



E A U A C NEWS

Newsletter of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

"Toward an equal and positive partnership between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens of Edmonton."

Edmonton's First Peoples History Uncovered



On October 1st, The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC) hosted an Information sharing session on the history of the Hudson Bay Fort Cemetery in Edmonton's river valley, at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre. EAUAC members have committed to facilitating the open dialogue and discussion between Aboriginal people, the City of Edmonton and EPCOR.

Several representatives from EPCOR were present to discuss the Archeological report compiled by Dr. Barney Reeves and his team of Archeologists on the Rosssdale Power Plant site, directly south of downtown, on the north side of the

river. Several community groups were able to share their collected data at the meeting, and participants who attended the meeting had an opportunity for discussion, to give feedback and ask questions of the presenters.

At the information sharing session, EPCOR committed to continue the consultation process with various interested communities, (including the Aboriginal community in Edmonton), to appropriately recognize the "burial site", and to investigate the most appropriate way to respect and acknowledge the ancestors who were buried there a long time ago. Participants at the meeting urged for dialogue, consultation and mutual respect to come to a resolution of this issue.

In a continued effort to draw Aboriginals onsite, EPCOR organized a January 5th information sharing meeting at the University of Alberta's Anthropology Department. The groups of 40 or so listened to Dr. Barney Reeves' focus on a 1967 excavation for a gas pipeline at EPCOR's Rosssdale Power Plant, that unearthed an old Hudson's Bay Co. cemetery. The participants at the U of A meeting included Cree representatives and Elders from several reserves surrounding Edmonton, including the Papasschase descendants. Again the consensus of the participants was that

respect should be shown to the remains uncovered, and that natives should get more involved.

The public hearings of the Alberta Energy Utility Board (AEUB) also reconvened in January. The AEUB will determine if EPCOR should be permitted to further develop the Rosssdale Power Plant in the river valley. A variety of Aboriginal, historical, and community groups had an opportunity to share their thoughts and visions, and make presentations to the Board over a three-week period. The result of the decision by the Alberta Energy Utility Board will be released late this spring.

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee will continue to serve as a catalyst to promote the development of Aboriginal people in the City of Edmonton. We are committed to working with individual groups, agencies, and levels of government who are also addressing issues of concern to Aboriginal people in Edmonton. ✨

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



**Valerie Kaufman, Edmonton
Aboriginal Urban Affairs
Committee, CHAIR**

It's all about sharing

As we enter this new year, 2001 and the new millennium with great enthusiasm and energy to serve as volunteers of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee. Although we are still immersed in winter, there is the certain knowledge that spring's warmer weather is just around the corner. Perhaps, this year it should be said spring's even warmer weather is fast approaching. We have enjoyed one of the warmest winters on record here in Edmonton. As we move into the year 2001 it is of importance to note the year has been declared as the **International Year of Volunteers** by the United Nations General Assembly. The members of the EAUAC all serve as volunteers and therefore in this very important year, I take this opportunity to commend them for their past dedication and for their interest in our future work.



In a typical fashion we hardly ever talk about volunteering... but it is something that many of us regularly practice. We are widely involved in our communities and have, as individuals and collectively a great number of gifts to share. Some of us call it volunteering and some of us have other words for what we do. Helping out. Doing what's right. Giving our time. Giving back. Having fun! Through volunteering we connect - to each other, to what matters within us, to our vision of what we want our future

and the future of our children to be. Volunteering can give our lives meaning - often more meaning than what we do to put bread on the table. When we put our hearts and minds to it, we find there is nothing we can't do.

Sometimes it seems as though our lives have taken on a fast forward pace all their own. Perhaps this time of year, as a new beginning gives us an opportunity to reflect on where we are going and how we will get to that destination. Recently, the members of EAUAC took just that opportunity to reflect on our activities and plan for next year.

The members spent a very full day of visioning and planning with past chairperson, Jane Woodward of EAUAC facilitating the discussions. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Jane for her guidance and support. The discussions led us to a renewal of our commitment to the Aboriginal community and gave us objectives to complete in the year 2001. We are currently in the process of completing our Action Plan and would be happy to provide information on our activities. Please contact Heather Froese, the committee's support person at 496-4936 for a copy of the Action Plan 2001.

