

eaglefeathernews

Newspapers will not transmit the Coronavirus

CPMA #40027204



By NC Raine
for Eagle Feather News

From the shores of the small Mediterranean country of Cyprus, to jungle warfare training in Australia, Emile Highway travelled places and made friends beyond what he could have imagined before his 20-year military career.

Highway, a residential school survivor from Southend, Saskatchewan, joined the armed forces in 1962 to learn about the world.

That curiosity took him all over continental Europe and Scandinavia and gave him a lifetime of memories: he was almost shot in the back in Cyprus; he spent weeks in a British hospital after a training accident; he started a family with a woman, Barbara, whom he met in Germany; he broke bread and made friends with Germans, Italians, French, English and Dutch people; he got up early every morning to

put in a hard day's work; he learned about cultures and beliefs in different countries, which opened his eyes to the inequalities between white societies and Indigenous people, he said.

Highway's decorated military career is just one of the many stories included in the new book from the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association (SFNVA), onâpêhkâsowiyiniwak kisiskâciwan ohci/Courageous Warriors of Saskatchewan: We Answered the Call.

It gave many veterans an opportunity to tell their stories about why and how they joined up and what happened when they did, said Steven Ross, Grand Chief of the SFNVA.

"Some people walked many, many miles just to join the Armed Forces. It's a very exciting book, and it's good for the families so they can understand what happened to (their family members) who joined the Armed Forces."

continued page 10



GRAND CHIEF STEVEN ROSS

Promote, Preserve And Protect

"I'm still connected to some of my friends from the Armed Forces from over 50 years ago. That (sense of community) is important. We are able to get things done for our fellow Veterans, and hopefully, other organizations will follow,"

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LLOYD HAMILTON

Métis Heroes Honoured

"Métis men enlisted for a variety of reasons, not just patriotism. By enlisting, many escaped grinding poverty in their road allowance or northern bush communities, while others were following a sense of adventure."

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FSIN CHIEF BOBBY CAMERON

FSIN Ready for New Term

"First Nations face so much inequalities, discrimination and racism in many sectors. Once in a while there's a shining moment, but those are few and far between right now."

- page 14

November 2021 is our
Veterans / Remembrance Day

December Issue:
News maker of the Year

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Dwight King

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ENTER BEFORE NOVEMBER 24TH - 5PM

Indigenous veterans group advocates, connects

By NC Raine
for Eagle Feather News

In the past, the Canadian government too often brushed aside Indigenous Veterans returning home from service, but since 1972 the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans’ Association (SFNVA) has ensured that no one goes unrecognized.

“They have pride when they’re recognized. Before, nothing was ever mentioned when Veterans passed away. So at least now they’re being recognized by the people, by the Veterans themselves – we do a lot of PR work like that,” said Steven Ross, Grand Chief of the association.

“Our job is to advocate for the Veterans... There’s still a lot of people who don’t understand what benefits are available to them,” he said.

The organization also helps veterans to keep in touch.

“I’m still connected to some of my friends from the Armed Forces from over 50 years ago. That (sense of community) is important. We are able to get things done for our fellow Veterans, and hopefully, other organizations will follow,” he said.

Ross said he is most proud of the SFNVA’s *Courageous Warriors of Saskatchewan* book, released earlier in 2021, which highlights the stories of many of Saskatchewan’s Indigenous Veterans over the last century.

The organization also offers semi-military, semi-Christian military funerals services, which its members conduct themselves. They also work with the federal government to place military markers on Veterans’ grave sites.

“I believe every Veteran deserves that,” said Ross.

“They were willing to die for their country, die for the Queen, willing to die for the land, for their people, for the Treaty.”

The association, which was created to promote, preserve and protect the Treaty Rights of First Nations Veterans, serves about 75 full-member veterans, and around 100 associate members. About 20 of those fulltime members are still in service.

It is a branch of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), led by an elected Grand Chief and representative Presidents in Prince Albert,



Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association Grand Chief Steven Ross in this EFN file photo from an event in 2016. (Photo by EFN)

Regina-Fort Qu’Appelle, and North Battleford.

To qualify as a full member, one must have an honourable discharge from the Armed Forces, said Ross. Associate members are for family members, or anyone else who wishes to participate and support in the activities of the organization. Both membership types pay a \$25 annual fee, and receive a quarterly newsletter, invitations to social gatherings, and for the full members, access to benefits and assistance receiving benefits.

onâpêhkâsowiyiniwak kisiskâciwan ohci *Courageous Warriors of Saskatchewan*

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association wants to ensure that Canada and the world recognize their sacrifices and that Canada acknowledges the injustices experienced by the First Nations Veterans upon their return from military service.

This book is but one small token of our recognition and appreciation for their service.

To order a copy of *onâpêhkâsowiyiniwak kisiskâciwan ohci*, please contact:
Shelley Mike at shelley.mike@FSIN.com or
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Stolen valour, stolen Indigeneity, both shameful

One thing about the military, is they keep things black and white. And they don't mess around.

A few years back, one of our freelance writers went to a big event and interviewed veterans and, from those interviews, compiled a bunch of mini profiles that we ran in our paper and then on our web site. Once the stories hit the website, we received a call from a former soldier that we know and trust. He informed us that one of the people we had profiled was a former soldier but was being accused of stolen valour.

According to the Legion movement, when an individual commits stolen valour - wearing government sanctioned medals, uniforms, or decorations they are not entitled to, or possessing documentation that falsely identifies them as Canadian Armed Forces - they degrade the honour and sacrifices of those rightly wearing the uniform.

We immediately removed the profile of the offending soldier out of respect for all the men and women in our forces who had earned those medals justly. It was the least we could do. Didn't even have to think about it.

And it turns out that the military takes this very seriously and people that steal valour are guilty of breaking the law. It is an offence under Sections 419 A and B of the Criminal Code of Canada for anyone, other than the recipient, to wear a uniform of the Canadian Armed Forces or Service Insignia, such as medals, ribbons, badges, chevrons or other decoration. It is also an offence for anyone to wear any imitation of the above if it is likely to be mistaken for the said uniform or service insignia. How fitting. Charging a person who is committing a fraud.

This phenomenon of acting as something you're not to further yourself has been all too real in academia this month as Dr. Carrie Bourassa was outed as a "pretendian." According to Wikipedia, "A Pretendian is a person who is asserted to have falsely claimed Indigenous identity by claiming to be a citizen of a Native American tribal nation, or to be descended from Native ancestors. As a practice, pretendianism is an extreme form of cultural appropriation, sometimes also referred to as ethnic fraud or race shifting.

Dr Bourassa has shifted race quite often. She started as a Métis, then became Anishinaabe Métis and then it became ludicrous when she was

self declaring as Tlingit as well. What was next, Aztec and Mohawk? The most egregious part of Bourassa's story was her reflecting on growing up Indigenous with poverty, violence, racism and sexual abuse. Did that give her assumed street cred? All I know is I feel sorry for her husband and daughter and her siblings and parents.

When you steal valour, you immediately undermine the lived reality of those soldiers, their deeds and sacrifices. It is no different with pretendians.

Bourassa's claiming Indigeneity undermines our lived reality and accepting funding intended for Indigenous scholars is especially insulting as we honour our veterans who were denied the benefits accorded to white veterans.

They make a law for stolen valour; I wonder when our government will follow up with some sort of law or way to police this increasing trend of people wanting to Indigenize themselves. We certainly have our own ways to safeguard, but many times the big old institutions tend to ignore our customs and the fakes take space intended for Indigenous folks.

Remember back in the day when there was no currency at all in telling people your Indigenous ancestry? The only good thing out of this pretendian thing is it seems more folks think it is cool to be Indigenous now.

