

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## At last, MMIWG inquiry announced

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (left) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett (right) with Commissioner Marilyn Poitras after the official launch of the National Inquiry (Photo by Ted Whitecalf)



By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Finally, after years of lobbying by Indigenous organizations, activists and the families of the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, the federal government has officially launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

“For over a decade, the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls have been demanding action.

“Today, after meaningful engagement with the families, experts and those with lived experience, I am proud that the Prime Minister, with the support of all provinces and territories, has appointed five outstand-

ing Commissioners who will now be able to do the work needed for Canada to put in place the concrete actions necessary to put an end to this national tragedy,” said Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Bennett, along with Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women, recently announced the five commissioners as well as the Terms of Reference for the National Inquiry.

Marion Buller has been named Chief Commissioner. She is joined by Commissioners Michèle Audette, Qajaq Robinson, Marilyn Poitras and Brian Eyolfson.

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The MMIWG Inquiry has called on Maria Campbell to help them in their deliberations in the coming months. - Pages 5



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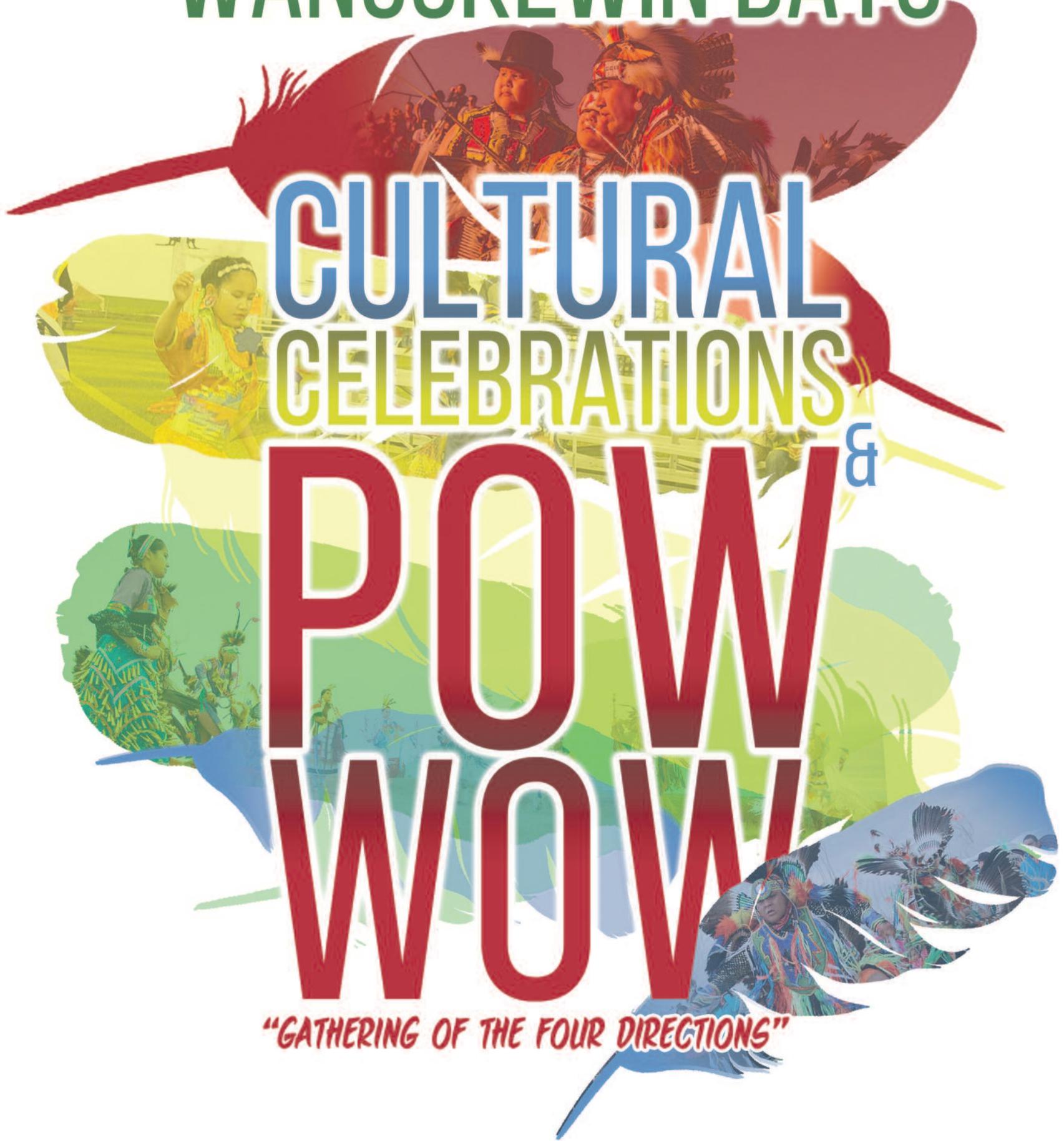
Bella Arcand-Lafond threw a one-hop strike in her debut at a recent Blue Jays game in Toronto. - Page 18

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# Meet the Commissioners

**Chief Commissioner, the Honourable Marion Buller**  
**Provincial Court Judge, British Columbia**  
**Mistawasis First Nation, Saskatchewan**

The Honourable Judge Marion Buller was appointed as the first female First Nations judge in British Columbia in 1994. Judge Buller served as both a director and president of Canada's Indigenous Bar Association and has been a member of the B.C. Police Commission and the Law Court Education Society. She was the Commission Counsel for the Caribou-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry and published reports and articles dealing with Aboriginal rights and legal services for First Nations in British Columbia. Judge Buller was instrumental in starting the First Nations Court of British Columbia in 2006.

**Commissioner Michèle Audette**

**Former President of Femmes autochtones du Québec (Québec Native Women's Association)**

**Mani Utenam, Québec**

Born to a French father and Innu mother, in the Innu community of Mani Utenam in Québec, Michèle Audette is a native long-time Innu speaker. She began her political career very early having been elected one of the youngest-ever Presidents of the Québec Native Women's Association (QNWA), a Native Women's Association of Canada member organization, where she has advocated actively to support women's issues.

**Commissioner Qajaq Robinson**

**Associate, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP**  
**Iqaluit, Nunavut**

Qajaq Robinson is a graduate of the Akitsiraq Law Program – a partnership between the University of Victoria and Nunavut Arctic College. Born in Iqaluit and raised in Igloolik, Ms. Robinson is a strong Northern advocate, who is fluent in Inuktitut and English. Ms. Robinson is presently an associate with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in Ottawa, Ontario, where she works on Team North, a multi-disciplinary team of 70 lawyers who do a variety of work for First Nation communities in the northern parts of central and western provinces and the territories.

**Commissioner Marilyn Poitras**

**Assistant Professor**

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Marilyn Poitras was appointed Assistant Professor in the College of Law, at University of Saskatchewan in 2009. She obtained her L.L.M from Harvard and her L.L.B from the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to being appointed Assistant Professor, her professional life was a fusion of law, governance, community and institutional education. Her expertise and passion is around constitutional/Aboriginal law with a life study of customary laws. She has developed a number of legal education initiatives, including the precursor to the Akitsiraq Law School in Nunavut, where she has been a professor, and the Indigenous People's Resource Management Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Poitras has worked in private practice and litigated in every level of court in Canada. She has significant experience in the development of self government with the Beaufort Delta Agreement, treaty implementation with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Treaty Table Justice Portfolio as well as the revisions to the Saskatchewan Métis Election Process.

**Commissioner Brian Eyolfson**

**Acting Deputy Director, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Legal Services**  
**Couchiching First Nation, Ontario**



**Back row left to right Commissioner Marilyn Poitras, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller, Commissioner Qajaq Robinson, Commissioner Brian Eyolfson and Commissioner Michelle Audette. Front row from left are the Elder advisors Monique Renaud, Sally Webster, Jan Longboat and Maria Campbell.**  
 (Photo by Ted Whitecalf)

Brian Eyolfson holds a B.Sc. in psychology, an L.L.B from Queen's University and an L.L.M, specializing in administrative law, from Osgoode Hall Law School. Mr. Eyolfson was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1994 and has served as a Senior Staff Lawyer with Aboriginal Legal Services in Toronto and as Counsel to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. He was Counsel to Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto at the Ipperwash Inquiry, and practiced human rights, Aboriginal and administrative law before a variety of tribunals and courts.





