of the

bills that were passed.''

More than a dozen people blocked a Canadian National rail line between Halifax and Truro by placing wooden pallets and
a car on the track in Truro. Via Rail said it took 53 passengers to Truro from Halifax by bus.

A noisy crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators also showed their support for First Nations in front of the convention centre in
downtown Montreal. Young people, union representatives and provincial politicians were in the group. Some waved
Mohawk and Quebec flags and danced to the beat of native drums.

In Toronto, a few hundred gathered in Toronto's Dundas Square, drumming and chanting. Stephanie Hashie, a member of
the Ginoogaming First Nation who lives in Toronto, said she was there to celebrate her culture. ``It means our future,'' she
said of the Idle No More movement. ``It means what's going to happen. We're not standing idle no more. We're not going
to stand around and just let things happen.''

Spence, who has come under fire over a leaked audit report that found fault with bookkeeping practices in Attawapiskat,
also spoke for the first time about how her Ontario reserve spends government money. She said most of what flows to the
isolated James Bay community actually gets spent outside the community. The money, she said, goes towards supplies
and to pay contractors, consultants, lawyers -

From: John Schmied
To: Litzgus, Leea; Wilkinson, Joanne
CC: Bertrand, Susan; Britt, Linda; Cudmore, Jennifer; Cutfeet, James; Do...
Date: 1/16/2013 8:32 AM
Subject: Review of morning media summary Jan. 16, 2013

Good morning,

Of the 28 top stories circulated by HQ this a.m., all but four are related to the Idle No More protests, Day of Action (Wednesday), and talks between the Government of Canada and First Nations. Four stories of interest to the Region are below.

John

1. CBC.CA: Idle No More activities planned nationwide (CBC.ca) - *Of the Canada-wide Idle No More protests scheduled for today, four are slated for Ontario (bolded, underlined).*

First Nations chiefs and activists are promising to stage Canada-wide protests today, as part of the Idle No More movement's national day of action.
Major cities across the country are bracing for serious traffic disruptions and possible blockades. Here is a partial overview of some of the Idle No More activities expected in several cities today (all times listed are local):
Fredericton, New Brunswick: March through the street starting at the St. Mary's First Nation at 11 a.m.
Miramichi, New Brunswick: A planned blockade of the bridge there, but not confirmation.
Montreal: An evening "teach-in" rally at 4 p.m. at the Centre Récréatif, Culturel et Sportif St-Zotique.
Toronto: A rally at the British Consulate (777 Bay St.) at noon.
Windsor, Ont.: A March and blockade of the Ambassador Bridge is expected to begin around 11 a.m.
Nipigon, Ont.: A blockade of Hwy. 11/17 is planned.
Cayuga, Ont.: A round dance and flash mob are being planned for 9:15 a.m. outside the town's court house.
Whitehorse: A prayer circle will be held at the Nàkwät'à K Potlatch House starting at 6 p.m.
Regina: A Reconciliation Ride and Walk will begin at around noon, with First Nations riders and drummers entering the city on Highways 6 and 11, then making their way to the provincial legislature.
Manitoba: Blockades and rallies are planned in The Pas in northern Manitoba and at the Fairford First Nation, north of Winnipeg, among other locations. Some CN and CP railway lines may also be targeted by demonstrators at noon.
Edmonton: Members of the Papaschase First Nation plan to block the QEII Highway near the entrance to their former reserve in south Edmonton. The two-hour blockade is scheduled for 1 p.m. near Gateway Park.
Vancouver Island: Members of the Saanich Peninsula First Nation will set up a blockade on the Pat Bay Highway for half an hour, starting at 11 a.m.

2. Idle founder rejects blockades (National Post) - *Sylvia McAdam, one of the Idle No More's four originators, says the protests planned for today are not consistent with the original movement's focus.*

Idle No More's co-founder is distancing the movement from Wednesday's planned First Nations blockades and from Chief Theresa Spence, saying the grassroots movement is so far hosting only "peaceful" education events and has no

leader.
Sylvia McAdam, one of the movement's four originators, stressed in an interview with the National Post that chiefs - not
Idle No More co-founders - are behind Wednesday's planned blockades along a key southern Ontario highway and a
busy bridge to Michigan.
Those kinds of highly disruptive protests, Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner Chris Lewis warned in a YouTube
video released Tuesday, highlight the reality that First Nations demonstrators "have the ability to paralyze" this country
by shutting down travel and trade routes - an approach Ms. McAdam said she does not endorse, at least not now.
"A lot of our children and elders are involved in the [Idle No More] activities, so their safety is our priority," she said. "If
you have an impromptu blockade that doesn't follow the legal permits, then you're irritating the public and that's not the
purpose behind Idle No More."
The purpose, she said, is to educate Canadians about indigenous sovereignty and treaty rights, although she
acknowledged that the movement has already spiraled to include so many other causes that it risks diluting its core
message.
"When you begin to go into that realm of Idle No More is 'save the gophers,' then you're losing the vision," she said.
Ms. McAdam, a consultant who lives on Saskatchewan's Whitefish Lake reserve, also made the distinction between the
movement and Attawapiskat Chief Spence, who started a liquid diet around the time Idle No More ramped up late last
year and has since been married to movement in the eyes of many Canadians.
"We're both headed in the same direction, but the grassroots movement of Idle No More is the face of all grassroots
people," Ms. McAdam said. "Idle No More has no leader. The founders might be considered guides or maintaining the
vision, but Idle No More has no leader or official spokesperson."
Ms. McAdam said the co-founders have no planned Idle No More events for Wednesday, a national day of action
declared by chiefs unsatisfied with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's response to their demands so far. Aside from rallies
and round-dances at various locations across the country, chiefs in Ontario say they are planning to slow traffic on Hwy.
401 and along the Ambassador Bridge.
The Windsor Police Service, which is responsible for policing the bridge, said in a news release that officers have been
in touch with the protest organizers. Contrary to Ms. Mc-Adam's characterization of the event, though, the statement refers
to the demonstration as an "idle no more protest" - demonstrating, perhaps, the degree to which people associate First
Nations action with Idle No More.
Windsor police said a "peaceful walk" is planned to begin at 11 a.m. along Hwy. 401 toward the bridge, and while the
release says protesters will "assemble at the foot of the bridge" before walking back to the road, there has been some
indication the protest will move onto Ambassador Bridge. In an interview Monday, Oneida Chief Joel Abram said protesters
plan to rally in one of the lanes and block traffic, but later amended that to say the group will stay off the bridge.

Kris Grogan, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman responsible for the state of Michigan, said Wednesday
will be "business as usual" for the American patrol because the planned activity appears slated for the Canadian side of
the bridge.
All the while, Ms. McAdam said she and the other co-founders are focusing on Jan. 28, an Idle No More international
call to action whose main event is a Parliament Hill protest as MPs return to the legislature after their winter break.
Earlier this week, two First Nations leaders warned that once the snow melts and warmer weather sets in, key highways
- including the main road to Alberta's Fort McMurray, a major oil production hub - could be blocked for days, weeks or
even months, prompting what one chief called "chaos."
Although Ms. McAdam dismissed blockades as an effective form of protest generally, she said Idle No More cofounders
and elders are specifically considering a future blockade along the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline in B.C.
and Alberta.

3. Spence gets little support, Ipsos poll indicates (London Free Press) - *Ipsos Reid, in a poll released Tuesday,*
found about two-thirds of Canadians believe Canada's aboriginal peoples receive too much support from federal taxpayers; that aboriginal peoples
are treated well by the government; and that native peoples bring most of their problems on themselves.

Even as First Nations activists threaten blockades that could harm the economy, Canadian public opinion appears squarely set against those activists.
Ipsos Reid, in a poll released Tuesday, found about two-thirds of Canadians believe Canada's aboriginal peoples
receive too much support from federal taxpayers; that aboriginal peoples
are treated well by the government; and that native peoples bring most of their problems on themselves.
That said, the poll also found two-thirds of Canadians believe the federal
government must act now to improve quality of life for Canada's aboriginal peoples.
And, when asked whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government or Canada's First Nations were "being
reasonable", a majority -- 56% -- said "none of the above."
The poll was taken between Friday and Monday, after a week of high-profile protests in Ottawa and across the country,
many of them associated with the Idle No More movement, a broad grassroots movement that, its founders and
adherents say, is frustrated with both Ottawa and current First Nations leadership.
In its poll, Ipsos tried to measure the credibility of the many different actors involved in last week's drama. It found First
Nations leaders, including Assembly of First Nations led by National Chief Shawn Atleo, had the approval of 51% of
Canadians. Harper had the approval of 46% of Canadians for the way he dealt with last week's events. (Those who voted
Conservative in the last election gave him a 78% approval rating).
But the Idle No More movement received the approval of just 38% of Canadians.
And Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence was viewed approvingly by just 29% of Canadians.
"These data show that the national leadership of Canada's First Nations have distinguished themselves as the
representatives for Canada's First Nations in the minds of Canadians, and that Prime Minister Stephen Harper maintains

a credible position, especially with his voters," Ipsos said in its release.
"It's also clear that Attawapiskat Chief Spence is struggling to build public support."
For this survey, Ipsos surveyed 1,023 Canadians using an online interview.
The pollster's method is widely used and, according to the industry association of which the pollster is a member, is
believed to be capable of producing accurate results.
The pollster claims its results are accurate to within 3.5 percentage points.

4. Martin, Jean urge Spence to end her fast (Ottawa Citizen) - *Former prime minister Paul Martin and former governor general*
Michaëlle Jean are the latest prominent Canadians calling on Chief Theresa Spence to end her protest fast.

Former prime minister Paul Martin and former governor general Michaëlle Jean are the latest prominent Canadians
calling on Chief Theresa Spence to end her protest fast.
"I think she has accomplished a great deal," Martin told Postmedia News on Tuesday. "But I believe that she should now
start focusing on her own health."
"I think she's a very courageous woman," he added. "Right now, her health should come first."
Martin's voice is the latest in a chorus of eminent voices - including Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, NDP
leader Tom Mul-cair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission head Justice Murray Sinclair and a host of First Nations
chiefs - imploring the Attawapiskat chief to halt her liquid-only diet, which has reached its 36th day.
Jean also appealed for an end to Spence's protest. "You're better off alive to carry out this whole struggle," Jean told
CBC Tuesday.
Martin visited Spence on Jan. 5 in her teepee on Victoria Island, where she has been protesting in hopes of securing a
treaty meeting for First Nations leaders with both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston present.
First Nations leaders met with both men separately last Friday, but Spence remained steadfast in her demand they be at
the same table.
Martin called her "an inspiration to all Canadians" in comments to CTV's Question Period after he met her.
On Monday, one of Spence's fellow protesters broke his fast after 28 days. Jean Sock, from Elsipogpog, N.B., said his
mother was gravely ill and he was heading home to support her.
Before he left office in 2006, Martin brokered the Kelowna Accord between aboriginal organizations and the federal
and provincial governments. The accord called for $5.1 billion in spending over five years in education, housing, health
care, economic development and skills training for First Nations people. The Conservative government scrapped the
accord shortly after it took office in February 2006.
Since leaving office, Martin has devoted much of his time to aboriginal issues in Canada through the Martin Aboriginal
Initiative.

From: John Schmied
To: Litzgus, Leea; Wilkinson, Joanne
CC: Bertrand, Susan; Britt, Linda; Cudmore, Jennifer; Cutfeet, James; Do...
Date: 1/8/2013 8:56 AM
Subject: Review of morning media summary Jan. 8. 2013

Good morning,

Of the 43 top stories circulated by HQ this a.m., all but 4 are related to the Idle No More protests or Attawapiskat audit report (the representative stories below).
Of the four, two similar stories are of interest to the Region (one is immediately below).

John

1. Federal Court to rule if Metis are a federal government responsibility (Globe and Mail) - *After 13 years of legal wrangling,*
the Metis people are poised to take a leap forward Tuesday when a Federal Court judge rules in a fight over jurisdiction. The court is
expected to decide whether the federal government is responsible for negotiating with the Metis on issues ranging from health and education to land claims and tax exemptions.

After 13 years of legal wrangling, the Metis people are poised to take a leap forward Tuesday when a Federal Court
judge rules in a fight over jurisdiction. The court is expected to decide whether the federal government is responsible for
negotiating with the Metis on issues ranging from health and education to land claims and tax exemptions.
With an estimated 400,000 Metis in the country, the costs of extending government programs or negotiating claims are
potentially enormous.
The federal government is hoping the outcome of the case will sharply restrict its authority. If the court finds that Ottawa
does have jurisdiction over the Metis people, the government would be under considerable pressure to negotiate or face
an onslaught of litigation.
Metis organizations that brought the case hope the court will firmly establish the fiduciary duty of the federal government
to look after their affairs. Should their aim be thwarted, Metis groups would have to try to negotiate their rights with the
governments of the provinces where they live.
"It comes down to a question of whose door the Metis go knocking on," said Jean Teillet, a Vancouver lawyer with
expertise in Metis issues. "It's a classic Canadian dilemma: Are the Metis a federal or a provincial responsibility?"
The question appears straightforward, yet the lack of a clear answer so far has left Metis and non-status Indians in
the starting blocks when it comes to negotiating for their future.
Tony Belcourt, founding president of the Native Council of Canada, said that successive governments have tied his
people up in litigation.
"The Metis have been political footballs," Mr. Belcourt said. "I'm not saying this case will be the be-all, end-all, but it is a
very important case. A decision in our favour would mean we can pressure the federal government to act, particularly on
land claims."

Since the losing side is virtually certain to appeal, a final showdown is likely to take place in the Supreme Court of
Canada three or four years hence.
The Metis people have both Indian and European ancestry. The litigants asked the court to declare that Metis and nonstatus
Indians are considered "Indians" under the 1867 Constitution Act. They also want the court to find that the federal
government has a duty to negotiate and consult with them on their rights and needs.
"I don't know what justification there could be for excluding one whole group of people when the whole reason for having
federal responsibility is to take them away from the tyranny of local majorities," Ms. Teillet remarked.
Joseph Magnet, a University of Ottawa law professor who represents the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples in the case,
said the federal government impeded the case with a long series of legal motions.
"Canada stated in open court that it did not want this case to come to trial and that the consequences of it were
potentially enormous," he said. "The court repeatedly criticized Canada for this strategy. Ultimately, the court required
Canada to pay punitive costs for wasting time."
One of the greatest frustrations Metis people face is that both levels of government have actually agreed at past
constitutional conferences that Metis and non-status Indians do not receive the services they need in relation to their
status as aboriginal people, Prof. Magnet said.
Beyond the monetary issues, he said that the Metis have also been waiting for the cultural benefits of achieving
recognition such as an enhanced sense of identity, cultural heritage and belonging.
A moving force behind the litigation, Metis activist Harry Daniels, died in 2004. His wife, Cheryl Storkson, said on
Monday that a victory would complete his legacy.
"He fought so hard for the Metis people for all of his life," Ms. Storkson said in an interview. "If he were here now, he
would be waiting for the decision - and he would feel a wonderful sense of victory if the Metis people are able to win it."

2. Attawapiskat audit says federal funds spent without records (CBC) - *Transcript*

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST):
- ONSCREEN: "Damning Audit"
PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): Millions of federal dollars spent with no record of where. Terry Milewski has the audit of a
First Nations community that's already controversial for the shape it's in and the woman in charge. -
It was right around this time last year that many Canadians wanted to know if Attawapiskat got millions of dollars from the
federal government, where did the money go? Today, the answerand it wasn't very satisfying. An independent audit found
practically no record of how much was spent or on what. As for the government that provided the money, it got its share of
criticism too. Our senior correspondent on Parliament Hill, Terry Milewski, has the details for us tonight. Terry?

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Well, Peter, no one comes out of this audit very well. It is an indictment
of sloppy management at the Attawapiskat band, but it also suggested the government just let that happen; that over the

course of six years, it shovelled more than 100 million dollars into the reserve without really knowing where it went.
It has been more than a year since the appalling conditions at Attawapiskat created a national outcry and the audit resoundingly confirms why.
It says the housing situation is so bad that of 316 homes on the reserve, 85 percent are unfit for human habitation. And yet, it says, Ottawa poured 104 million
dollars into Attawapiskat over six and a half years, up to the end of 2011. That is for health, education, housing,
everything, but the auditors cannot say where it all went. They say: "We were unable to determine if the funds were spent
for their intended purposeThere is no evidence of due diligence in the use of public funds"

ONSCREEN: Deloitte

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): In Ottawa, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence was silent and still on
her hunger strike. In a statement she said the audit "is no more than a distraction of the true issue and to discredit Chief
Spence who is willing to lay down her life for a larger cause." Her spokesman said the audit was leaked to damage her.

DANNY METATAWABIN (SPOKESMAN FOR THERESA SPENCE): They are trying to undermine the process here, the
movement of the people. The people are speaking out.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): The audit report suggests, though, that the government was looking
the other way while the band spent money with no paper trail. Out of 400 transactions examined, the auditors found only
19 percent with proper records; 70 percent had little or no supporting documentation. And yet the audit says the
government's own mortgage lender CMHC kept on lending the band money even when it knew the band was breaking the
rules, requiring inspections to make sure that housing was up to code.
For her part, Chief Spence has always insisted that the Indian Act means the government, not the band, makes the decisions.

THERESA SPENCE (CHIEF OF THE ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION): As leaders we had our we had responsibilities for
our people in planning the future, but now it's the government who is doing all of that for us and it's not the way that the
treaty was intended for.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): On Parliament Hill today, two demonstrators were wondering if the band
was so bad at paperwork, why did the government do nothing about it?

MARGARET KENEQUANASH (NORTH CARIBOU FIRST NATION, ONTARIO): What really needs to be looked at and
audited is how is this government being accountable to the public service and also to the public mainstream society in
terms of how those moneys are accounted for.

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Now today's audit does not allege any fraud but it does raise many
questions, like how many other reserves are spending millions without keeping proper books and is the

government
tolerating that too, Peter.

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): Terry, you know, there was a lot of talk about the timing of the audit leak with this Friday's
meeting coming up. What can you tell us about that?

TERRY MILEWSKI (SENIOR CORRESPONDENT): Well, yes, it is interesting timing. The audit was anonymously leaked to
the CBC and there is a theory, of course, that it was to discredit Chief Spence. On the other hand, the government would
have had to release this audit anyway by January 16th and, well, it doesn't reflect too well on the government either,
Peter.

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): All right, Terry, thank you. Terry Milewski in Ottawa tonight.

3. Tension rising ahead of chiefs' meeting with Harper (Globe and Mail) - *On Tuesday, the Mikisew Cree and Frog Lake native communities will take his government to court over omnibus budget legislation that is providing
much of the spark behind the Idle No More protests.*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will sit down with native leaders at the end of this week to hear the wide-ranging and
complex grievances that are being expressed though demonstrations and a hunger strike that is garnering international
attention. But the friction between Mr. Harper and first nations leaders seems to be growing. On Tuesday, the Mikisew
Cree and Frog Lake native communities will take his government to court over omnibus budget legislation that is providing
much of the spark behind the Idle No More protests.
Representatives of those first nations met Monday with Theresa Spence, chief of the Attawapiskat First Nation, who
is on a hunger strike to drive home her demand that treaty obligations be met.
Ms. Spence, who is said to be growing weak, slept through the visit, but had rallied earlier in the day to decry the leak of
an audit that found Attawapiskat failed to provide sufficient documentation to explain its spending between 2005 and
2011.
The Attawapiskat chief has become the unintentional hero of the grassroots protesters who are blockading train tracks
to demand, among other things, the repeal of budget bills that will be challenged in Federal Court.
Steve Courtoreille, chief of Mikisew, said, "The Prime Minister had no choice but to come back and find a way to save
face," but he doubts much will come of the Friday meeting. "The only thing they understand is that they are being faced
with a lawsuit."

4. Auditors had warned Attawapiskat (Ottawa Citizen) - *Former Minister Chuck Strahl believes there are ongoing accountability
issues with funding and program delivery in some First Nations communities and a need to better demonstrate that federal dollars are being spent wisely.*

For three years, auditors warned the chief and council of a First Nations reserve that there were problems

with how the
band kept its books. Missing or incomplete documentation and even a lack of an annual budget were flagged, and the
auditors even used the same lines in letters to the Attawapiskat First Nation band council in 2009, 2010 and 2011.
Yet the accounting problems at the reserve, highlighted by yet another audit released Monday, are present on other
reserves nationwide, whose books are "all over the map," according to one former aboriginal affairs minister.
As well, the department charged with overseeing how billions in federal funds to reserves are spent continues to fall
short in providing proper financial oversight, as the audit released Monday showed.
It all comes at a politically sensitive time for Crown-First Nations relations.
A grassroots movement known as Idle No More is organizing more demonstrations daily; Prime Minister Stephen
Harper is set to meet with First Nations leaders on Friday; and the chief of Attawapiskat, Theresa Spence, who is
currently on a hunger strike, is lashing out at the timing of the latest audit, saying its release was meant to "discredit" her.
A series of audit letters accountants filed annually to Attawapiskat show that, in 2009, 2010 and 2011, Attawapiskat
failed to provide supporting documentation for spending in many instances. The documents were released to Postmedia
News under the access-to-information law. Audit notes from 2009, 2010 and 2011 show that when accountants asked for
an explanation, "often none could be provided."
Over the same period, audits also found that the senior officials on the reserve failed to even set a yearly budget and
that payroll cheques were being printed without proper oversight from the band council - cheques that would have
covered Spence's salary and travel expenses in 2010-2011 of more than $71,000.
The most recent audit - made public Monday - found that going back to April 1, 2005, the band council didn't properly
prepare budgets, didn't properly keep minutes to support band council resolutions, had "incomplete, insufficient, and
inaccurate bookkeeping," made "expenditures ... without the available funds" and added that "journal entries were made
with no supporting documentation."
The latest audit of the Attawapiskat First Nation, which covers about 80 per cent of the more than $104 million
funnelled to Attawapiskat since 2005, included numerous entries in band council books such as a May 2, 2011 donation
of $10,000 and more than $1.1 million in August 2009 to buy "buildings" with no supporting documentation. There was
also a $2.3-million expenses payment to an unknown vendor on March 31, 2008, with incomplete documentation to explain
how or why the money was spent.
"There are a good number of them, like Attawapiskat, that it just seems to be difficult to do the basics, and then that
raises red flags in the community and for the government," said Chuck Strahl, who served as aboriginal affairs minister
in the Conservative government from 2007 to 2010.
Strahl believes there are ongoing accountability issues with funding and program delivery in some First Nations
communities and a need to better demonstrate that federal dollars are being spent wisely.
Adding to the problems at Attawapiskat were the oversight failures from Aboriginal Affairs. The audit

found that
Aboriginal Affairs' own policies on housing were ambiguous enough that it was difficult for the department to
"adequately review or challenge the information reported" by the band council. Nor were the department's regional
offices required to "explain or provide context for performance reports" to head office in the capital region.
"Just because First Nations communities publish audits, it does not mean money is well spent," said Sen. Patrick Brazeau,
a controversial and outspoken critic of on-reserve spending. "Where does the money go? Is it being properly
spent ... and more importantly, is it going to the people who have needs?"
The department has a responsibility to fulfil its oversight mandate, said Brazeau, who has said he wanted an evaluation
of how the department accounts for the money spent on-reserve. However, "accountability is a two-way street," he said,
and the leaders of First Nations reserves in financial crisis should hold final accountability for decisions.
The release of the audit, which the department said was not politically motivated, forced Spence to answer
uncomfortable questions about the spending in her community, which was thrust into the national spotlight in late 2011
over revelations of substandard housing conditions for more than a dozen families.
The band council was also warned repeatedly about the housing situation on the reserve, with Health Canada
inspections going back to 2010 showing mould and inadequate housing for several families in the remote community
more than 1,000 kilo-metres north of Timmins, Ont. A Health Canada official noted the band had done a "relatively poor
job" addressing recommendations from health inspectors.
"Case in point - families are still living in 'condemned' homes years after the fact. Whether that's because of funding or
other considerations, I can't really say," reads a Nov. 30, 2011, Health Canada email, released to Post-media News.
In Feb., 22 modular housing units arrived in the community at a cost of $2.5 million for construction and transport.
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) reports Spence and the band council discussed the
results of the most recent audit in a teleconference on Sept. 20. The department's deputy minister signed off on the audit
on Oct. 16.
"The independent audit from Deloitte and Touche LLP speaks for itself, and we accept its conclusions and
recommendations," said Jan O'Driscoll, a spokesman for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan.
Between April 1, 2005, and Nov. 30, 2011, about $104 million in total funding was provided to Attawapiskat. About $8.3
million of that was for housing, including $6.85 million for housing maintenance, $1 million for housing needs immediately
and $450,000 for housing renovations under federal stimulus spending.
Spence was not answering questions Monday and reporters weren't allowed into the camp where she has spent her
days on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, blocks away from Parliament Hill. Instead, Spence, who is on a hunger strike,
put out a written statement Monday afternoon, saying the audit was "no more than a distraction" meant to "discredit" her.
Spence has said she gave up solid food on Dec. 11, subsisting on a liquid diet of medicinal tea, fish broth and vitamins,
and was willing to starve herself to death if Harper didn't meet with First Nations chiefs immediately to

discuss treaty
issues.
Her actions have made her the public face of Idle No More, which was formed by aboriginals upset with the changes
the federal government made to the Indian Act and environmental reviews in its budget bill, C-45.
On Friday, Harper will meet with Assembly of First Nations chiefs, Spence included.

