

eaglefeathernews

Newspapers will not transmit the Coronavirus

CPMA #40027204

Rodeo Circuit on Hold

Covid-19 puts a whoa on rodeo season for Cayda and Sonya Dodginghorse.

(Photo supplied)

By Jeanelle Mandes
of Eagle Feather News

A lifelong passion for a mother and daughter in the sport of barrel racing has been put on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Hailing from the Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Sonya Dodginghorse and her 14-year-old daughter Cayda are a bit disappointed that this summer will be their first year where they won't be competing in the rodeo circuit.

"Our season (will) be cut short so we won't be able to ride as much (since) all the rodeos have been cancelled," said Cayda. "It's kind of sad. I'm going to miss seeing everybody (in the rodeo circuit)."

Cayda has been riding horses since she was five years old. She learned how to barrel race in rodeos from her mother.

"She taught me to keep practicing...I would

practice barrel work at home," she said. "I look up to my mom."

The love for horses has been an intergenerational trend for Sonya's family. Her father, former Chief of Kahkewistahaw First Nation Louis Taypotat, is a respected rodeo pioneer in Indian country. Taypotat is known for founding the Prairie Indian Rodeo Association and the International Indian Finals Rodeo. It's a lifestyle Sonya is proud to inherit.

"My dad is a champion calf-roper and rancher. My brothers are ropers and my one sister, Chooch, is a roper and still rides," she said. "We grew up around horses my entire life."

Sonya was riding horses before she could walk and entered her first rodeo at the age of five.

"There was a rodeo in Broadview and I wanted to enter," she said...

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Making the Transformation

We truly can do so much more than we think we can. All we need is some encouragement and hope.

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May 2020 is...
Sports & Mining Issue

Next Month:
National Indigenous Peoples Day

Reconciliation Allies

To me, reconciliation is about building trust and relationships. And we use those values to define all of our diversity and inclusion initiatives.

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Nutrien Adapting

Nutrien will create an online platform where youth can engage with professionals for advice or education.

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No barrel racing competitions for mom and daughter this year

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“I got my first thrill when I entered and have been hooked since then.” That thrill has been passed down to her daughter, Cayda, and it’s something that she hopes to continue for years to come.

“It’s a real humbling sport,” said Sonya. “Every run isn’t perfect but when you do have a great run, it’s the greatest feeling of being able to do what you do.”

With hopes that the Coronavirus restrictions will be lifted in the near future, the Dodginghorse gals are giving their horses a break in the meantime.

“It’s a feeling of missing that lifestyle so much, but we are getting a lot done around our ranch and spending a lot of time together,” she said.

Cayda has been riding horses since she was five years old. She learned how to barrel race in rodeos from her mother.

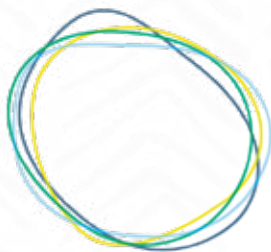
The Dodginghorses are planning on competing in the Las Vegas Indian Nationals Finals Rodeo (INFA) this October. It’s not the competition aspect that they are looking forward to but doing something that they both love doing together. At last year’s INFA competition, the duo competed against each other in the Women’s Barrel Racing competition, which was a memorable experience for them both.

“It was really fun competing against her,” said Cayda. “My mom got first and I took fifth (place).”

Cayda, Sonya and her husband Brent Dodginghorse live in Tsuut’ina Nation, Alberta.



Sonya and Cayda Dodginghorse travel throughout the rodeo circuit every year to compete. But due to the Coronavirus, their racing season is put on hold. (Photos supplied)



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Athletes take NAIG cancellation in stride

By Michelle Lerat
of Eagle Feather News

Hundreds of youth athletes from Saskatchewan are forced to cancel their trip to Halifax, N.S. this summer.

The Coronavirus pandemic has put events on pause across the globe, including this summer's North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). The event was scheduled to take place July 12-18.

"I think there was less disappointment than I had anticipated," said Mike Tanton, Chef de Mission for NAIG Team Sask. "Because of the effect that this pandemic is having on everybody, I think it was something that a lot of [people] had expected to happen. Bringing over 5000 athletes together just wasn't going to happen."

Due to the current travel and gathering restrictions in place, NAIG has been canceled until 2021.

"Our biggest concern was that you will have athletes that age out...We didn't want to have our athletes that were eighteen, nineteen-years-old who would be too old the following year not be able to participate. So, we expressed our concerns... [Now] athletes that would have aged out are still going to be able to compete," he said.

"The excitement was building," said Mike Vancoughnett, NAIG coach for the men's lacrosse team. "We were only a few weeks away from going. We are relieved that we are just going to be postponing it for another year [and] we will be keeping the intact team."

All NAIG events in Saskatchewan have been cancelled during the pandemic including all training and coaching events.

"We've been kind of in a holding pattern to see if we can salvage some of our lacrosse season. Even if we have a condensed season, that would be really good, just to make sure that our players are still active and still practicing," Vancoughnett said.

Athletes are encouraged to continue training at home while social distancing.

"We partnered with Craven Sports Services," said Tanton. "They're going to start online training classes and workshops ... As well, we're going to send the athletes some resistance bands and some workout hardcopies that they can do at home during this time."

The cancellation has not had a significant financial impact on Team Sask. Tanton says they will continue to reach out to sponsors for next year's games and to mitigate any cost they may incur with another year of training.

"All of our sponsors have continued to be supportive and are wanting to be involved for next year. There are groups that are looking out for us," he said.

Tanton wants to encourage athletes to persevere during these times and remain optimistic.

"We're very resilient people. We've dealt with a lot of different things in our history and we continue to come back stronger. When these issues arise and they come and they twist our lifestyles, we just continue to adjust and continue to get

stronger, better, faster. I think if the [athletes] continue to find ways to do that, they're going to come out better than when things started."

Updated NAIG information can be found at teamsasknaig.ca and on their Facebook page.



Mike Tanton, Chef de Mission for NAIG Team Sask, said one of their biggest concerns were athletes that will age out for next year's NAIG due to the cancellation. Those athletes will still be able to compete. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Changes, changes, and more changes!

It's been over a month and a half since the world has had to adjust to changes due to the coronavirus pandemic. Countless jobs have been lost. Many businesses have shut down. People have been confined in their homes and are limiting their contact with people.

Now that the provincial government is slowly reopening the Saskatchewan economy, we are seeing people shopping with caution (masks, gloves and six-feet-apart rule), having small gatherings (limit of 10 people) and some businesses are opening their doors.

A few weeks ago, I heard a commercial on the radio where the announcer was asking people to help support local businesses during the pandemic by purchasing a gift card, which can help a business pay a bill



Editorial Notes

Jeanelle Mandes

Follow Jeanelle on Twitter: [@JeanelleMandes](https://twitter.com/JeanelleMandes)

instead of shutting its doors for good. I decided to do my part and purchased a gift card for myself at a local Indigenous-owned hair salon.

