



*Securing Our Rights
for Future Generations*

***SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION
A YEAR IN REVIEW
April 1st 2013 – March 31st 2014***



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF VINCE TACAN

Last June 2013 we distributed a Community Report, and this coming June 2014, we plan to put out another Community Report. Just when we thought last year 2012-2013 was busy, this past



year 2013-2014 was even busier, so we decided to also provide a "Year in Review Report". Again, there are a lot of things I would like to say and people I would like to acknowledge, which made this another successful year, but I would like to keep my message short.

The achievements of Sioux Valley this past year were a team effort of many staff members and non-members who worked hard to put us on the map. Those people who work with Chief and Council every day take our community seriously and take responsibility for working to make Sioux Valley a better place to live, a better place to work, and a home we can all be proud of. The information and pictures in this Review not only show the team effort by my Council and Sioux Valley employees, but because of this effort, many goals have been achieved. We continue to focus on community priorities such as health, healing, the empowerment of women, our education programming, our economic development projects, and organizing our government. Just like last year, I know Sioux Valley is becoming a better place to live because not one person has come forward to transfer out, but more than one person has approached me to transfer in.

I know there are still some people making negative comments and statements about our community and its progress, but in reality, Sioux Valley has moved ahead and is becoming to be recognized as a leading First Nation, and the first in Canada to achieve both a Bi-lateral Governance Agreement with Canada, and an accompanying Governance Agreement with the Province of Manitoba. I came across an article in the Brandon Sun the other day about a book called, "13 Ways to Kill Your Community," designed to help communities become stronger by identifying those negative attitudes of a few people who like to sink their community, and who take no responsibility for sinking it. I'd like to post this article on our new Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Governance website located at www.svdngovernance.com and ask everyone to read it and identify those who reflect these attitudes so that we can be aware of them, address them, and make positive change.

In closing, my message is clear that we'll get further ahead by working together and getting along. We need to keep positive attitudes, and keep contributing all the time . . . not just some of the time. Enjoy this Year in Review! Wopida.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM MANAGERS MEETINGS

In order to create a better working atmosphere for all Program Managers to work together as a single government united by the People and their Constitution, rather than in isolation of each other, the Sioux Valley Program Managers met on a regular basis throughout the spring and summer of 2013 with a focus on developing a Human Resource Policy and standardized practices which will include a standard Drug and Alcohol Policy across all government departments. The work continues to make Sioux Valley Dakota Nation ready for its self-governance.

PROPOSAL WRITING SEMINARS

Chief, Council, and governance staff retained the services of an experienced First Nations governance consultant, Irma Murdock, to conduct a seminar on proposal writing. This seminar was designed to further the capacity development of the governance office staff and included implementation of outline development, standardized proposal-driven formats, compliance with specified criteria, development of reasonable budgets, and avoidance of pitfalls.

The tools and skills learned in the seminar assisted in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation applying successfully for contribution funding for projects throughout the year.

2003 ELECTION CODE REVIEW AND NEW ELECTION ACT DEVELOPMENT

On June 4, 2013, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief and Council appointed an Election Act Committee to review the 2003 Election Code with a mandate to review and provide a new and improved Election Code which could eventually form the basis of an Election Law following the Effective Day of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation having its own recognized government, or after July 1, 2014.

The Election Act Committee included Harold Blacksmith, Misty-Rose Wasteste, Michelle Rosmus, Miles Whitecloud, Jody Bone, and Sheila McKay who worked throughout the summer and fall of 2013 and presented a draft Election Act to Chief and Council in early December 2013. While the draft Election Act was not able to be implemented in time before the next election in the spring of 2014, this recommended Act will be presented to community members through a series of information meetings in the spring and summer of 2014, and form the basis of improved change in the way Sioux Valley elections are held.

This was the first time that a committee process was formalized and much was learned which will be implemented in the future with other governance committees which will be organized in a standardized process with specific mandates, schedules, and financial support.

HEALTH EVALUATION PROMISES PROGRESS

Chief and Council also appointed a committee of 3 experienced members to evaluate the operations of the current Sioux Valley Health Department and to suggest any improvements for the future. The panel involved Margaret Roscelli, Wendy Whitecloud, and Eleanor Ironman who spent several months meeting with staff and citizens of Sioux Valley to develop a strategy for improving health services as Sioux Valley becomes a recognized government following July 1, 2014. The report which was presented to Chief and Council and which integrates the renovations to the Health Clinic promises to result in the implementation of improved delivery of health services to the citizens of Sioux Valley in the future.

