

Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship
Centre, Saskatoon, Sask.
Monday, September 20, 1993,
at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: His Worship Mayor Dayday in the Chair;
Councillors Mann, Birkmaier, Thompson, Waygood, McCann,
Hawthorne, Penner, Dyck, Cherneskey, Mostoway;
City Commissioner Irwin;
Director of Planning and Development Pontikes;
Director of Works and Utilities Gustafson;
Director of Finance Richards;
City Solicitor Dust;
Director of Personnel Services;
City Clerk Mann;
City Councillors' Assistant Kanak

Mr. Maurice Blondeau, Executive Director, Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board and the staff of the Friendship Centre.

To open the meeting, a prayer was given by Maria Linklater, Elder.

His Worship Mayor Dayday advised that at an earlier meeting of City Council to discuss the Strategic Plan, several presentations were made which dealt with Aboriginal issues. In dealing with the Strategic Plan, it was felt that Council should devote one evening to further pursue concerns that had been expressed. His Worship the Mayor introduced the Council members to those present. His Worship Mayor Dayday gave a brief overview of the Strategic Plan and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to listen to concerns in order to develop a better understanding of Aboriginal issues.

Council heard submissions from the following people:

- 1) Senator Ernest Mike and Mr. George Lafond, Board Member
Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Senator Ernest Mike reviewed the contents of his brief, noting that the Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a major international and provincial site and is recognized as a major spiritual centre for Aboriginal people. He noted the importance of having the freedom to express spirituality and that Wanuskewin gives this opportunity. Senator Mike indicated that staff at Wanuskewin are becoming involved with the correctional centre in partnership with the Joe Duquette School.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 2**

Senator Mike noted that many Aboriginal people are employed at Wanuskewin and indicated that they are willing to work with the City in further Aboriginal employment. They are developing an extensive cross-cultural training program in conjunction with the University, which will be made available to City employees.

Senator Mike advised that Wanuskewin will be featured in a number of high-profile articles over the next year. He turned his presentation over to Mr. George Lafond, Board Member.

Mr. Lafond reiterated the importance of Wanuskewin to the Aboriginal people, indicating that the Park was chosen as the site for the signing of treaty land entitlements between the Federal and Provincial Governments and the First Nations of Saskatchewan and the Provincial Policing Agreements.

Mr. Lafond advised that Wanuskewin is involved with the Saskatoon Powwow Committee, participated in the Saskatoon Family Week, and will be involved with the cultural celebration on September 22. He expressed the belief that Wanuskewin Heritage Park seems to be going in the right direction for positive growth and will dovetail in the many themes and ideas of Saskatoon. Wanuskewin is becoming a place to go or a place to visit when you come to Saskatoon.

- 2) Mr. Lyle Bear, National President and
 Ms. Grace Stevenson, Education Committee Chair
 Interprovincial Association on Native Employment Inc.

Mr. Lyle Bear reviewed the contents of his brief and introduced representatives from the Association present at the meeting. He noted that the organization has a broad-based membership within the private sector, the public sector, Federal, Provincial and municipal governments, industries, Native organizations and unions working together to promote Native employment.

Mr. Bear outlined the objectives of the organization and indicated that in addressing the core strategies on economic development, the main emphasis must be placed on training and employment of Aboriginal people. He announced that on September 30 and October 1, with help from Council, the organization is able to open the First Inaugural Career and Education Symposium to be held in Saskatoon. He introduced Ms. Grace Stevenson, an employee from Revenue Canada, who is the Education Committee Chair of the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 3

Ms. Stevenson indicated that the Saskatoon District Office of Revenue Canada is a strong supporter of the Saskatoon Chapter of the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment. She advised that the urban Aboriginal people are the fastest growing population in the City and have to take full participation in the economic and employment cycles of this City. In order to provide for the exchange of information of what is required to be gainfully employed with respect to education requirements and the training or retraining necessary, the organization is planning a Career and Education Symposium to be held at the Cosmo Civic Centre on September 30 and October 1 which will feature 80 career booths. Ms. Stevenson asked Council to support the Symposium and indicated that the organization wants it to be an annual event.

