

Canadian Indians want alcohol clampdown

by UPI

WINNIPEG, Manitoba -- A group of Canadian Indian chiefs in northern Manitoba is asking for help at all levels to stem the flow of alcohol and drugs onto dry reservations.

Among the requests made by the group of 30 reservations, 28 of which don't permit alcohol, is screening of passengers and baggage by a regional airline that services the area, the Winnipeg Free Press reported Monday.

Grand Chief Sydney Garrioch said Perimeter Aviation has more than 200 flights per week into the region and, despite three new baggage X-ray machines installed in December, the amount of alcohol and drug abuse is on the rise.

Airline spokesman Bill Chernick said creative attempts to smuggle alcohol aboard flights have been discovered, including bottles concealed in breakfast oat cereal and in boxes of detergent.

Garrioch said the group would like to see the Royal Canadian Mounted Police make more searches of passengers using dogs and even get Canada Post, the national mail agency, to conduct more searches.

However, a spokeswoman said Canada Post doesn't use sniffer dogs and "police must be present when officials open suspicious mail," the newspaper said.

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