

# FIRST NATIONS STRATEGIC BULLETIN

## FIRST NATIONS STRATEGIC POLICY COUNSEL

### Canada Has Had First Nations Under Surveillance: *Harper Government Has Prepared for First Nations “Unrest”*



Instead of negotiators, Quebec sends SQ Riot Squad to deal with Algonquins of Barriere Lake concerns, November 19, 2008. (Photo courtesy of Barriere Lake Solidarity)

By Russell Diabo and Shiri Pasternak

The **First Nations Strategic Bulletin** has learned from **INAC-RCMP** documents reprinted in this issue that shortly after forming government in January of 2006, **Prime Minister Stephen Harper** had the federal government tighten up on gathering and sharing intelligence on First Nations in order to anticipate and manage potential First Nations unrest across Canada.

The Harper government may have been expecting some First Nation opposition and resistance to his Conservative Aboriginal agenda. But he was also clearly taking a hard-line on Aboriginal & Treaty

rights and moving towards a security paradigm familiar since the War on Terror was launched in 2001.

Aboriginal people who are defending their lands by disrupting transportation routes, private development, resource extraction projects, and other crucial economic activities are now treated on a spectrum from criminals to terrorists. Under Harper, an intensification of intelligence gathering and surveillance procedures have governed the new regime.

Almost immediately upon taking power in 2006, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) was given the lead role to spy on First Nations in order to identify the First Nations leaders, participants and outside supporters of First Nation occupations and protests. To accomplish this task, INAC established a “**Hot Spot Reporting System**.” These weekly reports highlight all those communities across the country who engage in direct action to protect their lands and communities. They include **Tobique First Nation, Tsartlip, the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, Fish Lake, Six Nations, Grassy Narrows, Stz’uminous First Nation, the Likhts’amsiyu Clan of the Wet’suwet’en First Nation, Gitxaala First Nation, Walpole First Nation, Wagmatcook First Nation, Innu of Labrador**, and so on.

What we see in these documents – from the hot spot reports themselves, to the intelligence-sharing between government and security forces – is a closely monitored population of First Nations, who are clearly causing a panic at the highest levels of Canadian bureaucracy and political office.

#### Fear of Aboriginal Hotspots

INAC termed “**hot spots**” those situations in 2006 that led to the “**growing concern**” among top federal officials and police about First Nations “**unrest**” and increasing “**militancy**.” In a briefing presentation that INAC gave the RCMP in 2006, these hotspots were identified as:

#### Special points of interest:

- **Harper’s Government Has Spent 4 Years Monitoring for First Nations ‘Unrest’**
- **INAC Set Up ‘Aboriginal Hotspot Reporting System’ to Spy on First Nations for CSIS, ITAC, RCMP, OPP, SQ**
- **INAC Hotspot Reports are Prepared Weekly & Daily by Regional Offices**

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 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada

Canada

“Incidents led by splinter groups are arguably harder to manage as they exist outside negotiation processes to resolve recognized grievances with duly elected leaders”



## ‘INAC Spying’ continued from page 1

- **Caledonia, Ontario:** (Douglas Creek Estates occupation)
- **Belleville, Ontario:** (Montreal/Toronto Rail Blockade in sympathy to Caledonia)
- **Brantford, Ontario:** (Grand River Conservation Authority Lands)
- **Desoronto, Ontario:** (Occupation of Quarry)
- **Grassy Narrows:** (Blockade of Trans Canada Hwy by environmentalists)
- **Maniwaki, Quebec:** (Blockade of Route 117)

But the “*hot spot binder*” prepared each week by INAC officials closely monitors any action taking place across the country and names dozens more communities.

A particular concern of the federal government is that these “*hotspots*” are unpredictable protests because they are led by what the federal government labeled as “*splinter groups*” of “*Aboriginal Extremists*.” As INAC describes in the same presentation to the RCMP:

*“Incidents led by splinter groups are arguably harder to manage as they exist outside negotiation processes to resolve recognized grievances with duly elected leaders. We seek to avoid giving standing to such splinter groups so as not to debase the legally recognized government. Incidents are also complicated by external groups such as Warrior Societies or non-Aboriginal counter-protest groups.”*

*“Such incidents may involve multiple competing power groups. At times it appears these involve illicit agendas (e.g. smuggling)”*

What is telling in the INAC statement above is that the identified protests are “*outside of negotiation processes to resolve recognized grievances with duly elected leaders*.”

This is what Canada really fears, which is that First Nations peoples will demand Crown recognition of First Nation sovereignty and self-determination, as well as, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to lands and resources on traditional/treaty territories beyond the narrow confines of Crown land claims and self-government policies and demand their First Nation leaders, staff and advisors pull out of the compromising negotiations.

All of the so-called self-government and land claims “*negotiation tables*” in Canada are operating under the one-sided terms and conditions of the federal and provincial/territorial governments and are designed to get concessions from First Nations on the scope and meaning of their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, thereby emptying out section 35 of Canada’s constitution of any real political or legal meaning. Section 35 is the part of Canada’s constitution that “*recognizes and affirms*” Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

But what is also telling and critical to note here is the cooperative relationship between INAC and the RCMP. In fact, at first glance, the INAC presentation to the RCMP is almost indistinguishable from a briefing one would expect to see from security forces, rather than from a government ministry.

In addition to the hotspot reporting, the **Deputy Ministers of Public Safety Emergency Preparedness Canada** and **INAC** directed that a summer operational plan be prepared in 2006 to deal with Aboriginal occupations and protests. From a progress report on the operational plan, we can also start to see the blueprint for security integration on First Nations issues.

The “*Standing Information Sharing Forum*,” for example, is Chaired by the RCMP, and

## 'INAC Spying' continued from page 2

includes as its members CSIS, the Department of Fisheries, Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transportation Canada, and involves weekly conference calls and continuous information dissemination by INAC to its partners.

### Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy

It is also clear from INAC's presentation to the RCMP that they are particularly worried about the **Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy**, because they mention "**Warrior Societies**" and an "**illicit agenda**," referring to smuggling.

Ever since the 1990 stand-off in **Kanesatake** and **Kahnawake**, the federal government, the security & police agencies, and the Canadian army have been worried about a repeat of coordinated First Nation political actions across Canada

The 2007 INAC presentation also refers to the tobacco trade/cigarette industry located in Mohawk territory. The federal government deems the tobacco/cigarette trade as "**illicit**" because Canada is not getting paid taxes by the Mohawks who are operating the businesses.

However, the **1995 federal Aboriginal Self-Government policy**, which was developed unilaterally by the federal government, does not allow for sharing jurisdiction with First Nations for real powers over trade and commerce matters.

The federal self-government policy only allows small business operations on-reserve. Historically, the federal government has used the **Indian Act** to control and manage on-reserve economic development so there was no real competition with surrounding non-Indian businesses and towns. On the prairies First Nations agriculture was undermined and led to the failure of farming on-reserve, because of complaints from non-Indians. This policy of non-competition is still the reality today.

The federal government is particularly concerned about the **Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy** actions at **Caledonia**, as the INAC 2006 report describes it:

*"Caledonia was and remains a significant event in risk management."*

The RCMP agree. In a 2007 report to CSIS, they state:

*"Caledonia continues to serve as a beacon on land claims and Aboriginal rights issues across Canada."*

Canada is extremely worried about First Nations taking back lands and resources outside the scope of their unfair one-sided land claims and self-government "**negotiation processes**" as was done at **Kanenhstataon/Caledonia**.

