

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Preserving Aboriginal culture

U of S student Jessica Generoux has a passion for keeping Aboriginal culture alive in a rapidly changing world. (Photo by Kris Foster)



By Lana Haight
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The University of Saskatchewan’s first Aboriginal library intern is preparing to be part of a new generation of Aboriginal knowledge keepers.

“I want to preserve Aboriginal identity and culture in a fast-paced information world,” said Jessica Generoux.

“My passion is keeping the culture alive and making sure that our values and our teachings and our systems of knowledge are integrated as an equal with other systems of knowledge.”

As the library intern, Generoux is enrolled in the online Master in Information and Library Science degree program at the University of Buffalo, Graduate School of Education. The U of S is paying the tuition for the three-year program. Generoux is also working in a part-time salaried position within the U of S library system.

Establishing a library internship specifically for an Aboriginal person fits with Promise and Potential, the university’s third integrated plan. The library is striving to engage Aboriginal people through its collections, facilities, services and workforce.

• Continued on Page 2



INSIDE



SHE'S A ROLE MODEL

Jordynn Delorme is one of 12 outstanding young people to be honoured in a special calendar this year. - Page 3



BELLEGARDE'S READY

Newly-elected AFN Chief Perry Bellegarde says he's prepared to face some of the biggest challenges of his career. - Page 7



MAKING MOVIES

Candy Fox is a young filmmaker whose 15-minute documentary was shown at a prestigious film festival this month. - Page 9



YOUTH SPEAK

A 17-year-old youth from Beardy's & Okemasis speaks his mind on life and what the future holds. - Page 15



TRADESWOMEN

A group of Montreal Lake women have found the ideal trade and are building on their training. - Page 16

Welcome to our
Year in Review Edition

Coming In February - Health & Wellness Issue

CPMA #40027204

U of S intern wants to share her love of reading

• Continued from Page One

Of the 140 people working at the seven branches of the University Library, only a couple of employees have self-identified as Aboriginal, said Vicki Williamson, dean of the University Library.

"A significant component of our student and user population self-identify as Aboriginal learners. We have been very mindful and respectful of that. We've done a number of things in-house to train our staff, but we felt that an additional commitment to having our workforce be more representative of the population at-large was an important contribution to make," said Williamson.

The U of S library is not unlike other libraries across Canada, and Williamson is aware of only a handful of Aboriginal people working as librarians. The U of S is the first university in Canada to establish an Aboriginal internship in its library. Over the next three years, Generoux will make stops at each U of S library branch, allowing her to apply what she is learning in a supportive environment.

"We've got lots of potential mentors for her," said Williamson. But the internship won't just benefit Generoux. Williamson expects she will be a role model, encouraging other Aboriginal

students to consider a career as a librarian.

"Her presence on the floor, delivering services, will make our libraries more friendly and more welcoming. Increasing

the number of Aboriginal employees will also serve as a stronger reminder about the need for us to remember that we are all treaty people and to remember the need for

cultural sensitivity around the resources that we handle," explained Williamson.

Generoux is no stranger to libraries. A member of Sturgeon Lake First Nation, she remembers her first encounter with books at the library in Prince Albert when she was in Grade 2.

"I found a cozy little spot by myself and I read this scary story. It opened my mind to the world. I checked out more and more books. I found my special place," said Generoux.

She wants to share that love of reading and literature with Aboriginal children who tend to have lower literacy skills than non-Aboriginal children.

"That's what I always have on my mind," said Generoux, whose daughter has just started kindergarten.

She makes a direct connection between improved literacy and an improved quality of life, with libraries and librarians playing a significant role.

"Libraries are a great place for networking," Generoux said.

After high school, Generoux earned a Bachelor of Arts in geography from the First Nations University of Canada. She worked at Regina Public Library for about seven years, where as a library assistant, she established and co-ordinated Aboriginal-based programming.



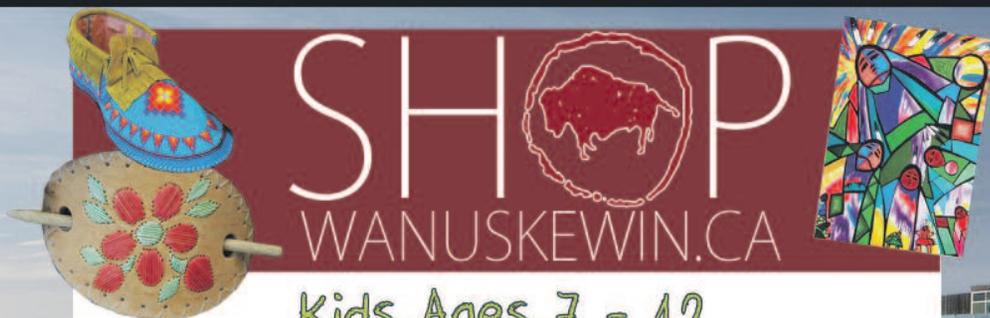
Jessica Generoux is the first Aboriginal library intern at the U of S and is part of a new generation of Aboriginal knowledge keepers, working to preserve Aboriginal identity and culture in a face-paced information world. Over the next three years Generoux, currently enrolled in the online Master in Information and Library Science program at the University of Buffalo, will make stops at each library branch on campus.

(Photo by Kris Foster)

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Role model calendar honours 12 outstanding young people

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Just 16 years old, Jordynn Delorme has already achieved one of her early life goals.

Delorme is featured as one of the 12 role models in the Regina Aboriginal Professional Association (RAPA) 2015 Role Model Calendar.

Delorme, from Cowessess First Nation, says it's an honor to be chosen as a role model for the annual calendar.

"I know a lot of people who were in the calendar in the past and it was always a dream of mine to be in one of the calendars," she says.

Delorme was nominated through her guidance counselor who was seeing all the great things that she was doing in the community. She was even asked to speak at We Day in Saskatoon.

She found out in September that she was one of the successful recipients and was surprised.

"Honestly, I was speechless. It felt so amazing and I was looking forward to the launch ever since I found out I made it," says Delorme.

Delorme's message that she would like to share with the youth is no matter how bad of a past you have had, you can still reach your dreams.

says. "I'm going to focus on my future and focus on getting an education."

After completing high school, Delorme wants to pursue a post-secondary education to become a social justice lawyer.

The Proud Generation Aboriginal Role Model Program was first introduced in 2004 to recognize the achievements of Aboriginal youth role models in Saskatchewan and to acknowledge them so they can inspire Aboriginal youth to continue striving for success.

Since its inception, the A Proud Generation has distributed more than \$56,000 in the form of bursaries to over 90 Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan.

All proceeds from calendar sales are re-invested in the youth through the bursaries and into the program next year.

As well as Delorme, the list of 2015 Role Models includes:

- Christian-Lee Masuskapoe, Ahtahkakoop First Nation
- Jada Yee, Wood Mountain First Nation
- Alana Starr, Star Blanket Cree Nation
- Jade McRobb-Poplar, Vuntut Gwitchin & Cree, NWT
- Tracy Daniels, Metis



Jordynn Delorme, middle, received her copy of the calendar from Cindy La Swisse on the left and RAPA President Cherish Deegan (right). (Photo by Mike Dubois)



These 12 hard working young people are featured in the Proud Generation Role Model Calendar. (Photo by Mike Dubois)

"In the calendar, my words of encouragement are, excuses will hold you back and reasons will force you to succeed," she says.

Delorme has seen the impact of alcohol abuse in the community and says never once has she used that as a reason to hold her back from pursuing her dreams.

"I don't want to be that person to use alcohol to take that pain away from all the hurt, I use it as reason to succeed," she

- Jennifer Dubois, George Gordon First Nation
 - Jessica Dieter, Okanese First Nation
 - Samantha Racette, Metis
 - Cameron DeLaRonde, Whitecap Dakota First Nation
 - Lindsay Hjorth, Metis
 - Michaella Shannon, Frog Lake, AB
- The 2015 Calendars are ready for purchase for \$20 each and further details can be viewed on their website. www.aproudgeneration.com



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Say goodbye to January, bring on 2015

January is always a difficult but hopeful month. The first couple of weeks are dark, cold and exhausting as you adjust from the holiday stress and food binge. You drag yourself out of bed in the morning and don't hit your stride until noon ... and that's only if the sun comes out. You live day to day but you look ahead with hope.

