

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Students' Centre offers support

Lori Delorme, Kathleen Makela, Jordan Aimoe and Pat Olesiuk offer services and support to the over 1,700 Aboriginal students that attend the University of Saskatchewan. Missing from the photo is team member Annie Battiste. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



University life can be intimidating

By Braden Dupuis
For Eagle Feather News

For many first year Aboriginal students, adapting to university life can be a difficult process. Being away from home, surrounded by strangers, and on campus for the first time can quickly amount to one very intimidating experience.

Young indigenous scholars need not fear, however, as the Aboriginal Students' Centre at the University of Saskatchewan is ready, willing and able to offer all manner of support to new and returning students.

The Centre staff know firsthand the pressures facing young Aboriginal students, which is why they go out of their way to provide a welcoming environ-

ment year-round.

"Our people are very friendly, outgoing and welcoming," said Lori Delorme, Resource Coordinator for the Centre.

"We know what it's like, we've been there, and these students who have never been on campus and are struggling just to adjust, I think that's the comfort they can take here."

One major factor in helping new students find success at university is helping them grow accustomed to their new surroundings in their first few weeks on campus, an area where the Centre goes above and beyond.

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DAY OF MOURNING

The list gets longer every year but victims of the cruel street life are not being forgotten.

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REMEMBERING JACK

Jack Layton was a respected figure in Saskatchewan. He made several visits to the province as NDP leader.

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FIDDLEFEST

John Arcand hosted his annual Fiddle Fest in August attracting a number of eager young musicians.

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HIGHWAY HUMOUR

Tomson Highway credits a sense of humour for some of his success.

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POWWOW SEASON

Flying Dust First Nation returned to an important cultural event seven years ago. They're glad they did.

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Welcome to our
Back to School Edition

Coming In October:
Role Models and Education Issue

CPMA #40027204

Wanuskewin Heritage Park connects to school curriculum

Wanuskewin Heritage Park has a commitment to being a centre for educational excellence for youth in Saskatchewan. The special significance of Wanuskewin is revealed by educational programs that explore the archaeology, history, culture, natural beauty and spirituality of this place.

Through delivering educational programs and working with teachers and students, the park works to create awareness, sensitivity and knowledge of Northern Plains Indigenous cultures in both First Nation and non-First Nation visitors. Partnership, respect, tolerance, teaching, learning and understanding are the values upon which the Park was founded and under which they continue to operate today.

As curriculum renewal in Saskatchewan moves forward with a focus on the ways of knowing, content and perspectives of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, Wanuskewin is working to ensure that their programs respectfully and authentically meet the needs of teachers and learners.

Having the opportunity to work closely with students and teachers is

important to Wanuskewin Heritage Park because it is through this relationship that their mission—to advance the understanding and appreciation of the evolving cultures of the Northern Plains Indigenous peoples—of the park is achieved.

In an on-going effort to support students and teachers, Wanuskewin Heritage Park has aligned their educational programs, walks and modules with the renewed Saskatchewan Curriculum. The park has developed a Teacher's Planning Guide and Curriculum Connections that provide detailed information on how their programs meet the goals, outcomes and indicators of the renewed Saskatchewan Curriculum. Program listings, a Teacher's Planning Guide and Curriculum Connections can be found in the Teacher's Resources section of www.wanuskewin.com.

Wanuskewin's Tipi Raising program, for example, explores how Cree people set up their homes and the values that are associated with each part of the tipi. This program achieves curriculum goals in the subjects of Social Studies, ELA, Health Education and Science in Grades 3, 4, 7 and 8. Whether a class is walking the beautiful valley, handling actual artefacts,



Lessons in tipi raising are part of the program at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

or enjoying a traditional demonstration, Wanuskewin is a safe, stress-free environment that can enhance your understanding of the diversity of First Nation cultures in Saskatchewan.

Educational programs that are offered at Wanuskewin include: Tipi Raising, Bison Hunt, Bison Kitchen, Bison Jump, Traditional Games, First Nations Technology, as well as guided trail walks and educational modules that explore archaeology and Opimihaw Creek.

Learners of all ages visit Wanuskewin Heritage Park all year long to tour the visitor centre, walk the trails, participate in educational and cultural programs and most of all to gather and visit with family and friends.

As students and teachers head back to school this fall, Wanuskewin is there to support students and teachers as they explore their connection to the land and discover what Wanuskewin means to them.

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Sadly, Day of Mourning list of names continues to grow

Shelby has a friend that is missing. She does not know where she is, nor does the girl's family. They are all concerned that she has become the victim of foul play. They are all worried that her missing friend may one day be one of the names that are read off at the annual Day of Mourning walk and community gathering. The names are of those who have lost their lives on the street.

"We do this for them," said Shelby. "A lot of people have no support, or get a lot of pressure to get into drugs. Or they meet the wrong people at the wrong time. And then we lose them."

Shelby and the committee at Egadz invest countless hours in preparing for this event to honour their friends. Candles and pins are carefully put together, the venue is booked, dignitaries are invited and a list is compiled of the people the community comes to honour. This year the list grew by 12 names to get to over 60 people now. It is a list of those who are gone, but because of the Day of Mourning, not forgotten.



The volunteer organizing committee for the Day of Mourning consists of clockwise from bottom left Cree Crain, Trina Turner, Shelby LaRose, Jessica Collins and Cayla Saulteaux. Missing is Ashayla Beads.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Day of Mourning participants walked through the heart of the hood in Saskatoon and then placed their candles on a table covered with sand. Bannock and soup was served to all afterward.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart looks on as balloons symbolizing each person lost to the streets are released. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Editorial

Back to school, time to experiment

Well, it's finally back to school time and our little ones are being shipped out daily to get the guidance and wisdom of their teachers imparted on them.

We have done our best to make sure they have the ten glue sticks, 30 pencils (only 10 sharpened!) and the right amount of duo tangs to ensure the learning process is perfect because we want our little angels to excel in school.

Then, sometimes, folks don't or can't feed their children breakfast and then we pack some processed lunchables and a bag of chips for their lunch and set them back ages! We have to realize that nutrition, exercise and proper diet are key pieces in the education of our children.

University of Saskatchewan PhD student Sarah Oosman recently worked with Elders, teachers and community members in Ile a la Crosse to develop a set of lessons focusing on physical activity and nutrition for a split grade 3-4 class.

This included in-class physical activity, nutrition and health lessons along with five-minute physical activity flash cards and family packs that reinforced the classroom lessons at home.

The results were very encouraging. The children displayed healthy lifestyle changes and more importantly, so did the families! Oosman pointed out that one family started talking about the large amount of pop that they drank.

Now they don't have any in the home. And with the scourge of Type-2 diabetes growing from abuse of junk food and pop, taking pop out of the home can only be a good thing.

The children's health and activity levels increased as a result of this project. Happy and healthy children are way more likely to do well in school compared to malnourished children. It isn't rocket science. We do know that many parents face challenges in getting their children proper nutrition.

Poverty is nasty and limits food options. But if you do it right, plant a garden and realize that fruit and vegetables are actually cheaper than junk food, you can make the choice for yourself and more importantly your children.

To see what the challenge is to live on a diet that many in poverty have, I am going to be taking the Food Basket Challenge with the Saskatoon Food Bank. Several media and community members are getting a food bank box of rations that a typical single person has to live on for a week.

And then I will live on that food and blog about it until the food is gone, I quit out of hunger, or I make the week. I am allowed enough side ingredients to make bannock and coffee basically and I can go to the Friendship Inn for lunch. Should be interesting.

To follow the experiment go to:
<http://www.foodbasketchallenge.com/>



LAYTON POPULAR IN SASK

At the 2005 First Ministers Meeting, the recently deceased Jack Layton posed for a photo with then Premier Lorne Calvert, Jim Searson and Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook Searson. Jim holds Pesim Searson, the youngest registered delegate at the Accord table as a Saskatchewan delegate as mom was still breastfeeding. Jack Layton, the Leader of the NDP, died August 22 from cancer. His death shocked Canadian citizens. He was a good friend and activist for the First Nation, Métis and Inuit people of Canada. He will truly be missed.

CBC special on First Nation employment

In October, CBC Saskatchewan will take an in-depth look at First Nations employment in their series "Employing the Future." The series will take you across the province looking at the successes and challenges of employing the province's fastest-growing population.

The series will take people on a trip through the boardrooms, band offices and businesses where First Nations people work.

And in the coming issues, Eagle Feather News will take a special look at the stories that are shaping the job market in Indian Country.

You can see Employing the Future during the evening newscasts on your local CBC TV station, or keep your radio tuned to CBC Radio at 540 AM starting October 3.

..... also coming in October

Also in October we will have the lowdown on the FSIN election and a preview of the provincial election.

Due to space restrictions this month, we had to drop many stories.

Those stories are too good to miss so we have made them available on our webpage in the photo gallery section.



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Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ., P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4

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FSIN should go back to roots with humility

There's been lots of back and forth about the fiasco and rift in the FSIN this past week and a lot of hoopla about sovereignty. Things are never as black and white as they seem to be; reality is usually somewhere in the complicated grey zone.

However, facts in that grey zone are seldom made public, so we do not have enough facts to make solid judgements. All we really have is a bunch of opinions. Opinions are intensely personal judgment seldom based on facts and all bound up in feelings that often go beyond the boundaries of good sense. A judgment is only as good as the evidence that supports it.

What we do know is that the entire FSIN fiasco is not good for any of us in the short run or the long haul. It all stinks and only a major housecleaning is going to get rid of that stench.

Of the many issues this fiasco has raised, one question that will continue to be hotly debated concerns nature and authority of the FSIN—is the FSIN a sovereign entity?

Sovereignty is defined as “the exclusive right to exercise supreme authority over a geographic region or group of people, such as a nation or a tribe.” Sovereignty is generally vested in a government or other political agency. In international law it refers to the exercise of power by a

state that has both the legal right and the ability to exercise sovereignty. The real test of sovereignty is met when its decisions and authorities cannot be overruled by any other higher authority.

Our individual First Nations never gave up their sovereignty during the Treaty negotiations and while our sovereign authorities have been diminished by the Indian Act, we continue the fight to reassert our sovereignty through self-determination and self-government. The FSIN's position is that it is a voluntary political government comprised of sovereign and independent First Nations. That position goes back to the FSIN Convention of 1982 which intended to transform the FSIN from a non-profit corporation into a governmental system representing the member First Nations.

But since 2007 the provincial courts have argued that the FSIN is not a sovereign body. Justice Ron Mills, in the Guy Lonechild case, referred to the 2007 decision of a case launched by the Battlefords Tribal Council against the FSIN in which that judge ruled that the FSIN is not a sovereign body. Rather, “it is a political organization with, as yet, undetermined

legal status. Perhaps one of the best descriptions of its identity would be a voluntary unincorporated association of the Chiefs in Saskatchewan which represents the interests of First Nations persons in Saskatchewan based upon the principles and procedures outlined in their founding document, “The Conventions Act, 1982.”

Mills ruled last week that while 74 First Nations joined together to create the FSIN “It does not logically flow that the organization itself is sovereign. The FSIN is not an independent First Nation. It is not incorporated and its legal status has yet to be determined by any court.”

Back in 1982 Doug Cuthand, then First Vice Chief of the FSI, stated “a non-profit organization cannot be a political body... to exist as a political body for Indian Nations, FSIN can only get its authority from the chiefs.”

The intention at that time was for the FSIN to form an Indian government but many now question whether this is the best model. It is certainly not clear that it was ever intended to be a sovereign entity.

Nowhere in the goals and objectives of

the FSIN does it speak to the self-proclaimed sovereignty of the organization. Its goals and objectives are:

- The protection of Treaties and Treaty Rights.
- The fostering of progress in the economic, education and social endeavours of First Nation people.
- Co-operation with civil and religious authorities.
- Constructive criticism and thorough discussion on all matters.
- The adherence to democratic procedure.
- The promotion of respect and tolerance for all people.

These are the goals and objectives of a political organization, mandated to serve its member communities, not exert sovereign authority over them. It is the servant of sovereign nations; it is not a sovereign body in and of itself.

