

Wulustuk Times

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St John River
This publication produced monthly at Tobique, NB, Canada E7H 5K3

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Wulustuk Times:

Each month we gather and publish the latest, most relevant native news, events and stories for our readership. Working with this concept, we feel that an informed public is more apt to understand and relate with aboriginal conditions and situations when equipped with the right tools. Our objective therefore is to provide accurate, concise and well rounded information behind every story. That is our policy.

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CHIEF AND COUNCIL JAILED FOR PROTECTING INDIAN LAND

p.paul

What next? Chief and Council are thrown in jail for protecting their land, their people and their resources on the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI), or Big Trout Lake First Nation in Ontario.

On March, 17, 2008, Mr. Justice Patrick Smith of the Ontario Superior Court ordered a six month jail term for KI Six charged with 'contempt of court'.

The "contempt" decision came out of the protective action taken by 1300 members of KI First Nation led by their Chief and Council, who collectively attempted to stop Platinex, an Ontario based corporation from test-drilling for minerals on their land.

Despite the band-wide protest however, the mining company continued its drilling operations while the native protesters pressed harder to halt the exploration work, maintaining that the right to drill holes on any part of their territory had to be authorized and ratified by chief and council and supported by band members. Otherwise, exploration on sovereign Indian land under provincial authority would violate Crown authority.

Each side, however, maintained having legal rights to support their actions. Platinex based their rights on the Ontario Mining Act 1873, Repealed 1991, (amend. 2000), while the Indians rights arose from two sources, 1) Land protection laws guaranteed under the Crown, and, 2) federal law emanating from the Indian Act -1874, (rev. 1952), and reaffirmed in the Constitutional Act 1982.

The clash between the parties continued despite each side claiming 'legal rights' from a higher authority.

The dispute continued until finally the matter went to provincial court which ultimately favored Platinex to proceed with its exploration.

In due time, the case reached the Ontario Superior Court for the final judgement.

In Superior Court, the presiding Mr. Justice Patrick Smith ruled that the chief and council acted in 'contempt of court' by interfering with Platinex operations, and thereby ordered the protest leaders, KI Six, to a 6-month jail term for the offence.

Question: How can a supposedly 'honourable' judge, representing the highest court in the land, render such a seemingly wrongful and racially-laced decision? Further question: Does anyone, anywhere, have any rights on their own land, including Indians in their territories who have sovereign rights given to them by the Crown?

Larger question: How can provincial law (Ontario Mining Act 1873, repealed-1991, amen. 2000) override or supercede federal law such as the Indian Act 1774 (rev. 1952), and/or Crown Jurisdiction that was formally instituted in Colonial times?

These are the fundamental questions that need to be answered before one can absolutely discern 'guilt' or 'innocence' upon a native subject whose 'supposed' criminal action took place on sovereign Indian land and on 'quasi-criminal' circumstances.

Such convictions could reasonably raise the question whether the subjects were detained or convicted under questionable circumstances, or via unsound interpretation of law, or out of misapplication of rules or plain misruled verdict as may be the case in the KI Six convictions. This case definitely presents a perplexing equation where law might have inadvertently overstepped its jurisdiction and didn't relent or offer alternatives while at the same time the

native subjects may have been clearly in the right, but were nevertheless convicted while upholding and protecting their aboriginal rights against an invading corporation who overran the reserve lands and territories. Could this also be happening in other reserves across the country?

Unfortunately, this case reeks of racism, prejudice and injustice, compounded by an apparent maltreatment of a disadvantaged segment of society and favoring corporate interests. On the surface the case truly represents 'Travesty of Justice' where natives are denied and corporate misconduct condoned.

ABORIGINAL ANGER GROWS OVER MINING

Posted By Jered Stuffco

As the Ontario government looks to revise antiquated mining laws that neglect First Nations land rights, one leader is warning that simmering frustration in many aboriginal communities could lead to another summer of unrest.

"Because of the situation with the First Nation youth, they're losing hope," Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage said Wednesday.

"If they have nothing to lose, then they could erupt into any kind of violence or protest.

"Frustrated youth can become a very powerful force."

Beaucage made the comments shortly after speaking to demonstrators at Queen's Park who gathered to protest the jailing of six aboriginal activists last month.

Hundreds of people, including aboriginal leaders and opposition politicians, rallied in a show of solidarity with the jailed members of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation. The KI community members, including Chief Donny Morris and Deputy Chief Jack MacKay, were jailed last month after they ignored a court order to stay off disputed land about 600 kilometres north of Thunder Bay.

