Historic Political Accord
CAP celebrates breakthrough agreement with Canada

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls -
Final Report Released
Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program

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• Finding a job

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• Support industry recognized or customized employer skills training
• Increase workplace inclusion, diversity and retention
• Raise profile with urban Aboriginal communities

Partnerships

The Congress is looking to establish skills training partnerships with businesses and employers. If you are interested please contact the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples ISET Program department.

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Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
867 St. Laurent Blvd
Ottawa, ON K1K-3B1

Tel: 613 747-6022
Web: abo-peoples.org
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Toll Free: 1-888-9927
on the cover

A shawl dancer from Golden Lake participating in the Odawa Traditional Pow Wow 2019.

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The Indigenous Voice is the official publication of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. As one of five national Indigenous representative organizations recognized by the Government of Canada, CAP advocates for the rights and interests of Métis people, non-status/status Indians living off-reserve and the Inuit of Southern Labrador. CAP represents the interests of its provincial and territorial affiliate organizations.

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Welcome
Message from National Chief Robert Bertrand

Welcome to our latest edition of The Indigenous Voice, a publication of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP). We are excited to present this magazine to the community and in particular to the Métis, non-status and status Indians and Inuit peoples living off-reserve whom we represent. The Indigenous Voice celebrates the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of our communities across Canada.

This past June was a busy month for CAP. In early June, we attended the closing ceremony for the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls wherein the final report was presented. We believe this report is an important step toward reconciliation and support the Calls to Justice within it. We hope that they are responded to quickly to ensure that the process toward reconciliation is not ignored.

CAP continues to advocate for the rights of those it represents. Together with our Provincial and Territorial Organizations and community members, we held a Day of Action at Parliament Hill’s West Block on June 20. This Day of Action was to raise awareness around our exclusion to ensure that the voices of Métis, non-status and status Indians and Inuit peoples living off-reserve can be heard. We thank those of you who showed your support on that day.

CAP also co-hosted the National Indigenous Peoples Day at the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival held in Ottawa from June 20 to 23. Every year, this festival attracts thousands of visitors throughout the weekend and showcases Indigenous cultures in different fashion; from Pow Wow singers and dancers to the food and crafts offered by the vendors, there is something for everyone.

This edition, which I hope you will enjoy, will feature articles focusing on ways of empowerment and perseverance adopted by our peoples in their fight for inclusion.

Meegwetch,
National Chief Robert Bertrand

Bienvenue
Message du Chef National Robert Bertrand

Bienvenue à notre dernier numéro de The Indigenous Voice, une publication du Congrès des peuples autochtones (CPA). Nous sommes ravis de présenter ce magazine à la communauté, en particulier aux Métis, aux Indiens non statués et statués, et aux Inuits vivant hors réserve que nous représentons. The Indigenous Voice célèbre l’héritage unique, la diversité des cultures et les réalisations exceptionnelles de nos communautés partout au Canada.

Le mois de juin a été un mois chargé pour CPA. Nous avons assisté début juin à la cérémonie de clôture de l’enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées et au cours de laquelle le rapport final a été présenté. Nous pensons que le rapport est une étape importante vers la réconciliation et soutenons les appels à la justice qui y sont décrits. Nous espérons qu’ils donneront lieu à desresponses concrètes et rapides pour que le processus de réconciliation ne soit pas ignoré.

Le CPA continue de défendre les droits des peuples qu’il représente. En collaboration avec nos organisations provinciales et territoriales et des membres de la communauté, nous avons organisé une journée d’action à l’édifice de l’ouest de la Colline du Parlement le 20 juin. Le but de cette journée d’action était de mobiliser l’attention par rapport à l’exclusion et s’assurer que les voix des Métis, des Indiens non statués et statués, et des Inuits vivant hors réserve puissent être entendues. Nous remercions tous ceux qui ont apporté leur soutien à la Journée d’action.

Le CPA a également été coorganisateur de la journée nationale des peuples autochtones au festival autochtone du solstice d’été, qui a eu lieu à Ottawa du 20 au 23 juin. Chaque année, ce festival attire des milliers de visiteurs en fin de semaine et met en scène les différentes cultures autochtones sous différentes formes; des chanteurs et danseurs du Pow Wow à la nourriture en passant par les stands d’artisanat, il y en a pour tous les goûts.