The original mandates of the FSIN were to be our political watchdogs and lobbyists, and our Treaty Rights protectors. There is a strong will at the grassroots for the FSIN to go back to its original mandate, with humility and integrity, and leave the governing and programs business to our First Nations. Too much power and authority at the top and in the wrong hands is a recipe for disaster.



Letters to the Editor ...

In Eagle Feather News of August 2011, page 5, your esteemed writer has grossly misinterpreted and even falsely assumed that the Patuanak Bridge has some connection to nuclear waste. I wish to address that false assumption and correct her views.

This bridge that spans the Churchill River will be called the Willow Heart Bridge named after a Dene Seer (a Dene lady) that foretold many things that are happening today. This bridge has been negotiated with the Indian Affairs Department for the past ten years or so. This bridge was built for a specific reason and I will share that info with your paper and set the record straight in the mind of Maria Campbell. **THIS BRIDGE IN PATUANAK HAS NOTHING WHATSOEVER WITH NUCLEAR WASTE.**

Our Community Reserve cannot accommodate the growing population. There is no more room to build houses and so it was deemed necessary that we start developing the opposite side of our community across the Churchill River. Through the TLE process, English River First Nations bought more land on the other side of the Churchill River. We will now begin to build a new townsite in this area and that will include a bigger and modern Lagoon system.

This bridge was necessary and after much negotiations with our fiduciary, the Indian Affairs Department, now called Aboriginal Affairs, we got the funds to build this bridge. **THAT IS WHY THIS BRIDGE WAS BUILT** and not the way as

described by Maria Campbell in her article.

Chief and Council at Patuanak are hearing so many versions of this bridge all based on gossip, innuendoes, and hearsay. I will suggest to Maria Campbell that she call us and get the facts straight. Her article is read by many and this falsehood is spread wider and hard to stem. The truth of this bridge is as reported above.

**Chief and Council
in Patuanak, Sask.**

When will the Saskatchewan Government and Premier Wall LISTEN???

We have already said overwhelmingly at the UDP consultations that we DO NOT want any added value placed on our uranium!

We have walked across the province uniting all peoples from the north and south getting them to sign a petition to Ban Nuclear Waste in Saskatchewan!

We want our tax dollars spent on Renewable Energy!

Have we not learned anything from yet from Fukushima?

We do not want a nuclear reactor or nuclear dump in **THE BREAD BASKET OF THE WORLD!**

Contact your elected officials and MLAs!

Stand up, don't be bullied or enticed!

Protect our people, our children and our children's children!

**Crystal Frenette
Shellbrook**

Rank Comix

Adam Martin



Future journalists learning the ropes from media pros

By Shannon Avison
For Eagle Feather News

As more First Nations journalists appear on radio and television newscasts and on the pages of newspapers, there are more role models for young people to follow. But how do you get started?

This summer aspiring writers and broadcasters found out.

Twenty students took part in the two-part INCA summer experience – a seven-week crash course in all forms of journalism, and a two-month internship in media organizations throughout the province.

The teachers in the INCA Summer Institute in Journalism (also called INCA boot camp) are working journalists who took time off their jobs to come and work with the students.

TV instructor Richard Agecutay took INCA in the mid-1980s and has since travelled across Canada to get training and experience. Today he is a CBC Sports cameraman, who shoots for Hockey Night in Canada. In the past he has shot FIFA World Cup soccer, the Commonwealth Games and the Beijing Olympics. When he's not shooting sports he covers major Canadian events, most recently the funeral of Jack Layton.

"I am happy to come back to Regina

and teach our young people," he says. "This is how I give back. I have been very lucky during the course of my career. I've had many people share their knowledge and expertise with me.

"Some people take what they know and

same level of success I've experienced."

But that level of confidence comes after years of experience, and some of the students started out feeling unsure of their abilities.

Alina Perrault remembers: "I had some concerns in regards to my abilities but now I



INCA students Alina Perrault (left) and Penny Smoke at CBC in Regina.

hide it away. They keep what they know secret and won't share it with others. That's not the Indian way. We have the responsibility to share our knowledge with others. When we share our knowledge we build capacity within our communities. I want to share what I know so everyone I mentor can achieve the

feel really passionate about who I am and what I can do."

"We really got our foot in the door," says Perrault. "We got the best teachers—people that normally we would never meet... we got to meet and work with them," she adds.

"The instructors were fantastic to

work with," Michelle Jones says. "They were so helpful.

"We were all there for each other," says Jones. "When we ran into problems there was always someone there to help."

The talents and dedication of the instructors was overwhelming, the students "All of the people who came to instruct us were professionals," says Aaron Tootoosis. "The camera guys, the radio people, the executives from CBC themselves. It's something that really makes the program special."

After seven weeks of INCA boot camp, most of the students went on to complete two-month internships.

Perrault and Penny Smoke went to CBC in Regina. They wrote greens (background information for the radio hosts on interviews for the show) and complete packs (complete stories that include their voices in intros and bridges).

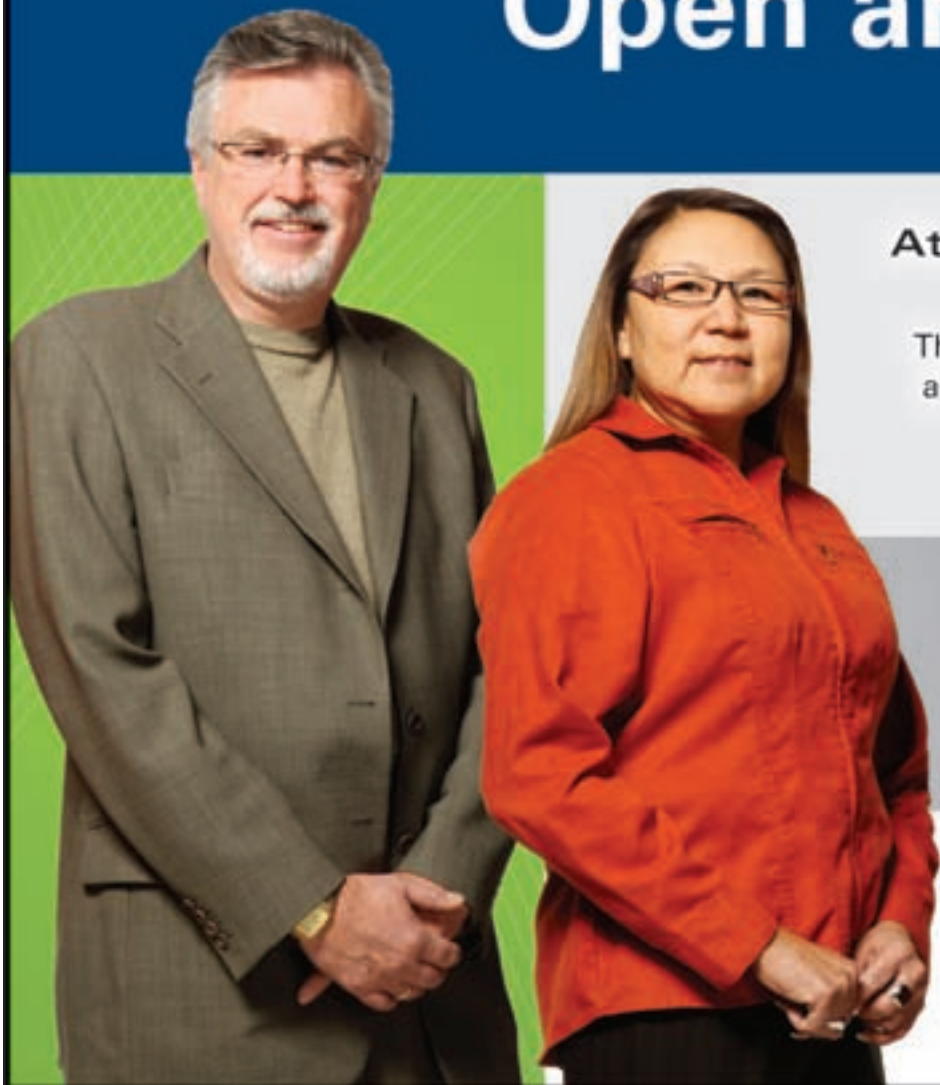
"I found it so awesome when my ideas made it to air," says Smoke.

"I loved being in the mix when breaking news hit," she adds. "It was exciting to know what was coming on the news or even about the things that couldn't make the news."

The INCA Summer Institute is a requirement for the INCA certificate program.

Anyone who is interested in INCA can contact savison@fnuniv.ca

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First World War veteran finally properly honoured

By Carmen Pauls Orthner
For Eagle Feather News

A First Nations soldier has finally been honoured for his military service – more than five decades after his death.

On March 23, 1916, after walking from the Little Hills reserve near La Ronge to Prince Albert, 18-year-old Joseph Halkett enlisted in the Canadian army. He joined the 107th Overseas Battalion, and served in the First World War for three years before returning home.

Halkett died on May 24, 1956, but for the next 55 years, all that marked his grave in the Lac La Ronge Indian Band's cemetery near La Ronge was a small, weathered stone, reading simply, 'Was At War'.

The injustice of that tiny marker, especially in contrast to the tall white headstones honouring other soldiers buried in the same cemetery, prompted some of Halkett's descendants to seek a proper memorial for him – and on August 16, that wish was finally granted.

That afternoon, a strong, cool wind lifted through the poplar and birch trees lining the road leading to the Lac La Ronge band cemetery, as a group of approximately 50 people started off on a Walk of Honour in Halkett's memory.

The crowd – with Halkett's now elderly son Douglas in front – gathered in a semi-circle beneath the tall, thin pines surrounding the grave, where the old stone had been placed at the base of a brand-new, specially commissioned war veteran's grave marker.

"Accept this monument, which we place in the memory of our departed brother," prayed Gary Smalldon, one of two presiding clergymen.



Douglas Halkett (in wheelchair), son of the late Joseph Halkett, participates in a service at his father's gravesite, where a tombstone was placed August 16 in honour of the elder Halkett's service in the First World War.

(Photo by Carmen Pauls Orthner)

After the formal funeral liturgy, four northern Aboriginal war veterans shared reflections, placed red poppies on the headstone, as did Halkett's first cousin once removed, Albert Ross, who remembered his late relative both as a leader and as a man who liked to joke and was always easy to talk with.

The Last Post was played, and then a moment of silence – broken first by sirens, then the cry of a raven, but at last just the soft shush of wind – was observed, followed by Reveille. The vets each laid a red poppy on the headstone and saluted, and words of blessing were said by the clergy before the

crowd dispersed.

Douglas Halkett's daughter, Grace Bell, began an e-mail campaign five years ago in hopes that her grandfather's military service would be properly recognized by the federal government. After the service, she said that she's very pleased that her father and her aunt – Halkett's last two remaining children – could at last see their own father honoured in this way.

"He served our country, and he had an unmarked grave. And to me, it wasn't right," Bell said. "I did the groundwork, and I'm glad that this has come to be – that rightfully, he now has a war veteran headstone."

GROWING WITH U

Cameco Northern Energy Tour 2011

Cameco is striving to double uranium production to 40 million pounds by 2018. This will create jobs and opportunities for people in northern Saskatchewan.

Find out how you can grow along with us by attending our Northern Energy Tour, as we visit 11 communities in northern Saskatchewan this year.

Cameco representatives will be on hand to provide information and listen to what our northern neighbours have to say. We hope you can join us.

