

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Warrior at peace with his family

Jason Head, a reservist with the Royal Regina Rifles did a six month mission in Afghanistan. Below, he is where he is happiest, with family. (Photo supplied)



Sask. soldier happy to be home

By Leisha Grebinski
For Eagle Feather News

Jason Head says the hardest thing about serving in Afghanistan was having to say goodbye to his family.

"My daughter had just been born so it was really hard to leave," he says. "At first I was scared because I didn't know what to expect and in your head you're preparing for the worst."

His daughter, Naya, was just a couple months old when Head left for Afghanistan so his wife Aidan went to stay with her mother.

"I worried every day," she says. "I'd say 'can't you just stay on the base?' It was pretty hard but I would just try to tell myself he was safe on the base."

Head did a six month mission to Afghanistan as a reservist with the Royal Regina Rifles.

"I enjoyed experiencing the different culture," he says. "It was a good experience to have and to see the Canadian projects."

Head admits there were times he was scared, but for the most part, he focused on the work at hand. He was part of patrol teams that would help escort NGO workers, police, and other officials to various projects or to the prison.

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CELEBRATING TEN YEARS
Artist and businessman Ernie Scoles is marking ten years in business.

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A NEW HOME
The West Side Community Clinic in Saskatoon has a new home and expanded services as a result.

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SPEAKING UP
Philip Ledoux is a Canadian veteran who is a valued member of the First Nations Veterans Speakers' Bureau.

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COMMISSIONAIRES
The Canadian Corps of Commissioners is more than a ticket writing machine.

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TEENAGE ANGST
A production at Persephone Theatre examines the challenges facing a troubled First Nations teen.

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Welcome to our
Veterans Edition
Coming In December:
Christmas Issue
CPMA #40027204



Albert Scott receives the education bundle from the Elders who created it. The MOU signing was surrounded by ceremony and hope. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Education bundle symbolizes partnership between Tribal Council, Province, Canada

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A historic step in First Nation education was undertaken with the creation of an education bundle. The bundle is made of an animal hide and contains an eagle feather, a talking stick wrapped in rabbit fur, a stone with the word wisdom etched on it, Sweetgrass, treaty documents, a Canadian flag, a school bell and a carved buffalo.

Contributing to the bundle were the Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada.

The education bundle was created to formalize a memorandum of understanding between the groups to enhance educational outcomes for First Nation students. The focus will be on assisting First Nations students attending schools in the Saskatoon Tribal Council region and providing non-First Nation students in these schools with a greater understanding of First Nation culture and people.

The MOU was signed by John Duncan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians, Donna Harpauer, Minister of Education, Province of Saskatchewan, and Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, Saskatoon Tribal

Council.

"Empowering our children with an education that not only transfers practical knowledge but also instils pride in culture and history is essential to our society," said Tribal Chief Thomas.

"This agreement recognizes the need to work together as leaders and educators, both on and off reserve, to develop and refine the learning environments, tools and systems this promising group of young people needs to succeed."

The MOU recognizes the importance of partnerships between First Nation schools in the Saskatoon Tribal Council region and neighbouring provincial school divisions to enhance their capacity to meet the educational needs of First Nation students.

To support this objective, partners are committing to the development of joint education action plans; providing support for student transitions between grade levels and school systems; ongoing assessment of student learning and skills; enhanced data management and collection; engagement of families and communities to improve students' education outcomes; and shared professional development and curricular resources.

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Education goes hand-in-hand with promoting healthy lifestyle

• Continued from Page Two

"Education is the key to success for our First Nation learners," said Duncan. "By preparing them now for tomorrow's workforce, the social and economic benefits will be felt within their communities, in this province, and right across Canada."

"The signing of this MOU marks an era of inter-jurisdictional co-operation focused on improving outcomes for First Nations students," said Harpauer.

"Today, the Government of Saskatchewan is signalling our commitment to work collaboratively with the Saskatoon Tribal Council First Nations to improve First Nations student achievement, for the benefit of students, their communities and the province."

The MOU was made sacred through ceremony including pipe ceremonies and the creation of the bundle. Albert Scott helped the Elders as they assembled the education bundle.

"Everything in that bundle means something," said Scott. "The hide represents the animal."

"It gave up its life for us to use as

tools and clothing and it is kind. The eagle feather represents the eagle that can see far and has vision that is very focused.

"But the feather has two sides, a long side and a short side. The short side symbolizes that if you do bad things, you will not live here too long. But if you live a good life and help your neighbour you will live long, like the long feathers."

The four colours are also represented on ribbons on the eagle feather and on the talking stick.

"The white represents the newcomers from Europe. Below that is Africa and the black people we honour."

"Then to the Far East the yellow ribbon represents the Asian people. And in North America, the red represents the First Nation's people," said Scott.

"Then each group put something important in. The Government of Canada put in a flag to represent them. The provincial minister gave a school bell to call us to education, and Chief Felix, he put in a buffalo carved of rock."

"When we lived with the buffalo, we had no diabetes. We lived a healthy life



Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas added a carved stone buffalo and the signed agreement to the education bundle as Chiefs and councillors from the STC bands and Government representatives looked on. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

and had no jealousy or stealing. Now the Elders say that education is our new buffalo."

This MOU will benefit over 1,000 students in seven band-operated schools and over 10,000 First Nation students in the Saskatoon Tribal Council area attending provincial schools.

The agreement also builds on established Saskatoon Tribal Council partnerships with both the Saskatoon Public School Division and the Greater

Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

The first formal partnership was established in 1995 between Whitecap Dakota First Nation and the Saskatoon Public School Division.

"The bundle is all about good intentions," added Scott. "By including ceremony, it reminds of us the past, but remember to look to the future."

"In my language we refer to the bundle as 'Something that will keep us.' It is very powerful."

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Editorial

Year of Métis intriguing

The Year of the Métis is drawing to a close.

It has been a fantastic year of looking back and also of preparing for the future. It has been very busy with special events around the province with the biggest being the insanity (in a good way) at Batoche.

We have also witnessed the closure of the debacle that was the Métis election of 2004. Brian Amyotte was recently found not guilty of fraud after a two week trial. He was the tenth person to face trial from the farcical election. Eight other people were convicted of their roles in the fraud and another person had their charges stayed.

It was interesting sitting in the courtroom and hearing all the old stories of ballot stuffing, fake voters' lists and a general lack of respect for Métis people by alleged Métis leaders. It was very nostalgic.

It was also sad to see the ring leader Ralph Kennedy take the stand. He looked like half the man he used to be, his health suffering, his leg in a walking cast. He was dishevelled and had a very sketchy memory of the antics around the election, even on events that he was convicted of and sentenced to a year in jail for. Interesting.

It is almost safe to say that the Métis community has learned its lesson about crooked elections, but still we must be vigilant when the next election comes around in a couple years. Since Eagle Feather News began in 1998, each and every election we have covered, with the exception of the last one, has been rigged in some way. Old habits are hard to break.

Speaking of old habits, now that we have stopped the scourge of bad elections, we still have to deal with the old system of raping and pillaging Métis affiliates for a living. This hasn't been an issue since the old guard was run out after the 2004 election, but the fallout still continues. Soon we will have the preliminary hearings for Al Delaire and Henry Cummings who are charged with fraud over their handling of funds at Métis Addictions and Counselling Saskatchewan Inc. (MACSI).

Delaire is notorious in the Métis community and on the stand at Amyotte's trial he even said that he and Ralph Kennedy were the masterminds behind rigging the 2004 Métis election. Delaire was the Minister of Health for the MNS and was Chair of the MACSI Board when the alleged fraud took place. Now Delaire is facing 11 counts of fraud over \$5,000, two counts of fraud under \$5,000 and one count of forgery.

Henry Cummings was the Secretary of the MACSI Board and he is facing 6 counts of fraud over \$5,000.

Both of these men have preliminary hearings on Tuesday Nov. 16 at 9:30 in provincial court, almost exactly 125 years after the execution of Métis leader Louis Riel. Irony isn't it.

Maybe the Year of the Métis was meant for us to fully examine our past and prepare for our future. We look to our past to learn from our leaders that led with pride, respect and valour.

The warriors that fought and gave their lives at Batoche and Tourand's Coulee must be remembered. The Métis men and women that volunteered to fight for Queen and country in the big wars were honoured at Back to Batoche, but they must be remembered every day.

And we have to remember the not so good leaders who led for themselves and their family's and left the Métis Nation in tatters. We must remember, so that it never happens again.

