

Inquiries ad Nauseam

By R.H. Wood

North Battleford

Who could ever have imagined that the fascinating, riveting, electrifying Hockey Inquiry could have been supplanted by yet an even more transfixing one i.e. the Emergency Measures Act inquiry, E.M.A. for short. Mr. Trudeau's vitriolic condemnation of the hockey board saw him at his statesmanship best, by word, expression and body language. His remarks on the emergency episode are limited to justification or Justification.

So far, the honed Ottawa weepers and wailers are intent on vicariously having to relive their extreme sufferings. However, let us not equate or even compare E.M.A. to the miseries inflicted by the winds of Bonnie, Earl, Fiona and Ian etc. or the wetness in Pakistan and now Australia or the conflagrations in California and B.C. As

The Wood Pile



far as reported the so-called "witnesses" are all still alive and none were terminally deafened. Did any starve, have P.E.I. long power outages, tree or property loss, passport issues, displacement from country of origin resulting in refugee status, water or no drinkable water issues or distraction beyond endurance?

In my humble opinion, not meeting meaningfully and dialoguing with the semi-truck drivers

and some of the protest leaders was a half-witted failure by the police and especially Mr. Trudeau as such could very well have led to de-escalation and E.M.A. not being required. Police and safety officers, all good at handing out parking and other infraction tickets, knew perfectly well that the convoy was coming and surely could have averted the traffic impasse. There are your answers Justice Rouleau in a short paragraph – why do we need an expensive inquiry?

The hockey inquiry must not go too far. It is all very well for the board members to be assessed permanent penalties but the purging has to be limited to these no doubt well-meaning but fiscally misguided hockey hierarchy heads. Personally, I find it difficult to understand why off-ice transgressions have such direct relevance to playing or a young person's on-ice career. Will this



sanitization extend to body checks, boarding, feigned fist fights, profanities, arguing with the referees, delay of game, interference and unsportsmanship behaviour? Let us hope the hockey world which is so important in this country

can be rapidly restored to a sense of normality and reason and thus merit the return of sponsorship.

Last week's logo was replaced by a photograph of a Christmas tree wood-pile ornament. This most unexpected gift was

given to me by a lady and gentleman who originally suggested the title. It took my mind off E.M.A. and the hockey world woes - thank you so much. By the way, did everyone remember that 18th October was Person's Day?

New book

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"I heard about it all my life, and then I wrote a journalism essay on it in 2019, published in the Indigenous Times. In February, before the Kamloops discoveries, we began making a short documentary."

The film premiered at film festivals in 2021 in both Toronto and Montreal. The book was written in the summer of 2022, although Favel says the research took decades.

Favel says he hopes people can learn about a much-neglected part of Saskatchewan's history.

"We wanted to honour and pay homage to the liv-

ing storytellers who could tell their stories and also for all the past students in the residential school."

Karen Whitecalf, project manager for BATC's Star Children Initiative, searching for the 44 missing children, wrote in her foreword for the book:

"We recently received some information that there were 28 more burials that were not documented. Oral history from survivors told what they witnessed: young boys had to help bury children. I don't want to imagine the horrific nightmares these young boys must have endured," Whitecalf writes.

"I pray for healing across the nation, I pray for our non-indigenous

brothers and sisters to have understanding on why our people are so broken and to be patient with us while we are healing."

Alix Van Der Donckt-Ferrand, the illustrator for Ashes to Embers, says she was awed by the power of the story, and the images of fire stuck in her head almost instantly. She worked to edit and produce the original documentary that was showcased in Montreal and Toronto.

"The strong story of resistance, resistance from children, and the image of the fire sort of stuck with me. I always had these images in my head about fire, and I wanted to draw them." When they decided to start turning the

film into a book, Van Der Donckt-Ferrand was excited.

"All those images were already built up in my head."

The novel is published by Miyawata Culture, a company devoted to preserving, rejuvenating and

disseminating Cree culture and language worldwide. They are grounded in the belief that the creative, traditional cultures of Indigenous People across Turtle Island act as the bridge in which all people may take part.

The book will be

available for purchase Oct. 30. Parts of the original film can be found on their website.

Favel is planning a book launch and signing in North Battleford at the start of November, and more information will be available at a later date.

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