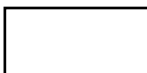


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AUDIO  
VERSION

By **NC Raine**  
for **Eagle Feather News**

Seven baby bison were recently born at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park and they represent something very significant.

"It's not just an ordinary herd. As usual with things at Wanuskewin, there's always these little miracles," said Wanuskewin co-founder and archaeologist Dr. Ernie Walker.

"You go out and decided to get bison and they end up being very historically important," he said. "Who knew?"

Walker explained the baby bison are the offspring of two progenitor (the founder of a family line) herds, the Yellowstone buffalo from Wyoming, and the Pablo Allard herd from Grasslands, Saskatchewan.

By the year 1870, bison numbers had declined from around 30 million to just over 1,000 animals. Those 1,000 animals were split by the US and Canadian government. So, these new animals haven't been seen here on the Northern Plains in the last 150 years, said Walker.

"In some ways it's like turning the hands of the clock back a bit. The fact that we were so lucky to get these animals, it's now in our court to make sure they are cared for and served as a base going forward," said Walker.

So Wanuskewin is developing a strategic bison management plan to keep bison thriving in the Plains. With the new births, the herd is now at 26 animals, with the intention of growing the herd to 50 animals over the next few years.

*continued page 2 ...*

AUGUST 2022

## NEW THIS ISSUE

All digital format. We decided, in this issue, to not go to print. Instead, we are giving the paper to everyone, so please share this document with your networks. Thank you, for your continued support in EFNews.

*read on ...*

August 2022 is our

## Digital Paper Theme

Sept 2022 Issue:  
Back to School Issue



BACK TO BATOCHÉ

### Celebrates 50 years

"The connection to ancestral territories and homelands is essential to Indigenous cultures and one's own identity,"

- page 13



### MUSCOWPETUNG SAULTEAUX NATION Grandmothers' Gathering

"It gives you such a lift to hear the stories about the people we used to know and the things that we remember of the past. It's a good feeling."

- page 11

# Something special at Wanuskewin Heritage Park

... continued from page 1

“We could handle more. We could handle 100, but realizing that Saskatoon is a growing city, and Wanuskewin is right on the north end of the city, at some point the city will probably surround it and we’ll have transition from a rural facility to an urban park,” said Walker.



Wanuskewin co-founder and archaeologist Dr. Ernie Walker speaks during a recent announcement. (Photo supplied)

Maintaining a high level of health and pedigree is paramount for the herd, so natural grass has been planted to keep the pastures as ecologically friendly as possible, said Walker. Each bison has also been vaccinated and ear tagged.

There is no definite plan yet as to what Wanuskewin will do once the herd exceeds 50 bison. The priority right now is to maintain the herd at a high level.

“They’re not like cattle,” said Walker. “They’ve been on the Great Plains for millenia. They are superbly adapted to the Plains environment; they don’t need to be tended. If they have feed and water, they’re happy campers.”

In addition to their historic return to the land, the bison could play another important role for the park.

Wanuskewin is in the multi-year process of applying for UNESCO World Heritage Site

designation.

Walker said they need to have their paperwork filed in 2023, with a decision expected to come in June 2025.

“The bison will play a role in all of that,” he said. “Not only the modern herd that we have now, but certainly all the archaeology and everything related to the petroglyphs that were found. The bison are a recent addition but it’s



A buffalo herd grazing on the Cote First Nation. (Photo by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)

the whole entire story of bison at Wanuskewin Heritage Park,” he said.

Since the park was created in 1992, the Elders have wanted bison at Wanuskewin, said Walker. And their significance will continue to run deep with Indigenous people.

“Indigenous people of the entire Great Plains have this special relationship with bison,” he said. “There is this engrained relationship with them. It’s not just an economic one or a social one, but a spiritual one.”



The new buffalo calves at Wanuskewin. (Photo by N.C Raine for Eagle Feather News)

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# Investing in the future of a child at home



By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

A new program aims to help propel young Métis children down the best possible path in life by investing in them at an early age.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) has made a \$3.5 million investment in the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Community Enhancement Program. The grant will provide up to \$50,000 to Métis Locals to enhance or develop early learning programs and services.

“Our Métis families and communities, they know what’s best for their children,” said Tim Roussin, MN-S Minister of Early Learning and Child Care.

“It creates a strong beginning for our Métis children. Research has indicated that children who experience this high-quality cultural learning have greater vocabularies, enjoy reading, and have enhanced socialization skills. So, it’s important to get them engaged and active at a very young age.”

The grants are available to all 12 Métis Locals across Saskatchewan through an application process.

The programs for children from infants to eight years of age will be eligible. They will focus on Métis language, values, identity, and culture.

Eligible programs could include: jigging classes, making bannock, storytelling events with Elders or Knowledge Keepers, language development (Heritage

Michif, Northern Michif, French Michif, Dene, and Cree) and land-based learning, which could include berry picking, jam making, nature walks, and camp outs.

Roussin said the possibilities are endless.

“It (can have) a positive impact on everyone,” he said. “The whole community seems to benefit from this. It contributes to them having a brighter future and they, in turn, become our Métis leaders of the future.”

The application procedures will be available on the MN-S website.

MN-S President Glen McCallum said its government is committed to building capacity in the Locals that focus on the children and families.

“Métis language programs, learning from our Elders, and land-based learning leads to Métis children being grounded in our Métis culture, values, and language,” he said in prepared statement. “Gifting our children with pride in their Métis identity strengthens our Métis Nation.”

The ultimate goal is to instill an importance in education that leads to increased graduation rates, said Roussin.

According to the Auditor General’s report in 2018, Indigenous graduation rates as a percentage of those who started Grade 12, was only 45 per cent.

