

**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada
Media Clips**



**Résolution des questions des pensionnats indiens Canada
Manchettes**

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Source: The Anglican Journal

Date: January 23, 2006

By-line: N/A

Non-native priest adopts aboriginal symbolism

The Saskatoon (Lutheran) Native Ministry at St. Thomas Wesley United Church is moving towards modifying worship services to include an indigenous sacred circle format, a reading of Scripture in Cree and prayers that would incorporate native symbolism.

Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck, an Anglican priest recently installed as director of the ministry run by the Saskatchewan synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), announced the changes recently.

(The Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCIC have been in full communion since 2001.)

“As a white person, he (Mr. Beck) sees his role as a transitional one, preparing the ministry so that it can be handed over when the right native person comes along,” reported *Canada Lutheran*, the ELCIC magazine.

The ministry, which began in 1988, provides both pastoral care and advocacy for natives in the community.

The Lutheran bishop of Saskatchewan, Cindy Halmarson, said the ELCIC was drawing from the Anglican church’s long history with aboriginal people. Despite the difficulties of the residential schools, wrote Bishop Halmarson in a column for *Canada Lutheran*, “many First Nations people continue to identify with the (Anglican Church of Canada).”

The installation of Mr. Beck, she added, “opens the possibility of greater co-operation with Anglicans and the opportunity to learn from the experience of the (Anglicans) in their relations with First Nations people.”

Source: CBC News

Date: January 23, 2006

By-line: N/A

Residential school survivors warned about scam artists

The RCMP is warning former residential school students to be on the lookout for scam artists. Some 12,000 former students have filed claims against the federal government and churches alleging various kinds of abuse and the loss of language and culture.

Last November, the federal government signed a deal to pay each former student a minimum of \$10,000 in compensation, plus \$3,000 for every year spent in the schools, which operated for much of the 20th century.

It's expected Ottawa will be making the payments in the next several months.

Across Canada, the program is worth about \$2 billion. Up to \$247 million could be paid out just to former Saskatchewan students – money the police say will make them targets for unscrupulous people.

"It's just a matter of time I guess before someone is going to be approached," said Sgt. Clayton Lerat, who works with the RCMP's aboriginal policing division in Regina.

"If I was coming into a large settlement of money as a result of residential schools, I would just be prepared."

Lerat is one of a number of officers who have been speaking with former residential school students. Saskatchewan is home to one of the largest groups of former students in Canada, with more than 3,000 people filing claims.

In the past, some survivors have been offered vehicles in exchange for a portion of their settlement, Lerat said.

Lerat's concerns are mainly focused on elders, noting that seniors are often targets for charity and home-repair scams.

Morley Watson, a vice chief with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, said his organization shares the concerns and is including police presentations in informational sessions for former residential school students around the province.

"We want to make sure that we offer some assistance in that area so that the elderly aren't taken advantage of through financial schemes," he said.

Sometimes the scams happen close to home, Lerat noted.

He said he's encountered cases where family members take advantage of elders.

He urges elders to make sure they have someone in their family they can trust.

Source: The Hamilton Spectator
Date: January 23, 2006
By-line: N/A

The party promises

Some pledges made to date by the main parties during the 58-day campaign leading up to today's federal election:

NDP

Social

- * Federal appointments on merit.
- * \$1 billion home-care plan.
- * 40,000 long-term care spaces over four years.
- * \$1.8 billion for day care in first year and \$250 million a year for next three years.
- * Worker charter of rights.
- * **Push settlement of aboriginal land claims, residential schools abuse.**

Source: The Leader-Post

Date: January 24, 2006

By-line: Noela Crowe-Salazar

'Racism exists in this province'

I have never written a letter to the Leader Post, but I read them often and feel compelled to respond to

Robert Stadnyk's Jan 12 letter.

I, too, read Doug Cuthand's columns weekly. He writes about aboriginal issues from a perspective that is needed in this province and country to bring together aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in a meaningful and honest way. In that manner it is necessary to state the truth.

Racism is real, racism exists in this province and is of considerable concern to all of us. As an aboriginal woman I feel and experience two realities. One is of being an honoured and valued woman that aboriginal cultures hold as "sacred." Sadly however, the other reality at times forces me to be "scared."

Why am I at times scared? I am educated, I am employed, for that fact I could even be said to be middle class, so why am I scared? I am scared at times because while I have lived in this city for the past 20 years I have more than once been confronted by non-aboriginal men in broad daylight in reputable areas who, as Cuthand stated, regarded me as "cheap and expendable."