From: John Schmied
To: Litzgus, Leea; Wilkinson, Joanne
CC: Bertrand, Susan; Britt, Linda; Cudmore, Jennifer; Cutfeet, James; Do...
Date: 1/9/2013 8:29 AM
Subject: Review of morning media summary Jan. 9. 2013

Good morning,

Of the 63 top stories circulated by HQ this a.m., all are related to the Idle No More protests, Attawapiskat audit or Tuesday's Federal Court
ruling on Metis and non-status Indians. (four representative stories below).

John

1. Canada's Metis and non-status Indians have won a significant victory (CBC Radio) -

>>Host: Canada's Metis and non-status Indians have won a significant victory. A federal court judge has ruled Ottawa
must recognize all of them, more than half a million people, as Indians. The case has been before the courts for more than
a decade and while the groups that launched it are happy with today's decision they're still not exactly sure what will come
of it.
>>Reporter: It's a case that involves history, identity, and the federal government's responsibility to Metis people and nonstatus
Indians. Both groups argued in federal court they've long suffered discrimination because they've been denied
access to federal programs reserved for full status Indians. Today they won an important victory. A federal court judge
ruled Ottawa must recognize Canada's roughly six hundred thousand Metis and non-status people as Indian.
>>Betty Ann Lavallée: Today's decision will mark a new relationship with the government of Canada.
>>Reporter: Betty Ann Lavallée is National Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal People that represents natives living off
reserve. It was one of the plaintiffs in this case. Lavelie is not sure what direct benefits will flow from this decision, but
Jason Madden, legal counsel for the Metis National Council, says the ruling means Metis and non-status people can now
demand far more from Ottawa.
>>Madden: Health benefits, education benefits, a whole host of programs and services that are currently available only to
on-reserve First Nations. The question will be how can the government continue to discriminate against Metis who need
those services just as much.
>>Reporter: The government can still appeal this ruling, although Metis and non-status groups say too much time and
money have already been wasted on a case that's been before the court since 1999. If the ruling does stand Ottawa will
need to negotiate a new and possibly more expensive relationship with hundreds of thousands of its citizens. For now the
government will say only it's reviewing the decision.

2. Ottawa's new native dilemma (Globe and Mail) - *A backgrounder on Tuesday's federal court ruling on Métis and non-status Indians.*

The number of constitutionally recognized aboriginal people in Canada should double, the Federal Court of Canada
has ruled in a judgment saying Metis and "non-status" Indians qualify as "Indians" under the 1867 Constitution Act. If
unchallenged, the ruling would force Ottawa to recognize and deal directly with about one million people who were left
outside previous definitions of "Indians" who have special rights to negotiate directly with the Crown and qualify for
federal benefits.
Metis and non-status aboriginal groups said the decision opens a door to negotiation - or litigation - on similar rights
to health, education and other benefits that Ottawa restricts to aboriginal people with official Indian status under the
Indian Act.
At the same time, they braced for a possible backlash from status Indians, who may see the decision as a setback to
their efforts to win services and benefits.
Tuesday's ruling comes amid a country-wide surge in protests, including a high-profile hunger strike, against the
Conservative government's overall approach to dealing with aboriginal people.
Jan O'Driscoll, a spokesperson for federal Indian Affairs Minister John Duncan, said Ottawa is reviewing the
decision to determine its next move.
However, experts believe the case will end up in the Supreme Court of Canada.
By dramatically redesigning a key element of the country's history, Mr. Justice Michael Phelan effectively cleared up a
long-standing dispute between Ottawa and the provinces over responsibility. His ruling also summons up a host of
challenges for the federal government.
Judge Phelan ruled that Metis (a group largely descended from Indian women and European men), along with Indians
who have lost their formal legal status, qualify as Indians under the 1867 act.
Setting aside rules based on bloodlines, Judge Phelan said that criteria relating to geographical or cultural location, or
membership in an indigenous community organization, are more civilized ways to define aboriginality than "blood purity."
His ruling cites Nazi Germany and South Africa's apartheid regime as "two examples of why Canadian law does not
emphasize this blood/racial purity concept."
Judge Phelan said there are possibly one million Metis and non-status Canadians, which is just slightly more than the
number of status Indians Ottawa recognizes. The potential doubling of Indians for which Ottawa is constitutionally
responsible could ultimately force Ottawa into radical policy changes, billions in new spending, or both.
Betty Ann Lavallee, the national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, which launched the case 13 years ago,
said Canadians should consider costs in a larger context.
"What is the cost to Canada for doing nothing?" she asked at a news conference. "By doing nothing, you're still going to
have the status quo, which is a drain both on the economy, on the social system, health care services. To me, I would
rather invest in human potential."
While the court did not expressly order the government to negotiate with Metis and non-status Indians over claims
such as health, education and land, Judge Phelan left little doubt that his ruling will exert pressure to do

so.
"The recognition of Metis and non-status Indian as Indians . . . should accord a further level of respect and reconciliation by
removing the constitutional uncertainty surrounding these groups," he said.
Judge Phelan anchored his ruling in expert testimony and documents that show provinces were assembled and railroads
built partly due to the acquisition of land from so-called "half-breeds."
Metis leader Tony Belcourt said the Metis will seek health, education and economic development benefits, and
compensation for land "taken away or swindled away from us."
In a blog entry on Tuesday, Mr. Belcourt also predicted a likely rift within the indigenous community.
"It is so true that every time we come near to gaining what are rightfully our entitlements, the First Nations are pitted
against us," he said. "They are led to believe that anything we gain must be at their expense."
Native leader Bill Erasmus disagreed. He said the ruling will merely add momentum to calls by native leaders to have
their rights recognized based on membership in a traditional nation or treaty group, rather than by way of a definition
within the Indian Act.
Judge Phelan expressed distaste for federal arguments that politicians alone should define who is an Indian via
legislation.
One option for Ottawa would be to expand the definition of Indian under the Indian Act. However, the act is widely
criticized as a racist relic. While most aboriginal leaders want it scrapped, there is no consensus on a replacement.
Dwight Newman, a University of Saskatchewan law professor, said Judge Phelan's decision may have dramatic
consequences.
"It will open new litigation on the scope of resulting federal responsibilities as well as on the constitutionality of existing
provincial arrangements - especially in Alberta," he said.
*****
DEMOGRAPHICS
Statistics Canada says there are 404,000 Metis, according to the 2006 census. There is little official data on nonstatus
Indians, but 549,005 of the 1.17 million aboriginals in the 2006 census said they were non-registered Indians.
Median age
Metis: 29.4 years
North American Indian: 25.3 years
Inuit: 22 years
Non-aboriginal: 39.4 years
Geography
More than two-thirds of Metis live in urban areas.
Winnipeg: 40,980
Edmonton: 27,740
Vancouver: 15,075
Calgary: 14,770
Saskatoon: 9,610
Ottawa-Gaineau: 7,990
Education
About 50 per cent of adult Metis have post-secondary education, compared with 61 per cent of the non-aboriginal
population.
Source: Statistics Canada.

All figures based on 2006
census data.

3. Talks with chiefs ongoing: Harper (Windsor Star) - *Prime Minister Harper says this Friday's meeting with Aboriginal leaders*
is only one of many in a continuing dialogue his government has and will continue to have with them.

Faced with a court challenge over his budget bills and the Idle No More protests, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said
his imminent meeting with aboriginal chiefs would not be the last the government holds with First Nations leaders to
address issues facing aboriginal communities, saying "we will continue through legislation and other means to move
forward."
But moving forward to Friday will not be simple as the courts were asked Tuesday to force the Harper government to
backtrack on environmental changes contained in its two budget bills, and a landmark court ruling reshaped the meaning
of the term "Indian" in Canada to include Metis and non-status Indians, thus making the federal government
responsible for the largest aboriginal population in the country - about 600,000 off-reserve aboriginals.
The developments added to the tense and confusing backdrop of issues facing Harper and Assembly of First Nations
leaders as all look to ease rising tensions between Ottawa and Canada's aboriginals.
"There are great challenges in certain aboriginal communities, and we will continue through legislation, through
meetings - not just the meeting this week - the meetings we've had in the past, the meetings we will continue to have. We
will continue to identify ways to move forward in the same way that we want to move forward for all Canadians, with the
creation of growth, jobs and long-term prosperity for all communities," Harper told reporters in Ottawa.
Capitalizing on economic development near where many aboriginal people live, he said, was key to helping solve
many of the social problems facing Canada's aboriginal communities.
"I know that in many aboriginal communities, as I've said, the challenges are very great. But the potential is very great
as well. We do have for the first time in our history economic development on a large scale occurring near where many
aboriginal people live," Harper said. "We have a shortage of labour and lots of opportunity, and we want to make sure that
those opportunities are avail-able for aboriginal people and prosperity is available for them as we move forward. So we
will continue through legislation and other means to move forward."
Treaties, land rights and economic opportunities are all on the agenda for the meeting Friday that comes almost a year
to the day after a landmark gathering in Ottawa designed to renew and review the relationship between the Crown and
First Nations.
That relationship has been tested in court, with the Federal Court the focus of two cases Tuesday, including a ruling in
one that said Metis and non-status Indians should be considered "Indians" under the Constitution Act, thus falling
under federal jurisdiction.
While the court didn't say exactly how the government must work with Metis and non-status Indians, it expected that

off-reserve aboriginals would have just as much right to consult with the government over proposed legislation as do
those on-reserve.
In the second case, two Alberta-based First Nations are taking the Harper government to court over its budget
legislation, adding another layer to the actions aboriginals have taken across the country to protest Bills C-45 and C-38.

4. À la suite de l'acceptation du premier ministre Stephen Harper (4 janvier 2013) de s'entretenir avec une délégation de
dirigeants des Premières Nations à Ottawa le 11 janvier 2013 (AFN News Release) - *Ahead of Friday's meeting with the Prime*
Minister, the AFN is holding special preparatory activities ion Wednesday and Thursday to engage leaders and First Nations citizens in dialogue and discussion.

À la suite de l'acceptation du premier ministre Stephen Harper (4 janvier 2013) de s'entretenir avec une délégation de dirigeants des
Premières Nations à Ottawa le 11 janvier 2013, le Comité exécutif de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations a commencé à déployer des
efforts de coordination. Elle a notamment le plaisir de vous présenter ce compte rendu.
En vue de la réunion du 11 janvier entre des dirigeants des Premières Nations et le premier ministre, l'Assemblée des Premières Nations
organisera un ensemble de réunions de planification stratégique des groupes de travail sur les traités, les revendications globales et les
droits inhérents, qui seront ouvertes à tous les dirigeants des Premières Nations. Ces réunions auront lieu le mardi 8 janvier à Ottawa.
Pendant la semaine, un grand nombre d'organisations politiques territoriales et régionales tiendront aussi des séances en caucus et des
réunions de planification. Nous ferons tout notre possible pour vous tenir au courant du calendrier et vous communiquer toute l'information
pertinente.
Le mercredi 9 janvier et le jeudi 10 janvier, l'Assemblée des Premières Nations tiendra des activités préparatoires spéciales, comprenant
une cérémonie et des forums destinés à faire participer les dirigeants et citoyens des Premières Nations au dialogue et à la discussion.
Bien que certains détails soient en cours de finalisation, nous encourageons tous les citoyens à consulter régulièrement notre site Web
(www.afn.ca) et les réseaux sociaux afin d'obtenir des mises à jour.
La réunion du 11 janvier entre des dirigeants des Premières Nations et le premier ministre n'est pas un rassemblement, ni un sommet. Il
s'agit plutôt d'une réunion de travail ciblée qui doit aboutir à un plan de changement tangible. Nous savons tous que le travail acharné des
Premières Nations ne se limite pas à une réunion et qu'une réunion ne suffira pas à produire immédiatement des résultats. Cependant, les
dirigeants des Premières Nations s'efforceront d'obtenir des engagements clairs et concrets pour faire progresser les priorités actuelles et
le travail en cours, c'est-à-dire la mise en uvre au cas par cas des traités, le respect de la relation de nation à nation, les droits inhérents des
Premières Nations et le titre et les responsabilités des Premières Nations à l'égard des terres et des ressources. Étant profondément
attachés à nos droits, nous devons établir des relations financières justes et durables et mettre en uvre des solutions dirigées par les
Premières Nations dans des domaines prioritaires, dont garantir la sûreté, la sécurité et des débouchés à tous les citoyens des Premières
Nations.

Comme vous le savez, le 1er janvier, le Comité exécutif de l'Assemblée des Premières Nations a invité le premier ministre et le gouverneur
général à une réunion sur les traités. Cette réunion aura lieu comme prévu et sera dirigée par des dirigeants de Premières Nations
signataires de traités.
À la suite de ma lettre envoyée à tous les Chefs le 29 décembre 2012, il ne fait absolument aucun doute que nos solutions doivent être
enracinées dans nos habitations et nos territoires et qu'elles doivent être conformes à nos droits et à nos responsabilités sacrées. Nous
continuons d'encourager tous les citoyens à s'engager à déterminer leurs priorités et stratégies communautaires au sein de leur
communauté en se basant sur les situations et les défis qui sont propres à leurs nations respectives. Les organisations régionales,
nationales et visées par des traités continuent de travailler aux côtés des citoyens et sont prêtes à soutenir les stratégies et approches
définies par chaque nation. Nous avons pour rôle et pour marche à suivre que de soutenir et d'appuyer les solutions communautaires qui
sont fondées sur nos droits et nos responsabilités et qui émanent directement de nos citoyens.
Nous sommes plus forts ensemble. Nous atteindrons nos objectifs en faisant respecter strictement nos droits et nos responsabilités et en
continuant de déployer tous les efforts possibles pour provoquer un changement dès maintenant!
Je continuerai de soutenir le travail acharné accompli par les Premières Nations dans des domaines prioritaires en vue d'obtenir le
changement fondamental et nécessaire que méritent tous nos citoyens.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/7/2013 10:21 AM
Subject: Roy Green Show: INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

SOURCE: CORUS RADIO NETWORK PROGRAM: ROY GREEN SHOW
DATE: JANUARY 6, 2013 TIME: 15:07
REFERENCE: 0601doc2 LENGTH: 27:30 MINUTES

INTERVIEW WITH PAM PALMETER

ROY GREEN (Corus Radio Network): Former Prime Minister Paul Martin saying that Chief Teresa Spence from Attawapiskat is an inspiration to all Canadians. The Idle No More movement is under way in Canada. As you know, we talked about this yesterday and took some phone calls and the question is does it really have the support of First Nations people, of First Nations peoples across the country? Does it make a sustainable case that the federal government is riding roughshod over aboriginal communities and treaties with First Nations.
Pamela Palmeter joins me on the Roy Green Show on the Corus Radio Network. She is the Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University. She's also a lawyer and law professor and she's an activist with Idle No More. She ran for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.
Ms. Palmeter, Pamela, it's good to have you back on the program. We only had a few minutes with you about two weeks ago.
PAM PALMATER (Chair in Indigenous governance at Ryerson University): Yes. No, thanks for doing this and highlighting the movement.
ROY GREEN: Well, we want to hear from you and we'll also tell our callers that the phone lines are open at 1-877-399-9898, 1-877-399-9898. You can talk to Pamela Palmeter about what she has to say and what her sense is about the Idle No More movement and the relationship between the federal government of Canada, this one particularly, and First Nations peoples.
Now Prime Minister, former Prime Minister Paul Martin said that Chief Spence is an inspiration to Canadians. Did you get a sense that you were getting a better, I don't want to use the word "deal", but was there more respect from a Liberal government, maybe the Liberal government of Paul Martin as brief as it was, than you are, than you're getting from the current federal government?
PAM PALMATER: Well, we're definitely getting no respect at all from the current federal government. But I mean, you have to look at this, all of this problem didn't start overnight. I mean, we have gone through many successive Conservative and Liberal governments at the federal level, you know, for generations. And they have all had a hand in the very oppressive colonial policies that have been imposed on First Nations people.
So think of, you know, residential schools. I mean, it was Prime Minister Trudeau himself who tried to introduce the White Paper, the 1969 White Paper which would... which would ensure our assimilation. And, you know, here we are in 2013 and now it's Harper who's trying to legislate our assimilation. So while the working relationship seemed to be a little bit better under the Liberal government, you have to look at everything that's happened with each successive government. It was the Liberal government that put the two per cent funding cap on education for First Nations people which made, which created the education crisis. Yet it's the Conservative government who leaves the cap in place.
So I think they've all had a hand in it and they all had some accounting to do.
ROY GREEN: I went back and I read a column which you wrote for the Ottawa Citizen on the 28th of December.
PAM PALMATER: Um-hmm.
ROY GREEN: And you did mention, and I'm quoting you here, an aggressive legislative assimilation plan.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: From the Harper government. What exactly is the Harper government attempting to do in that regard?
PAM PALMATER: Okay, so generally what happens in terms of legislation dealing with First Nations people, you know, there will be one piece of legislation trying to address something either under the

Indian Act or something to do with self government or specific claims or something and it's a process that's worked on for a very long time, you know, with First Nation organizations or communities and the government.
What this Harper government has done is decided, you know, kind of some basic things right up front. One, he wants to integrate First Nations people into Canadian society and he's said that in all of his speeches related to First Nations, his election platforms and so on and so forth.
And the other thing he said is that he wants to unlock First Nation lands for the benefit of Canadians. So those are really two key code words that come from the White Paper and come from legislation, even American legislation, you know, as old as the Dodds Act. And so if you look, I mean, you really have to look at all of the legislation. You can't just look at C-38 and C-45 because they're omnibus bills. You have to look at the legislation dealing with First Nation elections, matrimonial property on reserve, water rights, the accountability bill, the bill to repeal the Indian Act, the self-government bill, and it goes on and on and on and on.
And if you pick out, if you actually look at all of that legislation and ignore what the happy titles say and delve deep into it, what it's doing is it's putting more federal control over First Nations people while at the same time introducing legislation that will break up Indian reserves and make those lands available for sale to non-Indians and large corporations like Enbridge, for example.
ROY GREEN: Okay, I'm listening very carefully to what you're saying and I'm referencing as well the column that you wrote.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: And I want to keep everything under the umbrella of the Idle No More movement.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: Because that's what people are talking about now.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: So now the issue is about treaty signed between First Nations and the Crown and you wrote in the Ottawa Citizen column, here is the quote: The core treaty promised that we would all live together peacefully and share the wealth of this land.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: The problem is that only one treaty partner has seen any prosperity. And if I may continue, and I'd like to address all of this, it's going to take me about 30 seconds, go on to write that Canada has become prosperous and the Canadian standard of living has become significantly high while First Nations have, quote, been subjected to purposeful chronic underfunding of all their basic human services like water, sanitation, housing and education.
And you write, this has led to crises like the housing crisis at Attawapiskat. The counter-argument, and by the way…
PAM PALMATER: Um-hmm.
ROY GREEN: I hate seeing what happens to people who don't have clean water, who have… I thought what happened at Oka was an absolute disgrace. So I mean, that's just my point of view on those two issues.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: But the counter-argument that I hear on air and I read in emails is that the federal government, and I think there's some value to this counter-argument, the federal governments have delivered billions of dollars over the decades to First Nations communities and that much or at least some of that money has been misspent, perhaps by band councils and chiefs and to the detriment of their own band members and residents on band land.
PAM PALMATER: Yes, yes, you know what? I am so glad, when the media raised this because you hear it in commentary, you see it on the commentary on line, it's the rhetoric that's used in the House of Commons, but it is not based on fact. And if we're going to have this conversation, we have to have the facts.
And then here are the facts. The $9 billion that are appropriated every year for First Nations, over a third of that goes just to sustain the 5,000 army bureaucracy at Indian Affairs. And keep in mind many of those people make six figure salaries, they all have professional development, they have leave, sick leave, family leave. They have trips overseas. We just saw about those in the media.
I mean, this… and they only have one mandate. So if you think about $3 billion or $4 billion which goes just to sustain the Indian Affairs bureaucracy, and their one mandate is to improve the social well-being and economic prosperity of First Nations in this country, and you look at all the socio economic statistics

which show everything is getting worse for us - health, life span, birth rates, economic prosperity, education - over a 20 year time span getting worse.
They continue to fail at their jobs. Yet, they continue to increase in size and get better pay.
ROY GREEN: I said yesterday on the air I don't know how much money is actually gobbled up by the Ministry itself.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: I mentioned that on the air yesterday.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: But is there an argument?
PAM PALMATER: No,
ROY GREEN: Is there truth to...
PAM PALMATER: No!
ROY GREEN: Is there truth to the position that monies that do make their way to the band councils and the chiefs have been if not routinely then certainly...
PAM PALMATER: No.
ROY GREEN: ... significantly misspent.
PAM PALMATER: No, that's actually not a fact. Research was done into that and looked at all of the audits for all of the 615 First Nations across the country to determine how many of those audits indicated, and some of them are forensic audits, how many of those audits indicated in any way the possibility of actual corruption in terms of some chief was taking money for himself to fly to Florida or whatever kind of misspending. Less than three per cent had any kind of evidence whatsoever that might have led to any kind of misspending or corruption charges, less than three per cent. That's a lower corruption rate than all the municipalities, provinces and federal government itself in terms of its own misspending. And the other thing that people have to realize, there's a lot of myths about these millionaire chiefs in Canada. The facts on the ground however is there has never been a millionaire chief in this country ever. The average salary of our leaders is $36,000.
Thirty of our leaders don't make any salary. And compare that to the average salary of Canadians. Forty-six thousand dollars. Our leaders have to manage nations and treaty rights, federal, provincial, municipal types powers. They have to manage people, you know, sometimes tens of thousands of people. And compare that to say a librarian who makes $100,000 to manage books.
I mean, we've got to have the proper conversation and the facts on the table.
ROY GREEN: Well, that's why I'm talking to you.
PAM PALMATER: Yes, and our poverty is not caused by misspending by chiefs. It is caused by the purposeful chronic underfunding of the federal government which the federal government itself has admitted, it has said one of the primary reasons why we have 30,000 aboriginal children in foster care, which is more than during the residential school time, it's because of our failure to provide equitable funding like we provide to the provinces for child and family services.
ROY GREEN: Okay, let me get you to hold on. I have to take a break. We'll come back with Pamela Palmeter and your calls at 1-877-399-9898, 1-877-399-9898. Perhaps you've heard something that you want to respond to, something you want to react to, a question you want to ask.
Pamela Palmeter is the Chair of Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University. She's a lawyer and a law professor, an activist with the Idle No More movement and she ran for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.
There is of course also then the question that was raised yesterday on the air. And we talked about Chief Teresa Spence and listeners in emails and on the air wondered about actually about the 90 million in federal monies how that was spent, along with money from the De Beers Mining Company and does Chief Spence deserve to have become a symbol of First Nations frustration. All right?
There's legitimate questions, straightforward questions when I communicated with Pamela Palmeter about what we do on the air. The idea was to be straightforward and deal with the issues that people want to deal with and take the calls and answer the questions as you have them.
So we'll come back with your calls on the Green Show on the Corus Radio Network.
(break)
ROY GREEN: Send your emails to roy@roygreenshow.com and you can follow me on Twitter @theroygreenshow. Pamela Palmeter is my guest. She is an activist with Idle No More. She's a lawyer, university law professor at Ryerson University, First Nations band member from New Brunswick and ran for the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations.

I'll get to the phone calls in just a second, Pamela, but I just want to read you an email that came in from Victor in Richmond, B.C. He writes: Your guest perpetuates the myth that the only budget related to First Nations is Indian Affairs. In fact several federal departments such as Natural Resources, Health and Fisheries have aboriginal budgets. Here in B.C. five ministries have aboriginal departments. Across Canada, there are over 50 federal and provincial departments with aboriginal programs. Total spending is far above the 9 billion quoted and closer to 16 billion. Against this, there are 3,300 elected Indian politicians in Canada, about one for every 50 voting age adults.
PAM PALMATER: Okay, so it's true there are multiple federal and provincial departments across the country that assign budgets and staff to aboriginal issues. It doesn't mean a penny of that goes to any indigenous people whatsoever. So if you think about Justice Canada, they actually have a gigantic budget that's dedicated solely to litigating against First Nations people, providing advice to First Nations government departments on how to resist aboriginal and treaty rights. They're one of the only departments that have seen massive increases in their spending. I think it's something like 38 per cent in the last couple of years in a time of austerity, but not a penny of that goes to indigenous peoples. All of that money is used to fight indigenous peoples.
ROY GREEN: One of the complaints yesterday was there's a lack of transparency on what happens to the money, and that's right across the line, from the political, starting with the political...
PAM PALMATER: Um-hmm.
ROY GREEN: ... side of things and going all the way to the indigenous people. And is that a fair argument, a fair position to take?
PAM PALMATER: It's actually one of the myths that are perpetuated by Indian Affairs and other politicians about the lack of accountability for First Nations. And I used to be a director of Lands and Trusts at Indian Affairs. I also used to work at Justice Canada, so I know the inside system very well. Umm, here's the thing with any finances that go from federal departments to First Nations. Regardless of where they get it from, Natural Resources or Indian Affairs, they must account for every single penny that they get from the federal government on a regular basis. Now the average is anywhere between 150 and 238 reports a year per first nation. It works out to about one report every three days.
ROY GREEN: So what was going on then at Attawapiskat when the federal government said $90 million was delivered to the band council and they wanted to put a third party manager in charge?
PAM PALMATER: Oh, and that's a really good question because first of all, the funds that they were talking about, from the time they were in power from 2006 to 2012, so over a period of six years, and they weren't just including Indian Affairs funding. So it made it look like wait a second, last year we gave them $90 million. What did they do with it?
That's not the case. You're talking about on average 17 million a year going to Attawapiskat to pay for everything that the federal, provincial and municipal governments pay for regular provincial residents. So education, housing, infrastructure...
ROY GREEN: Um-hmm.
PAM PALMATER: ... the band office, that kind of thing.
ROY GREEN: Okay, now you wanted to hear from... you wanted to hear from callers.
PAM PALMATER: Yes, definitely.
ROY GREEN: And I've been delaying getting them on the air. We have a minute here before we take a break at the half hour.
PAM PALMATER: Sure.
ROY GREEN: We'll then continue with more. Here's Dan in Toronto. Go ahead, Dan.
CALLER: Hi, Roy, and hello to your guest. I just want to say I have two friends who are native, who had lived on reserve and they confide in me and said the only way things are going to change is if they close down the reserves and assimilate everything. These people have nothing to do with the reserves anymore. They have careers, jobs, they're professionals. They're doing very well. They told me you could throw $50 billion a year at it and nothing will change.
ROY GREEN: All right, Dan, I appreciate your call. Does that make you angry, Pamela, that kind of...
PAM PALMATER: Uh, no, it doesn't make me...
ROY GREEN: ... commentary?
PAM PALMATER: There's... I mean, lots of Canadians.
ROY GREEN: I'm not saying getting angry at Dan.
PAM PALMATER: Yeah, yeah.
ROY GREEN: It's just the commentary.

