

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Northern students shine for Lt.-Gov.

Jocelyn Bird (right) of Churchill Community High School in La Ronge, pictured with the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, was the Grade 7 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence.

(Photo by Linda Mikolayenko)



By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News

**LA RONGE** – The Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, began and ended her annual northern school tour in La Ronge.

Between Sept. 24 and 27, Her Honour presented six Lieutenant Governor's Awards of Excellence, as well as a number of Northern Saskatchewan Student Achievement Awards.

"We always get a warm welcome when we come here, so it's great to be back," she said in her opening address to the students at Churchill Community High School in La Ronge.

Before presenting the awards, Schofield encouraged students to participate in Orange Shirt Day on Sept. 30 to remember those who attended residential schools, and to share their thoughts on what the future of Canada will look like through the lens of reconcili-

ation by taking part in a contest, Imagine a Canada. Young people can participate by creating a story, poem, piece of art, short film or essay.

"I envision a Canada where everyone realizes that we are stronger together," said Schofield.

"Friendship is the basis of healthy communities and a very strong country. We can never ever underestimate the power each one of us has to make our country better."

The Award of Excellence winners are good examples of well-rounded individuals making a difference. To be considered for the award, students must demonstrate proficiency in academic achievement, school attendance, leadership within school and/or community, awareness and pride in northern lifestyles and heritage, future goals, and special talents and interests.

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*Role Models Edition*

Coming In November - Veterans & Youth Issue

CPMA #40027204



# Young singers committed to drumming to a healthy beat

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

A young drum group comprised of members from all areas of Saskatchewan is drumming its way to make a difference.

The singers, who call themselves Young Express, base their group foundation on sobriety – something that each member holds proudly.

“I myself have never touched alcohol or drugs. I tell the other drummers in my group (to refrain) from drugs and alcohol, otherwise we won’t be travelling,” says lead singer, Emery Taypotat, who formed the drum group.

The 16-year-old singer has mentored his drummers ever since they were first initiated into the powwow circle over a year ago in his home community of Kahkewistahaw First Nation. Since then, the singers have travelled to compete in over 100 local and distant powwows.

“The furthest we travelled was to Kainai, Alberta and to Manito Ahbee powwow in Winnipeg,” says Logan Thomas, 17, who sang his whole life with his family’s drum group called Big River Cree.

“I like travelling to far places with my bros and meeting new people.”

The Young Express drum group ranges from the youngest who is 16 to the oldest who is 27 years old. The group has inspired many listeners, including Cody Burns, the oldest singer in the group.

“I believe in these guys and I like the way they present themselves,” says Burns, who is an Alberta oil-field worker, but is taking a break to sing with Young Express.

“I met them (during) last year’s powwow trail and in January, they invited me to sing with them.”

The drum group travels near and far to compete in powwows and owes it to Taypotat’s mother, Aliza, who is proud of her son for forming an inspirational drum group.

“I’m proud of him because (some) people out there are in gang life and are into drugs and alcohol. I’m so proud of him that he doesn’t do any of that,” Aliza says.



The Young Express drum group has traveled extensively across Western Canada competing in powwows and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

“I try my best to take him where he wants to go,” she says. “I don’t take one car, I take three or four cars. I pretty much look after them.”

She adds that mostly all the singers in Young Express call her ‘mom’ and handles any conflict in the drum group.

“I put them all together and tell them they are drum brothers and (remind) them they are role models. Everything calms down from there,” she adds.

Aliza says the challenges she faces on the powwow

trail as a drum group mother ranges from a vehicle breakdown to a drum breaking.

“At Dakota Dunes powwow, our last drum ripped. But thanks to Buffalo Lodge (another drum group) for giving us a drum to finish the powwow because we packed up and we were ready to go home.

“And (the Buffalo Lodge singers) came up to us and said they wanted to see us finish the powwow,” she says.

“It’s actually a nice feeling when these big drum groups that they look up to come up and approach them to tell them ‘keep it up boys, you guys are doing a good.’ I like that. It pushes me more to take these boys to where they want to go,” says Aliza, who also has two kids who dance powwow.

Taypotat, who is currently in Grade 11, looks up to Battling Bear, an original style drum group and also Bear Creek, a contemporary style drum group from Ontario. He has been singing for five years.

Taypotat’s advice to the youth who want to sing in powwows is to get out there and give it a try.

“As a lead singer of a drum group, I would like see other drum groups out there singing and not giving up and to keep going,” he adds. “Singing has been a dream come true.”

After graduating high school, Young Express singers such as Taypotat and Thomas wish to pursue post-secondary educations and continue singing on the pow-wow trail promoting sobriety and pride in their culture.

“Look out for Young Express, they’re up and coming,” says Burns.

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Cynthia Khaikka (centre) was one of 86 recipients of a Northern Saskatchewan Student Achievement Award. She is pictured here with the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, and Scott Tomporowski, principal of Churchill Community High School in La Ronge.

(Photo by Linda Mikolayenko)

#### • Continued from Page One

This year's recipients, selected by a committee led by the Regional Director of the Ministry of Education, are:

Grade 7 – Jocelyn Bird, Churchill Community High School, La Ronge

Grade 8 – Dakota Laurin, Charlebois Community School, Cumberland House

Grade 9 – Joseph Desjarlais, Rossignol High School, Ile-à-la-Crosse  
Grade 10 – Jaedon Roberts, Rhoda Hardlotte Memorial School, Stanley Mission

Grade 11 – Rynne Torrence, Senator Myles Venne School, La Ronge

Grade 12 – Collin Montgrand, La Loche Community School - Dene Building, La Loche

Jocelyn Bird had an academic average of 92 per cent, and an attendance average of 98 per cent, noted Schofield, adding that she was active in sports and the arts.

She was a member of the basketball, volleyball, track and field, and flag football teams, and the Girls Wellness Group. A member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, she learned to bead from her grandmother, and plays both piano and guitar. Although she was recognized

for her accomplishments and leadership skills, Bird, herself, says that if other students were to look up to her, she would hope it would be for the qualities of "kindness" and "caring".

The Northern Saskatchewan Student Achievement Awards were created to acknowledge and promote student achievement and academic success. This year, 86 students from 12 schools and the La Ronge Masinahikana – Online Education Centre were recipients.

When Cynthia Khaikka graduated from Churchill Community High School in June, she received the Graduate of the Year award, so she was surprised to receive a Northern Saskatchewan Student Achievement Award, as well.

Originally from Wollaston Lake, a member of the Hachet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Khaikka achieved second place in the Skills Canada cooking competition, and served as the teen representative on the school daycare board.

"In my younger years, I wasn't a top student," Khaikka admits, "but in my last year, I really improved."

She is now enrolled in the Northern Teacher Education Program and wants others to know that they, too, can follow their dreams.



11TH ANNUAL

## PotashCorp Aboriginal Youth Financial Management Awards

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I would like to express my gratitude to the individuals who made this possible, and would like to mention that your involvement does not go unnoticed.

I am looking forward to bringing this experience back to my community and inspiring younger grades to reach for their best life."

– Joshua Hill,  
Onion Lake First Nation, SK

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# An abundance of role models at Eagle Feather News

The October issue is always one of our favourites to pull together.

Finding and celebrating role models or good things to write about is never a challenge. Indigenous people across Saskatchewan are excelling in business, the arts, education, sports, politics, the environment ... you name it.

We just got lucky at Eagle Feather News by finding and hiring two role models of our own.

Julie Wriston has joined us as features editor and will also be in charge of marketing. We have been

working with Julie since we met her in 2007 when she was director of communication for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

She left there for the BRIDG program where she worked with communities to develop good governance and

business opportunities. She was also the CEO of Pinehouse Business North and led that business through some very interesting developments. Her experience and passion for improving the lives of First Nation and Métis people in Saskatchewan will fit in very well here.

And we also are proud to announce that Jeanelle Mandes has joined us as news editor.

Jeanelle will be in charge of daily news and populating our website. Jeanelle is very familiar with Eagle Feather News. Jeanelle was inspired in Grade 11 by an ad she saw in Eagle Feather News.

This was in her cover letter when she applied for the job "I stopped at an

eye-catching ad with bold letters, Telling Our Own Stories, with a photo of an Indigenous woman holding a camera. I knew right then and there what career path I wanted because I wanted to become a storyteller and a voice for Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan--all from reading an ad."

She was once one of the students I taught at FNUiv during the INCA summer institute, then she interned for us in 2014 and covered the heck out of NAIG and has freelanced for us ever since.

Jeanelle is joining us part-time for now as she is in the U of R Journalism School where she is earning her Masters. We figured that was a good thing. We will get her to tell you her story some day. She is a determined

young woman and we are happy to have her on board.

