

Eagle Feather NEWS

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Songs reflect Dene heritage

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Eagle Feather News
Arts & Entertainment
Next Month - Youth & Sports



Looking stoic and beautiful in her long, glittery dress, singer/songwriter Leela Gilday accepted the award for Aboriginal recording of the year. Gilday beat out one of the best pow wow drumming groups in North America, Northern Cree; talented guitarist Jason Burnstick; the politically-charged duo of DiggingRoots; and veteran singer Susan Aglukark.

Gilday's songs reflect her northern roots, and that was the first thing she recognized when she was handed the award at the Juno Gala Dinner & Awards on Saturday, March 31. "I am Leela Gilday. I am Dene from the Dene Nation of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories."

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Junos rocked Saskatoon

• Continued from Page One

After Gilday thanked everyone who worked on the album, she praised her fellow Juno nominees.

"I want to dedicate this to all the musicians in this category because they are walking the heart path of music. They believe in the truth and power of music," she told the crowd, adding that music can change the world.

The talent of the nominees was apparent at the gala, as together they all opened the ceremony. All five nominees stood on the stage, with Northern Cree opening the set, followed by Burnstick, Gilday, Digging-Roots, and Aglukark.

Gilday is no stranger to accolades, though. Her first album, Spirit World, Solid Wood won her three Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, a previous Juno nomination, as well as a place in Maclean's Top 50 Under 30 list.

After accepting her first Juno, Gilday

appeared before the media in the backstage media room and answered questions earnestly but not without a sense of humour.

When told she looked lovely by the moderator and asked if it took long to get ready, she laughed and said, "No, I'm

pretty low maintenance," and joked she wouldn't look that good if it weren't for the hair and make-up people.

In seriousness, though, she told reporters that "Aboriginal people and stories have important stories to teach in the global perspective, and I'm just a part of that."

She said it doesn't matter if you're Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.

"Music is powerful no matter what race or gender you are."

Gilday says she wants to sing for millions because she believes she

and others have messages to send to the world.

• Continued on Page 12



Tom Jackson accepted the Humanitarian Award at the Juno Gala Dinner & Awards.

COVER STORY
BY DARLA READ



Gail Fry, high school teacher, is a career guidance counselor and avid recycler.

When Gail Fry started a tin can recycling program 17 years ago, it took off like a shot. "Our budget was supposed to last a whole year," says Gail, a high school math teacher. "It was gone in three months."

Today, recycling tin cans is second nature to many. So is recycling paper products, glass, plastic milk jugs, clothes, even computers. Gail is still quick to remind her students to recycle. Her family, on the other hand, is well trained. "I designed this huge recycling island in my kitchen and there are six, large bins in there."

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Judge Gerald Morin receives prestigious Hodgson Award

The Honourable Judge Gerald Mervin Morin was honoured with the C. Willy Hodgson Award at a ceremony at the Prince Albert Grand Council, to recognize Judge Morin's contributions to the legal profession and to the community.

Morin's legal career began in Prince Albert as an articling student. He joined with Anil Pandila and formed the Pandila Morin Nahachewshk Law Office.

The firm had extensive involvement in representation with Aboriginal clients and issues, enhanced by the ability of the office to provide services in the Cree language. Judge Morin is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

In 1999 he was appointed as Queen's Counsel designate – the first Aboriginal lawyer to receive this designation in Saskatchewan. He was sworn in as a judge in the province of Saskatchewan in 2001.

He has served on the bench in Prince Albert since that time and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Cree court circuit in Northern Saskatchewan. This court allows people the opportunity to speak their own language, ensuring neither evidence nor facts are lost in translation.

"Well, it was really nice to be honoured like that," said Morin.

"Willy was a fantastic person and I am quite honoured considering the qual-

ity of the previous recipients."

Professor Roger Carter, Q.C. of Saskatoon in 2004 and Judge Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond of Saskatoon in 2006 have both received the C. Willy Hodgson award.

Throughout his career Judge Morin has illustrated his commitment to the Aboriginal community. Judge Morin's devotion to others and willingness to be involved has provided an opportunity for the court system to build trust within the Aboriginal community.

Three scholarships have been set up and are supported by Judge Morin – two in Cumberland House and one for Peter Ballantyne Secondary.

"Willy Hodgson was an outstanding citizen and a significant Lay Benchers of our organization," commented Vic Dietz, Q.C., President of the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

"Judge Morin epitomizes what Willy strove to accomplish – Aboriginal rights and access to justice."

The C. Willy Hodgson Award was created to commemorate a respected Lay Benchers. Willy Hodgson who was a Cree elder, born Christine Wilna Pratt on the Sandy Lake Indian Reserve.

At the age of 18 she left Sandy Lake to study nursing in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. Three years later she graduated from the Manitoba School of Nursing, and married Bill Hodgson, an English immigrant.



Judge Gerald Morin poses with his award with Vic Dietz, President of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, Prince Albert Grand Council Grand Chief Ron Michel, and PAGC Vice Chief Don Deranger.

She studied human justice and sociology at the University of Regina and earned a certificate of social work. She then was employed as a social worker, and subsequently joined the provincial Public Service Commission. She sat on the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission for ten years, and in the 1990s she was appointed to the Moose Jaw Police Commission.

In 1996 she was appointed to the Law Society of Saskatchewan, as a Lay

Benchers by the Lieutenant Governor of Counsel. She was the recipient of both the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Order of Canada.

Hodgson and her husband, Bill, raised four children. She died of cancer on February 14, 2003 at the age of 67.

Willy Hodgson served as a Lay Benchers for nearly two terms. She served on the Public Relations committee and was integral in forming of the Equity/Diversity committee.

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Sigh ... the eyes of Nelly absolutely glorious

She was breathtaking. Her sculpted face filled the frame of my camera and her eyes glistened as if they had dewy stardust in them just for me.

She spun and posed. Smiled and batted her eyes. She was demure and coy ... sexy and flirty.

She was Nelly Furtado, currently the largest selling female recording artist in the world, the host of the 2007 Junos and the talk of Saskatoon. And I was ten feet from her.

It was one of the biggest press conferences to hit Saskatoon and my chance to get my own shots of Nelly. One gets many thoughts for when they prepare for an event like this.

Mine were, will she be pleasant? Will she be as beautiful in person? Will she let me touch her hair? Will I faint?

The night before I had attended the Juno Celebration of Aboriginal Music produced by Donna Heimbecker, the crew at the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company and a kick butt committee and crew of volunteers. They did an amazing job and they made our community very proud.

All of the Aboriginal Juno nominees played and between each act a local band or singer played a few tunes. It was awesome. The locals rocked and the stars were gracious with their time and words.

The sincerity coming off the stage was real and the nominees mingled in the lobby during intermission, signed discs and took photos ... all very relaxed, no pretension. Sadly Leela Gilday's discs had sold out the night before leaving me empty-handed ... that lady is the real deal.

I left there high as a kite after a huge round dance to the powerful songs of Northern Cree. I was proud of the Aboriginal community, had Juno fever and everything was okay in the world.

The next morning's press conference opened with the Juno's producer. In my desire to meet Nelly, I never even wrote down his name, but he sure praised Saskatoon as a host site and that the reception was off the chart.

Editorial

Then out came pretty boy Ben Mulroney. Can't stand him on TV, can't stand him in person ... very pretty for a guy, though.

Then came Nelly. She had a posse ... she was very managed and time was tight. There was no way I was going to get any closer than ten feet to her and

short. That ended it for us ... I am too tall for her, so the fantasies went out the window and it was time to work. Plus I have a great wife and two kids.

All I remember is her perky voice. Very perky. And her glorious eyes. She had been working 12-hour days to prepare for the show. She said she is a singer not a hostess.

Perhaps if she was an actress she would have refused to dress as a silly bird and be flown into the arena, but hindsight is 20/20.

She liked the city but had not seen much due to her schedule. She had a romantic vision that the city would be full of skating rinks where she could take her daughter, but there was no time. She says she felt as if she was in the heartland and that it felt good.

Then the questions were suddenly over and Nelly was being ushered out. I took photos until she disappeared through the curtains with her entourage. It was a wild 30 minutes.

After the Aboriginal Showcase and meeting the short, perky and beautiful Nelly I felt great.

Proud of our community, proud of Saskatoon and a little more balanced on my views of Nelly Furtado.

When the weekend was over and Leela Gilday won the Aboriginal Juno and Nelly took home five, I figured that two of the most talented and gorgeous entertainers in Canada had received their just desserts.

Music and the arts lifted up and united this city for a week, all was well in the world, but the organizers, performers, the media and volunteers were all very,

very tired. And deservedly so.

Job well done.



the odds of a hair caress went right out the window. She is even more beautiful in person but wow is she

What's next in Eagle Feather News

Spring has finally arrived well, maybe the weather hasn't but certainly some signs of spring are showing through.