Next month in Eagle Feather

December's edition will be about Christmastime and storytelling. We will be closing loose ends from the year and also announcing the newsmaker of the year in 2010 (If you have ideas on News Maker of the year, email JohnL@eaglefeathernews.com)

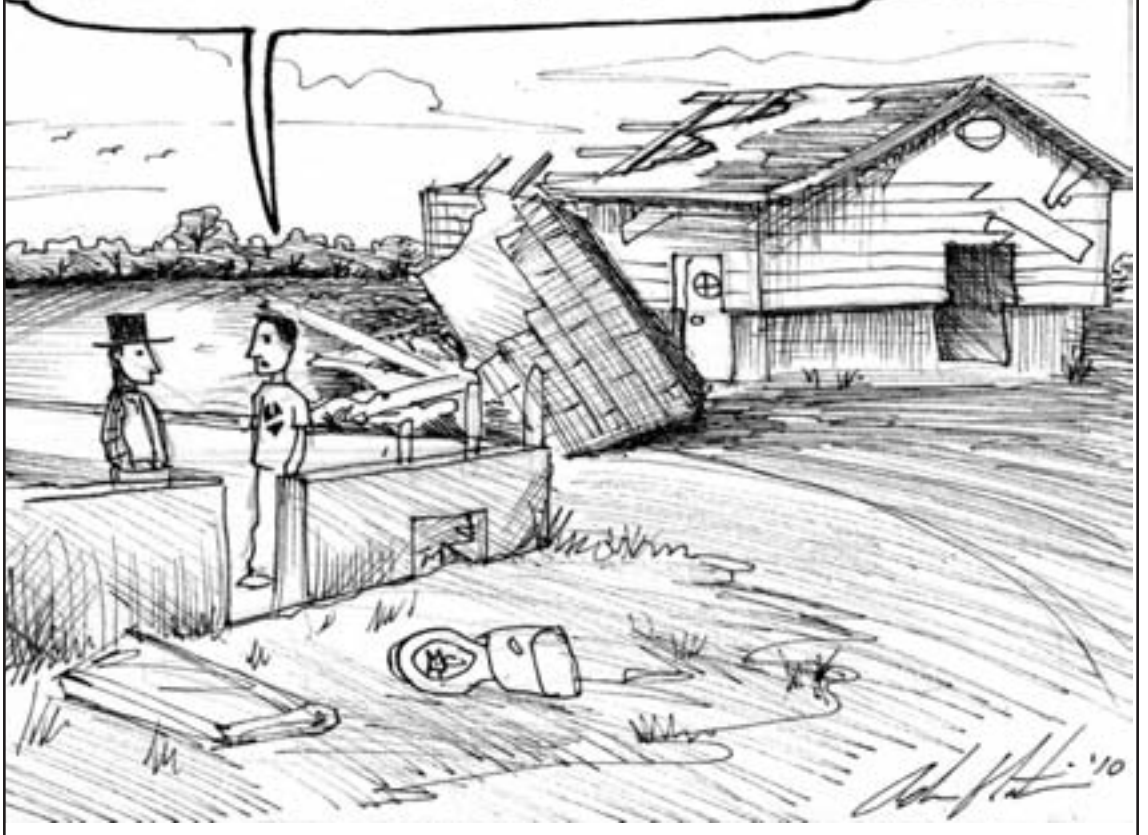
We want to take this opportunity to thank our good friend John Cuthand for his several years of service. John Cuthand joined our paper after Bernelda Wheeler insisted to him, and to us, that he should have a column. We took him on and haven't looked back ... but recently, the lure of a fantastic job in B.C. working with people in his chosen field has left us without John Cuthand holding down page 6.

We thank John for his excellent years of service and wish him the best of luck in his new job.

Rank Comix

Adam Martin

The next tornado, we tell everyone "Kawacatoose" means "white farming community."



The Spirit of our Nations FSIN/SIGA Powwow was once again held on the last weekend in October. This year, the theme was honouring our fallen heroes in respect to our lost soldiers and police officers. A special dance was held for deceased RCMP Constables Robin Cameron and Marc Bourdages and also for soldier Darby Morin.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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

Warriors at home deserved to be honoured

There were lots of veterans in our immediate family but they've all passed on now. We still have some uncles and cousins who served in the forces, some during wartime, others during peace, and they still proudly wear their uniforms.

Like many First Nations and Métis families in Saskatchewan we have a long family tradition of honouring our vets on Remembrance Day. When we can't make it to services, we do the silence prayer.

Remembrance Day is always solemn and sad. Our old-timers and widows take it especially hard as they remember deceased brothers, cousins, friends, husbands and children. We shed tears on Remembrance Day, sharing in our collective grief and losses.

War is an ugly thing. Few of us actually see it but we hear stories about it. Many of us experienced conflicting feelings about it. While we mourn our losses we also question and criticize leadership's decisions to go to war in the first place.

Back in the 1960s, Buffy Sainte-Marie emerged in the arts scene as a protest music icon. She protested against war and fought for Indigenous rights with her music. One of the most powerful anti-war songs of the era was written by her. It is called

"Universal Soldier."

Her words are heart-wrenching, especially her lyrics about the soldiers on the front lines: "He's the one who gives his body as a weapon to a war" and "he's the one who must decide who's to live and who's to die."

But then she reminds us that he takes his orders from the Generals, who get their orders from the political leaders, who are elected into office by us. She challenges us to face and accept our own role in making wars happen.

"His orders come from far away no more. They come from him, and you and me, and brothers can't you see, this is not the way to put an end to war."

Universal Soldier is a powerful song and has much to teach us. It challenges us to think about who is really to blame when things go wrong and get ugly. It's so easy to point and shake our finger at someone else. But while we sit at our kitchen tables or at meetings criticizing the decisions leaders make, the reality is we are just as responsible because we put them in office,



and we let them get away with their bad decisions and behaviours without openly challenging them or chasing them out.

By electing these leaders, we give them the power to make decisions that can and do hurt us. This is just as true in our own communities when we elect leaders who are not accountable, who act like little Caesars, and/or who do not put the needs of the people ahead of themselves.

Many of our warriors served overseas against enemies we'll never have to meet. But there are just as many warriors at home facing our enemies head-on, in our communities and in the larger society. They also deserve to be honoured.

Among the many artists, musicians, writers, scholars we among us, there are also a handful of leaders who put their own necks on the line by challenging the actions of our other leaders. Hats-off and a big handshake to Chief Jack Mussell from Skwah Band (Sto:lo nation) in British Columbia who openly challenges and criticizes other chiefs who pay themselves big money!

There was a great story about Chief

Mussell in The StarPhoenix and in newspapers across the country last weekend. The story disclosed that there are more than 30 chiefs across the country who collect more than \$110,000 a year, tax exempt! The highest salary is \$247,100.

Then there are about 80 chiefs who make less than \$30,000 a year. Mussell is one of five chiefs in Canada who do not get paid at all. These are real warriors! Instead of living off his people, Mussell supported his family through logging, fishing, construction and ranching. He's been a chief for 25 years which tells us a lot about his people—they value an honest leader who puts his peoples' needs ahead of himself.

I'm not saying that Chiefs should not be paid. What I believe, and what my grandfather and mother believed before me, is that we need leaders who do not put themselves above their people. Leaders who possess our traditional time honoured values of generosity, humility, courage, hard work, loyalty, compassion, and love.

Buffy reminds us that we have the power to create good leaders and Mussell's advice for us is excellent and seriously worth taking: "If you want to become chief, don't do it for money, do it because you love it."

SASKATOON TRIBAL COUNCIL

wishes to congratulate all First Nation University of Canada and University of Saskatchewan First Nation graduates who received their degrees at the Fall 2010 Convocation.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

You are an inspiration to all First Nation youth throughout Saskatchewan.



True stories being told

Tyrone Tootoosis got some well-deserved positive commentaries in the media in the last few months for explaining the Cree view of what a federal government department publicized as the 'siege' of Battleford in the events of 1885.

He was able to show that there was no siege at all. The federal Parks department changed its official view. Tyrone's accomplishment adds to the growing work that is now being done by Cree and other indigenous folks in Canada, particularly in the Prairie region, to expose the view 'from the inside' of Canadian history. The telling of the history of indigenous peoples is a very welcome development. It still has a long way to go.

For a long time it was the intruders' views which determined the story line of Western history. The story unfortunately was a one-eyed, biased view that reflected the values and ambitions of the immigrants to the homelands of indigenous peoples. My generation and previous generations learned in school and university about the activities of the newcomers and their 'glorious' accomplishments.

This story-line went hand-in-hand with the ideas that generated the justification for taking over the lands of the indigenous peoples. According to this idea, the lands could be taken because they were not occupied by anyone who mattered beyond what was necessary to take possession and to assert control. People who do not matter have no history that matters, and so the only history we read about is the story of conflicts or other relations with the immigrating society.

A country cannot do well without a common understanding of its past. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended in its 1996 report that the federal government and private parties create a strategy to support indigenous history. The Social Sciences and Research Council, it was suggested, could take responsibility to get the long-term project underway.

I am not aware that anyone in an official position has paid attention to that idea.

In Saskatchewan the work of telling the view from the inside started some time ago in the works of, among others, Maria Campbell and Winona Wheeler. This built upon the early work of the late Edward Ahenakew whose 'Voices of the Plains Cree' is a treasure that includes memories of Chief ThunderChild who lived in the days of freedom before the buffalo-hunting Cree were fenced into reserves in the 1870s. Thunderchild had been with Big Bear in resistance to the Treaty in 1876 but he adhered to the Treaty in 1879 after a winter of desper-

ation, according to the book.

His editor says of Ahenakew that he had a good sense of humour: "He had that Cree ethos: he told Indian jokes."



Neal McLeod, a young Cree scholar, artist and humorist, has recently written articles and a book (Cree Narrative Memory) where a main focus is the political views of one of my favourite historical heroes, Mistahi Musqua (Big Bear) who has also featured prominently in accounts of the 1885 events. It makes a lot of sense to be a humorist and a historian, does it not?

Harold Johnson who has a graduate law degree from Harvard University, wrote "Two Families: Treaties and Government" in 2007. In it he explains the Treaty relationship in terms of Cree law.