SIoux VALLEY PLANS FOR HEALTH FOOD POD PRODUCTION AND CONNECTS WITH PENTICTON BAND

With further objectives of improving the health and wellness of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation members, on March 6, 2014, representatives from the Health Clinic including Director, Margaret Roscelli and Councillor Eleanor Elk and governance staff Carol Johnson and Donna Elk spent a day with representatives of the Penticton Indian Band in British Columbia who shared with them their best practices for food production. The Penticton Band, which is recognized as being one of the most successful in producing food for its members, was proud to share how they produced over 6 tons of fresh vegetables this past year for their members, and how they coordinate their efforts with their hunters to share in processing meat and preserving the food through an organized community refrigeration system.

With this information, and considering Sioux Valley's past history of success in food production and agriculture, plans are underway for developing community gardens in the spring of 2014 at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and adapting some of these best practices.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPING GOOD REGIONAL RELATIONS AND OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation has accepted an invitation to join a regional economic development committee for southwestern Manitoba involving representations from the Rural Municipalities of Sifton, Oak Lake, Whitehead and Virden.

The committee, which is the first of its kind, held an historic first meeting at Sioux Valley Dakota Nation on Thursday, January 16, 2014 to discuss a vision for the area which focused primarily upon the attraction of Dakota culture and history brought to the area by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Sioux Valley hosted this first supper meeting with local Sioux Valley caterers. The second meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2014 was to review the demographic information in southwestern Manitoba provided by representatives of the Province of Manitoba through its



rural economic development program, and was hosted by the RMs and held at Oak Lake.

The regional committee plans to continue meeting monthly and collaborate on implementing levels of both regional economic activity and local economic development.

On June 11, 2013, Chief Tacan, Council and representatives from the Sioux Valley economic development committee made a presentation to the Rural Municipality of Sifton outlining Sioux Valley's intention to develop the recently-purchased commercial property at the corner of the TransCanada Highway No. 1 and the Eva McKay Highway No. 21. The presentation was well-received, and the RM of Sifton Council agreed to provide Sioux Valley with a letter indicating their support for the project which is attached to this Review.

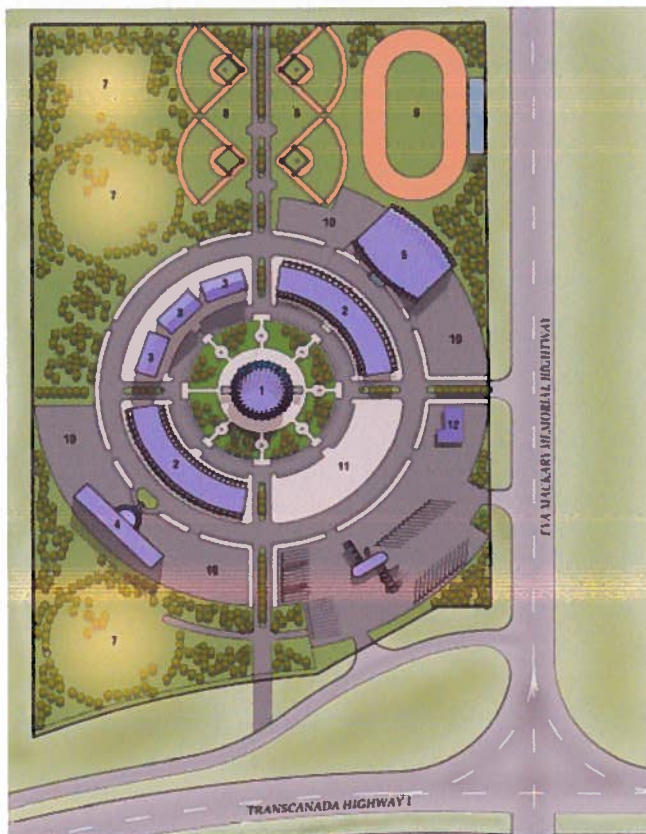
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE JUNCTION OF THE TRANSCANADA HIGHWAY NO. 1 AND EVA MCKAY HIGHWAY NO. 21

Sioux Valley has recently developed a series of business plans for the development of the site at TransCanada Highway No. 1 and Eva McKay Highway No. 21. In addition, on September 19, 2013, Sioux Valley entered into a Letter of Intent with Suncor Energy, the business arm of Petro-Canada, to develop a Petro-Canada gas station and convenience store with the eventual development of a truck stop and gas bar. Also planned for the site are a Gaming Centre, Hotel,

Convention Center, commercial premises, and campgrounds to provide services for the travelling public. Services to the community include plans for a Multiuse Recreational Facility, Arena for winter and summer sports, as well as outdoor facilities, including an Equestrian Center for teaching traditional Dakota riding and horsemanship, Horse Race Track, Rodeo Grounds and Baseball Diamonds. Chief, Council, and the Economic Development Committee have recently met with the Accountant, Architects and Engineers and just received initial conceptual drawings to share with the community this exciting project which is due to begin development in the Spring and Summer of 2014 following community consultation.