Cette édition, qui je l’espère vous plaira, regroupe des articles qui se penchent sur les différentes formes de perseverance et d’émancipation auxquelles nos peuples ont recours dans lute pour l’inclusion.

Meegwetch,
de Robert Bertrand, Chef National
The goal of reconciliation is to create a new relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada. For businesses, this often means reviewing a company’s hiring practices. Though this is an important piece of the puzzle, it’s not a quick fix. It’s a small part of a much bigger picture.

The private sector alone cannot solve poverty among Indigenous peoples. It would be an unfair burden to expect that individual businesses alone can change generations of trauma, lack of support for families, inadequate housing or any other consequence of colonization. These issues concern all of society and many fall squarely on the shoulders of the federal government.

Reconciliation is a journey of hard truths and challenging reflections. It is a journey no one can take alone. The TRC’s findings and the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls lift the veil on Canada’s colonial myths and seek to engage Canadians in meaningful conversations about the deep roots of poverty among Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The issue of historical and structural economic exclusion is an area in which specific businesses and individuals within businesses can make a difference. The Reconciliation Toolkit focuses on understanding these complexities and finding one’s place on a continuum of reconciliation action, allowing businesses to challenge the complexities of ongoing colonial exclusion and discrimination.
Histories of Economic Exclusion:
An Excerpt from the Reconciliation Toolkit for Business Leaders

Hudson Bay watershed lands are granted to the Hudson’s Bay Company, along with the right to govern and operate business in the territory however it wants, without restriction. Fur trading has negative impact on Indigenous peoples, creating reliance on European trade and goods. The balance of power shifts as fur traders realize that Indigenous communities involved in the fur trade are no longer self-sufficient.

Traditionally nomadic, the Blackfoot Tribe is forced to adopt colonial ranching and farming practices, settling in permanent reservations after systematic commercial buffalo hunting by Europeans depletes their primary food source. Periods of starvation and deprivation result in the tribe ceding most of its lands in exchange for annuities of food and medical aid, as well as help in learning to farm.

Massive influx of miners exploits Indigenous territories for economic gain without regard for Indigenous practices, resources or well-being. Mining companies move on once resources are depleted, leaving lasting damaging effects on the land and local economy. Indigenous peoples are discouraged from mining by non-Indigenous miners in an attempt to limit competition.

As demand for traditional goods, such as fur, plummets and families fall into poverty, Indigenous peoples try to find work in new fields. In an attempt to deal with nationwide economic problems, the federal government cuts back on spending, including relief funds for the provinces. Indigenous peoples are among the first to lose their jobs, and throughout the period have significantly lower earnings than non-Indigenous people. Ongoing restriction of rights to access to traditional lands for hunting and fishing compounds problems of hunger and poverty during this period.

International Indigenous News

Paraguay

The Ayoreo-Totobiegosode, one of the last uncontacted Indigenous peoples living outside of the Amazon forest have won a monumental land victory. After 26 years of struggle, relatives of the Ayoero people have been granted ownership over 18,000 hectares (180 square kilometers) of their ancestral land. This transfer of land will help protect the Ayoero, who reject contact with outsiders, from logging interests that continue to threaten their homes and existence. (Source: Survival International)
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5,000+ Indigenous Alumni
Leaders in Indigenous Education
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Participates In Bill S-3 Collaborative Process

By Stephen Cudmore

In August 2015, the Superior Court of Québec ruled in the Descheneaux case that the Indian Act discriminates against women. The court ordered the government to bring the Act in line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In 2017, the government responded with Bill S-3, an Act to amend the Indian Act. The original version of Bill S-3 exclusively addressed concerns raised by the Descheneaux case, but ignored other instances of gender discrimination in the Act: the “1951 cut-off,” for example, says that women can only register under section 6(1)(c.1) if they have had (or adopted) a child after Sept. 4, 1951. The Senate added a provision to Bill S-3 removing the cut-off, but its implementation was delayed so the government could consult on impacts and set a timeline.

Over the next two years, Canada engaged with CAP and other First Nations organisations to discuss both the 1951 cut-off and other issues around Indian Registration, band membership and First Nations citizenship. Nearly all our Provincial-Territorial Organizations (PTOs) conducted engagement sessions with their members, while at the national level, CAP’s Board of Directors and Youth Council each met to help formulate our recommendations.

