



Feathers In The Wind

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Educational Funding

If you are looking for funding as an aboriginal student, the following websites should be the place where you start your search. Apply early in the year – funds may run out.

Bursaries Metis Nation and Others

<http://www.metisnation.org/programs/education--training/education/other-scholarships-bursaries.aspx>

Metis Nation

<http://www.metisnation.org/programs/education--training/education/metis-nation-of-ontario-bursaries--scholarships-program-.aspx>

You can also Google Aboriginal Bursaries to see what else is offered. We have heard that all the banks and many large corporations such as CTV and Toyota also give bursaries.

For trades call the Native Friendship Center in your area for information and make sure you ask the trade school you will be attending for any information they have on bursaries for Métis make sure everyone realizes you are NOT First Nations.

Also: More scholarships at:

<http://www.ammsa.com/community-access/scholarships/>

Here's an email from one of our members who submitted their application. Please note funding availability may vary depending on circumstances.

This is to confirm that I have been approved for funding with the Gabriel Dumont Institute. They cover the last two years of a school program and I have my second year of law school approved, I will have to reapply for my third year. Gabriel Dumont is only located out west and you have to be attending school here to be covered. The funding will cover my tuition and books in full, and provide a living allowance of \$1000/month. They have education and training counselors who meet with those being funded and you have to report your attendance weekly.

Thank you Christina



Photo: Community
Chief Clarence Louie (right) and Premier Christy Clark (left) at the park announcement.

Prison Will Spur Economic Upswing

I'm always interested in information about Chief Clarence Louie, I've been a long-time admirer. Residents of Oliver, British Columbia are pleased with this week's announcement that a

correctional facility will be built near Oliver on a site proposed by the Osoyoos Indian Band. The facility will be a real boost to the town and the announcement doesn't surprise anyone considering Chief Clarence Louie past history. He has already brought in such things as wineries and fancy accommodations that benefit the Indian band. The project is expected to create up to 1,000 direct and indirect jobs and when completed will provide about 240 new, full-time positions. Other businesses and area residents will also benefit from the economic stimulus.

"The Osoyoos own the most businesses per capita of any First Nation in Canada, making them a major economic driver in their region, as well as making them a role model for other First Nations. Read more at: <http://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-70866-27-.htm#70866>

This information came from an article written by *Deborah Pfeiffer*, which John Yax sent to us. Thanks John



Leigh Smith, Mohawk potter became the eighth recipient of the "Excellence in Iroquois Arts" award in November of 2007.

International Women's Day March 8th

Would you want to be an Aboriginal woman in Canada? - August, 2010



Provincial divorce laws do not apply on reserves. As a result, women on reserve do not have the same legal options in such disputes as women who live off reserve, leaving them to plead their case to the local band council.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that homes on many reserves are essentially owned and managed by the band council, leading some to view the debate as pitting the individual rights of women against the collective land rights of aboriginal communities.

February, 2011 Interesting Facts: Since 2005, Sisters in Spirit has been gathering complex statistical information on violence against Aboriginal women. It has shown that more than 582 Aboriginal women have gone missing or been murdered in Canada since roughly 1980. Twenty of the cases have occurred in the past year, and 226 in the past 10 years.

These articles are reprinted from the newsletter of Ripple Effects Ltd. The Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis & Inuit) Awareness Training Company. www.ripplefx.ca



Haida

First Peoples in Canada



The central theme in this block is the symbol of the Council of the Haida Nation, executed by Gladys Jiixa Vandal, of the Haida Eagle clan, in the form of two-dimensional work known as "flat design." The Eagle and the Raven,

which represent the two main social groups or "moieties" of the Haida, are appliquéd to the black backing fabric. Surrounded by traditional, plaited-cedar-bark weaving and abalone-shell buttons, the design respects the formal canons of both line and form typical of Northwest Coast native art.