Sioux Valley is also working towards developing plans for a Dakota Heritage Center Facility and eventually a Golf Course to be included as part of the overall development. Much work involving zoning applications, infrastructure planning for water, power, sewer and gas installation is progressing.



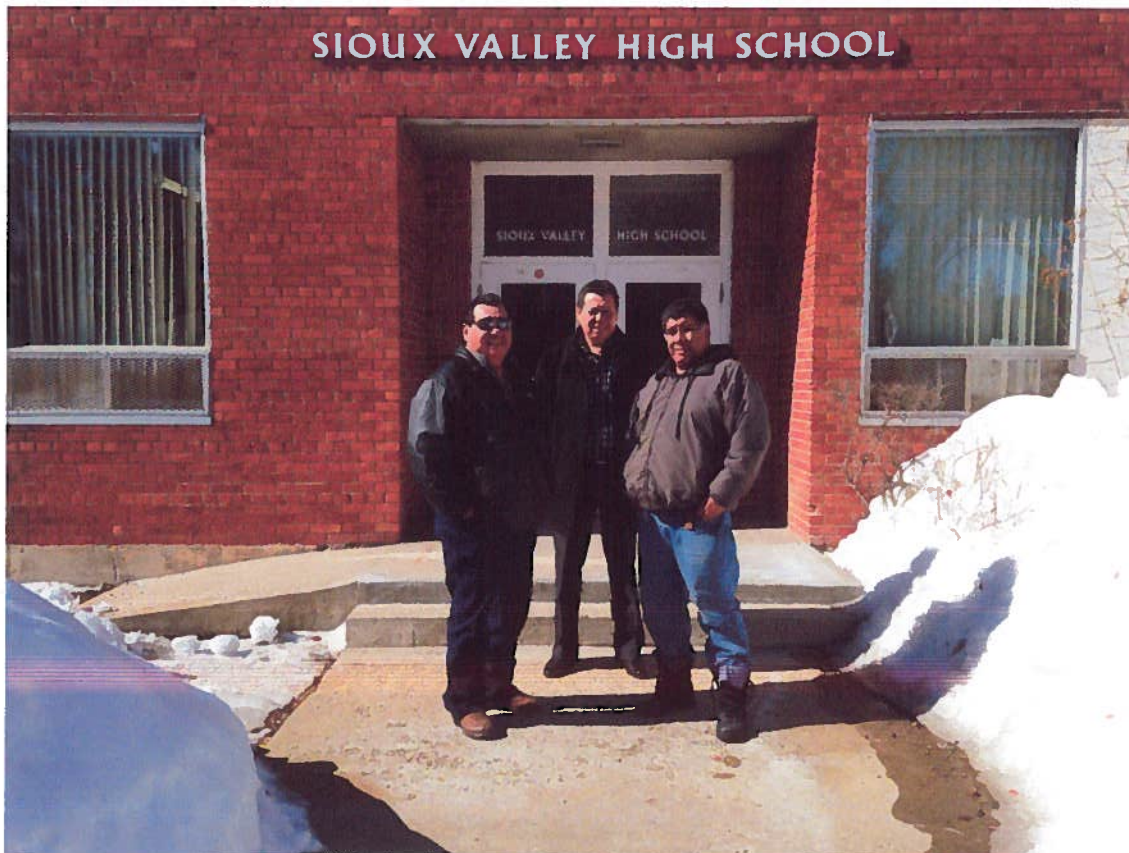
- 1 GAMING CENTER/
CONFERENCE CENTER
- 2 RETAIL & SHOPS
- 3 MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING
- 4 HOTEL
- 5 INDOOR ARENA/
MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER
- 6 GAS BAR/TRUCK STOP
- 7 CAMPGROUND
- 8 SPORT FIELDS
- 9 RACE TRACK POW WDW
- 10 PARKING
- 11 FUTURE DEVELOPEMNT
- 12 MEDICAL CENTER

WORKING WITH LOCAL BRANDON DEVELOPER AND SUNRISE CREDIT UNION

Chief Tacan met with Brandon developer Kirk Brugger and Sunrise Credit Union Manager Tayona Johnas to negotiate arrangements to lease an unused portion of the Sioux Valley High School grounds in Brandon as additional parking spots for the new Sunrise Credit Union being developed on private land adjacent to the High School (formerly Fleming School).



