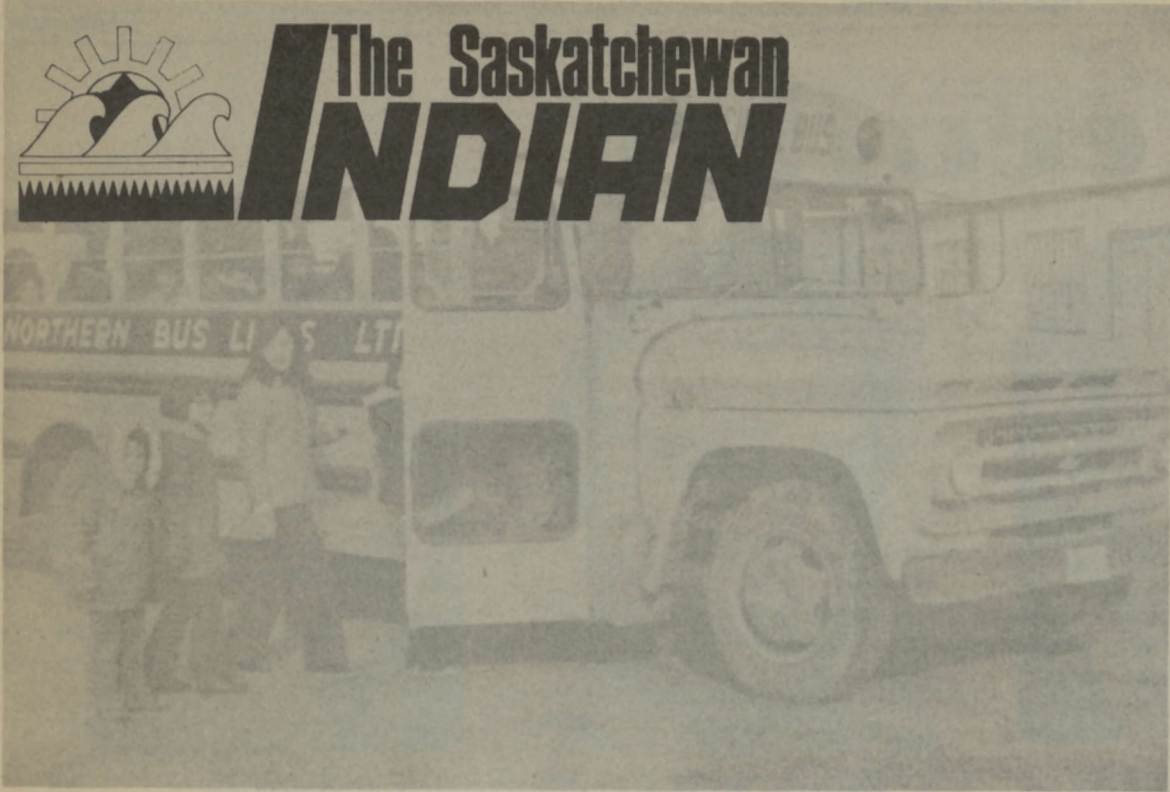
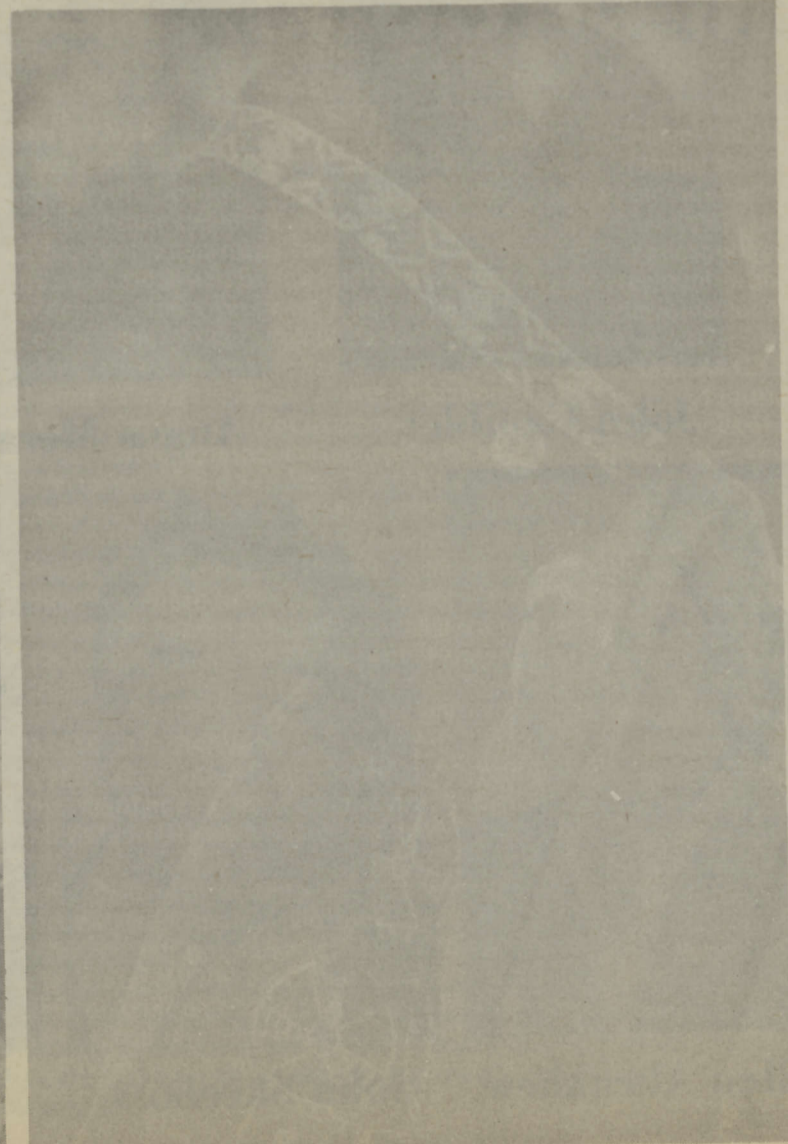


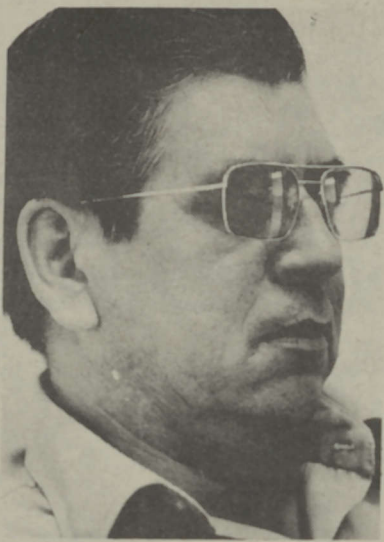
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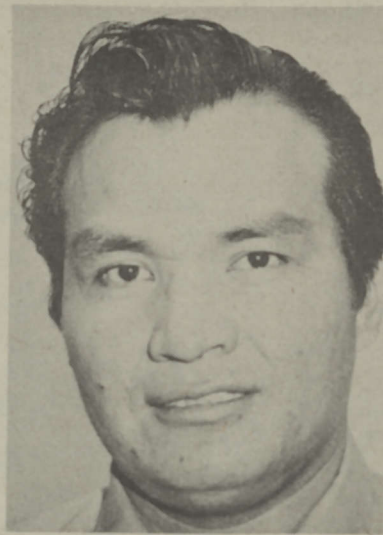
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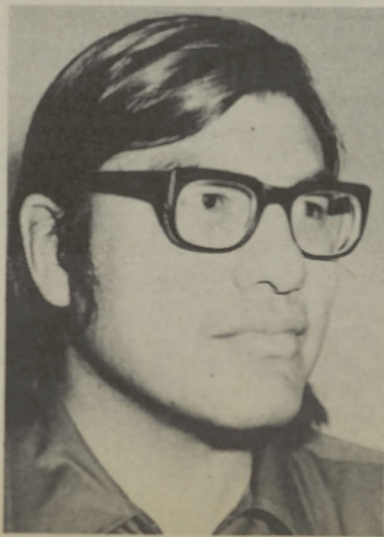
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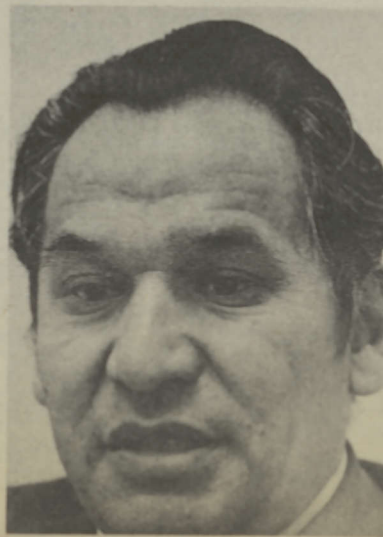
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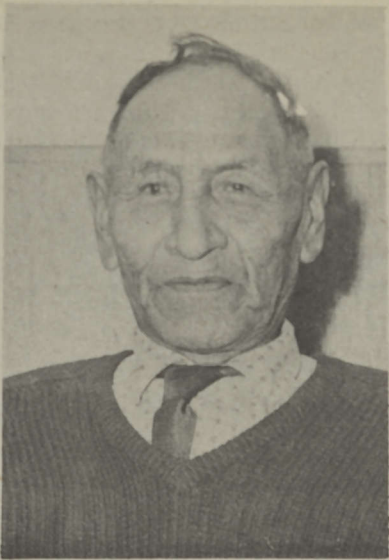