In order to contain the situation, the Crown governments have dispatched hard-nosed, experienced negotiators who have presented hard positions from the Harper government, which is likely why there hasn't been any negotiated resolution of the situation at **Kanenhstataon/Caledonia** to this date.

The Crown government obviously remain worried more lands will be "**occupied**" by the **Six Nations** "**extremist**" "**splinter groups**."

### The 2007 National Day Of Action

Specific information about policing First Nations was obtained in a series of Access to Information requests about the **AFN National Day of Action** that took place on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

A 2007 RCMP brief to CSIS lays out a number of concerns regarding the National Day of Action.



Haudenosaunee Iroquois Confederacy Flag.

**"the federal government has used the Indian Act to control and manage on-reserve economic development so there was no real competition with surrounding non-Indian businesses and towns"**



## 'INAC Spying' continued from page 3



BC RCMP obtain Used Canadian Army Cougars at Tactical Armed Vehicles. (Photo by CBC)

“Why are police sent out to do the dirty work of INAC, anyway? Clearly, where the distinction slips between police and policy roles, the RCMP become simply Indian Agents, carrying out the colonial work of the department”

First of all, the RCMP is concerned that anger could be targeted at police, both from the perspective of First Nations confronting the police on front lines, and from the perspective of negative public sentiment for their handling of the event:

**“The often disparate and fractured nature of these events can lead the police to become the proverbial “meat in the sandwich” and the subject of negative public sentiment.”**

The RCMP also showed concerned that a lack of coordination, or **“a fractured and inconsistent approach”** by police forces could **“galvanize Nations throughout Canada.”** Is this to say that violence instigated by police could lead to solidarity actions by First Nations across the country? Or that perceived weakness in policing could lead other First Nations to take a stand? Either way, cooperation between departments, security forces, and ministries are deemed to be necessary to provide a strong united front against First Nations protest.

The RCMP also caution that, **“Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal extremists often see these events as an opportunity to escalate or agitate the conflict.”** Though they do not define extremism here, in this case they may refer to groups unaffiliated with the **AFN** and willing to engage in tactics not sanctioned by the official leadership, such as property destruction and armed conflict. Or perhaps extremism refers to those groups who do not recognize the authority of the Canadian state and are unlikely to negotiate in any case to mitigate or resolve conflicts easily.

Cost is a serious concern to the RCMP as well. Not only is the price tag for policing these nationwide events **“exorbitant,”** and therefore can lead to rash policing decisions to use force in order to bring a quick end to conflicts, but the economic risks of blockades are themselves potentially catastrophic. As the RCMP warn, **“The recent CN strike represents the extent in which a national railway blockade could effect the economy of Canada.”**

The RCMP also express this curious concern: **“The police role may be complicated by the conventional and sometimes political view that there is a clear distinction between policy and police operations.”** Is this to say that there is no clear distinction? Why are police sent out to do the dirty work of **INAC**, anyway? Clearly, where the distinction slips between police and policy roles, the **RCMP** become simply **Indian Agents**, carrying out the colonial work of the department.

There is also a considerable public relations issue at stake here. The RCMP displayed concern at the potential fall-out of a number of **“perception”** problems that could befall the forces:

**“Perception of a two-tiered approach to enforcement can generate significant criticism and motivate non-Aboriginal activists.”**

**“An intense and protracted event may lead to long-standing erosion of relationships for the police and the community – they are usually always the victims.”**

**“Because there are limitations on what the police can negotiate and success often depends on others, the role of the police can become frustrating.”**



RCMP vehicles.

The RCMP realize to some extent that they must choose between First Nations approval of their policing tactics and the wrath of a public convinced that blockades are criminal rather than political acts. The police, however, contrary to their assertions, are not the victims here. They are just the dupes in a much older game of cowboys and Indians.

The above RCMP statements show that even with all of the federal financial and managerial control over First Nation Chiefs/Leaders, except, apparently for the federal **AFN** collaborator, **Phil Fontaine**, the Chiefs/Leaders were still not entirely trusted by the federal government and that a large concern in 2007, was the potential for a broad national coordinated series of local and regional political actions by First Nations.

## 'INAC Spying' continued from page 4

But one thing is clear: most threatening of all to security and government forces is coordinated First Nations action. This can be seen clearly from the reports. At one point in the 2007 INAC to RCMP briefings, concern is expressed about a treaty gathering because,

***"The 2006 Numbered Treaty Conference proposed a 'national' movement of independent actions to express discontent."***

Their fear is palpable where they follow the trajectory of the **Day of Action** from **Chief Terrance Nelson's** proposal at the **Assembly of First Nations**, where the motion carried, to confirmation of the nation-wide event in a personal meeting between the **RCMP Commissioner** and **Phil Fontaine**, then **National Chief**, where **"Mr. Fontaine expressed his concern over the sense of frustration that seems to exist among First Nation leaders and the growing resolve to support a June 29th blockade."**

## Crown Reward-Punishment System Divides Leaders and People

If coordinated action gets the goods, we need to pay special attention to the government's particular interest in **"splinter"** groups.

This divide and conquer approach between traditional Indigenous governments and **Indian Act** Band Councils has been going on for generations, not only among the **Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy**, but other Indigenous Nations in Canada as well.

It has gotten to the point where in many cases the community people don't trust their own leaders anymore because their leaders are more accountable to Ottawa than to their own people. Ottawa, after all, supplies the monies band councils get for their salaries, travel, programs & services. Offices of First Nation organizations right up to the **Assembly of First Nations** - a national Chiefs' organization— are dependent on federal funding to survive. The whole First Nations' governance system relies on federal discretion.

Under Canada's colonial system, the struggle for Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, Aboriginal and Treaty rights has historically been undermined by First Nations who cooperated with the Crown government turning in those First Nations who were resisting the Crown's colonial system.

Over time this evolved into the Crown dividing First Nations into the **"progressive"** Indian Bands and the backward or **"traditional"** Indian Bands. The federal government through the various Indian Affairs departments, developed an approach to reward the **"progressive"** Indians and punish the **"traditional"** Indians.

The federal government instituted the **"Indian Agent"** on-reserves to apply the reward-punishment system, the objective being to assimilate the Indians into becoming good little Euro-Canadians. Along with the residential school system, the reward-punishment approach did partially succeed in the goal of assimilation, many **"Indians"** became ashamed of their language and culture and enfranchised, many more were deemed **"fit for citizenship"** and were stripped of their Indian Status by the Crown authorities.

This federal reward-punishment approach still exists the **"Indian Agents"** have been replaced by the Band Councils who now deliver Crown programs and services to their community members. The Band Councils and other First Nation organizations formula funding are controlled by a system of legislation, policies, terms & conditions all designed, controlled and managed largely by the federal Crown bureaucracy and politicians in Ottawa.

The First Nations Chiefs/Leaders who become more known and prominent are largely the individuals that have been trained and supported by federal bureaucrats. These individuals become known for their seeming ability to get federal capital dollars to build new houses, schools and other community infrastructure, or additional program dollars for enhancing Band programs.

However, the point is, none of these individuals would have gotten anywhere without fed-



**"The federal government instituted the "Indian Agent" on-reserves to apply the reward-punishment system, the objective being to assimilate the Indians into becoming good little Euro-Canadians. Along with the residential school system, the reward-punishment approach did partially succeed in the goal of assimilation, many "Indians" became ashamed of their language and culture and enfranchised"**



## 'INAC Spying' conclusion from page 5



An Algonquin protester in Ottawa against the Harper government.

