Funds for Indian college

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indians has signed an agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada providing funds for the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

The agreement will provide tuition costs of $750,000 a year and up to $1 million for course development over the next five years.

The college operates under Indian control through a federation agreement with the University of Regina designed to recognize special Indian values and viewpoints while preserving academic excellence at the post-secondary level. The college, which opened in May 1976, offers bachelor degree courses in Indian studies, Indian art, Indian education, Indian administration and Indian social work.

In its five years of operation, it has taught more than 700 full-time students and several thousand others have taken off-campus courses. The college intends to introduce other programs in the areas of applied arts, engineering, journalism, law and medicine.

New tests for blood clots

McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario has developed a new test for diagnosing blood clots in the legs.

Deep-vein thrombosis, often called phlebitis, carries a threat to life because clots in the deep veins of the legs can break away to lodge in the lungs.

More than half the diagnoses of clots in leg veins which are based solely on symptoms (such as pain, swelling and inflammation) are wrong, even when made by experienced specialists, according to studies at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

A doctor who diagnoses deep-vein thrombosis generally puts a patient in hospital for ten days and gives anti-clotting drugs for up to three months. Thirty to 40 per cent of these admissions are made on medical judgment alone, without objective tests.

Dye injected

The McMaster team has developed two tests, which when used together, are as accurate as the standard test, venography. Venography involves injecting dye into a vein in the foot and watching its progress up the leg on cine X-ray, which shows when the rising blood meets an obstruction. Venography is not always available as an out-patient procedure and carries some risk; occasionally it can cause some clots to form.

The McMaster tests combine two tests called impedance plethysmography and leg scanning to search for obstructions in veins from outside the leg. Impedance plethysmography detects abnormalities in blood flow by measuring blood volume between two electrodes attached to the leg. Leg scanning uses an instrument similar to a geiger counter to detect clots.

The two tests can be done easily in a hospital out-patient department or at the bedside of a patient suspected of having developed clots after major surgery.

Commercial solar greenhouse built

Agriculture Canada is building a new kind of solar greenhouse in British Columbia designed with commercial growers in mind.

The greenhouse being built at the Saanichton Research and Plant Quarantine Station near Sidney is expected to appeal to growers because it is economical and easy to build.

Dr. Joseph Molnar, director of the station, developed the idea for the greenhouse and it was designed by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The structure, which measures about 18 metres by 7 metres by 7 metres, will collect sunlight in moveable indoor collectors and store the energy beneath the floor in rock storage areas. Air will flow through the spaces between golf-ball-sized rocks. This one-metre-deep area will be insulated with black plastic and styrofoam. Electric fans near the floor will circulate the warm air. The greenhouse is expected to be put into use for research work later this spring.

Dr. Molnar inspects the new energy-efficient solar greenhouse at the station.

Dr. Molnar said British Columbia growers could produce a lot more vegetables in greenhouses if heating costs could be reduced. At present, the greenhouse vegetable industry in British Columbia is worth about $5 million annually.

"Solar heating should reduce operating expenses and make greenhouse vegetable production more cost-competitive with imports," Dr. Molnar explained.

To assist in checking heat consumption and energy savings on a square-metre basis, a control house has been constructed near the new solar greenhouse.

Construction of the new research greenhouse is being financed by Agriculture Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The total cost of the greenhouse is $150,000, including construction costs and engineering studies.

Sport fishing in Canada

Canada's sport fishing industry contributes $2 billion annually to the national economy and actively involves about one out of every four adult Canadians, according to preliminary results from the nationally co-ordinated survey of sport fishing in Canada released at the Canadian Sport Fisheries Conference held recently in Calgary.

The survey shows that in 1980 anglers spent $945 million on food, lodging, transportation and related fishing supplies and services. An additional $1.2 billion was spent on major durable items, such as boats, motors, camping gear or vehicles which are used in whole or part for fishing. These expenditures represent an increase of about 17 per cent compared with those revealed in a similar survey five years ago.

The latest statistics show that close to 5 million adults sport fished in Canada in 1980. Of this total, about 4.04 million were Canadians and some 940,000 were visiting anglers, mostly from the United States. Altogether they fished 70.5 million days and caught and kept 153 million fish. Trout, perch, pickerel and northern pike were the most numerous of the various species taken by fishermen.