Here are some of our recommendations:

● Bring the delayed provisions of Bill S-3 into action, without any further delay

Those who have been affected by sex-based discrimination in the Indian Act have already waited too long to have their status as Indians recognized.

● Redress for those who were affected by enfranchisement

This includes those who lost their status, either voluntarily or involuntarily, such as by entering a profession.

● Better support for applicants for Indian Status

Registration takes too long, is too complex and is full of barriers, especially for those whose family histories are complicated by adoption, lost records, unstated paternity or the need for complex genealogical research to prove a claim to status.

● Voluntary deregistration

So long as their rights and those of their descendants to be registered aren’t impacted, anyone should be able to request that their name be removed from the Indian Register.

● Begin study of the removal of the two-generation cut-off

Since 1985, the Indian Act has divided registered Indians into two groups. Those with two Indian parents are always permitted to pass on their status to their children, while those with only a single parent with status can do so only if they have children with another registered Indian. It’s time to end this discriminatory and divisive practice.

● Control over their own membership for First Nations—but those outside of on-reserve communities mustn’t be forgotten

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is clear that the right of indigenous peoples to determine their own membership is fundamental, but so is the right of Indigenous individuals to belong to their nations. Bands must not be allowed to exclude people arbitrarily or because of categories invented by the Indian
Act. It may take some creative solutions to ensure that all First Nations people can be properly recognized, whether the community they belong to is on- or off-reserve.

On June 12, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations tabled the government’s report on the collaborative process. Disappointingly, the government failed to set a timeline to end the 1951 cut-off. Furthermore, the report’s focus on the impact to bands shows the government does not understand that off-reserve communities in cities and towns will be most impacted when Bill S-3 takes full effect. CAP is continuing for our people. We refuse to let them be forgotten.
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The Provincial Profile Series is a new feature for the Indigenous Voice. It is intended to introduce Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people to our communities throughout Canada. In this edition, we introduce you to IPAM, Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Manitoba.

For decades, the off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples of Manitoba were without a voice. This changed several years ago as a result of the combination of Congress of Aboriginal Peoples’ (CAP) outreach and strong support of Indigenous peoples with an ambition to make change. It began when Betty Ann Lavallée and Ron Swain (then National Chief and Vice Chief, respectively) visited Manitoba as part of a grassroots tour. Longtime leaders of Indigenous peoples in Manitoba attended this meeting and were inspired to apply to CAP. Ernie Blais, Charles Simard and Freeman Simard went through the application process and with the acceptance from CAP at the Annual General Assembly, the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Manitoba (IPAM) was born.

IPAM is one of the most recent additions to CAP’s affiliates. As the organization has been newly initiated, the brunt of its work thus far has been to establish itself across Manitoba. The Board of Directors have representatives from four regions across the province to ensure that all communities’ voices are heard. IPAM’s board members are an impressive collection of experienced Indigenous leaders from diverse backgrounds. According to current IPAM president Ernie Blais, these members are “knowledgeable and willing to work”. With such an inspiring roster of board members, there are high hopes for future accomplishments of the organization as it gains momentum and standing across Manitoba.

IPAM’s priority is to provide strong representation for the off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples of Manitoba. These people too often fall through the cracks and are left in limbo. Leaders of the organization are prepared to do what it takes to make their voices heard so their constituents have their needs addressed. IPAM has made progress by building a good rapport with the provincial government and is working to establish a positive relationship with the federal government. President Blais feels their most significant accomplishment to date has been “bringing together a great group of people under one organization wanting to work for the betterment of its people. These people came together because they wanted to, without funding and through great adversity”. The dedication, experience and knowledge these individuals can contribute to the organization will surely make IPAM a force to be reckoned with.
Future goals of the organization are to be a powerful voice for their constituents and to build their membership. IPAM envisions a new narrative of Indigenous rights and culture in Canada driven by broad, inclusive representation and a strong tradition of handing down the proud cultures and knowledge of all Indigenous Peoples to future generations. There is the possibility of offering some services and programs at the grassroots level, but precedence will always be given to representing their people. As membership builds, the organization is adamant about maintaining quality representation. It’s not about how many people you speak for, but how well you do it. Leaders in the organization will ensure that the unique needs of their regions are accounted for. They are prepared to place themselves at the forefront of discussions so “the forgotten ones” of Manitoba are not left behind.
Political Accord

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples celebrate breakthrough Political Accord with the federal government

By Melissa Cernigoy

Political accords can establish the foundation for a strong, respectful relationship between partners by building a vision of common goals and a path to achieving them. The Canada-Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Political Accord is an agreement between CAP and the federal government to build a renewed relationship based on rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. A common goal is to close the socio-economic gap between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians.