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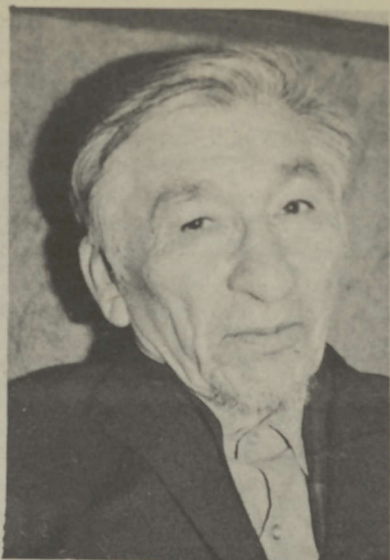


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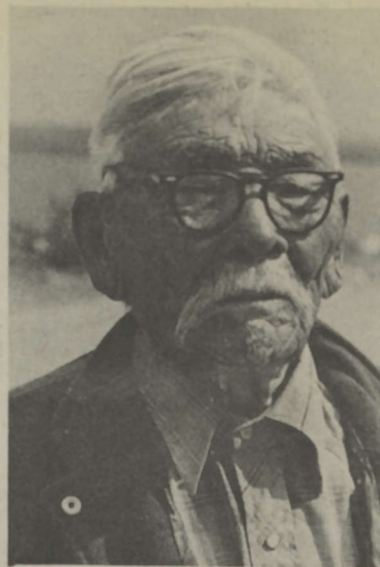
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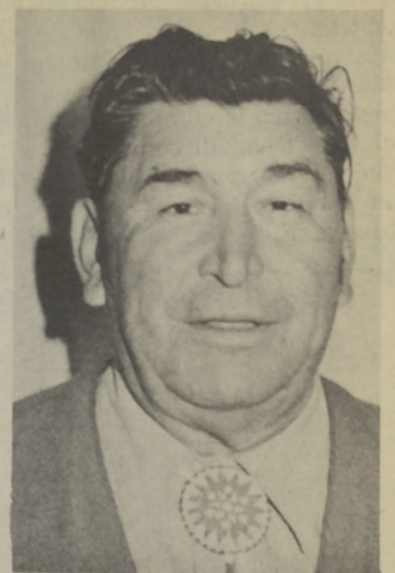
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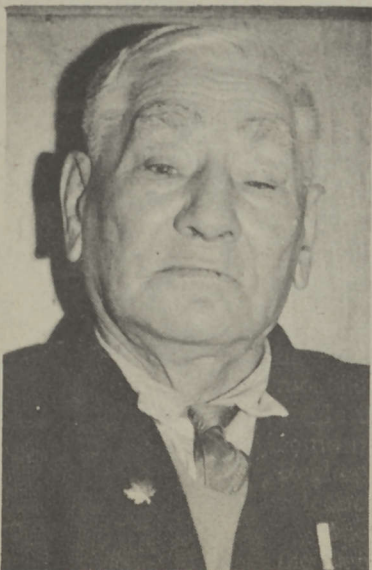
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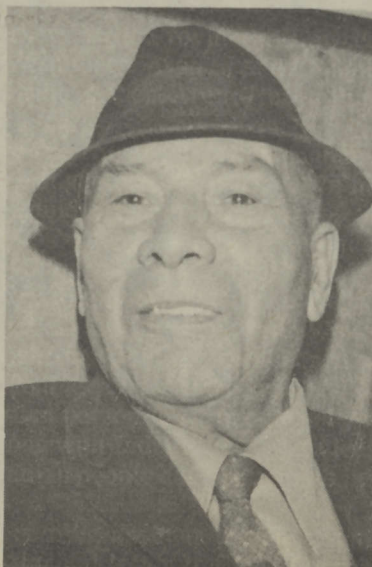
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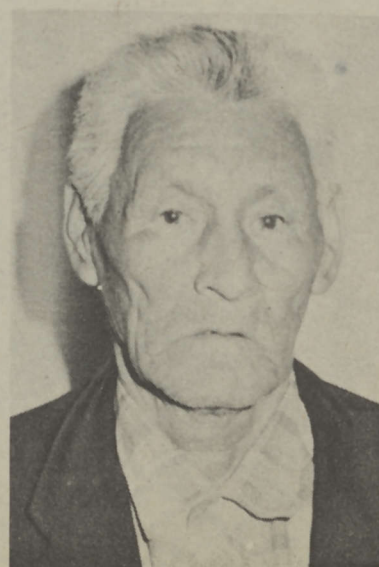
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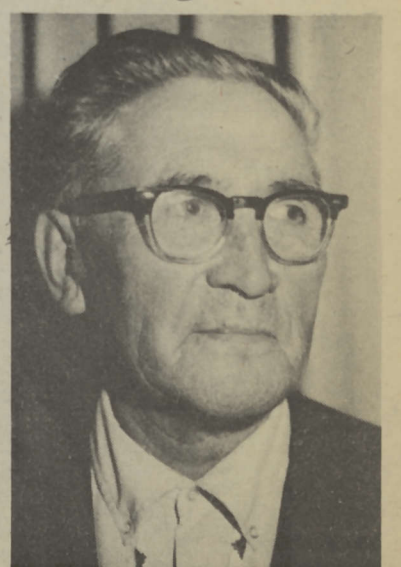
John Skeeboss



Joe Dreaver



William Joseph



John Tootosis

Communications

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for the Communications Program. Although it is sometimes difficult to evaluate ones efforts on a daily basis, I think that if we look over the year as a whole we gain a clearer picture of what has been accomplished. During the past twelve months we have worked to improve the operation and effectiveness of the Communications Program so that it will better serve the Indian people of Saskatchewan.

The aim of the Communications Program is to keep Indian people fully informed of their rights as citizens so that they will be enabled to:

- (a) to be more aware of the nature and demands of modern society
- (b) to better understand their problems and needs
- (c) to make more effective use of services and programs
- (d) to promote mutual respect, understanding and trust between the Indians and the Non-Indian population

Although these are of course long-term goals, the success and effectiveness of the Communications Program will in the end be measured against these aims.

Because of the size of the job facing us our staff are involved in different areas and different types of communication work.

To begin with there is a Communication Worker located in each of the five districts of Saskatchewan. These include Felix Musqua in the Yorkton district, Walter Isbister in the Prince Albert district, Ed Martell in the Saskatoon area, Roland Crow in the Fort Qu'Appelle area, and Alex Kennedy in the North Battleford area who takes care of the communication work there. These people are responsible for keeping in time with the Indians at the grass roots level, as well as keeping bands informed about programs and services available to their people.

The other side of the Communications Program is the Radio and Newspaper Section. Ivan McNabb and Eric Tootoosis host the "Moccasin Telegraph" programs heard over CKRM Regina, CJGX Yorkton, CKBI Prince Albert and CJNB North Battleford. Doug Cuthand is the Editor of the "Saskatchewan Indian" and he is assisted by Willard Ahenakew, Mervin Dieter, Archie King and Lloyd Brass. Over the past year we feel that the quality of both our radio programs and our newspaper have improved. At the present time our newspaper has a circulation of 10,000.

While the Communications Program provides these regular services such as field workers, radio and newspaper, we are also involved in a wide range of other activities which make up communication work. Members of our staff are involved in meetings and conferences at every level. Not only does the Communications Program co-ordinate the Spring and Fall Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Conferences, but we are also involved in meetings of the Senate. Some of our staff have also participated in District Chief Meetings during this last year when such issues as policing service for reserve communities have been discussed. Employees of the Communications Program have been active in organizing and assisting meetings of Child Care Workers and Band Welfare Administrators.

Another feature of the Program during the last year has been the training workshops which have been held to develop our staff. A good deal of time and effort has been put into training, and now the effects of this training are now being felt. Our staff have become more familiar with various Indian Affairs and Federation Programs and thus are able to provide more assistance to people at the reserve level.

We are presently looking into the possibility of becoming part of a national communication scheme for Indian people. Although there have been several meetings concerning this, a national Indian communication service is still very much in the planning stages.

Our approach to communications work has not been radical or militant. Instead we have directed our efforts towards steadily overcoming communication barriers and gaps. Staff training has been a large part of our program, and we hope that we are getting better at listening as well as communicating.



CLIFF STARR
DIRECTOR

RADIO AND NEWSPAPER REPORT

The news media portion of the Communications Program produces four weekly radio programs and a monthly newspaper.

The four weekly programs are: CKRM Regina, CJGX Yorkton, CKBI Prince Albert, and CJNB North Battleford.

Ivan McNabb is in charge of Regina and Yorkton while Eric Tootoosis is in charge of North Battleford and Prince Albert.

These half hour programs are produced and announced by these individuals and consist of announcements of coming events, pow-wows, and contemporary music and interviews with people or topics of interest to our listening public.

The radio stations we broadcast from are located in such position that we reach out to most of the Indian people in Saskatchewan. Only the most northerly people are not in our broadcast range.

The newspaper, "The Saskatchewan Indian" is published on a monthly basis and is the official voice of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians. Opinions are often printed which don't coincide with the policies of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians but these are the opinions of the individuals concerned and not those of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians.

The range of news covered in the paper is local and anything of interest to Indian people is printed. There is a sports section, a children's page, a community section, a people page, a page for news from other parts of the country and pages of general news. We also print articles in the Cree syllabics.

Editor of the newspaper is Doug Cuthand and the reporters are: Willard Ahenakew, Lloyd Brass, Archie King and Mervin Dieter.