“For those Chiefs/Leaders who don’t cooperate with the federal government, they can be ignored and/or stalled on funding requests. In some circumstances the federal government will even support “splinter groups” to take out the offending Chief/Leader”



Integrated Security Enforcement Team (INSET).

eral support to advance their political careers. This is the reward system at work.

For those Chiefs/Leaders who don’t cooperate with the federal government, they can be ignored and/or stalled on funding requests. In some circumstances the federal government will even support “**splinter groups**” to take out the offending Chief/Leader. A current prominent example of this is the **Algonquins of Barriere Lake** in Western Quebec, but this also occurred historically at the **Six Nations Grand River Territory**.

Getting back to the **INAC/RCMP 2007 briefing** on “**Aboriginal Extremism**”, the documents make it clear that while the **Canadian State Security Apparatus** is concerned about “**splinter groups**”, they also are somewhat concerned about Chiefs/Leaders from **Indian Act Band Councils** and First Nation establishment organizations like **AFN** and their **Provincial/Territorial Organizations** becoming Aboriginal “**extremists**”.

The 2007 INAC brief recognizes that some First Nation Chiefs/Leaders try to lever Crown government’s into making policy or program concessions by issuing public warnings that the young people or community members will rise up, so the government better give into their demands. The Crown government knows this is usually rhetoric and not credible from their own intelligence gathering.

The INAC brief also notes that in the cases of **Six Nations** and **Deseronto** the **Indian Act Band Councils** were largely silent about the actions taken by “**splinter groups**” of “**extremists**” in those communities, but that the **Indian Act Band Councils** didn’t support the “**splinter groups**” despite their silence.

What the **INAC/RCMP briefings** show, is that there needs to be unity on the ground with coordinated political actions between First Nations Peoples in order to protect, defend and advance First Nation pre-existing sovereignty, and First Nation Aboriginal & Treaty rights to lands and resources.

Harper’s **Throne Speech** now makes it clear that as a majority government they intend to pass laws and policies over First Nations people, lands and resources without regard to what First Nation Peoples want or need. It’s time to defend your rights! Get organized!



Editorial Cartoon—courtesy of Ross Monour, Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake.

## ***Aboriginal Hotspots and Public Safety: Presentation by Indian & Northern Affairs Canada to the RCMP***

[Editor's Note: This document was obtained through an Access to Information request to the RCMP from a Researcher.]

March 30, 2007

### **Purpose of Presentation**

- Describe past initiatives to improve collaboration between INAC and PSEPC to mitigate aboriginal occupations and protests (O&P's).
- Describe what we have learnt through these past initiatives which may inform future plans.

### **Summer 2006 Operational Plan Objectives**

- In May 2006, the Deputies PSEPC and INAC directed that a summer operational plan be prepared for Aboriginal occupations and protests (O&P's). It's objectives were:
  1. To establish a dialogue between federal departments as to the sharing of information on their respective mandates, policies, business practices and issues; that needs to be known in order to collaborate on preventive measures;
  2. To support the sharing of information between federal departments and other parties as appropriate, for the timely identification of impending incidents and by which to avoid them or mitigate them;
  3. To support the coordinated federal/provincial response as to Aboriginal O&P that may arrive and by which to defuse any potential violence at the site or through sympathy actions;
  4. To support measures towards a long-term, stable and secure environment in the aftermath of O&P's; and
  5. To provide for timely, consistent advice and high quality aids to federal decision-makers, regarding O&P's through efficient interdepartmental processes.

### **Summer 2006 Operational Plan – Problematic**

- There were strong indications of a need to improve communications and collaboration:

*“it became evident that most (law enforcement officials) are ignorant regarding INAC roles and responsibilities and mandate...Conversely, the role of law enforcement, and an understanding of their related capacities, appears to be lacking from an INAC perspective”.*

Identifying Collaborative Efforts to Deter and Mitigate the Impact of Organized Crime on First Nation Governance and Well Being, March 2006

- There was a payback for doing so:

*“What distinguishes Caledonia from Ipperwash is that (operational) communications was established quickly and maintained; though the OPP never contemplated an event of that complexity”.*

Ron George  
Critical Incident Mediator, OPP



John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Canada.

**“In May 2006, the Deputies PSEPC and INAC directed that a summer operational plan be prepared for Aboriginal occupations and protests”**



Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety Canada.

## 'INAC Hotspots' continued from page 7

### Summer 2006 Operational Plan Results: Process Improvements



CSIS Logo

- Standing Information Sharing Forum:
  - Chaired by RCMP
  - Members PCO-S&I, CSIS, CBS, GOC, INAC, DFO, NRCAN, TC, etc.
  - Weekly conference calls
  - Intensive real time info sharing during incidents
- INAC Hotspot Reporting System:
  - Continuous environmental monitoring (INAC, DFO, NRCAN Region's, Federal Negotiation Teams, INAC Media Services, Police Intelligence)
  - Continuous information dissemination by INAC of existing and emerging risks
  - Hot Spot Binder: summarizing and analyzing case files
- Synergy with PSEPC Reporting Systems (CSIS, ITAC, GOC and RCMP)

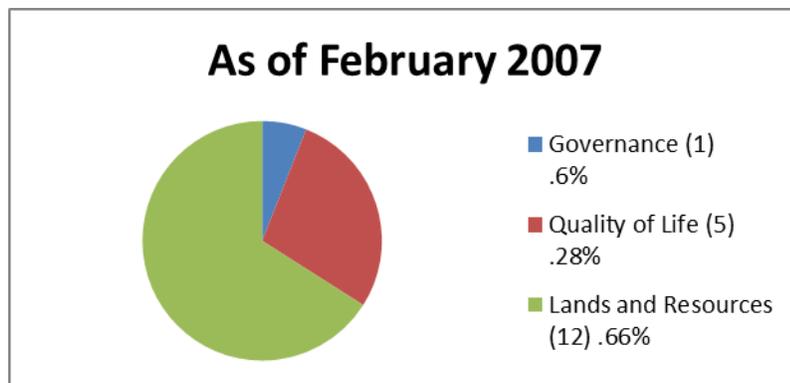
### Hotspot Reporting Binder – Lessons Learned

1. Nature of Hotspots
2. Multitude of Jurisdictions involved
3. Leaderships of protests
4. Incidents mitigated

“Continuous environmental monitoring (INAC, DFO, NRCAN Region's, Federal Negotiation Teams, INAC Media Services, Police Intelligence)”

### Nature of Hotspots

- The vast majority of Hot Spots are related to lands and resources:



- But: less than 30% of these are related to “claims” negotiations, and
- Most are incited by development activities on traditional territories

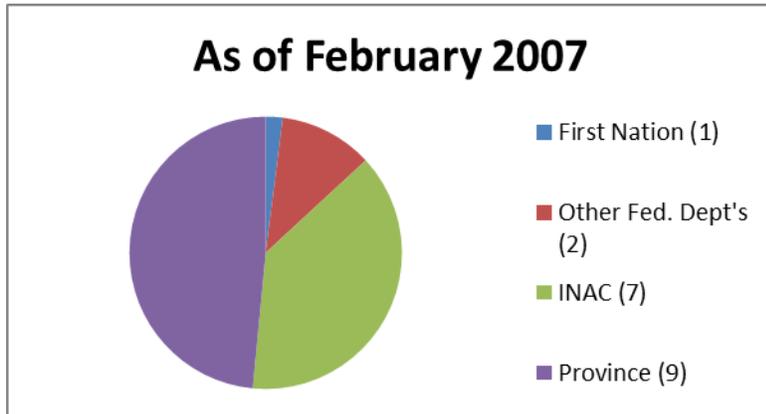
### Multitude of Jurisdictions Involved

- Hot Spots fall about 50/50 between federal and provincial jurisdictions.