It was a good feeling knowing I did my part. And when that salon door finally opens, I will be booking a much-needed hair appointment!

On another note, we have a new summer intern who will be writing for us until August. Welcome Michelle Lerat! She is a journalism student at the University of Regina, a degree program that many respected journalists have received their education from. Such Indigenous journalists include Nelson Bird, Creeson Agecutay, Mervin Brass, Ntawnis Piapot, Delaney Windigo, Creeden Martell, Penny Smoke, Kerry Benjoe and so many more. It's always great to see Indigenous students enroll in the School of Journalism and I truly believe there is a need for more Indigenous journalists out there. It's a great opportunity that our newspaper formed a partnership with the U of R School of Journalism. This internship gives students that chance to grow and learn from our team. I was the first intern with Eagle Feather News in 2014 and have stuck around since. I've learned to write better in my news stories and also perfected my skills in photography.

It was a good feeling knowing I did my part. And when that salon door finally opens, I will be booking a much-needed hair appointment!

Speaking of photography, it has become a hobby for me. I always look forward to May because that's when the grass goes green, the trees sprout with leaves and the flowers begin to bloom. It makes for a nice scenic background for photo shoots. I always receive requests for family photo shoots and I always accept because it gives me a chance to be creative. Families are always happy with the photos. I don't have a fancy camera or photo shoot gear. As long as you have great lighting and allow Mother Nature to be your backdrop, that's all you need.

As always, continue taking care during this coronavirus pandemic and many kudos to all the frontline workers out there!



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Masks

Life had been preparing me for wearing a mask. I see that now. From December to February, I had been watching a lot of Grey’s Anatomy and learning to identify the actors by just their eyes. Can you imagine those actors got paid for years for acting with half of their faces? Those are some acting goals.

I’m also well-suited for masks because all the dry places on my face, are below the eyes, so y’know a mask is perfect for...masking that. (So would applying moisturizer, but who has the time!)

I wore my mask in public for the first time on April 6th. It took a while for me to get into it. First it was hard to find a mask. A friend recommended an online site and so I ordered some for my work. They came in within two weeks. Then when I went back to order more, the entire site had been taken off-line as their supply had been dedicated to health care workers – as it should have been.

So now I had two masks but I hesitated to wear one. On the day that the masks arrived, I stood in my kitchen, near the window where I smudge most mornings and thought about where we had ended up. A few years ago, I joked to a friend, who is also a nervous parent, that it would be a flu pandemic that would kill us all. He agreed. I thought it was a good thing – a flu would save me the trouble of having to train a dog to attack zombies. My dog ain’t attacking a zombie unless the zombie is carrying a cat.

But it is one thing to joke about such a thing and another thing to have it playing out in front

of you like a movie that you cannot turn off. Each day is a choice – accept and adapt or pretend it’s not happening and be stuck in place. So, I put my mask on.

The first place I went wearing a mask was to the grocery store. There weren’t many people wearing masks, just me and two old people. So, three old people, basically. I felt self-conscious, but then I remembered that this a freaking PAN-DEMIC, and wearing a mask and using it properly is a good idea.

People tend to back away from people wearing masks, either because they get that you are into physical distancing or they think you are the walking plague.

Also, one of the grocery workers hit on me - which never happens. But I guess he believes the old adage, a mask in the streets, a freak in the ...I just ignored him. He wasn’t wearing a mask and I’m not flirting with any non-mask people.

Masks are hard to wear with glasses; they fog up all the time. Yet another reason why glasses-wearers are always screwed in an apocalypse. (In every apocalypse movie, I always cringe when the poor nerd’s eyeglasses get broken - “oh dang, he’s a goner.” And, no one ever has a second pair of glasses in a movie. I actually ordered another pair of glasses as soon as this thing started because I am not going to be that stupid nerd.)

As talk of opening up the province begins, I find that less and less people are wearing masks. I understand, they are hard to wear. Sometimes it’s even hard to breath under them. Talking takes a



That’s what she said

Dawn Dumont

Follow Dawn on Twitter: @dawnadumont

lot of effort and so you feel even more cut off from other humans. But countries that have most people wearing masks are doing better than countries that aren’t.

If you don’t have access to masks, there are homemade versions all over the Youtube. Most of them are for people with sewing machines but there’s options for even those of us who are scared of threading a sewing machine. (The only thing I learned in Home Ec was to fear the sewing machine.)

If I needed any more motivation to wear a mask, one morning I woke up and two homemade masks were in my mailbox, with my name neatly printed on the bag. So now when I hesitate to wear one, I think about the kindness that went into the mask, that someone thought of me and my son and keeping us safe. And like that weird kid in the movie about paying it forward, it’s my turn to protect others and that means wearing a mask. As it turns out, I look amazing in masks, but that’s just a nice bonus.

We’re here for you.

Credit unions took root in SK to support our communities when times were tough—that hasn’t changed. As always, we’re here for our members.

For ongoing updates during these challenging times, contact us at:

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COVID-19
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First Nations Health Managers Association
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Don't give up

*By Joel Pedersen
for Eagle Feather News*

This spring is unlike any other spring any of us have experienced. How will we look back at this time and space? COVID-19 is affecting every aspect of our lives: health both physical and mental, lifestyle from our daily schedules and day to day activities, education, the closing of schools and the change to more online concept, employment the loss of jobs and employment to the staying at home. In the end we have more time to be with family, to be more connected, and an opportunity to have more time to ourselves.

Over the years of our community Fitness 2J2 programming I have had the great opportunity to meet so many incredible people and to share with them in some of their journeys, both struggles and success, and some of my own. Our lives are connected through the shared goal of healthy and positive lifestyle, which begins with fitness.

One of these success stories, whose journey has just begun, is that of my friend Kaleigh. She recently put out a post on Instagram showing a before and after picture of one year of coming back to our community 2J2 bootcamps. I am proud of the determination and resiliency that she used to battle through some serious challenges, came back to healthy and positive lifestyle and to our Fitness 2j2 programming.

We first met in the fall of 2014 when she, her sister and niece attended bootcamps at St.Mary's in Pleasant Hill. Kaleigh had just recently moved from her home in Île-à-la-Crosse to Saskatoon to start post-secondary. She attended our first Fitness Instructor Prep Program at the U of S and was starting to do some leading in our weekly sessions. As all our lives have challenges and disappointments thrown into it, so did Kaleigh's. Her school program did not go as well as she had hoped, relationships failed, she had to battle depression and PTSD, weight gain and alcohol dependency. Kaleigh did the hard work and steps of recovery, which some of us know can be at times overwhelming, and along the way she found herself. She is an amazing young woman who this past year graduated from the U of S and continues her journey. She is a positive and authentic person, who has tools now that she did not have six years ago. She is an example of how healthy and positive lifestyle can change you physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. I am grateful to know Kaleigh and to share her story of success.

We truly can do so much more than we think we can. All we need is some encouragement and hope. Know that whatever you are experiencing now, it will get better. Don't give up. There are others who will walk, jog, run with you and we look forward to sharing with you. Stay safe, stay healthy, be active. This is the way.

