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Ancient Curriculum Taught At Indian School

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NOVEMBER 1977 v07 n11 p52

Coming into this fall's school term, six students were disappointed when they found out that Indian Affairs education department had neglected to include a grade 11 program within the Marieval School.

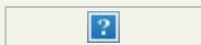
The Marieval advisory school committee made up of the five chiefs from Whitebear, Cowessess, Sakimay, Ochapowace, and Kahawistahaw confronted the Yorkton district with this situation at a recent meeting. They attacked the district for being neglectful and not seeming to care to upgrade the Marieval School's curriculum.

It seems that the six students who had failed to get a grade 11 education at Marieval decided to enroll at Broadview, a joint school just south of the reserves of Cowessess, Sakimay, Ochapowace and Kahawistahaw.

When they got there the six students had awakened to a whole new different world. To them some of the subjects being taught there were unheard of. Rather than have the embarrassment of being put back a grade or so, the students dropped out.

Armed with this fact, the Marieval advisory school board became embroiled with the district for letting these things go out of hand. Band council resolutions that did not reach Ottawa requesting a grade 11 and a grade 12 program also came into the open.

The district Indian Affairs supervisor in turn assured the committee that they have their hands clean from bogging down these B.C.R.'s from 1974. They passed the blame on the region for having the respon-



Edwin Pelletier of the Cowesses Band driving a point across to Joe Leask at a Marieval Advisory School Board meeting at Marieval.

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sibility of really disregarding the five band's requests.

The main topic that was of major concern was there was no grade 11 teacher to carry out the duties of teaching this grade level at Marieval. The committee also threw in the reasons of why the district education supervisor, Elwood Belt, did not upgrade the school's curriculum.

The committee also had the current principal Don Pinay make inquiries into surrounding joint schools of the areas where they were lagging behind. With his finding, the committee was dismayed at the outdated results.

Mr. Lang, who was principal of Marieval for many years, was asked to upgrade the schools curriculum in recent months by the advisory board. Rather than listening to the board, Mr. Lang resigned. And it was also made known that several of the teachers were going to follow the same pattern but failed to submerge with this drastic approach.

It was then Mr. Pinay took over the reins of the school. Being an Indian himself and realizing the Indian situation in joint schools, he gave his full co-operation in finding out the areas where the school was lagging behind.

The district denied that their school curriculum was outdated. This was contradicted by the finding

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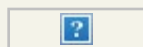
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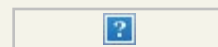
of the principal and the distraught students who could not cope with the joint schools. The committee also made it known that these students had attended Marieval School as graduates from grade 10. "These students really actually thought there was going to be a grade 11 in Marieval," said a member of the board.

As for the grade 11 teacher, the teacher clearly objected because of the ratio's involved and other mathematical figures dreamt up supposedly by Treasury Board.

The chiefs could not get any results from the district because of their limits in making things happen. With that, Sterling Brass of Keys, the Yorkton district chiefs representative, arranged a meeting jointly with the regional and district Indian Affairs along with the Marieval school advisory board.



**Don Pinay, Principal of the Marieval School,
listening attentively to topics centered around his
school.**



**Louis Whiteman, the Marieval Student Resident
administrator, sitting on a meeting involving the Marieval
School.**