Willard Ahenakew also does cartoon and artwork as well as covering reserves in the Prince Albert area. Lloyd Brass collects news from Broadview and Kamsack area. Archie King covers events in the Battleford-Meadow Lake area while Mervin Dieter covers the reserves around Regina and also provides in with a monthly column.

The newspaper is delivered free of charge to all Treaty Indian people in Saskatchewan. Others may get a years subscription for \$3.00.

Treaty Rights Research



WALTER GORDON
DIRECTOR

This report covers the Indian Rights and Treaties Research activities from April 11th, 1972, the date of the last Chiefs' Conference, to July 31st, 1972, the date of the writing of this report.

Previous reports contained serious concerns surrounding:

- Inadequate funding of this Program from Privy Council from where this Project was receiving its funds.
- Records held by Indian Affairs we have had very limited or no access to.
- The policies of the National Archives limiting only 25 copies per day to each researcher on documents to be copied.
- The understanding and support that this Project needs because it faces a task which must be done well and thus needs the help not only from Band Councils but from the individuals as well.

FINANCES:

From the beginning, this Project was confronted and oppressed with the pressures of grief and worry over finances. It's financing came from the Privy Council and those funds came to the Project so far apart and in so small amounts the Project was forced to go into serious large overdrafts in order to continue the work. Something had to be done about this uncertain and uncomfortable situation of funding.

As a result of negotiations into finances, an agreement was reached, that the Indian Rights and Treaties Research Project would receive funds through the Commissioner of Indian Claims from the Treasury Board this year while better funding facilities are being set up for the coming years it would take to complete the job on Research.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES IN OTTAWA TO DATE:

Research on land surrenders was the first priority set out for both the Archival and Field Researchers. Since most of the land surrenders took place prior to 1920, all material relating to land should be in the Archives since it is Federal Government policy to turn over all records thirty years and over to the Archives.

Our researchers have at their disposal various indexes to the RG 10 Black Series in the Archives which deals with the Administration of Indian Affairs in the Western Provinces. The method of obtaining documentation is one of systematically going through files dealing with Indian Reserves in Saskatchewan on all matters with first consideration being given to land surrender files.

Unfortunately, it is not that easy. Very often files requested by researchers are listed "missing". Upon inquiring with both the Public Archives and Indian Affairs as to the reason for so many missing files, one invariably gets the impression that the two Departments are blaming each other for the discrepancies. Public Archives maintains that Indian Affairs is either withholding the files or that they have been destroyed. Indian Affairs says that those files were probably lost in the maze of improperly indexed files in the Archives.

Actually it appears that both are at fault although Public Archives Commission is not really involved in this struggle for material except those of thirty years since everything they have is open to the public whether or not it is poorly indexed.

Many times requests have been made for important basic surrender files that definitely were in existence for Reserves such as Chacastapasin, Young Chippewyan, Battleford Area, Long Lake, Carlyle Area, Kamsack and so on, only to find that Indian Affairs could not produce the files.

To compound this problem the researchers were advised that the Federation would be charged for all copies of material leaving Indian Affairs which they promptly did. The Federation as promptly refused to pay on the grounds that this material in fact was going to the Bands and that they were entitled to receive this information free of charge in light of the Trusteeship which under Treaties still exists. Never-the-less the Department was determined and informed the researchers that all copying had to be paid in advance.

With respect to this "charging the Federation business". A meeting was held on June the 20th, 1972, between Chief David Ahenakew, of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, the Director of Indian Rights and Treaties Research and the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Honourable Jean Chretien, and his Assistant, Mr. Russ Moses in the Minister's office in Ottawa where this matter and other business was taken up. It was definitely decided at this meeting that Mr. Russ Moses was to clear the matter up by informing the heads of each Branch that there will be no charge.

POLICY COMMITTEE FORMED:

To improve access to the tons of files in Indian Affairs not yet in the Public Archives a Pilot Project was devised to get at the records which pertain to Saskatchewan Indians and which if other Associations wish to become involved the Project may be modified to include their specific concerns.

Its function would be to facilitate the transfer of records from the Department of Indian Affairs to the Public Archives, in accordance with Government policy:

- To facilitate the microfilming of relevant records in the Public Archives.
- To facilitate the preparation of a revised inventory of relevant records, and improve finding aids; and to improve arrangements for access and copying to meet the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians research requirements.

The membership of the Committee of this Project are - the Public Archives, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, the Commissioner of Indian Claims, and the Department of Indian Affairs. The Commissioner of Indian Claims chairs the Project.

The administrative arrangements would be carried out by a neutral party. He would be the representative of the Advisory Committee in carrying out its functions, particularly in the co-ordination of its work. In conjunction with the Archives, he will be particularly concerned with the indexing of records for research. For this purpose he will have at his disposal, a small staff.

Some results of having organized this Committee are: we can now have our researchers copy any amount of material from the Archives. If need be, set up a copying machine there. Work has already started to dig into the files in the Department of Indian Affairs and start them moving into the Archives. As they are breaking 'down' the ages of the files our researchers will have immediate access to this material.

This Committee has already had two meetings with Indian Affairs, not yet assigning a member. On August 28th, 1972, the Committee will have another meeting and it is understood that Indian Affairs have now a person named to be on this Committee.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH:

From April to July, a heavy concentration of effort and activity in research and development was in progress in the Carlyle area involving the

White Bear Band Council, the Economic Development Committee headed by Alex Kennedy, and research being done by Indian Rights and Treaties Research, with regard to the Lees Ranch, which is situated in the area of surrendered lands taken from Striped Blanket and Pheasant Rump in 1901.

Economic Development under Alex Kennedy and the Band Council have much more to do to carry out the proposals of the White Bear Council. It is expected that the work being done there will carry through as the Council expects it to with the support of Alex Kennedy's Economic Development Committee.

LIAISON:

Liaison by research's field staff is being carried on and it will be further intensified when an appointment is made for a Co-ordinator who will co-ordinate the work between the field staff, Band Councils and the Committee they set up and keep the people, working in the Archives, informed of the needs of those on the Reserves. End of August will see Co-ordinator on staff.

Again I must say, that the work has been very slow, very dis-heartening at times, because of under-staffing due to lack of necessary funds. However, now that things have brightened up a bit, work will go on with more acceleration.

NEGATIVE PEOPLE:

Very frequently I have met individual Indians to discuss with them, Hunting, Fishing, Education, Land and other Treaty Rights. In the course of these off-the-cuff discussions with individuals it has been intimated by them that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, in going into the development of Human Resources, Community, Education, research and other programs they are accepting the New Indian Policy of 1969 and following after the pattern of the termination program in the United States.

This kind of thing is damn utter nonsense, the only thing it proves is that when anyone says such a thing at this time, that person is not informed, that person does not want to be informed.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN DEFENCE OF TREATY RIGHTS:

The Federation through its Executive Council has stood very firm in defending the Medicine Chest clause in our Treaties. As a result of their firm resolution to fight for Treaty Rights the Provincial regulations on Medi-care and Hospitalization will change not to effect Treaty Rights.

In the Treaties the highest respect is to be accorded the Chief and his Council. This respect to be accorded a Band Council is another of their firm resolutions to be established and not let it be diminished again.

They are firm in their stand that Education must be adhered to under the terms of the Treaties. They have proved this by the very nature of the Band Council now being in control of that situation.

NSB TRANSFER

The Executive's firm stand against the 1969 New Indian Policy wherein it stated that the Treaties would be done away with and the Reserves would disintegrate through letters of patent to individuals.

There is much more of the work of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians that may be cited in its favour in defending the Treaties which we do not want to lose. It should matter to all the Indians in Saskatchewan that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians is seeing to it that in the process of the development of Treaty Indians there is no rights being lost.

PILOT PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS:

There is enough evidence in the material gathered so far to lodge certain categories of claims in the Kamsack area in spite of having very little access to records.

Guidelines to a claim is being brought before the Cote Band Council at this time, and it is anticipated that that Council will be evaluating the evidence to the claim outlined with the support of the resources they wish to have in assisting them with the claim.

SUMMATION:

In summary, this report is up to date as of April 11th, 1972 to July 31st, 1972, on what has been happening with regard to financing: business and research in Ottawa: formation of a committee to deal with the large volume of records in Indian Affairs and how it will function: developments on the former Lees ranch in the old Striped Blanket Reserve surrendered in 1901: liaison work and acceleration of the project: the negative sense of some people: and the hard work the Executive Council of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians is doing in defense of Treaties.

A summary report will be given at the Annual Conference of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians to bring this report up to date.

Mr. Walter Gordon,
Director of Indian Rights and Treaties Research,
of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians.

* Where all think alike no one thinks very much*

Community Development

After a period of negotiations with the Indian Affairs Branch, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians took over the Community Development Program for Indian Reserves in the Province in April, 1971. A budget of \$500,000 was allotted, making provisions for 22 Community Development Workers, 5 Area Supervisors, Director, Training and Research Co-ordinator, and a staff for support services. As soon as budgetary plans and terms of reference for the program had been finalized, supervisors for the following 5 areas were selected:

- AREA 1 — North Battleford-Meadow Lake
- AREA 2 — Prince Albert
- AREA 3 — Saskatoon
- AREA 4 — Yorkton
- AREA 5 — Fort Qu'Appelle



JAKE MIKE
DIRECTOR

The 5 Area Supervisors were chosen for their ability to build rapport with Indian communities and imagination for generating programs suited to the needs and resources of the people. Although attention was paid to the educational background and professional experience of these men, none of them had had any specific training in Community Development. This was somewhat of an asset because it insured that the Supervisors would not bring with them biases and assumptions derived from other cultures. However, such a choice necessitated some training for the Supervisors that would give them an opportunity to spell out concretely the objectives and methods of Community Development on Indian Reserves. The training was also intended to help the Supervisors develop an honest professional relationship amongst themselves and with the Director of the program. One week of such training was, therefore, held in the first week of May.