What has now become an annual spring event are the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships and this year they are being hosted by Prince Albert at the end of April. Blue Pelletier will be rinkside for us there and courtside for the Kevin Moccasin Memorial Tournament.

It is also our youth edition so be prepared to meet the up and comers in our community, as we attend the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards for the tenth straight year.

We also hear there is a Métis election coming and we promise coverage like you have never seen before as we hope to get the vote out in June for a free and democratic election. Mining week, our regular columnists and some pretty pictures round out May.

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We're hardly a threat to Canadian society

Lots of talk these days about the Canadian army's counterinsurgency manual ("Counter-Insurgency Operations") reference to "radical Native American organizations."

The manual is 164 pages long and provides techniques for assessing, managing and defeating an insurgency. A little paragraph is dedicated to us under the heading: "Overview of insurgencies and Counter-insurgencies":

"The rise of radical Native American organizations, such as the Mohawk Warrior Society, can be viewed as insurgencies with specific and limited aims. Although they do not seek complete control of the federal government, they do seek particular political concessions in their relationship with national governments and control (either overt or covert) of political affairs at the local/reserve ("First Nation") level, through threat of, or use of, violence.

Other examples of insurgents in the manual include Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and the Tamil Tigers. There is no other mention of us in this document but the author of it, one Major David Lambert, has also publicly stated that Louis Riel's 1885 Northwest Rebellion qualifies as an insurgency.

Folks are pretty upset about what this all means for us. Phil Fontaine is worried that it might threaten our ability to travel internationally but I think Kahentinetha Horn's reaction makes a stronger point:

"Why are weapons being pointed at us? We are defenseless. Why are we being compared with the Taliban who have rockets, artillery, and modern weapons to blow up U.S., Canadian and British tanks?"

Since this news hit the fan, the feds have backed up. Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor stated that the document was simply making reference to past examples

community level. We are too few in numbers, we do not have access to the skills and resources, and most significantly we are often too divided to pose much threat to anything or anyone, except to ourselves.

We all hear and complain that the federal government uses "divide and conquer" tactics to keep us fighting among ourselves so they can control us. We hear

to create petty in-fighting among small players (in our case, us and our leaders) to drain resources and prevent alliances. It also aides anyone willing to cooperate with "the overlords" by giving them (provincial governments and multi-national corporations) the lands and wealth belonging to us; it fosters distrust among the people; and it encourages materialism and greed (personal gain) that leaves little money for political maneuvering and warfare.

The "divide and conquer" technique requires a lot of skill but it only works if the subjects/targets of this technique are willing to go along with it. In other words, it works best when we have people who use it to their own personal advantage and it works best among peoples who are already so divided internally they are sitting ducks.

This is an interesting article.

Check it out at :

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divide_and_rule.

A threat to Canadian society? I don't think so. Our Treaty relationship with the Crown is based on peaceful co-existence and though we struggle with our Treaty partner for not living up to its obligations, we do strive to uphold our part. Besides that, there are still too many of us cutting each others' throats to serve personal agendas, to be much threat to anyone outside our communities.

Throwing off the mind/heart/spirit shackles of colonization is a long and hard road ... but we're gonna get there, slowly but surely, one healing step at a time.

Introspection

Winona Wheeler



of insurgencies and was not meant to suggest that Natives in Canada are a potential military target. He also stated that the final version will not contain references to any current Aboriginal organizations, and that the report is to be used to train Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. Holy Smokes! for a moment we were right up there with the Taliban in Afghanistan. As if!

We hardly pose a threat to Canadian security. Past and present examples make it clear that we barely have what it takes to gain "particular political concessions" with the feds or to control political affairs at the

it at conferences and around the kitchen table, and we hear it at budget time while we fight each other over the table scraps the federal government throws our way.

"DIVIDE and CONQUER tactics." What does this really mean? Wikipedia on the internet has a useful explanation: "It is a combination political, military and economic strategy used to gain and maintain power by breaking up larger concentrations of power into chunks that individually have less power than the one implementing the strategy."

According to Wikipedia the basic element of the divide and conquer tactic is

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A return to mysterious Manitou Lake

Among my many relatives I had a favourite uncle who married into our family from the Nightravellers. My uncle Alec was a happy-go-lucky character. His father old Napachit Frencheater lived to see over 100 years.

They kept a lot of history and I was privileged to have learned some of it before their passing.

In an effort to stay out of trouble and be of some use to myself and others I spent some years on my reserve. I helped my aunt and uncle and they helped me. I became a farmhand. My uncle put me to work and I worked hard despite myself.

Uncle Alec was a Saulteaux and whenever he should displease my aunt she would bring up this fact. This was more humorous than caustic. Cree and Saulteaux have always teased one another.

There were times he would talk of visiting relatives in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. My uncle was related to the Ochiese Sunchild people. Their remarkable story lives in fragments kept by many people but no one alone knows the entire story.

When my uncle was young his people lived by the shores of Manitou Lake south of present day Lloydminster. Manitou Lake was and is a mysterious place. They were a band of diehard traditionalists with origins in Manitoba who kept moving west away from settlers and the control of government.

They were closely related to

Ozeewekwan or Yellow Quill. Along their journey some moved in with other bands while others joined in with them. The Frencheater people were an offshoot of the Ochiese people who moved further west into the remote places of the mountains until they could go no further.

road. The area was thick with berries and some people from Sweet Grass were picking in earnest. A farmer's field had replaced the prairie by the old fasting sites leading down some coulees toward the lake. It was by this shore my great grandfather had received a vision.

Common Ground

John Cuthand



My uncle's people choose to camp by Manitou Lake believing a great herd of buffalo had entered into the cliff face of an island in the center of the Lake. When the buffalo re-emerged they would be waiting.

They waited for many years until moving in with the Little Pine people.

One summer day I approached my uncle and asked if he would show me Manitou Lake. He was as surprised as he was pleased. He had not been there for many years.

My aunt and uncle, my wife and I drove west in the four by four I owned at the time. It turned out to be an appropriate vehicle for the task.

We arrived down a dusty prairie

His half brother and constant companion, Paspaschase, was taken by spirit under the waters and returned days later. It is said he could not speak for some time. When he recovered he would not recount his experience but from that time forward he became a healer of some note.

My uncle took us down a maze of trails. He showed us a old tumbled down building that had once been a store.

He wanted to find the graves of his people but the area was overgrown and reluctantly we moved on.

The last remnants of the Frencheater people's presence are the wild horses who roam like ghosts through the thick brush. My uncle smiled when he recalled how they had bested the railroad.

Their horses were accustomed to roam as they pleased. One day a train struck several horses killing them. The railroad refused to pay compensation so the Frencheater people greased a stretch of track leading up a slope. When the train came it could not gain traction and sat still spinning its wheels.

After some negotiation the railroad agreed to pay compensation.

The Indians washed the rails with soapy water. The train then moved on its way, the Indians well pleased with the resolution.

My uncle talked of the little people who lived in the island in the center of the lake. It is said one must always leave them something when visiting the island or they will take some object from you.

He said in the 1920s an RCMP officer had been marooned on the island for a week when his boat disappeared.

My uncle, like most old timers, did not speak openly of the suffering his people endured but it was there in between the lines if ones ears were open to listening.

My uncle and my aunt have passed away and I miss them dearly. In the Cree kinship she was my "little mother".

Mysterious Manitou Lake has a spiritual presence. I hesitate to use the word sacred as that word grows monotonous when it is overused. It is a living place where one can lose oneself or find oneself or even both. It was and remains a place of power.

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Families bond in search for relatives

A two decade long search for a mother who disappeared from her life more than 40 years ago has, despite its frustrations, provided its share of blessings for Lori Whiteman.

Well educated, confident and secure within a circle of loving family and friends, Whiteman has undertaken the search for her mother, Delores Whiteman, with quiet determination. And while she has uncovered scant details about the life

BY WARREN GOULDING

Dakota First Nation in the late 1940s before vanishing sometime in the late 1970s or early '80s, Whiteman's relentless pursuit has broadened her perspectives and brought her greater understanding of her Dakota and Saulteaux heritage.

"I don't mean this to sound harsh, and I love my relatives and know that many of them are concerned about her whereabouts," says Whiteman who was adopted into an Eastern European immigrant family when she was three.

"But I have wondered if it wasn't for me coming back to reconnect with my birth family, that it's unlikely anyone would have ever really searched for her at all."



LORI WHITEMAN

That comment isn't intended as an indictment of her family, but rather an analysis of a condition that has undermined Aboriginal families, one that too often has led to their portrayal as dysfunctional and uncaring.

"I understand this to be what it is; it's not about family not caring," Whiteman explains. "It's about what has happened to us as Indian people."

"That strong circle of Relationship was eroded and this is just one of the legacies of our colonization as Indian people. It's also why I feel so strongly about speaking out about it because it raises awareness and I hope that through public consciousness we can start to really examine how many of our people have been allowed to wander away and no one has noticed."