It is hard to keep going, but you know that if you get through January, things pick up, weather becomes bearable and school breaks and maybe a trip are on the horizon. Next thing you know it is spring and we can start appreciating why we live here because it is summer right away and the Rider season starts and you can go to the lake.

With that look forward feel and hope for the future, we felt it would be prudent to take out the long glass and look forward to some things we should all be paying attention to because we just can't take January anymore.

An event that could have the biggest impact on Aboriginal people in 2015 will be the federal election. Frustration is high with the current regime across most sectors of Canada but the anger is highest in the Aboriginal community. Relations are bad and the government is imposing their agenda, but historically we don't vote in elections so what do they care.

Fortunately the last two years have been packed with political activism led by Idle No More. That activism and engagement of young Aboriginal people will hopefully turn into Aboriginal people voting.

A group called Indigenous Vote 2015 has been created to get the Aboriginal vote out in the province. They have a Facebook page and are trying to organize across Saskatchewan. Great idea and the time is ripe to unite the Aboriginal vote.

That block vote could have implications across Canada and help create a minority government or even unseat the Cons Gang. Do your part and vote in 2015.

Average Aboriginal citizens have to do their part as both the Federation of Saskatchewan

Indian Nations and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan will likely not be the same once this year is out. Massive funding cuts at the FSIN have the Chiefs contemplating their structure and if they should drop two vice-chief positions.



FSIN CHIEF KIM JONATHAN

For the time being the FSIN is being led by Chief Kim Jonathan the first woman to be Chief in the organization's history. With vice-chief Heather Bear on the executive, the FSIN has two women and two men, vice-chiefs Dutch Lerat and Bobby Cameron balancing out the leadership of their organization.

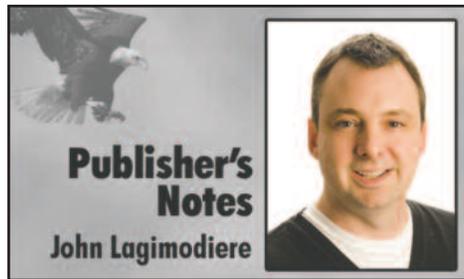
Chief Perry Bellegarde is now the National Chief at the AFN and not even days into his tenure, Prime Minister Harper was drawing lines insisting that an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women wasn't on their radar. It is clear that this issue and other pressing

issues like on reserve education will have to wait for progress until after the next federal election. The solution for that? See the get out and vote stuff above.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan may not last the year. Not in its present form, anyway. A court ordered meeting is being held mid January. In that meeting the Provincial Métis Council is supposed to set a date for the Legislative Assembly. After the Assembly, the MN-S may get its funding restored. Here is the problem. The judge told the PMC to follow their constitution. But according to the constitution well under half of the Locals that make up the organization actually qualify to be part of the organization which makes it impossible to decide who gets to attend, let alone how you form quorum. Oh so many challenges ... but if it implodes, you watch two different organizations form and let the fun begin.

Always fun to watch the political picture, but now that we have that out of the way, here are some rapid fire things to watch for in 2015.

Luke Apooch and Christopher Cook, the fellas also known as "the two guys who threw a snake at the Tim Horton's lady cause they were drunk", will be famous for exactly 15 more minutes.



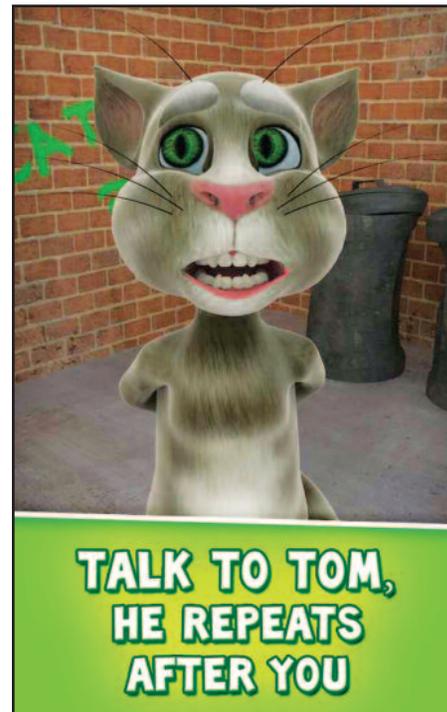
Publisher's Notes
John Lagimodiere



WHO'S BELL IS IT?

And we would like to thank them for posting the video to Facebook. We send our thoughts to Outlaw, the garter snake.

The Bell of Batoche will be in the news again as Frog Lake rises up to claim its bell back. The folks at Ochapowace First Nation will host a wildly successful Summer Games in July. Nashville wins the Stanley Cup. Riders win the Grey Cup. John Bear (he is a famous Facebook guy from Ochap ... funny. Never met him but love his humour) and his talking cat videos will be picked up by APTN. Saskatchewan wins the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships both boys and girls. Two men and two women run for Chief of FSIN in October. Someone wins.



**TALK TO TOM,
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AFTER YOU**

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2014 was a great year, 2015 will be even better

We brought in the New Year firing off the rifle in a quiet secluded field not far from our home, just like the old guys did back when we were kids.

We reminisced about long passed New Year's celebrations with family and friends no longer among us. Grateful for the memories, grateful that we made it to 2015, and optimistic for the future.

Yes, 2014 was an amazing year, full of new challenges, opportunities, surprises, joys and achievements. John L. asked us to recall the most memorable highlights, so here it goes.

For the first time in the FSIN's history we have a woman leading the charge, former first vice-chief Kim Jonathan who will hold this position until the fall election. Heather Bear is the second woman executive member, recently voted in as fourth vice-chief. For the first time ever, the FSIN executive has gender balance: two men and two women.

Congratulations also to Perry Bellegarde who was elected as Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Raising awareness on Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women was high on the radar this year. In addition to the continuing lobbying, public education and family support work of Iskwewuk e-wichiwitochik, our community launched a number of public education initiatives.

Jamie Black's REDress art project was installed at Usask campus – 130 empty red dresses were hung all over campus. In many ways it was an eerie exhibit, loud in its silence and it got people thinking.

The three-week long Walking With Our Sisters ceremonial exhibit of over 1,800 moccasin vamps was a huge and successful community effort. Through the tireless efforts of a core organization team and close to 300 volunteers, WWOS was a powerful public awareness initiative and had a huge impact on visitors.

The wheels of the justice system creak along slowly but we were all relieved when the murderer of Daleen Bosse was finally convicted.

After much lobbying, protest, and anti-racist education, the board of education finally mandated Bedford Road Collegiate to drop its highly controversial team name and logo the "Redmen" which they replaced with the "Redhawks."

We had many highlights at Usask. There are now 2,000 Aboriginal students taking classes on and off campus, that's just under 10 per cent of the total student population. For a province where we



make up 14 per cent of the total population, this is pretty darn good. We now have the highest percentage of Aboriginal students in all the 15 medical

doctoral universities across Canada.

Max Fineday won his second term as President of the USSU (University of Saskatchewan Student Union). For the last three years we have had an Indigenous student elected to this position by the entire Usask student body and they have made us proud.

We watch with pride and excitement as the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre is being built. It will house our Aboriginal Student Centre and student groups, and will open this coming spring.

As part of the community service learning activities, over 50 of our NS 107.3 students volunteered at the Walking With Our Sisters Exhibit and 98 volunteered at the FSIN powwow where they served at Admissions, Powwow Land, and the Elders & Veterans Lounge. A handful of our students also joined us during the FSIN Honouring Ceremony I was blessed with at the Powwow.

On a personal level, this was one of

the most humbling and momentous events in my life. In my heart the highest public honour is to be honoured by our own people. I thank you all for sharing in it with me.

On the home front, our children and grandchildren made it through the year safe and healthy. We built a new passive solar house at our little ranch; started raising chickens, and my little Paint horse yearling, AwesomeBlue Morning, won her first Register of Merit Award making us proud on the show circuit. We have much to be thankful for.