PAM PALMATER: Yeah, yeah. The commentary, because it's an uneducated commentary, yeah, we all have friends from different backgrounds who may have beefs with their communities or whatever. I mean, you can always find someone who doesn't like Prime Minister Harper, for example. It doesn't mean the beefs against them are correct, but shutting down the reserve, no First Nation person has ever come out and publicly said, no First Nation leader has come out and publicly said yeah, let's get rid of reserves. The fact of reserves is not the problem.
ROY GREEN: All right, hold on to that thought. Hold on to that thought please because I have to take a break. We have to take our satellite break and then we'll come back with Pamela Palmeter with your calls at 1-877-399-9898.
I'll go directly to the phones when we come back.
(break)
ROY GREEN: Pamela Palmater is with me, Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University, lawyer and law professor, activist with Idle No More.
And Pamela, I want to get some calls on in the minutes we have left, but you... do you want to finish the thought that you had just prior to the break?
PAM PALMATER: And where were we again?
ROY GREEN: Why don't we take another call? I kind of lost track of where we... It was somebody, caller Dan in Toronto had said...
PAM PALMATER: Oh, yes.
ROY GREEN: ... that some of his friends had left the reserve...
PAM PALMATER: Oh, yes.
ROY GREEN: ... and said the only way to proceed was to close reserves.
PAM PALMATER: Yeah. Yeah, and there's no First Nation leader asking for reserves to be closed because the problems that exist on some reserves have nothing to do with the fact that communities live on a certain piece of land. It really has everything to do with the federal government's, you know, chronic underfunding and maintained control over everything that happens on reserve.
ROY GREEN: All right. Mike is in White Rock, British Columbia. Mike, go ahead, please.
CALLER: Oh, hi, Roy, yeah, and Pamela. Pamela, you seem to be fairly educated and you will probably realize...
ROY GREEN: She has a PhD in... in... in law, so yeah.
PAM PALMATER: Yeah. Yeah.
CALLER: Yes. You probably realize that the people that came from Eastern Europe or came from Wales or Scotland or Ireland, who had everything stolen away from them settled countries like Australia and the United States and Canada. They had nothing. They got of their own two feet. So the best gift that the elders, the native elders could give to their people and the generations that will come after them, their children, whatever, is to hand back to the government all of the money they're getting and pick themselves up by their own two feet and get back and be contributors to the Canadian society.
ROY GREEN: All right, Mike. Thank you. Pamela, what do you say to that? This is not the first time you've heard that?
PAM PALMATER: Umm, no. It's a common misconception. It's the myth of how Canada was built that immigrants came over here, they had nothing and they just, you know, through hard work they all managed to become wealthy and prosperous.
The reason why Canada and the United States became such power countries is because they stole all of the land and resources from indigenous peoples; and then the labour that was needed to kind of make these powerhouses was they brought in slaves from Africa and stole the labour. So they stole the lands and resources and they stole the labour. It's a myth to think that people just came over here and made Canada into what it is.
ROY GREEN: But here's the... here's the question then. Is there... is there an interest in a significant percentage of aboriginal people, First Nations people in this country to let's use the word assimilate, to ... I forget what... what Mike's word ....
PAM PALMATER: Yeah.
ROY GREEN: ... was, was assimilate or blend in to the greater Canadian community and really create one community?
PAM PALMATER: No there isn't. And... and there shouldn't be an expectation of that either. Keep in mind we're treaty partners. So we're intermarried. We like working and living, you know, amongst one another and having good relations. But the fact of the matter is is that we're sovereign, independent indigenous

nations with our own cultures, languages and ways of life. And...
ROY GREEN: What does sovereign... what does sovereign nations mean in the context that you're delivering it?
PAM PALMATER: It means we're self-determining. We have the right to choose for ourselves what our version of the good life will be, just like other nations have that right to determine for themselves. And we're the original owners of these lands. We have own laws, our own governments, trade networks, alliances, that kind of thing, that have never been displaced. And we want that right to be self-determining which is recognized internationally to be respected.
ROY GREEN: Okay. I want to get some more calls but I want to just carry up on that... follow up on that point that you just made and...
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: ... to the discussion. What exactly is the objective, or what are the objectives of Idle No More? Where is Idle No More headed? You write that you expect the movement to increase in intensity...
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: ... because you don't believe the federal government of Canada is ready to, quote, "sit down and work this out peacefully any time soon". The word "peacefully" got my attention.
PAM PALMATER: Yes, and I believe that. I'm not trying to be pessimistic. I'm being realistic. I have studied this stuff my whole life and been in it. Where the governments go and this particular government's very clear about what policy and legal direction it's headed.
This government has got one objective and it's an aggressive resource development objective to make as much money as it can, giving our resources to countries like China and that kind of thing. So that means something. That means they have to remove all impediments.
You have C-38, C-45 which removes environmental and water protections, one of the sparks for our Idle No More movement, and we want that legislation repealed. But not just that legislation. The other 10 pieces of legislation which are trying to assimilate our communities against our will and...
ROY GREEN: Okay, so I understand that...
PAM PALMATER: Yeah.
ROY GREEN: ... from what you said, but when the word... when you... when you... when you say that...
PAM PALMATER: Oh, okay.
ROY GREEN: ... they're not ready to sit down and work this out peacefully any time soon...
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: ... and then I read also that when, as far as the Idle No More movement is concerned, country-wide economic disturbances are...
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: ... are planned.
PAM PALMATER: Yes.
ROY GREEN: What... what are we talking about here? What... what's...
PAM PALMATER: Okay, so...
ROY GREEN: ...what's on the table?
PAM PALMATER: Yeah, okay, so what's on the table is Idle No More is a peaceful movement and it's going to remain peaceful on our part. When I said peacefully, what I'm referring to is the fact that Canada often deals with us in a very violent nature. So even if we peacefully stand up for our rights you'll see land claims protesters have been shot. They use the military against our communities. You know, that kind of thing. So peaceful on our part, but I don't expect that Harper will remain peaceful much longer.
In terms of our activities, and you know, ramping things up, I'm talking about ramping things up across a whole level of spectrums like public education, media, reaching out the international community. It doesn't necessarily mean an escalation in... in violence, for example, because we're promoting only peaceful acts.
ROY GREEN: Okay. And when you talked about violence, violent acts, you're talking about Oka, you're talking about Ipperwash and situations like that.
PAM PALMATER: Yeah. What the federal and provincial governments have done to First Nations.
ROY GREEN: Okay. Jackie's in Kelowna, British Columbia. Jackie, go ahead please.
CALLER: Hi. To the lady there, I'm in favour of your Idle No More protest, but I'm going to tell you something. You said there's never been any millionaire chiefs in Canada. You're very wrong. Have you ever heard of the West Bank First Nations?
PAM PALMATER: Yes.

CALLER: Yeah. Well, former Chief Ron Derrickson was a millionaire when he became chief. Our chief now, Robert Louie, is also a millionaire.
PAM PALMATER: Um-hmm.
CALLER: So please don't say there's no millionaire chiefs in Canada because there are. And there are throughout the Okanagan.
PAM PALMATER: Okay. So that's a really good point.
CALLER: Yes.
PAM PALMATER: So keep in mind the conversation that we were talking about was the federal funding that flows to First Nations.
CALLER: Oh. Oh, no. They didn't make their money through federal funding.
PAM PALMATER: No. No.
CALLER: Absolutely not.
PAM PALMATER: No. What I'm talking about is there's never been a chief who's ever drawn a million dollar salary out of federal funds.
CALLER: No.
PAM PALMATER: There's lots of independent leaders who may have side businesses and that kind of thing.
CALLER: Yeah.
PAM PALMATER: But there's never been a millionaire chief from federal funding.
ROY GREEN: Jackie... Jackie, I take it you're aboriginal?
CALLER: No, I'm not. But...
ROY GREEN: Okay.
CALLER: ... but I do believe in... in what's going on. And we have a Prime Minister in this country that rules by decree. He's a dictator because he passes omnibus bills, one after another, after another, and he hides every little thing he wants in there. And not even the people that we elected have a right to even talk about it in Parliament. They're not given that right.
ROY GREEN: Well, I tell you...
CALLER: And to me...
ROY GREEN: Thank you, Jackie.
CALLER: ... that's dictatorship.
ROY GREEN: Okay, Jackie. They... he was elected by our old tried and true system, the parliamentary vote.
And I think that Mr. ... I forget his name now. Who was the Liberal leader? What's happening? Mike Ignatieff.
PAM PALMATER: Michael Ignatieff.
ROY GREEN: Yeah, he was his... he was own worst enemy.
PAM PALMATER: Yeah.
ROY GREEN: He really was. He... the way he talked down to Jack Layton in that debate, nobody really cares about what you have to say, Mr. Layton. They only care about the two important parties - the Conservatives and the Liberals. And we saw what happened.
Pamela, I'm sorry but we have... we've used up our allotted time here. I would like to have you back on the show.
PAM PALMATER: Any time.
ROY GREEN: And take some more calls and talk to us about this issue because it is key to... to... well, it's key to everybody in the country.
PAM PALMATER: Yeah. It's public education and thank you so much. These are all awesome questions.
ROY GREEN: All right, I appreciate the time. Thank you.
PAM PALMATER: Thanks. Bye, bye.
ROY GREEN: Bye. Pamela Palmater on the Roy Green Show on the Corus Radio Network. We will have her back. There's a lot of emotion that gets... come out when we talk about aboriginal issues, First Nation issues; and I think there are times we, you know, we just have to deal with the questions. The best way to deal with an issue is to talk about it and... and to get... see if we can find common ground.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/4/2013 1:54 PM
Subject: Rumored press conference by Chief Spence
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

We have been made aware of this potential event. We have requested a transcript of this event should it happen.

Attawapiskat Chief to meet with the media to formally respond to the Prime Minister's intention to meet with First Nations leaders.
Victoria Island
2:00 pm

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/9/2013 12:59 PM
Subject: Stephen Harper Must Be Idle No More Says President of Canada's Leading Union
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Stephen Harper Must Be Idle No More Says President of Canada's Leading Union
FOR: UFCW CANADA

TORONTO, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - Jan. 9, 2013) - The meeting this week in Ottawa between the Prime Minister, and Idle No More advocates and First Nations leaders must result in more than just a photo opportunity, but Government Boss Stephen Harper's history is not encouraging. One of the first actions Harper took when he first became Prime Minister was to discard the Kelowna Accord - a comprehensive agreement between the federal and provincial governments, and the leaders of five national Aboriginal organizations in Canada to bring equitable education, employment and living conditions to Aboriginal Peoples.

The agreement was the result of two years of consultations between the stakeholders. When he came to power, Harper tossed the Kelowna Accord aside in his first budget; claiming it was a working paper, and not binding on his government.

Seven years later, a crisis of inadequate housing, health care, educational resources, and lack of employment opportunities continues in First Nations communities. What hasn't continued is consultation, which is not a surprise from a Harper government which has spent millions touting its Canada's Economic Action Plan, but has shown little action in addressing or listening to the voices and concerns of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples. The government's ear has been more focused on its corporate supporters, who were recently rewarded with the gutting of environmental regulations and review processes, which could potentially result in tremendous harm to air, soil and water quality in treaty-land areas near pipelines, mines, and shipping channels. These changes, forced through in Harper's recent budgets, were not only undemocratic but are now also the focus of Charter legal challenges for failing to consult with First Nations communities on matters that impact their treaty rights.

The Idle No More Movement, and the hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence have forced a reluctant Harper to meet this week with First Nations stakeholders whose serious concerns have up until now been treated like an inconvenience. This is the same government that conducted a spying campaign on Dr. Cindy Blackstock, an advocate for Aboriginal children, and the Executive Director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCS), which is a UFCW Canada National Partner.

Prime Minister Harper will no doubt be smiling for the media at this week's meeting, but the time for being idle and cynical, while a crisis rages in Canada's Aboriginal communities, must end. Serious consultation must resume to deliver a legitimate action plan with set goals and a timetable to provide the equity, safety, health care and opportunity now denied to hundreds of thousands of Aboriginal women, men and children across Canada.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: Faye Horne
To: Joanne Wilkinson
Date: 1/4/2013 4:56 PM
Subject: Table

Here is the revised table. The gap between the CMHC Allocation Year and the Date of Installment is attributed to funds not being able to flow due to outstanding community infrastructure reporting.

The timing in between the Approval Date and the Activation is detailed in the last column.

Minister in Office at Application Approval	Guaranteed Amount	CMHC Allocation Year	Date of Installment	Application Approval Date	Active Date	Status History (from Approval to Activation)
Minister Scott	$1,432,800.00	2004/2005	2008/03/01	2005/05/15	2005/12/15	
Minister Strahl	$1,350,000.00	2007/2008	2009/12/01	2007/08/29	2007/08/29	
Minister Strahl	$553,500.00	2007/2008	2009/08/01	2007/08/29	2011/03/14	- was pending activation since 2007/08/29
Minister Strahl	$750,072.00	2007/2008	2009/10/01	2008/09/12	2008/09/12	
Minister Strahl	$1,421,600.00	2008/2009	2009/08/01	2008/09/12	2011/03/14	- pending activation since 2008/09/12
Minister Duncan	$1,755,000.00	2009/2010	2012/04/01	2011/07/18		

2011/08/10
- initiated 2010/11/08
- pending activation 2010/11/08
- canceled 2011/03/02
- inactivated 2011/03/02
- initiated 2011/05/19
- pending activation 2011/05/19
- awaiting approval 2011/07/12
- approved 2011/07/18
- activated 2011/08/10

$7,262,972.00

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/8/2013 5:32 PM
Subject: Top of the Afternoon / Manchettes de l'après-midi
Attachments: January 8 Top of Afternoon.pdf; HQ Inform.vcf

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CBC the Current: DISCUSSION ON FIRST NATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY

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RDI: Les Métis et les Indiens non-inscrits sont des Indiens en vertu de la Constitution canadienne.

CP: Metis and non status Indians declared 'Indians' under Constitution Act: court

Radio-Canada - RÉACTION DU MINISTRE DUNCUN AU JUGEMENT SUR LES MÉTIS

CBC News Network: Albert Bands take federal government to court

CBC News Network: Report on Metis status ruling

Radio-Canada - LES METIS DORENAVANT CONSIDERES COMME DES INDIENS AU SENS DE LA LOI,

Radio-Canada - La cour fédérale statue que les Métis et les Indiens non inscrits sont des Indiens

APTN News: Attawapiskat Chief Spence's life partner' challenges department to launch forensic audit, says ban...

Jim Hurcomb

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Qs & As – TC Financial Advisory Services

1. What funding does Muskegowuk Tribal Council receive from AANDC and for what purpose?

Mushkegowuk Tribal Council receives funding under the Tribal Council Funding Program for the aggregate delivery of programs and services to seven (7) affiliated First Nation member communities. Funding is provided for general administration and for the delivery of advisory services and programs to affiliated First Nation(s) in five (5) areas. One of the five (5) areas is the provision of financial advisory services.

2. What constitutes the provision of financial advisory services?

Financial advisory services are broadly defined in order to enable flexibility and adaptability for Tribal Councils to response to the specific needs and priorities of a member First Nation(s). A sample of financial advisory services could include assisting, advising and training member First Nation(s) in a broad range of financial areas such as planning, reporting and financial system development; formulating, drafting and implementing financial management policies, procedures; establishing budgets and financial policies.

3. What is the level of financial advisory support Mushkegowuk Tribal Council is providing to their member First Nation(s) including Attawapiskat First Nation?

Through annual reporting to the department, Mushkegowuk indicates it provides financial advisory services and financial related documents through meetings, training sessions / workshops, direct communications (i.e. telephone calls, e-mails) and on-site visits. As a result of the co-management situation being experienced by Attawapiskat First Nation in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, Mushkeegowuk Tribal Council directed additional financial advisory services as well as political support to the community.

Specifically, in 2010-2011, the Executive Director of Mushkegowuk Tribal Council worked with the Co-Manager and the Band Manager of Attawapiskat First Nation on the development of the Remedial Action Plan to address the deficit. In December 2011, Mushkegowuk hosted a First Nation Management Workshop in Timmins, ON where approximately 40 managers of their member First Nation communities were in attendance.

4. What steps does a Tribal Council take regarding the provision of financial advisory services to their First Nation member communities?

A Tribal Council is mandated by each member First Nation(s) community for the provision of the advisory service. However, the type of financial advisory services and the manner in which it is provided is determined in conjunction with the needs and priorities of the member First Nation. Mushkeegowuk Tribal Council does provide direct support to their member First Nation communities experiencing financial difficulties. However, it is at the request of their member

First Nation communities.

5. What is the level of financial intervention being presently experienced by Mushkegowuk Tribal Council affiliated member First Nation communities?

Four (4) of the seven (7) affiliated First Nation member communities is under intervention with three (Attawapiskat, Kashechewan and Taykwa Tagagmou) of the four communities have engaged an Expert Resource (ie Co-management) to assist in the delivery of programs and services. Mushkegowuk Tribal Council itself is under a recipient managed intervention due to a deficit financial situation.

6. How will the recently announced federal approach to the funding of Tribal Councils affect Mushkeegowuk Tribal Council and its provision of advisory services?

Under the new federal approach, Tribal Councils will be funded based on several considerations, including the size of populations they serve, the number of First Nations in their membership, and the range of major programs they deliver. Member First Nation(s) can continue to mandate their Tribal Council to perform advisory service(s) as a part of their partnership arrangement.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/11/2013 4:18 PM
Subject: Toronto Star: First Nations leaders want in on natural resources boom
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

First Nations leaders want in on natural resources boom

Les Whittington
Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA--Over the next decade, a huge boom in Canadian natural resource projects -- possibly worth $600 billion -- is foreseen on or near First Nations lands.

And this time, aboriginals are demanding their share of the economic pie.

Behind the complex issues of treaties and historic rights being raised by native leaders is the dollars-and-cents reality of who gets to pocket the benefits from Canada's mining and petroleum riches.

Natural resources generate $30 billion in provincial and federal tax and royalty revenues annually, along with tens of billions of dollars in economic activity. With worldwide demand for commodities surging upward, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has anchored his government's economic growth strategy on a massive expansion of the highly profitable natural resource sector.

For First Nations, gaining access to more of this wealth is vital to their hopes of improving their peoples' living standards. So, new approaches to sharing resource riches will be a key part of any talks between Harper and aboriginal leaders.

At the same time, the ability of native groups to derail the Conservatives' blueprint for prosperity by blocking natural resource projects has been made apparent by the Idle No More protests.

The movement "can stop Prime Minister Harper's resource development plan and his billion-dollar plan to develop resources in our ancestral territory. We have the warriors that are standing up now, that are willing to go that far," warned Derek Nepinak, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

It was the Harper's government's efforts in its 2012 budget legislation to streamline environmental rules to speed up natural resource projects that prompted the current explosion of outrage among natives.

The Conservative strategy backfired with First Nations, who see the environmental reforms as an outright attack on their lands and livelihoods. And the result has been the creation of a native movement determined to change not only Ottawa's pared-down environmental protection rules but the entire relationship with Canada's non-aboriginals.

As with most public issues, financial questions are at the heart of the transformation being sought.

Outlining the demands, B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould said First Nations want to rewrite constitutional arrangements on resource revenue to provide natives with a portion of the billions of dollars in royalties that currently flow to the provinces. First Nations "are looking to the prime minister for a commitment to develop a framework around resource revenue-sharing" that would lead to agreements with the provinces and Ottawa, Wilson-Raybould said.

That's not a task Harper, a staunch believer in provincial rights, is likely to take on. But the federal government has recognized the potential to bring about major change in the way natives benefit from natural resources operations, particularly in employment. A national push to improve education and skills training is seen by business and government as an obvious strategy, since aboriginal youth are the

fastest growing segment of the population at a time when Canada faces widespread skills shortages and an aging workforce.

"We have a shortage of labour and lots of opportunity, and we want to make sure that those opportunities are available for aboriginal people and prosperity is available for them as we move forward," Harper said, in advance of expected discussions with First Nations leaders.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts;...
Date: 1/16/2013 9:28 PM
Subject: Toronto Star: NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair goes after minds of Canadians on First Nations issues
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair goes after minds of Canadians on First Nations issues

OTTAWA--The best way to win over Canadians who may not be sympathetic to aboriginal causes is to appeal to their self-interest, says New Democrat Leader Thomas Mulcair.

"If you can't get people to do it because it's the right thing to do, you can also convince them that it is in their own interests to do it and that is the truth," Mulcair said Wednesday in an interview with the Star.

The Idle No More movement and everything that goes with it has pushed the topic of aboriginal affairs into conversations in the corridors of power and around the dinner tables of the nation alike, but that doesn't mean all Canadians agree with doing more for First Nations people.

Mulcair said he believes "most Canadians are pretty understanding" of First Nations rights, history and the injustices they have faced and continue to suffer, but even those who are not, or who do not want the Conservative government to do more for them without increased financial accountability on reserves, can be brought onside.

"It's even in the interest of those who consider that resource development should be unbridled and should be the only economic activity, because if they understood that what is standing in the way of being able to do this in any coherent manner is the courts' insistence that First Nations rights be respected," Mulcair said.

This is something that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is realizing too late in the game, Mulcair argued, suggesting that First Nations anger -- and court actions -- over what they perceive to be a lack of consultation over legislation and natural resource development projects that affect their land and way of life will increasingly stymie his economic agenda.

Mulcair pointed to a moment in the 2006 election when Harper said voters had nothing to fear from a Conservative majority because a Liberal-dominated Senate, courts and senior public service would temper any changes they sought.

"Everybody was sort of going, 'That's a bit creepy . . . . You're going to be the prime minister and you're going to have to work with what's there and you can transform and make your own imprint, but you are going to have to work with people,' " Mulcair recalled.

"He was giving away his deepest thoughts when he was saying that, because now the thing that is standing between him and his desire just to steamroll this thing through is the presence of the court system holding up aboriginal rights," said Mulcair, who believes that is what may end up being the nail in the coffin of the B.C. Northern Gateway pipeline project.

While the Conservative government can force changes to environmental protection regulations through Parliament with omnibus budget implementation bills and a majority government, Mulcair argued, they cannot stop how the courts interpret the duty to consult with First Nations.

"He's never understood that you have to work with. He always works against and that is starting to come home to roost and his frustration level is going to increase," Mulcair said.

Still, Mulcair acknowledged there are things the Conservative government has accomplished that could probably not be reversed, even if the NDP manages to win the 2015 election.

"A failure to enforce existing legislation and then, after that, simply getting rid of that legislation is going to have a devastating, long-term effect on some very large ecosystems in our country," said Mulcair, who was referring to changes to the environmental assessment process, the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Fisheries Act.

Mulcair also said the Wheat Board "might be a permanent, long-term loss", that he is worried about possibly irreversible changes to the supply management system for dairy and poultry farmers as Canada negotiates the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Alerts; Andrew Saranchuk...
Date: 1/8/2013 7:43 AM
Subject: Toronto Star: Attawapiskat audit is no excuse for denying native grievances: Editorial
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Attawapiskat audit is no excuse for denying native grievances: Editorial

For Chief Theresa Spence and the crisis-ridden Attawapiskat First Nation, a sharply critical audit of their handling of federal funds could not have surfaced at a worse time. Spence's hunger strike has called attention to the challenges faced by native communities across the country as the Idle No More protest movement gathers force.

She even succeeded in shaming Prime Minister Stephen Harper into agreeing to meet native leaders on Friday, to discuss grievances that range from the outdated Indian Act to disregard for treaty rights to wretched living conditions and poor education. Yet the audit by Deloitte, requested by Ottawa to ensure that the $104 million it gave to Attawapiskat from 2005 to 2011 was spent as it should have been, has been unable to confirm that the money was properly handled.

After probing more than 500 transactions, auditors found that more than 400 lacked proper documentation. "We were unable to determine if the funds were spent for their intended purposes," Deloitte wrote in a letter to Spence. The auditors found "no evidence of due diligence in the use of public funds" for housing, infrastructure, education and health. They called for better management controls, accounting and filing systems.

This criticism will unsettle some who are sympathetic to Spence's protest and the plight of native communities. They speak to poor management of taxpayers' funds, in Attawapiskat at least, at a time when native leaders are lobbying for more federal help. But in fairness, the findings need to be kept in perspective.