Volunteers impact every aspect of our daily lives and their impact is tremendous. Their contribution is estimated at \$16 billion annually, or 8 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product. Volunteers contribute 1.1 billion hours of their time yearly or the equivalent of 578,000 full-time jobs. This International Year of Volunteers provides us with an opportunity to recognize and thank the volunteers in our community. It also gives us an opportunity to think about why we volunteer and for the members of EAUAC it is truly our privilege to share in the value of one and contribute to the power of many.

*Respectfully submitted,
Val Kaufman, Chairperson,
Edmonton Aboriginal Urban
Affairs Committee, 2001 **

E A U A C NEWS

WINTER 2001

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Lewis Cardinal

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**"Hopes? Doesn't everyone have some? There is one deep in my heart. That something of myself remains behind as a bridge, however small, so that some wanderer may cross over and while doing so, may sense the builder's deep feeling of brotherhood."
Chief Dan George**



EAUAC Recognizes Aboriginal Youth

By Terry Lusty

Four Aboriginal youth in Edmonton were recently honoured with Aboriginal Youth Awards from the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee. This is the second year for the awards, which are worth \$500.00 each and take into consideration not just one's academic achievements, but also their cultural awareness, community contributions, athletic abilities, perseverance and determination.

The October 30th, Bannock and Tea at City Hall saw Mayor Bill Smith, four City Councilors, and former Member of Parliament and athlete, Mr. Willie Littlechild, recognize the successes of Tannis Bolt, Angel Robin Chipaway, Myrnie Stone House, and Michael Sound.

EAUAC Committee Chairperson, Valerie Kaufman, informed visitors and guests that the youth are a very important component in recognizing the contributions of Edmonton's Aboriginal population and that the awards are one way of acknowledging the fact. The awards ceremony included entertainment by the singing duo, Cree Ative Harmony Singers.

Tannis Bolt is a Grade 9 student at Dan Knott High School where she excels both academically and athletically. The young Inuit student



photos by Terry Lusty



moved to the City in the fall of 1999 from Nunavut. She possesses a positive and outgoing attitude, which will likely see her achieve most any goal she sets.

Angel Robin Chipaway is in Grade 10 at St. Joseph's High School. This Cree girl has had to over-come some major obstacles and contributes to both the school and community through her unselfish volunteerism.

Another Student who faced numerous obstacles is Grade 11 student Michael Sound. A fine amateur boxer who helps other youth in the same sport and encourages them to walk the Red Road. Sound is

an exemplary model of dedication and determination.

The Fourth recipient, Myrnie Stone House, is a Grade 12 student at the new Aboriginal High School, Amiskwaciy Academy. The athletic prowess of this young man is apparent in his running, badminton, hockey, triathlon and volleyball. He also happens to have concerns about social and political matters affecting Aboriginal society.

The awards ceremony began with a prayer by Elder Robert Cardinal and a speech from Mayor Smith who said that the awards not only honour those who excel, but "show the rest of us what can be achieved". Smith prompted the students to believe in their abilities and suggested, "If reaching goals were easy, the rewards would not be as sweet."

Guest speaker Willie Littlechild, a lawyer and a Cree from the Ermineskin Band at Hobbema told listeners that, "whenever you face challenges in future, all you have to do is recall that feeling that you're feeling today."

He capped his afternoon talk by relating a message he once received from Cree Elders who told him, "Go where there is no path and leave a trail for someone else." Littlechild is a former Member of Parliament, a delegate to the United Nations, and a recipient of the Order of Canada. ✨

Edmonton to Host NAAF Awards 2001

By Lewis Cardinal

Edmonton will be the host-city for this year's National Aboriginal Achievement Awards presentation on March 16, 2001, at the Jubilee Auditorium. This national Aboriginal awards gala is a contemporary recognition ceremony that highlights the outstanding achievements and contributions of Aboriginal individuals to their community, profession, and creates a lasting positive effect on Aboriginal people across Canada.

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC) sees this event as a chance for Aboriginal peoples to be recognized for the amazing contributions of Aboriginal people in Canada and to identify role models for Aboriginal youth. It is a clear message to all people across Canada that drive, determination, and maintaining a set of high standards is always needed to accomplish your goals.