With the addition of these two getters, Eagle Feather News will only get better at bringing you the news from an Indigenous perspective every single day on our website. And every month you will see interesting and in depth relevant articles to the issues of the day from our wide array of freelance writers in our monthly paper edition.

Please help us welcome Julie and Jeanelle to the team when you see them out representing us in the community. We are excited to go and grow with these dynamic and powerful people.

## The passing of two role models

The community recently lost two role models. Veterans Henry Beaudry

and Elder Edward Baldhead recently passed.

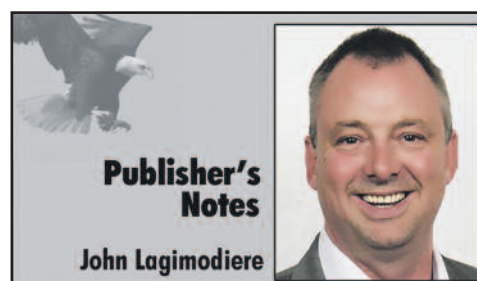
Henry Beaudry was a scout in the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. His old friend Dennis Fisher shared this story about Henry with us.

"Henry was on the Board of Wanuskewin at one time. After the war he became an artist. Well once our Queen visited WHP. Needless to say she was bestowed with many native gifts. Henry brought this painting, say 24" x 36", framed canvas and said they should give it to the Queen. Someone explained to Henry how the process worked ... all matters like gifts, paintings, have to be approved by the Queen's people months in advance.

"Can't do Henry, Sorry but can't do it. About a month later, WHP got a letter from the Queen's office. 'Oh, they had a lovely time ... people were so good to us ... etc. and we have a question for you? There is one gift we cannot account for. It is a framed, original painting, signed by one Henry Beaudry. Can you help us identify the donor?'"

One of his murals is still on display at WHP.

Elder and Veteran Edward Baldhead was a war veteran originally from One Arrow First Nation. He served in the Regina Rifle Regiment. He had extensive service and travel throughout Germany, Europe, Holland and England.



**Publisher's Notes**

John Lagimodiere

Mr. Baldhead previously shared with Eagle Feather News that the highlight of his career of military is serving in the present working with youth and education. He was very involved with First Nations culture and tradition and was a regular bringing in the Eagle Staff at powwows and events across the province.

Elder Baldhead served on the board of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association and prayed at hundreds of community events for the people.



**Elder and veteran Edward Baldhead (top) and veteran Henry Beaudry both passed away in the last month.**



**News editor, Jeanelle Mandes, on left and features editor and marketing lead Julie Ann Wriston on right have joined the Eagle Feather News team.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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# What happened? All my roles models are young, lol!

The role models throughout my childhood were old people or at least I thought they were old at the time, lol.

And then, I didn't have any in my young adult life. I was so angry, hurting and just plain disappointed with people and the world that I couldn't see the forest for the trees.

Then one day a woman 20 years older than I came along and helped me to see, and those old people popped back into my life and helped me come home. It wasn't an easy journey, mostly because I'm not easy, but the memory of their kindness, generosity, humor and common sense made the road smooth. The rough stretches and potholes were my own.

My nokoms and chapans, grandmothers and great-grandmother were probably the most influential and even now that I am an old lady myself, they still influence me and direct my life. But who are my role models today?

They are amazing young people whose courage and understanding of the world around them fill me full with such optimism that I don't think I will ever retire.

Not only do they have all of the above attributes but they are also fiercely independent and smart. People like Pam Palmater, who went to England and at a

keynote address given at the British Library, called for an apology from Queen Elizabeth.

She said, "Canada has gone through a truth and reconciliation process where some of the churches have apologized for its role but we're still missing the biggest portion of the apology, and it's from the people who actually orchestrated it, representatives of the British Crown."

Palmater is the first leader ever to call for a royal apology.

"There can't be any reconciliation," she says, "until the British Crown and its people know what happened, know what the intergenerational impacts have been and take responsibility for it and apologize and do something to make amends."

A woman like Karon Shmon at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, under whose leadership and very little money, has created not only an art gallery and purchased an amazing collection of Michif art, but she is also responsible for establishing a Michif museum as well as a virtual one and a publishing house, that has published artists and writers and pro-

duced a rich cultural library.

People like Brenda MacDougall, Chris Anderson, Winona Wheeler, Cheryl Troupe, Kim Anderson who are leading the way to new perspectives of their peoples and history.

People like Christi Belcourt and

Issac Murdock, who, at their own expense and the fundraising of host communities, have criss-crossed our country bringing teachings given to them by elders, and much needed support to people who are working on the water issues. Indigenous leaders and elders warned us about in the 1920s and more recently, the grandmothers who have been leading the water walks around the Great Lakes.

For women like Liza Brown who dedicated 18 years of her life to the Sun-tep program, helping other equally dedicated people give it a "Michif Heart" and who was so cruelly and crudely "dismissed without cause" for her dedication.

People like Emile Bell and Tyrone Tootoosis who over the years have never been afraid to speak truth about what is

working and not working in our communities. Who believe transparency is as vital to making change, as is good leadership. Neal McLeod who, with one Cree word a day, is preserving an indigenous language and with it all its cultural riches for another generation.

Ruth Cuthand, whose courageous art puts a face on the colonial Witiko, be it through the paintings of Small Pox or the strong images of Ghost Dance Shirts. Gregory Scofield and Louise Halfe, who with powerful words on paper tell a story about our "trail of tears."

Zoey, the beautiful young woman, who works tirelessly with youth, helping them to create better lives and who sings songs of strength. Lancelot Knight with his sweet voice and beautiful guitar, Krystal Pederson with heart and talent enough for all of us, Ekwol whose powerful lyrics and images give us strength, Marilyn with her strong heart and sense of justice. Tasha with her films and Glenda with all her passion, love of plants and the earth.

We are indeed wealthy with role models who give us pride, a loving belief in ourselves, and most especially the courage to move forward and as my old mentor use to say, "role models do it and they hold up their people" as they go.



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# There's more to fashion magazines than their shiny covers

There's a meme trending showing a girls' magazine cover next to a boys' magazine cover.

The difference in the covers is sharp: the girls' magazine seems to assume that girls are only interested in how to look good and how to catch a boy's interest. The boys' cover is focussed on success, science and adventure. I know which one I'd want to read!

The one with the fashion tips. Cuz actually the boys' magazine looks super boring – science? Meh.

So yes, I am openly admitting that I am a fashion magazine, pretty dress-loving, obsessed with make-up feminist.

I was about 11 the first time I bought a fashion magazine. I started off with Seventeen because I wanted to prepare for my high school years. I had already screwed up my junior years with my dorkiness and blatant poverty. But high school? That still had potential!

Between the glossy covers of Seventeen, there were articles about “most embarrassing moments in school” which seemed to be written by the staff writers trying to imagine what girls found embarrassing, “a tampon rolled out of my purse!”, “my crush overheard me talking about how hot he is” or “one of the boys saw my bra strap – omg!”

These embarrassing moments were nothing like the real ones I was experienc-

ing: my mom bouncing a cheque for my school jacket, finding out that the guy I'd been flirting with for months was my second cousin, and being excluded from Home Ec cooking groups because I kept eating the food before it was done.

I got bored with Seventeen and moved on to

Cosmo. I'd like to say it was the fashion shoots but we all know it was the sexually intriguing covers like “Ten ways to please him on his birthday!” (None of them had to do with buying him the biggest ice cream cake, by the way.)

These writers wrote about sex openly and with abandon. I imagined the Cosmo office as nothing but cushions and swings and sequins. The sex advice was quite diverse: “Experiment!”, “be brave!” and “seek out new places” as if young women were sexual astronauts.

The fashion shoots were my next obsession. I studied the pictures of the tall emaciated models, usually while eating a bag of chips.

“Someday I'll look like that,” I assured myself, even though it was quite clear that I was never going to grow past 5 ft. 4” or give up potato chips.

The clothing choices were rather unrealistic. Who would pay \$2,000 for a dress and \$3,000 for a pair of shoes? Even the gaunt 13-year-old supermodel wearing the clothes couldn't afford them. But that didn't

stop me from dreaming: “Someday I'll be able to afford those clothes,” I assured myself.

Even at my current age, however, I would rather punch myself in the face before I wasted that much money.

But these magazines were more than sex tips and horribly wasteful clothing choices. Towards the back of the magazine, I found something I hadn't been looking for, articles that could only be called “serious journalism.”

There were articles about the prosecution of war crimes in Sarejevo, murders of abortion clinic doctors and a New York City court that only handled sexual assault crimes.

Newspapers and the nightly news were not discussing these issues. If I had not picked up that magazine, I would never have known about the struggles of women around the world, struggles that we all shared.

There were profiles on women like

Maya Angelou, Gloria Steinem and Margaret Thatcher. The funny thing about Steinem was that the only things I'd heard about her was that she was a “man-hating feminist with hairy legs.”

