

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Saskatchewan youth continue to amaze

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

This year's eleventh annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence had close to 60 nominees. As each inspiring youth stepped forth, a brief bio of achievements, background, and future plans was read to the audience of 600 at TCU Place – dignitaries, sponsors, supporters, family and community members.



Elektra Charles of Saskatoon is the first female recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Winners came from all over – both Culture Award recipient, Marcella Tsannie from Hatchet Lake Dene Nation, and Education Award recipient Jordyn Burnouf from Ile a la Crosse, hope to return as doctors to their northern communities.

“My legs were shaking,” confessed Burnouf afterwards, but adds it was an amazing experience, advising other youth to “try for everything.” She has already received a U of S entrance award and applied for over 30 other awards.

Marlin Legare, Sports/Recreation Award Recipient from Hudson Bay Composite, has been wrestling and running at provincial and national levels, and hopes to develop and coach other young athletes.

Dorianna Michel of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, winner of the Fine/Performing Arts Award, sang “One Tin Soldier” beautifully in Cree and English. Only 14 now, in 2007 Dorianna was on life support, following two major surgeries and double pneumonia.

Emily Key, from Gordon First Nation and Archbishop O’Neill High School in Regina, is the recipient of the Spirit Award. The eldest of six children, 15-year-old Emily has kept her family together since their grand-

mother, the caregiver, passed away. Meanwhile Emily continues to excel and provide leadership at school.

Tihana Nippi from Kinistin Saulteaux Nation won the Technology/Science Award. The Grade 11 Marion Graham Collegiate student hopes to study forensics and pathology. Tara Desroches, Leadership Award recipient, has four years of perfect attendance and is on the honour roll at E.D. Feehan Collegiate, and participates in innumerable activities.

Trina Lathlin of Mount Royal Collegiate, winner of the Community Service Award, is from Opaskyawak Cree Nation and works with children, seniors, and many others, and has the goal of one day becoming a red seal chef or baker.

First female recipient for “Outstanding Achievement” was Elektra Charles from Tommy Douglas Collegiate. Elektra is a Grade 11 student from Lac La Ronge First Nation who is on the SRC, has an average of 92 per cent - and is an elite athlete and track competitor, recently winning a Tom Longboat athletic award.

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INSIDE



A FINE ARTIST

Dorianna Michel won an award and performed at the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards.

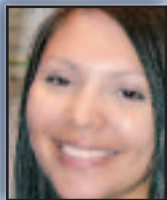
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NATION BUILDING

Manley Begay shared his knowledge at conference held in Saskatoon.

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AFTERNOON EDITION

Michelle Hugli is the host of CBC Radio One's afternoon show and she couldn't be happier.

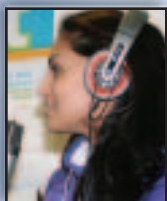
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RIEL FIDDLER

Dausin Ellis is a member of the Riel Reelers and you can be sure he's tuning up for National Aboriginal Day.

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NEW GENERATION

CBC and INCA have teamed up to present a new generation of storytellers.

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Welcome to our
National Aboriginal Day Issue
Coming In July :
Graduations
CPMA #40027204



Dorianna Michel won the Fine Arts Award.

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"I was very surprised and happy," said Charles afterwards. She says she is very driven in her goals on and off the track, and her parents have influenced her to achieve.

"They want us to get as far as we can, and be happy in life."

The first male recipient, Dane Sanderson, is from James Smith First Nation. Athlete, coach, referee, community leader and volunteer, he maintains an average of 94 per cent at Prince Albert's St. Mary High School.

Sanderson said he was shocked at first, but his whole

Role models come in all shapes and sizes: Cameron

family was as excited as he was. He credits their support, but it's obvious he's put in a lot of work as well. He advises other young men to focus on positive goals.

"There's lots of peer pressure – steer away from it, and you can achieve anything," he noted.

Colleen Cameron, committee chair for the past four years, says each year has grown with new sponsors joining founding sponsors, such as SaskTel, SIGA, SaskSports, SaskEnergy, and SaskLotteries.

"And we're grateful to all of them – and other supporters like Eagle Feather News who have also been there since day one for media support," noted Cameron.

"We've brought in a lot of our educators and community people – to understand the youth and their needs. The bursaries are to help them with whatever they need to keep going."

Over \$5,000 in bursaries were awarded with the support of the Wicahitowin Foundation – in honour of First Nations Veterans. It is named for the Cree word meaning "helping each other". Each winner in the ten categories also received beautiful star blankets handcrafted by Eva Lizotte of Kihiw Designs and Crafts, and handsome plaques donated by Joseph Bear of AMI Memorials to celebrate and honour them.

"These are amazing youth – every one has a story and we're glad to share some of it with their peers, family and communities," said Cameron. "They are encouraged and made stronger with belief in each

other, themselves, and the community."

Past alumni such as musicians Dallas Fiddler and Navarone Thunderchild, who both performed, continue to shine in their fields.

"This gives them leverage to build capacity for themselves and get their names out there – many have gone on to win Millenium Scholarships," Cameron added.

"The greatest thing we can do is honor each other and honor our youth. It means so much to them and their families – even to be recognized in the nomination."

Cameron noted the importance of having good stories to recognize our youth and their strength, hope, and resiliency.

"It's amazing what some of them are doing out there despite the harshness of our realities. We need role models and all different shapes, sizes, and areas of life. I wouldn't be here without a role model."



The youth were presented blankets crafted by Eva Lizotte.

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They're writing for freedom in North Central Regina

By Jesse Archibald-Barber
For Eagle Feather News

Members of the Freedom Writers, of movie fame, spoke at a fundraiser for a North Central Regina writing project that will also be the subject of a local documentary.

The speakers, Tanya Payne and Tony Becerra, participated in the original diary-writing project that was dramatized in the feature film *Freedom Writers* about inner city teens at a Long Beach, Calif., high school. They were inspired by their teacher, Erin Gruwell, to transcend racism and violence through their writing.

"You have to be willing at some point to make your own choices. Everything in life is a fight, and education is your ammunition. Education is evidence of work in your life," Payne told a crowd of more than 240 students and members of community groups.

Mayor Pat Fiacco and several corporate sponsors also attended the May 27 luncheon at the Queensbury Convention Centre.

Payne captivated the crowd with her life story.

"My father used to say, 'a good education will take you farther than your feet.' Life isn't about how many times you fall down, it's about how many times you pick yourself back up," said Payne.

Becerra spoke next with a mixture of grim reality and comic relief about his childhood and how he had to dodge gangs on the way to school.

"Writing gave me a life preserver. I always had an image in my head of the man I always wanted to be," said Becerra.

"I thought it would be inspiring to invite the Freedom Writers, as their backgrounds are similar to the North Central kids," said Kuffner.

Judith Silverthorne, an award winning Saskatchewan writer, will be helping participants develop their stories

organize the book as well," said Silverthorne.

Kuffner's documentary will follow the North Central Family Centre writing project from its inception to the completion of the book.

"Can the power of words change your destiny? It is a proven story. We know from the Freedom Writers that the method does work," said Kuffner.

Kuffner previously made the documentary *Running Against Crime*, based on the North Central Family Centre Marathon Run to implement an anti-gang strategy.

Payne and Berecca spoke highly of the documentary.

"These kids are so inspiring to me. I want them to sign the DVD. They're heroes to me. They ran a marathon," said Becerra.

"They should be proud of the marathon and extrapolate it to the rest of their lives," said Payne.

After the fundraiser, Becerra and Payne signed copies of their book before speaking to another crowd of more than 500 students, including Glen Prettyshield, a youth worker at North Central Family Centre and a participant in the writing project.

"It's going to be a long journey, but it'll be fun," Prettyshield said.



Tony Becerra, Glen Prettyshield and Tanya Payne with the Freedom Writers diary.

Regina filmmaker, Lori Kuffner, hopes to recreate the Freedom Writers' success story for Regina teens, with a pilot program at the North Central Family Centre.

into a book form like *The Freedom Writers Diary*, the compilation of student writings on which the film is based.

"The kids can write stories, songs, anything they want. I want them to



We are pleased to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

On June 21, join us in celebrating **National Aboriginal Day**.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO
CREATE?

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Editorial

Humour, family keep us going

Every June when preparations begin for National Aboriginal Day, we at Eagle Feather News like to reflect on the people and the spirit that have kept us going, through all kinds of hardships, for the past centuries. They say the Aboriginal people of this territory have survived through their hard work, family and, when times are really tough, their sense of humour.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman who encompassed all of those characteristics. Stan Delorme is a member of Cowessess First Nation and is their land manager and also runs a successful outfitting company. What sets him apart is that for the past two years, Stan has been relearning how to live and how to run his company from a wheelchair.

In the summer of 2007 Stan was bitten by a tiny mosquito. He does not even remember when he was bit, but he figures it was around the time he saw his farmer neighbour while he was out chasing horses and fixing fence. Stan checked into the hospital several days later because he lost his balance and had massive chills and fever.

He had brushed it off as heat stroke. He was wrong. A diagnosis came ten days later. It was West Nile virus, and his neighbour checked into the same hospital two days later with the same affliction.

By that time, Stan could not walk. The virus attacked his muscle tissue and nerve endings, severely affecting his left side. He was hospitalized for a month and then was transferred to the Wascana Centre for another month and a half of rehab. The doctors gave the busy and motivated outdoorsman a not so good prognosis.

"To this day, they tell me I might not walk," says Delorme. "Four months ago, I sat on the bed, something told me to get up ... so I did and walked out of the bedroom. I have gone from being completely dependant on my power chair to now, with a walker, I can go 150 paces or so and by fall I should be able to be away from the walker for a half hour or so.

"But if this is it, this is it. I am happy where I am at. Compared to lying on your back and not knowing what is going on. I can live with this."

Till then, he is having trouble mastering wheelchairs.

"The power chair is something that you have to learn to operate."

He learned the hard way by rolling his six wheeler.

"It is not as easy as people think. I rolled a manual chair, my power chair.

I'm the kind of guy who has to do things. I fell off my quad last Monday and bruised some ribs. But I am not going to let a mosquito bite slow me down."

Delorme admits that the hardest part has been adjusting to his lack of mobility and other normal activities.

"Not doing the regular functions for yourself on a day to day basis ... there are a lot of things that a man takes for granted. It is a real mind game to stay positive. I stayed positive and had lots of support. Jennifer was great. She went through everything with me."

Through the entire ordeal, Stan had his wife, Jennifer Pelletier, beside him and a big group of family and friends that helped with the adjustment. Jennifer quit her job, the guides in the outfitting business did more work, and Stan ran the business from his chair.

It has been difficult to adjust and there have been many tears, but there have also been lots of laughs.

"We have learned to count on each other," said Stan of Jennifer. "When I rolled the chairs, I laughed, she cried."

"But I had to pull the chairs off him," laughed Jennifer.

And Stan has learned some life lessons.

"I don't panic anymore. My buddy saw me fall off my quad and he panicked so bad he could not dial his phone. I rolled around, pulled out my phone and dialed for help. I have way more patience. I used to be rammy. Now I count on help."

Jennifer remarked that they have a whole new perspective on life around what people say is wheelchair accessible and that there is a big difference between accessible and friendly.

"Stan needs a different kind of hotel room and we need a shower bench. The one at the hotel had four tiny slats across and Stan is a big man, so it would not work," added Jennifer. "We had lots of stumbles, but we made it."

To this day Stan is open and very pragmatic about his situation. You can tell he loves his family and they love him and he knows it could be worse.

"I saw lots of people in the hospital when I shared a room that did not have the support I did," said Delorme. "With that support, I am good. And I still get to do what I love and I am not lying on my back in a hospital bed. Once I was at that point, I figured it could only get better from here."

Family, hard work and humour are certainly crucial elements in the life of Stan Delorme. There is a lesson to be learned from him and his family.

Readers Forum



Stan Delorme's life changed dramatically but with the help of wife, Jennifer, he's coping well.

How to avoid mosquito bites

If you are not feeling well, do not wait ... go for testing. There are people right now who have West Nile who don't know they have it.

Wear long sleeved shirts and pants when you can.

Dispose of standing water in dog dishes, barrels, old tires and what not.

Home remedies include using original Listerine ... the best mosquito fighter out there ... spray it on you, around you ... on the grass when you BBQ or have a fire at night.

Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or another EPA-registered repellent since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not apply repellents containing permethrin directly to exposed skin. Do not apply repellent

to skin under your clothing.

Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors with infants. Consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk, and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito biting times.

Install or repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors.

Do you have a home remedy that is certain to repel mosquitos and maybe save someone from getting the West Nile Virus? Send it in to johnl@eaglefeathernews.com or fax it to 306-978-8117.

We will test the remedies we can and we have movie passes and a Safeway gift certificate for the best mosquito recipe.

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There's nothing 'free' about Treaty Rights

I've been teaching for over 21 years and am getting sick and tired of hearing people say that Treaty Indians get "free" education, medicare, tax exemption, hunting rights etc etc.

How many of us have heard non-Indians sneer or argue that, "You Indians don't have to pay for anything, you get everything for free!"

What's really disheartening though is hearing our own people saying they get "free" education or medicare.

If we are serious about self-determination and self-government, we need to act and speak from a place of strength. We need to better understand our relationship with the Crown and what "Treaty Rights" mean from the perspectives of our Elders.