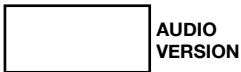
Roussin said rates for Métis students in his area are a bit better at 60-65 per cent, he said.

“We want to instill a sense of value and importance in education, and that starts at a young age. If we can pique their interest in culture and language, we think it gives them a strong foundation to push into those middle years, into post-secondary, and ultimately, into our future leaders,” he said.



**In the back row, l to r: MN-S Vice President Michelle LeClair, MN-S Minister of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Tim Roussin and MN-S citizen and educator Angie Caron. In the front from left to right is Darlene McKay, Local 7 President (wearing white) and Local 7 Elder and Language Keeper Sophie McDougall (in the purple flowers). (Photo supplied by MN-S)**

# Building or Breaking



By Eric Standing  
for Eagle Feather News

I’d like to start by saying that my mother is one of the hardest working, most self-sufficient people I know and I am very proud of what she can accomplish. I also hope I can match her energy levels when I’m her age.

That being said, she is, however, and through no fault of her own, very hard on equipment.

For a small woman, she is seemingly able to break things with the capacity of a young male bodybuilder. Every car door we have ever had since childhood has been slightly off-kilter and hard to close, for my mom slams them with the gusto of a drunken lumberjack.

She claims this is a practice she had to learn, for as a child, the doors of their gigantic cars were often broken and had to be slammed in order to close properly.

I protest that they were broken and didn’t close properly because they were constantly being slammed shut with all the horsepower of a farm family, large in both stature and numbers, that liked to slam doors.

It’s a chicken or the egg thing.

I can use a piece of equipment for five years, then lend it to her for an hour and come back to a tattered thing that looks like it went through the trenches of WWII. My highly valued spool of twist ties with a built-in, snipper-offer came back to me looking like someone had sat down and intentionally put as many knots in it as possible.

“How could you possibly?” I ask. With a guilty look she replies, “I don’t know...”

It’s okay Ma, I say, and off to the hardware store I go.

A lawnmower that’s served me faithfully for years is returned with dull, bent blades as though she had hand-mowed a rocky half section for haying.

Maybe she has — I wouldn’t put it past her.

My most recent possession to fall victim to her unintentional destructivity was my antique grinding wheel, of which, I was quite fond.

I like to imagine it survived being transported on a covered wagon across the prairies, weathered a century outdoors, sharpened generations of knives and sickle blades, only to meet its demise within a week of being around my mom.

Sigh.

Fortunately for me, what my mom lacks in ability to keep things intact, she more than makes up for with her ability to create. From beautiful paintings with frames to complicated construction projects, she has never backed down from making stuff.

I remember fondly how she would add entire rooms to our house when I was young. One such addition involved building a living room around a tree that we had growing through a deck, so we were the only family I know that had a tree growing through our living room.

As proud as I am of the work that she does, and as much as I hope to have her energy levels at that age, I still will not lend her my anvil, lest she somehow manage to return it in five separate pieces.



**Eric Standing, the newest edition to Eagle Feather News. Standing is a student at First Nations University of Canada and will be providing some humour content with his column. (Photo supplied)**

# Comedian aims to expand his audience



AUDIO  
VERSION

By Kaitlynn Nordal  
for Eagle Feather News

After the last two years, everyone needs a good laugh and that’s exactly what Shawn Cuthand of Funny Bone Schmometry Zone plans on doing.

He was one of the performers at this year’s Fringe Festival in Saskatoon.

Cuthand got into comedy four years ago after getting sober. “I was looking for a creative outlet,” said Cuthand. “I discovered the open mic scene in Saskatoon and after the first time I went up I was hooked.”

His friend Danny Knight was also new to the comedy scene, so they decided to work together.

“We would sit on his balcony telling each other jokes deciding what to try on stage,” said Cuthand.

A year later Cuthand and Knight created an open mic called Funny Bone Schmometry Zone with the goal of honing their craft.

“We needed to practise for longer gigs,” said Cuthand.

Last year was the first time Cuthand participated in Saskatoon’s Fringe Festival. Because of the Covid-19 travel restrictions it was only open to local artists.

“I thought my chances would be pretty good,” said Cuthand. So, he filled out an application and was accepted.

This year, Cuthand was able to do his set at The Broadway Theatre, which seats up to 400 people.

“Last year, we were at the refinery, which could only have 30 seats and we sold out six shows,” he said.

To finally be on the stage was a dream come true because the larger venue is a real test of his talents as a performer.

Comedy was impacted by Covid-19, which made this year’s set even more special for Cuthand.

“Last year, it was the highlight of the summer,” said Cuthand. “We used to be able to do open mics three times a week, but now it’s once or twice every two weeks. So now getting to do the fringe we get to do a whole week of comedy. We don’t get to do that often so this is a big



Comedian Shawn Cuthand was at The Broadway Theatre as part of this year’s Saskatoon Fringe Festival. (Photo by Funny Bone Schmometry Zone)

highlight for us.” They called their show Look Ma, We’re On Broadway! and hoped to attract new visitors to the Fringe Festival. He said when most people think about the annual event, they often don’t think comedy shows would be part of it. Cuthand said the shows are typically for mature audiences because of language and sexual content.



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MANAGING PARTNER: Melody Lynch, [melody@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:melody@eaglefeathernews.com)  
MANAGING PARTNER: Ben Borne, [ben@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:ben@eaglefeathernews.com)  
MANAGING EDITOR: Kerry Benjoe, [kerry@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:kerry@eaglefeathernews.com)  
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# More First Nations sign Buffalo Treaty



By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

Seven First Nations from across Canada and the United States gathered to witness the signing of the historic Buffalo Treaty.