Much has been written about mismanagement, lack of accountability, cronyism, waste and worse in some communities. But during the audit period the Attawapiskat First Nation was under "co-management." The government can't credibly claim to have been blindsided by deficiencies when Ottawa and the band had to agree on a co-manager with signing power. There's blame enough to go around.

Moreover, without whitewashing Attawapiskat's management failings it's worth bearing in mind that evidence of sloppy bookkeeping is not proof of wrongdoing, or even waste. That remains to be shown.

While the audit should spur reform, it should not become a pretext for denying the wider problem. Canada's 1.7 million indigenous people have faced a century of prejudice, abuse, marginalization and paternalistic neglect that has too often led to social breakdown and shameful living conditions. The Idle No More protesters demand better. As the Harper government presses native leaders for more effective governance, it must be prepared as well to address their legitimate grievances and provide redress.

Jim Hurcomb

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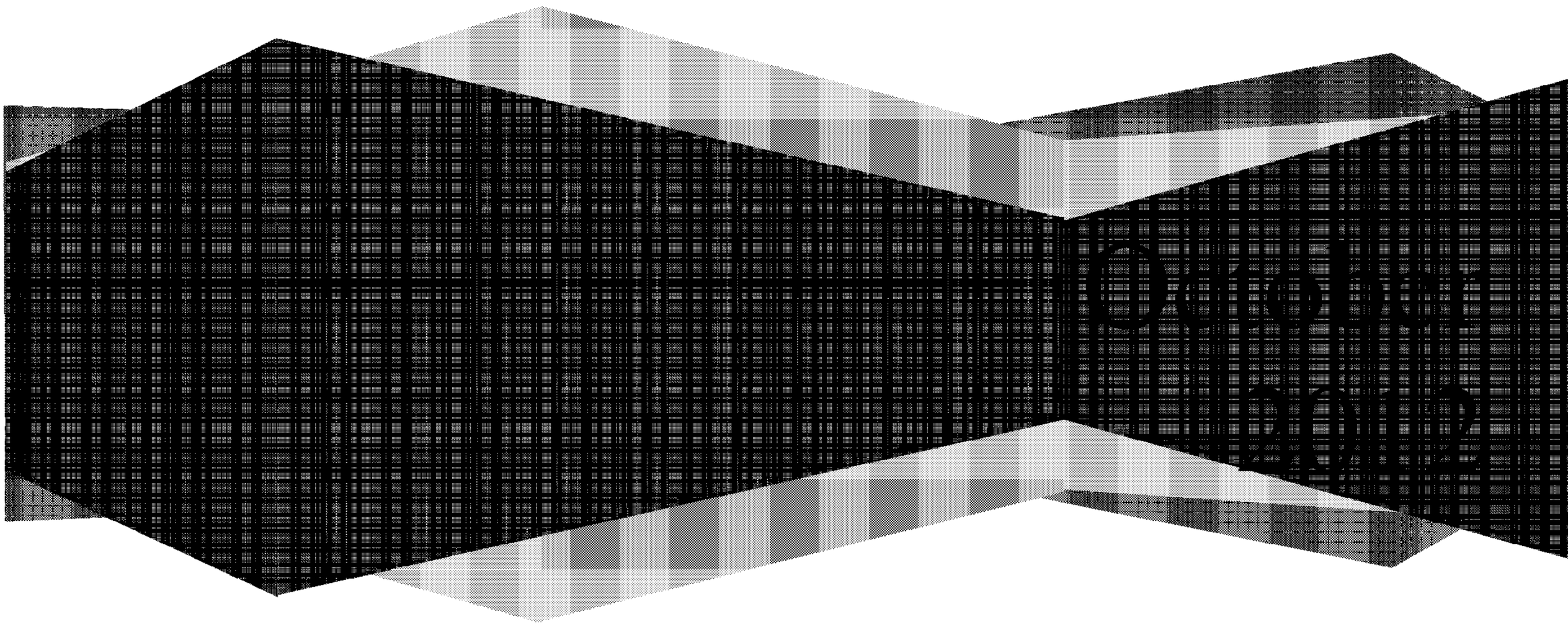
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ATTAWAPISKAT:

10 UNIT ABANDONED OR CONDEMNED HOUSING REVIEW

Derek Laronde, OFNTSC
Ron Hunter, Mushkegowuk Council



Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation

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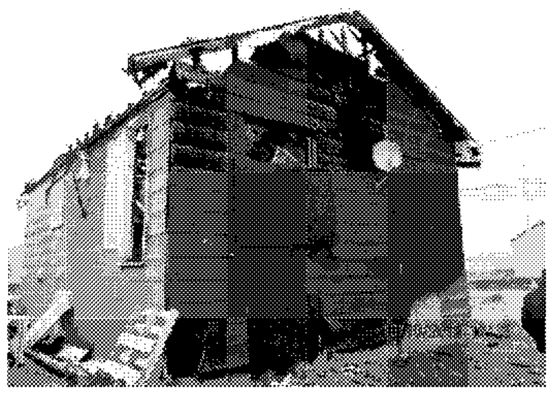
Housing Inspection Report

First Nation: Attawapiskat First Nation	**Location: Various locations within First Nation**
Occupant: Condemned or Abandoned	**Inspection Date: October 10 and 11, 2012**
Inspected By: **Derek Laronde / Ron Hunter** **OFNTSC Mushkegowuk Council**	**Type of Construction:** □ First Nation Owned □ First Nation Rental □ Privately □ Owned Other
Type of Inspection: □ Plans Evaluation □ Site Inspection □ Foundation □ Framing □ Vapor Barrier/Insul. □ Final ☒Other: Condition Insp.	**Type of Dwelling** ☒ Single □ Split Level □ 2 Storey □ Duplex □Other_____

A Request by the Mushkegowuk Council to assist in the evaluation of dwellings that were identified as abandoned or Condemned on the Attawapiskat First Nation. Inspections were conducted on the dwellings outlined by the First Nation in conjunction with the Mushkegowuk Council on a previous asset evaluation of a selection of housing stock. 10 buildings were identified on this inspection. Locations of the dwellings are outlined on the attached community lot plan in Appendix A. The Inspection details for the date listed are as follows.

s.19(1)

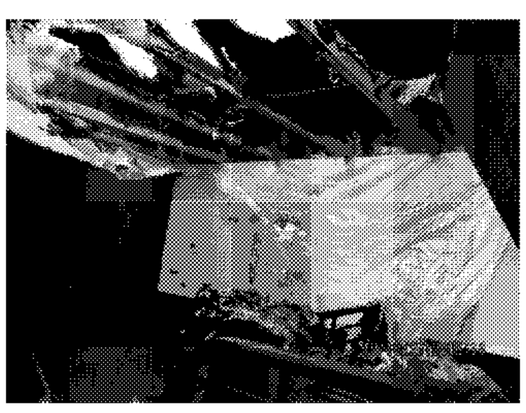
Burn House #1

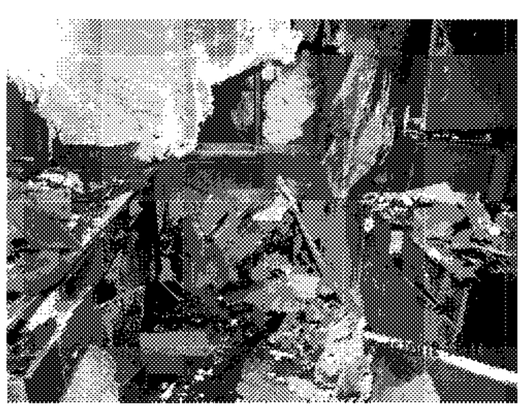


This House is located at the intersection of [redacted] The structure dwelling has been subjected to fire damage. Review of the remaining structure revealed that the structural integrity of the framing has been compromised by the fire and subsequent water by either the extinguishing of the fire or exposure to the elements after the fire.

This structure should be demolished and the site utilized for new Construction.









Code Used: ☒ **NBC** **OFNIHC** **OBC**

Inspector: Derek Laronde **Signature:**

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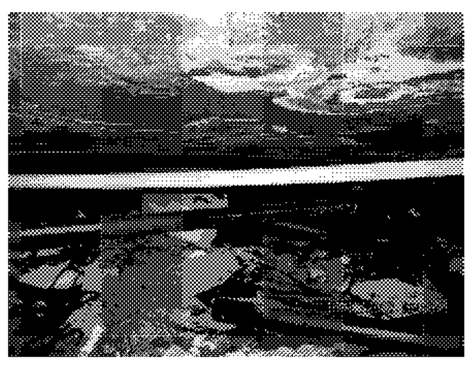
Housing Inspection Report

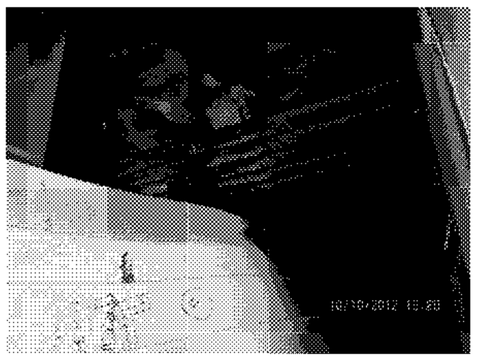
Burn House #2



This House is located at the near the intersection of [redacted] The structure dwelling has been subjected to internal fire damage. Review of the remaining structure revealed that the structural integrity of the framing has been compromised by the fire and subsequent water by either the extinguishing of the fire or exposure to the elements after the fire. Excessive moisture and mold was observed in the crawlspace area. Access to the structure was limited for the protection of community members.

This structure should be demolished and the sleeper trailer in the rear of the structure removed. The site could be utilized for new construction of residential units.







Brown Mold / Sewage Back Up House



This residence was one of the community homes affected by the sewage back up in 2009. The residence has remained in this condition since the incident. The structure is also affected by natural high water table contributing to the effect of moisture on the structural foundation and mold growth within the building. The foundation was constructed as a preserved wood foundation (PWF). The current condition of the dwelling and the inherent water problems due to the nature of the terrain, this structure was deem not cost effective to repair. Visual indications of the current condition revealed that arson was already attempted on the structure.

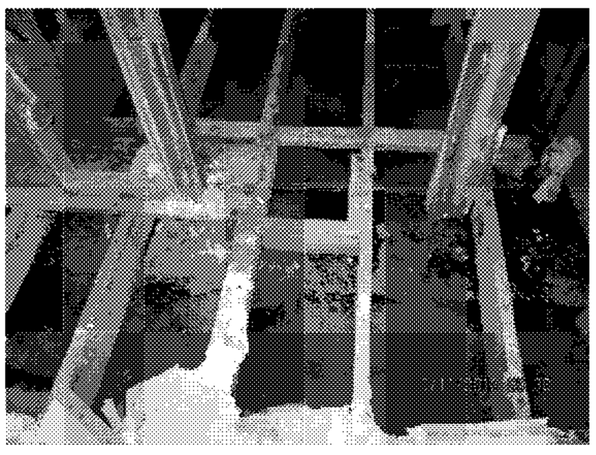
Code Used: ☒ **NBC** **OFNIHC** **OBC**

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Housing Inspection Report

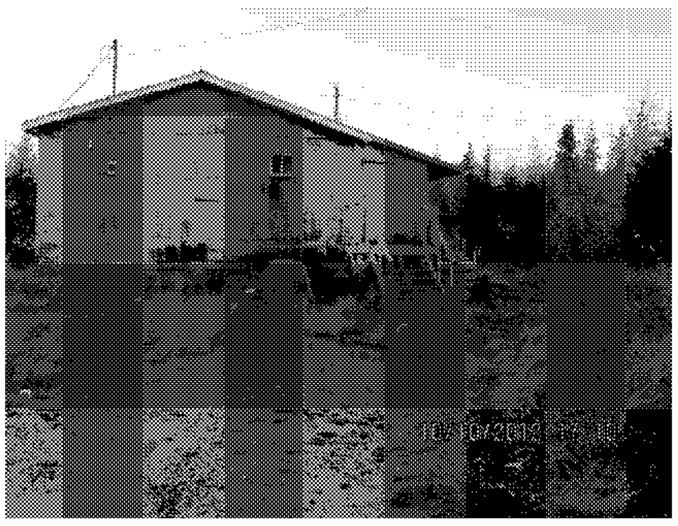


Review of the interior revealed the presence of high water directly below the basement floor elevation, and the formation of mold spores on the interior surfaces of the structure resulting from the high moisture

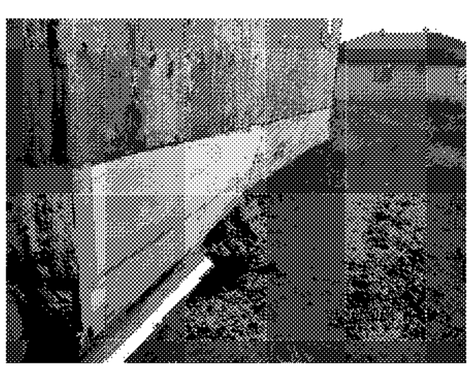


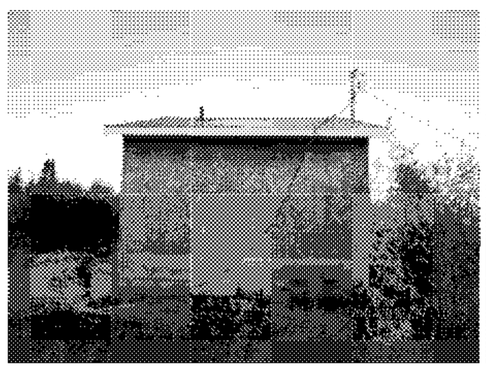
Due to the cost to raise the structure, renovate and mitigation measurements for ground water control, would be cost prohibitive in relation to building new at a higher elevation. **The existing structure should be demolished and the excavation filled in to 300 mm above the high water mark or level with the grade and new construction on this lot should be limited to a slab on grade design.**

<u>Two Room Structure</u> s.19(1)



This Structure is located on [redacted] and is currently occupied by an [redacted] of the First Nation. The structure consists of only two (2) rooms. The structure does not have electricity, Water or Sanitary services. Under the National building code the residence cannot be occupied without these essential services. The existing structure was built in the 1960's. At the time of the inspection the interior was not accessible as the occupant was not available. The building had been reviewed previously by Mr. Ron Hunter, Mushkegowuk council inspector who revealed the interior conditions; the building size is dimensioned 24' X 16' the structure occupies a lot suitable for a larger family home or duplex. The existing structure is not suitable for renovation due to age and condition. The rear of the building had evidence of frost action on the foundation by shifting or buckling of the foundation wall.







Code Used: ☒ **NBC** **OFNIHC** **OBC**

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Ph.(416)651-1443 416)651-1673

Housing Inspection Report

The Existing Structure is deemed not cost effective due to Size, Age, and lack of services. The existing lot should be utilized for single family dwelling or duplex construction to accommodate the First Nations housing needs.

Recommendations

The Structures listed above would allow Four (4) additional serviced or partially serviced building lots. It is recommended that future developments of residential buildings utilize the existing building lots for multiple family dwellings. The construction of duplexes would better suit the housing need of the community.

s.19(1)

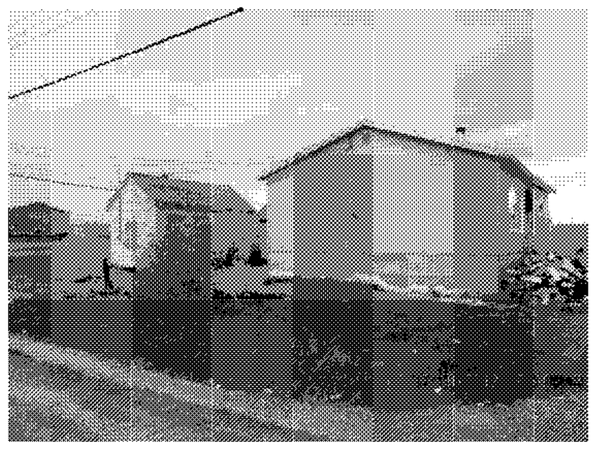
Privately owned Buildings



This structure is located on [redacted] The structure is located between two existing residential homes. Access to the interior was not available at the time of the inspection. Discussions with the neighbor it was revealed that the interior walls and floor were removed and the owner [redacted] intends to use the structure as a garage on his lot.



This structure is located [redacted] at the intersection of [redacted] The structure in question assumed to be built in the late 1950s is used by the occupants who constructed a new residence on the building lot and utilize the old structures as storage sheds.





This Building is located on [redacted] this building was constructed in the 1960s and was the family home. The owner lives [redacted] in a newer home with his parents. The structure is utilized as a work shop for in discussions with the owner of the buildings

Code Used: ☒ **NBC** **OFNIHC** **OBC**

Inspector: Derek Laronde **Signature:**

Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation

Toronto Office
111 Peter Street, Suite 606
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2H1
Ph.(416)651-1443 416)651-1673

Housing Inspection Report

**Review of the locations of these three structures it was revealed that they were associated with the occupants of the building lots where the structures were located. Removal of these structures would not necessarily permit the construction of new residences to replace the current foot print as they are located on existing lots with established dwellings on them.

POTENTIAL STRUCTURES FOR REMEDIATION s.19(1)

House with addition



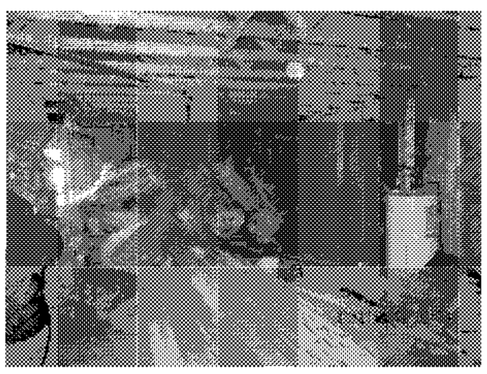
This building is located on the corner of [redacted] The building is currently unoccupied. It appears that the construction of the dwelling was never completed. The interior of the unit has no interior walls and is partially insulated. The residence has the potential to be completed and the addition to the side constructed to permit a 4-5 bedroom residence. The addition has partially constructed foundation walls founded on concrete footings. The addition could be completed and frost protected to permit the installation of 2-3 additional bedrooms.

The interior of the building does not appear to be damaged and has an open floor plate that would allow the construction of interior walls and 3 bedrooms in the current layout. There is a stockpile of fiberglass insulation in the building that does not appear to be damaged or saturated. There is an existing electrical panel located on of the exterior walls that would have to be up graded to current standards and electric hot water tank that would require replacement. For the most part the structural integrity of the building is intact.

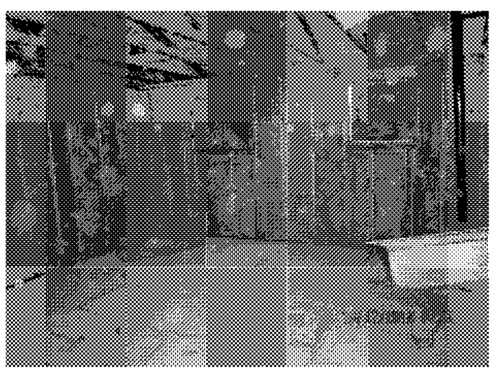
The foundation of the main building is a Preserved Wood Foundation (PWF) crawlspace foundation which appears to be in reasonable condition. A thorough review would be required for deterioration or damage.



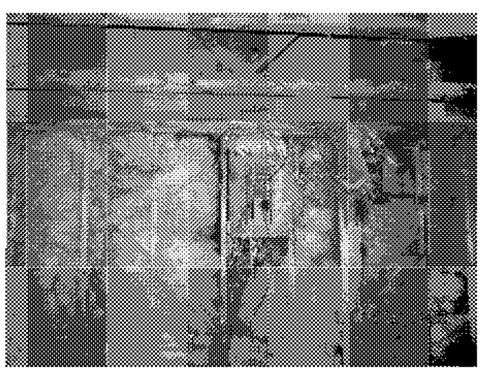
Crawlspace



Insulation Stockpile



Open Floor Plate



Electrical Panel

Code Used: ☒ **NBC** **OFNIHC** **OBC**

Inspector: Derek Laronde **Signature:**

Chief Theresa Spence and Council
Attawapiskat First Nation
PO Box 248
ATTAWAPISKAT ON P0L 1A0

Dear Chief Spence and Council:

I am writing to follow up on our collaborative work toward ensuring that the urgent health and safety needs of your community are met.

As you know, Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Greg Rickford, members of my staff, and departmental officials sought to visit your community in December 2012 but were unable to obtain your agreement to do so. I had been hoping to learn from that visit of any outstanding issues with regard to urgent health and safety needs, and so I write to you today to seek your feedback on these important matters.

With regard to the ATCO trailer complex specifically, while funding of more than $309,000 has been approved by departmental officials, I understand that repairs to the complex are not scheduled to be complete until at least the end of this month. Given that we are now well into the winter season, I am concerned about the timeline for this project and would appreciate an update from Council's perspective at your earliest possible convenience.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

John Duncan, PC, MP

Joanne Wilkinson/RDG-ON/416-973-6201
January 15, 2013; CIDM 546783
R: T. Tarvainen/ESC-ON/416-954-3020
January 15, 2013

From: Faye Horne
To: Sylvia Tassé
CC: Christopher Horton; Donna Brennan; Joanne Wilkinson; John Schmied; L...
Date: 1/9/2013 1:39 PM
Subject: TORONTO-#507955-v67-ESC_-_QP_CARD_-_ATTAWAPISKAT_HOUSING__1
Attachments: TORONTO-#507955-v67-ESC_-_QP_CARD_-_ATTAWAPISKAT_HOUSING__1.doc

Attached, for Ron's review and approval, is the RDG approved QP Card on housing in Attawapiskat.

QUESTION

What is the government doing to ensure that the residents of Attawapiskat First Nation have adequate housing, particularly those living in the ATCO trailers?

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

- **The Government of Canada remains committed to assisting the Attawapiskat First Nation in addressing its long-term housing challenges.**

- **My Department is providing $309,657 in 2012-2013 so that the First Nation can undertake emergency repairs needed to ensure that the ATCO trailer complex remains a warm, safe shelter for current residents this winter.**

- **Since 2011-2012, AANDC has provided over $4.7 million in funding to address housing issues, including the purchase, delivery and installation of 22 modular homes; the retrofitting of the community's healing lodge in order to provide safe and temporary shelter; the renovation of existing houses; and substantial repairs to the ATCO trailer complex.**

- **It is the First Nation's responsibility to develop a housing strategy and set priorities for the community. To this end, the Department continues to work with the First Nation to develop a strategy.**

TORONTO#507955 - v42
TORONTO#507955 - v48
TORONTO#507955 - v52
TORONTO#507955 - v65

BACKGROUND
Since 2011-2012, AANDC has provided over $4.7 million in funding to address housing issues consisting of:

- $3,258,713 for 22 modular homes ($2,938,713 in 2011-2012 and $320,000 in 2012-2013 has flowed)
- $499,500 for housing renovations
- $372,523 for emergency repairs to the ATCO trailer complex ($133,963 in 2011-2012) and healing lodge ($238,560 in 2011-2012), and
- $581,407 in core minor capital for 2011-2012.

Attawapiskat Housing Strategy Working Group
In the absence of a concrete strategy, on August 27, 2012, AANDC officials met with representatives of Attawapiskat First Nation, MTC and OFNTSC and established the Attawapiskat First Nation Housing Strategy Working Group. The group has met regularly during the fall of 2012.

ATCO trailer complex
On October 30, 2012, the Regional Director General, Ontario Region, sent a letter to Chief Spence indicating that the Department is prepared to provide up to $300,000 in funding for 2012-2013 so that the First Nation can undertake immediate repairs needed to ensure that the ATCO trailer complex remains a warm, safe shelter for current residents this winter.

In a January 3, 2013, letter to the First Nation, AANDC advised that the ATCO trailer complex renovation project had been approved at a total estimated cost of $309,657, and that $300,000 will be processed in the next amendment to the First Nation's funding agreement, of which $280,000 will be released, with $20,000 to be held in a pool. The letter indicates that the remaining $9,657 has been budgeted for the 2012-2013 fiscal year pending receipt and acceptance of reporting requirements. The letter stressed that the First Nation is required to manage the project within the maximum approved funding amount as well as provide project completion, inspection and detailed financial reports on the project no later than April 30, 2013.

Expert Resource
The First Nation's expert resource has been working in the community since the beginning of November 2012.

On December 4, 2012, the RDG-ON advised Chief Spence by letter that the Department will provide the First Nation with a payment of $136,132.49 as a demonstration of the Department's continued focus on supporting the First Nation in ensuring the health and safety of its members. A cheque was issued to the First Nation on December 5, 2012.

Fuel shortage
The last barge carrying fuel to Attawapiskat was cancelled on November 10, 2012. On December 2, 2012, Chief Spence wrote to the Department requesting funding assistance for the delivery of fuel by air.

On December 21, 2012, AANDC advises the First Nation by letter that the Department will provide $97,387 to assist the First Nation with the delivery of essential fuel until winter roads become available in February 2013.

Riding:	Charlie Angus, Timmins—James Bay (NDP)	
Contact Person:	John Schmied	(416) 973-2281
Consulted:	N/A	
Parliamentary:		
Approved by:		

TORONTO#507955 - v42
TORONTO#507955 - v48
TORONTO#507955 - v52
TORONTO#507955 - v65

From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
Date: 1/16/2013 1:01 PM
Subject: torontostar.com: Idle No More: Chief says protesters won't block Ambassador Bridge border crossing
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Idle No More: Chief says protesters won't block Ambassador Bridge border crossing

Protesters say a rally today at the foot of the Ambassador Bridge may cause delays, but it will be peaceful.

