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Doucette is the man ... finally

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Robert Doucette is a very popular man these days. And not just because of his recent victory at the polls.

Sitting in Saskatoon’s Métis Nation-Saskatchewan office, the new MN-S president has been deluged with phone calls since he took office. Switching frantically between his desk phone and his cell phone, Doucette is fielding call after call from Métis across the province—as well as the provincial and federal governments.

BY DAVID SHIELD

It’s a small wonder everyone’s trying to get a hold of Doucette. Saskatchewan’s Métis government has been in a virtual holding pattern for years after government suspended MN-S funding.

Now, with a new election behind them, the Métis Nation looks like it just might be able to turn the corner. With a little luck, and a lot of hard work, the organization might be finally able to restore the confidence of the Métis people. That, and restore governmental funding necessary to keep the MN-S up and running.

However, it’s going to take a lot of work to do that. Doucette has vowed to have an independently prepared financial report ready for the end of July. The report will outline where the MN-S stands financially – how much money the organization currently has – and how much debt.

At the moment, Doucette says he has no idea where the MN-S stands financially. Sitting in his empty office, Doucette says he inherited a broken computer – and not much else.

“This building, we don’t even know if we own it anymore. We just don’t know for sure. That’s why we’re doing all these initiatives right now,” he says.

The question of how much the MN-S currently owes its creditors is something Doucette says will have to be ad-



Gabe Lafond was acclaimed MN-S treasurer.



ROBERT DOUCETTE

dressed quickly. While he says he won’t know how much money the organization owes until after the audit is completed, he says the amount could be substantial.

“Suffice it to say that we’ve found some issues that are going to take some negotiating. We’re just at the ground level and looking at the larger picture. It could be big, it could be small. I’m not sure. That’s why we’re doing that organizational audit to see what’s out there.”

Doucette says provincial and federal officials have both expressed their willingness to get things started with the MN-S. While he says it may take some time to re-establish programming dollars, Doucette says his ultimate goal is to renegotiate some long-standing issues between the MN-S and government.

For one thing, Doucette says he wants to renegotiate the Associated Entities Fund deal between the provincial government and the MN-S. Designed as a way for gaming revenues to flow to the Métis people, Doucette says the province’s Métis deserve a larger piece of the pie.

Doucette says he also plans on focusing on Métis land claims – working with government and business to ensure that the Métis get their fair share of resource revenue on traditional Métis land (for example, diamond mining operations at Fort a la Corne and oil sands developments in the province’s northwest).

Doucette says many people don’t realize that Métis people have outstanding land claims issues.

“A lot of people don’t know what happened during that Métis scrip process. For example, when they were handing out Métis scrips in 1906 in Ile a la Crosse, they gave my great-uncle a Métis scrip and somehow he sold it. There’s a problem with that. He was only six months old. So, it’s one of our goals to educate the public about our outstanding issues and why there is a need to negotiate rather than to go to court and make it into a rights issue.”

• Continued on Page 7

Sturgeon Lake First Nation signs TLE deal

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Chief Wesley Daniels of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development Minister Lon Borgerson, on behalf of Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Maynard Sonntag, signed a ceremonial document acknowledging a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreement.

After three years of tripartite negotiations and a successful First Nation ratification vote, this agreement provides the Sturgeon Lake First Nation with a settlement amount of approximately \$10.4 million for an outstanding TLE shortfall as well as the entitlement to purchase land. In addition, Canada will provide \$620,501 for negotiation, ratification and acquisition costs.

"This settlement shows that when all the parties - Canada, the First Nation and the Province - are committed, decisive success at the negotiation table is possible," said Prentice.

"This settlement will bring economic benefits to the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and local communities as well as providing certainty for government, industry and non-Aboriginal Canadians."

Settling this claim enables the First Nation to invest directly in the province's economy through the purchase of land and through future economic development opportunities. Under the Agreement, Sturgeon Lake First Nation is entitled to purchase up to 38,971 acres (15,588 hectares) of land, on a willing-seller/willing-buyer basis, to convert to reserve status.

"This is indeed a historic occasion for our people of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation," Chief Daniels said. "The settling of this Treaty Land Entitlement provides hope to our people that there is a spirit of continuity - the continuity of a people from the first Chief and leadership



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph, INAC Minister Jim Prentice, RCMP Constable Brian Kishayinew, Chief Wesley Daniels and the Honourable Lon Borgerson, Minister of Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development after the Treaty Land Entitlement agreement was signed.

(Photo courtesy of First Nations & Métis Relations)

that signed the Treaty, to our ancestors and Elders who got us here, and forward to our children and grandchildren as well as to future generations who have the most to benefit from this agreement. We acknowledge the efforts of the negotiators, the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice, the Provincial Minister Maynard Sonntag, and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph on this special day."

"The successful negotiation of this agreement is a significant achievement for Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan and Canada," Borgerson said. "In addition to satisfying the Province's obligation to help Canada fulfill outstanding TLEs, this settlement charts a path to greater economic and social development opportunities for the First Nation and its members and con-

tributes to Saskatchewan's goal of building brighter futures for individuals, families and communities."

Negotiations between Canada, Saskatchewan and the First Nation began in June 2004, and a final agreement has now been achieved. The membership of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation ratified the agreement on January 25, 2007. Ninety-two per cent of those members, who voted, voted to accept the settlement.

The Sturgeon Lake First Nation is located approximately 50 kilometers northwest of Prince Albert. In 1876, Canada and several First Nations in Saskatchewan and Alberta, including Sturgeon Lake First Nation, entered into Treaty 6, which formed the basis for this claim. There are about 2,300 registered members of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

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SIGA rings up record revenues, profits in tenth year

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) recorded revenues of \$130 million and profits of \$48.8 million for the 2006-07 fiscal year. These are the highest revenues and profits achieved by SIGA in its 10 years of operation.

“As the operator of First Nations casinos in Saskatchewan, we are very proud of our achievements over the past decade,” stated Zane Hansen, SIGA President and CEO.

“In addition to record profits, SIGA continues to meet the highest governance and control standards set by the industry.”

SIGA operates casinos in Prince Albert, North Battleford, Yorkton and on the White Bear First Nation near Carlyle. SIGA is preparing to open its newest and largest casino (Dakota Dunes) on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation near Saskatoon on August 10, 2007 and is also developing the new Living Sky Casino in Swift Current. SIGA currently employs 1,500 people, of which 73 per cent are First Nations.

The Dakota Dunes casino was finished under budget and almost a month early. Dunes general manager, Gary Daniels says they are almost ready to go. “We have about 15 per cent more of our staff to hire which will bring us to 350 full-time equivalent jobs. Almost 80 per cent of the staff are First Nation.”

According to Hansen, the Dunes was finished early because of a great contractor.

“Graham Construction did a great job and used many First Nation employees from this area. Their relationship with SIIT worked very well. For staffing our casino, we held a very successful career fair at the Career Village at SIIT.”

Net profits from SIGA help support First Nations people, communities and the Saskatchewan public and are distributed annually as follows: 37.5 per cent to the First Nations Trust Fund; 37.5 per cent to the provincial government and 25 per cent to community development corporations.

“SIGA is accountable to First Nations people, communities and the public of Saskatchewan,” added Ray Ahenakew, SIGA Board Chair. “SIGA’s Best Business Practices will guide and facilitate the long term fiscal viability of the organization.”



SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen (left) and Gary Daniels, general manager of the Dakota Dunes casino are looking forward to building on the excellent financial results SIGA reported this year.

SIGA continues to strengthen the lives of Saskatchewan and First Nations people through employment, economic growth and community relations initiatives. All SIGA casinos offer a distinctive First Nations gaming experience that reflects the traditional aspects of First Nations heritage and hospitality.



VICE-CHIEF GLEN PRATT

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

New land claims procedure welcomed by FSIN

in communities across the country.

“Instead of letting disputes over land and compensation drag on forever, fuelling frustration and uncertainty, they will be solved once and for all by impartial judges on a new Specific Claims Tribunal,” Prime Minister Harper said.

