



Vancouver Police say they've stepped up patrols after a sexual assault in Stanley Park.

A 40-year-old woman is recovering after she was attacked when she responded to a man's appeal for help and followed him into the woods.

The police say they've gotten over half a dozen tips since Sunday's attack.

The suspect is described as Aboriginal, about 35, slim, of average height with a cut over the right side of his mouth and a black baseball cap with a red bear paw on the front.

(News1130)

Saskatchewan is providing \$1.6 million to help the First Nations University of Canada with what is being called an acute financial situation.

But provincial officials insist it's not a bailout for the struggling school.

Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris says most of the money will help the Regina-based university finance a collective agreement with its faculty.

School officials admit they haven't been able to cover the contract which dates back to 2005.

Another \$500,000 will go toward operating costs - but there are strings attached.

Norris says there will be benchmarks for accountability and sustainability that the university must reach before the money will be released.

(The Canadian Press)

Federal grand jurors in South Dakota have indicted a Canadian man again and joined his case with another American Indian Movement member charged in a 1975 killing.

John Graham was to stand trial this week on a charge he killed fellow Canadian Annie Mae Aquash (AH'-kwash) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

But a judge threw out the original indictment because it didn't show that either Graham or Aquash belonged to a federally recognized American Indian tribe.

U.S. Attorney Marty Jackley says the new indictment charges Graham and Richard Marshall with three alternate counts of murder and aiding and abetting.

Marshall was charged separately in August.

The judge scheduled their trial for February in Rapid City, South Dakota but that could change.

(The Associated Press)

Six Nations Police report they've recovered 18 stolen vehicles. Two had been set ablaze while the other 16 had been stripped for their parts. They were found at locations throughout the reserve over the past weekend. In one instance, a farmers field was damaged as the result of one vehicle being set on fire. There was no mention as to whether or not police had any suspects or whether or not charges were pending.

(CKRZ)

If a candidates debate in Caledonia, Ontario is any indication, Immigration Minister Diane Finley is in a fight to hold her riding of Haldimand-Norfolk.

She received little more than polite applause and a few boos last night when she appeared before a crowd of 200.

Most of the crowd came to hear the candidates' views on the ongoing Six Nations dispute over land claims.

Finley defended the Conservative government's approach of appointing a mediator and admits the dispute won't be fixed overnight.

The loudest cheers were for independent Gary McHale, who is pressing for provincial police to end the occupation.

Eric Hoskins, the Liberal candidate, also accused the Conservatives of hiding in Ottawa and not settling the dispute.

He says a Liberal government will end it by referring it to the Federal Land Claims Tribunal for a binding settlement.

(The Canadian Press)

First Nations leaders in B.C. are warning the province's forests minister that failure to address their concerns will increase frustrations that could prompt court battles and blockades.

Forests Minister Pat Bell, who met with about 100 representatives from the B.C. First Nations Summit on Monday, says he's made a pledge to show the leaders tangible results within 30 days.

The leaders presented a six point plan that, among other things, calls on the province to create legislation for First Nations forest tenure before the spring 2009 election.

They want to transfer wood in B.C. Timber Sales - the government agency that puts Crown timber up for open bid - for new First Nations tenures.

The First Nations representatives say existing attempts to create tenures that benefit their communities have failed, and they want a hand in drafting new legislation.

Shawn Atleo of the B.C. Assembly of First Nations says not acting will only bring about more conflict, including court challenges, and create 'major unrest.'

(The Canadian Press)

A New Brunswick native leader says there could be civil disobedience unless the province's 15 First Nations are given a bigger share of the bluefin tuna quota.

Chief Jesse Simon of the Elsipogtog First Nation says government must listen to native concerns or face a possible illegal fishery, or legal action.

At issue is the province's federally regulated bluefin tuna fishery, which opened October 1st in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Simon says before 2007, aboriginals were free to fish the tuna outside federal quotas.

Since then, they've been restricted by limits imposed by DFO.

Simon says the overall quota wasn't increased when First Nations fishermen entered the fray, meaning less tuna for all fishermen.

Simon contends the situation violates the law and infringes on the aboriginal right to secure a livelihood from the fishery.

(New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal)

Family members of a woman killed in 1975 say they're 'devastated' at the delay in a trial that was to start Monday in Rapid City, South Dakota for a man charged with killing her.

A federal judge dismissed the indictment against John Graham on Friday after agreeing with his lawyer that the United States didn't have jurisdiction because the accused and victim were Canadian.