Athabasca Basin

Tues. Oct. 11, 6-9 pm
Wed. Oct. 12, 6-9 pm
Thur. Oct. 13, 6-9 pm
Fri. Oct. 14, 6-9 pm

Fond du Lac/U.C./Cam.
Stony Rapids
Black Lake
Wollaston Lake

Father Gamache Memorial School Gymnasium
Stony Rapids School Gymnasium
Father Porte Memorial Dene School Gymnasium
Father Megret High School Gymnasium

Central Region

Tues. Oct. 18, 6-9 pm
Wed. Oct. 19, 6-9 pm
Thur. Oct. 20, 6-9 pm
Fri. Oct. 21, 6-9 pm

Pinehouse
Patuanak
Southend
La Ronge/Air Ronge

Minahik Waskahigan School Gymnasium
St. Louis School Gymnasium
Reindeer Lake School
Senator Myles Venne School

West Side

Tues. Oct. 25, 6-9 pm
Wed. Oct. 26, 6-9 pm
Thur. Oct. 27, 6-9 pm

Buffalo Narrows
Ile a la Crosse
Beauval

Twin Lakes School Gymnasium
Rossignol High School Gymnasium
Valley View School Gymnasium

For more information regarding the Cameco Northern Tour please contact Darwin Roy at (306) 425-4144. You can also reach Darwin at darwin_roy@cameco.com.

cameco.com



New students met by welcoming peers

• Continued from Page One

After orientation on Sept. 1, the first full week of classes sees four different events designed to ease new students into their new lives on campus.

It starts with breakfast on Sept. 6, where students will get a chance to meet upper year students and ASC staff members.

The following day, Elders Maria and Walter Linklater kick off their weekly soup and bannock luncheon meeting with students and open the door for anyone seeking further support.

On Thursday, University of Saskatchewan president Peter MacKinnon hosts the president's luncheon, giving him a chance to meet first-year students, and Friday sees a meet and greet hosted by the Indigenous Student Council.

The welcoming support is ongoing through the month of September as the Centre holds workshops covering everything from essay writing to finding your way around campus.

On top of all the first-week-festivities, they also produce a handbook designed to help new students deal with the ins and outs of living and learning on campus.

On Sept. 23, the ASC hosts their fourth

annual Meet the First Years Banquet at Dakota Dunes Casino, featuring entertainment from comedy/magic duo Double Vision.

"(The banquet) is just kind of an enjoyable night for students where they can just relax and get to meet other college and department heads," said Delorme.

One of the main staples of Aboriginal culture on campus at the U of S, the annual powwow, was changed from a Welcome Week event to a year-end event last year. Despite the change, the powwow remains stronger than ever after receiving permanent funding from the university, something ASC manager Kathleen Makela sees as an encouraging sign.

"I think that's a strong sign of support from the U of S that they recognize the importance of having a powwow to celebrate Aboriginal culture," she said.

The powwow also helps students to cope with being away from home and the culture they may miss while at university.

"Academics are one piece, but the other piece, the whole other mental and emotional and spiritual side, that's important too," added Makela.

Aside from the initial outpouring of support

in the first weeks of the school year, the Centre is also open year-round to assist students with all types of inquiries. Whether it is providing basic information on campus layout, to dealing with student loans, or even just someone to talk to, the doors are always open.

"We have the elders starting right away, so students that are having a hard

time adjusting to university life, or maybe they're missing their culture, they can find that here at the Aboriginal Students Centre. A sense of belonging is one of our mandates," said Delorme.

"I believe that our office really facilitates and promotes Aboriginal students' success."



A sod-turning in Saskatoon earlier this month celebrated the construction of 27 new rental suites for First Nations people who are either going to school or working in entry-level positions. The project is a partnership between the province, City of Saskatoon as well as the Saskatoon Tribal Council and Cress Housing Corporation, an organization dedicated to providing affordable and adequate housing for First Nations people in Saskatoon. Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas says this direction will help provide more opportunities for young people. "Increase our units not only for students...but we're also revitalizing other areas, like Pleasant Hill, where we're looking at purchasing apartments for people who have jobs, people who want to succeed."



Jesse Robson, an FCC employee and graduate of First Nations University spoke at the launch and wished that the fund was around when he and his wife were in school. "These things would have really helped," added Robson. "My wife and I were both in school and we had the 1 day pay check. It was all spent the day we got it." (Photo supplied)

FCC teams up with institutions to create student education fund

Farm Credit Corporation and four post-secondary institutions launched the FCC Aboriginal Student Empowerment Fund recently.

The initiative will help Aboriginal post-secondary students in Regina and Moose Jaw achieve their educational goals. FCC is providing \$50,000 to establish the fund.

"Having a diverse workforce strengthens FCC and positions us for long-term financial sustainability," said FCC Senior Vice-President, Human Resources Greg Honey.

"The FCC Aboriginal Student Empowerment Fund is a way for us to assist Aboriginal students and to create awareness about FCC as a potential employer. The cost of education goes

beyond tuition," Honey added.

"By providing up to \$1,000 per applicant to assist with costs such as bus passes, child care and damage deposits, students will be able to spend more time on school and less time worrying about finances."

The fund was developed in partnership with Aboriginal support centres from the First Nations University of Canada, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, and the University of Regina. Funding will be distributed to the institutions based on the Aboriginal student population enrolled in relevant programs of study at each institution. Each institution will administer the funding.

FCC Aboriginal Student Empowerment Fund

Bus pass or groceries?

Choose both – apply today



Help, when you need it most

Balancing school and personal expenses isn't easy. That's why you should know about the FCC Aboriginal Student Empowerment Fund. If you're in need of groceries, child care or just a little extra help to get through the month, apply any time to receive up to \$1,000.

Visit www.fcc.ca/studentfund to find out more.



Farm Credit Canada

Canada

Community matters

Each victim reacts differently to cancer diagnosis

Cancer has gone global. The number of new cancer cases has increased by 20 per cent in under a decade and now stands at 12 million a year according to the World Cancer Research Fund.

The number of cases is going up partly because we are an aging population but also because of changes in lifestyle. Many people are still unaware of risk factors like alcohol and obesity. This is a disturbing trend as 2.8 million new cancers each year are linked to diet, exercise and obesity.

Cancer came into my life in 1978 when my 30-year-old mother died of breast cancer. I was only 13 and the oldest of four children. I had no idea what cancer was but I knew that it was a killer.

It seemed that after Mom's death, cancer started popping up everywhere. Her older sister was diagnosed in the '80s and many more family members followed.

I was diagnosed when I was 36 years old – that was one of the scariest moments of my life. I was sitting in the doctors' office waiting to hear the results of my biopsy – when he came into the examining room and said the news is not good my heart fell to the floor. I kept thinking about the similarities between me and my deceased mother – she was young, I was young. She had four children, I had four children. She died, therefore I would die as well. Who was

going to take care of my children? What am I going to do? So many questions and decisions to be made, I was a mess.

That was ten years ago and I am still here! It took time to recover from surgeries and treatments but I did it. I came to realize that the Creator had given me the greatest gift and that was my own mortality.

I would never again be able to look at life as anything but a gift. Life is sweeter and time more precious. Since my diagnosis, my daughters have given me five grandchildren and I feel so blessed. My mother died before any of her grandchildren were born. There have been many times throughout the years where I have felt this tug at my heart, especially when I see my friends' mother's with their grandchildren and I ask myself why did my mother have to die?

It's a sad fact, but I had to realize that we will lose people to cancer. On the other hand some lucky ones, like me, will survive. I almost had a feeling of survivor guilt at times – why did she die and I get to live? Why are so many people in my family being diagnosed with cancer? What can I do to stop this from happening? I'm not a doctor or scientist but I



knew that I had to do whatever I could to fight back.

The medical community needs to hear stories from patients who have survived or are still battling with cancer.

They need to be reminded that we are human beings with complex emotions and that each individual will react differently to a cancer diagnosis.

And what of our family members; how do they deal with it? How do we tell our spouse or children? There are so many issues that I never thought about until it happened to me. There are so many cancer organizations that provide support and education for people dealing with cancer but nothing specific to Aboriginal people – I found a gap and it was huge. I took it upon myself to try and bring our Aboriginal voice to the table – what about us? I asked them.

People need to feel safe to share personal stories and with people who have similar interests. What I found was a group of older Caucasian ladies who had no idea about being an "Indian", no idea what it was like living in poverty. There was no way I could relate to their stories of taking time off work to travel with their families to Hawaii because this may

be the last holiday they had with their families.

I had never taken my children on a holiday. I had no job to take time off from. I was a divorced single mother in my final semester at the First Nations University of Canada and I needed my student allowance to feed my children. I couldn't eat five to 10 fruits and vegetables a day. I could barely afford to keep food on the table for my children.

This was my reality and the reality of many of our people. I began to think about those people that live on remote reservations. What would happen to them if they were diagnosed? Is there screening programs for them, and do they participate if they are available?

If a gap exists then fill it. Create your own support groups; talk to your family and friends about cancer, and when the opportunity arises to take part in screening programs take it!

People are living longer with cancer – I am living proof, and yes we will still lose people but don't get lost in that fact.

Life is meant to be lived and enjoyed. It is the greatest gift given to us, so enjoy.

Thank you for your letters and emails it is always nice to hear from the readers.

You can write to me at Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Sez PO Box 924, Saskatoon SK, S7K 3M4 or send me an email to sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

Until next month, take care. Ekosi.

VOTE!

**Bobby Cameron for
FSIN Second Vice Chief**

BOBBY CAMERON

RESUME

- BA major Indigenous Studies
- Special Education teacher for 5 years
- Facilitator at SaskTourism Education Council for 3 years

I BELIEVE IN...

- The Treaty right to education with comparable funding for First Nations communities
- Resource revenue sharing must benefit our people
- The NRTA agreement of 1930 must be revised and revisited
- We have to think of our children and children yet unborn
- We need to create a stable and prosperous future through economic development
- Language is imperative to our communities as well it is who we are as a people.
- By listening to and learning from the Elders, they can guide us to a brighter future

My heart and mind are in this race for our children, I believe we as leaders must never forget where we come from and to constantly strive for the betterment of our First Nations People.

CELL 306-203-4476

Gabriel Dumont resumes delivery of Cultural Fund

By Karon Shmon
For Eagle Feather News

SaskCulture and the Gabriel Dumont Institute have entered into a partnership agreement in the delivery of the Métis Cultural Development Fund.

“The Métis Cultural Development Fund is a project grant that has been available through SaskCulture for a number of years now,” said Damon Badger Heit, the First Nations and Métis Coordinator at SaskCulture.

“But after consulting with our colleagues at GDI and with our volunteers, we figured out a better way to deliver this fund for the Métis community.”

The Development Fund supports Métis cultural activity covering eligible expenses up to \$10,000 per initiative in communities across the province. Eligible applicants are Métis non-profit organizations and arts and culture organizations in partnership with Métis groups and communities. Activities range from heritage activities like genealogy, research, land based activity, language and storytelling to the arts in dance, music, fine arts and film and video.

Preference is given to projects that benefit children. All funding decisions are made by a volunteer jury of Métis peoples from across the province appointed in collaboration with GDI and SaskCulture.

Gabriel Dumont Institute had been administering the fund on behalf of SaskCulture for several years. In 2009, winds of change were blowing at SaskCulture as a result of a funding review by the provincial auditor. Some of these changes required all third party funding programs of SaskCulture to be moved ‘in house.’ This meant that SaskCulture would be administering the Métis Cultural Development Fund from now on and the program was moved from GDI.

After two year at SaskCulture, Métis Cultural Development Fund applications declined and it became apparent that there were other problems with the grant as well. SaskCulture approached GDI to determine how the two organizations could work together to enhance and deliver the program.

There was a lot of baggage in the grant that really made it difficult for groups to apply. Much of the criteria was convoluted and difficult to understand. Simple things like who is eligible and what is eligible for funding wasn’t clear as it could have been either so SaskCulture and GDI worked together to remove all the confusing and unnecessary elements to enhance its usability.

“This renewed initiative between SaskCulture and GDI will ensure that the (Métis Cultural Development Fund) continues to provide Métis groups with the assistance required to promote culture and heritage and instil pride in Métis people throughout the province. By redeveloping the criteria and making the application more user-friendly, we hope to see an increase of interest in the program.” said Amy Briley, Curriculum Developer in the Publishing Department of GDI.

GDI will continue to assist SaskCulture in the promotion of the fund and by organizing and selecting Métis jurors for the adjudications.

“This all really comes at an opportune time,” says Badger Heit. “The program is being increased this coming year from \$150,000 a year in Métis project funding to \$250,000.”