Over the years I've been taught that there are two kinds of Treaty Rights – those that protect our inherent rights, or what we already have that were given to us from the Creator; and those that are ago'aadiwin, those rights that are "over and above" what we already have.

This is what our Treaty forefathers negotiated for to ensure that we had the means to protect our ways of life and to adjust to changing times.

So what did we have a long time ago that our Treaty forefathers sought to protect during the Treaty negotiations?

We had all those things that all nations have – we had our own societies each with our languages, cultures, religious or spiritual beliefs; our own laws governing social relationships, inter-national relations, and our relationship to the land and all living things; our own education systems, systems of government; our own ways of making a living; our own territorial land bases and the military capacities to defend our peoples, lands and ways of life.

Who we are and our ways of life are gifts from the Creator. No one "gave" them to us. We were independent and self-governing, meaning, we supported ourselves and exercised jurisdiction over all aspects of our own lives.

Did we give any of those things up at Treaty time? The Treaty Elders tell us that of all those things, we only agreed

to not take up arms against the Crown and its people, and we agreed to share the land and resources. We did not agree to give up the land or resources, nor did we agree to give anything else up – in other words, we did not give up our right to self-government.

During the Treaty negotiations we were promised that we could continue our ways of life. And so the Treaty Rights to hunt, fish, trap and gather (for subsistence and for trade) for example, are promises made

to us that these inherent rights would be protected – it was a promise to protect something we already had. No one "gave" us those rights. How can you give a people something they already have?

The Treaty Right to education, social assistance, medicare and tax exemption for example, are over and above our inherent rights. Our Treaty forefathers negotiated for these extras to ensure our future. And they paid dearly to secure

these rights in exchange for sharing the land and resources.

Our Treaty Rights to education, social assistance, medicare and tax exemption are RIGHTS. They are not "free." Our Treaty forefathers and all the generation since the Treaties were negotiated, including our generation and those to follow, gave up and continue to give up a lot in exchange for these rights.

Every day we see multinational corporations plunder our traditional territories and take out billions of dollars worth of renewable and non-renewable resources.

We only agreed to share the land and resources, we did not agree to give them up, yet we get no compensation. So, honestly, who is really getting something for free in this country?

The kinds of language we use and the way we speak about Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights are very important because language tells a lot about how people think.

Using the term "free" when we talk about Treaty Rights, tells the world that we bought into the colonialist idea that the Crown gives us these things for "free," that these are "gifts."



Introspection
Winona Wheeler

Important days help us think about what we value

People like to celebrate once in a while. Entire countries have national celebrations. People also like to remember. And so many countries have days of remembrance.

Official 'days' can work to build community by getting people to unite in ceremonies that bind people together. Community rememberings can be the very strong social glue of nationalism, reaching back generations and millennia into the past.

This month of June is seeing a few examples of common rememberings. There is, on June 6, the 65th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy where the tide was turned to end the Second World War and where so many Canadians served and sacrificed.

June 11 will mark the first anniversary of the Prime Ministerial Apology to Indian Residential School survivors and their families. The marking of this day parallels 'Sorry Day' in Australia, which was established at the end of the mandate of the Australian Reconciliation Commission in 2000, well before the official apology of Prime Minister Rudd in February 2008.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine has called upon all Canadians to join in 'National Day of Reconciliation' ceremonies.

There is, I think, another reason for official days. It is to show what we value

as a country, and to symbolize what matters to us. We might think that official days are building blocks of our national culture. In that regard, National Aboriginal Day, which we celebrate on the date of the summer solstice, the first day of summer and the longest day of the year on June 21 may mean more than a day off from work.

The National Indian Brotherhood proposed a National Day back in 1982, as did Elijah Harper's Sacred Assembly and also the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in its 1995 final report. Before the report was officially released by the federal government in November 1996, the acceptance of the idea of a national day was announced in June 1996 by the Romeo Le Blanc the Governor-General, with the goal of 'honouring Aboriginal people'.

A day like that gives all Canadians a chance to reflect on why Aboriginal people matter in Canada, and what might be done to make Canada a place where the original peoples upon whose lands the country has been built are part of the vision of a just society.

It is widely accepted that Canada must improve its vision of where is the place of

the Indigenous peoples in Canada, who are officially called 'Aboriginal peoples' in the Constitution. This is not something to be left to the appointed judges in court cases or to the government of the day which rules Parliament in Ottawa.

It is something that must reflect the country itself, and the people who live in it. Honouring and understanding the place of Indigenous peoples is especially important where we have a high rate of immigration and where many newcomers have

little or no understanding of the rights of the original owners of the Canadian lands and waters that come to us from history.

There are not only legal rights and political interests at stake. There is the need for mutual understanding among ordinary people. There are interesting ideas that lurk in the rhetoric of everyday talk used by everyday people that tell us a bit about how Indigenous people are really viewed in Canada.

Let me throw out one little expression for today. It is 'harvesting', which is used to refer to fishing and trapping and hunting rights. If you listen to the talk about the legal cases on 'aboriginal rights' you are sure to hear the word 'harvesting rights'.

Where does that come from?

In the not-so-old days Canada and the other former British colonies took over the land of the original inhabitants by using the excuse that their God had dictated that farmers were morally superior to hunters, trappers and fishermen and were therefore entitled to take their lands and use them to grow things. The official idea used was that it was right to take lands that were empty and belonged to no one: terra nullius.

This was, of course, a fiction since there were a lot of people here. What this idea really meant was that the people who lived here did not matter in law or in morality.

Since farmers were better than hunters, the hunters did not matter. The idea being a fiction, it was applied even in places where in fact the Indigenous people were farmers in their own lands.

So you might think that no one believes this today. Everyone respects Aboriginal people, right? If so, why must we be elevated, by the power of language, into morally worthy farmers who have 'harvesting' rights? Why can we not be recognized as being worthy of legally recognizable rights as hunters who hunt?

National Days are good things to start us thinking about how we behave, how we speak, and what we value.

Ekosi



Comment
Paul Chartrand

Aboriginal peoples have become the elephant in the living room

During the rule of Queen Victoria, the First Nations people of the prairie provinces made Treaty with the most powerful nation on earth. In the nineteenth century Great Britain's colonies around the globe were so extensive it could be rightfully said the sun never set on the British Empire.

In contrast the First Nations people entered Treaty devastated but not defeated. The end of the great buffalo herds and raging epidemics such as small pox had nearly destroyed them.

After the second world war Great Britain went into a decline it has never recovered from. Former colonies became independent nations and England's rule was eclipsed by the rising super powers of the Soviet Union and the United States.

By 1921 Canada's entire First Nation population had dwindled to around 10,000 people. North American Indians, with some justification, were regarded as "the vanishing race" powerless and largely irrelevant. But all of that was about to change.

Improved health care resulted in a population rise beyond anyone's expectation. The First Nations population rebounded to the point where the population at the turn of this century was about the same as estimates of the pre-contact period. These numbers are not only rising but accelerating.

Current Stats Canada figures show that between 1996 and 2006 Saskatchewan's First Nation population rose by 29 per cent. Saskatchewan First Nation citizens will also make up at least 30 per cent of the entire Saskatchewan population by 2017. These figures don't include the province's large Métis population.

First Nations citizens have become the elephant in the living room. Impossible to ignore and increasing in influence and power.

A social shift is taking place now and in the future that will change Saskatchewan as we know it. First Nations will no longer be consulted in matters affecting just them but will rather exercise power in the day to day running of Saskatchewan's industry, government and social institutions.

The days of Chiefs going hat in hand to the Indian agent are long gone.

The most pressing problem facing Saskatchewan today is the social chaos created by a dark and

oppressive colonial past. Until this is understood little will change beyond the assumptions of the past.

It is impossible to solve a problem using the same thinking that created it. The problem is not poverty, addictions nor crime and real answers can not be found until real questions are asked.



When negotiation replaces consultation things may change.

The following questions may be asked. How does it affect a First Nations child when all the people with power in their lives are non-Aboriginals? What few role models beyond social workers and politicians do they really have?

There is a deep and dangerous divide between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals within this province. Communities who have lived side by side for over 100 years still know little about each other. There are Indian and non-Indian institutions with very little meaningful communication between them.

The non-Aboriginals, for the most part, still behave as though they have the answers to Aboriginal problems. They don't.

The best hope for Saskatchewan's future is to learn from, support and further develop those initiatives where people of diverse cultures and good hearts work together in a healthy way.

The good change will come when Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men and women work together sharing power as equals.

This positive modeling will not only benefit the Aboriginal child but equally important it will also benefit the non-Aboriginal child.

The Union Jack flies alongside the Canadian flag and the eagle staff is still held proudly wherever First Nations people gather in council and celebration.

Great Britain's flag no longer waves over an empire but as the Treaty Flag it is still a symbol of what could hopefully become a beautiful future between two peoples.

National Aboriginal Day

The beating of the drum. The flash of feet dancing to the fiddle. The comforting smell of soup, bannock and other delicious foods cooked outdoors. Pride and pageantry. Newly forged bonds of friendship and understanding. These are only a few of the many different reasons why Canadians come together to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

On **JUNE 21ST**, First Nations, Métis and Inuit people will proudly share their vibrant and diverse cultures through song, dance, and many other traditional and contemporary activities at events throughout our nation. In Saskatchewan, events are planned in communities like Yorkton, Melfort, Regina and Saskatoon.

Take in the excitement... absorb the richness... appreciate the beauty... and show your support for the many contributions First Nations and Métis people make to our cultural, political and social landscapes in Saskatchewan.



Honourable Bill Hutchinson
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs



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NUCLEAR POWER IN SASKATCHEWAN ... THE DEBATE CONTINUES

Let's consider the reality

At this moment, people around the world are heating their homes, cooking their dinner, and powering their computers with electricity generated from uranium mined in Northern Saskatchewan.

Northern Saskatchewan has many resources and this is one such way it directly adds to the global energy supply and the worldwide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Uranium is the fuel source for generating nuclear energy. Northern Saskatchewan is a world leader in uranium mining; producing over 20 per cent of the world's supply in 2008. Once the uranium has been mined and milled in Northern Saskatchewan, it is sent to Ontario where it is processed. A portion of this fuel is kept in Canada to power Canadian reactors, while 80 per cent is shipped to reactors around the world. There are over 430 reactors currently providing energy to millions of households and businesses throughout the world. In the United States alone, nuclear energy powers one in five homes.

Over the past decade, the term 'nuclear renaissance' has become a phrase among political, environmental, and media circles. This is due to the dual advantage of nuclear energy's ability to mass produce reliable energy without emitting greenhouse gases. Nuclear energy is considered a major source for future, clean energy generation and because of this Northern Saskatchewan is expected to play a major role in supplying the fuel for this future.

Industry cannot operate in isolation and Northern Saskatchewan's global achievement as a uranium

producer is based on a partnership between industry and Northerners.

The continued growth of the industry is directly related to the commitment of a skilled northern work force. Fifty per cent of mine site employees are residents of Saskatchewan's North. This employment translates into millions of dollars in wages and benefits each year for Northern families. As well, joint programs have been developed to support young Northerners through scholarships, education programs, and career fairs.

Industry and northern suppliers work together for local goods and services, Northern entrepreneurs have developed businesses that support industry needs, creating local opportunities for residents and developing resources for future generations.

Northern communities have been vocal about industry and have played an integral part in shaping the industry's presence. Northern leaders, youth, and elders have contributed to the progression of the industry's development through panel hearings, roundtables, and information sessions.

The views and concerns of Northerners are respected and valued and have shaped the success of the industry. It is this partnership between Northern Saskatchewan and industry that has allowed Saskatchewan to lead the world in uranium production, and serves as an example of how further cooperation can contribute to developing a new era of uranium development success in the province.

Gary Merasty
Vice-President Corporate
Social Responsibility
Cameco

Our taxes subsidize nuclear industry in Canada

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has unveiled portions of their marketing campaign to promote a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan. Their website states they want to bring us the facts, not the myths about nuclear energy.

The other day I heard Steve McLellan, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, on the John Gormley radio program. He said, "We cannot consider alternative energy sources because the wind does not always blow and the sun does not always shine so alternative energy sources cannot provide base power."

That's a myth. There are no less than six viable ways to store energy from wind and solar. Once you store energy it can be drawn on demand to provide base power. I don't expect Steve or John to know this because we have not commissioned an Expert

Renewable Energy Task Force to present the facts about renewable energy.

If we could convince our provincial government to take the next logical and prudent step, establish an Expert Renewable Energy Task Force, to carefully examine these growing energy sources. Then we would have the information required to look critically at both nuclear and renewable energy and choose a future energy supply that makes the most sense for Saskatchewan.

It's your tax bill that will subsidize the nuclear industry, so pick up the phone, contact your local MLA and demand that we see an Expert Assessment of Renewal Energy before any decisions are made on a nuclear reactor.

Yours truly,

James Zimmerman,
Meota

Review of summaries earns support

Saskatchewan has my vote for exploring the option of going nuclear. We hear almost on a daily basis about 'global warming', and air pollution from coal burning fire plants.

These coal plants spew tremendous amounts of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, and contribute to global warming.

The pundits of this subject always highlight the negative aspects of nuclear power generation, but I encourage your readers to get some knowledge on coal plants. Coal plants constantly eject 'radon' from its stacks. Radon is a nuclear product, and depending on the vicinity of these plants to metropolitan areas, people can breathe in radon progeny and contribute to increased risk of lung cancer.

