

# Multi-million dollar deal for Camp Ipperwash is celebrated and defied

*By Pearce Bannon*

*Special to Turtle Island News*

*KETTLE AND STONY POINT, Ont., - Fifty-six years later the federal government finally returned Camp Ipperwash to native hands after a historic deal was signed here Thursday handing the former army base to the Kettle and Stony Point band.*

But some Stoney Point natives living at the former army base say they will ignore the agreement in principle until their demands are included in a settlement.

The signing of the agreement by federal Native Affairs Minister Jane Stewart and newly-elected Chief Norm Shawnoo was the highlight of Thursday's celebra-

tion held at the band's community centre.

"I'm thrilled to be part of this celebration today," said Stewart, after the ceremony. "Something good happening," she said. Stewart described the agreement as a "tool" that will help forge a final agreement between the federal government and the 1,600

members of the band. "Today we've got a product and the product will now go before the community for consideration."

Shawnoo said the agreement will help bring closure for the elders who remember the army removing their families in 1942 from their homeland with the promise they

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# Feds hand Ipperwash back



**Pearce Bannon**  
Has been following the Ipperwash conflict and trials for Turtle Island News and now the settlement.

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could return after World War Two.

"I'm pleased to put this (agreement) on the table and see where we can go from here," said Shawnoo. "At least there's movement on the issue."

The deal returns the 900-hectare former military base, including beachfront land, to the Stoney Point natives.

It includes \$26.3 million for an environmental cleanup, healing, and new construction to rebuild the community.

In 1942 the army used the War Measures Act to remove 22 families from the Stoney Point reserve on Lake Huron and build a training base and firing range. It was the only time during the war that the army used the act to seize land.

Stoney Point families and their homes were moved by the military to nearby Kettle Point reserve.



**Indian Affairs minister Jane Stewart and Kettle and Stony Point chief elect Norman Shawnoo signed an agreement in principle that returns Camp Ipperwash and \$26.3 million. (CP-Photo)**

Tension and in-fighting as a result of this forced amalgamation are still prevalent today.

After the war, the military did not hand back the land. After years of appeals to Ottawa and protests, several Stoney Point members and descendants moved back on to the base on May 6, 1993. Among the descendants was Anthony (Dudley) George, whose father was a Stoney Point member.

More natives resettled the base in July 1995, forcing the remaining soldiers to abandon the camp.

On Sept. 4, 1995, about 24 Stoney Pointers occupied neighbouring Ipperwash Provincial Park to protest its being built over a sacred burial ground. Two days later Dudley George, 38, was

killed outside the park by a police sniper during a late-night battle with a police riot squad.

Ontario provincial Police Acting Sgt. Kenneth Deane was found guilty last year of criminal negligence causing death in the fatal shooting of George. In a controversial ruling, Deane was sentenced to a community sentence of two years less a day.

George's siblings and the Kettle and Stony Point band have been pushing the province for a public inquiry into the fatal confrontation since the shooting. Stewart stopped short of calling for an inquiry at Thursday's celebration but did ask the Ontario government to heed natives' concerns about the shooting.

said he will not recognize any agreement that does not include his concerns.

"Who gave (Kettle and Stony Point) the right to deal away my inheritance? Dudley's inheritance? To Hell with them."

Roderick (Judas) George, who also lives at the camp, agreed with Pierre George. "They can't make decisions without the (camp) residents' consent. We've been here for more than two years."

Judas George, whose father Abraham George was 21 when he was moved from Stoney Point, credited the Stoney Point protesters for forcing the feds to come to a deal. "This place would have been sold by now if we didn't do what we did," he said.

Highlights of the agreement in principle--which Shawnoo said may be voted on by band members as early as this December--include:

-All Camp Ipperwash land, including beachfront property surrendered in 1928, would be returned to the band.

--The military and the band would jointly clean up the land, including the removal of explosives.

-\$12.9 million to rebuild the community.

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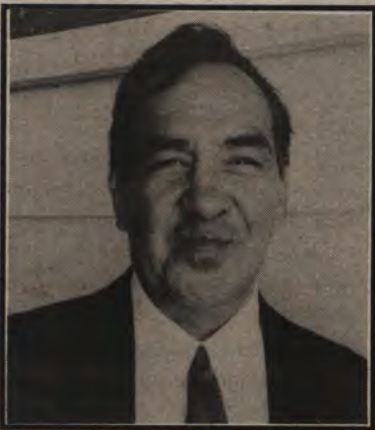


**The front gate at former Camp Ipperwash has a message of greeting for the public and derision for Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart. (Photo by Pearce Bannon)**





*Pierre George, older brother of slain native protester Dudley George, stands next to the car that he and his sister Carolyn George used to rush Dudley to Strathroy hospital on the Sept., 6, 1995 night Dudley was shot. The car is on display inside former Camp Ipperwash near the busy intersection of Highway 21 and Army Camp Road. (Photo by Pearce Bannon)*



*Newly elected Kettle and Stony Point Chief Norm Shawnoo*

--\$10.7 million for economic development, healing and compensation to band members most affected by the 1942 seizure.

--\$2.7 million for a four-year property management deal with the band providing specified services at the former base during the environmental clean up.

--The band to drop any legal action relating to the forced move.

Stoney Pointer Clifford George, who was serving with Canadian forces overseas when his family was moved; said the agreement is "inadequate" but it is a start to returning the camp.

"The money is not going to cover everything (that needs to be done) in there," said the 78-year-old veteran of World War Two and the Korean conflict. "But we should take a close look at it because the government can afford to sit on it for the next 100 years."

Clifford George was among the handful of Stoney Pointers who reclaimed the base in 1993. George lived in a trailer called "Uncle Cliff's Cabin" on the camp for four years before moving to a residence at Kettle and Stony Point last fall.

George said fellow Stoney Pointers opposed to the deal should understand that inter-marriage and relations between Kettle and Stony Point members over the last 56 years has led to a legitimate claim to the camp among many Kettle and Stony Point band members.

London lawyer John McNair, who represented 130 Stoney Point members during the negotiations said reaction to the deal among clients he has heard from is favourable. But they also said they want to further study the agreement before passing judgement, said McNair.