

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

World Indigenous arts festival takes centre stage

Milton Tootoosis and Curtis Standing are working hard to ensure that acts from around the world come to the World Indigenous Festival for the Arts in August. Confirmed acts include Shay Wright and Travis O'Keefe (New Zealand), Keith Secola, (USA) and the Intertribal Band, Oklahoma (USA).

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



C-Weed Band member happy to be playing in Saskatoon

By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – This summer will see the kick-off a new music festival in Saskatoon with headliners Don Amero and Errol Ranville of the C-Weed Band.

“I love playing Saskatoon to begin with because I lived there at one time and I just love all the people. There has been huge support for C-Weed Band over the years,” Ranville said.

“It’s an honour to be invited.”

The Saskatchewan World Indigenous Festival for the Arts is set to promote cultural exchange through great music, Aug. 24 and 25. The World Indigenous

Business Forum (WIBF) being in Saskatoon provided a good partnership for the festival’s inaugural year.

According to Rosa Walker, president and CEO of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, the organization behind the forum, the goal is to leave a legacy in every community where they hold the conference.

She said there is often a spontaneous jam night at these conferences, just with “people who have a natural ability.”

“It seemed almost a natural progression to go from that to a music festival.”

• Continued on Page 7



INSIDE



PROLIFIC WRITER

Louise Halfe has been writing for years and now she is tackling some painful subjects in her latest projects. - Page 3



WALL CRUISED

Premier Brad Wall made it look easy as the Sask Party cruised to victory and will return with a large majority. - Page 4



NORTHERN TUNES

Musician Roland Corrigan is a proud northerner, content to create music from his Air Ronge home base. - Page 6



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary. - Page 9



SHARING SECRETS

Artist and writer Leah Dorion tells us what it takes to be a successful artist. - Page 16

Arts & Entertainment Edition

Coming In May - Sports, Mining, Youth Issue

Movies a powerful tool

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

SASKATOON – Filmmaker Danis Goulet joined Tasha Hubbard's Honours English class at a special film night at the Broadway Theatre featuring Indigenous female film-makers.

Entitled "Unfixed and Infinite," the film night featured five shorts: two of Goulet's features, along with one she had produced, and two more from filmmakers Elle-Maija Tailfeathers and Zoe Hopkins.

Goulet wrote "Wakenings", a film about post-apocalyptic times featuring a female Wisakechak and a Wetigo figure, during the time of Idle No More when she witnessed a real awakening of the people, and an empowerment from young people in particular which inspired her.

"Wisakechak and Wetigo are the stories and in that film they're staging a comeback," noted Goulet. "I wanted them coming together, with Wisakechak to free the Wetigo as a last resort."

In her other short, "Barefoot," she explores teen pregnancy in the North with a female high school student faking a pregnancy, and an ending she deliberately left as "a big question mark" without resolution.

"I grappled with the ending and changed it about three times during editing," noted Goulet, who has never been to film school but learned from studying film and recommended other aspiring film-makers to do the same.

"I was director of ImagineNative Film Festival and saw everything Indigenous film directors were making and for me that was the greatest education."

She encouraged people to see as much as they can, as diverse as they can, adding there is a real renaissance in Aboriginal film and it's growing every day.

"I think decolonization is the presence of an Indigenous person on the screen, period," remarked Goulet. "Anyone who wants to endeavour to do this is going to come up against a hundred years of misrepresentation, and also under-representation on the screen, so there's a big heavy history to contend with."

She added with the stereotypes and misrepresentation it's tempting to become a cheerleader but for her the key is finding the humanity of her characters and story, along with honesty. She also spoke about the classic western hero narrative being something she's always wanted to subvert, versus the worldview that good and evil aren't so polarized in Cree storytelling.

She added that she is currently programming on the TIFF short film board, submissions are open right now, and she invites people to get in touch with her via email or Facebook.

"We would love to get more submissions from Saskatchewan."

"I think telling our own stories is a really powerful thing," she noted. "I think for anyone who just wants to do it there are many ways to learn."



A film night hosted by Danis Goulet at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon brought out students and film lovers alike. (Right) Filmmaker Danis Goulet.

(Photos by Andrea Ledding)



Conference & Meeting Rooms

- Traditional & Contemporary Catering
- Many Gluten & Sugar Free Options
- No tax on food services
- No parking hassle
- Stunning view
- Art galleries & Exhibits

(306) 649 1703

irene.elliott@wanuskewin.com

Mothers Day Buffet

Wanuskewin famous Mothers Day Buffet is back

May 8. For reservations

kirk.borchardt@wanuskewin.com

Kids Day Camps

Week long camps offered throughout the summer



Wanuskewin
Heritage Park



Prolific Halfe pens residential school memories

**By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News**

Louise Halfe is getting ready to launch her fourth poetry book *Burning In This Midnight Dream* which explores residential school memories and healing from trauma.

"My first book (*Bear Bones and Feathers*) ties in with *Burning In This Midnight Dream* because it's about the after-effects of residential school," said Halfe in a phone interview.

"It's about explaining the behaviour and why people behave the way they do because of residential school: but also accepting the responsibility of oneself after the effects, after the fact, and that's the difficult part of recovery."

This fourth book was extremely hard to write, heart-wrenching because it was a lot of soul-digging.

"I've been working on it since the last book was published in 2007. It's been a long journey. It talks about lateral and horizontal violence, what people do to each other and what people do to themselves, and the recovery process as well, towards healing."

She relied on ceremony, the sweat lodge, and talking to supportive people or getting professional help when needed, including past psychotherapy sessions. There she received non-confrontational and non-judgmental listening, the same tools needed to be good listeners or good readers, she notes.

"We have to validate the darkness within each other in order to try and move ahead."

"By listening to another person's story we're validating their existence,

their hurt and their pain," noted Halfe.

"Readers need to know what is being triggered, and examine what is being triggered, and if they find some good, to use that goodness to heal."

Did she ever think poetry would open the doors it has for her, as a former provincial Poet Laureate? She replied that in her youth, she never thought she'd step off the reserve.

"My big dream was to leave the reservation, but I didn't realize, it would be more than one way I would do so," she said, adding that her world became huge.

"I've gone to U.K., England, Wales, Scotland, the Hebrides, and Italy three times, Australia three times, Malaysia, China, Africa, Germany – these are places people dream about. I've been very fortunate as a writer to be invited to all these places."

This has taught her to always be open to other peoples' teachings, always examining what is speaking to her or triggering her in other people's stories so that she can work at repairing her own life. She's worked through a lot to write difficult material.

"I think it's really important if people find they're being triggered by texts that they find someone to talk to, to look at their own issues arising from the text," she added, saying after-care is essential.

"It's like going to a movie that's triggered you left, right, and centre, what do you do with that information?"

"If you go to a theatre and you've been triggered by the content there, what do you do with that info from that dra-



Writer and Poet Louise Halfe has gone from thinking she would never leave the reserve to now launching her fourth book of poetry. The former Provincial Poet Laureate tells the story of the residential schools in her current work.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

matic piece? It's like any other art form; I'm responsible for myself so I must look after my self-care."

Good work triggers people in their unresolved issues in all kinds of ways, she noted.

"Even beautiful art will provoke some sort of reaction, even if it brings you to tears because it's so beautiful. Good art does that to you, it triggers you in some form or another and it doesn't have to be in a negative way. I've cried with beautiful sunsets, the magnitude of God's power is so incredible that I just cry."

Her gift of having Cree as her first language is something she falls back on all the time, especially when struggling to articulate something in English that sounds too telling.

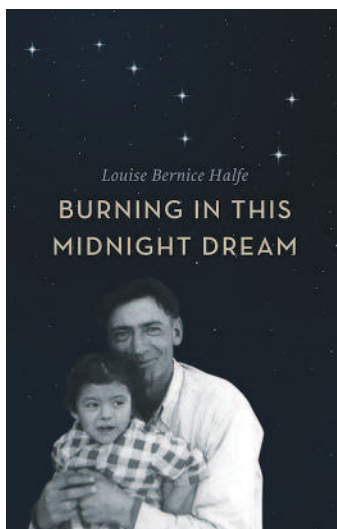
"There's a lot of metaphor in Cree language, one word can mean many

things," she said, adding that for those who don't have their language, perseverance and humility can help them grow in it, something she's practiced in using English all her life.

She urges those interested in writing or poetry to critically read and write all they can. Patrick Lane is one example for her who has written many intimate poems from his life, inspirationally giving her permission to bravely do the same.

"And know that I'm not alone in my past craziness, that I'm not the same person I was 30 years ago. That people need to update and not judge that person by their past," she noted.

"When I listen to Elders talk in the past, they talk about their lives as a teaching method so that the younger generation don't make those same mistakes. They use themselves as examples. So poetry is a form of that, in a way."