On the other side of the coin, nuclear power plants emit zero pollution into the air. I will not downplay the byproducts created with nuclear reactions, but these facilities have been in existence for quite some time.

Operators of these power plants are heavily regulated, and controls are in place to limit the byproducts from escaping these facilities.

The element uranium is ubiquitous in our environment, and we cannot escape radioactivity. I had worked in the uranium mining industry for over seven years. Limiting a person's exposure to as low as reasonably achievable is the number one goal of these mines.

The average Canadian receives a radiation dose of between 2 – 4 mSv (milliseiverts) per year from the general environment. Yet, working at the uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan only contributes marginally to the above numbers.

I do not have information on exposures from nuclear power plants, but I would assume that these numbers would also be quite low. The benefits of nuclear power generation for Saskatchewan far outweigh the risks.

I had reviewed the summaries of the Uranium Development Partnership, and I would support their findings. We have an opportunity to explore new options in this province.

Let's move forward not backwards.

Respectfully,

Randy Natomagan

Indian Hospitals: Racial segregation in Canada?

By Maureen Lux
For Eagle Feather News

Canadians only gradually understood the horrors of residential schools as survivors struggled to have their voices heard. We preferred to listen to those responsible for the tragic history, government and church bureaucrats, who reassured us that with their 'good intentions' they knew what was best for Aboriginal people.

It wasn't until students and their supporters spoke out that the true story emerged. There is another story that needs to be told.

In the late 1930s and 1940s, the Canadian government built and operated a number of hospitals in the west specifically for Aboriginal people. By 1960 there were 22 racially segregated 'Indian' hospitals in Canada. At the time the government was careful to point out that its interest was merely humanitarian, it was not a recognition of any treaty right to health care.

Far from it. Instead, bureaucrats argued, Aboriginal people should have the same health care as other Canadians, so it constructed separate hospitals.

The history of health care for Aboriginal people in Canada is not an honourable story. Some of the continuing health problems in Aboriginal communities can be linked to that past. Residential schools, for instance, were a particularly dangerous place for children for a number of reasons, but especially because of diseases that spread through the schools.

Dr Peter Bryce, the chief medical officer of department of Indian Affairs in 1907, found that the death rate among students in schools or immediately after discharge was 69 per cent. Schools sent many gravely ill children home rather than have them die at the school, which quickly spread disease, especially tuberculosis, to reserves.

Tuberculosis, a disease of the poorly housed and poorly fed, found many victims in schools and reserves. While it can attack any organ of the body, tuberculosis is most commonly a lung disease.

Treatment, before the development of antibiotics in

the mid-1940s, consisted of bed rest and chest surgery in a tuberculosis sanatorium.

The Fort Qu'Appelle sanatorium, known as 'Fort San,' opened in 1917 and relied on federal government payments to treat returning First World War soldiers. But Fort San's more than 300 beds were reserved for 'taxpayers' or white patients, although it maintained a 40 bed "Indian wing" for a time to pay its debts to the federal government.

Other provincial sanatoriums in the West simply refused to admit Aboriginal patients. And throughout the West and North, local hospitals kept separate "Indian wards" or annexes. Especially after the 1940s, Canadians willingly paid to experience life's great events – birth and death – in hospital. Anxious to attract the middle class paying patient, hospitals relegated the poor, Aboriginal people, and Chinese and Japanese patients to basement wards or separate buildings.

In 1936 the federal government built the Fort Qu'Appelle Indian hospital. It was an unusual departure for the government to become involved in the direct delivery of hospital care, preferring, as with its education policy, to leave it to missionaries. But increasing fears about the spread of tuberculosis, from reserve to town, prompted the new Indian hospital.

Elders at Pasqua also recall that a delegation traveled to Ottawa to pressure the government for better hospital care. In the next ten years the government opened 21 other racially segregated hospitals.

Most often welcomed by the

people, the hospitals were their 'own' institutions where they would not be treated as second-class citizens, and where community members found health care training and employment. Removed from reserves, many hospitals were converted residential schools, like Coqualeetza in B.C. and Dynevor in Manitoba, or hastily renovated army buildings like North Battleford and Charles Camell in Edmonton.

And after 1953 the Indian Act was amended by the 'Indian Health Regulations' to force medical examination and treatment; to compel people to go to hospital; and to force people to stay in hospital. In the 1960s the government, anxious to end its commitment and 'integrate' care into local hospitals, met stiff resistance from communities that saw the institutions as a tangible recognition of the treaty right to health care.

Community leaders pressed for culturally appropriate health care on reserves.

The story of racially segregated health care is not clearly understood.

Were 'Indian hospitals' valuable institutions, or an example of racial intolerance, or both?




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1 888 939-3333 • www.cancer.ca

Natural ways of healing always work the best

It has been said that a Nation is not conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground. I'm proud to say my heart is still in my chest where it belongs.

I have been fortunate to meet incredible women in my lifetime and I am always amazed at their resiliency and no matter what obstacles they have faced they get up and press on.

The women in my family have been through so much but the obstacles haven't kept them down. As a result, every time I think I can't make it through another day I think of their struggles and mine don't seem too difficult.

Remember the expression, "Laughter is the best medicine."

How true. Thank you to my Cree-Anishnabe friend for sharing the following teaching with me – she has been teaching Medicine Wheel classes for 15 years.

"People are often confused by emotions and they use descriptive words that are often reaction. I use this in my group when we get to the emotions stage," she said.

The Creator gave us seven ways of natural healing;

1) Crying – this is the body's

natural way to eliminate stress, fear, and it brings a chemical change for releasing hormones.

2) Laughing – this is just pure good medicine, you will notice that people often laugh when in nervous or tense situations or to cover up pain that they aren't ready to deal with or to release the pain that they have recognized.

3) Yelling – is a natural reaction when startled, when stressed, when we feel high anxiety our voices start to rise.

4) Sweating – this is a natural way to release stress hormones, pheromones are released when in reproductive cycle and our Sacred bath in Mother Earth's womb.

5) Shaking – this is a natural way to de-stress tension our muscles, the fight or flight reaction to fear, a natural way for our bodies to warm itself.

6) Talking – this promotes everything a human being needs to survive, often people will talk when nervous, scared, expressing an emotion (no wonder why people are always sick – we are always told to shut up)

7) Yawning – this is the body's way of oxygenating itself, especially in nervous situations and when tired, it gives the body energy and prepares for rest.

My personal favourite is laughing. I am so thankful that an old dog like me can still learn. I have been fortunate in my life and the Creator has blessed me with four daughters.

I wish for them a world where they will be respected as women and givers of life. A world

where they can walk down the street with their heads held high without fear, a world that honours their culture.

I accept that I have a responsibility to teach them and I recognize that they have things to teach me. I believe that together we will make the world a better place for our future generations.

We may not have control over everything in our lives but we have the opportunity to influence changes in our children and grandchildren and thereby our future. We need to greet each day with our eyes open to the beauty around

us, our minds open to change and our hearts open to love.

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day and there will be events happening across Canada to recognize the contributions of Aboriginal people. I encourage all Eagle Feather News readers to participate in their local National Aboriginal Day festivities.

I don't want our Aboriginal men feeling left out, so I say hats off to our men who respect their women and take care of their children. Thank you for coaching our children's hockey teams, soccer teams and for doing whatever it takes because you love your family – we love you too.

To the women in my life I say thank you for the example you have set for us, thank you for your strength. To our readers thank you for your letters and emails it's always great hearing from you.

If you have a health related question that you would like me to research or a story to share drop me a line at Eagle Feather News c/o Sandee Sez PO Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3M4 or send me an email to s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca

Until next month. Ekosi.



Saskatoon's Aboriginal Day celebrations a day early

This year marks the tenth year that the Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre has proudly hosted Saskatoon's National Aboriginal Day Celebrations.

For a decade, SIMFC, together with the National Aboriginal Day Committee – which is comprised of a growing number of community partners – has worked diligently to showcase and celebrate Aboriginal culture, music, food in the traditional way of welcoming everyone to join in the gathering.

Organizers expect approximately 2,500 people to attend and all activities, entertainment, and soup and bannock will be provided free.

This year the event will be held on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Friendship Park in downtown Saskatoon.

The National Aboriginal Day Planning Committee wish to honour all of the men and women who serve and

protect their community and Nation. The committee wants to acknowledge and commend the hard work and commitment shown on a daily basis by these dedicated individuals.

These people include Saskatoon Police Service, Ambulance services, Saskatoon Fire & Protection Services, and the many men and women in the Canadian Forces serving all over the world.

You're invited to come out and honour the men and women who serve and protect us, our families and our community.



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Government of
Saskatchewan





Priscilla McNab and camp co-ordinator Michelle Biden in the First Nations University lab.

(Photo by Nicole Bear)

First Nations University to host 2009 health and science camp

By Nicole Bear
For Eagle Feather News

The science department at the First Nations University of Canada is hosting the 2009 Health and Science Camp to highlight indigenous and western concepts of health and science in a learning environment.

"There will be some Elder involvement almost every day, whether that's teaching or doing a walk or a plant activity," says camp co-ordinator Michelle Biden.

Biden says the camp starts and ends with a prayer from an Elder. During the camp, students will be doing activities in the lab such as dissecting owl pellets (vomit) and testing the pH of lake water.

The students will also go on walks outside in the prairie area and make a visit to the Four Directions Community Health Centre, where they will learn to suture pigs' feet. There will also be presentations and information sessions on how to

pursue careers in health and science.

The students participating in the camp are mostly aboriginal teens in grades eight to 12 from Regina and across the province. In the past, there have also been students from Alberta, Manitoba, B.C. and some northern territories.

Priscilla McNab is from George Gordon First Nation. She attended the camp for two years in 1998 and 2000, when she was 13 and 15.

"We did like the CSI kind of investigation at the U of R. That was really fun. I'll never forget that," McNab says.

Other activities that McNab participated in at the camp were visits to the IMAX and the Science Centre, a scavenger hunt outside the city, Laser Quest and a tour of the science department at the University of Regina.

When she attended the camp, she said that there was not as much of a health focus or Elder involvement as there is now.

"I really appreciate that," McNab says

CHEP and Friendship Centre working together to fight poverty

CHEP Good Food and the Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC) are two United Way agencies that are working together to address issues including homelessness, poverty and hunger.

In January, CHEP Good Food no longer had a home to pack their Good Food Boxes. The two agencies decided to work together with SIMFC offering a home to CHEP.

CHEP now packs its Good Food Boxes at the gym at SIMFC which sees 750 boxes of approximately 15,000 pounds of affordable, healthy food each packing day go out to depots in the community.

But the partnership does not end there. CHEP and SIMFC are now providing hot suppers three to five times a week at the SIMFC to feed people who have no option for a meal at supper time. Since this program has started, they have seen the people who attend the supper meal, come back to help pack the Good Food Boxes for CHEP.

This ongoing partnership between CHEP and the SIMFC is helping to build bridges between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

"This partnership is possible with the flexibility of United Way funding," says Karen Archibald, Executive Director of CHEP Good Food.

"By providing operating dollars, it allows agencies the flexibility to adapt to needed programs throughout the year, not just based on the granting time period. This has allowed CHEP to work with the Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre to strengthen relationships and continue to provide healthy, affordable food to the community of Saskatoon.

"I believe one of the best ways to partner is to work together on a common issue, to build understanding and commitment to each other."



Karen Archibald, Executive Director of CHEP, discusses food packing day with SIMFC Board member Preston Parranto.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Remember...
Buckle Up

For you. For them.

SG
Take care out there.

100 per cent pure passion from First Nations entrepreneur

By Trelle Burdeniuk
For Eagle Feather News

Jaimee Marks is a First Nations entrepreneur with a contagious passion for fitness, nutrition and people that she turned into the successful business, One Hundred Percent Pure Fitness.

Her passion is apparent from the moment you walk into her studio and see the crisp, hardwood floors, bright blue exercise balls, soft lighting and her brilliant smile.

Marks is a determined Aboriginal woman and said she never denies who she is or where she came from.

"I am First Nations and I know what it is like to be on the reserve and I know what it is like to live in North Central (Regina) and just because we live there doesn't mean that we are what the media says we are.

"We are passionate, powerful and we're successful," she said.

Marks's desire to start a fitness business stemmed from her own circumstances. When Marks weighed 210 pounds, she struggled to find outside support to lose the weight. She went to nutritionists and trainers and found no personal connection.

"They literally just shoved me in the door, took my money ... and shoved me back out the door," she said.

This motivated her to branch out and solve the problem herself.



Exercise instructor Jaimee Marks (right) helps client Victoria Gubbels at Marks's Regina studio, One Hundred Percent Pure Fitness. (Photo by Trelle Burdeniuk)

She gathered information from more than 1,000 books because she wanted to learn everything she could about fitness and nutrition. She applied this knowledge to her own situation and within eight months lost 70 pounds. Marks wanted to help others live a healthier lifestyle and decided to open her own business in Regina.

This decision brought challenges, especially on the financial side.

"There is a misconception out there that because you are Aboriginal, there is a lot of free money. There isn't," Marks said.

"I applied to a lot of places and everywhere I went, they turned me down."

Marks did not let this discourage her and she even collected pop bottles and donations to make her dream a reality.