The Buffalo Treaty is agreement of cooperation, renewal, and restoration, and aims to preserve the prairie ecosystem and Indigenous culture.

On July 15 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, the First Nations signed with the goal of creating a national agenda to return the bison to the land and allow them to roam freely between the United States and Canada.

“It’s about renewal of our life ways,” said Leroy Little Bear, a member of the International Buffalo Relations Institute.

He says the Buffalo Treaty is about conservation and partnership with the buffalo as a way to preserve culture.

“In 200 years from now, I would like to hear my language, I’d like to hear my songs, I’d like to hear my stories,” said Little Bear. “Otherwise, if we don’t do the renewal, I might be waking up to strangers. That’s the most important aspect of the Buffalo Treaty. And lastly, very importantly, our brothers the buffalo, they bring about ecological balance on the land.”

The first Treaty was signed in 2014 on Blackfeet Territory in Montana, with four additional Alberta First Nations signing in 2015.

This time around representatives of the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs, along with Nekaneet First Nation and the Louis Bull Tribe from Alberta, joined the Buffalo Treaty as new signatories.



Leroy Little Bear speaks at the Buffalo Treaty signing at Wanuskewin Heritage Park on July 15. (Photo supplied)

Members of the public, witnesses, and supporters also signed the Treaty, including previous signees Mistawasis Nêhiyawak Cree Nation, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

“Today is a special day,” said Darlene Brander, Wanuskewin CEO. “You get to witness the honouring, the recognition, the relationship that people have with bison. It’s an important relationship, and one that leads to conservation.”

Wanuskewin re-introduced bison to the region in 2019. The park is now home to 24 bison, including six calves born at the park this year.

Mistawasis Chief Daryl Watson spoke on the importance of bison to Indigenous culture, and how he hopes the recommitment to treaties creates broad cultural growth.

“We are the protectors of Mother Earth, of water, of the air,” said Watson. “With this peace treaty, it reignites and revitalizes the importance of the connection we have through ceremony and songs but, more importantly, the revitalization of our language. We’ve always had that true connection to Mother Earth and to the Creator and spirit world. This is one aspect to how our nation has come together with other nations to revitalize treaties.”

Watson hopes other First Nations reaffirm their commitment to treaties.

Little Bear said the Buffalo Treaty protocols involve taking the Treaty



Darlene Brander, Wanuskewin CEO, spoke about the relationship between Indigenous culture and bison during the Buffalo Treaty signing. (Photo supplied)

home and having a ceremony in the community with your people to let them know they’ve entered into an agreement.

The seven First Nations of the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs will have a signing event in August at Sweetgrass First Nation.

“We need to bring the buffalo back, and well, it’s happening very fast,” said Little Bear. “That was the dream of our Elders when the Buffalo Treaty came into existence.”



# Singing Back the Buffalo a passion project for filmmaker

AUDIO  
VERSION

Tasha Hubbard, renowned Indigenous filmmaker is focusing her lens on one of her lifelong passions in her latest documentary.

“I’ve always wanted to make a film about the buffalo,” she said.

Hubbard spent her career examining some of the most important social, legal, and cultural issues in contemporary Canadian society, but is doing something a little different with her latest project called *Singing Back the Buffalo*.

“During the pandemic, I woke up one morning feeling this sense of urgency – that it was time I needed to start this,” she said about the film.

In her latest documentary, she follows a group of Indigenous visionaries, scientists, and communities who are helping restore, or “rematriate,” the buffalo to the heart of the North American plains they once defined.

The title of the film pulls from the special relationship Indigenous people have with the buffalo, she said.

“Indigenous people are re-affirming the relationships we’ve had with buffalo since time immemorial and that relationship got damaged in more recent times,” said Hubbard. “Now we’re doing that work to reconnect. We’re doing that in our own way, and it comes with dreaming, with singing, with dancing. And that’s what the film is about. It tells that history but also looks to the future.”

As of the end of July, the shooting phase of production is about half complete.

The team has already shot in Banff National Park, and will be doing a trip through Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming for the production.

She said they plan to start editing this fall and hope to be wrapped by fall 2023.

The Banff leg of the trip was shot earlier in June.

By NC Raine  
of Eagle Feather News

Hubbard assembled a film crew of Indigenous women who followed five Indigenous women through the backcountry to find a small buffalo herd that was reintroduced to the area in 2017.

“We realized quickly that this is an Indigenous women’s trip, guided by women, so the crew needed to be Indigenous women,” she said. “They were crew, but they also really quickly became part of the group. You become really connected with each other.”

For her PhD, Hubbard, examined Indigenous peoples’ relationship and stories of relationship with the buffalo, what they teach us, and how their fates are linked.

During her research, she connected the destruction of the buffalo to genocide.

“The destruction of the buffalo was their genocide, and the tactics undertaken to destroy them were similar to the tactics taken to destroy us,” said Hubbard. “I want to tell that story in a film.”

Audiences will have to wait for the final product.

*Singing Back the Buffalo*, produced by CBC in association with APTN, will air first at 2024 film festivals followed by a theatrical run.

After that point, CBC will air a one-hour version on The Nature of Things, and APTN is to air the full feature, likely in 2025.

Hubbard plans to screen the film in First Nations across the country.

With an international audience, Hubbard said she hopes the documentary helps people see the world around them in a different way.

“North American society sees everything as resources, as objects, as commodities,” she said. “But really, what we need is to see the world around us in relation. I hope people see the film and it either affirms where they are going, or gives them something different to think about.”