**"Where does one job equal three?
Only in my backyard."**

STEWART LAROQUE
MINING OPERATOR
ALLAN, SASKATCHEWAN

"I'm proud to be one of over 2,300 Saskatchewan residents who work for PotashCorp. But I'm even prouder of this: For every person like me that PotashCorp hires, three more jobs are created. How's that for positive economic impact? And they're only in my backyard."

 **PotashCorp**

PotashCorp.com/Nourish

Election over before it even began

Brad Wall and the SaskParty routed the NDP 51 seats to 10, showing that the people of Saskatchewan have a strong belief in Brad Wall and his team and the direction of the province in the last eight years.

It also showed that the NDP has become stagnant (or stayed stagnant, if you will), with NDP Leader Cam Broten paying the ultimate price, losing his own seat, a long-time NDP stalwart riding and eventually his job when he resigned.

The election ended early ... before it even began, you might even argue. The Liberals, Green Party and PC's were all just a small sideshow to be ignored, the NDP had to fire their campaign manager and drop four candidates because of bad social media etiquette and the SaskParty was polling at over 60 per cent leading into the vote.

And nothing changed. Most major media outlets called the election within 15 minutes of the polls closing. After that, the fun was in watching the close ridings come in and seeing which new MLAs would be entering the Legislature.

This election campaign was boring compared to the federal vote in October. There was no passion (except during the terrible televised debate) in this campaign and many people just went through the motions.

The campaign was also sadly devoid of people championing Aboriginal issues and the Aboriginal vote didn't materialize like it did in the federal election. The Liberals had a very disjointed and bizarre Aboriginal platform, the NDP's was weak and the SaskParty, well, it seems like Aboriginal issues are a low priority with them.

Louis Riel is often quoted as saying that, "My people will sleep for 100 years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their

spirit back."

Well now is the time for the artists to rise up and take on the provincial government that caused outrage when they cut the film tax credit that supported so many artists.

So, the election is over. The NDP and the three other parties have four years to figure out how to hold this government with a massive majority accountable. They also have to figure out how to build a team to seriously

challenge the SaskParty at the next election. The NDP has to elect a new leader and realize that the province has changed and they haven't.

Fortunately there are some Aboriginal MLA's in the Legislature to lobby for the cause.



The North stayed orange as NDP incumbents Doyle Vermette and Buckley Belanger, both Métis, easily held their seats. Their voice will

continue to be strong, and hopefully the North won't be ignored anymore.

And the SaskParty is far from the devilish federal Conservative Party of Canada. They have actually done some smart investments in education and training and also have made affordable housing accessible.

Look for the SaskParty Aboriginal members become more vocal, too. Jennifer Campeau of Saskatoon Fairview is the only First Nation person in the House and she held a minister position prior to the election, so look for her to have some profile. They also have Métis MLAs Roger Parent and Greg Lawrence that we hope become better advocates for the cause.

But the time has come for the SaskParty to start taking Aboriginal issues more seriously.

With the fastest growing demographic and many challenges, the time is now. A response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, maybe an apology for the Sixties Scoop and perhaps even a discussion on natural resource revenue sharing would be good places to start.

Congratulations to the SaskParty and Premier Wall but if they want to be able to pound their chests about three consecutive terms and about how great they have been as a party and for Saskatchewan, they have to hold off until they do quite a bit better for the First Nation and Métis people of this territory.



Premier Brad Wall was presented this sash in 2010, the Year of the Métis after a Métis sash was interred in the Legislature as a symbol of the Métis people. Many hope that with his new mandate, there will be more focus on the arts and Aboriginal issues.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Eagle Feather NEWS

Box 924 Saskatoon, Sk S7K 3M4
306-978-8118, 1-866-323-NEWS (6397)

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: John Lagimodiere, John@eaglefeathernews.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

ADVERTISING & SALES: contact@eaglefeathernews.com

Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204

OSSN #1492-7497

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ., P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4

Eagle Feather News is published monthly by ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services, P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4. No part of this publication may be reproduced either in part or in whole without the express written permission of the publisher.

Subscriptions: Annual Canadian subscription rate is \$25 per year, \$26.25 with GST. Bulk subscriptions are also available, call our office for details. Subscription requests can be mailed or emailed to our office. Forms are available on our website.

Disclaimer: Eagle Feather News hereby expressly limits its liability resulting from any and all misprints, errors, and/or inaccuracies whatsoever in advertisements or editorial content to the refund of the specific advertisement payment and/or running of a corrected advertisement or editorial correction notice. Contributing authors agree to indemnify and protect the publishers from claims of action regarding plagiarism.

eaglefeathernews.com

This issue printed on: April 13, 2016 Next issue to be printed on: May 11, 2016

Living on the wrong side of town

I lived in a rough area of the city for six months.

I had heard mostly bad stuff about the area: rampant crime, shootings, and only half-hearted recycling efforts.

Now before you dismiss me as a bourgeois wuss, I grew up on a reserve in southern Saskatchewan and while not exactly the Mad Max Fury Road of lawlessness that the media suggests, it definitely had its moments of privation – no drinking water, showering under a spitting shower head, and roads during the spring that were more suggestions than firm commitments.

So I can rough it, I just prefer not to.

The first few days after moving into our new digs, my fears were allayed. People were actually friendlier than in other areas of the city. Everyone always said hi as I pushed the stroller down the street and asked me about my day.

However things began to move sideways – or more specifically out of our yard. My partner owns a lot of tools and this seemed to be a concern for one of our neighbours so he repeatedly lightened our load.

In most cases, we knew who the thief was, footprints led directly to his house. But footprints aren't the open and shut case that my reading of Nancy Drew led me to believe. My partner wanted justice and when that wasn't available, he elected for petty revenge.

"I'd like to spray paint the word 'thief' on his fence."

"Not to sound unsupportive, but doesn't everyone already know he's a thief?" I asked.

I mentioned the spray paint plan to my mom. She thought it was a terrible idea: "If you're gonna spray-paint anything, write 'sex offender', that'll get people talking."

Our contact with crime continued. My car was broken into. Although it was so dirty to begin with, I could not assess if anything had been stolen. Old Tim Horton's cups still there? Check. Garbage bags of clothes I meant to give away for the past six months? Check. Box



of my books, "Rose's Run"? Check – every single copy. (Talk about adding insult to injury.)

Then the thieves delivered their cruelest cut. On my birthday, someone stole my cake from our front steps as we carried in groceries. It said happy birthday. It had my name on it. And it was an ice cream cake. In my opinion, these three facts put this crime on par with murder or at least a terrible case of diarrhea.

After that, everything that couldn't be nailed down was locked in at night. My boyfriend went around checking locks at night when he couldn't sleep. I was more sanguine – because I've lived in a place where larceny was so commonplace that I stopped taking it personally.

From my time there, I came to understand that most crime was the result of addiction, poor decision-making and economic capriciousness – yes, I really learned a lot those years I lived in Alberta.

Theft wasn't the only concern, I realized, when one night there was a shooting on our street. The next morning, it was all the neighbourhood could talk about. We stood on the street and postulated reasons why it happened like aspiring Hardy Boys.

That night my boyfriend saw a strange car parked behind our house. He threw on his coat (and pants when I reminded him) and stomped out the door. Outside, he banged on the car window, demanding the person identify himself.

A few minutes later he returned, somewhat embarrassed, and explained that he had interrupted a cop who was on stakeout.

My boyfriend said, as he gazed out the window at our neighbourhood, "This place has changed me."

I offered to buy him some spray paint to cheer him up.

We were moving that week (unrelated to all the crime we'd experienced – our landlord was moving into the house with his family) but the street did not want us to go. My boyfriend had loaded a truck full of furniture when police cars started appearing. Within minutes the entire street was cordoned off.

I pulled up outside the area and saw him trapped inside. We were like a frustrated Romeo and Juliet. Except instead of spouting poetry over the barrier, we decided to go for KFC. Half of our household was on the back of the truck but we were unconcerned.

We'd reached that point where our possessions had no hold over us – plus if a thief could get past 30 odd police officers, then perhaps that level of robbery expertise deserves to be rewarded.



SHERI BENSON

Member of Parliament

Saskatoon West

Talk

306-975-6555
sheribenson@parl.gc.ca

Visit

904E 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S1

Be social

@sheribenson
facebook.com/sheribensonNDP

Your voice in the House of Commons

sheribenson.ndp.ca

Tansi! Edlanete! Hello!

A big THANK YOU to our listeners....we raised almost \$550,000 for the Saskatchewan Children's Hospital. Special thanks to CAMECO who matched every dollar donated!



News, weather,
interviews, music & more
24/7 in English, Cree and Dene

Find your local station or listen on-line at:
mberadio.com



Like us on
Facebook



You can grow a lot of things.
More time isn't one of them.

Affinity's experienced advisors are ready to meet
when you need them – in our office or yours.

Talk to an ag specialist today.

Affinity
Credit Union

Roland Corrigan happy singing from the North country

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

AIR RONGE – Roland Corrigan would love to sing for you. In fact, his recent single release is titled just that – “Sing For You”.