Fitness 2J2 is a socially responsible community-based health and wellness company. During this time of social distancing, 2J2 is providing no cost Facebook Live fitness classes during the week, with workout and fitness challenges for all ages and abilities. Strong Healthy Proud.



Kaleigh from Île-à-la-Crosse is on a journey to a healthy lifestyle all thanks to the Fitness 2j2 programming. (Photo by Neave Pedersen)

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**We Are All in
This Together**

Regina.ca/covid19

City of Regina



May 5 is MMIWG 2SLGBTQQIA, National Awareness Day

As an Indigenous woman, this is close to my heart. This is a serious matter and I feel like it is a dangerous thing to be an Indigenous woman in this society.

On June 3rd, 2019, Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls published its 1,200-page report, which included 231 Calls for Justice.

The report includes recommendations to government, the police and the larger Canadian society to help address the rampant levels of violence directed at Indigenous women, girls and peoples. The I and A at the end of the term stand for intersex and asexual.

It also states at page 50 of the inquiry:

“The violence the National Inquiry heard about amounts to a race-based genocide of Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, which especially targets women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This genocide has been empowered by colonial structures, evidenced notably by the Indian Act, the Sixties Scoop, residential schools and breaches of human and Indigenous rights, leading directly to the current increased rates of violence, death, and suicide in Indigenous populations.”

Traditionally, Indigenous women held power in their families and communities. This was a threat to the traditional patriarchal colonial hierarchy. Reclaiming the strength of Indigenous women prior to contact ignites a reminder of just how powerful we are as Indigenous women today. Knowing the accurate history of who our ancestors were forms an accurate picture of who we are. Indigenous womanhood has been described as being a sacred identity that was maintained through a knowledge system of balance and harmony. Women were politically,

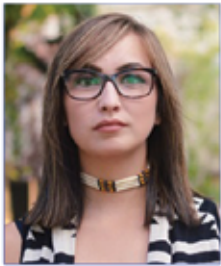
socially, and economically powerful, and held status in their communities and nations.

Indigenous women always had a role that was recognized and honored within their communities and families. This knowledge, truth and connection to our ancestors is our realization today. Our Indigenous women are our modern-day warriors. As Indigenous peoples, our resilience shines and continues to conquer the impossible. There is a saying that “A nation is not conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground.” Therefore, our existence is resistance and a beacon of hope for change.

Coming of age ceremonies, naming ceremonies and so on are vital to one’s identity and purpose in their family and community. The lack of traditional structure and support is where I fell into the traps of colonial stereotypes and pressures. This has developed into a form of self-deprecation whereas we are not just inflicting harm on ourselves but inflicting harm on each other.

Many of our nations have subconsciously mimicked the colonial state and therefore attached with it the toxic masculinity and patriarchal values. As Indigenous women we are not always safe in society, and sometimes even in our own homes, leaving many with nowhere to turn. And given the situation today with quarantine, domestic violence has been on the rise. From research and statistics online at the Government of Canada, Department of Justice it is stated, “Indigenous females have an overall rate of violent victimization that was double that of Indigenous males and close to triple that of non-Indigenous females.”

This is why it is important to remember who we are and were prior to European contact and reclaim that. Taking care of one another was instilled through ceremony



Comment

Alyson Bear

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and kinship laws. Through kinship laws and roles, we behaved accordingly to each other for the benefit of the entire community. It is important to speak about those facts as well as the facts of what is happening today but coincided painting an accurate picture.

I for one would have not been able to make it this far through law school as a single mother without my brothers taking on their roles as uncles and having my parents, my grandma and friends be there, and all the beautiful strong inspiring people I have met along the way. It is important to have a solid circle of people you can lean on. That is what I am trying to build for my children who are growing up to be bright, beautiful Indigenous women in a very precarious society.

My friend is an emerging artist whose name is Taylar Belanger but goes by Sohka. She is releasing a new song soon called Protector. This song is about our traditional roles and how traditionally Indigenous men are the protectors and how we need this to come to fruition more than ever. It is time to bring that back and reclaim who we are.

Message from Premier Scott Moe

“Saskatchewan has been confronted by an unprecedented challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our province, Saskatchewan’s Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab has imposed a number of public health restrictions.

Saskatchewan people have met this challenge, showing vigilance in respecting these restrictions, and reducing the spread of COVID-19. Thank you to each and every Saskatchewan resident for doing your part.

Let’s keep at it. Let’s keep pulling together by staying apart.”



Resources for citizens:

www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Information, updates, self-assessment tool and other resources.

HealthLine811

Medical inquiries.

Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

1-855-559-5502 — non-medical inquiries or to report non-compliance.

Resources for businesses and workers:

www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-business

Mining sector helping communities during pandemic

By Nathan Raine
for Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan mining sector is taking steps to support vulnerable communities and individuals to ensure everyone keeps their heads above water during the pandemic.

Mosaic has three potash projects in Saskatchewan and over twenty phosphate operations in the US and South America. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, they have provided a total of \$100,000 to the ten First Nations that surround their Saskatchewan operations, \$9,000 to each community, and \$10,000 to Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services, said Earl Greyeyes, Indigenous Engagement Coordinator at Mosaic.

The cash infusion will provide food and grocery hampers to reserve and Regina residents who need support, he said.

"There hasn't been a person that is not affected by this (pandemic). We're just happy to be able to support the First Nations that surround our operations," Greyeyes said.

"As this pandemic came into play, it was never about standing around and waiting for something to happen. First and foremost, it was maintaining the safety of our staff, and how do we keep moving forward and helping the community."

Mosaic has also provided \$25,000 to the North Central Family Centre in Regina, which not only provides food to those in need but ensures educational, social and cultural programs continue for inner city individuals.

They also gave \$50,000 to Saskatchewan School Boards Association for its school lunch program organized with the City of Regina. Despite kids being out of school, Greyeyes said lunch received through the program was sometimes the only meal a child ate in a given day. To make sure no child goes hungry, bagged lunches are continuing to be made and distributed.

"We will continue to navigate how to best support our people, customers, local communities, and everyone who depends on us to grow the food they need. It's going to be ongoing," Greyeyes said.

K+S Potash Canada announced in April that they will be partnering with the Food Banks of Saskatchewan by matching every donation, up to \$50,000, made to the Food Banks of Saskatchewan from April 27 to May 3. K+S is also empowering their employees to donate by providing \$300 to each of their employees to give to the organization of their choice.

BHP, which owns the Jansen potash mine in Saskatchewan, has taken a multi-faceted approach to its response. They have been connected to the six First Nations, and six non-Indigenous communities surrounding their Jansen mine, infusing essential supplies, such as hand sanitizer, cleaner, gloves, protective clothing, vests and barriers for access point control. In total, \$90,000 worth of supplies have been ordered.

BHP is also working directly with First Nations to provide proposal-driven financial contributions for their respective response efforts.

continued on page 9 ...



