

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty says it's unacceptable for aboriginal protesters to settle in for the winter at the Caledonia site they've been occupying since February. McGuinty says the Six Nations protesters know the only way to settle the dispute is through negotiations. The Six Nations protesters are asking for food, warm clothing, building supplies and money to help continue the occupation of the former construction site this winter. They are planning to finish constructing the 11 houses on the disputed land.

(BN)

One day after we heard that there were intentions to finish some of the unfinished homes on the reclamation site in Caledonia, trouble has found its way back to the disputed territory. A fire was set in one of the homes, allegedly by someone who was staying in the home, after they were asked to leave so that the house could be worked on. The person that was staying there said that they had been staying there from the start and that it was their home. They also said that they would set it on fire if they were forced to leave. Three people from the site had to be treated for smoke inhalation after

they attempted to put the blaze out themselves. Minimal damage was done to the building and the person that is alleged to have set the blaze fled the scene. Police were not allowed on the property so it's not known whether or not anyone was apprehended. Six Nations firefighters were allowed on the property to extinguish the fire.

(CKRZ)

An interfaith gathering held at Six Nations yesterday was well attended as people from all walks of life came together to pray for peace, reconciliation and understanding. The gathering had been planned for some time after a need was seen for everyone to come together to heal after months of tension caused by the reclamation occupation in Caledonia began to take their toll. The event brought together religious, Confederacy and Band council leadership who all echoed the need for peace, understanding and reconciliation. One speaker at yesterday's gathering said that gatherings such as the one yesterday were needed to help in the healing process and looked forward to others taking place in the future.

(CKRZ)

A Quebec man took the Crown by surprise Wednesday by pleading guilty to setting a fire that destroyed the home of the chief of the Kanasatake aboriginal reserve more than two years ago. Joseph Daye was in court in St-Jerome, Que., to set a trial date on an unrelated armed assault charge. Quebec Court Judge Jean Beaulieu listened to Daye's plea and scheduled a sentencing hearing for Dec. 21. Daniel Leighter, Daye's lawyer, said he will ask for a sentence of less than two years to be served in the community. Crown lawyer Francois Briere said he will seek a custodial sentence. The house of grand Chief James Gabriel was torched in January 2004 during a heated standoff in the community over policing. Gabriel had brought in aboriginal officers from outside the community to fight organized crime in the suburban Montreal reserve. Twenty four people were charged after the standoff ended.

(Montreal La Presse)

The chief of a northwestern Ontario First Nation says he'll follow the wishes of his community and push for mandatory drug testing for band employees. Whitefish Bay Chief Warren White says band councilors are expected to meet next week to discuss the issue. A health services spokesman has linked alcohol and drug abuse with the ongoing crisis among the band's youth, adding bootleggers and traffickers needed to be

stopped. A Treaty three report on drug use showed marijuana, ecstasy, crystal meth, cocaine and opiates are already in use at Whitefish Bay. The document also linked drug activity directly to the increase in suicides and mental health issues.

(Kenora Daily Miner and News)

The Peguis First Nation may have to wait up to six months before band members can vote again on a \$64 million treaty settlement deal. Not enough band members voted Tuesday night on the offer, which would also include about 22,000 hectares of provincial Crown land. Acting treaty land entitlement coordinator Earl Stevenson said only 1,384 of 3,526 eligible voters cast a ballot. But the offer allows for a second vote in 180 days, if ordered by federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jim Prentice. Bob Norton, a regional director of Indian Affairs, said the deal also states a majority of eligible voters won't need to cast a ballot on the second vote.

(BN)(Winnipeg Sun, Winnipeg Free Press)

Donald Marshall Jr. has been granted permission to move back to Nova Scotia's Membertou First Nation after twenty four years of living away. Marshall was in

court yesterday to vary the conditions of his release on charges of assault with a weapon, threats and careless driving. The Mi'kmaq says he'd like to return to his home community to open a store. He also wants to move from Halifax to be closer to his family. Marshall was originally charged with attempting to murder Membertou resident Duncan Gould after a driver tried to run him down with a vehicle. That charge was withdrawn and replaced by a charge of assault with a weapon. Marshall was also charged with uttering threats against Gould and dangerous driving. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and will stand trial September 25th. Marshall became a national figure after being exonerated in 1990 for a wrongful murder conviction that sent him to prison for 11 years.

