

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

La Loche continues healing process

Colin Herman and Braden Herman work security between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the La Loche Community School's Dene Building. Along with the hiring of an on-site RCMP officer, their jobs are among steps taken to make students feel safe at school. See story on Page 7. (Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)



INSIDE



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Sheryl Kimbley is a very deserving recipient of Prince Albert's Citizen of the Year Award. - Page 4



ELECTION TURMOIL

Now that the February Métis election has been postponed, Bryan Lee is pessimistic about the future of the MN-S. - Page 6



FREDA HONOURED

The late Freda Ahenakew has been honoured by the Saskatoon Public Library with the renaming of the 20th St. branch. - Page 11



HE'S THE CHAIR

Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear has been named chair of the Sask Power board. - Page 12



ATHLETE AND SCHOLAR

Shayna Uhrin is not only a whiz with the books, she's an exceptional athlete as well. - Page 19

The Preview Edition

Coming In February - Health and Wellness Issue

CPMA #40027204

Hubbard film selected for Confederation celebration screening

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Canada's Confederation with three major projects including Legacies150, Aabiziingwashi (#WideAwake): Indigenous Cinema on Tour, and Special Online Programming.

A University of Saskatchewan assistant professor and filmmaker's documentary will be showcased in the upcoming celebration under the Aabiziingwashi project.

Tasha Hubbard's film, *Birth of a Family*, tells the story of how the Sixties Scoop impacted one family.

"The film finished in time to be included for necessary dialogue that needs to happen," says Hubbard, who has been a filmmaker for 18 years.

"Canada 150 is being seen as a celebration in some ways and yet, there are a lot of stories that haven't been told that are much less celebratory but are absolutely the history of Canada. The Sixties Scoop is a part of that and this is a policy that had tragic implications on a lot of Indigenous people."

The Sixties Scoop was a policy that started in the '60s where the removal of Indigenous children from their families and placed into foster homes around the world occurred. It was another dark

chapter in Canadian history that Hubbard believes needs to be brought into the light more.

StarPhoenix, and her siblings who were all separated through the Sixties Scoop. Many years later, the four siblings were reunited.



Betty Ann Adam and her siblings pose for a group shot in this image from the documentary *Birth of a Family* by Tasha Hubbard. (Photo by Thomas Dudley)

"This is a policy that had tragic implications on a lot of Indigenous people. That needs to be a part of the conversation when we look at Canada as a country," she says.

"There are a lot of dark places in the history. Film provides a way of looking into those dark corners."

The film is based on the story of Betty Ann Adam, a reporter for the Saskatoon

It's a story that Michelle van Beusekom, NFB's Executive Director of English Language Production, feels is important for all Canadians to watch.

"It's surprising that many Canadians don't know what the Sixties Scoop was. It's something that's talked a little bit by the media but it's something that people aren't widely familiar with. Everyone should know," she says.

"It's a part of a sad history that we have in Canada. Our goal is to put a spotlight on Indigenous perspective, shine a light, and create these forums of exchange. It's about trying to contribute in some way through film to this process of reconciliation."

NFB will be hosting with partners to begin their film showcasing in January with over 100 screenings of films by Indigenous filmmakers that were produced by the NFB across the country. The project is a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and one of the Calls to Action is using works of media as a way of building dialogue and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. The idea of NFB's Aabiziingwashi project is to create opportunities for people to look at this country and history through Indigenous eyes.

Hubbard is happy that her film was picked to be showcased across the nation. She hopes people will grasp a firm understanding of what the Sixties Scoop was and the impact it had on Indigenous families.

"I would like viewers to see the personal impact of these policies that has been placed upon Indigenous people without our consent. I hope people have that time to see these policies have an ongoing legacy and the way one family decided to turn that into something positive but also realize this is one person's story around the Sixties scoop," says Hubbard.

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Father, son sworn in at historic Whitecap Dakota FN ceremony

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION – The buzz in the gym at the Charles Red Hawk Elementary School on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation was rising.

The room quickly filled up with community members, dignitaries and students on hand to witness the historic swearing in of Chief and Council.

Chief Darcy Bear was elected by acclamation, which has almost become an automatic thing after eight terms as Chief with six elections by acclamation.

Long serving Councillor Dwayne Eagle was also re-elected. New to the team this term is Councillor Dalyn Bear who made history by joining his father Darcy as the first father and son combination in leadership at Whitecap Dakota.

When Dalyn approached Chief Bear about running for council, the fatherly advice was pragmatic.

“I was very humbled that the people of Whitecap elected me. Not every day that you get elected to leadership and I am a proud young man to take that office and work alongside my father who is my mentor and got me to where I am.

“My mom’s given me a lot of support as well,” said Dalyn Bear who added he was in awe when his bonnet was placed on his head at the swearing in.

“Working for Whitecap for the last six years has given me great perspective. We want to develop partnerships and make a better life for our people.”

Things are going well at Whitecap and their list of achievements is lengthy. They are a regional force with over 650 people working in their community and have a casino and world class golf course that combined draw in over a million visitors a year. It wasn’t always like that though.

“We always find a way forward in our community. I was raised in the community by my grandparents,” said Chief Bear as he reflected on the growth and progress in his community.

“I remember hauling water and using outhouses. Now we have all this infrastructure and homes that meet national building code with full basements and not crawl spaces.

“We have 160 units in the community and it continues to grow. Lots of our members want to come

home. Going forward, we made access to the Building Canada Fund which was meant for municipalities, not for First Nations.

“It took two years to do the lobbying so now we are putting out water sewer tenders next week. In many cases we find we can’t do it alone. It is going to take a partnership and working with other organizations and that may be with another First Nation or maybe another level of government or industry.”

Chief Bear’s responsibility to his community has rubbed off on his protégé.

“We live and breathe Whitecap. It’s all about Whitecap,” said Dalyn of his relationship with his father and how they are going to work together.

“Even when we sit down, sometimes we are talking about different ideas and how to approach different levels of government and how we can bring opportunity to Whitecap. We have to get along, we understand that. We have a really good bond and relationship.

“My dad is my best friend and we have to make sure that we continue to work hard together and push forward for Whitecap.”



Chief Darcy Bear on left and his son Dalyn become the first father son duo in Whitecap Dakota First Nation history.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

“As parents we know our children have dreams and goals. And we have to believe in them. If that was the decision he wanted to make I told him to put some thought into it because you become responsible to all of our members.

“It’s not a small responsibility looking at improving the quality of life in our people,” said Chief Bear after the ceremony.

“If you feel you are ready I’m not going to say you can or can’t. He had to make that decision. But I warned him you have to do the work as well. Meeting with our members and talking about his platform and how he can help the community.

“The rest is history. The membership elected him so now he has to do the work and prove himself.”

The gravitas was not lost on the younger Bear. He considers his dad his mentor and best friend and he has watched the progress he has made for his community. Dalyn has also worked for the community for the last six years as Director of Lands. His other training through SIIT, Thompson Rivers University and the University of Saskatchewan has set Dalyn up for the task of Council.



Chief Bear, Councillor Dwayne Eagle and Councillor Dalyn Bear assumed their positions after an emotional swearing in ceremony. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Looking forward to a great 2017

I am so very happy to welcome 2017. How fitting that the 2016 Word of the Year is "Dumpster fire."

The year was so bad that the American Dialect Society, a group of linguists, lexicographers, and grammarians that voted on the award had to use two words this year.

Though the dumpster fire has arisen because of the Trumpster Fire that American voters created, the word plays well to what we experienced in 2016 in Saskatchewan. It was a rough and tumble year with tragedies, violence, economic woes and racism abounding. But we are not here to rue the past. We are looking forward to seeing how we can shake off the past and promote success in 2017.

