

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

School's out for Saskatoon campus

First it was home to Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. More recently it has been the Saskatoon campus of First Nations University of Canada. But now the University has announced that the Saskatoon property will be sold as the institution struggles with its financial challenges.



End of an era for First Nations University

By Delaney Windigo
For Eagle Feather News

First Nations University of Canada (FNU) President Shauneen Pete had the unfortunate task of announcing the impending sale of the Saskatoon campus, which would result in its closure.

The Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon campuses are all facing cuts to faculty and staff. The move is part of FNU's financial restructuring due to lack of funding.

Days prior to the announcement of the sale, the federal government pledged \$3 million through the Indian Studies Support Program.

"We're pleased with this announcement, because it means that students currently enrolled can complete their courses," Pete said.

However, the money will only keep the university open until August 31.

The ultimate goal is to get the federal government to restore the remaining \$4.2 million.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Guy Lonechild also welcomed the announcement.

"FSIN is equally pleased that the significant improvements in governance, accountability and financial stewardship at First Nations University

have been acknowledged," Lonechild said.

"We are appreciative of Minister Strahl's recognition of that significant progress. We will continue to speak to federal government leaders about the importance of this institution."

The province has restored its commitment to \$5.2 million in funding for the university after reaching an agreement with FNU, the University of Regina and Meyers Norris Penny Limited.

"I'm pleased to follow through on our commitment to provide stable funding to support the students of FNU," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said.

"As part of the agreement, Meyers Norris Penny will handle financial reports, while the U of R "facilitate(s) strong support to FNU in the areas of administration, financial management and governance."

Norris says he will continue to lobby the federal government on behalf of FNU.

"The signing of these agreements has enabled me to continue lobbying the federal government to invest in the partnership and ensure the remaining \$4.2 million in federal funding stays in Saskatchewan."

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SHE STRUCK SILVER

Tanisha Lafond is a newcomer to the sport of badminton. But that didn't stop her from winning a silver medal.

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TALKING POLITICS

Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff says he'd restore funding for FNU.

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BIG IMPACT

AFN Chief Sean Atleo is expecting the Truth and Reconciliation to have a major impact.

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TOURISM OPPORTUNITY

Brian Hardlotte would like to see tourism increase in the Stanley Mission area.

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AWASIS HONOURS

Educator Karen Shmon is a fitting winner of an award in this, the Year of the Métis.

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Welcome to our
Sports & Youth Edition
Coming In June:
National Aboriginal Day Issue
CPMA #40027204

Beardy's undefeated on road to curling gold

By Jessica Iron
For Eagle Feather News

Getting a team organized proved to be the most difficult task for Brooke Cameron's curling team at the First Nation Winter Games.

Once assembled, the mixed team from Team Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation quickly worked together and maintained their undefeated status right on to victory in their gold-medal match against Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Although they did not practice much before they played together, Cameron explains that she was no stranger to the game.

"I already knew how to play – I learned in school," she says.

Even still, the two-hour final was intense. To prepare for the game, Cameron and her teammates listened to music that would pump them up. She giggles, explaining,

"We listened to The Chicken Dance and YMCA in our vehicle," she giggles.

It wasn't Cameron's first time at the Games, however. Last time she played broomball. When she was approached for curling this year she decided to give it a try. She wasn't expecting to enjoy it so much but because she had so much fun she intends to



The Beardy's mixed team won gold in curling. Left to right: Kirsten Mandes, Colin Eyahpaise, Amy Gamble, Blake Cameron and Brooke Cameron.

represent Team Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation in curling again at the next Games.

In the meantime, she's keeping fit with her busy schedule full of soccer, badminton and curling. She jokes that maybe someday she'll be a professional curler. With one gold medal already resting proudly around her neck, maybe that dream is closer than she thinks.

Harris defended badminton title, will be back for three

By Jessica Iron
For Eagle Feather News

Wade Harris from Pelican Lake First Nation, representing Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, returned to defend his under-14 badminton title at the 2010 First Nation Winter Games in Saskatoon. Though he had several factors that could have easily distracted him, he persevered and took the gold medal once again.

Anyone else might have allowed their competition to get to them. At provincials, he lost to a fierce competitor – who surprisingly met him on the court for his gold medal match. Not to mention, his parents were in the audience, whom he had never played in front of before. All this led to a very nervous Harris.

Yet despite his modesty, Harris was clearly a strong contender. He tried out amongst 50 other hopefuls for a coveted spot on the Agency Chiefs team. At the Winter Games he won every match leading up to the finals. But still he wondered how his last game might play out.

The final game was as intense as he suspected it might be. Thankfully he won the rally, giving him an advantage. In the first set, the score was 21-18. But by the second set, Harris took a stronger lead, with a final score of 21-15.

When it was all over there weren't any standard celebrations. Harris wanted to pack up his bags and head home as soon as he could.

"It was fun ... but I really missed my family," he says.

He'll spend the year playing basketball, soccer, badminton and maybe track. But he plans to return next year, in hopes of a three-peat performance.

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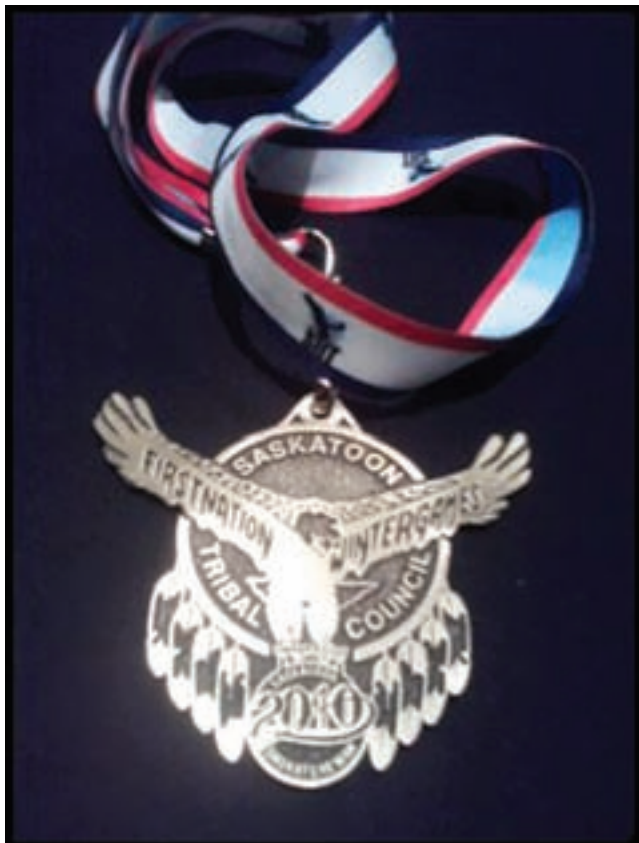
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Badminton winner learned game quickly

By Jessica Iron
For Eagle Feather News

Tanisha Lafond of Pelican Narrows had barely played badminton at all before she took everyone by surprise, beating out 30 girls at the Prince



Gold medals were the most sought after items at the First Nation Winter Games.



Tanisha Lafond took home silver in badminton at the First Nation Winter Games in Saskatoon.

Albert Grand Council try-outs for the FSIN Winter Games, securing a spot in the under-12-girls category.

With just a week of practice under her belt, she bravely ventured on to the Games.

However, she proved to be a very quick study. In fact, this was probably a huge factor in why she took home a silver medal.

"Before the last game I was sitting and watching how others played – I was drinking lots of water too," she recalls.

She credits her uncles Justin, Wade and Carlyle Merasty for training and preparing her for her competition.

"They would rent out the gym and teach me where

the outlines were. I would practice outside my grandma's house, and just rally with my friends or my uncles. Or I would go on the computer and watch videos of people playing badminton."

She also mentioned a few other strategies that helped her succeed. She got plenty of rest during the week and kept her diet clean and healthy.

"I drank water – I didn't drink too much pop. I was sticking with healthy stuff –like Subway, not McDonald's or any fast food."

Clearly, she spent time envisioning what she wanted, considering all the things that would help her win – and they did. Lafond says that she will try out for volleyball next year, although badminton is still a possibility.

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Editorial

Young people showing leadership skills

Sometimes when you see a young person dressed like a gang banger with the bandana, crooked cap and with their pants on the ground, you can shake your head about “kids these days.”

But I have recently been witness to many events that show the future is actually very bright. I had the opportunity to be the co-speaker of the house at the last Métis Nation Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. The Assembly was a day and a half of the old grandstanding, false accusations, petty jealousies and bickering. At the annual general meeting immediately following, several young people got in line at the microphone to address the assembly.

And the youth had nothing good to say about the behaviour of their elected officials. They said they were embarrassed by the goings on and the petty personal politics that put important governance and priority items on the back shelf. And this message came from several youth, not just one rabble-rouser.

Over at the First Nation University of Canada, it was the pressure from the students and their call for accountability of the administration that finally spurred the leaders to action (that and the funding cut). Since the school had its funding cut, the students and staff have been communicating, lobbying, living in the campus and even going so far as walking all the way from Prince Albert to Regina to show their support. These youth are vociferous, educated and determined. These traits will serve all of us well into the future.