Documentary filmmaker Tasha Hubbard is currently in production for her upcoming feature, *Singing Back the Buffalo*. (Photo by Dr. Harvey Locke)

## All that’s left of the buffalo

AUDIO  
VERSION

By John Cuthand  
for Eagle Feather News

I suppose I can share this. One time we were traveling in central Montana and I felt drawn to the Judith Basin. It was where the slaughter of the last buffalo herds took place. Then, but for a few, they were gone. I wanted not so much to see but to experience this place. Central Montana is mostly original prairie untouched by the bite of the plow. Fences are few and far between. We left the interstate and traveled over a narrow secondary paved road. It was a beautiful day with blue sky. The road meandered over gently rolling hills until we came into a valley surrounded by high hills. I had become lulled into a calm peaceful state. The radio was silent. Our conversation brief between an extended silence. We came through a deep narrow valley and it was then it happened. We were into a slow turn and a hill came into view but it was not a hill. It appeared as a buffalo. It was not a hill that looked like a buffalo nor was it a trick of shadow and light. I saw it breathe. Then in an instant it was gone. The vision was beyond words but touched my soul. I had reached out and spirit reached back.



ings make no sense in the present day except for the clear image of a buffalo. There is a belief that in the creation time they first emerged from stone and wherever a crocus blooms a buffalo calf was born.

The plains were once black with buffalo as far as the eye could see but by the 1870s in Sas-

katchewan they were hunted to extinction. By 1890 the bones of one million five hundred thousand buffalo passed through the Saskatoon rail yards on their way to distant places. The buffalo age had passed and with it the beautiful way of life the plains Indians once knew. Along with the loss of the buffalo the plains Indians experienced starvation, waves of disease and warfare. Their numbers plummeted and survival became dependent on the control of government. The great freedom they once knew was gone.

My father once said we will be honoured in the next world for having fed others. Feeding people meant giving them life. This is seldom appreciated unless one has experienced hunger. The buffalo were a most generous gift of the Creator. From birth to death, they fed the people and were so honoured. Some believe as I do the Sundance lodge mimics the buffalo pound. It resembles the pound’s enclosure. The pound maker sat on top a pole and through prayer and song the buffalo came to offer themselves to the people. A buffalo skull resides on a hidden altar opposite and further most from the entrance. The buffalo brought bountiful life as does the sun dance.

# Production company aims to bring traditional stories to the small screen

AUDIO  
VERSION

By Eric Standing and Bee Bird  
for Eagle Feather News

Campfire Stories Video Production (CSVP) has teamed up with Indigenous Knowledge Holders, storytellers and filmmakers to create “Stories of the North,” a television series to teach children how to speak Cree.

In the Industrial area of Saskatoon lies an unassuming row of warehouses; hidden among buildings is the office and studios of CSVP, which is just above the studio of renowned cinematographer George Hupka, owner of Downstream Pictures.

Nestled even further within the studio is a trapper’s cabin complete with a fireplace, traps and snowshoes on the wall.

The team is working on “Stories of the North,” which is a 10-episode series consisting of seven-minute long Cree language lessons.

On a small couch a Cree moshom, or grandfather, played by Morris Cook teaches his granddaughters, played by Claire Walker and Mya Hoskins Fidler, how to speak their traditional language the way he was taught – through story.

All the characters are first-time actors and they practice each line until they get it right.

Cook has a doctorate in education and speaks four dialects of Cree fluently. He saw the casting call and applied. So far he has enjoyed the experience.

For Walker, it was her father Jim who approached her about the film project. She was willing to put in the long hours in front of a camera. As a result of long hours on set, her command of the Cree language is evident.

Producer Lee Crowchild hopes the videos will make their way to schools and children might be able to start the first seven minutes of each day learning Cree.

“My grandson’s generation is more removed from the natural world,” he



**Morris Cook on set of a new children’s Cree television show being filmed in Saskatoon. Cook plays the role of the mosom and in the photo he is seated with his co-star Claire Walker who plays his granddaughter. (Photo by Bee Bird for Eagle Feather News)**

Campfire Stories hopes to bring Indigenous language learning to where children spend a lot of their time and that’s to their devices and online.

Janzen, who is BIPOC, says the company’s core belief is that people deserve to have a voice and to have their stories told and the best stories are told around a campfire.

“I want little kids to say, ‘Hey, that guy looks like my Moshom, that girl looks like my sister or my cousin. I’m represented. That is my language and culture and there is a place for it,’” she said. “We all grew up with Mr. Dressup, so why not a Cree Mr. Dressup?”

“Stories of the North” will be released on CityTV Saskatchewan in early 2023.



**Cook and Walker share a laugh during the rehearsals of “Stories of the North.” (Photo by Bee Bird for Eagle Feather News)**

said. “It’s important to maintain a connection. Some people don’t have access to what some of us take for granted in terms of culture like pow wows and ceremony, so language becomes the one that holds everything together. Language is the great connector that qualifies and quantifies our knowledge.”

In addition to being a film producer, Crowchild is also the former Chief of Tsuut’ina Dene Nation.

He believes language gives Indigenous people the power to tell the stories of the land.

Although Allia Janzen and Kyle Burgess of CSVP are non-Indigenous, their focus is on creating capacity in the film industry by mentoring and hiring Indigenous people.

Eighty per cent of the production staff for “Stories of the North” are Indigenous.

Burgess compares the role between the storyteller and video producer to the relationship between soup and a bowl. He says the story is the real substance that people come to the restaurant for — they just provide the bowl to serve it.

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arts

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APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL MUST BE  
SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE.

# MN-S early learning and child care funding

AUDIO  
VERSION

By Kaitlynn Nordal  
for Eagle Feather News

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has announced a \$15-million investment in early learning and childcare programming.

It's investing \$5.4 million into a new childcare subsidy program to help with the rising costs of living.

Qualified Métis citizens can access up to \$300 per child under the age of 12.