The Haida, whose name means "people" in their own language, *Nadene*, now mostly live on Graham Island, part of the archipelago located on the northern coast of British Columbia known as the Queen Charlotte Islands. In 1787, Captain George Dixon named the islands after his ship and his Queen. The Haida call their territory *Haida Gwaii*, which means "islands of the people." The Haida people were socially organized within two moieties, the Eagle and the Raven, each subdivided further into clans.

Skilled boat-builders and master wood carvers, their style of artistry is recognized the world over. Their homes were built of red cedar wood, with roofs sloping down at an angle from the centre. The family crest was displayed on a carved totem pole in front of the house. The raising of a totem pole was cause for celebration with a potlatch ceremony. Potlatches also marked major life events, such as the giving of names, marriage and death. Often it took years to acquire enough food and wealth to hold a potlatch celebration with its requisite distribution of gifts.

Cedar bark weaving is another traditional art of the Haida. Using the technique of plaiting and twining, contemporary weavers create a variety of traditional and modern forms, using red and yellow cedar bark and spruce roots. The cedar bark is harvested from May to July. The trees are not damaged when the harvester removes only what is necessary. In Haida culture it is customary to thank the Creator before harvesting the bark.

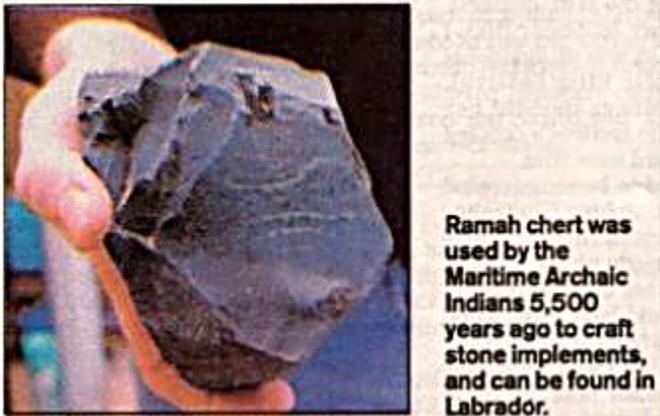
In order to access resources only available on the mainland the Haida would trade beautifully handcrafted and carved products such as canoes storage chests and other household items. They imported copper and silver and made engraved copper shields, and jewellery, then traded these articles to tribes on the mainland. When European traders and American traders arrived on the west coast, the Haida specifically tailored their production of art to attract their attention. Small carvings made of argillite (a soft black stone) were especially popular among the white traders.

The South Moresby group of the Queen Charlotte Islands has been designated a National Historic Site. Within the area are three ancient Haida villages, Skedans, Tanu, and Skungwai, the last of which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A committee called the *Haida Gwaii Watchmen*, made up of members of the Haida community preserve their cultural heritage by monitoring public access to national historic sites throughout the islands. From its headquarters in Skidegate, watchmen travel to historic villages such as Windy Bay and Hot Springs Cove for several weeks each summer to act as interpretive guides for hundreds of visitors from around the world.

Copied from
<http://www.quiltofbelonging.ca/listing.php?Listing=1095>



Rock Replicas



Ramah chert was used by the Maritime Archaic Indians 5,500 years ago to craft stone implements, and can be found in Labrador.

Archeologist Tim Rast uses stone tools to recreate ancient implements

His replicas of implements once used by the Maritime Archaic Indians, Groswater and Dorset Palaeoeskimo and recent native cultures that inhabited Newfoundland and Labrador can be found in community museums and provincial and national historic sites around the province. Excerpts taken from Sunday Digest, The Telegram Sunday Oct. 24, 2004

<http://www.elfshotgallery.com/Telegram2004.html>



With maple syrup season soon to be upon us I thought this recipe might interest you.

Our friend Dale Caskanette sent us this link.

The website offers a wide range of Native recipes:

<http://www.kstrom.net/isk/food/recipes.html#cookbooks>



OMFRC is celebrating its 5th Anniversary thanks to our many volunteers! It is only because of your hard work and diligence over the years that the organization continues to grow and thrive.