Not to say we can forget about our youth in baggy pants and gangs. Many resources are needed to ensure we get them every opportunity to participate in our economy, but man, they have lots of great role models to look up to that aren't even that old. How refreshing.

Farewell to Mike

I was not always a fan of APTN. Bad programming kept me away. But in the last while, APTN has been showing some good stuff, with some wit in Cashing In, with freakiness in Rabbit Fall and with the great animation of By the Rapids and Wapos Bay.

A lot of the credit goes to the network for investing in training programs for upcoming writers and also to the emergence of our own Mike Gosselin. Mike has had his fingers in many TV productions in the past few years and has now carved himself out a good reputation and enough work to keep him scripting through 2010. Not bad for a half breed from Regina who, when he started writing for us, went through several career changes in an alarmingly short time.

It looks like writing was what his career was meant to be and due to his hectic writing schedule and life demands of two young kids, Mike has now written the final chapter of his time here as the Arts Columnist. We certainly wish him the best of luck and when he writes that big Hollywood hit, we certainly hope we get a shout out when he wins his People's Choice Award. Good luck Mike.

Next month in Eagle Feather

Our June issue pays homage to National Aboriginal History Month with our much anticipated National Aboriginal Day History quiz. The test will challenge your memory and your funny bone at the same time. We will also look at our network of Friendship Centres around the province and the role they play in youth programming and with National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

Also in June, we are always pleased to bring you the story from the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence. You will meet youth from around the province who have excelled in the arts, sports, academics and community involvement. It is always uplifting to hear their stories of success.

And we will bring the lowdown from the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships where Team Sask boys just won Gold and the girls took fourth.



CLOSE CALL

Firefighters scrambled as flames surrounded Wanuskewin Heritage Park during a raging grass fire on April 19. The fire was allegedly started when copper thieves doused their loot with gasoline or some other flammable liquid and then set the wire on fire. The wire (below) was lying on a dirt road located on the south eastern corner of Wanuskewin at around 1:40PM in the afternoon. Police and Fire Commissioners explained that people who sell copper wire are required to remove the rubber from around the copper wire before they can sell it. The blaze came within 20 feet of the building in places, forcing fire fighters to cut firebreaks in the field between the building and the valley. Fortunately, other than a burned teepee by the front gate, there was no damage to the building. Three weeks later, the green of the valley is now overtaking the burnt reminder of a close call in April. (Photo by Tyrone Tootoois)



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THIS ISSUE...LAST ISSUE...PAST ISSUES.

Promises, legal guarantees cheaper than war

I will first wrap up in short order last month's rant about the odd usages of the English language that have been emerging in Canada.

Is there a linguistic equivalent to political correctness? What do you do about people who adopt an expression like 'begging the question' when they mean 'raises the question'? Are there any rules? Should there be any? I am a fence-sitter in such debates.

But I do believe that close attention to the function of effective communication would alter the way we speak. Just as we must avoid local idioms ('pulling the wool over your eyes') to be understood internationally, we might reflect about the choice of words used in expressing ideals or asserting rights.

For example, many indigenous folks refer to our 'land claims'. A claim is not a right; it is less than a right.

In court, a claim is made to a body that is recognized as having the authority to decide if the 'claim' is to be recognized and protected by law, or not. This is based necessarily on the idea that the court has the proper authority to decide the issue.

This reveals one of the reasons why Elders are wary of 'taking our Treaties to court'.

Is it not better and more reflective of the assertion of self-determination, to refer to land 'disputes', where nothing is conceded from the start about

the merits, and it is not conceded that the other side has the moral and political authority to decide?

Language is important and our indigenous languages will be a topic for another month.

...

Parliament is in the process of amending the Indian Act in response to a B.C. Court of Appeal decision which involves the definition and registration of 'Indians.' A number of presenters to the Parliamentary Committee last week, including a number of First Nation organizations, were suggesting further amendments to address what was said to be continuing sex discrimination.

I have little confidence that further amendment beyond what is strictly necessary to maintain the legality of the Indian registration system is desirable, never mind necessary.

First, detailed tinkering with the Act necessarily entrenches it and legitimizes it. Second, complex attempts to deal with sex discrimination are likely to run afoul of one or more of the many other equality guarantees in the Charter.

The practical meaning of legislation comes from interpretation by the courts. One of the elusive factors in such legal

interpretation is what may be called, for the sake of convenience, "the spirit and intent" of the Act.

The spirit and intent reside somewhere in the origin, in the historical context of the legislation, and guides all subsequent interpretation.

When this is examined in respect to the Indian Act we find in 1876 a British imperial policy outlook that sought to do away with the indigenous peoples of its far-flung colonies.

Not by war. War is expensive. The famous Royal Proclamation of 1763, which was proclaimed after serious military defeats at the hands of Pontiac and his armed forces, shows us that promises and legal guarantees are cheaper than war.

The spirit and intent of the Indian Act first enacted in 1876 followed the Imperial policy of doing away with indigenous peoples by assimilating them into the intruders' society.

Today such objects are genocidal and contrary to international law. The aim of the Act was to put indigenous peoples on reserves in order to administer their lives during the process of assimilation.

The legacy of that idea today is that

the Act is inherently geared towards elimination of registered Indians.

Another feature of the spirit and intent of the Indian Act definition system (the registration system was installed only in 1951) is its original vision of defining nuclear family households based upon the male head of family.

In 1985 the draftsman of Bill C-31 must have thought that he had effectively eliminated sex discrimination. But he did not. That should be a lesson for those interested in perfecting a piece of legislation that was never designed to accord with current ideas of equality.

Is it not better to adopt the view that the Act should be left behind in a process that works towards First Nations autonomy and self-determination in renewed relationships?

A Nation constitution is a better place to design a vision of the 'good society', of justice and protection for the needs of individuals, while making room for the reflection of a First Nation's own preferred values.

It is next to impossible at best to get agreement on how to amend the Act. Things like sex discrimination are not topics that quickly attract consensus.

Those who believe that the archaic and indefensible Act can be perfected must believe that it is possible to knit a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and this while tiptoeing through a mine field.



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Tumbling funding dooms Saskatoon campus

The decaying orbit of the First Nations University of Canada has resulted in the closing of the Saskatoon campus after 34 years. The Indian Social Work program will likely be transferred to Innovation Place on the Saskatoon Campus of the University of Saskatchewan where it will join the University of Regina Social Work program.

The autonomy of the FNUC program is very much in doubt. The hope is FNUC Social Work will not only survive but grow back in a rejuvenated First Nations College independent of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Keeping up with events related to the FNUC crisis is like trying to sight in on a moving target. So much is happening so fast. Negotiations appear to be more demands than a process of give and take. FNUC is scrambling to meet the federal government's requirements while desperately pruning costs that totaled over \$300,000 a month at last report.

The sale of the Saskatoon Campus will free funds to pay bills and severance for faculty. It is rumoured the Saskatoon Tribal Council wants to purchase the land for \$3.5 million. The land was assessed at slightly over \$2.5 million a few years ago.

The future of the FNUC appears quite bleak. Student enrolment has dropped by over one half since the crisis began. Essential federal funding totaling \$4.2 million over and above the \$3 million already committed has not been guaranteed as of press time.

Even so, the possibility of full federal funding coupled with the \$5.2 million promised by the Province of Saskatchewan may not mean the survival of the FNUC. The exact debt load has never been clear. Creative bookkeeping in the past has kept such expenditures as wrongful dismissal settlements out of annual reports. If the FNUC survives it will become – as it started – a federated college of the U of R.

The Department of Indian Social Work was highly successful in its time. The needs of First Nation's clients surpassed the training and effectiveness of the mainstream. The U of R supported the creation of a hybrid Social Work degree utilizing both First Nation and mainstream standards. The course included full U of R study plus First Nation practice. This meant an enhanced Bachelor of Indian Social Work degree required four years instead of three years to complete. Students came from all over Canada and Social Work agencies from across Western Canada sent delegations to recruit graduates.

These were not First Nation inspired courses but rather courses intensely First

Nations. First Nations courses were created where no such field of study had existed before. This required research and innovation. Elders were very much involved from the beginning.

The Social Work program became a hive of creativity with morale running high. Faculty who could have worked in other universities were attracted instead to the Saskatoon Campus. A DISW degree from the FNUC meant something.

The college's position changed as upcoming regional First Nations colleges were established, flourished and developed social work courses of the own. Mainstream universities inspired

by First Nation practice also created similar courses. FNUC was no longer the sole player in the field of First Nation Social Work.

There was some also some conflict between producing numbers of graduates and smaller numbers of high quality graduates. The FSIN Chiefs who made up the majority of the FNUC board at the time focused on numbers. Some professors were criticized for being far too lenient with their students while others insisted their students maintain high standards.

Some students lacked basic writing skills but were given passing grades despite this handicap. The FNUC still produced quality graduates but standards had been compromised by some of the more enabling professors. Standards were slipping and more than a few graduates who had worked very hard for their degrees were alarmed.

Social Work therapy, once considered cutting edge, no longer met the demands of the work place. It wasn't until younger sessionals were brought in that these therapies were up graded. A promising Masters Degree led by Richard Katz, PhD and Elder Danny Musqua was introduced to address the counseling needs of residential school survivors.