CSIS HQ, Ottawa, Ontario.

## ‘INAC Hotspots’ continued from page 8



Chief Terrance Nelson, Rosseau River, Manitoba. (Photo by CBC)

- Province issues are most often related to development on traditional First Nation territories.
- Federal issues are more diverse and often related to **Indian Act** provisions or program funding issues.

### Hotspot Reporting Binder – Leadership of Protests

- The following unpredictable protests were led by “splinter groups”:
  - **Caledonia, Ontario:** (Douglas Creek Estates occupation)
  - **Belleville, Ontario:** (Montreal/Toronto Rail Blockade in sympathy to Caledonia)
  - **Brantford, Ontario:** (Grand River Conservation Authority Lands)
  - **Deseronto, Ontario:** (Occupation of Quarry)
  - **Grassy Narrows:** (Blockade of Trans Canada Hwy by environmentalists)
  - **Maniwaki, Quebec:** (Blockade of Route 117)
- Such incidents may involve multiple competing power groups. At times it appears these involve illicit agendas (e.g. smuggling)
- In contrast the Manitoba Day of Protest through rail blockades, sanctioned by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), was highly structured and transparent.
- Incidents led by splinter groups are arguably harder to manage as they exist outside negotiation processes to resolve recognized grievances with duly elected leaders. We seek to avoid giving standing to such splinter groups so as not to debase the legally recognized government. Incidents are also complicated by external groups such as Warrior Societies or non-Aboriginal counter-protest groups.

### How Aboriginal Leaders Position Themselves to Aboriginal Extremism

- There is a tendency to predict extremism as a consequence of problems in Canada/First Nations relations.
- There is a tendency to observe extremism but not to sanction specific splinter groups (e.g. Caledonia/Deseronto)
- The 2006 Numbered Treaty Conference proposed a ‘national’ movement of independent actions to express discontent.

“the Manitoba Day of Protest through rail blockades, sanctioned by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), was highly structured and transparent”



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Logo.



Sockeye salmon, Fraser River, B.C.

**“Fisheries and Oceans is monitoring significant risks related to, for example, the Fraser River fishery”**



Aboriginal food fishery, Fraser River, B.C.

## ‘INAC Hotspots’ conclusion from page 9

- Events led by duly elected leaders tend to be transparent and disciplined.
- **Summer 2006 Operational Plan – Incidents Mitigated**
- The vast majority of incidents are mitigated by INAC and RCMP regional staff.
- Major collaborative efforts have occurred to mitigate certain situations:
  - Manitoba Rail Blockades (Roseau River FN) – RCMP/INAC/CN interventions.
  - Alberta Rail Blockade (Ermine Skin FN) – RCMP interventions.
  - Kanesatake – INAC/PSEPC intervention.
- Caledonia was and remains a significant event in risk management.
- Fisheries and Oceans is monitoring significant risks related to, for example, the Fraser River fishery.

### And the Summer of 2007? Recent Quotes from Aboriginal Leaders

*“Obviously the Government of Canada is not listening. Perhaps a summer of barricades, balaclavas, and burning tires will serve to draw attention to the urgency of the desperate situation of the Aboriginal People of Canada,”* concluded Grand Chief Stewart Phillip (Press Release issued from the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, March 21)

*“We’re back to the frustrations that arose and intensified in the ‘80’s that led to the Oka uprising in 1990, and we’re going to see another national outbreak of expressions of that violence.”* Stewart Phillip said the \$21 million in new funding contained in the budget for Aboriginal initiatives is just another slap in the face of First Nations people. (The Penticton Herald, March 22)

*“If people aren’t being heard, if (land) claims aren’t being addressed . . . you can bet there’s going to be much more confrontation and barricades.”* *“Do I agree with it? No. But the young people are going to be taking matters into their own hands.”* (Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Montreal Gazette, March 21)

*“This budget is doing nothing for First Nations people. It’s very disappointing.”* said Shirley Clarke, Chief of a Reserve in Nova Scotia. *“Sometimes confrontation may be the avenue to go, because sometimes nobody is listening.”* (Montreal Gazette, March 22)

*“The patience of the people is getting very thin. There is no faith at all with the Crown. There is no trust. We saw what went on for a whole year,”* said Six Nations spokesman, Hazel Hill. *“You are going to have people that if they feel that the government of Canada is not willing to cooperate fully then people are going to have to do things to bring attention.”* (The Ottawa Sun, The London Free Press, The Toronto Sun, March 17)

*“The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is threatening not to cooperate on new hydro dams or forestry projects as it absorbs the sting of being snubbed by this week’s federal budget. AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans said he is still reeling from the budget, which included only about \$70 million in new spending for Aboriginals out of total new spending of \$10 billion. “This budget only allows enough money to continue the management of our own misery,”* Evans said. (Winnipeg Free Press, March 21<sup>st</sup>)

## RCMP Operational Response to Aboriginal Occupations and Protest—April 3, 2007

Presented By: Supt. Shirley Cuillierier to CSIS

Slides 4-6 Delivered by Russ Weissman

### Purpose

- To describe a strategic and national level approach to effectively manage Aboriginal occupations and protests.

### Background

- Many of the Aboriginal communities across Canada in which the RCMP has policing responsibility have outstanding land claims or grievances and many of these communities have become frustrated.
- As recent Senate Standing Committee that examined the issue of Indian specific claims ("Negotiation or Confrontation: It's Canada's Choice) estimates about 900 outstanding claims that could take in excess of 90 years to resolve.
- The primary source of these conflicts often include: Treaty/Hunting/Fishing rights, Internal conflict, Land Claims, Environment disputes, Sovereignty issues, Economic concerns and Social issues.

### Current Environment

- There is a growing concern among high-level government officials and the policing community about the potential for unrest in Aboriginal communities, and an increasing sense of militancy among certain segments of the Aboriginal population.
- Caledonia continues to serve as a beacon on land claims and Aboriginal rights issues across Canada.
- Chief Terrance Nelson and the Assembly of First Nations have carried a motion to support a national blockade on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- During a recent meeting between the National Chief, Phil Fontaine and the Commissioner, Mr. Fontaine expressed his concern over the sense of frustration that seems to exist among First Nation leaders and the growing resolve to support a June 29<sup>th</sup> blockade.

### How are they different?

- The law and context of Aboriginal protests is fundamentally different than non-Aboriginal protests, such as labour or political disputes, and as a result, require a dedicated and unique police resources, strategies and responses.
- The assertion of rights is a fundamental and defining characteristic of Aboriginal protests.
- Difficult history of relations between police and Aboriginal people.
- Protests and occupations often take place off-reserve on "traditional lands" held by the Crown or non-Aboriginals.
- Federal, provincial and municipal governments may be involved as may non-Aboriginal third parties and several police forces of other enforcement agencies.
- Occupations and protests may involve communities that are divided internally, even



**“There is a growing concern among high-level government officials and the policing community about the potential for unrest in Aboriginal communities, and an increasing sense of militancy among certain segments of the Aboriginal population”**





INAC HQ Command and Control Centre over First Nations.