BHP Manager of Corporate Affairs Ken Smith said they are working directly with First Nations to provide proposal-driven financial contributions for their respective response efforts.



orano

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put added economic pressure on our supply chain partners, especially those in northern Saskatchewan. That's why we want to show our gratitude and say thanks to all of the people and businesses who put our communities first in this difficult time.

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... continued from page 8

“As we continue to develop potash business in Saskatchewan, these organizations and companies are important to us. So, during the time of need, we want to be there to provide support because they have been there for us in various ways,” said Ken Smith, Manager Corporate Affairs at BHP.

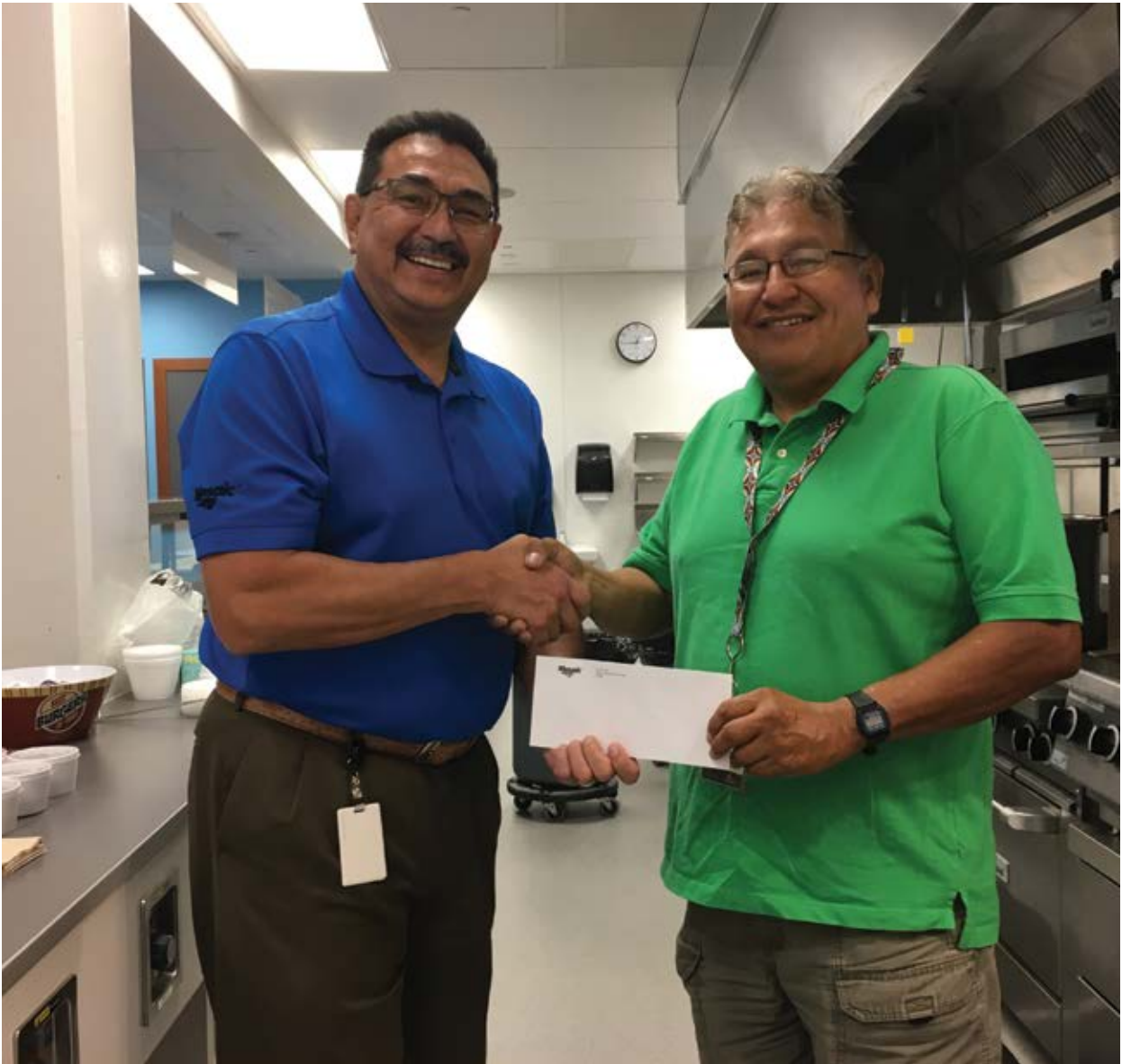
Smith said BHP has donated about \$100,000 to food banks in Saskatchewan.

We will continue to navigate how to best support our people, customers, local communities, and everyone who depends on us to grow the food they need.

BHP also will pay invoices to local and Indigenous companies immediately, rather than allowing itself the usual 30 days to pay. The modification will get cash to businesses sooner to help them stand in the current crisis, Smith said.

“It’s important for BHP to do what we can to ensure we support the economy to the extent we can, so businesses can come out on the other side of this thing,” said Smith.

“We recognize this pandemic is going to persist for a period of time into the future, so ensuring we provide a level of support during the duration is important. In our minds, we’re just getting started with the support.”



Earl Greyeyes (Mosaic) making a donation to Greg Stevenson for Chili for Children. (Photo by Earl Greyeyes)

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Learn more about Mosaic’s Indigenous Outreach, including grants for Indigenous and community projects, on our website: mosaicco.com/indigenous or contact Earl Greyeyes, Indigenous Engagement Coordinator, with any questions: earl.greyeyes@mosaicco.com



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Cameco donates \$1 million to support 67 communities

By EFN Staff
of Eagle Feather News

Cameco COVID-19 \$1 million Relief Fund will be supporting 67 community projects in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan. This announcement came out on April 15, 2020 where applicants from charities, not-for-profit organizations, town offices and First Nation band offices in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan who have been impacted by the pandemic can apply.

Eligible applicants could seek grants of up to \$50,000 to assist in their efforts to overcome the effects COVID-19 has had on their ability to serve their communities and support people in need.

"There are so many communities and charitable groups hit hard by this pandemic, yet their services are needed now more than ever," said Cameco president and CEO Tim Gitzel in a news release. "We are extremely happy to be able to help 67 of these organizations continue to do the vital work they do every day to keep people safe and supported through this unprecedented time."

Approved projects come from 40 Saskatchewan communities from Saskatoon to the province's far north. Cameco's support includes significant numbers of personal protective equipment (PPE) for northern Saskatchewan communities and First Nations with 10,000 masks, 7,000 pairs of gloves and 7,000 litres of hand sanitizer.

Donations of supplies and money from nearly 100 Cameco employees augmented the company's initial \$1 million contribution. Cameco will move quickly to begin delivering this support to the successful applicants.

"I'm proud of Cameco's employees for stepping up yet again to support the communities where they live," Gitzel said. "It happens every time we put out a call for help, a call for volunteers, a call to assist with any of our giving campaigns, and I can't say enough about their generosity."