Here are a few things we can look forward to in 2017.

Good people

It was a nice surprise to see two very accomplished people recognized as Citizens of the Year. In PA, the tireless Sheryl Kimbley was named Prince Albert Kinsmen Club and PA Daily Herald 2016 Citizen of the Year. Sheryl's list of volunteer activities vary from feeding the poor, welcoming Syrian immigrants, fighting youth suicide and for creating the Northern Spirits that empowers young northern people thorough music and the arts. This lady doesn't have an off switch and we are lucky because of it.

In Saskatoon, CTV has named Judge David Arnot Citizen of the Year. Judge Arnot is currently the Saskatchewan Human Rights

Commissioner but his work in the Indigenous community has had a major impact in Saskatchewan.

He was appointed a Judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in 1981. He was also seconded to the Federal Department of Justice as Director General of the Aboriginal Justice. He was also Treaty Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan for a 10 year period.

Judge Arnot's work on the "Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Project" led to Saskatchewan having the most progressive Treaty education in Saskatchewan. He also promoted the term: "We are all Treaty people."

With folks Like Sheryl Kimbley and Judge David Arnot battling for the community, good things can happen.

Reconciliation and public education

The momentum around reconciliation will not go away. Reconciliation Saskatoon, an association of dozens of community groups that promote Indigenous inclusion and acts of Reconciliation has been coordinating events and bringing people together for the past year. The good thing is other cities are asking for guidance on how to proceed, thereby spreading the movement of reconciliation across the province.

Also consider the number of people now that are exposed to Aboriginal awareness sessions at their workplace or the amount of community groups that are listening to residential school survivors and the new curriculum that students are learning and bringing home to their parents.

As Judge David Arnot stresses, public education is so important. The good thing is it is happening.

Sports unite

Oh my, the number of big sporting events this year is overwhelming. This summer alone we have NAIG in Toronto, the World Indigenous Games in Alberta as well as the First Nation Summer Games in Regina.

Throw in the Saskatchewan Aboriginal track and Field Championships in March in Saskatoon and the track athlete in your family could be a busy little hurdler. Plus all the hockey tournaments, ball games, back yard gymnastics and school sports, kids can and should be busy. In a day of such need in the north and for many disadvantaged youth, there is nothing like sports (or the arts for that matter) to connect a kid with teammates and positive role models.

Business

This one is going to be interesting. With Prime Minister Trudeau



approving two pipeline projects, with one of them cutting across parts of Saskatchewan, there will be a flurry of activity in the industry with training, employment and sub contract opportunities abounding.

This will be a welcome economic boost to many communities, Indigenous ones included, near the construction. On the other hand, we see what is happening at Standing Rock and the extreme reaction to any sort of pipelines.

Will battle lines be drawn on this issue?

Smart money says yes. This will be most interesting.

It felt good to turn the calendar onto 2017 so we can start fresh.

And we hope that the word of the year in 2017 can expand to three words. "Progress and Hope."



JUDGE DAVID ARNOT



Sheryl Kimbley is P.A.'s Citizen of the Year, a very deserving honour.



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Better to celebrate children than death and dying

It is almost impossible not to feel paralyzed at the thought of another suicide; especially that of a child.

Paralyzed, not just as a parent, but also as a community. Like many of us, I ask myself what I can do? How can I change what is happening to our children and to us but like most people I talk to I am at loss.

I remember running away from home when I was about eight years old. It was not because of one particular thing although I remember what triggered it. It was a lifetime of horrific ups and downs. Of incredible joy and love but also incredible fear and hopelessness, all rolled up into a bundle too big for a little girl to carry, much less understand.

I started out walking and thinking about how I would kill myself. Imagining my funeral and how mom and aunties would make me a pretty dress. My dad and uncles would make me a beautiful coffin and all the weeping and prayers that would be said and the people hugging each other, helping to make my funeral beautiful, all the food that would be cooked, the feasting that would be done.

We can fix it by celebrating life, our children's lives, letting them know that they are special and we love them.

I stopped at a small muskeg and decided that I would just walk into the water and get sucked up and die. But then I thought, but what if nobody finds me? There would be no celebration, no one to talk about how wonderful I had been or about the things I had done.

So what's my point?

My point is that 70 years ago I observed how important and loved you could be if you were dead. And my point today is, nothing has changed. As Indigenous people, our greatest celebrations are still about dying, death and funerals, one of the great colonial gifts.

How often do you see a hospital room full of women singing birthing songs when a baby is coming?

How often do you sit in a community hall with all the people taking part in a Naming or a Walking Out Ceremony to celebrate a baby's life?

How often do we celebrate a young man's first vision quest or a young woman's first moon-time? Almost never, but when somebody is dying we fill the hospital room and all the waiting rooms,

we spend our money in cafeterias feasting.

We cry and have hysterics and this is all carried over after death, to a big community funeral, and in the case of suicides, we bring in "outsiders" to help our children deal with the loss.

There was, of course, very little money, if any, to help that child when he or she was alive.

What kind of message does that give our children, especially if they have been made to feel they are useless, stupid and not worthy of anything. If they have been abused in every way possible way and there is no safe place for them anywhere, which is where most of our kids are at today.

Even if they are fortunate enough to have a home and parents, they know through social media, newspapers and television that their lives are not really valued. That there are hotels full of Indigenous children that nobody wants; that there are not enough foster homes to take them.

That our earth is being destroyed and our water polluted, that our country's prisons are full of Indigenous people. They also know that the most important thing in their country today is "Reconciliation" and they don't see themselves in that picture.

Our cultural teachers tell us that children were/are our greatest resource, our most precious. That they represent the future and without them there is nothing.

This love of children was so powerful that many Europeans, after first contact, recorded what they observed. The Jesuits in the 1500s wrote, that these people "regard children with affectionate, playful and permissive indulgence ... their children are treated like little princesses and princes, they are denied nothing."

Historian Emma Anderson, wrote "children were seen from a young age as autonomous agents whose freedom to develop and learn must be unimpeded. True wisdom was seen as the product of direct, personal experience, they placed a premium upon children's autonomy in their individual learning process. Indigenous children were taught what constituted their culture's most treasured values ... a spirit of competent self-reliance, generous concern for others, and stoicism in the face of cold, privation, and pain."

The missionaries saw this as a huge flaw and started immediately to correct this "spoiling of children" and one of these ways was, of course, through corporal punishment. But perhaps it was the loss of cultural ceremonies and the celebration of children that was the most ef-

fective in the brokenness we see today.

Elders who were/are the circle that surrounded children, representing the people's past, held/hold the teachings and ceremonies that celebrated the important events in the lives of children.

Birthing ceremonies, naming, first tooth, walking out, first hunt and first preparation of food, and finally the celebration of puberty. Be-

coming an adult and taking up the responsibilities and obligations to your people and your world.

These were spiritual and social ceremonies that celebrated the importance of children and the people's love for them. These ceremonies were momentous events that shaped the adult the child would become.

It is these ceremonies with their special songs and prayers that I believe are missing in our contemporary world. There is no celebration of life and yet, there is so much to celebrate.

We have a culture, traditions, and values that have survived the dark history of our country and the many kind, generous, loving people in every community who hold us together and lift us up, peo-

ple whose strength keeps us from completely going over the edge.

So what can we do, how can we change what is happening? We can speak up for our kids and clean our homes and communities of drugs, alcohol, incest, and all forms of abuse and violence.

We can stop denying, ignoring and pretending that this is not happening or that it will go away, or that government and money will fix it. Only we can do that. We can fix it by celebrating life, our children's lives, letting them know that they are special and we love them.

Let's face it, it doesn't matter how you cut it, a Christian Baptism, a Happy Birthday party, or a tooth fairy will never do it for us.