Applications are available on SaskCulture’s website, www.saskculture.sk.ca

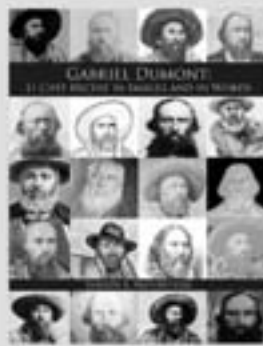


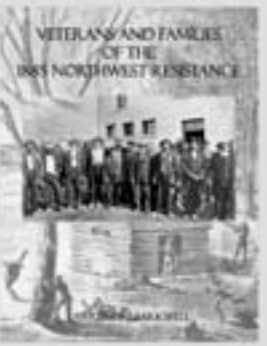
Damon Badger Heit of SaskCulture and Amy Briley a Curriculum Developer with GDI are both pleased with the extra funding this year for the Métis Cultural Development Fund.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

**Enjoy three new resources from
the Gabriel Dumont Institute!**





Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words
An analysis of Gabriel Dumont upon the collective psyche of the Métis people, an overview of Dumont-related historical photographs, illustrated historical, material culture and popular culture images, and artistic representations of Dumont, and images relating to his public commemoration. This book also includes a thorough listing of various journalistic and first-hand accounts of Gabriel Dumont since the 1860s until the present.

wāpikwanīy: A Beginner's Guide to Métis Floral Beadwork (Book/DVD)
This resource provides a step-by-step approach to creating your own flower beadwork, including an instructional DVD.

Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance
In this timely monograph, Lawrence J. Barkwell documents the Métis resistance in 1885 and the South Branch Métis Settlement's military and political structures. Besides methodically listing all the Métis participants in the 1885 Resistance, this useful genealogical resource also documents the Métis heroines of Batoche as well as the First Nations and Euro-Canadians who rallied to the Métis cause. Perhaps most importantly, this monograph provides a tangible link between contemporary Métis community people and their ancestors who desperately fought to preserve their way of life so long ago.

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



Gabriel Dumont Institute
2—604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 5W1
(T) 306.934.4941
(F) 306.244.0252
www.gdins.org / www.metismuseum.ca

Fiddle Fest warms the heart

By Karon Shmon
For Eagle Feather News

The 14th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest was held August 11-14 at Windy Acres, the home of the hosts, John and Vicki Arcand.

John and his wife Vicki have built the festival from their shared dream to “to promote and preserve fiddle, music and dance and provide a forum to showcase youth talent and culture”. Founded in 1998, the festival is a combination of workshops, concerts, and competitions for those who love to play the fiddle, love to dance to fiddle music, or just love to listen to it. While a strong Métis theme ensures a focus on Métis fiddle music and dance, music and dance from all cultures is welcomed and embraced.

It seems redundant to remind anyone that John Arcand is also known as the “Master of the Métis fiddle” but there is a small chance someone is out there hasn’t heard this. Perhaps I am so appreciative of his talent and commitment because I can’t remember when I learned this. I have had the pleasure of seeing John perform for most of my life.



Fiddle Fest is a heart warming event. It brings youth and Elders together. It brings cultures together. It brings old and new styles of music and dance together. It shows us that music is a language we can all understand and share regardless of our cultural background or age. It reminds us that the best parties don’t need alcohol or flash, just an opportunity for people to come together and enjoy one another’s company while being entertained by something other than what is seen on MTV.

At Fiddle Fest, learners and teachers of all ages are sharing what they know. The young people can see that learning is a lifelong journey and that continued curiosity and growth is

healthy. Elders model that they have more to learn and that the teacher can be young. Youth are powerfully affirmed when they have the opportunity to share their knowledge. They see what practice, commitment, and dedication can do. Fiddle Fest is a powerful place for the continued renewal and transmission of Métis culture and other traditional forms of fiddle music at a festival which nurtures new expressions of each.

After each Fiddle Fest, I am sure I am not alone in feeling that I have been part of something special.

(Centre moving clockwise) Johnny Arcand was, as always, a gracious host, Gayle McDonald won the senior women’s jigging contest and Scott Duffee took home the men’s championship. Darla Daniels took 3rd in traditional Métis fiddle and also won the women’s jigging contest.

(All photos Peter Beszterda - Gabriel Dumont Institute)



GDI searching for Métis history

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, in partnership with Parks Canada, is looking for people who can share Métis history, information and stories about Fort Battleford, Fort Walsh, and Grasslands National Park and the surrounding areas around the Battlefords, Maple Creek, Swift Current, and Val Marie.

The partners are looking to identify and interview Métis community members who have a connection to these historically and culturally significant places.

Are you Métis? Do you or your family have a historic and contemporary connection to the areas in and around Fort Walsh, Fort Battleford or Grasslands National Park? Would you like to share your stories with the partners? If so, please contact me so we can arrange an interview.

Darren Préfontaine

Gabriel Dumont Institute

2—604 22nd Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7M 5W1

T: 306.657.5711

E: darren.prefontaine@gdi.gdins.org

If you would like to call collect, please phone 1-877-488-6888 and ask for Darren Prefontaine. Please leave a message with your contact information if we are unable to speak directly and we will return your call.

Marsii/Thank you for your time and consideration!



Black Rain delivers a storm of great rock entertainment

Just know that I have waited a very long time to write about this rock band because I always knew big things would happen for them. Thankfully, I think their moment has arrived.

From packed bar gigs to outdoor parties and even huge awards shows, Black Rain not only stands out –they typically steal the show. Who make up Black Rain? Three of the nicest guys you'll ever meet. Jamie and Ryan Peekeekoot are brothers from Atahkahkoop. Jamie plays drums, manages the band and writes most of the lyrics. Ryan is the lead singer and plays lead guitar. Kevin Joseph, their newest member, and bass player, is from Prince Albert.

The first time I heard Black Rain play, I loved their cool and original sound. The gig was at Stan's Place, in Saskatoon, and though it is a small bar, the venue was packed that night. I had no clue who these rockers were but their music was catchy and drove me to the dance floor in half a heartbeat. Three years later, I still haven't left!

Recently they were asked to play in Norway.

"A group from Norway funded a compilation album called Free Leonard Pelletier. We were the only Canadian artists to be added to the album. They're planning some shows in the US, Africa and Norway. If all goes well, we'll be added to the shows," says Jamie.

Black Rain is consistently one of the most popular bands played on MBC radio, not to mention the coverage they're getting on many other radio stations across North America. They're currently working on their fourth album, having received much recognition and many award nominations with their three previous albums. They could even take home a Breakout West Award for Aboriginal Recording of the Year in Whitehorse, Yukon this October.

I'm particularly happy for them, having watched them develop from amazing performers into professional musicians. It's a difficult thing for a rock band to maintain an image of fun, cool and laidback and yet still deliver a solid performance.

But juggling the rocker image with sharp business acumen is possible and when it's accomplished opportunities fly. I've seen this trio make mistakes, but the important thing is that they learned from them.

They've taken their lessons and made themselves better musicians as a result. What's more is that they are always seeking ways to improve. They understand that they are there to entertain, but they truly desire to put on the best show possible, wherever they're hired.

And they do. They take bookings

everywhere. As Kevin says: "There are no short cuts for anything meaningful. We take every booking we can. That's how we get our name out there."

One thing I admire about them is how they repeatedly get invited to many remote Northern communities across Canada because they become a part of the community when they're there. They don't act better than anyone else – they're



Black Rain is developing a loyal fan base with its commitment to providing a first-class entertainment package.

humble rock stars, not divas. They sit and visit and are grateful to meet new people. The communities, in turn, relish their guests and Black Rain is always surprised when these communities sing along to all their songs.

But their more zealous fans still remain in Saskatchewan. At a recent show in Saskatoon, a couple of fans showed up in his and hers T-shirts with the lyrics of Black Rain songs humorously written across them.

"They're a group of super fans from Cole Bay and Canoe Lake that come to every gig we play," explained Ryan. "They call themselves 'Storm Chasers.'"

Another reason I admire them: When asked where their dream gig would be, their immediate answer was Credit Union Centre. With roots so deep, they're proud of where they come from. They love this land. They hope to play the world, but they will always remain devoted to Saskatchewan.

With the right attitude, a solid play list and a growing fan base, I predict that they are on the verge of many more amazing opportunities. I like to encourage budding talent, and hey, their bass player is pretty cute!

To book them, contact Jamie Peekeekoot on Facebook, or call 468-2684 or 468-0052.

...

Speaking of new, amazing talent, tune in to APTN for the return of two of its most popular shows: Cashing In and Blackstone!

Season 3 of Cashing In premieres on Sept. 7, and features the stellar cast of Glen Gould, Eric Schweig, Karen Holness, Wesley French, Sarah Podemski, Gregory Odjig, Tina Keeper (who is also a producer on the series), and the late Gordon

Tootoosis (in one of his final television roles).

The ever controversial Blackstone also returns to APTN for Season 2! Stay tuned for the season premiere!

If you have an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, drop me a line at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com. See you next month!



THE WORD ON THE STREET



National Book and Magazine Festival

Sunday, September 25, 2011

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

23rd Street East between 3rd and 4th Avenue
and in the Frances Morrison Library

- Canadian authors reading from their latest books, featuring headliners Yann Martel and Sandra Birdsell.
- Three stages and 32 readings/performances.
- A poetry slam featuring Saskatoon's Slam Team - perhaps you will be selected as a judge?
- Improv theatre with Don't Mind Us comedy duo.
- Over 40 exhibitors in the Marketplace including booksellers, publishers, authors, and literary and literacy associations.
- Children's literacy activities.

FREE Family Fun!

For a complete schedule check out
www.thewordonthestreet.ca/wots/saskatoon
For more information call 306.716.2890.



Sense of humour led Highway along road to successful career

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

Imagine being born in a snow bank on the Manitoba/Nunavut border to a family of nomadic caribou hunters and ending up as an internationally recognized playwright and author.

That's just the tip of the iceberg for Tomson Highway. For him, growing up in the barren lands of Northern Manitoba was a charmed life. He had the great privilege of growing up in two languages, neither of which was English. They were Cree, his mother tongue, and Dene, the language of the neighboring 'nation', a people with whom they roamed and hunted. He now speaks five languages including French, English and Spanish.

"I had extraordinary parents," he says in a candid telephone conversation.

"My father was a world champion dog sled racer, my mother was a legendary quilt maker. They had a beautiful marriage, one of the best I've known. I'm talking about the kind of marriage you could only dream about in Hollywood, you know?"

"You'd never make enough money to afford the type of marriage they had. Eat your heart out, money can't buy it."

Highway, among many other accomplished writers and playwrights will be in Saskatoon for the Ânskohk Writers' Festival running Oct. 19-22. Since 2004, the Ânskohk Festival has promoted over 120 authors and hosted readings, workshops and seminars.



Tomson Highway shares his success with a family that inspired and encouraged him along the way.

After a two year hiatus the festival is back and will feature some of the most talented Aboriginal writer's and authors from across the country. During the evening of Oct. 21, Highway will grace the stage for a candid, intimate evening full of laughter and enlightenment.

"I'll be reading from some of my work, if there's a piano there, I'll be more than happy to play a few songs from one of my cabarets," he exclaims.

As a playwright, novelist, and pianist/songwriter, Highway is best known for his works, "The Rez Sisters, Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing, Rose, Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout and the bestselling novel, Kiss of the Fur Queen. His cabarets are internationally recognized and draw crowds from all over North America and Europe.

So, how do you go from being born in remote Northern Manitoba, to speaking five languages, and being a nationally-known, award winning performer? To him, the answer is simple.

"Family. My father and grandfather were musicians, so it was a huge help to be born into a home where there was music. It was an inheritance. It was probably one of the most valuable things I've inherited from my parents and my grandparents.

That and laughter. The secret to my success has always been to have a sense of humor. I grew up in a house that was full of laughter. It's very humbling, the success I've had, because I didn't do this by myself. I did it with the help of tremendous people," said Highway.

For information on the 2011 Ânskohk Writers' Festival, go to www.anskohk.com.