Given the seriousness of the missing aboriginal women in this province and others, Cuthand was telling it like it is. There are numerous other events aside to my personal experience that tell us that racism exists in society in Saskatchewan, and perhaps racism exists to some degree in all of us. To get into a quibble about racism and who is racist, is to miss the real point. So I offer my story and hope that it is understood real problems exist and let's focus on what those problems are and not the vehicle with which we got here. Let us remember the woman who are missing, and the survivors who endured residential schools, and let's do something to make it better.

Source: The Calgary Sun
Date: January 24, 2006
By-line: N/A

STOCKING UP TORY CABINET WHO WILL BE STEPHEN HARPER'S MINISTERS?

Once the champagne glasses are put away, Stephen Harper's victory celebration will come to an abrupt end with a tricky bit of business known affectionately in the political biz as every prime minister's first nightmare -- building a cabinet.

The one cabinet seat Harper promised during the campaign was to Lawrence Cannon, who ran in Quebec riding of Pontiac, north of Ottawa. (It's a no-brainer anyway -- the former provincial minister is infinitely qualified.)

Other than that, Harper refused to speculate about his possible cabinet-making intentions, in part because some of the possibilities may not have been helpful to a campaign built on allaying voter queasiness about a Conservative government.

A recent edition of the diplomatic weekly newspaper Embassy, for instance, carried a front-page colour picture of Stockwell Day, and a story speculating Mr. Wetsuit may well become the new face of Canada abroad as foreign affairs minister in a Harper cabinet.

Talk about a ready-made Liberal attack ad.

Truth is, doling out the limo keys is one of the toughest tasks facing any PM, but even more so for a neophyte leader of a newborn party taking power for the first time.

As always, Harper will be faced with a dizzying matrix of considerations in making his cabinet picks -- geography, gender, ethnicity, experience, political IOUs, electoral strategies and last, but sometimes least, the ability to head a multi-billion-dollar ministry with thousands of employees and 34-million shareholders watching every move.

Harper's biggest cabinet-building headache will be deciding who to leave out.

Most of Harper's friends and loyalists are Alberta MPs, as are a disproportionately large number of other highly capable members of party -- in fact, too many for all of them to be included in a regionally balanced cabinet.

Calgary MP Lee Richardson and Kevin Sorenson from Crowfoot, for instance, should both be in cabinet, but may well get squeezed out in the Alberta overload.

During the past week, we asked various Conservative insiders who they think would occupy the front bench of a Conservative government. The picture that emerges is a cabinet full of talent, intelligence, experience and, surprisingly, youth.

* Cannon (Quebec): Harper's deputy chief of staff, promised a seat by the leader, is a shoo-in for deputy PM, Quebec lieutenant, and possibly industry or a regional development portfolio.

* Loyola Hearn (Newfoundland): The former provincial education minister is a good bet for fisheries.

* Monte Solberg (Alberta): After eight years as an effective, bright, finance critic, he is widely touted for the top finance job. But there is also a school that thinks an Alberta PM will pick an Ontario finance minister, and Solberg may get industry or even foreign affairs instead.

* Jay Hill (B.C.): The Conservative House leader in this last zoo-like session of Parliament, his experience will be crucial.

* Peter Van Loan (Ontario): The former president of both the Ontario and national PC parties may be headed for the administrative monster called human resources, of which he has been opposition critic.

* Diane Ablonczy (Alberta): One of the most experienced and respected members of the Conservative front row, she has the talent and mettle to land her in health or immigration.

* Rona Ambrose (Alberta): A shooting star in the Conservative caucus, the 35-year-old from Edmonton is smart, tough, and every newspaper's favourite photo-op. She was previously a senior official at Intergovernmental Affairs in the Alberta government, and could be heading for federal-provincial relations or even health in a Harper administration.

* Peter MacKay (Nova Scotia): MacKay is a former Crown attorney, and would be a moderate voice to sell the Conservative get-tough-on-criminals program, either as minister of justice or public security. He may even be in the offing for foreign affairs.

* Vic Toews (Manitoba): The current justice critic has been the party's law-and-order voice, but may be a bit too over-the-top for justice. A better bet is public security or solicitor general in charge of the RCMP.

* Gordon O'Connor (Ontario): The retired general and the party's defence critic seems a natural for the defence portfolio.