Before I even knew what feminism was, it was already associated with hate and, oddly enough, body hair. But through these magazines I learned that she was a thoughtful and sensitive writer who had challenged male power structures. Reading these magazines taught me more about being a feminist than anything else ever has.

Nowadays, magazines like Marie Claire and Elle are writing about the U.S. election and informing women about the candidates perspectives on “female” issues such as equal pay, maternity leave and not having to tolerate being called “fat pigs” by orange men with the muscle to fat ration of a melting Fudgsicle® – or any person.

Canadian fashion magazines are no slouches. First Nation's activist and Mrs. Universe, Ashley Callingbull has ended up on the cover of Flare.

And it was in More magazine that I learned about Kim Pate, a Canadian lawyer who works for the Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and advocates for the fair treatment of inmates and who has been one of my heroes ever since.

Fashion magazines have their problems, that's for sure. But I think you should look beneath the shiny cover before you dismiss them with a hastily shared meme.



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# (Almost) everything you need to know about this month's municipal elections

By Angela Hill  
For Eagle Feather News

1. This round of municipal elections will be held Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016 for people in all urban municipalities (cities, towns and villages) as well as odd-numbered divisions and the reeve in rural municipalities.

2. To vote in the election you need to be a Canadian citizen, at least 18-years-old and have resided in Saskatchewan for six consecutive months. You have to live in or own land in the city where you vote for at least three months.

3. Some cities already know who their new mayor will be – in Meadow Lake, Martensville and North Battleford only one candidate ran. This is better than 2012 when six mayors were acclaimed.

4. There was some Indigenous representation on big city councils in the last election – Coun. Charlene Miller in Prince Albert, Coun. Zach Jeffries in Saskatoon.

5. Along with drive-through restaurants, Regina is offering drive-thru advanced polling stations for 2016. They first started in the 2012 municipal election.

6. If you have no fixed address you can still vote in the election – people living in shelters can fill out a “Certification of Identity and Residence” and get it signed by an administration of the shelter where they are staying.

7. There is a big name return to politics in North Battleford where former health minister Len Taylor will be running as a councillor. Taylor was an MLA from 2003 to 2011 and served on North Battleford city council from 2000 to 2003.



**Saskatoon City Councillor Zach Jeffries is one of few civic politicians in Saskatchewan that is Indigenous.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

8. La Loche voted early and their new mayor, Robert St. Pierre is getting settled into the job.

9. Depending on where you live depends on how much money you can spend on your campaign. Those running for Saskatoon mayor can spend \$190,000, and wannabe councillors can spend \$19,000, where as in Regina mayoral candidates top out at \$67,000 and those running for council spend \$11,000.

10. If you aren't sure how to get to the polls in Prince Albert, you can get a free bus ride. According to the website, the “City's Transit System will be available free of charge on Election Day to allow voters with limited transportation the opportunity to vote.”

11. While some cities have only a handful of people interested in politics, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon have many people engaged in the race. In Prince Albert there are four mayoral candidates, 18 people running for council (one ward is acclaimed), Saskatoon voters also see four mayoral candidates with 36 running for council, and Regina has five people in the race for mayor and 45 people seeking a position on council.

12. Robocalls are in full swing this election as candidates seek to reach hundreds of people in minutes with messages of what they want to achieve, or concerns they have about their running mates.

13. In Saskatoon, the longest serving mayor in the city's history, Don Atchison, is seeking re-election for a fifth term in the role.

14. There are six Indigenous candidates running in the province's three biggest cities.

15. Best use of a hashtag? Kelley Moore in Saskatoon #ExpectMoore



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### VOTERS' GUIDE

Available at Saskatoon Public Libraries, Leisure Centres, City Hall and online at [saskatoon.ca/election2016](http://saskatoon.ca/election2016).

The Guide contains information on:

- **Who** can Vote
- **Where** to Vote
- **When** to Vote
- Candidates' List
- Ward Maps and Poll Locations
- Candidate Profiles

### ADVANCE POLLS

If you are unable to vote on Election Day, Advance Poll voting is available October 15, 17-22.

Check the Voters' Guide to find out the Advance Poll dates, times and locations.

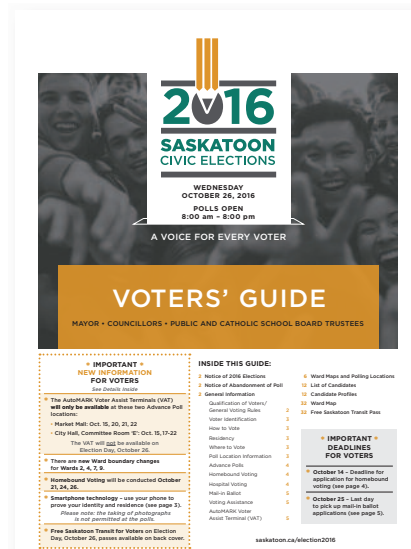
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**If you are a resident of Whitecap Dakota First Nation, you will vote for the  
Ward 7 Public School Board Trustee at Poll 706,  
Circle Drive Alliance Church, 3035 Preston Ave. S.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call **306-975-3240** or visit [saskatoon.ca/election2016](http://saskatoon.ca/election2016)





# Four-day celebration marks FNUniv's 40 years

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – The First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) held a four-day celebration to mark its 40-year anniversary.

Celebrations kicked off with a feast and a round dance held at the institution. The theme was 'Pimatisiwin' which translates to 'Our teachings, Our Future' which goes back to the idea of the teaching foundations of FNUniv.

"The First Nations University has announced a \$50-million dollar fundraising initiative."

Jean-Baptiste helped to organize the FNUniv Alumni networking event, which featured a panel of alumni members who graduated from the institution.

"We had Sid Fiddler, who has his Master's in Social Work, as well as Milton Tootosis, Vera Tourangeau who is an educator, and we had Diane Adams

university home.

"The community is involved because they are the ones who contribute to our success. Had it not been for our kokums and mothers assisting the students to get to school and taking care of our children while we go to school – a lot of us would not have achieved our educational goals," she adds.

FNUniv Student Association Interim President, Heather O'Watch, says the students were excited to be a part of the 40th anniversary celebrations.

"As student body representatives, we were excited to be engaged in the many events that the 40th anniversary brought on our campus including the round dance, feast and family day events. It was a wonderful four-day celebration that allowed us as current students, alumni, staff, community members and future students to get together and celebrate 40 years of Indigenous education on our campus," said O'Watch.

Guest speakers varied from the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Chief Bobby Cameron, to Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Honourable Carolyn Bennett and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Perry Bellegarde. All spoke to congratulate the university on achieving its 40-year anniversary.

"We can think of no better person to

end the four-day celebration than the national Chief Bellegarde. He is an inspirational leader and comes from Treaty 4 territory, he came from here, and worked with his own tribal council with his own band and provincially with FSIN, we wanted to honour him by starting a schol-



**AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde has had a leadership scholarship named after him at the University.**

arship in his name to inspire our next generation of students to go out there and do what he did and make a difference," says FNUniv President, Mark Dockstator as he announced the Perry Bellegarde Leadership Scholarship.



**Cherish Jean Baptiste is the president of the First Nations University of Canada Alumni Association and she hosted one of the events during the 40th Anniversary celebrations.**

(Photo by Mike Dubois)

During the four-day event, many exciting announcements were made by the university such as declaring the education institute to be known as the National Gathering Place for Reconciliation.

"The university will be closing off the space in the front lawn to include a waterfront. It will honour the residential school survivors and have each of their names showcased on pillars. It will recognize the veterans as well," said Cherish Jean-Baptiste, president of the FNUniv Alumni Association, Class of 2006 with a Bachelor in Business Administration.

who is a researcher," she says of the accomplished graduates.

"Listening to their experiences on how university life was for them and how it is now was definitely an inspirational piece to our networking event. But also looking at their ideas of what reconciliation is today."

The FNUniv Alumni Association calculated over 5,000 alumni members worldwide and they are working to stay connected so they can continue to support each other for the next 40 years.

The events involved the community, in which Jean-Baptiste says, majority of the alumni members still call the



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# Regina Indian Industrial School grave site gains heritage status

By Nikita Longman  
For Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – The Regina Indian Industrial School Commemorative Association was recently granted approval for heritage recognition of a gravesite that is home to nearly 40 children who died at the Industrial School.

On Sept. 7, the City of Regina Planning Commission passed the recommendation to designate the cemetery, located on Pinkie Road, heritage status. It was a unanimous vote.

Days leading up to the city council meeting to approve the status were stressful for Janine Windolph, the President of the RIIS Commemorative Association.

"I had mixed emotions, tensions and an anxiety," said Windolph.

"There's always that doubt because when you've been doing this for so long, you never just want to assume things are going to go well."