A masters program was in the works but internal lateral violence and rabid Indian politics had already contaminated the school of Indian social work. The innovative and healthy environment essential to academia had been compromised.

So much has changed in 34 years. The blending of First Nations culture and social work practice was considered irrelevant back then but it is considered entirely relevant now. The work of the FNUC School of Indian Social Work has laid the foundation for other First Nation Colleges and has had a profound influence on mainstream social work practice.

Come what may it has made a lasting contribution and should be honoured as such.



Liberal leader Ignatieff would restore federal funding for FNUC

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Federal Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff made a trip to northern Saskatchewan last month.



Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff with Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill candidate Gabe Lafond.

He was the first federal politician in a long time to make a stop in the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse. He and his candidate for the riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, Gabe Lafond, also met with Aboriginal leaders in Prince Albert.

Ignatieff is confident Lafond will do well in the riding in the next election. Ignatieff says if people don't want four more years of Conservative rule, voting for Lafond is the only choice.

If the Liberals formed government in the next election, Ignatieff promised to restore funding to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, as well as the First Nations University of Canada. While he says the Kelowna Accord wouldn't be resurrected in its original form, there would be a return to the ideals of it.

"There was also a process," Ignatieff said. "One of the things we've got to get back to is that process where federal leaders, provincial leaders, Métis leaders, First Nations leaders are around a table, a big table, making big, strategic decisions to fund education, housing and health."

Ignatieff says education is his first priority.

"We've committed explicitly to lift the cap on funding for Aboriginal post-secondary education, and I want to close the gap on the funding ... the distance between the funding allocated by the federal government and provincial government in primary and secondary. Because I just can't stand a country where some kids get a better shot than others, basically because of race, let's be clear."

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Truth and Reconciliation commissioners getting to work

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

The new office space for the Truth and Reconciliation Committee officially opened, with Commissioners unveiling the logo: "For the child taken, for the parent left behind".

A special teleconference call was held for Aboriginal media outlets immediately after the opening.

"We're on the 15th floor of office space on Portage and Main in Winnipeg – it's a significant location for us," said Commissioner Marie Wilson, explaining that 75 per cent of Residential School survivors live in the West and North, whereas 75 per cent of non-Aboriginals live east of Winnipeg.

"It's about finding good ways to have meaningful dialogue with those affected by the schools and all of Canada – this is a great location for this to happen ... it's a very spiritual space honouring the survivors and families at the heart of all the work we do with the (Truth and Reconciliation Committee)."

Wilson described the opening as positive and uplifting – about 250 people attended a traditional prayer ceremony led by an Inuit and a First Nations Elder, with welcoming remarks from Manitoba's deputy premier, many Chiefs, and all parties to the agreement including the Survivors Advisory Committee.

"Each of the commissioners spoke on a combination of personal reflections and a recommitment of the solemn pledge of the work we have before us," said Wilson, adding there was a keynote address from chair Justice Murray Sinclair, whose grandchild participated in the black, white, yellow, and red ribbon cutting ceremony symbolizing new generations.

"We're asked through our mandate to document and write up the residential school history."

Besides collecting all written archives from churches and governments, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee will be creating an enormous oral history collection from survivors, their children, and their families affected by the experience, and those who worked at the schools, and their families. Wilson noted public education will be key.

"Public education means reconciliation with all of Canada. There will be a number of community events and seven national events – this June in Winnipeg is the first one. The second will be a year from June in Inuvik," she said.

Because of delays in the process, they are requesting deadlines be bumped to complete their five year mandate, holding national events every six months after June 2011.

Wilson noted this was not a commission of enquiry where witnesses testify in front

of a judge, but rather a formal statement taking.

"We sit with the big group – in a circle when we can – open the forum and they share whatever aspect of their experience they are ready to share with us ... their own story, or a personal testimonial," said Wilson.

In Prince Albert they were given written copy as well as tapes of what was said, while others prefer to meet in private.

"We do all that we can to accommodate their comfort levels, requirements, and cultural needs."

Some have family or support workers – Wilson noted it's entirely a voluntary process and individuals must determine their own readiness; the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's job is encouraging people to share their stories, because it often contributes to their healing.

"We've seen what a positive impact this has on not only themselves but their families – the generation after did not know that happened to their mom, dad, aunty, grandparents – they all have a better understand-



Commissioners Willie Littlechild, Murray Sinclair and Marie Wilson are preparing to hear from people who attended Residential Schools.

ing themselves of what has been going on in their families."

Commissioner Willie Littlechild said oral testimony is only one way – some have sung songs to share their experiences, others have done theatre productions, quiltwork or blankets, art, or poetry.

"It's not restricted to oral testimony – those other media are very exciting to receive the info through," Littlechild said, adding that language was also critically important, so simultaneous interpreters are present to honour, retain, maintain, and strengthen languages.

"It will only get better in terms of how we are able to address it going forward."

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Historic church marks 150 years

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The celebration of a church will be the starting point for what is hoped to be a tourism boom for one northern First Nation. The Stanley Mission Cree Nation, a community of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, is positioned perfectly to become the next "it" destination for eco and cultural tourism.

Surrounded by pristine forest and situated on the banks of the magnificent Churchill River, Stanley Mission is also home to the longest standing church in all of Saskatchewan. And this year marks the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Amachewespimawin Holy Trinity Church, an event that Band Councilor Brian Hardlotte hopes will kick start a tourism industry in the region.

"The celebration is really about the church," said Hardlotte. "It is 150 years old and still used and means a lot to our community. Our people are very religious and the church structure is amazing. That church changed the way we lived in this territory."

According to Hardlotte, the Cree families in this territory all lived on the land, but once the church opened up people started to come in for Christmas and Easter.

"Eventually people started to settle around the church and it became a central part of the community," added Hardlotte. "The Hudson Bay Company set up a post across the river and most people wound up settling over there. But the church was always there as a gathering place on the point."

The building shows the mixed influences of the English Church architecture of the day, local Native Culture, and the natural environment. Footings made of local stone supported floorboards, which were made of local timber. The stained glass windows, brought over from England, an oval window and 37 Gothic-arched windows allowed sunlight into the church. Over 1,000 pieces of stained glass windows were used in the original construction of the Church.

The steeple and spire in 1860 reached an impressive 76 feet. People, including Prince Andrew and the Duchess of York in 1989, come from around the world to photograph and witness the ancient church.

To celebrate the anniversary, the Stanley Mission community is welcoming the world to a big event on June 10. With VIPs including royalty invited, the committee went all out to have events for all types of people to see and do.

"We will have a tepee village set up, entertainment, boat tours and demonstrations of traditional practices," said Hardlotte. "People will love helping to smoke fish and moose meat or participate in birch bark biting. All those traditions are from this territory. Of course there will be a traditional meal. But the main thing will be a service in the church for the people."

Unlike other National Historic Sites, the Stanley Mission church is kept up by the community with no funding from the government.

"We want to develop a tourism industry here but it is hard to do it on our own," said Hardlotte who points out that the area is rich in other tourist draws as well.

Five kilometres down river from the community are historic pictographs, dating back several hundreds of years. A couple of hundred meters from the pictographs are the Stanley Rapids that offer great fishing and excellent camping spots. Further up the river are the renowned Nistowiak falls. This picturesque site is where La Ronge Lake drains to meet the Churchill River system.

"We have so much to offer and we are working on more tourism initiatives, but we need individual entrepreneurs and the government to step up too," said Hardlotte. "The event on the 10th is a great way to kick off our summer, but want people to come here all year."

"Often our own people go out and interpret the sites around here for free. The church structure is amazing and the surrounding area is rich in wildlife and beauty and we want to share it with everyone."



Brian Hardlotte says Amachewespimawin Church has changed the community of Stanley Mission. Now he says it is time to use the church as a catalyst for future expansion of the tourism industry.

150^{Yr.} Anniversary Celebration

Amachewespimawin Holy Trinity Church

Stanley Mission, Saskatchewan

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010

*** Pontoon boat available for Tours Beginning at 9:00 AM ***

Celebration Events will take place at the old settlement site where the Church is standing

Demonstrations @ Teepee Village:

- Smoking Fish and Moose Meat
- Paddle Making
- Birch Bark basket Making
- Bow & Arrow Construction
- Hands-on experience available with the above demonstrations

Stage area

- Dignitary Speeches: outside stage area
- Square Dancing Show-case
- Jigging competition

Arts & Crafts Displays & Sales

Potential Guests:

Member of the Royal Family

Premier of Saskatchewan

National Chief, Shawn Atleo

Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture & Sport

Minister of First Nations and Metis relations

FSDI Chief Guy Lonechild

Area MLA and MP

And More...

