

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
JUN 01 2004
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 49

15 (3) TABLED ON MAY 31 2004

CBC Special Report, Friday May 28, 2004, 5:15 p.m.

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
3 1936 00068 9073

CBC: Many politicians have faced problems through drinking before. You may remember the Premier of British Columbia Gordon Campbell and his drunk driving event in Hawaii, then of course there was Alberta Premier Ralph Klein who admitted he had a problem with alcohol. Of course here in the North it is not our Premier that's going through the same thing, but it's Henry Zoe, and this isn't the first time that Zoe has had problems that stem from alcohol. Now earlier today he was striped of his duties as you just heard in that piece of tape from the Legislative Assembly. I am joined now by someone who sees the importance of having sober leadership, and Chief Archie Catholique is on the phone. Good afternoon Chief Catholique.

CATHOLIQUE: Good afternoon.

CBC: Now you've had to deal with a situation in your community before. Just how important is it to have leadership that isn't affected with alcohol problems?

CATHOLIQUE: Well for the community where I come from, we've had a lot of problems in the past, and even our leaders were not so sober at that time. The elders one day they got together and talked about it, and wanted something to be done. They were focusing at the leadership level where they looked as the leadership as the role models, and I guess from there they wanted to make sure at that level that everyone has to maintain sobriety. That's quite important because I think in the outside when you look at it, and people look at you. I know there's a lot of social issues out there, and in my way of thinking about this is that I was hoping that especially in the community. I know there's a lot of social issues out there, and in my way of thinking about this is that I was hoping that especially in the community that we'd have our young people look at it that them too that they are able to make sure that someday they want to come into politics then they have to think about the policies that we have at the leadership level.

CBC: So if you're a leader that's chosen by the people, how important is it to be made accountable if you do get in trouble where alcohol is a factor?

CATHOLIQUE: I know that there is programs available. I think it is up to the individual to go out and take treatment if they want to, and it's available. I know when I became a leader one of the things that I did say was if I was to lead to my people, be a spokesperson, then I'd pretty well have to stay away from the drinking and make sure that I'd have to follow the policies, and I have done that. I think that's the way that the people wanted it, and if there was a time that I went and went back then I certainly don't want to be a leader.

CBC: Now Chief Catholique, have you ever been in a situation yourself where alcohol ruled your life, and got in the way of your duties as chief or other jobs that you've held?

CATHOLIQUE: Not at the leadership level, but I have had jobs that I've gotten behind due to the problem that I did have with the alcohol. The leadership at that time, I believed that I can't work well with the way that I'd been involved with alcohol. As a matter of fact I was fired...(inaudible)...about that position, but later on looking back at it it was good that there were policies there that had to be followed and I agree with what the decision was.

CBC: Now as a chief, have you ever had to intervene and had someone go deal with their drinking problem?

CATHOLIQUE: I deal with that every day. At time I have to make decisions, and those decisions are not easy. There's policies that had to be followed, and according to the policy I had to make sure I had to do my job. Sometimes I can deal with it, it is difficult sometimes, but in the long run it works well

CBC: So do you think that if you hadn't gotten fired from a job many years ago where do you think you would be today Chief Catholique?

CATHOLIQUE: Well I also had a lot of thinking that I had to do when that happened, but the other side of it, what I seen with the former chief that was there, Chief...(inaudible)..., he'd taken actions on his part that he chose to stay sober as a chief, and those were the things that I seen, and I was thinking you know one day I hope I can be able to do that. I guess they were role models to me, and I guess I kind of looked at it as it was a good thing and I wanted to do that.

CBC: All right, Archie, thank you very much for this this afternoon. I appreciate this.

CATHOLIQUE: Mahsi cho.

CBC: Archie Catholique is the chief for Lutselk'e.