3) Mr. Robert Doucette, Chair
Metis Local 126

Mr. Robert Doucette introduced the members of Metis Local 126 present at the meeting, and indicated that Metis Local 126 is a collective of Metis people concerned about what is going on and has grown from 9 to 400 members in one year. He anticipates that membership will reach 1,000 by year-end. Mr. Doucette advised that Metis Local 126 was formed to ensure that all are equal members in Saskatoon. He noted that the history of the Metis people has been one of missed opportunities, poverty, and inequitable position that fosters the wheels of racism as the general society does not know what the Metis nation is nor what it feels like to be a Metis. Mr. Doucette highlighted the results of a recent survey regarding income and education levels and noted the obstacles that Metis people face when trying to obtain employment.

Mr. Doucette extended an invitation to work together with City Hall to solve the problems together as equals and offered the following suggestions:

- The City charter must be opened up to include a statement that the City of Saskatoon recognizes and affirms that Indian and Metis people have an inherent right to self-government and land and that the Indian and Metis people have played a major role in building this City.
- Representation on all Committees must be guaranteed.
- All resources must be shared, not just those specifically designated for Indian and Metis people.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 4**

- A massive campaign must be undertaken to educate the non-Metis society about who the Metis and Indian people are using existing resources, since there are people willing to help.
- Employment equity must be a priority in all sectors of the society including white-collar jobs and upper management positions.
- Metis Local 126 or other Aboriginal groups must be consulted when policy changes are made to the work force or to the labour force that the City hires or employs or any area that could have a negative impact on the Metis community. There must be consistency in qualifications for a job throughout all departments.
- Alternate strategies must be developed regarding Aboriginal development in Saskatoon. When the City looks for partners, consult the Aboriginal people.
- An economic and social policy must be formulated, in consultation with the Indian and Metis people, to deal with the problems of poverty that are faced everyday.
- Money for upgrading neighbourhoods must be spent on those neighbourhoods that need the most improvements.
- The amount in the budget being spent on Metis and Indian people must be determined.
- The schools must be upgraded to include and show the diversity of the First Nations and the Metis Nation. It is not acceptable to continue teaching Aboriginal children that they are inferior. An evaluation of the public and separate school boards must commence.

In conclusion, Mr. Doucette indicated that the Aboriginal people are ready and willing to work together to make our city an equitable city where our children grow up side-by-side and expressed the belief that Saskatoon can set a role model for the rest of Canada.

- 4) Ms. Julia Ewing, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Chapter, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Ms. Julia Ewing reviewed the contents of her brief, noting that the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, in existence since 1984, is a national organization which brings Aboriginal and

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 5**

non-Aboriginal business people together for mutually-beneficial partnerships in the areas of business experience, education, training, networking and potential business opportunities. The Council is overseen by a National Board of Directors, including prominent members of the Aboriginal business community as well as leaders of Canada's private sector.

Ms. Ewing stated that the Aboriginal sector of Canada is moving at an accelerated pace to develop and secure economic footing and control over its own destiny. She noted that Saskatoon is recognizing the importance of Aboriginal participation in our economic future as indicated in the City's Strategic Plan and in the recent report by the Economic Development Authority of Saskatoon. She expressed the opinion that both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community recognize the important of working together and noted that the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business is creating practical and valuable programs and services to make this future a reality.

Ms. Ewing indicated that the organization's vision is a community that allows Aboriginal people access to jobs and opportunities that suit their talents, skills and education and eliminates the professional and vocational barriers that have prevented Aboriginal people from holding responsible and successful positions in our labour force and in our society at large.

The goals of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business are as follows:

- to work cooperatively with corporations and public sector organizations to identify openings which can be filled by qualified Aboriginal professionals, University graduates and skilled workers;
- to develop business education opportunities which will enable Aboriginal people to further prepare themselves for successful positions in the workforce of today and tomorrow; and
- to achieve these ends through our own business income.

Through extensive experience in workforce participation, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business has matched Aboriginal interns to private sectors employers since 1986 and this will be continued for the future. The organization is looking towards offering a fee-for-service nationwide search, applicant screening and reference checking service for employers.

Ms. Ewing indicated that she is looking forward to working with the City in the future.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 6

5) Mr. Cal Albright
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Mr. Cal Albright indicated that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is actively promoting urban development and infrastructure for Aboriginal people. It is the position of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations that urban development must be in the context of protecting treaty rights.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations wants to become proactively involved with Council on issues described in the Strategic Plan and wants to be a partnership involved in the planning, implementation and operation of services provided to Aboriginal people in Saskatoon.