“It’s one of the very first songs I had ever written and it’s based on the idea that somebody wants to sing music and make people happy,” says Corrigan.

When it comes to performing before an audience, however, living in northern Saskatchewan presents some challenges.

“I’ve got to tack on at least two and a half hours for travel,” says Corrigan, who currently makes his home in Air Ronge. “If I didn’t live here, I’d probably be doing a whole lot more music.”

Still, he has attracted enough respect to secure a Saskatchewan Country Music Association (SCMA) nomination for Aboriginal Artist of the Year, and he has been invited to perform at the Industry Awards of the SCMA Awards weekend, April 22-24.

The Métis musician grew up in Beauval, immersed in country music. As soon as he was old enough, he joined his father’s band, DC and the Country Boys, as a drummer. He has also played with other musicians, including Mitch Daigneault, who is based in Saskatoon.

“Always a solid drummer and a great guy to hang around with,” remarks Daigneault. “When he had the chance he’d always pull out a guitar and sing a song he wrote.”

It is the singer/songwriter aspect of his musical career that the 35-year-old Corrigan is currently focusing on. In the last six months he has released two singles, both of which will appear on his first solo album which he hopes will be out by the fall of 2016.

“There’s going to be a fairly wide spectrum of styles,” says Corrigan, noting that his songs range from traditional to more contemporary.

As he learns more about the music business, he is balancing that with his role in marketing and public relations at Northlands College.

“I work in a job where I have to promote an organization, and in the entertainment side, I’ve got to promote myself,



Northern Saskatchewan country music artist Roland Corrigan is looking to release his first solo album later this year.

(Submitted photo)

so they almost go hand-in-hand,” he says.

“The best way to enjoy music, of course, is seeing it performed live, but radio, in my opinion, is still the best way to reach people with your music,” says Corrigan, so he is particularly appreciative of the number of radio stations that are airing his songs.

Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) prides itself on supporting local artists, says Dwayne Animikwan, MBC’s mid-day on-air host.

“I love playing good music,” says Animikwan. “Songs as well-produced as Roland’s are going to get played.”

Corrigan is also one of 63 Saskatchewan artists who have put themselves forward for CBC’s Searchlight 2016 in the hopes of being one of ten regional semi-fi-

nalists. Nine will be selected by judges, while a tenth will be based on the number of votes the performers receive from the public, so the competition and online voting process is another opportunity for more exposure.

“I’ve been doing what I can from

where I live. I don’t plan on leaving, because I’ve lived here all my life and it would take something extraordinary to make me leave,” he says.

“Seeing people entertained and wanting to hear more – it’s a good feeling.”

Do you have pictures to be framed? Need some new art in your life?

Pick from
HUNDREDS
of frames and mattes



Check out our
Facebook
for weekly specials

Scoles Fine Arts & Framing

Open Monday to Friday 9:00 - 5:00, Saturday 10:00 - 4:00
106 - 335 Packham Avenue, Saskatoon
Ph: 306-934-2688 Email: scoles@sasktel.net

Organizers hope to create an annual event

• Continued from Page One

The people on the ground in Saskatoon, making it happen, are festival executive producer Curtis Standing and Milton Tootosis, chair of the WIBF 2016 planning committee.

"We want to be different and unique than other WIBF," Tootosis said, "We want to set the new WIBF standard."

He said he wants the kind of forum that is a conference by day and festival by night. The good news for the public is they are invited to attend the music festival too.

Along with the headliners, over the two day music festival there will be Indigenous acts from places like Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii, Standing said.

"You could see something, you'll never see unless you travel over there," he said.

The music festival will also be about breaking stereotypes and giving new, young and upcoming musicians a chance at moving their careers forward, Standing said.

"There is so much talent out there, so much diversity too," he adds.

"Not every Indigenous person sings powwow – they have created an Indigenous genre, they have created their own lyrics," Tootosis said.

Standing chimes in with an example.

"Even if we cover a song ... we'll interpret it in our own way, like Freddie Mercury's song I want to break free, they'll change the words, 'I want to speak Cree,'" he said.

"So I heard a younger band, some younger kids singing that, so even when they do cover songs, they

add an Indigenous flavour to it."

They have indigenized the music, said Tootosis.

It doesn't stop there, along with traditional music, there are country music people, rappers, hip hop and heavy metal groups, Standing said. There are Indigenous People who play and write music up to their 80s and 90s and kids who can just dance.

"It goes right from traditional and right to contemporary too," he said.

"There are not just four or five faces to Aboriginal music; there is so much diversity and so many new people coming up too."

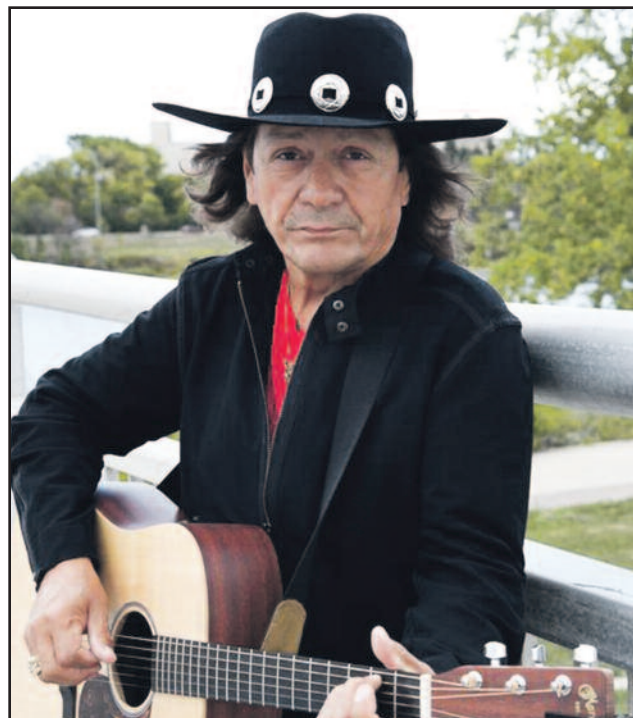
These new people will get a chance on the big stage in the Delta Bessborough Gardens during the two-day event – there will be four spots reserved for amateur groups and four reserved for youth. Auditions will be held in the next couple of months.

Standing gives the examples of a Dene rock band and some hand drummers he knows that don't get a lot of exposure across the rest of the province. An event like the Saskatchewan World Indigenous Festival for the Arts gives the performing musicians' exposure, but the reach is further because it shows other groups that making music is possible.

"So then they'll pursue their musical quest in their lives," he said, and because this is the first year of many, the opportunities will continue.

"The music festival is not just a one and done, we want to build it up."

The goal is to make it an annual event, using this as a year to build capacity and learn from their partners like the Jazz Festival, Rock the River and Ness Creek. As it continues, Standing says there will be the oppor-



Errol Ranville will be one of the featured artists at the World Indigenous Festival for the Arts. (Photo supplied)

tunity to find more talent, not only on the stage but those who support the musicians, like sound technicians.

"Young people are always looking elsewhere to tell a story, but I think when we start developing our own talent, develop our own scene here we start telling our own story, we start expressing who we are."

On top of everything that goes on behind the scenes, for people buying a ticket to see new acts or the C-Weed Band, the festival will just be a good time.

"Any of these kinds of shows that are staged in a professional manner are always fun to play and I think that it will be a treat for the local people of Saskatoon," Ranville said.

The Saskatchewan World Indigenous Festival for the Arts is a not-for-profit music festival that creates a nurturing environment that ensures performance excellence, celebrates creativity through artistic expression, and stimulates community by engaging and inspiring listeners to hear and see the world with a fresh perspective.



www.swiffa.ca
info@swiffa.ca

Curtis Standing
Executive Producer
curtis.standing@gmail.com
306-371-6300

CONNECT
SHARE
INSPIRE

Like us



Follow us



#SWIFFA2016



Delta Bessborough Gardens
601 Spadina Crescent
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3G8 Canada
August 24-25, 2016

Commitment, parental involvement spells success

By Renee Hopper
For Eagle Feather News

Together, Monetary, and Millipede are the three reasons why three First Nations students will be competing in the Canadian National spelling bee a month from now.

The first ever First Nations provincial spelling bee was hosted on Friday April 8 at the Don Ross centre in North Battleford.

"We are making history here," said Pauline Favel, the coordinator for the event.

"This is more than just a spelling bee, this unites communities, builds social and study skills, as well as reading and writing comprehension. It's also really good for their confidence and public speaking skills."

The students can be tested on over 400 words during the competition, so studying took a lot of commitment from them, as well as their parents. Parental involvement is key, Favel said with certainty.

The opportunity for students to travel is another great experience for these kids. Students from the White Bear Education Centre, which is an hour from the American border, traveled to North Battleford, some for the first time. The schools involved really worked hard, and had to really want to be involved, said Favel.

An event of this scale takes a lot



Students came from around Saskatchewan to participate in the first ever First Nations Spelling Bee in North Battleford. The winners all get to go meet the Premier at the Legislature and go to Toronto to compete nationally.

