

SARAH DENEALD opening prayer

RICHARD MANUEL chairperson introduction focus on land issue

JONES IGNACE Chief and council are civil servants . They are the only leaders recognized by the government. The Elders and the warrior societies support the Indian movement, but not the chiefs. The chiefs make agreements with the enemy. The Indian Movement takes care of the future generations. The chiefs make agreements with forestry, sun peaks, etc. The chiefs only have the right to speak of concerns on the dia reserves. The Elders know their land, placenames, language, stories, culture. There's going to be turmoil in March, pressure to join the BCTC.

He proposes the following letter be signed by all the Elders and sent to Ron Jules, Art Manuel, and Felix Armouse "We, the Elders of this community are writing to inform you that from now on we want you to concern yourselves strictly with your delegated powers with respect to delivery of services on the DIA reserves. We the traditional knowledge keepers, teachers, and leaders will deal with issues concerning our lands that are off-reserve. We don't want you interfering with our work, and we don't want you speaking publicly about these matters. The reason for this is that you're civil servants in the employ of the federal government, and as such you're in a conflict of interest when you try to reach outside of your delegated powers,"

Ronnie Jules dismantled the watershed committee. The court system is a dead end. We've exhausted all remedies and never got anywhere. They tried to silence Jones by killing him during the Gustafsen Lake stand-off. Tony Hall would be helpful. Leslie Pinder wrote a letter to the government asking for Bruce Clark to be disbarred. That was because her firm is profiting from the Native rights business. The courts stonewall the law. Westbank chief and council put an injunction against NYM. Jones advised the youth to challenge the legality of the elected system in court. The DIA system was created by the government to legalize the theft. They imposed the elected system to replace the traditional government, along with the other Indian act prohibitions like Sundance, Potlatch, meetings of 3 or more people to discuss land issue, raising funds for land, or hiring lawyers. The Elders council must fight to get our land and our traditional government back. There's no future with the present system. There's no land for our descendents, no land for gardens, etc. to sustain ourselves. The northern bands are in the BCTC. There's no sense in fighting the shock troops, especially in light of the new anti-terrorist legislation. The police harassment suit will provide protection for our people. It needs to be sent to the European support groups, and given to the Chinese embassy. We need to rethink our strategy, be actors not reactors. We need to strike at the high level politicians and officials, and stop endangering the safety of our youths.

JIMMY SAUL The RCMP are doing wrong. They're not impartial. They look after only the white people, and jail our people. They destroyed our sweatlodges. What can we do about the sweatlodges? The Elders teach in the sweatlodge. Jimmy was taught like that when he was a child. Nobody will take responsibility for that act. The RCMP, sun peaks, bcal, attorney general are all blaming each other. The young people want to learn their Native ways. Who bulldozed the sweatlodges? We should wait til spring to set up another camp. It's too hard to set up and supply it now.

JONES The softwood submission was effective. We have to be careful not to be branded terrorists and have our land turned into a military zone. Once in prison, if you don't get with the program, you don't get out. Bob Satiacum was murdered in prison, they withheld his heart medication. We should follow the US example, and call our chief tribal chairman or administrator. Stop the misuse of the word 'chief.'

ANDY SHEENA The Elders must stand up. The chiefs have betrayed us. The chiefs and band workers must be brought under our control. We can't sit and watch everything be stolen. The chiefs make deals in secret. The people are hungry while the chiefs profit. Sun peaks is on reserve land. We must re-occupy our traditional lands. We live side by side but don't visit. There's too much reliance on the government system. The government funding doesn't get to the people. We must hunt, and dry meat, fish, and dry fish, dry berries, use wood for heat. We should make sign saying 'this is Indian reserve' and erect at sun peaks.

CECELIA SHEENA There's lots of money being made off our lands through tourism, but they're not looking after it. Traditional conservation methods can make up for it. It's time for our people to do something about it. Don't let the term crown land stop or intimidate you. The community should help one family build their home on the land, then go to the next. The way we used to. The money system isn't working in our interest.

ANDY Live off the land.

SARAH Use horses.

IRENE Chinese dinner fundraiser, February 2, we have lots of legal expenses. Irene's court is March 11 - 14. If she loses, she'll appeal. Ohkubo came to Adams Lake and was told 'no development'. The Protection center was moved repeatedly. There was no sewer or water line put through camp 2. We should be able to go back. Nobody accepts responsibility for demolishing the cordwood house. They used gas to burn down the log house. Irene's not giving up. She's been to jail twice. Our prayers will bring results.

SUSAN SEYMOUR The chiefs should only deal with issues on the DIA reserves. The whites don't have title according to the Royal Proclamation and the Canadian constitution. The government must talk with the people, not the chiefs. Arrange this for the summer. Contact all your family members through the moccasin news. Bonnie Leonard doesn't consult with the KIB Elders. Susan supports Jones' ideas and the letter he read. Elders should only have to say this once. We do have traplines. All BC is owned by Indians, and the government know this. The hydro lines are on unceded land. There was no consultation. Chief and council should notify people and let them know what government and industry are planning and doing. We should stop paying the chiefs, they're not acting on our behalf. They know, but ignore our history. If we're Indians we have ancestors. The Royal Proclamation is protection, the Indian act was not by consent. Foreigners are stealing everything we have. Why aren't more Elders here? Elders are going to jail. The government will never give a big payoff to Indians. Indians must gather together, and decide not to co-operate with the system. The youths have responsibilities too, not just the Elders. Parents need to teach their children this, and also see that the schools are giving them good information. Our history must be passed down. Public education is not helpful. The government is training our children for their purposes.

IRENE The Canadian system is foreign. She feels like in a foreign country when fighting for her land.

SUSAN When DIA in Kamloops was occupied,, 6 families took their children out of school. During the sit-in they did home schooling. That got DIA's attention. They threatened the parents with jail. The schools are paid much more for Indian children than white. That's because the government must pay extra for the Indian children to be accepted in those schools. But the schools are afraid of losing that money. Native people will never be treated fairly by the white society. There's no future for our children without a land base. Bonnie Leonard's allegiance is to the government.