Mr. Albright highlighted the following points regarding the position of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations:

- It is imperative to have representation on all Boards, Commissions and Committees, such as the Board of Police Commissioners, Saskatoon Exhibition Board and Saskatchewan Place Board of Directors, which have a direct impact on the standard of living for Indian people living in Saskatoon.
- Employment strategies must be developed, keeping in mind that a large portion of the future labour force will be comprised of Aboriginal people.
- Recreational strategies must be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community with the possibility of money being granted to the Aboriginal people to develop recreational opportunities important to the Aboriginal people.
- An educational plan must be developed to inform the Aboriginal community on how to better access medical services.

In conclusion, Mr. Albright stated that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and other Aboriginal groups want to sit down with City Council and begin working as partners to actively find solutions to problems in the City.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 7**

6) Ms. Kula Ellison and Ms. Helen Quewezance
Aboriginal Women's Local of Saskatoon

Ms. Kula Ellison indicated that her main focus as an Aboriginal woman is to have the City have responsibility for hiring police officers rather than the Police Commission. She expressed concern regarding discrimination that is felt by Aboriginal women. Ms. Ellison turned the presentation over to Ms. Helen Quewezance.

Ms. Quewezance reviewed her brief, noting that the Aboriginal Women's Local of Saskatoon wants to eliminate racism by the year 2000. Aboriginal women want to see equal representation of Aboriginal women and men as Mayors, City Council Members and Members of Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Ms. Quewezance indicated the importance of Aboriginal women in all aspects of society and noted that Aboriginal women must be given the same importance as Aboriginal men. She stated that cross-cultural awareness takes a lifetime to learn and Aboriginal women must be involved in this process as they are the teachers of their children.

She expressed the desire to work together to solve the problems and to ensure that the same benefits and opportunities to succeed are experienced by all people. The Aboriginal Women's Local of Saskatoon wants to change the system that does not work for Aboriginal people and have input into institutions such as: education, cultural, social, political and economics.

Ms. Quewezance indicated that Native history must be taught in schools, to include topics such as:

- life before the white man
- archeological history of the Indians
- treaties and their meaning
- languages of the Seaulteaux, Dene, Dokota, Assiniboine, with a choice about which to learn.

She stated that the Social Services and the School Boards should have affirmative action programs.

Ms. Quewezance indicated that there needs to be more job creation programs for women and more daycare programs for the children. Job creation programs should also be developed for young offenders instead of sending them to jail.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 8**

In closing, Ms. Quewezance indicated that the Aboriginal Women's Local of Saskatoon will be approaching institutions and will be taking their lives back. At the moment they are healing themselves and ask everyone to heal along with them.

7) Ms. Leona Tootoosis, Elder

Ms. Leona Tootoosis, Elder, stated that the core of all occurrences, problems, achievements, glories, sadness and grief is in the family. She indicated that the children are her main concern, noting that the Aboriginal people have been shamed because of their heritage and culture and the family has always suffered. When children have shame-based parents, they identify with them and internalize the shame. Aboriginal children are being more open and are becoming more verbal. They do not take what is being taught in schools about them. As a result, they drop out of school and don't achieve what their parents and grandparents wanted them to achieve. The problems that result are children on the streets and teenage parents. Ms. Quewezance expressed the need for funding and for the provision of daycare centres for teenage parents and university students. She stated that a lot of work needs to be done, working together with schools and the Police, to solve the problems now.

8) Melanie Jackson
United Aboriginal Youth Council

Melanie Jackson introduced members of the United Aboriginal Youth Council and gave background information on the formation of the United Aboriginal Youth Council. She stated that 60% of the Aboriginal people in Canada are under 25 and that by the year 2000, 50% of Saskatchewan's population will be Aboriginal people.

The United Aboriginal Youth Council has and will continue to provide ideal working relationships with other Aboriginal organizations, as well as Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments. Ms. Jackson stated that Aboriginal youth are our future and our present leaders. The future vision of the United Aboriginal Youth Council is that Aboriginal youth can and will make a difference for all Aboriginal people.