Reconciliation between Regina citizens and Indigenous people has been the backdrop for the cemetery's heritage status. After an earlier unanimous vote in March, the City of Regina agreed to adopt and implement the TRC's Calls to Action.

"All of city council and the delegates were aware that this is just the beginning of

the journey," Windolph said.

The work of the association is inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #75, which calls for....ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

"The biggest challenge we faced in this process was building trust from the community," explains Windolph.

The association spent countless hours raising awareness through film screenings of the documentary RIIS from Amnesia and a memorial walk that was held on July 27.

Other projects, like the prayer performance piece by the late Lacy Morin-Desjarlais and Michele Sereda, Dancing with Space Inbetween were also created as the first project and set the tone for future awareness. The piece was recently screened at an Indigenous film festival in Venezuela.

RIIS Board member Trudy Stewart recalls welcomed support from city council during the walk.

"As we built more trust, that gave us the confidence in the work that we do, and kept us going."



**Janine Windolph and Trudy Stewart worked hard to protect the cemetery at the Regina Indian Industrial School.**  
(Photo by Carla Otter)

The cultural support of elder Noel Starblanket was also invaluable during the process.

Windolph describes the process for a heritage site as a means of reconciliation.

"A lot of healing came out of the process within our group," she recalls. "The methodology became the healing process. It really brought us together. We were no longer these fragmented voices speaking alone. We really had to come together."

Stewart added that the awareness became a realization for a lot of people.

"We've been hearing about these stories for a long time as Indigenous people. But there were a lot of people who were hearing about these things for the first time," she explained.

"There was a viewer who came to realize that his great aunt may be one of the children who were buried at this site. The

Indian Agent at the time of her death simply told the family 'she died', without ever telling them any of the details."

Heritage status and commemoration feels a lot like protection. According to Windolph, "It's the beginning of a larger conversation."

Stewart describes the recognition as "peace of mind."

The association agrees that knowing nothing will be developed on the site is a relief in itself.

"There was a group of citizens that put in a lot of work in before us," Stewart added.

"To get where we are today is a pretty commendable," he says.

"RIIS' next steps are for provincial status, followed by federal status," Windolph says.

"The RIIS narrative is not limited to a municipal story."



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# NORTEP grads are community role models

By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News

**LA RONGE** – When Honey Bernatchez first met her husband, Devin, he was a second-year student in the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP).

Several years later, Honey followed in his footsteps and also enrolled in NORTEP. Although neither currently works as a teacher, the couple are both making positive contributions to their community.

“I learned a lot from my peers at NORTEP,” says Devin, particularly when it came to strategies about helping northern youth.

Giving back is important to Devin. Because the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) supported him in his education, he made a commitment to teach at Senator Myles Venne School for five years, where he was involved in coaching teams in almost every sport.

As a youth, Devin played a lot of hockey, including a year with the La Ronge Ice Wolves. Since 2005, he has shared his passion for the game by coaching.

“Devin is, without a doubt, a great asset to our minor hockey association,” says Kevin Roberts, president of the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre Minor Hockey Association.

“His passion is evident when he goes far and above your average parent volunteer as coach, manager, chap-erone and minor hockey league executive. He tirelessly puts in extra hours, season after season, to ensure a minor hockey player’s experience is full of fun, skill development and building good young people.”

This season, Devin’s nine-year-old son, Dade, will be on the Atom team he coaches, and Devin anticipates, that with the resurrection of the North Central Minor Hockey League, they will play up to 65 games.

Both Devin and Honey believe in keeping their son busy, and try to be good role models for him, but also acknowledge that they are role models for each other. They live in Sucker River where Honey grew up, and have an outdoor skating rink. Honey is also an active runner and swimmer, and loves to golf.

“She props me off the couch, too, to get active,” says Devin. “She’s a motivator for me.”

Honey taught at Chief Moses Ratt School in Sucker

River for two years, but since January, she has been an Outreach Worker with the Piwapin Women’s Centre in La Ronge. In that capacity, she gives presentations, works in suicide prevention, and supports clients who leave the shelter.

“She’s easy to talk to,” says Piwapin’s Executive Director, Karen Sanderson.

This is a quality that serves her well in an initiative known as the Little Kokums Club, where twice a week, different generations gather to socialize, do crafts and share refreshments. As the leader, Honey sees her role as making sure the participants are safe and comfortable. She engages them by asking for their ideas and taking advantage of their skills.

“There’s lots of laughs, and lots of learning,” says Honey.

For the past three years, Devin has been the Constituency Assistant to MLA Doyle Vermette. Both he and Honey expect that they will go back to teaching someday, but, in the meantime, in their varied endeavours, they are making a difference and gaining experiences that will serve them well when they return to the classroom.



(Left) Honey Bernatchez prepares to make a pot of coffee, part of the hospitality she shares with participants in La Ronge’s Little Kokums Club.

(Above) Devin Bernatchez is dad and hockey coach to Dade, pictured here in the office of MLA Doyle Vermette, where Bernatchez works as a Constituency Assistant.

(Photos by Linda Mikolayenko)



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# Uncertain future for NORTEP-NORPAC staff and students

**By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News**

**LA RONGE** – Uncertainty regarding the future of the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) and the Northern Professional Access College (NORPAC) is causing anxiety for both students and staff.

In July, the provincial government advised the NORTEP-NORPAC Board of Governors that its funding would be discontinued as of July 31, 2017 and redirected to another post-secondary institution. This has left the current 154 students and 25 staff wondering what comes next.

“The faculty have noticed that everybody is worried,” said NORTEP-NORPAC acting president, Jennifer Malmsten. “Because of the uncertainty, they don’t know what the future holds, and that’s hard to handle.”

In late September, representatives from the Ministry of Advanced Education and NORTEP met to determine the next steps.

“We agreed that NORTEP would facilitate the process of determining who our partner will be,” said Malmsten. “We will make a recommendation to the Minister of Advanced Education by January 31, and then it is her prerogative to accept or reject the recommendation.”

Rielle Desjarlais is one of several

students who met with the Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, Minister of Advanced Education, in mid-September to convey why NORTEP-NORPAC is “important and essential to the North.”

The third-year NORPAC student and vice-president of the student association says, “This decision has put a stress

support and allow students to take their message to Regina later in the fall, and try to stop the redirection of funding.

“It has been a proven product for 40 years,” says Desjarlais.

To date, over 600 Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Education degrees have been awarded,

ment of Saskatchewan signed a five-year agreement to support the operation of NORTEP-NORPAC, but now it is seeking administrative savings, says Malmsten. She acknowledges that establishing a new structure for the delivery of university education in the north is not an easy process.

“We want our model carried on, because it has been successful,” says Malmsten. Indeed, she says the response to a call for success stories has been overwhelming.

Part of the uniqueness of the current program has been the emphasis on incorporating an Indigenous perspective in the studies. For example, the Indigenous Studies 270: Literature of Indigenous North America course is a requirement for both of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees and NORTEP-NORPAC is the only educational institution that offers it in Northern Saskatchewan. There are currently 30 students registered in this class.

Among NORTEP-NORPAC’s strengths, Malmsten includes small class sizes, face-to-face instruction, tutoring, financial assistance and the “innumerable supports that we offer.”

“This is a northern issue,” says Malmsten. “If NORTEP is lost, then the North will suffer.”



**NORTEP-NORPAC students are wondering what a redirection in funding will mean to them. Pictured here is the Indigenous Studies 270: Literature of Indigenous North America class, one of the unique features of the program.**

**(Photo by April Chiefcalf)**

on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the students.”

Desjarlais has initiated a “Go Fund Me” campaign to engage the public’s

and students have been able to take courses leading to other professional programs, as well.

Just over a year ago, the Govern-

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# Strength of Women recognized at event attended by achievers, superstar elders

By Andréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

Proud families and supporters filled the tables as the Strength of Women awards were to be celebrated in its second annual event.



Violet Naytowhow was one of several inspiring performers. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

The event is hosted by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Women's Commission to raise awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women and to raise funds to help support the families of the missing and murdered.

Ruby Whitstone opened the evening by describing the exhaustive search for her sister Violet Marie Hea-then, beginning in Onion Lake and extending outwards.

"She disappeared into thin air and it wasn't even on the news."

Her sister's skull was discovered in an Alberta field in November 2009, and investigators arrived at her home just before Christmas.

"This part of the story is funny and I want you to share and take this with you," she said before comically describing how the investigators were mistaken for pushy Jehovah's Witnesses letting themselves into her house.

But then the sobering and tearful truth came: it was the revelation of Violet's discovery, and all she could think was she had to go tell her mom.

"The investigators never really told us what happened to her and they kept saying they had no leads."

They did a memorial walk for her for four years. Finally they were told a man had been charged for Violet's death as well as the death of Janet Chief. On August 16 the man plead not guilty and is in his hometown correctional centre.