The initiative also demonstrated the overwhelming need that exists in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan in the midst of this pandemic. By the submission deadline of April 28, 581 applications had been received seeking



Cameco announced a COVID-19 \$1 million Relief Fund where applicants from charities, not-for-profit organizations, town offices and First Nation band offices in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan who have been impacted by the pandemic can apply. (Photo supplied)

more than \$17.5 million in total funding assistance.

"The tremendous need out there is clear," Gitzel said. "I would just encourage everyone – if you have the ability to help out, to volunteer, to make a donation, please do what you can to assist these organizations with the important work they are doing in our communities."

The Cameco COVID-19 relief fund must be used to help with the challenges of COVID-19 and can be directed to ongoing program support, targeted COVID-19 community response or specialized programs. Funds cannot be used for primarily staff salaries.

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- BHP at (306)286-4411 or by email at Ann.Paton@bhp.com

Application deadline is 29 May 2020



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Reconciliation ally: Mary Panteluk

By John Lagimodiere
of Eagle Feather News

Mary Panteluk uses the principles of reconciliation to guide the policies that build the people that run Kelly Panteluk Construction (KPCL).

"To me, reconciliation is about building trust and relationships. And we use those values to define all of our diversity and inclusion initiatives," said Panteluk, the Vice President of Human Resources for KPCL, a family owned and operated company that has been moving dirt and active in construction across Saskatchewan since 1953.

Panteluk started walking down this path when she was introduced to an Aboriginal strategy through Nutrien's Aboriginal Content Playbook.

"We adopted some of the frameworks from the Playbook and since then we have seen huge increases in hiring, on-boarding and moving Indigenous employees through different positions," she said.

Since implementing the policies, the company has had, at times, up to 23 per cent of its workforce being Indigenous employees. Provincially, most businesses have about 8 per cent Indigenous employment. They have also spent more than \$1.7 million with Indigenous subcontractors since 2016.

"We decided to focus on employment and subcontracting. In the Playbook, there was a directory of potential partners, and that's when we met with the Saskatoon Tribal Council. Now we are a legacy partner with them and we work closely on training programs and have hired lots of operators and labourers from their communities," she said.

"We have also started going to events and sponsoring where we can help out. Currently we are donating to the meal program that is delivering food out of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge."

Panteluk has lots of success stories but one that stood out was a hard-working employee from Pasqua First Nation.

"He was actually working for a third party, doing environmental work on a site we were coming to work at. When we got there, he came and asked us for a job. We didn't really have anything, but took him on and he helped keep the site clean and did some general labour. And he stuck with us. Then a few years later, he went back to Pasqua and did more environmental work," said



Mary Panteluk of KPCL is congratulated by Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand when KPCL became a legacy partner with STC. (Photo by BangUpProductions)

Panteluk.

"Then last year he came back and now is doing survey work and getting trained in project management. He took the initiative to get trained elsewhere. But he also had that trust and relationship with us to come back and he can move in and up. We watched him grow and he really contributes to our business."

Panteluk uses the values of trust and building relationships to be a great employer, and also as an ally using those values for reconciliation through the work place.

"This is about building Saskatchewan's future labour force. Nutrien has been clear about the demographics and looking beyond the bottom line. This is just good business and value for communities, employees and the province. It has certainly made us a better company."

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Northerners will lead the way forward



This week's column is with Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka, Medical Health Officer for the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority.

What is happening in Northern Saskatchewan?

Right now, there are outbreaks of COVID-19 in Northern Saskatchewan. This means the risk of contracting COVID-19 in the area is high. First Nations and Metis people in Northern Saskatchewan have a higher risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. They are also at higher risk of serious illness. This is largely due to poor “social determinants of health” such as overcrowded housing, food insecurity, low income and poor access to quality healthcare. On April 17, a new public health order restricted access to most of the northern half of Saskatchewan (Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District) to slow the spread of COVID-19. Travel between Northern communities is also restricted. People should only travel for essential reasons like medical appointments or to practice their Indigenous right to fish, hunt and trap.

How did the virus get here?

Many Northern Saskatchewan residents have close connections to Alberta and some even work there. The first reported cases in northwest Saskatchewan were linked to the Kearl Lake Oilsands in northern Alberta. We think that is how the virus “hitchhiked” to northwest Saskatchewan. Please do not blame people for contracting or transmitting the virus. Some people may have the virus and not show symptoms or feel sick. They need to be supported as much as possible.

How will I know if I am sick?

The only way to know if you have COVID-19 is to get a test. COVID-19 symptoms are similar to many other common viruses like cold and flu such as fever, cough, breathing difficulties, sore throat, runny nose, chills, loss of taste or smell, and body aches. Some people have no symptoms at all. Testing and following-up with people who are sick is crucial to control the spread of COVID-19. If you live in an area with many cases, we may ask you to get a test even if you feel well. People with symptoms anywhere in Saskatchewan should call 811 or their community health center for testing information.

Why is the province re-opening if the risk is high in the North?

On April 23, the Government of Saskatchewan released the “Re-Open Saskatchewan” plan. This plan outlines how they will slowly lift restrictions on businesses and services. This plan does not support the current reality in our northern communities. I feel a lot of uncertainty because our priority is the health and safety of First Nations. The north is not ready to “re-open”. We need a plan that is specific to Northern Saskatchewan. Our Northern strategy will be based on local epidemiology (studying where and how often COVID-19 is spreading). It will focus on fast and widespread access to testing, isolating people with COVID-19 and finding undiscovered cases (contact tracing). Northern leaders will know the best time and the best way to de-escalate (wind down) existing public health measures such as travel restrictions and business closures. We are working with northern leaders to enable them to make informed decisions. The road ahead is uncertain, but the resilience of our First Nations Communities is formidable.

When can I visit my family?

This is a tough question. In communities near an active outbreak, the risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 outside the home is very high. Stay home unless you are going for groceries, medical care or outdoor exercise. In communities with no cases, smaller households may use extreme caution and choose one or two other households to connect as a group of 10 or less. The group must remain the same every time, follow good hand hygiene and practice physical distancing. I only recommend this for lower-risk outdoor activities like ceremonies, harvesting or yard work. You should be able to count on your fingers how many people you had contact with in the last 2 weeks. If we spend more time near others, physical distancing and washing our hands become our only defense against COVID-19. We must remember not to touch our faces, shake hands or share cigarettes. When we protect ourselves, we protect vulnerable people and our Elders. We will have to be ready to shift gears again-- or turn on a dime. Northern Saskatchewan: we are in the driver's seat. Drive like your grandma is along for the ride.

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Nutrien adapts to continue business, employment during pandemic

By Nathan Raine
for Eagle Feather News

One of Saskatchewan’s foremost corporations is adjusting to the uncertainty created by the coronavirus pandemic and helping communities at risk of being left behind.

Nutrien, which employs more than 4,200 people and operates 10 mines across the province, understands the need to continue operating at full capacity and has not stalled on hiring or job recruitment, said Lisa Mooney, Nutrien Global Lead of Sustainability and Strategic Inclusion.

In March, Saskatchewan lost more than 20,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate in the province is expected to reach 8.7 per cent but Nutrien is finding ways to continue recruiting workers.