Make your voice HEARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES is hosting discussion sessions across Canada given the recent changes to the Indian Act resulting from Bill C-3. The exploratory process is an Aboriginal-led initiative that is meant to examine and discuss the wider concerns and issues relating to Indian Registration, Band membership and Citizenship that go beyond the scope of the Bill C-3 amendments.

The NAFC Exploratory Process is open to all Aboriginal Canadians: First Nations (Status and Non-Status), Métis and Inuit peoples.

Information collected from the Friendship Centre dialogue sessions and website questionnaire will be compiled into a national report. It is hoped that the national report will be used as consideration in the development and implementation of future government policies to create stronger government relations with Aboriginal Canadians.

Provincial Session will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

WHEN: September 22, 2011

WHERE: Ramada Gold Dome & Hotel

TIME: 9am - 4pm

This is a free session however if you pre-register by contacting Gwen Bear at 306-955-0762 or ed_afcs@sasktel.net you will receive a free gift upon arrival.

A light lunch and snacks will be provided for participants; please join us to share your thoughts and opinions.

Friendship Centre Community Sessions will be held in:

1. North Battleford Friendship Centre - Thursday, September 29th (306)-445-8216
2. Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre - Thursday, October 8th, 2011 (306) 235-4660
3. Prince Albert Friendship Centre - Saturday, September 29th (306) 764-3431
4. Fort Qu'Appelle Friendship Centre - Saturday, October 1st, 2011 (306) 332-5616



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FRIENDSHIP CENTRES



Aboriginal Friendship Centres
of Saskatchewan



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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et du Nord Canada

ÂNSKOHK

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OCTOBER 19TH - 22ND

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INFORMATION ON, VENUES, DATES AND

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WWW.ANSKOHK.COM

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SCHOOL READINGS & PRESENTATIONS
BANNOCKDOTES
STUDIO CAFÉ & WORKSHOPS

Culture Days a showcase for Aboriginal heritage

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News.

Culture Days returns to Saskatchewan this year with a lineup of activities in communities across the province that will both engage and educate participants.

Visitors can take a step back in time and walk along the same paths that First Nations people used hundreds of years ago for hunting, gathering and ceremony. Or they can learn about the traditional dance and regalia from Aboriginal peoples who first danced to animal hide covered traditional drums, the heartbeat of the creator. These are only a couple of the activities planned during the Culture Days Celebrations at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

"Culture Days is important to Wanuskewin because it gives us an opportunity to raise awareness about all the park has to offer.

"We want to be able to engage people and raise awareness about Aboriginal cultures in this area of the country," says Cameron McRae, program manager for the Park.

"We will be having a free bannock bake on both Oct. 1 and 2 and everyone is welcome to come out and join us outside the building for a 45 minute program where we will teach the history about bannock and how it's important to Aboriginal culture," says McRae.

"Participants will then be shown how to make bannock and be able to taste what they make. It's a great opportunity to engage and talk to our centre interpreters at the site and learn more about the purpose of Wanuskewin Heritage Park," he added.

Culture Days is a collaborative pan-Canadian volunteer movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities.

A national Steering Committee, together with provincial committees (known as Provincial Task Forces) self-mobilize at the grassroots level to implement concurrent, annual, province-wide public participation events that take place throughout the country over the last weekend of September.

Annual Canada-wide Culture Days events feature free, hands-on, interactive activities that invite the public to participate "behind the scenes," to discover the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, and designers at work in their community.

In its first year ever, Culture Days sprang up right across Canada. In total, over 4,500 cultural activities were held in over 700 Canadian cities and towns and the opportunity to engage in free, interactive cultural activities certainly caught people's attention!

From a national survey of all participating provinces, 30 per cent of Canadians reported that they had heard of



Culture Day participants are encouraged to experience local culture in their communities during culture days from September 30 to October 2.

Culture Days, with Winnipeg and Regina having the highest per capita scores.

In Saskatchewan, over 130 activities, from 23 separate communities, were registered by Saskatchewan cultural groups or community leaders into the national database.

Saskatchewan communities celebrated in many different ways, from artist studio and backstage tours, to belly-dancing, to mural making, to multicultural performances and more.

"In Saskatchewan we wanted to utilize the event as a way to raise awareness about the artists, writers and rich cultures and heritage that makes up our province," said SaskCulture's Dianne Ell.

"SaskCulture saw this Festival as a good way to bring the province together and an opportunity to partner with communities."

Some of the most successful activities held in 2010 were based on community partnerships. Cultural groups partnered with local businesses, media outlets, municipalities, venues and other cultural groups to create fun-filled cultural events that served different purposes.

In successful examples, businesses and municipalities got provincial and even national promotion, artists and cultural venues were employed, and cultural groups attracted new audiences.

"One of the most successful Culture Days partnerships took place in the North," said Ell.

• Continued on Page 15

EXPRESS THE CREATIVE YOU!

**Interested in holding
a Culture Days activity
in your community?**

Culture Days are an opportunity to open doors to creativity and cultural activity by offering free, interactive cultural experiences to the public.

Learn more at
sk.culturedays.ca




culturedays

Métis • Heritage • First Nations • Arts
Multiculturalism • Ethno-culturalism
Join the movement at culture days.ca

CELEBRATING ARTS + CULTURE
FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST

September 30, October 1 & 2, 2011



Culture Days offers hands-on experiences

• Continued from Page 14

Organized by the Flin Flon Arts Council, the communities of Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton and Denare Beach in Saskatchewan worked to create a weekend of cultural activities. Over 5,000 residents, including a few tourists, participated in events in these communities, whose combined population is not much higher. Activities over the weekend included artist studio tours with artist talks, film-making workshops, mask-making, multicultural showcases, quilt-making demonstrations, interactive Aboriginal displays, writing groups, youth theatre experiences, school programming and more. All activities were published into a full-colour guide available in the region.

"Culture Days aims to increase access to cultural activities," adds Ell. "It's based on the idea that when given a free opportunity to sample cultural activity, the public may develop an interest and continue to pursue it into the future. Letting a visitor try to throw clay onto a potter's wheel, walk onto a stage in costume, try powwow dance steps, or even identify dinosaur bones, may provide them with a new appreciation for culture."

While some activities can be offered for free, organizers are still able to offer paid activities, sell their work, take donations, etc. and most importantly, help ensure that artists and cultural workers are compensated for their contributions.

This year, activities are being held in North Battleford, Yorkton, Swift Current, Saskatoon, Regina, Maple Creek, and Prince Albert. All activities taking place in the province will be registered into a national Culture Days data base which will then be promoted throughout the country.

"It's a great way for people to engage and learn about what makes us so diverse in our community," says Ell. "We can all appreciate what a vast amount of artists and culture we have right here in our own backyard and be able to share that with the rest of the country bringing us all together."

On top of the activities happening at Wanuskewin, other groups that will be sharing Aboriginal art and history will be taking place in communities such as Regina, Saskatoon and Maple Creek. In Regina, visitors to the Creative City Centre will be host to a beadwork and drum making workshop, while in Maple Creek, participants can learn more about Métis culture and history through their dance.

For a full list of activities in and around Saskatchewan visit www.culturedays.ca



Culture Day events in Denare Beach, Flin Flon and Creighton last year drew around 5,000 participants over three days.

Share your Culture!

SaskCulture provides funding to support the development and implementation of cultural activities in communities throughout Saskatchewan. Non-profit groups, on reserve or off, interested in engaging First Nations and/or Métis peoples in a particular cultural activity are encouraged to check out the following funding programs:

Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Fund

Aims to increase capacity in Aboriginal communities through the development of arts and cultural leadership opportunities involving youth and mentors.

Deadlines: October 15, April 15

Capacity Building Grant Program

Supports capacity-building opportunities in existing, new and emerging cultural organizations.

Deadlines: October 15, May 7

Métis Cultural Development Fund

Offered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, this program supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve and pass on the Métis culture and traditions.

Deadlines: October 31, April 30

Multicultural Initiatives Fund

Supports multicultural, ethno-cultural, and Aboriginal cultural initiatives activities and initiatives that contribute to the advancement of cultural understanding in Saskatchewan.

Deadlines: September 30, January 31, March 15

Municipal Cultural Planning and Engagement Fund

Supports municipalities and reserves working on cultural engagement and planning initiatives, such as cultural planning projects that explore and plan for the creative and cultural potential of a community. For more information, contact Dennis Garreck at 306-780-9265 or email: dgarreck@saskculture.sk.ca.

Deadline: October 31

For more information on these programs, call Damon Badger Heit at 787-9251 or email: d.badgerheit@saskculture.sk.ca.

For applications and more details visit: www.saskculture.sk.ca.

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Eight candidates in running for FSIN positions

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

There will be two new faces on the executive of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) after next month's election for the Offices of the Second and Fourth Vice-Chief.

That's because no incumbent is running against the eight candidates.

Earlier this month, Fourth Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish announced he would not be seeking re-election, as he intends to run for Chief of his First Nation, Big River. He has held the position of the Fourth Vice-Chief since 2006.

Office of the Second Vice-Chief became vacant last year when Delbert Wapass resigned. He later became Chief of Thunderchild.

Candidates for Second Vice-Chief include Gary Arcand from Beatty's and Okemasis, Gordon Burns from James Smith, Robert Cameron of Witchehan Lake, Doreen Day -Wapass of Thunderchild and Peter McCallum from Peter Ballantyne.

Although Day-Wapass is the only female candidate running, and the only one to run in awhile, she says she is not running on her gender.

"My candidacy is not based on gender at all. It's based on having faith in our treaties and not giving up on the FSIN."

Day-Wapass has not served on Chief and Council before, but says she can relate to them because of her family's experience. Day-Wapass is married to Thunderchild Chief Delbert Wapass.

"We've been involved in leadership for many years, so I know what chiefs and councillors go through at a community level."

She has other political experience such as being the first First Nations woman elected to the Saskatoon Public School Board. She has also run in Saskatoon's civic election, where she came in second in Ward 2.

There are three candidates for Fourth Vice-Chief: Simon Bird from Peter Ballantyne, Orrin Greyeyes of Muskeg Lake and Guy Lariviere of Canoe Lake.

Bird, who is from Southend, has never served on Chief and Council at Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. He thinks that will work to his advantage.

"That means that you don't come with any political baggage or alliances or any specific ties. Sometimes, as you can imagine, that can be problematic for some of the bands that want representation provincially."

Bird thinks there is an appetite for change amongst First Nations.

"All you gotta do is pick up your local paper and it does talk about it, and a lot of the Facebook comments that are made amongst political junkies."

Bird says Guy Lonechild's recent resignation and months of political turmoil have had an effect on him and likely the other candidates.

"There's a lot more pressure on candidates to work cooperatively with First Nations that have elected them to the Executive Office," he explains. "There's a lot more pressure for full disclosure."

Lariviere is hopeful his experience on Chief and Council will get him elected. He served as Chief for 16 years and Councillor for four, noting this exposed him to the inner workings of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council as well as the FSIN.

"I have also developed a good working relationship with both the provincial and federal govern-

ment as well as the Office of the Treaty Commissioner."

The elections will take place during the fall Legislative Assembly on Oct. 5 and 6.

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Simon Bird FSIN 4th Vice Chief Candidate

Simon D. Bird, 32, is a Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation band member from the northern community of Southend. Married to wife Naomi Thunderchild Bird for the past 11 years, the couple have two children. After meeting his wife, Simon moved to Saskatoon where he graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2003. His teaching career then took him to Loon Lake, Meadow Lake, and Onion Lake, to the Saskatoon Public School Board, SITAG and finally back to his home community where he became principal of Reindeer Lake School in 2009. Simon continued his education on a part-time basis and earned a Masters in Education Degree program in 2011.

Simon has been extensively involved with youth development for many years and has a passion for building positive lifestyles among First Nation young people. As the eldest child to Tommy and Marion Bird, he grew up very much involved in the traditional practices of his community where fishing and hunting were and still are a

way of life. Simon believes in being a role model for others, particularly young people, by living a life of sobriety and putting family first. Simon has committed himself to using his education, his energy, and values learned at home in working with all First Nations in Saskatchewan but particularly with the youth.