Rallies, protests and forums are planned throughout Canada today, as part of a national day of action under the Idle No More banner.

Delaware Nation Chief Greg Peters said people from eight First Nations communities in southern Ontario are planning to attend a peaceful walk from Huron Church Rd. and Tecumseh Rd. W. in Windsor north to the foot of the bridge, which connects to Detroit, starting at 11 a.m.

"Right now I'd estimate the numbers to be 600 to 700 before we even get going. I'm looking at 10 buses and probably about 100 cars," Peters said at about 10 a.m.

Once protesters arrive, they will rally and hold a round dance.

"It has never been our intent to blockade the bridge. Our crowd is filled with women and children and elders. It's about unity and education," Peters said.

"I hope when people see us all come together that they'll get the message we're not divided, that we're not happy with the way the government deals with us."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 12:53 PM
Subject: tweet update 12:50
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Jorge Barrera @JorgeBarrera
BC delegation, 3 chiefs, led by regional Chief Jody Wilson-Rabould about to go to meeting

PMO won't budge, what will Atleo do? http://bit.ly/VUdz02

Was just told "it's anticipated" Atleo will go to the meeting

kady o'malley Chief Glen Hudson (Peguis FN) also says when the chiefs' meeting broke up last night, the resolution was to support Spence.

kady O'malley: To clarify, chief Glen Hudson wants PMO to arrange a PA system to speak to the crowd. #AFN

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/9/2013 11:02 AM
Subject: Tweets on January 11 meeting
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

JorgeBarrera : Attawapiskat Chief Spence spokesman says he never told CBC this morning she would go to Friday's meeting

Hearing Chiefs seriously considering not going to Friday's meeting. One Alberta elder said they have to show PM they're serious

APTNNews: Web Chief Spence's spokesman says she is calling on chiefs to either walk out or cancel the meeting w/PMSH if GG doesn't attend:"Enough talk..."

RobertFife: Chief Spence calls on AFN leaders to cancel Friday's summit unless Gov-Gen & Ont Premier attend with PMSH.

davidakin: Angus Reid poll finds Canadians' expectations for Friday's @PMHaprer-@AFN_Updates meeting are pretty low.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 12:35 PM
Subject: Twitter update 12:30
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

James Cudmore : Victoria island marchers have now moved to the langevin block front door. Demanding harper come out and meet.

kady o'malley: right outside 80 Wellington, AKA the front door to Langevin. Chant keeps rising:

kady o'malley: Alright now the #IdleNoMore march moving in front of Langevin. Not clear if participating chiefs have arrived. The main #IdleNoMore protest seems to have stopped just short of Metcalfe, a block or so from Langevin.

Massive crowd now moving to front of PM's office

Women outside PMO say Chief Spence coming but will not attend mtg

Matthew Coon Come shouted at by women as he enters Langevin for PM meeting

Joan_Jack was blocking the PMO office door pleading with Coon Com not to go. He did. "I'm going to talk to his mom," she says.

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/9/2013 11:24 AM
Subject: UN Human Rights Official Urges Meaningful Dialogue / Response from National Chief Atleo
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Canada: UN expert calls for meaningful dialogue with Aboriginal leaders after weeks of protests

GENEVA (8 January 2013) - The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, urged the Government of Canada and Aboriginal leaders to undertake meaningful dialogue in light of First Nations protests and a month-long hunger strike by Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation.

"I am encouraged by reports that Prime Minister Stephen Harper has agreed to meet with First Nations Chiefs and leadership on 11 January 2013 to discuss issues related to Aboriginal and treaty rights as well as economic development," Mr. Anaya said. "Both the Government of Canada and First Nations representatives must take full advantage of this opportunity to rebuild relationships in a true spirit of good faith and partnership."

The announcement of the meeting followed weeks of protests carried out by Aboriginal leaders and activists within a movement referred to as 'Idle no more.' The movement has been punctuated by Chief Spence's hunger strike that has been ongoing since 11 December 2012. "I would like to add my voice to the concern expressed by many over the health condition of Chief Spence, who I understand will be joining indigenous leaders at this week's meeting," the independent expert said.

The protests and hunger strike are carried in the context of complaints about aspects of the relationships between First Nations in Canada and the Government, including in the context of recent federal legislation and executive decisions affecting Aboriginal peoples.

"Dialogue between the Government and First Nations should proceed in accordance with the standards expressed in the UN Declaration* on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," the Special Rapporteur emphasized. Mr. Anaya recalled that the Government affirmed a "commitment to continue working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and in accordance with a relationship based on good faith, partnership and mutual respect," in its statement of support for the Declaration on 12 November 2010.

In drawing attention to the Declaration as a framework for dialogue, the expert highlighted in particular its preamble, which affirms that "treaties, agreements and other arrangements ... are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States".

The Special Rapporteur reiterated his concern about the current situation, as expressed in a written communication sent earlier to the Canadian Government asking the authorities to provide relevant information, in accordance with terms of his mandate from the UN Human Rights Council.

"I will continue to monitor developments as I hold out hope that the 11 January meeting will prompt meaningful and restorative action by the Government and First Nations leadership," Mr. Anaya said.

The UN Human Rights Council appointed S. James Anaya as Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in March 2008. Mr. Anaya is a Regents Professor and the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona (United States). As Special Rapporteur, he is independent from any government or organization and serves in his individual capacity. Learn more, log on to: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/in ... apporteur/

Statement by National Chief Atleo Welcoming Intervention by United Nations Special Rapporteur

January 9, 2013

"Yesterday, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. James Anaya, issued a statement urging the Government of Canada and First Nations peoples to seize the opportunity through the upcoming meeting on Friday, January 11th to rebuild relations in a true spirit of good faith and partnership. (Anaya statement: viewtopic.php?p=15997#p15997)

As of September 2007, First Nations peoples in Canada have sought the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as an expression of the Aboriginal and Treaty rights affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. We have continuously reminded Canada, and will do so again this Friday, that the intention of mutual respect and partnership is not only embodied in the UNDRIP, but also in the treaties between First Nations and the Crown. As the requirement for the reconciliation of First Nations sovereignty and the assumed sovereignty of the Crown affirmed by Section 35.

On January 4, 2013, Chief Wallace Fox of the Onion Lake Cree Nation wrote to Mr. Anaya and Alfred De Zayas, Independent Expert, Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, drawing their attention to the evolving situation in Canada regarding the Idle No More movement and the hunger strike of Chief Spence and requesting their intervention on these matters.

Part of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur relates to promoting good practices, including new laws, government programs and constructive agreements between Indigenous peoples and States to implement international standards concerning the rights of indigenous peoples. Last year, the Assembly of First Nations issued an invitation to the Special Rapporteur to conduct a country visit to Canada to examine the situation up close with a view to receiving his advice regarding his mandate. The Special Rapporteur indicated his desire to conduct such a visit and formally requested an invitation from Canada to welcome him here to engage with indigenous peoples and representatives of the Government of Canada that would promote the rebuilding of the relationship.

First Nations leaders encourage the Government of Canada to welcome Mr. Anaya to Canada to seek his advice and help on ways and approaches to achieve the mutual respect and partnership that must inform the new relationship."

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Abigail Lixfeld; Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew ...
Date: 1/15/2013 12:29 PM
Subject: Union of Ontario Indians: Words haven't worked; time for action: Madahbee
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

UOI OFFICES (Nipissing FN) January 15, 2013

"The best way First Nations and other Canadians can express their disappointment with federal indifference is to translate their concerns into action," says Patrick Madahbee, Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation.

Madahbee said the 39 Anishinabek Nation member communities would be joining with First Nations across
Canada - as well as the Idle No More movement - Wednesday in what will be the first in a series of National Days
of Action.

"Canadians from all walks of life have implored the Harper government to reconsider the undemocratic manner
in which they have stifled debate and rammed massive pieces of legislation through Parliament," said the Grand
Council Chief. "These so-called omnibus bills threaten the safety of our lakes and rivers, the fish that inhabit them
and ignore constitutional and legal requirements to work with First Nations on issues that affect our peoples.
"Now other citizens understand our frustration. We have pursued all the proper political channels, but this government refuses to respect First Nations rights as referenced by Canada's Constitution, Supreme Court
rulings, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which they are a signatory.
"Harper may have pulled the wool over some people's eyes last week in Ottawa, but Chief Theresa Spence is still
fasting for justice. We call on other Canadians to be understanding and supportive of our efforts in the days
ahead to demonstrate to members of the Harper caucus that they were not elected to ignore the will of the
people.

The Anishinabek Nation established the Union of Ontario Indians as its secretariat in 1949. The UOI is a political
advocate for 39 member communities across Ontario, representing approximately 55,000 people. The Union of
Ontario Indians is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of
Three Fires, which existed long before European contact.
-30

Jim Hurcomb

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From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/10/2013 5:20 PM
Subject: Vancouver Observer: Greg Rickford in Stephen Harper's Ministry of Truth
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

Greg Rickford in Stephen Harper's Ministry of Truth
Warren Bell

In George Orwell's "1984", the main character, Winston Smith, works in the Ministry of Truth, where he "alters historical records to fit the needs of the ruling Party". The Party is headed by an invisible personage known only as Big Brother.

In Orwell's novel, the Party promotes an invented language called Newspeak, designed to prevent political rebellion by eliminating all words related to it. Even thinking rebellious thoughts is declared illegal.

In Canada today, we are seeing a revival variant of Newspeak, as well as a government headed by a shadowy figure.

Of course there are differences. Our "shadowy figure" has a name, and is visible as a physical person. He is the opaque and inscrutable Stephen Harper, who publicly reveals little about his inner workings and motivations, preferring to shape his appearance and his pronouncements around a carefully groomed "persona".

That carefully constructed persona manifests as a calm, emotionally neutral individual, who uses carefully modulated speech and makes constant reference to caring for "ordinary Canadians". No sudden or brusque movements, no intemperate language, no emotional intensity, no revelatory asides.

But it is in use of language that Stephen Harper, and the conservative government in general, have become the proponents of 21st century "Newspeak". In a burst of linguistic creativity, designed to cloak his hard-line, rigid and sometimes obviously ideological goals, the Prime Minister and his representatives have taken language manipulation to unusual lengths.

The first step in this transformation has been to perfect the art of avoiding giving answers. Phrases like "I won't get into the reasons for..." or "I cannot comment on that..." occur routinely in presentations by conservative leaders. When such pronouncements are challenged, the response is always to simply repeat them over and over - never to explain why an answer is being withheld.

The next step has been to simply avoid using certain words. Searching high and low through pronouncements by Stephen Harper and his associates, the word "environment", or it's even more pernicious cousin, "ecosystem", can almost never be found. In its place, words like "the economy", "jobs" or "prosperity" are used as mantras for all future developments on planet Earth. The planet itself? Well, it's not actually there - at least not in so many words.

Then there's the true Newspeak approach. This is where the real creativity comes into play. This means, for example, stating that when in a position of aggressive political conflict, the government is nevertheless a "willing partner". This means addressing intense controversies associated with the two recent Omnibus bills (C-38 and C-45) by stating that "we are proud of our achievements". The Harper administration is making politically-flavoured mincemeat out of the rules of normal discourse.

But there's one problem. Unlike George Orwell's Oceania, the mythical nation headed by Big Brother and controlling the entire world, the Harper Conservatives control only a small area of the Earth's surface. Dissent and criticism can occur in parallel with pronouncements made by the government. Winston Smith, in Orwell's work, is tortured into blank submission; no such thing is likely in Canada.

But that doesn't stop Harper and the pundits within the Conservative Party's inner circle from brutalizing

the rules of language, and trying vainly to make black (or brown, or more specifically red) turn into white.

Some of the most dramatic examples of this kind of politically motivated wordplay occurred recently on CBC Radio, during an interview on The House, a program on Saturday morning addressing political issues.

Last Saturday, host Evan Solomon interviewed Greg Rickford, the parliamentary secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. The questions centered around the implications of the upcoming meeting, on Victoria Island on January 11, between Chief Theresa Spence, now nearly 4 weeks into a fast, and other First Nations leaders, and the Prime Minister and Minister Duncan and other high-level Conservatives.

Mr. Rickford used all of the techniques I have outlined above. When questioned about why the Prime Minister was now going to meet with Chief Spence, he refused to mention her name, instead referring to the "leadership of the Assembly of First Nations". When asked if Chief Spence's fast had influenced Stephen Harper to come to the table, Mr. Rickford quickly responded: "I won't get into the reasons for this [meeting]..." And when asked about the hugely controversial parts of Bill C-45, including opening up the rules governing how aboriginal land can be leased, and dramatic weakening of the Navigable Waters Protection Act, Mr. Rickford ignored the question and said "we are proud of our achievements in Bill C-45", rambling on about some paternalistic changes to education funding.

At no point did he allow that there was any connection between widespread First Nations' anger at Bill C-45 and the upcoming meeting. His comments were laced repetitively with phrases like "the economy", "prosperity" and "jobs for ordinary Canadians".

But when it came to finally admitting that a) Chief Spence actually existed, and that b) she was actually fasting, Greg Rickford met his verbal Waterloo. All the careful grooming with respect to the manipulation of language, obfuscation, denial and word substitution - the do's and don't's of word gamesmanship - failed him, and failed Stephen Harper at this crucial moment. He paused, stumbled a bit, hesitated again, and then said, referring to Chief Spence's fast as her "exercise...in limited caloric intake."

To tell the truth, at that point I grabbed a pencil and wrote down Greg Rickford's words. They belong in the history books.

This single turn of phrase illustrates, in an instant, the inherent will to do violence that underlies the the mindset of Stephen Harper and his government. To try and pretend - even for a moment - that Chief Spence, an experienced, knowledgeable and responsible community leader with no history of wild and irresponsible behaviour, would cease eating and risk death simply as an "exercise...in limited caloric intake" is an astonishing leap into the realm of unbridled and cruel disinformation.

I have used the terms "violence" and "cruel" deliberately. The linguistic style of the Harper government is visible representation of an unbroken pattern of fixed and unbending political goals, no matter what the human or environmental cost - goals that are rooted in his pronouncements while head of the National Citizens Coalition. In this worldview, there is no room for forgiveness, compassion or simple human generosity. There is no room for acknowledging the reality of other people's points of view. There is only a relentless process of denigration, marginalization and disrespect.

It has been said that Stephen Harper never admits a mistake, and never says he is sorry (the apology for the residential school system which he delivered in the Host of Commons has now been revealed as grandstanding). I suspect that at a personal level, this is untrue, and that he struggles with some measure of personal insecurity and doubt from time to time.

But when it comes to what he says in public, or what his carefully groomed and controlled representatives reveal in the words they are allowed to use, his need for hiding the most un-Christian hardness in his heart sometimes does him more harm than good.

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

Les informations contenues dans Les manchettes sont fournies à AADNC exclusivement par abonnement et ne peuvent être diffusés à l'extérieur du ministère.

The information contained in Top Stories is provided exclusively to AANDC by subscription and must not be circulated outside the department.

From: HQ Inform
To: Adam Schjott; Adria Minsky; Alayna Johnson; Andrew Saranchuk; Angela...
Date: 1/11/2013 11:11 AM
Subject: Wawatay News: First Nations threaten to limit access to traditional lands
Attachments: HQ Inform.vcf

First Nations threaten to limit access to traditional lands
Rick Garrick

Shibogama's Margaret Kenequanash is warning the erosion of treaty rights will result in "very difficult" access to First Nations territory.

"Prime Minister Harper and his government can make all the legislation and impose funding cuts that will have devastating impacts and will erode our treaty rights," said the executive director of Shibogama First Nations Council during the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Treaty Unity press conference, held on Dec. 21 in Thunder Bay. "This will not be recognized in our territory and will meet strong opposition without our free, prior and informed consent. And it will be very difficult to access our territory. All the prime minister is doing is removing his Majesty and his subjects' access to our territory."

Keneqauanash said the federal government's move to vacate the treaty relationship leaves First Nations with no option but to use the resources within their territory to develop the future for their people without the involvement of government.

"We are resilient people -- we are survivors," Kenequanash said. "We've been surviving for hundreds and hundreds of years. We will remain a strong nation."

Kenequanash said the Shibogama chiefs support Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence on her hunger strike and demand a response from the prime minister on treaty issues.

"Bill C-45 (Jobs and Growth Act) is only one of many different pieces of legislation and policies that First Nations and tribal councils are contending with from the federal and provincial governments," Kenequanash said. "It is time for the Crown, represented by the Governor-General of Canada, to intervene on behalf of Chief Theresa Spence and our First Nations, to bring Canada and Ontario to the treaty table."

Grand Chief Harvey Yesno said Spence is not alone on her quest to bring the treaty partners to the treaty table.

"The Chiefs of Nishnawbe Aski Nation and indigenous people across this country support her efforts to bring our treaty partners to the table," Yesno said. "It is time to open the books on resource development in our treaty territory and to protect the Aboriginal and treaty rights of our people."

NAN holds the position that the treaty partners, Canada and Ontario, must not be the sole beneficiaries of the resources and revenue from the lands and resources in the James Bay Treaty #9 and Ontario portions of Treaty #5; a land mass covering two-thirds of Ontario.
"Treaty issues are fundamental to the people of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the treaties set the basis for our First Nations relationship to Canada and Ontario," said Constance Lake Councillor Darius Ferris. "There is no expiration date on the treaties, and the dialogue with our treaty partners must continue."

Moose Cree Chief Norman Hardisty Jr. said the federal government's move to pass Bill C-45 into law without consultation with First Nations showed a "blatant disregard" to its constitutional and legal obligations to Moose Cree and all First Nations across the country.
"The federal government is introducing new measures and altering existing legislation in ways that will impact and infringe upon First Nations Aboriginal and treaty rights and are ignoring their duty to consult with First Nations," Hardisty said. "This duty is not optional; it is an obligation that has been recognized

and affirmed by numerous Supreme Court of Canada decisions."

Hardisty said the prime minister stated during the Crown-First Nations Gathering, held in January 2012, that the federal government would work in partnership with provinces and First Nations if changes were proposed to the Indian Act, but has done the opposite.

"The Moose Cree First Nation will not tolerate the imposition of federal legislation within our homeland when consultation has not taken place and our consent has not been given," said Moose Cree Deputy Chief Earl Cheechoo. "We understand our rights and will assert them. If the federal government believes they can willfully trample our rights with no consequence, they are wrong."

Ontario New Democratic Party Leader Andrea Horwath said the federal and provincial governments have been big on words but short on actions.

"Both levels of government need to move forward with meaningful negotiations to ensure that resource revenues are shared with First Nations communities," Horwath said. "It only makes sense that First Nations share in the profits made through mining and resource extraction in their territory. This discussion is particularly important now as the province continues to explore the unparalleled wealth potential of the Ring of Fire."

Jim Hurcomb

Pour consulter tous les articles concernant les Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada, veuillez cliquer sur le au lien suivant:

For all AANDC-related clippings please go to http://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ainc-inac/index-eng.aspx

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The information contained in Top Stories is provided exclusively to AANDC by subscription and must not be circulated outside the department.

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/3/2013 9:24 AM
Subject: AANDC HEAD'S UP - Fwd: ST122-12F - First Nations Protests / ST122-12F - Manifestations des Premières nations
Attachments: ST122-12F First Nations Protests - Manifestations des Premières nations.docx

Hello,

For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Public Safety Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819 997 6552

s.16(2)(c)

>>> GOC-COG <GOC-COG@ 1/2/2013 7:17 PM >>>

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: *DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.*

(La version française suit).

Executive Summary

First Nations protests or demonstrations in response to Bill C-45 are planned for 02 Jan in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia; and in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Saskatchewan on 03 Jan. The rail blockade in Sarnia is ongoing, but remains peaceful.

Please find attached **ST122-12F – First Nations Protests.** Information valid as of **02 Jan 2013, 15:30 EST**. For your convenience, new information has been **bolded**.

Situation report provided to: F/P/T Contacts

NIVEAU DE DIFFUSION : *ND-1 (Personnel des OGU provinciaux et territoriaux,*

partenaires responsables des infrastructures essentielles et spécialistes de gestion des urgences)

Résumé

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Pour protester contre le projet de loi C-45, les Premières nations ont organisé des manifestations ou des démonstrations qui se dérouleront le 2 janvier en Ontario, au Québec et en Colombie-Britannique, et aussi le 3 janvier dans ces trois provinces ainsi qu'en Saskatchewan. Le barrage sur la voie ferrée à Sarnia est encore en place, mais jusqu'à maintenant, les manifestations sont restées de nature pacifique.

Vous trouverez en pièce jointe le document **ST122-12F – Manifestations des Premières nations**. Les renseignements ont été mis à jour le **2 janvier, 2013**, **à 15 h 30 (HNE).** Pour plus de commodité, la nouvelle information est en caractère **gras**.

Rapport de situation distribué à : Personnes-ressources FPT

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted]

s.16(2)(c)

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.
(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12**F**

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **02** Jan 2013, **15:30** EST

Description of current incident: A number of First Nations (FN) Protests are occurring as a result of a grassroots campaign called "Idle No More" which is protesting Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation.

Source(s) of reporting: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, PS Regional Offices, media/open source reporting.

Current actions: GOC is monitoring the situation and has established contact with key federal departments/agencies and PS Regional Offices in order to maintain cohesive information sharing.

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

On 02 Jan, approximately 50 people from the Gescapegiag FN are blocking Highway 132 in QC near the NB border.

In addition to the events mentioned in ST122-12E, two more Idle No More events are taking place on 02 Jan:

- **ON: 16:00 to 18:00 EST in Sudbury. Rally at Tom Davies Square, followed by a march through the downtown area. Participants have indicated they are planning to occupy the northbound lanes of the Paris Street Bridge for 15 minutes.**
- **BC: 18:00 to 19:00 EST in Vancouver. A rally is planned to take place at the Waterfront Station.**

At this time, the GOC is aware of the following "Idle No More" related protest planned for 03 Jan 2013:

- **ON: Ongoing rail blockade in Sarnia.**
- **ON: 11:00 to 16:00 EST at Highway 144 across from Middle Stetham Road. Mattagami FN rally.**
- **QC: Since 27 Dec, demonstrators from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq FN have set up a blockade on the rail tracks at Pointe-à-la-Croix, QC in support of the Idle No More movement. The demonstrators are targeting cargo trains, and allowing passenger trains through the blockade. To date, no rail traffic has been disrupted.**
- **BC: 16:00 – 18:00 EST at North Island College, Port Alberni. Nuu-chah-nulth community gathering.**

- **SK: 18:00 – 19:00 EST in Saskatoon. Flash mob round dance.**

An unconfirmed media report indicated 50 to 60 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs have discussed plans to launch country-wide disruptions by the middle of January in support of Chief Spence. The date of 16 Jan was allegedly noted as a day to launch a campaign of indefinite economic disruptions, including railway and highway blockades. Of note, media reported that the Idle No More organizers issued a statement distancing the grassroots movement from potential actions by the Chiefs.

Assessment/Analysis: The protests have been peaceful in nature. However, some protests have disrupted rail operations and resulted in delays on various highways.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional situation reports: Further situation reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

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Niveau de diffusion : ND - 1 Diffusion possible à l'intention des OGU P/T, des partenaires IE et des responsables de la GU.

Centre des opérations du gouvernement (COG)

Rapport de situation

Numéro de l'incident : ST122-12F

Incident : Manifestations des Premières nations

Date : Renseignements mis à jour le **2** janvier 2013, à **15 h 30** (HNE).

Description de l'incident : Diverses manifestations des Premières nations sont en train de se dérouler dans le cadre d'un mouvement populaire intitulé « Idle No More », qui critique le projet de loi omnibus C-45 du gouvernement portant sur le budget.

Sources des renseignements : Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada, les bureaux régionaux de Sécurité publique Canada, et les médias/sources générales.

Mesures en cours : Le COG surveille la situation et est en communication avec certains des ministères et agences fédérales clés ainsi que les bureaux régionaux de Sécurité publique Canada afin de maintenir un échange d'information cohérent.

La gestion des manifestations relève des autorités et des organismes d'application de la loi locaux, le cas échéant.

Le 2 janvier, environ 50 personnes de la Première nation de Gescapegiag ont bloqué l'autoroute 132 au Québec (Québec) près de la frontière avec le Nouveau-Brunswick (N.-B.).

En plus de celles mentionnées dans le rapport ST122-12E, deux autres activités sont prévues le 2 janvier dans le cadre du mouvement « Idle No More » :

- **Ontario : De 16 h à 18 h HNE, à Sudbury. Rallye à la place Tom Davies, suivi d'une marche dans le centre-ville. Les participants ont fait savoir qu'ils prévoient occuper, pendant 15 minutes, les voies du pont de la rue Paris en direction nord.**
- **Colombie-Britannique : De 18 h à 19 HNE, à Vancouver. Un rallye doit se dérouler à la gare Waterfront.**

À l'heure actuelle, selon les informations dont dispose le COG, les activités suivantes sont planifiées le 3 janvier 2013 dans le cadre du mouvement « Idle No More » :

- **Ontario : Maintien du barrage ferroviaire à Sarnia.**
- **Ontario : De 11 h à 16 h HNE, sur l'autoroute 144, de l'autre côté de la route Middle Stetham. Rallye de la Première nation Mattagami.**
- **Québec : Depuis le 27 décembre, des manifestants de la Première nation des Mi'gmaq de Listuguj bloquent la voie ferrée à Pointe-à-la-Croix, au Québec, en soutien au mouvement « Idle No More ». Les manifestants bloquent les trains de marchandises, mais ils permettent aux trains de voyageurs de passer. Jusqu'à maintenant, la circulation ferroviaire n'a pas été perturbée.**

- **Colombie-Britannique: De 16 h à 18 h HNE, au North Island College de Port Alberni. Rassemblement communautaire des Nuu-chah-nulth.**
- **Saskatchewan: De 18 h à 19 h HNE à Saskatoon. Rassemblement éclair de danse en cercle.**

Selon un reportage média non confirmé, de 50 à 60 chefs de l'Assemblée des Premières nations auraient discuté de la possibilité de lancer des mesures de perturbation à l'échelle du pays d'ici la mi-janvier en soutien à la Chef Spence. La date du 16 janvier aurait supposément été retenue pour lancer une campagne indéfinie de perturbations économiques, notamment au moyen de barricades sur des voies ferrées et des autoroutes. Il y a lieu de signaler que, selon les médias, les organisateurs du mouvement « Idle No More » ont publié un communiqué pour distancer le mouvement populaire des mesures potentielles que les Chefs pourraient prendre.