The lease will begin with rent of \$9,000.00 per year which will be dedicated to annual scholarships for Sioux Valley Dakota Nation students attending the High School.



GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE WEBSITE

In early April 2013, Sioux Valley contracted with 2 Web Design, a web design company, and with the assistance of Sioux Valley Internet Technician Gerald Thunderbird-Sky, undertook an extensive revision of the Governance Website. The objective of this website is to explore another means of communicating with the membership, particularly the youth who are becoming more and more familiar with social media.



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On January 17, 2014, www.svdngovernance.com went live on the internet!

The site is continually developing, and will be updated regularly to provide Sioux Valley members and the general public with information about Sioux Valley governance, programs, community news, events, messages from Chief and Council, fact sheets, posters, latest events, a photo gallery, and a specific site for Sioux Valley members only.

OFF-RESERVE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Sioux Valley Chief and Council are committed to continuing to provide information and reach out to the off-Reserve members of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation through initiatives such as the Brandon Sub-Office, the Sioux Valley Housing Authority Inc., and information meetings from time to time.

This past year, Open House information meetings were held in Brandon on July 30, 2013 and in Winnipeg on August 13, 2013 to maintain the connections to off-Reserve members, and to obtain ideas from them as to how Sioux Valley government can work towards improving the lives of its citizens following Effective Day of self-governance.

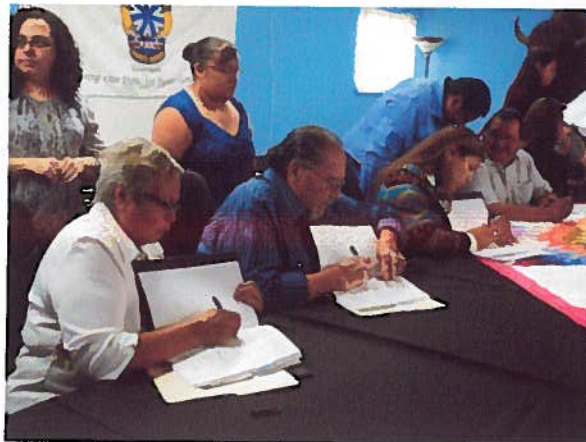
ALL-PARTY MAIN TABLE MEETINGS: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Throughout the year 2013-2014, Sioux Valley Chief, Council, Governance Office, Elder representatives and Tribal Attorney continued to meet on a regular basis with representatives of Canada and the Province of Manitoba to further the objectives and interests of Sioux Valley as a recognized government with Canada and Manitoba. These meetings involved a wide range of discussions and served to provide the foundation upon which future initiatives such as the negotiation of a settlement of Dakota issues may take place within a forum of respective relations.

SIGNING CEREMONY WITH MINISTER VALCOURT AND MINISTER ERIC ROBINSON

On August 30, 2013, following extensive planning by the Governance Office, Sioux Valley Public Works, and office of the Tribal Attorney. Sioux Valley was pleased to host Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Minister Bernard Valcourt, Provincial Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) Minister Eric Robinson and their respective staff and dignitaries, which included Acting Regional Director General (RDG) Nancy Kiernan, and the Sr. General Counsel of AANDC, Tom Saunders.

The day began with a pipe ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial, followed by an internal meeting between Minister Valcourt and Chief Tacan. Both Ministers, their representative staff, and many dignitaries attended at Sioux Valley to officially sign the Governance Agreements. The signing was followed by presentations and a gift exchange between Chief Tacan, Minister Valcourt of Canada, and Minister Robinson of Manitoba. The event was well covered by news media from across Canada and APTN following the signing ceremony. A catered meal followed the signing ceremonies and many of the dignitaries also participated in the grand entry of the Pow Wow at Sioux Valley that began at 7:00 p.m. that evening.





**VISIT OF DR. CAROLYN BENNETT, MP
LIBERAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

On Sunday, September 29, 2013, Sioux Valley hosted a visit from Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP who is the Liberal Party representative for Aboriginal Affairs. Dr. Bennett spent an afternoon with Chief, Council and Elders at Sioux Valley learning about Dakota culture and the Governance



Agreements. Dr. Bennett spoke in favour of the Governance initiative and said of her colleagues in the House of Commons that, "This is something we can all agree upon." Later in November, Dr. Bennett met again with Chief Tacan, Elders and Tribal Attorney in Ottawa.