In the recent past some good works had also been published by non-Aboriginal authors such as Sarah Carter ('Lost Harvests', about the killing of Indian agricultural success on reserves by the federal government), an historian at the University of Alberta and daughter of the late Roger Carter who founded the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, and by Katherine Pettipas (Severing the Ties That Bind: Government Repression of Indigenous Religious Ceremonies on the Prairies).

In this book Pettipas shows that Chief Piapot also had a wonderful sense of humour. You will have to read the book to get the joke because of the limits of this column.

Sometimes indigenous historians tell their history to others who write and publish them, as done in Harold Lerat's accounts in 'Treaty Promises: Indian Reality: Life on a Reserve' which comes from Cowessess. These are only some of the people writing from the inside.

A lot is said about 'reconciliation' these days, including in the courts that try to develop the law and in the process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that is looking at the stories of survivors of the Indian Residential Schools.

All these processes aim for a shared understanding of a common history.

The people are gaining strength and in so doing they are telling their true stories, and gaining more strength.

There is much to applaud, and much to be done.

Scoles marks ten years in business

Ernie Scoles has reached another milestone as he recently marked the tenth anniversary of Scoles Fine Art and Framing in Saskatoon.

Scoles invited friends, family, clients and artists over for an open house. Scoles worked the room like a champ, introducing his parents who he "adopted" when he was two, and proudly introducing his daughter, who, like her father, is an artisan. Her specialty is mukluks and moccasins.

Scoles has become a go-to-guy for corporate art in Saskatchewan, with hundreds of his pieces in private collections. He is also an avid supporter of golf tournaments and junior golf in Saskatchewan. His commitment to community has made him an invaluable resource for artists and buyers alike.

"Ten years went by fast, and in those 10 years, I've seen six or seven frame shops come and go," said Scoles.

"It's partly bad business, but also I



Ernie Scoles and his daughter Amanda pose for a photo during the Scoles Fine Art and Framing tenth anniversary celebration. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

believe another reason is lack of support. I have had that support amongst the First Nation people and my financiers at Peace Hills Trust and First Nations Bank.

"They had faith and patience in me and held me in there when others may not have. Also, my landlord, Muskeg Lake, and many others that have contributed to my keeping my doors open. I'd like to thank everyone that has walked through my doors these past 10 years, they are the reason I am still here."

Besides lots of food at the celebration, Scoles had artists presenting their works for sale and he also gave away free posters of his work.

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There is help for those suffering affects of war

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, commemorating a moment 90 years ago when troops laid down their arms to end World War I, we join all Canadians in paying tribute to the courage of those who served and those who serve today.

It is estimated that between 7,000 and 12,000 First Nation peoples fought in the Korean War and in the First and Second World Wars.

Today, First Nations participation in the Armed Forces continues with First Nations making up about 1.4 per cent or almost 1,300 soldiers.

My grandfather was one of those who enlisted long ago. Growing up, I remember listening to stories of the war and the places he had seen, like Belgium, France, Holland and Germany.

I often thought it must have been quite an experience because he never forgot about the war even as he aged and Alzheimer's began to take its toll.

Like my grandfather, many soldiers returning home from war experience difficult periods of adjustment where they may have flashbacks, bad dreams

or frightening thoughts.

Some will recover and live normal lives and others will have difficulty coping for the rest of their lives.

We can all recognize that difficult situations are a part of life. But sometimes people experience an event which is so unexpected and so shattering that it continues to have a serious effect on them, long after any physical danger has passed.

Mental health experts relate these symptoms to a condition called post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

PTSD is caused by a psychologically traumatic event involving actual or threatened death or serious injury to oneself or others.

The symptoms of PTSD usually begin within three months of the traumatic event, however sometimes they surface many years later. The duration of PTSD and the strength of the symptoms vary.



For some people recovery may be achieved in six months. For others it may take much longer.

There are three categories of symptoms. The

first involves re-experiencing the event, this is the main characteristic of PTSD, and it can happen in different ways. Most commonly the person has powerful recurrent memories of the event, or nightmares or flashbacks in which they relive their distressing experience.

Avoidance and emotional numbing are the second category of symptoms. A person with PTSD may withdraw from friends and family, they lose interest in activities they used to enjoy and have difficulty feeling emotions, especially those associated with intimacy.

Feelings of extreme guilt are also common.

Dr. Oz says, "in rare cases a person may enter dissociative states lasting anywhere from a few minutes to several

days, during which they believe they are reliving the incident and behave as if it is happening all over again."

The third category of symptoms involves changes in sleeping patterns and increased alertness. Insomnia is common and some people with PTSD have difficulty concentrating and finishing tasks and increased aggression can also result.

There are no winners in war.

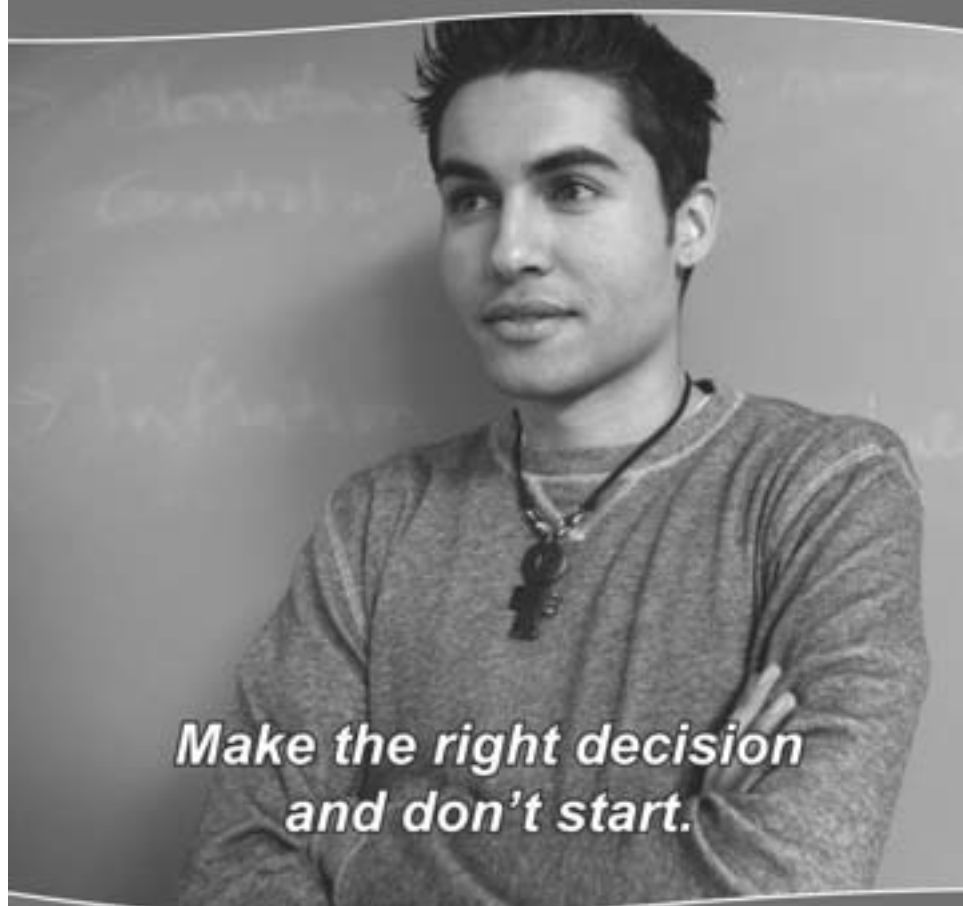
War is terrifying to those that have to fight in it as well as those that have to live through it and can cause a high rate of trauma and at times even suicide.

If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of PTSD there is help out there.

For further information about post traumatic stress disorder, contact a community organization like the Canadian mental Health Association to find out about support and resources available in and around your community.

You can write to me at Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 St Main Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

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www.saskcancer.ca

Keeping tobacco sacred: Advice for avoiding tobacco misuse

For many First Nations people, the use of tobacco as well as growing and harvesting the plant is done through ceremony and considered sacred. In the traditional sense, tobacco is used for a variety of medicinal purposes as well as a powerful way for communicating with the spirit world and the Creator when smoked in a sacred pipe.

Tobacco is always presented when requesting advice or asking for help from an Elder. When tobacco is misused or used in non-traditional ways, like smoking or chewing (snuff), it loses its sacred meaning.

Tobacco misuse can have some serious consequences such as lung, mouth or tongue cancer. People who live with, or work closely with, a smoker also have an increased risk of developing lung cancer from second-hand smoke. Health Canada estimates that more than 300 non-smokers die from lung cancer each year because of second hand smoke.

Smoking is the single most important preventable cause of lung cancer, yet Saskatchewan continues to have a fairly high smoking rate. In 2010, it is expected that Saskatchewan will see approximately 660 new cases of lung cancer and 560 deaths due to the disease.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency encourages everyone to be a non-smoker and to avoid the misuse of tobacco because:

- Tobacco misuse endangers your life and the lives of those around you.
- Smoking tobacco (cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars) exposes people to over 4,000 chemicals; at least 50 are known to cause cancer.
- Chewing tobacco (snuff) exposes people to over 3,000 chemicals; at least 28 are known to cause cancer.
- Nicotine is added to commercial tobacco and is highly addictive; similar to heroin and cocaine.
- Smoking is responsible for 85 per cent of lung cancer cases.
- Smoking is responsible for 30 per cent of all cancer deaths.

Developed with First Nations, the TAR (Tobacco Addiction Recovery) program provides tobacco cessation support to Aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan, encouraging the return of tobacco to sacred use only and assisting those who want to release their addiction to tobacco back to the Creator.