(Photo by Renee Hopper)

of organizing, fund raising and endorsement from many people. Favel wanted to express her gratitude to all of the schools, parents and sponsors. She mentioned SIGA, the title sponsor who "guided and supported me", as well as the five other Poundmaker School Committee members: Deena Paules, Nicole Jordan, Marlene Chickeness, Priscilla Moyah and Chaz Albert.

There have been provincial spelling bees before, said Favel but the First Nations representation was low. This will be

the first time an all First Nations team will go to Nationals.

Ultimately for Favel, seeing the kids getting excited about the bee, motivated her to make this a reality.

Brittany Bugler, the second place winner of the junior competition from Onion Lake, was feeling overcome with joy, and happy for her good friend Makayla Cannepotato, also from Onion Lake, for taking first place.

Once her nerves settled, Ashley Bugler expressed a sense of pride, knowing that her daughter had been part of the first ever event like this.

And, as second Vice-Chief Bob Merasty said in the opening remarks, "education is our buffalo."



PAULINE FAVEL



Brittney Bugler, left gave her buddy Makayla Cannepotato a big hug on stage when Cannepotato spelled the last word to win her junior age division.

(Photo by Renee Hopper)

CCDF has a busy month of April!

We will be in many different communities if you would like to come out and hear about our programs, please join us!

April 23rd & 24th - Fort Qu'Appelle
Takin Care of Business Trade Show & Sale
Rexentre 560-4th Street East

April 22nd, 23rd & 24th - Meadow Lake
North West Trade Fair
Meadow Lake Arena

April 26th - Maple Creek
Community Information Session
C.M Glascock Building
222 Jasper Street 7pm - 9pm

April 27th - Swift Current
Community Information Session
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1301 North Service Road East 7pm - 9pm

May 4th - Yorkton
Working Together Career Fair
St. Mary's Cultural Centre 9am - 2:30pm

May 10th - LaRonge
Career Symposium & Hands on Career Day
Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre
9am - 3 pm

May 12th - Redvers
Redvers & District Oil Showcase
Redvers Rec Center 21 Methuen Street



Serving
Saskatchewan's
Métis

www.clarencecampeau.com

If you have any questions, please contact our office
1-888-657-4870

SIIT preparing to celebrate 40th anniversary

**By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News**

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies is busy gearing up for its 40th anniversary celebration later this month.

The institution, which is governed by First Nations leaders from all over Saskatchewan, has come a long way since it first opened its doors in 1976.

SIIT now serves approximately 2,400 students annually at its three campuses in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

The college offers a host of certificate and diploma programs in a variety of areas including trades and industrial, business, information technology, health and community studies and adult basic education.

SIIT also operates the Saskatchewan Aviation Learning Centre at the Saskatoon airport.

Along with the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, it is one of four educational institutions in the province with credit granting authority.

It is estimated that about 93 per cent of SIIT students are of Aboriginal ancestry and 75 per cent of these students complete their chosen programs or continue their education.

Two out of every three students are over the age of 25 and one in three has dependents.

Since 2010, SIIT has represented students from 175 First Nations all over Canada.

Riel Bellegarde, president of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, says things really turned the corner for the institution when the province passed the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act in 2000.

The legislation recognized SIIT as an accredited granting institution enabling students to transfer credits to other post-secondary institutions and have their diplomas and certificates recognized by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal employers at the provincial level.

"I think it was a real significant milestone because we really began to accredit programs and grow programs," Bellegarde says.

"So it really lifted us up to being one of the major educational institutions in Saskatchewan and certainly that was a critical turning point toward our continued success and evolution as an institution in this province."

Bellegarde also credits an increased

focus on trades programs to address Saskatchewan's changing economy and the creation of the career centres as factors that have contributed to SIIT's success in recent years.

"I think in the past five years the evolution of our career centres in Saskatchewan has been a big significant enhancement to our institution," he says.

"We currently have eight of those

career centres sprinkled across the province and over the course of the year we'll have over 4,500 folks walk through those doors. It's an opportunity for our local career centres to connect with local industry and business folks and align Aboriginal people with employment opportunities."

Twenty-three-year old Jesse Weist is a graduate of SIIT's carpentry program.

In February 2015 and at the age of 22, he became the

Joint Training Commission's youngest journeyman carpenter to achieve red seal certification.

Weist, who is currently working as a lead hand for Coram Construction in the building of the new stadium in Regina, says one thing he really enjoyed about his SIIT experience was the smaller class sizes the institution offers.

"There's 12 people in each class per semester so it is pretty close to one on one teaching," he says.

Thirty-year-old Glenda Watson is a graduate of SIIT's community addictions program who later went on to complete both a bachelor of health sciences and masters of education, with a focus on counseling and psychology, at Lethbridge University.

She currently works for the Alberta Department of Health helping people who struggle with addictions within the prison system.

Watson, a member of the Ah-tahkakoop Cree Nation, says her years spent at SIIT gave her a cultural understanding of how addictions affect Indigenous people.

"Every single class I went through at SIIT had an Aboriginal component to it," she says.

"I felt it kind of gave me that gateway to really fully understand how I can serve my people and how I can connect with them individually in sessions or whether that be in group therapy."

Nevertheless, in spite of SIIT's success, there remains a significant educational and employment gap for Indige-

nous people in the province.

Riel Bellegarde says he believes it will be a continued effort to mentor and

offer various supports to students who may have fallen through the cracks at other institutions that will play perhaps the largest role in closing this gap.

"We see a lot of learners coming through our doors where maybe the education system has failed them once, or even twice, but they are coming back because they want another opportunity.

"So we take that responsibility very seriously to ensure that when those individuals walk through our doors our primary focus is to ensure that retention is front and centre and we can provide them the supports they need to be successful because ultimately if they're successful, their family is successful and the province as a whole is successful."

The SIIT 40th anniversary gala event takes place April 21 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

The keynote speaker will be renowned Canadian comedian and social commentator Rick Mercer.



RIEL BELLEGARDE



Endless Possibilities

"Over the last 17 years as my life changed, the City provided me with endless possibilities for my career to grow with it."

Norma McKay, Sr. Fire Inspector

City of Saskatoon

New job postings every Wednesday at www.saskatoon.ca
For more information contact Jodi at 306-975-2661.



Share Your Culture

SaskCulture, in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, offers the **Métis Cultural Development Fund**, a grant program aimed at supporting activity that helps preserve and pass on Métis culture and traditions.

Deadlines: April 30, November 2

For more information, contact Dominga Robinson at 306-780-9295, toll-free 1-866-476-6830 or drobinson@saskculture.ca. Visit SaskCulture.ca for details.



FUNDING PROVIDED BY



www.SaskCulture.ca

[f/SaskCulture](https://www.facebook.com/SaskCulture) [@SaskCulture](https://www.instagram.com/SaskCulture)

SaskCulture, with financial assistance from Saskatchewan Lotteries, helps to support heritage activity in Saskatchewan.

FNUUniv powwow princes encourages other women to enter competition

“Need to empower one another”

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) powwow crowned their new princess to represent the institution throughout the year at various events and powwow celebrations.

Miss. First Nations University of Canada Princess, Cheyenne Fineday from the Witchehan Lake First Nation, was thrilled when the announcer called her name as this year's newly crowned princess.

“I feel really good, I'm really excited,” says Fineday.

The 18-year-old young lady is a semi-fluent Cree speaker, one of the qualities that the judges were looking for in the contestants.

“I think what stood out in my presentation is that I did most of it in my language,” she says.

“I'm not fluent but my goal is to be fluent one day but I can understand it really good.”

The princess pageant was based on their portfolios which include their personal essays, their marks in school, recommendation letters, the application itself, public speaking and, lastly, their dancing.

Not only will the newly crowned princess be invited to various powwows throughout the year to represent the university but she also receives a beaded crown and sash, a cash prize, a blanket, an invitation to special events as FNUUniv Royalty and a \$1,000 scholarship when she enters into the university.

Fineday will be starting her first year of university in the fall to study Indigenous Studies with hopes of graduating with a Master's degree. Living on the reserve her whole life, she sees the upcoming transition as exciting yet scary at the same time but says she will honor the words her late father used to say.

“A quote that my late dad always told me ‘if you live your life in a good way, the Creator will lead you to good things, meaning to stay away from drugs and alcohol, go to school and get your education but at the same time attend ceremonies and learn your language.’”

They are words that Fineday holds close to her heart.

The young role model's advice to other younger girls who dream of wearing the Miss. First Nations University of Canada sash and crown, is not to be shy and scared of seeking the title.

“Young girls don't need to have a title of some sort to be a leader because everyone is a leader in their own way. But if they choose to run for princess, that's good for them because there aren't that many young girls that run for this title and I think it's because they're very shy or they're scared.

“As women, we need to empower and encourage one another and maybe more girls will run in the future.”