A court injunction gave Toronto-based junior mining company Platinex Inc. authority to drill on the land, which the KI say is their own. Wednesday's protest came a day after the Ontario government awarded more than 29,000 hectares of new land to Platinex Inc., which has also launched a \$10-million lawsuit against the KI.

Beaucage said these newly granted mining lands fall alongside or within at least five northern Ontario First Nations.

He said the announcement is "completely inappropriate," especially in light of the provincial government's stated commitment to redraw the Mining Act.

"The Mining Act is over 150 years old and it's completely archaic," Beaucage said, adding that when the Mining Act was introduced in the Ontario legislature, many treaties had yet to be signed.

Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday that provincial mining laws, which are at least 80 years old, have become a "major irritant" for many communities, mainly because the laws allow a company to prospect land without notice.

"That's something that's not really in keeping with our 21st-century standards," McGuinty said.

"We want to take a look at the best way to address that."

An appeal for the jailed KI members will be held in Toronto on May 28 - the day before this year's planned aboriginal day of action.

Protesters also plan to pitch a "tent city" at Queen's Park from May 26 to 28.

Along with sporadic blockades across the province, last summer's aboriginal day of action also saw activists shut down Highway 401, snarling traffic on Canada's busiest highway.

ONTARIO MINING ACT NEEDS CHANGE

KAREN HOWLETT, Globe and Mail

Native leaders in Ontario have been pushing the government to change the province's mining laws to better protect their interests when companies explore for minerals on their traditional lands.

Yesterday - the same day native leaders from across the province held a rally in front of the legislature over the jailing of six members of a remote reserve who opposed mining on their land - they got their wish. Premier Dalton McGuinty vowed to reform the province's 135-year-old mining act to strike a better balance between the competing interests of mining companies and native communities.

"We've got a problem with the mining act," Mr. McGuinty told reporters. "I don't think it's in keeping with our values and expectations at the beginning of the 21st century."

Mr. McGuinty acknowledged that his minister responsible for mining is reluctant to change the act. "That's his job," he said. But he said the mining act also needs to reflect the interests of his environment and aboriginal affairs ministers. They have a "different take" on the matter, he said.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse blamed the mining act for a long-standing dispute between leaders from the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation in Northwestern Ontario, also known as KI, and Platinex Inc., which holds claims to explore for minerals on their traditional lands. Last month, six members from KI were sentenced to six months in jail for opposing mining on their land.

The mining act is in "total contradiction" with recent court judgments spelling out the government's duty to negotiate land-use planning and revenue-sharing agreements with native groups before approving mineral exploration on their lands, Mr. Toulouse said Wednesday.

New Democrat Leader Howard Hampton said during Question Period that Platinex escalated the dispute by staking an additional 72,000 acres of Crown land adjacent to First Nations communities. He said the government did not consult with First Nations communities before giving Platinex the go-ahead to register these new claims.

"Can the McGuinty government tell us why they continue to put mining interests ahead of First Nation interests in Ontario?" he asked.

Mr. McGuinty directed his response to native leaders sitting in the visitors' gallery. "We've inherited an imperfect system when it comes to how mining claims are dealt with in Ontario," he said. "We have to address that, but I don't want the leadership to doubt one instance our determination to find a better way."

Mr. Hampton told reporters after that Mr. McGuinty felt compelled to comment on the mining act because of the protest .

"We still have doubts about the sincerity of the McGuinty government to do anything because they haven't done anything for five years," he said.

SPECIFIC LAND CLAIM SETTLED AT WOODSTOCK FIRST NATION

Telegraph-Journal

Ottawa \$2.5M compensation payment; incentive for economic development

OTTAWA - More than once over the last century, without due process or compensation, the Woodstock First Nation lost land.

In 1910, it was five acres the band never surrendered; in 1915, it was a small plot for a rail line; in 1966, it was 2.5 acres flooded by the head pond for the Mactaquac hydro dam.

Tuesday, the Woodstock First Nation moved beyond those old grievances.

Members of the band lined up to get cheques as part of a \$2.5 million compensation payment Ottawa has made to settle the land claim.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl and Chief Jeff Tomah signed the agreement Tuesday at the Maliseet reserve - a narrow strip of land between the TransCanada Highway and the St. John River, a few kilometers south of Woodstock.