CHILDREN EVENTS

Fish Fry 11:00 - 1:30 PM

Church Service 1:30 - 2:30 PM

BOAT TOUR ATTRACTIONS:

- * Amachewespimawin - Shooting up Hill
- * Ancient Rock Paintings

Boats will be waiting at the local landing to taxi people across to the church site

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robin McLeod 635-2115 Brian Hardlotte 635-2115 John P. Roberts 635-2115 Morris McKenzie 635-2115

WEBSITE: www.stanleymission.com



Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo

Atleo predicts Truth and Reconciliation Commission will have a huge impact

Eagle Feather News was lucky enough to have an exclusive interview with Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo when he was in Saskatoon in March. That interview has been broken into three parts. This month we discuss the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In June, we conclude our chat with a discussion on leadership and family with Chief Atleo and also get to know the lighter, more personal side of the National Chief.

EFN: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is going to be rolling out here soon. What impact will this process will have on First Nations communities and following on Canada as a whole?

Chief Atleo: Really, really critical. I think potentially transformational. With the new Commissioners getting going I think they have experienced about a year delay or so from when they were actually supposed to get going. Like it has happened in South Africa and Ireland, it will be an opportunity for the truth to be told. We also recognize that it is going to have major impacts because stories are going to be told that will really be a traumatic time as well for families and communities when stories of some of the traumas, the likes of which I and others have seen, witnessed and experienced firsthand. When that begins to make it onto a public record it eludes to the need of ongoing healing efforts to happen concurrently.

This is concerning because there weren't resources in the budget to keep the Healing Foundation going in the manner that it should.

EFN: That is certainly troubling. How do we replace that funding gap, because we are going to see a lot of trauma coming out and we are going to see another bad cycle?

Chief Atleo: Well, we have to recognize the value and the space created by the Residential School Agreement and the apology, and the work in launching the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but George Erasmus and the leaders at the AHF had made it very clear that in their analysis of the work that has been supported by the federal government and INAC and Minister Strahl in particular that it takes at least ten years for these projects to really take root and support healing and having been a former executive director of a family addictions treatment centre, I know that field very well, and I concur and agree with those findings. So the AHF began with an overall project number of around 1,600 projects. It had to shut down over 1,300 projects over the country. Over 400 are now at stake. I was just speaking to the president of the Inuit ITK, President Mary Simon. I have spoken with the President of the Métis National Council, Clem Chartier, and we all share the notion that it is completely unacceptable to not have ongoing support, especially when programs have not reached that ten year point. I know there are supports that were in the budget, those are principally with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There were announcements around for health supports and those are important, but what we are talking about are those long standing programs that have had success in the communities. So we are following up on this. We have had a conversation with the various entities that were part of the Residential School Agreement. We are asking the churches to help with the lobby effort, reaching out to Métis, Inuit and Indigenous brothers and sisters. They are expressing strong concern about this as well. So it is the idea that we need to find a way to work together. So the TRC, a really potential transformational time in this country over the next five years for the truth to be told for the legacy of these policies.



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Role models stress positive outcomes

“**D**etermination, a dream and drive are the ingredients for success.” Wise words from a young Aboriginal youth role model.

Today’s Aboriginal youth have the spirit to succeed and Aboriginal youth role model, Kaitlyn Taypotat is the prime example of that.

“Your dreams and goals are the key to open all doors,” she says.

Students from across Regina heard Taypotat share her experiences with school and her dreams for her future. Also a graduate from the Bold Eagle program, Taypotat told students, “Embrace your culture, enhance your knowledge and educate yourself.”

Taypotat was chosen to speak at the 2010 National Aboriginal Leadership Seminar at the University of Regina.

A high school student in Regina, Taypotat dreams of being a doctor, and with her marks and passion she is sure to be a success.

Ovide Mercredi, the former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and current Chief of his First Nation in Manitoba was the keynote speaker at the same seminar. He told the youth “First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth are choosing to lead healthy, active lives and succeeding in all areas, including the arts, humanities, commerce, politics, sports, science and technology.”

Mercredi went on to say that role models are authentic individuals who are true to their identities.

They give others the courage to push beyond their own potential, opening the door to new possibilities.

Their accomplishments underline the positive outcome of hard work, dedication, and leading a



healthy lifestyle to reach goals.

The tremendous success of positive role models will inspire other First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth in their communities and Canada to lead healthy lifestyles, dare to dream, and believe they can also achieve success. In our world we learn by watching and copying others. This helps us sort out how we behave.

Having a role model has always been an important part of our family life. A role model can be anyone. They can be you, me, mothers or fathers, our grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins or sometimes they can even be people we really don't know personally.

Role models can be a powerful influence in our lives. They teach us many things. They help us learn who we are, where we come from and where we're going. We can copy their behaviours and some of the

things they say and do. We must be aware too that they can also be a bad influence.

Good role models teach us good behaviours and values of living ... the rights from wrongs, how to treat people and the things around us.

Good role models can give us strength and help us feel proud to be Aboriginal. Even though things change or go wrong in our family they help keep our spirits up.

We must be able to rely on each other and support and care for each other. We should let our kids see the good role modeling of ourselves and others. To be able to feel we can rely on others helps us to be stronger. I left that seminar with a great hope for our future. There are some truly awesome youth out there.

These things might be good to think about; show and guide kids by modeling good behaviour yourself. Learn to look at life in a good way. Have the good things from the past, look forward to and do things to make a better future.

Let your kids dream and talk of the things they want to do and of the people they want to be when they grow up.

Show your kids that you believe in them, support your kids and family in the good things that they do. Finally, try to match what you say with what you do.

Thank you for your letters and emails.

Keep your letters and emails coming. Send your questions or comments to: Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 ST Main Saskatoon, SKK 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



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2010 has been designed as the "Year of the Métis" by the Métis
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2010 - The Year

Anniversary of Touronds battle marked

A cold and rainy afternoon greeted around 100 people who came to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Touronds Coulee. A fight that saw a family lose several of its men, their house and their livelihood. In tents overlooking Fish Creek people took time to remember the battle and the allies from the past and to honour some people in the present. Elder Rose Fleury (below) was gifted with a blanket and a painting for all of her work with the Batoche National Historic Site and the Gabriel Dumont Institute. She had announced her plans to retire and move the PA.

Métis Nation Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette was given a capote by Karon Shmon of GDI. "I was going to give it to him in later in the event," said Shmon. "But I couldn't bear to see him shiver anymore."

Despite the weather, people enjoyed visiting, remembering, some fiddle music and bannock and jam. "You know," said Shmon. "I am kind of glad it was cold today. I think it helps us to remember how those women and children felt huddled in the caves dug into the banks of the river, all the while there is a war around them and gunfire and cannons. We shouldn't complain about a little cold. Imagine how they felt."



Ray Fiddler (above), Manager of the Batoche National Historic site stands in front of Tourond's Coulee at Fish Creek. 150 Métis soldiers took on almost 800 Canadian Troops in this battle and won a decisive victory. Madame Tourond lost two sons and had another severely disabled in the battle. Following the war, Madame Tourond lost five more children, several grandchildren and members of her extended family to disease. Ray Fiddler (left) chuckles as Elder Rose Fleury reflects on her past involvement with the Historic Site as she officially retired after a life time of public service. For years Rose has voluntarily offered genealogy services to visitors at the Park and has helped hundreds of people rediscover their Métis roots. She was presented gifts by the Park and by the Gabriel Dumont Institute as thanks for her years of service. (Photo by John Lagimodiere) The Women in Caves (below) image was created by Sherry Farrell Racette and it captures Métis Women and Children hiding in caves dug into the banks of the South Saskatchewan River during the Battle at Touronds Coulee. The tragic part of the Métis Resistance in 1885 was the loss of life of innocent Métis women and children. Dozens are said to have died in the year following the Battle of Batoche due to starvation and tuberculosis. This was brought on after Canadian forces looted and destroyed Métis farms. Many Metis were never compensated for their losses.



Métis Did you know?

Did you know? In November 1869, the Métis prevented Lieutenant Governor William McDougall from entering Red River.

Did you know? In December 1869, the Métis Provisional Government was formed. It was led by John Bruce and Louis Riel.

Did you know? Louis Riel was the first person of Aboriginal ancestry to be elected to the Parliament of Canada.



Year of the Métis

Battle of Batoche May 9 - 12, 1885



The Battle of Batoche occurred from May 9-12, 1885. After the battles of Duck Lake (March 26) and Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek (April 24), the Métis decided to make their stand against General Middleton's forces at the village of Batoche. Between 250 and 300 Métis and First Nations came together to fight for their land, including Joseph Ouelette who was 93-years-old when he was killed on the last day of the battle. General Middleton was determined to break the Métis resistance at Batoche and end the 1885 Resistance.

On May 9, the actual battle itself began with the arrival of the steamer Northcote, which held supplies and troops. The Métis incapacitated it by lowering a ferry cable which knocked down its smokestacks. With the Northcote disabled, the Métis formed two scout detachments. Ambroise Champagne led one, patrolling the east side of the river, while Patrice Fleury led the other on the west side. The Métis scouts were organized along the lines of the bison hunt with nine or ten captains, each commanding ten men (called dizaines), reporting to Gabriel Dumont, the Métis military leader. On the first day of fighting, the Métis were outnumbered four to one. There were no casualties that day.