The United Aboriginal Youth Council has gone through the Strategic Plan and make the following comments:

- With respect to the decision making processes, involve Aboriginal youth.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 9**

- With respect to the strengthened "quilt of neighbourhoods", how many of the patches are Aboriginal?
- With respect to "quality of life", many Aboriginal people live below the poverty line and would benefit by what is being said under "quality of life".
- With respect to "mutually-beneficial partnerships", if the City would allow the youth to be involved in the Strategic Planning, it would give them a sense of hope by letting them know that their views are really important and that they do have a stake in their future.

Ms. Jackson indicated that one of the main purposes of being at the meeting was to introduce a covenant to everyone involved in the Strategic Plan to cooperate in all of its endeavours. One of the mandates of the United Aboriginal Youth Council is to work with other organizations for a better future for the youth and to overcome the barriers that exist today between the Aboriginal organizations as well as City Council, the Board of Administration and Department Heads. She asked everyone present to sign the covenant so that the youth can see there is hope and that we can work together for a better future.

9) Loretta Morin, President
Pleasant Hill Community Association

Ms. Loretta Morin highlighted the accomplishments of the Pleasant Hill Community Association. She stated that the Association consists of five members, all Aboriginal, the first to ever sit as a complete Community Association in the City of Saskatoon. She indicated that the Association works closely with the Leisure Services Department and thanked Council for the City's support in their endeavours over the past year.

Ms. Morin stated that the Pleasant Hill Community Association has dealt with many concerns and issues over the past year and will continue to deal with them in an effective way. She indicated that the Association does not deal only with sports and recreation but also with every single issue that the community brings to them.

Beginning last year, the new Executive met and talked about who they were and what the community was and then met with different Council members and different organizations in this City. The following are concerns that were brought to the Association:

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 10**

- The Aboriginal families are strapped financially and suffer the consequences of low income.
- Revenues and resources available for Aboriginal people on reserves cannot be taken with them to the City. To change this it is the responsibility of not only our Federal and Provincial Governments but also of the Aboriginal leaders. The Aboriginal leaders need to stand up and be strong for the families that try to make a life in the City for their children.
- Transiency is one of the most difficult problems that is faced in the City. There is a dramatic drop in attendance at all of the schools in the inner city because there are no jobs and no way to get into the universities and colleges. When the families move and enrollment drops, the school boards cut back some of the resources that are already in the schools and the students that are left behind suffer the consequences of lower funding in schools.
- Housing for private business ventures is needed. The Aboriginal people want to learn how to raise community bonds and how to raise financial support to buy businesses and how to maintain and sustain businesses until they can be economically viable. They want to own a store in their community to sell arts and crafts. They want to own an art gallery to display the work of the many talented Aboriginal people, especially for the children, who know how to draw and how to make crafts. They would also like to own a clothing store, using their talents in fashion modelling and the making of clothing.
- Educational programming is needed to understand the cause and effect of nuclear energy in the community. The safety of our children must be considered and the Aboriginal people will stand up and have a say as to what happens to the nuclear energy in the City of Saskatoon.
- A community centre is needed for all Aboriginal organizations in one building.
- Ownership of a safe house is needed in this area for the youth at risk. A major concern of the Aboriginal people are the youth at risk, ranging from 5 to 18 years old, who are being forced into prostitution, crime and violence.
- Racism must not exist in the City Police.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 11

- Poverty is an issue and will stay an issue until it is dealt with completely and programs such as the summer snack program, the CHEP program, the lunch program in our schools are not needed.
- A recreational centre for Aboriginal people is needed in the City for such things as powwow dancing, singing, costume making and sports and recreation which can help develop their children. The inner city areas need better recreational programs. The children must have the same access as other children to rinks, hockey leagues, soccer teams, baseball teams and equipment.
- Education is a major concern and must be examined at the elementary and high school levels. Aboriginal languages must be available; the curriculum must include the history and the culture of the Aboriginal people; more physical education must be implemented; more guidance counsellors are needed; and more Aboriginal teachers must be hired. The possibility of a Cree Immersion School in Saskatoon needs to be looked at.

10) Mr. Sid Fiddler, Dean
Saskatchewan Indian Federated College

Mr. Sid Fiddler, Dean of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, reviewed his brief, noting that the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College is the only Indian-controlled university college in Canada and is academically affiliated with the University of Regina. The enrollments in the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College are up from 6 students in 1976 to a current enrollment of 1200 students. The Saskatoon Campus has been in existence for approximately 20 years, has 370 students enrolled and expect that by the year 2000 there will be approximately 1,000 students enrolled. Currently offered in Saskatoon are a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Indian Social Work. The College is working to expand the programs to include Administration, Justice and Health Sciences. Over 300 students have graduated from the Saskatoon Campus over the last 20 years.