## SHERI BENSON

Member of Parliament  
Saskatoon West

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# Inquiry will inspire change for all of us

It is one of those welcome coincidences that in this, our August justice issue, we get to finally run the story on the launch of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

This inquiry is a result of the tireless advocacy of families, friends, activists and Indigenous leaders who lobbied for change, for justice and to be heard. We hope that what is done can lead to a better Canada.

But we need change fast. Sometimes the crisis in the community seems overwhelming.

It has been a tough time in the province this summer. The collapse of oil (and the Husky oil spill) and the prices of other commodities that the province relies on for wealth have all been at historic lows, putting severe stress on the provincial budget. Unemployment is up and revenues are down.

This has forced the government to make cuts. Unfortunately many of those cuts are in education and justice programs and services.

And this is the worse time for it. Saskatoon and Regina have some of the highest crime rates in the country. This can be traced to crystal meth and fentanyl and the gangs that sell them.

It appears that there is a war on right now, too. In a two week span this summer, 11 people were stabbed in Saskatoon. Murders are happening regularly in Regina. We still receive over 1,000 missing people press releases from the police across Saskatchewan every year. Our incarceration numbers are still climbing in our jails.

So, what can be done to right this ship? There are some positives to build on. Of course, the National Inquiry will provide direction on the issues but that will take years. In the meantime, with

the issue being elevated in the Canadian conscience, allies are being formed.

Another ally comes in the appointment of Corey O'Soup as the Advocate for Children and Youth.

And please don't forget the work of Egadz and the youth group that are hosting the 17th Annual Day of Mourning. This community walk honours victims of exploitation, murder, suicide, overdose,

already long list of deceased victims of the sex trade. Yes, the total stands at 117 right now, but these young people are empowering themselves and their peers to escape the life.

Some police forces are getting it. The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and the Regina Police Service signed the Cooperation and Community Safety Protocol that is intended to reflect the

communities in which to thrive.

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde and RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson signed an agreement to promote relationship building and reconciliation between First Nations and the RCMP. The Relationship Building Protocol includes joint commitments to develop systems to effectively address discrimination and racism in the RCMP, enhance respect for the fundamental rights of First Nations people, and to ensure public safety without discrimination.

We also have the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

Hope you say?

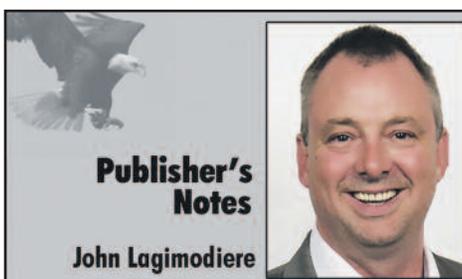
Well, yes. After a boisterous meeting in Yorkton, the delegates passed a unanimous motion for an election on February 4, 2017. That is great news for voters who are searching for justice.

The world of business has picked up on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and many are investigating how they can meet the Calls to Action laid out for them by Senator Murray Sinclair, Willie Littlechild and Marie Wilson. This may have a huge and positive impact down the line on employment and poverty rates for Indigenous people.

The Inquiry can give us hope. If we can make Canada a safe and welcoming place for Indigenous women, then a lot of the social ills we face will become manageable, but that will take time. In the meantime it is up to you and me.

Willie Littlechild, who chaired the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform a few years ago, challenged us all to be "Champions for Change".

It seems like an ideal time to pay attention to Willie's wise words.



**The annual lighting of candles at the Day of Mourning ceremony is always a very touching moment. People remember those that have been lost to the sex trade and the street life. It is hoped that the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls can provide answers to the community and a good way forward so that eventually no candles are being lit.** (Photo EFN 2011)

and disease, remembering the lives lost while building awareness about sex trade exploitation and dangers.

Sadly, this year they are adding five more names to the growing and

relationship between Regina Treaty Status Indian Services (RT/SIS) and the RPS as they work to assist all children, youth, men, women and Elders in having safe, secure and stable

Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform a few years ago, challenged us all to be "Champions for Change".

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# We have to convert and reclaim things that made us strong

Decades of heartache, hopelessness and pain along with the dream that somebody would someday hear, all came together on August 3, in the Long House of Indigenous peoples, at the Museum of History, formally known as the Musuem of Civilization in Ottawa.

It is ironic that this building, this institution of civilization and history, designed by an Indigenous man, would be the place this Independent Inquiry would be announced.

Perhaps it is the storyteller in me who mused on this and also heard, mingled with the voices of Ministers Bennett, Hajdu and Wilson-Raybould, the long ago voices of Indigenous women who protested this violence which has been perpetuated on them and their children since first contact.

Voices like Mariah Vandal, who in the 1870s refused treaty and told her granddaughter, "I did that because I would no longer be an Neheyaw Iskwew if I took treaty.

I wanted nothing to do with them, I preferred my life, poor as it was, to be my own."

I also heard the voice of an old woman called Mary Anne, who carried her raped, beaten, half-dead daughter to Fort Carlton to ask for help and was turned away. And Wandering Spirit, the War

Chief of Big Bear whose wife was raped by an Indian agent and when he tried to get justice was laughed at and ignored.

Elizabeth Whitford, who in the 1920s walked to Edmonton to report the murder of her daughter and was told to go home before she was imprisoned.

And even older voices, a woman called Marie, who in 1643, was described by the Jesuit priest Vimont, as "a savage woman, a rough, wild creature who gives a great deal of trouble to her husband."

She refused to convert or give her children to the Jesuits. It was native women like Marie, wrote feminist scholar Karen Anderson "who were the Jesuits most vociferous and relentless opponents, who challenged Jesuit beliefs, and teachings. As women they refused to conform to the behavior that the Jesuits knew God had ordained for their sex ... If the Devil's plans for the new world were to be thwarted, if the forces of good that the Jesuits believed they represented were to be triumphant and souls to be saved, native women would have to submit to the authority of their husbands and to the

church. In order for that to happen, there had to be profound changes in the relationships between women and men and a drastic reduction in women's independence and powers."

These Jesuits were appalled at the freedom of Indigenous women, writing that they were "haughty and

proud and had entirely too much authority and power."

And so they set in motion those profound changes creating the core of violence against Indigenous women and their children for generations to come. A violence that is today almost overwhelming.

So those were the voices I heard and the things I thought about as I listened to Minister Bennett announce an Independent Inquiry and name the Commissioners.

I cried when Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould spoke. I know her father and I met her when she was a little girl.

Who would have believed in the ugly Harper years that she would be the Attorney General when this announcement

was made?

And, I know I'm sounding like I am a bit crazy, going on about Jesuits and old history but if we are to stop this madness then we to have to, like the Jesuits, make "profound change." And profound change does not have to be complicated but it does have to be honest and courageous and, it has to start at home meaning we have to look at our own violence against ourselves, each other and towards our children.

How do we do that? I am not sure, but my elders and mentors always said we have to convert, reclaim and take back the things that made us strong, kind people. In other words we have to decolonize and that is hard work. Are we up to it? Who knows?

I do know we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the families and grass roots activists for their tireless work over all these years. I pray for peace and closure for them, for all of us.

And the Commissioners, let's help them in everyway we can to do the work they must do. And that's really all I have to say. I thought I would fill pages and pages because I have, like all of you, waited so long for this day and now that it has finally arrived I am feeling exhausted, emotional and a bit frightened. Isn't that odd?

Hiy hiy, marci kinanaskomtinowow.



Reflections

Maria Campbell

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## Saskatchewan well represented on commission

### • Continued from Page One

There are many Saskatchewan connections on the Commission as Buller, currently a judge in B.C., is from the Mistawasis First Nation and Marilyn Poitras is Métis from southern Saskatchewan and teaches at the University of Saskatchewan. Qajaq Robinson took some studies at the University of Saskatchewan as well.