MN-S Early Learning and Child Care Minister Tim Roussin said this has been in the works since the end of April after a conference where Elders, educators and childcare providers from across the province and Métis Nation came together to discuss the topic of education and care.

"We took a lot of the information we got at the conference from Elders and participants about what they would like to see," said Roussin. "One of the things we heard for a long time now was money (is needed) to go towards childcare subsidies, so this was born from those ideas that were submitted."

As the MN-S Early Learning and Child Care Minister, he said these programs are about helping people succeed and setting them up for a bright future.

"We have to give families every opportunity to succeed," said Roussin.

"Help foster these young minds from pre-k and help their parents get them through those middle years into high school and postsecondary. That's my ultimate goal," continued Roussin.

He believes this will help make the community stronger.

"There's so much potential in our Métis Nation. Now that we have the money, we can invest into those programs. It's going to benefit our young children, families and create a stronger nation as a whole," said Roussin.

"Studies show children develop stronger cognitive abilities and social skills when there is high quality early learning and childcare," continued Roussin. "I feel all the programs we have complement each other and that these positive impacts will create a strong foundation for lifelong learning,

which is the end goal."

Interested families are to check the MN-S website to fill out their application as each program is posted.

The programs will be broken down in the following ways:

**Early Years Accessibility Grant Program:** For eligible Métis families with children who have unique requirements and needs, MN-S is announcing a new Métis Children Accessibility Grant, with an investment of \$2 million. The grant is an annual income supplement to assist families with medical and support costs such as development support services, medical or nutritional needs, specialized clothing or therapies, or behavioural interventions. Eligible Métis families can receive up to \$5,000 per child, until the age of eight, to cover expenses.

**Lii Bufloo Backpack Program:** The MN-S Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Backpack Program reflects an investment of \$1.5 million. Lii bufloo maachi kashkihtow aen pakay - the Buffalo Learning Program will distribute special backpacks to eligible children 13 and under. Each pack contains culturally appropriate learning resources to encourage the early learning process.

**Early Learning Language Expansion:** In 2020, MN-S introduced language programs in six pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms. Since then, the program has expanded to welcome 300 young learners at participating schools.

With an additional \$2.6 million investment, the Métis Early Learning Language programs will expand to include 17 schools in all 12 MN-S regions. Through the teachings of our Elders, Old Ones and Language Keepers, Dene, Heritage Michif, Northern Michif, French Michif, and Cree will be shared with our Métis children and families.

**Community Enhancement Grant:** Announced earlier this month, the Community Enhancement Grant is an investment of \$3.5 million and offers Métis Locals up to \$50,000 to enhance or develop early learning supports and services. Métis language programs, Elder involvement and land-based learning for children from birth to eight years old are eligible.



**MN-S Early Learning and Child Care Minister Tim Roussin at the podium during the announcement. (Photo supplied by MN-S)**



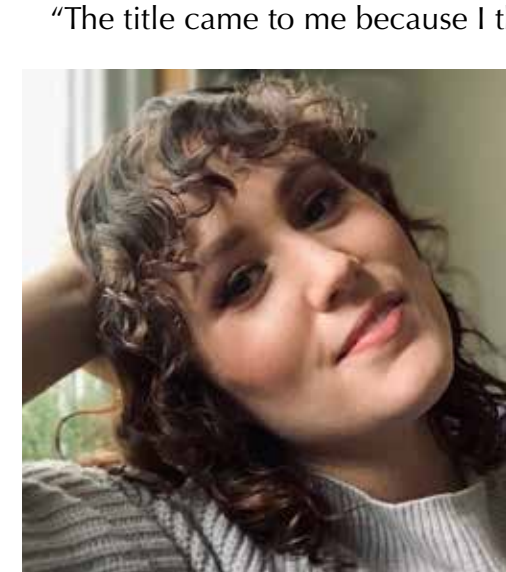
# Artist explores her identity through a unique vaudeville show



By Kaitlynn Nordal  
for Eagle Feather News

Art imitates life and that was Amanda Trapp’s goal with her show Half Breed Vaudeville.

She was one of the Indigenous artists featured at this year’s Fringe Festival in Saskatoon.



Amanda Trapp, an Indigenous artist featured at this year’s Fringe Festival in Saskatoon. (Photo supplied)

am in a way.”

It was the first time Trapp had chance to put on such a performance and was excited about it.

“I haven’t had the opportunity to write a show for myself that has no parameters around what it needs to be about or anything,” she said. “Fringe offers a great opportunity to test things out and make things we wouldn’t otherwise be able to make.”

describe the inside of my brain in a series of bits and songs,” said Trapp. “The show is about my relationship with my identity and the intersection of art as well.”

She chose the name for her show for a reason.

“Half breed for so long was a derogatory term and a shameful thing to be,” said Trapp. “We have started to reclaim it and it’s a way we describe ourselves to show that we have a foot in these two worlds. It’s a very unique experience so using it in my title felt very natural because it’s a good description of who I

She decided it was a perfect time to take the next step in exploring her identity so she made a whole show about it.

Although it was not her first time at Fringe, it was the first time she is doing a unique performance specifically for this year’s audiences.

“As an artist, I have been craving to do something original,” said Trapp. “My schedule allowed it and it seemed like a perfect fit. Over the last couple of years with all this time I have been at home I have been able to go back on my writing and compile things that were uncompleted and now I’m able to put that in a show.”

She said the timing of her show is perfect given the recent climate.

“A big part of my show is talking about how settlers, who are producers and directors, approach working with Indigenous artists and my experience,” said Trapp. “In particular with that which is approaching it in a spirit of reconciliation, but how it’s not always successful. I would say my show explores the ways in which there’s still exploitation happening.”