And 2015 is going to be a progressive year. In my dreams and goals we will continue to build on our accomplishments, we will prioritize healthy minds and bodies, we will take better care of each other, celebrate each other's accomplishments and help each other out to the best of our abilities. We will be pro-active, not reactive, when it comes to dealing with our issues and challenges, and be more accountable and transparent in our actions.

Starting the new year off with prayers for good health, happiness and good luck to you all. In your prayers, please remember those who are ill, hungry, scared, hurting, and struggling. We have made great strides but still have much work to do to heal and decolonize ourselves.

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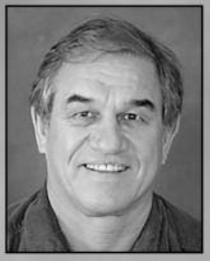
Seasons greetings!

This month I start the new year with a review of some of the creeping attacks on clear written and oral English language expression. I presume that the reader has noticed the absence of an apostrophe before the 's' in the greeting, which is to serve as an introduction to my topic. That is so, unless the editor has added the apostrophe without reading further!

I started thinking about my topic by asking myself: "Self, am I a compulsive nitpicker?" "Is there any socially valuable reason for criticizing the changes that I see and hear in English language expression over the years?" In search of an answer for myself I reviewed some of the commentaries by various experts



Comment
Paul Chartrand



that I have collected over the years of my career as a professional contrarian.

By the way, before I go on I want to tell you about the most memorable description of a nitpicker that I have read. It was in Alan Fotheringham's column at the back of McLeans magazine long ago and he was writing about lawyers that he described as being so nitpicky that 'they can pick fly shit out of a barrel of Rice Krispies while wearing boxing gloves.' Do they still make that cereal made up of small bits of dried white rice?

Going back now to my search for a good reason to criticize the confusion that is created by changes in language that do not assist effective communication but hinder it, I seized upon the following reasoning by one C.W. Gusewelle, an American writer, in comments about misuse of the apostrophe, which I paraphrase for brevity and italicize, as follows.

(Incorrect language usage) would be of no consequence except for the habit that ignorance has of finding its way into general usage, and then becoming accepted, and acquiring finally the dignity of a rule. The process is driven by a fuzzy egalitarianism ... the notion that since people differ in their ability to perform certain tasks, it is not as important to get things right as to feel good about oneself while getting them wrong. And the easiest way to achieve that, of course, is simply to change the definition of right. It has happened to ... what passes for music ... to matters of public and private behavior, political accountability, parental responsibility, etc.

Now that I have already taken up half of my allotted space this month, I propose to briefly identify some of the popular offending changes by putting

them into the form of questions. I will then set for myself the goal of dealing with the problems (not 'issues') these infelicities and downright mistakes throw up in my next commentary. The interested reader (do I have one?) may analyze each problem and compare it with my future commentary.

1. Here is an offending newspaper headline: Dutch dominance in long track speed skating begs the question, where's Canada?

2. What will be the impact of more skating lessons on Canada's chances to win a gold medal?

3. The notorious Bill C 33 or First Nation Education Act 2014.

(4) The director of education, the principal, the

council of the First Nation, the First Nation Education Authority, if the school is administered by such an Authority, and their employees must provide all reasonable assistance to enable the school inspector to perform their functions.

4. We have to be inclusive eh?
5. For this recipe you may use apples and/or oranges. Or a worse version of the same problem: When using these ingredients you may mix/mash/cut them into little pieces.

6. Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act which came into force in January 2011.

7. And what do you think we should do about the problem going forward?

8. Let us grow our business enterprise!

9. It is a Canadian virtue to promote diversity.

Must I admit that I yield but too easily to my propensity to act as a didactic twit?

• • •

Readers may have noticed another Canadian trend which forbids criticism of anyone, any idea, or any religion. The only exceptions seem to be Aboriginal people and the Catholic Church, which has already transformed itself in an apparent bid for popularity.

The trend seems to be experiencing a reversal for the latter in light of some of the ideas that are being promoted by Pope Francis.

His 15 points for personal improvement delivered in his Christmas message to the Vatican bureaucrats (the Curia) are guides not only for bureaucrats of all stripes but for everyone.

My favourite point is his admonishment of folks who walk around with 'funereal faces'. Look it up.

Happy 2015.

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Bellegarde prepares to do battle with feds

Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde has his hands full. Just days into his mandate as Chief, Bellegarde already had the usual AFN detractors calling the AFN irrelevant and environmental activists calling the National Chief, Pipeline Perry. It's not like he didn't know what he was getting into. Chief Bellegarde has been in politics for 30 years and active with the AFN for over a decade. He is aware of the challenges facing the AFN and First Nation people across Canada and now as National Chief, he has a chance to bring his experience to bear and see if he is the person who can finally unite the AFN and bring progress to many important files. We had the chance to interview Chief Bellegarde over the phone from Ottawa.

Here are his thoughts. This article and responses have been edited. The interview can be seen in its entirety on our website www.eaglefeathernews.com

EFN: The AFN has been in the spotlight for the last year and there was strong reaction from your acceptance speech. All the people that attacked the AFN before are now attacking you and calling you Pipeline Perry. How do you react to that and to the fact the rhetoric is ramping up already?

Chief Bellegarde: It is unfortunate that people will start shooting arrows at their own leaders. Our Elders have said it best. It is unfortunate that our people start bringing down our leaders when we are starting to get ready to fight government. When we get ready for battle, the elders say we should be smudging and praying for our leaders to get them ready to battle. So it is unfortunate, but I have been around for a few years and you have to work through that, you have to bring all of our voices together and strength and energy together and point them in the right direction. We are not the enemy. We have to battle governments that don't listen to us and don't respect our inherent right and treaty rights.

EFN: Two big issues are education on reserves and missing and murdered Aboriginal women. What is the solution on education? The federal government put out this legislation with lots of strings attached but there is some money there. How do you move forward on this portfolio when it is one of the biggest needs in the community?

Chief Bellegarde: Something we need to get out to the public is the 40 per cent funding gap that exists. What I mean by that is on reserve schools get \$6,500 per student for tuition, versus the \$10,500 per student off-reserve in the provincial system versus the \$19,500 per student in the French system. That has to be addressed. That is the issue. We need to look at the equitable funding, not equal, but equitable. We are not going to jeopardize First Nation jurisdiction. We are not going to jeopardize our inherent and treaty right to education. Governments need to get that. We don't need legislation to close the fiscal gap. We need to respect Indian control of Indian education. The Chiefs in Assembly passed a resolution that calls for a national fiscal framework respecting regional differences and approaches. That is the work we are going to get started.

EFN: Prime Minister Harper came out and said that an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women wasn't high on their radar. How do you push this inquest against the unmoveable wall?

Chief Bellegarde: Again, not to quit. This issue is one of the biggest black marks on Canada. Close to 1,200 women and probably even higher. Two things are happening. In February there is a roundtable that will give an action plan so there is a coordinated approach in ending violence against Indian women and girls. But we are not going to quit on the push for this national inquiry. You got to keep pushing hard. There is a federal election coming up and we have to make sure this is front and centre in all the federal parties' platforms. We need to get to the root causes and by having an

inquiry it is going to educate everyone about the importance of the issue and start doing some dialoguing and changing people's attitudes. Education leads to awareness, leads to understanding and that leads to action. We are not going to stop our efforts to push for that.

EFN: In regards to natural resources, you said that First Nations have to be at the table for any sort of development. How do you see the duty to consult and accommodate?

Chief Bellegarde: The way that things are right now, the status quo is not acceptable. The provinces are still issuing licenses to industry with no involvement of First Nations people and with no recognition or respect of Aboriginal rights. We say we still have unextinguished Aboriginal right and title to the resources beneath the depth of a plow in Saskatchewan. That is the treaty First Nations perspective. When we start talking about closing the gap, we are talking about resource revenue sharing. And I make that strong statement because of the recent Supreme Court decision in the Williams Case. Aboriginal rights and title are recognized and affirmed. Again, industry has a responsibility to consult and accommodate. We also have the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people that speaks to free prior and informed consent. We have some big tools. Industry and government want economic certainty where resources can be developed and sold to international markets. Well fine, but if you want that you have to make sure that Indigenous people are involved every step of the way from start to finish. And we want to be involved and we have to be involved not only because of the jobs and wealth generation that will happen. There will be no more becoming economically marginalized. We also bring that extra value added of respecting the land and the water we can offer balance and make sure that we have long-term sustainable economic development strategies in place. Those are key things going forward. We can look at a national energy strategy that the feds can facilitate. First Nation's people and government have to be involved.