Whiteman has connected with many other individuals and families who have endured the pain of losing a loved one and not know what became of them. For

various reasons, many families have been unable to even initiate a search.

"This translates into lack of caring, but when we are in the midst of our own survival and healing I understand how hard it is to look up and notice what is happening to those around us," she says.

"I think that is part of what happened in our family."

Whiteman says she has made thousands of phone calls, searched the Internet and visited various places where it is believed Delores

Whiteman may have lived. Since she was adopted, Whiteman met the frustration of being told by officialdom that she had no right to information since she was no longer "legally her child."

In 1995, the chief of her band, the late Mel Isnana, agreed to file a missing person report on Whiteman's behalf. That and other contacts by Whiteman led to police in Edmonton and Vancouver being aware of her search. However, it yielded no useful activity, although the RCMP did take a DNA sample from Whiteman when they were in the early stages of investigating the infamous Port Coquitlam, B.C. pig farm of alleged serial killer Robert 'Willie' Pickton.

At times, Lori Whiteman is unable to contain the frustration she feels towards the establishment, including police agencies that have been ineffective and seemingly indifferent. It's a common theme expressed by the families of missing Aboriginal women.

"The police have done what they can; this is what they tell me," she says. "They have, unwittingly, been harsh and lacking in sensitivity at times. There is information that hasn't made sense to me, and times when the police have been vague to the point where I was unsure what things were actually done and not done."

"There are other incongruities in my dealings with police, and that has contributed to my frustration and isolated feelings and to the erosion of my trust in the police in working toward dealing with Aboriginal people, especially women," says Whiteman.

The blessings, or at least reasons to find comfort in what are tragic circumstances, are to be found close to home for Whiteman.

"My family has become my 'team'. My kids have always been aware of my mother as a missing person. My husband is a huge support, spiritually and emotionally. He understands and supports me. In the later years of her life, my adoptive mother was a huge supporter, and it was an incredibly moving experience to be her primary care-giver in the last year of her life and to be by her side when she passed away a few years ago," she explains.

In recent years, Whiteman has connected with people like Gwenda Yuzicappi whose 19-year-old daughter, Amber Redman, disappeared almost two years ago. Amber was last seen in Fort Qu'Appelle on July 15, 2005.

"When Amber Redman vanished, I connected because I knew the family. Amber was a student of mine when I first

started teaching on the reserve. I knew Gwenda. Over the course of the months that followed, Gwenda and I began to talk, and it was Gwenda who I began to share my own story with because I felt the loss she was feeling, and the pain connected us on a few levels – that we were from same community, and that I also was feeling loss and wondering about where my mother was," Whiteman says.

"She has been my greatest supporter in helping me to find the strength to share my own story, because all along I carried it silently on my own. I didn't even realize how I had isolated myself. I had allowed the police and society and my own family's silence about the disappearance of Delores Whiteman, to lead to my belief that, one, it was something that I was blowing out of proportion. After all, she was an Indian woman who lived on the streets and used alcohol/drugs, had a child taken away, etc. etc. or that I had no right to compare this missing woman on the same level as other missing people who were legitimately – read: not affected by the above things – missing."

Over time, Whiteman has forged a bond with some of the families of the more than 60 women who are believed to be missing from the streets of Vancouver's notorious Downtown Eastside. It is feared that many of them have been murdered by Robert Pickton who is currently on trial for the murder of six women and is expected to eventually stand trial for murdering at least another 15. About half of the women who have disappeared from the Downtown Eastside are Aboriginal.

"I really connected with the stories of the families of the women from Vancouver who were also struggling with vali-

dating the lives of their loved ones," explains Whiteman. "The only difference was that I had no dates of disappearance, no photographs, no real memories of her

... I have had to really dig emotionally and spiritually to remind myself the reason why I continue to search, and

the reason why I want the world to know about this.

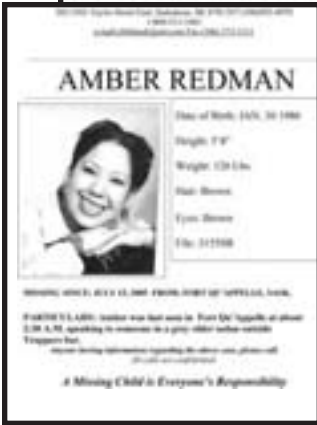
"Over the years the reason has changed. At first, I just wanted to selfishly find her. Now, it has evolved into a much deeper need to share a story of how we have been

tricked into being our own oppressors, in a way. The way we have silenced ourselves, and the way that our marginalization and oppression have convinced us to be quiet, not to rock the boat, and not to demand justice even when there is obviously something wrong," Whiteman says.

"I've been a quiet member of the Vancouver Missing women's support group online for a long time. I've kept up to date on what has happened there, and elsewhere."

Through it all, confronted by indifferent cops, banging into bureaucratic walls and searching for a trail that has become colder with each passing year, Lori Whiteman has seen her own spirituality grow, connected inexorably with the knowledge that the life of Delores Whiteman must be acknowledged and honoured.

"I've also learned, from a cultural perspective about what happens to people when they pass onto the Spirit world, and I feel a tremendous sense of responsibility to seeing that my mother has the opportunity to have songs sung for her and feasts made for her so she can go find peace among her ancestors."



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Arnot finishes mandate as Treaty Commissioner

BY DAVID SHIELD

For a couple of weeks, it looked like the Office of the Treaty Commissioner was on its last legs.

Treaty Commissioner David Arnot's mandate expired at the end of March, and was not being renewed. Rumors of the Commission firing its staff and shutting down its office ran rampant. As well, the federal government would not comment on the office's closure, only saying the minister was looking at the issue.

Responding to the rumors, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph stepped into the fray, saying the Treaty Commission was continuing forward with a new mandate.



DAVID ARNOT

Joseph says he's personally spoken to Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice twice on the matter, and said Prentice is committed to keeping the Office of the Treaty Commissioner alive. The FSIN Chief is enthusiastic regarding the future of the Treaty Commission, saying Prentice has approached the FSIN to put forward names for a new commissioner.

While both Indian Affairs and the FSIN would need to agree on who the new commissioner would be, it seems likely that former Indian Affairs minister Bill McKnight will be taking the post. A federal cabinet minister during the Brian Mulroney Progressive Conservative-era, Joseph says McKnight would be an excellent choice for a new

commissioner.

"If you listen to some of the Chiefs on our advisory group, they liked him, and it's a rare occasion where they like their Minister of Indian Affairs.

"Bill McKnight comes with high credentials in the area of acceptability, being able to work both sides of the fence in First Nations and also government," he says.

Joseph says Saskatchewan's chiefs

had decided to not seek a new mandate for Arnot as treaty commissioner. While he says Arnot did a good job as commissioner, he says the FSIN is looking for a new commissioner with a much firmer mandate than the previous office.

After Arnot's research and education-heavy term, Joseph says he would like to see the new commissioner pay more attention to treaty implementation.

"The mandate of the institution is one that we need to examine further, to ensure that there is enough teeth to implement certain parts of the treaty promises," he says.

The FSIN and Indian Affairs are expected to meet mid-April to discuss the future of the institution. To receive a new mandate, the project will have to get approval from the Federal Treasury Board and Cabinet.

Vital that treaty commission continue its work: Arnot

Judge David Arnot says he's proud of his time as Saskatchewan's Treaty Commissioner.

Commissioner for the past ten years, Arnot's mandate was: "To bring a common understanding between Canada and the FSIN on the meaning of the treaties in a modern context."

Arnot says one of his term's greatest achievements was the creation of educational treaty kits for every classroom in Saskatchewan. Arnot says the kits were designed as a way to educate Saskatchewan's young people about the treaties and treaty rights – something that most non-First Nations people don't think about.

"Treaties were really a part of John A. MacDonald's national policy. He had to have those treaties in place before he could bring settlers from the east to the west. The fact is, when my ancestors came into Saskatchewan, they settled in Treaty Four territory and as settlers, they exercised their treaty right to be on this land. In fact, my right to be here comes from Treaty Number Four.

"Now, I'm sure that my ancestors weren't told that, and I'm sure they didn't understand that. But (treaties) are a very crucial piece in the future of

Saskatchewan. Those treaties were entered into, they have to be honoured, it's the honour of the crown, they're part of the constitution, they can't be ignored and they must be followed," he says.

Arnot says it's vital Saskatchewan's young people become better informed about the treaty process.

"I hope that when we produce 18-year-old graduates in Saskatchewan that they have a lot better treaty knowledge than I had. And with that knowledge, they're going to be asking, 'Why haven't the treaties been implemented according to the spirit and intent of those treaties?' I'm hoping that policy makers and politicians have an answer to that."

He says the treaty implementation kits couldn't have been possible without the help of Saskatchewan's educational community.

"It's a testament to those teachers

that the kits were created and it's a testament to the School Boards Association and to the Department of Learning and the FSIN's Education Department that all those players came together to support this work. The OTC has a very small staff, we were a very small player, so we were a catalyst to facilitate those good resources that are now being used," he says.