"A good chunk of change went out to every adult member," said Strahl, estimating the amount at just over \$1,200 per person.

The settlement also sets aside money to allow the Woodstock First Nation to buy up to 10 acres of land to add to its reserve - land the community wants to use for economic development, says a background document from Indian Affairs.

Tomah and Maliseet chief negotiator Rick Hatchette could not be reached for comment.

The land has to be within a specified area the government and First Nation negotiated. No landowner will be compelled to sell.

The Woodstock claim is the fourth to be settled in New Brunswick in the last year - "an unprecedented achievement in the Atlantic region," said Strahl.

Still, the settlement had taken so long, he held it out as an example of why he's pushing legislation that will create a new tribunal to settle similar claims.

"What happened on this Woodstock case which was 25 years of negotiation," said Strahl.

"It's just too long. It causes bitterness and is held out as an example of what's wrong with government.

"And it is what's wrong with government - it simply takes too long."

Under the Specific Claims Tribunal Act, First Nations could opt to send a claim to a panel of judges whose decision will be final, and who will have funding set aside to make compensation payments.

"By having that tribunal in place, it gives negotiators a sense of urgency," said Strahl.

The minister will be in Madawaska to sign another land claim agreement today while others in New Brunswick are "imminent," he said.

"There are still others that are a few years away," he said.

Strahl said he's consistently hearing from chiefs that First Nations communities want to pursue economic development.

"They make it part of every meeting I have with them across the country," said Strahl.

"I heard that from several different chiefs today and I heard it from the chief and council in Woodstock today. I'm sure I'll hear it in Madawaska tomorrow.

"Economic development - being able to develop your own sources of revenue - is a sign of a reserve that wants to make it on its own."

Indian Affairs got funding in the last budget to create an economic development framework, he said, and the department has also appointed an economic development board. It is chaired by Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos, B.C., band, which runs 10 successful businesses - including a construction firm, a logging operation, an eco-tourism campground, a 120-room hotel and a vineyard.

Louie's reserve enjoys nearly full employment.

"We're emphasizing (economic development) every chance we get," said Strahl.

"It reinforces what we hear in the field - that people are saying 'we can't wait for Indian Affairs to find us a business opportunity - we have to do it ourselves.'

"(Indian Affairs) can help but it has to be driven by the local economy and local realities."

MADAWASKA MALISEET FN SETTLES LAND CLAIM

The Canadian Press

EDMUNDSTON - All 228 adult members of the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation received cheques for \$10,000 on Wednesday as part of a \$5-million land-claim settlement with Ottawa. But if Chief Joanna Bernard realizes her dream, the real celebration will come three years down the road when a proposed truck stop opens on band land along the Trans-Canada Highway near Edmundston.

Since the existing small gas bar on the reserve already brings in roughly \$800,000 a year, "I can see a truck stop bringing in 10 times that much - \$8 million," said Bernard.

The truck stop, with a convenience store and restaurant, can't be built until the provincial government gives Bernard a written commitment that it will build the ramps for highway access.

The \$5-million land-claim settlement was split into \$2.3 million that went to band members in \$10,000 cheques. The remaining \$2.7 million will go into road upgrades and other improvements.

MAINE (PENOBCOT) TRIBE MAY SEVER STATE TIES

By Aimee Dolloff - Bangor Daily News

INDIAN ISLAND, ME - The Penobscot Nation has begun severing ties with the state, and is threatening to put slot machines on the island without state permission and contrary to Gov. John Baldacci's wishes.

Penobscot Chief Kirk Francis said Thursday that the tribe already has resigned from the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission that was created in 2006 by Baldacci to review the Maine Implementing Act and improve tribal-state relations.

The chief also has alerted the U.S. Department of the Interior of the Penobscots' intentions and is looking into legal options regarding the tribe's civil rights.

Additionally, the tribe is considering options to attempt to repeal the Maine Implementing Act that put into action the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980.

"The Tribal Council is very supportive," Francis said. "Our community has really rallied behind it."

The Penobscot Nation's decision to sever its relationship with the state came after Baldacci vetoed a bill that would have allowed the tribe to operate 100 slot machines at its high-stakes bingo facility at Indian Island. The Legislature failed to overturn Baldacci's decision and Francis said at the time that it was "the last nail in the coffin" for tribal officials.

In vetoing the bill, Baldacci restated his position that an expansion of gambling must be approved by voters through the signature-gathering and referendum process.