One Hundred Percent Pure Fitness

combines both exercise and nutrition into an individual plan for each client. This means Marks' customers have the support of both a nutritionist and personal trainer in the same person. She even offers to go grocery shopping with a client for free to help them learn better eating habits, which aisles to avoid and how to read labels.

One of Marks' clients, Victoria Gubbels, went to One Hundred Percent Pure Fitness to find a serious exercise program and build up muscle. But she stayed for the one-on-one attention and warm environment Marks created.

"I really like that personal touch of coming and having Jaimee entertain us with her stories," said Gubbels. "It's like a little family down here."

Marks hopes to take her knowledge to the streets and give back to the Aboriginal community. She would like to teach adults and children on reserves about nutrition and achieving their dreams. Marks said she wants to share her knowledge, passion and grit to show Aboriginal people that it can be done.

"No matter how many doors slam closed in your face, you can do it," said Marks.

If you would like more information, contact Jaimee Marks at 737-FITT (3488)

or visit

www.100percentpurefitness.com

Roundtable addresses Métis health issues

As recent health data has indicated, Métis people suffer three to five times more incidences of chronic disease such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, cancer and mental illness than the average Canadian.

To help allay these drastic numbers and to get Métis people more engaged in the health field, many health officials and Métis leaders met for a day in May to discuss ways to move forward together by sharing information and finding ways to collaborate on programs, services and funding agencies.

Under the Health Canada initiative Aboriginal Health Transition Fund, the MN-S receives funds to work with healthcare officials to adapt the current system to meet the needs of Métis through improved access to services, better relationships between caregivers and patients, and input into design and delivery and evaluation of health programs and services.

Attending on behalf of the MN-S was the entire executive and the PMC. Provincial Minister of Health Don McMorris was also in attendance along with the heads of every health district in Saskatchewan.



Sharing information and discussing ways to improve the health of Métis people was on the minds of people attending a day long session in Elk Ridge recently.

Back to Batoche Days

July 23 to 26

On the plains where our ancestors fought the last battle of the North-West Resistance, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan celebrates and honors their identity and culture. For decades the grounds of Batoche, have come alive each summer for "Back to Batoche Days" July 23, 24, 25, & 26th 2009.

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MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN

Preparing a Nation for the 21st Century

REGISTRY UPDATE

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitutional definition of Métis is utilized in the development and implementation of the registry process. The definition is:

"Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation".

All applicants must prove their ancestral connection to the historical Métis homeland. The PROOF comes from the documents that show the connections from one generation to the next. Start by talking to your family about the people in your family tree. What were their names, when and where were they born, married, or died, who were their parents? Once you have filled in as much information as you can start searching out documents to support this information.

An applicant will need their LONG FORM or GENEALOGICAL copy of live birth from the province where they were born. The certificate or registration must show the name of the parent whose line they will be following. The birth certificate or copy must be ordered from the province of birth.

"We need to have a credible MN-S Citizenship Registry system that can withstand the rigors of scrutiny, and this system will ensure the growth of the Métis Nation is for Métis citizens," MN-S President Robert Doucette.

Having a reliable system for identifying Métis harvesters will clarify and simplify the partnership between conservation officers and Métis hunters in the eventual implementation and allow Saskatchewan to develop policy and procedures regarding Métis hunting rights and other pertinent issues.

The Registry system needs to be designed to fairly and efficiently register Métis citizens with an objectively verifiable process.

The Central Registry Office, located at 219 - 104 Robin Crescent in Saskatoon, is currently in the process of development. One of the specific needs is the Genealogical Resource Centre. To make applying for citizenship straightforward for Métis people, a Métis Genealogical Resource Centre is in the works. The Genealogy Resource Centre will enable Métis people to cost effectively search for their Historical Métis Ancestry.

Another requirement for the MN-S Citizenship Registry is to design and develop a Métis Citizenship database to collect and secure all the information and documentation needed for MN-S Citizenship Registry. In order to have a standardized, secure and efficient process the MN-S has contracted Advanced Data Systems to create a database that would record, store and collate MN-S Citizenship Registry information. This data system will enable the MN-S to collate information on Métis harvesting, culture, education and health, which will aid the MN-S in procurement of valuable programs and services that enhance the opportunities and lives of Métis citizens living in Saskatchewan.

Want to get started?

Here are some organizations that may aid in the collection of relevant documentation:

VITAL STATISTICS

Saskatchewan Births
Information Services Corporation
of Saskatchewan
E-mail: ask@isc.ca
Toll Free: 866-275-4721
Fax: 306-787-2288

Ontario Births
Office of the Registrar General
PO Box 4600, 189 Red River Road, 3rd Fl
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8
Phone: 416-325-8305
Toll-free: 800-461-2156
Fax: 807-343-7459

Manitoba Births
Vital Statistics Agency
254 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B6
Phone: 204-945-3701
Toll Free: 866-949-9296
vitalstats@gov.mb.ca

Alberta Births
Service Alberta
Phone: 310-0000 (toll-free in Alberta)
780-427-2711 (outside of Alberta)

British Columbia Births
Vital Statistics Agency
PO Box 9657 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9P3
Phone: 250-952-2681

Quebec Births
Directeur de l'état civil
2535 Laurier Boulevard
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 5C5
Phone: 418-643-3900
Toll Free: 800-567-3900
Fax: 418-646-3255

GENEALOGY WEBSITES

- ∞ Library & Archives of Canada - www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html
- ∞ Hudson Bay Company - www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca
- ∞ MNC Historical Online Database - www.metisnation.ca/database/intro.html
- ∞ Can Genealogy - www.cangenealogy.com
- ∞ Ancestry.com - www.ancestry.com
- ∞ Cyndi's list - www.cyndislist.com
- ∞ Saskatchewan Archives Board - www.saskarchives.com
- ∞ Saskatchewan Genealogical Society - www.saskarchives.com

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records can be obtained, for a fee (depending on the church) from the local church, the diocese office, or church archive. Most church records or copies of church records did survive and may be found in the diocese's archive. First call to determine the custodian of the record, the price per certificate, and the proper mailing address and contact person. Then follow with a letter and the payment; include the event you require a certificate for and as much information as possible; date, place, person or people, and other possible spelling of names.

Archdiocese of Keewatin Le Pas
P.O. Box 270
The Pas, MB R9A 1K4
Phone: 204-623-6152
Fax: 204-623-6121
Email: chancery@keepas.ca
www.dioceseofkeewatinlepas.ca

Saskatoon Diocesan Centre
100 - 5th Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2N7
Phone: 306-242-1500
Toll Free: 877-661-5005
Fax: 306-244-6010
www.rcdiocesesktn.sk.ca

Diocese of Prince Albert
Diocesan Pastoral Centre
1415-4th Ave. W.
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5H1
Telephone: 306-922-4747
Fax: 306-922-4754
Email: p.secretary@sasktel.net
www.padiocese.sk.ca

Archdiocese of Regina
445 Broad Street North
Regina, SK S4R 2X8
Phone: 306-352-1651
Fax: 306-545-0510
Email: chancery@archregina.sk.ca
www.archregina.sk.ca

Qu'Appelle Anglican Diocese
Archivist and Registrar, Diocesan
Synod Office
1501 College Avenue
Regina, SK, S4P 1B8
www.diocese.sasktelwebsite.net

Saskatchewan, The Synod Office
1308 Fifth Avenue East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 2H7
Phone: 306-763-2455
Fax: 306-764-5172
Email: synod@sasktel.net
www.skdiocese.com

Saskatoon Anglican Diocese
P.O. Box 1965
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S5
Phone: 306-244-5651
Fax: 306-933-4606
www.saskatoon.anglican.org/index.html

Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada
418A McDonald Street
Regina SK S4N 6E1
Phone: 306-721-3311
Fax: 306-721-3171
www.ucskco.sasktelwebhosting.com/index.htm



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Manley Begay was one of the presenters at a two-day seminar

The Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission, in a unique partnership with the First Nations University of Saskatchewan, Gabriel Dumont Institute, University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Land Management Institute, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, hosted the Nation Building Seminar: Leadership, Governance, and Economic Policy executive education session on April 29-30.

The seminar was initially planned for about 100 delegates but due to an overwhelmingly high demand, registration swelled to 238.

Nation building seminar a huge success

"We were pleasantly surprised with the enthusiasm for this type of executive education," said Vern Bachiu, CEO of the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission.

"It goes to prove that there is a strong desire by the Aboriginal leadership in this province and that they are open and searching for models, best practices and strategies to rebuild their nations," he added.

Day one of the seminar agenda included an overview of why some Aboriginal communities are poor and others more successful. Key findings from over 20 years of study by the Harvard Indian Project (Harvard University) and the Native Nations Institute (University of Arizona) were shared by co-facilitators Manley Begay Jr. (Navajo) and Joe Kalt, leading researchers and professors in the area.

The facilitators covered the standard approach to development and compared it to the Nation-Building approach and defined the differences between self-administration versus self-rule. Case studies were shared with the audience to profile what Aboriginal nations are doing to be economically self sustaining within governance structures that are diverse but effective.

The common theme was that the Aboriginal nations that enjoyed more

success also committed to separating politics from business in their decision making processes and having the jurisdiction to do so.

The second day of the seminar focused on community-owned enterprises and citizen-owned (private) enterprises and the essential need for keeping politics out of day-to-day management, good governance and a neutral dispute mechanism. One study concluded that "community-owned enterprises insulated from political interference are nearly five times as likely to be profitable."

An American Indian Tribe located in Nebraska adopted the new model and saw its unemployment rate drop from 75 per cent to 13 per cent. In another example, Chief Phillip Martin of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is quoted of saying "it used to be, everyone was leaving. Now they're coming home."

The session included a focus on roles and responsibilities of councils. Begay and Kalt referred to it as one of the biggest governance problems faced by Aboriginal nations. They recommended that elected leaders should focus their time and energies on making laws, protecting the nation's assets, thinking strategically and long-term, to build capacity and to attract and retain their own human capital, often referred to as Aboriginal nation's most valuable resource.

There was also very strong recommendations for First Nations in Saskatchewan to get out of the stranglehold of the Indian Act, to start exercising jurisdiction and to start building their own constitutions that are aligned with their nation's cultures in a contemporary sense.

The final message was that in order for Aboriginal nations to be successful economically, they must undergo a change and adopt new more effective governance structures.

Case studies in the U.S., across Canada and around the world have proven time and again that you cannot enjoy economic success without effective leadership, effective governance and economic policies that are aligned and structured properly.

Aboriginal nations must have the decision-making powers to make their own decisions about their futures.

"In short, leaders make choices, and their choices matter. Effective nation building depends on the choices they make," said Kalt.

Begay also added that "it is clear from research throughout the world that when jurisdiction or decision-making powers is placed in the hands of Indigenous people backed up by culturally-appropriate institutions of self-governance, successful economic development is much more likely to take root."



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Michelle Hugli happy working CBC Radio's afternoon shift

By Jarrett Crowe
For Eagle Feather News

Michelle Hugli, of Yellow Quill First Nation, is happy in her new position as the host of The Afternoon Edition on CBC Radio One.

Hugli, a former student of the Indian Communication Arts (INCA) program at the First Nations University of Canada, was told she had received the position in March with CBC formally announcing it in April.

The 29-year-old had temporarily been filling in for the now retired Colin Grewar.

The interview process was "the most intimidating I've ever gone through," said Hugli.

She applied for the permanent position and was selected to be a part of the short list. Facing a board of interviewees, Hugli answered questions of why she wanted the position, why she thought she would be a good host, what ideas for the show she had and she was asked to respond to several hypothetical scenarios.

Hugli was hired for the position because she brings a good skill set, is naturally curious and has a wide range of experience within the field, said Paul

Dornstauber, executive producer of radio current affairs at CBC Saskatchewan.

"Michelle has been a pleasure to work with. She's very delightful and has a great attitude," Dornstauber said.

Following her 2002 graduation from the School of Journalism at the University of Regina, she was recruited to be an editor of Shout, an Aboriginal youth magazine.

"The work was challenging, we never missed a deadline, and it was extremely professional," said Hugli.

Unfortunately Shout folded due to financial reasons. Hugli went on to join News Talk Radio where she hosted The Michelle Hugli Show, which aired on weekends. A former INCA instructor, Mervin Brass, recommended she talk to his boss at Ralco Radio about a possible job opportunity.

Within a week of meeting, Hugli was hired for the gig she held for about a year and a half. After leaving Ralco Radio, she sold her Regina home and planned to explore the world. She took the temporary project offer at CBC as a way of raising money to fund her travels, she explained.

However, when the position opened, "it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up,"



Michelle Hugli in the studio at CBC Radio One.

(Photo by Jarrett Crowe)

said Hugli.

Her experience working at CBC has been great, said Hugli.

"People are committed to their jobs," she said.

Hugli likes the challenge of working for CBC. She likes connecting with the people of Saskatchewan and receiving comments and compliments. She is in the position she wants to be at professionally, and she is where she wants to be for the next few years, Hugli said.

She also has some advice to give for aspiring journalists.

"Have some goals, even if they change often ... and work towards them ... talk to others within the field ... commit yourself, if interested ... give it your all, do your best.

"Journalism is built on reputation and exceptional work," said Hugli.

She is also glad for the experience she has received from journalism, said Hugli.

The Afternoon Edition airs from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. on CBC Radio One, 540 AM across Saskatchewan, 102.5 FM in Regina and 94.1 FM in Saskatoon.