Credit must go to Dr. Winona Wheeler and Dr. Caroline Tait for standing up, exposing the fraud and insisting on accountability at the University. Credit to the University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for finally (belatedly) suspending her from her position.

Newsmaker of the year 2021

Is 2021 the year of the pretendian?! Michelle Latimer and Bourassa both in the limelight for their exposed backgrounds. Or maybe the Newsmaker of the Year is Bobby Cameron? Recently re-elected FSIN Chief for the third time in a row. Or could it be Canoe Lake Young Guns winning the Freddie Sasakamoose Memorial?

We need your input on the newsmakers of 2021 and your suggestions for the ultimate newsmaker of 2021. Send your nominees in through our Facebook or hit us at contact@eaglefeathernews.com



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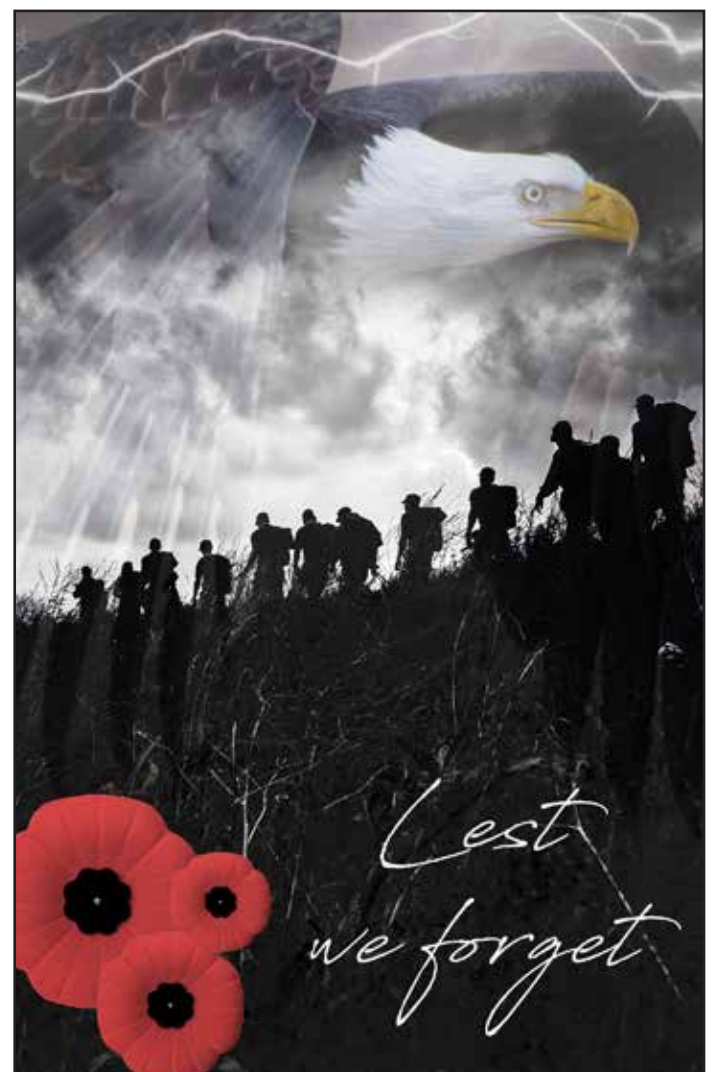
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Reconciliation
SASKATCHEWAN

Reconciliation Ally: Col. Gwen Bourque

Reconciliation
SASKATCHEWAN

By Betty Ann Adam
of Eagle Feather News

As the highest-ranking army officer between Thunder Bay and Saskatchewan, Colonel Gwen Bourque is pleased that the number of Indigenous members in her brigade has increased in the three years since she took leadership.

Across Canada, Indigenous people make up about five per cent of the population. At a time when numbers in the military are dropping because of the pandemic, in Bourque's 38 Canadian Brigade Group, about 9 per cent are indigenous, up from eight per cent last year and seven the year before that.

"I was a little surprised because I didn't know the stats and I am very, very happy and super proud," she said in a recent interview.

"I feel like people obviously like the culture and the lifestyle... It tells me there is hope that we'll see more because obviously people must be enjoying it if the numbers are going up."

Bourque credits her team, especially Indigenous advisor, Joel Pederson, for connecting her with the community.

"He really helps me. He educates me," she said.

Soldiers are required to take a one-day Indigenous awareness training course, but upon taking the lead, Bourque created a Diversity, Inclusion and Aboriginal Committee. It is planning an online Indigenous speaker's series, which they hope will include someone from Cowessess First Nation, to talk about the 750 unmarked graves at the residential school site there.

Bourque has also implemented land acknowledgements at meetings and

opportunities to participate in sweat lodge ceremonies. On September 30, members of the Brigade wore orange shirts and were encouraged to attend local events. When the Command Council, comprised of the heads of every army unit from Thunder Bay to Saskatchewan met in Winnipeg in October, all 50 of them participated in a smudging ceremony.

"We're trying to have that Indigenous component to all of our meetings," she said.

Bourque thinks all these practices are making Indigenous awareness and inclusion a normal part of being in the army reserves.

"It was important to me with everything that was happening with residential schools. I know everyone's lives, especially our Indigenous members', lives were affected by this. I really wanted them to start feeling more a part of our team, knowing that we understood where they're coming from, because they have tons of challenges and it's a big part of Canada."

In her civilian life, Bourque is the Director of Information Technology at Sask Polytechnique in Saskatoon, where she took Indigenous awareness training, which led to a growing understanding of the need for Canadians to recognize and work with Indigenous people around them.

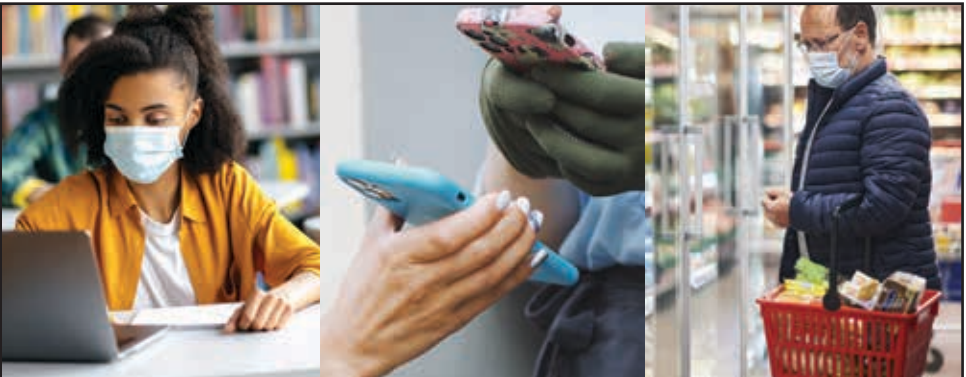
"I had a couple of folks who worked for me there who I get along with quite fondly and just the more I learned, the more interested I became."

She knew of soldiers who were struggling with trauma from the past, often in the form of alcohol abuse and poverty.

"I thought it's so important for people in the military to understand where these folks are coming from, so we can figure out how best to support them."



Colonel Gwen Bourque is striving to make Indigenous awareness and inclusion a normal part of being in the army reserves. (Photo supplied)



Mandatory Masks Indoors and Proof of Vaccination

We need your help to keep Saskatchewan safe. Remember the rules and be kind to those doing their jobs to support the public health measures.

The public health order for province-wide mandatory masking in all indoor public spaces, including schools, has been extended until November 30. This is in addition to the proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test required to access a range of businesses, event venues, as well as for specific employees as outlined by their employers.

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Indigenous veterans honoured with Regina memorial

By Julia Peterson
for Eagle Feather News

A memorial to honour Indigenous veterans will be unveiled on National Indigenous Veterans Day, November 8 ,near the cenotaph in Regina’s Victoria Park.