She means the expectations and pressures put on her as an Indigenous artist.

“There’s a pressure to fit into certain boxes as an Indigenous artist because people who aren’t Indigenous have a specific idea of what they think Indigenous art is and what it needs to be about,” said Trapp.

“Because I’m mixed and white-passing I can see both sides of how people treat settler artists versus Indigenous artists and as an Indigenous artist I find I’m often pressured to mind certain parts of my trauma and fit into these certain tropes,” she said. “So that they can put that on stage and show there is reconciliation happening because, ‘Look at the stories we are telling.’ But that is not necessarily always a healthy thing as an artist to do.”

Trapp’s show explores mature subject matter, so it was rated 13 and over.

The Saskatoon Fringe Festival has been in operation since 1989.

# Province recognizes long-time journalist and author



By Kerry Benjoe  
of Eagle Feather News

Carol GoldenEagle is more than just living the dream; she is thriving.

From as far back as she can remember, she knew she wanted to be a writer.

“Sometimes what we write is the very medicine someone else needs,” said GoldenEagle.

The thought of being able to help others motivates her to keep going even when the subject matter is sometimes tough.

GoldenEagle, the Saskatchewan Poet Laureate, is a 60s Scoop survivor who loves to express herself through her art whether it’s writing, painting, storytelling, singing or dancing.

Growing up in a non-Indigenous home meant, as a child, she had to deal with racism, displacement and self-hate, which are topics she expresses through her art.

GoldenEagle said she was thrilled and filled with gratitude when she received the news that she was selected to receive the province’s highest honour.

Although she always knew she wanted to be a writer, she did start out her career as a journalist.

“Media was a plan B,” said GoldenEagle. “I had a good time. I am really happy I made the decision to say, ‘Alright I won’t be an author right now at age 17.’ Or however old I was because it allowed me to travel across the country and meet the most amazing people.”

As a journalist, she began connecting with people who introduced her to all the other wonderful aspects of what it means to be Indigenous.

“I was raised to be ashamed of my Cree/Dene heritage,” said GoldenEagle. “All the stereotypes I constantly heard as a child, so when you hear that from the people who were supposed to be taking care of you, you believe it



Carol GoldenEagle, Saskatchewan’s Poet Laureate is one of the newest recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. (Photo supplied)

because you don’t know any better when you’re four or five years old.”

After reconnecting with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, she began learning her language and began dancing and singing.

“I started learning who I am as a Cree/Dene woman,” said GoldenEagle. “It’s wonderful to be given that gift and, in a roundabout way, it was given to me because I was in the media.”

In 2008, she left media and journalism behind her to pursue her first love — writing.

“I had to believe that it was going to work out and it’s what I’m supposed to be doing,” said GoldenEagle.

Since taking that leap of faith she has written eight books.

“My goal is to have 20 on the market by the time I’m 65, so I have a bit of work to do in the next little while,” said GoldenEagle. “I recently signed another contract with a children’s book publisher, which I think is great because I have been trying to break into the children’s market for years. It’s really competitive and it’s not easy to gain the attention of a children’s book publisher.”

She hopes to have a release sometime in the spring, which she’s really excited about.

This new project doesn’t mean she is going to stop producing poetry and other literature.

GoldenEagle’s next project Stations of the Crossed is a book of poetry that examines the dark legacy of the Residential School system, church and government doctrine and the inter-generational impacts affecting Indigenous people across Canada.

She believes writing is therapeutic so she shares her thoughts and emotions in her writing.

“I’m outraged by all those things that happened to us (as Indigenous people), but at the same time I can’t let it consume me,” said GoldenEagle. “I have to be positive and live with love and pass that on.”

The Saskatchewan Order of Merit was established in 1985 to recognize the province’s most outstanding citizens. Since it was established only 258 Saskatchewan residents have been invested.

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# Connecting young and old at the second annual Grandmothers’ Gathering

AUDIO  
VERSION

By Kerry Benjoe  
of Eagle Feather News

Angeline Anaquod said one of the best things about growing up on reserve was being surrounded by relatives, especially her grandparents. So she decided to awaken that old tradition. “I was inspired by listening to stories and watching videos and talking to other grandmothers, while attending community events,” said Anaquod. “I decided I want-



**A bright sign greets visitors at the second annual Grandmothers’ Camp held on the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation. (Photo by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)**

ed to do something for our community.” Two years ago, she organized the Grandmothers’ Gathering on her First Nation. “I talked to our grandmothers and they really supported me,” said Anaquod. “It was a really good turn out. We had about 147 people participate over those few days, which was good considering it was our first time.”

Based on the success of last year’s camp, the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation chose to combine the Grandmothers’ Camp with the Youth Cultural Camp. Over the course of four days, the youth and the community’s grandmothers participated in a series of cultural activities.

Anaquod said the spot where she set up the camp holds special significance to her.

“This spot was chosen by my late uncle Glen Anaquod,” she said. “It was even before I knew I would be using this spot. We were driving and he said, ‘My niece, if you ever want to use that area, you go ahead, whatever you plan.’ I just said, ‘I don’t think I will be planning anything.’ ”

Anaquod eventually moved back home and began working as the addictions counsellor. While speaking with Elders and other grandmothers she realized many wanted more cultural activities and she began hosting small events, but after the pandemic she decided to do more.

Anaquod began working on an event specifically for the grandmothers and decided to host the camp on the very spot her late uncle had indicated.

This year’s camp included wagon rides, teepee raising demonstrations, community meals, traditional knowledge sharing and storytelling.



Anaquod said the best part was listening to the grandmothers talk about the old days.