The Supervisors then went into their assigned areas with a dual task in mind. Firstly, they were to observe and find out the felt and unmet needs of the people and make an assessment of the human and material resources in the region. Secondly, they were to be on the look-out for men with a potential for Community Development. Gradually the Supervisors provided information about each area that enabled the administration to appoint a full staff of 22 Community Development Workers to serve 167 Indian Reserves across Saskatchewan. The fact that there has been a minimal turnover of staff and very few complaints from either Reserves or Indian Affairs Department about the performance of Supervisors and their workers attests to good quality of staff selected by the Federation.

The purpose of the present evaluation is to examine the operation of Community Development over the last year. Such an exercise is not easy because Community Development by its very definition is a facilitative operation, i.e., it enables individuals and groups of people to actualize their potential to accomplish worthwhile goals. In other words, the aim is to build happier and usefully engaged human beings. The success or failure of such a task is not easy to measure in objective terms. Furthermore, since Community Development Workers by their nature take no credit for improvements and developments in communities, they hesitate to report even their most obvious achievements. However, an attempt will be made to provide a review of the Community Development Program over the last year.

One of the basic tenets of Community Development is to increase the capacity of the people to help themselves . . . to achieve goals which they determine for themselves. Our Community Development Workers, therefore, proceed in such a manner as to enable the people to gain awareness of this principle, and to practise it. For example, a C.D.W. reported from Pelican Lake how the youngsters on that Reserve had laid an ice sheet for skating in the winter, and how they had then organized a "work bee" to put boards around the ice and to install lights. The same principle was further practised on the Reserve when the Chief and some volunteers raised money from a bingo, and a show on Treaty Days to sponsor educational tours for youngsters to poultry farms, museums and bakeries in Saskatoon and Battleford. Success of such work is brought out by the following statement from another C.D.W., "There is a growing realization on the Reserves that development must start in the people, that all must assume responsibility."

This is not to suggest that C.D.W.'s hold themselves aloof from the problems and day to day business of their Reserves. To the contrary, they are intensely involved in the aspirations of the people, and join them in finding ways to attain their goals. For example, in many instances a C.D.W. is the most educated person around and lends a willing hand in any kind of paper work that needs to be done, either by the Band or by individuals. Often, he also happens to have the best knowledge about Government Departments and other organizations so that he can guide people to appropriate offices. IN ONE CASE A C.D.W. gave information and guidance for the setting up of a tribunal to make decisions on old-age pension applications by a group of elderly people. In a large number of other cases, C.D.W.'s have given appropriate guidance that resulted in worthwhile meetings being held with organizations such as I.A.B., DREE, and ARDA. Further yet, C.D.W.'s often act as interpreters, helpers at Band meetings, informally appointed election officers, and liaison men with outside agencies. In some cases a worker has relieved a Reserve from a great deal of frustration and tension by providing information and suggestions: guiding the Band Council to a lawyer in connection with arrest of Band members for alleged hunting out of season; providing a Reserve Chief access to legal advice in the case of a Band member who was to appear before a court on an alleged murder charge. Such examples might lead to the misunderstanding that C.D.W.'s act as all-knowing problem solvers. This is certainly not the case. In reality they act as counsellors who reflect back the feelings and ideas of the people until they themselves come up with solutions.

If the Indian people are to sustain their cultural identity, they must have strong and actively functioning democratic institutions on their Reserves. For this reason the Federation has been giving technical assistance and support to efforts on the part of the communities to make their Reserve Councils strong and democratic. Examples of work in this direction are as follows:

- (1) When a Community Development Worker first went to the Patunak-English River Reserve he found the Councillors rather despondent over the prospect of involving their community in co-operative activity. They said that the people just spent their time bickering at meetings, and could not agree on anything. By acting as a skilful link of communication in the community, the worker was able to raise the level of motivation among the people, and diffuse some of the suspicion between Council and voters. The result was that an orderly and successful meeting was soon held and a sensible proposal for constructing an airstrip on the Reserve was discussed.
- (2) The same worker found that on Peter Pond Reserve the people had no faith in their Chief, and criticised him as a drunk. The C.D.W. was able to bring about a meeting where the Chief confronted his people, and had himself reinstated. Thus, a rapprochement was effected between the people and their elected representative.
- (3) Another worker found that the Indian Affairs Department had proposed the starting of a new Reserve at Lading. Though the people concerned had been expressing various reactions on the subject privately, no community meetings had been called. The worker was able to bring about a well attended meeting where arguments from all sides were stated, and consensus reached on moving to the new Reserve site.
- (4) At the Ochapowace Reserve, the C.D.W. found that a former Council had surrendered its authority to Indian Affairs personnel through lack of sound information. He was able to give the new Council proper advice on regaining

their legitimate powers of government on the Reserve.

- (5) The C.D.W. on Cowesses Reserve had been working patiently for some time with the result that today the Chief and his Council run meetings in a very business-like manner; all proceedings are recorded, and the whole Council takes part in meetings.
- (6) Results of sound Reserve administration by Chief and Council are also evident in the Cote Band, leading to marked improvement in the use of medical and educational services.
- (7) Another outstanding example in promoting sound Reserve administration is to be found in the Meadow Lake Area where plans are underway for the establishment of a committee of all Chiefs representing the region. It is hoped that the setting up of such an organization would facilitate communications among Reserves and various agencies involved with Indians.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It has been evident for a long time that the present educational system has been seriously failing the Indians. The C.D.W.'s of the Federation have started some quite earthy and pragmatic work to improve the situation. For example, a C.D.W. in the Broadview area found that since the assimilation program in that community there have been no high school graduates. The number of drop-outs and dismissals by the school principal has been disturbingly high. In his slow and subtle way the C.D.W. helped the people to articulate their disappointment on this matter, and encouraged them to develop a practical plan to remedy the situation. As a result, a series of meetings have been held in Yorkton at which the Broadview school principals, School Board officials and representatives have been working together to find solutions to the problem. In a similarly practical fashion, a C.D.W. in the Regina area has been dealing with the question of books and other school supplies for Indian children. As a matter of fact, there has been a real awakening among the people in the area of education so that they are not only asking for legitimate representation in the running of schools, but they are also examining the effect of the whole educational system in preparing their children to become decent citizens in the full sense of the word. They are also assessing the impact of the educational system on the Indian culture and way of life as a whole. As a matter of fact, there is widening of educational activity beyond book learning. Sports and athletic programs are developing on a large number of Reserves. People are beginning to assert their right to get appropriate training and are also feeling free to ask for the training to be imparted in the proper manner. For example, a number of Reserves are not only requesting for driver instruction but also ask for the instruction to be in Cree if the trainee is unable to understand English. The spurt for educational activity is also related to a general resurgence of interest in Indian culture. Pow-wows are being held in a large number of areas and the activities in these events are becoming more and more authentic and artistic.

It is not being claimed that the Community Development Program of the Federation is itself solely responsible for the new interest and activity in the cultural and educational field that is becoming evident on the Reserves. We believe that motivation and talent were already there. Our workers merely used their professional skills to help Reserve communities discern their objectives and work towards them constructively.

REVIVING COMMUNITY-INTEGRATING INSTITUTIONS:

From their own experience as Indians, and from their observation as professional people, our C.D.W.'s have realized that one of the root causes of suffering among Indian people is the deterioration of the family unit. The traditional Indian morals and values protecting this vital institution have been weakened by the overwhelming influences of the Western culture. This is having many damaging consequences which are evidenced by such things as alcoholism, lack of parental discipline on children and drug taking by youngsters. This unhappy situation is rather well brought out in the following excerpt from a C.D.W.'s report: "I see a lot of problems . . . I don't think liquor is the whole thing . . . but a bunch of different things such as: V.D. and sniffing. One doesn't have to look very far to see the results of this. I take it these children are going to regular school . . . I am quite sure they'll never make it in education. I don't think they have a ghost of a chance . . ." These are, of course, the problems of the larger society too, but that is no consolation to the Indian, and no reason for him to be apathetic to the disintegration of his family structure.

As such, our C.D.W.'s have been involved in family seminars, and A.A. groups. Furthermore, they have encouraged cultural and social events involving entire families so that cohesiveness may develop around common interests. Success in this direction, however, has been rather limited; tending to concentrate on reporting the disintegration of communities and resultant problems. The situation should improve as a complement of specialized family counsellors is added to the Community Development Program.

LAW AND JUSTICE

It has been noticed that many times the Indian people allow themselves to be exploited and victimized because of their ignorance of law. The C.D.W.'s of the Federation have, therefore, provided information in this area whenever necessary. For example, one C.D.W. found that in the Cowessess Reserve people were labouring under the wrong impression that the land rented to white farmers had an indefinite lease. On other Reserves too, C.D.W.'s attempt to provide relevant guidance to people facing criminal charges.

