

# Government challenges Indian treaty rights

LETHBRIDGE (CUP) — The federal government is challenging the right of Canadian Treaty Indians to government-sponsored higher education.

University and college education has always been considered a Treaty right by Indians and the Department of Indian Affairs has been paying for it, but

now that it is starting to cost money the Department wants to back down.

This is the view of Lynda Little Child, President of the University of Lethbridge Native Students Association.

More and more native people are reaching post-secondary levels of education each year. The Department of Indian Affairs has been sponsoring Treaty Indian students for all educational expenses and away from home living expenses. At least, that is what the Department has been doing.

In the spring of 1975, the Department put out a "draft for discussion only" policy paper, the E-12 Circular, which proposed changes and new policy for the native higher education programme.

The controversial paper suggests that Indians should pay part of their education costs. Fifteen per cent of a single student's gross earned income should go into paying part of education costs, is the policy suggested in the circular. The Department would continue to finance the other 85 per cent of the cost.

Little Child said that 15 per cent may not seem like much, but that if a precedent is set, this percentage could be gradually increased. Indians view the government sponsoring of education as part of the Treaty agreement and that there should be no division of educational expenses.

According to Little Child, the E-12 Circular is one attempt by the government to gradually implement the 1969 White Paper on Indian Policy which was strongly protested by native people.

Chiefs from Indian bands throughout Alberta have written to Judd Buchanan, the Minister of Indian Affairs, protesting the E-12 Circular and they are of the opinion that post-secondary education is included as a right guaranteed by the Treaties.

Little Child says the Minister

responded by way of a form letter which stated the Department did not view the Indian student financing programme as a Treaty right. Rather, it is out of the generosity of the Department that the programme exists, Buchanan claimed.

In fact, all the Treaties made in Alberta, by which the Indian peoples signed away their rights to the land, have clauses guaranteeing education costs.

The Treaty Six signed by Alberta Indians in 1876 states — "Her Majesty agrees to maintain schools for instruction in such reserves hereby made, as to her Government, the Dominion of Canada may seem advisable, whenever the Indians of the reserve shall desire."

Indians consider this Treaty made 100 years ago very important and still binding today.

## WORD POWER

By BILL SHERK

Are you looking forward to the vernal equinox?

It's coming your way this weekend and it's bound to make your heart beat faster. No, it's not a bacchanalian saturnalia — it's simply the official arrival of spring.

If we delve into Latin, we find "ver" (spring), "aequus" (equal), and "nox" (night). Roll them all together and you have a vernal equinox (approximately March 21), the day when the sun, appearing to move north, crosses the equator. On this date, day and night are of equal length. Six months later, with the sun moving south, we celebrate the autumnal equinox (approximately September 21).

If you flew south this winter to the Caribbean, you would cross the Tropic of Cancer (23½% North). Etymologically speaking, the word "tropic" has nothing to do with heat or sunshine. It comes to us from the Greek "tropos" (a turn) because the sun appears to stop and turn around (on a sky chart, not to the naked eye) when it reaches the Tropic of Cancer or the Tropic of Capricorn.

This change of direction takes place on or about June 21 and December 21 and these dates are known as the summer solstice and winter solstice respectively (from Latin: "sol" — sun; "sistere" — to cause to stand).

Now for this week's test. Underline the choice which comes closest in meaning to the word. Answers appear at the bottom of this column.

- 1) cacophonous — a) counterfeit; b) discordant; c) penetrating; d) resilient; e) painful
- 2) oenophile — a) music lover; b) art lover; c) careless lover; d) wine lover; e) lover of poetry
- 3) erudite — a) disciplined; b) reticent; c) learned; d) widely travelled; e) obstinate
- 4) terse — a) succinct; b) ephemeral; c) cogent; d) frank; e) gauche
- 5) loquacious — a) enthusiastic; b) talkative; c) ebullient; d) articulate; e) ingenuous
- 6) mellifluous — a) pleasing to the ear; b) honey-flavoured; c) smoothly flowing; d) tasty; e) voluble
- 7) amenable — a) submissive; b) religious; c) approachable; d) reasonable; e) profitable
- 8) boustrophedon — a) early Greek writing style; b) Phoenician coin; c) beast of burden; d) parasitic insect; e) husbandry award
- 9) dromedary — a) venomous snake; b) nocturnal marsupial; c) camel with one hump; d) flightless bird; e) voracious amphibian
- 10) abactor — a) abattoir owner; b) abacus user; c) actuarial student; d) cattle thief; e) substitute actor.

ANSWERS: 1b), 2d), 3c), 4a), 5b), 6c), 7a), 8a), 9c), 10d).

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