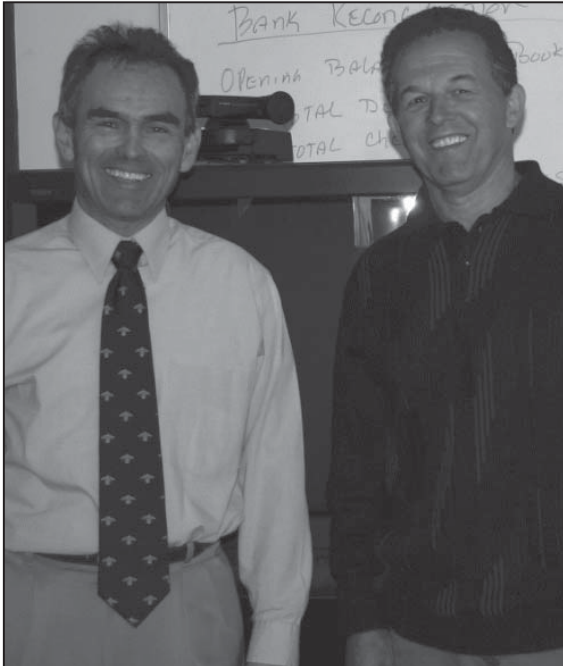


# ANISHINABEK



## Union Gas donation

Union Gas (Spectra Energy) has donated two teleconferencing systems to the Union of Ontario Indians. The equipment will be used at either the UOI satellite offices or at the Anishinabek Educational Institute sites for long-distance education. Gary Dokis, CAO of the Union of Ontario Indians, left, with Jon Bonin, Manager of Government and Aboriginal Affairs at Union Gas. Last year, Union Gas donated breathing apparatus equipment that the UOI turned over to the Ontario Native Firefighter's Association for distribution.

## Charity partners with Holiday Inn

Thanks to Sheila Bellefeuille, volunteer Corporate Relations for the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity and the Holiday Inn in Sudbury we have reached a partnership agreement. Noel Samuels, General Manager of the Sudbury Holiday Inn has signed an agreement with the AN7GC for one year. The Holiday Inn website will be linked to the AN7GC website for aboriginal communities that are planning conferences in the Sudbury area or travelling community members who wish to combine excellent service with a great rate. Next time you are surfing the net check out [www.anishinabek.ca/charity](http://www.anishinabek.ca/charity) or call the Holiday Inn at 705-522-3000 and book your next conference or room.



Residential School survivor, Lydia Corston with her granddaughter, Linda Seamont and great-granddaughters Allie and Melissa at Nipissing Manor nursing home in Corbeil.

## Survivors getting more grief

By Marci Becking

CORBEIL – Service Canada has been giving many of the residential school survivors and their families who have applied for the Common Experience Payment too much grief.

Linda Seamont, Legal Assistant at the Union of Ontario Indians has had a hard time with Service Canada when applying on behalf of her 86-year-old grandmother, Lydia Corston from Moose Factory. Corston attended Residential School for six years at Bishop Horden Hall in Moose Factory.

“Since the beginning of December I’ve been trying to get things sorted out with Service Canada,” says Seamont. “My granny is in a nursing home, my sister and I have power of attorney, but they don’t recognize that. It’s very frustrating and stressful.”

Corston’s application was sent back because she had signed

her name with an “X” – which is allowed, but for some reason in this case, wasn’t accepted.

“They also didn’t like the copy of her birth certificate. My granny was born in the bush so I’m not sure where I’m going to get an original from,” says Seamont.

Other forms of identification can be used, but now because Seamont has power of attorney, she’s supposed to be using a different form.

“I know where to find the forms, but I feel sorry for the layperson who has no computer experience. These poor Elders have been through enough. Service Canada doesn’t trust us,” says Seamont.

To top things off, correct forms weren’t sent with the rejection letter as stated they would be by a Service Canada employee.

Seamont ended up getting her granny to practice signing

her name and then finally signed the paperwork. This time, Seamont went to a Service Canada branch to get staff to verify documentation before sending it in – something that isn’t clear when you call the hotline. A lot of “questionable identification” could be verified by Service Canada staff before sending everything in.

Seamont’s grandmother has already received her advance payment – and the paperwork was ok then so she’s not sure why all the hassle now.

As of March 10, 2008 Lydia Corston is one of 9,053 CEP applications requiring further information to complete processing. A total of 89,228 were received and 75,482 have been processed. Of those, 59,765 payments have been issued and 15,717 applications were not eligible for payment.

4,693 applications are currently still in process.

## Ojibway translation service now available

Service Canada is trying to talk to Residential School survivors in languages they understand.

Staff who are fluent in Ojibway are now able to assist clients with Common Experience Payment (CEP) applications in select locations in Ontario.

Services in Ojibway are available in the following locations: Kenora Service Canada Centre (SCC) as well as at the

following Scheduled Outreach locations: NW Angle 37; Shoal Lake #39; Washagamis Bay; Dalles; Rat Portage; Whitefish Bay.

If these locations are not convenient for the client, Service Canada is piloting the use of a telephone interpretation service with the ability to translate from English to Ojibway and other Aboriginal languages/

dialects. If the client wishes to use this service, they can do so at a Service Canada Centre, and arrangements could be made for an interpreter to assist the client with CEP questions via this service.

The client would need to make an appointment in advance by contacting the Service Canada location.



## Honouring the women

Marjorie Beaudry, a Laurentian University Native Studies student, organized a Feb. 14 rally in Sudbury to call attention to violence against aboriginal women.

A number of communities across Canada honoured the 500 aboriginal women who are missing or murdered in the past 30 years.

Amnesty International has reported that aboriginal women are five times more likely to die a violent death than non-aboriginal women.