Évaluation/analyse : Jusqu'à maintenant, les manifestations ont été pacifiques. Cependant, quelques manifestations ont causé l'interruption de services ferroviaires et des retards sur diverses routes.

Les ministères et les organismes qui ont plus de renseignements au sujet de cet incident sont priés de communiquer avec le COG.

Autres rapports de situation : D'autres rapports de situation seront émis au fur et à mesure que des développements importants se produisent.

Autres produits : Des produits de géomatique ainsi que d'autres produits seront joints à des messages subséquents.

Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Government Operations Centre
Courriel/Email : GOC-COG@ **s.16(2)(c)**

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/3/2013 9:32 AM
Subject: AANDC HEAD'S UP - Fwd: ST122-12F - Restricted Addendum - First Nations Protests
Attachments: RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION ADDENDUM TO ST122-12F First Nations Protests - Manifestations des Premières nations (3).pdf

Hello,
For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Public Safety Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819 997 6552

s.16(2)(c)

>>> GOC-COG <GOC-COG@[redacted]> 1/2/2013 7:24 PM >>>

(La version française sera envoyée sous pli séparé.)

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-3 Releasable to: AANDC, TC, CBSA, RCMP, CSIS, PUBLIC SAFETY, GOC, PS REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ST122-12F – Addendum - First Nations Protests

Provided to: AANDC, TC, CBSA, RCMP, CSIS, PUBLIC SAFETY, GOC, PS REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Not for further distribution.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted]

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

RESTRICTED Distribution Addendum to Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12F (Restricted Addendum)

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of 02 Jan 2013, 15:30 EST

Source(s) of reporting: Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Transport Canada, media/open source reporting.

Additional Restricted Information:

Potential bridge closures/disruptions planned for 05 Jan

The OPP indicated it is concerned about potential bridge closures/disruptions related to protest events, announced by Idle No More, for 05 Jan. The OPP expects slowdowns in the following areas:
- Three Nations Bridge (Cornwall)
- Blue Water Bridge
- Peace Bridge
- Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
- Highway 17 in Nipissing

A representative from the Blue Water Bridge Authority indicated they would not tolerate any bridge closures/slowdowns on the Blue Water Bridge, citing public safety issues.

The Peace Bridge Authority (PBA) mentioned that they will treat any disruption in the same manner as they would deal with other events, such as the Niagara Marathon, Friendship Festival, etc. They noted the organizers will be applying to the PBA to conduct a "parade" across the Peace Bridge. The organizers have committed that they will not conduct a blockade of the bridge and will be entering into a written agreement with the PBA. The PBA will shut down the U.S bound curb lane for approximately an hour to accommodate the "parade". The other two lanes will remain open, one Canada-bound and one U.S.-bound. This event is scheduled to commence around 11:00 EST. It is anticipated that approximately 150-180 people will be participating. Participants will clear U.S. customs and then return to clear customs in Canada.

The OPP also advised it may be required to assist in Sarnia (rail blockade).

It was also discussed that social media indicated that Highway 403 at the Skyway may be impacted but this is unconfirmed.

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information provided must be protected in accordance with the provisions of the Access to Information Act, the Privacy Act and the Government Security Policy.

Neither the document nor any of its contents can be disseminated outside the recipient's department or agency without prior approval by the original contributing department or agency and the AANDC Emergency & Issue Management Directorate (EIMD). This document may be subject to discretionary or mandatory exemption under the Access to Information Act or Privacy Act. If a request for access is received, no decision should be taken without prior consultation with the original contributing department or agency of the Government of Canada.

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-3 Releasable to: AANDC, TC, CBSA, RCMP, CSIS, PUBLIC SAFETY, GOC, PS REGIONAL DIRECTORS

(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

RESTRICTED Distribution Addendum to Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12F (Restricted Addendum)

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **02** Jan 2013, **15:30** EST

Source(s) of reporting: Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Transport Canada, media/open source reporting.

Additional Restricted Information:

Potential bridge closures/disruptions planned for 05 Jan

The OPP indicated it is concerned about potential bridge closures/disruptions related to protest events, announced by Idle No More, for 05 Jan. The OPP expects slowdowns in the following areas:

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- Peace Bridge
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- Highway 17 in Nipissing

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The OPP also advised it may be required to assist in Sarnia (rail blockade).

It was also discussed that social media indicated that Highway 403 at the Skyway may be impacted but this is unconfirmed.

Ongoing blockade in Sarnia

CN lawyers appeared in Ontario Superior Court in Toronto last week to have an earlier injunction, ordering an end to the blockade, extended for an indefinite period of time.

The Police Chief of the Sarnia Polices Services was ordered to appear in court on 02 Jan to justify his actions through the two injunctions. Superior Court Justice John Desotti indicated the Police Chief must find a means to enforce a court injunction issued on 21 Dec to end the blockade by FN protesters. Justice Desotti later adjourned court proceedings until 12:00 EST on 03 Jan. FN spokesperson Ron Plain agreed to work with protesters to end the blockade on 02 Jan. Of note, it was reported on 31 Dec that the Aamijwnaang Band Council does not support the rail blockade.

Assessment/Analysis: The GOC assesses that the court adjournment was likely initiated to provide time for all parties involved to find a peaceful resolution in order to avoid being found in contempt of Court when proceedings resume on 03 Jan.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement **s.16(2)(c)**
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/4/2013 8:05 PM
Subject: AANDC Heads Up - Fwd: ST122-12H – First Nations Protests // ST122-12H - Manifestations des Premières Nations
Attachments: ST122-12H First Nations Protests - Manifestations des Premières nations.docx

Hello,

For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Public Safety Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819-997-6552

s.16(2)(c)

>>> GOC-COG GOC-COG@[redacted] > 1/4/2013 7:58 PM >> (
mailto:GOC-COG@[redacted]

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners, and EM Community

(La version française suit).

Executive Summary

On 04 Jan, First Nations protest activities in response to Bill C-45 are planned in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Solidarity events are also planned to take place in the United States. Several port of entry blockades are expected, along with potential rail disruptions and delays on various highways.

Please find attached **ST122-12H – First Nations Protests.** Information valid as of **04 Jan 2013, 16:30 EST.** For your convenience, new information has been **bolded**.

Situation report provided to: F/P/T Contacts

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NIVEAU DE DIFFUSION: ND – 1 Diffusion possible à l'intention des OMU P/T, partenaires IE de la communauté des MU

<u>Résumé</u>

On prévoit que les Premières Nations manifesteront pour protester contre le projet de loi C-45, le 4 janvier, en Ontario, au Québec, au Nouveau-Brunswick, en Saskatchewan, en Alberta, en Colombie-Britannique et dans les Territoires du Nord- Ouest. Des manifestations de solidarité sont également prévues aux États-Unis. On s'attend à ce que plusieurs postes douaniers soient bloqués; il pourrait y avoir des interruptions du trafic ferroviaire, ainsi que de la circulation sur certaines routes.
Vous trouverez en pièce jointe le document **ST122-12H – Manifestations des Premières Nations**. Les renseignements ont été mis à jour le **4 janvier 2013, à 16 h 30 (HNE)**. Pour plus de commodité, la nouvelle information est en **caractère gras**.

Rapport de situation distribué à : Personnes-ressources FPT

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted]

s.16(2)(c)

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.
(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12H

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **04** Jan 2013, **16:30** (HNE)

Description of current incident: A number of First Nations (FN) Protests are occurring as a result of a grassroots campaign called "Idle No More" which is protesting Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation.

Source(s) of reporting: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, PS Regional Offices, ON Ministry of Transportation (MTO), New Brunswick Department of Public Safety, Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, media/open source reporting.

Current actions: GOC is monitoring the situation and has established contact with key partners in order to maintain cohesive information sharing.

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

On 04 Jan, the Prime Minister announced he will be meeting with a delegation of FN leaders, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on 11 Jan. The meeting will include the AANDC Minister and focus on two areas: 1) the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights and 2) economic development. Media reporting indicates Chief Spence will take part in the meeting.

The protest activities are dynamic in nature and subject to change. At this time, the GOC is aware of the following "Idle No More" related protest activities planned for 05 Jan 2013.

Protest Events (Possible Disruptions)

Ontario
- **11:00 – 14:00 EST at Fort Erie. The Peace Bridge Border blockade will occur between 13:00 – 14:00 EST.**
- **11:00 EST at Cornwall. Seaway International Bridge blockade.**
- **11:00 – 12:00 EST at Sarnia. Blue Water Bridge blockade.**
- **13:00 EST in the Hamilton area. Closure of Highway 403 at Main Street.**
- **Oshawa (Time unknown). Rally at Albert Street over Highway 401.**
- **Potential protest on the CN Rail Line through Tyendinaga in Eastern ON. Note: Via Rail issued a travel advisory regarding a potential blockade at Marysville.**
- **Pic River - Marathon (10:00 – 16:00 EST). Rail blockade on CP Railway line at Highway 627.**

- **Walpole Island Ferry (Time unknown): Protest**

New Brunswick
- **There is currently a blockade of the CN Rail line near Adamsville, Kent County. The blockade may continue for several days.**
- **A peaceful protest is taking place near, but not on, Highway 102 (the former TransCanada Highway) – near Kingsclear FN. No end time is indicated.**
- **Woodstock, NB. Houlton, Maine Border blockade (reportedly cancelled).**

Saskatchewan
- **13:00 EST Peaceful Slow Down Barricade on the Trans-Canada Highway. (exact location not yet determined).**

Alberta
- **08:00 – 09:00 EST in Hardisty. "Turn off the Taps! blockade at the Pipeline Terminal".**

British Columbia
- **Douglas Peace Arch 14:00 EST: Peaceful protest to "block the border".**
- **Rykerts / Porthill 17:00-19:00 EST: Solidarity gathering.**
- **Coho / Seattle - Victoria Clipper Ferry, Terminal – Victoria, BC 17:30 – 20:30 EST: Peaceful protest / traditional bone game to be played at the entrance / exit of the terminal to coincide with the afternoon arrival of the MV Coho ferry from Port Angeles, Washington.**

Northwest Territories
- **12:00 – 13:00 EST at Fort Providence. Highway 3 blockade at the Deh Cho Bridge.**

United States
- **11:00 – 12:00 EST at International Falls MN. "Idle No More Solidarity Round Dance International Falls, MN Border Crossing (at Fort Frances, ON).**

Other Protest Events

Quebec
- **Unknown time in Gaspésie. Protesters from the Gesgapegiag Band Council are planning a march.**

Saskatchewan
- **12:00 – 13:00 EST at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon. "Idle No More Saskatoon Rally".**
- **11:00 – 12:00 EST at Buffalo Narrows. Peaceful gathering.**

Alberta
- **15:00 – 18:00 EST at the West Edmonton Mall. "Latin@s in Edmonton in Solidarity with Idle No More".**

British Columbia
- **Osoyoos 16:00 EST: Demonstration to be staged outside the Port of Entry (not expected to impact operations).**
- **16:00 – 18:00 EST at Centennial Park, Ganges, Salt Spring Island. Solidarity with First Nations event.**

- **17:00 – 18:00 EST at Orchard Park Shopping Centre, Kelowna. Flash Round Dance.**

United States
- **Presque Isle Mall, Maine (Time unknown). Flash mob drum circle event.**

Assessment/Analysis: Although it may have a mitigating effect, it is unclear what implications the 11 Jan meeting between the Prime Minister and FN leaders, including Chief Spence, will have on planned protest activities. To note, some activities planned for 05 Jan have been cancelled as of 04 Jan.

The protests have been peaceful in nature. However, some protests have disrupted rail operations and resulted in delays on various highways.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional situation reports: Further situation reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@ s.16(2)(c)

Pages 1388 to / à 1392

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From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
CC: [redacted]
Date: 1/5/2013 1:12 PM
Subject: AANDC Head's Up - Fwd: ST122-12I ? First Nations Protests
Attachments: ST122-12I First Nations Protests.docx

s.19(1)

Hello,

For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Public Safety Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819-997-6552

s.16(2)(c)

>>> GOC-COG GOC-COG@[redacted]> 1/5/2013 1:06 PM >> (mailto:GOC-COG@[redacted]

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners, and EM Community

(La version fran?aise sera envoy? sous pli s?par?).

Executive Summary

Several First Nations protest activities in response to Bill C-45 are occurring or planned in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Solidarity events are expected to take place in the United States. **At present, the Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia & Seaway International Bridge in Cornwall are closed. CN and VIA Rail advised that operations are normal across Canada.**

Please find attached **ST122-12I ? First Nations Protests.** Information valid as of **05 Jan 2013, 12:30 EST**. For your convenience, new information has been **bolded**.

Situation report provided to: F/P/T Contacts

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des op?rations du gouvernement

Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted] s.16(2)(c)

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.
(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12I

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **05** Jan 2013, **12:30** (EST)

Description of current incident: A number of First Nations (FN) Protests are occurring as a result of a grassroots campaign called "Idle No More" which is protesting Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation.

Source(s) of reporting: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, PS Regional Offices, New Brunswick Department of Public Safety, Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, media/open source reporting.

Current actions: GOC is monitoring the situation and has established contact with key partners in order to maintain cohesive information sharing.

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

On 04 Jan, the Prime Minister announced he will be meeting with a delegation of FN leaders, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on 11 Jan. The meeting will include the AANDC Minister and focus on two areas: 1) the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights and 2) economic development. Media reporting indicates Chief Spence will take part in the meeting.

The protest activities are dynamic in nature and subject to change. At this time, the GOC is aware of the following "Idle No More" related protest activities planned for 05 Jan 2013.

Rail Operations
As of 10:45 EST, CN and VIA Rail advise that operations are normal across Canada.

Ongoing Protest Events

Ontario
- **12:00 – 13:00** EST at Sarnia. Blue Water Bridge (BWB) blockade. **As of 11:33 EST, the BWB Authority is holding traffic coming into Canada. Approximately 200 protesters are present. The Blue Water Bridge was closed as of 11:39 EST. At 11:46 EST, CBSA issued a Border Alert to advise that the Port of Entry (POE) is experiencing a service disruption and to expect possible delays.**
- 13:00 - 14:00 EST at Fort Erie. Peace Bridge Border blockade. **As of 11:33 EST, approximately 70 protesters are present in the vicinity of the Peace Bridge.**
- 11:00 EST at Cornwall. Seaway International Bridge blockade. **The Seaway International Bridge was closed at 10:30 EST. As of 11:50 EST, approximately 300 protesters had**

started to arrive at the Cornwall POE from the U.S. side; it is estimated protesters will have crossed by approximately 12:30. CBSA has issued a Border Alert to advise the POE is experiencing a service disruption and to expect possible delays.

- 13:00 EST in the Hamilton area. Closure of Highway 403 at Main Street.
- Oshawa (Time unknown). Rally at Albert Street over Highway 401.
- Potential protest on the CN Rail Line through Tyendinaga in Eastern ON. Note: Via Rail issued a travel advisory regarding a potential blockade at Marysville.
- Pic River - Marathon (10:00 – 16:00 EST). Rail blockade on CP Railway line at Highway 627.

Saskatchewan
- 13:00 EST Peaceful Slow Down Barricade on the Trans-Canada Highway. (exact location not yet determined).

British Columbia
- Douglas Peace Arch 14:00 EST: Peaceful protest to "block the border".
- Rykerts / Porthill 17:00-19:00 EST: Solidarity gathering.
- Coho / Seattle - Victoria Clipper Ferry, Terminal – Victoria, BC 17:30 – 20:30 EST: Peaceful protest / traditional bone game to be played at the entrance / exit of the terminal to coincide with the afternoon arrival of the MV Coho ferry from Port Angeles, Washington.
- 16:00 EST at the Kingsgate POE (south of Cranbrook). Potential protest.

Northwest Territories
- 16:00 – 18:00 EST at Fort Providence. Highway 3 blockade at the Deh Cho Bridge.

United States
- **14:00 EST** at International Falls MN. "Idle No More Solidarity Round Dance International Falls, MN Border Crossing (at Fort Frances, ON). **No attendees have been noted yet.**

Concluded Protest Events

New Brunswick
- **Blockade of the CN Rail line near Adamsville, Kent County.**
- **Protest near Highway 102 (the former TransCanada Highway) – near Kingsclear FN.**
- **Woodstock, NB. Houlton, Maine Border blockade (reportedly cancelled).**

Ontario
- Walpole Island Ferry (Time unknown): Protest

Alberta
- 08:00 – 09:00 EST in Hardisty. "Turn off the Taps! blockade at the Pipeline Terminal".

Assessment/Analysis: Although it may have a mitigating effect, it is unclear what implications the 11 Jan meeting between the Prime Minister and FN leaders, including Chief Spence, will have on planned protest activities. To note, some activities planned for 05 Jan have been cancelled as of 04 Jan. **However, media is reporting on 05 Jan that an organizer of the Idle No More rallies in Metro Vancouver advised that rallies will continue even though the Prime Minister has agreed to meet with FN leaders.**

The protests have been peaceful in nature. However, some protests have disrupted rail operations and resulted in delays on various highways.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional situation reports: Further situation reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted]

s.16(2)(c)

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/5/2013 6:04 PM
Subject: AANDC Head's Up - Fwd: ST122-12J - First Nations Protests
Attachments: ST122-12J First Nations Protests - Manifestations des Premi?res nations.....docx; Geomatics - ST122-12J National FNProtests 5 jan 13 - 2013-01-0.pdf

Hello,

For your information only, please find attached the latest Situation Report (MS Word) on First Nation Protests from the Government Operations Centre.

In addition, please find attached a geomatics product (PDF) that details the situation nationally.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819 997 6552

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Neither the document nor any of its contents can be disseminated outside the recipient?s department or agency without prior approval by the original contributing department or agency and the AANDC Emergency & Issue Management Directorate (EIMD). This document may be subject to discretionary or mandatory exemption under the Access to Information Act or Privacy Act. If a request for access is received, no decision should be taken without prior consultation with the original contributing department or agency of the Government of Canada.

>>> GOC-COG <GOC-COG@[redacted] 1/5/2013 5:41 PM >>>

s.16(2)(c)

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners, and EM Community

(La version fran?aise sera envoy?e sous pli s?par?).

Executive Summary

First Nation protests activities on 05 Jan have been peaceful. Normal border operations have resumed at the Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia, Seaway International Bridge in Cornwall and Peace Bridge in Fort Erie. As of 17:15 EST, a rail blockade is occurring near Tyendinaga resulting in rail traffic disruptions and affecting some 1200 passengers.

Please find attached **ST122-12J ? First Nations Protests.** Information valid as of **05 Jan 2013, 17:15 EST**. For your convenience, new information has been **bolded**.

Situation report provided to: F/P/T Contacts

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des op?rations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@[redacted]

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.
(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12J

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **05** Jan 2013, **17:15** (EST)

Description of current incident: A number of First Nations (FN) Protests are occurring as a result of a grassroots campaign called "Idle No More" which is protesting Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation.

Source(s) of reporting: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, PS Regional Offices, Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, **Ontario Provincial Police**, media/open source reporting.

Current actions: GOC is monitoring the situation and has established contact with key partners in order to maintain cohesive information sharing.

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

On 04 Jan, the Prime Minister announced he will be meeting with a delegation of FN leaders, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on 11 Jan. The meeting will include the AANDC Minister and focus on two areas: 1) the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights and 2) economic development. Media reporting indicates Chief Spence will take part in the meeting.

The protest activities are dynamic in nature and subject to change. At this time, the GOC is aware of the following "Idle No More" related protest activities planned or occurring on 05 Jan 2013.

<u>Ongoing/Planned Protest Events</u>

<u>Ontario</u>
- **CN Rail Line through Tyendinaga in Eastern ON – TC has reported as of 17:15 EST that a rail blockade is occurring near Tyendinaga. This blockade will disrupt rail operations affecting approximately 1200 passengers. Plans are in place to bus passengers to their destinations.**

<u>British Columbia</u>
- Douglas Peace Arch **14:00 – 17:00** EST: **Peaceful gathering, not a blockade.**
- Rykerts / Porthill 17:00-19:00 EST: Solidarity gathering.
- Coho / Seattle - Victoria Clipper Ferry, Terminal – Victoria, BC 17:30 – 20:30 EST: Peaceful protest / traditional bone game to be played at the entrance / exit of the terminal to coincide with the afternoon arrival of the MV Coho ferry from Port Angeles, Washington.

- 16:00 EST at the Kingsgate POE (south of Cranbrook). Potential protest.

Northwest Territories
- 16:00 – 18:00 EST at Fort Providence. Highway 3 blockade at the Deh Cho Bridge.

United States
- 14:00 EST at International Falls MN. "Idle No More Solidarity Round Dance International Falls, MN Border Crossing (at Fort Frances, ON). **As of 14:34 EST, approximately 70 protesters are gathering in International Falls.**

Concluded Protest Events

Ontario
- **As of 13:30 EST, a CBSA Border Alert indicated normal operations resumed at the Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia.**
- **As of 14:24 EST, a CBSA Border Alert indicated normal operations resumed at the Seaway International Bridge in Cornwall.**
- **Peace Bridge blockade in Fort Erie. The Peace Bridge Authority (PBA) and protest organizers agreed the demonstration was to conclude at 14:00 EST. As of 15:00 EST, the PBA indicated minimal to no delay at the Peace Bridge.**
- **Rally in Oshawa (Albert Street over Highway 401).**

Assessment/Analysis: FN protest activities on 05 Jan have been peaceful. Although some activities resulted in disruptions to border operations, these were relatively short in duration. As of 17:15 EST 05 Jan, a rail blockade is occurring at Tyendinaga, Ontario causing a disruption to rail traffic. The duration of the rail blockade is unknown at this time.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional situation reports: Further situation reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@ [redacted] s.16(2)(c)

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/6/2013 8:36 AM
Subject: Fwd: ST122-12K - First Nations Protests
Attachments: ST122-12K First Nations Protests.docx; Geomatics - ST122-12K FN Protests 5 Jan 13 2100 EST.pdf

Hello,

For your information only, please find attached the latest Situation Report (MS Word) on First Nation Protests from the Government Operations Centre.

In addition, please find attached a geomatics product (PDF) that details the situation nationally.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OSPCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819 997 6552

s.16(2)(c)

>>> GOC-COG GOC-COG@ 1/5/2013 10:10 PM >> (mailto:GOC-COG@

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners, and EM Community

(La version fran?aise sera envoy?e sous pli s?par?)

Executive Summary

All FN protest activities on 05 Jan have been peaceful. All border operations have returned to normal. A rail blockade is occurring near Tyendinaga resulting in rail traffic disruptions; approximately 1,200 passengers have been affected. The duration of this blockade is unknown at this time.

Please find attached **ST122-12K ? First Nations Protests.** Information valid as of **05 Jan 2013, 21:00 EST**. For your convenience, new information has been **bolded**.

Situation report provided to: F/P/T Contacts

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des op?rations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.
(La version française suit)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12K

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **05** Jan 2013, **21:00** (EST)

Description of current incident: A number of First Nations (FN) Protests are occurring as a result of a grassroots campaign called "Idle No More" which is protesting Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation.

Source(s) of reporting: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, PS Regional Offices, Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, Ontario Provincial Police, **Via Rail**, media/open source reporting.

Current actions: GOC is monitoring the situation and has established contact with key partners in order to maintain cohesive information sharing.

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

On 04 Jan, the Prime Minister announced he will be meeting with a delegation of FN leaders, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on 11 Jan. The meeting will include the AANDC Minister and focus on two areas: 1) the treaty relationship and aboriginal rights and 2) economic development. Media reporting indicates Chief Spence will take part in the meeting.

FN protest activities on 05 Jan have been peaceful. All border operations have returned to normal.

Ongoing Protest Events

Ontario

- CN Rail Line through Tyendinaga in Eastern ON – TC has reported as of 17:15 EST that a rail blockade is occurring near Tyendinaga. This blockade will disrupt rail operations affecting approximately 1200 passengers. Plans are in place to bus passengers to their destinations. **Via Rail has issued a travel advisory, indicating there is no definitive timeline when the blockade will be lifted.**

Concluded Protest Events

British Columbia

- **Douglas Peace Arch. Peaceful gathering concluded at 18:00 EST.**
- **Rykerts / Porthill. Solidarity gathering concluded at 19:00 EST.**
- **Coho / Seattle - Victoria Clipper Ferry, Terminal – Victoria, BC. Protest concluded at 20:05 EST.**
- **Kingsgate POE (south of Cranbrook). The protest concluded at 17:35 EST (no impact to operations).**

United States

- **International Falls MN Border Crossing (at Fort Frances, ON). Protest activity concluded at 16:15 EST.**

At this time, the GOC is not aware of any "Idle No More" protest activities planned for 06 Jan 2013.