A safe place in a dangerous world

The core neighbourhoods of any city offer challenges to families and organizations that want safe places for kids to play.

A unique solution has been created in Saskatoon by the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Cress Housing, Communities for Children, the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon and the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op.

These groups have invested in the Kinsmen Activity Place (KAP), a safe place in the hood to provide meeting space, programming and opportunities for

children and their families. Their mandate is to involve the youth in activities that are educational, health related or offer training opportunities to build life and job skills.

Tenants of KAP at this time are Communities for Children, STR-8UP, CRU Youth Wellness and the Boys and Girls Club.

The grand opening was well attended by community members including Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison, Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas and Police Chief Clive Weighill.



Sue Delanoy of Communities for Children welcomed community members and dignitaries to the grand opening of the Kinsmen Activity Place. (Photo by Marcel Petit)



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Yorkton film fest a great event, too bad host city didn't notice

The Yorkton Film Festival, North America's longest running event of its kind, was held recently and Eagle Feather News was there.

Thoughts of a film festival may conjure images of red carpets, glamour and throngs of actors, directors and producers flocking to be seen at such an event. To be honest, I thought the small prairie city of roughly 17,000 would catch festival fever but I soon found out it was much the opposite.

The most telling example was stopping in at a car dealership located right next to the Festival headquarters to visit a buddy who works there.



After chatting for about 15 minutes, he finally realized it was a little weird that I just happened to show up in Yorkton and asked, "why are you here?"

I pointed to a large sign outside his office promoting the Festival. He looked at me blankly: "Oh yeah, I heard something about that going on."

And my irritation with the Yorkton Film Festival was born. It has been running for over 60 years, attracts film industry people from all over Canada and even the world, is one of the most respected and revered events of its kind ... and the locals don't give it the time of day.

Film screenings – which are offered to the public for free – were sparsely populated and held in what looked like a classroom. The chairs were uncomfortable and the 50 inch screen paled in comparison to the groovy old theatre I thought I would be sitting in, spending countless hours watching amazing films.

Other Festival events open to the public were mostly attended by the film industry people in town for the weekend.

There was a street party on one of the nights and the band hired was an inexperienced, out of tune group of young chaps who scared away more spectators than they attracted.

Not that I want to take anything away from their effort but ...

For those of you who haven't been there, Yorkton is actually a pretty cool little city. I like the wide streets, calm pace and small town vibe.

The city is enjoying a boom and the current real estate market is proof. There's a huge population of young hipsters who pack the local nightspots and make Yorkton feel like downtown Toronto for a few hours on Saturday nights.

This leaves me wondering why a

booming city like Yorkton doesn't take advantage of a glowing opportunity and make their little film festival a signature event.

Music festivals in Craven and Merritt, B.C., for example, have landed the small towns on the international map. Merritt was dying a slow economic death and decided to brand itself the Country Music Capital of Canada. What resulted is twenty-five to thirty million dollars in revenue for the town over a four-day period during its annual music festival in the summer.

I'm not saying Yorkton needs the money or should even brand itself the Film Festival Capital of Canada but a little hype and local support would be nice. As a first time attendee, I had hoped to leave feeling like I experienced a party Yorkton style.

Instead I left feeling like this event could have saved me a long ride home had it been held in Saskatoon.

It is not my intent to take anything away from the Festival organizers, they put on a terrific event for the film industry. What's missing is a chance to put on a terrific event for the City of Yorkton.

Wapos Bay and Dogzlyfe Take Home Prestigious Golden Sheaf Awards

Dennis and Melanie Jackson's award mantle must be pretty near full. They won the Golden Sheaf for Best Children's Production at the Yorkton Film Festival for their Wapos Bay episode 'Raiders of the Lost Art.'

"I honestly did not think we would win anything this year," said Dennis after winning the award. "We were up against some pretty stiff competition. I'm pretty much speechless."

As the ever-humble Mr. Jackson always is when it comes to being interviewed.

It's not a bad thing, however, he speaks with his actions, not words. And Wapos Bay winning a prestigious award isn't a big surprise to the TV community. It's just another testament to their dedication to telling good stories.

Dogzlyfe: Burdens of a Gangsta Rapper won the Golden Sheaf for Best Aboriginal Production. Director Cory Generoux had the nearly impossible task of documenting a year in the life of Robin Favel (a.k.a Burden) as he struggled with gang life, jail sentences and being hassled by the police.

Generoux was fearless in his quest to tell Favel's story. He filmed inside the Prince Albert Penitentiary, in gang territory in Regina's North Central and even became involved when the Regina Police surrounded a house Favel was in and a stand-off ensued.

If you haven't already, do yourself a huge favour and keep your ears peeled for a screening of Dogzlyfe, it's nothing short of a masterpiece.



(Above) Dennis Jackson, producer, director and writer of Wapos Bay poses with Anand Ramaya producer, Wapos Bay with their Golden Sheaf Awards for Best Children's Production at the Yorkton Film Festival after the awards ceremony.

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Circle of Honour recipients a deserving group

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

For the eleventh year in a row, stories of inspiration and achievement were shared one evening in Saskatoon.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Circle of Honour Awards were handed out to recipients in a variety of categories including education; sports, culture, and recreation; health; justice, leadership, and humanitarian.

Leanne Bellegarde of the Kawacatoose First Nation was nominated for the Women's Leadership award by a Master's of Business student from the school at which she works. Bellegarde is the current Director of Aboriginal Business at the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan.



Chief Joe Quewezance was presented with a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award.

She says such an award recognizes the strong women with strong voices in our communities.

"I think that it inspires other women and young women to continue to take on leadership roles. Where I work ... at any given time there are more First Nations women enrolled in post-secondary education than men, and so I

think it's important we support each other, that we look to those who are achieving to inspire us, and that we move on to become role models for the next generation," Bellegarde says.

Although Bellegarde doesn't see herself as a role model, she is willing to take on the challenge.

"It always catches me off guard, and it's very humbling when I realize others may, because I've always just tried to be true to the way that I was raised, and to do the things that I think are right for my family, for my community, and for my people.

"And so it's a bit daunting at times, but I've come to realize that it's also a responsibility."

The first award presented that evening had another inspiring story behind it. Joel Ahenakew of the Ahtahkahoop Cree Nation won the Academic and Scholastic Achievement award.

Three years ago, he was diagnosed with two rare forms of cancer and underwent three surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation. The cancer went into remission but returned seven months later. Earlier this year it went back into remission.

Even with all of this going on, the Grade 11 student maintained an 87 per cent average while serving as his chief of his student council.

The modest and courageous student says it wasn't that difficult.

"When I was going through the chemo, I couldn't do any school or any sports or any activities like that, so when I was done all the chemo, and I got into school again, I dedicated myself a little more than I usually would," Ahenakew explained.

A well-known face was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Joe Quewezance from the Yellow Quill First Nation has spent the past 36 years dedicating his life to bettering the lives of others through government office.

He was elected chief of his band in 1973 and tribal chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council in 1988, a position he held for 12 years. While under his leadership,



Leanne Bellegarde was the recipient of the Women's Leadership award.

STC expanded from a handful of staff to five corporations employing 150 people.

Although he retired in 2000, he was still busy serving on the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform from 2001 to 2004. He was also approached to run again for STC and was re-elected in 2005.

Health reasons forced him to retire, again, but he still advises STC and is working with the 2010 First Nations Winter Games Committee.

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Shannon Worme, Kawacatoose First Nation

Degree honours memory of late Daleen Bosse

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Finally, a happy moment in a tragic story. At this year's University of Saskatchewan spring convocation, Daleen Bosse was awarded her education degree post-humously.

Her mother, Pauline Muskego, was there to accept it on her behalf, along with Bosse's eight-year-old daughter, Faith. Muskego says it's nice to know her daughter's hard work at university is being recognized.

"I just think of, you know, even after a person has left this earth, they still can be honoured. And I'm thankful that my daughter's memory is still able to be honoured."

Muskego says she was emotional when she found out about the idea.

"When I was told by the ITEP program that they were doing this for us, and they were asking the U of S for permission, I just cried because it was just such an honour for them to think of her, you know."

"She had finished three years of university, she was in her fourth year when she went missing, and it was just an honour that they would think of her that way."

Muskego says Bosse's daughter has grown into a very independent, smart little girl. She really wanted to accept the degree for her mom on her own but Muskego was there to support her.

"Faith wants to be a vet when she grows up, that's all she talks about. So I told her, you know, some day you'll be walking there yourself when you go and get your degree as a veterinarian."

"She'd be so proud of her. She always was proud of her daughter, right from when her daughter was born until



Herb and Pauline Muskego with Daleen Bosse's daughter, Faith. The family accepted a degree from the University of Saskatchewan on behalf of their daughter who was murdered in 2004.

she went missing. She always had her involved in doing all kinds of things, ballet, and now her little girl's in music. She's a smart little girl."

Bosse went missing in May 2004. For the next four years, the Muskegos held awareness walks about their daughter's disappearance, as well as other missing Aboriginal woman.

A family's worst nightmare came true when Bosse's remains were found in August of last year. Since then, a man has been charged with her first degree murder and offering an indignity to human remains for setting her body on fire. The case is still awaiting a preliminary

hearing.

"We're thankful for closure. We're thankful that we were able to lay her to rest peacefully. We're thankful she's at home, and we are thankful that we're just able to go on. We think she would want us to just keep on living and help other families who are going through similar things."

This summer the family is holding a memorial run that will take place in July. It was the idea of Bosse's brother, Dana Muskego, and he will be the lead runner. He and others will run from the site where his sister was found near Martensville to Onion Lake Cree Nation.

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Decade since Peepeekisis Pesakastew celebrated high school graduation

By Shannon Poundmaker
For Eagle Feather News

For the first time since 1999 Peepeekisis Pesakastew School will have a Grade 12 graduating class.

This June, Racheal Bellegarde, 18, and Dakota Dustyhorn, 19, will celebrate their academic accomplishment.

"(Graduating) means getting the knowledge and know-how and being able to do whatever I want. There's so many possibilities," said Dustyhorn.

Pesakastew School has not produced a graduating class in 10 years. Principal John Koochim is "super super proud" of Bellegarde and Dustyhorn.

"(I'm) proud of these young ones" said teacher Erin Pinay.

The impact that this graduation will have for the Peepeekisis First Nation is inspiring for the reserve as well as for the students attending Pesakastew School. For Dustyhorn, this graduation means that the First Nation is moving forward, and doing things right.

Pesakastew School has been unable to attract funding, teachers and senior students. Low student enrollment is attributed to a lack of financial resources and school efficiency. The school presently offers programs directed towards student recruitment.

Most students in the File Hills area attend school in Balcarres, which has 27 graduates this year. Bellegarde decided to attend Pesakastew School on the advice of her mother, whereas Dustyhorn felt that the school provided an accessible community environment.

Bellegarde and Dustyhorn will receive a traditional ceremony composed of an opening prayer by Elders and a song complete with drummers and singers to honour the graduates.

A feast, as well as a presentation, will be prepared for the graduates and Christopher Bird, the last graduate from '99, will present the toast to the grads. Chief Beverly Bellegarde, will also be in attendance.

Finishing high school enables the young adults to plan for their futures. Bellegarde has just recently become a mother to a son named Riley.

Absent from school for a month after giving birth, Bellegarde had to catch up in order to graduate on time. Determined to provide assistance and support, Pesakastew School allowed Bellegarde to bring her child to school.

Bellegarde has yet to decide when to return to school but did enjoy learning about psychology and would consider taking more psychology courses in the future. For Bellegarde, graduating means



Teacher Erin Pinay with graduates Racheal Bellegarde and Dakota Dustyhorn.

(Photo by Helder Carvajal)

"moving on with life."

Dustyhorn took a liking to Canadian Studies but rather than follow in that direction, he has decided to take on a trade. Dustyhorn registered at the SIAT campus in Saskatoon. Dustyhorn is mechanically inclined so he chose to study to become an automotive technician.