**MEETING WITH JEAN CROWDER, MP
NDP OPPOSITION REPRESENTATIVE FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

On November 7, 2013, Chief Tacan and representatives of Sioux Valley ALSO met in Ottawa with the opposition NDP representative for Aboriginal Affairs Canada, Jean Crowder, and NDP MP Jonathan Genest-Jourdain, an Innu member from a Reserve in Northern Quebec. Ms.

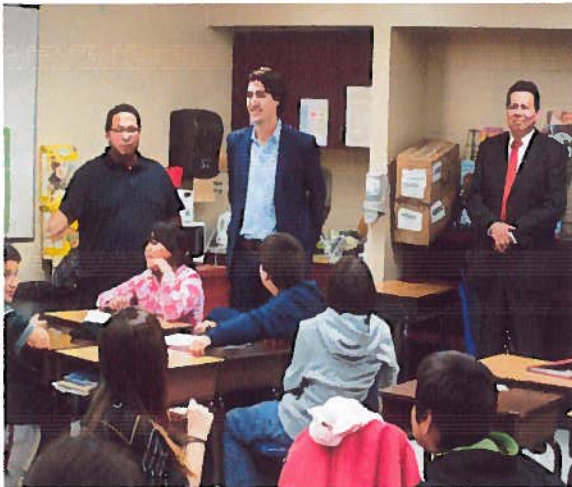


Crowder and Mr. Genest-Jourdain were interested in learning about the Sioux Valley Governance Agreements, and questioned Chief Tacan following a presentation which was made to request her support. Ms. Crowder expressed her interest in seeing Sioux Valley succeed with the passage of their Governance Acts.

VISIT OF JUSTIN TRUDEAU, LIBERAL PARTY LEADER

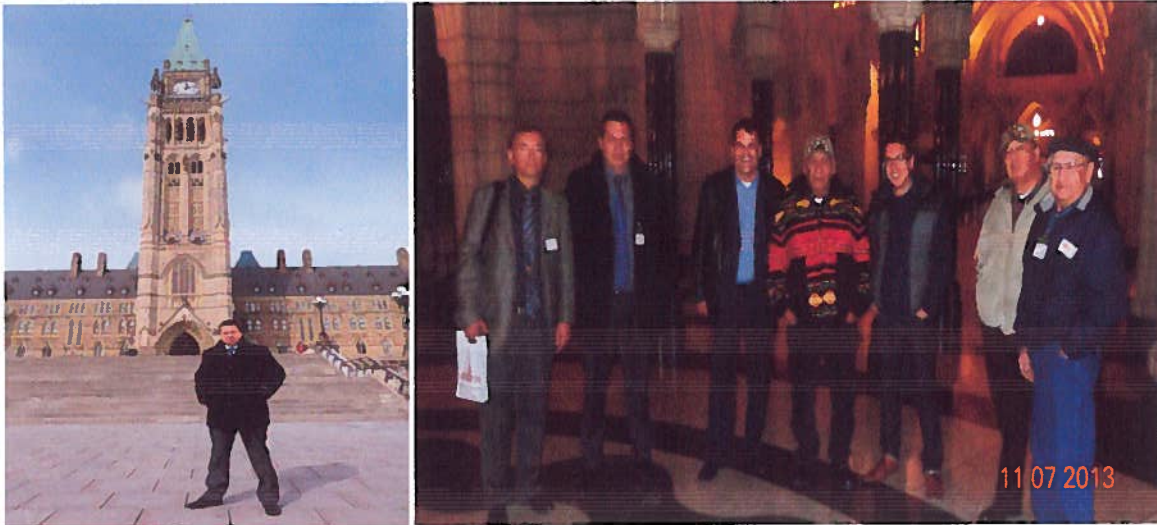
On November 13, 2013, Sioux Valley was pleased to host a visit by Liberal Party Leader, Justin Trudeau. Mr. Trudeau, a former school teacher, was very interested in visiting Sioux Valley Elementary School and enjoyed spending time with the students in every classroom.

Justin also spent time and enjoyed speaking with the Elders at Sioux Valley, and many nice photographs were taken of him with the students and Elders. A photograph of Justin with the Sioux Valley Elders was featured at the February 2014 Liberal Convention held in Montreal.



**CHIEF, COUNCIL AND ELDERS IN OTTAWA
TO PAVE THE WAY FOR SIOUX VALLEY BILL C-16**

In November 2013, Chief Tacan and representatives from Sioux Valley attended to meet with representatives of Canada and Manitoba including members of the opposition parties to explain the importance of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Governance Agreements. While in Ottawa, Chief Tacan and his Council met briefly with Westbank First Nation representatives who were also in Ottawa meeting with Canadian representatives.