It will be one of 12 granite pedestals to honour veterans and educate the public about significant moments in Canada’s military history, which were designed by Regina’s Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).

“I have long held a belief that, especially in the First and the Second World Wars, when the Indigenous veterans came home, they simply weren’t treated right,” said Brad Hrycyna, retired Army Major and president of RUSI in Regina.

“They didn’t get the same benefits that the non-Indigenous veterans did, and that has always angered me. So although it’s going to be one of the last pedestals that we put up, it was one of the first pedestals that we decided had to be amongst the 12.”

The text on the pedestal describes Indigenous peoples’ “long and proud tradition of military service” in the Canadian Armed Forces in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, peacekeeping operations and Afghanistan.

“They have done so with dedication, initiative and bravery,” the plaque reads. “Recognized fieldcraft skills such as patience, stealth and marksmanship saw many excel as snipers and scouts. Using Indigenous languages, some of them also served as code talkers during the Second World War.”

INDIGENOUS VETERANS

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit people of Canada have a long and proud tradition of military service. From a strong sense of duty they volunteered for the Canadian military and brought with them their unique experience.

Indigenous Canadians served in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, peacekeeping operations and Afghanistan. They have done so with dedication, initiative and bravery. Recognized fieldcraft skills such as patience, stealth and marksmanship saw many excel as snipers and scouts. Using Indigenous languages, some of them also served as code talkers during the Second World War.

More than 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people have served in Canada's wars. Over 500 lost their lives, and many suffered physical and psychological injuries.

In honour of their service, 8 November has been designated Indigenous Veterans Day.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM



THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF REGINA
Honouring the Canadian Armed Forces
and its members past and present

This commemorative pedestal is made possible through funding by Veterans Affairs Canada

The pedestal honouring Indigenous veterans - one of 12 being installed around the cenotaph in Regina’s Victoria Park this year - will be unveiled on November 8th. (Submitted by Brad Hrycyna).

For Hrycyna, these pedestals are particularly important as older generations of veterans are dying and can no longer tell their own stories.

“After Remembrance Day a couple years ago, myself and a couple other members from the Institute were talking,” he said. “And we were wondering just how many people who come to Remembrance Day services or walk through Victoria Park and see the cenotaph know what’s going on.

“And we felt that most people understand that the cenotaph is for remembrance of our veterans, but probably many fewer of them understand what they should be remembering.”

Hrycyna says it has been gratifying to see everyone from community members to politicians coming out to see the pedestals. Members of Parliament, MLAs, Regina mayor Sandra Masters and many local veterans have come to the unveilings. So has Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty.

“I feel strongly that we owe our veterans and military people our sincere thanks for their service to our country,” said Mirasty. “My wife Donna and I have attended all the Royal United Services Institute pedestal unveilings at the



Brad Hrycyna, retired Major and President of Regina’s Royal United Services Institute on left and Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty inspect the pedestal that was erected last year at Regina’s Cenotaph on November 8th, National Indigenous Veterans Day. (Photo supplied by Brad Hrycyna)

Cenotaph in Regina, and we appreciate RUSI’s efforts to honour veterans and to provide public education.”

The Mirastys will be in attendance when the Indigenous Veterans pedestal is unveiled as well.

“Donna’s father and uncles served in the Second World War,” he said. “Donna’s father was wounded and carried the scars for the rest of his life. Indigenous veterans did not receive the same benefits as non-Indigenous veterans after the war.

“I am thankful to RUSI for creating a plaque in honour of Indigenous veterans, who have, and continue to make important contributions to the Canadian Armed Forces.”

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TOGETHER



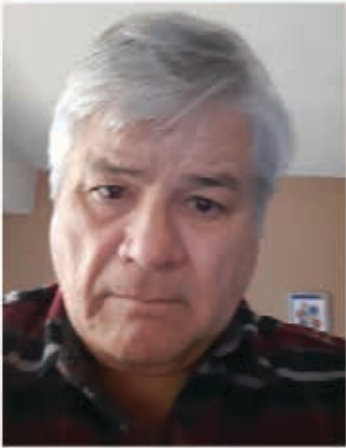


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Paying homage to Riel at St Peter’s Mission

There is a beautiful, pristine prairie valley in the Sun River country of north central Montana. At the valley floor there is a winding clear-water stream flowing past a small church of hewn log, more than a century old. It was here at St Peter’s Mission, Métis leader Louis Riel found sanctuary following the violent subjugation of the Métis in Manitoba in 1871.

In 1884 a delegation from Batoche up north came with the urgent request he return with them to lead his people in their stand against the Canadian Government. Once more the Métis concerns and petitions were being swept aside as they had been at Red River. Conflict became inevi-



Breaking Trail

John Cuthand

table and a short, sharp war followed. Riel, among others, was arrested. He was charged with treason punishable by death and found guilty. On November sixteenth 1885 he was executed.

The love of his people and the persecution they experienced meant he willingly sacrificed his life for their cause. He was vilified by colonial history, but his people have honored his legacy through the generations that followed.

In 1984, I worked as one of the organizers for the old Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) commemorating the centennial of the 1885 Resistance. Some of us felt strongly we should make a journey to Saint Peter’s Mission on the exact day, one hundred years later, when the horseman arrived seeking Riel’s return.

Our delegation included AMNSIS vice president Clem Chartier, area director Frank Thompkins, Roy “the judge” Fosseneuve, author Rudy Wiebe, Louise from French radio Canada CBC and two locals from Great Falls.

We followed the winding road down to the church below. A short path led to the site. The church, despite its age, was in exceptional condition. Some went inside and prayer was given in French. We each gave testimony to the meaning this place held for us all. One local woman, who knew a history of foster care, said she had wondered all her life who her people were and now she knew. It was a very emotional moment for her. Testimony was short but deeply moving. There was no need to speak at length. Earth was gathered to be taken back to Batoche and mixed with the earth to nourish a commemorative tree. Riel’s presence was keenly felt.

Frank Thompkins and Roy Fosseneuve later visited Montana communities that knew a Métis past, such as Lewiston, Choteau and Babb. Among their number were descendants of those who had come as refugees following 1885. In 1896 Queen Victoria granted amnesty. Some returned to Canada and some stayed. The Montana people responded and have come Back to Batoche in increasing numbers over the years.

When we left, I noticed we all wept and I strongly sensed Riel wept with us. A spiritual connection between the past, the present and, perhaps, the future was made. Nothing is lost unless a people allow it to be lost. An unbroken dream, then as now, endures despite the suffering of generations.

R.I.P OCT 22, 1844 -
Louis Riel Jr NOV 16, 1885

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Métis veteran numbers undocumented by Canadian military

By **Darren R. Préfontaine**
for *Eagle Feather News*

During the First World War, the Second World War, and the Korean War, Métis men and women from across the Métis Nation enlisted in the Canadian military in large numbers.

Unfortunately, we cannot precisely quantify enlistment figures for these Métis service members because they were not allowed to self-identify as Métis. This especially bothered Claude Adams of St. Louis, Saskatchewan, who was a member of Canada's Special Forces during the Second World War.

In military records, soldiers were categorized as either Treaty Indians or by their ancestral European ethnicities, since there was no category for Métis.



The National Métis Veterans Monument in Batoche has the names of thousands of Métis veterans inscribed in it. (Photo courtesy GDI)

While we don't have exact numbers, we know that several thousand Métis volunteered and served during both world wars and in the Korean War in the army, navy and air force. Many army regiments, such as the Canadiens-Français du Nord-Ouest, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, the Regina Rifle Regiment (now the Royal Regina Rifles), the Saskatoon Light Infantry, the South Saskatchewan Regiment, and the Winnipeg Grenadiers had scores of Métis servicemen.