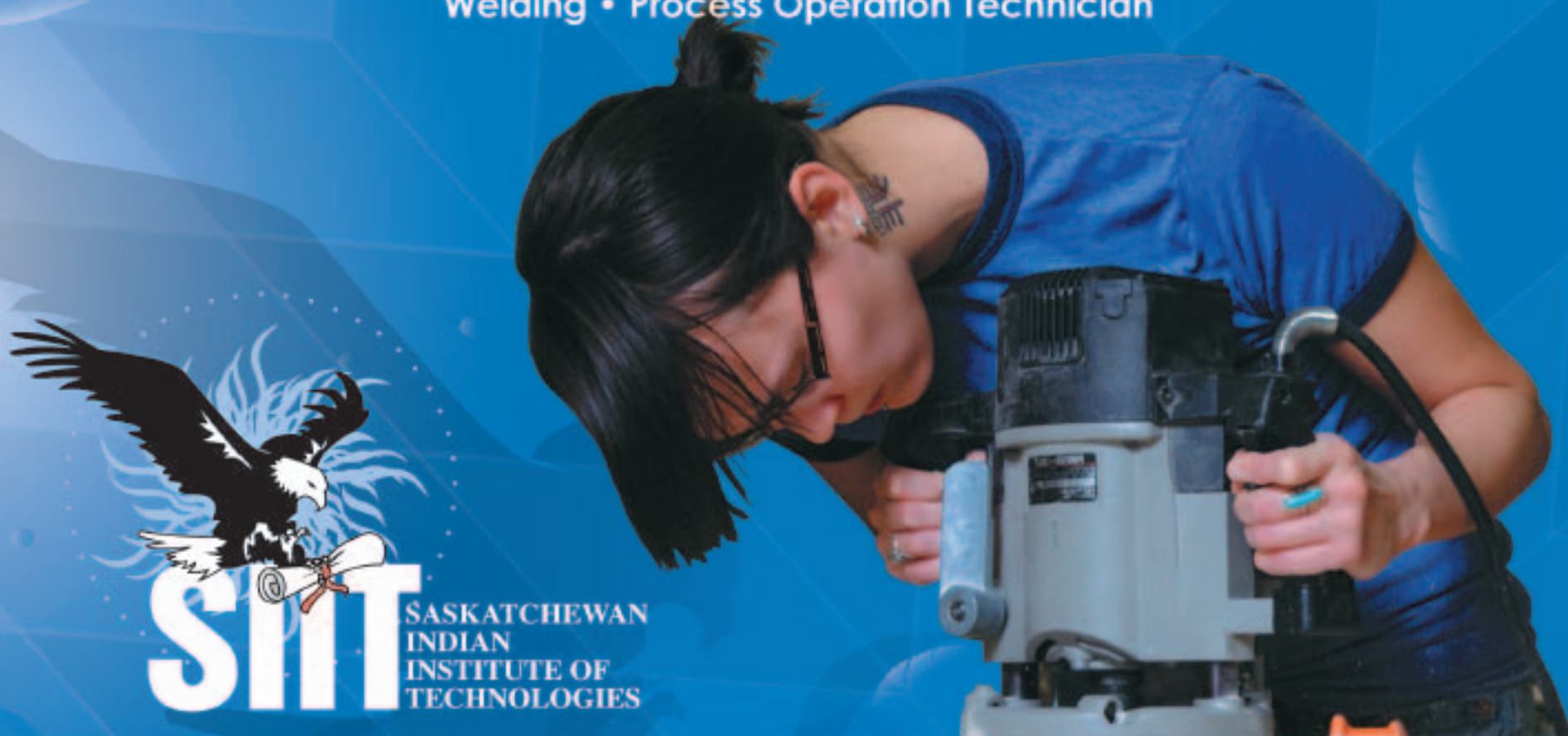
Bellegarde and Dustyhorn said the major advantage of being the only two students in Grade 12 was the individual attention they received.

The teachers encouraged the students to become fully engaged which aided them in achieving better grades.

"We're the top of our class, the top two students," laughed Dustyhorn.

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Modern media used to revive First Nations languages

By Stewart Manhas
For Eagle Feather News

Regina volunteers have banded together in a one-of-a-kind attempt to revive First Nations languages.

Using both the traditional face-to-face method and modern media such as YouTube, co-ordinators Cathy Wheaton and Allan Adam, a professional Dene translator, are bringing people together to learn the basics of many First Nations languages.

The project started in early April. It followed a mass email discussion that started between Wheaton and several others who are concerned about the disappearance of First Nations languages.

"What spurred the whole discussion was people's concern for their language and we all knew that we were leaving it very quickly," Wheaton said.

Unwilling to let these languages vanish, Wheaton teamed up with Adam, a fluent Dene speaker, to form the Regina First Nations Language Speaking Circle.

"If we didn't do something and be proactive somehow, we were going to step away (from the language) and there'd be very little we could do about it if we waited much longer," Wheaton said.

The group consists of about a dozen fluent speakers called language givers who donate their time and expertise to teach Dene, Salteaux, Plains and Woods Cree, Dakota, Nakota, and Ojibwe.

The group meets at the Albert Library weekly for an hour and a half for free, drop-in sessions to

teach participating language learners.

The circle focuses on conversational language as many of the languages are traditionally taught through conversation and the written forms were introduced later through colonization.

Although the circle is based on traditional First

The local language learners then have the opportunity to practice daily and at the same time the lessons are available to a worldwide audience.

"Once it goes on the Internet it's global after that," Wheaton said.

Adam and Wheaton also travel, at their own

expense, outside the city to meet with fluent speaking Elders on reserves who otherwise would be unable to come into the circle.

"We can't expect people who are in their 70s or 80s to commute at their own expense to Regina," Wheaton said. Adam and Wheaton work with the elders to record lessons and bring their voices back to the program.

The Elders themselves were more than willing to share their knowledge.

"Any way of getting the language spoken widely was something they were very interested in," Wheaton said.

They saw this as an opportunity to pass on the gift of speaking their traditional languages.

Doreen Oakes, a language giver for the Plains Cree language and Cree professor at the First Nations University of Canada, was approached by one of the learners and discussed his motivations for learning within the circle.

He told her that he wanted to learn the language so he could better understand the prayers and traditional ceremonies he takes part in.

"How do they understand the ceremonies when they don't speak the language? There's more meaning to it when you understand it," Oakes said.



Language givers and learners in session, doing their part to ensure that First Nations languages survive. (Photo by Stewart Manhas)

Nations teaching methods, the group goes beyond the circle, in a world-first, and incorporates YouTube as part of the teaching method.

Adam and Wheaton record phrases and lessons from the circle, post them to the popular website and then link to the lessons from Adam's own website (www.allanadam.com).



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Funding for Métis, First Nations trades training announced

A new partnership between the provincial government, federal government, First Nations and Métis leadership, Saskatchewan training institutions and the residential construction industry will result in training and work experience for under-employed First Nations and Métis people.

Bridges and Foundations for Aboriginal Development, a three-year agreement developed under the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP), will provide approximately 400 First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan with training and work experience related to the construction of affordable housing.

"Bolstering education and employment opportunities for First Nations and Métis people is an important priority for our government," Advanced Education and Employment Minister Rob Norris said.

"This project is a major initiative for our province, the home building industry and most especially 400 young Aboriginal people."

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing \$2.3 million in the project over three years, with the federal government contributing nearly \$3 million, and an additional \$1 million from Aboriginal partner organizations and the private sector.

"First Nations and Métis engagement in our province's growing residential construction sector is an imperative recognized by all partners in this project," Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association CEO Alan Thomarar said.

"Our industry is delighted to see this valuable project come to fruition, and look forward to tangible results, sustainable careers, and the construction of quality homes in all communities, further strengthening the strong economy throughout Saskatchewan."

"These investments are part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government's plan to stimulate the economy, protect Canadians during the global recession and invest in long-term growth," said MP Kelly Block.

"The Government will invest an additional \$100



Alan Thomarar of the Home Builders Association and MP Kelly Block are pleased with the new partnership.

million over three years in ASEP to help Aboriginal people participate in the workforce and get the training they need to make the most of employment opportunities."



GETTING HURT STINKS

This little shaver from the Sandcastle Daycare gave Stella the Safety Skunk a 'high-five'. Stella works as a SpokesSkunk for WorkSafe Saskatchewan and was present at Cochrane High School to help kick off Safe Kids Week which ran May 25-31. Stella the Skunk is originally from P.E.I. but moved here to spread the safety word. "I am glad to be here in Saskatchewan," said Stella. "I want all children to grow up thinking about safety. Getting hurt really does stink!" (Photo by Kathy Ward)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN PRINCE ALBERT

The Government of Canada, working with the Prince Albert HPS Community Advisory Committee invites interested parties to submit a Letter of Intent under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for projects that address homelessness in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and that address one or more of the priorities set out in the Prince Albert Community Plan on Homelessness and Housing.

The HPS seeks to prevent and reduce homelessness by establishing the structures and supports needed to move homeless and at-risk individuals towards self-sufficiency and full participation in Canadian society.

Interested parties must pick up Letter of Intent guidelines prior to submission of letter.

For further information and Letter of Intent Guidelines please contact:
Tamara McKay
City Facilitator - HPS
Service Canada
1288 Central Avenue, Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8
953-8421

The Prince Albert Community Action Plan on Homelessness and Housing is available for viewing at:

<http://www.citypa.ca/NewsFacts/ReportsandPlans/CommunityActionPlan/tabid/288/Default.aspx>

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 3:30 PM
Monday, June 29, 2009

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James Duke, INAC, Minister Rob Norris, Dan Fortin President IBM, Robert Doucette, President Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and FNMR Minister Dan Hutchinson posed for this historic shot after the 100th signing.

(Photo supplied by FNMR)

Historic signing at conference as AEDP records 100th deal

By John Lagimodiere
For Eagle Feather News

Way back on August 21, 1995, the Province, the Saskatoon health district and the Sherbrooke Community Society signed the first ever Aboriginal Employment Development Partnerships.

Now, 14 years later and after helping over 4,000 Aboriginal employees get hired and some 32,000 people receive Aboriginal Awareness Training, it is now official, the Aboriginal Employment Development Partnership has signed its 100th partnership agreement.

First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson and Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris recently joined Dan Fortin, President of IBM in signing the historic agreement.

The deal shows a commitment to improve levels of employment for Aboriginal people within the technology giant.

The signing took place at the two-day Workforce: Workplace, Strategies for Success Conference in Saskatoon held on June 2 and 3. The conference saw delegates exploring the latest statistics and best practices to help welcome more First Nations and Métis people into Saskatchewan's labour market.

"This conference gave people a chance to create a dialogue about building a common vision for a representative workforce and hear how our First Nations and Métis partners and employers are preparing for

Saskatchewan's many training and employment opportunities," Hutchinson said.

A gala banquet Tuesday evening celebrated the signing between IBM and the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations. Other signatories include President Robert Doucette of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Advanced Education Employment and Labour, and Enterprise Saskatchewan.

This unique partnership agreement with IBM will open doors to the information technology economy for First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan and will create opportunities to increase their participation in the IT economy through employment, education and training, small business assistance and investment.

"This historic agreement is a sign that the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is picking up steam, and gaining credibility and accountability for this great Nation within Saskatchewan and Canada," commented President Doucette during his speech prior to the signing.

"In a time of economic growth in Saskatchewan, the MN-S remains committed to the development and retention of a representative workforce.

The Métis represent the youngest, fastest growing population in Canada and as such, the MN-S will continue its dedication in the areas of education, employment, and economic development, which will ultimately add value to our great province and this country."

2009 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards

Call for Nominations

The Saskatchewan Arts Board is pleased to announce the fifth annual Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards. His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, will host the awards celebration in Saskatoon on September 9, 2009.

Awards will be presented to artists, arts administrators, volunteers, groups and organizations in the following categories:

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Ec. dev. seen as solution to unemployment, poverty



Montreal Lake Chief Roger Bird

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A chief of a northern band hopes an economic development forum his reserve held will create networks and opportunities for First Nations people.

Chief Roger Bird of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation wanted to take on the expense of holding the Canadian Aboriginal Business & Economic Development Forum because he believes it's a necessary step in eradicating poverty.

"I think to address the high unemployment rate within our community. I don't know what the statistics are, but like any First Nation, we're up there in terms of high rate of unemployment and our welfare line, the list is long. It's huge," Bird says.

The conference featured workshops and keynote addresses by businesspeople from organizations from across North America, such as One Earth Farms, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Native American Resource Partners, Fort McKay Group of Companies, and the First Nations Bank of Canada.

A presentation was also given by the chairman of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce in Manitoba, an idea that has been floated in Saskatchewan.

Former Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-Chief and economic development and health special project consultant Guy Lonechild says the idea should at least be looked at in this province, because he says on-reserve First Nations face a lot of difficulties when it comes to new business ventures.

"Certainly access to capital and lending, and financial institutions have to take greater risks, spend more money upfront for legal costs to examine some of those legal barriers when it comes to securing and financing larger scale capital projects."

Lonechild says pros and cons need to be looked at, such as would the creation of an Aboriginal chamber of commerce alienate Aboriginal businesspeople from the other chambers that already exist provincially and municipally.

Chief Bird wanted the conference to break down barriers rather than build them up, and thinks that can only mean good things for First Nations people.

"I think one of the things I hope to achieve that our people, meaning First Nations people, will network with industry and then we can eliminate the barrier ... the Natives versus non-Natives," Bird said.

"I think the barriers we know exist there but we want to remove those barriers, and I think we need to work together and we need to get along."

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SUNDAY, August 23	Elections for Métis Women of Saskatchewan Organization 10:00 am-12:00 noon

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Bronze medal for Sask girls

It was a tough trip to swallow for the girls from Saskatchewan. At the 2009 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships they would only lose one game. Unfortunately, that one game was to the eventual champs from Manitoba.

Needless to say it was a long ride home from Winnipeg.

The girls played fantastic all tournament. They had numerous tight games before being humbled 9-2 by the host Manitoba squad in the semi-finals.

In the bronze medal game they rallied from a tough loss to win 4-2 over Ontario North.

The girls were led by the top line of Danny Stone, Naomi Albert, and Jessica Gardipy.



Team Sask representative Courage Bear said "the girls played hard all tournament and they should not get down, they played great!"

Campbell leads Rays to title

We first mentioned Trent Campbell a few months back and acknowledged his hard work. He would eventually be cut loose from the AHL's Hershey Bears, but it was a move he can't complain about.

After joining the ECHL's South Carolina Stingrays he quickly began to show the people in Charleston just how valuable he was to the team.