**“In the event of a national event such as June 29th, a fractured and inconsistent approach has the potential to galvanize Nations throughout Canada”**



## ‘RCMP to CSIS’ continued from page 11

when the focus of the protest is external.

- The duration of the Aboriginal occupations and protests distinguishes them from most public order events.
- The make-up of the participants can include a wide spectrum of the community and may involve women and children.
- The idealistic nature of these conflicts can instill a sense of resolve and emotion not often seen in other types of public order events.
- These disputes often raise public policy and legal issues beyond the scope and authority of police.

### Considerations, Risks and Concerns

- The often disparate and fractured nature of these events can lead the police to become the proverbial “meat in the sandwich” and the subject of negative public sentiment.
- In the event of a national event such as June 29<sup>th</sup>, a fractured and inconsistent approach has the potential to galvanize Nations throughout Canada.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal extremists often see these events as an opportunity to escalate or agitate the conflict.
- The exorbitant policing costs associated with managing these events can lead to political pressure on the police to act more quickly or use force to resolve the situation.
- The recent CN strike represents the extent in which a national railway blockade could effect the economy of Canada.
- The police role may be complicated by the conventional and sometimes political view that there is a clear distinction between policy and police operations.
- Perception of a two-tiered approach to enforcement can generate significant criticism and motivate non-Aboriginal activists.
- An intense and protracted event may lead to long-standing erosion of relationships for the police and the community – they are usually always the victims.
- Because there are limitations on what the police can negotiate and success often depends on others, the role of the police can become frustrating.

### Assumptions

- In any major event that spans numerous, police and political jurisdictions it is critical that a common philosophy and approach is adopted by those responsible for managing public order.
1. Success depends on the willingness and resolve of all parties to negotiate.
  2. The role of the police is to facilitate conflict negotiation in order to restore order, not yield a solution to the underlying dispute.
  3. While police are responsible for public safety they do not subscribe to the notion that these disputes can be effectively resolved through force.

## 'RCMP to CSIS' continued from page 12

### Police Objectives

- The primary objective of the police in any protest or occupation is to:
  1. Protect and restore public order.
  2. Minimize risk of violence at occupations and protests.
  3. To facilitate the building of trusting relationships that will assist Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal policy-makers to constructively resolve the dispute.



RCMP Tactical Officer.

### Core Elements

- There are six key functions and parallel programs that are required to effectively initiate preparation for an event.
  1. **Building Relationships:** Aboriginal Policing Service.
  2. **Contributing to Public Policy:** Commanding Officers.
  3. **Communicating Effectively:** Communications.
  4. **National Coordination:** Operational Readiness & Response Coordination Centre.
  5. **Coordination of Information & Threat Assessment:** Criminal Intelligence Branch.
  6. **Tactical Preparation:** Critical Incident Program.

### Tactical - Critical Incident Program

- The Critical Incident Program will:
  - Provide national leadership, coordination, advice and guidance in the development of RCMP national plans, strategies, policies and best practices for the provision of specialized services including: incident commanders, public order teams, scribes, crisis negotiators and other program functions.
  - Oversee the provision of resources, expertise, training requirements and equipment needs for the RCMP component programs.
  - Represent the RCMP in joint interdepartmental and interagency meetings.
  - Maintain open and transparent lines of communication with stakeholders involved directly or indirectly.
  - Provide specialist advice to RCMP senior management, as required.
  - Development of internal policies addressing police responses to occupations and protest.
- Approach: The RCMP will use measures deemed necessary to protect the fundamental freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, to promote the safety of all citizens, to enforce laws and to maintain peace and order.
- This will be accomplished through a graduated and measured response that is based upon the RCMP Incident Management Intervention Model.

“Provide national leadership, coordination, advice and guidance in the development of RCMP national plans, strategies, policies and best practices for the provision of specialized services including: incident commanders, public order teams, scribes, crisis negotiators and other program functions”

### Relationships – Aboriginal Policing Services (NAPS & APS)

- Purpose/Mandate: To actively pursue collaborative and respectful relationships that foster an environment of trust and equality.
- This will be accomplished by:



RCMP Tactical Unit.

## 'RCMP to CSIS' continued from page 13



RCMP HQ, Ottawa, Ontario..

**“provide RCMP Senior Managers in both the Divisions and National Headquarters, as well as the Federal Government and policing partners with current/timely information and assessment of situations in and around Canadian Aboriginal communities”**



RCMP Emergency Response Team.

- Assisting local authorities in facilitating communications in an effort to foster positive relationships during any Aboriginal related dispute, conflict or critical incident.
- Being proactive in establishing and maintaining contacts with the local, regional and national Aboriginal communities and & organizations.
- Remaining current on issues related to local Aboriginal communities.
- Provide information and intelligence.
- Educating police and community about the underlying causes of these disputes.

### NAPS/APS

- Deliverables:
  - To develop a communications protocol with the Assembly of First Nations.
  - To arrange a meeting with the APS unit managers to discuss a coordinated approach to dealing with these conflicts.
  - To ensure APS units are actively involved in outreach to those communities where unrest may occur.
  - That APS units begin to liaise with their CIP and CI counterparts.
  - APS units begin make contact with CP and CN rail.
  - Actively pursue information about various activist groups that could become involved in a protest or occupation.
  - Train APS units in Interest Based Negotiation.
  - To work with Learning & Development to inform members about some of the root causes for these conflicts.

### Criminal Intelligence

- Objective: To provide RCMP Senior Managers in both the Divisions and National Headquarters, as well as the Federal Government and policing partners with current/timely information and assessment of situations in and around Canadian Aboriginal communities. To provide insight and historical knowledge that will assist in decision-making in regards to courses of action and/or the assignment of resources.
- Deliverables:
  - A weekly Aboriginal and Community Safety Situation Report.
  - Management of Information and Intelligence.
  - Create a working group comprised of CCAPS, NSI, NOC/CI
  - Contact key partners to ensure sharing of information and building of an intelligence network (ie. INAC, CSIS, OPP, SQ, CBSA, DND, NRC, Transport, Health & DFO).

## 'RCMP to CSIS' conclusion from page 14

- Produce daily assessments throughout spring and summer.

### Operational Readiness & Response Coordination Centre

- Objective: ORRCC will provide strategic-level support to divisional operational and tactical responses.
- Programs:
  - Emergency Management Program: the EMP is focused on proactively preparing the RCMP to respond to the consequences of natural, technological, and deliberate human caused events.
  - National Operations Centre: NOC will gather and process information to support strategic-level decision-making, and to strategically coordinate and/or manage the RCMP's National-level response to national security, natural, technological failures and/or cyber events.
  - Continuity of Operations Program: The development and timely execution of plans, measures, procedures and arrangements to ensure minimal or interruption to the availability of critical services and associated assets.



RCMP operational centre.