SIMON'S POLITICAL VISION & PLATFORM

Simon strongly believes that First Nations have the inherent right, given by the creator, to govern their own affairs and that the Treaties must continue to be the foundation of the relations between First Nations and the other peoples who have come to share our territory. This has always been the principal objective of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, but has too often been obscured by more practical and transient priorities. Other governments within Canada tend to develop policies and tactics which have the effect of eroding and undermining the Treaty Rights which First Nations were once ensured would last as long "as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow." The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations must always remain vigilant in the protection of these Treaty Rights and needs to keep in mind the words of warning once uttered by the late Senator John Tootoosis, that the greatest threat to treaties to the Treaties comes not from the newcomers, but potentially from our own First Nation leadership.

Areas of obvious concern to the maintenance of First Nation Treaty Rights include education, where First Nation schools are grossly underfunded when compared to provincial schools with comparable objectives, and health, where governments are currently seeking to devolve their Treaty obligations to First Nation governments. Simon believes the actions of the Federation must always strive to uphold the sacred Treaties with our forefathers, on behalf of their future generations, made with the Crown with the newcomers to this land. The Federation also must fulfill its role more effectively as an instrument of our First Nations in their efforts to achieve their political visions, whether these Nations are large or small, located in the northern forests or in the southern plains. Concerned with divisiveness that has recently plagued the reputation of the Federation, Simon believes he can make a difference as Fourth Vice-Chief by focusing on the principles which led to the creation of the Federation and by seeking to actively solicit and, where appropriate, to assist in effectively addressing the concerns of all First Nations which form the Federation.

Email: simon_dbird@hotmail.com, Cell: 306.227.8362

Lonechild steps down, takes buyout

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

After months of being dogged by questions about his leadership, Guy Lonechild has resigned as Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

He arrived at a special Legislative Assembly earlier this month, optimistic he would keep his job.

Before the day was done, however, Lonechild resigned, taking a severance package for himself and his staff.

The special assembly was originally planned in order to hold a non-confidence vote on Lonechild's leadership. Just days before, a Court of Queen's Bench Justice, Ron Mills, quashed Lonechild's suspension and ruled the meeting invalid. However, the chiefs decided to go ahead with it anyway, the FSIN saying it would appeal the court ruling.

Tension between Lonechild and many chiefs began back in February, when it was revealed he had an impaired driving charge and had tried to change the sentencing venue. At that time, many chiefs called for his resignation.

When the meeting began, Lonechild took his place in the grand entry, following the veterans and in front of the rest of the executive. After meeting for less than an hour, he left, looking troubled and telling media he couldn't comment.

As the hours went by, it became clear a buyout package was being offered and considered.

The meeting was closed to media and eventually closed to all but chiefs and councillors. When Cowessess band member Wendy Lerat had to leave, she was unimpressed with what she'd witnessed.

She said even if Lonechild left the FSIN, the real issues, which she says are around management and governance, wouldn't be dealt with.

"The way the system is structured, it makes it very difficult for someone wanting to step into that role and make the changes that are required to be changed," Lerat said.

"The system does not provide mechanisms to protect officials to be able to do the work they need to do."

Around six o'clock, everyone emerged, Lonechild following the veterans in the procession, accompanied by his wife, mother and staff, each of whom he hugged, some with tears in their eyes. He also shook the hands of each Vice-Chief, telling them to keep fighting "the good fight." He and Watson then met briefly with the media.

Watson read a prepared statement and took no questions, saying a chapter in the FSIN was brought to a "mutual, satisfactory conclusion," noting Lonechild had decided to resign out of concern for First Nations people.

Lonechild spoke briefly to reporters, taking two questions.

He says he considered the "safety and security" of his family and the well-being of the FSIN when making his decision.

"This issue has been a very divisive one in First Nations communities right across the province, and in the best interest of not just the organization but all concerned, all First Nations, we need to work in an united front to fight the real battles that matter.

"What is, I think, good for the organization is that we no longer continue to fight amongst one another."

The next day, the Province raised concerns about what monies would be used for the severance.

Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations, Ken Cheveldayoff, wrote in a letter to Watson: "The Province wants to ensure that none of the funding provided to the FSIN ... is utilized to cover expenses associated with severance packages."

The FSIN responded in a media release, saying it, too, agreed provincial dollars should go toward things like education, employment and economic development, and that it looked forward to having a face-to-face meeting with the government.



Guy Lonechild hugs a supporter moments after accepting a controversial buyout from the FSIN.

(Photo by Darla Read)

VOTE Guy "MIT" Lariviere for FSIN Fourth Vice Chief

EXPERIENCE

- Chief, Canoe Lake Cree Nation for 16 years and Councillor for 4 years
- Upholding Treaty Principles of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- Extensive experience with Meadow Lake Tribal Council and FSIN operations, Boards and Commissions
- Good working relationship with provincial and federal governments and Office of the Treaty Commissioner

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Surrounded by books, writer inspired to write for theatre

Yvette Nolan, Saskatoon Public Library's thirty-first Writer in Residence – playwright, dramaturg, director, and educator from Toronto – shared a few thoughts with EFN, and we're excited to welcome her to Saskatoon. Join us at her initial reading and reception, on Wednesday September 14 at 7 p.m., downstairs at the downtown Frances Morrison Branch in Room 3.

EFN: Tell us about yourself and your journey as a writer.

I always wrote, it took me a long time to find my form – theatre for the past 20 years. I come from two people who love words, who understand the power of language, getting the right words in the right order so you can “nudge the world a little” (Tom Stoppard, “The Real Thing”). My mother was a polyglot, her first language, Algonquin, her second French, her third English. When she died she was a master of English, and was in fact teaching English as a Second Language to immigrants. My father was the first place speaker of Irish in Ireland when he was in high school. And ,of course, comes from



YVETTE NOLAN

the country of Yeats and Beckett. I always had books, no matter where we lived, I used to receive books in the mail, and I learned to read very early. When I was very small, I would learn poetry to recite for my father as a gift on his birthday, or Father's Day. “I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and sky, and all I ask is a tall ship, and a star to steer her by...” John Masefield. Age five or six. It wired my brain for words, for poetry. I wrote stories, reviews, letters, bad poetry. When I was working at the first Winnipeg Fringe Festival in 1988, I watched a bunch of plays and thought, wow, surely I can do better than this. And I have been trying ever since.

EFN: What is it about theatre that draws you?

I love theatre because it is about giving voice, about getting and giving information through dialogue, through the voices of people who want different things, need different things. Theatre is my way of working things out in the world.

EFN: What is the Aboriginal writing scene like these days?

There are some of our brilliant high-profile writers - Joseph Boyden, Richard Van Camp, Eden Robinson - who are an inspiration to us all. Theatre has in recent years blossomed - Marie Clements, Ken Williams, Tara Beagan - which inspires young people to write for the theatre, so then there's a flurry of activity by younger artists like Keith Barker, Clifford Cardinal, Waawaate Fobister and Falen Johnson. Having role models makes

such a difference. It opens one's eyes to the possibilities.

EFN: What are some of the things you are looking forward to during your Writer-in-Residency in Saskatoon? What projects are you working on?

I miss the sky. I miss the land. Toronto is a great city in a bunch of ways, but it is kind of divorced from the land, and that is hard for me. I just spent two weeks in Saskatchewan, first at the Festival of Words, and then taking care of my dog Smudge while my partner Philip Adams was running the Sage Hill Writing Experience at Lumsden. In that time I was in Moose Jaw, Lumsden, Regina, Bengough, Buffalo Pound, and Saskatoon, just getting reconnected to the land. So great. Of course it will be great to be reunited with Philip and Smudge for a while. And I am working on some terrifying and exciting projects. After eight years at Native Earth Performing Arts, Canada's oldest professional Aboriginal theatre, I am feeling the need to write down what I think I know about Native Theatre in Canada. And I am working on an adaptation of The Birds by Aristophanes, for the Gateway Theatre, set on the west coast and

exploring the intersection of the First Peoples and the settlers. And something else, that is too fresh to talk about, for fear I jinx it. Ha. Looking forward to meeting some of the community and reading what people are working on. I know lots of the playwrights, of course, from my work over the years with Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre,

EFN: Anything else. Advice for writers, a good recipe, the key to happiness.

I just heard a great piece of advice for writers that Judith Thompson (who is one of my heroes) gave, repeated to me by Ric Knowles, a friend and advisor who teaches at Guelph University. Judith told a student with whom she was working who was incapacitated by expectation, “all you have to do is write for 40 minutes a day.” That freed the student from the blank page, the blank screen, the size of the task before her. Just 40 minutes a day. Because of course, once you start, the forty minutes fly by and you are free to continue, to write for 80 minutes. Or two hours. Or four. And that's the way the work gets done. So simple.

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The future of the FSIN after its mythic de-pantsing

John L: On September 1, 2011, former Chief Guy Lonechild accepted a severance package, thereby ending a turbulent and divisive year in First Nation politics. Here to explain the ramifications of this historic event is our very own Dirk Dashing, the most dangerous writer since Jim Shakespeare.

Dirk: Thank you, John. It is true, media types have been having kittens over the spectacle that is First Nation politics and the almost mythic de-pantsing of the FSIN.

John L: Tell me something, is there any way the entire situation could have been avoided? There is speculation that Lonechild could have emerged stronger had the whole affair been handled different.

Dirk: Some say if Lonechild offered to resign when his impaired charge became public he might have found himself with a huge outpouring of support. Instead, it looked like he was trying to evade responsibility, and that got many a leaders' knickers all bunched up.

John L: Some media outlets have become mesmerized by the idea that the FSIN is a voluntary entity, somehow diminishing the FSIN's claim to sovereignty.

Dirk: The idea that the FSIN is a sovereign nation is a daft one. It ignores the fact that the First Nations are the nations who "voluntarily" joined

together in a legislative assembly to advance their collective interests. Modern nations like Canada, the Vatican and the Republic of Nauru have the power to voluntarily create entities. The United Nations is no more sovereign than the FSIN.

John L: Wait, the Republic of Nauru? I didn't know such a country existed.

Dirk: Existed and still exists today, John. Roughly 21 square kilometres and a population of about 9,200 people, the country whose motto

is "God's Will shall be First" was one of the richest in the world until government incompetence destroyed its phosphate dependent economy. But let's stick to the subject.

John L: Of course. So if I follow you, the fact that the FSIN was voluntarily created by the First Nations over, what, 65 years ago, does not make the FSIN a sovereign nation. Am I right?

Dirk: Correct, John Littlebads. And when the Chiefs created the FSIN they set some fences around what this creature could do and not do. These fences are often called rules, many of which aspire to the status of laws and their

younger, cuter little cousins, regulations.

John L: I see where you are going with this. You are about to make the point that the rules or laws or regulations created by the Chiefs in their own legislative assembly were somehow broken.

Dirk: For sure, John. Whether it was retribution, moral outrage or a genuine fear of change some Chiefs may have violated their own rules in their pre-orgasmic rush to eject Lonechild. The joint Executive Council and Indian Government Commis-

sion hearing was a perfect case in point.

John L: This was the hearing to decide if a non-confidence vote could be held at the next legislative assembly. Didn't a Queen's Bench justice find that the Executive Council and Indian Government Commission, and I'm quoting here, "did not follow its own rules in proceeding down the path to a non-confidence motion..."

Dirk: Not only was sound legal advice ignored like so much salad at a Star Trek convention, but the job of chairing the meeting was made at the very last minute and some Chiefs on the panel had already made up their minds before the

hearing began. No one – those for Lonechild, those against, and those baffled by the process – no one stood a chance at the hearing.

John L: So, what can we expect in the months and years to come?

Dirk: Going forward the FSIN has two options. Either collapse under the weight of hardened feelings and powerful divisions or it renews itself – and there is a project already underway to accomplish just that, so there is hope. The immediate future will be difficult though because the money for Lonechild and his staff's severance package has to come from somewhere.

John L: We already heard the provincial government will not support any of its funding to the FSIN to be redirected to the severance packages. Where will the money come from?

