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Educate First Nations to be modern citizens

Don Olsen, The Daily News

Published: Wednesday, March 27, 2013

It was only 12,000 years ago, or less and this should be considered; in all those years the so called First Nations:

- . Never "discovered" the wheel
- . Never had a written language

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- . Never discovered astronomy
- . Had no science or scientific discoveries
- . Had no mathematics
- . Made no medical discoveries
- . Never had written music
- . Only "figured out" a drum and a rattle for musical instruments
- . Had no metallurgy
- . Had no sails for boats (only had canoes)
- . Created virtually no mechanical devices
- . Possessed almost nothing that required hard manual labour over a period of time, i.e.: building with or carving out of stone
- . Made almost no inventions
- . Are just in the last 200 years getting caught-up to most of the rest of the world
- . Have a history that is notable only for underachievement Are these people in trouble? Yes.

Do they need help? Yes.

Are they responsible enough to look after themselves and efficiently spend the billions the tax payers give them? Certainly not.

The only way to fix this situation is to bring them into society as equals. They should be getting jobs and paying taxes like the rest of us because in reality, they are no more special than any of the other hundred or more cultures that call Canada home.

Turn off the taps. Do away with this "traditional use" and "cultural" nonsense. Educate their children to become modern citizens.

Instead of finding their identity and source of pride in some folks who occupied the land 15,000 years ago. Let them stand or fall on their own account.

Just like the rest of us have to do.

Don Olsen Nanaimo

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