Middleton reached Batoche in the morning. The Métis started firing on his troops under cover from two houses. The Gatling gun, on loan from the American Army, fired on the first house and a gun from "A" battery shelled the second house, causing the Métis to scatter. Both houses burned to the ground. The Gatling gun also fired on the rectory. One of the bullets went through the wall hitting Father Moulin in the leg.

Middleton had a zareba built during the afternoon to protect his men at night, while using it as a daily base of operations. The zareba was built on Jean Caron Sr.'s property, on the highest open ground possible, preventing any possible surprise attack from the Métis. The Métis and First Nations fired shots into the zareba every ten minutes for the entire night.

Fighting continued throughout the next two days and the Métis were running out of ammunition. By May 12, only 50-60 Métis and First Nations were still fighting from their original force. They had only 40 rifles, with the rest using double-barrelled shotguns; some using nails and spent bullets for ammunition.

Early in the afternoon, the North-West Field Force broke



through the Métis' frontline rifle pits. The Métis valiantly fought against their advance, but succumbed to the onslaught. Many brave elderly men remained fighting in the final hours of the battle so that the younger men could return to their families and flee. With the conclusion of the fighting, the Métis women, children and Elders emerged from their hiding places. They had dug caves along the riverbank, using trees, brush and earth for covering. They hid in these caves for the entire battle with little food and endured a cold Saskatchewan spring.

Métis casualties included Isidore Boyer, Damase Carrière, Charles Ducharme, Ambroise Dumont, Ambroise Jobin Jr., André Letendre, John Swain, Calixte Tourond, Elzéar Tourond, Joseph Trottier, Michel Trottier and these three elderly men - Donald Ross, 63, Joseph (La Pioche) Vandal, 75, and Joseph Ouelette, 93.

- Article by David Morin

Chronology of the 1885 Resistance

1884 (December)

Louis Riel and Henry Jackson drafted a petition listing the grievances of the Northwest's inhabitants. The government responded by appointing a committee to investigate Métis claims and to make a list of those who did not take Scrip in Manitoba.

1885 (March)

The non-Aboriginal settlers and English-speaking half-breeds withdrew their support of the Métis Provisional Government. Louis Riel established headquarters at the Batoche church and demanded Major Crozier's surrender.

1885 (March 8)

Louis Riel put forth a motion for the formation of a Provisional Government and the drafting of a Bill of Rights. Word reached Riel that troops were on the way to arrest him.

To be continued next month ...

Prepared by the Gabriel Dumont Institute with material developed by Darren Prefontaine, Leah Dorion, Ron Laliberté, and Father Guy Lavallée.



President Robert Doucette signs the partnership document on behalf of the MN-S.

Trails of 1885 evoke controversial memories

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

With Mounties on horseback, the Queen's representative in a horse-drawn carriage, Métis leaders in a horse and cart, and other First Nations and Métis leaders on horses or on foot, the Trails of 1885 were officially launched in Saskatoon last month.

Premier Brad Wall says the story of the 1885 Northwest Resistance is a painful one, but one that must be told and understood because it was foundational to this province and the entire country.

"The events of 1885 are a big reason why there was an interest on the part of our American friends for Manifest Destiny, for looking north. It precipitated the railway and arguably had a positive impact on the country expanding from coast to coast."

The Trails of 1885 were established two years ago, and the trails pull together sites, locations, festivals and events that are linked by the Northwest Resistance from Manitoba through Saskatchewan on to Alberta. Extra celebrations and programs this year will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the resistance.

For example, this summer will feature a commemoration of the Battle of Duck Lake, a re-enactment of the Battle

of Poundmaker Hill, an enhanced Back to Batoche Days, as well as other events at Batoche, Stelle Narrows, Fort Pitt and Fort Carlton.

Talk of the Northwest Resistance inevitably leads to talk of Louis Riel and whether or not he should be pardoned — something Wall didn't want to spend much time on.

"We should probably be focusing on the things we agree on, which was that born of this tragedy is a history-making moment in North America. And, whatever the reason we haven't told the story, we need to tell it now, and government has a role in that, including funding of some pretty important events that may be the seeds for the future."

Although he has an opinion on Riel, Doucette agrees.

"Riel didn't do anything wrong, it's just my own thought. And, as a Métis leader, I wouldn't ask for a pardon. Really, I wouldn't. It's time to move on, it's time to move beyond Riel, and it's time to reflect, recognize, and look towards the future, not only on what we built and what we're going to build together in this province and in this country.

"I think the more important thing for all Canadians, Métis, First Nations, and people alike, is to remember not only Riel and Dumont and the chiefs, but also all of the other people who have played a role or contributed to this great history and continue to this day."

Karon Shmon honoured at Awasis conference

A dedication to excellence in First Nation and Métis education has led Karon Shmon down many paths. She has also blazed a few paths of her own. Shmon, the Coordinator of Publishing and Curriculum Development at Gabriel Dumont Institute, was honoured at the Awasis Conference for her commitment and achievements as an educator.

Sheila Pocha, an educator and friend of Shmon is very proud of Shmon's achievements.

"With 2010 being the Year of the Métis, it was only fitting that we honoured Karon for her dedication to the Awasis conference, but also for her advocacy for education and Métis history and culture."

Besides being an innovator in bringing the Awasis Conference to another level of excellence over the years, Shmon has also done volunteer work on behalf of the Saskatoon Preschool Foundation,

SaskNative Rentals and the First Nations and Métis Education Provincial Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Education, and she has served on the Race Relations Committees of both Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

Karon was humble in her acceptance of the honour.

"I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve Awasis. Its focus on the child, the name Awasis itself, initially drew me to the council. The emphasis on children, families and culture is what made me stay," said Shmon after she was presented with the honour by Métis Nation Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette.

"I think I was lucky to start my career when there was very little support for Métis and First Nations teachers because Awasis became the beacon of support needed by so many of us.

"We owe thanks to the early builders

who saw the need and made it happen and to the many people who have served the council over the years, helping Awasis

grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of those it served. It was a privilege to be part of this journey."



Karon Shmon (centre) is congratulated by Sheila Pocha and Dorothy Aubichon.



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Gregory Scofield's *I Knew Two Métis Women* recreates the world of his childhood and celebrates his Métis family. The unforgettable voices of his mother Dorothy Scofield and aunt Georgina Houle Young wind through the book, telling tall tales, soothing hurts, offering love and sly humour as an antidote to hardship, poverty, violence, and prejudice. The companion CD includes Scofield's dynamic reading accompanied by the voices and music of an impressive group of performing artists including John Arcand, Maria Campbell, Tantoo Cardinal, Andrea Menard, and Donny Parenteau.

Please contact us at the address to the right for ordering information or order online at www.gdins.org/catalog.



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Gosselin's six-year run in Eagle Feather coming to an end

Six to Win. It's the name of the first story I ever pitched to Eagle Feather News. Interestingly, it was six years ago. A time when I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and seemingly no way of finding out.

The story was about Jordy Roach, a minor pro hockey player who was entering a hockey fighting tournament. So, intrigued with the prospect, I offered to be his promoter and was hired on the spot.

But instead of punching his way to the \$150,000 prize, Jordy never even stepped on the ice. The tournament was cancelled due to safety concerns. I lost a bit of money in the process but was able to take the good from the bad experience – I caught the writing bug.

Although Eagle Feather publisher John Lagimodiere didn't know this at the time (in fact, he probably found out after reading this), I was NOT a published journalist. I had written an article for Seeds of Success and another for Newbreed Magazine but those were both work related and good fudging material for getting writing gigs. Sorry Johnny.

But he must have saw at least some raw talent in my work because since then I was able to contribute to almost every edition of Eagle Feather News from then until now. And let me tell you, it's been a good ride.

For all those people out there with a bit of writing ability and a passion for reporting the news, become a journalist for a small paper. Although you don't get rich, it's truly gratifying seeing your words in print, you meet new and interesting people and, my favorite, you get treated like you're important.

But the best part of writing for a small paper? Getting into shows for free and meeting famous people. Don't believe me?

Let's see, as a columnist, contributing writer and photographer for Eagle Feather News and the now defunct Shout Magazine, I have met, in no particular order: Bob Rock, Bob Probert, Blue Rodeo, the Baker Twins, Lorne Cardinal, Nickelback, Stephen Hyde of the Payolas, The Tragically Hip, Jennifer Podemski, Tomson Highway, George Leach, Billie Joe Green, Fred Sasakamoose, Leela Gilday, Laura Milliken, Sarah Podemski, Michael Greyeyes, Gordon Tootoosis, Kinnie Star, Tantoo Cardinal, Brad Pitt, Eva Mendes and, my favorite, Selma Hayek.

Okay, okay. I fudged the last three but a guy can dream, right? The point is, and this is a heavily guarded secret, if you say you're with the media and can act the part, chances are you can get into almost anything. What? You don't believe me?

October 2006. Commodore Ballroom. Vancouver. The Tragically Hip were releasing their latest CD World Container at a sold out, semi-exclusive show. The Commodore Ballroom only seats a few hundred people so tickets were impossible to get. Being that I was in town and desperately wanting to go, I needed a way.

After being rejected for a media pass by the show's sponsor – House of Blues – I decided to play a little dirty, just to see if it would work. Now remember, if you ever try this yourself, it's really super important you act as cool as a cucumber when doing it.