Another source of concern among Indian people is their exploitation by employers. For example, each year at harvest time a large number of Saskatchewan Indians migrate to Alberta to supply much valued labour on farms in that province. C.D.W.'s of the Federation have been hearing complaints from many of these labourers about different kinds of maltreatment and hardship. Because of the vast area from which these labourers migrate, and because of the small numbers in which they work on widely scattered farms, the labourers find it difficult to take concerted action of the labour-union type to have the conditions of work rectified. Coupled with all this is the cultural fact that Indians are by nature very tolerant of mistreatment, and not too vocal about what they feel as unfair. Therefore, it was decided that some formal means be found to articulate the grievances of Saskatchewan Indians supplying farm labour in Alberta. The Federation is conducting a survey to determine the nature and extent of grievances felt by the people concerned. After this research has been completed, the C.D.W.'s will be able to operate on the basis of sound information. Of course, their role will be that of catalysts of action, and of advisers on technical matters. The

actual work must be done by the people affected.

The above are just a few examples of the function C.D.W.'s perform to make communities aware of their rights, and to train them in seeking redress to injustices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTION

To a large extent the Indian people of Saskatchewan have held themselves aloof from the economic development of the rest of the Province. A major reason for this was that they were unwilling to capitulate their cultural values for material progress. Our C.D.W.'s have been helping the people to evolve a system which permits them to retain the good values of their culture as they improve their economic lot, i.e., find ways of building materially profitable business ventures that fit harmoniously into the indigenous way of life.

A very promising example of such an effort is the Makwa Lake Development Company in the Loon Lake Area. Until August, 1969, a piece of beach front property at Makwa Lake had been leased to an outsider who exploited the place in a classically colonial fashion: making as much money out of the business as he could, reinvesting as little as possible, providing hardly any employment to the local people, and in the course of all this ruining the natural beauty of the region. Through community development incentive, in August, 1969, the Band members began a series of meetings with representatives of Indian Affairs and the Federation over the legal situation of the beach property, and the possibility of taking it back to develop the area into a tourist resort. After a legal tussel with the leaser, the Band finally gained control of the beach, and by the spring of 1970 had formed the Makwa Lake Development Corporation. It had a board of directors consisting of five Band members, a representative from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, and one from Indian Affairs. The new business soon started operating a restaurant, a number of cabins and rental boats. The most desirable side-effect of the project was the dramatic improvement in the appearance of the place, and a complete cessation of the previously high rate of vandalism by juveniles from the Reserve. It not only provided employment to a number of local people, but served to train them to become efficient, reliable employees with sound hygienic habits. These trends slowly began to spread to the rest of the community. In essence, this little business deal has been succeeding in inculcating habits and attitudes that a hundred years of imposition from outside had failed to achieve. The project is continuing to grow. It has had two fully booked tourist seasons, and plans are being considered to build more cabins, a bigger restaurant, and more boats for rental. There are also plans for training people in operating small motors, and in other skills required in the operation of the resort. It must be emphasized that the Band is operating the Corporation, not merely with an eye to profit, but they are equally vigil on such matters as water pollution and other damage to the environment - something to be envied by the rest of the country.

The C.D.W. from Peter Pond-Dillon reports that the people in that Reserve met with the Councillors to discuss the setting up of a shrine. Money to buy the statue has come from donations, space for the shrine has been cleared by free labour, construction workers have consented to take one week off to help erect the necessary buildings for the shrine. Here is an example of a project conceived by the people jointly, and one that is being completed by their own contribution in energy and money. Again, the people of Dillon Reserve discussed proposals to find a substitute for the diminishing commercial fishing in that region. They have decided to try for a manufacturing industry where things like boats, toboggans, desks, and cabinets would be made. The place suggested is La Plonge Reserve. The Beauval Reserve is also exploring ways to develop its economy. Moses

McIntyre of that Reserve is collecting information on the feasibility of a rotating herd. Reserves from the Shellbrook region have asked C.D.W.'s to bring in speakers who could provide them information on resource development.

Generally the Reserve communities are beginning to examine their resources in order to generate projects that would create employment, bring more wealth to the people and improve physical appearance of their areas. One example of this is the newly started Turnor Lake Business Development which will not only bring much needed tourist money to the Reserve but also cultivate and enhance the natural beauty of the place.

Still other examples are the planning of a saw mill in Red Earth and a Canoe Factory in Shoal Lake. The people in Montreal Lake are progressing well with their Tourist Resort Project. The Peekeekesis Reserve in the south are thinking about the feasibility of starting a factory for making cement, shingles and wedge blocks. The Cote Ranches Limited is another fine example of initiative and hard work.

These are just a few examples of a growing awareness of economic growth on the Reserves.

CULTURAL GROWTH

Community Development Workers of the Federation found that the Indian people cherished their culture. However, the elders were viewing with anxiety their values being eroded. Our workers have, therefore, attempted to help the Reserves to revive their traditional art forms. Concrete results of this kind of work are found in the various Pow-wows that have come off successfully with the aid of C.D.W.'s. Workers are involved in assisting communities organize workshops where men and women reported to possess accurate knowledge of Indian religion, traditions, and beliefs are invited. The younger people, thus, are getting an opportunity to study the finest elements of their culture.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

One of the less exciting features of Reserves has been the deterioration of recreational activities for young people. As a result of vigorous activity by D.C.W.'s in this direction, the concept of youth clubs is beginning to emerge on the Reserves, particularly in the Shellbrook area. One such club has already been started in Sandy Lake, and a number of others are in the offing. Similarly, Patunak has an active softball club which gets its money from bingos and dances.

PROBLEMS

Community Development Workers who have contact with urban Indians have been reporting that a large majority of Indians in the city are living a life of inactivity, purposelessness, and frustration. He suggests that a natural consequence of this is alcoholism and drug addiction. He recommends that there must be an effective program to work with the large number of Indians who are continuing to migrate to the cities from Reserves. There should be ways to help them not only to prepare them for skills, making them economically productive in urban life, but ways to help them with the cultural shock during the transition period.

Though the concept of Community Development is more in consonance with the traditional life of the Indian than the blunt and dictatorial methods of organizations with which he has had to live in the past, yet it is a new concept. People have only begun to grasp its implications, and a lot of more vigorous and skilful work will have to be done before the idea becomes a part of the traditional life of the people. Therefore, more time and more workers are necessary.

Education Task Force



RODNEY SOONIAS

DIRECTOR

Education was a subject of critical importance at the Saskatchewan Indian Chiefs' Conference of March, 1970. The Federal Government's threatening proposals as outlined in the White Paper on Indian policy, 1969, were very much on our minds. Furthermore, it was discovered that agreements had been reached without proper consultation with the Indian people to transfer control of education in Northern Saskatchewan from the federal to the provincial jurisdiction. Also at that time, Chief David Ahenakew and others had uncovered a memorandum of agreement which stated that control of all Indian education in Saskatchewan would shortly be transferred to the provincial government. The conference not only discussed the political and legal implications of the education policy being pursued by the Federal Government, but the Chiefs also analyzed the sad plight of Indian education in the province.

It was in response to these discussions and a specific resolution that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians asked the Department of Indian Affairs to withhold all decisions regarding control of education until the Indian people of Saskatchewan had the opportunity to themselves analyze what had been going on, and to express their own opinions regarding the future of Indian education in Saskatchewan. As a result, the Education Task Force of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians was established and given the task of carrying out carefully-conceived research for obtaining an accurate picture of the education system as it exists today. It is well known that the usefulness of research depends upon the kinds of questions for which it attempts to get answers. If the questions are irrelevant and piddly, the answers cannot be expected to excite anybody or stimulate wonderful change. Realizing this, the Education Task Force regarded it vital that its questions should be pertinent. To achieve this aim, we got together with the brightest heads in the educational field in Saskatchewan. We put down all that we felt must be researched in Indian education. The piles of questions kept growing till we were certain that we needed at least a century to finish our research. Your small ETF staff felt very small, indeed. Then, one day we had a bright idea, "Hell!" we said, "we are doing this research for the Indian parents and students. They ought to know what is of concern to them." In other words, we did the Indian thing: we trusted the collective wisdom of the people.

A preliminary research was organized for this purpose and the questions which had the highest priority were:

- (1) What is the legal situation regarding Indian education? (the Legal Study)
- (2) Why do our Indian kids drop out of school? (the Drop-Out Study)
- (3) What is the thinking of the Indian parents regarding management in education, cultural content of education, and goals of education? (Values and Attitudes Study)
- (4) How is money being spent in Indian education and what expenditures are most beneficial? (Cash Benefit Analysis)
- (5) What kinds of Counsellors do we have, and how are they doing their job? (the Counsellors Study)

Having formulated the questions for our research, our next step was to devise methods for the research - various methods for the various methods for the various aspects of the research. As we looked at the methods being used in educational research in North America, we became uneasy about many things in them. There were experiments involving small groups of people and tests

containing tricks and gimmicks. Such procedures are based on the assumption that people are not interested in being involved in research, and that human beings are not willing to be straightforward and honest. We thought that our situation was different. Here were Indians trying to find answers to problems of urgent concern to them. Therefore, they would naturally want to participate in the research, and they would feel committed to be honest and straightforward. So, we devised our own methodology of research, an Indian methodology, one that involved as many people as was possible to reach within the time at our disposal, and one that was based on trust of the people. We are glad that we did so.

Next, we had to look for research staff. In the white society, the researchers have strings of university qualifications. We thought that it would be far more sensible to have researchers who belonged to the communities in which they were going to do the research and were persons whom others could trust. The result was that, for the first time in North America, Indians were doing their own research. However, when we needed technical assistance in analyzing the information, we did go to non-Indians.