Chief Commissioner Buller said at the launch that the job will be very “difficult” and that “The spirits of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls will be close in our hearts and in our minds as we do our work,” she said.

“These extraordinary individuals bring a depth and mix of personal, academic and professional experiences to the task of listening, documenting and seeking to bring to light the systemic causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada, and to make recommendations for effective action,” said Bennett.

“They will listen in French, English and Inuktitut, and together will apply human rights, feminist, Indigenous law and traditional knowledge lenses to the extremely difficult examination of the disproportionate violence directed at Indigenous women and girls in this country.”

The choice of Commissioners was

applauded by Indigenous organizations.

“We welcome the leadership shown by the Federal government today. After 11 years of NWAC listening to the families of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada, we are pleased that we now have a government who is prepared to listen and act,” said Dawn Lavell-Harvard, NWAC President.

“We want to acknowledge the great responsibility that the Commissioners have undertaken and commit to support them as they start this work. We recognize that five people cannot represent the diversity of our country and NWAC will work with the National Inquiry to ensure that all voices that need to be heard will be heard.”

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry direct the Commissioners first to explore systemic and underlying causes of violence. Second, to examine institutional policies and practices designed to address violence against Indigenous women and girls. This includes police conduct and investigations, as well as child welfare policies and other institutions. Third, to recommend concrete and effective action in order to remove systemic causes of violence and to increase the safety of Indigenous women and girls, and finally to recommend ways to honour and commemorate the Indigenous women and girls who are missing



**Elder Maria Campbell and Commissioner Marilyn Poitras are both Saskatchewan residents and Chief Commissioner Marion Buller is from the Mistawasis First Nation. Maria played an active role in the cultural protocol of the National Inquiry.**  
(Photo by Ted Whitecalf)

or have been murdered.

The Commissioners have powers bestowed on them through the Inquiries Act and can call before them any witness to give evidence and can require the production of documents relevant to their investigation. They can also set up regional committees to ensure the voice of communities is heard. The commission will be provided \$53.86 million by the federal government over two years to complete its mandate by the end of 2018.

“The launch of the Inquiry repre-

sents a concrete expression of the government’s commitment to honouring the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls,” said Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice.

“By examining the root causes that have contributed to this national tragedy, including past and present systemic and institutional barriers, the Commission of Inquiry will play a pivotal role in helping all of us to define where best to continue to act to protect the human rights of all Indigenous women and girls in Canada.”

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# FSIN, families welcome launch of national inquiry

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Marsha Okemow was only 16 years old in 1989 when she was murdered at a house party in Prince Albert.

Taken from the family at age three because their mother couldn't speak English, Marsha survived the foster system, but the free spirited and trusting teen found her demise at the hands of a 19-year-old Indigenous female who stabbed her nine times front and back.

After the murder, the family had difficulty getting information from the police and the coroner.

"Our family had no voice then," said Pauline Okemow who wants justice for her little sister. She spoke at a press conference hosted by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) after the announcement of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.

"We need justice, closure and healing."

The FSIN also welcomed the Commissioners and are optimistic of the process but did have a few reservations about the terms of reference.

"We urge the Government of Saskatchewan to be comprehensive in the Order-in-Council authorizing the Inquiry to examine all provincial institutions including policing, the child welfare system, the coroner's office, and adult and youth correctional facilities," said Vice Chief Heather Bear.

"We are pleased with the inclusiveness of the Commissioners named, their ability to travel to hear the voices and insights of families and stakeholders, and the examination of social, economic, cultural, institutional and historical causes of violence."

Carol Wolfe also attended the press conference and



**Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Vice Chief Heather Bear was joined by family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls Pauline Okemow and Carol Wolfe and several staff from the FSIN as they reacted to the official launch of the National Inquiry.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

spoke through a translator of her daughter's story. Karina was missing for five and a half years and her body was eventually found near the Saskatoon airport.

"When she was missing we looked, we marched, we discussed and we met. When we found her remains she would have been 26. I loved my daughter so much. I went to the spot where they found her and cried.

"We need to stop violence against women. I know this needs to happen."

Vice Chief Bear holds the portfolio for missing women and girls and despite the Inquiry, she still has concerns about safety in the community.

"It is my hope and prayer that by doing this we can bring it to an end. The root causes are the residential schools and the oppression of colonialism. This has affected our families," said Vice Chief Bear.

"We hope the Inquiry brings concrete recommendations and that they listen to the families and our elders. Those are the experts."



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# O'Soup appointed Advocate for Children and Youth

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Corey O'Soup has a long record of working to better the lives of children and youth in Saskatchewan.

His past work with school boards, with the then Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Ministry of Education has given him a skill set that is perfect for his new appointment as the Advocate for Children and Youth for Saskatchewan.

The posting makes O'Soup, a member of the Key First Nation, the first Children's Advocate of First Nation descent in Saskatchewan. The distinction isn't lost on O'Soup.

"Being the first means a lot to me but I think it means more to the youth," said O'Soup at a press conference after his appointment was made public.

"The youth can now see that they have someone to go to. A role model. That's key for me. They need someone to look up to and identify with."

O'Soup is married and has five children ranging in age from four to 16. He is excited for the job as he now gets to work closer to home. He used to commute to Regina from his home in Martensville.

"Having the office in Saskatoon will allow me to spend more time with my family which is really important."

O'Soup knows the majority of the cases his agency will deal with will include Indigenous children and not in a good way. And he wants to change the numbers of Métis and First Nation children in care or dying or critically injured in care.

"In my whole career, I have built a lot of relationships," said O'Soup. "That has been my role, to build trust between our government and First Nation and Métis people. But we have to focus on our numbers because they are pretty drastic."

O'Soup's background is as an educator. He has been a senior analyst for the FSIN, a provincial superintendent for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, a director of education/post secondary education and training for the FSIN as well he was the First Nations and Métis Advisor at the Ministry of the Education. He also led the Incident Commander for the Government of Saskatchewan after the La Loche shooting.

"La Loche changed me as a person," said O'Soup. "It showed me the challenges that our youth face and particularly the challenges our educators face. Lots of lessons learned there."

"The number one thing we need to do for our children is to learn to work together."

"Our agencies need to work better



The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan the Honourable Corey Tochor on left introduced Corey O'Soup as the new Advocate for Children and Youth for Saskatchewan.

together and you do that by building trust and a better relationship."