There is nothing wrong with those things, they are beautiful, and they are just not ours.

Those ceremonies do not touch that ancient part of us that is Indigenous to this land and the ancient part that we have to "wake up."

Just like that beautiful old morning song.

"Wunskak, pe wahpun ooma. Ahsi peyasisuk nikumowuk, pe miyonaqun ki taskinow!"

"Wake up, the dawn is coming. Already the little birds are singing, "Our land is beautiful, our land is beautiful."

Ekosi, Hiy hiy, marci.




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Uncertainty facing upcoming Métis Assembly and election

By Julie Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The legality of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and Annual General Meeting scheduled for mid-February has become the focus of the current Métis Nation-Saskatchewan misery.

The upcoming Métis General Election scheduled for Feb 4, 2017 has been postponed.



GERALD MORIN

The news of the postponement came in a press release issued by Ernst and Young Dec. 31 stating that “Fred Payton, who was appointed by the MN-S as Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to administer the Provincial Métis Council general election, resigned from his position on Dec. 15, 2016 due to serious health concerns.”

This situation led the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) to hold a meeting on Dec. 30 and they passed a vote to host a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MLNA)

February 18-19 to determine a new election date.

Further stated in the release, “the MNLA members will set a new date for the general election at the February MNLA. They will also decide on the best plan of action moving forward. The Provincial Métis Council recommends that the province-wide election be held on May 27, 2017.”

This decision and meeting are being deemed not legal by several citizens including Bryan Lee, President of Fishing Lake Métis Local 108.

Lee raises concerns that the individuals currently acting as the PMC are doing so outside of the four-year term outlined in Article 8(2) of the MN-S Constitution. He also points to Section 83 of the Non-Profit Corporations Act that “the powers of the directors cease when a receiver-manager has been established by the signing of an instrument.”

The MN-S signed a receiver-manager contract on June 17, 2016.

Lee claims that the false meeting of the PMC held Dec. 30 directing a call for an MNLA Feb. 18-19, 2017 is not valid.

Two legal opinions from the W Law Group (May 2012) and Cuelenaere, Kendall, Katzman & Watson (January 2017) have been issued, both in support of the continuance of the term of office of the PMC until the next MN-S Election.

Former MN-S Vice President Gerald Morin believes the meeting was legal.

“I don’t see any basis to the claim about legality at all. Under the MNLA Act, the PMC sets the dates for the MNLA. We have lawyers on hand to offer advice, and we always try to do thing on the up and up considering the politics surrounding what we do.

“We follow the MNLA Act,” said Morin. “The newly elected leadership will have the opportunity to imple-



BRYAN LEE

ment, protect and advance the rights of Métis people going forward. I remain confident that this will be a good election, and that the people will make good choices, and put us in a good position.”

Bryan Lee believes that another election will not solve anything.

“The only way to fix this is to have the invalid MNLA/MN-S Election fail, have Federal funding withdrawn, and the MN-S government shut down. At that point the only result will be to negotiate with the Federal government to use future funding towards much needed constitutional reform, the creation of our own justice system, and bring that package forward to be voted on by the Métis people.”

Legal or not, the MNLA is scheduled for Feb 18-19 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

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La Loche still looking for help full year after tragic shootings

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

LA LOCHE – A still-grieving community welcomed the media this week to discuss how La Loche is still recovering from the school shooting that claimed four lives last year – a tragedy that shook the nation.

The community is just starting to heal and a lack of resources is slowing progress.

“We feel like we’ve been left alone and we’ve been abandoned. I can honestly say that on behalf of the staff, students and probably parents,” says Greg Hatch, the acting Principal of the La Loche Community School.

“We still haven’t dealt with trauma, we’re working on a plan at the present time but we’re almost a year later and we’re starting to look at how we’re going to address trauma and a healing plan.”

La Loche Mayor Robert St. Pierre announced the council of the Northern Village of La Loche has declared Jan. 22 a civic day of remembrance. He has also touched upon the community’s recovering progress since the tragedy.

“January 22, 2016 was indeed La Loche’s darkest hour. Much progress has been made. However, our journey to-

wards convalescence has just begun,” said St. Pierre in a press conference streamed live on CBC.

“There is much more that is needed to ensure that our community is healing and that required services are available for years to come.”

Following the tragedy, a committee of provincial, federal representatives and health staff was established to find answers to too many unanswered questions. They found that services were still much needed in order for the community to heal.

The mayor highlighted required services such as an increase in overall mental health services to provide to the community with a mental health coordinator and a psychiatric nurse, the hiring of two community safety consultants to begin working with the community to develop an official community wellness plan and the need of a memorial site in honour of two brothers Drayden and Dayne Fontaine, teacher assistant Marie Janvier, and teacher Adam Wood – all who were shot and killed by a 17-year-old teenage boy, who cannot be named according to the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The community is still struggling and



From left Clearwater River councillor Lester Herman, Mayor Robert St. Pierre, the Friendship Centre's Leonard Montgrand, and acting principal Greg Hatch at the Jan. 9 conference.
(Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)

in need of support and St. Pierre describes a long road of recovery ahead of them. In the press conference he assured the staff and students of the school that they will do everything in their power to ensure everyone is on the proper path of healing.

“We came together; we supported each other, loved each other, and showed the world the true meaning of commu-

nity and resiliency,” St. Pierre adds.

As the anniversary of January 22 approaches, the leadership committee has asked the media to respect their wishes to privacy on this day of observance which will consist of a church service, community lunch and a candle-light vigil.

La Loche is a Dene/Métis community located 600 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon.

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Lost and found: My holiday nightmare

Any parent's worst nightmare is having their child reported missing. My greatest fear happened over the holidays.

My daughter, Sharlize, and I spent our holidays alone in Regina. It's hard to bring my daughter to any social events. Sharlize is a seven-year-old girl who is slightly nonverbal and has Autism Spectrum Disorder. Crowds cause Sharlize to have an overstimulation from a sensory overload which results in meltdowns. To prevent meltdowns, we often refrain from social outings.



The Regina Police Service received a gift basket in thanks from Sharlize and Jeanelle after a terrifying day when Sharlize went missing. The police later gifted Sharlize with RPS swag, making her day.

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

On Boxing Day, my mom came to Regina to spend a few days with Sharlize and I. She insisted on babysitting for a few hours while my best friend, Kaitlyn, and I drove out to the spa in Moose Jaw. We stopped in on her dad for a quick visit. It was then that I received a phone call from an anonymous number.

When I answered, it was the most devastating words that I will never forget. The voice on the other line, who happens to be my next door neighbour, said in the most heartbreaking tone, "Your daughter wandered out of your house and is nowhere to be found. She is reported missing."

I tried gasping for air but I couldn't. I felt like the wind got knocked out of me. I mouthed the words to Kaitlyn, "we have to go".

As we raced back to Regina, my hands were shaking, the tears streamed down my face, and my mind ran a photographic memory of me kissing my daughter on the cheek before I left. I prayed that moment wouldn't be the last time I saw Sharlize's face. I felt so helpless so I called my friends in the city to gather at my place to start searching for my daughter.

Fifteen minutes later, a Regina Police Service officer called to confirm

they had a search party of police officers and their K9-Unit looking for Sharlize in my neighbourhood – but have yet to find her.

When I got off the phone, I started to pray that my daughter was safe and warm – wherever she was. When we pulled into my neighbourhood, I saw people carrying flashlights moving in different directions, police cars everywhere, and officers being led by the K9-Unit.

I jumped out of the car and ran in the streets yelling out my daughter's name. Then a stranger ran towards me and said, "We checked the creek and inside the tunnel and still nothing. Where else should we look?"