“The ones who were my age, the ones in their 60s we all sat around and shared stories that were passed down to them from their grandparents,” she said. “In a way, all our grandmothers were here with us because their stories are being kept alive.”

She also enjoyed watching the faces of the grandmothers change when they spoke about the old days. “It was like they were instantly



**Diane Toto shares a laugh at the second annual Grandmothers’ Camp this year it was combined with the Youth Cultural Camp, which she said was a good move because she enjoys being around children. (Photo by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)**

to hear from the older people and hear their stories because we lost that for a long time.”

Things were very different when she was young. “The old people would gather on cold nights at someone’s home,” said Toto. “They would stay there all night telling stories. That’s what we don’t have anymore.”

She said it was great to be around the children and to watch them interact with one another.

“It brings us back to the days that we remember, of when we were young,” said Toto. “It gives you such a lift to hear the stories about the people we used to know and the things that we remember of the past. It’s a good feeling.”

She believes the camp was a good idea and is happy Anaquod initiated it. The event closed with a tiny tot dance special followed by a rounddance and a plan to continue the camp next year.



**Pictured is Angeline Anaquod (in the brown sweater) the organizer of the Grandmothers’ Camp the camp closed with a tiny tot special shown are some of the participants. (Photos by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)**



transported back to that time in their lives,” said Anaquod.

She’s happy some of the Elders agreed to be interviewed on video. Their stories will be shared on the Muscowpetung website in the near future.

Anaquod said it’s so important to capture these special moments for future generations.

Diane Toto, 77, was one of the grandmothers who participated in the event and she said it was wonderful to be surrounded by the youth and to be able to visit with her peers.

“It was so beautiful,” she said. Life sometimes gets too busy, explained Toto, so there isn’t much opportunity to just sit and visit with one another anymore.

“This is important for our young people,” she said. “I think they need

# Buffalo History Month is all about reconciliation



AUDIO  
VERSION

After the City of Regina rejected the idea of changing Dewdney Avenue to Buffalo Avenue, Joely BigEagle-Kequahtooway, artist and co-founder of Buffalo People’s Art Institute decided to take a new approach.

Last year, she asked the city to proclaim July as Buffalo History Month, which they did.

“In the era of Truth and Reconciliation, I am really focusing on this truth aspect,” said BigEagle-Kequahtooway.

The proclamation is an education campaign about the buffalo and its connection to the land we live on.

“It’s about letting people know the truth about Regina,” said BigEagle-Kequahtooway.

Like most people, she grew up with the belief there was nothing here before the city was established because there was no mention of it in any of her school textbooks.

“It was almost literally the prairie translation of a swamp,” said BigEagle-Kequahtooway. “However, when you start digging at the truth you uncover things like the actual notes that were passed around between Edgar Dewdney, the Prime Minister and other people at the time when Regina was made. It was prime territory for the buffalo.”

The name Pile of Bones or oskana ka-asastiki, the Cree reference for Regina, also only tells the story after the buffalo were hunted to near extinction. She recalled reading on a plaque how it was the Cree hunters who were responsible for the animal’s demise.

“Was it really Cree people creating a pile of bones?” said BigEagle-Kequahtooway. “It just doesn’t make sense because we don’t do that today. So there’s just disinformation out there about the role buffalo played in shaping this land.”

By Kerry Benjoe  
of Eagle Feather News



**Joely BigEagle-Kequahtooway, artist and co-founder of The Buffalo People’s Art Institute holds a copy of the City of Regina proclamation. She successfully campaigned to have July declared Buffalo History Month. (Photo by Kerry Benjoe for Eagle Feather News)**

Although the plaque has been corrected, the story was accepted as a historical fact by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for generations.

To have July as Buffalo History Month provides everyone in the city with an opportunity to learn a little more about the real history of the province.

“We speak about Truth and Reconciliation and it’s not just reconciliation based on what’s been fed to us by the supposedly dominant society,” said BigEagle-Kequahtooway. “There is this rich history here of us being connected to this land because this is the land of the buffalo. That history has just been erased. It’s like a bulldozer just came and plowed up this land and erased every trace of buffalo, natural grass, prairie grass as well as our connection.”

However it’s not too late to learn that history, which she hopes to keep doing every July.

“There is so much to this aspect of bringing back the buffalo,” said BigEagle-Kequahtooway. “Buffalo History Month is just about getting the conversation started.”

She chose July because there was a time when the city celebrated Buffalo Days, so she said it’s time to revive that name and really make it about the buffalo.

BigEagle-Kequahtooway said the timing just feels right, especially with more and more First Nations choosing to take on the care of their own buffalo herds.

She hopes to one day organize a buffalo gathering for Indigenous people to share knowledge and best practices with one another.

BigEagle-Kequahtooway believes education is the best way to create long-lasting and meaningful change

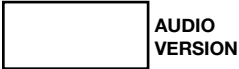
and is one step closer to reconciliation.

She hasn’t given up the dream of one day removing Dewdney’s name from Regina city streets because not only did he contribute to the attempted genocide of Indigenous people, but also aided in the near extinction of the buffalo on the plains.



BUFFALO HISTORY MONTH - JULY  
(Stock Photo by Nicolas Petit)

# The 50th Anniversary of Back to Batoche Days was worth the wait



By Kerry Benjoe  
of Eagle Feather News

More than 10,000 visitors from across Canada made the trek Back to Batoche to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the event, including politicians both past and present along with several first-time visitors.

The popular Métis gathering was established in 1970 but due to the pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 events were postponed, which made this year's festival even more impactful for visitors.



One of two Red River Carts that were created to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Back to Batoche. (Photo by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)

to the other provinces as well."

Goulet said that was great to hear, but what stuck out to him was the unity he witnessed during the opening ceremonies. He heard many languages being spoken such as Cree, Nakawe and Dene, along with the drum.