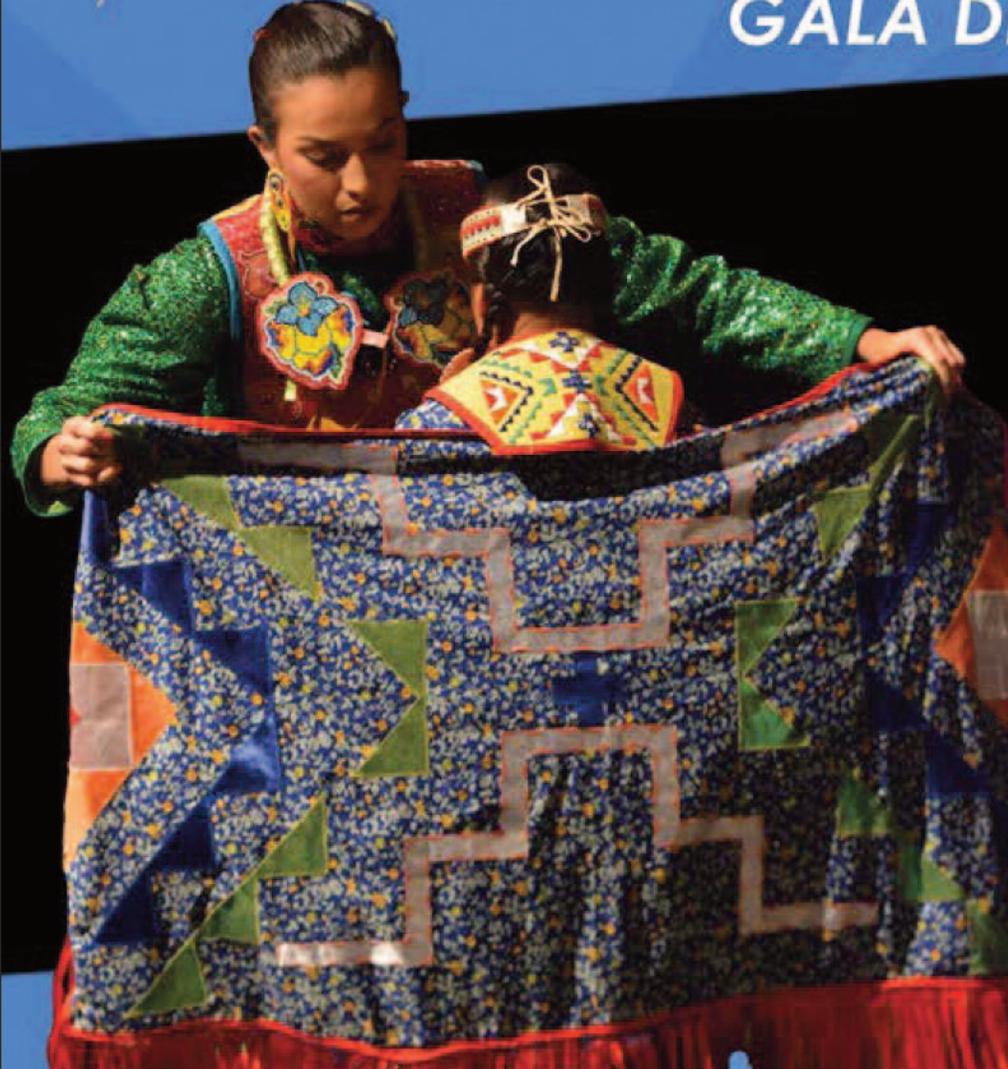
Corey O'Soup takes over from Bob

Pringle the current Advocate for Children and Youth for Saskatchewan in November.

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# Métis cop found the right career in Regina

By Jeanelle Mandes  
For Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – For 21 years, Michelle Jarocki has served Regina as a police officer. The 48-year-old Metis woman has lived in Regina her whole life and is proud to serve and protect the community she resides in. Currently, she is the staff sergeant in charge of family services, which includes Vice and the Regina Children’s Justice Centre.

Jarocki has known she wanted to become a police officer ever since she took a test to see what career she’s most compatible with and the results pointed towards a social worker or a police officer.

“I would never trade a single day of the work that I’ve done. This job makes me so happy.

“I’ve done a lot of different roles in the police service. It’s so fulfilling,” she adds. “I like to help people, it’s kind of clichéd but it is true.”

She was inspired when her friend Sonia, who has a year and a half more experience in the field, became a police officer and she thought to herself that she could actually do the job. Jarocki applied when she was working at SGI and as time went on, she passed each admission test until one day it all came together.

“Every time I crossed a step or passed a certain test, and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh! This is really going to happen.’”

After she completed and passed all her tests, the police officer job was offered to her.

Jarocki’s successes and perseverance rubbed off on her two boys; the oldest is 28 and a graduate from the University of Saskatchewan and the youngest one is 25 and is a registered nurse in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Like many careers out there, there are always challenges that come with the job. Jarocki stumbled upon many of those challenges but she’s never doubted her abilities.

“Working in the same community that I grew up in and dealing people that I know, that’s a challenge all the time,” she says.

“There are family members that had been involved in the criminal justice system and trying to make sure to keep your family close and keep the job separate. I never really had a problem with that, it’s a small challenge.”

Throughout her years of service, she had great work partners and has never had issues with any of them. They have helped her develop as a police officer and a person.

“My (former) partner who is now retired, Brian Bellevue, is somebody I look up to and I still value him in my life and all the things he taught me early on as a police officer and as a person and a friend.

“I value him and his direction he’s given me over the years,” she says. “Find a good mentor. Even if you find someone in the police force or someone who steers you in the right path.”

Jarocki worked on a lot of big cases both when she was a forensic identification investigator and then a major crimes detective. She processed crime scenes like the ones on CSI and interviewed and got confessions from people accused of murder. Jarocki’s advice to those who want to pursue this career path is not to be discouraged, to dream big and it will happen.

“Don’t be scared and don’t be afraid to shine. Don’t be afraid no matter who tells you that it’s not a possibility for you. You’ve got to really look past that and believe that you can do anything that you set your mind to,” she adds.

“I would encourage any young person if they are thinking of doing a job like this. It’s a great career. I’d recommend it to anyone ... being a Métis woman police officer in Regina is a terrific experience.”



Michelle Jarocki is proud to be a police officer for over twenty years, especially serving the community she grew up in. (Photo by RPS Media)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE It’s back !!

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This program is made possible through the support of  
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# Back to Batoche honours Métis veterans

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For **Eagle Feather News**

**BATOCHÉ** – For many people, the highlight of Back to Batoche 2016 was the unveiling of the engraved veteran’s memorial.

The champion behind the cause, Leonard Morin, said it had taken him six years to really gather enough momentum to build the monument, and in the first two years he almost gave up a number of times.

“I come from a military family — I have three uncles on here, one is buried in France, so that idea of a monument began in Cumberland House,” noted Morin. “A lot of doors were slammed in my face...I carried on and I got a lot of help. This was a team effort.

“This monument remains silent, like all monuments, but it’s a reminder for our youth that we owe the veterans a great debt for the sacrifice they made. That’s a reminder for the youth, for the cost of freedom.”

Morin is the MN-S minister responsible for Veterans, and had erected a memorial cairn in Cumberland House when he was mayor there.

This was where the vision came from, and Gabriel Dumont Institute dedicated considerable resources to spearheading the fundraising, combined with various Métis and veteran groups and federal government contributions, and the research of Cathy Littlejohn. At the Saturday, June 16 ceremony, Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) pledged the \$35,000 shortfall to cover the remaining costs of the \$300,000 that was required to build and engrave the imposing circular granite monument erected on the Back to Batoche grounds.

The monument was built to not only remember the veterans of 1885 and beyond, but those of the contemporary era, many of whom have not been treated fairly.

Clement Chartier, president of the Métis National Council noted those lucky enough to return home often became leaders for the Métis communities.

“We are showing as a people, as a nation, these veterans the respect they so richly deserve,” noted Chartier.

“We’re still missing, in Canada, the recognition of our Métis veterans, particularly those that served in World War II ... it is only our Métis veterans that have yet to be acknowledged or compensated for the losses they have.”

He hoped before the last veterans from the Second World War were gone, they would be acknowledged, to

ensure their families knew their sacrifices weren’t in vain.

David Chartrand, president of MMF, noted that perhaps the current Prime Minister was the one to bring about justice to the long-deserving Métis veterans who were the only group excluded from reparations and settlements.

A moving highlight of the event was the Act of Remembrance by Edwin St. Pierre and Harriet Oakes in English and Michif, and words from Harriet on how difficult it must have been for those young veterans, sick or hurt in hospitals abroad, or who left young families behind in order to defend our freedoms, with no way to get word back home.

Less solemn were the horseshoe tournaments, banock bake-offs, and fiddling and jigging contests. Each day featured a different province under the big-top, with musicians and dancers celebrating the Métis culture. Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia, were all celebrated along with local Saskatchewan entertainers.

Visitors and campers hailed from all the western provinces and some from further afield. Marlene and Sony Vandale were named Mr. and Mrs. Batoche.

The chuckwagon and chariot races were held on the weekend, drawing a crowd, while Sunday included the annual procession to the Batoche historic cemetery, where those killed in 1885 were remembered, honoured, and prayed for.

The Batoche church bell tolled as the procession approached the graveyard, and words were shared at the mass gravesite before people returned for the formal closing of Back to Batoche 2016.



Edwin St. Pierre and Harriet Oakes did a tribute to the veterans as Geordy McCaffery of the Gabriel Dumont Institute looked on. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)



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# Brabant an eye-opening cultural experience

By Gill Gracie

For Eagle Feather News

**LA RONGE** – Kids and adults alike had a great time at this year’s Brabant Lake Cultural Camp.

Even poor weather couldn’t keep the youngsters out of the water, swimming, fishing or riding on all manner of inflatable toys! Grandmothers kayaked with grandkids, siblings and cousins fished or played together.

