

SPECIAL EDITION

DAKOTA OJIBWAY TRIBAL COUNCIL

"Indian control of Indian Development"



Canupawakpa Dakota Nation

Long Plain First Nation

Swan Lake First Nation

Birdtail Sioux First Nation

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Waywayseecappo First Nation

Dakota Plains Wahpeton First Nation

Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation

Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation

CANADA VOTES: ELECTIONS 2011

First Nations People and Elections Take Charge, Participate and... Make a Difference! Election Day: May 2, 2011

Message from Chief Ken Chalmers/Chair, DOTC Council of Chiefs

Democratic societies use the ballot to address larger social, economic and/or political questions and arrive at desired priorities. To those who see it all this as being futile or hopelessly naive, they should ask those who do not have access to such as an exercise. Around the world, lives have been given and sacrifices made to attain such a right.

In response to the cynic, a single person can make a difference. After all, is not a torrent of an ocean but billions and billions of droplets? This special edition of the DOTC Newsletter is designed to encourage and stress that on election day -May 2, 2011- all eligible voters belonging to DOTC First Nations and those located across Manitoba, must go out and exercise their vote. This first step is extremely crucial!

Taking the above first step is indeed about "taking charge"... participating...giving notice to be heard...and making a difference! All others, whether individually or organized along communities or issues on election day will mobilize and, go out and vote. Members of First Nations also need to do this and be engaged in the political process. Whether, we like it not, our issues will and can only be solved through engagement with and participation in the political process.

My message therefore is that each one of you go and vote. You have a right to be heard. You have need to make a choice for a candidate or a party that best reflects your concerns and priorities. Have no doubt, First Nations people and, their issues and concerns are important- and it is for us to give voice. Take charge, be the change and, yes, make at least do your part in making a difference. If you do not do this, no one else will do it for you!

This current special issue of DOTC Newsletter that is devoted to the Elections-2011 is meant to serve as a reference guide for you the reader. We hope it meets your needs and expectations.

Message from Robert Daniels/CEO, Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council

Canada is in the midst of its fourth general elections in seven years. An election is an opportunity to take stock of the country and its society. What are we? How are we feeling- the good, the bad and ugly? What do we want- vision and priorities? What are we prepared to do about this?

It is extremely gratifying that the Leadership of Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council has directed the staff to undertake the publication of a special edition of the DOTC Newsletter. This issue of the newsletter is designed to serve as reference guide for members to facilitate and navigate for them the process of casting their important ballot. Taking this first step is important.

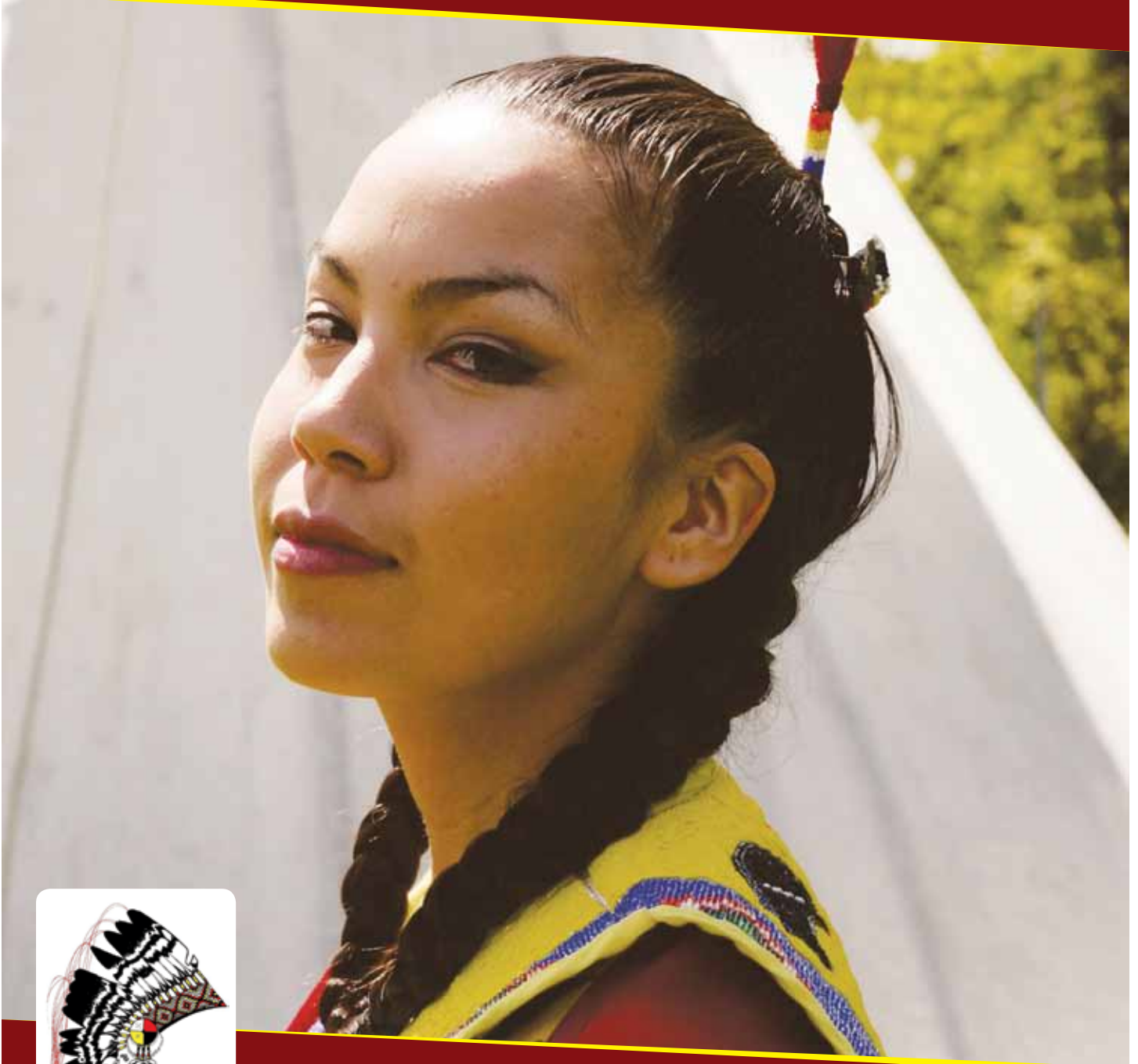
As you peruse through this issue, the following should become apparent- First Nations and others belonging to the larger Aboriginal Family are an important factor. Through participation, we need to ensure that our concerns and voices are heard. Our daily concerns are no different from those faced by Canadians in the larger mainstream of the society. A significant portion of population of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples reside outside the reserves- in urban centres across Canada.

Data from some key selected ridings shows that First Nations and Aboriginal vote can be a major factor in determining the outcome. Aboriginal People may be seen to be down...but they are certainly not out. Closer analysis of preceding data suggests Aboriginal people can make an impact, be heard and make a difference. We may need to begin organizing strategically- by way of getting on the agenda. Organizing may have to be two fold- macro and micro- high-level and at the local level.

It however hinges on each person taking responsibility to exercising their right and privilege- the right to vote!

It is my hope that this special issue of the DOTC Newsletter has served its part in getting you out to vote.

I'm FIRST NATION and I VOTE



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS**

Who Can Vote?

According to “I Can Vote: A User Friendly Guide to Voting in Canada” issued by Elections Canada- a person is eligible to vote if they are:

- A Canadian citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age on election day
- Prove themselves with identity and address

Acceptable Identifications for Voting day

When voting, you must prove your identity and address. You can use one of the following options:

- A government-issued original piece of identification with photo and address- e.g. driver license
- Two original pieces of authorised identification with name and address- e.g. health card and hydro card
- Voter information card (VIC) addressed to the voter
- Swear an oath and have an elector who knows you vouch for you. The person vouching for you must be from the same polling division as you and have authorised or government-issued identification

For further details please check www.elections.ca.

Some Facts

- Since 1867 only 27 Members of Parliament belonging to either of the First Nation, Metis and Inuit people have been elected to the Parliament. Of this total, 23 have been elected since 1960
- The breakdown is 15 Metis, 8 First Nations and 4 Inuit
- A First Nation person was first elected as Member of Parliament in 1968- Len Marchand
- The number of members elected or candidates selected by the political parties does not equal to the proportion of the total population of Canada
- For variety of factors, both internal and external, voter participation by Aboriginal people has consistently been lower than the national average
- According to 2001 census, there were 976, 305 people or 3.3% of the total population. Of this total an estimated 286,000 live on reserves
- 50% of the Aboriginal people are 24 years old or younger
- There are at least 60 ridings in which Aboriginal people can have an “impact” of these in 30 ridings they can be “critical to the outcome”