"I'm raising awareness. We never expect this to happen to us, and we never know who it's going to happen to, which family it's going to affect next. I just pray it stops," said Whitstone.

"We don't need our sisters taken that way."

Lori Whiteman shared what she knew about her late mother from others: a well-put-together young woman with movie star looks who wanted to be a nurse one day.

Whiteman was scooped from her mother in the '60s and has been looking for her ever since. Whiteman is the first mother in two generations of her family to raise her own kids, because her grandmother was lost to TB when her mom was two.

"My mom's name is Delores Marie Whiteman. Her nickname was Lolly. She's been missing for a long, long time and may never be found."

Foregrounded by the impetus behind the event, with a silent auction to raise funds to support the families, the night then celebrated 56 outstanding nominees



Delia Opekokew received the Lifetime Achievement Award, of the Waterhen Lake Union.

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Lifetime Achievement award from Chief Carolyn of the First Nation and Chris Sicotte of Affinity Credit  
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

in 12 categories who exemplified the strength of women.

Delia Opekokew of Canoe Lake, recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award from a field that included Marjorie Hyman and Ingrid Anderson, briefly and humbly discussed her very illustrious legal career now based in Toronto, including numerous high profile cases such as Leo Lachance and Dudley George, along with land claim settlement agreements and adjudication with IRS claims.

"I've been doing IRS adjudication for

the past 13 years now," she noted, agreeing it was nice to come home and visit while celebrating the accomplishments of so many Indigenous women.

"There are two tables of family here with me tonight."

Dr. Tasha Hubbard received the Arts and Entertainment award. The Business Award went to Doris Greyeyes. Belinda Daniels was chosen for this year's Education award. Dr. Bonita Beatty received the Health and Wellness award. Beverly Poitras won the Law and Justice. Bridgette Laquette was first in the Sports playing field. Grade 7 student Desaray Robillard was chosen from a field of outstanding youth.

Barb Lavallee was the Environment recipient. Myrna LaPlante and Darlene Okemaysim-Sicotte jointly won the Leadership & Advocacy Award for their advocacy on MMIW&G, the fundraising and awareness focus of the event.

The superstars among superstars of the night — the Honoured Matriarchs — were Clara Duquette, Clara Norman, Eileen Vandall, Evelyn Desnomie, Gertrude Montgrand, Jeanne Sutherland, Mabel Ouellette, Mary Thunderchild, Melvina Eagle, Neva Mirasty, Philomene Roy, Rose Daniels, Sandra George, Shirley McNab, and the supporting Elder described as "Saskatoon's Kohkum," Maria Linklater.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Teagan Littlechief, Pretty Indian Girls Singing, Violet Naytowhow, and Zoey Pricelys Roy. The hosts were Candace Wasacase-Lafferty and Merv Brass.



Ochapowace Chief Margaret Bear on left and SIGA Vice President of Human Resources Shauna Bear far right, presented the Leadership & Advocacy Award to Myrna LaPlante and Darlene Okemaysim-Sicotte.  
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Ochapowace Chief Margaret Bear and FSIN Vice Chief Robert Merasty presented the Health and Wellness Award to Dr. Bonita Beatty.  
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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# Blondeau finds strength to portray painful stories

By Andréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

Cree/Saulteaux/Métis artist Lori Blondeau notes her mother is artistic and her brother is famed visual artist Edward Poitras. Maybe her latest coup, a Saskatchewan Arts Award nomination for Artistic Excellence, runs in the family.

"I grew up around art and I studied dance and then went and studied theatre at Native Theatre School in Toronto," explained Blondeau. "Then I realized I didn't want to do theatre, I wanted to tell my own stories."

Eventually she did a MFA in Art after a three-year apprenticeship with James Luna, a California-based artist.

"Then I just continued doing my art practice. And now there's no turning back."

Although she also does installations and visual art, there is a unique aspect to performance art.

"It's about the here and now, it's live action. Whatever the viewer takes from it, all you have is your memories as an audience member or viewer. Then it resonates more, because most people who witness performance art, they bring in their own experience into it, so they become a part of the performance in a way."

In her closing MFA exhibition, Blondeau combined personal stories with her mother's memories of Residential School family visits, missing the smell of home so much that her grandmother would toss her sweater over the fence so she could hug and smell it.

As she shaved a poplar log down for the audience, it triggered her mother who began weeping with the smell of home — the poplar was her reserve's usual fire-



Artist Lori Blondeau has been nominated for a Saskatchewan Arts Award nomination for Artistic Excellence. (Photo supplied)

wood — and Blondeau stopped, eventually continuing but with significant alterations.

"I went back because I was going to put everyone in the enclosed area — but everyone was crying so I finished skinning the log and telling my mother's story and then put the log down on the ground and walked out."

She notes it has taken several years for her to be able to tell that story. She traces her love of performance art to a 1983 movement and visual art show put on by Robin Poitras, who is receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award on Oct. 17, and was

married to Lori's brother.

"That was my first experience doing performance art," noted Blondeau, adding that one woman shared that she had been afraid of Indigenous women prior to the experience.

"That really struck me because it was a time where us four Indigenous young women and these four non-Indigenous women came to true reconciliation. It meant a lot because we changed those women's attitudes towards Indigenous people."

Blondeau describes her performance art as high-tech storytelling, drawing from personal experience.


"My own stories, my mothers and grandmothers, I draw from the women in my life that are close to me, my experience being an Indigenous person living in this crazy time," she noted, adding that she always asks permission before sharing stories.


Lately she's been working with stones a lot, including the historic Mistassiny, blown up while creating the Gardiner Dam.

"I wanted to pay homage to the people who have fought to preserve these sites, to these stones that represent who we are as Plains Indians. Elbow kept a remnant of Mistassiny at the Elbow marina so I did a photo shoot of me wrapped up in red velvet on top of it."

Blondeau notes that Saskatchewan artists and artistic collectives are well-known across the country. Co-founder and director of the Tribe Aboriginal Arts organization since 1996, her own art has been the subject of significant scholarship, international shows, and has contributed to a growing body of research related to contemporary Indigenous art.

"We are leaders when it comes to the Arts."

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TIME: 5:30PM  
Location: Station 20 West, 1120 20 St W, Saskatoon, SK

Please consider joining us at our AGM where we will share information about GTNT's 2015-2016 year in review as well as information about future company direction



# Williams' play a brave foray into secretive world of child welfare

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

**SASKATOON** – The seed for Kenneth T. Williams' latest play, *In Care*, was planted over a decade ago when he was almost prosecuted as a journalist for covering a story on child welfare in Ontario.

"What saved me from being prosecuted was that information about this particular case had already been published once before," said Williams. NE



**KENNETH T. WILLIAMS**

"But in doing that story I learned how there's privacy legislation designed to protect the children, and the foster parents as well as the biological parents, but what that legislation does is prevent any kind of oversight or journalistic investigation because we can't publish any information."

One woman shared her story, one that Williams found shocking. She had been the victim of false accusations. He believed her after watching the system in action, silencing parents, and the story sat with him for a long time.

He tried to do more stories, but the legislation was a brick wall. One day he wrote a quick piece which is now the main character's opening monologue, and *In Care* was born.

"Thankfully Canada's becoming better educated about child welfare systems and particularly how it affects Indigenous children – because of the work of women like Cindy Blackstock and Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond," noted Williams.

"We're now seeing, particularly with First Nations children, that it's in the hands of Aboriginal run organizations across Canada, but there's more First Nations children in care than ever, historically."

He attributes this to the system itself: no matter who is technically in control of the system it is one still "out of control."

"Systemic things just don't change because we're the bureaucrats in charge, there's something bigger going on. This play is about trying to question why this is repeating."

All of the characters but one are Indigenous, including two who represent the systems still causing harm.

"We've got to re-examine child welfare and how we're trying to support the family," said Williams.

"The provincial and federal act of



**The cast of *In Care* have been working hard at rehearsals to prepare for the Oct. 21 opening.**  
(Photos by Andrea Ledding)

assimilation and genocide was to assault the family and to separate children and family."

If separation is still going on, the assault hasn't stopped, notes Williams. The play itself is under an hour from start to finish, but in that time frame a significant journey takes place. The audience is introduced to four very vividly realized people struggling to make broken systems work in various ways.

Janice Fisher, played by local actress Krystle Pederson, is the mother facing false accusations and child seizure of her three daughters. Further complicating her situation is the fact her very first daughter was permanently seized because she was a teenage sex trade worker and addict who has since turned her life around.

Fisher's four daughters are the invisible but very present characters in this production, who haunt her every move to try and fight for a future for everyone's sake.

Local actor Aren Okemaysim plays

Angel, a policeman struggling after having to make a judgment call that has him questioning everything. Emma Laishram empathetically plays worker and counsellor Bayley, clashing with Michaela Washburn's fully-realized Holland, a First Nations worker who has internalized the system well enough to replicate it complete with cultural signage.