EFN: If consultation doesn't work and resource sharing doesn't happen, we have seen the grass roots people rising up and the emergence of Idle No More, roadblocks,

blockades. What do we do in that situation when it has devolved so bad that it leads to confrontation and roadblocks?

Chief Bellegarde: We would hope that things don't get that far. I have always said you need three strategies in place to get any kind of change. You need a legal strategy. How do we legally defend and stand up for our rights and title. You need a political strategy for both federal and provincial governments for engaging and dialoguing. And then, of course, political activism. I don't call it civil disobedience. I don't call it protests. It is basically political activism. All three have to be coordinated. We hope it doesn't have to get to the point of activism, but government and industry have to be engaging with indigenous people and respecting our rights. That is what we hope.

EFN: Internally, how do you pull the Chiefs back together?

You had a relatively low voter turnout and some apathy there, how do you reinvigorate the Chiefs coming together?

Chief Bellegarde: I don't think there is apathy. I think with the millions of dollars in cutbacks from Aboriginal Affairs, there wasn't the capacity to show up at the meetings, too. A lot of First Nations just didn't have the funding to show up. I heard that numerous times. So, that is an issue. The government has continued to cut funding for the last four or five years. Having said that, we are going to continue to review the charter of the AFN and continue to support the work from our Chiefs committee on Nation Building and keep asking the questions about what is working and what are the recommendations to make it a more effective organization. The Assembly of First Nations is very relevant, very responsive and very respectful of the diversity across this great land. And that is the work that I support.



PERRY BELLEGARDE

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Let's reach out and touch someone this year

"Reach out and touch somebody's hand, make this world a better place if you can."

There is very little written about the importance of touch. Some dictionaries list up to 60 different meanings for the word touch. Author Desmond Morris says, "Something special happens when two people touch each other physically, whether by hand shake, a pat on the back or a slap on the face."

One thing is sure; touch establishes communication and what is transmitted has more meaning than words. Touch communicates involvement. It means you care that you are really supporting the other person.

From the moment we are born, touch is the way we first become acquainted with the world. Messages the baby picks up through the skin are enormously important. The way the parent holds the baby, the caressing, the cuddling, influence they way he or she grows and develops.

Without touch stimulation, humans cannot function properly. Those of us who have not received enough touch stimulation early in life quite likely can't establish 'good contact' with others. They "rub" people the wrong way.

Touch is a means of communication so critical that its absence retards the growth of infants. It was Aristotle that attributed touch as one of the five senses in humans, next to sight, hearing, taste and smell. Humans are born with an innate need for human touch. From infancy, touch is vitally important to emotional and physical health and well-being.

And considering that communication plays such a vital role in everyday relationships from birth, it makes sense that the human touch would also play an important role in how we communicate.

Touch is one of the best ways of communicating your feelings to another. The touch of a hand, or an arm around someone's shoulder, can send a more vivid and direct message that a bunch of words could not convey.

There is a great deal of research on the importance of touch in healthy relationships. Studies have shown that by simply holding hands or rubbing someone's back, you can lower stress levels and lessen anxiety. There are noticeable changes in mood and even health when we are exposed to simple human kindness in the form of touch.

Some people need their personal space, while others loved to be touched. Even Facebook gives us the opportunity to "poke" our friends and family.

With today's fast-advancing technology, instant communication is everything and a very efficient way to get your message out there. In less time than it takes to tie a shoe, a person is able to communicate with another person half-way around the world, or without even batting an eye.

And while many of today's technological tools are a great way to keep in touch with relationships, be they personal or professional, there is one significant piece of the communication puzzle that is missing, and that is that much of today's communication lacks that all-important element humans so desperately need—the human touch.

There are simple ways of bringing human touch into today's communication, beginning with setting aside the gadgets.

Understand that communication is the key element in maintaining healthy relationships, it should certainly begin and end with both big and small and very personal gestures that give communication a more human feel such as: Having face-to-face conversations, maintaining eye contact, offering a firm handshake,

offering someone a pat on the back, a handwritten letter, a phone call (rather than a text-message), touching someone's hand or arm during a conversation, and above all things, taking the time to listen.

Not only will these simple gestures add a human touch, but they will go a long way, including the extra mile when it comes to experiencing more effective and meaningful communi-

cation.

Helen Keller said, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

There is nothing better than a warm hug from a good friend, family member or lover. Let 2015 be the year that you share warm hugs and kindness.

Be good to each other because it is something that we can all do.

Keep your letters and emails coming. Send your questions or comments to:

Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 ST Main Saskatoon, SKK 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

Saskatoon Public Schools

Saskatoon Public Schools inspire and sustain learning. We are open to all children and youth so they may discover, develop and act upon their potential, thereby enriching their lives and our community.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The Saskatoon Public School Division is seeking a Director of Education to take office on or about August 1, 2015. The division enjoys a well-earned reputation for excellence in the programs it offers to over 23,000 students in 58 schools within an annual \$230 million budget.

As Chief Executive Officer, you will be a student-centered leader capable of inspiring staff and community members to exceptional performance. In order to meet the ever-changing needs of our diverse student population you will be an excellent communicator and have demonstrated the ability to understand and optimize a complex system driven by provincial and local strategic priorities.

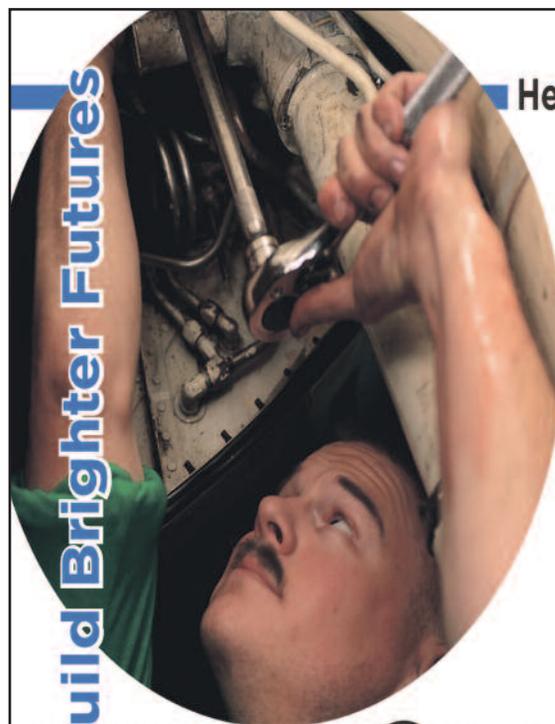
The closing date for applications is January 20, 2015. Qualified individuals are invited to address applications, accompanied by a detailed resume, to:

Director's Search Committee
c/o Superintendent of Human Resources
E-mail: valentinej@spsd.sk.ca

Please check our website at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca for further details.



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning



Helping Build Brighter Futures

Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic

Location: Moose Jaw, SK

Program runs: March 2nd, 2015 to August 31st, 2015

Application Deadline: February 6th, 2015

This six month program will provide students with Level 1 Pre-employment and Apprenticeship training for the Heavy Equipment Truck & Transport Mechanic trade. Graduates will receive 640 hours credit for class time."

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FNUniv student's film makes it to TIFF

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Candy Fox, a film production major at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv), produced a 15-minute short film that has been selected as one of Canada's Top Ten Student Films by the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Fox's film, *Backroads*, premiered on Jan. 9 in Toronto which had the producer excited to see her production screened at the important film festival.