Those words struck me that my daughter was still nowhere to be found. I fell on my knees and cried.

The stranger said, "Don't worry. We're going to find her".

He was right. We were going to find her. My daughter was out there somewhere, worried and scared, wandering on her own.

Everyone gathered back at my house and we divided up the search party. One of the police officers said my neighbour across the street checked their outside security camera and saw Sharlize walking east of my house. We had a lead that brought a slight sense of relief.

I went along with my friend to a few of the local businesses that Sharlize is familiar with to circulate a recent photo of her. My friend went inside Wal-Mart to circulate the photo to the store management. Fifteen minutes after we left, I received a phone call from the police saying they had Sharlize at Wal-Mart – safe and sound.

We rushed back to the store and as we pulled up, I recognized my daughter in the store entrance. I ran into her arms praying in gratitude that my daughter was safe.

The next morning, I kept thinking of how grateful I was for my friends, the neighbours, the Regina Police Service, and their K9-Unit – all who have helped to find my daughter. I wanted to express my gratitude so we picked up a goodie basket with cards and dropped them off at the Regina Police Station and at Wal-Mart management. I captured the moment by taking a picture of one of the police officers and Sharlize holding the goodie basket.

A week later, a few of the police officers who were in the search party stopped by my house to drop off a gift bag for Sharlize in return for the goodie basket we gifted them. I was so moved and touched by their heartwarming gesture.

This whole experience has taught me many lessons. As my daughter continues to grow older, I need to adjust to these changes. No one was at fault for Sharlize going missing. She learned how

to unlock the deadbolt, and was brave enough to walk alone in the dark. As the saying goes, disability does not mean inability.

I am taking the precautions to ensure this incident won't happen again. I am applying for an autism service dog for my daughter, which will stop her from wandering off and will also provide

emotional support during a meltdown so we can rejoin society and socialize again.

Until then, we installed a child-proof lock on top of the door and I will be getting Sharlize a GPS tracking bracelet. Sharlize will continue to learn

about street safety and to understand that she cannot leave anywhere without an adult.

Lastly, I've learned that our police officers are truly committed and caring to our community. That

evening, they made my daughter their first priority. They truly stand by their mission statement, "Public Service First".

I will forever be grateful for the Regina Police Service and their K9-Unit. Thank you!



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For more information and nominations, contact Shawn at shawn.albert@sasktel.com or call 306-931-6286

Presenters offered hope for community dealing with suicides

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

LA RONGE – Wisdom comes to us in different ways, says Brooke Graham, and stories have power.

Graham is the Family Support Program Coordinator at the Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge and was the organizer and MC for “An Evening of Hope” held on December 17.

The idea for the event was the result of a conversation with the province’s Children’s Advocate, said Graham. After a number of young girls in northern Saskatchewan had taken their own lives, Corey O’Soup traveled to La Ronge to meet with various groups and individuals as part of his office’s investigation.

The evening, which began with a prayer by Flora Roberts, provided an opportunity for the community to gather for a meal, listen to the wisdom in the sharing of four women of different generations, and join in a round dance accompanied by the New Dawn Drum Group.

“I’m really happy with the people that came,” said Graham. “The tri-community (Lac La Ronge Indian Band, La Ronge and Air Ronge) was really represented,” she added, noting that it was important to her that youth were represented in the program.

Cameron Halkett is a 10-year-old member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Having lost a friend to suicide, she expressed her thoughts and feelings in poetry. The Grade 5 Pre-Cam Community School student shared two poems that evening.

Margaret Bird is a recent graduate of Churchill Community High School in La Ronge who also spoke. She and her sisters form the New Dawn Drum Group which performed three songs.

“Strength is in each and every one of us,” said Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson who shared the importance of seeking help in her life.

“I encourage you to reach out,” she said.

The message presented by author and activist Maria Campbell focused on children being the centre of the community.



Inspiring the community at an Evening of Hope at the Kikinahk Friendship Centre in La Ronge were (left to right): Aleisha Charles, Maria Campbell, Cameron Halkett, Margaret Bird, Ariel Charles, Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, and Brooke Graham.
(Photo by Linda Mikolayenko)

“One of the things the Elders taught me was that everything that happens in our communities is inherited by our children. Everything we do is going to be inherited by our kids for seven generations. If we think like that, our decisions would be really different,” said Campbell.

Campbell observed that there are many artists in our communities, from those who do beading and make baskets, to those who sing songs and tell stories.

“That’s our medicine in our community, and a resource that we haven’t really tapped into,” said Campbell, as she encouraged the bringing together of artists and young people.

She also emphasized the importance of the land in healing.

“There’s many different ways to talk to Creator, but there is only one land – there’s only one land, and we ask that land to give us strength.”

We Matter

by Cameron Halkett

With all the sadness and sorrow,
I can’t imagine why they do it.
To feel so bad and have pain locked up inside you,
that you feel you need to end your life.
Tell someone.
Speak Out.
Reach Out for Help.
There is someone that understands.
There is Help out there.
Don’t spend your life hurting in pain.
I matter.
You matter.
We matter.
Everyone’s life is important.

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New North embraces new year with hope for positive future

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

LA RONGE – Northern Saskatchewan will face change and uncertainty in 2017, but it will persevere, believes Matt Heley, Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities, more commonly known as New North.

There was a significant change in northern mayors and councils following the municipal elections in October, 2016, and many First Nations, including the largest in Saskatchewan, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, will hold their elections in 2017.

In a major initiative, New North, with the engagement of First Nations, and in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan's International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD), is pursuing a Northern Strategy.

"The whole purpose of this relationship is to start working collaboratively amongst all the northern stakeholders to find some sort of high-level consensus about priorities and ways to address issues going forward," says Heley.

"At the community level, you will often see these relationships develop. You will have agreements between First Nations and municipalities on landfill, on fire, on emergency management, but at the higher level, we don't quite have similar relationships."

Heley expects to see a Northern Leaders Summit in 2017, but consultations at the grassroots level are key and the critical tasks will be undertaken by various working groups.

"If we come up with a plan, with strategies, ways we want to see things happening, we can go with that to government," says Heley.

As the new year begins, there is still uncertainty re-



A new Board for the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) was elected at the Annual General Meeting in November. Left to right: Mayor Gordon Stomp (Air Ronge) Secretary/Treasurer; Mayor Mike Natomagan (Pinehouse); Mayor Bruce Fidler (Creighton) Chair; Councillor Keith Laprise (Stony Rapids); Mayor Robert St. Pierre (La Loche) Vice-Chair. (Photo courtesy New North)

garding the status of the Northern Teacher Education Program – Northern Professional Access Program (NORTEP-NORPAC). While New North has called for the provincial government to leave the current funding arrangement as it is, the Minister of Advanced Education is expected to make a decision soon on the re-direction of funding to another post-secondary institution.

Although Heley believes that it is "inevitable" that governments will address the long-standing need for a road to Wollaston Lake, there are no guarantees that this will happen in 2017.

There is more uncertainty with the recent announcement by the provincial government to move towards one provincial health authority.

While the Athabasca Health Authority will not be included in this consolidation, as it has a unique funding and accountability relationship between the federal government, the Province and First Nations organizations, it is not yet clear how it will be affected by a potential change in the current Population Health Unit collaborative initiative with the Keewatin-Yatthé (KY) and Mamawetan Churchill River (MCR) Regional Health Authorities.

The report of the Advisory Panel on Health System Structure recommends that KY and MCR merge into one service integration area, with a potentially expanded boundary to include communities such as Cumberland House.

"A unique northern service area will provide this

population with a stronger voice ... and ensure services meet the population's health care needs and recognize the unique geography of northern Saskatchewan," the report states.