The crowning took place on the last day of the powwow in front of thousands of spectators, over 600 dancers and 18 drum groups.

Chair of the powwow committee, Richard Missens says this year was very well attended with past averages in attendance usually gets close to 7,000 visitors.

“We were so full we had to open up the upper levels which we never had to do in the 12 years that I've been chair,” he says.

This year's powwow was their 38th year but the university also celebrated 40 years of the formation of the First Nations University of Canada institution.



(Above) Cheyenne Fineday from the Witchehan Lake First Nation was named Miss First Nations University of Canada Princess at the annual FNUUniv Powwow. The powwow set record attendance and had over 600 dancers and 18 drum groups. (Photos by Jeanelle Mandes)



Stepping Stones Career Fair

What is your career path?

May 10, 2016
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Credit Union Eventplex, Evraz Place, Regina SK
steppingstonescareerfair.ca

First Nations University of Canada



Thank you to our Elders, volunteers, dancers, drum groups and spectators for helping make the First Nations University of Canada's 38th Annual Spring Celebration Pow-Wow a tremendous success. We are honoured that 635 dancers, 19 drums with 190 singers, 135 volunteers and over 6,000 spectators came out to join us in celebration of First Nations culture and traditions.

We are grateful for the community involvement from dance specials in commemoration of those who passed, initiations into dance and the pow-wow lifestyle to honouring Elders and traditional knowledge keepers.

PHD LEVEL



K+S Potash Canada

BACHELOR LEVEL



CERTIFICATE LEVEL

Creeland Mini Mart
Loblaw
PotashCorp
Regina Food Bank
Regina Hotel Association
Casino Regina
Sasktel 4G Lite
Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Center

DANCE CATEGORY

Enbridge
FNUnd Student's Association
Meyers Norris Penny (MNP)
Regina Police Service
SGEU Local 1101
SIIT – Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
The Stripe Shop

Men created mask to protect themselves from violence

"Indigenous Men and Masculinities" launched in Saskatoon in March at Little Bird Patisserie and Café, hosted by editors Drs. Robert Innes and Kim Anderson, both professors in Indigenous Studies, with an ultimate goal to "rebuild healthy communities and healthy families," said Anderson.

Two contributors, Dr. Robert Henry and Allison Piché, shared briefly on their chapters in the book.

"The men created a mask to protect

"They perform a masculinity that protects them, and adopting a mask is a performance."

He added that vulnerability helps males drop their masks and address underlying issues. Allison Piché spoke about colonial violence and imposition of prisons as a structure that interrupts and harms healthy masculinity, speaking from her experiences teaching within the penal system with STR8UP and Inspired Minds.



Allison Piché, Dr. Robert Innes, Dr. Kim Anderson and Dr. Robert Henry are part of a movement to rebuild healthy communities and healthy families

themselves from colonial violence," explained Henry, who wrote about gangs and masculinity, building on work he'd done with gang members in his Ph.D.

"Indigenous men experience violence, both as victims and as perpetrators," noted Anderson, adding that they deal with similar burdens as Indigenous women and peo-

ple of colour, but include negative outcomes in the penal system, in education, and in high rates of mortality.

"Who is walking with our brothers, is a question we ask in the introduction."

She emphasized the importance of addressing and healing the masculine spirit as well as the feminine, explaining that colonialism has stripped both of their natural communal authority as it existed pre-contact. In the men it is often replaced with male dominance and patriarchal violence, dysfunction that begins in the family and continues in the community through Indian Act style governance in a way that maintains oppression individually and collectively.

However it is also important to recognize successes and resilience, and tell the good stories of positive male influence, she noted, and contributors focus on areas of strength. "Responsibility and identity are intimately connected in Indian country."

Innes described the field as relatively new, giving a brief overview of how the book came to be, and how he became involved. With a background studying kinship ties, an examination of masculinity through family responsibilities was a natural extension.

The book brings together prominent



thinkers from the Americas and New Zealand to explore the meaning of masculinities and being a man within traditions of gender equity and the sacred feminine through art and literature, sport, prisons, and gangs.

The voices of Indigenous male writers, traditional knowledge keepers, ex-gang members, war veterans, fathers, youth, two-spirited people, and Indigenous men working to end violence against women are highlighted to offer a vision toward equitable societies that celebrate healthy and diverse masculinities.

Dealing with cancer part of life for cancer warrior

Do you know someone who has cancer? Sad to say but I know many. Cancer has been in my family so long.

I faced my own battle with cancer 15 years ago and happy to say that I am in cancer free. My biggest fear is that the cancer will come back. For that reason I call myself a breast cancer warrior because I know that cancer is not finished with me or my family.

Throughout the years I have tried to make sense of this disease. Cancer has taken so many of my family members including children.

It's so frustrating. I am not a doctor or scientist that can find a cure for cancer, but I am a fighter and I felt the need to do whatever I could to fight this disease, so I began educating myself. The more I learned about cancer the less I feared it.

I learned to enjoy my time here and work hard at sharing my love of life with everyone I meet. I learned to treat others with kindness because it feels good and I like feeling good.

I will never know why cancer has touched our family to the extent that it has, and that's OK. I will not live my life waiting for cancer to knock on my door again.

Instead I take every opportunity to talk with Aboriginal people about my battle with cancer and hopefully ease some of their concerns with regards to this disease.

People are funny creatures; we often focus on negative things and spend little or no time enjoying life and all the

gifts we receive in a day.

The best advice I received was from a family member who told me, "You don't just lie down and die! You get up and fight!"

Cancer is becoming so common in our communities that we aren't even surprised when we hear that someone we know has cancer. Keep in mind that when you're the person with cancer it is a devastating diagnosis and that person can feel so alone.

What can we do or say to our friends or family members dealing with cancer? To start with just be yourself. I found that when I was diagnosed some of my family and friends were too scared to come and see me.

I guess they thought I was going to die right away and didn't want to watch me suffer. There are those who don't know what to say so they stay away because they don't want to say the wrong thing.

Reality check! Don't be so selfish. If you have a friend or family member with cancer go visit with them, ask if there is anything you can do? Clean their house; cook a meal for them or their family. You can offer to drive them to an appointment, take their children to hockey practice or music lessons. The important thing is to be there and help them through this difficult time.

There are so many issues that I

never thought about until I was diagnosed. There are so many cancer organizations that provide support and education for people dealing with cancer but nothing specific to Aboriginal people – I found a gap and it was huge.

I took it upon myself to try and bring our Aboriginal voice to the table. "What about us," I asked them.

People need to feel safe to share personal stories and with people who have similar interests. What I found was a group of older Caucasian ladies who had no idea about being an "Indian", no idea what it was like living in poverty.

There was no way I could relate to their stories of taking time off work to travel with their fam-

ilies for a vacation because this may be the last holiday they had with their families. I had never taken my children on a holiday; I had no job to take time off from.

I was a single mother in my final semester at the First Nations University of Canada and I needed my student allowance to feed my children. I couldn't eat five to 10 fruits and vegetables a day. I could barely afford to keep food on the table for my children.

This was my reality and the reality of many people who live in poverty. I began to think about those people that

live in remote areas. What would happen to them if they are diagnosed? Is there screening programs for them, and do they participate if they are available?

What happens to all the money that people donate to the 'cause'? We have the Terry Fox Run, CIBC Run for the Cure, Canadian Cancer Society, and Saskatchewan Breast Cancer Network to name a few.

Why aren't they offering programs for Aboriginal people? If a gap exists then fill it. Create your own support groups. Talk to your family and friends about cancer, and when the opportunity arises to take part in screening programs take it!

People are living longer with cancer – I am living proof, and yes we will still lose people but don't get lost in that fact.

Life is meant to be lived and enjoyed. It is the greatest gift given to us, so enjoy.

Even though there are days I wish I could change some things that happened in the past, there's a reason the rear view mirror is so small and the windshield is so big. Where you're headed is much more important than what you've left behind.

Thank you for your letters and emails it is always nice to hear from the readers.

You can write to me at Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Sez PO Box 924 ST Main, Saskatoon Saskatchewan or send me an email to sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



GTNT on a winning roll

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

SASKATOON – The Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre Company couldn't be any busier.

Marcel Petit's "Reclaim" repeatedly sold-out for GTNT with the run ending with a community justice panel at Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre.

COV's Reclaim performance and panel, moderated by Betty Ann Adam, featured playwright Petit, Dr. Priscilla Settee, COV actors Aaron Marie Nepoose and Benjamin Clarke, drawing over 200 people.

"It pulled people into art, being an introductory piece to critical conversations and dialogue that need to happen at a community level. And that's exactly the intent of the theatre, to tell Indigenous stories that empower and that bring about these key conversations that need to happen," noted Osemis Bear, GTNT's general manager.

"With this COV group there was some authentic rallying behind the issue itself, they themselves became champions of telling the story and bringing the important dialogue to the forefront."

On the same evening, scholarships were also awarded through a partnership with the Amiskusees: Semaganis-Worme Foundation.