After the first act – the play – director Yvette Nolan has designed a second act, a discussion panel.

"We don't want to just leave the audience in this space, we want them to have an opportunity to discuss, debrief, question, and maybe even problem-solve," said Nolan.

"How do we make things better, what needs to happen next?"

To that end, experts have been sought to facilitate that conversation brought about by the paradigm shifts good art brings. Shows are limited to 60 seats per evening, so tickets will go fast.

Opening night is Oct. 21, and the show ends Oct. 30.

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Rook Sparvier from Cowesses First Nation and Terri-Lynn Beavereye and John Jez from Black Lake spoke of their renewable energy projects in their communities. (Photo by Christian Boyle)



Sustainable Development Technology Canada Director George Lafond and President and CEO Leah Lawrence gave the keynote address at the 2nd Annual Aboriginal Business Forum. (Photo by Christian Boyle)

# Business leaders encouraged to embrace innovation

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**WHITECAP DAKOTA** – Business leaders from the clean energy, agriculture and infrastructure industries gathered together with Aboriginal businesses for a day of idea sharing and networking at the second annual Aboriginal Business Forum.

Conference Chair Darrell Balkwill welcomed participants to the event with a blunt assessment of the business climate in Saskatchewan.

“The Saskatchewan economy is among Canada’s leaders in growth. Although growth in the non-renewable resource sector has slowed, Saskatchewan has been blessed with an abundance of renewable natural resources including a rich and diverse agricultural sector and an abundance of renewable energy sources like hydro, solar and wind. Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal people present a key human and business resource for furthering these developments,” said Balkwill.

The speech set the day for conversations around renewable energy and agriculture. George Lafond, former Treaty Commissioner and now a Director for Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) joined Leah Lawrence, the President and CEO of SDTC in the opening keynote address.

“Education means achievement and achievement equals success,” said Lafond. “Education in our communities is one of our biggest weaknesses. This is where innovation comes in. We have to change our education systems. We have to ask hard questions and do better.”

He also pointed out that the opportunities in First Nation communities for renewable energy are vast.

“As First Nations we have to understand the innovation wave. We have to build better houses that don’t get black mold. We have to stop diesel generation for isolated communities and replace that with solar.”

Some communities have already started down the renewable path. The Tazi Twe hydro project in Black Lake First Nation and the Cowessess High Wind Project were presented to the forum. Terri-Lynn Beavereye the Business Manager for Black Lake says the project has strong approval from the community.

“We went to every community impacted and explained the whole project to them. We told them there was no financial risk to us. There is a trust set up and we get elected people on it. We promised them the land would go back to the way it was at the end of the project. 62.9 per cent voted in favour so it was a relief,” said Beavereye.

“Now we start training our people

so we can capitalize on the jobs and business opportunities during the two to three years of construction. Then they want us to focus on housing and education and recreation.”

Lionel “Rook” Sparvier shared the impact of their wind project on their community.

“Wind power is a good thing,” said Rook Sparvier. “The key to success for us was basing our decisions on objective third party analysis. And all of our projects are driven and owned by our First Nations needs.”

Presentations also included building

renewable energy, opportunities in agriculture and a panel on procurement opportunities with SaskPower, SaskHighways and Lynco Eagle.

The day was summarised on an engagement wall sponsored by Affinity Credit Union where participants added thoughts on the day, renewable energy and reconciliation and business. Many of the comments agreed that a better effort had to be done by business people to bring young people to events like the forum so they could mentor them. All profits from the forum will be used to provide scholarships to Indigenous students.

## ABORIGINAL BUSINESS FORUM 2016

### DEVELOPING SASKATCHEWAN'S RESOURCES

Presentd By: **WHITECAP INDUSTRIAL SERVICES**

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**Thanks to our sponsors, presenters, participants, and steering committee for making the Aboriginal Business Forum a great success!**

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- Weyburn Travelodge Hotel - November 3, 5-8 pm

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# BUSINESS BRIEFS



## Market Tire opens on reserve

By Larissa Burnouf  
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatoon has long been known as a hot spot in First Nations business and entrepreneurship in the province.

With a booming economy and growing urban reserve opportunities, First Nations businesses are continuing to grow and expand within the Bridge City.

The first First Nations owned and operated tire shop in Saskatoon is now open for business on the Muskeg Lake urban reserve on Packham Avenue.

Market Tire co-owner Sheldon Wuttunee has partnered with Greg and Brent Hoiness to open the established business's newest location on-reserve hoping to fill a gap in the market in the province.

Wuttunee says he and the Hoiness brothers began building a partnership years ago and expanding onto the reserve was an opportunity they didn't want to miss.

"It's a great opportunity to build an important service to our people and everyone in the community at large," Wuttunee says.

He says it's also an opportunity to work with reserves, Tribal Councils and First Nations owned companies across the province wanting access to an essential

service for their vehicles at an on-reserve location. "It's important to build capacity to truly contribute to the economy of our province," says Wuttunee. "It is critical that we as First Nations people do our part in building partnerships within our treaty areas with non-First Nations partners. It lends to a true realization of the spirit and intent of Treaty. To work together for the benefit of all."

## Areva giving back

**SASKATOON** – AREVA Resources Canada has donated \$500,000 to support a family room in the Maternal Care Centre at the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan.

This generous contribution to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan's "We Can't Wait" Capital Campaign means that pregnant women and their families will have a home-away-from-home right outside their hospital room doors when they deliver their babies.

"We are proud to invest in communities near our activities and operations and to support healthcare infrastructure and services for the benefit of all in Saskatchewan.

"We are particularly pleased to contribute to the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan's Maternal Care Centre," says Tammy Van Lambalgen, Vice President Corporate Affairs and General Counsel of AREVA Resources Canada Inc.

"The AREVA Family Room will provide a needed space for families to gather and take a break from the therapeutic areas. It's a space that will be particularly useful for those travelling from out of town, such as many of our employees' families and friends from northern Saskatchewan."

## Lloydminster casino good to go

**LLOYDMINSTER** – The Border Tribal Council, Little Pine First Nation and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) hosted a luncheon in Lloydminster, Sask. to give an update on the new SIGA casino project and to provide information to local organizations and community members about the job and business opportunities the project will bring to Lloydminster. The casino has received all approvals required to begin the project.

The 31,000-foot facility would provide 140 jobs, which SIGA president and CEO Zane Hansen says covers everything from marketing to food and beverage.

We definitely want to get the project moving along. Once we mobilize, you get a lot of resources put in place to keep things moving. We've built three casinos in the last eight/nine years," explains Hansen.

"Some of those projects were in the 14-16 month window. I think we can move this one a little quicker than that."

Don't be surprised to see the casino up and running in 2017.

## SIGA's newest casino could be up and running in 2017



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Matthew Cloud, Transit Operator, Saskatoon Transit



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November 16, 2016 - Travelodge Hotel

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - Treaty 6 Territory

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# Media types get a lesson on reconciliation

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – A conference aimed at building better relationships between the media and Saskatchewan's First Nation communities was held in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan.



Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Marie Wilson addressed the participants at the Reconciliation and the Media Conference in Saskatoon.

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

Over 120 of journalists, editors, publishers, educators, public relations staff and students from across the province gathered to understand the need for reconciliation in the media.

The event started on the evening of October 4

with a reception held at the university in the Gordon Oakes Red Bear centre with over 80 attendees.

"We began with a reception last night and wouldn't you know, it was the first rain/snow of the season. We were very surprised and impressed that we had 80

people," said The Star Phoenix reporter and conference co-chair, Betty Ann Adam.

"It's a relief and a joy – and a feeling of great satisfaction that the conference was so well received and attended."

The second day of the conference began with a morning pipe ceremony. It was a ceremony that was foreign to most attendees, including the owner and publisher of the Prince Albert Daily Herald and Moose Jaw Times-Herald, Roger Holmes.

"I really appreciate being welcomed and (being able) to participate in the pipe ceremony. It's the first time I've ever experienced anything like that and it was a sacred ceremony. It was meaningful," said Holmes.

He was eager to take everything he learned at the conference back to his newsrooms ensuring his staff utilizes the media handbook, a document that was created as a tool for the media in Saskatchewan on how to better cover First Nations issues.

"This is a great tool kit for me because I'm not overly familiar and I don't know how to lead my staff to embrace this culture and issue. This tool kit is the nuts and bolts of what we need to start to do our job to lead our readers through the magnitude of the issue to help them understand and appreciate it," added Holmes.

"Embrace it as part of who we are and then be able to go forward as one people."

The event was emceed by CBC's Connie Walker who introduced various speakers such as residential school survivor and Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame inductee Eugene Arcand, Lac la Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson and TRC Commissioner

and journalist Dr. Marie Wilson.