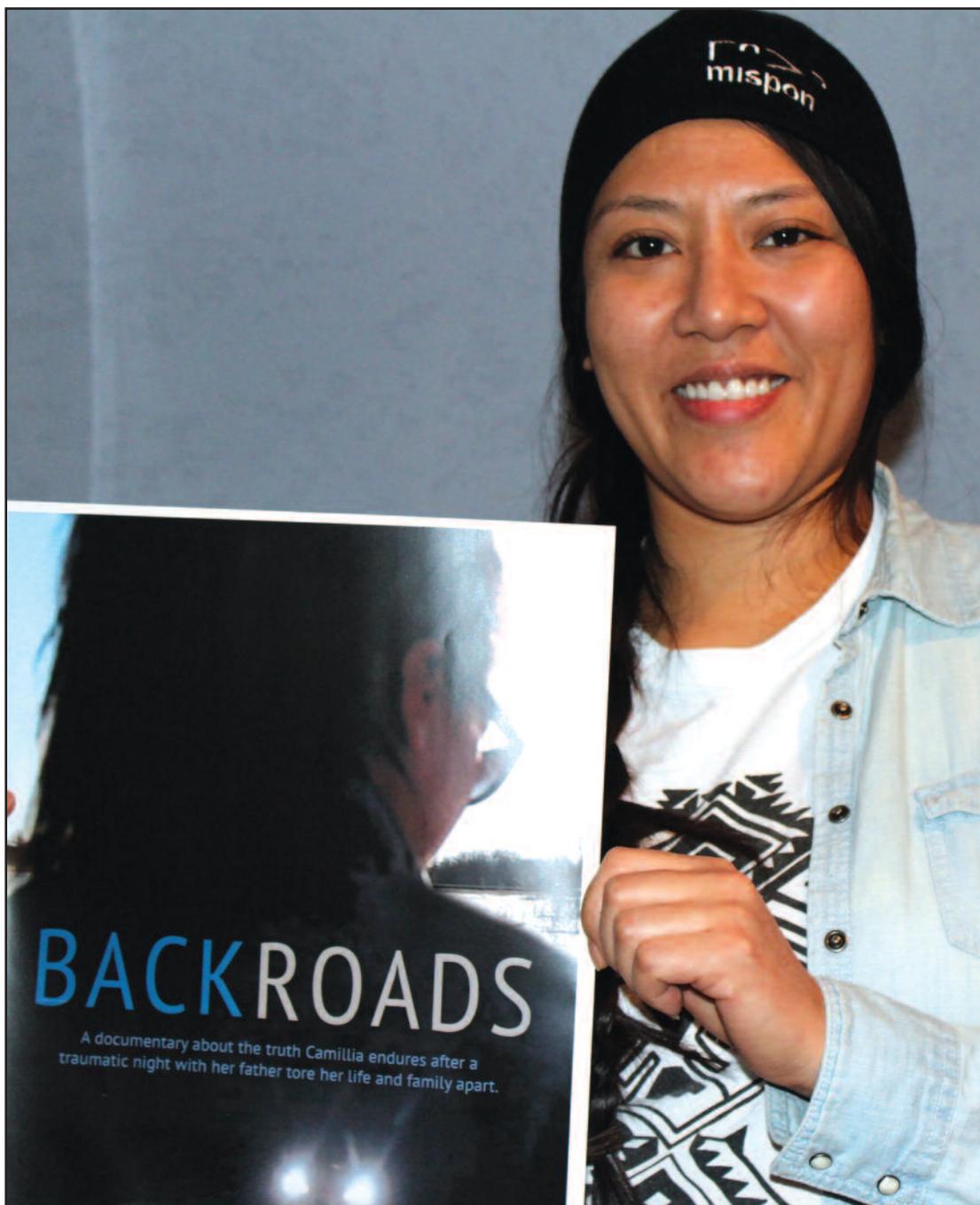
"It feels a little overwhelming at first, all at once. I'm thinking what I need to take care of to get everything to TIFF. I think this happening has been reaffirming for me," says Fox.

Fox found out in November and had to keep the news quiet until TIFF made an official announcement in early December of all the selected films to be showcased in the New Year.

The short documentary is described as a testimonial by Camillia Stonechild who shares her story of her family upbringing and how that was destroyed through the abuse that occurred.

In 2012, Stonechild remembers her biological father made her touch him in an inappropriate way while she was passed out. It was not long ago when she decided to rid the burden of this dark secret that had slowly deteriorated her family.

"After that, everything just fell apart in my family. We used to be



Candy Fox's short film was screened at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival this month. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

so close and after that, everything just shattered to pieces," says Stonechild.

Stonechild says talking about it has not only helped her grow from the incident but it has helped people to come forward.

"I've had a couple people come up to me and sharing to me what they have never shared with anyone else. I took that very personal and it made me feel good because (my story) made an impact on them," says Stonechild.

Fox says she knows now that she needs to continue making films because of the dialogues created and the impact the stories she illustrates through the craft of film producing.

"It's inspiring because it's showing somebody who is not afraid to stand up for herself and be public with this because a lot of times [these situations] are pushed behind closed doors especially when it occurs within a family," says Fox.

The film student's plans are to continue creating films and telling more stories. Her advice to those who want to pursue a passion for filmmaking is to find a mentor who is in filmmaking and ask them questions and to get as much experience as you can.

"Find out what's important to you as a person and just do it if that includes telling stories through filmmaking, I'd say just do it."



Building Relationships

"It is important for me to have a sense of family at work. I have worked at the City of Saskatoon for almost two years and it has provided me with an environment where I have been able to foster many close relationships – that combined with the many job opportunities, I hope to further build my career as a City employee."

Alaina Gillespie-Meise, Occupational Health Consultant



New job postings every Wednesday at www.saskatoon.ca
For more information contact Jodi at 306-975-2661.



Helping Build Brighter Futures

Practical Nursing Program

Location: Prince Albert, SK

Program Runs: September 2015 - May 2017

Application Deadline: January 23rd, 2015

Admission requirements:

- Grade 12 with a minimum overall average of 65% in the following five subjects:
- English Language Arts A30
- English Language Arts B30
- 30 Level Science
- 30 Level Social Studies
- 30 Level Mathematics (excluding Workplace and Apprenticeship Mathematics)



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Remembering the best and worst of 2014

For news-watchers, 2014 was a horrifying year; a lot of crazy shit went down around the world. But some good stuff also happened. Here's my list of stories that made the world a brighter or scarier place.

In the "Best of 2014" category, I'm putting BDSM, which stands for Bondage and Discipline and Sadism and Masochism. According to its practitioners (and there's a very active group in Estevan according to the Interwebs), BDSM has lots of health benefits – and probably makes you very good at tying knots, which is great if you ever go sailing or get into kidnapping people.

We heard a lot about BDSM in 2014, thanks to ex-CBC Host Jian Ghomeshi's disgusting and deliberate misunderstanding of what consensual BDSM consists of. He claimed that he was into BDSM, which requires careful planning and a gradual build up of trust among its participants, when really he just wanted to beat the shit out of women and sexually assault them.

Jian, with his carefully sculpted facial hair, adolescent girl thighs and earnest liberal politics made women feel safe – but it turns out we could not have been in a more dangerous place.

In the "Worst of" category, we can safely put the Toronto's Ford brothers. They doubled in size this year, adding the "less crazy" brother Doug to the mix, sort of like adding hillbilly heroin to your usual injection of crack cocaine.

Basically, what we can all learn from the Fords is that if you keep repeating a lie, then people will eventually believe it – like claiming that you saved a city "\$1 billion in taxes" even when taxpayers paid more in taxes under



That's What She Said
Dawn Dumont

your administration than the previous one.

So in the spirit of the blustery Ford brothers, here's my unsubstantiated claim: "I'm 115 lbs with big breasts, I'm 115 lbs with big breasts..."

In 2014, the hashtag #MMIW rose to prominence which goes into the Best of category. It refers to the over 1,000 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada.

MMIW advocates have called for an inquiry and Stephen Harper's last remark on the subject was, "it's not on the radar," as though he were talking about UFO's instead of human beings. Of course, Harper is more likely to acknowledge the existence of extraterrestrials than missing and murdered Indigenous women.

In the "Best of", Malala Yousafzai blows away the rest of the competition. The young Pakistani woman is just a teenager and she's already won the Nobel Peace Prize; I'm an adult and I can barely find Pakistan on a map.

In 2012 a member of the Taliban shot Malala because she was a female who blogged about wanting to go to school. But if they wanted to shut her up, they definitely chose the wrong girl. Now Malala travels all over the world advocating for the rights of all children to be educated.