Tara Worme presented Kayla Peters with the \$2,500 Lacy Morin-Desjarlais Memorial Award, Eric Johnson the \$1,500 Theatre Arts Scholarship & Arts Perseverance Bursary, and Wanita Bird the \$500 Arts Perseverance Bursary. Worme said all second-round recipients demonstrated artistic commitment and passion, but community dedication set them apart.

"Kayla's goals and academic performance made her a great candidate," noted Worme, while Eric's drive, perseverance, academic achievements and sports leadership made him a great role model. "Wanita Bird is a role model as a mother, student and Indigenous wellness worker."

March also included for GTNT a special Circle of Voices Honouring at the graduation and round dance: Dakota Hebert, Kevin Wesaquate, Daniel Knight, and Lindsay "Eekwol" Knight were all

presented with blankets.

"It's really about acknowledging the work of the various artists, over the years," noted Osemis, highlighting supportive community qualities of each candidate alongside personal achievements.

"It speaks to the volume of talent Saskatoon is producing. Lindsay has been very giving of the theatre and passionate of the work she's been doing and trying to inspire artists, and is highly accomplished."

Kevin Wesaquate, as a visual and spoken word artist, has been involved in community activism and using his art to invoke greater social change, and was described as "a very passionate artist who has a strong love for the arts."

Both Daniel Knight and Dakota Hebert have been involved in numerous GTNT productions as well as the larger arts community.

"Behind the scenes at GTNT Danny gives it his all but he's also done work with a number of different productions, and is a musician, songwriter, and actor," noted Osemis, adding Danny and Dakota Hebert were in the same SGI provincial tour.

Hebert hails from Meadow Lake and is Dene, but "her niche or realm lately has been really inspiring and showing the lighter side in terms of her art as an Indigenous female comedian."

Hebert is also involved in an upcoming production of Salt Baby, another GTNT achievement: four Aboriginal plays running in Saskatchewan at once. Alongside Salt Baby in the Live Five Season, Curtis Peeteetuce's newest play Popcorn Elder runs at GTNT.

Peeteetuce described it as happening in two realms at once, but also a father-and-son story, coming to terms with their past.

"We're pretty excited, there's a lot of humour, and a lot of emotion."

Inspired by the 2009 Arizona Sweat-lodge incident where a non-Indigenous American, Arthur Ray, held a 24-hour mountain fast, then put 64 people in an unbreathable sweat lodge, Peeteetuce wrote an angry post that eventually became a play, when three people died.

"I don't know the details but he was-



Johanna Angus gives a smile after receiving an eagle feather from Curtis Peeteetuce.

n't doing it in a way that was respectful or protocolled and so, when this incident happened, did I ever react to it, it hit home to me," noted Peeteetuce, contrasting his reintroduction through his moshum's sweat lodge after a dream.

"That was respectful and reawakened my spirit and my affinity for culture."

While Salt Baby and Popcorn Elder run, the GTNT provincial youth tour premieres Jennifer Dawn Bishop's anti-bullying play "Wolves", and Dawn Dumont's "The Toetag Crew" – the journey of five

young people who have passed away in car accidents.

"All three GTNT plays are world premiere plays," noted Peeteetuce of the big strides the company has taken.

"Giving voice is a theme of all four plays. GTNT is giving Indigenous voice in Saskatchewan. This wouldn't have happened here ten years ago. I don't know if it's happening anywhere else right now."

GTNT is always on the lookout for volunteers, and Peeteetuce also urges people to buy tickets in advance so they don't miss out.



Alana Dorion received her gifts from Artistic Director Curtis Peeteetuce as Jennifer Bishop looked on.

Popcorn Elder
by **Curtis Peeteetuce**

Meacham, SK
April 29 – May 15, 2016
Harvest Hall,
Thurs - Sun
\$20.00-\$30.00

Saskatoon, SK
May 19 - 29, 2016
Studio 914
Tues - Sat 8:00pm
Sun Matinee 2:00pm
\$25:00

Tickets for Meacham and Saskatoon Available at Persephone Theatre Box Office: 306-384-7727

For more info please visit www.dancingskytheatre.com
www.gtnt.ca

Strong Language warning

Agreement expected to benefit northern communities for decades

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

BUFFALO NARROWS – A one of a kind arrangement between northern leaders and Cameco and Areva will provide funds for Northern community projects for decades to come.

The Six Rivers Fund is an independent non-profit corporation that will use interest from a trust funded by Cameco and Areva with proceeds from uranium recovery at the Key Lake operation. The fund will be used to make community investments that support projects across the northern administration district (NAD). The projects will focus on youth, education, sports, recreation and health and wellness.

“We are building something for the future,” said Six Rivers Fund board chair Victor Fern.

“This is something that will continue to grow and has the potential to deliver benefits far into the future beyond the life of the mines.”

Funds available for investment will be limited in the early years as capital builds in the trust. This year \$100,000 will be available. It is hoped by the northern leaders and Cameco and ARVEVA that the legacy value of this fund will reach \$50 million in the decades to come.

The Six Rivers Fund reflects a new approach to sharing the benefits of resource development with local communities. The fund was developed with leaders from across the North representing First Nations and Metis communities and municipalities. The fund's governance structure includes representation from all regions in decision making and favours initiatives with pan-northern benefit.

“The uranium mining industry delivers tremendous benefit to the people of northern Saskatchewan now through employment, training, business development and community investment,” said Tim Gitzel, president and CEO of Cameco.

“The trust provides a lasting source of funding for initiatives and puts northerners in control to direct the funding to where it can do the greatest good based on their priorities.”

All project funding decisions will be made by the four-member board of the Six Rivers fund which will have representation from all regions of northern Saskatchewan. Initial board members are Chair Victor Fern from Fond du Lac, Angie Merasty of Pelican Narrows, Isidore Campbell an English River member from Beauval and William Dumais of Southend.



The Six Rivers Board is made up of residents from across northern Saskatchewan. From left they are William Dumais of Southend, Angie Merasty from Pelican Narrows, Isidore Campbell of English River First Nation and Chair Victor Fern from Fond du Lac.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

The fund will begin receiving applications from community organizations this year. Projects are reviewed in the spring and fall each year. Eligible projects must secure a minimum of 25 per cent of their funding from other sources and applicants must be able to demonstrate capability to complete the project.

“The Six Rivers Fund is truly one of a kind,” said Vincent Martin, president and CEO of AREVA Resources Canada.

“It demonstrates the commitment of our companies and the northern communities to build upon our long-standing relationships to ensure the continued positive growth of the North and in particular its youth.”

The creation of the fund was announced at a community celebration at the Twin Lakes Community School in

Buffalo Narrows replete with entertainment from Northern Spirits and a lunch of traditional foods.

Jackie Durocher is the principal of the school and she is excited about the potential benefits for the north from the fund.

“This is good because the community gets to tell them what is needed,” said Durocher.

“We need to make the North healthier and we have the challenge of diabetes in the community. So how can we be more proactive to save those five and a half hour drives three times a week for these people?”

“How about a dialysis machine on each of the east and west sides of the North? With this fund we may be able to do just that.”



Master of Northern Governance and Development

Features:

- Can study from your community
- Community-directed research
- 10-day fully funded international field school
- Funding and mentorship supports

Qualifications:

- Four-year degree in any discipline
- Demonstrated connection to the North
- Northern residents have priority for admission

Accepting applications until May 1st: www.usask.ca/icngd

For more information visit: 231 or 233 Kirk Hall on USASK campus

306-966-1238 • info.icngd@usask.ca



International Centre for Northern
Governance and Development



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Affinity Credit Union moves to adopt TRC recommendations

**By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News**

WINNIPEG – Affinity Credit Union is wasting no time in formally adopting calls to action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report.

At a National Reconciliation Gathering in Winnipeg last month, Affinity announced, along with Manitoba's Assiniboine Credit Union and B.C.'s Vancity Savings Credit Union, a joint declaration on reconciliation.

Call to action number 92 in the TRC's final report refers specifically to business and reconciliation.

The TRC calls on Canadian businesses to do a number of things including adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, pursuing meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities when pursuing economic development projects that affect their communities and ensuring Indigenous people gain long-term sustainable benefits from these projects.

The final report also calls on the corporate sector to provide equitable jobs, training and educational opportunities for Indigenous people and educational training to management and staff in such areas as the residential schools historical legacy, Indigenous law and Indigenous-Crown relations.

"Affinity's vision is to build a better world," executive vice-president of marketing and community Myrna Hewitt says.

"And so we just feel that here in Saskatchewan if we're going to build a better world we need to work on reconciliation. Our Indigenous population is

very high here, the gaps are wide, there's a lot of work to do and we must get started."

lations with Indigenous people.

The district consists of nine bands from across the province including

developing a stronger relationship. It's the first credit union based on the districts and delegates to do that with First Nations people."

Affinity has also recently formed a partnership with the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre in an effort to promote Indigenous languages.