Within hours, prosecutors filed a new complaint against Graham on charges he killed fellow American Indian Movement member Annie Mae Aquash (AH'-kwash).

In a statement, her family called it 'the cruelest of 11th-hour heists.'

Arlo Looking Cloud is serving a life sentence for his part in the killing.

Prosecutors have 10 days to hold a preliminary hearing or bring a new indictment against Graham.

(The Associated Press)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 10/03/2008

Important New Native Studies Curriculum Document Released

An enthusiastic crowd of Native and non Native people broke into spontaneous applause at the end of a video presentation on First Nations History and culture, which was shown at St. John's College on Thursday night.

The video, which is part of a newly developed curriculum, "Six Nations Iroquois Clans Program", on Native studies, was presented by Zig Misiak and Raymond Skye, who together developed a multi media unit for use in elementary schools across the province. The Ministry of Education has included Native Studies and Culture as part of the curriculum requirement in the junior division. Unfortunately, there is very little quality material available in this area. This shortage of material inspired Mr. Misiak and Mr. Skye to look to develop quality, authentic material.

Under the sponsorship of King and Benton, a written curriculum supported by audio tapes and a D.V.D was developed. TDG Marketing Inc. produced materials on a less than cost basis and the result is the First Nations Iroquois Clans Program. This new program excited educators and spectators alike at the first public showing held at St. John's.

Every attempt has been made to make the material authentic combining oral and written research and respecting both sources. Wide consultation with First Nations peoples has taken place and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has sent staff members to view field testing of its procedure.

Steve Charest, President of King and Benton, expressed his pleasure at the finished product and said it has been the company's vision to build understanding and respect between all groups in the province.

Mr. Misiak said he has received huge interest and support for the program and is optimistic that it will help fill a cultural, educational and social need in the province. A parallel announcement is being made today by the Elementary Teachers Assoc. of Ontario to over 72,000 members.

For more information & images visit: www.realpeoplehistory.com

OTTAWA, Oct. 3 /CNW Telbec/ - The Assembly of First Nations has received 4 out of 5 responses from the various parties to a questionnaire sent to all leaders on September 17th regarding the upcoming election and the party platforms related to First Nation issues.

"We had asked to hear back from all the parties by October 1st and I am really pleased with the responses we have received to date from the Bloc Quebecois, Green, Liberal and New Democratic parties. They have provided First Nations with solid responses and outlined their party platforms in a clear and concise manner. This support from 4 out of 5 parties demonstrates and reinforces our view that a majority of Canadians are supportive of First Nation issues." the National Chief Phil Fontaine noted. "The integrity of the four parties' responses certainly demonstrates a much needed shift towards reconciliation as anticipated in light of the June 11th Apology in the House of Commons," the National Chief further added.

"But the lack of profile of First Nations issues in the political debates last night also concerns me, as I believe it does all Canadians. In a recent poll conducted by Nanos, almost half of Canadians strongly or very strongly believe the federal government should make First Nations poverty a priority. We know strong First Nations make a stronger Canada and that until we address the issues of poverty and quality of life for First Nations children, Canada can not reach its full potential as a fair and just society," the National Chief concluded.

The Assembly of First Nations is the national political organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada and has been working with Elections Canada to ensure that First Nation citizens exercise their right to vote in the upcoming federal election. For more information on First Nations issues and the election and the various party responses check out the elections page on the AFN website at www.afn.ca
For further information: Joan McEwen, Director of Communications, (613) 241-6789 ext. 242, cell (613) 324-3329, jmcewen@afn.ca

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WASHINGTON—Oct. 6, 2008—The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) applauds the Congressional bi-partisan supporters who helped push the Code Talker Recognition Act of 2008 (H.R. 4544) to passage in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the Senate on during its final session before recessing until after the elections.

"The passage of this legislation is a long-awaited recognition of these courageous soldiers, who fought and died proudly, doing what was expected of them as warriors protecting their homelands," said NCAI President Joe A. Garcia. "They are among the Native American veterans who volunteered to fight for the United States before they became citizens and before they could vote are finally getting the recognition they deserve."

During World War I and World War II Native Americans Code Talkers, using their native language, were utilized to relay strategic messages to and from the front lines. The enemy, in all instances, was never able to decipher the messages. Therefore, the communications performed by these heroic individuals in the battle zones were vital to this nation's victories.

