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CANADIAN - SP121

OTTAWA, Ont.--(AIPA)--The Progressive Conservative Party (PCP) of Canada, chief opponent of Liberal Party Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in upcoming elections Oct. 30, has released its new Indian policy on the eve of the national elections.

Of Canada's 22 million citizens, 237,490 are Indians and about 16,000 are Eskimos. Federal relationships with Canada's Native peoples are administered by the national Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Following is the text of the opposition PCP proposed Indian policy:

In few areas is Mr. Trudeau's notion of a "just society" more of a shambles and more of a farce than in the plans and actions of his government concerning the Native peoples of Canada. In an approach characterized by insensitivity and a basic indifference, his government has attempted to impose policies upon the Native peoples which do not meet their real needs or their legitimate aspirations.

This high-handed approach has undermined the confidence of the Native peoples in the intentions of the government and this lack of confidence has been confirmed by the repeated failures of the government both to engage in genuine consultations with the representatives of the Native peoples and to develop substantive programs to help them to overcome their many difficulties.

Poverty and cultural deprivation are the most conspicuous and genuine problems facing the Native peoples of Canada.

The impact of white civilization has made it impossible for the Native communities to continue their traditional way of life, with its heavy reliance on hunting and fishing, without providing them with alternative means of livelihood.

To take a job in industry, for example, an Indian or Inuit is usually forced to leave his family, his home, and his community for what is, for him, the hostile and foreign world of the city. White prejudice, so prevalent in many parts of Canada, makes this adjustment even more difficult. The Canadian government and the Canadian people either have largely ignored the problems of the Native peoples or have responded to them by demanding that the Native peoples give up their cultural identity and be totally absorbed into white society.

The preservation of their cultural identity, and of their individual identity, in the highly competitive world of the white man presents an enormous challenge--both for the Native peoples and for the rest of Canadian society. To meet this challenge, the Native peoples need and deserve the understanding and support of other Canadians, and the assistance of enlightened government policies.

Any government policy which seeks to achieve healthy, productive, and economically secure lives for the Native peoples of Canada must respect their cultural heritage and traditions. The Canadian Indian or Inuit must be free to choose to live either in or away from his Native community without prejudicing the opportunities available to him to enjoy the standard of living and equality of life

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of other Canadians. In both the formulation and application of such a policy, the Native peoples must be fully consulted and fully involved.

The obligations of history must be met in a new approach to the problems of the Native peoples of Canada, an approach which is sensitive, fair and constructive and one which is developed in an active partnership with the Native peoples themselves.

1. The Progressive Conservative Party abhors the failure of the Trudeau government to live up to the obligations of over two hundred years of Canadian history in not recognizing aboriginal rights. We accept as a basic premise the urgent need to identify and to settle fairly and systematically all claims based on these aboriginal rights.

Similarly, all outstanding disputes involving treaty rights and claims must be examined with care and settled fairly.

In appropriate instances, we propose a legislative settlement of disputed treaty and aboriginal claims, to be arrived at after close consultation between the Cabinet and Native leaders.

2. Historically, the Native reserves of Canada have been held communally by the Native bands, under government auspices. The Progressive Conservative Party is opposed to any attempts by the government to fragment the reserves by imposing on the Native peoples an alien system of individual ownership of the land. To insist that the Native peoples can have equality with other Canadians only if their land is held on an individual ownership basis is to ignore the tradition of communal identity which is such an important part of the culture and history of the Native peoples of Canada.

In addition, such a policy disregards the present financial situation in which many Native peoples find themselves. If the reserves were broken up and owned on an individual basis, a real danger exists that many Native peoples would soon lose possession of their land as a result of tax or mortgage defaults, through no fault of their own. The unfortunate results of experimental programs with the reserves of the American Native peoples which were conducted by the government of the United States should not be ignored in Canada.

3. Ways must be found to assist the Native peoples to make their lands economically productive to the fullest extent which is possible and desirable. The Progressive Conservative Party favors the establishment of feasibility studies, in every case to be planned, staffed and conducted in collaboration with the Native peoples, of the economic potential of these lands. Where it is found to be needed, a Progressive Conservative government will make development capital available to be used in ways that the Native peoples and their leaders consider appropriate.

4. The standard of housing and of health care in most Indian and Inuit communities of Canada is a national disgrace. Presently the mortality rate of Indian and Inuit children is two and a half times higher than the rate for all other Canadian children; for young Indian and Inuit adults, it is five times that of other Canadian adults. Lack of even minimum standards of health care, aggravated

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by poor housing, has created appalling conditions which must be overcome at once.

The provisions of immediate financial assistance and expert advice for the peoples of Indian and Inuit communities to improve housing and health care is a high priority of the Progressive Conservative Party policy.

5. Because of poor planning, insensitive programming, and severely limited opportunities, the standard of education available to most of the Native peoples of Canada is abominable. Ninety-four percent of the Indian and Inuit children drop out of school before they reach Grade 12, and the federal government is apparently attempting to phase out its program of support for those Indian and Inuit students who reach university. This disgraceful situation is in large part the result of the imposition on the Native peoples of an education system which is foreign to their culture, and which often does little more than cultivate alienation, frustration, and resentment.