Dirk: Cutbacks at the FSIN are inevitable, and this may cripple some departments. The Office of the Chief could be mothballed for a year. Another scenario is to host a giant bingo that will cover off the severance packages. Unless they give dear ol' Dirk \$599,970, I'll go the Dakota Dunes and get the \$30 they need.

John L: Not sure that's going to happen, Dirk. As usual, you were awesome.

Dirk: Usually I hear that when I'm naked.

Dirk says, He who laughs last thinks the slowest.



The importance of water

By Flo Lavallie
For Eagle Feather News

Water is second only to oxygen in importance for health and just a few days without water can be fatal.

Making up almost three-fourths of the body, every cell is regulated and dependent on the efficient flow of water. Messages in the brain cells are transported on "waterways" to the nerve endings. Water transports minerals, vitamins, proteins and sugars around the body for digestion. Water maintains your body's equilibrium, and temperature, lubricates tissues, flushes waste and toxins, hydrates the skin, acts like a shock absorber for the joints, bones and muscles and adds needed minerals.

When the body retains fluid, give your body lots of water. When your body has the right amount it will release the excess, gland and hormone functions improve, the liver breaks down and releases more fat, you don't feel as hungry.

Dehydration plays a role in constipation and urinary tract infections, hemorrhoids and varicose veins, kidney stones and even degenerative diseases like arthritis. Your kidneys receive and filter your entire blood supply fifteen times each hour.

If you become overheated, your two million sweat glands perspire to cool your skin and keep your internal organs at a constant temperature, using 99 per cent water. You use a small of water during breathing and through your tear ducts that lubricate your upper eye lids 25 times per minute.

When you don't get enough water, a message is sent from your brain. Your kidneys conserve water by urinating less (constipation and bloating occur).

At 4 per cent water depletion, muscle and endurance diminishes – you start to get dizzy.

At 5 per cent water loss headaches from mild to severe begin. You get drowsy, lose the ability to concentrate and get unreasonably impatient.

At 6 per cent water loss body temperature is impaired. Your heart begins to race.

At 7 per cent body water depletion there is a good possibility of collapse.

To tell if you're drinking enough water, check your urine. The color should be a pale yellow and you should urinate every few hours. If your urine is a dark yellow, start drinking more water. Dehydration is reportedly one of the top ten causes of hospital stays among the elderly. Water dilutes and eliminates toxin accumulations in the bloodstream and cleanses the kidneys.

Alcohol and caffeine drinks are counter-productive for water because they are diuretic. They make you urinate frequently. Pop leaches several important minerals from your bones and your body. Too much water can have adverse side effects. It can severely depress the electrolytes necessary for energy. Eight classes of water daily is a sufficient amount. Adding a squeeze of lemon to your drinking water is refreshing, herbal teas should also be considered.

Water quality is poor on many of our First Nations reserves. Water is treated to the point where instead of a healthful drink. Bacteria, viruses, birth control pills and chemicals are in their ground water. I'm told by the elders that their bottled water isn't even tested. The communities need to become aware and alarmed about water safety.

Their water is in a grave situation.

Public Safety Message for residents of northern Saskatchewan

SaskPower contractor crews are now clearing overgrown trees and brush along the transmission line from Island Falls to Key Lake.

This work is being done with public safety and environmental protection top of mind. Because the cutting of large trees can pose a danger to the public, it is important to stay away from the work area at all times.

This project will continue throughout the fall months. Here's what residents can expect during this period:

- Crews and equipment will arrive in the area by helicopter. There will be increased helicopter traffic while the work is taking place.
- Tree clearing crews operate out of camps set up along the power line. This helps the crews get the work done safely and efficiently.
- There will be additional highway and road traffic in and around the Island Falls, Key Lake and Lindsay Lake areas as crews, equipment and supplies are delivered.

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Conference will stress economic opportunities through partnerships

Business is booming in Saskatchewan and there is much effort being put out to ensure that Aboriginal people are not left behind.

One example of that has the Saskatchewan East Enterprise Region in partnership with the Yorkton Tribal Council and Aboriginal Affairs offering the trans-ACTIONS II: Creating Partnerships & Prosperity conference.



JOHN LAGIMODIERE

The purpose of this provincial economic development conference is to continue to emphasize that there are many economic opportunities across the province as well as shed some light on the opportunities that exist between partnering municipal, political, and industrial and Aboriginal communities.

The conference committee continues to secure high caliber speakers for this event.

"We believe that a conference is only as good as the content. To give you a sneak peek at what we have in store, a few of the speakers we have confirmed are Bernd Christmas, Roberta Bondar and Eagle Feather News publisher John Lagimodiere," said Michelle Andrews, the economic development officer for the Enterprise Region.

"Last year we had Chief Clarence Louis

from the Osoyoos Indian Band come and speak and his words really resonated," Andrews says.

"Based on last year's successful results, this year's conference will continue to showcase the positives of working together and provides an opportunity to share ideas, learn from accomplishments and provide ways for our community leaders to strengthen the economic opportunities in each of our communities."

The speakers are an esteemed bunch. Christmas is the owner of the Bernd Christmas Law Group, Barrister and Solicitor with the primary focus on corporate and commercial Law. The first Mi'kmaw to become a lawyer in Canada, Christmas obtained his law degree in 1991 from Osgoode Hall at York University.

As former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Membertou Band of Nova Scotia and the Membertou Corporate Division, and as a negotiator for several First Nations bands, Christmas brings a deep understanding of Aboriginal perspectives. He also brings extensive experience on national and international boards and commissions.

Roberta Bondar is the first Canadian woman to fly in space and is a physician, scientist, astronaut and photographer. Bondar was aboard the space shuttle Discovery for its January 1992 mission, realizing a personal dream and capturing the imagination of millions.

An incredible sense of self-worth and a dedication to expanding her personal horizons are evident in every task she undertakes.

Highly motivational, her presentations focus on teamwork, personal challenges, overall achievement and an over-

whelming commitment to excellence.

John Lagimodiere has been the publisher and editor of Eagle Feather News for 14 years, and he has worked with industry by teaching Aboriginal awareness seminars to help facilitate employment for First Nation and Métis people. He has presented to over 10,000 people on the importance of engaging Aboriginal people in business.

This conference offers educational presentations, networking opportunities and an exposition supported by companies that support these opportunities and will help the region and province continue to achieve success.

This conference will provide information and the tools necessary to engage the Aboriginal and Business community. This conference will be held on October 26 and 27 at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

For more information contact:

Dale, Yorkton Tribal Council
dale@yorktontribalcouncil.com
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SIIT Instructor Harold Greyeyes (left) with graduates Alec Bishop, Shannon Delorme, Jenny Haenschke, Staci Spence, Seth Ouellette, and Bernie Weekusk.



Program prepared grads for heavy equipment careers

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

There were a few tears and many smiles at Smiley's Restaurant as six graduates of a Heavy Equipment Operator/Class 1A Pre-Employment Training Program celebrated Friday graduation, and Monday employment with the City of Saskatoon.

"It was awesome – a successful course," said graduates Seth Ouellette and Alec Bishop, Bishop adding he was thankful for the opportunity, and looking forward to work. Bernie Weekusk, Staci Spence, Jenny Haenschke, and Shannon Delorme also graduated with their Class 1A license, training with heavy equipment in Saskatoon's newest subdivision, Evergreen.

Gilles Dorval, Saskatoon's Aboriginal Relations Advisor, said the program goal is increasing Aboriginal representation while meeting the city's employment needs. Last year eight people were trained and hired as full-time seasonal, with one working on his home reserve at Onion Lake; within a year four had permanent city jobs.

"We determine the demand for workers and then fill with a supply of trained labourers – the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) and Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) collaborate, and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) brokers the program while the city provides projects of value," said Dorval. The trainees, 3 from STC and 3 from GDI, develop skills on an actual city project which would otherwise be contracted out. "It's win-win all the way around."

Peggy Vermette, STC Project Coordinator, explained this program fits the bill for everyone.

"It's programs like this that are so important. Employers say they want stability, but so many of our people don't have the day-to-day basics that everyone else takes for granted," noted Vermette, comparing it to a game of pick up sticks or wooden jenga, where one piece at the bottom is pulled out and the whole thing collapses. Unreliable vehicles, no groceries, or inadequate housing affect reliability, which then impact employability in a vicious circle. "One of our young women in a program lost her apartment because she couldn't make rent, which of course affected everything."

But when an onsite trailer was provided, she was able to continue with the program and go on to successfully complete it and work reliably, eventually returning to an apartment.

"It's a matter of providing the basics to bring stability," she explained – all the needed pieces together at once so that each student can thrive and access opportunities.

Graduate Jenny Haenschke shared some of her story, which included struggling through abusive relationships and single parenting on welfare. She always worked hard to improve life for herself and her children but this program made a big difference. Another grad began as a single mother just after losing her grandpa; she then allowed her daughter's father into their lives hoping for childcare help, only to show up one Monday with a black eye and broken nose, but she was proud of herself for not quitting.

"I decided to do this for me and my girl," she said, adding that while everyone was supportive in difficult times, instructor Harold Greyeyes taught her the importance of showing

up on time no matter what.

Randell Morris, president of SIIT, called the program a "remarkable partnership", adding that infrastructure needs are huge right now and people like Dorval are working hard to get young people into better paying positions. Dorval was quick to credit others like Gaston Gardeau for inspiration.

"There's nothing wrong with being a successful Indian, a rich Indian," said Saskatoon Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, adding these programs are investments in people, not costs to society. "We want quality of life for Aboriginal people. Investing in other people is a better way of doing it, and you graduates, you're showing the way." GDI Program Coordinator Sylvia Moss added the grads are "not only changing their own lives but also their families and communities as good role models."

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Aboriginal candidates eye seats in provincial legislature

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Sixteen Aboriginal candidates are putting their names forward in the upcoming provincial election.

Both the governing Saskatchewan Party as well as Official Opposition New Democratic Party have a mix of veterans as well as newcomers, and with the looming Nov. 7 election, candidates have already begun door-knocking to get their names and faces out there.

Jennifer Campeau, the Saskatchewan Party candidate in Saskatoon Fairview, says it's the perfect time for her, personally, but also for First Nations and Métis people to get involved.

"As Aboriginal people, we need to step up and take our place, including in the Legislature," she explains. "Any kind of provincial legislation affects us all, including First Nations and Métis people, so we should step up and have a voice within that legislation."

Campeau is currently working on her Ph.D. and holds an MBA from the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business. She

Council), CBC anchor and reporter Carol Morin, Gord Bedient, Clay DeBray, Richard Klyne, Nicole White, Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn, Bernadette Gopher and Randy Gaudry.

NDP Leader Dwain Lingenfelter believes this is the highest number of Aboriginal candidates run by any party in the history of the province.

"It's very important that political parties take into consideration the fastest growing population is Aboriginal families," Lingenfelter says.

He believes the NDP place a priority on issues that matter to Aboriginal families, such as how resources revenue is shared.

Lingenfelter feels there will be a "very, very large turnout" amongst First Nations and Métis people "because of a realisation that decisions the provincial government makes affect their daily lives."

Premier Brad Wall says he has met with First Nations and Métis people and encouraged them to run in nominations and hopefully become part of the government.

He notes that the government speaks to Aboriginal



Candidate Jennifer Campeau and Premier Brad Wall agree that Aboriginal people need to be engaged in provincial politics. (Photo supplied)

people through different organizations such as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, but says it's also "very important that voice is at the decision-making table."

"If we're going to be dealing with each other meaningfully, it'd be even better if it was within government."

Wall says his party wants to form partnerships with Aboriginal people, particularly when it comes to education and economic development.

"Our message and our vision is everyone should share in the renewed growth of the province."

"We're trying to make sure First Nations and Métis are part of the economy and reduce unemployment."

Wall says if Aboriginal people are wavering on whether to vote, they should look to First Nations veterans.

"First Nations people in a great and heroic way have helped give us freedoms ... in honour to them, cast a ballot."

Wall also notes that decisions made by the provincial government affect everyone, including Aboriginal people.

"If they find themselves driving on a Saskatchewan highway or going to a Saskatchewan hospital or visiting their parents in a long-term care facility, they have a stake in this province. "This is their province, too."