Canada’s Specific Claims Action Plan proposes four key initiatives that would:

- Create a new tribunal staffed with impartial judges who would make final decisions on claims when negotiations fail;
- Make arrangements for financial compensation more transparent through dedicated funding for settlements in the amount of \$250 million a year for 10 years;
- Speed up processing of small claims and improve flexibility in the handling of large claims; and
- Refocus the existing Indian Specific Claims Commission to concentrate on dispute resolution.

“Today’s announcement is a positive response to what our people have advocated for decades and is a testament to the perseverance and dedication of our people,” said National

Chief Phil Fontaine. “The government’s commitment to our full engagement in implementing this important initiative will be key to its success.”

Discussions with First Nations and provincial and territorial governments will take place over the summer with the goal of bringing forward legislation to implement the action plan in the fall.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Third Vice Chief Glen Pratt, responsible for the Lands & Resources portfolio, welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper addressing the backlog of specific claims.

“I am very pleased with Prime Minister Harper’s announcement of an independent commission and tribunal to deal with specific land claims,” Vice Chief Pratt stated. “With respect to Saskatchewan this will be beneficial to our First Nations that have had many negative experiences in the land claims process.”

Currently in Saskatchewan there are 92 unresolved specific claims that have been submitted to Canada with additional claims being

researched. Fifty-one claims have been settled to date.

“An independent body such as this, with the power to make binding decisions would remove the conflict of interest of having Canada judge claims against itself.

“It will provide an avenue of justice for First Nations where there have been breaches by Canada of its lawful obligations.

“Not only do settlements bring justice, they provide First Nations with economic opportunities through claim settlements dollars. The federal money that settlements bring to Saskatchewan benefit First Nation and non First Nation communities and provides certainty for business,” Vice Chief Pratt said.

Specific claim settlements honour Canada’s lawful obligations to First Nations and bring economic benefits to First Nations and local communities as well as certainty for government, industry and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

The new process, if it does lead to quicker land settlements, could mean up to one billion dollars in land settlements for Saskatchewan.

Buckle up.

Whether you’re travelling in the city or in the country, everyone in the vehicle needs to buckle up.

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Please respect it.



SG
Take care out there.

Original feather illustration by Gary Natomogan.

National Day of Action went off without a hitch

Well, it turns out the calls of alarm were for naught. Aside from a short roadblock on the 401 in Ontario, there was no civil disobedience on the National Day of Action on June 29.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine had asked First Nations and Canadians to come out on June 29 and to hold peaceful rallies to inform Canadians about the horrible way that the government of Canada treats its First citizens. Fontaine hoped that this measure would put pressure on the government to move the portfolio forward.

Immediately, some renegade Chiefs and activists started throwing around threats of roadblocks and confrontation with an underlying threat that the group in Ontario, led by Mohawk activist, Shawn Brant, had guns. Other than the Brant group closing the 401 in Ontario for a few hours, the National Day of Action went off peacefully and successfully around Canada.

The leadership of AFN Chief Phil Fontaine must be acknowledged here. He had a consistent message of peaceful dialogue through the entire process, and, despite the rumblings from some of the more activist leaders, his message was heard.

The media initially focused on the leaders who were purporting civil disobedience, but once that fizzled the cameras turned to the peaceful marchers and those spreading a message of peace and partnership. This resulted in some excellent media coverage and the delivery of Fontaine's message, in a positive way, across Canada. Publicity like that, you cannot buy.

In Saskatchewan, about 200 people marched from the First Nation University of Canada to the Saskatchewan Legislature. A march attended in solidarity by First Nation leaders and the leaders of the three political parties. There were also smaller gatherings in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Federation Chief Lawrence Joseph was also calling for peaceful community building dialogue and the day was a success. The effort was well done on the never-ending battle of trying to inform other Canadians about the plight and issues of Aboriginal communities.

In last month's editorial, I wrote about attending peaceful events and warned that sometimes, in-your-face activism and road blockades can set back a cause more than help it. The day after our paper came out, someone retyped it and placed it on the Redwire forum page. I guess the Redwire site is a bastion of angry young people who attack those that don't think the same way as them.

Editorial

I had never heard of them, nor was my editorial aimed at them, but I was immediately attacked through mass emails as these activists spread my editorial around. It seems as though each of those activists that responded wanted to call me down or make light of or minimize who I was, all the while including their little email buddy list so they could show their radical friends how radical and angry they were.

I appreciate open dialogue but not being attacked. So I personally answered each of the emails from people who attacked me. I explained my position and why I do what I do and thanked them for their comments, off base though they may be. Interestingly enough, these people who emailed me and included their mass email lists to put me down, never once replied to my personal emails. Not even the little activist who referred to herself as an Aboriginal journalist from "Unseeded (sic) Coast Salish Territory." I emailed her and told her she may as well have called herself an Aboriginal journalist from summer fallow Coast Salish Territory. How about trying unceded?

Are they cowards? Maybe. Are they angry? Certainly. Unfortunately they take that anger out on anyone who thinks different than them and that is a true setback to their cause. Maybe they will take a lesson from the very successful Day of Action and realize that bandanas, burned out busses and

angry confrontations at a roadblock do not further the cause, they set it back. I can understand their anger, but to thrive on and nurture that anger is not healthy at all and I think they need to hear that.

Leadership Métis style

After winning in the last three elections, Robert Doucette, newly elected President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, can actually claim an office at the MN-S headquarters and get to work. Previously denied his wins in the last two elections due to good old Métis election fraud, Doucette stayed true to the Métis people, lobbied and fought for them and now he officially represents them. His victory in the June election shows his tenacity and commitment and we can only hope that those characteristics will be front and centre for the five years of his mandate to run the MN-S.

There will be lots on his plate. To begin with, Doucette has to find money to run the organization, and he also has to find out what the Métis Nation has for assets, if any. He expects to have a full accounting for the Métis people by the end of July. Be prepared for the worst.

Then Doucette has to get on implementing the Powley hunting rights the Métis have, get to work on economic development and finding post secondary funding for our youth and to ensure the affiliates are strong. Most importantly, Doucette, his executive and the Provincial Métis Council will have to fix the constitution, create a Métis registry and create a new election act. Good luck and good thing they have five years.

There also has to be a congratulations offered to the Chief Electoral Officer David Hamilton. I have heard no complaints over the election, and judging on the last three elections we have covered, it is a miracle. He did a great job and so did the almost 5,000 voters that came out. Judging on the turnout and interest in this election, if Doucette and his executive do a good job, the interest will rise and we could see up to 10,000 Métis vote in the next election. Not quite as good a turn out as the 1970s but it is coming.

What's next in Eagle Feather News

August is our justice issue and we will be examining some policing models from around Saskatchewan and talking to youth interested in a justice career. We are also sending our sports guy Blue Pelletier out to Red Pheasant and the Battlefords to cover the 2007 First Nation Summer Games that kick off in a couple weeks.

Of course we will have our regular columnists back for your enjoyment. Sadly there will be

no insights in August from our friend and star Dirk Dashing as he has been called up to the big leagues. Better pay, no long bus rides and we hear the food is fantastic. Best of luck Dirk.

Clarification

In our May edition, we referred to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada as an accrediting organization. Actually, the AUCC

is a membership organization. We regret the mistake.

We also received a phone message from a fellow who was mad that we referred to John B. Tootoosis as being elected Chief of Poundmaker at the age of twenty. This gentleman insisted that John B. was never Chief and that we should get our facts straight.

To the callers' credit, John B. Tootoosis was

never elected Chief of Poundmaker, but the elders named him Chief at age 20. The Department of Indian Affairs never recognized John B as Chief because he was too young. So according to oral tradition, John B. was a Chief of Poundmaker at one time.

According to our caller, he never was. And please, dear caller, if you want us to return your call, leave a number, not swears.

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Memories sustain us in our darkest times

I would like to begin by extending my congratulations to the new president, executive and area leaders of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. I wish you all a successful term and as the old Irish say, “may the wind always blow gently on your back.”

I had lots of visitors on Canada Day, stopping for tea on their way to Batoche for the ceremonies and for Christi Belcourt’s Art Exhibit. Métis people spilled out from the kitchen and onto the deck. Talking politics (of course), telling stories, sharing memories and lots of laughter.