For more information on the TAR program please visit the Sacred Tobacco Chapter at www.makeapact.ca.



Elder Louise McKinney says the West Side Community Clinic helps people cope with their daily struggles.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Community Clinic expanding services

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

More like a drop-in community centre than a medical facility, Saskatoon's West Side Community Clinic has relocated to a new, larger home.

Still located in an inner city core neighbourhood, the clinic moved from the city's Riversdale neighbourhood to Pleasant Hill and is now at 1528 20th Street West. The building has an upstairs, which will allow for more programming.

Elder Louise McKinney worked for the clinic for 17 years. A few months after she retired, she was asked to come back on a part-time basis and she is now the clinic's Elder. She says the clinic is like no other in the city because the doctors and staff respect and are sensitive to people of all cultures and backgrounds.

"They take the time to treat a person like the whole person, and they treat them with love and kindness and gentleness. We accept everybody as they are," says McKinney.

Central Urban Metis Federation Inc. President Shirley Isbister agrees, noting the clinic is integral to the community.

"The West Side Community Clinic does an absolutely excellent job. They welcome our people. They work closely with community organizations," praises Isbister.

She says it's exciting the clinic has a new building because it struggled in such cramped quarters before the move.

In addition to having doctors and nurses, there is an Aboriginal health worker and Aboriginal counsellor at the clinic, physical therapy and a lab. It also has multiple programs including nutrition and cooking, chronic disease management, advocacy and outreach, parenting support, a community kitchen as well as addictions and mental health support. There are also special clinics that focus on things like HIV/AIDS care.

Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH) is also housed in the clinic and is comprised of students from different university disciplines such as dentistry and medicine working with various healthcare professionals.

Even with all those services, McKinney says the clinic provides much more than healthcare.

"It's more like a community centre. It's always been like that at the West Side. We try to run programs. There's all kinds of advocacy groups," she says.

McKinney says the clinic is there to help with daily struggles.

"Lots of my people are having a hard time, and I don't think it's only my people. There's a lot of people having a hard time right now because of their (high) rents, and they're not getting enough money, those on assistance."

McKinney says people don't have enough money for rent so they use money normally set aside for groceries.

"They use the food bank a lot, and we feed people here at the SWITCH shift. And a lot of people are old age people who are on old-age pensions that come here because their rent is so high they can't afford the fruit and vegetables. So they come and have their fruit and vegetables and soup and whatever we offer."

The Saskatoon Health Region and College of Medicine have already moved into the new building, and the College of Dentistry is anticipating moving in next month.



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Speakers bureau gives First Nations vets chance to tell their stories

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Veteran Philip Ledoux wants people to hear his story, and the stories of other First Nations veterans who served Canada.

Ledoux is one of the 350 surviving First Nations veterans in Saskatchewan and one of 16 veterans who are part of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans' Association's Speaker's Bureau. The bureau provides veterans for special events or schools to talk about their experiences.



PHILIP LEDOUX

Ledoux became involved in the military during the 14 years he attended residential school. During that time, he was involved with the army cadets for six years and he spent another two years with the militia.

"I didn't find the discipline any different between the military life and the residential school. As a matter of fact, army life was a piece of cake compared to residential school."

Ledoux graduated high school in 1962 and hung around his home of Mistawasis with nothing to do. In the spring of 1963, he decided he was fed up with that life and packed his suitcase.

"And, with five dollars in my pocket, I hitch-hiked to Saskatoon, and I spent the

night, one night there at the Salvation Army."

The next morning he made his way to Regina. After being dropped off, Ledoux saw a police officer and asked where the recruiting station was, so the police gave him a ride to the armouries.

Ledoux met with the recruiting officer, did his medical and some tests and spent the night in a hotel.

"The next morning a vehicle picked me up, took me back to the armouries, and a recruiting officer told me, 'Congratulations, you're in the army!'"

That afternoon he was on a train to Calgary. "I was in the army, and I never looked back."

There he did his basic training before being transferred to Victoria, where he trained as a peacekeeper.

Ledoux got his first taste of military action in the spring of 1965 when he and his outfit, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, were shipped to Cypress for six months of peacekeeping duties.

"It was rough. We witnessed things we don't see at home. The country was hot. Very bitter feelings between the Greeks and the Turks. It was our duty to keep them apart."

"Otherwise I enjoyed the tour because I always was interested in Greek and Roman mythology, and you see these things first hand: the temples, the ruins, the gardens. A lot of the ruins were 2,000 years old."

Ledoux says the return to Canada and "normal" life was difficult. He says soldiers were looked upon differently and felt like they didn't belong or fit in on their reserves. He says they felt lost, which led to frustration. He says many, himself included, turned to drink to deal with it,

and jokingly referred to it as "liquid therapy."

"The Native veteran was accused of being a drunk. You know, we did this for a purpose, try and forget what we had seen or went through."

"The method of therapy as we know it today did not exist or was very low-key in comparison to today to address the

decided, "let's get out of here, we don't need this."

They were walking away when Ledoux says Member of Parliament Ralph Goodale chased after them, wanting to know why they were leaving.

"So the veterans told him in no uncertain terms when we were in the front lines, the Native soldier was always



L-R Front Row: Phillip Ledoux; Arthur Anderson; George Benson; Ronald (Rocky) Redwood. L-R Back Row: Arland Tootoosis; Grand Chief Emile Highway; RayS anderson.

needs of returning soldiers in forms of therapy and dealing with post-traumatic stress syndrome."

Ledoux says the Speaker's Bureau will allow First Nations veterans to tell their side of the story, how they were treated wrongly in the past and sometimes still today.

He recounts an event in Regina where he and other veterans were on hand at the provincial legislature for a visit from Princess Margaret. They were pushed to the back of the event, so a few of them

pushed to the front. We served in the front lines but in social gatherings, we got pushed to the back of the line."

Goodale found the veterans seats in the front row.

Even with the harsh scenes he witnesses while serving and the difficulties that followed, Ledoux encourages youth today to consider joining the military, pointing to the Bold Eagle program, which combines military training with Aboriginal culture and customs.





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2010 - The Year

Métis Veterans: Remembrances

Another Remembrance Day has come upon us and our thoughts turn to our veterans and our service personnel presently serving overseas. Through two world wars, localized wars, numerous peacekeeping and peacemaking actions, hundreds of thousands of Canadian men and women have sacrificed a great deal so that we may enjoy our freedoms. Over 100,000 of these brave souls paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. As a small national community within Canada, the Métis have played a large role in Canada's various war efforts.

Unfortunately, we don't have exact enlistment ratios for the Métis, like we do for Status First Nations or Euro-Canadians—although many people and institutions such as Bruce Flamont, Cathy Littlejohn-King, Edward King (d), and Claude Goulet and the Métis National Council have worked hard to enumerate Métis veterans or chronicle their stories.

Nonetheless, we can deduce that their enlistments, during the two world wars, in proportion, were as high, if not higher, than the average for English Canadians at 40 to 50 per cent. The only thing holding back Métis enlistment would have been poor health: many suffered from tuberculosis or had been malnourished while living on road allowances. Men with missing teeth, for instance, were turned away.

Nevertheless, during the Second World War, units such as the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the "Royal" Regina Rifles, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and the South Saskatchewan Regiment had

scores of Métis soldiers. In addition, many other French-speaking Métis from Western Canada were placed into Québec-based regiments in both world wars. Cumberland House, Lebreton, Duck Lake, and many other Métis communities sent

hundreds of young men into combat.

Every Métis family and community has its own war stories. In the 1990s, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) documented several Métis war stories in *Remembrances: Interviews with Métis Veterans*.

Here's a very important war story from that book: Joseph McGillivray (d), a Métis trapper from Cumberland House, claimed to have captured SS Obersturmbannführer Kurt Meyer, the man responsible for the murder of more than 150 Canadian servicemen. However, history credits the capture to partisans or to whom McGillivray thought, the Americans. There's a story related to this one, which is not in the book, but one that nevertheless touched one Métis family. The teenage fanatics of the 12th Armoured SS, Hitler Jugend, which was led by the very same Kurt Meyer, murdered Rifleman Napoleon Morin—the grandfather of artist and educator Leah Dorion.

In another Métis war story, Frank Tompkins had every male in his extended family from Grouard, Alberta enlist during the Second World War. Frank himself enlisted, but was too young for combat; he only turned 18 in 1945.

Nevertheless, his family has a very interesting but little-known war story. His brother Charles (d) was attached to the US 8th Air Force Bomber Command and because of his fluency in Cree, he was one of the first Code Talkers. The Americans used the Code Talkers to confuse the enemy by sending orders in an unintelligible language. After briefly using Canadian Métis and Cree as Code Talkers, the US military began using their own Native-American servicemen, largely Navajos, to fill this vital role.

Nevertheless, despite their service to their country, Frank and his family were unable to receive veterans' benefits. This is a familiar story for Métis veterans. Most Métis who served in the two world wars were unable, for whatever reason, to obtain the benefits to which they were entitled from Veterans Affairs.

Prince Albert's Claude Adams (d), a paratrooper during the Second World War, once shared a story with the author about how he and other Canadian paratroopers "did something very great" during the early days of the D-Day landings, but had to swear an



Louis Blondeau

oath of secrecy, which they had to take to their graves.