To cut the story short, a year and a half after the Indian Chiefs of the province gave us the job, we come to you to present the fruits of our work. We have technical reports which outline in minute detail the reasons for specific research projects, justification for methodology used, discussion of findings, and recommendations. However, for public distribution we are presenting a report that dwells strictly on questions posed in the research, information obtained, and recommendations on changes that seem absolutely necessary to improve the system of Indian education. The public report is available to the Chiefs, as well as to all Saskatchewan Indians.

Having finished our job, we are going out of existence as an organization. We hope you like the results of our work. Thank you.

Cultural College

Three years ago, in 1969, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians presented the Department of Indian Affairs a proposal for a Cultural College. In that proposal, the Federation emphasized that the cultural institution it had in mind was not of the typical North American variety, one which gathered crowds of young people into expensive structures of mortar and pounded into them, skills, that would ensure the continued existence of a technological society. We were recommending the setting up of a college that would carry its function to where the students were. More important yet, the college we visualized was not to bend its efforts in instructing people to create better and better machines. It was to be a college that would focus its work on human beings and help people to become better men and women. To achieve such a goal, the college would set up research and training programs to revive and advance Indian culture. For example, Indian music and dance art would be given a chance to develop so that Indian people might, once again, experience some of the joy and beauty that their ancestors knew; or the Indian people may once again know the spirituality that enabled their forefathers to live in harmony with their natural surroundings.

Further, we felt that a cultural college would encourage and train Indian students to research the areas of Indian history, anthropology and sociology so that they could portray a picture of Indian society, both in the past and in the present, that was a little closer to the truth than is to be seen in books published by white writers and Hollywood movies. It was also suggested that the dismal plight of Indian education might be remedied if Indian children could be taught by teachers of their own race who share their feelings and thoughts and experiences.

We felt that such a college was needed by the Indian people, that it made sense and we asked for money to set it up. Some token money was made available, and the Federation attempted for a couple of years to operate a Cultural College with those meager funds. However, we are pleased to report that this year the Federation has finally succeeded in persuading government to see the light of reason and grant funds to the extent of \$500,000. For the operation of a college that purports to reach Indian communities all over Saskatchewan, do research in fields that have been neglected so far, assist in training of teachers for Indian schools, act as watchdog to ensure a good quality of education in Indian schools, and finance continuing research in education generally, \$500,000.00 is not really very much money. Yet, a start is being made.

The Indian Cultural College would consist of four major components:

- (1) Culture Centre

- (2) Community Education
- (3) Action Centre
- (4) Teacher Training

(1) Culture Centre

The Culture Centre would institute an extensive research program on various aspects of Indian culture, e.g., music, dance, painting, sculpture, folklore and Indian religion. The research program would also spread to the fields of anthropology, archaeology, sociology, history and politics, to compile authentic and interesting accounts of Indian past in Canada, with special concentration on the Saskatchewan area. Furthermore, the Culture Centre would arrange for the distribution of its research work to the Indian people, and through necessary incentives bring about a renaissance of cultural activity among the Indian people of Saskatchewan.

(2) Community Education

It seems quite evident that educational programs developed in Canada are intended to train people to cope with a technological-urban way of life. All Indians of Saskatchewan do not live in cities, nor, indeed, do they feel any temptation to absorb elements of a culture caught in the vicious cycle of production and consumption. Hence, for social and environmental reasons, the educational needs of many Indian communities are quite different from those of urban-oriented Canadian society. To fulfill these needs, the Community Education section of the Indian Cultural College plans to assess the educational needs of our communities and with their cooperation develop programs for their education.

(3) Action Centre

The Action Centre will have the dual function of analyzing all aspects of the school system for Indian children and implement swift action to improve the quality of education for Indian children. This work will require examination of existing school curricula, textbooks being currently used, teaching methods, parent-teacher relationships and guidance counselling in schools. In fact, it will mean being concerned with everything that affects the education of children. It is expected that in carrying out this work, the Action Centre would act in cooperation with school committees, the Department of Indian Affairs and teacher-training programs.

(4) Teacher-Training Program

This program is attempting a bold and new idea to train teachers suited to the emotional, cultural and academic needs of Indian children. Candidates for this training program would be selected by the Indian communities; the criterion for selection would not be just academic standing but would also include suitability of the individual for teaching in Indian schools. The training of the teachers would consist partly of university classes and partly of extensive practicum work in specially-selected Indian schools. The practicum work would be conducted under the guidance of competent teachers from the schools, and the best available Indian and non-Indian educationalists who would be visiting the student-teachers quite frequently. The course-work of the Teacher-Training Program would emphasize particularly study of subjects of special significance for Indian children, e.g., Indian culture, history and psychology. The whole program would operate in conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Campus, under the direction of an Indian Coordinator.

Furthermore, there will be three service sections which will provide various services to all four components in the Cultural College:

- (1) Administrative and Support
- (2) Library and Technical Services
- (3) Research and Consultative Services

(1) Administrative and Support Services Section

Will handle all finances for the Cultural College. This will include such things as payment of salaries, rental of office space and vehicles, purchase of materials, and maintenance of records.

The Administrative Officer in charge of this section will report directly to the Director of the College, and will work closely with the Co-ordinators of each of the four components.

(2) Data Bank Material of the Indian Rights Research Project and the Education Task Force

It is suggested that, for the time being, equipment such as video-tape, photography, tape-recording, etc., could be co-ordinated through this section. This will ensure that equipment which will be needed by different components and programs can be stored and managed by one central clearinghouse.

(3) The Research and Consultative Section

Will be available to assist the Director and the Co-ordinators of the different components in carrying out their work.

Director: Rodney Soonias

Office Staff

The often neglected and unsung heroes of the F.S.I. are the office staff members. This hardworking group keep the wheels of beurocracy moving, shuffle the paper, pay the bills and provide that cheerful voice you hear say "Good morning (or afternoon) F.S.I." when you phone the office.

In Regina Mary Ann McDonald and Bernice Quesney help Dennis Boadway, the accountant, as he attempts to keep the budget balanced and pay the bills. Evelyn Hadican and Gloria Daniels share in the stenographer duties while Gloria also does her duty as a receptionist.

Also in Regina at the Treaty Rights Research office Kathy Gordon, Karen Middleton and Emily Thomas hold down the fort for Walter Gordon as he pursues his relentless search for our rights and treaties. The two Kathys do stenographer duties while Emily is the receptionist.

In Saskatoon Joanne McLeod and Emilie Provost keep Rodney Sonias and the education task force heded in the right direction and on an even keel.

Over in the Cultural Centre located on the Saskatoon Campus of the University of Saskatchewan Myrna McCougough recently replaced Maureen Ahenakew who returned to school this fall.

Down at the newly opened Broadview office Linda Bear does the office duties. Also working by themselves are Gloria Tootoosis in North Battleford

and Francis Kennedy at Meadow Lake.

The Prince Albert office is ably staffed with Elsie Roberts, Andy Michel, Joanne Beatty and Ruth Daniels.

Listed below is a brief outline of the office duties:

1. Receiving and distributing all incoming mail
2. Receiving and depositing all FSI funds
3. Reviewing all expense accounts and other bills prior to releasing of cheques
4. Issuing of all cheques on a daily basis
5. Filing of documents on a daily basis
6. Preparation of semi-monthly payrolls and maintenance of payroll records
7. Recording all financial transactions in the FSI accounting records
8. Monthly reconciliations of all bank accounts
9. Monthly preparation and distribution of financial statements for each program and each area
10. Filing various reports with government agencies as required
11. Answering numerous telephone enquiries from staff members
12. Assisting in budget preparations for government funding purposes
13. Other general office duties

Smoke Signal

The Smoke Signal has now been operating for approximately eight months. During this time there have been 29 reserves visited. Although most of these visits have been on a public relations nature, we felt it was important that we do this because the Indian has been subjected to so many programs and projects, it is only natural that he view any new program with suspicion. Acceptance of our program was very necessary for success. So many times the people and the Chief and Council on the reserves have said, "We don't know what is going on." We have had requests from all the reserves to return which is a good indication of the need for this type of program and its acceptance by the Indian people.

We have found that most children on the reserves, between the ages of 8-13, have tried gas or glue sniffing but few have used it habitually or on a continuing basis. Most children age 14, limited by lack of finances and scarcity of liquor on reserves, however, in some areas, improved economic conditions have shown a marked increase in the use of alcohol in all age levels. Amount of consumption or excessive use is governed by the availability of money, e.g. a pay cheque can finance a three or four day binge for a family circle or a group of friends. Again there are some children who have used solvents intermitantly once they have tried it and the numbers of users are also on the increase. Availability is the big factor here whereby purchase and use of the solvents is controlled by how readily the youngsters can secure money. Excessive use of solvents is sometimes noted when it is easily available, as long as it lasts and the home conditions are lacking.

Most of the children have practically no recreational activity on most reserves. Especially lacking for recreation is the age groups between 7 to 13. Some children arrange their own sports and recreation activities but this is very limited and not on a continuing basis.

It is readily apparent that marijuana and other soft drugs have found their way on some reserves, although not on a large scale. This is due mainly to lack of money. A lot of children, especially the ones in their teens are drifting to urban centres where they come in contact with these drugs. They go to urban centres mostly to attend school but a few of them are lured by the "city lights" but in both cases there is clearly a need to educate these youngsters on drugs and alcohol and the consequences by the use of both.