Sometimes when I listen to the stories I shake my head and think, “it’s no wonder outsiders think we’re a bit crazy.” We are, of course, and I love us for that, but also I believe that those memories and stories have been our survival through some very difficult times. They hold truths and teachings that are important in our journey through this life. For example, I remember reading somewhere that ‘nations are not made in the houses of parliament, but rather they are made in the way people argue, laugh, love and make pilgrimage together.’

If that is the case we certainly are a strong nation. Ponder for a moment the pilgrimages we make, alone and together, into the memories of the past, and consider how and why those memories sustain us in our darkest times, giving us courage to move forward. Our Elders are right when they say this is the kind of courage that is needed to rebuild Kikino, the homeland, the centre that is the essence of our being. I know for me the memory of Kikino and the people I love takes me to a warm April day in northern Saskatchewan.

There are patches of snow on the ground, little puddles of water. Children, myself among them, shout and laugh as they run about carrying old blankets to fan small fires or put them out.

I see my father and the men of our

community, red faced from heat, directing the fires over the brown and yellow grass. And by the cabin, my grannies, murmuring prayers, offering tobacco and singing the birthing song of spring.

Waniskak, waniskak, mewashsin ooma kitaskinow.

Waniskak, waniskak, asay piyesiasuk nikamoouk.

Spilling out of bed, we dress and rush outside to meet cousins and friends. Today our fathers will burn the yards and all the land

renew itself and to honour and respect the Mother who lent it to us.”

“Kikino ooma,” they would say. “This is our home. Give thanks to Creator for this clean land and for pimatisoowin, our life. Give thanks for the children, who will inherit it and for the old ones, who carry its teachings. Give thanks for the women and the men whose duty it is to protect it ...’

As they told the story, sang songs and laughed, the grannies taught us about community

would make our people strong for another year.

I was nine years old when a law was passed forbidding the burn. We were told it was a dangerous practice and all we had to do was cut the grass if we wanted to keep our yards clean, and so the ceremony stopped.

Many years later I read a report that said banning the burns had been a mistake. The writer gave all the reasons that it was healthy and safe for the environment. I don’t remember what the reasons were.

“The Indian Burn,” as the report called it, was not only an ancient ceremony that tied us to the land, but it was also a celebration of our strength, and out of that strength came a sense of purpose and direction.

I don’t remember all the songs or all the stories, only bits and pieces. But, I do know there are grandmothers, who still remember the birthing songs of spring and the stories of the people. There are grandfathers who remember how to take the fire from the family hearth to clean the land.

All that is needed is for us to re-enact, even this one small ritual, the memory of a community burn. The bits and pieces will allow us to relive them, however uncertain our movements. The sights, sounds, and especially the smells, will give us courage. The courage needed to give our children a life and a history. The together remembering of the bits and pieces can, and will, realize our community and rebuild our nation. And who knows, perhaps the teachings and lessons can help guide and direct our new leadership and if nothing else the re-remembering will be good for all of us.

So please send your memories and stories to mariacampbell@sasktel.net. There is more to this story to be continued in the next issue.

Reflections

Maria Campbell



surrounding our homes. Our mothers will prepare food all day and the smell of moose meat soup, smoked muskrat, sage and baking bannock will be everywhere.

When the burn is over, we will walk together to the burial ground and clean the graves, saying aloud the names of those whose bones rest there and later sitting on the blankets spread out on the dry ground, great grandmother, will say the prayer. When she is finished, we eat the food, remembering the relatives who have passed over, and as we eat, she and the grannies will tell us their story.

“Kiyas, mitoni kiya,” they would say. “Long ago, in the time of first grandmother, first grandfather, our people celebrated the passing of winter and the coming of spring, by burning the land they used, to purify and clean it so it could

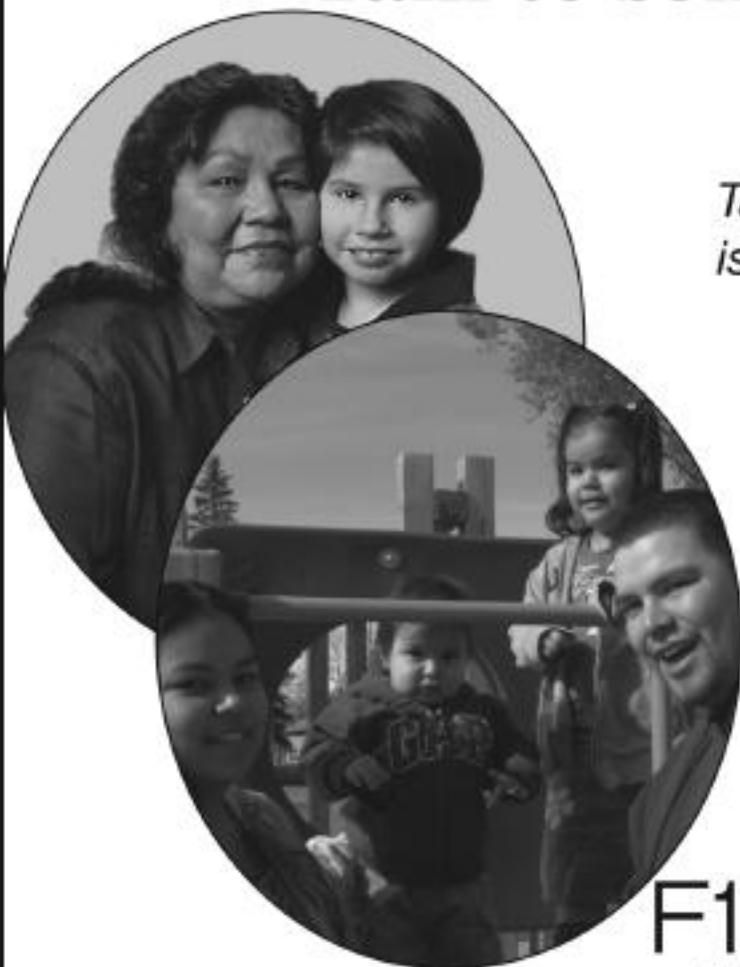
and the responsibility each one of us had in keeping it strong.

There are other memories. The first rain that would bring the green, green grass and the carpet of wild herbs and flowers that would become medicine to doctor us in times of sickness. Memories of hauling the furniture outside and mud plastering the cabin walls and later when it was dry, brushing on the new coat of white wash ... Granny hanging the cloth and tobacco on the west corner for the thunder beings who would protect our home and mamma sprinkling holy water, ‘just to be sure.’

My last memory is the incredible sense of well-being and security I felt when we were done. Our work would not only make our land beautiful, but it would make the gardens healthy and the berries plentiful. The feast and prayers

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Adventure and history along the Red Coat Trail

My wife and I turned away from the tiring hustle of the Trans Canada Highway and headed into the Cypress Hills south of Medicine Hat, Alberta.

We camped among the thick pines of the Elk Water Provincial Park while the rain fell light at first then heavy through the night. The air mattress went flat then the rising sun's warming rays were blocked by the thick foliage overhead. Hot oatmeal and strong coffee restored us for the most part.

We chose to drive the Red Coat Trail east to rejoin Highway 1 West at Moose Jaw. It was a trip neither of us had taken before. We left Elk Water and headed due south close to the Montana border.

The Sweet Grass Hills rose high and majestic to the west. To the south were the Bear Paw Mountains of Montana and the legendary Upper Missouri beyond. The prairie was green from the generous spring rains. Sage brush and wild flowers grew abundantly.

It was a beautiful day under a big prairie sky. Our leisurely pace allowed us to hear the meadow larks sing and the hawks cry.

We roamed across open range, through Texas gates and saw the occasional pronghorn antelope. Longhorn cattle herds appeared now and again. This land was untouched well into Saskatchewan. The ploughed fields began and with them the first of many small towns.

The badlands first appear as tipi-like cut banks of white clay set against the steep hills of the Frenchman River Valley. Canada's first dinosaur fossil was found in this area.