Carrying a camera and notebook while sporting my paperboy hat, I made my way to the ticket booth. "Media," I said. The girl asked from where and I told her. She looked on her list and, as we know, I was not on it.

I told her I couldn't believe the House of Blues would do this to me. Again! And it worked – until we hit snag number two – "do you have your media credentials?"

Not only did I not have them with me, I never had any in the first place. But take note, this is where you play the sympathy card. I said I must have left them back home in

Saskatchewan and complained how I came all the way out for the show, thinking I had my media pass secured, only to forget my media credentials.

I looked at the girl and sighed a big sigh: "I guess I don't make any money this month." Then I played my last card and made my best sad puppy dog face and took one step when she said the words I had hoped to hear the minute I walked up to the counter: "Don't forget your credentials next time."

And I was in. What resulted was the best live show this guy has ever seen and I wasn't even on the list.

Ahhh, the memories. It's amazing how fast the years have blown past since I wrote that first article, Six to Win. And again, it's interesting it was six years ago. Why you ask. Because six years later I'm on my path with a pretty good idea where I'm going. It's like I finally won some piece of mind knowing I'm journeying well. And it only took six years. And as I navigate my journey, very tough decisions need to be made. Decisions like passing the torch to the next EFN arts & entertainment columnist. That's right folks, you don't have to see my ugly mug on this page anymore.

So thanks to everyone who reads EFN, the arts

community, artists, musicians, filmmakers and of course Johnny Lagimodiere for not kicking me out of his office six years ago after fudging my writing background.

It's been a blast!



Boyer's Olympic trip the thrill of a lifetime

Dallas Boyer is a musician, athlete and leader. A past recipient of a SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award, Dallas is an accomplished and in-high-demand fiddle player and he also holds a black belt in Traditional Shotokan Karate. Because of his leadership, Dallas was one of a handful of selected youth from across Saskatchewan who was chosen to go to the Olympics and perform in the opening ceremonies. We nabbed him for a few quick questions about his life.

What was it like dancing at the Olympics?

It was an amazing chance of a lifetime in Vancouver to dance the Métis jig during the athlete's parade during the opening ceremonies. I and three other youth from Saskatchewan got chosen to represent the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, where we took part in a 16 day Indigenous Youth Gathering (IYG). Over 300-plus aboriginal youth from all across Canada got this once in a lifetime chance to spend 16 days, getting to know each other, hanging out, and rehearsing for the opening ceremonies athletes parade where we all showed off our native dances.

Was there a particular highlight



Dallas Boyer is accompanied by his father, Phil, when he performs. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

from the experience that you will always remember?

I would like to just list one thing, but spending 16 days with the same people kind of grows on you. I remember when I first got there, not knowing anyone, and then by the end of the IYG, after sharing dorms with five to six guys, waking up, eating breakfast, lunch, and supper, all the bus rides back and forth, with the same people, it just turned out being like one big family. With little sleep, and always on the go, we got to ex-

perience new things that I will always remember.

Playing fiddle is your full time occupation. How did you make that happen?

Dedication and patience are the two main things, fiddle is not easy, and it does take time to learn. I never gave up when learning, or making a mistake on stage. I never miss a show, even if I know there are consequences on the other end, playing fiddle, playing music that my Métis

ancestors wrote and played many, many years ago is the greatest feeling, and I hope to continue it on for the next generations to come.

You are always accompanied by your dad Phil Boyer on the guitar. How important is family to your success?

Yes, my dad backs me up on guitar and chords for me. My dad also used to sing when he was my age, and even younger than me. He had quit singing 20 years ago, and started back up playing guitar when I started learning fiddle. So music has and still is a big part in my family life. So we started playing just to have fun, and share the Métis culture, and that's where it took me to where I am today.

Any tips for young people who are fans of fiddle music or martial arts on how to get ahead?

One thing I had been told learning fiddle, and learning karate is everything takes time, with time comes dedication, with dedication comes patience, with patience, then you will exceed, accomplish and succeed in what ever it is you are trying to do.

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\$6 million funding program for Métis entrepreneurs

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Métis entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan now have access to a \$6 million fund that may help them and their business reach the pot of gold. The Métis Energy and Resource Program (MERP), administered by the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, is set to invest in Métis entrepreneurs and communities who want to capitalize on the resource boom in Saskatchewan.

With \$5 million from the Government of Canada and \$1 million from CCDF, the program will have two components; an Equity Contribution Program, providing support to independent Métis entrepreneurs, and a Community Infrastructure Program to create and build Métis-owned businesses.

Steve Danners is the Senior Business Development Specialist responsible for delivery of the program and he is excited about the opportunity. "We want to disperse the funds in the most effective way possible for Métis job and wealth creation. We realize \$6 million is not that significant when you are talking about energy and resources but it is a good start," said Danners. "The process is really quite simple. Give us a call or fill out our application which can be found on our website at www.clarencecampeau.com and the process is underway." Danners will work out of the Fund's Head Office in Saskatoon while Wayne Gray, who will join CCDF in June, will work out of the Fund's Regina branch.

CCDF is known for their hands on approach to helping entrepreneurs and for sharing their expertise. Danners brings to the table over 20 years of experience in economic development and the finance industry. "I may not know a lot about mining or natural resources, but I do know how to put business deals together and develop funding packages so that a business has the best chance for success. The process can be intimidating. Entrepreneurs often have a business concept but they simply don't know where to start. You can start with a phone call to CCDF. We can help you every step of the way."

Besides assisting private entrepreneurs, the program will allow CCDF to partner with Métis communities, organizations or Métis economic development corporations to start or acquire business. This program is generating considerable interest from communities in both the north and south. "This will be about Métis job creation, wealth creation and community business ownership," said Danners. "We can bridge the gap between industry and community and develop a long term relationship that may or may not include CCDF. The Community Infrastructure program will be driven by industry and it will be up to CCDF to determine which community is close enough to business readiness to be involved with the opportunity. The community selected will take a percentage ownership in the range of 20% as a minority partner in the business. Each year the community would earn an additional 5% and after four years, based on pre determined criteria, would have an opportunity to acquire 100% ownership of the business with CCDF remaining as a preferred shareholder with representation on the board. This is a ground

breaking program with CCDF acting much like an Angel Investor. The emphasis is helping to create an economic development infrastructure for the Métis in Saskatchewan over time.

The rapid growth of programs run by CCDF has been a pleasant surprise, but according to Fund Manager Roland Duplessis, it also comes with its challenges. "Growth always comes with some challenges. There is the need for increased staff and the space to house them not to mention the increased overhead costs. Increased demand places travel pressures on the staff as the Fund serves the entire province and the logistics of travel is obvious. The unprecedented success has made us better managers" said Duplessis who added, "The entire staff as well as our Board is up for the challenge. We met with the federal government over two years ago to make them aware of our success and interest in delivering new federal programs for Métis economic development in Saskatchewan. When the opportunity came for CCDF to deliver the Métis Energy and Resource Program we jumped at the opportunity. It dovetailed perfectly with our traditional programs making it the perfect fit. We wanted to make sure we did not jeopardize our current programs or compromise the standards that we have set for program delivery to our Métis business community. INAC were anxious to work with CCDF as they stated that we had proven that we could deliver results."

Though this is one-time money based on a three year budget, CCDF fully expects to see an extension based on results. "We have a plan and once we produce the results, we are confident the federal government will be very interested in extending it. We have to show it works and that we can grow the economy for Métis people and the province," said Duplessis. "If we don't, well frankly we don't deserve to get more funding."

Danners knows that the Fund has built its success on providing unique equity programs and expertise, but they are just one part of the equation.

"CCDF has been built on our Métis people and we have not forgotten about them," said Danners. "Under MERP any business involved in the energy and resource sector specific can be funded. It is about Métis economic development and profits."

"We want wealth and prosperity for Métis people and communities. These are dollars that flow directly into the Saskatchewan economy. It means infrastructure development and huge spin off benefits which benefit all the residents of Saskatchewan and Canada."

Danners added. "Métis business makes sense, give us a call."



Roland Duplessis (standing) and Steve Danners are excited about a new program for Métis businesses.



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Support for Métis Entrepreneurs and Communities
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PotashCorp CEO eager to recruit workers in Aboriginal community

By Dana Jacobs
For Eagle Feather News

World population growth is expected to create employment opportunities and revenue streams for Aboriginal and Métis residents and businesses in Saskatchewan.

In order to support the increasing demand for food production, Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan is developing relationships with Aboriginal communities in the province as partners, suppliers and employees.

"We see this as a business opportunity," said Bill Doyle, president and Chief Executive Officer of PotashCorp. "We need the best that we can find."

Doyle announced the anticipated "potash boom" and PotashCorp's commitment to providing accessible opportunities for Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population at a Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business luncheon in Saskatoon on April 21.

Doyle said he believes that with the help of Leanne Bellegarde, a leader in the province's business and aboriginal communities, PotashCorp can make meaningful step towards providing opportunities for Aboriginal individuals and businesses in Saskatchewan.