Katie Sawatzky, a third-year student from the University of Regina School Of Journalism says she is going to start prioritizing Aboriginal people and their communities and to start fostering those relationships – one of the messages from Dr. Wilson's keynote speech.

"Marie Wilson's speech was just amazing. I feel empowered and like I have a job to do," says Sawatzky. "It was a really great conference. I really enjoyed all the speakers; they all had so much to share. A key moment for me was when Betty Ann Adam got up to share her thoughts during the decision making panel, what she had to say was really inspiring that we need to challenge our assumptions and that we need to think critically on how we're framing our stories."

The conference idea stemmed from Treaty 4 News Editor/Publisher, Mervin Brass, who invited fellow indigenous journalists Betty Ann Adam, John Lagimodiere of Eagle Feather News, Doug Cuthand columnist and former CTV Indigenous Circle host, and David Kirton from News Talk 650 to help plan the event.

"We handed out the evaluation forms and we will review (everyone's feedback). But when you were in the room yesterday, hearing everyone's comments was a pretty good sign that another conference similar to this will continue in Canada ... the next step is to have a reconciliation event and bring in people from across Canada," said Brass.

The conference was based on the foundation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action #84-86 under the 'Media and Reconciliation' categories.



The committee for the Reconciliation and the Media conference wishes to thank our sponsors for helping us make the reconciliation event a tremendous success.

## Publisher Level



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## News Director Level





# Gaming hard work, but it pays off

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

The Global Gaming Expo, also known as G2E, is the biggest gaming expo in the world and recently held its annual Top 40 under 40 program which recognizes the future of gaming.

Gaming executives nominate someone from the Emerging Leaders Program and 40 are recognized worldwide.

"I was completely shocked when I got the news. I had no idea because it was out of the blue," says the only Canadian Top 40 Under 40 nominee, Jada Yee from Wood Mountain reserve in Southern Saskatchewan.

"I had a lot of emotions. It was happiness and that feeling that I finally made it. All of the hard work I've done for 17 years of gaming had finally paid off."

Yee was informed two days before the event that he was nominated. He didn't want to miss his special recognition event so he hurriedly booked a last minute flight and ended up flying everywhere in North America to finally get to Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Right away, I felt like a rock star cause people wanted to interview me," says Yee. "I was at the convention for probably 12 hours and then I went to my reception. By that time, I was so tired and wanted to go home."

"The next day, I was at the conven-

tion again for 13-14 hours and early Friday morning, I was on my way back home. That's how fast my trip was."

Yee is currently the food and beverage manager at Casino Regina and had been the manager for almost every single department including the pit boss, slot manager, bank shift manager, and surveillance.

The biggest position he held was the casino manager but he took his current position to lessen his work responsibility as he was also studying for his Bachelors of Business Administration with a major in Human Resource Management at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv).

"I liked being the (casino) manager but I liked my education even more so I wanted to finish off my degree," he says. "Money isn't everything in life."

Yee balances his education and work with being a family man. Jada and his wife Kristi have four children – two boys and twin girls.

"A lot of my success comes from my wife. She is my rock. She's a huge influence in my life," says Yee, who also credits his friends who graduated from FNUUniv.

"I didn't do this on my own, there's many people involved in this entire journey like my friends Mike Dubois, Cadmus Delorme, Tom Benjoe, and Jacob



Jada Yee is the only Canadian Nominee of the Global Gaming Expos top 40 under 40 program. The distinction earned him a whirl wind trip to Las Vegas. Jada works at Casino Regina as the food and beverage manager. (Photo by Mike Dubois)

Pratt. All (these) guys that I surround myself with all helped me get to where I am and I'll never forget that."

Yee expressed how truly honoured he was that he was recognized not only the Top 40 under 40 in the world but also being the only Canadian, who happens to be Indigenous. His years of hard work stems from teachings that were shared to him from the university elders, including the late Ken Goodwill who

passed away in 2010.

"He told me to always try your best and to never back away from failure because even when you fail, that's when you learn most in life and you become stronger," he adds.

"I believe in First Nation values (and) to learn as much as possible. So my goal in life is to always learn as much as possible in life but in return, share the knowledge with everyone."



## FSIN Youth Volleyball Championships November 4-6, 2016 Prince Albert, SK.

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In 2014 alone, Yanzhou Coal (parent company) contributed over 19 million Canadian dollars to ecological and environmental improvements. Yancoal Canada plans to show the same respect to the people and environment that support their local operations. At the time of production, a plan of action will be developed in consultation with local authorities (e.g., Water Security Agency), First Nations, Metis Nations, and local communities to contribute to the development or continuation of regional environmental monitoring, remediation or protection initiatives.

### Yancoal Canada Resources

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# Board game builds teamwork and leadership skills and takes Cree humour to the world

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

**SASKATOON** – Janelle Pewapsconias is bringing “Neeched Up Games” to the world.

It all began one Christmas six years ago, when what Janelle described as “the family turkey coma” hit.

“I wanted to make an activity for my family to play together and have some laughs so I conceptualized this idea before Christmas because it takes time to develop a game,” she said.

The board game was focussed around Cree humour. It was a huge hit and they played it back-to-back.

“I thought I had a good idea but wasn’t too sure yet.”

She was going to the U of S and working on environmental and social justice issues.

“But we can’t have a healthy planet without healthy people to take care of it,” said Pewapsconias, which is where her game comes in.

While working on leadership skills, she brought the game into workshop spaces which provided resources and supports to continue developing it.

“So everything I’ve put into the game in the past six years has been through shared experiences, youth events, what our issues are and how we share the

world, research (from school) – but also what’s most important to me, the most integral part, is the traditional knowledge that’s included.”

She’s taken the time to research and proceed with proper protocol, being given permission from Elders to share the traditional knowledge in this format.

“It’s grassroots kind of knowledge – fun and funny, but also insightful and authentic.”

Currently, both her board game and card game have been working tools with youth in Saskatoon and throughout the province, to teach about teamwork and leadership.

“As a social enterprise, I try to bring across the point that it’s OK to be Indigenous. And urban people feel represented in this game. Youth have reflected that they’ve never been exposed to culture and when it is, it’s very hard for them to learn it.

“But with the games, they were able to learn in an alternative way but also see themselves in a contemporary way,” shared Pewapsconias, adding that Indigeneity can become romanticized or people can feel “not Indian enough” but the games bring culture to new generations, and build relationships with other non-Indigenous peoples, in a relatable way.

Currently she’s preparing to graduate



**Activist and entrepreneur Janelle Pewapsconias has started a business called Neeched Up Games. She builds board games that teach about Indigenous issues by using humour.**

(Photo by Andrea Cessna)

from Business Administration at SIIT in June, all part of her master plan to work for herself.

“My goal is to share with the world that Indigenous people are valuable, important, our knowledge is as old as the land and those messages should be just as valuable as Canadian or settler knowledges and histories.”

Pewapsconias also wants to provide Indigenous studies teachers with these alternative learning models to promote culture, because from coast to coast to coast the games have resonated with so many nations. In November, she will be telling

her story at the University of Minnesota, and looking to do more local workshops in the winter, spring, and summertime to expose new groups to her games and begin her fundraising initiatives to begin producing the games en masse.

“That’s my attempt to decolonize game play and Indigenize Canada.”

Find out more at [www.neechedupgames.com](http://www.neechedupgames.com) or her Facebook page of the same name.

Pewapsconias plans to launch a Kickstarter initiative soon too, and encourages other entrepreneurs to plan for, and follow, their dreams.

## Introduction To Family Literacy

The **Introduction to Family Literacy\*** is a full day certificate workshop for anyone wanting to facilitate, coordinate and/or develop family literacy programs. This workshop is open to those who are interested in learning more about family literacy.

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**Location:**  
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**For more information contact:**  
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\*Introduction to Family Literacy is a pre-requisite for other family literacy training such as Come Read With Me and Rhymes, Songs and Storytelling.



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## Lacrosse is thriving on northern Sask. FN

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**MISTAWASIS FIRST NATION** – The sport of lacrosse is alive and well on the Mistawasis First Nation.

Four youth band members were part of a Pee wee team that won a gold medal at the recent provincial lacrosse tournament in Saskatoon.

Bryley Bowman, 11, Damien Head, 12, Ivan Ochuschayoo, 12, and Lionel Johnstone, 12, were all key parts of a Prince Albert Predators team that went undefeated at the tournament.

Bowman, Johnstone and Ochuschayoo played on a forward line together while Head tended goal.

Lester Ledoux, the recreation co-ordinator for the Mistawasis First Nation, says Mistawasis kids began playing organized lacrosse about nine years ago and interest in the sport has grown steadily since.

"It was introduced to our community by a couple of kids from Saska-



toon," Ledoux says.