Marie Agnes Shortt and Herman Dumont. Marie was with the Canadian Women's Army Corps. (Photo courtesy Senator Nora Cummings)

Many of these Métis volunteers had direct ancestors who fought in the 1885 Resistance. For instance, Gabriel Dumont's nephews and great-nephews served, as did Louis Riel's, including Louis-Philippe Riel, a renowned sniper in the First World War who killed 30 Germans before he himself was killed on January 15, 1916.



Claude Adams, far right and Max Lucier (with sash) at a veterans honouring. (Photo courtesy GDI archives)

Patrice Fleury, a Métis veteran of 1885, lost a son in the First World War. When reflecting upon the war and his family's loss, he wrote, "Today there are no more staunch upholders of the rights of Canada than the Métis, and many are those of the younger generation, who have laid down their lives for King and Country during the late war."

Métis men enlisted for a variety of reasons, not just patriotism. By enlisting, many escaped grinding poverty in their road allowance or northern bush communities, while others were following a sense of adventure. Traditional Métis skills, such as trapping, hunting, scouting, and guiding were in high demand by the military and made the Métis very successful soldiers.

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... continued from page 8

Métis women also served in large numbers, as well, during the Second World War, but in non-combat roles. These veterans included Saskatoon's Dorothy Trotchie, (later Askwith) who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force's Women's Division and her relative, Marie Agnes Shortt, (later Klassen) who served with the Canadian Women's Army Corps.

This tradition of service continued into the Korean War and beyond. For instance, Lloyd Hamilton, the great-grandson (through adoption) of Gabriel Dumont, served in the Canadian Army during the Korean War. On one occasion, he worked with an American soldier to save 80 Korean children in



Métis veteran Lloyd Hamilton and an America soldier saved 80 Korean children during the Korean War. For that action he received a medal from the United Nations. (Photo courtesy GDI archives)



Dorothy Askwith (nee Trotchie), Métis veteran, served with Royal Canadian Air Force's Women's Division. (Photo courtesy Senator Nora Cummings)

an orphanage, who were caught in the Korean Demilitarized Zone. For this action, Lloyd received medal from the United Nations.

Following the Second World War, many Métis veterans would become political leaders and activists, particularly within the Métis Society of Saskatchewan. They also founded Indian and Métis Friendship Centres and Legion branches.

Sadly, Métis veterans were often unable to obtain their veterans' benefits after their military service, and their struggle for restitution continues to this day.

To honour Métis veterans from across the Métis Nation Homeland, the Gabriel Dumont Institute and various Métis organizations have built the National Métis Veterans Monument. Located in Batoche, the monument includes the names of thousands of Métis veterans from the 1885 Resistance to the present.

COMING SOON

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– Duncan McCue, CBC Radio Host

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SEEN THROUGH WOMEN
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Indigenous veterans stories come to life in new book

continued from cover ...

Courageous Warriors is a 79-page book highlighting the stories and military careers of 50 Indigenous Veterans from Saskatchewan. It chronicles a rich, and often neglected, part of Canadian history – with stories from World War II Veterans like Virginia Pechawis of Mistawasis Cree Nation, who enlisted in 1944 at 18, to Veterans like Shaun Wendell Cameron of Beardy’s and Okemasis Cree Nation, who retired as a Sergeant in 2016 after 18 years of service.

“It’s been very rewarding. The feeling that the Veterans get when they see the book, when they see themselves, when they see their buddies, when they see their stories. It’s a great feeling to have someone recognize you and having these stories finally come to light,” said Ross.

Ross had been trying to get the book, his “pet project,” off the ground for years, he said, but it was finally made possible by a \$60,000 grant from Nutrien.

The SFNVA began reaching out to its members in July 2020 asking for contributions to the book. Compiling and documenting the detailed individual stories proved to be a challenge, said Ted Whitecalf, the book’s producer.

“We were persistent, leaving messages until they’re tired of you. I did a lot of phone and Zoom interviews. Then, once we did the transcribing, we fired



Steven Ross, Grand Chief of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association (Photo by Ted Whitecalf)



Courageous Warriors of Saskatchewan captures the stories of fifty First Nation veterans from Saskatchewan. (Image courtesy Ted Whitecalf)

that back to them to make sure everything was accurate. When they tell you (of some little town in Germany), we had to make sure we had all the details, all the proper spelling,” Whitecalf said.

“A lot of these Veterans were very humble about it. They don’t just come out and boast about themselves,” he said.

“It’s been very rewarding. The feeling that the Veterans get when they see the book, when they see themselves, when they see their buddies, when they see their stories. It’s a great feeling to have someone recognize you and having these stories finally come to light,”

Whitecalf, who has published about 20 other books through his company, Sweet Grass Records, was tasked with interviewing, transcribing, and photographing the subjects of the book, which took about nine months to complete. It has since sold about 1,000 copies, many of them to elementary and high

schools around the province. It is now on it’s second printing.

“It’s something that really hit me to my core,” Whitecalf said of working on the book.

“We are so lucky we don’t have to (do what these Veterans did). We really take things for granted that these Veterans at the time had to defend our country. Every time I think of a Veteran now, I really want to thank you for defending us, for doing what you believed in at the time. For the rest of us to enjoy today,” he said.

One of the veterans in the book is David R. Gamble of Beardy’s and Okemasis Cree Nation, who enlisted in 1990 and served in Canada for six years, during peace time. His story, like many other veterans, is a journey of personal growth.

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Ted Whitecalf, producer of the onâpêhkâsowiyiniwak kisiskâciwan ohci/Courageous Warriors of Saskatchewan: We Answered the Call book (Photo submitted by Ted Whitecalf)

... continued from page 10



David Gamble, Veteran who served for six years, and currently serves as SFNVA Prince Albert Vice-President (Photo by Shelley Mike)

"I was getting into a lot of trouble when I was young, so a cop told me to do something with my life, become a cop or join the army. 'You'll end up in the pen if you don't straighten yourself out'," said Gamble.

"The military taught me a lot of discipline."

Gamble said he's not looking for individual recognition from the book, but hopes it impacts First Nations and young minds.

"We put the book out so we could teach other First Nations around Saskatchewan and Canada what we did and what we still do, so the younger kids can get information about their families, their grandmas and grandpas. I have a 17-year-old son

who is asking me when he can sign up," said Gamble.

The SFNVA is planning to publish a second book, focusing on the stories of Veterans from the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, who have already passed on.

It gave many veterans an opportunity to tell their stories about why and how they joined up and what happened when they did

For Emile Highway, the book is long overdue, and exposes important contributions that Indigenous people made for Canada.

"Reconciliation comes into play here. There can be no Reconciliation

until the truth can be known about the history of the country and how it treated its Aboriginal people," he said.

"We want to rouse some interest and get people asking questions. We want to instill some pride and understanding in the people whose relatives put on a uniform – some of whom died, who never came home. They made the ultimate sacrifice for a country that didn't always treat Aboriginal people fairly."

Joining the military took Highway around the world – an experience that led to his re-education about his home.

Emile Highway, who served in the Canadian military for 20 years, and now is President of the SFNVA Prince Albert division (Photo by Ted Whitecalf)



Arthur Anderson, from Gordon First Nation, who served from 1955 to 1983 (Photo by Ted Whitecalf)

"After a while, the answer came to me, that reason why I was there. Initially it was for the adventure and to prove to my dad that I was a man. But it was more than that for us Aboriginal soldiers. I came to realize that I was there not because of broken treaties and broken promises made by governments, that I was there for the love of the land. For that reason, and that reason alone. The land of my ancestors," Highway said.