Mr. Fiddler expressed the hope that the issues and concerns raised are not just listened to but implemented into action. He stated that in terms of helping with the cultural needs of the Aboriginal people, the City of Saskatoon could provide financial assistance for the annual powwow held by the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College also requests the provision of City of Saskatoon land for ceremonial purposes to facilitate cultural and spiritual development for Aboriginal people.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 12**

Mr. Fiddler noted that to facilitate development in post-secondary education, there is a need for affordable student housing to help students succeed in academic endeavours. He also indicated that the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College is looking at ways to have their own property and their own land within the City that can be used for educational purposes. Mr. Fiddler noted that the College has approached several bands that have treaty land entitlements to invest and provide support and the capital funds necessary to purchase land and property for use by the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. The City of Saskatoon has to take the initiative in terms of the process of transferring land ownership to turn it into reserve land status.

The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College supports recommendations for employment equity in the City's programs and services and believes that this should include cross-cultural training programs for all city employees especially focused on racism.

In conclusion, Mr. Fiddler noted that Aboriginal people are starting to exercise their rights as significant stakeholders in the City. They have a lot to contribute to the overall quality of life and economic viability and want to share the benefits of living in the City.

City Council received as information a copy of a letter dated September 15, 1993, from Gwen Gordon-Pringle, Director of Health Promotion, Saskatoon Community Clinic, submitting information regarding a community clinic project with older Native women in Saskatoon.

The following further presentations were heard by Council:

- 11) Konota Crane, Executive Director
First Nations Child Development Centre

Ms. Konota Crane expressed the opinion that daycare is an area that must be looked at as a prime concern and an area that must be given support. She noted that at the First Nations Child Development Centre the Aboriginal children come from many areas and have many different backgrounds. With the assistance and support of Elders, the Centre is developing ways of healing, including addressing the importance of spirituality.

Ms. Crane stressed the importance of daycare for those wanting to get an education.

Ms. Crane suggested that the City employ an Elder to address the concerns of Aboriginal people working with the City and to bring ideas and concerns to Council from the Aboriginal community.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 13**

12) Wilf Blondeau

Mr. Wilf Blondeau noted that it has been 16 years since Aboriginal issues were raised in the Community Liaison Committee and now it is time to begin to act. The only way that anything will change within this City is if all levels of government become involved. He stressed the importance of sharing information and working together to find solutions.

13) Frank Munroe

Mr. Frank Munroe stated that he would like to see two Aboriginal people on Council by the year 2000.

14) Colin Rope

Mr. Colin Rope indicated that the myth that Aboriginal people do not pay taxes needs to be addressed. He stated that Aboriginal people pay a great deal of taxes in Saskatoon and bring a lot of money into the City. Aboriginal people contribute in a big way to the industry in this City and as a result should have adequate representation on City Council and on Boards and Committees.

Mr. Rope stressed the importance of working in partnership to deal with all of the issues.

15) Mr. David Fineday

Mr. David Fineday stated that it is important to get together to listen to all of the concerns and expressed the need for more Aboriginal people to become involved as Councillors, on Boards and Committees of Council, on school associations and in the community.

Mr. Fineday indicated that his main concern is for the children in areas such as Riversdale and that there is a real need to develop programs for them.

Mr. Fineday expressed the hope that there would be more meetings like this, closer to the people in the community.

16) Ms. Julie Durocher

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 14**

Ms. Julie Durocher gave highlights of a program of healing for First Nations youth, 16 and 17 year-olds, who have been in conflict with the law, out of the Joe Duquette School. The program consists of three components:

- The work skills program in which a couple of youth have just successfully completed carpentry and masonry. There is a need to have more work skills and this program could include a partnership with environmental groups within the City. There is a willingness to do work for the City as part of the work experience requirements for the program.
- The life skills component includes teaching the youth about goal setting, communication, self-esteem, family violence, anger management and parenting. If the youth need to learn something, it is worked into the program.
- The cultural and spirituality component is another component which has been very successful. For some of these youth it is the very first time that they have ever learned anything about their culture or about their spirituality.