**“National Operations Centre: NOC will gather and process information to support strategic-level decision-making, and to strategically coordinate and/or manage the RCMP’s National-level response to national security, natural, technological failures and/or cyber events”**

### Contributing to Public Policy – Initiative Steering Committee

- Purpose: To enable the effective resolution of public safety issues resulting from Aboriginal protests and occupations through:
  - Providing the National Working Group with resource support and strategic advice.
  - Encouraging a nationally consistent, coordinated and measured approach.
  - Developing common philosophy, messaging and communications protocols.
  - Informing senior management of critical events and decisions.
  - Pursuing opportunities to contribute to public policy and educating government officials about the policing communities perspective of these events.
  - Establishing stronger linkages with partners and key stakeholders.

### Initiative Gaps

- Dedicated Project Leader with necessary expertise & support.
- Area to co-locate team.
- National level training for Critical Incident Commanders.
- Development of a more refined approach to dealing with public order Incidents (ie. OPP ART, Interest Based Negotiators).
- Meeting between Intelligence and Operations.
- Messaging from DCOI to Divisions.
- Invitation to OPP and SQ and major municipal police services.
- Potential for operational placements to INAC and AFN.
- The capacity of NOC and the OREPC Program.



RCMP operational centre.

**[Editor’s Note: Sections/Pages of this presentation were censored using Access to Information Act, sections s.16(1)(a)(i) and s. 16 (2)©. This document was obtained through an Access to Information request to the RCMP from a Researcher.]**

## INAC EMERGENCY AND ISSUE MANAGEMENT WEEKLY SUMMARY

For the week ending August 13, 2010

This is a weekly report regarding activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues relating to Aboriginal peoples in Canada. This summary along with background information for items that are not new to this summary can be accessed within INAC's Collaboration system under "EIMD - Gestion des urgences AINC Emergency Management INAC; Weekly Summary and Weekend Updates".

Provided within this report:  
Annex 1: Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Situation Report

To watch over the weekend:

**BC: Wildland/Urban Interface Fires**  
**QC: Mohawks of Kanesatake - Land Dispute**

**Weekend Duty Officer: Karen Legasy**  
**Telephone: (819) 997-6562**  
**E-mail: OPSCentreNOB@inac.gc.ca**  
**Blackberry PIN: 20767E46**

"This is a weekly report regarding activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues relating to Aboriginal peoples in Canada"

### HOT SPOT SUMMARY

(New information has been bolded for your convenience)

#### QUEBEC

##### Mohawks of Kanesatake First Nation - Land Dispute

Kanesatake is located 53 km west of Montreal with an on-reserve population of approximately 1,347.

This dispute involves private property on the south side of Highway 344, near the Kanesatake First Nation. The owner/developer of the property plans to build luxury homes, however, the First Nation alleges that the site is part of an unresolved land claim. No work permit has been issued by the town of Oka.

The federal government has appointed Fred Caron to negotiate the specific land claim and settle Canada's obligation to the Kanesatake Mohawks under historic treaties. Negotiations led by Fred Caron are scheduled to begin on August 12, 2010.

On Friday, August 6, 2010, a confrontation between approximately 60 First Nations members and the Norfolk Company occurred in proximity of the disputed site. Law Enforcement Officers asked the developer and his employees to vacate the site when the situation began to escalate. The situation returned to normal once the representatives vacated the site.

**On Thursday, August 12, 2010, the media reported that the town of Oka and the developer had met on Monday, August 9, 2010, and had reached an agreement in principle where the city has made an offer to purchase the contentious lots.**

**Details of the purchase offer have not been disclosed however, the developer was given the deadline of Friday, August 13, 2010, to accept the town's offer.**

The INAC QC Regional Office continues to monitor the situation.

Updates will be provided as new information is made available.

##### Barriere Lake First Nation - Protest - Governance

**Barriere Lake First Nation is located approximately 134km north of Maniwaki with an on-reserve population of approximately 189.**



INAC labeled Barriere Lake as a hotspot.



INAC has labeled Kanesatake as a hotspot.

## **'INAC Hotspots' continued from page 16**

**Barriere Lake First Nation was notified by the federal government last fall to get community consensus on their custom code by March 31, 2010, or be subject to the election provisions of the Indian Act.**

**On April 1, 2010, the First Nation was brought under the application of the election provisions of the Indian Act and an Electoral Officer was appointed to conduct the election. The First Nation believes that the federal government is trying to forcibly assimilate Barriere Lake's customary governance system using a rarely invoked piece of the Indian Act legislation - Section 74.**

**On Wednesday, August 11, 2010, the INAC QC Regional Office advised that the meeting to nominate candidates for the positions of Chief and Councillor was proceeding as planned on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at 14h00, at the airport (Lac des Loups) outside the reserve.**

**On Thursday, August 12, 2010, a few minutes prior to the meeting, approximately 50 protesters presented themselves at that location. As such, the Electoral Officer was unable to hold the nomination meeting scheduled for August 12, 2010. The situation returned to normal once the Electoral Officer vacated the site.**

**As the Indian Act election process allows for nominations to be made through the mail, despite the meeting not taking place, the Electoral Officer was in receipt of five valid written nominations (one for Chief and 4 for Councillor positions). As the number of persons nominated did not exceed the number to be elected, the Electoral Officer acclaimed the five individuals as Chief and Councillors.**

**It is anticipated that this action will not be accepted unanimously by the community.**

**INAC QC Region continues to monitor the overall events at Barriere Lake.**

**This will be the final notification on this event unless Significant developments occur.**

### **SASKATCHEWAN**

#### **First Nations within Treaty 4 - Protest - Land Use**

**On Wednesday, August 4, 2010, the media reported that First Nations within the Treaty 4 territory plan a one week peaceful occupation of Provincial Crown land in east-central Saskatchewan.**

**The occupation consists of a cultural camp which began on Monday, August 9, 2010, for one week in the Porcupine Provincial Forest near the village of Somme, 200 kilometres east of Saskatoon.**

**The event is being held partly to educate First Nations youth about culture and treaty issues and partly to pressure the provincial government, which organizers say has failed to consult and accommodate them on land use issues.**

**They indicated that the provincial government's new legislation on the sale of Crown land is contrary to a recent Supreme Court ruling obligating governments to consult and accommodate First Nations on relevant development issues.**

**The provincial government stated that it is interested in working closely with First Nations on a host of issues, but the duty to consult is not required for certain types of development.**

**The cultural camp will involve youth from the bands that are signatories to Treaty 4, also known as the Qu'Appelle Treaty, which covers a large portion of east-central and southern Saskatchewan.**

**On Thursday, August 12, 2010, the media reported that an unknown number of First Nations leaders were camped as expected in the Porcupine Provincial Forest**

**As of Friday, August 13, 2010, the event remains peaceful.**

**The protesters are planning to remain on site until Sunday, August 15, 2010. They do not intend to block any roads or park entrances.**

**The INAC SK Regional Office continues to monitor the event.**

**Updates will be provided as new information is made available.**

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

#### **St'umlnus First Nation - Protest - Geoduck Fishery**



Chemainus administration building.

“the media reported that a small flotilla of boats, containing approximately 100 First Nations members, blocked commercial fishing boats on Kulleet Bay, north of Ladysmith, on opening day of the geoduck fishery (a geoduck is a type of saltwater clam)”



Chemainus leaders council paddling.

## **‘INAC Hotspot’ conclusion from page 17**

The Stu'umlnus First Nation (formerly known as the Chemainus First Nation) is located at Ladysmith Harbour and Stuart Channel approximately 30 km south of Nanaimo with an on-reserve population of approximately 734.