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World War I (1914-1918)

Arcand, John B. ~ Arcand, John Malasyppe ~ Arcand, Louis
Arcand, Louis O.S. ~ Flamend, John ~ Greyeyes, Louis ~ Ledoux, Isadore
Sanderson, William B. ~ Tawpisim, Alexander

Canadian Forces:

MWO Greyeyes, Grant - PPCLI
(Afghanistan and currently serving)
Cpl Wolfe, Kelly, PPCLI
(Afghanistan)
Capt. Pryor, Walker, 1 Royal
Canadian Horse Artillery
(Afghanistan and currently serving)

Cayen, Pat
Greyeyes, David W.
Greyeyes, George
Greyeyes, Marcel
Greyeyes, Richard
Greyeyes, Robert
Lafond, Roderick
Lafond, Frederick "Sonny"
Longneck, Darian
Shaw, Donna
Wolfe, James

W W I VETERANS

1914 - 1918

Arcand, John B.
Arcand, Louis
Arcand, Louis O.
Arcand, Milesippe
Flamend, John
Greyeyes, Louis
Ledoux, Isadore
Sanderson, William B.
Tawpisim, Alexander

W W II VETERANS

1939 - 1945

Arcand, Albert
Arcand, Clement
Arcand, Collin
Arcand, Francis X.
Arcand, George
Arcand, Joseph
Arcand, Joseph T.
Arcand, Louis O.
Arcand, Maurice
Greyeyes, David
Greyeyes, Esther (Mowat)
Greyeyes, Flora
Greyeyes, Gertrude (Lloyd)
Greyeyes, Joseph
Greyeyes, Josephine
Greyeyes, Mary (Reid)
Greyeyes, Stanley
Greyeyes, Thomas
Greyeyes, William C.
Greyeyes, William R.
Lafond, Albert
Ledoux, Beatrice
Ledoux, Vincent
Longneck, Felix
Okemasis, Joseph
Sanderson, Francis X.
Sanderson, William
Tawpisim, Alexander
Venne, Beatrice (Lucier)
Venne, Emily
Venne, Harry

KOREAN CONFLICT

1950 - 1953

Arcand, Arthur
Arcand, Clement
Arcand, Maurice
Lafond, Albert

VIETNAM CONFLICT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ARMY

1964 - 1975

Lafond, Stanley

CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES

Greyeyes, David W.
Greyeyes, George J.
Greyeyes, Marcel
Greyeyes, Richard
Greyeyes, Robert
Lafond, Frederick
Lafond, Roderick
Lafond, Stanley B.
Shaw, Donna Lee
Wolfe, James

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Greyeyes, Grant
Pryor, Walker
Wolfe, Kelly

UNITED STATES ARMY

CAYEN, PAT

U.S. AFGHANISTAN WAR & IRAQ WAR

LEDoux, AARON

World War II: (1939 - 1945)

Arcand, Albert
Arcand, Clement
Arcand, Collin
Arcand, Francis X.
Arcand, George
Arcand, Joseph
Arcand, Joseph Thomas (J.T.)
Arcand, Louis O.S.
Arcand, Patrick Maurice
Greyeyes (Steele), David Georges
Greyeyes, Esther (Mowat)

Greyeyes (Steele), Flora J.
Greyeyes, Gertrude (Lloyd)
Greyeyes, Joseph
Greyeyes, Josephine
Greyeyes, Mary (Reid)
Greyeyes, Stanley
Greyeyes, Thomas
Greyeyes, William C.
Greyeyes, William R.
Lafond, Albert
Lafond, Beatrice
Ledoux, Vincent

**Longneck, Felix
Sanderson, Francis X.
Sanderson, William
Tawpisim, Alexander
Venne, Beatrice (Lucier)
Venne, Emily
Venne, Harry**

Pte. Okemasis, Joseph: 1 Canadian Infantry
Division. (MG) Bn (KIA) - Italy died
December 07, 1943 Buried at Moro River
Canadian War Cemetery - Italy

Korean Conflict: (1950 - 1953)

Arcand, Arthur "Gabby"
Arcand, Clement
Arcand, Patrick Maurice
Lafond, Albert

Vietnam Conflict (1959 - 1975)

Lafond, Stanley

U.S. - Afghanistan & Iraq Wars

Sgt. Ledoux, Aaron - 173rd Airborne,
US Army, Vincenza, Italy. OIF I-OEF V

Modern day soldier inspired by ancestors

By Rose Mansbridge-Goldie
of Eagle Feather News

Trent Gervais has been living his childhood dream of being a soldier for more than a decade. The Cree and Dene infantry officer has been with the Canadian Armed Forces since 2011.

“Part of learning my culture has been finding and embracing my warrior spirit and so, in my mind, the military was the obvious route for me to go about that,” Gervais said.

Gervais said he learned about his culture from his parents and Elders at Flying Dust First Nation but felt the “warrior culture” of his people was missing.



Trent Gervais (right) receiving his commission script from Col. Tony Engleberts (left) in 2013, signifying he had completed training as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Armed Forces. (Photo submitted by Trent Gervais)

While there were a few veterans in his community, Gervais did not hear their stories.

He wanted to experience the military himself. He was 18 when he joined the primary reserves of the Northern Saskatchewan regiment.

Gervais is inspired by his uncle, Will Quinney, who served in Afghanistan twice, and by his great-grandfather, Alphonse Merasty, a Second World War veteran.

“(My uncle) was always supporting me through my journey to become an infantry officer and he still is to this day,” he said.

For Gervais, Remembrance Day is about honouring all of the fallen soldiers, including his great-grandfather and other Indigenous veterans who did not get the same recognition when they came home from combat.

“Everything I do in uniform is because of my great-grandfather,” Gervais said. “So

when November 11th comes, his legacy and the sacrifices he made are always in my memory and in my thoughts.”

In 2016 he trained to be an officer in New Brunswick for 12 months. Gervais said he was the only Indigenous person that he knew of, but it wasn’t a negative thing and he didn’t feel left out. The training involved three months of intensive, outdoor experience.

“You’re living outside and it doesn’t matter if it’s rainy, snowing, plus 40 or minus 40. As an infantry officer, you’ve got to be able to lead even though you’re feeling all of these negative effects, whether it be weather, whether it be hunger, you know, that you’re tired.

“There were lots of times I wondered, ‘what am I doing right now?’ A lot of my friends and family were enjoying their summers and here I was in the middle of a forest, freezing.”

Despite his doubts, he pushed through.

“Accomplishing that was one of the proudest things I’ve done in the military so far,” he said.

He was promoted to captain as of March 2018.

Gervais doesn’t consider himself a veteran because he hasn’t served overseas yet, but he is “actively looking to deploy.”

He is hoping to deploy to Eastern Europe or the Middle East in the near future.

“It’s one of the biggest goals I’m looking toward achieving right now,” he said.

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Last Post Fund provides grave markers for veterans

By NC Raine
for Eagle Feather News

Some families at Kawacatoose First Nation have spent years, even decades, waiting for a proper military gravestone for Veterans in their families who have passed. next spring, when the ground thaws, the Last Post Fund will ensure those families will wait no longer.

“The families are so happy. This is long awaited,” said Gloria LaPlante.

“One family was told many years ago a grave marker was coming, but it never came. They had to put up their own temporary grave marker. Now they are so happy that it is finally coming.”

LaPlante, a teacher’s assistant at Kawacatoose First Nation, has been working for the last year with the Last Post Fund – a Canadian non-profit started in 1909 to ensure no Veteran is denied a dignified funeral or a military gravestone – to place markers at the First Nation.

LaPlante and the Last Post Fund have identified nine Veterans’ grave sites at Kawacatoose where proper military markers will be placed, and one at the nearby Day Star First Nation. All of the gravestones are for Veterans from the First and Second World Wars or the Korean War.