Remember her name and throw it in your kids' faces

when they won't study: "After all Malala went through and now you're just gonna waste her efforts so you can watch Youtube videos of a dog dressed in a spider costume." (Although as far as Youtube videos go, that one was pretty epic.)

ISIS, of course, needs to be tossed like used toilet paper into the "Worst of" group. ISIS – just when you thought there were enough woman-hating, Western-loathing groups out there, a brash newcomer jockeys to the forefront.

ISIS is particularly powerful at branding – social that is, although they'd probably be into the other kind if someone told them about it. They were also fond of convincing the world's disenfranchised youth to jump on a plane to Syria and offer up their nuts on a platter.

CSIS estimates that more than 130 Canadians have left Canada to join terrorist groups and about 30 of them have heeded the call of ISIS, a group that al Qaeda denounces as too violent.

Then we had some videos in November from a former hockey player turned ISIS spokesman – who had all the charisma of a fart I took after finishing off a box of Turtles. He encouraged Canadians to turn on Canadians because yes, we were all looking for leadership from a sunburned white guy with long greasy hair.

I don't know why anyone would join a group like ISIS. If you must prove your "manhood" in useless and stupid ways – then chain yourself to an iceberg or perform CPR on a beached whale or heckle people who won't get snow-tires.

Also, if you're into hating and abusing women, you can do that here as well as anywhere – just ask Jian.

CALL FOR ARTISTS:
Request for Qualifications

MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL
WOMEN'S COMMEMORATIVE ART INSTALLATION

Deadline for Submissions: February 28th 2014 3:00 pm CST local time

Budget: \$120,000.00 (all-inclusive)

Location of the Monument: Front of the new Saskatoon Police headquarters, 76 25th Street East, City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Saskatoon Police Service and the Provincial Government partnered to commission a commemorative art installation, to be located in the new Saskatoon Police headquarters. The objective of this public art project is to commemorate and bring awareness to missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Partnership seek Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from an artist and/or team to work with the community in the creation and implementation of the project.

The complete RFQ document can be found at sktc.sk.ca and saskatoonpoliceservice.ca. Artists are reminded to check the websites regularly for any updates regarding this RFQ prior to submitting their application.

All inquiries about the project and the call for artists should be to Marylou Mintram by email to mmawcai@gmail.com



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Métis primer books in Michif and English released

SASKATOON – The Gabriel Dumont Institute has just released an early reading program that includes three sets of nine children’s books, all relating to Métis culture.

The translated version will also include an audio CD with narration tracks for each book, which will allow readers to practise their pronunciation. The narration is provided by Michif master Norman Fleury.

The books were released at an event at Westmount Community School in Saskatoon that included a reading of some of the books and a performance from John and Vicki Arcand and some jiggging by the children. Several students from Westmount and other schools acted as models for the photographs in the books and they were on hand to receive gifts and be thanked for their participation.

The books were written by Angie Caron and Wilfred Burton and are for the emerging reader.

“It has been an exciting adventure creating these books,” said author Angie Caron who is also a teacher in the Saskatoon Public system.

“These books fill a niche in the Métis community and it is great to have content in the early years.”

The Gabriel Dumont Institute will produce 1,000 copies of each set—a total of 27,000 books and 3,000 CDs – which will be distributed to libraries, homes and schools across Saskatchewan. The Government of Canada is providing \$59,700 in funding to the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research to translate 27 books of its early reading program into Michif-language editions with English translations.

“We would like to thank Canadian Heritage for its support of this educational resource,” said Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director, Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research.

“These books will help us transfer knowledge of the Michif language, which is key to ensuring it remains alive for today’s Métis and for our future generations.”



Angie Caron and Wilfred Burton are the authors of a set of children’s books that help teach the Michif language. The books were published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute with Michif translations by Norman Fleury. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Samaira Strongarm is one of the Westmount Community School students featured in the books. She was on hand for the launch and received a nice photo and gift for her hard work. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Helping Build Brighter Futures

Practical Nursing Program

Location: Saskatoon, SK
Program Runs: September 2015 - May 2017
Application Deadline: January 23rd, 2015

Admission requirements:
 Grade 12 with a minimum overall average of 65% in the following five subjects:

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- 30 Level Science
- 30 Level Social Studies
- 30 Level Mathematics (excluding Workplace and Apprenticeship Mathematics)



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Larissa Burnouf won second at a previous AYIC competition. Prize money from AYIC has helped several young entrepreneurs get started in business.

Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge kicks off Jan. 24

Starting on Jan. 24, Aboriginal entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to create a business plan and compete for \$10,000 in start-up capital through Enactus University of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge.

The Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge (AYIC) is a business idea competition for Aboriginal youth ages 16-35. AYIC provides access to learning opportunities and mentorship in the development of a self-sustaining business model. The competition ends with the winner and runner up receiving start-up capital for their businesses.

This year's title sponsor is PotashCorp who generously contributed \$10,000 for the competition.

The Challenge will be held over an eight-week period starting on Jan. 24. It will include educational workshops, one-on-one sessions, and an awards gala.

Over the years, AYIC has helped launch

numerous Aboriginal businesses including Neechie Gear, Sweet Moon Photography, and ShopIndigenous.

"Enactus' Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge strives to provide entrepreneurial opportunities and business skills to Aboriginal youth by providing workshops, mentorship and funding to encourage entrepreneurial thinking among the Aboriginal community," says AYIC Project Leader Preston Thomson.

"My hope is that our project inspires Aboriginal youth to unleash their true potential in Saskatchewan's growing economy."

"The opportunity to network with other like minded Aboriginal entrepreneurs will allow participants to develop their business ideas into a reality," added Enactus University of Saskatchewan President Tyler Dawson.

You can register today at:

www.enactussask.com/AYIC2015.

Timbits coming to the Fort

LITTLE BLACK BEAR FIRST NATION – The Little Black Bear's Band says it is bringing big business to Fort Qu'Appelle this spring with the construction of a new Petro Canada gas station and a full-service Tim Horton's restaurant franchise.

Construction is currently underway in Fort Qu'Appelle, just off of highway 10, and the business is expected to be operational by May 2015.



"In 1996, we signed their Specific Claims Agreement that provided funds to purchase land," Little Black Bear's Band said Chief Clarence Bellegarde.

"Little Black Bear Band now has 17,000 acres of reserved territory near Balcarres, 9,250 acres of agricultural land and two acres of institutional land in Balcarres with five acres of commercial land in Fort Qu'Appelle, which the new Petro Canada and Tim Horton's is being constructed on."

Currently, the band operates a number of entities including LBB Gas & Convenience, LBB Orchards Ltd, Wakayos Holdings Inc, File Hills Employment and Training Centre, Wakayos Training Centre and Wakayos Development Ltd.

"Little Black Bear's Band underwent a lengthy strategic planning process in 2005-2006 to develop a shared 30-year economic framework that included land use planning, sound business management, fiscal policies and business exploration," said Bellegarde.

"One of the goals was to create wealth for the community through start-up business that were profitable, sustainable, environmentally responsible, and that resulted in job creation and employment opportunities."



WINCASH

For Your Business Idea!

The Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge (AYIC) is a business plan competition for local Aboriginal peoples. The competition provides the opportunity to develop or strengthen a business plan through workshops, one-on-one mentorships, and the chance to win cash to start your business! Eligible participants must be Aboriginal, age 16-35, and a Saskatchewan resident.

AYIC 2015 competition runs January - February 2015

Register at www.EnactusSask.com/AYIC/Apply
Registration closes on January 24

For more information please email AboriginalYouthIdeaChallenge@gmail.com or visit us online at www.EnactusSask.com

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saskatoonpoliceservice.ca



6 Arrows Media right on target

By Mika Lafond

For Eagle Feather News

SIX NATIONS TERRITORY - When Marty Ballentyne relocated from Saskatchewan to Ontario in September he had no idea that an invitation for coffee and muffins, a jam session, and a friend's visit would turn into an opportunity that Ballentyne says has empowered him and inspired him to give back to the Indigenous arts community.

