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# NEDP member talks native business

by Everett Lambert

Muriel Stanley-Venne visited the School of Native Studies recently. Stanley-Venne came to give a guest lecture at the School, a new addition to the U of A.

Stanley-Venne sits on the Board of the Native Economic Development Program (NEDP) and is the former General Manager of the Settlement Sooniya Corporation. It was expected her lecture would be more of the technical type where you learn about the nuts and bolts of Native economic development. But instead Stanley-Venne laid down some rather interesting philosophical leanings:

She said that the NEDP was a "very political" program that made "political decisions" and its Board was composed by "political appointments". She later added that the only way the program would work is under "Native control."

And typical of some courses at the U of A, Venne also had something to add concerning ethics. She had a strong conviction that any courses on economic development must include a component on "business ethics". A business "must benefit the community" and must be "honest" to be operable.

The NEDP, a federal initiative, is a five-year, \$345 million agreement between the Ministry of Small Bus-

ness and the Native people of Canada. Its former minister Andre Bissonette was forced to resign from

government due to his possible involvement in the well-publicized Oerlikon land transfer deal in that



minister's riding.

In 1986, when Stanley-Venne ran in the Provincial election, she was later asked to resign from her post on the Board. She ran in an Edmonton riding on the New Democrat slate.

Stanley-Venne was also with the Alberta Federation of Metis Settlement's Settlement Sooniya Corporation as their general manager. Most recently the Corporation secured a \$4.2 million agreement with the NEDP.

These monies are to be by a new creature of the Settlement's, known as the Settlement Investment Corporation.

Settlers, or a partnership at least 51 per cent owned by settlement residents can access the funds if indeed they have a viable business plan and other requirements.

Some settlers have already attained monies in the form of loans. Settlement councillor Greg Calliou remarked that the agreement "looks good on paper".

Interestingly, the first allotment came via the wrong address. Thus one fine day a butcher's shop received a cool one and a half million dollars plus.

Stanley-Venne will also visit the School again on March 4th. Along with a panel of Native business

people she will speak and answer questions on economic development. The panel will also include Dr. Walter Twinn of the Sawridge Band and Roy Louis, Chairman of the Peace Hills Trust Company. The forum will start at 1 p.m. in the Newman Center (in St. Joe's College on the U of A campus).

The forum is one of three to be hosted by the U of A's Native Student Club. On the afternoon of the fifth a forum on Native Education will be hosted in the U of A's Education Center.

Speakers from the Alexander Band School, the Ben Calf Robe Program, Sacred Circle and the Native Education Project have been confirmed for that day.

Lastly, on Friday March 6th the forum "Preview: First Ministers' Conference '87" will be staged in SUB Theatre.

The four national groups with seats at the conference will be represented: the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Committee on National Issues, the Metis National Council, and the Native Council of Canada.

One other prominent player will also attend the forum, although the group does not have a guaranteed seat, and that is the Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance.

## Old volcano found

by Lorraine Brown  
Reprinted from Canadian Science

A Ph.D. student in geology at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland has discovered a huge caldera — the remains of an extinct volcano — on the island province. The caldera, which has been named the Springdale Caldera, is 35 kilometers across and about 60 kilometers long.

The discovery could be of enormous economic importance for Newfoundland, since calderas of this type often hold minerals such as gold and silver. Some of the gold prospects of the California gold rush were formed in caldera environments.

"I discovered the caldera while mapping the area on foot," says Mary Lou Coyle. "As the map developed I began to notice a system of different lithologies, or rock units, made up of pyroclastic rocks."

Pyroclastic rocks are signs of violent, explosive volcanic activity.

They consist of ash mixed up with pieces of rock which would have exploded from the volcano as fiery fragments.

"In human times there's never been anything like this volcano," says Coyle. "An eruption of such magnitude would have been a major global event, something that would make the eruption of Mount St. Helen's pale by comparison."

Calderas of such enormous size usually form in the middle of a continent, or in the middle of a tectonic plate, and are called epicontinental calderas. The Springdale Caldera formed after the final closure between two plates. At the junction point of the two plates is a line along which the volcanic activity took place.

Depending on their age, most calderas look like flattened-off mountains. Epicontinental calderas such as the Springdale Caldera are more like giant holes in the ground. "The best analogy for it is a piston,"

Coyle explains. "A large area drops below ground level as eruptions take place around its margins. After eruption, the molten rock in the middle may well up again."

This upwelling phenomenon is called "resurgence". Resurgent calderas are far more likely to contain deposits of silver and gold. Coyle says that researchers don't know yet if resurgence took place at the Springdale Caldera, but there is a good chance that it did.

A large caldera in Long Valley, California is undergoing resurgence right now. It is responsible for some of the seismic or earthquake activity along the west coast.

The Springdale Caldera offers geologists an excellent opportunity to see how it formed. Because the caldera is very old, erosion has levelled it at many locations, so geologists can see the whole formation in cross-section.

## NEWS WRITERS

The Gateway news department is holding its pre-spring news meeting, Thursday at 5 p.m. (after the staff meeting) in room 282 SUB.

Old and new writers are most welcome. Got your press card yet?

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