The parents and grandparents, for the most part, enjoyed relaxing on the beach while they watched the youngsters have fun, or visited with each other in the shade of the trees or the tents.

This was the fourth annual such camp, organized by Stanley Mission Councillor John P. Roberts and funded by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band along with a donation from Silver Standard, the new owners of the nearby Seabee gold mine. About 100 people ranging from five months to 80 years old spent five days enjoying nature and fun together.

“The idea is to help young people learn survival skills by example, get away from tablets and smart phones and just get to know each other better. And it works,” says elder Sally Milne.

“The kids who have been here want to come back, even the teenagers,” she says. “They say they still find the magic here”.

The camp slows the kids down, says Sally and even when they return home they are changed.

While many participants were related to a branch of the McKenzie family, the camp is open to everyone. This year, there was even a Swiss guest who

now lives near Toronto.

At 73, Sally is the second oldest of the five surviving McKenzie siblings (there were originally 10). Her oldest brother Jeho is 80; Moses is 70, Ben, 69 and Barb Sinclair, 66. All five were at the camp this year.

They all grew up on their family’s trapline in the Brabant Lake area and are anxious to let people know that these are their traditional lands.

“Our parents and grandparents trapped and hunted here, and this is where we were raised,” says Sally.

In fact, the area has been occupied for thou-

an archaeological search that found evidence of quartz quarries, tool production areas, spear points, pottery making and ceremonial activities. Ben McKenzie himself found a 2,500-year-old Early Talthlei spear point as well as more re-

Lake and Wathaman areas, returning only briefly at Christmas and in spring to sell their furs and celebrate the holiday.

Sally remembers that on the trip in for Christmas, they left unused tea or tobacco hanging in trees along the route for

the groups behind to enjoy. As they got closer to Stanley, their families would meet them with oranges, cigarettes and other treats.

The spring trip in was often fraught with danger from thin ice, and Ben recalls towing a canoe behind the dogsled to jump into should the ice give way!

Ben also remembers that

the kids in the family had to do the heavy work, including portaging the canoe and its contents. Their parents would camp and enjoy a cup of tea while the younger family members did the carrying!

This year’s camp had something for everyone, from kids to elders. The middle generations kept everyone fed and watered, took people on boat tours of the lake, fished and hunted for food.

By the next to last day everyone looked rested, relaxed and depressurized!

Too bad it was only five days!



**The Brabant Lake Cultural Camp has entered into its 4th year and is growing strong. This year the fishing was fantastic and it seemed like everyone was fishing at once. The elders always enjoyed a good visiting session.**

(Photos by Gill Gracie)

cent historical materials dating from 1906, 1919 and 1938.

The area was well used in living memory too. The siblings remember their parents talking about the days when horse swings crossed the area, freighting goods from the south to Reindeer Lake on a winter road specially plowed for the purpose.

They remember their life on the trapline, and how they were constantly on the move. In fall the families would disperse by canoe from the Stanley Mission base to their trap lines in the Brabant



## Community Impact

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Alicia Worm-Littlewolfe, Aboriginal Program Coordinator



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# Men and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry

John L.: Across the nation expectations are high for the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Not only are we looking for understanding, the nation is looking for solutions. Here to comment is Eagle Feather News' columnist voted "Most Erect", Sir Dirk Dashing.

**Dirk: Thank you Mr. Lamitomitay. It's always a pleasure.**

John L.: Dirk, awhile back you wrote a column in which you described a crisis among Indigenous men, and you wondered whether this issue would figure in the Inquiry. Now that the Inquiry has been announced, do you care to expand on what you meant?

**Dirk: Of course, John. First, I reckon we men are going to get nailed to the cross once the Inquiry has published its report, and for good reason.**

John L.: And second?

**Dirk: Oh, that's all I got, just the one point.**

John L.: Alright, well, that's a pretty bold and sweeping statement about men getting nailed to the cross.

**Dirk: Think about it, John. Who's doing most of the damage? Under what circumstances? It's boyfriends and husbands, John. Confused, petty, jealous little boys that happen to inhabit men's bodies. I wonder if it was**

**always like that.**

John L.: That's an interesting question. Were things better before settlement on reserves, before the residential schools? What are your thoughts?

**Dirk: My guess? Before the genocide everyone had a pretty clear idea how to behave in the community and in the family. Everyone's survival required it. Colouring outside the box endangered everyone.**

John L.: That makes sense. Everyone knew what to expect from each other. I'm with you so far.

**Dirk: Right. And this common understanding extended as deep as how to treat a woman right and how to raise kids that weren't borderline narcissists. It may not have been perfect, but at least we knew which movie we were in.**

John L.: OK, I think I see where you're going with this. Continue.

**Dirk: Everything changed, of course, when the missionaries and government flounced into our lives and said, "We have an even better script for you, and it's so superior and wonderful and full of godliness and godness**

**and we're going to shove it down your throats because it's good for you."**

John L.: That's one way of putting it, for sure.

**Dirk: Along the way, we picked up some bad habits and lousy attitudes. And we inflict them on our loved ones to this day, intentionally or not.**

John L.: That's a pretty bleak picture you are painting for us. Is it really that bad?

**Dirk: Don't get me wrong, John. I am sure there are plenty of healthy, loving couples and decent families in**

**First Nations country, who got it going on. And they are doing it despite the shared legacy of church and government intervention. One of the things that intrigues me, and hopefully those working on the Inquiry will agree, is "How do they do it?" and How do can we make more of that happen?"**

John L.: That's actually two questions. I'm not entirely sure this is a question the Inquiry is focused on.

**Dirk: If not, John lets you and I take this issue on. With my half-assed**

**knowledge, and your wealth of experience and know-how, I am confident we can solve all the problems.**

John L.: Wow. I'm not entirely sure we can solve ALL of the problems.

**Dirk: All of the problems, John. If you have reservations, leave it to me. You sit over there and be pretty. I got this.**

John L.: Wait. Aren't you divorced? Twice?

**Dirk: That's correct. And that's what makes me an expert, John. Having made all of the mistakes, and coming up with new ones, I can honestly say I've learned everything one needs to know ... about what not to do.**

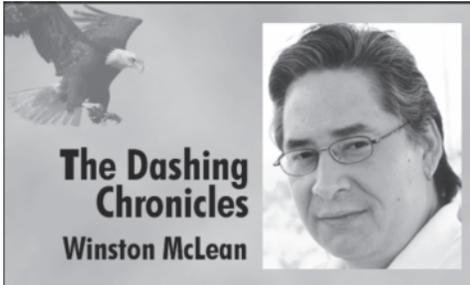
John L.: I cannot wait to see how this is going to work. Any final words before we sign off?

**Dirk: Yes, thank you. John, a wise man once said, "Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again."**

John.: That's very profound, Dirk. Who said that?

**Dirk: I did. Just now. Pay attention, John.**

*Dirk says, "It's a cop-out that women are irrational. They are differently rational."*



The Dashing Chronicles  
Winston McLean

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The Farm Land Exemption that Yancoal Canada requested and received is not about being able to purchase 60,000 acres (94 sections), but rather as a non-Canadian entity being able to purchase more than 10 acres (> 1 section).

Yancoal Canada is listening to your concerns, it is imperative that all the productive land and soil within the province be protected. On a landowner by landowner basis Yancoal Canada will pursue opportunities for leasing the land needed for the well field. In respect to purchasing agreements, Yancoal Canada will make every reasonable effort to accommodate sale conditions such as honouring existing lease agreements and first right of refusal to the previous owner/leasee.

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# Youth prepare to meet the world at WIBF

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Youth will be front and center at the World Indigenous Business Forum in Saskatoon in late August.

The PotashCorp Presents World Indigenous Business Forum Youth programs include an Innovators Panel, a Youth Marketplace and a networking event built around a fashion show emceed by Mariah Watchman from “America’s Next Top Model”.

The idea of creating a youth component for the 2016 WIBF was raised in February and the task of pulling it together fell on Dalyn Bear.

“No one knew what the youth programming would look like or what we would pull together, it was more of a pilot project to see what we could come up with,” said Bear who co-chairs the committee.