One of the demonstrated health care needs for the north is an expanded long term care facility. The current facility in La Ronge has 14 permanent resident beds. MCR has recently completed an extensive planning and design process for an 80-bed facility, but this design will remain on hold until funding is allocated for construction in a future budget, says MCR Acting CEO Teresa Watt.

Change in the uranium mining sector will directly affect workers in northern communities. The mine at Rabbit Lake was closed indefinitely in 2016, and Cameco has announced temporary shutdowns of its operations at McArthur River, Cigar Lake and Key Lake for several weeks during the summer of 2017.

Northerners take this kind of news in their stride, says Heley.

"Northern communities are resilient. We often talk about how, with the economic downturn that is affecting the whole province, (the south) could learn a bit from how the North survives," he says, noting that it has survived through much, much higher unemployment, demands on municipal services, and social dislocation.

"They cope, and the reason they thrive, is because of that capacity to come together."

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Where Our Paths Cross Reconciliation Commemorative Art Project

DEADLINE: Monday, January 23, 2017
Budget: \$175,000.00

The Saskatoon Tribal Council and the City of Saskatoon are seeking Requests for Qualifications/RFQ (submissions) from interested and qualified artists to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary with a commemorative artwork that acknowledges reconciliation in Saskatoon. Saskatoon has evolved as a city with rich traditions, histories, languages and artistic expressions of communities such as First Nations and Métis, Ukrainians, Germans, Russian, British as well as Francophone and English speaking Canadians. Contributing to this richness are new immigrants from countries all over the world who have chosen Saskatoon as their home.

"Where our Paths Cross" will be an important public art commission produced by a single artist or artist team, to explore Indigenous, settler and newcomer relations in Saskatoon.

The City of Saskatoon declared July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 the year of reconciliation. Since then, the City has been working with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Metis Federation Inc., Office of the Treaty Commission, and other community groups, leaders and institutions in Saskatchewan, to promote reconciliation.

Please go to the link

www.saskatoon.ca/community-culture-heritage/arts-creativity/community-art for the full call.

For more information please contact:

Alejandro Romero, Arts & Culture Consultant
Community Development Branch, 3130 Laurier Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7L 5J7
306-657-8671 (phone) 306-975-2324 (fax) Alejandro.Romero@saskatoon.ca



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Dr. Freda Ahenakew honoured in renaming of Saskatoon library



The Library on 20th in Saskatoon will officially be renamed the Dr. Freda Ahenakew Branch in February. The late Ahenakew was an educator and lifetime Cree language advocate.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

SASKATOON – Saskatoon's Public Library is renaming one of its branches on the city's west side, the Dr. Freda Ahenakew Branch.

Located adjacent to Station 20 West and currently named The Library on 20th Street Branch, this facility was renamed as part of the Library's commitment to responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. The new name was chosen following consultation with Elders representing Indigenous peoples living in Saskatoon and area.

"Dr. Ahenakew was a truly inspiring woman whose tireless work preserving Indigenous languages, particularly Cree, has had profound and lasting effects throughout Canada. Our organization is truly honoured and pleased to be able to acknowledge her outstanding efforts and perseverance in this meaningful way," says Carol Cooley, CEO and Director of Libraries with Saskatoon Public Library.

From a young age, a love of Cree language and culture was instilled in Freda Ahenakew. Later, as an internationally recognized scholar, she would become one its greatest advocates and keepers.

Ahenakew returned to high school at the age of 38 to serve as a role model for her 12 children. She graduated in 1969, and afterward received a Bachelor of Education degree (1979) and Master of Arts degree (1983).

Her graduate thesis, *Cree Language Structures: A Cree Approach*, became her first published work and has since been reprinted 18 times. She taught at various universities and linguistic organizations throughout the 1980s and 90s, including serving as an assistant professor in Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan (1983 – 85) and as director of the Saskatchewan Indian Languages Institute (1985 – 89).

Ahenakew also served as the Director of the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba until her retirement in 1995. She became a prolific academic author and achieved high regard in international scholarly circles.

Ahenakew received numerous honours and awards throughout her life, including two Honorary Doctorate of Laws degrees – the first from the University of Saskatchewan (1997) and the second from the University of Manitoba in 2009 – and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in Education (2001).

She was also made a member of the Order of Canada (1998) and awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2005).

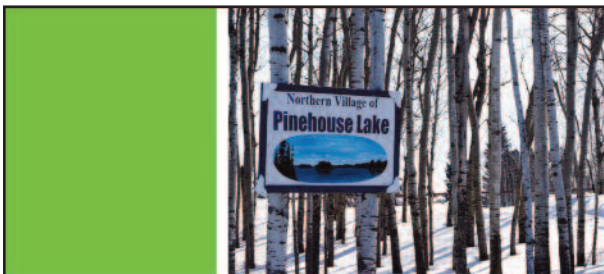
She wrote many publications including *Kôhkominawak otâcimowiniwâwa* – Our Grandmothers' Lives, as told in their own words, and books for children including *Wisahkecahk Flies to the Moon*, which introduce stories and language being printed in Cree and translated to English.

Ahenakew passed away in 2011.

"The family of the late Dr. Freda Ahenakew are extremely pleased that our mother, kohkom and cāpān (great grandparent) is to be honoured for her life's work by dedicating a library in her name," said Dolores Sand, Dr. Ahenakew's daughter.

"She was a great believer in the power of education and of leading by example. We hope that many people will be inspired by this dedication in her honour as an Indigenous woman, scholar and leader in Cree language and culture preservation."

SPL will hold an official renaming ceremony on February 10, 2017.



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Darcy Bear named chair of SaskPower board

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION – According to Deputy Premier Don Morgan, the Province of Saskatchewan has picked the right person to Chair the SaskPower Board of Directors.

Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear has received a three year appointment to Chair the Board of SaskPower, the principal electric utility in Saskatchewan. Established in 1929 by the provincial government, it serves more than 490,000 customers and manages \$7 billion in assets.

The appointment is historic in that Chief Bear becomes the first Indigenous person to Chair a Board of a Saskatchewan Crown. But that is a secondary benefit to Morgan.

“We are really glad that it is a First Nation person but more importantly we have a competent individual that has demonstrated competence,” said Morgan at Whitecap while he was at the swearing in of the Whitecap Dakota Chief and Council.

“Chief Bear was on the SaskTel Board and was a proven performer there and when you look at the successes he has had at Whitecap. We were fortunate to find somebody with those talents. He just happens to be First Nation.”

Chief Bear says he will approach this position with the same method of leadership he uses in his home community.

“There is going to be a lot of work, without a question. But in a leadership capacity I have served for a number of years. You always identify the issues. What are the concerns? Then find a solution,” said Chief Bear.

Besides being Chief, Bear has also served on the SaskTel Board and currently sits on SIGA and SIIT’s boards.

Morgan has had many dealings with Whitecap over the years and he is glad to now have Chief Bear on their side.

“I have worked lots with Darcy. He has never given us a reason to say no. Any time they come to us with a project, if he could see it wasn’t going the right way he would ask who else we needed to make it work and you found yourself working with him,” said Morgan.

“Instead of coming to a road block and saying it is done, with him it was the wheel might not have been turning fast, but it was always turning. Just think of the partnerships on the education side and their health facility and the casino and golf course are all result of his skill in negotiation and bringing success to his community. It is taking care of business and competent governance and that’s what we want in our province.”

The challenges ahead for SaskPower are plenty according to Morgan.

“We are at a point with SaskPower looking at electrical needs for the long term and we are also looking at alternate power generation. We have issues with the federal government that we are hoping we are able to resolve.

“Ours is a province that has a 300 year supply of coal. We have a clean coal facility that is working well right now,” said Morgan.