Sixty-five million years ago a Tyrannosaurus Rex died and was covered by the sediment of a fast flowing stream. In 1992 the fossilized bones were discovered

Eastend is nestled in the Frenchman River Valley surrounded by white clay cliffs and eroded hills. There is a nice well treed campground by the river within the town limits. We pressed on and after a leisurely ride we left the Red Coat Trail and made north on Highway 58.

Gravelbourg is a very French and very Catholic town as the very large brick

were being surrounded by a force much larger than themselves. It was in this desperate moment some grandmothers spoke. They said they had lived long and would soon die. They requested the people escape through the enemy lines into the coming darkness while they kept fires burning through the night. At daylight the enemy came and upon finding they had been tricked they killed the grandmothers. Their sacrifice gave name to the lake.

Old Wives is a large lake by prairie standards. It is bordered by low hills and does not appear very impressive until we encountered the rolling prairie hills to its north east. This is the old unspoiled prairie lands clean and timeless. These beautiful hills lie between Old Wives and Moose Jaw the last leg of our trip.

My wife enjoyed a leisurely dip in the Mineral Spa while I sipped on overpriced coffee. I dared not venture into the casino next door. Moose Jaw has really come a long way from being a place to joke about. I enjoyed the downtown and mingled with some very friendly people. It is said Moose Jaw was a favourite wintering site for the long ago Indians because the valley of the Moose Jaw Creek was noticeably warmer than the surrounding country side. This is true even to this day.

A brief visit to Buffalo Pound Lake was followed by joining the busy four lane Highway 11 at Chamberlain.

Thus ended our soul-soothing back road excursion.

Common Ground

John Cuthand



eroding out of an isolated hillside. Tyrannosaurus was one nasty predator. The local version nicknamed Scotty has six inch serrated teeth in a massive skull and would have stood eighteen feet tall. Tyrannosaurus Rex translates from Latin to mean appropriately "terrible lizard king".

It was a very rare and important find. The community of Eastend succeeded in retaining the bones and built a small, first class museum and field station in the hills above the town. The irony is while Eastend prospered from the resulting tourist trade the bones were actually found closer to the neighbouring town of Shaunavon.

church in the center of town attests. We ate at the Paris Café. I expected some hokey tourist trap but the place was very well done. Excellent meals, friendly people and a dozen varieties of coffee and tea. It was a nice surprise, a bit of Europe on the Saskatchewan prairies

It was late in the day when we reached Old Wives Lake. During the 1860s the buffalo herds were in noticeable decline and the Cree were forced by necessity to venture into Blackfoot Territory. During this time an isolated Cree band camped by the lake were discovered by a war party of Blackfoot. The Cree realized too late they

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Doucette hopes to rebuild Métis respect

• Continued from Page One

Doucette says it's even more important to get out into the community and talk to the province's Métis people about what they would like to see done in the next several years. He plans to hold a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and Annual General Meeting sometime this year.

"Our goal is to have another MNLA this year and an AGM where Métis people can come and voice their concerns and help us develop that overall strategic plan, and also to build up that respect again that Métis people can have as an organization.

"I've said all along that the Métis voice was missing and we're going to have to bring that back," he says.

Doucette says he doesn't think working with the Provincial Métis Council will be difficult. He says there are many new faces after the last election, and everyone is looking forward to working together.

"I think all of them have one goal in mind, and that is to move the Métis agenda forward. I think there is great willingness and I guess a willingness to work together to rebuild this organization so that it's relevant to Métis people."

Alan Morin is the vice-president, Gabe Lafond is the treasurer. The secretary position is unofficially held by Max Morin pending a judicial recount. Morin's margin of victory was very narrow prompting a recount.



Robert Doucette is the man speaking for Métis people in Saskatchewan.

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Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

Resolving Specific Claims Once and For All

The Government of Canada has recently announced a decisive new plan to resolve the backlog of First Nations' specific claims, which is currently more than 800. The plan has been designed to ensure the process is accelerated, and that First Nations are provided with fair and timely resolution of specific claims.

Canada's Specific Claims Action Plan includes:

- An independent claims tribunal;
- Faster processing by the Government;
- Better access to mediation; and
- Dedicated funding for settlements.

Discussions with First Nation and provincial/territorial partners will take place over the coming months. The goal is to bring legislation forward in the fall to implement the plan.

For more information and
a copy of the booklet

Call: **1-800-567-9604**

Visit: **www.inac.gc.ca**

Lifestyle changes can prevent Type 2 Diabetes

It's getting hot outside! Did you know that heat can kill by pushing the human body beyond its limits. Under normal conditions, the body's internal thermostat produces perspiration that evaporates and cools the body.

However, in extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature. There are a few things we can do to protect ourselves from extreme heat. Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.

If you live in a city consider spending the warmest part of the day in public facilities such as libraries, shopping malls, movie theaters and schools. Eat well balanced, light and regular meals; drink plenty of water, limit intake of alcoholic beverages, and never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.

Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. To the men out there - beware, because men sweat more than women and are more susceptible to heat related illness because they become dehydrated more quickly. Most importantly, check on Elders, family and friends who do not have air conditioning and spend much of their time alone.

Young children, elderly and sick or overweight are more likely to become victims of heat related illness so watch out for each other. Heat disorders include; sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heatstroke/sun stroke. All can be very serious, so remember to take care out there.

Are you aware that Type 2 diabetes is one of the fastest growing diseases in Canada? It is estimated that

two million Canadians have diabetes and one third of those affected are unaware they have the disease. I was one of those unaware folks until recently. Two weeks ago I was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes – I am still trying to digest that information.

I always knew that Aboriginal people are at high risk of developing health problems related to Type 2

Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew



diabetes. I didn't know that people with diabetes are 2 to 4 times more likely to die of heart disease than those without.

Four out of five people with diabetes die from heart disease, and over 60 per cent of people with diabetes have high cholesterol. Both are risk factors for heart disease and stroke. The longer a person has diabetes, the greater the chance of complications and death.

I was surprised to learn that diabetes puts a person 15 years closer to a heart attack, stroke or death from any cause. It's hard to imagine that one in three people with diabetes have it and don't know it. On average, people have diabetes for seven years before diagnosis.

The symptoms of diabetes may begin gradually and can be hard to identify at first. They may include fatigue, a sick feeling, frequent urination, especially at

night, and excessive thirst. When there is extra glucose in blood, one way the body gets rid of it is through frequent urination. This loss of fluids causes extreme thirst.

Other symptoms may include sudden weight loss, blurred vision, and slow healing of skin, gum and urinary tract infections. Women may notice genital itching. A doctor also may suspect a patient has diabetes if the person has health problems related to diabetes. For instance, heart disease, changes in vision, numbness in the feet and legs or sores that are slow to heal, may prompt a doctor to check for diabetes. These symptoms do not mean a person has diabetes, but anyone who has these problems should see a doctor.

You can prevent the onset of Type 2 diabetes by making lifestyle changes, including healthy eating, regular physical exercise and maintaining a healthy weight. We only get one body so we have to take care of it.

Speaking of taking care of the body I want to share a success story with you. Last year a young woman wrote to me worried about her friend who was on crack cocaine and heading nowhere fast. I am pleased to tell you that the person did get help and is currently back to work and trying to get her life back on track.

Congratulations to her!

For all of you out there who are still struggling with addictions – don't give up, help is available.

I enjoy hearing from the Eagle Feather News readers. Write to me c/o Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3M4 or send me an email to sandee2says@yahoo.ca.

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Arnault-Pelletier honoured by U of S

Valerie Arnault-Pelletier, a Cree woman who is a member of Beardy's Okemasis First Nation, has served for the past 10 years as lead student advisor in the Native Access Program in the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan.

Her work managing the program and expanding the vision of increased numbers of Aboriginal people in health care careers and balanced, healthy Aboriginal communities has earned Arnault-Pelletier the University's President's Service Award.

Arnault-Pelletier received the news of her award during a personal phone call from President Peter MacKinnon.

"When he told me I was to be recognized, I was immediately humbled and very honoured," said Arnault-Pelletier. "I am thrilled for our department because I do not see this as an individual thing. This reflects well on all of us."

When she was first hired, the number of Aboriginal students was low.

