

PROVINCE

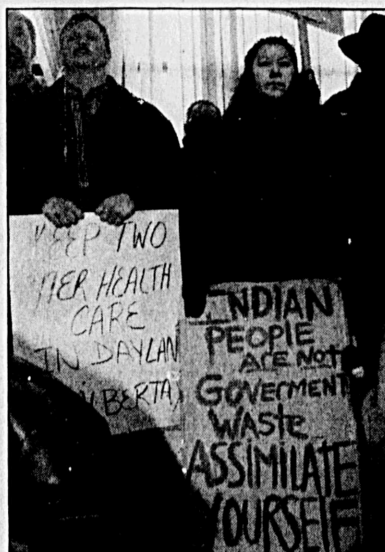
Natives blast Alliance plan



CP photo
Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day delivers his speech to a crowded room of supporters at a campaign rally in Kamloops Wednesday.

Southern Newspapers
B.C. aboriginal leaders outraged at Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day's remarks on native issues are teaming up with "Riot at the Hyatt" organizers to give him a hot reception.
Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs president Stewart Phillip accused Day of "trying to fan the flames in B.C. by playing the race card" and of "colossal ignorance" for urging that natives should pay taxes and have no right to "race-based quotas or special set-asides" on fisheries or resources.
"It's a common misconception that aboriginal people pay no taxes — in fact we pay income and sales tax and get a small exemption only for on-reserve sales or income," said Phillip. "We live in enclaves of poverty while other people make money off our resources. Stockwell Day might want to get rid of us and our reserves with a wave of his hand but we have constitutionally-enshrined aboriginal rights that are upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada."

Day said reserves should be abolished and that native people should pay the same taxes as all Canadians. He said natives should have "equal access to fisheries and other resources but not through race-based quotas or special set-asides."
However, Phillip noted that Day's chief rival Liberal leader Jean Chretien, as author of the 1969 White Paper, recommended abolishing Indian reserves.
Taitiaki Alfred, a Mohawk professor at the University of Victoria called the Alliance leader "completely ignorant of history. Only someone who has absolutely no concept of the law or of history would be able to suggest something like that."
Art Manuel, a lawyer who speaks for the Interior Alliance bands in Day's Okanagan riding, said Day has repeatedly ducked invitations to debate. "The corporations in Day's riding are the real tax-evaders because they're making money off our resources."



CP photo
Aboriginal Jody Leon listens to a speech by Stockwell Day, at a campaign rally in Kamloops on Wednesday.

Angry Day defends his religious beliefs

KAMLOOPS (CP) — An angry Stockwell Day said Wednesday his religious beliefs are his own business, but when pressed by reporters, he admitted he believes in the Biblical version of how the world was created.
"There is scientific support for both creationism and evolution," the Canadian Alliance leader said while travelling from Regina to Kamloops. "I don't think I should have to debate the interpretation of Genesis any more than I would expect Jean Chretien or Joe Clark to have to debate the Catholic teachings on . . . immaculate conception."
Day was put on the spot after a CBC documentary was aired in which he is quoted as telling a college class that there is no more proof of evolution than of creation and that creationism should be considered part of the school curriculum.
Day's spokesman Phil Von Finckenstein said Day believes that other theories of creation should be taught alongside evolution in schools, but he also recognizes education is within provincial jurisdiction.
Day was once a lay-pastor at the Pentecostal Church, but now that he is running for the job of prime minister, he only reluctantly discusses his religious beliefs, even when they become a source of controversy. A CBC News documentary this week included clips from a Pliny Hayes, head of the department of natural science at Red Deer College in Alberta.
Hayes recounted a 1997 Day appearance at the college where he also told his audience he believed the world was 6,000 years old and that men walked with dinosaurs.
Science says the earth is more than four billion years old and that dinosaurs became extinct tens of millions of years before the first humans appeared.
When Day was asked about his beliefs by reporters at an early-morning press conference Wednesday, he responded with indignance.
He said he didn't think his beliefs "should be used in any kind of detrimental way in an election campaign."