"I thought that was pretty good," said Goulet. "It brings that respect not only in just a statement but in actual practice."

Having the Chief of One Arrow address the crowd was also very important.

"A lot of people tend to forget the problems that were occurring among the Métis in 1885 were not only specific to the Métis, but they were also specific to First Nations," said Goulet. "I thought it was good, during the 50th anniversary, to have the

Keith Goulet, Métis Elder and former Saskatchewan Member of the Legislative Assembly, couldn't agree more.

He looks forward to gathering every year and said this year's activities had some significant highlights, such as the federal government's announcement about the land transfer.

On July 22, the federal government transferred 690 hectares of land on the west side of the Batoche National Historic Site to the MN-S.

"The federal government had acted to deal for the first-time on the land issue of the Métis," said Goulet. "This sends a message not only to the province of Saskatchewan, but



Pictured are a group of volunteers in blue T-shirts at this year's Back to Batoche celebrations. In the background is one of the teepees that was on site and on the ground are animal pelts. (Photo by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)

che National Historic Site marks a strengthening of this relationship by returning homeland to Métis people and marking another step towards collaborative management of Batoche National Historic Site."

MN-S President McCallum said the transfer of the land was historic.

The plan moving forward is to hold meetings with members of the Métis Nation and ask them what they want to do with the land.

He said the people will ultimately decide what will happen with the land.

McCallum would like to see a permanent government building the way the Saskatchewan government has the Legislative Building, the difference is that it will be for the Métis government situated on their own land.

However, the decision is not his to make and will follow whatever action the citizens decide.

First-time Batoche visitors Gail and Heather Witherspoon said they couldn't have decided to attend at a more perfect time.

Although the mother and daughter duo are from Alberta they have family ties to Batoche. When they heard about the land transfer they couldn't be more excited because the west bank is where they can trace their family's roots.

Gail said while living in Alberta she knew about the Back to Batoche festival, but never had the chance to attend. Now that she is living in Regina, she is working on documenting her own family history so she can pass it down to her children.

She said there's nothing more important than documenting family history because it can be so easily lost in the hustle and bustle of life.

"We need to remember where we come from," she said.



Above: A group of men wrap up harvested buffalo meat.

Below: A collage of different activities held during this year's Back to Batoche festival. (Photo by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)



Metis Nation-Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum speaks briefly about the land transfer during the 50th Anniversary of Back to Batoche.

Chief speak here as well."

He said it's good to see the Métis not only building relationships with Canadians but with First Nations.

Daniel Vandal, minister of northern affairs made the announcement on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault, who is also the minister responsible for Parks Canada. Marc Miller, minister of Indigenous Services Canada, however, was also on site at Batoche.

He was in the province to speak to a few key people, but wanted to take in the activities at Batoche.

"It's wonderful to just walk around and take everything in," said Miller.

It was his first time at Batoche, but he was impressed with the amount of people in attendance and with all the cultural activities happening.

As part of the announcement, Vandal said in a news release the transfer helps to advance reconciliation through meaningful action with the Métis people.

"The connection to ancestral territories and homelands is essential to Indigenous cultures and one's own identity," he said in the prepared statement. "The collaboration between Parks Canada and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan with regard to Bato-



# The Métis will soon have their own buffalo herds



AUDIO  
VERSION

By Kerry Benjoe  
of Eagle Feather News

One of the most popular attractions during the Back to Batoche celebrations this year was the buffalo hide tanning and meat preparation station.

Brent Digness, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) economic development and tourism minister, said the best part of the annual celebrations is the diversity of events. He said not only is there fiddle music and jigging, but there are traditional games of skill, the rodeo and cultural demonstrations.

He said there is basically something for everyone and based on the turn out for this year’s event it was a busy week for everyone.

Digress spent his days travelling back and forth between the many activities and was happy to see so many people enjoying themselves.

Garrick Schmidt, land-based educator, spent most of his days doing what he loves: sharing his knowledge on how to harvest and prepare wild game.

He said it was great to be back at Batoche and be able to share Métis culture with visitors.

Schmidt and the others at the camp harvested a buffalo and prepared all the meat. Some of the meat was smoked on site while another 200 pounds of meat was cooked in a pit for an entire day.

It took a whole team of helpers a couple days to complete the mon-

umental task.

Schmidt said there is something special about working with bison. Usually the animal is harvested from a local farmer and transported to the Batoche site to be prepared.

However, next year things may be different.

The Métis are to receive their own buffalo herds – one at Batoche and one at Lebret.

Although Schmidt wasn’t sure of the logistics, he was excited about the news.

“I would love to see one day, either us or someone else, harvesting bison one day on horseback,” said Schmidt. “I think that would be really cool.”

He believes the buffalo or bison, as they are commonly known, are part of the herd that lives in the Prince Albert National Park.

Schmidt feels a connection with buffalo hunting, which could stem from the fact that he is a descendent of Cuthbert Grant, a famous Métis buffalo hunter from the late 1800s.

He said reconnecting with the buffalo is something that’s happening not only in Saskatchewan, but in other provinces.

Schmidt said Batoche is a great place to connect with others such as the Métis Nation - British Columbia (MNBC).

“It was nice to visit with them and talk about the hide revitalization that they want to have in place out on the coast,” said Schmidt. “It’s good to come together and

talk about the future. There are some really exciting things that are going to happen for Métis on Turtle Island.”



**Garrick Schmidt, a land based educator, explains the process of harvesting and preparing the buffalo. Below are the various stages of cooking 200 pounds of buffalo meat in an underground pit. (All photos by Abreana Deneyou for Eagle Feather News)**



