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A MicMac welcome

Oeltsisigen ojiiole nizigemoit pemalogstineo gisgot taan tell gisnasimosalineo ag ensimasilinoe ag olisstettenene eloow-gogti ag mgmoael ootapegismootei. (It is our hope that the Great Spirit will lead you to learn, understand, and appreciate the values, traditions, culture, and language of the MicMac people.) "He did," says Hélène Chevalier, regional director, Atlantic region.

Chief Roger J. Augustine spoke the MicMac words of welcome at the aboriginal cultural awareness workshop sponsored recently by the region. The workshop was held on the Eel Ground reserve near Newcastle, New Brunswick.

Thanks to the invaluable help of Superintendent Al Rivard of the RCMP and Councillor Eugene W. Paties of the reserve, who organized the event, the day was a resounding success.

A special feature of the workshop was that the participants represented not only various sectors of the criminal justice system, the judiciary, the Crown, New Brunswick adult and youth corrections, the CSC, RCMP, and NPB, but also the military police and the provincial fisheries and game department.

Mildred Milliea, one of the resource persons from the Big Cove Reserve, explained the MicMac alphabet and language. "We were fascinated and discovered that the language sounds much simpler than it looks. Indeed, it was possible to understand it quite well once it was explained to us," says Anne-Marie Kowalchuk, information officer.

Comings... and goings

Quebec region: Anne-Marie Asselin has been reappointed as a full-time Board member for a period of five years, effective December 11, 1992.

Part-time Board members Jean Dugré and Gérard Gagné have been appointed as full-time Board members for a period of 10 years, effective January 4, 1993.

Louis Renault has been appointed as a part-time Board member for a period of three years, effective December 22, 1992. Renault has many years of experience in commercial and family law and now has a private law practice in Montreal.

The appointments as part-time Board members of Louise Dionne, Blair Touchie, and Pierre Cadieux are for a period of three years, effective January 4, 1993.

Dionne is trilingual — French, English, and Spanish — and has a working knowledge of Italian. She has worked in public relations and as a community volunteer and fund-raiser in Sept-Îles, Quebec.

Touchie, of East Aldfield, Quebec, has varied experience in banking, insurance, and finance. He owned and operated a restaurant, cafeteria, and catering business in Baie Comeau, Quebec, for more than 20 years.

Cadieux lives in Rigaud, Quebec, and practices law in Vaudreuil. He is a member of many organizations in these two towns and was formerly town counsellor of Rigaud.

Ontario region: New full-time Board members Michael Eagan and Linda Lennon have been appointed for a period of five years, effective January 4, 1993.

Eagan, a Toronto lawyer, is chair of the fundraising committee of Operation Springboard, a non-profit organization providing services and programs that encourage law-abiding behaviour. He also received an award from the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services for 15 years of service as a volunteer probation officer.

Lennon is a councillor of the City of Guelph as well as owner of Lennon Construction Ltd. She served as a volunteer counsellor for Women in Crisis and as president of Guelph Services for the Physically Disabled.

Atlantic region

Streamlining operations

Because of their tremendous workload, staff members in the Atlantic region have changed the way various tasks are accomplished.

They began with brainstorming sessions in each unit and came up with 40 recommendations to streamline their work. Then everyone in the office got together to find out how each unit's ideas would affect other workers if they were implemented.

After a few hours of discussion and a good deal of compromise, the staff agreed to implement about 60% of the recommendations immediately, to study some further, and to put others on hold for a few months.

"After only two weeks," says Anne-Marie Kowalchuk, "we agreed that the new way of operating has made our jobs more interesting and more efficient. We would like to repeat this exercise every six months or so to see if we can make further changes."

Sharing at Christmas

Atlantic region

The Atlantic region's Christmas charity fund reached $1550, which was divided among the 10 benevolent organizations chosen by the staff. The amount of money each organization received was determined by the number of votes it received. Crossroads for Women, a shelter for abused women and children, topped the list.

Quebec region

The social committee of employees in the Quebec region collected Christmas gifts for underprivileged children. "In two weeks," says Diane Bélisle, information officer, "we turned the office of the senior case review officer into a real toy shop."

On December 24, children and grandchildren of Board members and employees placed these gifts around a Christmas tree. Then, to their great joy, Santa Claus visited the regional office.