Aboriginal/First Nation Members of Parliament Elected Since 1867

1. **McKay, Angus**/Conservative/Marquette (Manitoba)/ Metis/1871
2. **Delorme, Pierre**/Conservative/Provencher (Manitoba)/Metis/1871
3. **Riel, Louis**/Ind./Provencher (Manitoba)/Metis/1873
4. **Boucher, William**/Liberal/Rosthern (Sask.)/Metis/1948
5. **Rheaume, Eugene**/Prog.Cons/NWT/Metis/1963
6. **Marchand, Leonard**/Lib/Kamloops-Caribou (B.C.)/FN/1968
7. **Firth, Walter**/NDP/NWT/Metis/1972
8. **Itinaur, Peter**/NDP/Nunatsiak (NWT)/Inuit/1979
9. **Keeper, Cyril**/NDP/Wpg-St. James (Manitoba)/Metis/1980
10. **St. Germain, Gerry**/PC/ Mission-Port Moody (B.C.)/Metis/1980
11. **Suluk, Thomas**, PC/Nunatsiak (NWT)/Inuit/1980
12. **Anawak, Jack Iyerak**/Lib./Nunatsiak (NWT)/Metis/1988
13. **Blondin, Ethel**/Lib./Western Arctic (NWT)/FN/1988
14. **Littlechild, Wilton**/PC/Wetaskiwin (Sask)/FN/1988
15. **DeVillers, Paul**/Lib./Simcoe North (Ont)/Metis/1993
16. **Harper, Elijah**/Lib./Churchill (Manitoba)/FN/1993
17. **O'Brien, Lawrence**/Lib./Labrador (NFLD)/Metis/1996
18. **Karetak, Nancy**/Lib./Nunavut (NWT)/Inuit/1997
19. **Laliberte, Rick**/NDP/Churchill River (Sask.)/Metis/1997
20. **Cleary, Bernard**/BQ/Louis-St. Laurent (Quebec)/FN/2004
21. **Smith, David**/Lib./Pontiac (Quebec)/Metis/2004
22. **Russell, Todd**/Lib./Labrador (NFLD)/Metis/2005
23. **Bruinooge, Rod**/Cons./Winnipeg South (Manitoba)/Metis/2006
24. **Keeper, Tina**/Churchill (Manitoba)/FN/2006
25. **Merasty, Gary**/Lib./Desenethe-Missinippi-Churchill River (Sask.)/FN/2006
26. **Clarke, Rob**/Cons./ Desenethe-Missinippi-Churchill River (Sask.)/FN/2008
27. **Glover, Shelly**/Cons./ Saint Boniface-Manitoba/Metis/2008

Federal Ridings- Aboriginal People at least 10% of total population (2001 Census)

Nunavut-79%	Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-20%
Churchill-55%	Dauphin-Swan River-17%
Churchill River-54%	Prince Albert-16%
Western Arctic-45%	Algoma-Manitoulin-16%
Labrador-31%	Selkirk-Interlake- 14%
Kenora-Rainy River- 25%	Winnipeg North Centre-14%
Skeena-24%	Regina-Qu'Appelle-14%
Yukon-20%	Cariboo-Chilcotin-14%
Athabasca-20	Battlefords-Lloydminster-14%Winnipeg Centre- 14%
Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar- 12%	Lakeland- 11%
Peace River- 10%	Manicouagan-10%
Prince George-Bulkley Valley-10%	Prince George-Peace River- 10%
Timmins-James Bay- 10%	

“Aboriginal Vote Compass: Put your candidates to the test”

Adapted from an Article By Colleen Simard/Winnipeg Free Press- April 9, 2011.

Overcoming voter apathy...getting the spark back...get ready and cast your vote. Colleen has created a “helpful questionnaire” to find out which party will address aboriginal issues. For complete details consult the full-article. Meanwhile make use of the guiding questions as to inform your decision as to who you vote for:

Question 1: Whose campaign flyer has shown up in your mailbox? Does the campaign material contain a photo of an aboriginal person

Question 2: Read all the party pamphlets carefully. If you didn’t get one from a specific party then track one down. Does any information list a promise that would benefit you personally? Or aboriginal people in general?

Question 3: Have any party leaders mentioned any of the following while campaigning, or in their platform: aboriginal people; aboriginal issues (this could be First Nation education, housing, water, poverty, etc.) and/or aboriginal rights

Question 4: Put your imagination to work for this one. Which party leader would be best at (a) jigging, (b) round dancing, and (c) powwow dancing? All of the above.

Question 5: Check out all the party leaders making speeches on TV or online. Size them up really well. Now would you trust any of them enough to let them in your house? Let them baby-sit? Drive your car? Would you cook them a meal if they dropped by?

“Candidate aims to be voice for aboriginal youth”

Adapted from an article by Murray Crawford

Tyler LaPlante is Liberal candidate and he will be pitted against Gerry Ritz/Minister of Agriculture for the Battlefords-Lloydminster seat. He is 27 years old and has been interested in politics since the age of sixteen. Tyler is registered with English River and Moosomin first nations.