On Monday, August 9, 2010, the media reported that a small flotilla of boats, containing approximately 100 First Nations members, blocked commercial fishing boats on Kulleet Bay, north of Ladysmith, on opening day of the geoduck fishery (a geoduck is a type of saltwater clam). Local law enforcement was on site monitoring the event

The protest was to highlight the alleged refusal of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to hold meaningful consultations with the First Nations before opening the fishery. Other media reported that another reason for the protest was the lack of consultation regarding the potential effects of a proposed cruise ship facility nearby.

As a result of the waterborne protest, the DFO called off the fishery, citing safety concerns. No future date for the fishery has been set

The INAC BC Regional Office continues to monitor the situation.

This will be the final notification on this event unless significant developments occur.

## **INAC EMERGENCY AND ISSUE MANAGEMENT WEEKLY SUMMARY—For the week ending November 26, 2010**

This is a weekly report regarding activities that threaten public safety in relation to issues relating to Aboriginal peoples in Canada. This summary along with background information for items that are not new to this summary can be accessed within INAC's Collaboration system under "EIMO - Gestion des urgences AINC Emergency Management INAC; Weekly Summary and Weekend Updates".

### **To watch over the weekend:**

**Dauphin River First Nation (MB) - Evacuation Planned - Impending loss of road access due to flooding**

#### **Weekend Duty Officer:**

**Meghan-Tia Robinson**

**EIMO Emergency Telephone: (819) 997-6552**

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**Duty Blackberry PIN: 21AE9462**

### **HOT SPOT SUMMARY**

(New information has been bolded for your convenience)

#### **ATLANTIC**

##### **Tobique First Nation (AT) - Environmental Contamination**

The Tobique First Nation (16) is located 40 km from Grand Falls, NB with an on-reserve population of approximately 865. The population of reserve #20 is unknown at this time.

On Friday, November 19, 2010, the INAC Atlantic Regional Office received a report from Environment Canada which indicated that two hydro electric transformers located on-reserve had lost over 1000 litres of mineral oil over a few month timeframe. The first trans-

## 'More Hotspots' continued from page 18

former contained non-PCB miner-1 oil. while the contents of the second one could not be confirmed.

The information received also indicated that there was no initial evidence of contamination at the sites. In addition. there was some evidence that this could be theft related.

NB Power contracted an environmental consultant to take soil samples. It was determined that no oil from the transformers was found on or near the surface. but there was an indication of hydrocarbons in lower levels of the soil.

Although the position of chief is currently vacant, the members of the Council do have the authority to govern accordingly.

INAC representatives continue to work with community leaders and residents to create greater stability in the community and to significantly improve living conditions.

The First Nation has held five protests this year, this being the second one since the election process was finalized.

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

### ONTARIO

#### Grass Roots Committee of Ontario - Protest - Queens Park

The Grass Roots Committee of Ontario is a social media organization which has been championing Aboriginal issues, primarily those related to the Children's Aid Society (CAS) and the seizure of youth from First Nation communities.

On Thursday, November 25, 2010, the INAC ON Regional Office indicated that a rally had begun as scheduled at Queens Park.

The intent of the protest is to raise awareness about holding the CAS accountable for issues related to First Nations children within foster care and to have CAS removed from First Nation communities.

Membership on this group appears to be based on a group which was previously focused on the "60's Scoop Children", who were taken from First Nations communities. The former group had a history of peaceful protests at Queens Park.

Approximately 35 people participated consisting of mostly Aboriginal people and some social activists holding placards.

The rally proceeded from Queens Park to the Toronto Marriott Hotel where a Special Chiefs Assembly took place. It then continued on to College and Bay Street, where the participants walked into the middle of the intersection which resulted in a traffic slowdown. Finally, the crowd ended the march at the CAS offices where police had blocked the entrance to the building. Only two participants were allowed to enter the building to meet with CAS officials.

The rally concluded peacefully at approximately 14h15.

INAC Ontario Region monitored the event.



“The intent of the protest is to raise awareness about holding the CAS accountable for issues related to First Nations children within foster care and to have CAS removed from First Nation communities”



Members of the Ontario Grassroots Committee.

**‘More Hotspots’ continued from page 19**



Walpole Island First Nation.

**“Protesters intend to shop in the USA; return to Canada using the Walpole Island Ferry; and to exercise their rights under the Jay and st. Anne Treaties by not paying duties and taxes”**

This will be the final notification on this event unless significant developments occur.

**Walpole Island First Nation (ON) - Possible Protest - Refusal to Pay Taxes or Duties on Goods Purchased in USA**

The Walpole Island First Nation (134) is located approximately 3 kilometres west of Wallaceburg and on the shore of Lake St Clair with an on-reserve population of approximately 1,878.

On Wednesday, November 24, 2010, the Canadian Border Security Agency (CBSA) in the Windsor/St.Clair Region was advised that members of Walpole Island are planning a demonstration on Friday, November 26,2010. Protesters intend to shop in the USA; return to Canada using the Walpole Island Ferry; and to exercise their rights under the Jay and st. Anne Treaties by not paying duties and taxes.

At present, CBSA Regional Operation is reporting that there has not been any signs of a protest nor any refusals of payment of duties and taxes. The CBSA has a Chief of Operations on site and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

This Is the final notification for this event unless significant developments occur.

**Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation - Protest - Administration of Funds**

The Wauzhushk Onlgum First Nation (163) also known as Rat Portage is located In Kenora Ontario, close to the Manitoba border, and about 200 kms east of Winnipeg with an on-reserve population of approximately 330.

On Wednesday, November 24, 2010, the media reported that a band member (Ed Skeid) from the Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation led a protest the morning of Wednesday, November 24, 2010, outside the community's band office. Only a few members participated.

Law Enforcement was called and the protest deteriorated Into a shouting match between opponents and supporters of the leadership.

Some band members wanted answers about the First Nation's financial affairs. They had questions about certain funds held in trust from the Casino Rama, as well as the recent land claim. They wanted the Chief Ken Skead to resign immediately.

The Chief responded to the allegations made against him and denied any wrongdoing. He Indicated that the Casino Rama proceeds were being used to payoff debts.

In recent months, the community signed a land claim with the province and federal government related to the Sultana gold mine. It involved the removal of ore without the band's permission at the turn of the last century.

The event concluded peacefully.

This will be the final notification for this event unless significant developments occur.



CBSA badge.

## 'More Hotspots' continued from page 20

### MANITOBA

#### Sapotaweyak Cree Nation - Evacuations ~ Flooding Due to Ice Jam

The Sapotaweyak Cree Nation First Nation (314) is located approximately 450kms north of Brandon with an on-reserve population of approximately 936.

On Thursday, November 18, 2010, the INAC Manitoba Regional Office reported a flood emergency on the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation First Nation.

The river that runs through the community experienced a sudden rise due to an ice jam and frazil ice formation at the mouth of the river. As a result, a community bridge was affected which compromised access for a number of community residences.

On Thursday, November 18, 2010, the INAC Manitoba Regional Office reported that the First Nation evacuated 24 people from areas where access was lost or threatened due to the flooding. Evacuees were being housed in hotels and being provided access to provincial emergency social services.

The media also reported that crews from the provinces Emergency Measures Organization have built berms to protect the endangered homes.

On Friday, November 19, 2010, the INAC MB Regional Office reported that the ice jam had moved off the bridge and flowed inland. It had jammed within the community and was threatening approximately 30 homes.