The friend who came to visit was Juno-award winner Derek Miller who invited Ballentyne to be a partner in the new media powerhouse, 6 Arrows Media, located on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

The partnership also included Gary Joseph and Shane Powless of Thru the RedDoor multimedia studio. Ballentyne accepted, excited to work with respected and experienced individuals like Gary, Derek, and Shane. The group began meeting and plans were put in place for a live-stream launch from their website on Nov. 1.

The vision for 6 Arrows Media began nearly 15 years ago, Ballentyne said. The dream was to establish a creative space for Indigenous artists. Thru the RedDoor studio offers that space with the capabilities to support recording, live streaming, video production, and live performances.



Derek Miller, far right, is one of the founders of 6 Arrows Media, an organization formed to promote Aboriginal artists through new media.

The focus for 6 Arrows Media is to provide that space to young, emerging, and established Indigenous Artists to benefit their careers. With his own 15-year-old son in mind, Ballentyne said, he hoped to help the partnership provide opportunities for youth interested in music. The partners have over 20 years experience in the industry, and wanted to share that experience with other artists so they won't have to face the same barriers in their careers as previous generations of Indigenous artists.

Although only up and running for a month, the success of the venture was immediate as their first live-stream launch, including artists Brent Diabo, Cheri Maracle, Ras Haile X, Behold the Shadows,

The Ollivanders, Logan Staats, Jeff Doreen, and Chilly Chase, was viewed worldwide. And again, when Logan Staats, APCMA winner of the band Ghost Town Orchestra was the first artist signed to 6 AM's new music label. With the Nov. 28 live-stream of well-known comedian Ryan McMahon, 6 Arrows Media continued to create waves in Indigenous media.

Ballentyne said that future program plans for 6 Arrows Media are to nurture existing talent in communities, create youth development opportunities, and to work with elders as mentors. He said that 6 Arrows Media is about bringing the Indigenous community together. The programs are planned to remain centered around

Indigenous philosophy of inter-generational sharing and learning experiences. One idea that they are currently working to bring to fruition is a program where youth and elders are connected in a creative environment together. The elders and youth would be given the opportunity to work with one another using televisual and interactive technology to create a project together.

The partners invite artists to contact 6 Arrows Media to find out about more opportunities. Information about 6 Arrows Media can be found on their website www.6arrowsmedia.com.

They are also on Twitter @6Arrows-Media and have a Facebook page: 6 Arrows Media.

Think Indigenous Saskatoon SK Treaty 6 Territory
Inspiring change through Indigenous education practices and knowledges.

Think Indigenous

Our formal theme, "Inspiring change through Indigenous education practices & knowledges" is at the heart of the Indian Teacher EDUCATION PROGRAM and the College of Education. Through the beauty of education we hope to inspire educators to incorporate Indigenous Knowledges into the everyday practices of teaching.

Conference Goal

Inspiring, informative and provocative, the THINK INDIGENOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE (TIEC) will offer EDUCATORS from all backgrounds the opportunity to work together in the enhancement of Indigenous Knowledges.

Your Invitation

The Indian Teacher Education Program wishes to extend an invitation to TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, SUPERINTENDENTS, DIRECTORS, STUDENTS, LEADERS, UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF, PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS to Think Indigenous Education Conference 2015.

MARCH 18-20 2015

Contact

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S7N 0X1
Phone: (306) 966-7686
Email: itep.thinkindigenous@usask.ca

Registration

Early Bird - Register by January 16, 2015:..... can \$250.00
Between January 17th, 2015 & March 17, 2015:..... can \$300.00
After March 18, 2015:..... can \$350.00
Elders & Student Rate:..... can \$150.00

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Pasqua wins right to sue Province over TLE obligations

PASQUA FIRST NATION – Pasqua First Nation has successfully defended its right to bring an action before the Federal Court of Canada against both Saskatchewan and Canada for failure to implement their Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) obligations, says the First Nation in a news release.

In June of 2014, the First Nation filed a Statement of Claim before the Federal Court alleging that Canada and Saskatchewan have failed to properly implement their TLE Settlement promises and to make any Crown lands or minerals available for purchase by Pasqua. In particular, it says Saskatchewan has permitted new third party interests and has taken up land for lease and/or sale without consultation to Pasqua and contrary to their obligation to provide lands in priority to fulfill longstanding Treaty 4 obligations.



Despite agreeing to language in the Settlement Agreement that all disputes would be heard at the Federal Court, the Province brought a motion to strike the claim and that the Federal Court does not have jurisdiction against Saskatchewan.

Earlier this week, the Honourable Mr. Justice Boswell dismissed the motion and ordered costs against Saskatchewan, according to the release.

In his reasons, the Judge cited the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Grassy Narrows First Nation v. Ontario* when he stated “treaty obligations to aboriginal peoples are duties that bind the Crown. Insofar as both levels of government are responsible for fulfilling the Crown's promises made in Treaty 4, it is important in the present case that ... the Defendant Saskatchewan and the Defendant Canada, both be parties in this proceeding,” the judge wrote.

“The Saskatchewan Treaty Entitlement Act and the Settlement Agreement clearly provide for Federal Court Jurisdiction. We are thrilled that we can hold both Saskatchewan and Canada to the promises that we all agreed to in the Settlement Agreement,” Chief M. Todd Peigan stated.

“We look forward to moving forward as soon as possible to resolve the substance of our dispute.”



FHQTC Tribal Chairman Edmund Bellegarde addresses the audience at the announcement of the expansion of the All Nations Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle. (Photo by Cherish Francis)

Expansion for All Nations Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle

FORT QU'APPELLE – The All Nations Healing Hospital will be building a Chronic Illness Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle this spring.

The Chronic Illness Centre will benefit those suffering with a chronic illness and in need of dialysis. The plan for the Centre is to provide dialysis services for First Nation, Métis and non-First Nation patients in need of it and also have a strong prevention focus to assist clients to maintain their kidney health.

“We are excited about the opportunity to move this important initiative forward as it specifically addresses the chronic disease challenges for First Nations in Canada,” said ANHH Director Gail Boehme.

“With this expansion we will be in a position to support clients seeking assistance in the management of their chronic diseases and will ensure their upstream treatment and downstream healthcare needs are addressed.”

“Once completed the Chronic Disease Centre will be a showcase site that demonstrates the value we place on the quality of life for our rural, First Nation, and Métis populations. It will provide the healthcare system a model for efficient and effective delivery of care for chronic disease, the cost of which has been estimated as high as \$80 million to Canadians,” she said.

“This is great news for the community of Fort Qu'Appelle and surrounding communities. The Chronic Illness Centre will ensure all patients' needs are met to the highest degree possible in an integrated manner,” said FHQTC Tribal Chairperson Edmund Bellegarde.

“The goal of this new centre is to fill the gap for those rural First Nations and non-First Nations in need of dialysis. Travelling to a major centre like Regina for dialysis treatment will be done in Fort Qu'Appelle in the near future. Patients will no longer have the burden and stress of travelling long distances to receive treatment and overall this will help improve their quality of life”

It is estimated that there are over 400 people accessing the Chronic Kidney Disease Program in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region with approximately 32 clients in the All Nations Healing Hospital catchment area. The new Chronic Illness Centre will cost approximately \$2 million to build and construction will commence in the spring of 2015.

“The Chronic Illness Centre demonstrates the value we place on the quality of life of our rural and First Nations populations,” said Bellegarde.

“This project will also demonstrate an efficient and effective health model which supports positive health outcomes for chronically ill people.”

LWC XV - 15th Anniversary TOMAHOCKEY

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LWC TOMAHOOCKEY

Beardy's youth shares his thoughts on life, the future

Youth Speak this month is brought to you by Mike Kahkwetwew from Beardy's & Okemasis Willow Cree Nation. He is 17 and currently in Grade 12 at Constable Robin Cameron Education Complex. He is the youth rep for his Nation and a future First Nation University of Canada student. Here are his thoughts.

• • •

All the fellow young people, my relations. I've come to write a message. I really don't know what I am supposed to be writing about, but today I will be writing something rather enlightening.



MIKE KAHKWETWEW

I want to introduce thought in my fellow young adults' minds, assisting in keeping idealism to assume the position of being the creative natives we truly are and fighting for the balance in the different paths we all walk.