Ultimately, Arnot says it's vital that the treaty commission continue its work.

"I think the Office of the Treaty Commissioner has played a central role in being a political safety valve. Both parties, Canada and the FSIN, can come to the treaty table and talk about what their expectations are, what their intentions are and how they see the treaties being implemented in a modern context," he says.

- SHIELD

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Absentee fathers shirking responsibility

Tansi. Well! Mr. Dirk Dashing sure stirred up a hornet’s nest talking about the ‘Dead Beat Dads’ in the last issue of EFN – personally, I loved the article.

Where have all the fathers gone? It’s time we all start to address this huge problem. Children deserve to grow up with the love of both parents.

Dear Sandee:

I am a single mom of three children and I am having a hard time making ends meet. I have tried to get money or any type of support from my ex-boyfriend but he is refusing to help in any way. I am so frustrated and don’t know where to turn. He thinks that all I want to do is party and said he won’t be giving me any money and there’s nothing I can do about it. Is that true?

Sincerely,

Frustrated Mom

Dear Frustrated Mom,

Sorry to hear that your ex is being irresponsible – it’s so sad but there are so many.

It really ticks me off that young men who impregnate their girlfriends can just say good-bye and never return, never pay child support and never spend time with their children. How many times have you seen young women on

the streets of our cities pushing strollers onto the bus trying to make it to daycare or school.

Where is the man who helped bring this child into the world? It is time that we, as a society, stop turning a blind eye to this problem – and it is a problem.

Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew



It only makes sense that it takes two to bring a child into the world and it follows that those same two should work together to make this world a better place for their child.

I am not telling the missing fathers that they have to marry the mothers of their children, but I am saying that you must be responsible for your actions and if you should decide to have unprotected sex and your gal gets pregnant, then both of you have a responsibility to provide for that child.

I was raised without my father and I know that he never paid a dime to help my mom raise me and my brothers, and I don’t remember ever seeing him when I was young. I raised my children without much financial help from their

fathers and now my grandchildren are in the same predicament.

About a year ago I had a conversation with one of my grandchildren’s sperm donor – it didn’t go well, so I thought I would talk to his father – I’m sad to say that conversation went about as well as the conversation with his son.

I guess the apple really didn’t fall far from the tree. In the old days, the men would hunt and bring food home to feed their families. Fellas, times have changed but your children still need diapers, milk, clothing and shelter.

In the meantime use condoms or abstain. There are free parenting programs available and some cities have facilities where you can learn traditional parenting. The best advice I can give you is to talk to the Elders; they will give you guidance.

Sandee

It’s great hearing from the readership. Send your questions and comments to sandee2says@yahoo.com or send them by mail to Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Says PO Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 Until next month, take care out there.

Province commits funding to Aboriginal sports programs

Saskatchewan has renewed its agreement with the federal government until 2009 for the Building Future Champions Program to continue efforts to increase participation in sport.

In addition, the province has entered into an agreement with the federal government to implement an Aboriginal Sport Program.

“The Building Future Champions Program has been very successful in increasing participation opportunities for Aboriginal athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers,” Culture, Youth and Recreation Minister Glenn Hagel said.

“Our commitment to the new Aboriginal Sport Program will result in long-term benefits for Aboriginal children, youth, communities and Saskatchewan. Together, these programs will have lasting positive effects on communities across Saskatchewan.”

The Aboriginal Sport Program will be managed by SaskSport and will see \$100,000 for Aboriginal sport development in Saskatchewan. The federal government announced in the fall of 2006 the establishment of an Aboriginal sport program with provinces and territories. Among other initiatives, the funding will provide resources to the Saskatchewan First Nation Games Capacity Initiative, which will enable the Red Pheasant First Nation to host the 2007 Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games.

Saskatchewan!

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Saskatchewan Native Theatre's Caribou Song another winner despite busy times for Company

BY MICHAEL GOSSELIN

This year has been shaping up as one of the busiest to date for Donna Heimbecker and crew at the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company.

Not only are they carrying on with their usual regimen of programming, production and community projects; the Junos have created a 'we're so busy we don't know what to do with ourselves' feel around the new theatre space on 20th Street West.



KRYSTLE PEDERSON

Enter Caribou Song, the latest theatrical production for SNTC's 3rd Year Ensemble Theatre Arts Program. The play was performed in front an enthusiastic gym-

full of rug rats at Victoria School recently.

Written by Thomson Highway and adapted for stage by Kenneth Charlette, Caribou Song is the story of brothers Joe and Cody and their parents Mama and Papa. The family lives in the far north and must follow the caribou for their survival. When the going gets tough and the caribou fail to rumble across the land, Mama tells Joe to create a song to call them back so the family can get through the winter.

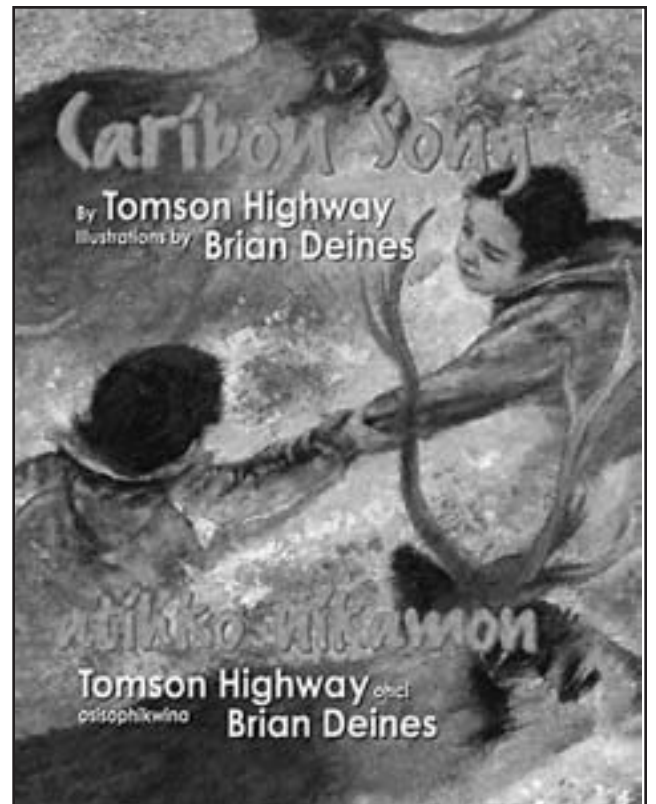
Flanked by Cody and his black dog Ootsie, Joe sings the Caribou Song with pride and determination, resulting in the return of the caribou and ensuring his family's survival. Like most SNTC productions, Caribou Song was nothing short of phenomenal. Aside from a few technical gaffs (the voice of the narrator, the Caribou Spirit, was a little frightening), ETAP proved once again their worth as a bonafide theatre program.

Actors Aaron Naytowhow and Gregory Odjig were flawless as brothers Joe and Cody. Jennifer Bishop was eerily bang-on in her portrayal of Mama and Odjig did a stellar job in his double role as Papa. The show was stolen, however, by a character who didn't even have one line of dialogue, in English anyway.

The black dog Ootsie was played by Krystle Pederson and she immediately cemented herself as the crowd favourite with her body movement, impeccable timing and ability to engage the crowd with her dedication to making the role believable.

Overall, Caribou Song is more than just a play to entertain children for 45 minutes. The Caribou Song was sung in both Cree and English and required the audience to sing along. Without even realizing it, every student, teacher, parent and administrator was learning Cree in an interactive setting with Saskatchewan's most important theatre company.

Even in the busiest of times, SNTC is committed to ensuring all shows must go on.



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HHRI is based upon a Health Canada plan dealing with Aboriginal healthcare issues. Métis National Council took the lead roll on behalf of our Governing Members and the MNC is currently researching other opportunities for developing human resource components working with Health Canada and other Aboriginal groups. We hope this is the first of many projects aimed at improving the health of Métis people and communities across the Métis Nation Homeland.

Available are scholarships and bursaries to Métis students interested in pursuing a career in one of 26 health related fields. To apply, please visit the Métis National Council website:

<http://www.metisnation.ca/HHRI/default.html>

For more information,
please call (800) 928 – 6330.



Northern Cree, award winning hand drum group opened the Juno Gala Dinner & Awards. They were also a rousing success at the celebration of Aboriginal music in Prince Albert and Saskatoon.



Calvert presented award to Jackson

• Continued from Page 2

She says for herself, those messages are living in balance with the environment and in unity.

Gilday says she's been fortunate in that she's been a bit sheltered from the mainstream music business, although she's now getting an idea of the commodity side of it.

However, she says she doesn't feel pigeon-holed or mind being referred to as an Aboriginal musician rather than just a musician.



Nelly Furtado was the big winner at the Junos held in Saskatoon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"Its true. I'm Dene. I don't want to be made a commodity because I'm Dene," she says. "[But] it's your identity. Being Dene is important to me."