“And we need somebody that can take a strong position with the federal government and a credible position to say we want to maintain licenses for that. He is exactly the person that can do that. Also having Darcy understand it from the First Nation point of view and the Duty to Consult including environment issues, he will be a strong ally.”

Chief Bear is well aware of the work ahead but is



Deputy Premier Don Morgan is happy that Chief Darcy Bear has agreed to a three year term to be the new Chair of the Board of Directors for SaskPower. Bear accepted the position in December. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

confident in his systems and the team at SaskPower.

“In Whitecap we have always worked from a consensus perspective then taking that strategy and moving forward with it and making sure we have the resources to do it. I’m not going to do it alone at SaskPower.

“You have the support of the board and President and Chief Executive Office Mike Marsh and all the staff he has access to so we can have the right information to make the informed decision in the board room,” said Bear.

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Nekaneet builds its own solution for housing demands

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

NEKANEET FIRST NATION – Joanne Mosquito's home on the Nekaneet First Nation was destroyed in a fire and she was left homeless for nearly four months.

She recalls the April day she watched her house burn down – a home that she and her family lived in for almost 27-years.

"My (common-law) asked if we were cooking anything or having a barbecue and I said 'no'. He said there's black smoke coming out of the back door. I checked and seen flames," she says.

"I grabbed my grandson and we ran out of the house and sat on the hill and watched it go down ... we couldn't do anything."

After the fire that claimed her home, Mosquito and her daughter were forced to move an hour and a half south of Nekaneet to her common-law's house. Now, thanks to the reserve's newly implemented housing program, Chief and Council granted Mosquito a brand new, three-bedroom, fully furnished home last month.

On Dec. 19, an emotional Joanne, along with 13 other citizens of the Nekaneet First Nation were presented the keys to their new homes during a gathering hosted by Nekaneet First Nation Chief & Council.

Along with the keys, Mosquito was also awarded a reprieve on her lease for one year, so she can bounce back from losing her home and all of her belongings in the spring fire.

It's a program called the Nekaneet Housing Authority, which has been implemented for two years. The new community initiative works as a rent to own, which will wind up with community members owning



The new homeowners on Nekaneet First Nation show off the keys to their new places. The First Nation built 14 new houses this year and is renting them to members on a rent to own basis. (Photo supplied)

their new homes.

Chief of Nekaneet First Nation, Jordi Fourhorns, says they collect rent by garnishing off working community members paycheques and members who are on social assistance are automatically deducted. According to last year's census, the community had 195 members on-reserve but with the addition of 14 units built last year, the numbers went up to 220 on-reserve band members.

"It was the first time we got homes in 25 years. After this, we will probably build two to five homes a year," says Chief Fourhorns.

The community did not depend on Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) funds to build these homes. Nekaneet First Nation has a trust with

nearly \$10-million in the bank and had pulled out a long-term loan to purchase these new housing units. The community partnered with a home-building company called Expert First Nation Homes, who built the new homes in about four months.

Rent is \$340 a month for the newly built homes but this does not affect members who live in old band housing due to the poor condition some homes are in.

"We're hoping the program is a success and that other First Nations will follow the same path and not depend on government dollars. Try (using) your own source.

"When you use your own source, you're in control; you don't have to answer to any other government institutions," says Chief Fourhorns.

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Flying Dust's flare gas project moves one step closer to reality

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

FLYING DUST FIRST NATION – A business agreement for a flare gas project between the Flying Dust First Nation and the First Nation Power Authority is expected to bring economic and environmental benefits to the Province of Saskatchewan.

Flying Energy, a business arm of Flying Dust First Nation has plans to build an \$80 million flare gas project that converts natural gas flare into energy that is sold back to SaskPower for use on the power grid. The project is expected to create jobs and wealth for the community and also have the environmental impact of taking 35,000 cars off the road on a yearly basis. This is precedent setting in the history of Saskatchewan with the largest flare gas project ever.

"This is an important day for Flying Dust First Nation, the First Nation Power Authority and SaskPower," said Richard Derocher, a councillor at Flying Dust who was involved in the development of the project.

"Our next step is to finish the power purchase agreement with SaskPower. This deal brings us the economic opportunity that we greatly appreciate."

The idea for the project came when the First Nation bought nine quarters of land in southern Saskatchewan near Stoughton. While touring the area they witnessed the flare gas, or as Derocher says, "We saw fire in the air and thought it was a waste."

That led to a bunch of research on uses and that led them to the FNPA.

"The Authority has been a great conduit for us and have been heavily involved," added Derocher.



Left to right standing Flying Dust Councillors Tyson Bear, Connie Derocher, Richard Derocher and Marie Gladue and in front Flying Dust First Nation Chief Jeremy Norman and FNPA Board Chair Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

According to Leah Nelson Guay, the Chief Executive Officer of FNPA, the money to finance the project shouldn't be hard to find.

"All the control is in the hands of Flying Dust. Next step is to get a request for proposals out to eight or so interested parties who can construct the project," said Nelson Guay at the signing event.

"And in that RFP there can be opportunities for employment, subcontracts and training and development. Then Flying Dust can pick the partner and deal that is best for them."

The team from Flying Dust worked hard over the past two years to understand the process. The FNPA provided guidance

and industry knowledge. The First Nation provided the drive.

"This was all a pipe dream for us until Leah and Ian Loughran from FNPA educated us. So we made a business plan and here we are," said Albert Derocher, Director of Economic Development for Flying Dust.

"We worked hard with the Province and the Ministry of the Economy and we look forward to working with the developer. And we hope this hard work leaves a template for other First Nations so it is easier.

"This is a business first and it makes sense from an economic standpoint and environmentally. If we run it efficiently, the amount of money available for our kids

and grandkids will help them benefit most."

FNPA Board Chair and Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas applauded the business deal.

"This project will build momentum and show that First Nations are able to do this. Flying Dust has been very progressive and business minded and this shows that partnerships can work," said Tribal Chief Thomas.

"This project will lead to bigger things including solar and wind. The good thing about generating power, it doesn't fluctuate like many industries. Power need never goes down. And really, we all want a better quality of life for our membership. This project will do that."



Building Relationships

"It is important for me to have a sense of family at work. I have worked at the City of Saskatoon for almost two years and it has provided me with an environment where I have been able to foster many close relationships – that combined with the many job opportunities, I hope to further build my career as a City employee."

Alaina Gillespie-Meise, Occupational Health Consultant



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Trip to America an odd and unnerving experience

For Christmas vacation this year, my partner and I decided to head south to the States.

I was curious to see how the Americans were feeling about their new POTUS elect. Personally, I'm still in a state of shock, even worse than the time I plugged in an air compressor while it was in a puddle of water.

We rented an RV just outside of Las Vegas. On the way there, the cab driver talked about the water situation in the area.

"Lake Mead is lowest it's ever been," he said casually. "But nobody seems concerned."

This seemed hard to believe, so we asked what the government had been doing. He replied, rather conspiratorially, "Somebody knows something. That's all I know."

It seemed an odd answer until I heard Rush Limbaugh's dulcet tones reverberating from the radio.

The RV has a tendency to catch the wind and float across the highway like a sailboat. (It also rattles like a box of tin cans and wine bottles on the way to SARCAN.)

We camped at the first RV spot we found in a place called "Dolan Springs." I suspect it's where trailer homes and human dreams go to die. I apologize if you have any relatives who live in Dolan Springs but you should probably go and get them. Like, now.

We went to Wal-Mart to pick up some supplies and a friendly cashier noted that we were tourists. She offered this cautionary note, "Do not ever go to the bathroom alone."

My partner and I glanced at each other: how would we manage that? Would he accompany me to

the ladies ... or vice versa? Also what was the purpose – so that we could be robbed and murdered as a pair?