This year's NAAF Award recipients include: **Freda Ahenakew**, Education; **Mariano Aupilardjuk**, Heritage and Spirituality; **Roman Bittman**, Media and



Communications; **Harold Cardinal**, Lifetime Achievement; **Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe**, Medicine; **Tomson Highway**, Arts and Culture; **Fred House**, Community Development; **Zacharias Kunuk**, Media and Communications; **The Honourable Leonard S. Marchand**, Public Service; **Richard Nerysoo**, Public Service; **Lance Relland**, National Youth Recipient; **The Honourable Nicholas Sibbeston**, Public Service; **Mary Thomas**, Environment; **Dolly Watts**, Business and Commerce;

EAUAC would like to thank the City of Edmonton for sponsoring this event and salute all the nominees and award recipients. *

Canada's Largest Aboriginal Youth Career Fair Coming to Edmonton

By Lewis Cardinal

Edmonton's Shaw Conference Center is the site for the February 6th Blueprint For the Future: Aboriginal Youth Career Fair. The largest event of its kind, this event will see 1,800 students from throughout Alberta have access to over 50 high profile role models from corporate and Aboriginal communities, representing business, finance, health, medicine, science, technology, the arts, social services, law, and education discuss opportunities and strategies in achieving their career and education goals.

Organized by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation in association with CIBC, the City of Edmonton, Royal Bank and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, they hope to see students gain greater understanding of the multitude of jobs that exist through one-to-one access to role models and life choices. Contact the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation at 1-800-329-9780 for more information about

this year's Blueprint For The Future in Edmonton.

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You Can Make a Difference!

The City of Edmonton invites you to serve on a civic advisory board or committee

- Assessment Review Board
- Edmonton Taxi Cab Commission
- Landlord Tenant Advisory Board
- Greater Edmonton Foundation
- Names Advisory Committee
- Subdivision & Appeal Board

For more information call Civic Agencies Coordinator at 496-8167 or access info at www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca/corp_services.html

Aboriginal Peoples and Visible Minorities: Unequal Access to Jobs

By Suzanne McLeod

“Hidden discrimination” and “polite racism” prevents Aboriginal peoples and visible minorities from gaining equal access to jobs states a study, *Unequal Access: A Canadian Profile of Racial Differences in Education, Employment and Income*, published by the Canadian Council on Social Development. The study reveals that Aboriginal peoples, visible minorities and immigrants, despite higher levels of education, still face lower

levels of employment and income, have more difficulty in finding jobs, and for those employed, only half are in high level professions. Earnings, on average are 78 cents for every dollar earned by a foreign born white Canadian. Racism and subtle discrimination is a “hidden thing” in the workplace. A disturbing revelation is that, even with post-secondary education, job opportunities may be out of reach for Aboriginal peoples. More effort should be put into raising public awareness about the existence of systematic discrimination in the

workplace, says the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, which operates at arms length from the federal government and works to combat all forms of racial discrimination in Canada.

For more information, please contact:

Canadian Race Relations Foundations

(1-888-240-4936)

Website: www.crr.ca

Canadian Council for Social Development

(1-819-953-8049) *

What's New at EAUAC!

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee would like to say farewell and a special thank you to the following members for their exceptional volunteer contributions participating on the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee before and in the year 2000.

Jeannette Sinclair
Donald Moulds
Bill Adsit
Rosie Vermillion
Carrie Dusterhoft

EAUAC would also like to WELCOME City Council appointed new volunteers to the EAUAC Committee for 2001.

Robb Campre
Suzanne McLeod
Chris Andersen
Billie Jean Hetu

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee would like to acknowledge the work of the past volunteer members and looks forward to the new horizons, challenges, and growing partnerships for EAUAC in 2001. *

Community Events

Sun, Moon, Visionaries Aboriginal Artisans Co-op and Gallery

10518 Whyte Avenue,

Phone: 433-3097

Current Show: A Collective of the Cooperative. 7 Aboriginal artists from Alberta

February 14 – April 3: Ilona Cardinal, “Flowers in Flight” Cree artist from Edmonton

Provincial Museum of Alberta

Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture

Every Saturday afternoon – Aboriginal Videos

Every 1st and 3rd Sundays – Aboriginal Storytelling

Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

Programs in operation, for more information call 481-3451

Four Arrows Adult Employment Program

Coyote Kids and Children’s Culture Camp

Weekly for Aboriginal children (7-12)