"We only had three or four students when I started 13 years ago. Now we have over 200 nursing students around Saskatchewan and nine in medicine with six more enrolling this year," said Arnault-Pelletier. "The biggest achievement for me all these years is seeing the end results – our people succeeding, graduating and the pride in their family's eyes. I love it."

"One of our 'boys' came to us right out of high school – needed support and I think he needed a sense of community too. We all pitched in and gave him a lot of support

and more of a sense of who he is in terms of a Métis person – he has now graduated with his Nursing degree and when the Elder wrapped the sash around him and blessed him – I couldn't help but feel so proud of him.

"I am a big baby when it comes to our students and communities. It strikes me right in the heart and I truly do care about our students and the program. Each and every student that makes that commitment to further education and walks through those doors is indeed very special and deserves the best – the best education, the best supports we can offer and the best life can give – that is what will make the difference and what will help that student be successful despite some obstacles and challenges."



Val Arnault Pelletier receives the Presidents Service Award from University Chancellor Tom Molloy.

(Photo supplied)

Order of Canada for John Arcand

Jean-Baptiste Arcand, also known as John Arcand, or the "Master of the Métis Fiddle," was recently named a member of the Order of Canada.

The Order of Canada is the centerpiece of Canada's honour system and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society.

Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country. The Order of Canada's motto is DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM (They desire a better country).

News of the honour came as a surprise to the renowned fiddler.

"The Governor General's Office telephoned me. They said they needed to know if I would accept and, well I just couldn't believe my ears," says Arcand.

"I was shocked and

actually a little emotional. I just kept thinking this is unreal!"

Arcand joins other Saskatchewan Aboriginal luminaries including Freda Ahenakew, Ida Wasacase, Hilliard McNab and John B. and Gor-



don Tootosis as a Member of the Order of Canada. He says being placed in such select company adds to the honour.

"I feel honoured and proud. That's a great group of people to be among, and personally I

feel that this is the highest award a Canadian citizen can receive and I feel extremely fortunate to have been nominated and to accept the honor.

Arcand is known nationally for the renowned John Arcand Fiddle Fest. He founded this festival in 1998 with a dream to promote and preserve the traditions of fiddle music and dance.

Widely recognized as the "Master of the Metis Fiddle", John embarked on his own musical journey thanks to the influence of his father, who started imparting his knowledge of the art on his son before John even started school.

Now he loves to share his knowledge and talent with youth, so they can continue the tradition.

The 10th Anniversary edition of the John Arcand Fiddle Fest takes place August 9-12, 2007 at Windy Acres on the Pike Lake Highway.

For complete details visit www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com

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- Evening Concert

SUNDAY

- Fiddles & Flapjacks Breakfast
- Gospel Hour
- Fiddle Contest Finals
- Jigging Championship Finals
- Fiddle Finale

FRIDAY

- Fiddle, Jigging, Guitar & Piano Workshops 8 am to 4 pm
- Andy DeJarlis Category Preliminaries
- Concert Showcase 7 acts back to back
- Old Time Dance

SATURDAY

- Fiddle Contest Preliminaries
- Canadian Red River Jigging Championship Preliminaries
- 10th Anniversary Concert
- Old Time Dance

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HONOURING ROBIN CAMERON

The Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation recently renamed their school the Constable Robin Cameron Memorial Complex. The dedication comes almost one year after Constable Cameron and her partner Marc Bourdages were killed in a shooting that followed a high speed chase. On hand were dignitaries and members of the RCMP Musical Ride.

(Photos R. Andrews/Saskatchewan Valley News)

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- Batoche National Historic Site
Community Appreciation Day - Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, July 22nd

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-Music by John Arcand

Voyageur Games Competitions

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Children - (ages 5 and under) - Free.

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Arts/craft table rental available - \$100.00 for weekend

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For additional information contact:

Bonnie Start, Event Coordinator

Phone: (306)249-3819

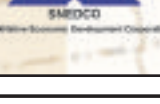
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Rare written record of Treaty 4 signing finally returns to Pasqua First Nation

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

“The Grandfathers said it would come home, but that we’d have to be patient,” said Lorne Carrier.

The Grandfathers were right – a pictograph, the only document offering a First Nation perspective of Treaty 4 negotiations has returned home after 124 years.

And, as the Grandfathers advised, patience was key to getting the pictograph back according to Carrier, who headed the repatriation effort on behalf of the Pasqua First Nation.

“We could have lost it (during negotiations) so many times,” said Carrier. “But I knew that, if the Grandfathers said it would come back, that we would be successful.”

The two-panel graphite on paper illustration drawn by Chief Paskwa, one of the Treaty’s signatories, officially returned home to Treaty 4 territory on June 21, 2007, 124 years after it left the country in 1883 in the possession of an English tourist, William Henry Barneby. Other than a reference to the pictograph in a book chronicling his travels in the West, the only record of the pictograph’s existence resided in the lore handed down through the generations.

“Two Elders were aware of it and knew it was real and the information passed down was that Chief Paskwa had kept a record of the Treaty negotiations,” said Carrier.

Carrier learned about the pictograph in 1999 from a colleague at the Royal Ontario Museum who said a pictograph, which looked like it had cultural importance, was going up for auction in England. Hobema Bands in Alberta sent representatives to the auction but lost the bidding war to an anonymous Canadian buyer who bought it for \$96,000 Cdn. – much more than the \$3,500 estimated selling price.

The pictograph surfaced again in 2006 when Ontario art dealer Donald Ellis listed it for sale for \$175,000 U.S.

“We tried to get it back in exchange for a tax receipt but (the dealer) didn’t go for it,” said Carrier. With a grant from Canadian Heritage, Movable Cultural Properties, \$60,000 from the Province of Saskatchewan and \$20,000 from the Anglican Church plus many other

donations, the funds needed to buy it back was raised by early 2007.

Band councilor Delbert Pasqua and Carrier made a second attempt to secure the pictography when they traveled to New York City, where the artifact was in storage, to put down a 10 per cent deposit and, hopefully, make a deal but Ellis rejected this offer too.

Uncertain on what to do next, Carrier, the Elders and the Pasqua First Nation’s leaders continued to raise funds for the repatriation of the pictograph. Carrier left his day-job as director of Aboriginal culture and heritage for the Museum Association of Saskatchewan to work full-time coordinating the repatriation effort.

Chief Paskwa’s pictograph was officially purchased on May 18, 2007 and arrived at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum via climate-controlled Packart truck on June 13 where it was welcomed home with a smudge ceremony. On June 19, members of the Pasqua First Nation gathered at the Pasqua First Nation Band Hall for a private viewing that also included a pipe ceremony, a feast and a giveaway. On June 21, the pictograph was unveiled at a public ceremony.

Due to its age and condition, the pictograph will be stored at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum where it will be examined, repaired if necessary and reframed. While there are no plans to exhibit the original, the band will have access to it and a replica of the 33 by 42 cm drawing may be created and used for education purposes.

As important as it is for the Pasqua First Nation to finally have this cultural treasure returned, the document could also have significant implications in terms of the band’s Treaty rights.

The left panel of the pictograph features images of men in discussion as well as pictures that symbolize the services

and provisions being offered to the First Nation people. The panel on the right is a pictorial inventory of the material goods Chief Paskwa received at the signing.

According to Carrier, this document is the only document in existence that portrays Treaty negotiations from a First Nations perspective.

“There were certain things that were talked about but that weren’t mentioned in written text of Treaty 4,” said Carrier.



Lorne Carrier examines a pictograph depicting the signing of Treaty 4.

“For example, there is the image of a medicine bag. That could be interpreted as the medicine chest clause mentioned in Treaty 6 but there is no provision in the written text of Treaty 4 for health care for First Nations.”

There’s also more to the pictograph than meets the eye. The reverse side of the document, seen for the first time by Carrier when a photograph of it arrived in Regina on June 22, is a caricature of a man in a plaid suit. Drawn in a different style than the illustrations on the front, the meaning or significance of the man in plaid is another mystery for the Elders to consider when they interpret the pictograph.

For the moment though, Pasqua is just glad to have this rare and invaluable piece of history returned home.