Bellegarde joins PotashCorp on a six-month work-term from the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business to help build the company's strategy for developing relations with Saskatchewan's Aboriginal population.

"I want to make sure that the Aboriginal community gets a piece of the Potash pie," Doyle said, citing the need for long-term strategic planning including the development of new business partnerships and scholarships.

Acknowledging the "relatively small" number of Aboriginal employees currently at Potash Corp, Doyle said he would like to see the percentage of Potash Corp's Aboriginal employees increase to reflect the size of Saskatchewan's rapidly growing First Nation and Métis community.

"We need new workers, there's no doubt about that," Doyle said. "As we expand we're going to need a lot more workforce here and so we need young people to come through our plant gates and join our company – the aboriginal community is a big part of that and we look forward to it."

According to provincial government statistics, 13.5 per cent of Saskatchewan residents identified themselves as Aboriginal in 2001.

That percentage is expected to increase to 20 per cent by 2015, indicating a long-term trend toward Aboriginal population growth.

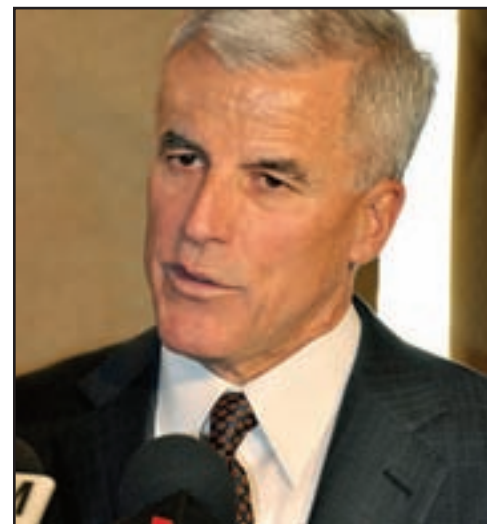
Doyle said PotashCorp is also committed to increasing the number of its Aboriginal suppliers.

"You've got to have various strategies for each individual company that comes across in terms of what they can supply – if it's steel, if it's concrete, if it's construction, if it's safety systems, all those things have to be individual and prioritized," he said.

Potash Corp is the world's largest fertilizer enterprise producing the three main plant nutrients and a leading supplier to three market categories; agriculture, animal nutrition and industrial chemicals.

In recent years, annual sales for Saskatchewan potash have totalled roughly \$1 billion per year.

According to Doyle, PotashCorp. currently has \$5 billion in expansion projects underway and an estimated \$3.8 billion gross domestic product being generated annually.



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Teen	\$150	\$100	\$75
Adult	\$300	\$200	\$100
Golden	\$300	\$200	\$100

Drum Competition				
Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Youth	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$100
Adult	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$800	\$600

Three-man Hand-Drum Competition			
Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	\$75	\$50	\$25
Adult	\$300	\$200	\$100

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Closure follows walk, live-in

• Continued from Page One

The impending sale of the university has been an unfortunate outcome, especially after students and faculty took part of a two-day solidarity walk from March 22- 24.

The students and faculty walked from Saskatoon arrived in Regina with blistered and aching feet.

"It was the most tremendous, amazing, beautiful, empowering, tiring, stressful walk," Professor of Social Work, Sharon Acoose said.

Acoose participated in the live-in at the Saskatoon campus from the beginning- spending some nights alone.

The walk was long, strenuous, and cold as the group encountered snowfall. However, giving up was not an option.

"They always say walk with your head up and I do that," said Acoose, "But for these last two days I walked with my head down because every time I looked up all I saw was far, far away."

There was plenty of time to think during that walk.

"It gave you time to contemplate your thoughts and ... what you want to do in life and this is what I want to do - I want to teach and I want to teach for this university," an institution Acoose says she will continue to fight for.

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EXCELLENCE
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Support system got Thunderchild working

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

At first glance, the slurred speech and interrupted gait make you may think this man is drunk. But don't let the appearance of Ervin Thunderchild fool you. Once you see the sparkle of mischief in his eye and have your hand enveloped in his steel grip, you realize there is much more to Thunderchild than meets the eye.

An accomplished athlete before a serious car accident 22 years ago, this gentle giant with the wicked sense of humour has successfully re-entered the work force with the help of co-workers, his union, the Saskatoon Tribal Council and an understanding employer.

He works for the City of Saskatoon, making good use of use of his recently acquired 1A trucking license.

"I move the trucks around and keep the shop clean," explains Thunderchild. "I clean up after the white guys," he laughs.

Finding employment, even locating a suitable home, wasn't an easy task for the 55-year-old with such obvious physical limitations. But with plenty of help from some good friends, he's living the good life.

"It feels great," he says. "I want to stay here until I retire. The job is great. It makes me feel good that I'm doing something. In the next couple of years I want to buy a house."

Shop foreman Rod McKenzie says Thunderchild is fitting in well.

"We gave him good orientation and training," explains McKenzie. "After a month he started feeling comfortable with

Thunderchild the job. He says Gilles Dorval, an employment equity consultant with the City of Saskatoon approached CUPE.

"Because of Ervin's disability, there were some things that he couldn't do right

"We took someone with an acquired brain injury and worked with the community. The Tribal Council was helpful in providing funding to get Ervin some of the training he needed and it worked out really well with all the partners," Dorval says.

"Cooperation with our union and management here made sure the members were comfortable with Ervin coming in and because the job wasn't posted, we had to work with the union and think outside the box.

"The management, the union and us worked to design a job that Ervin was capable of doing and to be fulfilling. We had a high level of cooperation from the union."

Dorval credits Maximum Driving School with going the extra mile for Thunderchild.

"Because of his physical limitations, he really had to work at shifting, but he got it down."

For Dorval, getting Thunderchild working again was truly a partnership, one that offers a lesson.

"People with disabilities are the toughest areas to fill in the

workplace. And I think the level of determination that Ervin brought with him in the job was definitely something that helped us," says Dorval.

"One thing to take away from this is to never prejudge anybody. Ervin, as an employee has worked out really well."



Gilles Dorval, Rod McKenzie and Mike Stefiuk worked hard to secure employment for Ervin Thunderchild.

the job and what was required. It also took a month for the rest of the staff to get comfortable and it's working out really well and he is part of the team."

Mike Stefiuk, president of CUPE 859 says it was necessary to put some politics and union issues aside in order to get Thun-

off the bat that took some special training so we made the effort to get him trained up. How can we not do this? It was the right thing to do," Stefiuk says.

Dorval says it took some negotiations involving the employer and the union, but he's pleased with the outcome.

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Keeping busy key to Sanderson's success

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Dane Sanderson of the James Smith Cree Nation is a hard-working student, athlete, and leader with a strong sense of community and family. He was most recently one of six youth in the province to be awarded a Saskatchewan Youth Award, and also received a 2009 SaskTel Youth Award for Male Outstanding Achievement.

"It kind of made me realize that I'm a role model to other students and people my age," Sanderson said in a phone interview, adding he's had a lot of comments from others. "It kind of surprised some people I guess."

Now in his final year at St. Mary's High School in Prince Albert, he has served as captain and provincial spokesperson at two North American Indigenous Games, represented Prince Albert and area at the Academic Leadership Conference, and was selected to represent his high school at the National Biology Competition.

The Prince Albert Grand Council has also nominated him for Youth Citizen of the Year, and he's working hard towards pulling off a Governor's General Academic Medal with his Grade 12 marks. But right now he's focusing on an upcoming athletic trip.

"Our volleyball team goes to Nationals in Abbotsford, B.C. this month," he explained.

So beyond community and academic scholarships, he may also be looking at sports scholarships – he has played elite volleyball as a member

of Team Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games in Victoria, B.C.

His MLA Darcy Furber was the one who nominated him for the provincial Youth Award.

"I was just driving into town one day and got a call, it was kind of a surprise," Sanderson said.

Sanderson also volunteers in his community in programs like Crystal Meth Awareness and Gang Exit Programs, also acting as a youth mentor for the West Flat Community Centre where he works with Elders and at-risk youth. The key to success?

"Staying out of trouble – staying involved in sports and activities, if other kids could kind of see that and do the same they wouldn't run into many problems."

He says his parents and grandparents have kept him going down the right track, and encouraged him to make good decisions. So how does he have time for everything?

"I try to get most of my school work done in school – if you use class time, it's much easier than doing homework."

He's planning on going into sports medicine through college or university, and if all goes well, college level volleyball will also be in the works.

"I go from sport to sport all year, though," he explained.

Sports, good marks, volunteering, community, and family – does he have any advice for other kids?

"Just stay involved and keep going down the right track, it helps things go smoothly."



Dane Sanderson won SaskTel's Outstanding Achievement Award.

Saskatoon Urban Treaty Days

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Saskatoon Tribal Council and FSIN representatives accept the first place trophy.

Host team wins Winter Games, but it went down to the wire

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

The 2010 Winter Games were an event in every way – from the spectacular opening, to the weeklong competitions. Young Aboriginal athletes from across the province travelled to Saskatoon to meet new and old friends in competition – badminton, hockey, broomball, curling, and volleyball.

This year Saskatoon Tribal Council narrowly edged out Agency Chiefs Tribal Council for top spot ... by one point!