The Progressive Conservative Party strongly supports the establishment of a special task force, under the direction of qualified Native peoples, which would develop teaching programs, curricula, textbooks, and teaching aids which are relevant to the needs and sensitive to the way of life of the Native peoples.

The Progressive Conservative Party also supports the establishment wherever appropriate of school boards composed entirely or in large part of the Native peoples themselves, which would have the power to hire teachers, design curricula, and make similar decisions. Such school boards would, for the first time, involve the Native peoples in their own education programs and would greatly contribute to making their education more relevant and attractive to them.

6. Administrative and legal reforms, and changes in official attitudes, are needed to insure that Native people...receive justice under the law.

7. The plight of the growing number of Indians in the cities needs study and attention. A Progressive Conservative government would establish an action task force, in consultation with Native representatives and including Native people, to determine the government's responsibilities and to see what can be done to insure better housing, job placement, vocational training, and conditions for living of these people.

8. The rights and the problems of non-status Indians need immediate, sympathetic and extensive consideration.

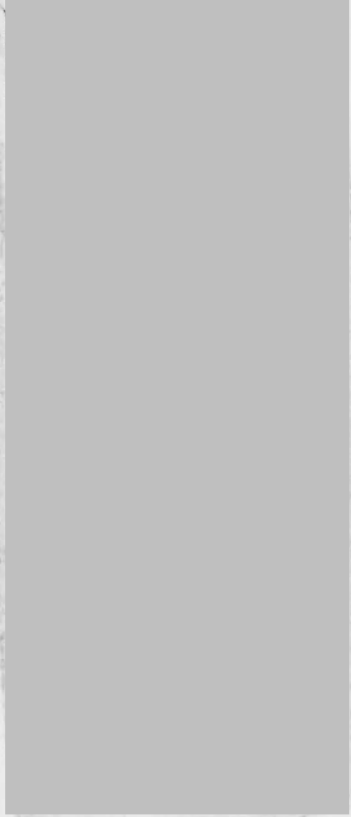
9. Policies must be developed in consultation and partnership with the Eskimos, to insure the protection of Inuit rights and culture and interests as the north is opened up.

10. The Progressive Conservative Party would give full recognition and extended support to the Native organizations of Canada.

11. Government programs of assistance to the Native peoples of Canada have been for the most part fragmented and uncoordinated, with a significant degree of duplication and waste. Moreover, there have seldom been adequate consultation and collaboration with the Native peoples themselves in regard to these programs. The Progressive Conservative Party favors coordination of the efforts of all governments and all departments of government to maximize the effectiveness of such programs.

Canada
**Indians Win Halt
To Building of
Power Project**

MONTREAL (AP) — In-



The Washington Post

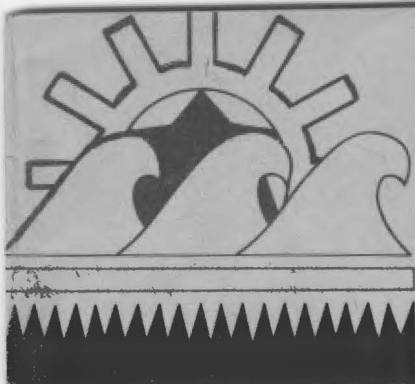
Sun. Nov. 26, 1972



Canadians Seek Sensitivity in School Textbooks

By Neil Harrison

This was the finding of a committee discovered in badly destroyed Iriquois confi- this arrowhead was used to



The Saskatchewan **INDIAN**

August 1974

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN

Volume 4 Number 6



the promises we make to you are
not for to-day only but for to-morrow,
not only for you but for your children
born and unborn, and the promises
we make will be carried out as
long as the sun shines above and
the water flows in the ocean

Treaty 4 1874-1974

Readers write



Misinformation

Dear Editor:

It is with pure anger that I am writing this letter to the Saskatchewan Indian magazine.

In your June edition of the magazine you received a letter from a teacher who is very misinformed.

This woman said she witnessed a car accident, while on her way to a nearby reserve to apply for a teaching position.

First of all, there were nine people in the car not five. A few of the passengers had been drinking. However, the 16-year-old driver hadn't been drinking. This was one of those freak accidents.

Secondly, the mobile home on the reserve was surrounded by beer bottles because the students were having a bottle drive. As for the glass and dirt and bottles in the porch of the mobile home was completely exaggerated. Some people just aren't good a house keeper as others especially when the woman who lived there had to go to upgrading classes all day and then come home at night and fix supper for a big family. I might add that a lot of white peoples homes are in worse conditions.

If this lady and her husband would have bothered to check at the band office, she would have found this out.

I don't know where the Indian children she has taught came from, the students here do not come to school without their breakfast and lunch and wear the same clothes day after day.

Two years ago there was 90 per cent of the people on this reserve on welfare, today there is only eight per cent, the other 92 per cent work hard at their jobs and I don't know where they find the time to sit on

their fannies with a bottle of beer in each hand.