When all the grave markers are ready, Chief and council at Kawacatoose have decided they will be installed during a special ceremony next May at the First Nation, LaPlante said.

“The community has been waiting. We have families here, their Veterans have passed on, and they have grandchildren who would like to see their grandpa with a grave marker or headstone,” she said.

In 2019, the Last Post Fund launched the Indigenous Veterans Initiative,

which offers the placement of a military marker and inscription of Indigenous Veterans’ traditional names on existing tombstones previously placed by the Last Post Fund.

Since 2019, 130 grave markers across Canada have been ordered or already placed by the Fund. In Saskatchewan, more than 20 grave markers have been ordered or already placed. About 60 more unmarked graves of Indigenous Veterans have also been found.

Other First Nations working with the Last Post Fund include Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Cumberland House Cree Nation and Mistawasis Nêhiyawak.

“We are extremely pleased to be involved with Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada in order to provide grave markers for Veterans lying in unmarked graves. We thank the communities that we have worked with so far and the researchers for their engagement and their invaluable work. We look forward to honouring more Veterans missing a grave marker,” said Edouard Pahud, executive director of the Last Post Fund.

After receiving the military records from the Last Post Fund, LaPlante took them to each family to ensure accuracy and for families to choose what they want depicted on the marker. Most chose an eagle, she said.

The task has been personal and rewarding for LaPlante, who has many Veterans in her family, all of whom she considers her heroes, she said.

“My heart was always to the Veterans,” she said.

“They fought for our country, they should be recognized. They didn’t get anything when the war was over. I think we have to have a proper marking for them, it’s something they worked for, something they earned.”



Gloria LaPlante of Kawacatoose First Nation has been working with the Last Post Fund to place grave markers for deceased Veterans at her First Nation. (Photo submitted by Gloria LaPlante)



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FSIN executive identify issues as new term begins

By Betty Ann Adam
of Eagle Feather News

Saskatchewan chiefs decided to stay the course, re-electing four incumbents to lead the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and bringing in one newcomer, lawyer Alyson Bear, to fill the vacated position of Third Vice-Chief.



The executive of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations were sworn in November 1st. From left are 1st Vice Chief David Pratt, 2nd Vice Chief Dutch Lerat, 3rd Vice Chief Alyson Bear, Fourth Vice Chief Heather Bear and Chief Bobby Cameron. (Photo by Shelley Mike)

Chief Bobby Cameron, who returns for his third term, is pleased with the Federation's accomplishment of signing an Internet Online Gaming Agreement with the province, which he says will generate millions and eventually billions of dollars for the 74 member First Nations.

"We have full exclusive rights for five years... This agreement (will put us in) a good solid position in five years. We would pretty much run the online Internet gaming and we want to take this to an international level," he said.

In 10 to 30 years, "if it's done rightly... it'll generate billions of dollars," Cameron said.

First Nations and the province will split the profits 50-50. The six existing on-reserve casinos pay 25 per cent of profits to the province, something Cameron has long wanted to change.

"We figure in five years we would have a good position to eventually get rid of the 25 per cent or at least bring it down to maybe even five per cent. These are all initial ideas," he said.

In education, Cameron would like to see Indigenous language immersion programs in schools being funded as well as French immersion, which receives about \$22,000 per student per year.

"It should be a no-brainer," he said. "First Nations face so much inequalities, discrimination and racism in many sectors. Once in a while there's a shining moment, but those are few and far between right now."

First Vice Chief David Pratt says now that the Child Welfare Reform Bill C-92 has been passed, many First Nations are working individually and in groups to take control from the Ministry of Social Services. The FSIN will be working to ensure they are adequately funded, he said.

First Nations will generally begin taking jurisdiction of certain aspects of child welfare and ramp up over the years until they have complete control, Pratt said.

"I think they'll do a better job because they'll stop traumatizing our kids and moving them all over like cattle, which (the government is) doing right now."

"We're trying to keep them connected to their communities and rooting

them in their culture and identity and support families with their trauma," he said, noting that Indian Residential Schools led to generations of children and parents traumatized by physical and sexual abuse.

"We're trying to break that cycle, to build healthy happy homes... Everything that family requires is encompassed within that Child Welfare Reform bill, including supports for the families."

"(It) is broad and all encompassing," covering everything needed to protect children, including justice, policing, enforcement, health and education, Pratt said.

The chiefs have been working toward this since the 1980s, he said.

"Everything was based on inherent and Treaty rights. We never gave up jurisdiction over our children. Never. Our children were never on the negotiating table."

Pratt's second priority is creation of a health ombudsman to end discriminatory practices in the health care system. Third, is mental health and addictions services.

"We're in a mental health and crystal meth crisis," Pratt said.

The federation is working to obtain "significant investments" to create capacity at the community level, and pushing for more crystal meth treatment beds - too many people are only added to wait lists when they ask for help.

"A lot of our member nations are getting ready to declare states of emergency around crystal meth. We're losing more people to crystal meth and opioids than

we are to COVID," Pratt said.

Third Vice Chief Alyson Bear is eager to get to work.

"We should be focusing on establishing our own Indigenous policing or peace keepers. We need (more) jurisdiction over our nations," she said. That could include a legal team of Gladue report writers to ensure courts understand the histories of people they're sentencing and consider the intergenerational effects of residential schools, she said.

She wants to support Witcheakan Lake First Nation, which is taking the Government of Saskatchewan to Federal Court for breaching the Treaty Land Entitlement agreement by auctioning crown lands without giving first right of refusal to First Nations.

Bear also says resource companies should be required to employ more Indigenous people.

Fourth Vice Chief Heather Bear says government needs to stop selling Crown lands for an irrigation project at Lake Diefenbaker without first consulting First Nations about water diversion and sacred sites.

The damage to waters, including the Saskatchewan River delta, should be a concern to settlers too, she said.

She is angered by the trespassing law that she said infringes Treaty and inherent rights.

"To assume we know nothing is insulting and trespassing legislation - total disrespect without consultation and we'll go to war on that," she said.

"The day before Treaty this was our land, we lived off the land, our food sovereignty, our culture, everything is rooted in the land. Our Treaties were supposed to be on top of these benefits we already had."

Provincial employees have taken First Nations hunters' guns and charged them under provincial laws. They also too often ignore commercial fishers while repeatedly checking Indigenous fishers, she said.

"This is disgusting. It has to stop... At the end of the day, we need to get rid of (the Natural Resources Transfer Act.) That's the biggest hinderance we have in our region."

Second Vice Chief Dutch Lerat did not respond to a request for comment.



Community Health Nurse / RN

Employer: Yellow Quill Health Administration **# Of Position:** One (1)
Employment Terms: Full-Time **Length of Employment:** Permanent
Location of Employment: Yellow Quill First Nation (2hrs.50mins, 250kms from Saskatoon, 3hrs.269kms from Regina)
Salary: To be determined with qualifications, INCENTIVE OPTIONS: signing bonus, company vehicle provided and/or relocation assistance \$1500.00.

Summary
The Community Health Nurse (CHN) will provide general community health nursing services to residents of Yellow Quill First Nation. The CHN is required to be professionally trained, a registered member of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association and, as such, to be knowledgeable and skillful in the nursing process as it relates to health education, health promotion, minor treatment and preventive services.

As a member of the Yellow Quill Clinic, the RN will provide nursing services and health programming to community members who require care. The CHN will report directly to the Health Manager and will receive clinical support from the Saskatoon Tribal Council. All services provided are to be carried in a fashion that meets Yellow Quill Health Services, Saskatoon Tribal Council, First Nation Indian Health Benefits (FNIH)/Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Provincial reporting requirements.