14-minute Maple Fudge

- 4 cups maple syrup
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup chopped nut meats
- 1 tsp lemon extract

Starting cold, cook maple syrup, cream and butter together at a gentle boil for 9 minutes after boiling point is reached. Remove from heat, add nut meats and lemon, stir vigorously with wooden spoon for 5 minutes. Pour into buttered pans. When cool cut in squares.



Whetung

Ojibwa Crafts and Art Gallery

Indian Owned and Operated

Whetung Ojibwa Centre offers a spectacular collection of

- Indian crafts
- fine art and sculptures
- masks
- leather work
- clothing
- jewelry
- music
- and books from across Canada and at home.

It is possible to spend literally hours in these rooms.



We invite you to visit us on the Reserve or browse through our online shop. Items available online have been selected because they can be shipped safely and, unlike our original artworks or limited editions, we have enough for everybody!

Located on Curve Lake Indian Reserve near Peterborough, Ontario. We've been to this gallery many times. They offer a huge selection of quality goods.

<http://www.whetung.com/>



World Water Day, March 22, 2012, this is an appropriate day to remind you of the dire situation on many reserves. Of the roughly 500,000 people who live on Canada's 3,117 reserves, thousands are still without indoor plumbing and a quarter relies on water systems that pose potential risks to health, safety and the environment. More than 120 native communities were under a drinking water advisory as of October 31.

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/11/24/f-first-nations-infrastructure.html>

August, 2011 What is being said? “The government will not be providing any new funding for First Nations water and wastewater systems on reserve, and that the government intends only to re-introduce legislation as a remedy to this crisis”.
John Duncan, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

August, 2011 What is being said? “The private sector will have the ability to enter First Nations as owners and operators of water and wastewater facilities due to a lack of infrastructure, resources and training within First Nations.” “CETA and Bill S-11 combined could prevent First Nations from building, owning and operating their own water and wastewater plants.”
The Council of Canadians

August, 2010 -- It’s shocking that so many First Nations communities live under boil-water orders — and this, in the country with one of the world's largest freshwater supply.” Mike Holmes, Building Contractor

Crooked Houses By Billy Ludyka



A little about Billy ... I go into the woods and cut my own Cedar Trees, I then pull them out of the bush by hand. Using my portable sawmill I cut full dimensional lumber and timbers. This past summer I completed some really interesting projects. I was asked to build a Crooked Tree House for a local businessman. This led to a Crooked Out House followed by a Crooked Saloon and finally at the end of this summer the project that I am most proud of after 30 years of building (a tree house) for some very special friends . Standing 22 feet in a spruce tree with a wraparound deck, antique windows, cedar shingles, a day bed, a rope and pulley system to haul toys up with, floating stairs and a beautiful feature piece, a natural totem.

You can contact Billy Ludyka c/o Cynder Creek Trading Company 705-340-0008.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.omfrc.org

www.aboriginalstatus.org

New Submissions!

We are always looking for new interesting submissions to add to upcoming issues of the OMFRC Newsletter. If you have something you would like to add to the newsletter please call or email us! We'd be happy to consider it for an upcoming issue.

Is Your Membership Coming Up for Renewal?



If it is, call 1-613-332-4789 and you can do it right over the phone in just a couple of minutes.



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

21 March

When will Canada start treating its aboriginal people by the same standards the rest of the population receive?

August, 2011 In her last speech, the Auditor General of Canada, Sheila Fraser, confirms one more time that the gap between the living conditions of Aboriginal people and that of the Canadian population is widening. "I am also very concerned by the lack of progress in the improvement of the living conditions of the First Nations. In fact, it is more than a lack of progress: the living conditions of the First Nations have deteriorated", stated the Auditor General. The Auditor General has issued an important word of caution: "If the First Nations and the Federal government don't find new ways of working together to solve the innumerable problems, the living conditions in reserves will remain worse off than everywhere else in Canada, and this will prevail for generations to come."

August, 2011 What is being said? "We have a million Canadians living in our country who are First Nations, and they do have a different existence. There should be an acceptance that they do come from a unique background, and there's got to be an honest recognition that there is a million people in our country who are generally living a Third-World existence".

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