Team Saskatchewan came up just a little short at the 2009 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships but came home with a bronze medal for their efforts.

The Rays started to play well and he was a big part of it. They would go through two tough playoff series in the first two rounds before sweeping the Cincinnati Cyclones in the Conference Final.

And in the League Championship they were pushed to seven games. The series capper was a 4-2 win in Anchorage on the Aces' home ice.

In 23 playoff games Campbell would garner 24 points. It was good for third in the league during the playoffs and tops on his squad!

Stone has solid year for Huskies

Danny Stone had a tremendous rookie year for the Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Hockey Squad. She led all first year players in Canada West with 13 goal campaign. With her six assists she finished the season with 19 points. Good for fourteenth overall in the very

tough Canada West and third overall on her squad.

Huskies Coach Steve Kook says of the Prince Albert native, "Danny was a strong candidate for rookie of the year in Canada West and she could end up being one the top forwards in the conference some day."

Stone was part of Team Sask at the 2009 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. She was the tournament's leading scorer and was named to the all-tournament team.

Summer Games reminder

All you young people make sure to get out to your respective selection camps for your chance to represent your Tribal Councils at the 2009 First Nations Summer Games. This year's games will be hosted by the Onion Lake First Nation. For more information about the games and how to become a part of the experience contact your local band administrator in charge of sport or recreation.

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NEWS

Chief Standingready retains his job at White Bear

By Nathan Devlin
For Eagle Feather News

Eight competitors failed to unseat White Bear First Nation Chief Brian Standingready who will return as Chief for his twelfth term.

The southeast Saskatchewan First Nation held its bi-annual election on May 28. The election was a huge undertaking, with nine people running for Chief and 54 people running for band council.

Council will be comprised of Robert Big Eagle, Merlin Joyea, Diette Kinistino, Tanya Littlechief, Annette Lonechild, Debbie Maxie, Elaine Maxay, Fred Maxie, J. Francis McArthur, Monica McArthur, Bernard Shepherd, and Seraine Sunkawaste.

Many issues came up in this year's election, including housing, the inadequacies of the Indian Act, and unaddressed Treaty claims. Of particular importance to Chief Standingready is the issue of seven outstanding land claims, and the failure of certain business interests to comply with their duty to consult and accommodate as relating to traditional lands bordering White Bear.

"Going forward with the new council, addressing those issues will be our goals," promised Chief Standingready.

The housing crisis on White Bear First Nation was an issue for all candidates.

"We have a lot of sewage problems and mold problems with housing, and it's one of our priorities," Standingready says.

He says council has a five-year plan to build 100 new houses to alleviate the crisis, and has applied for financial support under the federal government's Economic Action Plan.

Inadequate housing is a long-standing issue on White Bear. Newly elected Councilor Merlin Joyea grew up on the reserve. He is a residential school survivor, and except for the years he spent in residential school and going to school in Moose Jaw, Joyea has lived all his life on White Bear.

"There's always been a shortage of housing here," Joyea says. "There are cases where you will find 10 to 15 people living in one house, and the houses themselves are not in the best shape."

"Some have mold in the basement, and people are still living there, and there's potential for that to cause harm, especially for the young kids living in that situation."

Joyea successfully won a seat on council this year after coming up short in his first attempt, and he sees the next two years as an opportunity for White Bear to capitalize on the economic resources the community has available, and then putting some of that money

back into combating the housing crisis.

"Personally, I want to see more economic development on reserve," says Joyea. "We have oil and gas, and White Bear Lake Resort, and forestry, and those are three areas that could definitely use some improvement. I believe we do have the money coming in to at least put a dent in the housing crisis."

Michael Lonechild is a former councilor for White Bear who ran for Chief in this election. Like Joyea, Lonechild has a deep concern over housing on reserve.

However, Lonechild, like many who ran for Chief, also feels strongly that White Bear needs to address the problems with the Indian Act.

"The Indian Act was not made for the Indian people," Lonechild says. "And it's not working, and unfortunately, that's all we have to work with. It's not just my reserve."

"Overall, the system doesn't seem to work for many Indian people. I was looking for a way to develop an act for our own reserve, where we could define what we want to do."

On this issue, Lonechild and Chief Standingready share common ground, as both are looking towards self-government for White Bear's future. The reserve already implements its own property tax system, and is working towards implementing a tax on alcohol and tobacco.

"What we feel is that in order to be a First Nation Government we need to have land, resources, and the ability to tax, and we are a government," Chief Standingready says.

Despite the challenges facing Chief and council, White Bear is in an enviable position financially, with revenue from the resort, the casino, and the golf course all contributing to the community of over 3,200, approximately 1,200 of whom live on-reserve.

Councilor Joyea is optimistic for the future.

"I have faith in the people elected, and nothing but high hopes. I don't think our people will be disappointed."

Lonechild agrees with Joyea.

"Overall, we have to have respect for the elected people on White Bear no matter who they are, because the people have the last word."



Brian Standingready (top right) will be back for a twelfth term as chief of White Bear First Nation. The southeast Saskatchewan community has significant potential with assets like the resort and casino providing much needed funds.



Toward A Diverse Future: Aboriginal Youth

National Aboriginal Day is a day to join together in celebrating the rich Aboriginal culture and history that runs through Saskatchewan from north to south. It's also a day to think about the future.

For SaskTel, investing in a more diverse future means assisting today's Aboriginal youth to prepare for their careers. Our employment programs—from student mentoring and work terms to scholarships and bursary programs—help make SaskTel a preferred employer.

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Today and every day, we're proud to recognize the contributions and achievements of Aboriginal people.



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National Aboriginal Day Quiz – It’s time to test your knowledge!

1. How long have First Nations people inhabited Saskatchewan?

- a. 1,000 years
- b. 2,000 years
- c. 5,000 years
- d.11,000 years

2. Wanuskewin Heritage Park is older than the pyramids. Artifacts including tipi rings, a medicine wheel and arrow heads have been found there. How old is Wanuskewin and some of the artifacts found there?

- a. 150 years
- b. 500 years
- c. 1,500 years
- d. 10,000 years

3. What is classified as Saskatchewan’s only ‘Naval’ Battle?

- a. Frog Lake Massacre
- b. Battle of Batoche
- c. Lagimodiere Uprising
- d. Regina Riots

4. 1885 is the year of the Northwest Rebellion. Where were the first shots fired that started it all?

- a. Saskatoon
- b. Pile ‘o’ Bones
- c. Duck Lake
- d. Fort Pitt

5. Lake Manitou is well known for its healing powers. The Plains Indians brought their sick there in order to recover from a wide range of ailments. What does ‘Manitou’ mean?

- a. Healing Power
- b. Good Spirit
- c. Medicine Water
- d. Swamp

6. Famous Indian wannabe Archie ‘Grey Owl’ Belaney was a well-known conservationist who kept two beavers as pets. What were their names?

- a. Beavis and Butthead
- b. Jake and Margaret
- c. Jelly Roll and Rawhide
- d. Johnny and Dee



In Saskatchewan, we’re young and getting younger all the time!

7. Buffy Sainte-Marie doesn’t need any introduction – she’s darn famous. Born on Piapot First Nation, she was adopted at a young age. Where did Buffy grow up?

- a. Regina
- b. Texas
- c. England
- d. Massachusetts

8. Here’s an easy one: What song did Buffy win an Academy Award for in 1982?

- a. Soldier Blue
- b. Mister Can’t You See
- c. Up Where We Belong
- d. Fallen Angels

9. Who was the President of first incarnation of the FSIN (which was first known as the Union of Saskatchewan Indians)?

- a. Chief Poundmaker
- b. John Tootoosis
- c. Gordon Tootoosis
- d. Sitting Bull

10. Approximately how many people speak fluent Cree (all dialects) in Saskatchewan?

- a. 200
- b. 1,000
- c. 10,000
- d. 20,000

11. According to the 2001 Census, 13.6% of Saskatchewan’s population was comprised of Aboriginal people. What is the percentage projected to be in 2045?

- a. 15%
- b. 22%
- c. 34%
- d. 65%

12. What percentage of the Aboriginal population is below 20 years of age in Saskatchewan?

- a. 10%
- b. 23%
- c. 38%
- d. 49%

13. How many private Aboriginal-owned businesses are operating in Saskatchewan?

- a. Less than 100
- b. About 200
- c. Almost 500
- d. Over 1,000

14. What year was the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan formed?

- a. 1925
- b. 1947

- c. 1967
- d. 1985

15. How long has Eagle Feather News been the premier Aboriginal newspaper in Saskatchewan?

- a. 3 years
- b. 5 years
- c. 7 years
- d. 11 years

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1. D; 2. D; 3. B; 4. C; 5. B; 6. C; 7. D; 8. C; 9. B; 10. D; 11. C; 12. D; 13. D; 14. C; 15. D

Inner city school uses National Aboriginal Day to promote literacy

By Deena Francis
For Eagle Feather News

Zach Tomlin loves to read books. From a seat in the library, books take the 10-year-old to places he's never been.

"It takes me to different places and I can read about anything, like dragons," he said.

Tomlin's love for fiction has made him one of the top readers in Sacred Heart School's literacy program.

On National Aboriginal Day, Tomlin and other children get to meet with Aboriginal role models.

Teacher Audrey Rockthunder hopes that this will inspire the children to read more.

Nelson Bird, a news reporter from CTV, Leona Cardigan a published author and local firefighters will read to the children at a day-long celebration on June 15.

"Read books about your career to them . . . speak to the children about your career . . . Give them the desire to be where you are. Let them know how to get where you are," Rockthunder said.

"If you teach children to read, it opens doors to anything," Rockthunder said.

This event, which will also feature music and storytelling, is just Rockthunder's latest way to bring parents and the Aboriginal community in general into the classroom "just to spend some time with their kids" and show the parents that the children are learning the Aboriginal ways.

"Our students are humble," she said.

Rockthunder said she is working, "from the inside out. (We are) working



Zach Tomlin, Kitana Perrault and Shayla Williams are chipping in to help their schoolmates read 20,000 books.

with the connections we already have with the community . . . stepping up to them first. And going beyond if we have to."

Those connections to the First Nations community make it better for the school, she said.

Back in the 1980s when Rockthunder came to the school, many of the children could not read but now many are avid readers, she said.

Sacred Heart principal, Starla Gerbinski, said the National Aboriginal Day event will focus on the children's accomplishments as, "exceptional readers."

The students read over 20,000 books last year, and they are already at 18,152 books read this year, she said.

"The whole philosophy is to make our kids better readers," Gerbinski said.

They have an incentive program in which the children who read the most get prizes.

"These are not cheap prizes," Rockthunder said, adding that the children with the most points will be going to Dairy Queen.

Rockthunder loves reading.

"That is one of the reasons I love my work," she said.

Sacred Heart School is located in the part of the city that is known as the 'hood.

Formerly the school had gained a negative reputation, which they have worked to change.

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On your side.

Celebrating Christian and First Nations traditions the key to healing

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

For members of the Anglican Church, National Aboriginal Day is a time for reconciliation and healing for residential school survivors.

An Anglican Gospel Jamboree is happening on Gordon First Nation on June 21. The event will include music, a feast, a conventional Eucharistic Anglican Church service, a healing ceremony and a smudge.

"Residential school people have not abandoned the Church," said Reverend Arthur Anderson of St. Luke's Church on Gordon First Nation.

Anderson is Cree, and he said the Church chose National Aboriginal Day for the jamboree because it is day set aside for all Aboriginal peoples across Canada.

Anderson also said National Aboriginal Day has become a day of healing for Aboriginal peoples.

"(The jamboree) is a healing celebration," he said.

He also said that it is nice to know that there will be smaller pow-wows, and round dances going on all across the country.

"The round dance is a healing dance."

Anderson hopes that the jamboree will also attract non-indigenous people from the nearby communities.

"We're a welcoming community," he said.

The Anglican Church's healing and reconciliation actions stem from their involvement in the residential school system. The Church operated approximately three dozen residential schools in

survivor and active member of the Anglican Church at Gordon First Nation.

Born with a cleft palate, Pratt was unable to speak as a child. The most painful memory of her school experience is words spoke by her abuser.

"He said, 'you poor little dumb girl,



Patricia Pratt is a residential school survivor and has found help from within the Church as she deals with her abuse.

Northern and Western Canada. In 1993, the Church offered First Nations people a formal apology.

Patricia Pratt is a residential school

you'll never be able to tell about it'," Pratt said. She had surgery as a teen and now she is able to talk about her experiences.

She wrote a song called 'Beware

Little Children,' and sang it at a prior Jamboree at Fishing Lake.

"(Residential school) made me wish I was never born a girl ... as I grew older, I hated myself, I hated the Church," said Pratt.

But Pratt said that the Anglican Church eventually helped her to deal with her experiences.

"I sat with the minister of the Church and talked to him," she said.

She also said the Church is always willing to help survivors heal.

"I think there's a door wide open. When someone comes to me, I refer them to our minister."

Now a grandparent, Pratt stresses how important it is for all children to feel safe. When she was in residential school, her favourite place was the chapel – she would hide there.

"My mushum and kohkum's was (also) a safe place; that's the feeling I want to give my own grandchildren," she added.

Pratt also spoke about the importance of both Christian and First Nations traditions for healing.

"I attend regular church but I also believe in our traditional ways," said Pratt. "If only (other survivors) could find the same peace I've found by talking with my elders and the ministers."