Mary Rose Boyer, with roots near Estevan, has worked hard to chronicle the stories of the five men in her family who went to war: Reuben Blondeau (d, grandfather, WWI), Raymond Blondeau (d, uncle, WWII), Edward Gilbert

Blondeau (d, uncle, WWII), Louis Blondeau (d, uncle, WWII), and Joseph Ernest Boyer (d, father, WWII).

In an article, published a few years ago, she wrote this about her family's tradition of military service: "All of these men, because of their contributions and examples made me proud to be a member of their family and proud to be a Métis girl from the Souris River Valley. That was quite possibly the best legacy."

Cathy Littlejohn-King went to France last summer, and visited several Canadian cemeteries such as Bénus-Sur-Mer. On the graves of 15 Métis servicemen from Saskatchewan that she was able to identify, she placed mini-Métis sashes. Cathy is working with GDI to publish a story about her research and her emotional connection to the graves of these fallen Métis servicemen.

These stories are only a small sampling of how war touches families and communities. As a society, we should never forget our war stories and the role played by our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen during wartime.

Hopefully, we can live up to this legacy by properly remembering and honouring their sacrifice, while building a more respectful, tolerant country.

— Article by Darren Prefontaine



Frank Tompkins



Trooper Ernest Joseph Boyer

Year of the Métis

Louis Riel (1844 - 1885)



Métis patriot and martyr, founder of Manitoba, Louis Riel was born at St. Boniface, Red River, on October 22, 1844, to Louis Riel Sr. and Julie Lagimodière. The husband of Marguerite Monet dite Bellehumeur and father to Jean and Angélique, he was executed for high treason at Regina, North-West Territories, on November 16, 1885.

Handsome, intelligent, and religious, Louis Riel seemed, even as a child, destined for greatness. From his activist father he inherited a strong sense of duty and love of community, and from his mother he acquired an intense piety. In 1858, local priests hoped to make the young Riel one of their own by sending him to the Collège de Montréal. However, after his father's death in 1864, he left the college and went to work in a law firm. After a failed courtship, he returned to the Red River in 1868.

Louis Riel first came to prominence during the Red River Resistance (October 1869 - May 1870). Educated and articulate, he arrived home in time to participate in the Métis resistance against Canada's annexation of Rupert's Land. Eventually, becoming President of the Métis-led Provisional Government, Riel formed partnerships with many French Métis, and used Métis boatmen and bison hunters to enforce the governing council's will, particularly against Euro-Canadian annexationists and "loyal" French and English Métis.

Riel eventually won the backing of most of the Provisional Government's delegates by advancing a Francophone-Catholic rights agenda. The subsequent Manitoba Act provided Manitoba with bilingual public and educational institutions (sec. 22) while secs. 31-32 were intended for the individual extinguishment of the Métis "Indian" title to the land through the Scrip process.

From 1870 to 1884, Louis Riel led a restless existence. He defended Manitoba against a Fenian attack (1871); was exiled in the USA after a bounty was put on his head for sanctioning the execution of the Orangeman and francophobe Thomas Scott (1871-76, 1878-82); was elected several times to Parliament for the riding of Provencher, but was never allowed to take up his seat (1873-74); and was incarcerated in insane asylums in Québec (1876-78).

In the USA, Riel worked with the Republican Party, serving as a special deputy. He also taught school, and became an American citizen (1883). Then on June 5, 1884, he was invited to return to the Saskatchewan District of the North-West Territories to fight once again for his people's rights.

Through the summer of 1884, Riel tried to build consensus among the English and French Métis, Euro-Canadian settlers, and First Nations in order to address their many grievances against the federal government, including Ottawa's failure to recognize the Métis' title to their lands, to honour First Nations' treaties, to prevent starvation on the reserves, and to provide western Euro-Canadians with proper political representation, agricultural markets, and transportation infrastructure.

However, this fledgling coalition dissolved due to the reluctance of most First Nations, English Métis, and Euro-Canadians to take up arms. Thus, during the 1885 Resistance, Riel and Gabriel

Dumont could rely on less than 250 Métis and First Nations in their struggle with the Canadian state. After two brief guerrilla skirmishes at Duck Lake (March 26) and Toround's Coulée/Fish Creek (April 24), and a final entrenched battle at Batoche (May 9-12), the Métis resistance ended.

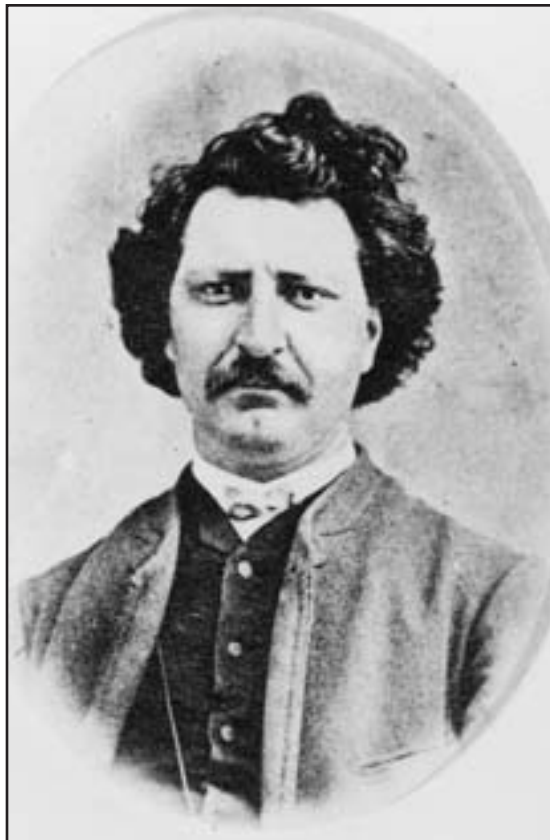
Riel was captured, and prepared to defend his actions and the Métis cause. However, the subsequent trial was unfair. The jurors were all Anglophones and Protestant, and the magistrate had close ties to the ruling Conservatives. Riel was sentenced to hanging despite the jury's plea for mercy. Lucid and articulate in the defence of his sanity, Louis Riel went to the gibbet knowing that posterity would rehabilitate him and his beloved métis canadien.

Louis Riel's legacy has been profound. No figure in Canadian history has been more controversial. For the Métis and for many others, Riel was a valiant leader who not only became a martyr for his people, but he was also a visionary and humanitarian who saw the potential of the Prairie West as a place where the world's oppressed could live in harmony.

For others, now in the minority, Riel was a madman, a deluded prophet, an apostate and a grafter, who inflamed passions and almost tore the country asunder. Riel's voice has also been appropriated for various political ends by Prairie regionalists, Québec nationalists, and English Canadians.

Louis Riel will continue to stir controversy as long as there are conflicting visions of our common past.

- Article by Darren Prefontaine



Louis Riel image courtesy of the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

Chronology of the 1885 Resistance

1885 (July 20)

Louis Riel's trial for High Treason began in Regina.

1885 (November 16)

Louis Riel was executed in Regina.

1885 (November 27)

Eight First Nations warriors—Kapapamahchakwew (Wandering Spirit), Itka, Wawanitch (Man Without Blood), Napase (Iron Body), Manetchus (Bad Arrow), Pa-pa-mek-sick (Round the Sky), Kitiemakyin (Miserable Man), and Little Bear (Apistaskous)—were hanged at Fort Battleford. This event was the largest mass hanging in Canadian history.

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



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Veterans find employment at Commissionaires

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The men and women at the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires are about more than just writing parking tickets.

Actually, ticket writing to them amounts to a very small percentage of what they do. As a premier national security provider protecting people, property, assets and information, Commissionaires offers a broad spectrum of services that translates into many varied and interesting employment opportunities for their 20,000 members.

Recently, they signed an agreement with the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces to provide employment to veterans injured in the line of duty. The Return to Work program is designed to assist the recovery of soldiers injured as a result of their military service. The ideal and anticipated outcome of the program is either reintegration back to their military duties in the CF, or a successful transition to a post-military career.

"Commissionaires is the logical partner for the program and we're proud to be part of it. Injured veterans deserve the support, the nurturing environment, and the meaningful jobs Commissionaires can offer, as we have for more than 85 years," said Mike Cooper, CEO Commissionaires North Saskatchewan.

"Our mandate is to provide meaningful

and rewarding employment opportunities to veterans, a mandate that is as relevant today as it ever has been."

Eric-Roy Joseph Adam and Georges T. Mercredi are both veterans with lots of experience in the security field. Both served overseas for the military and now they are both employed by the Commissionaires. Neither of them was injured in service, but they appreciate the skills that the military gave them that they now use in their jobs.

"The military taught me to respect my fellow man and to have an awareness of what's going on around you," said Adam who was just hired by the Commissionaires and has done security for 40 years with jobs involving security for George Bush and Brett Wilson last year in Saskatoon.

Mercredi has been working for a couple years at the police cells after a varied career in the forces and in Métis and First Nation organizations.

"Definitely the forces taught me respect and discipline," added Mercredi. "I really enjoy my work in the cells with the Saskatoon Police Service. Every day is interesting," he says.

"We have a proven track record supporting members and veterans," adds Cooper. "We've been doing it for decades with excellent results. CF members and modern veterans can count on Commissionaires."



