



the Native Voice

In its 41st year of publication

VOL. 16, No. 4
August/Sept. 1988

NATIVE INDIAN EDUCATION —A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The National Indian Education Symposium II was held at Kahnawake Survival School, Quebec on August 8, 9 and 10. The National Indian Education Forum called it "The Eagle has Landed; A New Generation Takes Flight."

That "New Generation" was a noticeable force at Kahnawake. The Inter-Campus Native Student Network co-ordinated a B.C. Student Delegation of six to participate in the Symposium. They had an information table which received significant attention, as they gathered contacts right across Canada. Beverly Scow facilitated a Student Networking Workshop in which over 20 students participated from across Canada. Beverly presented a paper "Native Student Networking: Roles and Potentials" for discussion. The enthusiastic dialogue was directed towards action. The discussion was around the questions of How? When? There are strong student bodies in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Alberta. The energy and enthusiasm experienced at Kahnawake was inspiring but it was made clear that the difficult part was to maintain the communication to maintain that momentum. Beverly Scow was identified as the Communication Contact person.

c/o Inter-Campus Native Students
c/o Vancouver Indian Center
1607 East Hastings
Vancouver, B.C.
V5L 1S7

Each person of the B.C. Student Delegation contributed to the success of our venture and indicated the potential force in the "New Generation," active participation in workshops or Post Secondary Educa-

tion Policy, Drugs & Alcohol and Student Networking.

Native students brought some valid concerns to the attention of Political Panel on Day Two of the Symposium. Panelists included John Rayner representing Indian and Northern Affairs. Notably, the students questioned the "Consultation Process" by INAC.

- The Policy states "1d) This policy will come into effect as of April 1, 1989." Is this a consultation process or is this a preparation process. John Rayner "says" it is a tentative date.
- Did any Native people have input into the Policy Draft and the Consultation Questionnaire.
- The Questionnaire is biased and was created in support of the Policy. Native people are put into a Catch 22 situation. If they respond, answers can be misinterpreted and if they do not respond it would appear to indicate a lack of interest.
- Is there a Native Review Committee to analyze the completed questionnaires and regional consultation reports.
- Time frame is inadequate - stated consultation June-September. However, consultation packages were only sent to B.C. Bands in mid-July and consultation ends in mid-September. B.C. communities fishing season and holiday season for educators.

On Day Three the National Indian Education Forum was given a mandate to continue and received recommendations from workshops and the floor discussion. From the B.C. student delegation emerged a powerful orator. Simon Lucas Jr. from

Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council spoke of the importance of culture, of his pride for his parents and his heritage. He spoke of the "New Generation" and made reference to George Erasmus statement earlier this year.

His powerful voice commanded attention and his message received due response. The people of the floor expressed their support for the energy expressed by Simon and encouraged it to be channelled in constructive activities.

They identified the need for Indian culture to be a priority of the National Indian Education Forum as they strive for quality education. It was recommended that students be a part of the process and that Beverly Scow be a member of the core group as a student representative.

The B.C. Student Delegation is commended as a group for their con-

Continued on next page