SIOUX VALLEY OBTAINS ROYAL ASSENT TO BILL C-16

The Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Governance Act, Bill C-16, the first statute of 2014, described as *Sioux Valley Governance Act SC c.1-2014*, was given Royal Assent by the Governor General of Canada on March 4, 2014 after 3 readings in the House of Commons. The Act was passed unanimously by all party consent, and was the only law passed unanimously by the Canadian Parliament.



The Bill was then sponsored and introduced to the Senate by Senator Nancy Greene-Raine and was followed by 3 readings. After the second reading in the Senate, Bill C-16 was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples for further study. Chief Tacan and Sioux Valley's Tribal Attorney Bruce Slusar were invited to present and answer questions. This occurred on February 25 and 26, 2014 and can be viewed on the Senate website at www.parlvu.gc.ca.

Many of us will remember Senator Nancy Greene-Raine as the Olympic ski champion who achieved 17 Canadian women skiing championships, and 14 women's world titles. To date, her record has not been broken. She told Chief Tacan that she wants to visit Sioux Valley in the near future and would be happy to look over the hills of Sioux Valley to see which might be developed as a "half-pipe" for the youth.



As a result of the passage of Bill C-16, followed by passing a similar statute by the Province of Manitoba, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation will become self-governing on July 1, 2014.

This will provide Sioux Valley with the opportunity to remove itself from the constraints of the *Indian Act* by beginning to pass laws, and be a recognized government by Canada and Manitoba.

SHIUX VALLEY SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN DAKOTA RECONCILIATION CLAIM TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS

In July 2009 in the Federal Court of Canada, a comprehensive claim was launched by Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to address matters involving the mislabeling of the Dakota people as "refugees", and to seek an enduring reconciliation of the interests of the Dakota within the development of Canada. The purpose of a Memorandum of Understanding is to develop a framework or protocol within which a negotiation of a settlement agreement of this claim may take place. This process of meeting with Canada's representatives is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2014, and will result in many meetings and many presentations to educate Canada on the importance of Dakota culture, language, and the historical contribution of Dakota people to Canada.

ELDERS' GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS

Throughout the year, Sioux Valley Elders have met to obtain information about the status of governance, and to provide their guidance and advice to Chief and Council and other advisory

committees. Sioux Valley Elders are a valuable resource of Dakota history, language, culture, tradition and values which must be obtained, treasured and protected for future generations.

On December 13, 2013, a large group of Sioux Valley Elders gathered in Regina with Chief and Council and the governance office staff to share information and provide guidance and direction to Council which included Chief Tacan, Councillors Frank McKay, Ivan Ironman, Eleanor Elk, Jennifer Bone, and Anthony Tacan. A wide range of subjects were brought to the table and discussed.



Included in these meetings was a meeting with the Architect who is working with Engineers on designing buildings for the commercial development site at TransCanada Highway No. 1 and Highway No. 21. The purpose of this meeting was to review the Architect's initial sketches and concepts and to allow the Elders and Chief and Council the opportunity to ask questions and provide their comments and advice.



VISIT WITH DR. GERALD FARTHING, MANITOBA DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

On Monday, February 3, 2014, Sioux Valley Chief and Council hosted a meeting with Manitoba Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Gerald Farthing at the Brandon Sub-Office to discuss future



opportunities for working together with the Province of Manitoba to improve the educational experience of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation children, and in particular, creating a Sioux Valley Education Law which maintains and supports the Dakota curriculum which Sioux Valley controls over its local education system. Deputy Minister Farthing was impressed that the Sioux Valley Governance

Agreement provided sovereignty to Sioux Valley government over education and a Dakota curriculum. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation member Clayton Sandy who works in the Manitoba Minister's office was instrumental in arranging this meeting for Chief and Council.

GOVERNANCE PLANNING MEETINGS IN OTTAWA

In preparation for signing the Governance Agreements with Canada and the Province of Manitoba, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief and Council met with government representatives in Ottawa to negotiate matters relating to finances to ensure that appropriate levels of funding are maintained as Sioux Valley began to plan for the Signing Ceremony and transition to self-governance in the summer 2014.

At this time, Chief Tacan and Council also met with representatives of Canadian Heritage to plan for the commemoration of Dakota culture and contribution to British sovereignty in the War of 1812-1814.



REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL (RDG) VISITS SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION

The new Regional Director General, John de Francesco, who came for a visit and tour of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation on March 14, 2014. Of particular interest to Mr. de Francesco, who took office this past February 2014, was upgrading the infrastructure to ready Sioux Valley for becoming Canada's first Self-Governing Nation with Governance Agreements involving both Canada and a Province in Canada. Mr. de Francesco focused his attention on Sioux Valley's need for a government building and upgrading both the Elementary School in Sioux Valley and the High School in Brandon, including a proposed renovation of the metal building adjacent to the school at Sioux Valley. A package of required upgrades was presented to the RDG by Principal and Director of Education, Kevin Nabess and Chief Tacan. Discussion involved planning for the building of a new High School in the future.



In addition, the RDG and his assistants which included Intergovernmental Relations Officers, Julie Wallace and Shauna Poole, and Sheldon Sauvé of Capital Funding and Infrastructure toured the Health Clinic which is under renovation, as well as the Dakota Oyate Lodge to discuss the current issues and challenges which Sioux Valley will address for the purpose of enhancing the provision of health care services to its members and Elders. Mr. de Francesco was very helpful in offering suggestions and providing his commitment to assist Sioux Valley as it moves forward to govern the jurisdiction of promoting health, wellness, and educational services to its citizens.

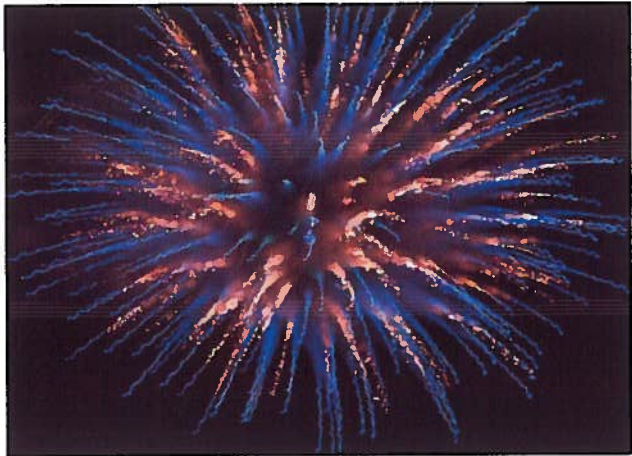


COMMUNITY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

SIOUX VALLEY POW WOW 2013

Sioux Valley ended the summer of 2013 with its annual Pow Wow. A beautiful long weekend was kicked off by the Grand Entry and the dancers, singers, and drummers displayed the best of Dakota culture in celebration of Sioux Valley recently signing the Governance Agreements with Canada and Manitoba.

The evenings ended with a fantastic fireworks display organized by the Sioux Valley Public Works Department which represented Sioux Valley's achievement of becoming Canada's first Dakota Nation Government with agreements with both Canada and the Province of Manitoba.



SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADO AFFECTS SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION

On July 18, 2013, a severe hail and wind storm including a tornado swept through Sioux Valley Dakota Nation causing considerable damage to houses and vehicles.

Thankfully, the citizens of Sioux Valley pulled together immediately to assist those who were injured and in need of shelter.

Chief and Council worked with AANDC to seek insurance funds for replacement of damaged property.



This storm highlighted the need for a coordinated emergency measures plan which has been initiated through meetings with the Program Managers and Directors, including planning to enhance Sioux Valley's infrastructure by identifying needs such as for a lighted emergency pad for landing helicopters.

WOMEN'S WALK

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation women and Elders conducted a memorial walk through the community to create awareness in honour and remembrance of women who have died or suffered from domestic abuse and violence. Remembering those victims whose crimes have gone unpunished and committing to bring the perpetrators to justice was one result of the walk, which is planned to be held annually to keep the memories of loved ones alive.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2013

On November 11, 2013, descendants of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Veterans gathered at the Cenotaph to hold the annual memorial service in honour of those members who sacrificed their lives during times of war for our freedom.

COMMUNITY MEETING AND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FEAST

On December 18, 2013, Sioux Valley held a community meeting with information booths set up by each of the Programs and Services from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation.

Through the efforts of the Governance Office headed by Carol Johnson and Donna Elk, the community meeting was followed by an annual community Christmas feast in appreciation of the Elders and community volunteers who have worked so hard over the past year to make Sioux Valley a better place to live. Chief and Council, Program Managers, and staff all contributed by cooking turkeys, hams, and other dishes all of which were well received by record numbers of participants. The Veteran's Hall was full of conversation, good food, smiles and laughter, particularly from the children following a visit and gifts from Santa. This community meeting and event made the Veteran's Hall look small as tables had to be vacated to allow room for others.