“At the first meeting there were two other youth who were invited; Alicia Worme from the City of Saskatoon and Josh Scott from the U of S Atoske Program. We brainstormed some ideas and came up with enough event content to spark the WIBF Steering Committees interest for us to develop our own committee and team to pursue the event ideas.”

The committee has a wide spectrum

of people and with Bear it includes Co-Chair Warren Isbister, Treasurer Rheana Worme, Secretary Alicia Worme, Tanya Larose, Devon Fiddler, Helen Oro, Hailey Lavallee and Milton Greyeyes.

The program has come through the oversight of a group of educated and motivated young people.

“Our team was able to jive together very nicely and everything was very organized, proficient and strategized. We also needed funding for the events so we decided to reach out to PotashCorp for potential sponsorship,” said Bear.

“PotashCorp came through and I can’t say enough about the work of Lisa Mooney from PotashCorp who is a real champion of this event.”

Gilles Dorval, Director of Aboriginal Relations for the City of Saskatoon is on the host Committee and is impressed with the work of the youth.

“Our local youth really pulled it together. They were very organized and had regular meetings and had their own ideas,” said Dorval.

“This is the first time the WIBF has had a youth program and the young people did it on their own terms. We just empowered them and away they went.”

The youth stream is for people aged 19 to 35 and complements the program-

ming of the main forum.

“The Innovators panel will be really interesting. We have entrepreneurs and change agents to profile. The panel is hosted

by Cowessess First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme, a well respected young Chief in Saskatchewan,” said Dalyn Bear.

“And the networking and marketplace will allow these young entrepreneurs to showcase their success. Who knows, maybe they will meet an investor or get another opportunity.”

The work of the youth committee isn’t lost on Rosa Walker, the President of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, and the creators of the WIBF.

“This is our first time with a youth program and the committee really came through with great opportunities for young people. The PotashCorp support



The committee for the WIBF youth forum is from left Alicia Worme, Warren Isbister, Rheana Worme, Dalyn Bear, Milton Greyeyes and Helen Oro (Missing Devon Fiddler, Tanya Larose, Hailey Lavallee). (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

made it possible for the young innovators to be at the table during all the decisions of the planning committee and because of this, the Forum will be better for everyone,” said Walker.

The work continues for the committee right until the entire event but Bear and the committee are up for the challenge.

“The best part of this has been working as a team with the rest of the committee,” said Bear. “We are coming together as First Nation and Métis youth and collaborating. It has been a great experience working together. I love the teamwork.”

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# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Pretty safe gamble on coffee

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) has opened a Tim Horton's inside the Dakota Dunes Casino.

SIGA's President and CEO Zane Hansen says the Tim's will provide new growth opportunities for the casino that currently employs over 440 people at the casino at White-

cap Dakota First Nation, south of Saskatoon.

"Part of SIGA's vision is to create employment opportunities. By partnering with a national brand like Tim Horton's and

opening this location we're able to create new jobs at our casino," he said.

The patron experience will also be enhanced with the opening of this new location, according to Gary Daniels, General Manager at the Dakota Dunes Casino. "Opening the Tim Horton's has expanded our food and beverage offerings by having a greater variety of product available throughout the day. I'm excited for our patrons to come and try out the Tim's beverages, sandwiches and pastries being served in our casino," said Daniels.

The Tim Horton's will be open 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m. daily at the Dakota Dunes Casino.



**SIGA From left to right: Lionel Tootoosis, Sr. Vice President of Operations; Zane Hansen, President & CEO; Senator Melvin Littlecrow; Reginald Bellerose, SIGA Board Chair; Bryce Cameron, Dakota Dunes Casino Operations Manager; Shawn Whitford, Food and Beverage Outlet Coordinator (Tim Hortons) participate in the ribbon cutting at the new Tim's. (Photo supplied**

## Good water makes good coffee

Water and wastewater systems are essential for both healthy living and robust economic activity for every community in Canada. They are the starting point for attracting investment, creating jobs, making good coffee and supporting healthy, growing communities such as Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter, and Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear recently announced funding for a drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure project to increase the system capacity of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and allow for future growth in the area. The project includes the expansion of Whitecap's drinking water treatment plant and construction of two new aerated lagoon cells for expanded wastewater treatment to support further residential development around its top-ranked golf course, a hotel with a convention centre and a 40 acre business park.

The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are each contributing up to \$4,530,000 toward this project through the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component – National and Regional Projects, with the Whitecap Dakota First Nation covering the remainder of the estimated \$13,590,000 total project cost.

"Modern and reliable infrastructure that meets the capacity needs of our communities is essential to safeguard the well-being of residents, protect our waterways and preserve our ecosystems," said Goodale.

"This project will increase the number of households, industries, commercial establishments and institutions with access to safe drinking water and connections to sanitary wastewater systems, in addition to enabling economic development both on and off the Whitecap Dakota First Nation Reserve."

"Today's announcement is indicative of our government's commitment to keeping Saskatchewan strong,"

Reiter said. "It also highlights the work being done within all the three levels of government to address provincial infrastructure needs. The Government of Saskatchewan's contribution of \$4,530,000 for this project will continue to ensure

# ABORIGINAL BUSINESS FORUM

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# BUSINESS BRIEFS

that the community of Whitecap Dakota First Nation is vibrant and growing, and that area residents continue to have access to safe, clean drinking water.”

“Whitecap is already emerging as a regional employer with almost 700 jobs on our First Nation and 500 people commuting to Whitecap from across the Saskatoon region,” Chief Bear said. “This joint investment with our two partner governments reflects the confidence in our plan for future growth, which will generate another 300-plus jobs for the region and create a place for investing in new homes and new growth for Saskatchewan.”

## Speaking of Indigenous issues

The very first International Indigenous Speakers Bureau (IISB) has launched its storefront website, with an original roster of 30 speakers with more than 500 in queue, beginning the process of connecting Indigenous people from around the world.

“All of a sudden, our Indigenous Speakers will realize they are no longer isolated, they belong to an international family. We are taking a demographic that has had little or no access to world stages, we are creating an inter-tribal exchange of knowledge,” said President and CEO Shannon Loutitt.



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The IISB is the brainchild of Saskatoon resident Shannon Loutitt and Regina resident and business owner Claire Belanger-Parker who are creating a unique business structure ready to revolutionize the speakers' industry.

“The IISB provides the ideal platform for non-Indigenous organizations who wish to engage in a positive conversation, who come from a place of honour



and respect, to find speakers with the same approach who are leaders, experts, advisors and who provide a unique perspective of the world they live in,” says Belanger-Parker.

The IISB co-founders have been working quietly for a year and a half to create a strong foundation for this business model, working with legal, financial and taxation experts to fully understand international responsibilities when representing speakers from Canada, the Americas, the Polynesian Islands, Africa, the European Union, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

To learn more about the IISB, go to [www.iispeakers-bureau.com](http://www.iispeakers-bureau.com) or email [contactus@iispeakersbureau.com](mailto:contactus@iispeakersbureau.com).



**SHANNON LOUITT**

## News can now travel fast in the North

SaskTel has announced that they will be upgrading the High Speed Internet service in nearly 2,700 homes across 26 communities in northern Saskatchewan by the end of 2016. When completed, residents in those communities will be able to enjoy download speeds of up to 5 Mbps and upload speeds of up to 1 Mbps.

“SaskTel is pleased to partner with the federal government to deliver high-speed connectivity to rural and remote communities in northern Saskatchewan,” said Jim Reiter, Minister Responsible for SaskTel. “The Connecting Canadians program supports SaskTel’s goal of bringing faster broadband speeds to our northern communities in order to provide equitable access to services such as communications, education, health, electronic commerce and entertainment.”

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$9.9 million and includes the upgrades in all 26 communities as well as the construction of 89 km of fibre from Cigar Lake to Collins Bay and 9 km of fibre from Dillon to St. George’s Hill. Other communities included are as far north as Stony Rapids and Wollaston Lake, as far east as Red Earth and west as Waterhen Lake.