"So we started off with I think eight boys and one girl in the P.A. Minor Box League and that worked out well. I think



Ivan Ochuschayoo (on left), Lionel Johnstone, Bryley Bowman and Damien Head were a big part of the Prince Albert Pee wee Predators lacrosse team, pictured here, that won the gold medal at the recent provincial tournament in Saskatoon.  
(Photo courtesy of PA Predators Minor Lacrosse Facebook page)

that year we won the city championship just through hard work and determination."

To achieve gold, the Predators defeated the Saskatoon Swat 7-4 in the final game of the provincial tournament.

For his efforts, Ivan Ochuschayoo was awarded tournament MVP.

He says the Predators faced their stiffest competition from the Swat team and it was nice to pull out a convincing win.

Ochuschayoo has been playing lacrosse for a little over two years and also participates in basketball.

The 12-year-old says it was also a big thrill to see the newly formed Saskatchewan Rush professional lacrosse team in action this past winter.

"It was really exciting to see just how good they are," he says.

Lionel Johnstone was also named a first team all-star at the provincial tournament.

## Veteran boxer mentors Saskatoon aboriginal youth

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Luc "Lefty Kid Pivin" has dedicated most of his life to the sport of boxing.

As a welterweight fighter, his career began more than a half century ago where he accumulated a respectable record of 16 wins (10 by knockout), 13 losses and one split decision.



Nathan Metivier (left), pictured here with boxing coach Luc Pivin, won the gold medal in the middleweight division of his age group at the provincial amateur boxing championships.

The 78-year-old Pivin now makes his home in Saskatoon where he works with and trains young boxers – many of whom are Aboriginal.

He says boxing is a complex sport, which requires rigorous daily training both inside and outside the ring in order to be successful.

Pivin says the best boxers are those that are most prepared heading into a fight and this training usually includes months of sparring, skipping rope and endurance running prior to the actual match.

The Quebec native says with hard work and regular training he believes almost anyone can be molded into a good boxer within their respective weight class.

However, he says it is a disciplined approach to training that separates those that last in the sport as opposed to those that fall by the wayside.

"It's demanding and sometimes you will ask them to do skipping for three minutes and you will be lucky if they do 20 or 30 seconds," Pivin says with a chuckle. "That's why I really try to focus on endurance."

Two Aboriginal boxers Pivin is currently working with are the Metivier brothers Nathan, 19, and Curtis, 16.

The brothers recently competed in the provincial amateur boxing championships in Regina where both won gold medals in the middleweight class of their respective age groups.

Curtis won his bout by technical knockout after two rounds while Nathan's match went the full three rounds where he was awarded the decision on points.

Pivin credits the Saskatoon Tribal Council with playing a big role in the encouragement and development of young boxers.

This includes providing the Sion Middle School on 7th Street East in Saskatoon as a place to train.

"James Ouellette (STC Director of Employment and Training Services) is the one who gave me a chance to use that place as long as I provide fitness for the ladies," he says.

"And there is no cost and I can use the facility and the space. That is a big deal for me."

The provincial tournament was the

seventh bout for Nathan Metivier and first for Curtis.

Pivin says Curtis Metivier intends to

go on with boxing while Nathan will now turn his attention to other activities such as his studies.

**Assembly of First Nations**  
**National First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Forum and Tradeshow**  
*Moving Forward on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform*  
November 1-3, 2016 – RBC Convention Centre – Winnipeg Manitoba

The Assembly of First Nations is hosting a Housing and Infrastructure Forum and would like to invite you to register and attend this important event. The forum is intended to be engaging and informative and will seek your input on how to reform the current housing and infrastructure delivery processes.

**Who should attend?**

- Chiefs or their identified representative
- Housing Directors and technicians
- Financial and funding institutions
- First Nations organizations, Tribal Councils
- First Nations Leaders
- Consultants and other non-government entities that are involved in housing management and delivery services
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**Provide your views on:**

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**For more information, contact the Assembly of First Nations at 613.241.6789 or by email at [housinginfrastructureforum@afn.ca](mailto:housinginfrastructureforum@afn.ca).**



# Team Sask prepares for North American Indigenous Games to be held in Toronto in 2017



Tryouts have begin across the province as coaches and managers put together Team Saskatchewan for NAIG 2017.

Team Saskatchewan Prepares for the North American Indigenous Games

In just under one year's time over 500 athletes, coaches and mission staff will begin the journey to Toronto for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) which is set to take place from July 16-23 2016.

Preparations are currently being made to make sure that Team Saskatchewan delivers our young people an experience they won't soon forget.

Team Sask Steering Committee Chairperson Marc Longjohn spoke recently about all the preparations.

"NAIG is an event that requires our entire community to help out. Whether it is driving kids to camps, coaching a team,

fundraising or even sponsoring the team to help get them to Toronto, no one person can do this alone," said Longjohn.

"This year the steering committee is really excited because of all of the people who have come forward to lend a hand. The games only come around every three years and are something that our young people look forward to and work hard towards making the team.

"As leaders in our communities we need to also work hard to make sure that the memories and friendships created are good ones."

Talent Identification camps in all 14 NAIG sports are currently being held across the province. Sport Coordinators for all sports have been busy booking di-

amonds, gyms and fields to host athletes hoping to become a member of Team Saskatchewan. In the past couple of weeks over 300 young people attended camps, and that was just for soccer. The committee estimates that over 1,500 athletes will attend the talent identification camps.

"We held two camps for ball and will have another one in the spring. The coaches are looking forward to working with the athletes to help develop their skills in addition to assessing their abilities," said Denise Waskewitch, sport coordinator for Baseball.

Team Saskatchewan has recently developed a new website to act as the information "hub" for all Talent Identification camps, forms and eventually profiles of

athletes and coaches new and old to Team Saskatchewan. The website can be found at [www.teamsasknaig.ca](http://www.teamsasknaig.ca)

The North American Indigenous Games was born out a dream to give our young people a chance to realize their potential, both as an athlete and a person.

Founders of the games began with little other than the will of a few key leaders and the support of the Indigenous community.

Since then, the games have grown to include many different sports, additional provinces and states and have become a multi-million dollar event.

Even through all this growth the goal of helping to shape the lives of our youth has remained constant.

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# Tanton revved for NAIG as he completes the circle from fan to chef de mission

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Now that Mike Tanton has been named Chef de Mission of Team Saskatchewan for NAIG 2017, he has played every possible role at NAIG including spectator.

“I went to my first NAIG in 1990 at the age of 13 in Edmonton and I was blown away. It was like the Olympics. The biggest thing I had ever seen and I couldn’t believe how many Aboriginal people were there,” said Tanton in an exclusive interview with Eagle Feather News over eggs and coffee at Nellie’s on 22nd.

“I was just starting to see how the world works and this blew my mind.”

Tanton has attended every NAIG since. First he qualified as a basketball player. His team’s best finish was in Victoria where they got fourth.

“Most importantly, in Victoria I got to sit with basketball great Steve Nash and talk about the game with him. I asked his advice. He told me to go for it. Little things like that help you believe in yourself.”

After he became too old to play, he became the coach where he had the pleasure of coaching current 3 on 3 international star Michael Linklater.

“Mike and his era were great players and it was important to mentor on the next generation.”

Eventually, Tanton went on to play with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. He has been involved in developing grassroots basketball programs across Saskatchewan. His community work eventually led to him being the Director of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. He has been working for PotashCorp at the Cory mine for the past several years.

Being named the Chef de Mission is the topping on the cake for Tanton and allows him to do that community work that is so important to him.

“I have been away from the community for a while ... gone underground if you even want to say it, but being back working with the community in this context gives me the best of both worlds,” said Tanton.

“It means a lot and is very cool how I came full circle from fan to this position. There is a different dynamic now and I have to work with kids and adults and show them it is more than just a game. I want to help them and push them to be better. I miss working with and helping people.”

Juggling time underground with the important demands of being Chef de Mission will be a challenge, but Tanton is up to it.

“I have a varied schedule that allows me time off during the days sometimes and my site has embraced my opportunity,” said Tanton.

“They will give me some flex and time off and I can take holidays or use banked time. It will be great.”

Tanton will lead about 500 athletes, coaches and mission staff to Toronto for the North American Indigenous Games which is set to take place from July 16-23, 2017. The group is in the midst of raising the \$1.3 million it takes to get the youth to Toronto.

Team Saskatchewan finished second in 2014 when the Games were held in Regina. Though he doesn’t want to predict a finishing spot for next year, Tanton does know the athletes will have a life changing event.

“We have a great team of athletes so far and we have a great management team with our committee and with SaskSport and the Sport For All coordinator over at the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations,” said Tanton.

“We are doing this as a team, not just me thinking I’m in charge. I’m pretty revved for this.”



Mike Tanton attended his first North American Indigenous Games in Edmonton in 1990 and it was an eye-opening experience. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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