Skeena Cellulose on brink, despite huge gov't bailout

Southern Newspapers
VANCOUVER — Skeena Cellulose is on the brink of collapse, a company representative said Wednesday despite more than \$250 million in public money committed since 1997 to bail out the Prince Rupert company.
"Basically, it's economics. We are in deep financial trouble," said Robert Buchan, who handles public affairs for the company. "It's been bailed out as far as it is going to be and it's basically running right on the edge."
High operating costs and the worst lumber prices in a decade have led to Skeena's latest crisis, which has left the company's financial resources depleted. Pulp prices are the only bright spot but a shutdown for long-overdue equipment repairs earlier in the year cost the company needed pulp revenues.
Skeena's economic instability has led to layoffs and intermittent employment for the 6,000 people in the northwest who depend directly or indirectly on Skeena for their livelihood. Skeena operates a pulp mill at Prince Rupert and sawmills in the towns of Terrace, Hazelton, Smithers and Kitwanga.
"This year the average Skeena employee has only worked 87 days," said Peter Hollist, who is heading a community action group in Hazelton, one of the hardest-hit towns. "There's probably only half of us are employed at the moment. We need to know what the

future holds for us. We are trying to find out from the company but they can't say much because they don't control the purse strings. The government is the largest shareholder and they won't say anything."
He said the company has cost problems that need to be addressed. The sawmills need restructuring and there are costly inefficiencies in production and transportation. For example, wood is transported from mill to mill because one mill doesn't have a planer. But the mill with a planer may often be shut down.
"They open up and shut down, open up and shut down. And sometimes the mill is down but they do a bit of logging. Nobody knows which way this company is going to go. And that's what we are trying to get the government to tell us."
A report commissioned by former premier Dan Miller recommended the government reduce stumpage — the price companies pay for harvesting public timber — but Skeena management have been unable to get any answer from the Dosanjh government.

FLOW FACTS

The winter release at the Skins Lake Spillway as set by the Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program, is 1134 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 32.11 cubic metres per second (cms). This will remain the approximate release until April 2001.

On November 10, 2000, the reservoir elevation was 2790.8 feet. The reservoir level is currently about 3.5 feet below the long-term average. According to the Water Survey of Canada gauge in the river at Vanderhoof, the water flow was 2416 cfs (68.4 cms).

For more information, please call Alcan's Regional Office in Vanderhoof at 567-5105 (Prince George: 561-1189; Burns Lake: 692-4315). Skins Lake Spillway discharges are posted on Alcan's homepage at www.sno.net/alcan. Nechako Fisheries Conservation Program information can be accessed at www.NFCP.org. Flow Facts information is provided on Alcan's 24-hour information line in Vanderhoof at 567-5812.

And the Winners Are...



Contest winners Della Dennis, left and Marva Gibbs, right, receive their \$50 gift certificates from Winners Assistant Manager Linda Halliburton. Missing from the photo are Mary Simoes (\$50) and Lori McWilliams (\$500).

Winners is excited to announce the Winners of the Grand Opening **Win a \$500 Wardrobe Contest**. Thousands of people entered but only four lucky names were drawn. Lori McWilliams \$500 winner; Mary Simoes, Marva Gibbs and Della Dennis all \$50 winners. The draw took place November 6th. Congratulations to the four lucky gift certificate winners.

Winners opened the Prince George Store on September 7, 2000. "Since we have opened, we have received a warm welcome from the community", says the store manager Gary Burney. "Customers seem to enjoy the thrill of finding the great merchandise at a great price", adds Burney. Winners carries a wide variety of famous brand name and designer merchandise at 20% - 60% less than department store prices, everyday. The key to shopping at Winners is to shop often. Each store receives over 10,000 items weekly, so there's always something new.

The store is located at the Brookwood Plaza, Hwy 16 and Vance Road. Store hours are Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

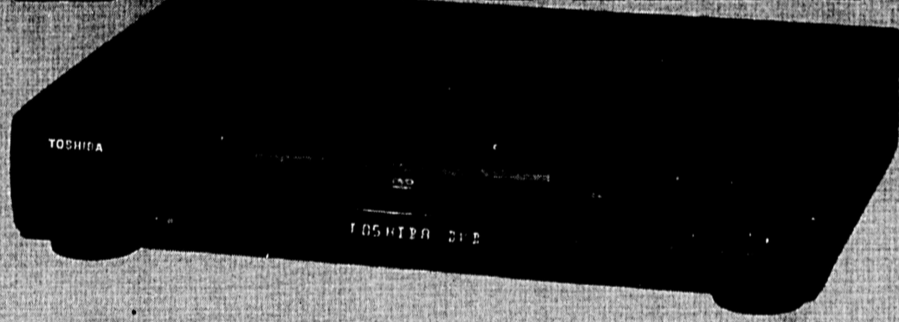
Extended holiday hours start Saturday, Nov. 25th through December 24, 2000. Monday to Friday 9:30 - 9:30, Saturday 9:30 - 9:00 pm, Sunday 11:00 - 6:00 pm.

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