We thanked her for the caution but chalked it up to the American preoccupation with crime. (Although three murders did occur in the first three days of 2017 in the Vegas area so maybe I'm the naïve one.)



The second day we headed onto the Hualapai Reservation to experience the Skywalk over the Grand Canyon. It's a cantilevered glass walkway that allows you to look straight down into the canyon. My partner and I hemmed and hawed over this one.

My partner said it was a once in a lifetime experience; I argued that the price was high just to pee yourself in public. At the skywalk, we walked to the edge of the mountain – well, my partner did. I cannot look over edges as my head is big for my body and I worry that I'll fall off due to pure momentum.

Not everyone has a problem with heights. There was a Hualapai man standing on a rocky outcrop about two feet wide, only his head and shoulders visible above the cliff. He was smiling and drinking a coke, despite the fact that at any second a heavy wind or a kamikaze eagle could knock him off his perch.

"You're very brave," I said to him. "Better than

the alternative," he replied.

The second day we made it all the way to Kingmen and parked in an RV Park, one of the fancy ones with great wireless and laundry. When I went in to buy a corkscrew, the clerk, an older lady, drew me into a discussion about her long lost Canadian relatives.

"I regret not connecting with them. Those things matter when you're older."

I agreed and promised to look up her relatives for her which will be difficult because I've already forgotten what their names were.

We parked our RV at a Mohave desert park the next night. We asked the clerk about the green fields we'd seen in the middle of the desert. She told us that it was a farm owned by Saudi Arabians where they grew Alfalfa that they then shipped overseas.

Then she fell into a rant about how this crop was draining the water wells in the area. It seemed surreal that someone would grow a common crop and then export it – I may have to look into some other Saudi Arabian exports. Like would they be interested in a few acres of dandelions?

I asked what they were planning to do about the water problem and she replied, "we'll find a way, we always do." She also added, "I'd like to shoot the person who sold that land to the Saudis."

Despite a changing climate and water shortages looming in the background, the Americans I encountered seemed optimistic. Which is probably due to that American spirit we always hear so much about – that and not having to endure minus 30 temperatures.



At the University of Saskatchewan, we're building reconciliation.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission invited us all to create a brighter future. We're committed to the calls to action and to being the best place we can possibly be for Indigenous students. To get there, we're enhancing student supports and building an inclusive, welcoming community.

Learn more at aboriginal.usask.ca/report

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



Historic Paskwa Pictograph on display at Royal Sask Museum

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

REGINA – The Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) has launched a new temporary exhibit entitled *We Are All Treaty People*.

This exhibit showcases the Chief Paskwa Pictograph, a two-panel graphite drawing that depicts the only known historical Indigenous perspective of Treaty Four.

The Chief Paskwa Pictograph appears to portray European and Aboriginal people engaged in treaty negotiations with a record of treaty promises and payments made between 1874 and 1883.

The two-panel graphite on paper illustration drawn by Chief Paskwa, one of the Treaty's signatories, officially returned home to Treaty 4 in 2007, 124 years after it left the country in 1883 in the possession of an English tourist, William Henry Barneby.

Other than a reference to the pictograph in a book chronicling his travels in the West, the only record of pictograph's existence resided in the lore handed down through the generations.

The Chief Paskwa Pictograph was previously located in the United Kingdom

from 1883 until 2000 when it was sold at auction. In 2007, it was repatriated by the Pasqua First Nation for more than \$200,000 with funds contributed by the Pasqua First Nation, Government of Saskatchewan, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (through a grant from the Government of Canada), the United Church, and private donors.

"After working closely with the Pasqua First Nation, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum now displays an important and historic Indigenous depiction of Treaty Four," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said.

"The Chief Paskwa Pictograph is significant to all Saskatchewan people in gaining a further understanding of our province's history."

The left panel of the pictograph features images of men in discussion as well as pictures that symbolize the services and provisions being offered to the First Nation people.

The panel on the right is a pictorial inventory of the material goods Chief Paskwa received at the signing.

School visits to the *We Are All Treaty People* exhibit will begin this month.

This temporary exhibit will eventually



be replaced by a larger, permanent exhibit of the Chief Paskwa Pictograph.

Further public programming will be

shared on the museum website and social media, and will include events in February for Aboriginal Storytelling Month.

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- VIEW** the updated draft Regional Land Use Map
- LEARN** what the Plan will mean for the Region
- SHARE** your input

Questions? Please contact us!
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SALT BABY
By Falen Johnson
Directed by Yvette Nolan

JAN 18–FEB 5, 2017

The enormously successful and award-winning first play from Six Nations playwright Falen Johnson makes its way from the Shumiatcher Sandbox Series to debut on Globe Theatre's Main Stage. *Salt Baby* is a thoughtful and humorous look at how one young indigenous woman navigates life on the reserve and in the city—struggling to find her place within her culture and society.

Tickets are on sale now!

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Jimmie Durham exhibit coming to Remai Gallery

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The Remai Modern Art gallery of Saskatchewan, a new museum in Saskatoon that will feature a mix of modern and contemporary art, announced a major exhibition called Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World, that will be coming out in early 2018.

Gregory Burke, Executive Director and CEO of Remai Modern, says he is excited to feature the Cherokee artist.

“Jimmie Durham, is an artist that I greatly admired. He’s been very important and influential artist working within the last 40 years,” he says.

“His work is universal. He’s very much involved with issues within the Indigenous populations of North America. I’m really happy that we are able to bring this to Saskatoon.”

Burke said to create a show displaying Jimmie Durham’s work, which will consist of 3-dimensional art, is quite an extraordinary opportunity. The artist creates his art pieces out of many materials but he often works with stone and wood. Some of his artwork consists of some painting, 2-dimensional work and making films.

Burke says that Durham, being quite elderly, limits his travel, which has halted the artist from displaying

his artwork within the last 20 years.

“His work, particularly in the United States, hasn’t been shown very much. He is important in terms of the Indigenous context, but he’s in my view, he is an incredible and important artist, period.”

The Remai Modern Museum is the only Canadian venue to host the Jimmie Durham exhibition and it is expected to be a very big show. It requires about 10,000 square feet of space and it will be twice the size of the Mendel Art Gallery, which is also located in Saskatoon.

“I’m getting comments from people all over the place. People are impressed with what we’re doing with this exhibition,” he adds.

Burke grew up in New Zealand, which he describes as being a strong bicultural country including the Indigenous Māori people. This experience drove his ambition to make Remai Modern a leading centre in North America in contemporary Indigenous programming.

“I have a personal dedication and commitment to Remai Modern that centerfolds contemporary Indigenous art.”

Burke and the Remai Modern museum staff are focused on developing a First Nations strategy on how to continue engaging with the local Indigenous community – which will be

a work in progress.

“We will be looking at how to further that goal. In terms of programming for the Remai Modern, our focus is to have a very visible Indigenous program in the gallery.”

The Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World exhibition will be at the Remai Modern Art Gallery of Saskatchewan March 23 – August 5, 2018.

(Right) Jimmie Durham, *Choose Any Three*, 1989. Carved ash, magnolia, pine, metal, glass, acrylic paint. 99 1/4 x 49 1/4 x 48 in. (252 x 125 x 122 cm). Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Purchased with partial funds provided by Susan Bay Nimoy and Leonard Nimoy. Image courtesy of kurimanzutto, Mexico City.



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Summer 2017 will be packed with major sporting events



Basketball will be one of several sports at NAIG in Toronto. Here a Team Sask player takes a free throw at the U of R gym during NAIG 2014.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

**By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News**

Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan will be showcasing their talents in a summer packed with three major sporting events.

Athletes within the province will be competing in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), the World Indigenous Nations (WIN) Games, and the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games.