Tom Jackson was also honoured for his work. He accepted the Humanitarian Award at the Juno Gala Dinner & Awards.

Saskatchewan's premier, Lorne Calvert, presented the award to Jackson, but first he went through a long list chronicling all of the gracious hard work Jackson has put into helping those less fortunate.

Calvert noted Jackson's annual Huron Carole and the Beef Relief campaign to help cattle ranchers and Calgary food banks, as well as the artist vigil that was "born out of the ashes of 9-11." Calvert proudly pointed out that Jackson put that emotional event together within 24 hours of the tragedy.

A video was also played that featured colleagues and friends speaking about Jackson's good-heartedness and selflessness. Jackson also spoke in the video.

"Music is a wonderful business to be in because you can make statements."

One amazing statistic given in the video that Jackson's work was feeding 800,000 people a month at food banks.

The video closed with poignant words from Jackson.

"If you find out the secret formula to saving lives, it makes you immortal. It makes you breathe."

• Continued on Page 13



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DiggingRoots (far left and centre) joined Leela Gilday and all the other Aboriginal nominees to open up the 2007 Juno Gala Dinner and Awards in Saskatoon. Joining them on stage were Jason Burnstick and Susan Aglukark. (Photos courtesy 2007 Junos)

Juno festivities made their way to P.A., included hockey game

• Continued from Page 12

“It makes me wanna live for one more day. It makes me wanna do it one more time.”

To much applause and a standing ovation, Jackson accepted his award and shared similar views to those of Gilday.

“I’d first like to thank the Creator for giving us a voice, giving all of us a voice. For giving us the courage to use that voice, for giving artists the chance to change the world.”

Jackson then delighted the audience by singing and playing his guitar, which was received by another standing ovation.

Backstage in the media room, Jackson told reporters he has an amazing life, and that he’s having more fun than when he was 16.

He left with the words: “There’s always a place for

revolution. There’s always a place for conflict. But music will affect more people than a bullet ever will.”

ABORIGINAL SHOWCASE IN P.A.

It may sound like it, but the Juno Awards Dinner & Gala wasn’t the only event happening in Saskatoon that weekend.

Although the Junos were kicked off officially on Friday, March 30, Prince Albert was treated to an Aboriginal showcase, the 2007 Celebration of Aboriginal Music on Thursday.

The same event was also part of Junofest in Saskatoon the next day. The event featured the Juno nominees for Aboriginal recording of the year, as well as home-grown talent.

Friday also featured the Juno Cup, where stars faced off against some former NHL players. For the record, the former NHLers won 11-9.

That night was the welcome reception, and the first night of Junofest, where 15 Saskatoon venues hosted more than 100 Saskatoon and Canadian artists.

Saturday saw more Junofest, as well as the Gala Dinner & Awards, and Sunday was the day everyone was waiting for.

More than a thousand screaming fans spent hours on the red carpet to catch a glimpse of their favourite star before people moved into Credit Union Centre for a sold-out musical extravaganza that featured performances by Billy Talent, k-os, Nelly Furtado, Patrick Watson, City and Colour and Alexisonfire, The Tragically Hip, Gregory Charles, and Three Days Grace.

Furtado took home the most awards. She won in all five categories in which she was nominated, including album and single of the year, as well as pop album and artist of the year as well as the fan choice award.

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Youth Arts group got into the swing of things with Juno 'artists'

It's not as if the Saskatchewan Youth Arts Programming needed another way to impress the socks off the art world, but they managed to do so with their latest unique project.

Saskatchewan Youth Arts Programming provided Juno fans and musicians the opportunity to participate in an interactive mural inspired by Canadian music at the Juno Awards Dinner Gala on the

Saturday night of the history-in-the-making weekend in Saskatoon.

Deborah Hamp, Saskatchewan Youth Arts Programming's Corporate Development Coordinator, said the experience was a positive one for everyone who had the guts to pick up a brush and paint.

"At first, some musicians were hesitant to pick up a paintbrush and join in, because they feel that they are not 'real painters'.

The (Saskatchewan Youth Arts Programming) artists, all of whom receive professional training, were able to mentor them through the process and gain the rewards that come from sharing their talents with famous performers, many of whom they respect and admire."

Musicians who offered their painting prowess included Andrea Menard, Susan Aglukark and Sass Jordan, who Hamp said returned many times throughout the night to add finishing touches on their creations.

The piece is now up for auction through confidential bid, with the winner owning a piece of Juno history.

The mural has a cheap-like-borscht reserve bid of \$1,200, something sure to be met since all proceeds goes to Saskatchewan Youth Arts Programming and their programming.

You can see the mural by dropping by Saskatchewan Youth Arts Programming at 253-3rd Avenue South or you can schedule an appointment by calling (306) 652-7760.



Guitarist Raven Kanatakta and his wife ShoShona Kish are DiggingRoots. They took to the stage at CBC Radio's Definitely Not the Opera.

DiggingRoots, Gilday squeeze in CBC radio gig

DiggingRoots and Leela Gilday made an "appearance" on CBC Radio's Definitely Not the Opera. The radio show, hosted by Sook-Yin Lee, taped a live portion of its Saturday afternoon broadcast at the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. Lee quizzed Gilday on her knowledge of whether a fact was describing Yellowknife (where Gilday was born) or Saskatoon (she even got most of them right!). Gilday told the crowd she liked Saskatoon because people had a lot of civic pride and were more enthusiastic about their home than a lot of other towns she'd been to. She then played an acoustic version of "Secret," which is about people being aware of how they conduct themselves. When Lee introduced DiggingRoots as a husband and wife duo, Raven Kanatakta pretended to be shocked and said, "That's disgusting. We're brother and sister!" He then chuckled and assured her that wasn't true. Kanatakta and his wife, ShoShona Kish, talked about their "entourage" when they go on tour, which can involve up to 12 people, two dogs, and four children. The husband and wife duo joked about who cleans up the puke on the tour bus — Dad claiming it's him, but Mom wasn't so sure. Kanatakta said touring with the "kiddies" keeps them grounded. "Our one son said to us, 'I don't wanna go to school. I wanna go back on tour.'" The duo played their soulful song "Rebel" for the radio audience.

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Sask Party MLA Draude named honorary Elder by Yellow Quill

Saskatchewan Party MLA and First Nations and Métis Relations critic June Draude was bestowed with the title Honourary Elder at a special ceremony on the Yellow Quill Saulteaux First Nation.

“I am a mom, a grandma and I’ve been elected to the Legislature as an MLA, but this was a great honour that truly left me speechless when I found out,” said Draude. “As a politician, I am rarely speechless but I was really humbled.

“I understand the importance and the sign of respect that this honour means. Now I have to ensure that I deserve the honour and make them never regret their decision.”

“Our caucus members are extremely proud of all the hard work June has done in her role as the critic for First Nations and Métis Relations in building relationships with Aboriginal leaders and communities,” Saskatchewan Party Leader Brad Wall said.

“We are also proud that her hard work, her thirst to learn

and understand, as well as her dedication to these communities has been recognized by the Yellow Quill Saulteaux First Nation with such an extraordinary honour.”

Draude received a plaque from the Yellow Quill Saulteaux First Nation that bestows “the highest honour and respect to Elder June Draude MLA as an Honourary Elder with all the rights and privileges that this title holds.”

According to the First Nation: “An Honoured Elder is an Elder who is not from the Yellow Quill Community. This individual is held in the highest regard with the utmost respect. This person can contribute to the community with the high standards of expertise in their field or his/her line of work.

He or she can be called on by the community, and may be used as a consultant if required. In turn, the Yellow Quill First Nation will respect and honour this person, and bestow the title ‘Honoured Elder’.”



June Draude and Sgt. Abbot of the Rose Valley RCMP were both honoured at a ceremony at the Yellow Quill First Nation.

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Building a legacy on a foundation of success

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

There are many ways to gauge success and perhaps the best measure of success is legacy. From March 12 to 17, the Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective's 2007 Storytellers Festival presented traditional cultural themes in contemporary context through the performing arts, electronic media and the spoken word.

The performances and lectures were held at several Regina venues: The Exchange, Darke Hall, the Regina Public Library Film Theatre, the Albert Library, the Regina Inn and the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

According to the festival's artistic director, Floyd Favel, the 2007 festival drew the largest ever audiences to the festival's various venues in Regina.

"For the lectures on Wednesday and Friday, there were about 60 in the audience – and these events were not part of class or conference where people were required to attend. They came of their own free will," said Favel.

Tuesday's Winter Tales: Traditional Saulteaux stories with Tyrone Tootosis and Leona Tootosis filled the Albert Library to capacity. Thursday's Sacred Performance featuring eight-time World Champion Contemporary Traditional Dancer Kevin Haywahe, former World Champion Hoop Dancer Terrence Littlelent and song by Meewasin Oma attracted an audience of about 140.