On Dec. 5, 2018 in Ottawa, CAP’s National Chief, Vice-Chief and Board of Directors joined in celebration for the signing of a renewed Political Accord with the federal government. The Accord was the subject of negotiations for more than two years.

For 48 years CAP has advocated as the national voice of off-reserve status and non-status Indians, Métis, and Southern Labrador Inuit – Indigenous peoples across Canada who are often the most disenfranchised and marginalized populations. In 1994, CAP became the first National Indigenous Organization to formalize a relationship with government through a political accord. CAP also signed updated accords with the federal government in 1998 and 2005. The 2018 agreement is a breakthrough for CAP’s peoples because it is the first to reflect the 2016 Supreme Court of Canada’s CAP Daniels decision.

In 2016, CAP won a landmark victory with the Supreme Court of Canada’s unanimous decision in Daniels v. Canada, which confirmed that Métis and non-status Indians fall under the federal government’s jurisdiction and fiduciary duty. The decision affirmed that Métis and Non-Status Indians are “Indians” under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. The fiduciary relationship between Canada and Aboriginal peoples includes Métis and Non-Status Indians.

Through the signing of the Accord, the government has committed to working with us to develop a path forward by supporting the participation of the CAP and its Provincial-Territorial Organisations (PTOs) in matters related to the rights, interests and needs of their constituents.

“...reflects our shared priorities of collaboration and partnership.”

On the signing of the Accord, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett said, “We are so excited to establish a new Canada-Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Political Accord that reflects our shared priorities of collaboration and partnership. I thank the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples for their advocacy which made this accord possible, and I look forward to continuing our work together on the issues that matter most to their people.”

Signing the CAP-Canada Political Accord was a momentous occasion for CAP and the peoples we represent. It’s the first step and now CAP is working hard at the negotiating table on a path towards implementation. CAP is continuing our advocacy for the government to come to the table and deliver for our peoples.
CAP’s National Chief Robert Bertrand and Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin were signatories to the agreement along with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.
Vice Chief Kim Beaudin and National Chief Robert Bertrand during the release of the final report of the inquiry into MMIWG.

Closing ceremony and the release of the final report into MMIWG at the Museum of Nature in Ottawa.
These words resonated through the Canadian Museum of History on June 3, during the closing ceremony for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Families and survivors were gathered, along with representatives for Indigenous organisations and communities, the federal government, provinces, territories and members of the public.

CAP’s National Chief Robert Bertrand and Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin were present to bear witness to the release of the inquiry’s Final Report and honour the lost Indigenous women and girls from CAP’s constituency.

The National Inquiry’s Final Report was released with 231 Calls for Justice to be acted on by all governments, the private sector and the Canadian public. The report also outlines the legal imperatives obligating the federal government to act. Over the past two years, CAP participated as a party with standing in the National Inquiry hearings. Members of our constituency also joined in the Truth Gathering Process. The Inquiry has determined that the violations of Indigenous and human rights experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada are genocide.

From CAP’s perspective, our organization knows too well that the government continues the pattern of colonial violence today through the existing Indian Status rules, the chronic underfunding of adequate, culturally safe supports and the exclusion of non-status, Métis and off-reserve peoples from critical programs and legislation.

The Inquiry has taken a strong position that the federal government is legally obligated to create inclusive, substantively equal programming. Call to Justice 1.1 calls for “all governments to ensure that equitable access to basic rights such as employment, housing, education, safety, and health care is recognized as a fundamental means of protecting Indigenous and human rights, resourced and supported as rights-based programs founded on substantive equality. All programs must be no-barrier, and must apply regardless of Status or location.”