I suggest this woman has a hidden discriminatory feeling towards Indians.

When I first started to work on this reserve, I was very sceptical about being alongside Indians. I had heard white people talk about the Indian just as this teacher did in her letter, being white myself I had some doubts about working on a reserve but I have grown very fond of the people here and I would not trade my job for anything.

Yours truly,
Robert Abraham
Prince Albert, Sask.

Games people play

Dear Editor:

The days are almost here now, where we will be hosting the Saskatchewan Indian Treaty 4 Centennial Games, August 15, 16, 17 and 18.

This is to commemorate the historic event that took place 100 years ago, the signing of Treaty No. 4.

First, I would like to clarify that this is not just going to be another big sports day, in my opinion this celebration is to commemorate 100 years of Treaty No. 4 first, and the games to come second which will be held to highlight the centennial.

The opening ceremonies will be held on August 15 at 4 p.m. on the sports grounds; the march pass of the athletes, speeches from various dignitaries, also 68 Chiefs from all Saskatchewan Indian Bands will be dressed in full Indian regalia and have the smoking of the peace pipe, there will be a reenactment of Treaty No. 4 that took place in Fort Qu'Appelle in 1874. A pow-wow will follow the opening ceremonies.

The following days August 16, 17 and 18, track and field events, football, soccer, volleyball, basketball and boxing will take place. These events are open to both boys and girls of the bantam age group, with the exception of boxing.

Medals will be presented after each event is completed on the third

day. It is with excitement that we look forward to the games, the preparations are reaching a fever pitch. The credit for the success of this event will go to all Saskatchewan Indians. We here at Cote will be proud to have your here.

Alfred Stevenson,
Vice-President and Director,
Public Relations Dept.,
Summer Games Committee.

Mistakes

Dear Editor:

What's the matter with you guys? Can't you read?

As soon as I opened the last issue of your magazine I saw a mistake — two pictures with the captions reversed, the same mistake was repeated on page 31 with the Muskoday housing story.

And on page 39, you spelled featured, feautured.

I'm not even going to mention the Diefenbaker advertisement on the back page because I found it too disgusting.

You guys are doing a good job, but it's a sloppy one, so get with it.
Disgusted.

Correction

The Editor:

I would like to make a correction concerning the write-up of our School Committee Proposal, in the May issue of the Saskatchewan Indian.

It was stated in the last paragraph and I quote "Also, beginning September 1, 1974, Mrs. Jessie Deiter will be the Native Language Instructor." This is incorrect. It should be clarified that Mrs. Jessie Deiter has been selected as the Native Language Instructor for the Peepeekisis Reserve and hopefully she may become the Cree Language Instructor, beginning on September 1, 1974, in the Balcarres Joint School.

Yours truly,
Noella McKay,
Chairman,
Peepeekisis School
Committee



EDITORIAL

Strengthen and Honor Treaties

This month the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of Treaty Number 4 will be observed at the Cote Reserve on August 15, 16, 17 and 18. The Indian Summer Games will be hosted as part of the event.

This is not a happy occasion, in spite of first impressions. There is no reason to celebrate after so much was given up and so little received in return.

The past one hundred years have not been good to us. We have been kept under the oppressive and paternalizing thumb of the Indian Affairs branch and our treaties have been consistently played down as antiquated or irrelevant.

To commemorate one hundred years of a Treaty, signing is our way of showing our belief and faith in what the Treaties stand for.

On September 15, 1874, the Chiefs in the Treaty 4 area signed away their land and freedom expecting to receive payment in return. What was received was rations, welfare and economic stagnation.

The land that was signed away was Indian land and the property of Indian people yet to be born. This is who the Treaties were signed for; For all those Indian people in the future and for their future well-being.

This year we will witness the passing of one hundred years since Treaty Number 4 was signed. It represents the end of an era and the hope for a better tomorrow.

Whose Affairs are Indian Affairs

The recent issue over core funding is rapidly weeding out our supporters and non-supporters within the Indian Affairs Branch.

Branch employees who side with Indian people and their causes do so at the risk of their future and their jobs. The time is rapidly approaching when Indian people will have to turn the Branch around and make it work for us and not for itself.

The District Officer will have to become the action center with more authority and less emphasis will have to be placed on headquarters in Ottawa.

The continued existence of the Branch in its present form will only serve to get in the way of Indian Development.

Arbitrary decisions for economic loans and programs such as winter works and Work Opportunities are made in Ottawa with little or no input from the Indian people or the district officer.

Indian Affairs is badly over centralized with all major decisions being made in Ottawa and the irony is that the flunkies and losers are transferred out of the field to Ottawa. A transfer to Ottawa is not regarded as a promotion among civil servants.

Actions and history of Indian Affairs have proven time and time again that the interest lies in itself and not in the Indian people.



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This paper is the official voice of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians. It is intended to serve as an effective vehicle for Indian opinion in this province. Signed articles and opinions are the opinions of the individuals concerned and not necessarily those of the Federation.

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