Eric-Roy Joseph Adam and Georges T. Mercredi are employed by the Commissionaires.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Veterans like Norman Henderson are often called upon to lead grand entries and be present at community events. Here Henderson brings in the First Nations Veterans Association eagle staff at the FSIN Fall Legislative Assembly.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans' Association

7th Annual Gathering and Fundraising Dinner



Fundraising Dinner

November 17, 2010

7:00 pm

The Dakota Dunes Casino,
Whitecap Dakota First Nation, SK.
Corporate Tables are available for
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General Assembly

November 18, 2010

10:00am—4:00 pm

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Contact person:

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Adjustment to life at home will take time says young veteran

• Continued from Page One

While on patrol, he would stop to kick a soccer ball around with some kids. He said a lot of children knew lines to American movies so they would get a kick out of yelling phrases at the soldiers.



Head says even in his short time there, he could see things improving in Afghanistan but the poverty is what struck him most.

"Just for me, growing up in Canada, it really opened my eyes to see how other people live. You'd have 25 people living in a small little farm compound," he says.

Luckily, because of technology, Head was able to communicate almost daily with his family, but to help ease the worry of his wife and his mom, he didn't

include all the details.

"I didn't want them to worry. I didn't want to cause stress or sleepless nights."

Towards the end Head says he just wanted to go home, but the return wasn't that easy either.

"I was happy to be home, but I had to learn how to be a parent. I didn't want to disrupt her sleep schedule and stuff, so I had to learn the routine. I didn't want to mess things up."

Naya, who is now 14 months, can easily point out 'dada' in photos Head took during his deployment. As he picks her up, Head says he's just happy that his family is back together again.

Even though Head didn't struggle to process everything when he got home, he says many soldiers do. But luckily, he says there are plenty of supports in place to help soldiers ease back into life in Canada.

"We have check-ups when we get back, then at three months, and six months.

I'm actually starting to wonder when they'll end," he says with a smile on his face.

Head says the easiest way to deal with everything he experienced overseas is to

talk it out with fellow soldiers – guys who have become his best friends. "When we were over there it felt like an eternity. But now we all miss it," he laughs.

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I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the men and women who have made the decision to join our armed forces. Thank you for making this commitment to freedom and our country. We will all take time on November 11th to honour you and remember those that have paid the ultimate price for their valour.

Treaty Commissioner,
the Honourable Bill McKnight PC

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is working to achieve a common understanding between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Government of Canada on Treaties in Saskatchewan.

Office of the Treaty Commissioner
Bay 215 - 2553 Grasswood Road East, Saskatoon S7T 1C8
Phone: 306-244-2100 Fax: 306-667-5654

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Louis Riel Day
November 16, 2010
168 Wall Street

Agenda

10:00am — Gabriel Dumont Statue — Friendship Park
11:00am — Welcoming and Greeting — SIMFC
12:00pm — Lunch
— Entertainment
by Mel Vandale and Len Dumont
1:30pm — Gabriel Dumont Institute Presentations
— John Arcand
— Christi Belcourt
— Gregory Scofield
3:30pm — Métis Crafts and Games
— Entertainment
by Dallas Fiddler Boyer and Phil Boyer
5:30pm — Supper
— Entertainment by Donny Parenteau

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Multi-talented Kathie Bird partial to dancers

Last month I really fell in love. Hard. So what if it was with a piece of stained glass? I was mesmerized by the shape of a fancy dancer, called "Fancy One" by Kathie Bird.

I mean, most subjects are beautiful in stained glass, but the bright myriad colors of twinkling glass lend themselves well to powwow figures. The movement of light passing through the colors combines with the dancer's expression to make a hypnotizing energy. Life is infused into the picture.

I was so immediately in love with it even with its \$675 price tag. Some day. Great art demands high prices, and so it should.

Though I certainly couldn't afford it now, at some point, when I win the lottery, I plan to find Fancy One, as well as commission Bird to create for me beautiful original stained glass work and paintings.

Bird, an emotional health therapist from Montreal Lake First Nation, is an amazing painter, poet, photographer, author and stained glass artist.

She has tapped into something incredible with her 'energy art therapy'. It flows naturally out of her paintings, poetry, and now her book, "Unlimited You: A Journey to an Awakening of Heart-Centred Consciousness."

Luckily, this very busy, talented, and super cool lady found some time to answer a few questions for Eagle Feather News.

JJ: What types of art do you create?



Fancy One by Kathie Bird.

KB: I lean toward impressionism with my use of color and light, along

with mostly realistic images from my own experiences. I also do abstract paintings when wanting to convey more pure emotion. I use a variety of media: oil, acrylic, inks, watercolor, pastels – often mixing mediums. I am teaching myself to do digital painting. I do some stained glass work as well.

JJ: Which is your favourite type of art to create?

KB: I am always drawn towards dancers. I used to do a lot of more realistic fancy dancers (male and female) as well as square dancing, etc. Now I have moved toward a more simplified and meaningful depiction of the dancer as a spiritual being. I love the look of the swirling shawl and have done quite a few of either individual (nameless) dancers, or groups of them flowing toward something wonderful. I also love doing nature.

JJ: What do you aim to convey or express through your art?

KB: Gratitude, beauty, growth, insight, healing.

JJ: Do you have a treasure piece or a favourite series?

KB: Paintings of my kids, who have posed for me over the years.

JJ: Please elaborate about your book. Where did you find the idea for it?

KB: The approach described in the book grew from working with co-author Loretta Mohl using a variety



of energy therapies in many intensive group healing programs funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The aim of most therapies is to identify and change core life-limiting beliefs that stem from early trauma. Focused intention Technique acknowledges and uses heart consciousness to do the inner work. It is so natural and easy that anyone can learn to use it for themselves.

JJ: How can people contact you if they would like to purchase your artwork or your book?

KB: Phone 961-8703, or email kat.bird@shaw.ca, or visit my website: www.kathiebird.com. Books can be ordered from the Canadian College of Healing Arts, <http://www.canadiancollegeofhealingarts.com/default.aspx?page=23>, and soon from Amazon.

Amazing work ... and I get to write about it. © I love my job!

If you know of any talented artists or entertainers that you would like to see featured in Eagle Feather News, drop me a line at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com. See you next month!



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY
SASKATOON

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The UAS Steering Committee invites interested applicants to submit a project proposal that supports urban Aboriginal communities, by promoting self reliance and increasing life choices for Aboriginal people living in Saskatoon. Only Saskatoon based organizations will be accepted.

Submission Format:

- Hardcopy must be on 8½" x 11" white paper with a minimum size 12 font. Please provide six copies, with a signed original.
- Fax and email submissions will not be accepted.
- Proposals may be hand-delivered to the address below and proposals that are mailed must be postmarked by December 13, 2010 and sent to:

UAS Steering Committee
2010 - 7th Street East
Saskatoon Saskatchewan S7H 5K6

UAS Proposal Writing Workshops...

will be held on November 24th & 25th, 2010. As new application forms are being implemented, interested organizations are encouraged to attend.

For further information, please contact:

Victoria Stevens, UAS Coordinator @ (306) 659-2500

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Angst of First Nations teen theme of Hayden Taylor play

The Persephone Theatre's ISC Youth Series is presenting a production of Toronto at Dreamer's Rock in the BackStage Stage for students.

The play was created by Drew Hayden Taylor and is being produced by 4E Presentations, which is headed by Curtis Peeteetuce. The cast features Lance Larrocque, Waylon Machiskinic and Arron Naytowhow.

Toronto at Dreamers Rock is a portrayal of a teenage boy who is torn between the traditions of his people, which he only vaguely understands, and the lure of modern life.

A teenage boy's magical encounter with two members of his tribe – one from 400 years in the past and one from 100 years in the future – make him aware of how little he has thought about what it means to be a First Nations youth.

Peeteetuce, a veteran of the theatre scene in Saskatoon, is excited about the challenges the play will throw at the young audiences that attend.

"Basically the character has to decide if he is going to be an alcoholic for his life or if he is going to do something about it," said Peeteetuce during a quick break in rehearsals.

"This is a story of identity and coming of age. Who are his people and what his community is. It will



Lance Larrocque plays a character challenged by ancient and future members of his tribe played by Waylon Machiskinic and Arron Naytowhow.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

challenge the audience because they will see something of themselves in the character. They will see his anger and go, that's how I feel sometimes."

The play will run in November in Saskatoon and also show on tour in Regina, Piapot First Nation, Beardy's First Nation and to Lac la Ronge.

Best-ever Aboriginal music festival thrills Saskatoon audience

**By Jessica Iron
For Eagle Feather News**

A recent gathering of Aboriginal entertainers provided a glimpse of just how huge the North American talent pool is.

On October 29, Aboriginal performers, artists, spectators and sponsors gathered for the 7th Annual Aboriginal Music Festival at TCU Place, in Saskatoon to raise money for Aboriginal Youth Leadership Development Programs.

Chair of the festival, Alex Munoz, says there were at least two reasons for organizing the Saskatoon event.

"One is to showcase and provide a major stage to highlight the vast, expanding pool of Aboriginal Talent that have now touched all forms of music.

"The second is to raise funds for the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Development Projects, which are events that the Indigenous Peoples Program at the University of Saskatchewan organizes and delivers to help build leadership qualities amongst Aboriginal youth through culture,

art and science," Munoz said.

Following the career fair and youth leadership workshops, spectators were treated to a full line-up of entertainment from across North America, hosted by MCs Cal Arcand and Larissa Burnouf. Performers included: Dory Cook with Dieter Braun, Kevin Arcand, Bass Invaders Project, New Horizon, Ed Peekeekoot, Krystle Pederson, Jason Chamakese and Robert Gladue, Violet Naytowhow, Mykal Gambull, Eekwol, Inez, John J. Cook, Keith Secola, Gabriel Ayala, Billy Joe Green, Black Rain and Just the Boyz.