For each day, we wake up and get out of bed. Do we even acknowledge our existence of being here? Do we remember we are First Nations? Or, do we just wake up and kiss the behind of society, trying to please the fads, gossip and perfection-

ism of human identity? I've often asked the elders if there was such a thing as world peace. They all sat quietly and thought, eventually coming up with one short answer "yup".

So being that I've taken on the challenge to think about what they have said, ultimately finding a conclusion that it's already here. We are just blinded by the human ways, especially how we tend to escalate things that aren't really that bad.

What do I mean? Well going back to society I guess we are taught in today's age to overreact, think about the big picture and even just to simply think about horrifying stuff that can lead from the little things, which is not likely to even happen. It's time to open our eyes and find ourselves, be the strong independent people we once were.

Education is important. Because I don't think we'll ever really hunt Buffalo, live in tipis and ride horses everywhere. In a way it may be a little of a colonized thought but you don't have to go full fledged living all contemporary. But at least living to support your fellow beings and using what treaty got us. Not so much to abuse the right either.

I believe we need to meet life halfway and start living it. Collecting welfare won't live for us either. Don't get me wrong, I do understand the struggle and the difficulties of having nothing. I too grew up like that, living on the Rez.

But now today me and my family are slowly getting up out of depression and reawakening. But the reason education is so important is because not only is it going to help find a career path it can also be used to help our home communities and to be helpful in the sense to fighting injustices to our people.

I understand the fact that university schooling is not for everyone. What my uncle told me is that a degree or diploma will not define me as a human being. Meaning that I can still be successful even if I don't do such, but

at least still utilizing your lifetime dedicated to something. "Be creative," he said. Write a book, write poems, do beadwork or go for a jog.

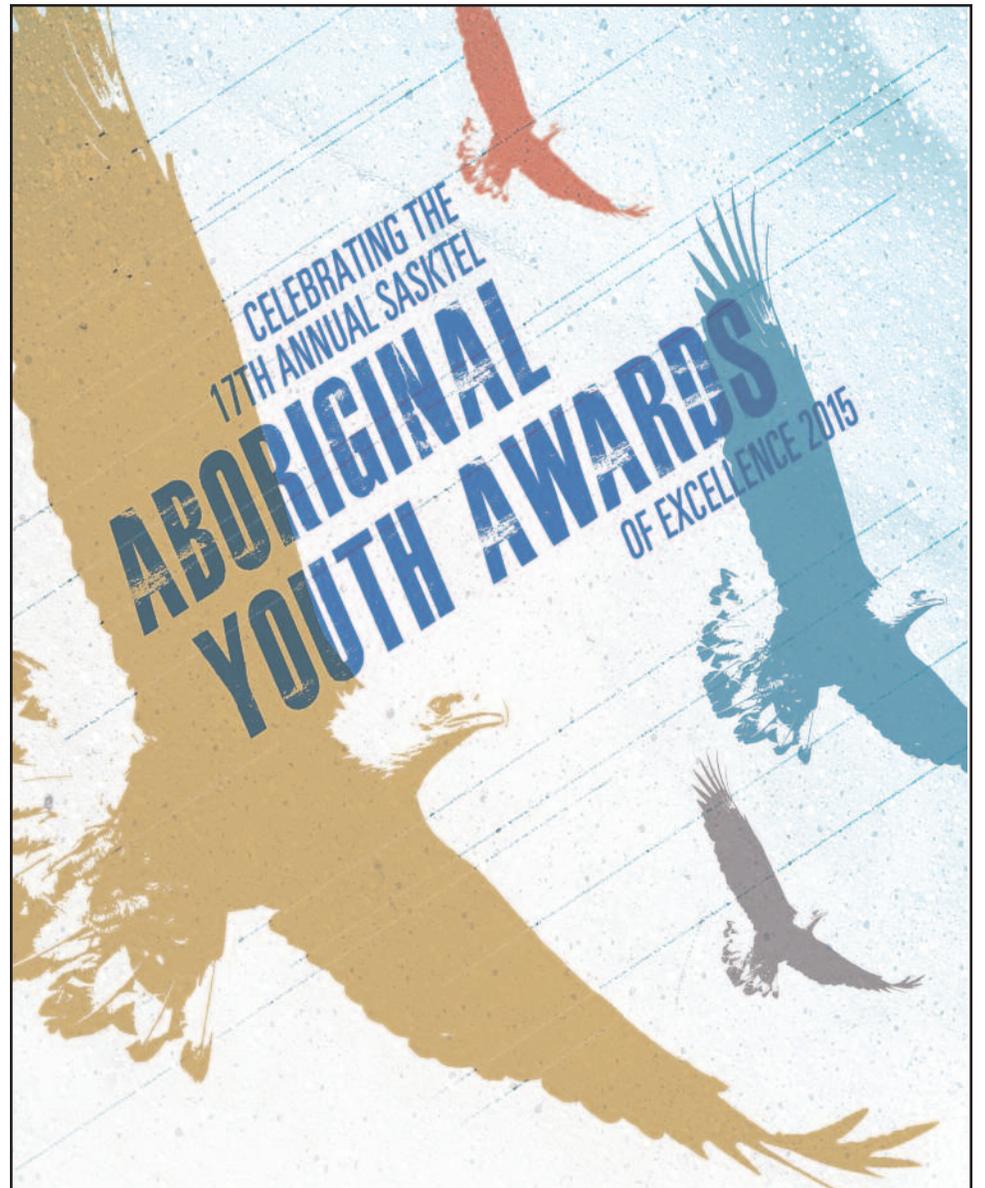
Do we really have time to feel sorry for ourselves? You know I used to be utmost lazy. Sit around watch TV or play a video game. But today I live the way I want to live. I travel a lot. I go to powwows and round dances. I play stick games and moccasin games. But that's because it's how I like to live. And today I've noticed that me and my surroundings are all positive today.

So for each day we live, do we give thanks? Or do we simply want to kiss the behind of what doesn't truly matter? All, I'm trying to say is, if you have the opportunity to do something with yourself, Then get up, Pasikoh, Ahkameyimoh, Ekwa. Be the creative



natives we truly are and find the enlightenment in yourselves to do what you got to do. Be the strong hearted Indigenous youth you are. I am a Young Nehiyaw man, only 17 years old.

This is all I have to say for now, Thank you.



**Gala Evening May 22, 2015
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Women in Trades builds careers and housing

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

MONTREAL LAKE CREE NATION—A Women in Trades program has changed the lives of eight women from Montreal Lake Cree Nation.

Daisy Gamble, manager of Montreal Lake Housing, says after the women's training was done, they were hired full-time to do some minor renovations within the community and then received more instruction in Prince Albert.

"We sent them for more training with Prince Albert Grand Council and they trained them how to complete a renovated house," says Gamble.

Gamble says after the training with PAGC was completed, four of the women were hired to build a 4-plex building and they finished late last week.

"It was such a success. They just finished a four-plex and we had an open house ... and people were moving in," she says. "It is so exciting because we never used ladies in construction or anything. These ladies were able to do the work that men can do," adds Gamble.

Gamble says the majority of the women are single mothers who have worked so hard that they worked right through the holidays because of the passion they gained for this field of work.

She also says this type of opportunity



Tanya Bird, Shannon Henderson, Rhonda Bird and Andrea McDonald participated in the Women in Trades program.

is important because a lot of women want to do this type of work but haven't been given a chance.

Rhonda Bird, one of the women who received the trades training says this opportunity has opened many future possibilities.

"I want to keep moving forward and help a lot of people. It's a good experience and I want to keep moving forward in this," says Bird.

Bird, single mother of three children, says she feels great after receiving the training and wants to continue working.

"I want to travel with my coworkers and I want to show people that we can do it right the first time," says Bird.

She hopes to have her own business after she completes her journeymen in construction and carpentry. She plans on going back to school in the fall of this year.

"Everybody has a gift and we just opened doors for them. I'm so proud of them and it gave somebody a chance and brightened their lives," says Gamble.

"If it wasn't for God, this wouldn't have happened," she adds.

This training has inspired two of the women to go into their own business and the others want to go for more training in the trades to obtain their journeymen papers. Next month, the women will be busy, again building a house from the ground up.

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