Assessment/ Although some protest activities on 05 Jan resulted in disruptions to border operations, these were relatively short in duration. As of 17:15 EST 05 Jan, a rail blockade is occurring at Tyendinaga, Ontario causing a disruption to rail traffic. The duration of the rail blockade is unknown at this time.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional situation reports: Further situation reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Additional Products: Geomatics and other products will be attached to a follow-on message.

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@ [redacted]

s.16(2)(c)

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
Date: 1/6/2013 9:09 AM
Subject: AANDC Heads Up - Fwd: ST122-12L FINAL - First Nations Protests
Attachments: ST122-12L FINAL First Nations Protests - Manifestations des Premi?res nations.docx

Hello,

For your information only, please find attached the final situation report (MS Word) pertaining to the January 5th First Nation Protests from the Government Operations Centre.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819 997 6552

s.16(2)(c)

>>> GOC-COG GOC-COG@ 1/6/2013 8:52 AM >> (mailto:GOC-COG@

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: *DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.*

(La version fran?aise sera envoy?e sous pli s?par?).

Executive Summary

The FN rail blockade on the CN Rail Line through Tyendinaga was cleared; all VIA services will gradually return to normal. FN protest activities on 05 Jan were peaceful in nature.

Please find attached **ST122-12L FINAL ? First Nations Protests.** Information valid as of **06 Jan 2013, 08:00 EST**. For your convenience, new information has been **bolded**.

Situation report provided to: F/P/T Contacts

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des op?rations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@

DISSEMINATION LEVEL: DL-1 Releasable to P/T EMOs, CI Partners and EM Community.
(La version française sera envoyée sous pli séparée)

Government Operations Centre (GOC)

Situation Report

Incident Number: ST122-12**L FINAL**

Incident: First Nations Protests

Date: Information valid as of **06** Jan 2013, **08:00** (EST)

Description of current incident: A number of First Nations (FN) Protests have occured as a result of a grassroots campaign called "Idle No More" which is protesting Bill C-45, the government's omnibus budget legislation.

Source(s) of reporting: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, PS Regional Offices, Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, media/open source reporting.

Current actions: GOC is monitoring the situation and has established contact with key partners in order to maintain cohesive information sharing. Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

On 04 Jan, the Prime Minister announced he will be meeting with a delegation of FN leaders, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), on 11 Jan. Media reporting indicates Chief Spence will take part in the meeting.

On 06 Jan at 00:02 EST, TC advised the FN rail blockade on the CN Rail Line through Tyendinaga was cleared. As of 07:15 EST on 06 Jan, TC reported that a CN freight train was able to travel through the affected area without incident. On 06 Jan, VIA Rail updated its travel advisory to indicate the FN rail blockade ended; all VIA services will gradually return to normal.

Assessment/Analysis: FN protest activities on 05 Jan were peaceful in nature. Some border operations and rail services were affected for a short period of time, including VIA service which affected approximately 1,200 passengers.

Although it may have a mitigating effect, it is unclear what implications the 11 Jan meeting between the Prime Minister and FN leaders, including Chief Spence, will have on planned protest activities.

Departments and Agencies with further information on this incident are asked to report to the GOC.

Additional situation reports: This will be the last situation report on this event; however, the GOC will continue to monitor and report on FN protest activities in the GOC Daily Brief.

Additional Products: Nil.

s.16(2)(c)

Government Operations Centre/
Centre des opérations du gouvernement
Email/courriel: GOC-COG@

From: OPSCentre - NOB
To: 1_AANDC only DISTRIBUTION LIST (for GOC Reports)
CC: OPSCentre - NOB
Date: 1/16/2013 10:57 AM
Subject: AANDC HEAD'S UP- Immediate Notification - Idle No More First Nations Protests - Ambassador Bridge Winsor, ON - 16 January 2013.doc

Hello,

For your information only, please see below for the latest information on First Nation protests from Transport Canada.

If you have additional information regarding these incidents, please forward it to OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Regards,

AANDC EIMD Operations Centre
819-997-6552

This document is the property of the Government of Canada. It is compiled from information received for official purposes only and in confidence from a number of departments and agencies of the Government of Canada. It is provided for official use only to the recipient and others in the recipient?s department or agency. As such, the information provided must be protected in accordance with the provisions of the Access to Information Act, the Privacy Act and the Government Security Policy.

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>>> Sitcen HQ - Centre d'intervention - AC <Centred'interventionQ-G@tc.gc.ca> 1/16/2013 10:48 AM >>>

DL ? 2 ? RELEASABLE TO AUTHORIZED FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS

NOTIFICATION - THREAT/EVENT: Idle No More First Nations Protests ? Ambassador Bridge Winsor, ON ? 16 January 2013

Description of threat/event: At approximately 10:15 EST, 16 January 2013, a large convoy of protestors is headed towards a gathering point close to Ambassador Bridge in Winsor, ON. Approximately 175 cars and 12 buses (approximately 3 km long) are expected to reach Winsor at 11:30 EST.

Source of reporting: *Transport Canada Surface and Intermodal Security (SIMS), TC Ontario Region.*

Current Transport Canada Actions: The Situation Centre is monitoring the situation and continues to operate at activity level 1 (normal operations). The reporting may convert to national situation reports, as multiple events are expected to occur today.

Current Actions (other): Nil.

Initial analysis/impact assessment on Canadian Transportation System: Unknown at this point.

Notification provided to: DL OTT SITCEN NOTIFICATION ? IMMEDIATE INTERNAL, DL OTT SITCEN NOTIFICATION ? SIMS INCIDENT NOTIFICATION ABS, RCMP NOC, Public Safety GOC, DND CJOC, AANDC

Next Steps: Nil.

**This Information is preliminary and subject to change. Further, the information given for some occurrences may not have been verified / validated by TC. Therefore, caution should be used when using this information.

AANDC EIMD WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS REPORT as of Friday, January 4, 2013

This is a weekly report that provides current information and the status of activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Provided within this report:

- Hot Spot Summary
- List of Final Notifications issued this week
- Protests in Opposition to Bill C-45 Situation Report
- Flood Situation Report

Weekend Duty Officer:
EIMD Emergency Telephone: (819) 997-6552
E-mail: OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
EIMD OPS Centre Blackberry PIN: 26736B91

HOT SPOT SUMMARY

(New information has been **bolded** for your convenience.)

Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Protest – Hunger Strikes – Two First Nation Members – Demand for Treaty Meeting with Crown

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012, media reported that Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation (ON) had begun a hunger strike protest. Chief Spence is demanding a meeting between the Prime Minister, the Crown, and First Nations leaders to discuss "treaty issues for First Nations across the country".

On Friday, December 14, 2012, media reported that Emil Bell, a 72 year old elder of the Canoe Lake Cree First Nation (SK) began a hunger strike on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, in solidarity with Chief Spence.

As of Friday, January 4, 2013, Chief Spence's and Mr. Bell's hunger strikes continue.

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

FINAL NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED THIS WEEK

Please note that all the events below have been closed; no further notifications will be issued unless significant developments occur:

NIL

Protests in Opposition to Bill C-45 Situation Report

Since Sunday, December 9, 2012, **approximately 108 protests** have occurred as part of an announced “National Day of Action” which was promoted through traditional and social media.

These events were also held as a part of a program of activism called "Idle No More." Idle No More is partly a response to Bill C-45, the omnibus budget bill which includes changes to the Indian Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act and partly a call for changes to the broader relationship between Canada and First Nations.

Although all protests which have already occurred were peaceful, some affected the transportation sector. **To date, approximately 55 protests have resulted in interruptions to rail services and delays on various highways, streets and bridges.**

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

It has been reported that a number of solidarity protests are taking place in the United States. EIMD will not be monitoring these protests.

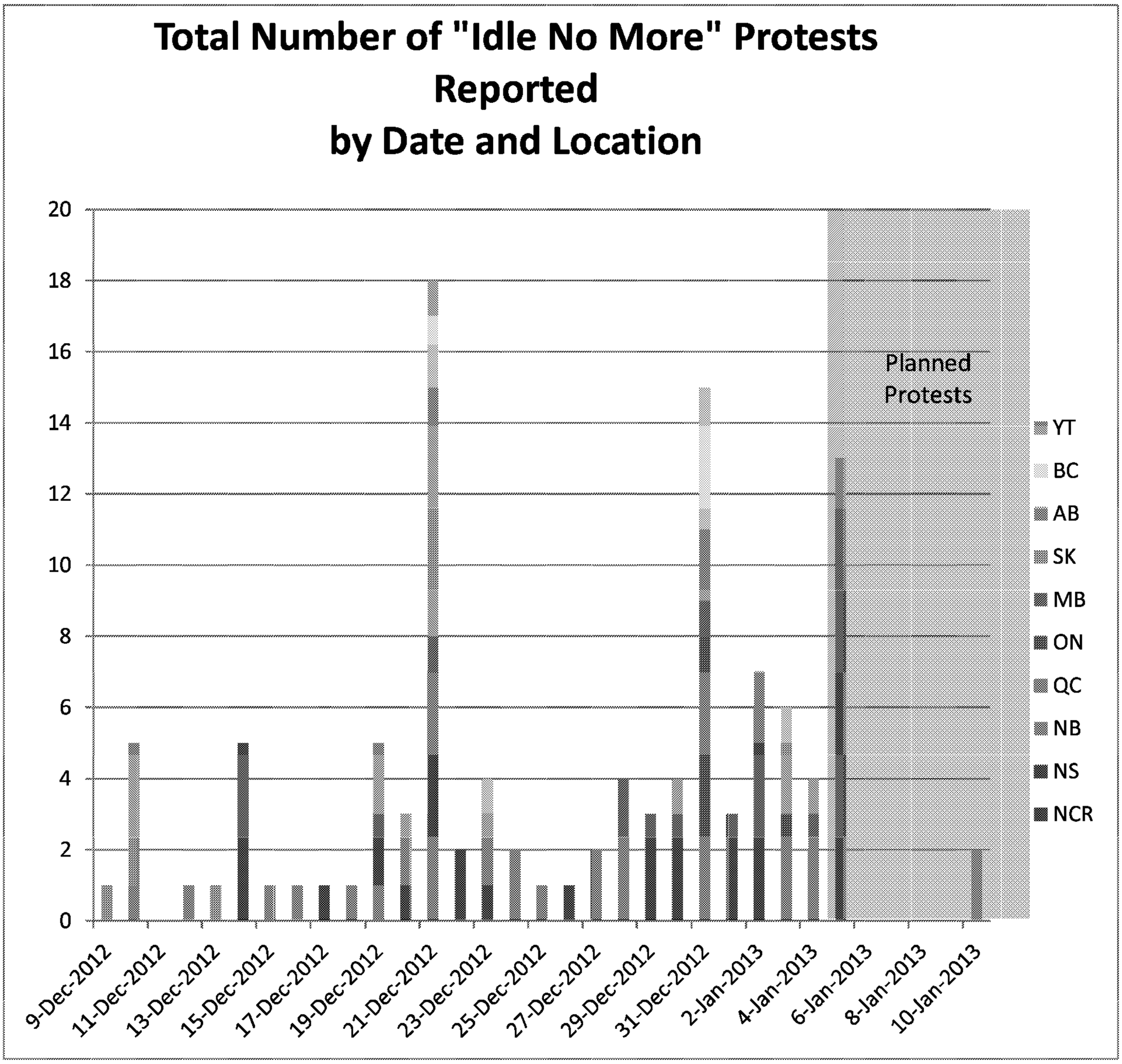
During all full blockades of highways, law enforcement have been able to arrange for detours for traffic and to notify the public of planned blockades.

Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) advises that all affected border crossings are in the process of preparing operational plans. Border Alerts have been prepared by the Border Operations Centre in advance in the event that alerts need to be issued for a port closure.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan say they will meet a delegation of First Nations leaders on January 11, 2013.

Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices, Public Safety Canada and media reports.

Currently there are no blockades occurring of any bridges, highways or rail lines.



Planned Protests

There are approximately 15 protests planned for Saturday, January 5, 2013. It is unknown at this time how many protestors will be participating in these planned protests. It is expected that 11 of these will result in delays at highways and international bridge crossings.

Planned Protests for January 5, 2013

1. **ON Various First Nations full blockade Peace Bridge Border Crossing Fort Erie**
2. **ON Various First Nations full blockade Niagara Falls Border Crossing (Rainbow Bridge) Niagara Falls**
3. **ON Various First Nations full blockade International Falls Border Crossing Fort Frances**
4. **ON Various First Nations partial blockade Three Nations Bridge Cornwall**

5. ON Various First Nations partial blockade Blue Water Bridge Sarnia
6. ON Various First Nations traffic slowdown HWY 17 in Nipissing
7. ON Various First Nations partial blockade Rail - Tyendinaga area
8. AT Various First Nations partial blockade Border Crossing - Woodstock/Houlton
9. ON Walpole Island First Nation traffic slowdown Walpole Algonac Ferry Line to Michigan USA from Walpole Island
10. BC Various First Nations partial blockade Douglas Peace Arch Surrey
11. NWT Various First Nations partial blockade Deh Cho Bridge Fort Providence

Planned Protest for January 10, 2013

1. AB Various First Nations demonstration federal building Edmonton

Past Protests occurring between December 28, 2012 to January 4, 2013

Friday, December 21, 2012

1. 28-Dec-2012 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
2. 28-Dec-2012 MB Various First Nations traffic slowdown HWY 305 on Assiniboine River Bridge Portage La Prairie
3. 28-Dec-2012 MB Various First Nations traffic slowdown Rail - Saskatchewan Av and Tupper St Portage La Prairie
4. 28-Dec-2012 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (051) full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line at Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche
5. 29-Dec-2012 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Rail - Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
6. 29-Dec-2012 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (051) full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line at Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche
7. 30-Dec-2012 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
8. 30-Dec-2012 ON Walpole Island First Nation traffic slowdown Walpole Algonac Ferry Line to Michigan USA from Walpole Island Walpole Island
9. 30-Dec-2012 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (051) full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line at Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche
10. 31-Dec-2012 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
11. 31-Dec-2012 ON Fort William First Nation traffic slowdown several city streets Thunder Bay
12. 31-Dec-2012 AB Various First Nations partial blockade Seal Lake Road High Prairie
13. 31-Dec-2012 ON Various First Nations full blockade Rail - Wyman road Rail Crossing Deseronto (near Belleville)

14. 31-Dec-2012 ON Various First Nations full blockade Rail - Marysville Marysville
15. 31-Dec-2012 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (051) full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line at Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche
16. 1-Jan-2013 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
17. 1-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (051) full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line at Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche
18. 1-Jan-2013 QC Gesgapegiag Youth full blockade HWY 132 Gaspésie
19. 2-Jan-2013 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
20. 2-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations partial blockade Portage Avenue near HWY Winnipeg
21. 2-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (051) full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line at Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche Pointe de la Croix/Restigouche
22. 2-Jan-2013 QC Gesgapegiag Youth full blockade HWY 132 Gaspésie
23. 3-Jan-2013 ON Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
24. 3-Jan-2013 QC Gesgapegiag Youth traffic slowdown HWY 132 Gaspésie
25. 4-Jan-2013 MB Aamjiwnaang First Nation full blockade Railway Line on Debuse St. Sarnia
26. 4-Jan-2013 QC Gesgapegiag Youth traffic slowdown HWY 132 Gaspésie

AANDC EIMD Flood Situation Report for Friday, January 4, 2013
(New information has been **bolded** for your convenience.)

The purpose of this situation report is to provide an update on floods that threaten or may threaten the health, safety and security of First Nations communities, as outlined in AANDC's National Emergency Management Plan.
Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices.

As of Friday, December 21, 2012, the total number of First Nations evacuees due to flooding is **1943**.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

2012 Flood Season

There are currently no First Nations threatened by flooding in Canada.

As of **Friday, January 4, 2012**, the total number of First Nations evacuees is 12.

First Nations with evacuations due to flooding:

British Columbia/Yukon
1. Daylu Dena First Nation – 12 evacuees

2011 Flood Season

As of Friday, January 4, 2013, the total number of First Nations evacuees is 1931, an increase of 9 since Friday, December 21, 2012.

Manitoba
1. Lake St. Martin First Nation – **1059 evacuees**
2. Little Saskatchewan First Nation – 359 evacuees
3. Dauphin River First Nation – **207 evacuees**
4. Peguis First Nation – **186 evacuees**
5. Ebb & Flow First Nation –102 evacuees
6. Pinaymootang First Nation – **18 evacuees**

AANDC WEEKEND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS REPORT for Sunday, January 6, 2013

This is a weekend report that provides current information on the status of activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Provided within this report:

- Idle No More Protests

Weekend Duty Officer:
EIMD Emergency Telephone: (819) 997-6552
E-mail: OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
EIMD OPS Centre Blackberry PIN: 26736B91

As reported on Friday, January 4, 2013, a host of First Nation protests in support of the "Idle No More" grassroots campaign occurred on Saturday, January 5, 2013.

Public Safety Canada's Government Operations Centre (GOC) has reported that all First Nation protest activities were peaceful in nature. While some border and rail services were impacted for a short period of time – including VIA Rail service in the Tyendinaga area where 1,200 passengers were affected – all services are expected to return to normal operations.

At this time, it is unknown how many protestors participated in the various events.

Updates will be provided if additional information becomes available.

AANDC EIMD WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS REPORT
as of Friday, January 11, 2013

This is a weekly report that provides current information and the status of activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Provided within this report:

- Hot Spot Summary
- List of Final Notifications issued this week
- Protests in Opposition to Bill C-45 Situation Report
- Flood Situation Report

To watch over the weekend:

- **Idle No More Protests-National**

Weekend Duty Officer:
EIMD Emergency Telephone: (819) 997-6552
E-mail: OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
EIMD OPS Centre Blackberry PIN: 26736B91

HOT SPOT SUMMARY

(New information has been **bolded** for your convenience.)

Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Protest – Hunger Strikes – Demand for Treaty Meeting with Crown

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012, media reported that Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation (ON) had begun a hunger strike protest. Chief Spence is demanding a meeting between the Prime Minister, the Crown, and First Nations leaders to discuss "treaty issues for First Nations across the country".

On Friday, January 11, 2013, media reported approximately 3000 protesters marched from Victoria Island to Parliament Hill. Additionally, media reported that Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan will meet with a delegation of First Nations leaders. Mr. Harper will be joined at Friday's meeting by Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Affairs Greg Rickford, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and Treasury Board President Tony Clement. Governor General David Johnston will be hosting a ceremonial meeting with First Nations leaders at Rideau Hall following their working meetings on Friday. A group of First Nation chiefs from across Canada, coordinated by the Assembly of First Nations, will be in attendance

as well. Discussions will centre on policy and treaty issues between the Crown and First Nations.

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

FINAL NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED THIS WEEK

Please note that all the events below have been closed; no further notifications will be issued unless significant developments occur:

- **NIL**

Protests in Opposition to Bill C-45 Situation Report

Since Sunday, December 9, 2012, **approximately 206 protests** have occurred as part of an announced "National Day of Action" which was promoted through traditional and social media.

These events were also held as a part of a program of activism called "Idle No More." Idle No More is partly a response to Bill C-45, the omnibus budget bill which includes changes to the Indian Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act and partly a call for changes to the broader relationship between Canada and First Nations.

Although all protests which have already occurred were peaceful, some affected the transportation sector. **To date, approximately 87 protests have resulted in either interruptions to rail services and border crossings or delays on various highways, streets and bridges.**

Event management of the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

It has been reported that a number of solidarity protests are taking place in the United States. EIMD will not be monitoring these protests.

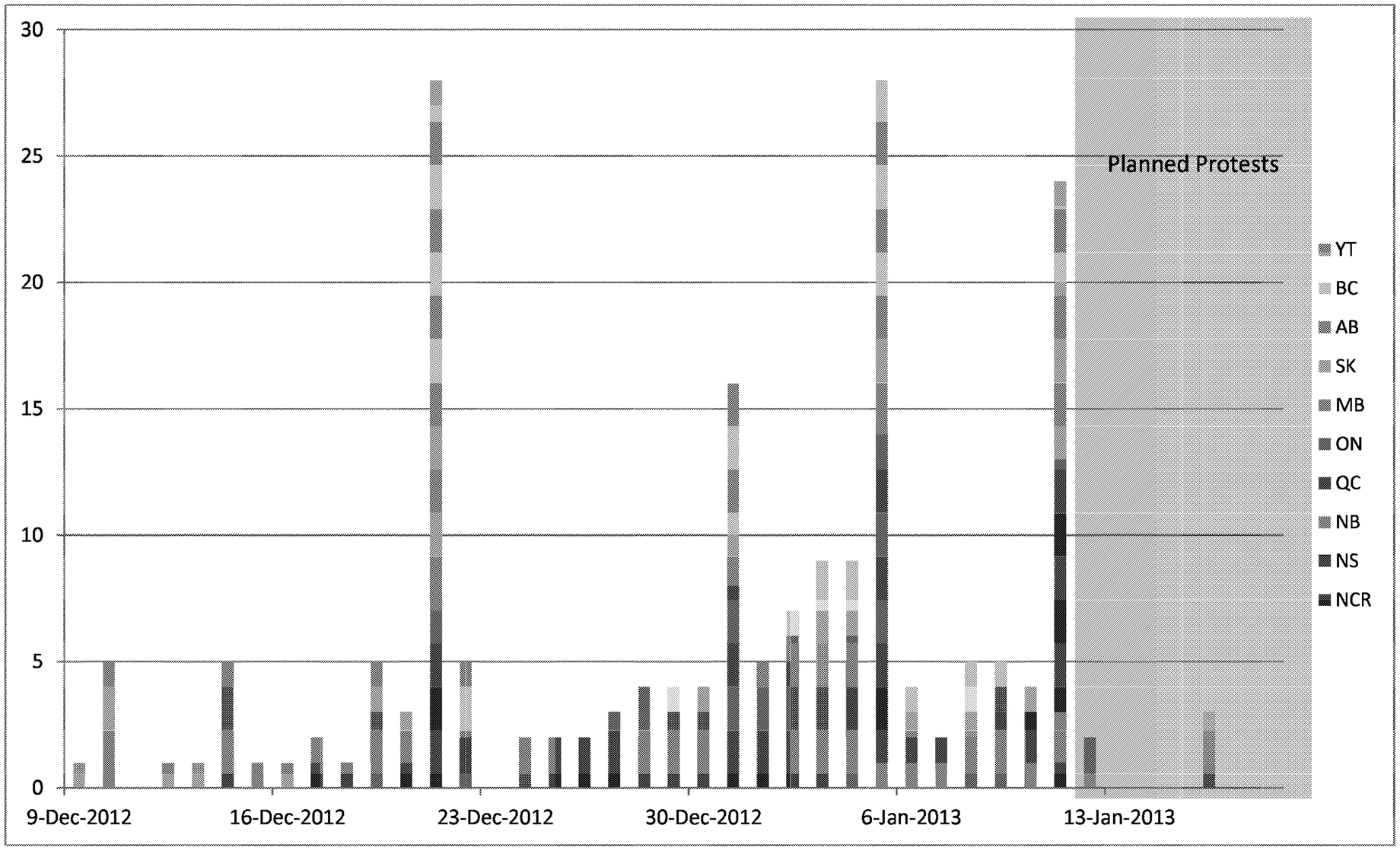
During all full blockades of highways, law enforcement had been able to arrange for detours for traffic, and to notify the public of planned blockades.

On Friday, January 11, 2013, according to the Government Operations Centre, a large protest took place Ottawa. This event began at 07:00 EST on Victoria Island, with a march to Parliament Hill beginning at approximately 11:00 EST. According to law enforcement, there were approximately 2,500 participants. The event is expected to conclude by 17:00 EST. Local law enforcement are present. Traffic disruptions in the area are anticipated.

Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices, Public Safety Canada and media reports.

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

Please see the attached chart for an overview of past and planned protests by date and regional office.