“We’ve got to take it one step at a time. We got it back; we got it home. That was our main goal a year ago. The next step is to have it interpreted by the Elders,” said Pasqua. “If it can be, it will be an asset that we can use to strengthen the Treaty.”

Education programming and exhibits may be in the works as well. Carrier has recommended that a curriculum be developed so that school-age and post-secondary students along with the general public can learn more about the meaning and importance of this remarkable piece of history.



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Sasakamoose honoured during Treaty Days at Ahtahkakoop



Fred and Lorette Sasakamoose at Ahtahkakoop.

Ahtahkakoop First Nation's Treaty Days celebration

started off with a traditional pipe ceremony followed by a pancake breakfast which was served by the Health Centre Staff at the arena café.

The highlight of the day began at 10:00 a.m. with the renaming of the arena. Fred Sasakamoose was honored twice in one month. On June 16, Fred was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in Regina. On treaty day he was honored again with the arena being named after him, "Fred Sasakamoose Sports Centre."

His Blackhawk Jersey sporting his number '21' is on display at the arena, amongst other hockey memorabilia. After the ceremony, Sasakamoose signed autographs. The kids were in abundance at his table.

Treaty annuity began at 11:00 a.m. with a break from 12:30 to 1:00 where the band members enjoyed a traditional dinner of bannock and moose stew, put on by the Anglican Women's Church Group. The payments continued again till 3:30 a.m.

In attendance at treaty payouts was Ahtahkakoop hereditary chief, Allan Starblanket. He had with him Ahtahkakoop's

original treaty medal that was received by the Government when they signed treaty in August 1876.

During the afternoon Northwind Karaoke was there to do a Karaoke Showcase of people who were involved in previous talent showcases put on in the community earlier in the year. These people were recorded with intentions of being aired on MBC in La Ronge, and CKRE 104.9 fm, the local community radio station.

As everyone waited for the barbecue to start, awards were given out to recognize those who have served and volunteered in the community. Amongst other features of the day there were different health and wellness displays such as; diabetes, tuberculosis, and blood pressure awareness. Most importantly was the treaty display, that showed the history of Ahtahkakoop treaty signing. There was also a display of all previous chiefs since 1876 to present day. The attendance at the treaty day celebration was tremendous for an event that has not been held in quite a few years. Treaty Day Celebrations in the community were a long time coming.

BY BELINDA NELSON



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY
SASKATOON

Contract Opportunity Tender Brief "Urban Aboriginal Capacity Agreement"

Introduction: The Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) is a community-based, five-year initiative developed by the Government of Canada to improve social and economic opportunities of Aboriginal people living in designated urban centres.

Through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the Government of Canada provides funding to the private sector, provincial and municipal governments, and community and Aboriginal organizations to support projects that respond to local priorities and advance the UAS national priority areas.

Proposed Contract Duration: October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2012

Expected Result: The Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) provides long-term investments to support urban Aboriginal communities by promoting self-reliance and increasing life choices for Aboriginal people living in urban centres. Investments will be made with the aim of promoting increased urban Aboriginal participation in the economy and must address one of the three following three priority areas:

1. Improving life skills;
2. Promoting job training, skills and entrepreneurship; and,
3. Supporting Aboriginal women, children and families.

"Community Entity Model"

The management and delivery of UAS projects in Saskatoon will be accomplished through a community-based approach called a "Community Entity Model". In the Community Entity Model, a legally incorporated organization is selected to manage all of the UAS projects in the designated city. The Community Entity will determine and demonstrate how it can contribute to national priorities through a Community Plan or otherwise. The UAS Community Entity will conduct due diligence processes and the proposed projects in conjunction with the developed Saskatoon "Sustainable Collaborative Community Model" adopted by the Urban Aboriginal community of Saskatoon. They will ensure that the proposed projects contribute towards achieving the objectives of the UAS program and track progress on results. The Community Entity will be responsible for reporting to the Steering Committee and Office of the Federal Interlocutor OFI on a regular basis.

Knowledge Base:

- Working knowledge of federal, provincial and municipal (City of Saskatoon) government agencies and their structures;
- Knowledge of Aboriginal Governance structures and organizations;
- Knowledge of Community Based Organizations;
- Knowledge of private sector funding mechanisms; and
- Knowledge of urban Aboriginal people, Aboriginal organizations and service delivery mechanisms.

Organizational Requirements:

1. Organization must have resided in Saskatoon for five years.
2. Organizations must be in good standing with all levels of government: Federal, Provincial, Municipal.
3. Provide sound Financial & Management Plan.
4. Supply Audit Financial Statement from 2006.

Interested Parties meeting the above submission requirements should contact Dwayne Docken Coordinator Urban Aboriginal Strategy Saskatoon. Preference will be given to an Aboriginal organization

****Closing Date: August 24, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.****

Submissions received after the closing date and time will be rejected.

Provide your submission to Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Steering Committee:

Attn: Dwayne Docken
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Ph. 242-6197
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Best of Luck!



To all those participating in the
2007 First Nation Summer Games
being held at the Red Pheasant
First Nation

Catholic School Board responding to disparity study

BY DARLA READ

St. Mary's School is thinking outside the classroom when it comes to the health of its students.

Three times a week, school children go to a gym across the street for 45 minutes to get pumped up about physical education.

Dalon Okemow loves it.

"This program is awesome. Never in my life have I done something like this. Now I am learning how to train like a top athlete."

One day Okemow hopes to be a top athlete: a basketball player.

Kinesiology students from the University of Saskatchewan lead the workouts.

St. Mary's principal, Owen Fortosky, says this kind of phys. ed. is often out of the question for his students.

"This type of training is world class and only available to those with money. Many of these kids don't have the means," he explains. "We got the chance for this pilot program and jumped on it."

This program came about because people in the community were concerned about what a disparity study said about their neighbourhood – a study that indicated those with less money weren't as healthy.

A clinic was also established in St. Mary's. Dr. Maryann Mehtar works in it.

"We do surveillance ... screen the children and do physicals and look at vision and hearing. We also do treatment," she says.

"This is community-based and the partner is the Department of Pediatrics. We want to beat back Type II diabetes and obesity. We need to be part of that voice."

The kids heard a similar concern from Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph, who stopped by for a run around the gym.

"You guys are doing a great job," he told the kids. "You have to make sure you exercise every day and walk instead of sitting around. There is lots of Type II diabetes and you don't want it."

Joseph suggested eating fruit and vegetables instead of pop and chips.

"Don't get a belly like me," he warned them.

These gym sessions and clinic are a part of a bigger picture. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Central Urban Métis Foundation Inc. have entered into a part-

tions members of the Saskatoon Tribal Council."

Another idea is developing a career academy, which will be at E.D. Feehan High School.

The partnership is receiving a \$220,000 grant from Saskatchewan

He says there has always been community involvement and participation; now it's about collaborating expertise.

Plus he says having Saskatoon Tribal Council in the partnership makes a big difference.

"It's a more authentic voice of the First Nations community. We know we have the backing of the First Nations community."

Another key player is Central Urban Métis Foundation Inc.

Shirley Isbister, president of the Métis organization, says the partnership means Métis people will be heard.

"It will also provide an opportunity to remove barriers as more non-Aboriginal people learn about Métis and First Nations culture and history."

Back in the gym, kids run around and squeal with apparent delight.

"St. Mary's is a fixture in this area. We have done day care here and a nutrition program, but the disparity study shows we were being a bit complacent," says Martell.

"The phys ed program is a simple step and doesn't take a lot of resources. This is about building lifelong health habits. We just have to give the students the resources to continue.

"St. Mary's will be redeveloped and branded as a wellness, fitness, and education model and we want the community heavily involved."



Dalon Okemow, foreground, enjoys the new workouts at St. Mary's School. He finds them "awesome."

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

nership to enhance the success of their Aboriginal students.

"We've been developing the partnership for two years," says Gordon Martell, Superintendent of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Some of the things the partnership will be working on include linking students to employment, an anti-racism strategy, increasing student success, and promoting the Cree language.