I find that most of the children are willing and able to organize with some help and that when some responsibility is given to them, they readily accept it.

Most of the leadership on the reserves is found in the Chief and Band Council but their time is taken up by their jobs and also by reserve business, such as P.F.R.A., Arda projects and community development, etc.

Some family units have been broken up by excessive use of alcohol and I believe that this is one of the important areas we should be working on. Although it is all right to speak to them and to try to educate them on the evils of alcohol, I believe that we should try to find out the cause of their drinking. This is a very difficult area to generalize on as each family has its own peculiar problems. In my next report, I will try to deal with one or more specific cases.

The South Team, Richard Kaye and Colin McArthur have been working in a sort of helter-skelter method, hitting areas or places where there are large gatherings of people and giving their presentation. They have also been going to reserve day schools, depending on which area they are in. In June, they did the four student residences in the south, staying in a residence four or five days and just intermingling and playing with the children and giving their presentations in the evenings followed by group discussions.

Here are some comments made by the children: "I sure enjoyed the films and the men talking to us about drugs, etc. It made me realize some things I thought were fun to do, but were real dangerous after I saw the films."

"ON BITTER WINDS"

— "seems to bring out what you see at the reserves. The sorrow almost every Indian kid experiences is all on it."

— "my parents are heavy drinkers and my sisters aren't any better than them. I hope that doesn't bother me when I grow up. Thanks."

— "... and I'm glad somebody that was Indian came and taught us this with White man it wouldn't be as good."

— "I think that you should come to our residence more often because I want to know more about drugs, not that I want to start on them - I wish you could come more often to our school and reservation."

These are excerpts from some of the letters that Colin and Richard received.

Right now, the South Team is doing follow-up work on a teen group that they had started in the Carry-The-Kettle Reserve earlier this spring. The teen group is quite active and have organized some recreational activities.

They will also be going back to the reserves they have visited earlier and will be staying on each reserve for longer periods now to work with both the children and adults. They are getting a few families who live closely together, in a home to show films and stimulate group discussions. They will also be working in co-operation with the other F.S.I. workers in Community Development, Family Counselling in whatever area they are in. Also visits will be made to homes.

The North Team have been plagued by bad timing. They had intended on starting various groups and organized activities on Little Red River Reserve and Montreal Lake Reserve, but it seems that the people on those reserves were very busy. There was a lot of employment this spring for everyone, including school drop-outs, bush work, tree planting, fire fighting, off the reserve.

However, Milton and George were able to work with the children who were in school following much the same method the South Team used. The North Team were able to hit two Student Residences, Beauval and Duck Lake.



JIM ROBERTS

CO-ORDINATOR

In Beauval there was a spontaneous interest in what George and Milton were doing and time was made available for them during school hours. The rest of the day was spent in talking and playing with the children. Duck Lake was a little more difficult because the team was only allotted one hour in which to give their presentation and there was practically no chance to mingle with the students. The two other Student Residences, Prince Albert and Onion Lake will be done this fall.

It is my feeling that most people on the reserves are willing to do something to improve their communities both socially and economically. All they need is some help getting started in whatever they are trying to do. It is the general concensus that sports and recreation and steady employment are both badly needed on the reserves.

A lot of the people now are becoming aware of the different types of programs and projects that are available to them and are starting to take advantage of them. I think it is part of our work to bring this type of information to them.

Students are unsure of themselves as to how they should conduct a meeting when they decide to organize and the Team has been working with these groups in showing them how to conduct themselves, writing letters, making and passing motions, etc.

The equipment that both teams have been using is films, one of which is "Bitter Winds", a few pamphlets and a drug kit. The North Team have almost finished a solvent kit which they have been working on. The drug information films the two teams have been using, we find, are not very appropriate nor applicable to the reserve community. All of them are cast in a white middle class dramatic setting, so we have been thinking about making our own film, when finances allow.

We have encountered little difficulties such as Little Red River and Montreal Lake but by and large, the program has been progressing quite well. This winter, we hope to be going into Northern Saskatchewan which will probably be different from South and Central Saskatchewan. For one thing, there are a lot of Chipweyans whose language none of us understands. It will also be very expensive as the main means of travel is air transportation.

We received the invitation from the Northern Reserves through a band council resolution requesting from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, that a drug information program be made available to them.

It has been very clearly established that a program such as the "Smoke Signal" designed for the Indian, is greatly needed and it has been well received in every reserve community and student residence we have visited.

Although it has been in operation for about four months, we have made some definite findings in the area of drug and alcohol abuse. From these findings, we hope to establish a definite strategy of operation to help combat the newest problem faced by the Indian in his struggle for survival in an alien society, the drug problem.

It is a big job!



Saskatchewan Indian Womens ' Association

After the Annual Women's Conference which was held in Prince Albert, June 1971, a steering committee was elected to plan the structure for the new organization. The women elected in the steering committee was to represent the women of the Province of Saskatchewan. It consisted of a President - Irene Tootoosis of Cutknife; Vice-President - Joyce Quewezance of Kamsack; Secretary was Dorothy Sparvier of Broadview. Treasurer was Laura Johnston of Leask. They were elected and also had to act as the Executive. Mrs. Jean Goodwill was asked to be the Program Co-ordinator and commenced working for the Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association November 15, 1971.

The steering committee also had 10 members, two for each of the five regions in the province. The five regions were: Meadow Lake-North Battleford, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton and Fort Qu'Appelle.

The Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association were without funds and so they had to find funds in order to do some very worthwhile work for the Indian women. They applied for a grant from Manpower under the Local Initiative Program. They received the grant and immediately hired the women and went to work. Before the project ended, they hired eight more women. The project ended on May 31, 1972, but they were granted an extension to September 31, 1972.

In July the Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association held an Annual Conference at Gordon Student Residence. At this time they elected a new Executive and the women consist of: President - Isabel McNab, Vice-president - Lizette Ahenakew, Treasurer is Olive McArthur and Secretary is Caroline Standingready. The Program Co-ordinator is Isabel McNab.

The Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association has been very busy working in the five regions. The workers send in their weekly activity reports along with their travelling expense forms. The workers are now realizing how important their work is on the reserves and are writing to me, asking if anything can be done for travelling expenses so that they may travel more on the reserves. However, they are still hung up for the lack of sufficient funds, but they are still doing a fine job.

The area co-ordinators work in all aspects of family life. The Manpower Program has improved tremendously. The workers in the reserve committees have taken a great step towards better living conditions in the homes. Family life has been also taking a different shape towards a better way of living.

Most of our workers have been working hard towards the biggest problem on our reserves, "alcohol". They have been asked to bring into the reserves resource people from the Alcoholic Anonymous Program, because they have been counselling people with an alcoholic problem and are seeking for help.

Homemaking courses have been taking place, some of the area co-ordinators are sewing, cooking and knitting instructors. They have been going into different reserves to teach these to the Indian women.

It has been a successful year and now the Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association are asking the Medical Services for funds for a "Health Education Program" for the workers. The Executive of the Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association have been meeting with the Medical Services to set up another proposal. We have already had to re-draft our proposal twice. At the present we are waiting to hear from Ottawa as to what is going to take place. We hope that we will get the funds for our program so that we can start on something new for the betterment of the Indian women on the reserves. In the meanwhile, the Local Initiative Program has offered to give us an extension for the month of October 1972 and to apply for funds to further our program at the end of November 1972.

Reported by

Isabel McNab, President
Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association



Isabelle McNabb, the newly elected president of the Saskatchewan Indian Women's Association.



Gladys Johnstone receiving the "Mother-of-the-year" Award for 1972 from the former Mother-of-the-year Mrs. Roberts.



Sports and Recreation

When the Sports and Recreation Program was introduced by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians in 1970, the conception behind the program was to develop leadership, skills, and ability of the individuals at the Reserve level. One of the best ways to bring out the above was to put activities on a competitive basis. This was done by dividing the province into five areas whereby each area could have its own champion to represent them in the provincial Indian championships.

To assist the overall development, Recreation Directors' Courses were established to allow the bands to have a man or woman of their choice learn the skills to enable he or she to contribute to the needs of their people. We have now completed three courses of approximately 60 people.

Area play was increased with the establishment of leagues, in some areas where nothing existed along those lines before, now many activities have been organized and Reserve teams are now participating in nearby communities to improve and in some cases taking the lead in various sports and recreational events.

The general trend appears that a great emphasis must be put on the children and teenagers to develop them to take their place as honourably as did their forefathers in sports and recreational activities.

Since the last report given to you in October, 1971:

— We have completed the second Provincial Indian Hockey Championship which was won by the Gordon Band, who displayed a great and unique talent in capturing this title.

— An allstar bantam hockey team was established to represent the Indian people of Saskatchewan in an International Tournament. This was a great success. They didn't win the tournament - they won the admiration and the hearts of some 70,000 people who witnessed these games, and berths in future International activities.

— A delegation of sportsmen from Saskatchewan participated in the Winter Games held in Alberta. Medals were won by our basketball players.

— Great efforts are being made by the Cote Band to establish an all Indian hockey team in the Junior B category.

— We realize that the amount of funds which are received under the contributions to Bands are not sufficient to carry out a successful program. We are, therefore, striving through negotiations to have this increased to an adequate amount to enable the Bands to successfully fulfill the needs of their People in Sports and Recreation Program.

At the time of writing this report, we are anticipating having the soccer, softball and golf championships in the early part of September.