The NDP has assembled the largest slate of Aboriginal candidates in Saskatchewan's political history.

works at the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Campeau joins Roger Parent, who ran in a tight race last election against incumbent Frank Quennell and then-Liberal leader, David Karwacki, in Saskatoon Meewasin. New to the SaskParty are Bobby Woods, who is running in the northern riding of Athabasca; Greg Lawrence in Moose Jaw Wakamow; and Bill Stevenson, who is seeking election in Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Stevenson, who is from the Cowessess First Nation and works in its urban office, says First Nations people "certainly have issues and needs that need to be addressed," and he says he's "bringing that voice to the government side."

A closely contested race is expected in the riding of Athabasca, where NDP incumbent Buckley Belanger has held the seat since 1999. However, he faces tough competition from Buffalo Narrows Mayor Bobby Woods.

Belanger calls Woods a "fine gentleman," but says he still has a strong desire to continue fighting on behalf of the North.

Belanger likens it to an "architectural calling," and says that's why it's important First Nations and Métis people run and vote in provincial politics.

"If we don't get involved, how do we expect people to know what the issues are?"

There are 10 other Aboriginal candidates running under the NDP banner. They include some familiar and some new faces, such as Doyle Vermette, Helen Ben (former Tribal Chief of the Meadow Lake Tribal

Government of Canada
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Saskatoon Community Advisory Board (CAB), is currently accepting funding applications from organizations interested in obtaining financial assistance to achieve the priorities established by the CAB specific to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Designated Communities and Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Saskatoon.

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Deadline for Applications:
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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0E2
no later than **October 14, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**

To receive an application package or for more information, contact:
Genevieve Binette at 306-953-8403
or genevieve.binette@servicecanada.gc.ca

Powwow back in season at Flying Dust First Nation

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

On the Flying Dust First Nation, the annual powwow is now in its seventh year.

But until 2005, the community next to Meadow Lake hadn't seen an annual gathering in over 30 years. Now, the adults of this community band together every year to put on a powwow so the kids of Flying Dust can reclaim lost traditions.

"I think we've been away from (the powwow) for so long," said Percy Derocher, a councilor and elder on Flying Dust.

"Not many of us follow the powwow circuit, but we thought it would be nice to show our little ones some of the things that we used to do, instead of running off to rodeos (and) ball games."

Luke George has lived in Meadow Lake for eight years and considers Flying Dust his home powwow.

He says this powwow is helping his

son grow into the teen years.

"It helps him move on to be a teen and present himself, and helps him with his self esteem,"

George said. "And it's pretty important nowadays with all the trouble with lots of teens with drugs and alcohol."

George's son, 11-year old Matthew, says he couldn't imagine life without this powwow.

"I can't imagine it man! it's unthinkable!" Matthew said. "I don't think I could



The Flying Dust community wanted to restore powwow back into their community to benefit the youth.

(Photo by Jeff McCallum)

go a couple of months without dancing powwow. I don't think I could do that."

While few adults from Flying Dust have come back to the circle in the past seven years, elders here say more and more children here are taking up the traditions their parents' generation lost.

Percy Derocher hopes the gathering helps revive other traditions as well.

"It makes us feel so good when you see those kids so strong and proud," he said.

"We don't have a drum group yet, but I think that's very close," he added.




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New Ochapowace facility will honour respected former chief

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

Earlier this year, the Ochapowace First Nation was dealt a blow when its hockey rink and community centre went up in flames.

However, the leadership knew they would rebuild and saw it as an opportunity to pay homage to one of the reserve's most prominent leaders.

On August 31, Chief F. Ross Allary and his council hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new Chief Denton George Memorial Multi-plex and Sport Park.

"He was one of the great leaders," said Allary about George.

So the decision to rename the building in George's honour was an easy one to make.

George served as chief of Ochapowace for 20 consecutive years and as a band councillor for 14 years before his death in August 2009 at the age of 58. He was known as a staunch defender of the treaties.

"I live and breathe our rights, whether it's inherent or Treaty rights. Nobody can sway me from that, because I know what our rights are and I thank all the Elders that

I've listened to that have given me this understanding," George wrote in the introduction of the Kakisiwew-Ochapowace First Nation history book.

The new building is to stand as a tribute to a man who was not only a defender of the treaties, but a sports advocate.

"He did a lot of things in the area of sports here (on the reserve)," Allary said. "He was really sports-minded and he played ball himself."

The plan is to begin work as early as this fall, but Allary said there are still some things that have to be worked out. If they are unable to start this fall, then construction will begin early next spring.

"The complex is going to have a rink and a hall," said Allary. "I think we're going to build the hall first and the rink later."

It has been difficult for the community to be without the building because not only was it home to the Ochapowace Thunder hockey team, but the attached hall served as a hub for special events.

"We've been making do (utilizing) other buildings," said Allary.

The new multi-plex and sportpark will not be built



Denton George was chief until his death in 2009.

on the site of the old building. It will be located south of the reserve's gas bar.

Until the rink is completed the Ochapowace hockey team will use the Whitewood facilities.



Sask wins football title in first attempt

Team Sask's first ever Aboriginal football team won the 6 Nations Challenge with a 20 to 13 win over the James Bay Eagles from the Chisasibi First Nation in Quebec.

Alex Anderson (Hudson Bay) Connected with Ronnie Goretski (Meadow Lake) for the go-ahead score on the second last play of the final game to make for an epic victory for this first year team.

The team was comprised of six Métis and 13 First Nations young men from 13 different communities in Saskatchewan.

The tournament took place in Char-

lottetown, PEI.

Team Saskatchewan Roster:

Players: Northstar Stonechild Peequaquat, Brett Laliberte, Joe Stringer, Nicolas Henry, Coleton Ethier, Ronnie Goretski, Walter Budd, Matthew Parada, Matthew Auger, Damon Netowaysin, Cody Dean Pilon, Alex Anderson, Devon Bird, Davis Daniels, James Allison, Dustin Thomas, Austin Gillis, Harry Hansen, Taylor Lambert. Coaches Pat Barry – Mount Royal Kyle Stroeder – Nipawin LP Miller, Brian Guebert – Football Saskatchewan Lyle Daniels – Aboriginal Liaison.






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Cowessess double winner at FSIN Fastball Championships

There was partying in the streets in downtown Cowessess in August. The party broke out when word got

back that both the men and ladies Cowessess Fastball teams won their respective titles at the 2011 Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Fastball Championships.

The women's team fought back from a first round loss to play Piapot in the final, the team that had their number in the first game. With the win, the Cowessess women have locked down the title for the last four years.

The men's team beat out favoured Ochapowace in the semis to have the pleasure of taking on Standing Buffalo and the wicked arm of Pitcher Dwayne Rediron Jr.

His arm wasn't enough and he was beat by the consistent hitting of the Royals and steady arm of Lyle Delorme who eventually took home the MVP for the men.

Rediron Jr. was named to the All Star team.



Jenna Tanner of Cowessess First Nation was named MVP and an All Star at the FSIN Fastball Championships. Tanner also was named MVP at the recent National Aboriginal Fastball Championships.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Lyle Delorme of Cowessess First Nation pitched his way to MVP at the Championships. Here he shows off the bling of a weekend of hard work.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Young Métis lacrosse player rave reviews as the captain of Saskatoon Bandits team

By May Henderson
For Eagle Feather News

Matthew Henry, is an 11-year-old Métis boy, son of Robin and April Henry of Saskatoon and grandson of the late Eileen and Ken Henry.

Eileen was a strong Metis activist, having been the past president of one of the largest Metis locals in the province (P.A. Local #7) and held the position for 14 years when Jim Sinclair was President of the Metis Society.

Matthew is a pee wee lacrosse player, and was selected as team captain of the Saskatoon Bandits.

His team had a lot of success this year as he led the Bandits to first place in the annual Prince Albert Lacrosse tournament. The Bandits finished second in the Saskatoon Silver Stick and won the Provincial playdowns for Saskatoon. Shortly after their trip to the Provincials Matthew helped lead the Bandits to the City Championship with three goals and three assists in an 8-6 victory.

In April, Matthew was selected to

represent Team Saskatchewan in the Pee Wee Lacrosse National Championships in Whitby, Ontario. Recently, Team Saskatchewan won the Bronze medal this year at the 32nd Annual Canada Day Tournament in Calgary. Another honour Matthew received while in Calgary was that he learned that he has been selected by his peers to be one of the alternate captains for Team Saskatchewan.

This summer was not Matthew's first time representing Saskatchewan. In 2008, Matthew was selected to the Little League All Star team as they travelled to play in the Cal Ripken Jr. Western Regionals in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. In addition to baseball and lacrosse, Matthew is active in hockey in the winter when he suits up to play goal as he has for the past two seasons for the Saskatoon Aces Zone.

Matthew has a true passion for sports and works hard to be his best. He has truly learned how to be a leader this year and others are taking notice. It is a responsibility he takes very serious and he represented Saskatchewan very well this summer.



Matthew Henry's lacrosse prowess has earned him honours in just one of the sports he participates in.

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Thunderchild hosts competitive Games despite some challenges

By Alina Perrault
For Eagle Feather News

Hundreds of First Nations athletes showcased their talents at the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games at Thunderchild First Nation.

The organizers of the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games welcomed over 4,000 athletes, coaches and chaperons to Thunderchild First Nation from six days in early August.

"We were planning to accommodate about 6,000 athletes, coaches and chaperons but only about 4,000 ended staying at the campground," said Kelly Villeneuve, games manager.

"With fewer athletes it made it easier on security and there was more room for campers and shorter lines for food."

The Games at Thunderchild First Nations faced their first hurdle with the opening ceremonies.

"Unfortunately we had an emergency evacuation during what was supposed to be the opening ceremonies because of bad weather," said Villeneuve "All the kids were moved into the school to take shelter. We were watching the weather radar closely and saw that the worst was

coming. So we made the decision to postpone the opening ceremonies until Monday."

After the storm the weather was fabulous for the rest of the games and athletes were eager to start. The competition was fierce.

Nathen Yuzicappi, from Standing Buffalo, was one of the athletes who represented File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council.

"Being an athlete there is hard because some people trained for two years and I only trained for two months. Training counts for a lot in regard to how you will do in the games."

Yuzicappi may have started training late but still managed to get a silver medal in high-jump.

"The main focus for us is the kids, it's all about the kids and that the kids were participating and challenging their teammates," said Villeneuve

The games were not all about competition, athletes from all over Saskatchewan were giving advice to each other on strategies to succeed.

"Some of my competitors would talk and show me tips on how to run," said Yuzicappi



Thunderchild First Nation Chief Delbert Wapass presents a trophy to an outstanding athlete from Agency Chiefs tribal Council. The overall winner of the Games will be announced at the FSIN Fall Assembly.

The games not only helped the athletes but also the community as a whole.

"The local community has benefited financially in a few different ways," said Villeneuve "We hired local people to help out with security. It also brought business to local merchants, hotels and restaurants."

By the end of the games the two top teams were Meadow Lake Tribal Council and Agency Chiefs Tribal Council. It was

a tight race with only a slight difference in points between the two teams. The point spread was so close the final decision of the winner has yet to be announced. The teams will have to wait until the fall at the FSIN Assembly to find out the results.

"Overall we did a great job," said Villeneuve. "It was because of all the help of the Chief and Council and everyone in the community who volunteered that it was a success."

Tansi, I would like to officially declare my candidacy for the Office of Fourth Vice Chief of the FSIN. I want to thank my family, the Elders Committee, and the Chief and Council of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation for their support. Here is a brief history of my past:

PERSONAL

- Husband, father, grandfather
- Son of Ralph and Jean Greyeyes
- 14 Brothers and Sisters, numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews
- Bad Golfer

WORK HISTORY

Urban Councillor, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
Feb. 2009 - Present

Peacekeeper, Whitecap Dakota Sioux First Nation
Sept. 2008 - Nov. 2008

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Jan. 1986 - Oct. 1989

SIAST, Prince Albert, Instructor Indigenous Peacekeeper Program
Jan. 2010 - July 2010

Entrepreneur/Business Owner
1994 - 2009

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