That the audience was the largest ever isn't as significant as the makeup of the audience itself. Favel observed that a significant number of non-Aboriginal people are coming to the festival with each passing year.

"For an annual festival with no permanent venue, it's challenging to develop an audience base," said Favel. "We were immensely pleased with the turnout."



Conrad Medicine-Rope opened Hurricane Hills performance with a Blessing of Mother Earth and later performed both men's traditional and shield dances.

The festival began on Monday, March 12 with an evening performance called Act and Words featuring Skeena Reece, Adrian Stimson and Terrance Houle at the Exchange. On Tuesday March 13, Winter Tales was presented at the Albert Library followed by Jerry Saddleback: Traditional Storyteller on March 14 at the

Regina Inn's Kenossee Room.

The dancers and singers at Darke Hall for Thursday's Sacred Performance delivered a tour de force. Reflecting the traditional/contemporary duality, Haywahe's new performing group, The Hurricane Hills Dance Troupe, alternated between old style and contemporary traditional, jingle, grass and fancy dance performances. Meewasin Oma's acappella performance was particularly moving and spiritual and again, a dual expression of traditional ritual singing as amplified and broadcast via a modern sound system.

A mid-day Michif Panel at the Regina Public Library Film Theatre Friday, March 16, featuring Lena Poitras and her brother Ralph Brazeau (both Michif speakers since childhood) as well as Louise Gregory discussed issues about the language (a hybrid language of French and Cree) in modern context and use.

On Friday evening, Dr. Dawn Martin Hall, who holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and is the academic director and founder of the Indigenous Studies Program at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON, presented a lecture Internalizing Colonial Representations – Deconstructing the Myth.

Also featured that night were the screenings of two short films by Hill. Jidwa: Doh-Let's Become Again is the first documentary in a series of four that will be produced by Hill based upon themes and teachings shared at the International Indigenous Elders Summit. Hill's documentary Mother of our Nations focused on ending the violence against Aboriginal women.

Acclaimed Métis fiddler Sierra Nobel and Dene dancer and songwriter, Juno recipient, Leela Gilday closed the festival with vibrancy and energy on Saturday, March 17.

• Continued on Page 18

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National Aboriginal Achievement Awards show got it right this time

The 14th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards were held recently in Edmonton and lo and behold, the organizing committee absolutely nailed it for this year's show! Firstly, the seemingly hour-long speeches from endless corporate sponsors and government agencies who seemed more concerned with convincing spectators how great they were for supporting the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards than honoring our people were gone. So were the short vignettes about the award recipients that seemed to be completed out of necessity rather than pride.

This year's show was definitely less mainstream and truly had an Aboriginal feel to it, something missed by recent year's programs. Adam Beach did a stellar job hosting alongside DerRic Starlight's puppets Wind Dancer and Granny. Beach even choked back tears more than once when overwhelmed with pride and joy for what our people achieve each and every year – and it was obvious he wasn't vying for an Oscar. The recipients themselves were some of the most profound and inspirational people ever included on the show.

REVIEW BY MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Something was different this year, something special that made every aspect of the show so much more meaningful and worth watching. This year's winners are: Alestine Andre (Culture, Heritage and Spirituality); Bertha Clark Jones (Lifetime Achievement); Chief David Walkem (Environment); Fred Carmichael (Politics); Hugh Braker (Law and Justice); Jack Poole (Business and Commerce); James Makokis (Youth Award); Joane Cardinal-Schubert (Arts); Dr. Joseph Couture (Health); Joe Michel (Education); Lewis

Cardinal (Public Service); Lisa Meeches –(Media); Monica Peters (Technology and Trades); and Wegadesk Gorup-Paul (Sports). Red Power Squad opened the show and absolutely blew the roof off the venue with their mixture of powerful beats, fabulous dance choreography and high-energy lyrics. Tara Palmer, Kinnie Starr and Andrea Menard all performed in typical fashion which, in one word, was amazing. The show stopping performances belonged to Taima who sang So You Say and, of course, Juno winner Leela Gilday who sang her tear-jerker One Drum.

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**Notice of Public Meeting
New Branch Library
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Date: Monday, April 16, 2007
7:30 p.m. Library Presentation
8 p.m. Q-and-A Session
Location: St. George's Senior Citizen Centre
1235-20th St. W. (corner of 20th
St. and Ave. M, SE corner)
Light refreshments will be served.

Members of the community, particularly Pleasant Hill, Riversdale, King George and Westmount, are invited to take part in a public discussion about the new branch library slated to open in 2008. This new branch, to be located at Avenue K and 20th Street, will serve the surrounding communities.

We're interested in hearing from you about what services, resources, and programming you would like to see in this new branch. What partnerships would you like to see developed? Any ideas on a name for the new branch? Here's your chance to tell us what you think!

For more information contact: Zenon Zuzak,
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Application Deadline: Monday, April 16, 2007

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Wanuskewin celebrates financial success, new attractions

Wanuskewin Heritage Park was the site of a significant celebration recently. Lately, many things have transpired at the national historic site, with the biggest being the paying off of the debt.

In the photo directly below, Kelly Bitternose of

rejuvenate the building and exhibit hall and has received, as a gift from the City of Saskatoon, a large parcel of land adjacent to the Park. That land will be seeded back to natural prairie plants and eventually a herd of bison currently residing at Wahpeton Dakota Nation will move to their new home at the Park.

One more reason for tourists throughout the world to come to Wanuskewin. As part of the celebration there was, of course, dancers.

Pictured below is Chante Speidel who is four years old. On the drum was her dad, Don, and he is singing with Sanford Strongarm.



Peace Hills Trust laughs as Greg Thorimbert, the Chief Financial Officer of the Park lights the paid off loan documents on fire. Looking on is Park CEO Sheila Gamble.

Wanuskewin is in an enviable position as many heritage parks are mired in debt and rely heavily on government subsidy to keep the doors open. In the last year, Wanuskewin has raised over \$5 million to



Sâkêwêwak dreams of permanent home

• Continued from Page 16

With the festival concluded, Favel says preparations for next year have already begun.

Although no concrete plans have been set, the tentative theme for 2008 will be focused on dance and the work of scouting performers is underway.

And, in terms of grand plans for the festival's future, Favel and Regina Ward 3 councilor Fred Clipsham have discussed their hopes for finding the festival a permanent home.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is in the process of putting together a bid to host the 2011 North American Indigenous Games in Saskatchewan.

Favel and Clipsham both hope that, should Regina be chosen as the host city, new infrastructure for the games could include a multi-use performing space that could become a permanent venue for Aboriginal culture and entertainment.

If so, Regina would become the first city in Canada with a performing arts centre created solely to showcase Aboriginal performing arts.

"In terms of legacies, these games are almost 50 per cent in terms of cultural programming components. I would like the (games) legacy be something like that," said Clipsham.

"I can see a space like this being really useful for Nightwind Theatre and Sâkêwêwak."

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Advance



Jason Burnstick was one of the Aboriginal performers who shared their talents making the 2007 Celebration of Aboriginal Music a huge success.

SNTC produced fine Aboriginal Music show

BY MICHAEL GOSSELIN

The feeling in the air was electric for the 2007 Celebration of Aboriginal Music as performers, presenters and dignitaries made their way over the red carpet and into the auditorium at E.A. Rawlinson Centre in Prince Albert.

Wait a minute, red carpet? At an Aboriginal show? That's right and was it fitting.

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company has long been synonymous with going all out to showcase our people's talent and absolutely transcended that sentiment on this windy night in Prince Albert.

SNTC produced the show and made sure our artists got first class treatment in what turned out to be an astounding kick off for all that is Juno in Saskatchewan. MCs Gordon Tootoosis and Tantoo Cardinal mesmerized the crowd with their improvised banter on stage – as a matter of fact, the forever stoic and proud Mr. Tootoosis actually blushed a couple times when up against Tantoo's witty charm and profound stage presence.

The Northern Cree Drum Group pounded Mother Nature's rhythm as pow wow and square dancers thundered on the stage, leaving every spirit there fascinated and craving what was yet to come.

Saskatchewan Hip Hop pioneer Eekwol captured the audience, young and old(er), in her usual profound demeanour and had the entire crowd moving their arms to the beat. Digging Roots, lead by Raven Kanataktak and Shoshona Kish, shone as they belted out their old school rebel music, with political activism and cultural relevance as their overpowering undertone.

Though both Raven and Shoshona demand attention with their obvious beauty and presence, Digging Roots was able to effectively convey their message to everyone in attendance – even the most dug in of government officials.

Chester Knight performed with his usual gritty style and it was interesting to see Eekwol's brother and producer Mils pounding the skins and displaying his multiple talents as the drummer in a country band.

