**Fighting oppression key to preventing suicide of Indigenous people**

(continued from page 1) ... from 1931 to 1932. The film's description of Scott as a key player in many of Canada's association policies towards Indigenous peoples was an appropriate backdrop for Chrisholm and McKay's discussion of suicide as part of larger issues, historical and current.

Chisholm and McKay established the urgency of the suicide crisis -- and the Canadian Federal Government's awareness of the issue -- by pointing to a 1977 graph that shows the dramatic increase in suicide rates among Aboriginal peoples. The Department of Health also states that suicide rates among Inuit youth are four times greater than the national average and among the highest in the world.

For Chrisholm and McKay, the suicide statistics beg a challenge of accountability and responsibility to Indigenous peoples. Chrisholm, a founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM) in Canada, lists the facts and fellow movements that are part of a suicide decades ago. Chrisholm, who holds a doctorate in psychology from Western University, became disillusioned with the political process aimed at addressing the totality of suicide after working for six years in crisis intervention seminars at the Native Brotherhood in Toronto.

In referring to his colleagues of psychologists working in the field of suicidology, Chrisholm states that, "Models of Indian suicide are individualistic, relying on supposed irrational characteristics instead of looking at social, economic, and political forces impinging on Aboriginal Peoples.

Instead, Chrisholm and McKay present an alternative: "We are calling for an immediate shift in the way this country is looking at the world around us, and see what's happening to us as well.

Chisholm and McKay include what they call a partial list to make their point that Indigenous peoples of Canada are not the problem, but the solution. They promote it as a suicide crisis: the Guatemalan Indians of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia; uneducated young men in Greece; displaced farmers in the south; veterinarians in the US, the world behind the Middle East; South Korea; wounded Indigenous nation; the globally engaged women; indigenous and non-indigenous victims; Sri Lankan refugees; Venezuelans; American farmers; and all of us who live in a society where Pennsylvania prisoners; Chinese factory workers; Canadian First responders; and more.

For Chrisholm, the proactive step back that takes the time to "think, discuss, understand, share, then act," is the way to move beyond suicide. "Each nation will evolve its own anti-suicide program. Indigenous nations are the solution. It is a collective effort that is more powerful than any in the whole arsenal of the British Empire.

Chrisholm quoted early twentieth century Irish Revolutionary Michael Collins on how the Irish should respond to the British: "We are, after all, a people. And we are a people who are suffering. Not only can we fight, we can win."

That was the theme of the "1997 First Nations Leaders' Conference" held in Toronto, where First Nations leaders discussed the ways in which they could address the crisis of suicide in their communities. The 10th anniversary of the conference was marked by the establishment of the Canadian Suicide Prevention Network in January 2006.

**Fredericton firefighters take brunt of Woodside’s spending decisions**

By MATTHEW HAYES and NIKITA HART

Fredericton - As Fredericton's firefighters and the City of Fredericton await a decision from an arbitrator on a long-standing labour dispute, Fredericton Mayor Bud Woodside lambasted firefighters in the media for wanting more.

Arbitration hearings between the city and firefighters took more than 13 days, in contrast to two days in Moncton a year ago. "The city can't afford the arbitration proceedings," says the mayor. "The hearings are taking too long and are too expensive for us to proceed.

Glenk, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) local 2050, says that shifting to a shared risk pension plan is still not necessary. "Our pension has been recovering nicely," he argues.

Woodside and other city mayors have argued that arbitration awards are too high and are lobbying the province to change the way they handle arbitration proceedings. "The mayors would like the arbitrator to choose a side," Woodside says, "even though I might not think that's fair."

The dispute with firefighters has become a national issue, as Woodside has used his position as the head of the Federation of Municipalities to call for a reduction in the cost of fire services and labor union contracts for cities.

Woodside told the Telegraph-Journal, if municipalities could not keep labor costs under control, they could not keep property taxes down in their communities.

The salary settlements at arbitration in Moncton (an increase of 18% over four years) and Saint John (12% over four years) are among the highest in the province. In similar terms, according to figures from Statistics Canada, Fredericton's municipal labor costs rose by $3.7 million, or a way to reduce spending in city budgets while pouring money into capital projects, Woodside said.

The $34 million convention centre and $11 million parking structure, the hallmark of Woodside's mayoralty, have become a political liability in his re-election bid for 2011. "The firefighters are asking for a wage package that would maintain comparability with other firefighters in Atlantic Canada."

The City of Fredericton has tried to cut its firefighter costs in other ways as well. In February, they decided to cut a tanker from the Fredericton Fire Department, leading to a court challenge in which the city was found to have been arbitrary in its decision.

Several hundred firefighters have been laid off in recent years. "The [firefighters] are asking for a wage package that would maintain comparability with other firefighters in Atlantic Canada."

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Several dozen people demonstrated outside the Dieppe postal plant on October 17 in opposition to Canada Post stopping door-to-door delivery and the decision of the Canadian Federation of Labour. A petition on Change.org reads: "Have you ever tried to push a letter or a package through your front door? That's the question I asked the government and Canada Post almost a year ago, when I learned that I would be one of millions of Canadians who may have to travel thousands of kilometres just to get our mail. My youngest son has cerebral palsy--for me and every other Canadian with a disability, Canada Post’s plan to end home delivery would mean a difficult and even dangerous walk to get the mail. I felt angry and helpless, so I started a petition. I didn’t think my petition would go anywhere, but boy was I wrong! Since then, over 154,000 Canadians have joined our fight, mailing the same mail delivery, and made it possible for those who most need the impact - people with young children, the disabled, the elderly, and those who care for them." Photo by Patrick Coxford.

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**Fredericton firefighters shown here putting out a fire in downtown Fredericton on Nov. 17, 2014. The city’s Mayor Bud Woodside dismissed the firefighters’ concerns about public safety and berated them for taking their concerns to social media. Video still by Charles LeBlanc.**

**Community Calendar**

For details and updated event listings, visit nbmediaad.com or send your event, email: community@nbmediaad.com.

**Nowhere Else to Go.** Cinéma Politica Frederton presents as part of the NB Film Co-op’s Silver Wave Film Festival, Nowhere Else to Go Directed by Michael Shalek. A chronology of the 2013 indigenous anti-fracking protests in New Brunswick from their early days up to the later violent clashes with police. When: Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7:00pm. Where: Conserver House, 180 Saint John St. Fredericton, NB.

**Making the Connections: Resistance and Movement Building Across Borders and Nations Resource. Annual meetings of the National Solidarity Network (NSN) Event Date: Thursday, Nov. 14 at 1:30 pm. At Alma movies, a first nation and non-indigenous artist collaboration.**

**NB Media Co-op Story Meetings. Join us at our monthly story meetings in Fredericton where we discuss politics and current events and decide what to put in this paper every month. To find out the meeting time and venue, email media.nbmediaad@gmail.com.**

**Cinéma Politica believes in the power of art not only to entertain but to engage, inform, inspire, and provoke social change. Cinema Politica is the largest volunteer-run, community and campus-based documentary film festival and education program in Atlantic Canada.**

**NB Media Co-op is the last remaining film co-op in Atlantic Canada.**

**Cinéma Politica Frederton is back this fall screening films on Fridays, Saturdays at the college in Fredericton. For a list of venues, start your own chapter at cinemapolitica.ca.**