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Shellbrook-Rosthern



Bob Bjornerud
Melville-Saltcoats



Fred Bradshaw
Carrot River Valley



Ken Cheveldayoff
Saskatoon Silver Springs



June Draude
Kelvington-Wadena



Wayne Elhard
Cypress Hills



Donna Harpauer
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Last Mountain-Touchwood



Darryl Hickie
Prince Albert Carlton



Bill Hutchinson
Regina South



Yogi Huyghebaert
Wood River



Delbert Kirsch
Batoche



Ken Krawetz
Canora-Pelly



Don McMorris
Indian Head-Milestone



Warren Michelson
Moose Jaw North



Don Morgan
Saskatoon Southeast



Rob Norris
Saskatoon Greystone



Greg Ottenbreit
Yorkton



Jim Reiter
Rosetown-Elrose



Laura Ross
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley



Joceline Schriemer
Saskatoon Sutherland



Lyle Stewart
Thunder Creek



Christine Tell
Regina Wascana Plains



Don Toth
Moosomin



Nadine Wilson
Saskatchewan Rivers

Your Saskatchewan Party Caucus

**Proudly celebrating
National Aboriginal Day**

Premier Brad Wall
Swift Current



Saskatchewan preparing to celebrate National Aboriginal Day

By Candy Fox
For Eagle Feather News

On June 21, the thirteenth annual National Aboriginal Day celebrations kick into full swing across Saskatchewan.

National Aboriginal Day celebrations in Prince Albert National Park will include activities and displays from the Pastiwini Cultural and Heritage Site, a new area within the park that promotes First Nations and cultural awareness.

Pastiwini will provide opportunities for visitors to tan hides, do beadwork and raise tipis. The new site is still being developed and will eventually include trails and a harbour on Waskesiu Lake.

Samuel Halkett, heritage presenter for Prince Albert National Park, hopes that by incorporating some of the Pastiwini Cultural and Heritage Site activities in this year's National Aboriginal Day, it will build community ties between the surrounding First Nations who are also involved in the new site's development and organizational committee.

"Pastiwini means survival. It was the name of a place where the buffalo were herded, but are now free and roaming. (The name has meaning) not just for the buffalo, but also for the people," said Halkett.

Attendees can also expect a pow wow.

One of the busiest days for the Duck Lake Interpretive Center is National Aboriginal Day. The center offers traditional First Nation and Métis displays such as artwork, beadwork, and stone-carvings. Admission is free and they also provide free traditional snacks like bannock, choke-cherry jam, and tea.

For the first time ever, the city of Melfort will hold a weekend long event for National Aboriginal Day. The festiv-

ities are organized by the Canadian Métis Heritage Corporation and will include chuckwagon races, grandstand performances by hoop-dancer Terrance Littleton, and Métis cultural dancers the Asham Stompers.

Program coordinator, Joanne Yakowec, attributes the growth of the event to the increased support from the city of Melfort. She expects to see a lot more people in attendance this year.



Dausin Ellis from the Riel Reelers performing in Wascana Park. (Photo credit: Orenda Yuzicapi)

"It has grown over each year, in the past we would expect 200 to 400 usually. This year we are expecting 2,000 per day."

The chuckwagon races have cash prizes of up to \$1,500 for each category, and the demolition derby has prizes of up

to \$5,000.

Regina National Aboriginal Day celebrations, which are held at Wascana Park, have grown immensely since 1996, said Orenda Yuzicapi, one of the three directors of the Regina National Aboriginal Day Celebrations Inc.

"We average around 8,500 in attendance every year. In 2005, our most successful year, we had 12,000 in attendance," said Yuzicapi.

She attributes the popularity to their expansion of activities that appeal to a wider audience.

"Last year, the committee chose to increase our First Nation component by having a one-session pow wow. It was a huge success, as we got rave reviews and hundreds of requests to continue it," said Yuzicapi.

The growth has sparked new interests from organizations such as the Saskatchewan Science Centre, which will bring in a Nature Environment show for the children's stage.

Another new venue will be the Elder's Life Storytelling Section hosted by Cowessess First Nation Urban Office.

Past National Aboriginal Day festivities, such as the pancake breakfast, trade booths and tipi set-up demonstrations, will also be present. There will even be a round dance and a Native Pro-wrestling show.

On Friday and Saturday, people can attend the Fiddlefest, featuring local school children who have learned to jig and play the fiddle.

The Regina Métis Council will hold Voyageur Days, which showcases Métis style dancers.

Yuzicapi, along with her husband Dickie Yuzicapi and Janice Cottrelle, have been organizing the National Aboriginal Day celebrations for the past 12 years.

"Our goal is to promote Aboriginal culture and celebrate it, and with these and other partnerships, I believe that we are meeting that goal," said Yuzicapi.

MUSKEG LAKE CREE NATION
17th ANNUAL VETERAN'S MEMORIAL
TRADITIONAL POWWOW
July 3, 4, 5, 2009



AGENDA

Friday, July 3
7pm Grand Entry

Saturday, July 4
1pm & 7pm Grand Entry

Sunday, July 5
2pm & 7pm Grand Entry

SPECIALS

River's Traditional
River's Grand
Golden Age Women
Women's Jingle
Junior Traditional
Teen Girls Jingle
Princess Pageant
Tiny Tots: Full Daily

Host Drums: Big River Cree, Cree Spirit, Atikamihk
M.C.s: Howard Walker, Muskoday First Nation
Sanford Strongarm, Kawacatoose First Nation
Arena Directors: Brent Dillon, Onion Lake First Nation
Sheldon Laughing Horse Sutherland, Willow Cree First Nation
Sound: Vern Chocan, Onion Lake First Nation

Firewood, water and campsites available. 50/50 tickets and Nevadas
All dancers and singers paid once daily. Veterans paid once per day.
Drum Groups must register, no drum hopping. 24 hour security & First Aid
Singers bring own chairs. Point system for all specials.
For more information contact:
Josephine Longneck @ 466-7175 Martha Sanderson @ 466-4959
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Saturday, June 20, 2009
"Honoring our Men and Women, who serve and protect"

11:00AM - 4:30PM
FRIENDSHIP PARK
BROADWAY BRIDGE & 19 STREET EAST
SASKATOON, SK.



EVENTS INCLUDE:

- METIS & FIRST NATIONS MUSIC
- JIGGING
- FIRST NATIONS DANCERS
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- CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES AND MORE !!!

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CBC to showcase new generation of storytellers

By Bernadette Friedmann-Conrad
For Eagle Feather News

CBC Radio Saskatchewan is excited to showcase a new generation of storytellers.

The public broadcaster will air a one-hour special produced by Indian Communication Arts (INCA) students at the First Nations University of Canada in celebration of this year's National Aboriginal Day.

CBC Radio Saskatchewan Executive Current Affairs Producer Paul Dornstauder visited the INCA class and said he decided to air the program, which is part of the INCA curriculum, because he was impressed by the raw talent he saw.

"Even though these students don't have a lot of experience making radio they're curious, they're bright, they're engaged and they have lots of good ideas."

This year's group of journalism novices is comprised of 18 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners from diverse personal and educational backgrounds.

Jarrett Crowe, a pre-journalism student in the INCA certificate program at First Nations University who was raised on the Piapot Reserve is looking forward to the opportunity.

"It's a good thing for any aspiring journalist to have their work shown. I'm somewhat nervous about it being aired, but I'm also excited. I think they'll guide us in the right direction," Crowe said.

As the new reporters develop their story ideas over the coming weeks, they'll be working under the expert guidance of CBC Radio Saskatchewan Current Affairs producer Merelda Fiddler and other seasoned journalists who know what it takes to put a successful show on the air.

Fiddler who teaches the radio portion of the INCA summer institute, says it's important to look to the future.

"What we're hoping to do with the show is to look at where everyone thinks we're going to be in the future. National Aboriginal Day is about people coming together, but what is the future of National Aboriginal Day?"

"We're hoping to do stories about where we see ourselves in 20 years from now, and how we are all going to be better."

This theme could take the radio show in a number of directions, and that's exciting to Dornstauder.

"Other than being fairly certain that we're going to get a program that's really reflective of Saskatchewan, I'm not sure what we're going to get."

"It'll be a surprise. We're looking forward to bringing to the listeners of



INCA student Desarae Eashappie works on her lines for the National Aboriginal Day CBC Radio broadcast.

(Photo by H. Mauricio Carvajal)

CBC Radio in Saskatchewan stories from people who, up to this point, we haven't heard from."

Each INCA student will have specific responsibilities in getting the show on air, and while this promises to be a challenging learning experience, it's also an excellent opportunity to play a part in producing an hour-long show that airs regionally.

Desarae Eashappie, a University of Regina pre-journalism student from Carry the Kettle First Nation says the challenge will be good for the students.

"For our work to reach that level instils a lot of confidence. Knowing that it'll reach such a wide audience gives me a lot of drive to do my best. It sets a higher standard."

The INCA summer institute is a seven week intensive training program held in May and June of each year at First Nations University of Canada's Regina campus. Likened to "journalism bootcamp," it introduces students to the basic principles and journalistic practices in the print, web, radio and television news environment.

The relationship between INCA and CBC goes back years, said Dornstauder.

"We've been able to bring some of our own professional experience to the class, and hopefully we will establish connections with these folks who will be the next generation of storytellers in the province."

The INCA National Aboriginal Day special will air on CBC Saskatchewan's regional afternoon show from 5 to 6 p.m., Friday June 19.

**National
Aboriginal
Day**

**Celebrating culture and the
contributions of First
Nations, Inuit and Métis
people.**

SIGA
Sharing Success

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

ABORIGINAL YOUTH AWARDS

Receiving the award for Outstanding Achievement from MLA Ken Cheveldayoff, the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations, is Dane Sanderson (bottom photo). Dane is a member of James Smith First Nation and attends St. Mary's High School in Prince Albert. Dane maintains a 94% average in school and is also heavily involved in sports and community events. Jordyn Burnouf, from Ille a la Crosse, is making her second appearance in Eagle Feather News. Just last month Jordyn and her teammates won the National Aboriginal Curling Championships in Saskatoon. Here she is receiving an award from SIGA VP Bonnie Missens for Education. Jordyn has received a few scholarships already to help pay for her first year at the University of Saskatchewan. Jordyn ultimately wants to become a doctor so she can go back to her community and help out.



The Piapot First Nation Chief and Council



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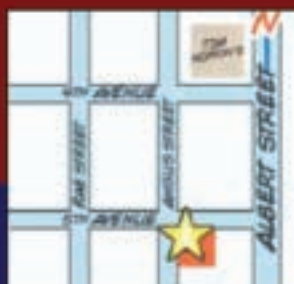
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OPEN 24 HOURS

Team Sask repeats at National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

By Blue Pelletier
For Eagle Feather News

Team Sask put together a near perfect game in the final of the National Aboriginal Midget Hockey Championships held in Winnipeg. Eastern Door played well, but the boys from the prairies were dominant and cruised to an easy 8-0 victory.

The win gave Team Sask their second consecutive gold medal at this prestigious event. Last year they beat the same Eastern Door squad by one goal.

The boys played well throughout the tournament, but their ultimate goal was to peak and play at their best come playoffs. There were some close games in the round robin especially against the host team from Manitoba and the team from Nunavut.

Players came from all across the province. Many have played in the Midget AAA leagues or competitive leagues around Saskatchewan.

Team manager Courage Bear says it was a skilled squad that won the tourney.

"The team was deep and real talented," Bear said.

But it was also the way the team conducted themselves off the ice that was impressive. Coaches and parents from other teams told Team Sask officials how proud they should be of these young



For the second consecutive year Team Sask has won the National Aboriginal Midget Hockey Championships. They won the final game 8-0 to take the title.

men, based on their behavior at social functions and other events during the week.

On the ice the team played with heart and grit. However they never tried to embarrass their opponents despite being much better than a lot of teams they played against.

Bear was approached by the coaches from the Newfoundland and Nunavut.

"Teams complimented the players and the team for not kicking them when they were down and always being great sports who never tried to run up the score," Bear says.

The team was loaded with talented

players like David Greyeyes who was named top defenseman in the Saskatchewan Midget AAA League. Jordan Iron was the team's leading scorer during the tourney and was named a second team all-star.

No star shined brighter than Team Sask goalie Thomas Pratt who was named tournament MVP. It was his stellar play between the pipes and timely saves that led the way for the team to capture gold.

In the final he recorded the shutout. He was tested early and made some early big saves that really helped give the squad the momentum needed to win the game.

Pratt says the best part was "playing with all his friends and being on television."

After the game Pratt was given another honor. Hockey Canada officials took his game jersey. The jersey will now be on display at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

"It's the pride that comes from wanting to be part of Team Sask and representing this province that drives these kids," Bear says.

"With all the support they get from their communities and from corporate sponsors athletes here are put in a situation to succeed."

PRIDE LIVES HERE



	Tuesday	June 23	7:00
	Friday	July 3	7:00
	Saturday	July 18	1:00
	Saturday	July 25	2:00
	Sunday	August 16	5:00
	Sunday	September 6	2:00
	Sunday	September 20	2:00
	Saturday	October 10	7:00
	Saturday	October 24	3:30
	Saturday	November 7	6:00

* SASKATCHEWAN TIME

1-888-4-RIDERS or Visit the Ticket Office at Mosaic Stadium
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