The final report of the National Inquiry is imperfect. There are areas where the Calls to Justice could be stronger and more actionable. We know that the Truth Gathering Process was also imperfect, plagued by a tight timeline, small budgets, delays and a rushed process. Some families were not able to speak or travel to the community events and there were barriers to participation. Yet the final report carries a weight of truths that were heard as part of the process and the report more importantly carries hope for concrete actions to be taken for the well-being and safety of Indigenous women and girls. “We are here to honour the lost women and girls. We’re hopeful that full implementation of the Calls to Justice would lead to greater safety, security and empowerment of our constituency”, stated National Chief Robert Bertrand on the day of the release.

CAP’s National Vice-Chief Kim Beaudin testified before the National Inquiry during its Expert and Knowledge Keeper Hearings on Criminal Justice on Sept. 18, 2018. At the Final Report release the Vice-Chief affirmed, “above all, this Inquiry is for the families who need to see this process lead to concrete solutions - to help end the continual cycle of murder and violence against Indigenous Women and Girls.”

“Lost, but not forgotten.”

By Melissa Cernigoy
Not just passing through

Understanding government reluctance to recognize URBAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Reconciliation Toolkit for Business Leaders

Available online at www.abo-peoples.org
When I was a young child, my mother used to say to me, “when the going gets tough, the tough get going.” This familiar saying represents multiple clichés about strength, perseverance and resilience: overcoming obstacles to reach your destiny. Sometimes these obstacles can be controlled through personal choices. But other times it’s like trying to play ice hockey with a plastic stick: you are doomed to fail even before you start. Everyday, Indigenous women face multiple barriers when trying to improve their quality of life. Although they struggle, their inner strength and determination allows people like Shawna-lee Bryant and Mary Swiftwolfe to achieve their dreams, regardless of the odds.

“...I knew I was meant to help people.”

From a very young age, Bryant knew in her heart that she was meant to help people in need as a social worker. “I always wanted to be a social worker because I knew I was meant to help people,” she says. “My mother used to tell me that I would talk to my dolls until they felt better or wrap them in blankets if it was cold outside.”

Unfortunately, the realities of growing up can disrupt childhood dreams, and Bryant knew that in order to make it in Canada’s workforce, she needed to find a job to support her family. After working in the business, finance and administration sector for more than 15 years, she finally came to a decision that would change her life. “I remembered that little girl with the hurt dolls and I went back to school to become a social worker.” She enrolled in the four-year Bachelor of Social Work program at the University of Regina. For three years she saved, took out student loans and did everything possible to make her childhood dream a reality. Unfortunately, she smacked into a barrier during her final practicum.

Four months away from completing her degree, Bryant learned she did not qualify for further funding. Devastated, she researched alternative forms of funding. “I felt that my lifelong dream had just been taken from me.” Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) provides financial support for Indigenous peoples in Canada. There are more than 600 points of service across the country, with 85 organizations contracted as funding agreement holders with ESDC through the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program. Indigenous Canadians can apply to their local ISET agreement holder for tuition, textbooks, living allowance and other types of educational and employment supports. However each ISET holder has policies and priorities of what they will and will not fund. Shawna-lee Bryant is a Métis woman from Manitoba who was going to school in Saskatchewan. There are seven provincial Métis organisations west of Quebec that are ISET agreement holders. She could
have obtained funding support for her practicum from either Manitoba or Saskatchewan’s provincial Métis organizations. However, she was caught between systemic barriers when both organizations denied her funding based on their different eligibility criteria, a familiar experience for Indigenous people applying for support across Canada.

Frustrated yet determined, Bryant continued her pursuit for funding until she came across the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP). “One day, during my Google search, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples came across my screen,” she says. “I read the write-up and my heart skipped a beat. They offered funding assistance!”

The ISET program at CAP is a national agreement holder with ESDC that supports off-reserve Indigenous people living in urban and rural areas including non-status Indians, status First Nations experiencing discrimination from their band (e.g. residency), Indigenous people living out of their home province or territory and Southern Inuit in Canada.

Bryant found the final support that she was looking for. CAP sponsored her practicum and assisted her in graduating from the program and obtaining her dream occupation working for the Canadian Mental Health Association’s mobile division in British Columbia.

“This resource was what helped me to be the person that I am today, a registered social worker”

“This resource was what helped me to be the person that I am today: a registered social worker”, Bryant says. “My experience with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples was a positive moment in my life and I can only hope to strive to be the kind of social worker that they believed I can be.”