On the 21st of August, 48 young girls, ages 12 to 14, came to Loon Lake to take part in the first summer camp set up by this department, which has proven to be a highly successful program.

In the coming year, we are looking, God willing and the funds secured, at a development of minor provincial championships with increasing summer camps for boys and girls.

Events this year have been somewhat slow in taking place. The reason for the delay in provincial finals in golf, softball and soccer is mainly due to the interest. We feel that this Organization requires direction by the people to allow it to do what the people want, therefore making it their program to decide what direction it is to take. Further funds to set this workshop up have not been committed or received. We also are still negotiating for funding from Health and Welfare which we have not received.

The Sports and Recreation Department of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians are looking forward to a great year. We have made mistakes, but have learned from these and intend to enlarge the involvement and expand the department to fulfill the needs of the Indian people of Saskatchewan.

Tony Cote
Director

RESOLUTION - NO. 1

Whereas the Recreation Program is somewhat geared to the Adult Level in Provincial Championships:

Be it resolved that all championships be geared to the children and teenage areas.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the \$5.00 per capita under contributions to Bands cannot successfully produce an adequate Sports and Recreation Program for the Indian people of Saskatchewan:

Be it resolved to make a program worthy and workable the following be adapted:

1. That \$4,800 per year to hire a director to carry out the needs of his people.
2. That contributions to Bands be increased to a level as to fill the program needs this to be determined by I.A.B. from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per capita depending upon the Bands' proposed program.



TONY COTE
DIRECTOR



Prince Albert Student Residence Provincial Basketball Champions.



Recreation Directors workshop at Lebret.



Gordons Reserve team Provincial Hockey Champions.



"Saskatchewan Indians" Bantams who took part in Kamloops International Bantam Tournament.



Health Liason



The following are the Liaison Health Workers in the Province: Lawrence Thompson, Southern Area; Ace Thompson, Southern Area; Leslie Soonias, Battleford-Meadow Lake Areas; Jack Bell, Prince Albert Area; Ruben Burns, Saskatoon Area.

Despite the drawbacks, progress is evident. There have been changes in appointments which left the Liaison Health Program understaffed. We have just filled these positions, and now all areas should get a better coverage.

A few changes have taken place in the past few months on the health services to Indians. Very recently the amendment to the Hospital Union Act was passed, whereby an Indian can become a member of a Union Hospital Board. Whereas in the past this was not possible. Your Liaison Health Workers have looked into the possibility of an Indian getting into a hospital board, and most hospitals will be more than happy to accept anyone to the board.

In the past it was not possible for an Indian person to sit in on a selection committee for the Regional Directors positions with Indian Health services in Regina. This has now been changed so that Indian people can participate in the selections.

Another very important change that is coming about is the intentions of the Department of Health in Regina. See attached letter to Chief Ahenakew from Walter Smishek, Minister of Public Health, Regina, Saskatchewan.

"This will confirm the intentions of my Department to provide effective

January 1, 1973. All Indians within the meaning of the Indian Act (Canada) who are registered under the Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act and The Medical Care Insurance Act, with hospital and medical care benefits regardless of their place of residence.

As we discussed at our meeting on August 11, it is expected that Indians living off the reserve will have their hospitalization and medicare tax paid by the Federal Government. This, we believe, is consistent with the understanding that Indians are a Federal responsibility and as such their health care should be provided for by the Federal Government."

Amendments to Hospital Legislation

A number of important amendments to hospital legislation were passed at the last session of the Legislature. These include Amendments to The Union Act (assented to May 5, 1972):

"New Section 9A permits the Lieutenant Governor in Council, upon recommendation of the Minister, to appoint one or more Indians (as defined in The Indian Act-Canada) to the Board of a Union Hospital where the hospital serves a substantial Indian population. Depending upon the order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the Chief of the bands concerned will be able to appoint one or more band representatives to the board. The Act states that members of the board appointed under the provisions of Section 9A will have the same rights and privileges as board members appointed in the usual manner. The amendment will offer Indians living on a reserve an opportunity to participate in the management and operation of those Union Hospitals which they use to a substantial extent."

We are very pleased to see this amendment and hope that within a short time a number of Indian people will be represented on hospital boards.

J. Kirkbride, MB, BS, DPH,
for Regional Director,
Saskatchewan Region,
Medical Services Branch.

DS

cc: Regional Director:
Sask. Region, I.A.N.D., Regina.

Chief D. Ahenakew,
F.S.I., Prince Albert.

Problems encountered on the reserves are:

- Alcoholism
- Child Neglect
- Housing and Housing repairs
- Wells
- Sanitation
- Lack of home visits by nurses

Involvements on Duty

The Liaison Health Workers have been visiting Hospitals and Hospital Administrators finding out problems encountered by Indian people in hospitals.

Touring reserves looking over the garbage problems and sanitary conditions of outhouses and around the homes. Looking into complaints from the people and channelling these complaints to the right resource people. They also have been attending workshops that have been set up by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians on the different reserves. They have been looking for ways and means of getting bills paid. There are many varied problems.

The northern area will get a very substantial increase in health services. Indian Health Services are at the present time installing sewer and water in the clinic cabins at Black Lake and also at Wollaston Lake. The nurses will be stationed at these points and will be living right on the reserves. For Red Earth and Shoal Lake there will be a nurse stationed at Carrot River whereas before she was working out of Prince Albert 150 miles away.

Your Liaison Health Workers would like you to send all complaints to them and also invitations to attend meetings on the reserves. The Liaison Health Workers Program is non political and it is a service program.

REGINA, August 18, 1972

Chief David Ahenakew
Federation of Saskatchewan Indians
460 Midtown Centre
REGINA, Saskatchewan

Dear Chief Ahenakew:

This will confirm the intention of my department to provide, effective January 1, 1973, all Indians within the meaning of The Indian Act (Canada) who are registered under The Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act and The Medical Care Insurance Act, with hospital and medical care benefits regardless of their place of residence.

As we discussed at our meeting on August 11, it is expected that Indians living off the reserve will have their hospitalization and medicare Tax paid by the Federal Government. This, we believe, is consistent with the understanding that Indians are a Federal responsibility and as such their health care should be provided for by the Federal Government.

I am writing to the Honourable John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare to advise him of this change in policy. I will also be discussing with my colleagues the question of publicity on this subject and will let you know the results of these consultations.

Yours sincerely,
Walter E. Smishek

Rehab Centres

MEADOW LAKE REHABILITATION CENTER:

Staff and executive members of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians have been consistent in their contact with this center. Meetings were held with the Board of Directors: the Chief and other executive members have had several meetings with the Director of the Center as well as staff: our Program Consultant and Chartered Accountant were requested by the Center to render assistance in budgeting, bookkeeping and program development: rehabilitation staff were invited to and attended Federation of Saskatchewan Indians' staff training courses: Federation of Saskatchewan Indians' field staff in Community Development, Family Counselling and Communications made referrals to the Center and helped in the cost of transportation of patients. Generally, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians have offered any expertise or assistance it has at its disposal to the Meadow Lake Center. However, care was taken not to impose its will on the Center in view of the Center's wish for autonomy.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indians have strongly recommended to the Center that an adequate accounting procedure as well as a standardized and consistent method for progress reports be established. We emphasized to them the importance of keeping the Commission informed in the development phase.

SEAUTEAUX CENTER, KAMSACK, SASKATCHEWAN:

Several meetings were held with staff and Center Board Members. Some of these meetings were attended by members of the Commission, Indian Affairs personnel and Federation of Saskatchewan Indians' executive and staff.

This Center is experiencing some difficulty in the completion of the building and facilities. However, renovations are almost complete and it is expected that the Center will be open for receiving of patients very shortly.

In the interim, staff have made contact with the Band Councils and individuals on Reserves in the Yorkton district as well as Nut Lake, Fishing Lake and Kinistino. Counselling has been an on-going process and a list of potential patients has been prepared from which the initial group will be selected for treatment.

In this instance, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians have, at the request of the Board, looked after the payment of salaries and the accounting for the Seauteaux Center. It is expected that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians will continue to do this.

It is also expected that once the Center is open to receive patients, Federation of Saskatchewan Indians' field staff will become involved with the rehabilitation process of Indian alcoholics in much the same way they are involved at Meadow Lake.

SASKATCHEWAN ALCOHOLISM COMMISSION:

An initial liaison with the Commission has been established. Mr. Ursan of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians and Mr. Herriot of the Commission had met several times to draft the existing project guide and establish a working relationship between the two agencies. It is hoped that once the program progresses through its initial phase of development, the staff and resources of the Commission will be used extensively in the areas of training, use of pamphlets, films, etc., and visits by Commission personnel to the centers. We believe it is important that the Commission be readily available to share its experience and expertise at such time that the centers express their needs for this involvement.

PROBLEMS:

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indians is very much aware of the need for alcoholism rehabilitation services for the Indian alcoholic. We are also very conscious of the commitments made to the Minister of Health to establish these programs for the benefit of the Indians. Our dilemma presently is to find a happy medium to fulfill the expectations of the Commission to facilitate a desirable program on the one hand, and to exercise the understanding and the patience necessary to allow the two centers to develop a program suitable to their districts' needs with the autonomy they desire, on the other. It is the Federation's policy that we encourage local initiative and development even at the expense of some trial and error. However, we are sure the Commission will understand this situation so that, in the long run, the rehabilitation program will be second to none because it will have been initiated by the Indian people for the Indian people.