He volunteered for his cousin Dominic LaPlante who ran for the Liberal Party for this riding in 2006. Says he, “I have a lot of passion for what I do and I am learning a lot in this whole process”.

As an aboriginal youth, he sees a lot of value in supporting and improving the lives of young people. “Anyone who identifies themselves as aboriginal, status or non-status, I plan to be a voice for.”

Tyler is a part-time student at the University of Saskatchewan working towards his business degree and works part-time with the English River Travel Centre

Elections Canada: Services You Can Expect

- Elections Canada provides information on federal elections in nearly a dozen Aboriginal languages such as Inuktitut, Michif, Mohawk, James Bay Cree, Oji-Cree, Plains Cree, Nisga'a, Gwich'in, Ojibway, Mi'kmaq, Montagnais (Innu)

<http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=abo/info&document=index&lang=e>

- Aboriginal Community Coordinators work in ridings with First Nations communities. The Coordinator serves as liaison between Elections Canada and the First Nation communities to help promote and facilitate the process of voting
- Polling stations are planned for most of the First Nation communities. At each of the polling stations- the staff will consist of First Nation elder and youth

Interested in Working for Elections Canada

Elections Canada will be hiring people during and on Elections day. Each polling station will consist of at least- Central Poll Supervisor, Deputy Returning Officer and Poll Clerk.

Further information can be attained from Electoral Officers of your riding or Electoral District. Listed below are the ridings of DOTC First Nations

- Portage Lisgar (Long Plain First Nation, Swan Lake First Nation, Dakota Plains (and Dakota Tipi First Nation proximate community)
- Brandon Souris (Canupawakpa Dakota Nation and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation)
- Dauphin-Swan River- Marquette (Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Waywayseecappo First Nation and Birdtail Sioux First Nation)
- Provencher (Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation)

Food for thought!

- Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it - *Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)*
- Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase - *Martin Luther King (1929-1968)*
- Take one foot and put it in front of the other and people around you will notice and follow you; you have to take good steps. - *participant at 2007 AFN National Youth Summit*

Ridings and Candidates

Portage Lisgar

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| • Conservative | Candace Hoepfner | (204) 822-7440 |
| • Liberal | Dr. M.J Willard | (204) 988-9840 |
| • New Democrat Party | Mohamed Alli | mohamedalli@ndp.ca |

Brandon Souris

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| • Conservative | Merv Tweed | (204) 725-8640 |
| • Liberal | Wes Penner | (204) 654-3779 |
| • New Democrat Party | John Bouche | johnbouche@ndp.ca |

Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| • Conservative | Robert Sopuck | (204) 622-6202 |
| • Liberal | Wendy Menzies | (204) 476-8883 |
| • New Democrat Party | Cheryl Osborne | Information not available |

Provencher

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Conservative | Vic Toews | (204) 371-3292 |
| • Liberal | Terry Hayward | (204) 272-4214 |
| • New Democrat Party | Al Mackenzie | (613) 236-3613 |

Electoral Districts

Portage Lisgar

- Name of Electoral Officer - Margaret Lisowski
- Name of Aboriginal Community Coordinator – Colin Wilcox
- Address – 2450 Saskatchewan Ave. W Suite B6, Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 3N8
- Telephone Number – 1-866-288-1743

Brandon Souris

- Name of Electoral Officer = Kenneth Gordon Knight
- Name of Aboriginal Community Coordinator – Deannie Dolff
- Address – 3-800 Rosser Ave. Suite C-3, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6N5
- Telephone Number – 1-866-288-1430

Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette

- Name of Electoral Officer – Ron Clement
- Name of Aboriginal Community Coordinator – Nelson Tanner
- Address – 227 Main St. South, Russell, Manitoba R0J 1W0
- Telephone Number – 1-866-288-1724

Provencher

- Name of Electoral Officer –Brigette Giesbrecht
- Name of Aboriginal Community Coordinator – Jocelyn Thomas
- Address – 77 PTH 52 West, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1B2
- Telephone Number – 1-866-294-6701



2011 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

AT

ELMHURST GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

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WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2011

at RR#5 Garven Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**Great Dinner
& Prizes**

**REGISTRATION AT 10:00 AM
SHOTGUN START 11:00 AM**

*Everyone is Welcome to participate and enjoy
our festivities with our Leadership, Staff & Affiliations*

For more info & registration, please contact:

Roberta Johnston @ 204-239-8650

Stacey Monkman @ 204-239-8655



HOLE-IN-ONE

Sponsored by
WESTWARD FORD (Portage la Prairie)



Elm Hurst Golf & Country Club Dress Code in effect. Those not adhering to dress code will not be permitted to play.
Please see registration package for details.