Ms. Durocher indicated that the program has been in existence since March of this year and hopefully will continue. She expressed the concern that they are doing good during the day when the youth are in the program but what is happening in the evenings and on the weekends and stated that there needs to be a lot more resources out there for the youth.

Ms. Durocher invited everyone to an open house at the Joe Duquette High School on Friday, September 24 at 10:00 a.m. and indicated she would explain more about what is being done in the program.

17) Mr. Dwayne Noon

Mr. Dwayne Noon, a student at the Computer College at the University of Saskatchewan Campus, expressed concern that the provincial government does not provide a living allowance for students that are from reserves to come to the City to take training or education. He indicated that the only way he can be employed, beyond the menial jobs, is to upgrade his education.

His Worship the Mayor advised Mr. Noon to approach his MLA and MP to seek answers to his questions.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 15**

18) Mr. Arnold Noon

Mr. Arnold Noon questioned whether there would be effective representation of Aboriginal people on this City's police force, and not just "tokenism".

His Worship the Mayor stated that the Saskatoon Police Service is very much interested in hiring Aboriginal people to work in the force and not as tokenism. There is a requirement to meet certain criteria to be hired - a written test must be passed; you have to pass the physical and you have to pass the interviews. In the last two years 12 new police officers have been hired and of those 12, three are Aboriginal people who qualified. We are working wherever possible to encourage as many people with Aboriginal backgrounds to apply who can qualify to become police officers for the future.

19) Mr. Alphonse Janvier

Mr. Alphonse Janvier, from the Justice and Social Department of the Metis Government of Saskatchewan, highlighted problems faced by the Aboriginal people, such as economic barriers, lack of economic participation on behalf of the Aboriginal community, systemic and community racism, high escalation of crime in urban centres, high dropout rates from schools and high social problems with alcohol, housing and poverty. He indicated that there are serious problems but unfortunately only some of us wish to admit there are problems.

Mr. Janvier advised that the Metis people are willing to assist in any way possible. They are prepared to sit down with any member of Council or any Committee established by the City of Saskatoon to address the problems.

20) Ms. Clare McNabb

Ms. Clare McNabb, one of the few Aboriginal nurses in Saskatoon, indicated that the health of Aboriginal people in Saskatoon is a serious concern to all of us. She expressed the importance of working together to help people become active functioning members in this community and stated that many of the issues raised such as poverty, addictions, family violence, chronic health problems, adequate housing all relate to health care. Some of the health needs can be met by collaborating with other people, with the Saskatoon Health Board, and with some of the housing groups in the City.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1993
PAGE 16**

Ms. McNabb indicated that she is an advisory board member for the Native women's project in Saskatoon which is looking at the needs of older Native women.

Ms. McNabb recommended that for the next meeting, the session begin with small group discussions, where everyone will have a chance to talk, and then report back to the larger group. She expressed the opinion that people will find it easier to share ideas and concerns in small groups.

21) Donna Renneberg

Ms. Donna Renneberg, speaking on behalf of the Saskatoon Treaty and First Nations Assembly, a group of concerned off-reserve treaty people, indicated that the Assembly's main objective is to advance the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal people in the City of Saskatoon.

She noted that the Assembly has acquired a grant from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People to do a research project which will help identify some of the needs and solutions in regard to off-reserve development. Ms. Renneberg indicated that information from the project will be available at the end of the September with many recommendations on the Aboriginal issues. She stressed the importance of looking at solutions to the problems and the need to do healing before we start talking about economic development, etc. One of the primary objectives as a group of concerned individuals is to help Aboriginal people on the road to healing.

His Worship the Mayor thanked the groups for the presentations identifying many of the issues and suggesting ways to look at working together in the future. The goal and purpose of this meeting was to listen to the concerns of and strengthen the relationship with Aboriginal people. The next step is to use these discussions as the basis for future action plans. He noted that communication came up as an important issue and sometimes the City has not communicated what it is trying to do in terms of bettering the inner cities and in providing better programming, better services and better accessibility. His Worship Mayor Dayday expressed his pleasure at hearing a number of the speakers say that if we are going to develop a relationship, it has to be done as a partnership. He stressed the importance of working in a proactive way towards a partnership that develops a better quality of life for everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor