

Minister Honours Indian Employees

On Tuesday, January 21st, Mr. Chretien, Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, had as his luncheon guests, eight Indian employees of his Department. Dr. Gilbert Monture, a Mohawk Indian and former Department of Mines and Technical Surveys Engineer was one of the luncheon guests. Other Indian guests were: Mr. Bill Russell, Special Assistant to the Minister; Mr. Russell Moses, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Affairs; Dr. Ahab Spence, Head of Cultural Programs; Mr. Leslie Smith, Head of Accommodation and Works; Mr. James Powless, Community Government, Band Council and Band Administration Training Officer; Mr. Gordon Miller, Community Government Regulatory Officer; Mr. Thomas Hill, Industry and Resources Promotional Officer and Mr. Keith Miller, Editor, Indian News.

The luncheon in the New Zealand Room of the House of Commons was an informal affair, designed to offer some recognition to the contributions of the Indians working at Headquarters and to give Mr. Chrétien an opportunity to meet and talk with some of the Indian employees of his Department.

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The above article is an excerpt from the latest edition of the Indian News, Ottawa. It is both interesting and flattering to note that all except two of the above persons mentioned are products of the Six Nations Reserve. On the other hand, it is disconcerting to note that all our potential leaders are being lured off the Six Nations Reserve. If we are producing men of leadership quality, why can't they be put to work in positions on the local Reserve? With our affairs becoming more and more complicated as years go by, we need good strong thinkers and able men to deal with the problems involved. Our older native leaders must eventually retire and a constant addition of fresh and vigorous leadership is always necessary to replace them.

The West is now awakening to this fact. Note the following important article from "The Native People" a publication of the Alberta Native Communication Society. e.g. 12 leaders have been appointed by the Indian Association of Alberta to work on their local reserves. Requirements - at least Grade X, Indian status, male or female, to complete a training course and orientation on leadership techniques, assist in organizations of women's clubs, recreation programs, to co-operate with various levels of government etc. Salaries start at \$600 per month. The other two Alberta Indian Societies are delegated to choose their leaders also. We predict these Reserves will go ahead by leaps and bounds. They're a smart bunch out there as we have said before. We'll be watching results.

The following article demonstrates that the Province of Alberta is interested in the welfare of their Indians. Editor

Alberta Legislature

Native people are accepting their responsibility for the development of programs for their people; within this development, there has been and will continue to be a close working relationship with government departments.

The Honourable F. C. Colborne, Minister of Public Works, as a result of this contact with native peoples, made the following statements in the Alberta legislature.

"There is a renewed pride and confidence and a growing sense of common purpose among our native people today."

Five years ago, when I first became involved with Indians and Metis people through our Community Development programme - the problem of communicating with our native people was a difficult one. Often interpreters were needed and progress in discussion was long and sometimes tedious.

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