The Code Talker Recognition Act authorizes awarding Congressional Medals of Honor to Native Americans in recognition of their service as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts throughout the 20th Century. In 2001, the Navajo Code Talkers received similar medals, and it was not until now that veterans from other tribes have been recognized.

"I am pleased this important measure cleared the final legislative step and will be signed into law," said Congressman Dan Boren (D-2nd-OK). "More importantly, I am pleased that all Native American Code Talkers will finally be honored for their significant and brave contribution to our nation's victories in the greatest military conflicts our world has ever witnessed. Every American can be proud of the service of these brave men in the name of liberty and justice."

In a statement, both Congressman Boren and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) thanked NCAI and one another's staff for the leadership and hard work to secure the passage of the bill. The bill is now waiting President Bush's signature to become law.

"Code Talkers from these tribes are true American heroes whose accomplishments have for too long been forgotten. This legislation finally recognizes and honors a group of people who made a real difference in the fight for freedom during World Wars I and II," Sen. Inhofe said. "Their service on the front lines helped propel the allied forces to victory and saved countless lives in the process."

OTTAWA, Oct. 6 /CNW Telbec/ - AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine and AFN Women's Council Chair, Kathleen McHugh are calling on women across Canada to celebrate First Nations Women's Day by making donations to support, "one of the longest standing and important human rights cases in Canadian history."

McIvor's case, which will be heard by the BC Court of Appeal on October, 14th, 2008, could restore the right to Indian Status to more than 30,000 First Nations women and children. Thousands of First Nations women and their children do not have the legal right to vote in band elections or to own or inherit property on reserve because of a clause in the Indian Act that continues to discriminate against First Nations women by removing their ability to pass Indian Status onto their children. The clause has existed in varying forms in the Indian Act since 1869.

Sharon McIvor, a descendant of the Lower Nicola Valley band, first launched her case in 1989, hoping to win Indian Status for her own children. Shortly before her case reached the courts in 2006, the federal government agreed to restore status to McIvor's children.

"Sharon could have dropped the case at that point, once her own children were granted their rights. Instead she pushed forward on behalf of all First Nations women and children," says AFN Women's Council Chair, Kathleen McHugh. "She is a true champion and heroine."

McIvor has had trouble funding the case since October 2006, when the federal government cancelled the Court Challenges program. The government's decision came just after McIvor won her preliminary case in the B.C. Supreme Court, and just before the government decided to appeal her victory. The AFN Women's Council has led several fund-raising events among chiefs to support McIvor's case.

"This is not only a First Nations issue, and it is not only a woman's issue. It's an issue of fairness and human rights that I believe all Canadians care about. Our preference always is to negotiate rather than litigate to achieve resolution. However, by choosing litigation the federal government denies our peoples the full expression of our fundamental human rights," said AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine.

Donations to McIvor's case can be made by contacting the AFN Women's Council.

October 6th was declared First Nations Women's Day following a resolution by chiefs at AFN's Annual General Assembly in July 2005 as part of Women's History Month.

The AFN Women's Council ensures the perspectives of First Nations' women are included in all AFN policy directives and activities, as well as ensuring that the AFN is an effective advocate on behalf of First Nations women. The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations people in Canada.

Backgrounder:

- 1850 - The first legal definitions of the term "Indian" began with the introduction of legislation governing Indians. Early definitions included persons who were First Nations by birth, blood or adoption, who belonged to a First Nation and their spouses.
- 1869 - The Indian Act was amended to exclude First Nations women who married non-native men and their children. First Nations leaders were not consulted in the drafting of the Act and it was seen as inconsistent with many First Nations cultural traditions.
- 1872 - The Grand General Council of Ontario and Quebec Indians wrote to the Minister of Indian Affairs asking the Indian Act be amended: "So that Indian women may have the privilege of marrying when and whom they please, without subjecting themselves to exclusion or expulsion from their tribes and the consequent loss of property and rights..."
- 1951 - Amendments to the Indian Act in 1951 established a centralized registry of all people registered under the Act. Despite objections, the government excluded First Nations women who married non-native men from the registry. Non-status women lost their legal right to live on reserve, vote in band elections, share in band monies, and own or inherit property on reserve. At the same time, women who married men with Status were themselves granted Indian Status, and this was passed on to their children.
- 1973 - The issue of whether section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act violated the Canadian Bill of Rights came before the courts in the Lavell case. A ruling by the Federal Court of Appeal concluded that the section violated the rights of First Nations women as individuals entitled to equality before the law. However, the Supreme Court reversed the decision.
- 1979 - Women from the Tobique First Nations organized the "Native Women's Walk" from Oka to Parliament Hill, to publicly protest and raise awareness about the issue.
- 1979 - Sandra Lovelace, a non-status women from Tobique brought the issue to the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations
- 1981 - The Human Rights Committee of the United Nations found Canada in

breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

- 1985 - The federal government amended the Indian Act, through Bill C-31, restoring legal status to women who married non-natives. However, in many cases women could still not pass status onto their children.
- 1985 - British Columbia law student Sharon McIvor, the daughter of a status Indian woman and a non-status Indian man, applied to regain her status. She is told her children cannot qualify for status.
- 1987 - McIvor wrote a letter requesting a review of the decision.
- 1989 - McIvor received a reply upholding the denial of Indian status to her children. She launched a court case challenging the Indian Act.
- 1999-2005 - Chiefs in Assembly passed resolutions calling on government to restore equal status to First Nations women.
- 2006 - Sharon McIvor's case is first heard in court.
- October 2006 - The federal government canceled the Court Challenges Program which was funding McIvor's Case.
- 2006-2008 - The AFN Women's Council and Chief's-in-Assembly hold a variety of fund-raising events to help support the McIvor case.
- June 2007 - B.C. Supreme Court Justice Carol Ross rendered her decision in favour of McIvor.
- July 2007 - The federal government announces it will appeal the decision
- October 14, 2008 - Sharon McIvor's case scheduled to go before the BC Court of Appeal.

For further information: Karyn Pugliese, AFN Health Communications, (613) 292-1877, kpugliese@afn.ca

Toronto, ON, October 6, 2008: With Canada's apology to Indigenous peoples who attended residential school, a national independent body called the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" was created to hear from survivors, church and government. To date the activation of this Commission has been slow which has the same end product as the delay of the apology itself.

There are many residential school students who have passed on to the spirit world and many more who are aging with health conditions. Council Fire fears their stories will never be heard, therefore is taking a leadership role based on the principle that surviving students of residential school must have an opportunity to have their stories told - a vital step to their healing journey.

"Council Fire believes that these students are Heroes of today and their resilience is a testament to the value of Indigenous Nations life ways and teachings," says Shylo Summers, President of Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.

The Commissioners, who are all qualified to take on these responsibilities, will be introduced to the public to speak of their expectations of this crucial undertaking. In addition local political leaders who are seeking seats in the national election will be asked to provide their support to this historic initiative and their vision of what governments can do to help rebuild Indigenous Nations.

Where: Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
Presentation Room, 2nd Floor
439 Dundas Street East, Toronto, Ontario
When: Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

For further information please contact Andrea Chrisjohn, Board Vice-President and/or Patricia Schuyler, Support to CF TRC Commission, at 416 360-4350, ext 231 or 233.

This article comes from NationTalk
<http://www.nationtalk.ca>⁴

ANNOUNCEMENT

November 7, 8, 2008

Sty-Wet-Tan Longhouse – University of British Columbia

The Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (ACC) is pleased to announce its forthcoming colloquium, Shaq'asthut - Gathering Place. The colloquium will be the third of a successful series of gatherings initiated and administrated by the board and members of the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and involves Aboriginal curators, art historians and artists from across North and South America. The title, Shaq'asthut, refers to the Coast Salish name for a site that was a gathering place in which it was common for people to speak five or six languages because of trading, intermarriage, and other transactions that occurred between groups. Taking Vancouver as an equally significant space, the ACC Vancouver Caucus has proposed this city as the site for the ACC/CCA colloquium, scheduled to take place on November 7, & 8 (2008) at the Sty-Wet-Tan Longhouse at the University of British Columbia.

This colloquium, Shaq'asthut - Gathering Place, will focus on Vancouver as a space for curators, artists, theorists, historians and educators to gather for vital debates about Indigenous and non-Indigenous life within the city and how as Indigenous people we negotiate our professional practices within these spaces. Mobility will be considered as a significant “third space”: art practitioners will provide unique perspectives on urban issues such as living or temporarily staying in the city, or moving (physically and virtually) between urban spaces such as large international locations to that of rural and/or traditional

territories. Within this framework, West Coast practitioners will speak to the complications of living in a city built on First Nations lands, and within which fragments are designated as "Indian Reserve". The significance of such intersections and the resulting intercultural histories will be reflected in panel themes that bring another level of complexity to the received category 'identity politics'. Beyond simple binaries of "urban and rural," this colloquium will create a mobile space for Aboriginal arts practitioners, who work within every level of institutional art practice, to deepen the knowledge base and understanding of contemporary art.