Gabriel Ayala, a classical guitarist from Tucson, Arizona, and one of the performers, was impressed by all the talent.

"So many artists – it's very diverse. I think it's nice. It's everything all in one and everyone is so supportive," commented Ayala.

Trained all over the world in various styles, Ayala treated the crowd to a style of music he created called jazzmenco, a fusion of jazz and flamenco. He also sat in with Keith Secola for a few songs.

At the end of Secola's performance, during "Indian Car" the crowd broke into an impromptu round dance. "What a great

turnout! This was the best year ever!" said Jason Chamakese one of the performers and a member of the AMF committee.



MC Cal Arcand, festival chair Alex Munoz and MC Larissa Burnouf at the Aboriginal Music Fest.

(Photo by Jessica Iron)

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Logos at the bottom: Saskatchewan Arts Board, Council des Arts du Canada, Saskatchewan Council for the Arts, City of Saskatoon, Eagle Feather News.

Cameco wraps up northern tour with cheque for Hatchet Lake

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Aboriginal communities have arrived at a place where resource based companies have to come to them to ensure that their mining operations flow smoothly. In this new era of corporate social responsibility, there is now more focus on communication to and investment in communities than ever before.

Cameco, a world leader in engaging Aboriginal communities in their business just wrapped up their 2010 northern tour, a three week trek to First Nation and Métis communities across northern Saskatchewan. Darwin Roy is the Co-ordinator of Northern Community Relations for Cameco and the tour is one of his responsibilities, one that he takes very seriously.

"As a northerner myself I know how important this information is for the people to hear," said Roy who was born and raised in Beauval.

"And I know how important it is for us to hear what the communities have to say. We take a lot of guidance from what they tell us."

Quite often the reports in the northern tours are about mine site updates, employment opportunities and the environment.

"For sure the number one topic is the protection of the environment," said Roy.

"So we give them as much information as we can on the topic. In the past there were requests for these presen-

tations to be made in traditional languages so we make sure to bring a Cree or Dene translator depending on the community. People really appreciate it and it only makes sense to do the presentations in the traditional language."

Northern leaders do appreciate hearing from industry about business in their territories, but at least one Chief wants industry to do more.

"Our Elders have been very concerned about the mines

with our infrastructure, but do the math. We have 1,600 people on reserve here, how much is that each?" he asked.

"We have bad infrastructure here and need houses and roads. The government and industry have to do better. Right now, to leave the reserve, I have to take a \$450, 15-minute flight to get to where our cars are parked and access a road. Besides the Band, the mines are our biggest employer, so we know they are necessary, but we have lots of challenges to face into the future together."

In its eighth year, the Cameco northern tour has proven to be invaluable to the business and to their stakeholder communities in the exchange of information.

"We have to be there in their communities," said Roy. "We mine in their traditional territories and these people are our stakeholders. We need to share this information and listen to what they say and learn from that. The relationship is vital."



From left, Hatchet Lake First Nation Councillor George Tsannie and Chief Bart Tsannie accept a cheque from Darwin Roy, Co-ordinator of Northern Community Relations for Cameco who is joined by James Andrews and Cameco Rabbit Lake GM Dave Rezansoff.

and the impact on our environment and our health," said Hatchet Lake First Nation Chief Bart Tsannie.

"But at the same time, our community needs jobs and business opportunities so we have to work together and understand each other. I wish they would come more than they actually do and to give more revenue than they do, but it is a process."

Chief Tsannie is blunt about the challenges they face as an isolated First Nation.

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While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



SIIT president Randell Morris (left) welcomed visitors to the brand new Saskatchewan Aviation learning Centre. (Right) The Eagle Staff was drummed in past a helicopter, several airplanes and two hundreds guests and dignitaries. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

New aviation learning centre prepared for takeoff in Saskatoon

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A spanking new building has risen from an empty lot in Saskatoon's airport area. The facility was opened in a good way as the Eagle Staff and dignitaries were drummed in past airplanes, a helicopter and a couple hundred people to celebrate the opening of the Saskatchewan Aviation Learning Centre.

The Centre will be host to students of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology's Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Program and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology's (SIAT) Commercial Pilot Program.

The Learning Centre is a partnership of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), the Government of Canada (Western Economic Diversification and Industry Canada), the Province of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatoon Airport Authority.

The new 25,000 square foot facility was built after SIIT secured investments from aerospace and defence companies Boeing, Rockwell Collins, and Lockheed Martin under Canada's Industrial and Regional Benefits policy to support development of its aviation trades training programs.

"SIIT is very excited to announce the grand opening of the Saskatchewan Aviation Learning Centre," said President and CEO Randell Morris of Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

"We are pleased to see all the hard work and effort pay off. All of the students are impressed with the new surroundings. This is the first training program and facility of its kind in Saskatchewan. We have great partners and friends to thank and share in the success," Morris said.

"The provincial government is proud to work with SIIT, the federal government and the aviation industry partners to bring aircraft maintenance engineering training to First Nations learners and others right here in Saskatchewan," Minister of Advanced Education Employment and Immigration Rob Norris said.

"This program will help meet the strong labour market demand for aviation maintenance training and, given the partnership between SIAT and SIIT, keeps our learners and employees in Saskatchewan."

The building and programs run by SIIT have been made possible by investments from major aerospace companies and a wide array of partners, each of which spoke at the elaborate opening ceremonies.

"Through the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer program and earlier investments Boeing made to help establish an SIIT computer lab, First Nations youth are gaining the required knowledge necessary to enter the aviation trades workforce," said Gwen Kopsie, Director of International Strategic Partnerships for Boeing Defense, Space & Security.

"Boeing continues to build on its 90-year partnership with Canada through Industrial & Regional Benefits programs that benefit Canadian workers, Canadian industry, as well as Universities and Post Secondary Institutions such as SIIT."

SIAT students will also be housed in the building, and fittingly, it is the commercial pilots program that will be moving to the airport area. "Accommodations in SIIT's new aviation centre offers SIAT's Commercial Pilot students a number of benefits, not the least of which is being at the centre of aviation in Saskatoon," says Dr. Robert (Bob) G. McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAT.

"We appreciate the opportunity offered to us by SIIT. It gives our students greater exposure to industry, and it lets them learn alongside other students destined for careers in the aviation field."

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Program designed to encourage business pros

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan and the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada have signed an unprecedented articulation agreement in which both organizations signify their intent to work together to establish academic programs that will be delivered by the Edwards School to support Aboriginal Peoples.

The articulation agreement gives students with an Aboriginal Financial Management diploma from the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association the option of entering the BComm program at the U of S with advanced standing, meaning it will take them less time to finish their degree.

"This agreement launches a partnership between the Edwards School of Business and the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association," said Daphne Taras, dean at the Edwards School of Business.

"We are excited about this opportunity to work together to create more educational opportunities for Aboriginal students."

The agreement was signed by Dean Taras and Aboriginal Financial Officers Association Saskatchewan President Dana Soonias during the Association's annual fall conference held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. The agreement was witnessed by Provincial Minister of Advanced Education Rob Norris.

"Good things come of relationship-building, and I hope that we will have a steady increase in Aboriginal student admissions and convocation celebrations," said Taras.

The new dean of the Edwards School of business has hit the ground running and has spent valuable time making inroads into the Aboriginal community including having a sweat lodge ceremony at the Whitecap Dakota First Nation with Elders Walter and Maria Linklater and attending Aboriginal awareness seminars to get a better lay of the land in Saskatchewan.

"Just look at the demographics of this province. We



On hand to witness the agreement was Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris, who joined Edwards School of Business Dean Daphne Taras, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association President and COO Ernie Daniels and Aboriginal Financial Officers Association Saskatchewan President Dana Soonias in celebrating the agreement.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

want more First Nation and Métis people in our college. At the Edwards School, we are committed to a partnership vision and when it comes to Aboriginal initiatives, we mean business."

The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association was founded in 1999 to raise financial and management skills in First Nations and build the foundation for self-government. The Association's premise is that developing finance and management skills is essential to Aboriginal economic and social prosperity. Since its founding, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association has built a solid reputation in developing Aboriginal educational and certification programs for financial managers. The Aboriginal Financial Management program was designed by Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada to lead to the Certified Aboriginal Financial Managers (CAFMs) design-

nation. There are currently over 350 CAFMs in Canada.

The Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan is a comprehensive business school that has demonstrated a total commitment to an excellent educational experience for students for nearly 100 years. With over 100 faculty and staff, and over 2,100 students, the Edwards School has five degree programs, and four certificate programs in business administration, commerce and accounting.

"This represents an exceptional opportunity for Aboriginal people who are trying to pursue an education in the field of finance," said Ernie Daniels, President and Chief Operating officer of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada. "Aboriginal communities are in dire need of educated finance and business professionals, this partnership can do great things."

