

BACKGROUND - VICTORY TIMELINE

Dec 17/09 – Prairie Director Colin Craig receives an envelope from a grassroots band member with the Peguis First Nation (Manitoba.) The envelope includes salary information for the five-person band council; four council members made more than the Prime Minister, the other was close to it. The CTF released the information to the media and the story took on national attention.

In the [news release](#) and during interviews across the country, the CTF called on the federal government to put band council information online for every reserve in the country.

March 1/10 – CTF finally receives a response to an old access to information request with the federal bureaucracy on pay data for chiefs and councilors across Canada. Data provided only includes about 1/10th of what was sought.

April 26/10 – CTF files another information request with the federal bureaucracy, painstakingly making it abundantly clear as to the information being sought.

April 20/10 – The CTF [releases salary information from the Enoch Cree Nation](#) (Alberta). The Chief's salary was higher than Alberta's Premier. The information was sent to the CTF by a whistleblower who saw the Peguis story in the news. The Enoch situation also takes on national attention. CTF keeps urging Canadians to tell their MPs to put the pay information online for all reserve politicians.

April 28/10 – The CTF [releases pay data from the Crane River First Nation](#) (Manitoba) after a frustrated band member provided it. The chief's pay is close to Manitoba's premier.

May 3/10 – The CTF launches www.ReserveTransparency.ca - a web site to inform band members of their rights to audit documents and to assist them to try and get it from the federal government if their band won't release it.

May 11/10 – CTF shines a light on pay info leaked from [Saskatchewan's Piapot First Nation](#). Chief is receiving a pretty handsome salary.

Oct 1/10 – MP Kelly Block tables Bill C-575 – a private members bill that would put chief and council pay information online. The CTF begins a dialogue with Ms. Block's office and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's office on how the bill should be amended.

Oct 16/10 – Frustrated by a slow response to its access to information request, the CTF releases the partial data obtained six months prior. It showed [at least 30 Chiefs made more than the average provincial premier in 2008-09](#).

Nov 21/10 – The [CTF releases analysis on new chief and council pay data. Estimates show approximately 50 reserve politicians made more than the Prime Minister of Canada in 2008-09](#). Hundreds more made over \$100,000 (taxable equivalent salary) according to CTF estimates.

[One councillor received \\$978,000 in pay and contracts from the Glooscap reserve in Nova Scotia](#). The chief and council pay data issue again takes on national attention.

Nov 22/10 – The national chiefs' organization – The Assembly of First Nations – responds to the CTF's news release, suggesting not a single chief in Canada made more than the Prime Minister.

March 3/11 – CTF, media receive pay info from [Peter Ballantyne reserve in Saskatchewan. More outrageous pay info released](#).

March 26/11 – Minority government falls, 2011 election begins. MP Kelly Block's bill dies.

Nov 23/11 – Government introduces Bill C-27 complete with most CTF amendment recommendations.

Apr 30/12 – CTF releases leaked pay details showing [Makwa Sahgiehcan First Nation \(Saskatchewan\) chief earns upwards of \\$235,000](#) (off reserve taxable equivalent.)

Oct 22/12 – CTF speaks before House of Commons committee studying C-27.

Nov 20/12 – CTF helps organize grassroots band members in Ottawa for a meeting with the Minister.

Nov 27/12 – Parliament votes 159-131 to pass C-27.

Feb 6/13 – CTF helps [blow the whistle on Standing Buffalo First Nation \(SK\) pay situation](#) – chief made more than Harper, most councilors made more than Premier Wall

Feb. 27/13 – Prairie Director Colin Craig speaks before Senate Committee in support of C-27.

In addition to the milestones mentioned above, the CTF also wrote numerous newspaper columns on the subject, met with dozens of grassroots band members, spent hours on the phone pushing for changes to the bill and countless interviews on the issue.