Systemic discrimination is also present in workplaces across Canada. Mary Swiftwolfe, a First Nations woman born in Saskatchewan and living in Winnipeg, had to overcome this obstacle in order to participate in her university graduation. “I had three children at a young age and I returned to school as an older student,” she says. “The challenge I have faced is working and going to school at the same time while ensuring the well-being of my three daughters.”

While attending the University of Manitoba in her Bachelor of Arts program, Mary let her skills shine when she worked for Indigenous Services Canada in Winnipeg starting in 2016.

“Mary has demonstrated leadership capability in policy development and excellence meeting goals and objectives through teamwork, for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people,” Randy Way, her former co-worker and development officer at Indigenous Services Canada, says, “she believes her strength is to offer cultural competence which has helped inform my work in dealing with the First Nation communities in Manitoba.”

What started as a summer student position turned into a passion in improving the quality of life for Indigenous Peoples across Canada. Over the next two years, Swiftwolfe assisted program officers in a variety of sections such as Child and Family Services, Jordan’s Principle, First Nations Income Assistance program and the Family Violence Prevention Program. She was starting to see her career path unfold and was ready for a career opportunity at Indigenous Services Canada in Winnipeg after graduating. Then everything changed in a heartbeat. “The harassment began in late 2017, from another co-worker in my building,” Swiftwolfe says. “I
brought it up with my supervisor and her response was, ‘Let this be a lesson for you not to interact with employees outside of work.’”

Although workplace harassment takes different forms, she was not alone in her experience. According to a 2018 Statistics Canada report, women have an 18 per cent probability of being harassed by a co-worker. Aboriginal women are more than twice as likely as other women to report workplace harassment. The report also states that there is a link between workplace harassment and personal well-being indicators such as stress, mental health and outlook on life. In fact, 16 per cent of women who were harassed in the workplace reported poorer mental health and 33 per cent higher stress levels.

The dual effects of workplace harassment and her daughter experiencing domestic violence were too much for Mary at this time. She was prescribed antidepressants for her stress and depression and stopped working at Indigenous Services Canada in April 2018.

“The combination of working part-time and in studies full-time along with being a single mother to three proved too much,” she says. She was on track to finish her program on time, but said, “It became very difficult to fully concentrate on my studies because of the stress and depression. It became hard to attend classes and also to go online and read through the material for the winter term course.” She decided to withdraw from her program and take care of her personal problems first, hoping that she would get another chance at her degree.

Similar to Shawna-lee Bryant, Mary Swiftwolfe found the solution to her problem through the CAP’s ISET program. After she was denied funding support from her band due to residency restrictions, Mary found out about CAP through a co-worker and applied. She received the financial support that allowed her to walk across the stage at her graduation ceremony in front of her three daughters as a positive role model that can overcome any barrier.

“It is my ecstatic pleasure and great privilege to recommend Mary for any future opportunities,” Randy Way says. “I am confident that the investments CAP has made in her career development will yield a high reward for Mary, her family and the Indigenous community of Manitoba.”

Wolves have natural hunting instincts and because of her post-secondary training and work experience, Mary Swiftwolfe now possesses superior instincts in hunting future employment opportunities in Canada’s Labour Market.
Jessica Baldus Executive Director of the 4R’s Youth Movement and Emcee of Creative Leaders 2019.
The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and its national Youth Council hosted the fifth Creative Leaders Symposium on Friday, March 1 at the Albert at Bay Suite Hotel on unceded Algonquin territory in Ottawa. CAP brought together Indigenous youth leaders and business professionals from across Turtle Island to explore possibilities in entrepreneurship, internships and civic engagement.

The day started with greetings from Elder Claudette Commanda and from emcee Jessica Bolduc, executive director of the 4Rs Youth Movement. Attendees had breakfast before the morning’s keynote speaker, Brian Calliou, took the stage.

Calliou, the director of Indigenous leadership and management at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, started the symposium by speaking on leadership and the solid foundations needed to create and sustain good governance.

“Restoring leadership, not from the mainstream western perspective, but grounded in traditional principles and Indigenous values is paramount to the success of every Indigenous leader,” Calliou said.

