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UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

## First Nations Vice Chief speaks at UNB

by Neil Brennan

Do we "resign ourselves to racist eternalism" or can we develop a constitutional system "premised on political equality"?

To Kenneth Young, Vice Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, these are some of the options facing aboriginal Canadians in this nation's pursuit of constitutional reform. Young delivered this stark message at Ludlow Hall this past Thursday evening to an audience clearly impressed by the importance attached to these concerns by Native peoples.

However, what was equally clear was the message conveyed by a large Native contingent in attendance who directed attention to present concerns they cited as facing Natives in Atlantic Canada, including Native women issues and the administration of reserves.

Young, a native Cree from the Pas, Manitoba, addressed the school in place of Chief Ovide Mercredi who, because of family matters, was unable to attend. Young remarking on the traditional Native ceremony at the beginning of the address noted that he was, "honored by the drum", and thanked both his hosts as well as the Natives who had gathered to hear him speak.

Young wasted little time in establishing the topic of discussion. In clear terms, he

stated the Assembly of First Nations' refutation of the Federal government's current proposals for constitutional reform contained in "Sharing in Canada's Future Together". In declaring that the Assembly rejected the reform proposals as a "package" Young cited ambiguity and lack of concern for larger issues such as native self government as fundamental flaws to the proposals.

To the Assembly, Young declared, one of the more distressing problems with the proposals was the lack of consultation between government members and native groups prior to their release. In certain areas Young termed the reform document "worthless in terms of indicating any direction."

The problem, according to Young, is that the entire reform process seems predicated upon the concerns of Quebec. It perpetuates the misconception of two founding nations and fails to recognize Native languages and cultures which is unacceptable to the Assembly. In support of this contention from the audience was Chief Polchies who later indicated, "We [native people] are more Canadian than anyone else and this must be recognized."

Young outlined the process adopted by the Assembly as a result of their rejection of the Federal proposals. He referred to the Assembly's First

Nations Circle on Constitutional Reform as a parallel to the Federal commission. But, he noted that the Native process would be going out with the intention of hearing the voices of its people and responding. That inquiry process, Young said, has already visited over twenty communities. Its report will be forwarded to the Federal government in April.

Reflecting upon the recently completed Native justice inquiry in Manitoba, Young referred to the result as "shabby". Calling for the creation of a separate Native justice system Young referred to the success of equivalent systems in the United States. He referred to the recent comments made by Justice Minister Kim Campbell as a "cop out" when she said that a separate Native justice system would be unworkable.

Throughout his speech Young indicated a gulf between the position of the Federal and Provincial governments and that of the Assembly. However, this divisiveness was also reflected by Natives in attendance who confronted Young in a question period. They demanded responses to specific positions of the Assembly with respect to constitutional reform and other issues.

Young was elusive in his responses and failed to indicate

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Shown is Kenneth Young, Vice Chief of the First Nations. Young spoke to UNB students on Wednesday evening.

David Smith photo

## Jones House disturbance

by Mimi Cormier

An altercation at Jones House last Saturday ended with one person being removed by city Police.

Two male guests at Jones House on Saturday night were involved in a disturbance during the in-house social. According to Rick Peacock, director of UNB security, one

of the guests was "intoxicated" and "misbehaved somewhat."

The guest tried to assault a Campus Police officer brought in to defuse the situation. City Police were then called in to remove the guest, who was taken to the police station.

Apparently no charges are to be laid in connection with the attempted assault.

## Funds unavailable for CHSR station manager search

by Allan Carter

It looks like the search for a station manager at CHSR has taken a back seat to concerns raised recently over the station's budget and the structure of CHSR's board of directors. In fact, the board has extended Jeff Whipple's term as acting station manager until June 30.

This has been the second time Whipple's contract has been extended since the board of directors decided last summer not to renew his contract after the board

received the results of a station wide employment assessment survey.

While the search committee was formed in October they were to meet for the first time on Thursday night.

However, on Tuesday, members had already assumed that no money would be allocated for the search this budget year due to restraints.

Jeff London, chair of the board of directors and acting president of STU's Student Union, stated that "the situation" at CHSR is not one

STU wishes to continue funding.

For London "the situation" includes "an unworkable and unfair system" with a board of directors where the interests of the funding body and the students are not being met.

Presently, London has no concrete recommendations to make to the board but feels time should be given to the board to respond to STU's Student Union's position.

Because of these concerns, London believes the search committee has their "hands

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