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGIES

[www.siiit.ca](http://www.siiit.ca)

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### Summer Schedule (subject to change)

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La Ronge, week of August 22  
Regina (Prairie Spirit Connection)  
week of Aug 29  
Peepeekisis, week of Sept 12  
Big River, week of Sept 19

### For more information or to book

**JobConnections contact:**  
Manager, JobConnections  
SIIT Employment Development and  
Career Services  
Phone: 306-477-9343 or 306-371-6855



All JobConnection Services are free of charge

# Even good leaders need some training

**SASKATOON** – If good governance means good communities, a unique training program is helping Tribal Councils improve the quality of life for their members.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Battleford's Agency Tribal Council recently graduated over 40 participants from the First Nations Professional Director Certification Program that was created by The Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Brown Governance Inc.

"This course and the participants illustrate the need for increased capacity at First Nations and its institutions," said Felix Thomas, Tribal Chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

"As our members grow it's important to our leaders to grow with them. As professional directors our leaders are leading the way in improving quality of life for STC members."

The program was designed specifically for the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), its member nations and their associated corporations, partnerships and joint ventures. It included a mix of adult learning model delivery mechanisms with an emphasis on experiential learning such as break out groups and case studies in corporate governance.

"We are proud and delighted to be



Several of the course graduates gathered for a photo to commemorate the graduation. (Photo supplied)

associated with the First Nations Professional Director Certification Program," said Debra Brown, president of Brown Governance.

"We are particularly proud of the diversity of participants in this program, including the number of chiefs and councillors who dedicated the time and effort to complete this program and graduate. The real beneficiaries of this program are the First Nations community members who are served by the economic and social entities owned and operated

by Saskatoon Tribal Council, its member nations and affiliates, Battleford Agencies and Athabasca Basin.

"Lives of people in the community will be enriched and bettered by the building of leadership capacity across these entities," Brown said.

"We are delighted to be working with the Saskatoon Tribal Council to provide board governance training to their many boards," says Kathleen McNutt, executive director of the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of

Public Policy.

"We're proud of our partnership with Brown Governance and we are honoured to be a part of this innovative training for First Nations Boards. The energetic leadership and active participation of Tribal Chief Felix Thomas and Saskatoon Tribal Council has made this program possible. We applaud the Tribal Chief's leadership in making this happen."

From January to May this year, the graduates participated in four two-day modules and wrote a final exam to qualify for the university-level certification of Professional Director provided by the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. The content included modules on strategy, risk, resources and people.

Dawn Deguire, Communications Officer for the Saskatoon Tribal Council was one of the 43 graduates and she says what was learned will be put to good use.

"This training being tailored specifically for Saskatchewan First Nations corporate governance and the issues faced around the board room and beyond, was so relevant," said Deguire.

"This training is invaluable, which is agreed upon unanimously by the group."

## MISTAWASIS NĒHIYAWAK NOTICE OF VOTE

Form 8  
Ratification Process

### NOTICE OF VOTE

TO: Members of Mistawasis

TAKE NOTICE that a Ratification Vote shall be held in accordance with the Mistawasis Community Ratification Process, dated May 16, 2016, in order to determine if Eligible Registered Voters approve the Mistawasis Land Code and the Individual Agreement.

This Vote will be conducted to determine if the Eligible Registered Voters of Mistawasis NĒhiyawak approve the Mistawasis Land Code and the Individual Agreement. The following ballot question will be asked of Eligible Registered Voters of Mistawasis NĒhiyawak:

"Do you approve:

- The *Mistawasis Land Code*, dated May 13, 2016, and
- The *Individual Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada*?

#### Advance Polling Station at:

- |                      |                     |  |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. August 26, 2016   | 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM | Mistawasis Treaty Day – School Foyer                 |
| 2. August 27, 2016   | 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM  | Mistawasis Pow Wow Grounds                           |
| 3. August 28, 2016   | 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM  | Mistawasis Pow Wow Grounds                           |
| 4. August 31, 2016   | 1:00 PM-7:00 PM     | Prince Albert Inn, 3680- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue West |
| 5. September 2, 2016 | 1:00 PM-7:00 PM     | Saskatoon Holiday Inn, 101 Pacific Avenue            |

#### Official Voting Day Polling Station:

- |                       |                  |                          |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. September 30, 2016 | 1:00 PM- 7:00 PM | Mistawasis Family Center |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|

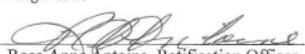
Copies of the Background Documents, the Ratification Documents and the Ratification Process may be obtained from Lawrence Johnston, Land Code Coordinator, at the Mistawasis Administration office or by email [lawrencejohnston@hotmail.com](mailto:lawrencejohnston@hotmail.com) or telephone: 1-306-466-4800 ext. 226 or Cell 1-306-466-7856

**MISTAWASIS MEMBERS MUST COMPLETE A VOTERS REGISTRATION FORM TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. ELIGIBLE VOTERS CAN REGISTER AT THE POLLS UP TO THE CLOSE OF THE POLLS ON THE OFFICIAL VOTING DAY.**

All Members of Mistawasis NĒhiyawak 18 years of age or older, as of the Official Voting Day of September 30, 2016, are eligible to cast a Ballot.

To vote in person at an advance poll, you must be 18 years of age on the day of the advance poll.

Voter information package will be sent to all Eligible Voters whose address is on record with Mistawasis NĒhiyawak. Voter information packages are also available from Rose Anne Antoine, Ratification Officer at the address and telephone number appearing below:

  
Rose Anne Antoine, Ratification Officer  
[raa27ca@sasktel.net](mailto:raa27ca@sasktel.net) - Cell No: 1-306-960-6140

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VERIFIED

Date July 8, 2016  
Sig. [Signature]



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306-966-4785



**EDWARDS**  
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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# Big mistake ... huge!

A couple weekends ago, I was shopping in a chi chi furniture store (chi chi to me, to many of you it might be considered, at best, the Scott Baio of furniture stores).

None of the staff was waiting on me and my son, which is fine, I generally dislike and avoid extraneous human contact. I also have this tendency to alter my voice when salespeople approach me and ask how I'm doing. Instead of using a normal voice, I inadvertently respond in a high pitched twang, "Fine?"

I enjoyed looking at the furniture while prying my toddler off some costlier items. The store had an inventory designed to appear old and abandoned but the price tags were new – and costly. Normally I'd skeddadle pretty quick after seeing the prices but as I had spent the last year eating dinner standing next to my son's high chair, I felt like I deserve something nice.

After a few minutes of meandering, I spotted the item I wanted. It was a dining room table made of reclaimed Irish wood. It looked so authentic, you could practically smell the



spilled kilkenney and hear the echoes of drunken arguments. It was perfect.

I flagged down a salesperson and pulled out my credit card and waited with barely contained glee as they processed my purchase. And, I'm not a person prone to gleefulness, at most I generally feel ... mild happiness, usually only in ice cream cake-related scenarios.

But I was excited about the table, this would be my little family's table, where we would discuss our days, share our experiences and talk shit about our enemies; this table would be the foundation of our family bonds (and according to sociology, this dining table would keep my kid out of jail.)

The table was also exactly what I wanted. In life, you often have to compromise and I've compromised a lot already. For instance at this age, I wanted to be a successful writer, living in New York City and hanging out with Stephen King and going to listen to his band and assuring him that a writer with a band was not self-indulgent at all.

When the clerk handed me the machine to enter my credit card pin, I turned to smile at my toddler as he was clambering on top of a coffee table made of reclaimed cat-litter-boxes.

There was another reason that I was excited to make this purchase. This table would prove to these chic sales ladies, with hair that had been styled and who were wearing shoes with heels, that despite my messy hair, two days old foundation, wrinkled shirt and jean shorts, that I was a person of substance, a person who could afford things. That's right, I was going to have my "Pretty Woman" moment.

Then I heard a sharp intake of breath from the clerk: "Your card ... ahem ... is declined."

I assured her that was a mistake. It was impossible even. I only used the card to pay for trips to Mexico and that hadn't been possible since I'd had a kid (I distrust other country's diapers.)

She tried again and again. Still declined.

"You should call your bank," the clerk and her manager advised.