(Cape Breton Post)

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Hopes for a quick end to the ongoing aboriginal standoff in Caledonia, Ontario faded even more Tuesday as Six Nations protesters asked for food and donations of building supplies to help maintain their occupation through the winter. Janie Jamieson, spokeswoman for the protesters, said they plan to finish the construction of 11 half built homes if they get the donated building supplies. No one wants to see the houses "rotting away" when they could be used for shelter during the winter, she said. "The option is to tear them down or to finish them," Jamieson said. "If we have that opportunity to finish them so our people won't have to sleep in snowbanks, I'd really like to see that." A call for donations has gone out on the website of the Six Nations protesters, asking for non-perishable food, warm clothing, building supplies and money, which can be deposited into a Bank of Montreal account. People have quit their jobs and dedicated the last six months to the occupation, Jamieson said, and they will continue to do so until the land is returned to Six Nations—even if it means staying there throughout the winter. "We've said that right from the beginning," Jamieson said. Aboriginals and the provincial and federal levels of government continue to negotiate the fate of the land. In the meantime, the disputed site is being held in trust by the province. David Ramsay, minister responsible for aboriginal affairs, declined to

comment on aboriginal plans to finish construction on the houses and stay the winter. Anne Marie Flanagan, Ramsay's spokeswoman, said anything regarding the use of the land is a "matter for discussion at the negotiating table." But the thought of watching further construction on the hotly-contested site and the idea the occupation could last into the winter months is horrifying to residents of the town. Jason Clark, a lifelong Caledonia resident, said people are at their "wit's end." The occupation, which has been marred by barricades in the town and violent clashes between aboriginals and residents, has driven some residents to take medication for anxiety, Clark said. Watching aboriginal protesters hunker down for the winter will just increase tension in the community, he said. "There is anxiety on both sides," said Clark, a member of the Caledonia Citizens Alliance. It's time both levels of government did a better job of communicating with residents and worked overtime to end the occupation he said. "They tell us there is progress but nothing has been transparent to the community. If there is progress, we're not seeing it," he said. "This whole thing needs to be resolved." Mayor Marie Trainer said she doubts many residents will answer the call for donations to help sustain the occupation. "It angers everyone," she said. "It's not getting them any brownie points." Residents are further infuriated because aboriginals are on provincial land but aren't being required to follow Ontario law, she said. If they decide to continue building houses on the property, Trainer said they won't have permits or other paperwork all residents must have before they begin construction on a house. It adds

to the feeling in the community that aboriginals are somehow above the law, she said. "It's not proper that they just go forward and do whatever they want without following standards that everyone in Ontario has to follow," Trainer said. "It's not right." Aboriginals have occupied the former housing development site since February, saying the land was wrongfully taken from them over 200 years ago by the crown. The province bought the site this year and have allowed the protesters to remain despite a court order evicting them from the property.

(CP)

A news report says Jane Stewart is being paid 13 hundred dollars a day to be the province's negotiator in talks aimed at solving the land dispute in Caledonia. The Hamilton Spectator says the agreement between Ontario and Stewart stipulates that while she's paid nearly 180 dollars an hour, her total bill can go up to 30 thousand dollars. Stewart's agreement, which runs from May of this year to next March, says she can also charge up to 30 thousand dollars in expenses and she will be paid for half her travel time. Stewart was a liberal MP for Brant from 1993 to 2004 and served as the minister of Indian Affairs from 1997-99.

(Hamilton Spectator)

Another small group of Six Nations and Caledonia residents dedicated to promoting peace in what has been a very tense situation for the past six months came together for an interfaith gathering today in Chiefswood Park. The event had been planned for some time now and was held to help in the healing process for everyone involved in the occupation in Caledonia which has caused even greater divisions among Caledonia and Six nations residents than there were before the occupation began. The event brought together religious leaders from Caledonia and Six Nations and a part of the ceremony included a dedication of work by Six Nations artist Arnold Jacobs for veterans from the territory. The gathering also included bluegrass gospel music by local favorites, The Grand River Bluegrass and Earl Sault. The gathering was made possible because of the hard work of Nina Burnham who has been a big supporter of the Six Nations Veterans Association over the years.

(CKRZ)

A paramedic has told a triple murder trial in Penticton, B.C. that the accused's throat was slashed so badly he could see the man's jugular vein. Tom Davis says when he arrived on the scene of the shootings he found 25 year old Dustin Paul sitting in a creek on the Penticton Indian Reserve. He says Paul had a gaping slash from

one side of his neck to the other that was deep enough he could see the jugular. The court has not yet been told whether it was self inflicted. Davis says Paul didn't speak, but only made sounds and had an elevated heart rate consistent with alcohol and cocaine use. Paul was charged with three counts of second degree murder and two counts of attempted murder after three men were killed and two were wounded in a shooting in October of 2004.

(CKOR) (BN)

Members of the Peguis First Nation failed to approve a \$64 million treaty entitlement compensation package in a referendum Tuesday evening. More than 91 per cent of voters were in favour of the deal. But Earl Stevenson, the acting treaty entitlement co-coordinator for the reserve, said the number of votes cast didn't reach the required majority of eligible voters. The agreement is believed to be one of the biggest land and cash settlement in Manitoba's history. It would see Peguis reserve receive \$64 million from the federal government and about 22,000 hectares of Crown land from the province, mostly in the Interlake region. Stevenson said a second vote can be held if there's not enough ballots cast in the first vote.

(BN) (Winnipeg Sun)

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