



B.C. First Nations business leader Calvin Helin had some refreshing, if obvious, advice when we asked him last summer what would get the embattled community on its financial feet: "Indian groups are going to have to do what they need to do in order to break the cycle of dependence and create an economy," said the president of the Native Investment and Trade Association. It worked for the Osoyoos Indian Band, which today rakes in annual revenues of \$13 million, thanks to a no-nonsense chief and an award-winning winery.

But what sounds good in theory isn't necessarily smooth in practice. As you'll read in this month's "Board politics," p. 56, the Squamish Nation, like the Osoyoos Indian Band, is busy following Helin's advice to break the cycle of dependence and create an economy. Only this time, no one's applauding.

The First Nation struck its own strategy to raise some much-needed cash and spur economic development; come 2008, it plans to erect 13 massive billboards on reserve land along the Lions Gate, Second Narrows and Burrard Street bridges. Band leaders say no amount of public kicking and screaming will change that. In fact, they don't need public approval.

Award-winning Vancouver writer Daniel Wood takes us behind the scenes where the heated discussions and frank debates took place, and talks to the players behind the plan that's sparked mass public outrage. Don't miss it.

You'll also want to take the opportunity to get to know the sharp dresser on this month's cover. Chris Zimmerman isn't exactly a household name in B.C. business circles, but he should be. The new CEO of Orca Bay is the boss of the beloved Canucks, and he's got the game face to prove it. ■

Diaden
Editor

IN APRIL... From SFU's flashy new downtown campus to UNBC's woodsy Prince George site, don't miss our rundown of the MBA options offered in B.C.

PLUS... Ken Dobell on sipping wine, tackling homelessness and life after 65. □