"We are working to support their (SICC's) work to retain Indigenous languages in Saskatchewan," Hewitt says. "They're facing really extinction, the languages, because fewer and fewer people are speakers and so by helping retain the languages you help retain the culture and so that's again part of what's behind reconciliation and the calls to action."

As part of this initiative, the credit union is also studying similarities between cooperative and First Nations values and how this relates to Indigenous languages.

Paul Ledoux, who sits on the committee for cooperative values and traditions, says this work provides some excellent opportunities for further reconciliation.

"We see that the principles of the co-ops are similar to our First Nations communities," he says. "So some of the work that they're actually undertaking is developing those cooperative principles and turning it into stories of First Nations languages."

Affinity Credit Union has also donated \$100,000 to Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon, which is targeted toward the park's goal of achieving designation as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization world heritage site.



Michael Bob, Affinity Credit Union District Council 9 Chairperson; Jessica Bolduc, National Reconciliation Gathering co-host; Jan O'Brien, Vancity Credit Union; Vera Goussaert, Assiniboine Credit Union; Waneek Horn-Miller, National Reconciliation Gathering co-host at the gathering in Winnipeg in March.

Paul Ledoux is a councillor for Muskeg Lake Cree Nation who also sits on Affinity's board of directors.

He agrees that Affinity's formal adoption of call to action 92 is a significant step forward.

"It's important, when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report came out, having them (Affinity) adopt action number 92," he says.

"They did this because they see the value of this report and the wrongs that were done to First Nations people."

Both Ledoux and Hewitt also agree the credit union's previous creation of the First Nations District Nine has played a major role in Affinity achieving better re-

Kahkewistahaw, Wahpeton Dakota, Cowessess, Thunderchild, Beatty's and Oke-masis, Little Pine, Lucky Man Lake, White-cap Dakota and Muskeg Lake First Nations.

Two delegates from District Nine also sit on Affinity's board of directors.

Aside from Ledoux, Cy Standing of Wahpeton Dakota Nation sits as a member of the board of directors.

It is estimated District Nine has about 16,000 First Nations members.

"You have to go back to the development of District Nine," Ledoux says. "The work that they undertook to establish a relationship with First Nations people and communities."

"It has been about looking at and

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

G. E. Environmental Solutions Inc.

PLASTIC WELDING TECHNICIAN

- HDPE liner installation and repair-must be IAGI Certified with at least one year experience.
- HDPE pipe fusion-one year experience
- Knowledge in troubleshooting and repair of welder and extruder equipment.
- Must have following certificates-H2S, Fire extinguisher, Confined space, WHMIS, CPR.
- Experience in Hydroseeding and erosion control is a plus.

Wages \$25.65 to \$30 (depending on work experience) plus benefits.

Please send resume to:

G. E. Environmental Solutions Inc. on our website www.greenearthenvironmental.ca

Only the people chosen for an interview will be contacted.

ABORIGINAL POLICING PREPARATION CERTIFICATE

Train for a career in law enforcement that goes beyond knowledge and skill development to include personal wellness and cultural awareness. In just 29 weeks, Aboriginal Policing Preparation will help prepare you for federal and provincial policing positions, including the RCMP, municipal police, border services, airport and mine security, corrections, casinos and the military.

APPLY TODAY!



saskpolytech

saskpolytech.ca/humanservices
1-866-467-4278



**SASKATCHEWAN
POLYTECHNIC**

Tomorrow
in the making

Advice from an artist

... Leah Dorion shares some of her secrets to success

By Leah Marie Dorion
For Eagle Feather News

In speaking to many school children, talking at conferences, and lecturing at community events I often am asked by my audience members, "What has your art career taught you?"

It seems many people are intrigued by the life of a practicing artist and desire to hear about the artistic process. After painting for almost 11 years and enjoying a lifetime of creative writing, I have learned many valuable life lessons, and I have shared Aboriginal cultural wisdom with many diverse people.

I share my advice, teachings, and ideas that have helped me make a good life, as an Indigenous artist.

Making a Creative Space

My advice to every budding artist is to find an inspiring spot to guide your writing, sketching, and creative thinking. Search out your power places.

I always tell my students to make a creative space, find a regular place, or time period, to create and manifest your creative expressions.

I have a personal writing and painting routine that works for my lifestyle and I make it a priority. My space is sacred, my routine is comforting, and I feel happy in this space. When I am healthy and relaxed creativity flows.

Another message I emphasize is don't throw your rough ideas away put them in a folder, a special memory box, or an ideas drawer.

For instance, there are art works and writing that I have sat with for over 14 years before I returned to the original raw material and completed my final work.

My children's book, *The Giving Tree*, is a fine example of this long-term process which was first written in rough notes which survived many personal moves and relocations all because I had that one "Special Box."

To this day, I still have rough hand drawn sketches or poem prompts on stained restaurant napkins just awaiting

the day they become completed masterpieces.

Every now and then when I visit these raw materials and see the food and coffee stains on the withered paper, I am humbled and reflect upon the meaning and the root inspiration that drove me to create.

I still have five-year-old unfinished paintings which hang in my art room awaiting completion, and I know they will be done when the time is right.

I bless and respect my creative space and I treat it with great respect and so do others, the children in my life all treasure their visits to my magical and messy studio space.

Art is Healing

My Indigenous people are in a process of healing, reconnecting with the land, resisting assimilation, and restoring our culture beliefs and values. We value the healing aspects of art creation and have used art to re-balance ourselves in our present world.

As people who have been silenced, ignored, and oppressed, we often use the safety of art to say what we feel!

As many others have encountered our society has not always been a safe place to feel and speak.

In my art practice, I consciously work to share healing, peaceful, and harmonious imagery so as not to re-victimize or traumatize any person who may be coping with a very busy and violent world.

I paint imagery to celebrate life, honor earth, women, and natural law. I believe the Western World is more open minded to receive Indigenous philosophy, teachings and art imagery which makes our worldview tangible.

The world is ready to listen to us, especially children, and I find that our Aboriginal cultural teachings regarding the human place in this existence is passed forward beautifully through art making with children.

Children see the beauty in order and pattern and respond emotionally to

color and concept in ways adults have lost or blocked due to life demands of adulthood.

Learn to Observe

All my life I have rushed to meet deadlines, finish tasks, and get chores done, and art making has directed me to slow down, be patient with myself, and see life as a process.



Through both visual art and writing I have learned to develop the skill of silent observation.

I have managed to not harshly judge my work or myself. I have created a gentle and compassionate art practice.

If I let the inner critique take over, I would never have taken the wonderful risk to show my artwork to the public. There are many artists who disable themselves with excessive self-criticism, doubt, fear, and insecurity.

I have always felt that Creator is at the foundation for my work so I have learned to generate self-acceptance and I put my work out there without worries about how others will judge it.

I gently encourage my growing students to share their work with others, but only with people who are genuine, totally willing, and enthusiastic, who can give them honest and helpful constructive feedback, from a good place.

I know that my writing is better today because of the great editors and trusted confidants in my life.

Experimental Attitude

Discovery and playfulness are at the heart and soul of my artistic practice. I like trying new mediums, materials,



and techniques. I enjoy using my Indigenous symbols in effective and meaningful ways.

My mother always says I really know how to play with "colour" and she calls me a "colour risk taker" since I like to combine colors in sometimes unconventional risky artistic ways.

I encourage all my students to have fun, explore, and experiment with art materials and with the written word. I try to stress that we all have a signature style and sometimes it takes a while to discover how it unfolds.

I want my own students to be inspired by my art style but not to copy my work exactly.

I want them to put their own personal interpretation, or signature style in their artwork.

There is room for all of us, in the arts community. There is a space for everyone in the circle of creation it is not a competition!

Sometimes our modern culture is so focused on being the best, or doing art the "right way," that diversity and uniqueness in often overshadowed by our corporate iconic media driven world.

My advice is to be open to moments of inspiration, be passionate, express your own identity in your art and writing creations, speak out, and celebrate your own special place in this world.

Never be afraid to step back, take a deep breath, be grateful, and be creative.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
OF NATIVE STUDIES AND
APPLIED RESEARCH



GDI/GDC SUNTEP
TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program and the Gabriel Dumont College are recruiting students for the 2016 Fall intake. If you are Métis and want to take the first two years of courses (Regina and Saskatoon) that will contribute toward a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Science, please apply on-line or call: www.gdins.org

SUNTEP Regina
(306) 347-4110

SUNTEP Saskatoon
(306) 975-7095

SUNTEP Prince Albert
(306) 764-1797

GDI-SUNTEP

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education
Program is recruiting students for Fall 2016

If you are Métis and interested in teacher education, please join us for *Introduction to SUNTEP Day* on Friday, April 15, 2016 in Room 214, College West Bldg, U of R from 1:00 to 4:00pm. First Nations students with Band funding are welcome to apply.