Shaq'sthut – Gathering Place colloquium will take place over two days at UBC's Sty- Wet-Tan Longhouse - invited speakers, moderators, respondents, and participants will offer a unique opportunity to address a variety of topics. For more information contact

accvanvoucer@gmail.com.²

>Download Agenda [here](#)³

>Download Registration [here](#)⁴

>Download Hotels [here](#)⁵

This article comes from NationTalk

<http://www.nationtalk.ca>⁶

Natural Resources
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs
October 6, 2008

The Provincial Government today announced two new energy initiatives in select coastal Labrador communities designed to identify potential alternative energy sources for isolated diesel communities. These programs will assist residents and businesses to conserve energy and better manage their consumption.

"These energy efficiency initiatives will identify technically-sound alternative energy options and useful ways to conserve energy in the communities where these initiatives are taking place," said the Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources. "The programs will also provide valuable information that can be used in communities all along the Labrador coast. These investments are focused on maximizing our energy resource potential in these communities and assisting property owners to lower their energy costs through reduced consumption."

The initiatives were announced by Minister Dunderdale and the Honourable Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, at a news conference in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The ministers are on a two-day tour of northern Labrador that includes a visit to the Voisey's

Bay mine site. The Honourable Joan Burke, Minister of Education, will also participate in the tour.

Both projects announced today are being undertaken by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Hydro) and will be completed by the end of 2009.

The Provincial Government is spending \$500,000 to conduct an alternative energy study and an energy efficiency community pilot project in coastal Labrador communities. The funding is part of the \$13 million allocated in Budget 2008 for implementing key Energy Plan initiatives.

"Our government is committed to improving the lives of all Labradorians and the benefits of these initiatives will extend far beyond the communities where they are being conducted and long after the work is completed," said Minister Pottle. "I am pleased to see that these programs reflect the input government received during Energy Plan consultations on the need to assess alternative energy sources for Labrador communities. Investments in energy conservation and efficiency projects will provide people living in Labrador's isolated coastal communities with important support to become more energy efficient and make a real difference in their energy bills."

The alternative energy study is being conducted in seven coastal Labrador communities – Cartwright, Charlottetown, Hopedale, Makkovik, Mary's Harbour, Nain and Port Hope Simpson. The study will determine the potential for alternative energy sources to complement existing diesel generation systems, including solar, wind and mini-hydroelectric facility developments. The information collected through the study can be used to help identify the best alternative energy options for isolated diesel communities.

The seven participating communities were selected based on specific criteria to achieve a high likelihood of technical success. The communities had to have a forecasted growth in electricity consumption over the next five years and meet minimum annual energy consumption requirements. The ministers are visiting two of the communities – Hopedale and Nain – as part of their tour.

Hydro will also be conducting a pilot project to explore conservation and efficiency opportunities in two coastal Labrador communities – one in northern and one in southern Labrador – that have yet to be selected. Guided energy reviews will be conducted with residents and commercial customers in the two communities to identify opportunities for improvements in energy efficiency to reduce energy costs. The communities will be selected based on similar load criteria established for the alternative energy study. Hydro will be contacting pre-screened coastal Labrador communities over the next few days to invite them to apply to be part of this pilot project.

"I'm excited to see these two projects implemented in coastal Labrador communities for the benefit of the people of coastal Labrador," said the Honourable John Hickey, Minister of Labrador Affairs. "These projects are designed specifically for communities reliant on diesel generation and they are important initiatives for the people living in these communities."

The two projects are consistent with Hydro's continued commitment to all electricity

consumers to conserving energy.

"Hydro is committed to helping consumers manage their electricity usage through effective energy conservation and efficiency measures," said Jim Haynes, Hydro's Vice-President of Regulated Operations. "By providing consumers with the tools necessary to reduce their energy consumption, we can help them lower their energy costs."

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2008 10 06

This article comes from NationTalk
<http://www.nationtalk.ca>⁵

News Release - October 6, 2008

A report outlining what First Nations, Métis and industry representatives said at a historic two-day Roundtable Conference on First Nations and Métis Consultation and Accommodation in May is now being sent to participants.

