

THE SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S COMMISSION

1st Annual Awards Calendar 2016

SHERYL KIMBLEY Big River First Nation **Arts and Entertainment**

Sheryl Kimbley is a member of the Big River First Nation. Sheryl is a talented musician and is the President of Musqua Entertainment, which is the founding non-profit organization of the Annual Voices of the North Showcase held in Prince Albert during the Winter Festival. Sheryl also works for the Prince Albert Grand Council as the Events Coordinator. She coordinates events such as the Northern Council as the Events Coordinator, She coordinates events such as the Northern Council as the Events Coordinator, She coordinates events such as the Northern Council as the Events Coordinator. Sheryl is a loving wife, daughter, sister, co-worker and friend. She dedicates much of her time to lifting up the spirits of people through Arts and Entertainment.



THE SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S COMMISSION
1st Annual Awards Gala Dinner

The
StarPhoenix

JANUARY 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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31						

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**STRENGTH
OF OUR WOMEN**
SFNWC

\$20
per
CALENDAR

The SFNWC Strength of Our Women Awards honours the strength and resiliency of Indigenous women in Saskatchewan. The Awards showcase the many contributions Indigenous women make to our communities while continuing to foster a sense of pride within them. Women are the givers of life and the keepers of our nations – their contributions are vital to the continuing existence of our traditional ways of life.

**PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF
MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN**

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JANUARY

The
StarPhoenix

CECE BAPTISTE, B.Comm (Distinction), CPA, CMA *Little Pine First Nation* **Business**

Cece Baptiste is a member of the Little Pine First Nation. Cece is currently employed as the First Nations Bank Controller and received her Bachelor of Commerce with distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. Cece is one of the select few Indigenous females in Canada that has received a Certified Management Accountant designation. Cece is a loving mother to two beautiful daughters and is committed to ensuring her daughters participate in Indigenous culture. Further to this Cece has taken on various volunteer hats in the community by attending Missing and Murdered Indigenous Forums and Community events, marches and rallies to help bring awareness to this national cause. Cece also sits on many volunteer boards such as the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Steering Committee and Saskatoon Aboriginal Professionals Association. Cece is a proactive community member who takes a stand and speaks eloquently and passionately about the pressing issues affecting our society.



FEBRUARY



KAREN RABBITSKIN, B.Ed. *Big River First Nation* **Culture & Spirituality**

Carolyn (Karen) Rabbitskin is from the Big River First Nation. Karen takes pride in her greatest accomplishments which are her children and grandchildren. Karen received her Bachelor of Education and she has been most recently employed as the coordinator for the Orion Lake Gift of Language department. Revitalization of culture and language is very important to Karen. She's a promoter of her Cree culture and language and regularly participates in ceremony and powwows. Karen truly practices what she preaches and has instilled cultural values into her children. Within the past few years she has had to deal with a cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy – not one single day did she complain. Karen has proven she is truly a resilient and strong First Nations woman.



MARCH



DR. KIM MCKAY-MCNABB, Ph.D. Psych *George Gordon First Nation* **Education**

Dr. Kim McKay-McNabb is from the George Gordon First Nation. She completed a doctoral degree with specialty in clinical psychology. Her aptitude for teaching and research was recognized well before she completed her degree, by temporary appointment as Assistant Professor at the First Nations University of Canada which was subsequently renewed several times. Throughout her education and ensuing career, Kim's clinical and research work has been unwaveringly focused on projects to promote Indigenous health and wellbeing, including youth leadership, HIV, end of life care and mental health. Her expertise is both locally and nationally recognized. Dr. McKay-McNabb is recognized for incorporating Indigenous knowledge, culture and perspectives into the Psychology classes she teaches. She encourages her students to pursue studies in the field of Psychology.



APRIL



JESSICA GORDON *Pasqua First Nation* **Environment**

Jessica Gordon is from the Pasqua First Nation and is a proud mother to three children. Jessica Gordon is one of the co-founders of the Idle No More movement. When she first created a page on Facebook titled "Idle No More" to communicate with these other women in Saskatchewan about Canada's Bill C-45, she had no idea she had chosen the name of the global movement. The Idle No More movement promotes the protection of lands and resources. She is always involved in the community and advocating for people and the environment. Jessica did not hesitate this summer to volunteer and coordinate clothing and supply drives for evacuees that were forced to take shelter in Saskatoon when fires scorched the lands and waters of Northern Saskatchewan.



MAY

Federation of Saskatchewan
Indian Nations
Lands and Resources

DR. SHANNON GATRELL, B.Sc., O.D. *Ochapowace First Nation* **Health & Wellness**

Shannon Gattrell is a member of the Ochapowace First Nation. She is one of the first Indigenous Optometrists in all of Canada. In 2004, Shannon received her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. Shannon continued her education in Portland, Oregon and received her Doctor of Optometry Degree with Distinction and passed her Canadian Exam in Toronto with flying colors. After graduation she practiced in Washington for 2 years then moved back to Saskatchewan to be close to her family and community. She is presently a partner in a successful office with two other doctors in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Shannon can be found volunteering at various community events.