The WIN Games will kick off the line of summer sporting events beginning on July 2-9. Alberta will be the host of the WIN Games – in partnership between Enoch Cree Nation, the University of Alberta and Wicahitowin Society. As details are still in the making for the WIN Games, anticipation builds as Canada will be welcoming athletes and visitors from all over the world. The first ever WIN Games were held in Brazil in 2015 when almost 2,000 athletes participated in various traditional games and competitions.

NAIG starts on July 16-23 in Toronto. Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry, CEO of the Toronto 2017 NAIG Host Society, says this year's games will be unique, as they will be offering the athletes access to world-class facilities.

"A lot of the venues we're using were used for the 2015 Pan Am Games. That's one thing we're really excited about," she says.

"The Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre is arguably one of the best pools in the world right now."

Trudeau-Bomberry says the Indigenous

People of Ontario are excited to be host of NAIG this summer.

"Toronto has been traditionally known as a gathering spot for Indigenous people, so we're excited to carry on that tradition and to welcome and host all the other Indigenous nations," she adds.

The NAIG Host Society has great partnerships, which include Tourism Toronto and the City of Toronto to help make the games a great success.

Towards the end the summer, Regina will be home to this year's Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games. File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) were the successful bidders selected to host the upcoming summer games on August 6-12. FHQTC Vice-Chief Elaine Chicoose says 3,500 young Indigenous athletes will be competing in nine different summer sporting events.

"It's beneficial for our youth in the province and also for our First Nations. A lot of our youth are very athletic and it's a place where they come together and showcase their talent, make new friends. It's a good way of networking," says Vice-Chief Chicoose.

The FHQTC organizing committee for the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games will be receiving \$575,000 from various sponsors and will be seeking for further financial support to offset the remaining cost.

To organize NAIG, it will cost \$10.2 million dollars according to CEO Trudeau-Bomberry. Two years ago, the Brazil WIN Games cost nearly \$30 million dollars.



In this busy summer, fans with Team Sask signs can go to Toronto, Alberta and Regina to cheer on their favourite athletes.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

NOTICE: MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN CITIZENS

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) will hold a Legislative Assembly (MNLA) followed by a General Assembly on the following dates:

Delegate Registration February 17, 2017 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

MNLA February 18, 2017 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

MNLA/General Assembly February 19, 2017 9:00 AM

Please Note: The General Assembly will immediately follow the MNLA on February 19, 2017

Location

TCU Place, Grand Gallery
35 - 22nd Street East, Saskatoon



30 days notice of this session of the MNLA as required by the Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan will be sent to all delegates of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. For more information visit www.metisnationsk.com, contact your respective local Regional Director listed on the website or contact Evan Shoforost (Ernst & Young) at (306) 649-8242.

www.metisnationsk.com



Prapti Patel on left and Shayna Uhryn are co-winners of the Saskatoon Public Schools 2016 Awards of Excellence. (Photo by Derek Mortensen)

Uhryn's an outstanding student, athlete

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Shayna Uhryn has capped off a great 2016.

In June she was named the Education Recipient of the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award. She earned the award with an average in 2015 of 99.3 per cent – the highest average of any past award recipients. Now she has just been named as a co-winner of another prestigious education award.

Uhryn is the co-winner of the Saskatoon Public Schools 2016 Award of Excellence award with Prapti Patel, presented annually to the student who best exemplifies the goals and values of Saskatoon Public Schools.

Uhryn graduated from Tommy Douglas Collegiate with a 97.3 per cent average. She received the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award of Excellence in Education, as well as the Saskatoon Public Schools Academic Achievement Award at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre Aboriginal Graduation.

Uhryn was captain/co-captain of the Tommy Douglas Tigers senior basketball, volleyball, badminton, cross country and track and field teams and has been a city champion 18 times across four sports. Uhryn also volunteers at Cosmopolitan Industries.

"Shayna led through commitment and hard work and always made sure that others around her

had an opportunity to succeed. Shayna's work ethic was second to none," wrote Randi-Lee Loshack, a teacher and coach at Tommy Douglas, in her letter of support for Uhryn.

For Uhryn, the award is something special.

"By far this is the academic highlight of my career," said Uhryn who is Métis and plans to become an optometrist.

"I always wanted to work with the human body but not as a doctor. I job shadowed an optometrist once and I saw how dynamic the career is."

Uhryn is also an outstanding athlete who is currently on the University of Saskatchewan Track team. Her specialty is distance and she proved her prowess at last year's high school provincial championships where she won gold in the 800, 1500 and 3000 meter races.

"Being in sports taught me about balance. My schedule has taught me time management and when things are due you focus," she said.

"Sports are my stress relief from studying."

Patel graduated from Marion M. Graham Collegiate with a 97.3 per cent average and earned 100 per cent in five of her Grade 12 courses. She has previously received school excellence awards in math, physics, French and Indigenous studies. Patel is undertaking a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Saskatchewan

before pursuing medicine.

Established in 1990, the Award of Excellence is presented annually to the most outstanding graduate based on academic excellence, personal qualities, leadership and participation. Uhryn now wants to use her success to inspire other young people.

"I want to be a role model for other her kids to look up to both academically and in sports," she said.

"But I didn't get here on my own. Besides the hard work and focusing, I am fortunate to have a strong support system of family, teachers and coaches."

2017 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Indoor Track & Field Championships

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THOMAS REDMAN

Labourer

"MY LIFE IS GOOD. I like being close to home and being able to make it home in time to tuck my kids in at night.... Pretty much everything I do involves being with my family."

"I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH about being involved in a union, but all I had heard was good things. Once the opportunity presented itself, I didn't hesitate."

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**Construction Opportunities
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From the beginning, Thomas Redman has understood the importance of putting in a hard day's work. And, as a tradesperson, his solid work ethic and dedication to the job doesn't go unnoticed.

Redman grew up on the Standing Buffalo First Nation and graduated from Bert Fox Community High School. After spending five years in the food industry, he switched over to the trades and became a labourer. During a four-month stint with a sub-contracting company in Coronach, Redman caught the attention of the Construction and General Workers, Local 180.

"The main boss, the superintendent, told me he appreciated how hard I was working. He asked if I'd like to join the union hall," Redman said. "I said I was interested, and he gave me papers to sign that same day."

Before joining Local 180, Redman had to go through a probation period, during which time he continued to apply himself to his work and impress the union representatives. Redman's affiliation with the union eventually led him to his current job at Mosaic's potash solution mine in Belle Plaine.

"I didn't know much about being involved in a union, but all I had heard was good things. Once the opportunity presented itself, I didn't hesitate," Redman said. "There are great benefits and the pay is great. If you get in the hall, you'll understand the goodness that it brings."

A labourer is basically a jack-of-all-trades. As Redman noted, on any given day you could be bush hammering, framing, or hauling materials, among other tasks.

He said the career gives you a lot of flexibility when it comes to types of job sites. If you're looking to make a lot of money, you can travel away from home. Last year, Redman spent six months on a job site and collected a healthy paycheck. There is also the opportunity for a work-life balance, such as Redman's current position with Mosaic. He works Monday to Friday and is able to spend the weekends with his fiancée and three children in Regina.

"My life is good. I like being close to home and being able to make it home in time to tuck my kids in at night," Redman said. "In my spare time, I take my boy to hockey and my daughter to skating lessons. Pretty much everything I do involves being with my family."

Redman is working at becoming a certified labourer, a status given to those who have logged a certain amount of hours in the various areas of the trade. It will take a lot of hard work, but that's nothing new for Redman.

"I always tell young guys to work as hard as you can, because somebody's always watching," he said. "Try a variety of jobs and ask a lot of questions. People are always willing to help you out."