“Normally we engage face to face, but with social distancing that’s not something we can do,” she said.

Nutrien usually goes to communities and tells people about job opportunities and gives them tips on how to apply. Now, job seekers can connect online, post their resumes and have questions answered live, she said.

“We can email job seekers positions that apply to their skill set so they can apply directly with us for those roles. And we will share our supply chain job postings as well, because if we’re still working, so is our supply chain,” Mooney said.

One of Nutrien’s most vital partners in community investment is the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), which has maintained a relationship with Nutrien for nearly a decade.

“I call them an elephant, because elephants follow other elephants. When you have one industry leader moving in this direction with respect to reconciliation, other major industry players follow,” said Clifford Tawpisin, STC Chief Executive Officer.

Mooney said Nutrien has provided funds not just for STC members, but for all the 70 First Nations in the province to provide meals for their members. Nutrien provides support that enables First Nations to cook meals, package them, and deliver them to homes.

Nutrien is also working with STC and Nutrients for Life to provide sustainable food security for First Nations. It will provide ten garden boxes per community, an in-ground garden plot and will supply communities with rototillers, garden tools and seeds.

“Not only would this create some food security, but this will limit exposure, as (individuals) wouldn’t have to leave their community nearly as often,” said Mooney.

The food sustainability project also benefits First Nations youth, said Tawpisin. Nutrien sponsors STC’s entrepreneurship program in all seven STC communities, giving youth confidence and new skills.

“Through food security and community gardens, we’re ensuring these kids take this leadership role in working with the rest of the community, as well as working with elders in preserving vegetables,” said Tawpisin. “We’re making sure that food security in our communities, while going through a crisis like this, will not be an issue.”

“Because we’re leaders in agriculture, it made sense for us that we would support communities in regards to food security and gardens,” added Mooney.

Nutrien and STC are also collaborating on an approach to mental health for young people.

“There are sometimes mental health issues with youth, and in some communities, issues with suicide. So we wanted to find a way to engage with youth,” she said.

Nutrien will create an online platform where youth can engage with professionals for advice or education on skills or tools they may need, as well as engage with their peers from other communities, Mooney said.

“Our partnership with Nutrien has been a huge success,” said Tawpisin.

Nutrien, formerly known as PotashCorp, is a staple in Saskatchewan’s economy and leader in philanthropy and community support. It is the largest potash producer in the world, and third largest producer of nitrogen fertilizer. “Nutrien is part of

the global food supply chain. That’s what makes us an essential service,” Mooney said.

“In order for growers to be able to grow enough food around the world, they need potash, nitrogen, and phosphate as products to support their crops. And we also have those retail sites that work with the growers,” she said.

Nutrien’s mining facilities and branch locations now have limited access and stringent safety protocols are in place to ensure the health of employees, but there have been no disruptions to production, according to a statement released by the company.



Lisa Mooney, Nutrien Global Lead of Sustainability and Strategic Inclusion. (Photo by Lisa Mooney)

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PHYSICAL DISTANCING 2M SPACING	INCREASED HANDWASHING INCREASED HANDWASHING	PPE PPE	REDUCED PERSONNEL ON SITE ON SITE	INCREASED SANITATION OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS
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SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EACH WORKER FOR EACH WORKER	STAGGERED SEATING ON FLIGHTS AND BUSES ON FLIGHTS AND BUSES	INCREASED COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION	INCREASED FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH ON MENTAL HEALTH	IF SICK STAY AT HOME STAY AT HOME

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Efforts ramp up as COVID-19 hits northern Saskatchewan

By EFN Staff
of Eagle Feather News

As new cases of COVID-19 turn up in northern Saskatchewan, Metis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) has focused its efforts there and has joined local community leaders and provincial authorities in a coordinated effort to contain the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

The MN-S is “gravely concerned” about the spread of COVID-19 to communities in the province’s north and is calling on all levels of government and stakeholders to come to the immediate assistance of residents.

“We need each other to be able to get the best plan forward in regards to keeping our people safe here in Saskatchewan,” said MN-S president Glen McCallum.

The MN-S declared a state of emergency in April and has added another \$1 million specifically for the north, to about \$20 million already dispersed in Saskatchewan, according to an MN-S news release.

“MN-S is providing more than \$1 million to address the need for community monitoring, isolation units and food security in our Northern communities,” McCallum said in the prepared statement.

“We have the incident command center in Beauval and perimeters so there’s a lot of dollars attached to that. Monitoring the perimeter alone probably will cost over half a million dollars from Metis Nation,” he said.

Those supports are in addition to the direct support to citizens for child-care and housing that MN-S has been providing, including funds specifically for elders’ medication, food and other needs, he said.

“It’s a little tougher in Northern Saskatchewan, when accessibility to PPE or hospitals is [difficult], we spend a lot more in that area because of the isolation,” McCallum said.

“We need to work together to get out in front of this crisis and provide additional capacity, not only for those affected by the crisis today, but for the anticipated surge in the outbreak in the North in the coming weeks.”

McCallum has not ruled out calling on the Red Cross and other emergency response units for field operations.

“This is now becoming a humanitarian issue,” he said.

While McCallum recognizes that much is being done to protect the people of the north, there have already been tragic losses, he said.

“I am not satisfied in regards to the people lost to the virus and the ones that are suffering and being affected by the virus. That part is the sad part,” he said.

We need to work together to get out in front of this crisis and provide additional capacity

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations has also called on the provincial government for full First Nations and Metis inclusion in decision making that affects their communities during the pandemic.

“If the border closures and monitoring started weeks ago, our North wouldn’t be in the fight of their lives to stop the numerous outbreaks. Our leaders must be at the table with the Provincial Government. We must have a unified line of defense against this invisible enemy and the longer it takes to establish this; the more lives remain in danger of COVID-19,” FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron said in a news release.



Nick Daigneault, Mayor of Beauval, has concerns about access to food for people in his community after the road closures interrupted delivery of groceries to Beauval. (EFN file photo)



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First Nations football star emerges

*By Suliman Adam
for Eagle Feather News*

Allan Lafond says one of his biggest achievements was being recruited to play college football at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

The 18-year-old defensive lineman from Pasqua First Nation grew up watching football, but he didn't get serious with the sport until high school. In 2018, he made the top 100 player list for Football Saskatchewan, the provincial governing body for amateur football, and travelled to Texas for the sport.

"My family and friends always said I had the body type for football. As soon as I started playing, I just fell in love with it right away just because of my size," Lafond recalled.

Lafond felt inspired when he was nominated by his high school coach in 2016 for 6 Nations Elite Development Camp, a First Nations camp to showcase talented football players from throughout the province. He would be nominated for four years until 2019, but he would attend the first three years.

"Whenever I went to [other] high school football camps, I was probably the only Indigenous kid there and just knowing that there's not many Indigenous football players, that's what pushes me more," he said.

Lafond made a highlight tape in his senior year and posted it on Hudl, an application for players to upload stats and videos to get scouted. Coaches from Dalhousie University saw his film and got in touch with him about the recruitment process.