*** Jim Prentice (Alberta): He may suffer the consequence of knowing more about aboriginal affairs than most officials in the department, and become the minister of it. Alternatively, he has been tagged for foreign affairs or a senior economic portfolio.**

* Greg Thompson (New Brunswick): A regional pick who is likely headed for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, or maybe veterans affairs.

* Stockwell Day (B.C.): The former Alberta finance minister seems to have undergone political rehab since his disastrous turn as leader of the former Canadian Alliance. But don't look for him at foreign affairs. Something such as transport or international development.

Source: Oblates Communication

Date: February 2006

By-line: N/A

The OMMI: a new President Directress General

The Secular Institute of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate have a new President Directress General. She is Claire Nantel, elected last July 15 for a five-year term.

A member of the Administrative Council since 2001 and General Secretary since 2002, the newly elected leader succeeds Simone Huneault who has finished her term.

Originally from Waterloo, Quebec, Claire Nantel lived for several years in Italy where she held several positions at the World Conference of Secular Institutes, among them that of General Secretary.

The Secular Institute of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate was founded in New Brunswick (Canada) in 1952 by Father Louis-Marie PARENT, OMI. Today there are some 600 members and more than 400 associates in twenty-two countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Source: Chicago Sun-Times

Date: January 23, 2006

By-line: Jim Ritter and Frank Main

Parishioners support accused priest

Their pastor had just been accused of sexually abusing two boys, but on Sunday, members of St. Agatha Catholic Church still spoke highly of the Rev. Daniel McCormack.

"He's one of the best," said longtime parishioner Phyllis Lee. "I don't believe the allegations."

McCormack, 37, has been pastor since 2000. Parishioners called him an energetic and passionate priest who helped make St. Agatha an anchor of the Lawndale community.

St. Agatha, 3151 W. Douglas, runs a food pantry, feeds the homeless, attracts new housing, provides legal assistance and operates tutoring and afterschool programs.

"We can't throw out his good work," said parishioner Derrick Strongs.

Relieved of his duties

McCormack, known to all as Father Dan, also is a terrific speaker who gives homilies without notes, church members said.

"Everyone agrees he could really preach," said parishioner Wynona Redmond. "This is a church where you have to perform. You can't just read the homily."

In a letter to the parish read at Sunday masses, Auxiliary Bishop John Manz announced that McCormack has been removed from the parish pending further investigation by the archdiocese's Independent Review Board, whose members are appointed by Cardinal Francis George. McCormack, free on bail, is on administrative leave in a monitored setting with no contact with minors.

Manz asked parishioners to pray for McCormack, for the boys who made the allegations and "for all those affected by the horror of sexual abuse."

Saturday, prosecutors charged McCormack with fondling two boys, beginning when they were ages 8 and 9. One boy allegedly was fondled two to three times a month for more than three years. The other boy allegedly was fondled twice.

McCormack allegedly gave gifts to the boys and told them not to tell anyone. But according to prosecutors, one boy did tell his parents a couple of months ago, and they went to authorities. The other boy allegedly came forward last week, telling the principal of the parish school, Our Lady of the Westside. The principal contacted police.

"All the credit goes to these families who had the wisdom and courage to turn to law enforcement," said David Clohessy, national director of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. "It is very sad and frustrating when families even today turn first to church officials instead of criminal authorities."

McCormack could not be reached Sunday, and a family member declined to comment. McCormack's attorney, Patrick G. Reardon, would not answer questions about the allegations, saying only, "I think there's a presumption of innocence. He entered a plea of not guilty."

The Rev. Tom Walsh, who is filling in for McCormack, said "Father Dan has cooperated with investigators, and he has good legal counsel."

'No crisis can take us from God'

The vast majority of sexual abuse allegations made against priests turn out to be true, said Survivors Network president Barbara Blaine.

But Walsh said parishioners "are praying these things are not true because they love their pastor." Early Sunday morning, Walsh changed the church sign, which usually contains announcements, and inserted the words, "Pray, pray, pray."

That was the theme of Walsh's homily at the 10:30 a.m. mass.

"No crisis can stop us from praying. No crisis can take us from God. . . ." Walsh said. "We will rise up above this situation. We will clear up the storm clouds if we keep praying."

St. Agatha, founded in 1893, has about 550 families. Last year, three other Lawndale parishes were closed and combined with St. Agatha.