As part of this strategy, the nehilyawak Cree Immersion Kindergarten program will begin this fall at St. Frances Catholic Elementary School. It will be taught half a day and available to students from across the city.

This is a step in the right direction, says Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Joe Quewezance.

"Language is the foundation of culture and as such, language retention has been a primary concern of the First Na-

Learning. One of the next steps is hiring a coordinator, which is happening right now, says Martell.

Gary Merasty, M.P.
Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River

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Métis Health Human Resources Initiative



Scholarships and Bursaries for Métis students



This is a four year, \$10-Million health human resource development initiative (HHRI) aimed at laying the foundation for longer term systemic change in the supply and demand for Métis health human resources.

Your Governing Members are offering scholarships and bursaries to students interested in pursuing a career in one of 26 health related fields.

HHRI is based upon a Health Canada plan dealing with Aboriginal healthcare issues.

List of Health Careers

NOTE: The following list of health career options doesn't necessarily reflect the program options available in all regions. Please contact your Governing Members to determine which ones have been selected for funding in your region.

Addictions workers
(NNADAP - National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program workers)
Audiologists
Chiropractic health professionals
Community health representatives (CHR's)
Dental - Dentists
 dental therapists
 dental hygienists
 dental assistants,
 dental laboratory technicians
Diagnostic medical sonographers
Dietitian
Environmental health officers (EHO's)
General radiographers
Headstart workers
Health administrators
Health educators
Health information technicians
Home care workers (HCC - home and community care workers)

Home health aide
Medical laboratory technicians
Medical record transcriptionists
Medical technologists
Mental health workers
Midwives
Nurses -

 registered nurses,
 nurse practitioners,
 nurse-midwives,
 licensed practical nurses
 registered psychiatric nurses

Nutritionist
Occupational therapist
Optician
Optometrist
Ophthalmologist
Pharmacist
Physical therapists
Physicians/doctors
Physiotherapists
Podiatrists
Psychiatrists
Psychologists
Radiation therapists
Respiratory therapists
Social workers
Speech language pathologists

For more information
check out our website

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

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

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Toll Free: (800) 928 - 6330 Email: info@metisnation.ca

Is this the end, again, for Dirk Dashing, again?

John L.: Ladies and gentlemen, back from vacation/frontal lobotomy it's Eagle Feather News' Dirk Dashing. Dirk, m'man, I hear you've been making things happen!

Dirk: Thank you, John. Yes, it's true, the lobotomy went well last month. The brain scan turned up nothing, surprising absolutely no one at all. As an added bonus, it turns out my man thingy is working extremely well too!

John L.: That's right, I hear Mrs. Dashing is expecting a bundle of joy any day now.

Dirk: She is at that, John. I was wondering why she seemed to be putting on extra weight, so I asked her, "Is your belly getting bigger, Oh light of my life?" Once I regained consciousness she explained that she told me around eight months ago. Yes, John, I am the man!

John L.: You didn't know she was pregnant? How do you miss something as significant as that, Dirk?

Dirk: John, I can't be held responsible for all the complex doings, transpirings and other goings-on of my brain when I am making smart making with my brain. It can't be done, it won't be done, and it can't be done.

John L.: You certainly have a way with words, Dirk. So what does this mean for Mr. And Mrs. Dashing? How is this going to change things?

Dirk: Among other things it means Dirk has to get a real job, John. It means he may have to retire from the sexy, James Bond-like existence of column writing.

It means no more dangerous assignments in exotic places like Rome, London, Malaysia, or Cupar, that evil haven where fiendish accomplices conspire to accomplish fiendish complicity. It means no more scaling skyscrapers in the dead of night, or racing down the salt flats of Nevada chasing...

Dirk: That's right, John. That's why Dirk has to get a real job.

John L.: I see. So tell me, where is Dirk going to work?

Dirk: I have had plenty of offers already, John. I've turned down the job of Chief Medical Officer of Complicated Surgery because the nurses were ogling me with bedroom eyes. Both Mrs.

insight that is Dirk Dashing. I had a really cool column coming up too.

John L.: Oh really. Can you give us a glimpse of what we're be missing?

Dirk: Well, my next column was going to deal with residential school payouts, Elder abuse and the re-abuse of survivors by selfish family members, lawyers and car dealerships. I was going to call it, "You Know You Are A Scumbag When..."

John L.: That might have inflamed a few people, for sure. By the way, Dirk, I've always wondered what motivates you?

Dirk: Well, John, if you ain't making waves, you ain't kicking hard enough! Sometimes daft things happen and hopefully someone has to have the stones to say stuff. If I'm lucky, someone got a giggle from the irony of it all.

John L.: We're going to miss you, Dirk. I wish you all the best for the wife and the little one on the way.

Dirk: Thank you, John "Crazy Legs" Lagimodiere, I'm going to miss me too. But who knows, maybe I'll be able to keep writing. But, just in case, from Dirk, the ever patient Mrs. Dashing, and our little girl-to-be, "It's been a real slice everyone! Take care of each other and keep spread'n the love."

Dirk says, "If you're not in your right mind, your left mind's gonna get pretty crowded!"

*Send Dirk the love at
dirkdashing@shaw.ca*

5th Generation

Winston McLean



John L.: Dirk...

Dirk: ...evil doer's with laser guided kangaroos...

John L.: DIRK!

Dirk: Yes, John?

John L.: We get the idea. I did not know the life of a newspaper columnist was so ... interesting. So does this mean you're leaving us?

Dirk: As for your first statement, yes, John, the life of a columnist is very sexy, dangerous and inky. As for leaving Eagle Feather News, it means you will no longer have to cut me \$75,000 cheques for writing 800 word columns.

John L.: Ahhh, Dirk? I, um, I never paid you anywhere near \$75,000 for a column.

Dashing and I agree that I don't like that. Also, the UN called and wanted me to head up their Global Counter-Terrorism Unit, but that was too much like being a columnist. Been there, done that.

John L.: So what job have you taken?

Dirk: A local First Nation organization that has made me a good offer. I might be ogled somewhat, but it should be within tolerable limits.

John L.: And this means you will no longer be able to write for us?

Dirk: No idea, John. It would be nice to continue to write for the tens of fans I have amassed since Eagle Feather News found the sparkling gem of wit and

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Adult 12

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SASKATCHEWAN
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Innovative Saskatoon educational partnership, featuring Cree immersion receives national award

BY DARLA READ

A Saskatoon educational partnership is a model of excellence for all of Canada. Known as the Okiciyapi Partnership, three organizations that work together to find ways for Aboriginal students to succeed in the public school system have been awarded the Canadian Council on Learning's Sharing the Flame Award in the Aboriginal learning category.

The partners are the Saskatoon Public School Division, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. and the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Cort Dogniez is one of the co-chairs of the partnership. He says receiving the award was an honor.

"We see ourselves as innovative. We see ourselves as pushing boundaries," he says. "This [award] validates our work."

The partnership began in 2003 because things needed to change, says Dogniez.

"If we keep doing what we're doing, we'll keep getting what we've been getting," he explains. He says issues like high drop-out rates among Aboriginal students and people not feeling like they belonged needed to be addressed.

Through community consultations, the partnership came up with a variety of goals it wanted to work on. These include developing anti-racism strategies and Aboriginal content for schools; increasing student success; creating a representative workforce; and focusing on Aboriginal language revitalization and retention.

The Saskatoon Public School Division piloted a Cree immersion program already as part of that and it will soon grow to include up to Grade 3.

Patricia Prowse, Superintendent of the School Division, says a goal for the future is to teach the treaties to all of the students.

"We want to have the benefits be province-wide, hopefully nation-wide," says Prowse. "These are benefits for all of our students."

While receiving the award in Ottawa, members of the partnership were also able to talk to other people about how they are improving Aboriginal learning. Prowse says a school in Manitoba caught their eye, and they plan to network with them in the fall.



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Saskatchewan Credit Unions and You

Saskatchewan Credit Unions and You

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Saskatchewan credit unions are an integral part of the fabric of this province. As community based organizations, they are keenly interested in the people and communities they serve.

Credit unions have provided financial services to Saskatchewan members for 70 years and during that time they have also played a meaningful role in supporting community social programs and economic development initiatives.