Mark Haggett, general manager for the Dalhousie Tigers football team and Lafond's former head-coach, said First Nations players bring important perspective.

"Lafond represents the First Nations community in a fantastic light," he said. "It's great to have that perspective from the First Nations community as well and we're lucky to have them."

Haggett said Lafond's strong work ethic was apparent.

"He's a soft-spoken humble young man, works hard, a good athlete, serious about training and his school, always showed up to practice, meetings and was ready to work all the time," Haggett said. "[He] would take a bag or cones and he would be doing drills off at the side. His work ethic, out of all the stuff we had to ask him to do, he went over and above and always did extra."

Lafond said his physical efforts led to him feeling strong and healthy. In

"The goal I would like to achieve is to give back to Indigenous people and my community," he said. "I would also love to give back to the sport by becoming a coach or a trainer. Hopefully the success I achieve from football would also inspire other Indigenous kids."



A young man from the Pasqua First Nation is living his dream by playing college football and hopes to give back to the sport by becoming a coach or a trainer someday. (Photo by Mark Kays)



Allan Lafond from the Pasqua First Nation plays college football at Dalhousie University in Halifax. (Photo by Mark Kays)

2019 he was selected as a Football Saskatchewan all-star for his senior year in high school.

Lafond's support came from his mother and his older brothers. During his senior year in Saskatoon, his older brother took him to practice and gym sessions. Although Lafond recalled that it was difficult being away from his family, but he would focus more on his studies, becoming independent and the sport.

"I didn't want to get too lazy or slack off so I tried to use all my time as best as I could on studying the game of football and I just became obsessed with the sport," Lafond said.

He noted that he would distance himself from distractions and would only associate himself with people that would share his goal or mindset.

"I needed to find people that wanted to do the same things as me," he said.

Lafond hopes to become a starter and intends to major in law or kinesiology.



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Athletes cherish friendships as coronavirus stalls NAIG

By Isaac Adeoluwa Atayero
for Eagle Feather News

The cancellation of the 2020 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) due to Coronavirus pandemic concerns has left many Indigenous athletes in limbo, including Piapot First Nations softball player Kachina Skye Kaiswatum. “Unfortunately because of safety concerns, we are not able to practice as a team. However, we have been doing some practice at home,” said Kaiswatum.

The organizers of NAIG have announced that the event will take place next summer but no official date has been disclosed.

While the girls wait for the pandemic to blow over, they have begun to practice independently.

Kaiswatum misses coming together once a month with the other Under 19s to prepare for NAIG.

“Since we started meeting up in January, it has become a get together that I have grown to become very fond of. We ... were supposed to meet in March but then the virus happened,” she said.

“I grew up around sports at a young age. (My family has) always had a thing for baseball and stuff like that. My parents played a huge role in helping me cultivate my skills,” said Kaiswatum, crediting her family with getting her involved in playing sports and supporting her through the years.

Now 18, she began her journey with softball at the age of six and has gone on become an excellent pitcher.

Kaiswatum has been playing in the Regina Minor Softball League (RMSL) since 2007 and said she has had a remarkable experience on the team. RMSL currently consists of 23 teams divided into three divisions. The games, held at Douglas Park, have become a way for the players and supporters to form a bond.

“It has been good for me,” she said. “I know some people who have faced racism growing up, especially playing on the league’s teams in Saskatchewan. I have friends who have had bad experiences but for me, I have not experienced any of that. They have always treated me good.”

According to Kaiswatum, her Indigenous team, Regina Rage, is more than just a sports team – it is a family. Kaiswatum credits her team for introducing many of her friends, including best friend Sara Sinclair.

“My favourite thing about playing softball definitely has to be gaining friends from the team. I have made so many cool friends growing up from playing softball. The friendships are very special and important to me,” Kaiswatum said.

Sinclair, a member of George Gordon First Nation, has known Kaiswatum since 2012, when they first played together.

The organizers of NAIG have announced that the event will take place next summer but no official date has been disclosed.

“I’ve known her since I was eleven and I started playing ball with her,” Sinclair said. “She was my pitcher and I was her back catcher. Throughout the years, we have played on different teams, but for summer games, we played together. We have won gold three times at the summer games playing for Touchwood Agency Tribal Council against File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council on reserve.”

Both Kaiswatum and Sinclair made it to the last round of tryouts for NAIG before the cancellation, which has not discouraged the women as they eagerly anticipate the new dates for the competition. Kaiswatum will be completing Grade 12 this year, while Sinclair is finishing her first year of Film Production at the University of Regina.

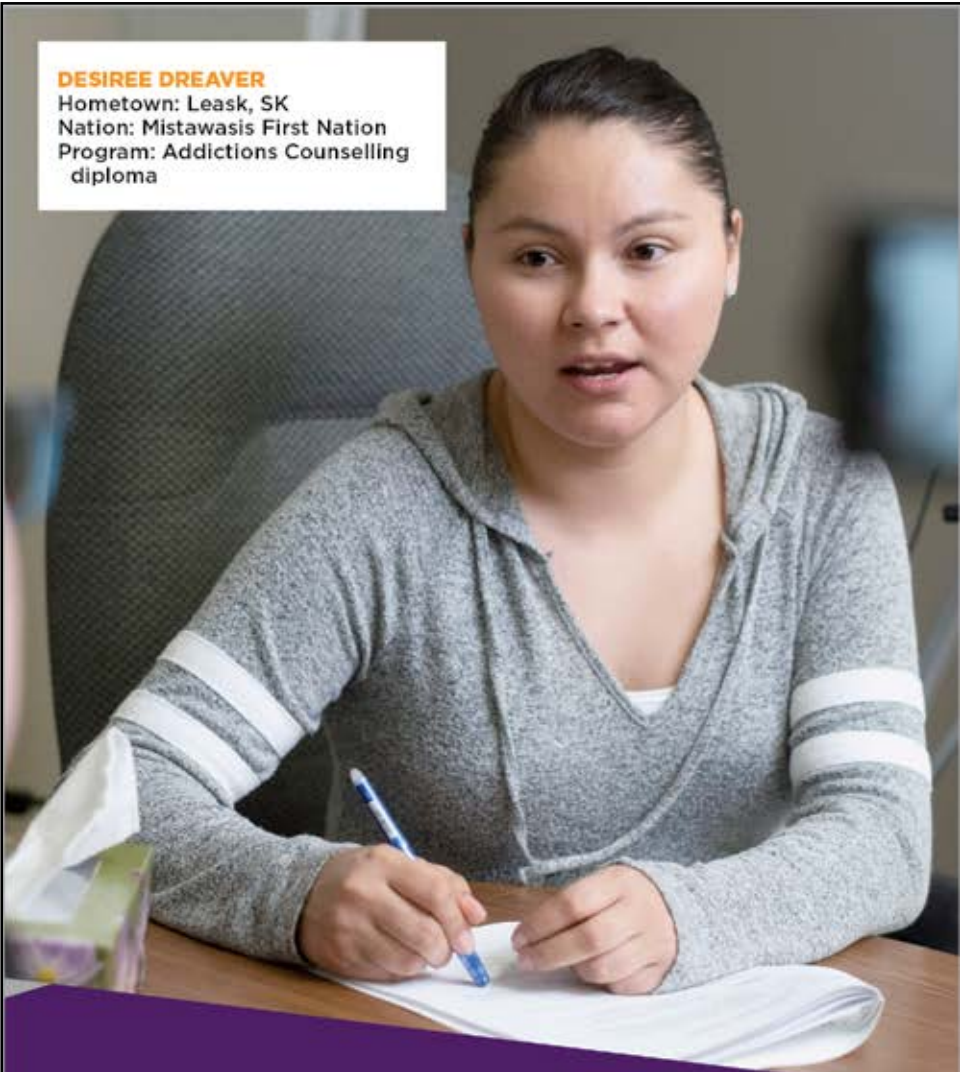
Karlene Pruden, Indigenous Students Director of the U of R Student’s Union and a proponent of female Indigenous athletes, is inspired by the women’s successes. Pruden who hails from Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Manitoba, in Treaty 2 Territory, believes that it is important Indigenous communities continue to celebrate athletes like Kaiswatum and Sinclair.