With Calliou setting the tone for the morning, the symposium moved into entrepreneurship in the arts sector. Executive directors, programmers, broadcasters and film festival creators kept the ball rolling. Annette Hegel, executive director of SAW Video Media Art Centre, moderated a panel with filmmaker Cecilia Araneda, Asinabka Festival co-founder Howard Adler and Adam Beach Film Institute artistic director Jim Compton. The panelists shared their experiences and offered advice to the audience.

The symposium moved smoothly onto the topic of internships. Shopify’s Jace Meyer presented the highly anticipated Dev Degree scholarship, a program that offers education, work experience and tuition at Shopify. Rob Campbell, MNP’s director of national Indigenous services, discussed his internship experiences. Rebekah Wilson, author and researcher with Leaders International, discussed opportunities with the company and its human resources process.

The keynote lunch speaker was Christina Nasrallah, financial advisor with Desjardins Financial Security. Nasrallah spoke on mentorship and gaining experience while developing skills through volunteering. She also compared and contrasted mentors and sponsors, and suggested using sponsors to expand one’s reach for opportunities.

The afternoon saw Indigenous youth leaders speak about civic engagement. Kari Thomason spoke on the Oskayak Police Academy leadership program as part of a partnership with the Edmonton Police Service. Nikki Fraser, the former national youth representative of the Native Women’s Association of Canada, spoke on the importance of developing public speaking skills. Ambrose Williams and Lindsay Grant promoted Our Place, an organisation for finding personal assistance in Vancouver.

The symposium then took the opportunity to showcase Indigenous entrepreneurs who have found success. Speakers included Okwaho Equal Source president Shyra Barberstock, Shelley Burke of NVision Insight, home inspector Gerald Speers, Jaime Morse of Indigenous Walks and Mark Marsolais-Nahwegahbow of Birch Bark Coffee Company. They spoke about why they became business owners and the challenges they encountered on the way to success.
Nikki Fraser, former National Youth Representative for the Native Women's Association of Canada and speaker at Creative Leaders 2019.

Film Makers Howard Adler, Cecilia Araneda, and Jim Compton during a panel on entrepreneurship and film making.

Brian Calliou, Director of the Indigenous Leadership Program at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Kendal Netmaker, founder of Neechie GEAR and keynote speaker during the Creative Leaders Symposium.
The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) has created a booklet called “The Daniels Decision. What’s Possible?”

This booklet talks about the Daniels Decision, the culmination of a 17-year long legal battle between the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Government of Canada, that made clear the Federal government is legally accountable and responsible for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

This means that for the first time in Métis and Non-Status Indian history, a party has been identified and held accountable for handling programs, land claims, self-governance discussions, and the recognition of Métis and Non-Status Indian rights.

It also means that real and long-lasting change is more possible today than ever before, because for the first time there is someone to enter into dialogue with.

Now, it is our responsibility to come together and turn this possibility into a reality. The Daniels Decision has put the wheels in motion, and we have to keep them moving.

We hope this booklet will be a useful tool for our people in their discussions with the government and other stakeholders. Visit www.abo-peoples.org to download a copy of this booklet.
My time in the LNHL

By Zack Frawley

In 2014 I played for Nipissing again. It was a very skilled team. We managed to win the A Championship with a score of 2-1 in a hard-fought final’s battle against Aamjiwnaang. I was awarded the game MVP in four of my five games, but lifting the tournament trophy over my head and celebrating with my teammates was far and away the greatest feeling of all.

The experiences, learning opportunities and memories the LNHL gives its participants makes the tournament stand out from the rest. Former tournament players were able to play hockey at high levels, including in the NHL. My dad Dan Frawley went on to play for the Chicago Blackhawks and captained the Pittsburgh Penguins, but the LNHL is still a memory he fondly looks back on. On his time playing in the LNHL, he says, “The LNHL provided a wonderful opportunity to the youth and their families to gather from all parts of Ontario. During the week they could see family and friends and make new friends. Also, the chance to showcase the amazing Native hockey players we have is pretty impressive. Just a great experience all around.”

To the First Nations youth who are looking forward to the Nipissing-hosted 2020 tournament: have fun, play hard, and good luck! To the sponsors, parents and hosts that make it all possible: thank you for giving the kids something to remember. Miigwech.
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