"This report is another block in the foundation of the new duty to consult and accommodation policy we are building for the province," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said. "I appreciate the continued patience and respect of all participants as we work toward having a draft of that policy for further discussion in December."

Conference participants can expect to have a copy of the report for review within days. The report is also available on the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations' website at www.fnmr.gov.sk.ca²

"I look forward to hearing feedback on the report and am thankful for the ongoing dialogue government is having with First Nations, Métis and industry at various forums and meetings this fall," Draude said. "This engagement is critical to developing practical, workable policy. There will be even further opportunity for input into the draft policy after it is released for discussion later in the year."

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For more information, contact:

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This article comes from NationTalk
<http://www.nationtalk.ca>⁴

KITIGANIK/RAPID LAKE, Algonquin Territory, Oct. 6 - At 5:30am today, Barriere Lake community members of all ages peacefully blockaded highway 117 outside their reserve, promising to maintain the blockade until Canada and Quebec commit in writing to honour their agreements and Canada appoints an observer to witness and respect the outcome of a new leadership selection in Barriere Lake in accordance with their Customary Governance Code.

"The Conservative government, like the Liberal government before it, has treated us with contempt, refusing to respect the agreements they've signed with us," says Norman Matchewan, a community teacher and part-time police officer who was racially slurred two weeks ago by the assistant of Conservative Minister Lawrence Cannon, the representative in

Barriere Lake's riding of Pontiac. "We've exhausted all our political options, but they've ignored or dismissed our community, leaving us with no choice but to peacefully blockade the highway to force the government to deal fairly with us."

Barriere Lake wants Canada and Quebec to uphold signed agreements, dating back to the 1991 Trilateral Agreement, a landmark sustainable development and resource co-management agreement praised by the United Nations and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Canada has been in breach of the agreement since 2001. Quebec signed a complementary Bilateral agreement in 1998, but has stalled since two former Quebec Cabinet Ministers, Quebec special representative John Ciaccia and Barriere Lake special representative Clifford Lincoln, made recommendations for the agreement's implementation in 2006.

"To avoid their obligations, the federal government has deliberately violated our leadership customs by ousting our Customary Chief and Council," says Michel Thusky, a Barriere Lake spokesperson. "In what amounts to a coup d'etat, they are recognizing a Chief and Council rejected by a community majority. The Quebec government is cooperating with the federal government too because they are using the leadership issue as an excuse to bury the 1991 and 1998 Agreements they signed with our First Nation."

On March 10th, 2008, for the third time in 12 years, the Government of Canada interfered in Barriere Lake's internal customary governance. They rescinded recognition of the Customary Chief and Council and recognized individuals whom the Barriere Lake Elder's Council says were not selected in accordance with their Customary Governance Code.

"The federal government pretends this is simply an internal issue," says Marylynn Poucachiche, another Barriere Lake spokesperson, on-site at the peaceful blockade. "But we can only resolve the situation if the federal government appoints an observer to witness a new leadership selection that is truly in accordance with our Customary Governance Code, promises to respect the outcome, and then stops interfering in our internal affairs."

In 2007, Quebec Superior Court Judge Rejean Paul issued a report that concluded that the current faction recognized by the federal government was a "small minority" that "didn't respect the Customary Governance Code" in an alleged leadership selection in 2006 (1).

The federal government recognized this minority faction after they conducted another alleged leadership selection in January 2008, even though an observer's report the government relied on stated there was no "guarantee" that the Customary Governance Code was respected (2). The Algonquin Nation Secretariat, the Tribal Council representing three Algonquin communities including Barriere Lake, continues to recognize and work with Customary Chief Benjamin Nottaway and his Council.

Notes:

(1) ²<http://web.resist.ca/~barrierelakesolidarity/>²
resources/Rapport_du_Juge_Paul-versionANGLAISEcomplete.doc , pg 26-27

(2)

³http://web.resist.ca/~barrierelakesolidarity/resources/Riel_Translation_Letter_2.doc³ , pg 2

For further information: Media Contacts: Michel Thusky, Barriere Lake, spokesperson, (819) 435-217, Norman Matchewan, Barriere Lake, spokesperson, (647) 227-6699, Marylynn Poucachiche, Barriere Lake, spokesperson, (438) 868-3957

This article comes from NationTalk
<http://www.nationtalk.ca>⁴

Don't forget, if you have something that you'd like to share with us you can forward on to the following E-mail address- al.sault@ckrz.com Our toll free is 1 888 445-1003 and our fax number is (519) 445-0177.