“Sports became a way that many Indigenous youths have used to escape the common misconceptions of the reserve life, so sports become an escape from pain and hurt they feel within themselves,” Pruden continued. “Athletes I have spoken to express the happiness and empowerment they feel when they play a sport they love. To young, aspiring athletes, a community’s support is the greatest support you can ever have.”



L-R Kachina Kaiswatum, Katelyn Longman, Randene Dubois, Tori Kaiswatum after a successful game at Winnipeg.
(Photo by Donna Kaiswatum)

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Pratt brings First Nations perspective to leadership role in mainstream teams

*By Kaitlynn Nordal
for Eagle Feather News*

Keith Pratt wants to pass on lessons learned from sport to a new generation of athletes through his role as First Nations advisor to the Regina Pats and Regina Thunder.

Through this role Pratt hopes to educate others about culture, how sports can bring camaraderie, build responsibility and teach the value of hard work.

Having an Indigenous man in the organization in this capacity may help other Indigenous athletes feel more comfortable to try out for the team.

"If you look at any kid that has been involved in minor hockey through the years, when they get older, they still have those longtime friends and they stay out of trouble. I think with a First Nations face around here, more may feel comfortable," he said.

Pratt, of Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, was involved with hockey in his childhood. He got back into it in 1975, when he started working at the Paul Dojack Youth Centre. He continued until retiring in 2011.

"It was always a sporty place," Pratt said.

The centre's namesake, Paul Dojack, had had a long and distinguished career as a referee in the CFL from 1941 to 1970, and later worked at what was then known as the Saskatchewan Boy's Training School. Drawing on his time in the CFL, Dojack brought in players from the Saskatchewan Roughriders to work with the youth.

The open and closed custody facility was renamed in 1985 to honour Dojack.

In fall 2017, Pratt was asked if he wanted to be involved with the Regina Pats, as the organization was interested in participating in Truth and Reconciliation.

Pratt started by inviting chiefs and other First Nations leaders to the 2017 Memorial Cup tournament and introducing them at each game.

Such acknowledgement of First Nations leaders continued into the 2018 season.

Pratt has been the First Nations advisor to the Regina Pats, a junior hockey team in the Western Hockey League, since then.

"That's how it kicked off the following season. We introduced Treaty 4 leadership at each Pats game and a youth holding the flag. We'd get youth from all over Treaty 4," said Pratt.

Pratt has since been asked to also serve as a First Nations advisor to the Regina Thunder, a Junior football team.

He sees his new role as answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 88 to 91.

"The real message with the Thunder and Pats ... is bringing in the Truth and Reconciliation. That's the main thing Section 88 to 91 talks about, having First Nations involvement in sports, and that's how I represented it to them," said Pratt.

In January, Pratt joined the Board of Directors for the Regina Thunder, a junior football team, as their First Nations advisor.

As part of this this volunteer position, Pratt guides the board and players



Keith Pratt, First Nations advisor to the Regina Pats and Regina Thunder enjoys being able to share his culture with those involved with the teams and feels this is a step in the right direction towards reconciliation. (Photo by Kaitlyn Nordal)

on everything from explaining treaties to ensuring ceremonies are conducted properly.

Head coach of the Regina Thunder, Scott MacAulay, first met Pratt when MacAulay was in high school and Pratt was the uncle to one of his football teammates. They were able to reconnect when Pratt took on his new position.

MacAulay is happy with their partnership.

"You have someone you can reach out to and use as a person to not only guide yourself, but also if some players are struggling, moving from different parts of the province to Regina," said MacAulay.

Having Pratt on the team helps bridge cultural divides and bring the team closer together.

"With the amount of Indigenous people who are coming onto our team, it would be good to bring in an advisor who could help us in that area – some education on the different cultures and how to interact with everybody and how to bring everyone together," said MacAulay.

For Pratt, his position helps Indigenous players reach their full potential.

"If you look at some of the sporting events, there aren't many First Nations kids playing in sports, other than minor hockey or minor football but, when they get older, you want to see them succeed," he said.

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Cowessess First Nation job posting for

Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Directors of Chief Red Bear Children's Lodge is recruiting a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to guide the agency through its start-up and manage its long-term operations and growth. The CEO reports to a non-political Board and will assume a key leadership role in establishing the strategic direction, building a leadership team, and leading community, prevention, and protective services program development.

The ideal candidate is an engaged member and/or ally of the Indigenous community. The CEO is an experienced and dynamic leader who recognizes that the agency is a critical component in Cowessess First Nation exercising its inherent right to self-determination and assert its jurisdictional authority and collective responsibility over child, family, and community wellness as part of ongoing decolonization efforts.



Should you require additional information or wish to apply, please contact
Upfront Consulting at:
info@upfront-consulting.net

Information regarding
Cowessess First Nation
can be found at:
www.cowessessfn.com

This Job Posting will be open
until end-of-day May 17, 2020

Pinehouse Photography Club (PPC)



The Pinehouse Photography Club (PPC) youth are encouraged not only to participate in sporting events, but participate in capturing the moments through the lens of their cameras. The PPC captured various sporting events in their community such as Pinehouse Lakers youth hockey team, the seniors practicing hockey in the arena, PPC softball team, some volleyball in the high school gym and youth boating on Gordon Lake. For so many youth, photography gives them courage to go out and take pictures and participate. Mental health and physical health are equally important, and for many youth in the club, they develop improvements for both as they go out, connect with their community, with nature, get physical activity, and are encouraged to be creative.



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Métis Emergency Capital Assistance Program

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Up to \$40,000 in interest-free working capital loans are available to eligible Métis business operators and entrepreneurs including up to \$10,000 of which is a non-repayable grant.

APPLY NOW!

Applications are available on the
SMEDCO website www.smedco.ca
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