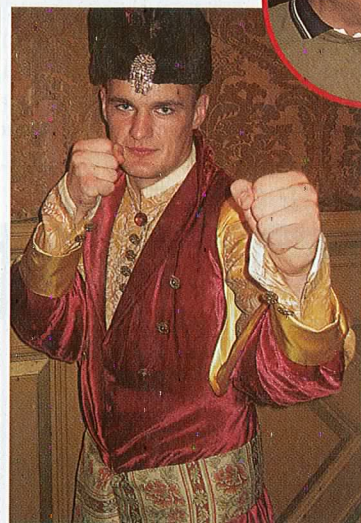# MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON A HUGGY HARPER AND WHY THE JAFFERS ARE BRINGING GOATS

DID HARPER INHALE?

At the apology for native residential schools, the most moving response from the House floor came from **Mary Simon**, president of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, who was wearing a seal fur vest. Her emotional thank you caused misty eyes. She even received an extremely rare public hug from the PM after she spoke. She confirmed later to Capital Diary the hug was "firm." After the apology in the Commons there was another gathering at which **Stephen Harper** took part in a smudging ceremony and was offered a ceremonial pipe, something he had not been warned was going to happen. The PM put the pipe to his lips, but it didn't look like he inhaled. One of the attendees at the apology was **Fred Sasakamoose**. The day before, he told Capital Diary, "I want my childhood back. And I think tomorrow I am going to receive it." At the school, they taught him hockey. "I came out of it pretty good. The priests were tough. They were good coaches, they meant business." The 75-year-old retired Sasakamoose became the first Canadian Aboriginal player for the NHL, playing for the Chicago Blackhawks in 1954.

100 YEARS OF HARPER

When Stephen Harper spoke at a Hill reception honouring Polish-Canadian milestones, including the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Polish Congress, he had the room laughing when he asked whether someone could help him with his Polish pronunciation of Kaszuby, the first Polish settlement in Canada, now celebrating its 150th anniversary. "I'm still working on French," he joked. The PM acknowledged well-known Canadians of Polish ancestry, including the next chief of defence staff, Lt.-Gen. **Walter Natynczyk,** who was in attendance. The PM's speech was followed by traditional Polish chants proclaiming he should live for 100 years. Harper was later greeted by two-time Ontario boxing champion and poli-sci student **Lukas Welniak**, wearing traditional garb from Poland's Mazur region. When Welniak requested a photo with the PM, Harper said, "Since you're dressed like this I'll have a pic." After the snap the PM quipped, "You don't dress like this every day?"

RAHIM JAFFER'S VERSION OF 'MEET THE PARENTS'

Glamour gals ranging from Sporty Spice **Mel C** to Secretary of State for Sport **Helena Guer-** gis packed this year's MuchMusic Video Awards party. **Ruby Dhalla** was the only Liberal MP in the crowd, but **Belinda Stronach**, an MMVA regular who was in Paris that night, got a ticket for her son **Frank**. Tory MP **Patrick Brown** showed off his big belt buckle (someone is ready for the Calgary Stampede). NDP Leader **Jack Layton** and MP wife **Olivia Chow** both wore purple. Tory MP **Rahim Jaffer** (the first MP to attend the MMVAs years ago and who is engaged to Guergis) noted at the bash that on June 21 his Edmonton family would be travelling to meet his fiancée's parents for the first time. "They'll be bringing goats," he joked.

DO THOSE AMBASSADORS LOOK YOUNG TO YOU?

In honour of the Euro 2008 soccer championship, MPs played a match against European "ambassadors." Tory MP **Jeff Watson** noted, "That's the youngest crop of ambassadors I have ever seen." In fact, many on the ambassadors' team were staffers and there was at least one security agent. Independent MP **Blair Wilson** practically bounced off lean Swiss player **Markus Hassler**. Liberal MP **Geoff Regan** asked, "Where's the oxygen?" (A tank was kept on site.) The MPs did use at least one non-elected team member: NDP press secretary **Karl Belanger** as goalie. But that was because the MPs' coach/goalie, NDPer **Peter Stoffer**, broke his arm in a previous match against the pages. The MVPs of the game were Liberal MP **Martha Hall Findlay** and **Koby Oded** of the Israeli Embassy. The "ambassadors" won 5 to 1. **M**

MARY SIMON (top); Helena Guergis and Rahim Jaffer (middle left); Lukas Welniak (middle right); Ruby Dhalla (below, left); MVP Martha Hall Findlay; (insets) Stephen Harper; Fred Sasakamoose; Jack Layton and Olivia Chow

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa outtakes or to contact Mitchel Raphael, visit **macleans.ca/ mitchelraphael**