

direct descendant of Chief Crop Eared Wolf, Chief Fox was very happy that his ancestor's painted buffalo skin was returned to the tribe to remind its members, particularly the young people, of their past and of the cultural values which still endure today. Several elders spoke after Chief Fox, supporting these sentiments and expressing the emotion they felt in witnessing the return of this legendary object to their people.

In reply, Solicitor General Herb Gray expressed his pleasure in returning Chief Crop Eared Wolf's buffalo hide to its proper home and hoping that this gesture would strengthen the historic ties between the RCMP and the Blood people. The Honourable Herb Gray added that "Chief Crop Eared Wolf stands as an example of leadership and wisdom not just for the people of the Blood Tribe/Kainaiwa but for Canadians everywhere. Greatness is above race, colour or creed and by any standards Chief Crop Eared Wolf was a great man who provided strong leadership to his people in a time of difficult transition."

A/Commr. Eaton spoke on behalf of Commr. Murray recalling the wisdom of Chief Crop Eared Wolf. On one occasion, the great leader had answered a demand from outsiders that the Bloods sell some reserve land by holding up a hand containing grass and saying "This you may buy from us." Then he had held up the other hand containing soil saying, "But this soil is for me and my people forever". Commr. Murray's message also recalled the legacy of leadership that had been passed from the historic leaders of the tribe and the Mounted Police, pledging that the RCMP would work with the Blood Tribe/Kainaiwa to maintain the tradition of cooperation and friendship.

As A/Commr. Eaton was speaking, Mr. Malcolm Wake, Director of the RCMP Museum in Regina, and Dr. William Beahen, Force Historian from Ottawa, removed the buffalo hide from its carrying

case and held it up to the view of all assembled. In turn, Chief Fox brought forth a modern replica of the original, also drawn on a buffalo hide by a tribal artist, Mr. William Striker. This replica will take the place of the original hide that was hanging in the RCMP Museum. It will now be displayed not only as an example of the superb craftsmanship of the Blood people, but the story of the exchange will represent the spirit of cooperation between the Mounted Police and the Blood Tribe.

The process to initiate this historic exchange had started more than a year before, when Chief Roy Fox had written to the Canadian Government requesting the return of the artifact. The Honourable Herb Gray had responded in a positive manner, indicating that the origin of the artifact would have to be investigated and responded more concretely in due course.

Research soon showed that this wonderful artwork had been executed by Crop Eared Wolf as a young man. In the early 1880s, it had then been given or sold to the Geddes, a family of ranchers in the Pincher Creek area who, in turn, had decided to donate the artifact to the RCMP Museum in 1945. The last remaining descendant of the Geddes family was tracked down to ascertain that there were no objections to this artifact being returned to its original home.

Further investigation revealed that previous discussions between the Canadian



Removing the old buffalo hide from its carrying case and holding it up to the view of all assembled (L-R): Dr. Bill Beahen, S/Sgt. Ray Munro, C/M Malcolm Wake, Sgt. Bruce Cieslikowski and Senator Joyce Fairbairn (sitting).