Overall, this night in Prince Albert showcased all that is the heart and soul of Aboriginal musicianship in Canada. Ray Villebrun and Red Blaze, Jason Burnstick and the Jay Campbell-Ross band all played their hearts out but what made the night that much more special was Juno winner Leela Gilday's performance before intermission. Her spirit, personality and joy for life overwhelmed the crowd as her immaculate voice and deep, inspirational lyrics filled every nook and cranny of the auditorium.

Kudos does not express the sheer gratitude and profound appreciation every Aboriginal artist in Saskatchewan and Canada has for Donna Heimbecker and SNTC. All our artists who had the opportunity to perform this past Juno weekend stole the hearts of everyone having the privilege to take in their masterful beauty.

What's even more impressive is everyone involved with SNTC just sat back and let them shine.

The only downside to this beautiful night was every government official who introduced performers felt it necessary to thank every other government official who 'graced' the celebration with their presence. It's time to learn, my friends, from people like Donna Heimbecker, Kenneth Charlette and everyone involved with SNTC and start giving credit where it is actually due.

This night was not yours and the fact everyone else in attendance had to listen to the never-ending list of dignitaries threatened to take away from the spirit of the show.

Thanks to SNTC and our artists, the true intent of the 2007 Celebration of Aboriginal Music was not lost and we all walked away richer for having been there that night.

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Métis elections back on track

BY DAVID SHIELD

Back in February, it was looking doubtful whether the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) would ever be able to hold an election.

Without any notice, both the federal and provincial governments withdrew their support for the Métis election process this spring. Both governments said the acting Provincial Métis Council was unwilling to go along with the Independent Oversight Committee's Plan for a new election, and pulled their funding from the process.

Now, after a few months of negotiating, the process seems to be running at full steam once again. The Province and the Feds are back at the funding table, along with the Provincial Métis Council.

A special Métis Nation Legislative Assembly as well as a General Assembly is scheduled for April 21 in Saskatoon. At the General Assembly, Saskatchewan's Métis people will vote on a new Elections Act drafted by the Oversight Committee.

If the act passes, a new MN-S election could be held as early as July.

Oversight Committee Chair Marilyn Poitras says she's glad to finally see some movement on the issue.

The last MN-S election in 2004 was plagued by numerous charges of electoral fraud and (eventual) resignations. If the new Elections Act is passed, Poitras says this election will be considerably different than the last one.

For one thing, the election will be run by an Independent Chief Electoral Officer instead of the MN-S Senate. As well, the process will use a computerized Métis voter registration process that can't be tampered with. Voter registration cards with photo ID will also be generated for eligible voters.

Poitras says its essential that Saskatchewan's Métis people get a chance to go to the polls as quickly as possible.

"It's been a huge loss for Métis people. You had three years of no representation at a provincial level, anyways, and

that has led to loss of revenue and opportunities for the Métis people of Saskatchewan," she says.

Chief Electoral Officer David Hamilton says the new Elections Act will be generating a completely new voters' list. That means a lot of work in the next few months.

"Our big challenge with this election is we're building from the ground up. There's no question about it because there's no infrastructure, there are no voters lists. We're producing a voters list, which is crucial for any election, and that's one of the main elements of the new elections act," he says.

Poitras says it's very important that Saskatchewan's Métis people get involved with the election and see it as an impartial, unbiased process.

"We need to get the message out as strongly as we can that this is an independent election, and that your vote is a voice for Métis people. We're basically turning it back to the citizens, encouraging candidates to run and encouraging people to participate at the citizen level."

Voters will have many chances to vote – including advance polls at the Regional Returning Officers' offices and mobile polls for people who can't make it to vote on election day (such as elders in nursing homes).

One essential part of the election will be voter registration. Potential voters will be asked to submit photo ID and sign a declaration stating that they are Métis and eligible to vote in the election. Poitras says anyone who signs a declaration and is not eligible to vote will be breaking the law, and will be subject to criminal charges or other penalties.

However, the election seems to be a limited time offer. Poitras says if the new Elections Act is not approved, the Oversight Committee will close its doors, leaving the Métis people to run its own election, presumably without the support of the provincial or federal government.

"We can't do this without them wanting us to do this. It would turn back to the

Métis themselves to decide if they can run their own election," she says.

OTHER VOICES

Other members of the Métis community are encouraged by the prospect of a new election. In a press release, interim MN-S president Guy Bouvier said he was looking forward to a new election.

Praising the intervention of Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand in brokering a deal between the MN-S and Oversight Committee, Bouvier says the MN-S supports the new election plan wholeheartedly.

In the release, Bouvier writes, "Our only concern in the past, with the process proposed by the IOC/CEO, was that it did not comply with our constitution, and that our people, the Metis people of Saskatchewan, had to have the final decision to send us to a new election."

Bouvier isn't the only one happy with the prospect of a new election. Longtime Métis activist/politician Robert Doucette says he's happy to see a new election on the horizon.

"I actually think there will be a record number of people coming out to the polls this time. If there's one thing Métis people have, it's hope. They're resilient, and they never give up. I know a lot of people have said to me that in the next election, they're going to come out, and if they have to push, pull and drag people to come to their polls, they're going to do it, because



MARILYN POITRAS

they see this as an opportunity," he says.

Doucette says he's encouraged by the presence of a third party running the election.

"When they had the Campbell commission going around, people were saying we'll come out and vote, but it has to be run by a third party. And now that has happened, I really believe you'll see a lot of people that wouldn't have run before, and that'll lead to a lot of Métis people coming out to vote.

"There'll be different people running, new ideas, new blood into the nation," he says.



JUNOS AT FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

The Juno Aboriginal committee and the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre worked together to host the Juno Nominees at an honouring ceremony at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. Here, Juno nominees Jason Burnstick and Susan Aglukark surround Cultural Centre Director Dorothy Myo during the round dance that broke out. (Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre)



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BENCH STRENGTH

Fred Sasakamoose looks like he belongs with these other former NHL stars at the Juno Cup in Prince Albert where music stars faced off against NHL greats like Dave Manson, Paul Coffey and Russ Courtnall. (2007 Juno photo)



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ACTIVITY LEADER - WEEKEND PADDLING POOL ATTENDANTS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise children attending the paddling pool site and maintain a safe, hazard-free and clean activity area at the paddling pool. Provide excellent customer service to the public.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have completed Grade 10. One year's related experience (volunteer or work) monitoring or leading recreational activities is required. Possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate and valid CPR Level C Certificate is required.

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: From July 4 to August 19, 2007.

HOURS OF WORK: Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SALARY: \$10.02 per hour.

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for a weekend paddling pool attendant is Friday, May 18, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:
All successful candidates will require a positive Criminal Record Check prior to offer of employment.

Please forward, in confidence, a detailed resume to Human Resources, City of Saskatoon, 222 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5; Fax (306) 975-3073; Email: careers@saskatoon.ca

While we sincerely appreciate the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.



City of
Saskatoon



**Transit Operator
Job Training Program**



The City of Saskatoon, in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatoon Tribal Council and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, will be working to provide training of Aboriginal people interested in a career as a Transit Operator. This program has been developed to assist in preparing successful Aboriginal applicants for potential Transit Operator positions.

As a Transit Operator, you can be behind the wheel on the road, meeting a wide variety of people and not working 9 to 5 behind a desk. If you are outgoing and can deliver excellent customer service, you should consider registering in this training program.

Program Information:
May 8, 2007 to June 15, 2007.
Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, 229A Fourth Avenue South.

Instructor:
Armand Greyeyes, Retired City of Saskatoon Transit Operator.

Applicants will be selected based on:

- acceptable driver's abstract (submitted with application).
- experience in dealing with the public.
- physical ability to assist transit passengers to get on the bus.
- GED/Grade 12.
- willingness to work in shifts and on weekends.

For more information or to register contact Peggy Vermette at (306) 477-9307 or Gilles Dorval at (306) 975-2661.

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SASKATCHEWAN
INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGIES

Please forward applications by
5 p.m. on Wednesday May 2, 2007
to :
Saskatoon Tribal Council
Employment & Training Office
229A Fourth Ave S
Saskatoon SK S7K 4K3
Fax: (306) 244-0139
Email: vermettep@careervillage.ca



City of
Saskatoon

Thank God Almighty, colonialism is near the end

John L.: We were going to bring you Mr. Answer Guy this month but Dirk Dashing bribed me with an oversized tube of handsome cream so I could bring you his column instead. He even wrote his own introduction: "Ladies and gentlemen. You are about to enter a location next to a place adjacent to an area which is side-by-each with another zone ... that area is the Dashing zone." Really, that's what he wrote.

Dirk: Thanks, John. I thought my intro could use a little spicing up. But what happened to my cool theme music from the Twilight Zone?

John L.: We can't do sound in a newspaper, Dirk.

Dirk: No sound? What kind of Mickey Mouse outfit is this? My agent promised me parades of hot chicks yearning for what they can't have, and now you tell me I can't have sound in my column. You don't pay me enough. You're very lucky to have me, you know that don't you?

John L.: Oh I pay you more than enough. By the way, that cream you gave me, that was toothpaste.