Position Responsibilities

Mandatory Programs

- Plan design and Implement Community Health programs such as immunizations, communicable disease, maternal child health and related client records and forms that are applicable to each program.
- Reviewing the documentation of all client files including important meetings with client, family members and health care providers.
- Delivery of educational opportunities as directed by community needs

Administration

- Maintaining all statistical reports on file and sending in to STC, ISC/FNIHB each \$ month as per accreditation standards
- Maintaining direct contact with the Health Manager in matters concerning workers and program delivery.
- Submitting monthly reports to Health Manager and prepare an annual report for presentation to the Health Committee.

Supervision/Consultations

- Provide training and supervision to auxiliary health staff (i.e. CHR, MCCH).
- Communicating with other health care providers i.e., Hospital(s), Medical Services, Tribal Council.
- Participating in Assessment Team and Case Management.
- Provide relevant professional advice to all health staff employed by Yellow Quill Health Services, and will consult and share information and advice with the Community Home Care Nurse and Nutritionist (or ADI nurse)
- The CHN will work as part of the Yellow Quill First Nation Health team to provide and develop the Health Policy; Works closely with Health Committee, Health Manager, First Nation Indian Health Benefits (FNIHB)/Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Other Responsibilities

- Monitoring medication for clients when necessary.
- Being available for family meetings regarding clients.
- Complying with provisions of the Yellow Quill Personnel Policy and other such policies that may be implemented as directed.
- Maintaining a good working relationship with workers and clients.
- Travel expenses or work vehicle will be provided

Education and Experience

- Bachelor's degree in nursing from a recognized university OR Diploma in nursing from a recognized post-secondary institution and a ISC/FNIHB recognized certificate, or diploma or courses in Community Health Nursing from a recognized university OR Diploma in nursing from a recognized post-secondary institution and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch approved training in community health (includes In-Service Training Program for NU-CHN-03 levels)
- 2 Years Experience as an RN is preferred

Knowledge, Skills/Abilities and Personal Suitability

- Case Management and client assessment skills
- Knowledge of nursing scope of practice issues, home and community care-based programs, adult wellness
- Strong commitment to health prevention, promotion and community development
- Ability to work with limited supervision
- Excellent communication skills both orally and written
- Establishes and maintains effective interpersonal relationships
- Initiative, judgement, tact and respect for diversity

Other

Official Language Requirement - English Essential, Saulteaux language an asset. Eligibility for registration as a registered nurse in a Saskatchewan and territory of Canada; Possession of a valid driver's license

If interested, submit resume; cover letter; copies of certification; recent Criminal Record Check with vulnerable sector check; reference letters; copy of valid Driver's abstract, along with confirmation of good standing with Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association in confidence to:

Tania Prettyshield, Health Manager
tprettyshield@gmail.com

This position will remain open until filled. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview.

Yellow Quill Health Centre. Box 10 Yellow Quill, SK S0A 3A0
Phone: (306)322-2041 Fax: (306)322-5970



The Yellow Quill First Nation Health Department is seeking a **Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)** on a Contract basis
(length of term is negotiable)

THE POSITION

As a member of the Health Team, the successful candidate will be utilized as a floater in various program areas including Covid related duties. The RN/LPN will provide comprehensive holistic RN/LPN nursing and programming as deemed necessary.

The RN/LPN will report directly to the Director of Health and will receive supervisory/support from the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

DUTIES

- Provide safe competent nursing care, which meets existing standards;
- Develop and maintain a close working relationship with staff, and community members;
- Input, design and implement nursing programs as directed by community needs;
- Provide program statistical reports as required;
- Provide support to auxiliary health staff; and
- Provide support and assistance with the Covid community response as necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Baccalaureate in Nursing, or Diploma in Practical Nursing; eligible for registration in Saskatchewan (SRNA or SALPN)
- Community nursing experience (preferable);
- A valid Saskatchewan driver's license and a dependable vehicle are required;
- CPR, AED & First Aid certification required;
- Case management and client assessment skills;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills (both oral and written);
- Ability to work effectively within a holistic team approach; and
- Strong commitment to health prevention, health promotion and community development;
- Previous experience working in a First Nation community preferable

*Salary commensurate with qualifications.
Qualified applicants should forward a cover letter,
resume and names of three references to:*

Tania Prettyshield, Health Manager
Email: tprettyshield@gmail.com
Cell: 639-945-7185

Yellow Quill Health Centre. Box 10 Yellow Quill, SK S0A 3A0
Phone: (306)322-2041 Fax: (306)322-5970

~The position will remain open until filled~

President Ottmann feted at FNUniv installation

By Rose Mansbridge-Goldie
of Eagle Feather News

Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann was formally installed as president of First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) on October 15, amid drumming and the smell of burning sage and sweetgrass.

Ottman, whose Anishnaabe name is Misiaykimigookpaypomoytung, was celebrated by Métis Elder Maria Campbell, who talked about how fitting it is to have a female education leader.

"It is our women who are the first educators of our people," Campbell said to a small gathering in the university's rotunda.

Campbell recalled the cultural songs women sang at home when she was growing up.

"When we were children there was always a swing in our houses where a baby would sleep."

Campbell remembers children often sharing a room with an aunt or grandmother who would sing songs to them—their first education in their culture.

"We are acknowledging those women today by recognizing a woman as president of the First Nations University of Canada," Campbell said.

It is a step toward, "putting things to right among us that were torn apart by colonialism," she said.

"Having a woman in this role will change everything for us and our future generations.

"This appointment means change and that means we have to chase out the colonizer in us," Campbell said.

"Dr. Ottmann is strong, courageous, gentle, kind, smart and she's not in a rush, she will take her time."

Cadmus Delorme, Chief of Cowessess First Nation, which is Saulteaux like Ottman's home reserve of Fishing Lake First Nation northeast of Yorkton, also gave Ottman a vote of confidence.

"This is the perfect time for you to be our president," he said.

"I came to this university in 2008, excited, a rez kid—I didn't really know where I was going but I knew I was destined for this place. This tipi behind me was my main classroom. The Elders I got to sit with and learn from are what

guided me to be the leader of my community today," he said.

Delorme said he followed his mother's footsteps by attending the university and he hopes his daughter will be the third generation of his family to graduate from FNUniv.

Ottman replaces interim president Bob Kayeas. She left the position she held since 2017 as Vice Provost Indigenous Engagement at the University of Saskatchewan for the new job.

Ottman said her top priorities will be evolving Indigenous science practices, philosophies and perspectives but she also wants to raise the profile of FNUniv nationally and internationally.

"There aren't too many universities that have Indigenous knowledge as a foundation to the essence of the institution," she said.

The happy day included performances from the Red Dog Dancers, the drumming group Red Dog and nehiyaw and Dene hip-hop artists Eekwol and T-Rhyme.

FNUniv students wrapped Dr. Ottmann in a starblanket, which the audience was told, acknowledged the ancestors that live in the stars and the buffalo that had a home on Treaty 4 Territory.



"There aren't too many universities that have Indigenous knowledge as a foundation to the essence of the institution," Ottmann says. Although her term started September 7, she was officially recognized as president October 15. (Photo by Rose Mansbridge-Goldie)



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Image: Norval Morrisseau, *Androgyny*, acrylic on canvas, 1983. Courtesy of the Indigenous Art Collection, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Land based project at Wanuskewin inspires artistic expression

By NC Raine
for Eagle Feather News

In front of a group of students from Saskatoon’s Chief Whitecap and Wâhkôtowin schools, dancer and musician T.J. Warren shared a story at Wanuskewin Heritage Park of how culture and ceremonies shaped him as an artist, a performer and person.