As of Tuesday, November 23, 2010, approximately 50 residents in total were evacuated, either to nearby towns or within the community.

On Tuesday, November 23, 2010, the river had dropped and the ice breaking work by the Amphibex had been completed.

As of Thursday, November 25, 2010, all except six evacuees have returned to their homes.

MANFF will be submitting an impact assessment to identify property damage. At least five community buildings have sustained damage.

Cold weather has helped to stabilize the flood risk. The river remains at an elevated stage, but does not pose a flood risk at present. Depending on variables that will come into focus over the winter and into the spring, there may be an elevated spring flood risk.

The INAC Manitoba Regional Office monitored the event.

This event is now considered to be in the recovery phase.

This will be the final notification for this event unless significant developments occur.

#### Dauphin River First Nation (MB) - Evacuation Planned - Impending Loss of Road Access due to Flooding

The Dauphin River First Nation (316) is located 240 km north of Winnipeg with an on-reserve population of approximately 210. The community is accessible by only one road (provincial), as well as an airstrip.



“the INAC Manitoba Regional Office reported that the First Nation evacuated 24 people from areas where access was lost or threatened due to the flooding. Evacuees were being housed in hotels and being provided access to provincial emergency social services”



Manitoba ice breaker.



Chief Gibby Jacob, Squamish First Nation.

“According to the INAC BC Regional Office, reasons for the protest Include the Chief and Councils reluctance to raise their member distribution from \$2000 to \$3000 per year as well as a general mistrust of the current Chief, Council and band administration”



Chief Gibby Jacobs, Squamish First Nation.

## ‘More Hotspots’ continued from page 21

On Thursday, November 25, 2010, the regional office indicated that the only road leading into the Dauphin River First Nation was expected to flood in the very near future.

This will result in a compromised road access until an ice road can be constructed. The construction of the ice road is not possible until the onset of colder weather.

While the First Nation has identified a total of 54 vulnerable community members, including prenatales, newborns and preschool children. only nine of these vulnerable community members have been identified as Priority 1 and. at this time, the community is planning to evacuate only those members.

Chief Emery Stagg raised a concern about compromised access and the supply of food to the community. In particular, his concern is for those on social assistance who may not have an adequate stockpile in the case of an extended road disruption.

The INAC MB Regional Office has made arrangements to allow people on Social Assistance to purchase January's groceries in advance of the road disruption. Chief Stagg accepted this as a solution.

The INAC MB Regional Office will consult with Manitoba Health to determine whether the medical needs of the evacuees can be met in the locations proposed by the community.

According to the INAC MB Regional Office, the First Nation will manage their evacuation costs. They have been provided with the Emergency Social Services rates, and will incur costs directly, then seek reimbursement from INAC.

The First Nation has not requested assistance from MANFF.

Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

### **Squamish First Nation (BC) - Protests - INAC BC Regional Office Governance**

The Squamish First Nation (555) is located on 24 reserves stretching from the north shore of Burrard Inlet in North Vancouver to the Squamish and Cheekeye area at the head of Howe Sound with an on-reserve population of approximately 2,258.

On Wednesday, November 24, 2010, the INAC BC Regional Office indicated that, according to their law enforcement partners, 18 members of the Squamish Band took part in a peaceful protest in North Vancouver.

The protest started at the Squamish First Nations Ayas Men Men offices, which is where their health, family and foster children programs are run out of. Protestors then proceeded down the street to the main Squamish administration offices.

According to the INAC BC Regional Office, reasons for the protest Include the Chief and Councils reluctance to raise their member distribution from \$2000 to \$3000 per year as well as a general mistrust of the current Chief, Council and band administration.

Law enforcement partners continue to monitor.

The protestors advised that another protest will occur on Friday, November 26, 2010, at the INAC BC regional office on Melville Street in Vancouver. They anticipate a larger number of participants as free bus tickets are being provided to First Nation members.

## ‘More Hotspots’ conclusion from page 22

The protestors have been advised by law enforcement to restrict themselves to the sidewalks.

**As of 12h30 PST, Friday, November 26, 2010, there is no Indication of any protest occurring at this time.**

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### Skatin First Nation (BC) - Power Outage

The Skatin First Nation (562) is located on the Douglas Portage Lillooet River just north of Vancouver. The community is off grid and uses a diesel generator for electrification. It has an on-reserve population of approximately 121.

On Tuesday, November 23, 2010, the INAC BC Regional Office indicated that the Skatin First Nation reported that they were experiencing a power outage due to a generator problem.

As of Wednesday, November 24, 2010, eight families without wood stoves were identified for evacuation. Due to slippery road conditions, these families were accommodated within the community.

A replacement generator was expected to be delivered to the community on Wednesday, November 24, 2010. **As of Friday, November 26, 2010, there has not been any new information regarding this event.**

The INAC BC Regional Office continues to monitor the situation.

Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

**[Editor’s Note: The INAC Hotspot Reports were received through an Access to Information request sent to INAC by a researcher. These INAC Hotspot Reports are only examples of the ongoing INAC Hotspot Reporting System, which are shared with security and police agencies.]**



“the INAC BC Regional Office indicated that the Skatin First Nation reported that they were experiencing a power outage due to a generator problem”



RCMP, National Operations Centre.



Skatin First Nation celebrates connection to BC Hydro Grid.

**Advancing the Right of First Nations to Information**

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The First Nations Strategic Policy Counsel is a collection of individuals who are practitioners in either First Nations policy or law. We are not a formal organization, just a network of concerned individuals.

This publication is a volunteer non-profit effort and is part of a series. Please don't take it for granted that everyone has the information in this newsletter, see that it is as widely distributed as you can, and encourage those that receive it to also distribute it.

Feedback is welcome. Let us know what you think of the Bulletin—Russell Diabo, Publisher and Editor, First Nations Strategic Bulletin.

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For Back Issues Go To: [http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/201/300/  
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**Name change irks some First Nation leaders—By Kristy Kirkup, May 18, 2011**

OTTAWA - First Nations leaders are unsure why the Conservative government decided to change the name of the Indian and Northern Affairs Department to the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs without notice.

"We will be seeking clarity in the ministry's name change to ensure that it accurately reflects the relationship between First Nations and the Crown," said Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

The term aboriginal encompasses First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

At least one First Nations group says the Conservative has government "slighted" communities with the department's name change.

"We are not aboriginal," said Anishinabek Nation leader Patrick Madahbee. "Trying to lump First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples together might save space on the minister's business card, but it is disrespectful of the truly distinct nature of the communities with whom he needs to establish better relationships."

A spokesperson for the prime minister said changing the term "better reflects the scope of the minister's responsibilities with respect to First Nations, Inuit and Métis".

"This title is more up to date and inclusive, consistent with the government's focus on moving forward in our relationship with Aboriginal Peoples," said Andrew MacDougall.

"The new working title has no impact on the minister's statutory responsibilities, and he continues to be authorized by order-in-council to act as federal interlocutor for Metis and non-status Indians."

Innu leader Peter Penashue, a newly elected MP, will join Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq in cabinet. Penashue, who was the only Conservative MP elected in Newfoundland and Labrador, was named minister of intergovernmental affairs on Wednesday.

Aglukkaq was assigned the same portfolio she had before the election.

Just six aboriginals have been named cabinet ministers throughout Canadian history.

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**[Reprinted from the Toronto Sun]**