Health for Two drop in for pregnant moms

Soup and Bannock last Friday of the month

Rites of Passage Cultural youth program

Healthy Families

...continued on page 6

Community Events...continued

Canadian Native Friendship Centre

For more information call 479-1999
Men's Healing Circle - Mondays 7:00-9:00pm
Women's Healing Circle - Wednesdays 7:00-9:00pm
Arts and Crafts Classes - Wednesdays 7:00-9:00pm
White Buffalo/CNFC Ball Hockey - Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm
Brazilian Jujitsu - Mondays 7:00-9:00pm
Drop In Volleyball - Thursdays 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Kids Recreation and Sports - Saturdays 1:00-3:00pm
Kids Arts and Crafts - Saturdays 11:30-1:30pm
White Buffalo dancing and drumming - Wednesdays 6:00-8:30pm
Cree Language and Instruction - Thursdays 6:30-9:00pm
Oskaya Free Spirit Theatre Group - Fridays 5:30-8:00pm

Ben Calf Robe Society

Programs in operation, for more information call 477-6648
Healthy Safe Baby
In Home Family Support Program
The Mother Earth and Me Head Start
Youth Intervention
Cultural Resource Library

Volunteer Drivers Needed for Local Hockey League
Evenings or Weekends
Ph:

Aboriginal Awareness Week - Aboriginal Law Student's Association

February 5-9 from 12:00-2:00
at Rm. 231/237 Law Building
Contact: 492-3115

Blueprint for the Future - Aboriginal Youth Career Fair

February 6, 2001
Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton.
Contact: 1-800-329-9780

Beverly Towne Job Fair 2001

February 7, 2001
Abbott'sfield Shoppers Mall, Edmonton.
Contact: 477-6333

NAIT Aboriginal Awareness Day

February 9, 2001 NAIT 10:45am - 2:00pm
Contact: 471-7613

Sweetheart Roundance

February 10, 2001 Poundmaker's Lodge
Pipe Ceremony 5:00pm, Feast 6:00pm,
Dance 7:00pm
Contact: 458-1884 ext. 318

Second Alberta Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Conference "Matters of the Heart"

February 11-14, 2001 Best Western,
18035 - Stony Plain Road, Edmonton.
Contact: 913-9036

Prospering Communities 4th Annual Funding and Information Conference

February 14-16, 2001
Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre
Contact: 423-3138

Living, Laughing, and Loving -

Roberta Kennedy, Haida, Squamish Storyteller
February 16, 2001 7:30 p.m.
Stanley Milner Library Theatre, Tickets: \$5.00
Contact: 496-7000

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet and Awards Night

February 23, 2001 Canadian Native Friendship Centre
Tickets: \$10.00 Dinner, \$5.00 Dance with
Rory Collins Band
Contact: Bev at 496-1999

1st International Residential School Conference

February 22-25, 2001
Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton.
Contact: 444-9366

Concordia College Native Awareness Day

March 9, 2001 Concordia College
Contact: 413-7800

Management Seminar for Aboriginal Managers Health Care and Human Services

March 12-15, 2001
Contact: 478-7308/435-4861

2001 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

March 16, 2001 Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton.
Contact: 1-800-329-9780

Dr. Jeff Reading, Scientific Director, CIHR Institute for Aboriginal Peoples' Health

"Research and the Aboriginal Health Agenda"
March 14, 12:00pm, Classroom D, WMC: lecture
"Personnel Capacity Building in Aboriginal Health"
March 14, 4:00 p.m., Bernard Snell Hall: lecture

Forum on Aboriginal Health Research

March 15, 2001 University of Alberta
Contact: 492-5677

Native Hockey Provincials

April 2001, Edmonton
Over 170 teams from across Alberta

Esquao 2001 The Circle of Honour and Silent Auction

April 26, 2001
Contact: 479-8195

St. Joe's 3rd Annual Urban Youth Round Dance

May 19, 2001 St. Joe's High School, Edmonton
Contact: 426-2010

Esquao 2001 Awards Gala

May 24, 2001 Westin Hotel, Edmonton
Contact: 479-8195

National Aboriginal Day Celebrations

June 20th to 24th
Watch for Details!

If you would like to include your community event or program please fax the information to (780) 496-4929 or call (780) 496-4936.