Source: The Boston Globe

Date: January 21, 2006

By-line: Scott Helman and Frank Phillops

O'Malley resists bill on financial disclosure Encourages Catholics to lobby against measure

On the eve of a key vote, Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley has accused sponsors of a bill requiring religious organizations to disclose their finances of attempting to use the political process to assert control of the financial affairs and decisions of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. O'Malley's remarks, contained in a letter sent to every parish asking Catholics to lobby against the bill, immediately set off an angry response from the bill's lead sponsor, Senator Marian Walsh, Democrat of West Roxbury. Walsh said O'Malley was distorting the bill's impact and demanded in a letter to him yesterday that he stop his attempts to "place fears in the hearts of the public."

"What are they afraid of?" Walsh asked, alluding to archdiocesan officials

The exchange of barbs between church officials and bill supporters and the increasingly aggressive lobbying of lawmakers in recent days underscore the high stakes as the bill arrives on the House floor next week. Lawmakers who support the measure say greater public scrutiny of religious institutions is needed, in part because of concerns raised during the clergy sexual abuse crisis and parish closings by the Boston Archdiocese.

In his letter, O'Malley accused the sponsors of seeking to "violate religious freedom," arguing that the legislation would give the state the power to overrule financial decisions by the Catholic Church. He said lawmakers who back it are doing so because they disagree with recent archdiocesan decisions regarding church closing and financial affairs.

"They want to use legislation as a means of exercising control over the affairs of the archdiocese and its parishes," O'Malley wrote in his first detailed statement against the bill. "This is not the role of government."

Walsh said the church is deliberately distorting the intent of the bill and its sponsors. The only motive, she said, is to make sure that the public can see where religious groups, which are legally considered public charities, are spending their money, and how they manage financial resources.

"This bill does not affect what any particular church believes or how they govern themselves," Walsh said. "That would clearly be a violation of the First Amendment."

Secretary of State William Galvin, who with Walsh has led the effort to get the bill passed, yesterday called O'Malley's letter "extraordinary," in that the church is asking parishioners to take political action to protect the church's administrators from financial disclosure.

"This is not about control of the church's finances or over its parishes," Galvin said. "The archbishop needs to answer where all the money is going."

The measure would require all religious entities in the state to file an annual form with the attorney general's office listing basic financial and organizational information. They would also have to list all real estate holdings.

In an attempt to defuse opposition on Beacon Hill and in the community, Walsh and other backers have drafted an amendment seeking to limit the proposed requirements to the largest religious entities in the state. Under the amendment, only religious organizations with \$500,000 or more in annual revenue would have to file a review of their finances by a certified public accountant every year. The original bill called for

all those religious groups with revenue of \$100,000 to file such a review. The amendment also raises to \$1 million from \$500,000 in annual revenue the threshold for filing a detailed, outside financial audit.

The amendment is designed to assuage concerns raised by smaller churches and religious groups around the state that a requirement for detailed financial information every year would force them to redirect money from food banks and other charitable initiatives to pay for accountants' fees.

"That would be a big chunk of money from what they would use to do the good things that they do in their parishes and in their community," said state Representative Kathleen M. Teahan, a Whitman Democrat. But even if the amendment appeases smaller religious organizations, it does not lessen the opposition from the biggest players, including the Boston Archdiocese, the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Council of Churches. All have mounted aggressively lobbying campaigns in an attempt to kill the measure, believing it blurs the Constitutional line between church and state.

In fact, the Boston Archdiocese sees Teahan's amendment as further proof that the real intent is to give the government authority to scrutinize the Catholic Church.

The bill sends this message that "we don't care about the small ones; we just want the big guys," said Edward F. Saunders Jr., executive director of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, the lobbying arm of the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses.

"It just strengthens the argument that the reason this bill was filed was to punish the Archdiocese of Boston," said Saunders, who was busy lobbying lawmakers in the State House Thursday.

A similar bill has already passed the Senate, but as part of a different bill, so if the House passes its version next week, it would also have to win Senate approval to get to Governor Mitt Romney's desk. Romney signaled support for such a bill last year, though he stopped short of endorsing it. Other denominations reiterated their opposition to the bill yesterday.

Alan Teperow, executive director of the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, said his organization sent out announcements to congregations around the state urging people to contact their legislators. The Massachusetts Council of Churches, which represents 17 Protestant and Orthodox denominations with a total of 1,700 congregations, continues to argue that the sponsors' intentions are misplaced. "The state is being enlisted into an internal debate in the Roman Catholic Church," said Laura Everett, associate director of the council.

In November, Protestant leaders, led by the Massachusetts Council of Churches, were able to hold off a House vote on the measure after meeting with House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi.