

facéd questions about debt and decay in her party, after its president, Moe Sihota, delivered a blunt assessment about the state of the NDP's election readiness.

man, the author of the account, said the fact that his notes were disclosed demonstrates the fractures running through the party. "There are people who have

British Columbians. So, sure, this is a bothersome situation." The next B.C. election is more than two years away, but the party has not fully captured the ben-

Although the NDP's executive has discussed how party members can unofficially take part in the recall campaigns in a partisan way, Ms. James maintained that

secure election. The debate was brought into the open last week when Ms. James fired Mr. Simpson over a column he wrote that included a mild rebuke of her performance.

HOME COMING

Prehistoric stone sculpture to return to Sechelt band

Artifact sold for \$25 to Vancouver Museum in 1926

Wendy Stueck VANCOUVER

Sitting with her face turned up to the sky, her child cradled in her arms, the woman known simply as the Sechelt Image on Saturday will come home, reversing a journey taken more than 80 years ago when the stone sculpture was sold for \$25 to the Vancouver Museum.

The piece, estimated to be up to 3,000 years old, is considered one of the finest pieces of prehistoric sculpture in Canada and is the first artifact to be repatriated to a first nation by the City of Vancouver.

For Sechelt band Chief Garry Feschuk, the Sechelt Image is a priceless link between past and present, as well as a symbol of hope and recovery.

"The Sechelt Image documents our history," Mr. Feschuk said Friday at the Vancouver Museum, where the sculpture - 51 centimetres tall, 30 centimetres wide and weighing about 32 kilograms - was being readied for transport from Vancouver to Sechelt. "Our elders have been trying since 1976 to have it come back - and now it is."

The sculpture is expected to arrive Saturday in Sechelt, where a welcoming ceremony is planned. The piece is to be housed in a museum built on the site of a former residential school. Negotiations about the building and its security provisions were part of the discussions that led up to an agreement to move the item.

Talks about repatriating the im-



This 3,000 year old stone statue is being repatriated to the Sechelt nation after years of negotiations.

age went on sporadically for years but moved in to high gear earlier this year, with band members, museum staff and city officials taking part in discussions aimed at returning the image to the Sechelt band.

According to band members, the sculpture was discovered by children playing on a riverbank in the early 1920s and sold to the museum, for \$25, in 1926.

The item is described as a mortuary stone, depicting a mother who threw herself off a cliff after her only son was killed. According to the story, the boy stumbled across a group of people who were going to attack his village, and was killed. The village was not attacked. But his heartbroken mother killed herself, and his father, a carver, sculpted the image.

IN BRIEF

MANITOBA

Police to probe death in emergency room

Winnipeg - Police will launch a criminal investigation into the death of a homeless man who waited 34 hours without treatment in a hospital emergency room.

Brian Sinclair, 45, an aboriginal man and double-amputee, went to the emergency room at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre in September, 2008 to get treatment for a bladder infection. He was found dead more than a day later in his wheelchair on the spot where he had been waiting for care.

The death raised concerns about the quality of ER service, as well as about the treatment of aboriginal people in the health-care system.

- The Canadian Press

ONTARIO

Williams would keep his military pension

Woodbridge - A Conservative bill to strip federal prisoners of their old-age pensions would not deny Colonel Russell Williams his military pension.

A lawyer for Mr. Williams has said the former CFB Trenton commander intends to plead guilty Monday to two murders, two sex assaults and scores of break and enters.

When asked Friday about Mr. Williams receiving his military pension, Prime Minister Stephen Harper touted his party's legislation to deny prisoners government payouts, but said there's a distinction between payouts like old age pensions and "contractual obligations the government may have."

- The Canadian Press

ALBERTA

Spa scam employs card-swipe machine

Edmonton - Edmonton police are warning of a scam disguised as offering reduced-rate services at a spa that doesn't exist.

Detective Bob Gauthier says the suspects say they are representatives of a spa supposedly opening in a north Edmonton mall. Potential customers have been approached on the street, inside malls, and at a local hospital.

They are offered spa services at reduced rates if they purchase the service immediately and their debit or credit cards are swiped on a hand-held machine.

However, the information is stored in the machine, and is then used to access the victim's bank account within days of the initial transaction.

- The Canadian Press