If you have questions or to apply, please contact us at:



GDI-SUNTEP Regina
CW 227, U of R
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
306-347-4110
www.gdins.org



Aboriginal Career Start program meeting a growing demand

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – After opening prayers by Elder Leona Tootoosis, President Peter Stoicheff welcomed the inaugural cohort of 16 Aboriginal workers to the Aboriginal Career Start program at the University of Saskatchewan.

The students are transitioning from training programs with Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology, and Sask Poly-tech, to working on campus for the University, the second-largest employer in Saskatoon.

“This university has been serious for over a decade now, in being the right place for Aboriginal students, and for their communities,” noted Stoicheff.

“Because of where we are in Canada, in this province with the population of Aboriginal people that we have here, because of the aspirations of the Aboriginal people and of the University, because of the calls from the TRC and the calls to action, because of all of that, this was the time to be as purposeful as we could be regarding the success of Aboriginal students on this campus.”

Additionally, a recent motion has been passed at the U of S to ensure meaningful Aboriginal education is a component of every degree-granting program. Meanwhile, this program partnership creates employment opportunities for upcoming Aboriginal financial

and administrative assistants, allowing them to develop skills which they can, as job-seekers, apply at the uni-

He praised the U of S and its partners for helping create safe spaces to address these two issues in a way that brought everyone to the table, something Lisa Bird-Wilson of GDI agreed with, citing over 1,100 teachers from the SUNTEP program and a 40-year friendship between the U of S and GDI, along with many less visible partnerships.

“They all work behind the scenes to the same end and that is to get Métis people quality education that is culturally relevant, and transition into employment,” noted Bird-Wilson, adding she was so pleased when the program came forth because the spin-off effects from good education and good jobs affects the whole community.

“There are connections between culture, and education, and success. Culturally-affirming practices in the workplace go a long way in ensuring success for the participants in this program.”

Comments from the students included representing their community with pride, showing how qualified they were in a valued workplace, while increasing visibility of Aboriginal people and creating a more Aboriginal-friendly space.

“We’ve been doing everything — filing, paperwork, computers, you name it — all very hands-on, and it’s been awesome,” said Connie Dodge, one of the first cohort members, echoed by her peer Vanessa Montgrand.

“It’s an amazing opportunity, and great to have one another while we go through the process,” said Montgrand.



These students are the first cohort to get jobs at the University of Saskatchewan through the Aboriginal Career Start Program that was recently announced. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

versity and in the community over two weeks paid training and subsequent job placement.

“It is designed to increase the number of Aboriginal staff members that we have on this campus, and also to help communities have well-trained Aboriginal people working in them,” explained Stoicheff.

“We see the need to meet the demand of our ever-growing province,” noted USSU president Jack Sadleback. “We also see the need to address the social disparities that our Indigenous populations, such as employment opportunities.”

Cameco

TOUCHDOWN

For Dreams

We make dreams come true for women with life-threatening cancer.

TDFDREAMS.COM



Meadow Lake athletes take Winter Games championship hosted by Onion Lake

By Larissa Burnouf
For Eagle Feather News

ONION LAKE – Thousands of athletes, coaches, chaperones, volunteers and spectators filled the vibrant border city of Lloydminster and surrounding Onion Lake Cree Nation during the Easter spring break, as Onion Lake hosted this year's Saskatchewan First Nations Winter Games.

Thirteen tribal councils from across the province sent their teams and individual athletes to represent their home communities in a number of different sports including hockey, broomball, volleyball, badminton, basketball, table tennis and curling.

After a week long battle for bragging rights, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council came out as the top team with a total of 306 points. MLTC's medal count included 10 gold, seven silver and four bronze medals. Agency Chiefs Tribal Council came in a close second with eight gold, four silver and eight bronze medals. Team Woodland from northern Saskatchewan rounded out the top three teams.

Onion Lake Cree Nation Chief Wallace Fox says he was extremely pleased and proud of his community who pulled together to a put on such a positive, successful event.

"The staff and volunteers who put it together went over and above and many

of the volunteers were education staff who used their own break to ensure these athletes and their families were taken care of."

Fox says he received so much praise from athletes, coaches and everyone who attended the weeklong event in first class venues in the city and on reserve.

"So many of the athletes said they loved the games, they've met new friends and had so much fun."

Fox says it's truly rewarding to see "so much pride in the parents faces when they see their children compete."

A number of youth were also thrilled to meet and talk one on one with 2014 Olympic Gold Medalist curler Jill Officer, who attended many of the events and did a number of medal presentation ceremonies. Fox says the First Nations youth drew inspiration and had a lot of hope from meeting Officer.

"If she can do this, anyone can do this. It encourages our youth to reach for the stars and shows them that they too can make it to the Olympics."

Several athletes say they look forward to the annual Saskatchewan First Nations winter and summer games every year because it not only instills pride in their abilities and builds self-confidence, it also gives them the opportunity to create lasting memories with friends, family and teammates.



Hockey is always one of the big draws at the First Nation Winter Games. Lloydminster rinks were bustling the entire Easter week.
(Photo by Larissa Burnouf)



Intensity was high on the basketball courts during the First Nation Winter Games.

(Photo by Larissa Burnouf)

CELEBRATING THE
18TH ANNUAL SASKTEL

ABORIGINAL YOUTH AWARDS

OF EXCELLENCE 2016

Gala Evening May 27th, 2016
TCU Place, Saskatoon

All nominations must be in
by April 22nd, 2016. No exceptions.

For more information and nominations,
visit www.sasktel.com/saya, contact
aboriginal.youthawards@sasktel.com
or call toll free 1.866.931.6205






Team Mixed Blood won the Masters Division at the Lawrence Weenie Cup in the Battlefords. They were led by legendary skater Lou Gardiner who racked up six points in the final.

Red Pheasants score a win in 16th annual Lawrence Weenie tournament

THE BATTLEFORDS, TREATY SIX - The Red Pheasants emerged as the champions for the 16th Annual LWC Tomahockey edging out rivals Canoe Lake Young Guns in the twelve team tournament.

The final game was all Rebels as the Young Guns faded due to exhaustion after playing three games virtually back to back on Sunday.

Earlier in the tournament the two teams had battled it out on Saturday. Canoe Lakes Craig McCallum (WHL and U of S Huskies alumnus) provided the offense and Red Pheasant's Trent Campbell (SJHL, NCAA, ECHL alumnus) provided exciting attacks which had fans screaming in excitement as the Rebels squeaked out a victory. Earlier in the day the Rebels had defeated Flying Dust by a goal to advance.

Solid goaltending was provided by the Rebels Jordan Nightraveller all weekend long by shutting down the Eastend Sabres on Friday, edging out Flying Dust by a goal on Saturday and then winning in an OT shootout over the Young Guns.

They edged out Whitefish Flyers on Sunday to advance to the A-B one game final to determine the championship.

The Rebels import Trent Campbell was chosen the MVP for the Sr. Rec Div.

In Masters six team tournament action, it was the team Mixed Blood that defeated the Canoe Lake Old Guns in the final with the help of veteran Lou Gardiner who scored a hat trick and added three helpers in the winner take all championship game.

"That performance secured the MVP honours for the veteran Lou who has now won the LWC Masters division championship a record nine times," said Milton Tootosis, tournament director.

Some \$19,000 plus trophies were presented to teams and individuals in both divisions.

"Plans are underway already for LWC XVII and will include an expansion of divisions" said Tootosis.

Details to be announced this summer on www.lwctomahockey.com



The Red Pheasants won the 16th Annual LWC Tomahockey championship edging out the Canoe Lake Young Guns in the final.

These are exciting times at the Dakota Dunes. The new clubhouse has been open for lunch from 11-2 on weekdays since March 1 and the course opened early to golfers this year on April 8. The long-awaited clubhouse will expand the service capability for the course and provide a locker room and other amenities to the golfers. The old clubhouse was taken off site and repurposed for use as a gas station by Mistawasis First Nation for their gas bar in Leask.



=TOMAHOCKEY=



THE LWC TOMAHOCKEY XV HOST COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
SPONSORS FOR MAKING THE 16TH ANNUAL EVENT
A POSSIBILITY.

GRAHAM

90 YEARS STRONG
1926-2016



BATC
Community Development Corporation



Wes Favell Electric

Dexter Gopher

Paul Favel - McKercher

Carlin Nordstrom

Little Pine Chief and Council

Garnet Antoine

Lone Star Motel

Gold Eagle Lodge

Whiterock Gas and Confectionary

Macânêsak Society



REDEFINE W O R T H

Investing in an Edwards School of Business MBA is a solid investment in yourself. You'll learn the skills of management such as how to manage, how to communicate effectively, and how to lead. By enhancing interpersonal communication, team building and leadership skills, you'll enter your professional endeavours with confidence, integrity and accountability. Faculty and colleagues within the Edwards MBA program will become valuable business contacts and life-long friends.

APPLY NOW! APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 31, 2016.



EDWARDS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

MASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

WWW.EDWARDSMBA.CA