Agency Chiefs led in broomball and badminton, Saskatoon Tribal Council in hockey, Meadow Lake Tribal Council in volleyball, and Beady's and Okemasis in curling. The 2010 Tony Cote Award was presented to Team Woodland.

Mark Arcand, event co-ordinator for the Games, said things went well thanks to dedication, hard work, organizing and volunteers behind the scenes, and the attitudes of the young athletes themselves.

"It was pretty special for Saskatoon Tribal Council to win, the year that STC was hosting," he noted.

Athlete Colby Daniels of Mistawasis was one of the hockey players with the STC midgets team, in his sixth year of hockey.

"It was great, this year we 'three-peaked' – not many tribal councils have done that – everybody was really relieved and enthused we did it," he said.

STC narrowly managed to repeat their 2006 and 2008 wins.

"The opening ceremonies was spectacular. Everyone enjoyed it. I really enjoyed it, it's something to remember for sure."

Daniels added the whole Games was really well run.

"All the kids had nothing but good things to say – I just hope there are many more Winter Games like that to come."

He says the real joy is getting to play with all his buddies.

"Knowing that will be the last time that bunch of guys will be together – we definitely made the best of it and gave it our all. We didn't need to win to know we did well – we knew within ourselves that we did well. That we won really topped it off for me."

Coming out on top was a special feeling, but what was most special to Daniels was winning the year they were hosting, and hearing from many of the visiting athletes it was the best Winter Games so far.

"I thought that was a very true statement," he said, adding how smooth everything ran. "To win was just the best reward we could've got."

Travelling from Mistawasis were about 20 or 30 youth, Daniels estimated, and all the athletes and their families and communities worked hard planning and getting the athletes prepared.

"It was nice being able to help out as much as I could even if it was just little things – volunteering – I had a little part to do in the opening ceremonies, stuff like that."

Eagle Feather News caught up with Daniels at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship in Ottawa – at the time of the interview they were leading with a 3-0 record as they prepared to play Alberta.

"To me sports stands really high in my life, right up there school family and friends ... for youth it's something to do to keep them active and keep them out of trouble – it's very positive."

Bridge City SHOOTOUT

The 2010 Bridge City Shootout is proudly hosted by:

For the Love

For more information or to register your team contact:

Mike Tanton
(306) 380-9879
miketanton@whitebuffalolodge.ca

Mason Medynski
(306) 241-6399
info@for-the-love.ca

MVP & ALL-STAR AWARDS

For each division

2nd Annual Bridge City Shootout

May 28, 29 & 30, 2010 - Saskatoon, Sk.

White Buffalo Youth Lodge Shaw Centre
Tommy Douglas Collegiate Bethlehem High School

Youth Division Boys 16 & Under 8 Teams \$400 Entry Fee	Youth Division Boys 19 & Under 8 Teams \$400 Entry Fee
1st - Sweatsuit & Medals	1st - Sweatsuit & Medals
2nd - T-shirts & Medals	2nd - T-shirts & Medals
3rd - T-shirts & Medals	3rd - T-shirts & Medals
All-Star Awards	All-Star Awards
MVP Award	MVP Award

Mens Division 12 Teams \$450 Entry Fee	Womens Division 8 Teams \$400 Entry Fee
1st - \$2000 & Sweatsuit	1st - \$1200 & Sweatsuit
2nd - \$1250 & T-shirts	2nd - \$900 & T-shirts
3rd - \$750 & T-shirts	3rd - \$600 & T-shirts
All-Star Awards	All-Star Awards
MVP Award	MVP Award

SLAM DUNK CONTEST*
\$250 1st place

SATURDAY MAY 29

3-POINT CONTEST*
\$100 1st place

*Only participants in the tournament may compete in the contests.

www.for-the-love.ca

Choice Principal-ship of an urban First Nations High School

GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Kitotiminawak Parent Council
and
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Invites application for Principal of Oskāyak High School

Oskāyak High School is an urban First Nations School that is funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, governed by the Kitotiminawak Parent Council and operated by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. The school, located on Broadway Avenue in Saskatoon, is comprised of approximately 170 students in a grade 9 to 12 program. It is staffed with a full-time assistant principal, 14 professional staff and 8 support staff. Program goals include high student engagement; infusion of Cree language and culture; academic excellence and an inter-agency approach to student supports. The successful applicant must possess:

- A Master's degree in education
- Eligibility for a Saskatchewan teachers' certificate
- Knowledge of Cree language and culture
- A minimum of five years experience in educational leadership
- Capacity to develop a comprehensive plan for student retention
- Ability to foster community partnerships
- Experience in evidence-based programming
- Ability to develop a strong staff team

In addition, preference may be given to candidates who:

For the purposes of transferability and advancement, meet the requirements of employment within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is committed to achieving and maintaining a workforce, which reflects and affirms the diversity of our school division. Applications are encouraged from First Nations and Métis candidates.

Please direct inquiries to Superintendent Gordon Martell at gmartell@gscs.sk.ca or at (306) 659-7056. Applications are due no later than May 31, 2010. Applicants must submit a resume along with three references to:

Attention: Oskāyak Principal-ship
Human Resource Services
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
420 - 22nd Street East
Saskatoon SK S7K 1X3

www.gscs.sk.ca
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools...putting faith in education



PAINTED HAND CASINO

10th ANNUAL POW-WOW

JUNE 4TH, 5TH & 6TH, 2010
GALLAGHER CENTER, YORKTON, SK



OVER \$100,000 IN CASH & PRIZES

GRAND ENTRY

FRIDAY - 8:00PM

SATURDAY - 1:00PM & 7:00PM

SUNDAY - 1:00PM

CATEGORIES

JUNIOR (7 - 12YRS)

1ST - \$200, 2ND - \$150, 3RD - \$100, 4TH - \$75, 5TH - \$50

JR. BOYS & GIRLS TRADITIONAL
JR. BOYS & GIRLS FANCY
JR. BOYS GRASS
JR. BOYS CHICKEN DANCE
JR. GIRLS JINGLE

TEEN (13 - 17YRS)

1ST - \$300, 2ND - \$250, 3RD - \$150, 4TH - \$100, 5TH - \$75

TEEN BOYS & GIRLS TRADITIONAL
TEEN BOYS & GIRLS FANCY
TEEN BOYS GRASS
TEEN BOYS CHICKEN DANCE
TEEN GIRLS JINGLE

JUNIOR ADULT (18 - 34YRS)

1ST - \$1000, 2ND - \$750, 3RD - \$400, 4TH - \$200, 5TH - \$100

JR. MEN'S & WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL
JR. MEN'S & WOMEN'S FANCY
JR. ADULT MEN'S GRASS
JR. ADULT MEN'S CHICKEN DANCE
JR. ADULT WOMEN'S JINGLE

SENIOR ADULT (35 - 54YRS)

1ST - \$1000, 2ND - \$750, 3RD - \$400, 4TH - \$200, 5TH - \$100

MEN'S & WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL
MEN'S & WOMEN'S FANCY
ADULT MEN'S GRASS
ADULT MEN'S CHICKEN DANCE
ADULT WOMEN'S JINGLE

GOLDEN AGE (55+YRS)

1ST - \$1000, 2ND - \$750, 3RD - \$400, 4TH - \$200, 5TH - \$100

MEN'S GOLDEN AGE TRADITIONAL & CHICKEN
MEN'S GOLDEN AGE GRASS/FANCY
LADIES GOLDEN AGE JINGLE/ OLD STYLE FANCY
LADIES GOLDEN AGE TRADITIONAL

HOST DRUMS

DAKOTA TRAVELS, CANUPAWAKPA DAKOTA NATION, MB
CROOKED LAKE AGENCY SINGERS, SOUTH EAST, SK

MC'S

TOMMY CHRISTIAN, FORT PECK RESERVATION, MT, USA
HOWIE THOMPSON, CARRY THE KETTLE NAKODA NATION, SK

ARENA DIRECTOR

RUSTY GILLETTE, BISMARCK, ND, USA

DRUM CONTEST

ORIGINAL & CONTEMPORARY

1ST - \$4000 2ND - \$3000
3RD - \$2000 4TH - \$1000
5TH - \$600 6TH - \$400

SPECIALS

BLACK CHIP SPECIAL - LADIES TRADITIONAL
PWC MANAGERS SPECIAL - MENS FANCY
10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL - MENS CHICKEN
POW-WOW COMMITTEE SPECIAL - LADIES FANCY
TEAM DANCE SPECIAL - \$10,000 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY
- MEN'S & LADIES (GROUP OF FOUR)
LADIES OLD STYLE JINGLE - SPONSORED BY CHIEF LYNN ACOOSE

VENDOR/BOOTH

FOR VENDOR/BOOTH INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT KIM SMITH OR LYNETTE ISHANA
@ (306) 786-6777

HOST HOTELS

DAYS INN (306) 783-3297
HOWARD JOHNSON (306) 783-6581

DANCERS MUST BE IN FULL REGALIA
DAILY GRAND ENTRY POINTS TAKEN
TINY TOTS PAID SATURDAY & SUNDAY