Credit Unions – Investing in Communities

Saskatchewan credit unions share a common vision of growing communities through innovation, social responsibility and financial strength. Throughout our history, we have been a key contributor to the social and economic well-being of our members and their communities.

In 2006, Saskatchewan credit unions contributed \$5.75 million to community efforts. Credit unions also reported raising \$121,312 for causes like the Terry Fox Run and Telemiracle.

Volunteer contributions are at the very fabric of credit union life. Each year, our employees contribute thousands of hours of time to community projects and fundraisers for organizations like the Children's Health Foundation, Terry Fox Run and Telemiracle.

Saskatchewan credit unions are also well known for their support of events and important initiatives in their communities.

Credit unions are a major sponsor for the thirteenth annual First Nations Awards Ceremony to be held in Regina on November 8, 2007 and supported the 2006 First Nations Winter Games hosted by the Gordon First Nation. Credit unions have initiated various community partnerships and programs for the aboriginal community and will continue to do so into the future. These include event sponsorships, employment programs and other community based initiatives.

Every year, Saskatchewan credit unions support a broad range of local initiatives that contribute to the quality of life that all Saskatchewan people deserve.

Whatever your dream is, make it real

Saskatchewan can boast that more than half our population belongs to a credit union. As community based cooperatives, a key element of our vision is our close relationship to the communities we serve. Throughout our history, we have been a key contributor to the social and economic well-being of our members and their communities.

As locally-owned financial institutions, you can also say that credit unions belong to their members and communities. And they are here to stay.

Whether it is starting your own business, investing in education, buying a car or starting a new career, your credit union can help make that dream a reality.

In the coming months, Dana Soonias, Manager - Client Relations and Aboriginal Business, will provide commentary on products and services offered by credit unions and how they can be structured to meet the needs of members.

Watch future issues of Eagle Feather News for more information on Saskatchewan credit unions or visit www.saskcu.com. If you have questions about the credit union system or their products and services, you can contact us at communications@saskcentral.com.

 Saskatchewan
Credit Unions
Make it Real

SIIT graduation shines light on province's future

BY BLUE PELLETTIER

The First Nations population is growing at such a fast pace across the province it is now more than ever imperative that First Nations people seek education so that they may fill jobs in the expanding job market.

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies or SIIT is at the forefront when it comes to training First Nations Peoples in fields such as; Applied Programs, Community Services, Employee Development Courses, Information Technology, Industrial studies, and Management Studies.

This years graduations ceremonies, which were held at TCU Place in Saskatoon, were attended by well over 400 students from campuses across Saskatchewan.

SIIT President Ray Ahenakew received a honorary degree in Business Management and feels that "SIIT and the professors exceed provincial standards, that our staff care for the students and take a genuine interest in the well being of all our students."

Once the ceremonies were over, many in attendance took the opportunity to pose with fellow graduates, family and other guests for photos. Others simply took in the environment as this may be the last time many of them will see each other.

Management Studies student Torie Wonych says, "Being at an institution that combines academics as well as cultural awareness was important to me".



RAY AHENAKEW

Other students in attendance such as Dee Campbell, who is also a Management Studies student said her time at the school was "a great experience and that the professors were really helpful".

Every student in attendance had friends and family present and the sense of accomplishment was evident on all the

graduates' faces. Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish stated that he was "very proud of all the graduates and that education helps to address many of the issues within our First Nations communities. It is important that we are productive and a working part of our communities".

SIIT was established in 1976 and was known as the Saskatchewan Indian Community College before they changed its name to its current state in 1985. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is the governing body of SIIT and the Institute was one of the original First Nation controlled post secondary institutions in Canada.

If you wish to attend classes or require further information please feel free to contact;

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

Academic Department

6th Floor, 229-4th Avenue South

Saskatoon, Sk.

S7K-4K3

Ph: 306-244-4460



More than 400 SIIT students from across the province attended graduation ceremonies in Saskatoon.

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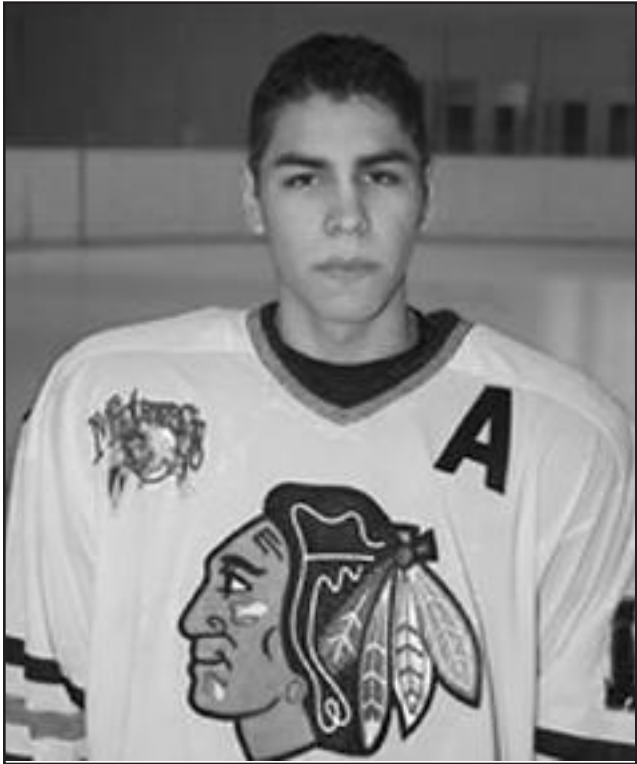
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Sunday, August 12: 2:00 p.m.

Craig McCallum finds his game

Last year he was ready to walk away, go back to his home in Canoe Lake. As is the case with many skilled hockey players, Craig had been away from home since he was thirteen. The passion which once drove him to play hockey was no longer there and he began to question his love for the game.



CRAIG McCALLUM

A year later much has changed in the life of Craig McCallum. He credits much of his success this past year to stability both on and off the ice.

It started at the end of last year when Craig joined

Sports Roundup

By Blue Pelletier

Team Saskatchewan at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Quebec. He was part of a team that went undefeated and won the gold. That team according to Craig "was just a great group of guys who got along real well".

Then in the fall, he followed his cousin to tryout for the Beardy's Blackhawk's Midget AAA team. Once he made the team there was no looking back. Craig went on to win the league scoring title and would also be named League MVP. Quite an accomplishment for someone who wasn't even sure he would play and as a previous coach had stated "was just a waste of talent".

Off the ice, Craig met Randi Keshane and the two have been inseparable ever since. They are engaged and plan to be married in the near future. He credits her and her parents, who allowed him to move in with them, for providing the support he needed to succeed.

This fall Craig will leave to join the WHL expansion team from Edmonton. The experience of being away will be hard on their relationship, but both Craig and Randi believe it is for the best. It should allow Craig to focus on just hockey as he adjusts to the fast pace of the WHL.

Summer Games this month at Red Pheasant

Be sure to come out and support athletes from around Saskatchewan as they compete for their respective Tribal Councils at the First Nation Summer Games

hosted by the Red Pheasant First Nation.

The games will take place July 22-26 and will feature over 6,000 participants. Athletes will compete in the sports of golf, athletics (track and field), softball, soccer, and the demonstration sport will be road racing.

Events will be held on the Red Pheasant First Nation as well as in and around the city of North Battleford.

For more information please contact the games office at (306) 445-9996.

Roughriders open season with big win over Montreal and then stomp the Stamps

I agreed with Roughrider ownership when they let Roy Shivers go and when they hired Kent Austin to replace popular Danny Barrett.

If making the playoffs in an eight or nine team league is considered success then the fans of the Riders should've been happy.

However, in sports, success is measured by championships. How many did the Riders win during the Shivers/Barrett regime? A big zero!

It's early in the season and they just won their two games, but the team looked sharp and the defence looked real solid.

Maybe it was the opponent or maybe they just had a good game.

I think this year the Riders will play more disciplined and at the end of the season challenge B.C. and Calgary for the top spot in the wide open CFL West. I'm out, like Edmonton's chances of making the playoffs!

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