

From: Taiaiake Alfred
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2007
Subject: Comment on Tsawwassen & Huu-Ay-Aht "treaties"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR [Times Colonist Newspaper, Victoria BC]

It's clear to me now, after hearing the "leaders" and "elders" from Huu-Ay-Aht and Tsawwassen comment on the ratification votes in their communities, that this issue of treaty-making is far beyond politics or even rationality. These agreements make no political or financial sense from a First Nations perspective, yet they are being ratified nonetheless. Why? Because of the sad fact that white society has successfully waged psychological warfare on First Nations and most of the people in these communities have lost all meaningful sense of being Indigenous.

As is evident in the result of the two recent votes, they will simply do whatever it takes, including surrendering their lands and sacred heritage of nationhood, to shed themselves of their Indigenous past in the hopes of becoming acceptable to the white society.

The oft-mentioned Residential School Syndrome is widening now to become much broader in its effects than the widespread but personalized social pathology and psychic dysfunctions we have witnessed in our communities in the last few generations.

The cultural confusion, individualist greed, self-hatred and defeatism that were objectives and are the legacies of residential schools are also the real foundations of the so-called "treaty process".

Canadians are once again preying on the original peoples of this land, this time not stealing, raping and brainwashing their children, but lying and manipulating in different way to the same ends as in previous times: stealing land and destroying culture.

If Canada were a country with a moral centre, its citizens would not be celebrating the achievements of the BC treaty process, they would be shouting out in anger against the immoral actions of their governments and the fact that they, as a society, are taking advantage of weakened peoples who are in the midst social and spiritual crises to enrich themselves, yet again.

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