"This is one issue out of many where we have a disagreement with the tribes, but that disagreement goes beyond just the tribes to all sorts of people with gambling in the state," Baldacci's spokesman David Farmer said Friday. "It's the governor's hope that this one disagreement won't sour the relationship."

Farmer said Baldacci doesn't support the Penobscots' effort to put what he says would be an illegal slot machine operation at Indian Island.

"It would be an unfortunate situation to have that sort of conflict," Farmer said. "We don't think anybody benefits from it."

The tribe claims that it has the right to operate slot machines under the federal Indian Gaming Reservation Act that broadly outlines some rights for tribes to set up gaming facilities.

Francis said that allowing the Penobscots to govern themselves without the constraints of the state would allow them to be totally self-sufficient and would benefit the state at the same time.

"We're not down at the state asking for anything," Francis said. "We have always wanted to be self-sufficient and not be a burden to anybody. The state funds us very, very little." It's difficult to determine the exact level of funding the tribe receives from the state because it isn't defined under a single line item in the budget, Farmer said. It has spread throughout programs and departments, including general-purpose aid for education, Department of Economic and Community Development Block Grants, health and community services, and others.

Opinions differ on whether the tribes have the ability to sever their relationship with the state, because no other tribes in the country have either an Implementing Act or anything similar to it.

In previous court cases involving the Maine tribes, judges have determined that the Implementing Act associates the tribes with municipalities, but the tribes disagree and consider themselves sovereign nations.

So far, no other tribe — Passamaquoddy, Maliseet or Micmac — has announced an intention to resign from MITSC or dissolve relations with the state, but they are supportive of the Penobscots, Francis said.

It's unclear what this could mean for the future of MITSC, especially since the state cut the commission's funding by nearly \$40,000 — about 53 percent of the budget.

Officials from the individual tribes didn't return phone calls Friday to comment on their intentions.

"It's going to be an interesting time for us, but we have a strong mentality of being committed to it," Francis said. "We don't want to continue to bash on the state leadership, we just need to focus on ourselves at this point and we've got to do it responsibly."

NB / FEDS SIGN NEW PLAN FOR ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Canadian Press

FREDERICTON - The federal and New Brunswick governments have signed an agreement that's intended to improve the education system for First Nation children in the province.

Chuck Strahl, the minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development says improving education results will play a crucial role in improving the quality of life of First Nations people. Under the memorandum of understanding, New Brunswick will reinvest 50 per cent of all future tuition payments received from First Nations and the federal government to improve programs and services, including additional training in native languages.

New Brunswick's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Ed Doherty says the deal has the potential value of \$40 million over five years, although money must be returned to the band councils when children drop-out of school.

Currently, only about 50 per cent of First Nations students in New Brunswick stay in school until graduation.

ABORIGINAL JUDGE LAFORME TO CHAIR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS COMMISSION

CBS News

An aboriginal judge with Ontario's Court of Appeal has been appointed to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission examining the legacy of decades of abuse at Indian residential schools.

Justice Harry LaForme is currently on the bench of Ontario's Court of Appeal. (CBC) Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl announced Monday in Ottawa that Justice Harry LaForme, a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in southern Ontario, will chair the commission that the federal government promised as part of an out-of-court settlement with former students of residential schools.

The commission, which will formally be established on June 1 following the appointment of two panel members to work with LaForme, will move all Canadians closer to the "shared goal of healing and reconciliation," Strahl said.

"Ultimately, we all want to make sure we achieve a fair and lasting resolution to the sad legacy of residential schools," he said.

LaForme, who was escorted to the podium by four aboriginal women, paid homage to the 90,000 remaining survivors for bringing the day to light.

"Your pain, your courage, your perseverance, and your profound commitment to truth made this commission a reality," LaForme said.

He added he appreciated the desire of individuals from churches, government and former staff to participate "with honesty and humility in this commission," while also taking advantage of "unfettered access" to church and government records.

"The commission prepares to hear and to understand the multiple voices of the past with eyes, ears, minds and hearts that are open and compassionate, that will not ignore or mask the truth of that past," he said.

LaForme, 61, is a former Ontario Indian commissioner and former chair of a federal commission on aboriginal land claims.

The first aboriginal person appointed to any Canadian appellate court, LaForme graduated from York University's Osgoode Hall Law School in 1977 and was called to the bar in 1979.

He was an associate at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt before leaving for private practice, specializing in aboriginal law.