JUNE

Federation of Saskatchewan
Indian Nations
Health and Social Development

STRENGTH OF OUR WOMEN

Recipients

ELEANORE SUNCHILD, B.A., J.D. Thunderchild First Nation

Law & Justice

Eleanore Sunchild is a proud member of the Thunderchild First Nation. Eleanore has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and completed her undergraduate degree in French immersion – she later received her Juris Doctor in 1998. Eleanore is the owner of Sunchild Law located on Poundmaker First Nation. Sunchild Law specializes in Indian Residential School claims and employs six other Indigenous lawyers. She is rewarded in her work by the strength and resiliency of survivors and is committed to empowering them as an advocate for justice and reconciliation. Eleanore gives back to the community as she promotes public education and community awareness of the residential schools era by hosting workshops, art exhibits, round dances and various community events. Eleanore remains strong in her culture and traditions.



JULY



MARY LOU GLORIA CHOCHAN Onion Lake Cree Nation

Leadership & Advocacy

'Nimhitowi-phéw-iskéw', her spiritual gifted name and 'Mary Lou Gloria Chochan', her registered name is from the Onion Lake Cree Nation. Gloria comes from a strong Cree family and is a fluent Cree speaker who follows the cultural practices and ceremonies of her nation. She is a tireless advocate for those who haven't learned to advocate for themselves, for First Nation communities, and rights of women and girls. Gloria Chochan is the founder of 'iskéwéw paskéwéw' known as Women's Secretariat. This is her most recent contribution to women in general. Her mentors, the Elders, told her it is time for the women to lead with their prayers once again and to take their traditional side. Last summer, a trip to Ottawa consisted of 11 women driving right to the Parliament and walking out of the building symbolizing the reclaiming of power. She has also spearheaded special celebrations for Mother's Day and other women's ceremonies.



AUGUST



SHARON VENNE, B.A., L.L.B. Muskeg Lake First Nation

Lifetime Achievement

Sharon Venne is a member of Muskeg Lake First Nation. She was one of the first Cree Treaty women in Canada to attend law school in the 1970s and upon completion of university was directed by Treaty No. 6 Elders to go to London, England to ensure the Treaty was at the forefront during Canada's constitutional reform – she was the only woman involved in the court case. In the 1980s she played a pivotal role in bringing attention to Treaties, their international character, and then lobbying to get the United Nations Treaty Study that led to the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – again it was the first of its kind to be done by an Indigenous woman. Sharon has written several books and articles and also held a full professorship position at a Canadian law school where she mentored many new Indigenous lawyers. Sharon has worked tirelessly in her life to ensure Treaty No. 6 is honoured and upheld.



Photo courtesy of Treaty 4 News



SEPTEMBER



RECIPIENTS

Matriarch



OCTOBER



SHANA PASAPA White Bear First Nation

Sports

Shana Pasapa is a strong Nakota mother of two boys from the White Bear First Nation. She has been training in Jujitsu since 2014 and moved martial arts for more than three years. After receiving her blue belt in Jujitsu in December of 2014, Shana received the title as, "Top Ranked Female Grappler in Saskatchewan" that same year. Since then, Shana has received numerous sponsorships from Needles Gas, Redway, and California based company, Be Non Human. Shana has trained every day, alongside her two boys, who also train in Jujitsu and gymnastics. Shana's oldest son just recently completed his first triathlon and her youngest received his first medal in a Jujitsu competition. Shana was also chosen to be the keynote speaker at the first Saskatchewan Youth Leadership and Wellness Program and was recognized in the Balmores Role Model Foster Program in 2014. She is also the head instructor for "OWN (Own Our Women Self Defense)" that combines the medicine wheel teachings with survival skills and self-defense techniques. On top of being a healthy lifestyle with martial arts, Shana is also a hunter, a leader, and a powerful dancer. Shana continues to inspire others, helping to train young athletes at her gym, Complete MMA in Regina an assistant coach for 14th clients. Just recently, Shana trained in San Diego, CA with the female Jujitsu Champion, Leticia Ribeiro while on vacation. Shana always tells others, the time is NOW to make your lifestyle that much healthier with eating good and training hard.



NOVEMBER



VALYNIA SPARVIER White Bear First Nation

Youth

Valynia Sparvier is eleven years old and a member of the White Bear First Nation. She is of Nakoda Anishinabe/Saulteaux/Inuit descent and is learning the Nakoda language. She has been involved in ACT an Anti-bullying movement, Recs Guardians and Fundraiser to donate to homeless programming. Valynia lives a healthy active life, participating in hip hop dance classes, Jingle dress dancing, and boxing. Last school year she entered a public speaking competition at her school and chose to use it as a platform to discuss the topic of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls in Canada. Valynia won first place for the school competition and went on to place fourth among other schools in Saskatoon. She has since spoken at various events and workshops promoting healthy active living and safety for Indigenous girls. This year she was awarded the CBC Future 40 Bright Light Award for being a positive role model.



DECEMBER



ORDER FORM

First Name:

Last Name:

Organization/First Nation:

ADDRESS

Mailing Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Cell:

Fax:

Email:

CALENDAR SALES

Number of Calendars: _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

(Contact Tim Lewis to learn about purchasing calendars for resale)

PAYMENT TYPE

☐

Invoice

☐

Money Order

☐

Cheque

☐

Cash

Please make the Cheque/Money Order to Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

(Let us know it is for the Strength of our Women Calendars)

Send Cheque/Money Order to:

Suite 100 - 103A Packham Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 4K4



FOR MORE INFORMATION

please contact Tim Lewis (306) 371-8769 or Tim.Lewis@fsin.com