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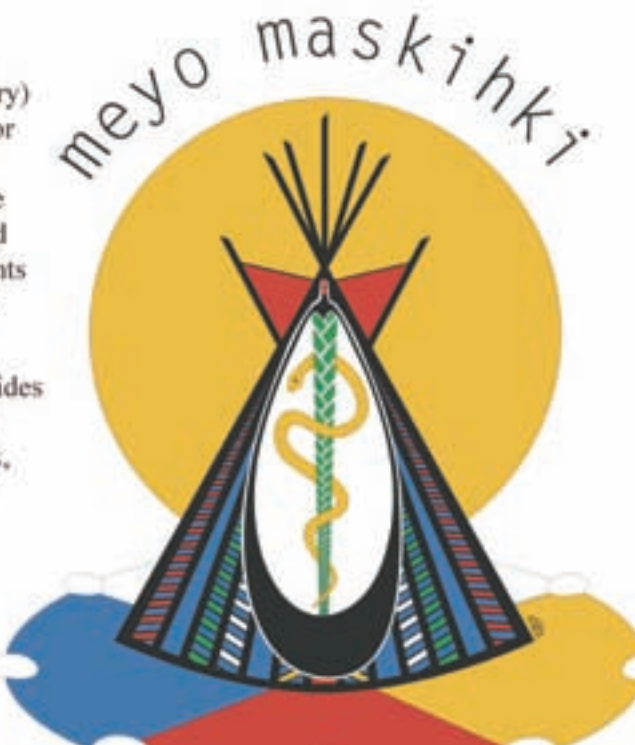
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For more information, please contact:
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Email: valerie.arnault@usask.ca
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Gilles Dorval is an equity consultant with the City of Saskatoon.

City recognized for workplace inclusion

Saskatoon equity consultant goes that extra mile

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The City of Saskatoon has been named the 2010 Employer of the Year by the Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program from the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work.

Mayor Don Atchison and several City staff were on hand at a luncheon to celebrate the event.

Atchison accepted the award on behalf of the city and acknowledged the award goes to the team.

"It is our marvellous staff that earned this," said Mayor Atchison.

One of those hard working staff members is Gilles Dorval, an employment equity consultant with the City of Saskatoon. He was asked to give the keynote presentation at the luncheon. Dorval highlighted many of the City's achievements including finding applicable work for a gentleman with autism and also a fellow who had had a serious head injury.

"By working with our management, the potential employee and with the folks at our unions, we were able to get these people good jobs," said Dorval to applause at the luncheon. He stressed the high level of cooperation between management, the union and other training organizations and the Saskatoon Tribal Council made it happen.

Dorval has been a tireless advocate for people with disabilities and in his speech he showed why he attacks his job with such passion.

"When I was young, I worked for a man who owned a fishing camp who was disabled, but that

didn't stop him from working," said Dorval who grew up in northern Saskatchewan.

"And my mom, because of MS, was in a wheelchair when her health was acting up. Try being a person in a wheelchair in northern Saskatchewan many years ago. Not a lot of ramps or accommodation, let me tell you.

"But it didn't stop my mom from working. But I tell ya, as a kid, seeing people park in handicap spots without a sticker really made me mad and I did key the odd car, believe me ... but not anymore, though," he joked.

The City received the award because they provide a supportive working environment accommodating employees, have a representative of the business directly involved with a disability service agency – in this case Gilles Dorval with the Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program Business Advisory Committee – they have a history of supporting Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program clients in job placements and collaborating as a team with other employers, government agencies and Partners for Workplace Inclusion Program and not only hiring persons with disabilities, but going the extra mile to assist in the maintenance of the position with the client.

That spirit shown by his mom has rubbed off on Dorval in his career and the many people who he's has gotten employment for have certainly benefited from his tireless commitment and insistence on going that extra mile.

National conference slated for Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Chapter of the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment Board of Directors has stepped to the plate this year to host the Association's 2011 national conference – "Taking it to the Next Level" to be held March 8, 9, and 10 in Saskatoon.

The committee launched the event in November at Wanuskewin Heritage Park with Honorary Chairs, businessman Lester Lafond and Milton Tootoosis from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner speaking on behalf of the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment.

Lafond and Tootoosis shared their expertise, experiences, and wisdom working with fellow professionals on

Aboriginal Employment initiatives and shared their thoughts on how others can join them in "Taking it to the Next Level".

This powerful conference will feature keynote speakers, a president's panel, and panel discussions which seek to move Aboriginal employment goals forward and to inspire business organizations to Take it to the Next Level.

Participants will learn about best practice initiatives surrounding recruitment, retention, and advancement of Aboriginal people in the workplace and how this can impact the bottom line in a good way.

Cameco has come on board as the title sponsor of the 2011 National Conference.



IANE (Interprovincial Association on Native Employment) promotes the employment of Aboriginal people by networking and sharing best practices. These committee members have been meeting for months to plan the March 2011 event.

(Photo submitted)



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Saskatchewan's Golden Boy being noticed in karate world

By Marjorie Roden
For Eagle Feather News

Gloria Merasty and Marc Caron could not have been prouder of their son, Braydon, at the National Shotokan Karate Championships in Winnipeg.

Braydon Caron, an 11-year-old member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, earned a gold medal in Team Kata. He trains under Sensei Marcel Lussier, who is based in St. Louis where the family resides.

Team Kata involves teams of three synchronizing karate forms, executed precisely and slowly. Now in his fifth year of training in karate – which to the serious karate athlete, is a lifetime of always challenging themselves to improve – Caron wasn't sure what to expect at the Nationals.

"I wasn't really sure on Team Kata and the other stuff, but then when I saw some of the other competitors in Team Kata, everyone was happy on our team!" Caron said enthusiastically.

Team Saskatchewan came away with a gold medal in the event for competitors between the ages of eight to 11 years old.

To qualify for nationals, youth competitors must have a minimum of a

brown belt in karate. Caron has his second degree brown belt. He has also competed at tournaments within his own dojo (training facility), so he was aware of the

rules of tournament play.

The varying degrees within each colour belt category are the reason why many people take a lifetime to study and

train in karate, to challenge themselves to earn the higher-ranked belts. At the tournament itself, the focus was on the competitors challenging themselves and pushing their own limits.

Caron also competes in school sports such as cross country running, badminton, and volleyball. His non-sports related activities include playing video games and reading.

"I enjoy The Chronicles of Narnia and other chapter books," said Caron, adding he also likes reading about history.

Later in the afternoon, Caron competed in the individual kata event, making it to the final four, but finished one point out of getting a medal.

Although he initially seemed disappointed with his fourth place finish, Sensei Marcel Lussier was anything but disappointed, seeing the huge potential his pupil had at his first national tournament.

"Hopefully, Braydon sticks around, his family just bought a house in St. Louis," said Sensei Marcel Lussier on the hope of having Braydon as a member of his dojo in future years.



Braydon Caron (right) competed at the National Shotokan Karate Championships in Winnipeg.

(Photo by Marjorie Roden)

 A large photograph of a male worker in a green long-sleeved uniform shirt and a white hard hat. He is smiling and standing on a metal walkway with yellow safety railings. In the background, there are large industrial tanks and structures.

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Time to put the clubs in storage, start a fitness program

With the weird weather, you wouldn't know it, but the golf season is wrapping up. Over at the Dakota Dunes Golf Links, the Men's and Ladies club has wound down for the year and have hosted their annual play downs.

The Championship weekend was Sept 11-12 and Keegan Lafond won the Men's side and Loretta Pete Lambert won the Ladies. The Men's championship took two extra holes to decide with a three man playoff.

This was the fourth year of the club and membership continues to grow.

"We had a good year," said Ernie Scoles, President of the club. "We had prizes every week for the golfers, a great tournament and we are growing in membership. Despite the rain, the course was great all year and we look forward to more fun and golf next year with this group."

"Our sponsors, like Eagle Feather News and the Ramada, where we have our steak night, help. We are starting early fundraising this year with a wine tasting event in January or February so stay tuned."



Dakota Dunes Men's and Ladies Club President Ernie Scoles presents Men's Champ Keegan Lafond with his first prize loot. Loretta Pete Lambert won the Women's championship.

be hosted by the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs in April 2012.

Fit First is captivating

How do you tackle the obesity and diabetes issue in Aboriginal communities? It turns out you have to hire a psycho boxing trainer and submit to his work out. Fit First is a weight loss show on APTN that has trainer Kent Brown of the Untied Boxing Club challenge three women and one man who are overweight and need to make a change in their lives. As they embark on very

personal journeys, each will be pushed to their breaking point, and challenged to go beyond it. It takes courage, drive and determination – in mind, body and spirit – to do what they are doing.

As they begin to experience lower numbers on the scale, improved fitness, and increased confidence, their stories will inspire in ways even they did not expect. And through losing weight, they just may find their own inner 'warrior spirit' along the way.

Watch this show once, and you will be hooked on their stories and challenges....



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY
SASKATOON

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2011-2012

**Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy
Capacity Agreement Holder
DEADLINE: January 10, 2011 @ 4:00 p.m.**

The Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) invites Saskatoon based Aboriginal organizations to submit a proposal **to seek to provide administrative support** to the Saskatoon UAS Steering Committee.

Submission Format:

- Hardcopy must be on 8½" x 11" white paper with a minimum size 12 font. Please provide six copies, with a signed original.
- Fax and email submissions will not be accepted.
- Proposals may be hand-delivered to the address below and proposals that are mailed must be postmarked by January 10, 2011 and sent to:

**Attn: Victoria Stevens, Co-ordinator
Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy
2010 - 7th Street East
Saskatoon Saskatchewan S7H 5K6**

Questions on this application guide and/or the assessment process can be submitted to:

**Shirley Greyeyes, Development Officer
Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
Tel: (306) 373-0528, E-mail: shirley.greyeyes@ainc-inac.gc.ca**

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