History 'largely hidden': Fontaine

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine, himself a residential school survivor, praised LaForme as a "kind and generous person" who "would leave no stone unturned" in determining what happened at the schools.

"We couldn't think of anyone better for this," Fontaine said. "He is just an outstanding individual."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been developed to provide a nationwide forum for former aboriginal students and participants, including church representatives and educators, to tell their stories. The \$60-million, five-year panel is also aimed at educating Canadians on the history and impact of the residential school system, which was funded by Ottawa and administered by churches.

Some 150,000 aboriginal, Inuit and Métis children were removed from their communities at the age of six and forced to attend the schools, where physical and sexual abuse was rampant for much of the last century. The schools aimed to assimilate the children by making them Christians, as well as to bury their language and culture.

Fontaine noted the history of the school system has been "largely hidden or misunderstood until now," and said he had hoped such a commission would have already begun its work.

"This is about Canada's history," he said. "It would have been better that this happened before this date, but we are here today, and we have a real opportunity to set the record straight and write the missing chapter."

Both Strahl and Fontaine said they were encouraged by a meeting between the AFN chief and Prime Minister Stephen Harper in which Harper indicated an official apology to survivors

of residential schools could be delivered as soon as this spring, before the House of Commons rises.

In a symbolic gesture last May, members of all parties stood united to pass a motion calling on the House of Commons to apologize to survivors.

Despite concerns that some experiences may be too painful to revisit publicly, there is a "pent-up" demand for survivors to tell their stories, said Mike DeGagné, executive director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

"A great many of them will be interested in this process," DeGagné told CBC News on Monday.

He noted that in just a short time, some 600 people have come forward to have their individual experiences recorded on video as part of the Legacy of Hope Foundation, which documents the stories of former students to build awareness and educate Canadians.

"What you see when you view those videos is a tremendous outpouring of grief but also of hope, a notion that they've taken a step toward their healing," he said.

WIND POWER IS HERE TO STAY

p.paul

In today's world, whether a person is native or of any ethnicity, electric power is an essential part of life. We have become so used to living in our conveniences using electricity, the slightest loss of that important commodity could create serious disruptions or cause havoc in our lives, if not a catastrophic event.

Electric power is what we live by, work by, communicate by and survive by. Nothing happens without electricity.

For instance, if we had to do without electric power for a week and tried to run our gasoline pumps, cook our meals, call a friend, use the internet, etc. how would we travel from place to place, eat when we're hungry, or communicate with friends and neighbors around the world if we didn't have the right tools to work with? Unthinkable!

Today vs. yesterday

In the yester-world, loss of power would not have been a problem when people 'made do' with what they had in their simpler ways. In those early times people depended on crude tools and equipment which were either hacked out or hand crafted to meet their needs. Nothing fancy but most practical!

That was then, when no one even dreamed of living in luxuries we have today, all powered and run by electricity.

Generating electricity is therefore as important as eating and breathing. We can't live without food too long nor can we survive without our breath. That is basically how things are, no matter how we look at it.

The simple fact is, in today's reality, we need to plan our life around the steady flow of electricity or risk jeopardizing or losing our precious goodies. On top of that, we could easily fall back to our hacking and crafting days again. Who needs that?

Lucky for us, one of the easiest, cleanest and most reliable energy sources today is wind power and that element is readily available almost anywhere in this country when harnessed. In recent times wind generators have been erected just about anywhere you can imagine, on land, on sea, on mountain ranges and on the flat lands of the plains.

Generally speaking, wind energy is essentially a commodity that never stops delivering 24/7 with only minimal pauses every now and then for tune-ups or calm wind interludes. But the fact remains, it is a remarkable, renewable source of energy that runs forever.

All we need to do to tap into this reliable flow of power is to erect a few wind turbines in strategic locations where air currents are relatively stable, active and can steadily turn windmills at the minimum wind velocity of around 12 mph to generate electrical energy. Over the past few years there has been greater awareness and concern over the dwindling supply of raw energy sources that are produced from biomass products, coal, fossils fuels, nuclear reactors, etc. It is a given that these energy sources can adequately heat our homes, run our cars, operate our industries and light our cities.

But unquestionably so, they each do have their downside. Number one, they have become a diminishing source of energy, and secondly, most have a sizable pollution problem that can overload and contaminate the air and water supplies with deadly components like radioactive wastes and lethal airborne materials, additionally CO₂, SO₂, toxins are released to the atmosphere along with many other lethal substances.