DAKOTA WINTERFEST 2014

On January 31, 2014, Sioux Valley sponsored the most successful Dakota Winterfest ever! Attendance over 3 days hit record levels of attendees, with hockey teams, Pow Wow participants, and observers. As a result, the Winterfest paid for itself and turned a profit for Sioux Valley which provides the opportunity to begin planning for next year's event.



HONOURING DORIS PRATT: A DAKOTA EDUCATIONAL TRAIL BLAZER

On February 6, 2014, Elder Doris Pratt of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation was recognized with a Trail Blazer / Lifetime Achievement Award at the 8th Annual Aboriginal Circle of Educators Education Awards Banquet in Winnipeg MB.

Elder Doris was honoured for her tireless work in education and promoting Dakota language and culture. She was joined in support by her family members Alex Pratt, Evelyn Pratt and Marilyn Hall as well as Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Chief Vince Tacan, Councillor Jennifer Bone, Education Director Kevin Nabess, and Tribal Attorney Bruce Slusar.

Chief Tacan spoke at the banquet about how he and Sioux Valley are proud of Elder Doris and her achievements, and how over the years he has had the honour of working closely with her and relying upon her to assist him with the ever-evolving challenges of governance and the promotion of education at Sioux Valley.



WAR OF 1812-1814 DAKOTA COMMEMORATION

On February 27 and 28, 2014, Sioux Valley hosted commemorative ceremonies and workshops on the Dakota alliance and participation with soldiers of the British Crown during the War of 1812-1814. This involved a full day of Dakota cultural activities with youth and Elders, including archery, Teepee making, and craft work with 366 students from regional schools in southwestern Manitoba who travelled to Sioux Valley via 8 school buses to enhance Canadian students' awareness that Sioux Valley Dakota Nation ancestors were involved and fought in the War of 1812-1814 to protect Canada.

The 2 day event ended with a ceremony involving Dakota singers, drumming, dancing, presentations from dignitaries, including the Mayor of Virden, Reeve of Sifton, Larry McGuire, MP and Reg Hellwer, MLA from Brandon-Souris, and Manitoba Aboriginal Affairs Minister Eric Robinson who provided Chief Tacan with an eagle staff and buffalo robe to mark this historic occasion. A granite plaque was presented in honour of Dakota Veterans. The purpose of the event was to provide outreach and education to Canadians to help them understand the important contribution which the Dakota people have made to the evolution of Canada.



HOUSING AUTHORITY (SVHA ON-RESERVE) WORKSHOPS, PROGRESS AND 7 NEW HOUSING UNITS

The Sioux Valley Housing Authority (SVHA) for on-Reserve housing with the assistance of consultants Irma Murdock and Donna Slusar applied for and succeeded in obtaining initially four (4) new houses for Sioux Valley through CMHC funding, and were later approved for an additional three (3) new houses for 2013-2014.

The Housing Authority also worked hard to revise its previous Housing Policy which had been outstanding for a number of years and resulted in impediments to obtaining CMHC houses. The new Housing Policy is in its final reviewing stage, which means that the Housing Authority will now be in a better position to apply and qualify for new houses each and every year. The Housing Authority has also provided a thorough and comprehensive Newsletter in January 2014 to update and inform community members about on-Reserve housing.

On March 13, 2014, Chief Tacan cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially commence construction of 7 new housing units on-Reserve for eligible citizens of Sioux Valley. The houses are being constructed by Home Hardware Centre at Virden on vacant land and will be moved to a new subdivision site located at Sioux Valley when completed over the next several months.

Home Hardware in Virden have also agreed to employ Sioux Valley members during the building of the final 3 houses to provide practical training to qualified citizens of Sioux Valley in construction-related trades.



The intention is to continue developing many houses for Sioux Valley citizens over the next few years. Sioux Valley has worked hard to update their Housing Policy, 5-Year Housing Plan, and related procedures to make Sioux Valley eligible for these and future houses which can now be obtained through CMHC.

SHIUX VALLEY FINANCES READY FOR THE FUTURE

To become ready for Self-government, Sioux Valley has had to pay off its debt pursuant to a Remedial Management Plan and has successfully completed this in 2013.

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statement was received by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada without any qualifications and Sioux Valley is ready to transition to governance funding arrangements pursuant to the Financial Arrangements Agreement negotiated. The debt which resulted in the Remedial Management Plan has resulted in re-organizing the Sioux Valley businesses to make them stronger and more accountable as the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation businesses plan is to be moved to the new location at Highway No. 1 and No. 21. The Statement of Revenue and Audit for 2012 and 2013 are attached for your review.