Total "Idle No More" Protests by Region and Date

Planned Protests:

1. 12-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Maffeo Sutton Park Nanaimo
2. 12-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Comox Valley (corner of England Ave. and Sixth St). Vancouver Island
3. 16-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations full blockade National Day of Action Manitoba
4. 16-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration National Day of Action Montreal
5. 16-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations march Reconciliation walk to Legislative Building in support of the National Day of Action Regina
6. 19-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations demonstration RCMP station on Portage Ave. Winnipeg
7. 24-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations demonstration Ottawa-Location unknown. Ottawa
8. 26-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Victoria-Central Square Victoria

Two protests are continuing:

- **Since December 26, 2012, protestors from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation (QC) have blockaded all freight traffic on a rail line near Pointe à la Croix and Restigouche**
- **Since January 4, 2013, protestors from the Elsipogtog First Nation (AT-NB) have demonstrated beside the rail line at Adamsville. They have obeyed a court injunction to remove the blockade from the rail line, but have continued demonstrating beside it.**

Past Protests occurring between January 5, 2013 to January 11, 2013:

1. 5-Jan-2013 QC Barierre Lake First Nation demonstration HWY 117 Barriere Lake
2. 5-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
3. 5-Jan-2013 QC Gesgapegiag traffic slowdown HWY 132 Gaspésie
4. 5-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
5. 5-Jan-2013 ON Mattagami First Nation demonstration West end of city Timmins
6. 5-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations rally Buffalo Narrows Saskatoon
7. 5-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations rally Rally at White Buffalo Youth LodgeSaskatoon
8. 5-Jan-2013 SK Peepeeksis First Nation partial blockade Trans-Canada HWY Pilot butte

9.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	full blockade	Peace Bridge Border Crossing
10.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	full blockade	Niagara Falls Border Crossing (Rainbow Bridge)
11.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	full blockade	International Falls Border Crossing
12.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	partial blockade	Seaway International Bridge
13.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	partial blockade	Blue Water Bridge
14.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	traffic slowdown	HWY 17 in Nipissing
15.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	partial blockade	Rail - Tyendinaga area
16.	5-Jan-2013	AT	Various First Nations	partial blockade	Border Crossing - Woodstock/Houlton
17.	5-Jan-2013	MB	Various First Nations	demonstration	Border Crossing - Emerson MB
18.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	OSOYOOS Port of Entry
19.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	COMOX Valley (Corner of Cliffe Avenue and 17th Street)
20.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Centennial Park, Salt Spring Island, Centenial Park, Ganges
21.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Kingsgate Port of Entry (south of Cranbrook)
22.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Kelowna, Orchard shopping Mall
23.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Inner Harbour, Victoria
24.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Abbotsford Border Crossing
25.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Victoria Clipper Ferry Terminal
26.	5-Jan-2013	BC	Various First Nations	demonstration	Rykerts / Porthill border crossing
27.	5-Jan-2013	NWT	Various First Nations	partial blockade	Deh Cho Bridge
28.	5-Jan-2013	AB	Various First Nations	flash mob	Kingsway Mall Edmonton
29.	5-Jan-2013	ON	Various First Nations	full blockade	HWY 403

30. 5-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations full blockade Rail - Via Rail Passenger Line Marysville near Kingston
31. 6-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations partial blockade Pilot Butte town Pilot Butte
32. 6-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Richmond Centre Mall Richmond (BC)
33. 6-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
34. 6-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
35. 7-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
36. 7-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
37. 8-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Nanaimo Harbour-DFO Office at 401 Burrard St. Nanaimo Harbour
38. 8-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
39. 8-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations rally Rally at University of Saskatchewan Campus Saskatoon
40. 8-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
41. 8-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Nanaimo Harbour-DFO Officer at 401 Burrard St. Vancouver
42. 9-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
43. 9-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations blockade Blockade of Highway 11 (tran Canada Highway) and the Caramat Substation. Longlac, ON
44. 9-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration gathering at DFO, 401 Burrard street at noon Vancouver
45. 9-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
46. 9-Jan-2013 NB Various First Nations march Moncton City Hall Moncton
47. 10-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
48. 10-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
49. 10-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations demonstration federal building Edmonton
50. 10-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations demonstration federal building Edmonton

51. 11-Jan-2013 NB Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration beside rail line at Adamsville
52. 11-Jan-2013 NB Kingsclear First Nation demonstration beside Route 109 Kingsclear
53. 11-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation full blockade Rail - Freight trains blocked Pointe à la croix / Restigouche
54. 11-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations blockade Highway 881 by Heart Lake (near Fort McMurray)
55. 11-Jan-2013 AB Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation (Treaty 7) Blockade Highway 43 Calgary
56. 11-Jan-2013 AB Piikani First Nation rally Piikani Community Hall Piikani First reserve/Calgary
57. 11-Jan-2013 AB Blood Tribe First Nation partial blockade Highways 2 and 509 in Stand Off Stand Off
58. 11-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations rally southwest sidewalk corner of Galt Gardens Lethbridge
59. 11-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations demonstration Edmonton City Hall (beside Churchill Square)
60. 11-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Surrey Central Mall Surrey
61. 11-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations demonstration Victoria Island to Parliament Hill Ottawa ON (NCR)
62. 11-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations demonstration Peace Arch Bridge Border Crossing, Coast Salish Pride
63. 11-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations demonstration Ford Plant in Oakville, Toronto ,ON
64. 11-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations demonstration Fort Qu'Appelle-Treaty 4 Governance Centre Saskatoon
65. 11-Jan-2013 QC Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government First Nation demonstration Van Horne Bridge, Montreal
66. 11-Jan-2013 NS Various First Nations demonstration Halifax
67. 11-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations demonstration downtown Montreal

AANDC EIMD Flood Situation Report for Friday, January 11, 2013

(New information has been **bolded** for your convenience.)

The purpose of this situation report is to provide an update on floods that threaten or may threaten the health, safety and security of First Nations communities, as outlined in AANDC's National Emergency Management Plan.
Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices.

As of **Friday, January 11, 2013**, the total number of First Nations evacuees due to flooding is **1938.**

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

2012 Flood Season

There are currently no First Nations threatened by flooding in Canada.

As of **Friday, January 11, 2013**, the total number of First Nations evacuees is 12.

First Nations with evacuations due to flooding:

British Columbia/Yukon

1. Daylu Dena First Nation – 12 evacuees

2011 Flood Season

As of Friday, January 11, 2013, the total number of First Nations evacuees is 1926, a decrease of 5 since Friday, January 4, 2013.

Manitoba

1. Lake St. Martin First Nation – **1060 evacuees**
2. Little Saskatchewan First Nation – **355 evacuees**
3. Dauphin River First Nation – 207 evacuees
4. Peguis First Nation – 186 evacuees
5. Ebb & Flow First Nation –102 evacuees
6. Pinaymootang First Nation – **16 evacuees**

AANDC EIMD WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS REPORT
as of Friday, January 18, 2013

This is a weekly report that provides current information and the status of activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Provided within this report:

- Hot Spot Summary
- List of Final Notifications issued this week
- "Idle No More" Protests Situation Report
- Flood Situation Report

To watch over the weekend:

- **Idle No More Protests-National**

Weekend Duty Officer:
EIMD Emergency Telephone: (819) 997-6552
E-mail: OPSCentreNOB@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca
EIMD OPS Centre Blackberry PIN: 26736B91

HOT SPOT SUMMARY

(New information has been **bolded** for your convenience.)

Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices.

- **NIL**

FINAL NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED THIS WEEK

Please note that all the events below have been closed; no further notifications will be issued unless significant developments occur:

- **NIL**

"Idle No More" Protests Situation Report

Since Sunday, December 9, 2012, **approximately 309 protests** have occurred as part of an announced program of activism called 'Idle No More', which is being promoted through traditional and social media.

Idle No More is partly a response to Bill C-45, the omnibus budget bill which includes changes to the Indian Act, the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act and partly a call for changes to the broader relationship between Canada and First Nations.

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012, media reported that Chief Theresa Spence of the Attawapiskat First Nation (ON) had begun a hunger strike protest. Chief Spence is demanding a meeting between the Prime Minister, the Crown, and First Nations leaders to discuss "treaty issues for First Nations across the country".

On Friday, January 11, 2013, Chief Spence along with some of her fellow chiefs met with Governor General David Johnston for a ceremonial meeting. As of Friday, January 18, 2013, Chief Spence's hunger strike continues. This is the 38th day of her hunger strike.

All protests which have already occurred have been peaceful, however some have affected the transportation sector. **To date, approximately 109 protests have resulted in either interruption to rail services and border crossings or delays on various highways, streets and bridges.**

On Wednesday, January 16, 2013, the Government Operations Centre reported a number of peaceful protests took place across the country as part of the "National Day of Action". Rail blockades by First Nations protesters occurred near Belleville, ON, Portage la Prairie, MB, and Kitwanga, BC, that caused delays to freight and passenger rail traffic. This included temporary disruptions to road traffic and delays at border crossings/ports of entry.

Additionally, protesters blocked the Ambassador Bridge (Windsor, ON) at the main entrance to the bridge, causing delays of about 2 hours to outbound traffic. The protest occurred between 11:00 EST and 15:00 EST.

A number of other blockades and slowdowns, in addition to protests associated with the "National Day of Action", took place across the country, without incident and with minimal impacts.

The next event of significance for "Idle No More" is the International Call- to-Action (Global Day of Action) that is expected to occur on Monday, January 28, 2013.

During all full blockades of highways, law enforcement had been able to arrange for detours for traffic, and to notify the public of planned blockades. Emergency management

issues related to the protests falls under the purview of local jurisdictions and local law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

While all protests have been peaceful, a significant number involved traffic disruptions: there were **18** partial blockades and **18** full blockades of either rail lines, highways, ferry stations, or bridges, as well as **25** traffic slowdowns of highways. Other protests **(199)** included peaceful demonstrations, marches, flash mobs in shopping centers or gatherings. There was also a one-day occupation of the AANDC ON Region Thunder Bay Office.

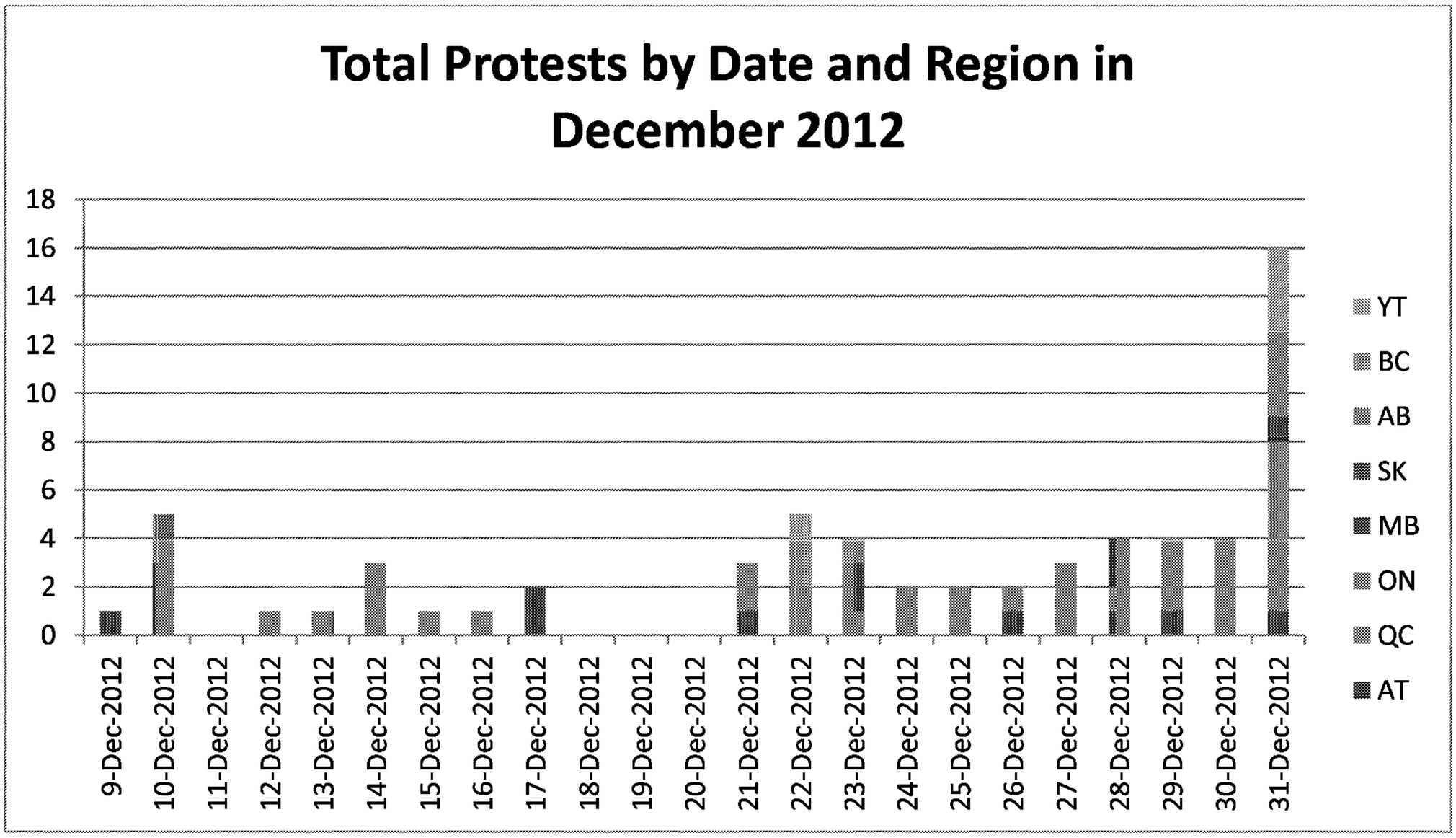
Planned Protests: Update

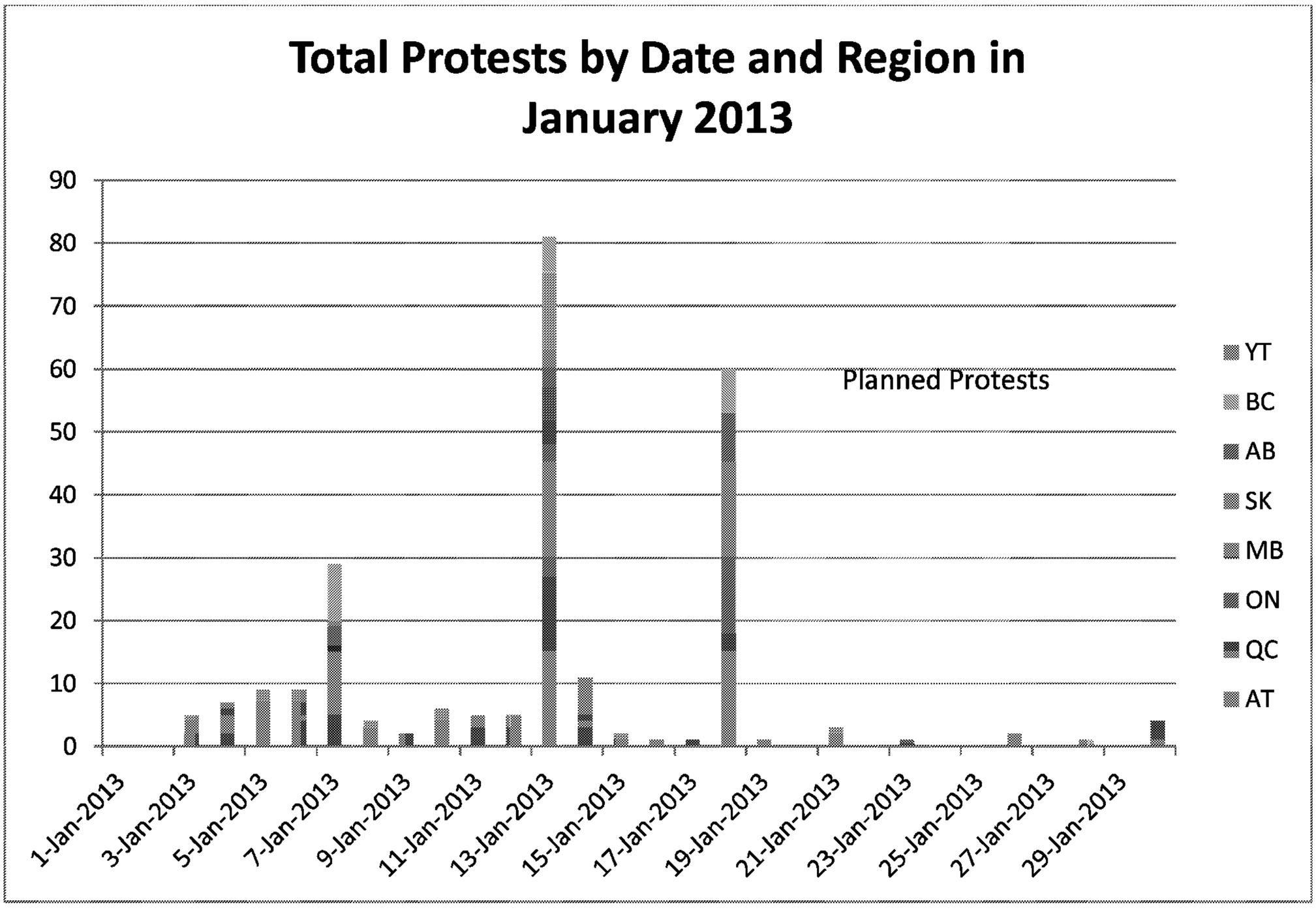
1. **19-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Pacific Rim HWY #14 Port Alberni**
2. **19-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration RCMP Station, Portage Ave. Winnipeg**
3. **19-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Winnipeg**
4. **21-Jan-2013 AT Qalipu Mi'kmaq First nation Band demonstration outside band office on Corner Brook Qalipu**
5. **24-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals blockade Hwy 652 & Translimit Road (detour Lake Goldmine) Cochrane**
6. **26-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Victoria-Central Square Victoria**
7. **28-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Parliament Hill Ottawa**
8. **28-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Regina**
9. **28-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals traffic slowdown Miles Hart Bridge Thompson**
10. **28-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Manitoba Legislature Winnipeg**
11. **31-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals Lieutenant Governor's Festival Winnipeg**
12. **15-Apr-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals *unknown* Enbridge Oil Transportation Gretna**

Please see the attached chart for an overview of past and planned protests by date and regional office.

Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices, Public Safety Canada and media reports.

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.


Total Protests by Date and Region in December 2012
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
9-Dec-2012
10-Dec-2012
11-Dec-2012
12-Dec-2012
13-Dec-2012
14-Dec-2012
15-Dec-2012
16-Dec-2012
17-Dec-2012
18-Dec-2012
19-Dec-2012
20-Dec-2012
21-Dec-2012
22-Dec-2012
23-Dec-2012
24-Dec-2012
25-Dec-2012
26-Dec-2012
27-Dec-2012
28-Dec-2012
29-Dec-2012
30-Dec-2012
31-Dec-2012
YT
BC
AB
SK
MB
ON
QC
AT


Total Protests by Date and Region in January 2013
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Planned Protests
1-Jan-2013
3-Jan-2013
5-Jan-2013
7-Jan-2013
9-Jan-2013
11-Jan-2013
13-Jan-2013
15-Jan-2013
17-Jan-2013
19-Jan-2013
21-Jan-2013
23-Jan-2013
25-Jan-2013
27-Jan-2013
29-Jan-2013
YT
BC
AB
SK
MB
ON
QC
AT

Past Protests occurring between January 12, 2013 to January 18, 2013:

1. **12-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Carden Street, Guelph Guelph**
2. **12-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Trois-Rivieres**
3. **12-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Offices of Winnipeg Sun Winnipeg**
4. **12-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Banff Cascade Mall Banff**
5. **12-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration West Edmonton Mall Edmonton**
6. **12-Jan-2013 NWT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals blockade NWT/Alberta Border HWY 1**
7. **12-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Maffeo Sutton Park Harbour City**
8. **12-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Comox Valley (corner of England Ave. and Sixth St). Vancouver Island**
9. **12-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Nanaimo**
10. **12-Jan-2013 AT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Avalon Mall St. Johns, NF**
11. **13-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Cowichan**
12. **16-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration West Edmonton Mall Edmonton**
13. **16-Jan-2013 BC Sinixt First Nation demonstration City Hall Nelson**
14. **16-Jan-2013 BC Gtixsan blockade CN rail Gitwangak**
15. **16-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals full blockade Railway at HWY 16 near Long Plain Reserve Portage La Prairie**
16. **16-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals full blockade Railway Winnipeg**
17. **16-Jan-2013 MB Fairford First Nationfull blockade road blockades and rallies Lake Manitoba**
18. **16-Jan-2013 MB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals blockade CN and CP rail lines The Pas and Fairford First Nation Winnipeg**
19. **16-Jan-2013 QC Barriere Lake demonstration HWY 117 Barriere Lake**

20. 16-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Montreal
21. 16-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Park Emile-Gamelin Montreal
22. 16-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Centre Récréatif, Culturel et Sportif St-Zotique Montreal
23. 16-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Kitigan Zibi
24. 16-Jan-2013 QC Kahnawake youth demonstration Kahnawake
25. 16-Jan-2013 QC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Kanesatake
26. 16-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Highway 55 (near the southern edge of the oilsands) Cold Lake
27. 16-Jan-2013 AB Papaschase First Nation blockade QEII Hwy(near entrance of former Papachase FN reserve in south Edmonton) Edmonton
28. 16-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Derrick/Gateway Park Hwy 2 northbound Calgary
29. 16-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Calgary City Hall Calgary
30. 16-Jan-2013 AB Treaty 7 First Nations demonstration Downtown Calgary Calgary
31. 16-Jan-2013 AB Lubicon Lake Nation traffic slowdown Various oil and gas fields Little Buffalo
32. 16-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals traffic slowdown North of Slave Lake
33. 16-Jan-2013 AB Papaschase First Nation blockade Queen Elizabeth II Hwy Gateway Park Edmonton
34. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Cayuga Courthouse Cayuga
35. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Hwy 28 HWY 28 Bridge Crossing Trent Severn Waterway Burleigh Falls
36. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals MarchSt. Catherines to Niagara Falls southwestern Ontario
37. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Duckworth Street at Hwy 400 Barrie
38. 16-Jan-2013 ON Serpeant River and Nippising First Nations traffic slowdown Hwy 17 (between North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie North Bay
39. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals partial blockade Three Nations Crossing Bridge Cornwall

40. 16-Jan-2013 ON Whitefish River First Nation traffic slowdown Hwy 6 (between Little Current and Espanola, at the Birch Island entrance on Whitefish River First Nation) Whitefish Falls
41. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals blockade Hwy 527 & Lac Des Illes Mine Rd. Gull Bay
42. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals traffic slowdown Hwy 17 (west of Kenora) Kenora
43. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals March Intersection of Falls Ave.& Hwy 420 to Table Rock Niagara Falls
44. 16-Jan-2013 ON Lake Helen First Nation partial blockade HWY 17 and possibly rail line Nipigon
45. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Ambassador Bridge Windsor
46. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration British Consulate (777Bay St) Toronto
47. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals protest, traffic slowdown Hwy 17 at Christine Lane 15km west of North Bay
48. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals protest International Bridge Sault Ste Marie
49. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals protest, traffic slowdown Junction of Hwys 129 and 101 200km N of Sault Ste Marie
50. 16-Jan-2013 ON Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Pine St. to Rainbow Centre Sudbury
51. 16-Jan-2013 ON Tyendinaga Mohawks blockade CP and CN rail lines
52. 16-Jan-2013 ON Anishinabek First Nation march Pine St. to Rainbow Centre Sudbury
53. 16-Jan-2013 ON Anishinabek First Nation blockade stretch of Hwy 6 at Caledonia bypass Caledonia
54. 16-Jan-2013 NU Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals traffic slowdown Main Intersection Iqualuit
55. 16-Jan-2013 AT St. Mary's First Nation march Provincial Legislature Fredericton
56. 16-Jan-2013 AT Kingsclear First Nation demonstration Beside Route 102/Chapel Road Kingsclear (NB)
57. 16-Jan-2013 AT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Centenial Bridge Mirimachi (NB)
58. 16-Jan-2013 AT Millbrook First Nation demonstration Millbrook Gymnasium and Tower Road Overpass Truro (NS)
59. 16-Jan-2013 AT Elsipogtog First Nation demonstration Hwy 11 at exit 53 Rexton (NB)
60. 16-Jan-2013 AT Tobique First Nations demonstration Trans Canada Hwy by exit 115 Trans Canada Hwy NB)

61. 16-Jan-2013 AT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Trans Canada Hwy by Eagle's Nest Woodstock (NS)
62. 16-Jan-2013 AT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals protest and traffic slowdown Highway 15 (at intersection with Wheeler Blvd) Moncton (NB)
63. 16-Jan-2013 AT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Miramichi brige, along major hwy Miramichi (NB)
64. 16-Jan-2013 AT Sugarloaf Senior HS students demonstration Intersection near Tim Horton's Campbellton NB)
65. 16-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals march Legislative Building Regina
66. 16-Jan-2013 SK Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals traffic slowdown 20km South of Waterhen bridge, hwy 903 Regina
67. 16-Jan-2013 YT Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Nakwata Ku Potlach House Whitehorse
68. 16-Jan-2013 YT Members of White River Band blockade Alaska Hwy Alaska hwy Beaver Creek
69. 16-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals full blockade Pat Bay Highway Saanichton
70. 16-Jan-2013 BC Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals blockade Mount Newton Cross Road Victoria
71. 16-Jan-2013 BC Sinist Nation demonstration City Hall Nelson
72. 17-Jan-2013 AB Various First Nations and/or Non-Aboriginals demonstration Hwy 1 Calgary

AANDC EIMD Flood Situation Report for Friday, January 18, 2013

(New information has been **bolded** for your convenience.)

The purpose of this situation report is to provide an update on floods that threaten or may threaten the health, safety and security of First Nations communities, as outlined in AANDC's National Emergency Management Plan.
Except where otherwise stated, all information in this report was provided by AANDC Regional Offices.

As of **Friday, January 18, 2013**, the total number of First Nations evacuees due to flooding is **1942.**

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

2012 Flood Season

There are currently no First Nations threatened by flooding in Canada.

As of **Friday, January 18, 2013**, the total number of First Nations evacuees is 12.

First Nations with evacuations due to flooding:

British Columbia/Yukon

1. Daylu Dena First Nation – 12 evacuees

2011 Flood Season

As of Friday, January 18, 2013, the total number of First Nations evacuees is 1930, an increase of 4 since Friday, January 11, 2013.

Manitoba

1. Lake St. Martin First Nation – **1057 evacuees**
2. Little Saskatchewan First Nation – **365 evacuees**
3. Dauphin River First Nation – **206** evacuees
4. Peguis First Nation – **182** evacuees
5. Ebb & Flow First Nation –**100** evacuees
6. Pinaymootang First Nation – **20 evacuees**