The conventional energy sources are falling into deep trouble and the situation is not about to improve unless other ways and means are found to use them in less harmful effect and better efficiently, or just be replaced.

To continue living in the lifestyle we're used to, we need to look seriously at every energy source today and quickly pick the one that pollutes the least for the sake and security of future generations.

Fortunately for this generation, the search for the right energy source could readily be solved by tapping directly into one of the freest, cleanest and most available commodities that ever existed, wind energy.

Over the past few years several advanced-thinking companies across the country have been actively producing electricity from the wind using turbines of many sizes and configurations that operate equally and efficiently in different environments over land or water.

One of these pioneering companies is Skypower of Toronto, a 12-year old firm that is swiftly progressing and scoring high marks in innovation and product distribution by extending reliable services and expertise right to the front step in cities, towns, rural communities and even to Indian reserves nationally and internationally.

Skypower's unique approach and environmental stewardship driven with a deep conviction of producing energy from the wind without creating ill effects on the environment and populations, is gaining a reputation and respect worldwide as a leader in wind energy. Currently, Skypower and Tobique First Nation are engaged in preliminary discussions for establishing a joint long-range energy plan and collaboration.

MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO VISIT TOBIQUE DURING SUMMER

Tentative arrangements have been made by Tobique FN Veterans to meet with the Minister of Veteran Affairs, Hon. Greg Thompson, during the latter part of June or early July, 2008.

The exact date and time will be announced as soon as plans are finalized.

We are extending invitations to all Indian veterans from anywhere, any reserve or any community, as well as to non-native vets who may have any outstanding issues to bring out, or may wish to discuss one-on-one with the Minister. Every issue is important.

Contacts:

Please call Wes MacLean, (613) 202-8697 cell, (613) 995-8392 office, at the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Ottawa for more details. Or contact Pat Paul at (506) 273-6737, or Tobique Veteran, Howard (Ray) Paul (506) 273-2862, Tobique FN, (10 am- 4 pm daily) anytime during the week, prior to the event.

Thank you, Tobique FN Vets

DAN'S CORNER - The Question of Sovereignty and Fair Play

I want to share a native Indian perspective on the question of sovereignty and fair play as it applies to the first peoples of Canada.

The first peoples of this political illusion now known as Canada were sovereign peoples through birthright, natural justice, treaty rights and through the British Common Law concept known as the "rule of law".

The only thing that has changed since the European arrival has been the violent and genocidal impact that has come from the "white is right" attitude of the transplanted Europeans who on the other hand were treated and greeted with respect, courtesy and open friendliness by our people when they landed.

That courtesy was a natural instinct and an inherent sharing of goodwill and friendship for our people who were willing to share whatever they had. Ironically this 'sharing and open friendliness' became their downfall as eurocanadians began taking full advantage of every opening they saw.

Today eurocanadians speak of the need for moderation and compromise in order to live and get along together, society to society.

Tell me though, and tell my fellow native people, what has moderation and compromise done for our people in the last five hundred years other than the loss of our land, our freedom, our heritage, our culture, our language, our spirituality, our identity and the loss of our pride in ourselves?

In order to move forward, cooperation, better relations, commitment and dedication are the basic tools and elements that are needed in our society to establish a level playing field where peace, trust, friendship and good relations could be built and flourish for everyone concerned. These are the challenges facing us today.

All My Relations,
Dan Ennis

DEAN'S DEN - "As Long As"

As long as the sun shall rise every morning
And set at the close of each day
As long as the moon rules over the night
And the purpose of man is "The Way",
As long as the rivers flow down to the sea
And the mountains rise up to the sky
As long as the seasons continue to change
And the dessert remains hot and dry,
As long as the grass grows green on the plains
Right up to the deep canyon's rim
As long as Creation continues to mate
And the fish to spawn and to swim,
As long as the air supplies us with breath
Our memories must never show rust
Our spirits will soar to that great Evermore
Though our bodies return to the dust,
As long as the forest stands as a friend
And all creatures created are kin

As long as we trust we can live without fear
Then the end ... can only begin,
As long as the Promise is more than just words
And the birds continue to fly
And all of mankind are equal alike
The Creator will not pass us by,
As long as the wind continues to blow
And the fire continues to burn
As long as I honor this place I call home
And ... the world continues to turn!

D.C. Butterfield

Tools to Live By

Anger. Envy, Jealousy and Hatred are the Forces that Destroy, but can be Defeated by Love,
Faith and Understanding