These teachings and traditions are based directly on the knowledge, language, and practices of his ancestors, he said.

The students are part of a program designed to do what Warren described.

“(We are) educating the students on the history and the land, and dispelling myths in their own heads and breaking down stereotypes. Then, they get to create reflective work from it and share the own perspective on what they’ve learned,” said Wanuskewin community coordinator Honey Constant,

The new student-directed exploration of the history and culture of the Great Plains is a project between Wanuskewin and Saskatoon Public Schools for Grade 7 and 8 classes at Chief Whitecap and Wâhkôtowin schools. The project was conceived and funded by Wayne Brownlee of the The Brownlee Family Foundation.

“Living more than 6,000 years in this area, it’s a pretty amazing story. I think the more appreciated that story is, the greater pride there is. And, for non-Indigenous people, for us to understand and appreciate that story, the story of the land, the people, we need to know and share that,” said Brownlee.

The students are learning Indigenous knowledge and science as it relates to First Nation pre-contact history by using the facilities and natural environment at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. The students will then be given free reign, said Constant, to exercise their knowledge-infused creativity.

“If you want to write a short story, a poem, if you want to write a rap, do a painting, or just draw a sketch. It’s whatever you want it to be. Instead of doing a test, based on standardized testing, you assess (the students) based on what they have learned and how they share what they’ve learned in their own way,” she said.

With the lessons connected to the seasons, autumn is focused on bison and the bison-hunting season. The winter sessions will centre on storytelling, gathering and community. Spring will focus on regrowth.

Brownlee said he hopes more schools will get involved and showcase students’ art inspired by their connection to the land and history.

Trevor Iron, a teacher at Wâhkôtowin School, said the program is already making an impact on his students.

“I can see the pride in them learning about their own history. Many students are born and raised in Saskatoon, so don’t have that connection with the land or their communities,” Iron said.

“It gets them focused and learning the true history of Saskatchewan. Lots of times you don’t see it in the books, but I know coming out here, experiencing the land, hearing the stories from the presenters, it’s adding more value to them. They actually see, hear, feel, smell, taste all the different things that make the land significant.”



Champion chicken dancer and singer T.J. Warren speaks to a group of students about how he developed his craft. (Photo by NC Raine)

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Drew Hayden Taylor play opens Persephone season

By Julia Peterson
for Eagle Feather News

Saskatoon’s Persephone Theatre is opening its 2021/22 season with a performance of *Cottagers and Indians*, a play about environmentalism, consumerism and Indigenous land rights.

The story’s themes may be wide-ranging, but it features only two characters - Arthur Copper, an Indigenous man working to repopulate lakes in southern Ontario with wild rice, and Maureen Poole, a white cottager who is upset that the rice is interfering with her lake activities and bringing down her property values.

The play was inspired by the documentary of the same name. Both are by Drew Hayden Taylor, a playwright, author, filmmaker and columnist from the Curve Lake First Nation.

Jeremy Proulx, who plays Arthur, said he was particularly excited to be bringing this play to the stage after a long COVID-imposed hiatus.

“Theatre has been on this great pause for the past year and a half, two years,” he said. “So I know this was quite special for Persephone because they hadn’t done anything in almost two years.

“So the fact that they opened their season, coming back after two years, with an Indigenous play by an Indigenous playwright, I thought it was really wonderful for them to do.”

Lisa Bayliss, who plays Maureen, described the play as “a meeting of two people who come from vastly different backgrounds and cultures.”

“Both characters start off in quite an extreme place in terms of how they’re presented in the play - almost to the point of caricature,” she said. “And then

as the play progresses and they continue to debate and argue and try to explain their individual positions, they start to become more human. ...

“And it’s wonderful because by the end, although they’ve seen each other as human beings, the debate continues - so there’s no fairy tale ending here.”

For his part, Proulx is excited to be working on a play that addresses issues of reconciliation, colonization and Indigenous land rights head-on.

“It’s this whole discussion between settler and Indigenous communities in terms of how do we get around this issue, move forward and coexist on this land we call Canada?” he said.

But he says the play - while fundamentally issue-driven - is not didactic.

“So the fact that they opened their season, coming back after two years, with an Indigenous play by an Indigenous playwright, I thought it was really wonderful for them to do.”

“The play is told lightly, through comedy, which I find really disarms a lot of people,” he said. “So you can think through a lot of really difficult issues with humour.”

And Bayliss says early audiences have been enjoying the show, which runs until November 13th.

“The Persephone audiences have been extremely receptive,” she said. “They’re laughing and they’re crying and they’re right there with us all the way.”



Lisa Bayliss and Jeremy Proulx star in *Cottagers and Indians*, which runs on the Persephone Theatre Main Stage until November 13th. (Photo submitted)



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Treaty 4 and 6 boundary signs coming to Saskatchewan highways

By EFN Staff
for Eagle Feather News

Saskatchewan highways will soon be the first in Canada to have signs indicating treaty territory boundaries.



Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson. (Photo EFN archives)

“Acknowledging the territories that we are on and accepting they are the foundation of Saskatchewan and Canada is so important to the Treaty relationship and reconciliation,” Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson said in a news release.

“It may be a small step, but the signs will be here for a long time. The people who worked on this are looking forward to the Government of Saskatchewan support. This action will start conversations and these discussions lead to education, knowledge and change,” Culbertson said.

The Ministries of Government Relations and of Highways are coordinating the work, in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC). The signage will follow provincial highway standards, with the final design being overseen by the Treaty Commissioner. Highways will then co-ordinate the manufacturing and installation of the first sign, planned for winter-spring 2022.

“The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to work in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to support and invest in this first-in-Canada initiative,” said Don McMorris, Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs.

“The treaty boundary signage will help further treaty awareness and education in our province and support our work toward reconciliation,” he said.

Culbertson called the project, “the start of a much-needed public recognition of the Treaty Territories in Saskatchewan.

“The path to reach this point was long and involved conversations about our history and the desire of our Knowledge Keepers, who wanted to see these signs. It marks the beginning of a process being undertaken to one day ensure every border driven past in these territories will have a demarcation. We want everyone to know they are here because of Treaty.

The signs on major highways will delineate the two largest Treaty territories in Saskatchewan, Treaty 4 and Treaty 6.

Culbertson said the goal is to mark all the boundaries of all the treaty territories but there is no time frame for the others yet.

The Government of Saskatchewan and the OTC will work together to determine the exact location and composition of signs, and to ensure that the proper protocols and ceremony are observed prior to any installation.

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Walk your children through your household expenses.

Start spend/ save/give jars and use them for 2 weeks straight.

Look around your house and garage. Are there items to sell, donate, or trade?

Make homemade gifts for two upcoming birthdays or special events.

Plan and prepare meals with leftovers to save.

Pack and take your lunch for one week.

Play money themed board games as a family.

Set a family financial goal (eg: a trip, a pet, donate to charity, etc.).

Learn the difference between good and bad credit.

Start an RESP for your child, or make an extra contribution.

Open a bank account for your child, or make an extra deposit.



Walk, bike, or transit to work and school for a week.

Start a 52 week challenge: put 25¢ each week into savings, and raise that amount by 25¢ per week.

Start a family budget or revisit your current one.

Talk to your kids about what they want to be when they grow up.

Read some stories together about money.

Create a family savings mantra: "is that treat better than our family trip goal next year?"

Start a rainy-day fund.

Visit a library.

Discuss the difference between needs and wants.

Shop with cash or debit for a week, no credit.

No online shopping or ordering for a week.

Before purchasing a new item, ask yourself if it could be purchased second hand or borrowed.

Name: *Adult:

Child:

*Address:

*Phone:

*Parent/Guardian Signature of Consent:

Age:

*Postal Code:

*Mandatory fields must be completed

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