Dirk: Someone sounds a little testy this month. Do you have any Greek ancestry in your blood? It doesn't matter. We'll just call you Testacles until you calm down. That's Testacles as in "test-ah-kleez", who is no relation to Incontinentia Buttocks who is in fact a Roman.

John L.: Why don't we get on with business. What was so urgent that we had to bump Mr. Answer Guy?

Dirk: Well, John, I'm glad you asked. Our story comes with the latest cosmic shift

coming from the First Nations University of Canada. A new organizational chart has come out to reflect the new, traditional direction the university is going to take.

John L.: I've seen the chart and I was confused. It resembled a wheel with dozens

imagery, but I can't be bothered to sort it out. Dirk, isn't frightening off government and the academic community rather short sighted?

Dirk: You got to take the long view. I can see it now, the federal and provincial

5th Generation

Winston McLean



of spokes and arrows and an incredible number of headings with the words "traditional-contemporary" all over it. I've shown it to other people and we can't make heads or tails of the thing.

Dirk: When I first saw the plan I thought I had brained my damage. Then I saw the brilliance of the plan. All references to "contemporary"-stuff in the chart is a head-fake because everyone knows that anything contemporary is colonial. We have to break free of colonial thinking. And we do that by bamboozling the hell out of our colonial masters, frightening them into a hasty retreat like startled spider monkeys. Only then can we rise up like the gentle wheat of spring that was our autumn winter of discontent.

John L.: There's something wrong with that

governments and their lap dogs in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada will throw their arms up in dismay, elbows all bendy-like. And they will chant, "We were wrong to have you live up to the standards of the global academic community. Please, make up the rules as you go along and forgive us our trespasses."

John L.: Are you saying the new organization chart is designed to provoke government and the university association? How is abandoning accreditation and alienating funding agents a good thing?

Dirk: Ah, my poor Testicles. Clearly thine eyes doth have gunk in 'em. Colonial gunk. You see if we can set our own standards in a learning institution then we don't need no stinkin PhD's to teach our

classes, no exams to test our knowledge, no pesky little term papers where we have to string words together to form coherent sentences. Those rules are for chumps. And besides, making rules up as we go frees us up to do other things.

John L.: Like what?

Dirk: John, did you know that traditionally we did not have red lights. Hell, we didn't even have cars. Once we've embarked on a completely traditional path and forsaken our colonial chains then we can cross the street whenever the hell we feel like, just like in Cupar. TVs will be a thing of the past, just like money, hockey and eating with forks and knives.

John L.: Now that is a little too bizarre, even for you Dirk. The way I understand it First Nations people were extremely adept at adopting new technology to improve their quality of life. Isn't that what the Treaties are about?

Dirk: I have to agree with you there, John. Our ancestors were great at adaptation. But according to the folks at NAMBLA responsible for the new chart the old tradition failed and we must return to the real tradition, a real traditional-contemporary tradition of historical-modern times. Only our NAMBLA saviours truly know what that means.

John L.: Just who is NAMBLA anyways?

Dirk: John, I can't be the eye candy of this outfit and do all the thinking too. Get on your computer and Google it yourself.

Dirk says if you want a copy of the new FNUC chart you gotta send him the love. dirkdashing@shaw.ca



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WWW.SIIT.SK.CA

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Saskatoon, SK S7N 4S1
Ph: 306-244-4444
Fax: 306-244-1391
www.siit.sk.ca

Saskatoon Campus

Suite 201, 229 - 4th Avenue S
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4K3
Ph: 306-373-4777

Prince Albert Campus

900 - 1st Avenue E
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6P2
Ph: 306-953-7225

Fort Qu'Appelle Campus

Box 985
Fort Qu'Appelle, SK S0G 1S0
Ph: 306-332-8240

North Battleford Campus

10702 Diefenbaker Drive
North Battleford, SK S9A 4A8
Ph: 306-445-9400

Meadow Lake Campus

720 - 5th Street W
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1T9
Ph: 306-234-5114

Yorkton Campus

Bay #4-37 7th Avenue S
Yorkton, SK S3N 3V1
Ph: 306-783-2225

Onion Lake Campus

Box 340
Onion Lake, SK S0M 2E0
Ph: 306-344-2525

Regina Campus

2024C Albert Street S
Regina, SK S4P 2T7
Ph: 306-546-2945

La Ronge Campus

Box 480
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0
Ph: 306-425-4938



Beardy's win FSIN hockey championship

The first time they played, Red Pheasant won a thriller in a shootout over the Beardy's Blackhawks. It was one of the most entertaining games of the weekend. Red Pheasant seemed headed for sure victory when a last second goal by Beardy's sent the game to a shootout. Tyson and Sheldon Wutunee made it look easy as they scored to secure the victory in the semi-final.

These same two teams would meet again in the final and the result was a convincing victory for Beardy's. The team stuck together and played well as a unit. The bend but don't break defense was effective and through their hard work they were rewarded with the championship.

Player's Ball gives local kids their chance to shine

The 2nd Annual Player's Ball

wrapped up on April 5 at Bedford Road Collegiate in Saskatoon. For those who

the last two CIS Women's Player of the Year Awards in basketball. Kerrie-Leigh



PLAYER'S BALL

Enthusiastic young basketball players gather for a group photo during the Player's Ball basketball event held at Bedford Road in Saskatoon recently. The kids received coaching from several University of Saskatchewan Huskies players.

(Photo by Blue Pelletier)

participated, it was more than just a game.

The week started with the kids meeting with their coaches. The girls were coached by Sarah Crooks, the winner of

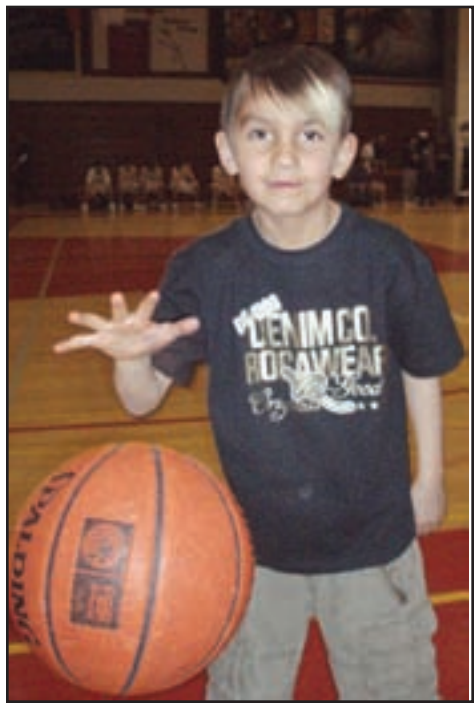
Porter and Jill Humbert were among some of the other players from the Huskies Women's Basketball team who helped coach both teams.

The boys teams were coached by

Andrew Spagrud, Kyle Grant, Sam Lamontagne, and Jordan Harbridge, all of the Men's Huskies Squad.

In the middle of the week the coaches, players and everyone involved in the event got together for a night of bowling and pizza. The laid back atmosphere was great for all involved to get the chance to just hang out and have some fun.

Congratulations to all the players who participated and a huge thank you should go out to the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and all the sponsors who made this event one to remember.



THE FUTURE

C.J. Albert shows us he's ready for prime time. C.J. was participating in the Player's Ball event.

(Photo by Blue Pelletier)

Métis Nation Legislative Assembly on Electoral Reform

Morning, April 21, 2007

Eligible to attend are Local Presidents, the Provincial Métis Council, four representatives of the Métis Women of Saskatchewan and four representatives from the Provincial Métis Youth Council.

Local Presidents must produce a membership list for their Local along with a copy of the minutes from the meeting in which they were elected. They also must complete a Statutory Declaration confirming their position. Local Presidents may pre-register by calling 1-888-638-4775.

Afternoon, April 21, 2007

Métis Nation General Assembly to Confirm Constitutional Changes

The General Assembly is open to all Saskatchewan Métis citizens.

Saskatoon Travelodge
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
For information, call 1-888-638-4775
or visit metiselections.ca.



Almost ten percent of our sworn officers are
Aboriginal men and women.
We would like you to join them.



Saskatoon Police Service Recruitment Information Session April 12th, May 8th, June 5th 7:30 p.m.

The information session will be held at the Saskatoon Police Service headquarters located at 130 4th Avenue North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Everyone is welcome, registration is not required. Please register to write the entrance exam and take the physical abilities test by submitting your full name, date of birth, address and phone number to:
recruiting@police.saskatoon.sk.ca or call (306) 975-8282.
www.police.saskatoon.sk.ca



2007 Celebration of Aboriginal Music

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Thank you

On behalf of the Aboriginal Initiatives Committee we wish to extend warm thanks to all our sponsors and contributors for helping make our events a tremendous success.

We could not have done it without you.

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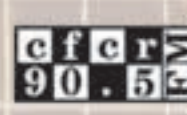
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Take care out there.



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