Much to my chagrin, they also asked me to produce ID.

Then I remembered. About two months ago, I lost my credit card. I did the responsible thing and cancelled it. My bank dutifully sent me a new one. Then the bank followed up with another letter containing the new pin number. (Because, as we know, identity thieves are never patient enough to wait for the second letter.)

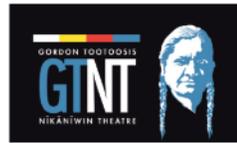
Then before I memorized the new pin, my son ate this letter.

I explained this story to the clerks. I could hear a line-up building behind me as I spoke and my my face growing red and sweat beginning its journey down my face. I was starting to look like the criminal that I'm sure they thought I was.

"I can afford this," I assured them. "I'll be back," I promised them.

But we all knew that was a lie. I held my head high as I football carried my struggling toddler to the car. Then I raced to the nearest Wal-Mart and consoled myself in place where jean shorts are not confined to any specific length or decade.

I did buy a dining room table. It's not reclaimed Irish wood. It's not new. It's a Kijiji win, saving me a lot of money. But still that table haunts me ... calls out to me ... mocks me ... "If only you'd bothered to memorize your credit card pin number, idiot."



## Job Opportunity: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Gordon Tootoosis Nikāniwin Theatre (GTNT), formerly the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, founded in 2000, is the premier Indigenous theatre company in Saskatoon, SK. The GTNT Board of Directors is now seeking an outstanding, creative and inspirational individual who will lead the theatre to new levels of artistic achievement. The ideal candidate is an innovative thinker and a brave visionary who is passionate about Indigenous performing arts! A confident leader, the Artistic Director will motivate artists, staff, audience, donors and other stakeholders.

The team at GTNT is committed to producing and presenting innovative cultural theatre experiences that engage and empower First Nations, and Métis youth, artists, and the greater Saskatchewan community. With a focus on mentorship and training of emerging Indigenous artists we infuse culture, language, and theatre arts in everything we do! Our vision is to create a world where people are transformed through Indigenous performance!

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES INCLUDE:

The Artistic Director (AD) is responsible for conceiving, developing, and implementing GTNT's artistic vision and theatre season programming. As an organizational leader, the AD further works in collaboration with the General Manager, fellow staff, and theatre colleagues from the community and ensures emphasis on sharing Indigenous stories relevant to Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis. The AD reports directly to the GTNT Board of Directors and works within the parameters of GTNT's executive policies. Key position functions include:

- Evaluate new Indigenous theatre / artistic content and maintain an awareness of new scripts, emergent talent, and artistic works with primarily Indigenous content; develops, implements, and evaluates productions / programs for the year
- Provide support for emerging Indigenous artists through GTNT Circle of Voices programing and mentorship activities while encouraging cultural integrity through artistic forms
- Collaborate with organizations within and outside the arts community in support of intercultural projects which provoke dialogue and challenge the borders that divide us
- Oversees artistic assignments within and outside of GTNT team and supports the contracting, scheduling and supervision of artists for shows; approves sets, costumes, sound and lighting, technical supports and properties and arranges their creation in the delivery of productions; the AD typically directs at least one production per season

### JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum education of Bachelor of Theatre Arts or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Preference will be given to candidates who have five years of significant professional artistic experience (experiences as an artistic director, producer, dramaturg, or other artistic leadership roles)
- Strong track record of professional theatre production and developing new works for the stage
- Broad knowledge of and familiarity with Indigenous theatre, playwrights, and industry artistic trends
- Experience working within non-profit theatre organizations (theatre planning, budgeting, and project execution)
- Experience working with First Nation and Metis communities

Compensation: commensurate with non-profit theatre standards

Please address cover letter, resume and or curriculum vitae to:

Gordon Tootoosis Nikāniwin Theatre, Board of Directors

Attention: Irene Oakes (irene.oakes@usask.ca)

914 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Y4

Closing Date: August 31, 2016

## United Way Welcomes Warren Isbister-Bear, Director of Aboriginal Engagement



Together, we are possibility.

The Board of Directors of United Way of Saskatoon and Area is pleased to announce Warren Isbister-Bear as our new Director of Aboriginal Engagement. United Way recognizes the historic and contemporary importance of Aboriginal people in our community and through Warren's leadership and guidance are committed to enhancing relationships and modeling respectful engagement with Aboriginal people.

### Welcome Warren!

100, 506 - 25th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4A7  
P| (306) 975-7700  
E| office@unitedwaysaskatoon.ca  
unitedwaysaskatoon.ca



**United Way**  
Saskatoon & Area



## FIRST PITCH

Ace and Nathan Martell escort an elated Bella Arcand-Lafond off of Rogers Field after Bella threw out a one-hopper opening pitch for a strike at the Toronto Blue Jays game. After the pitch, Bella was asked what it was like to represent sick and injured kids. "It was a good experience. I like to see them going to have a great time and not worrying about their sicknesses." Her Experience was supported by at least 25 friends and family members who travelled to Toronto for the event! Her uncle George and his wife Mary-Ellen and their children, Councillor A.D. Lafond and Bella's uncle and his daughter Helena made the trip from Muskeg Lake. (Photo by Carol Lafond)



## EDITOR

Start Date: September 2016

Eagle Feather News is looking for an Editor to oversee its newspaper and website. The Editor plans, assigns, writes, photographs and posts content for Eagle Feather News.

The ideal candidate will be a writer with a strong knowledge of Indigenous issues and ties to the community. You love to tell stories and have a keen eye for photography. Passion and persistence are key attributes.

This contract position allows you the convenience of working from home with flexible hours, room for growth and a potential future ownership opportunity. No editorial experience? That's okay; if you are the right person we will train you. The Editor can also sell advertising to earn additional income.

Since 1998 Eagle Feather News has been delivering news of interest to our readers in Saskatchewan's First Nation and Métis communities. With 12 issues per year and 10,000 copies per issue, Eagle Feather News is the most widely circulated Indigenous newspaper in Saskatchewan. The Eagle Feather News website delivers daily coverage of First Nation and Métis news and events from across our territories and averages 20,000 hits per month.

**To apply for the Eagle Feather News Editor, email your resume in confidence to: [john@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:john@eaglefeathernews.com)**

Application deadline: August 31, 2016



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[saskatoonpoliceservice.ca](http://saskatoonpoliceservice.ca)



# Tribal Council youth direct Zombies

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

The *Zombie Apocalypse* was unleashed in the Broadway Theatre recently.

A couple dozen aspiring filmmakers who completed the first Saskatoon Tribal Council Film Camp brought to life three zombie films, a documentary and a blooper reel.

Marvin Jimmy of the STC's Education Partnership Program explained that he and local filmmaker/artist Marcel Petit had been in discussions about the project for some time, and funds finally became available to proceed.

There was representation from Saskatoon, Muskoday, Mistawasis, Moosomin, Whitecap and Kinistino. Ryley Seesequasis, Sarah Vermette, Melody Wood, and Zoey Roy mentored four film groups while Petit created, oversaw, and coordinated the camp.

"I wanted us to tell our own stories in the way we wanted to tell our stories. Our stories are Indigenous because that's who we are as people," noted Roy, giving kudos to the young storytellers.



Zombies and inspired movie types were abundant at the wind up party of the first Saskatoon Tribal Council film camp.

(Photo by Andrea Ledding)

Seesequasis observed they caught on incredibly quickly, and encouraged them to continue pursuing filmmaking. Wood echoed her pride in the youth. Vermette noted that creative outlets help youth find their voice, and she watched many youth blossom.

"Just the process of storytelling is going to be extremely valuable to them," said Vermette.

From scripts to filming, directing, acting and editing, the youth aged 14 to 16 did all the work, guided by their mentors.

Shaye Bear from Muskoday, age 15, said it felt good to hear live audience response to the film she worked on.

would have not only meant the world to him, but a far better Star Wars sequel for the world. As it was, he grew up enacting scenes without a camera, and made films in his head; waiting for the day he could make his dreams come true. Now he's passing that dream on as fast as possible, hoping to reach other artistic youth.

"When I was young I didn't know I was allowed to do it. It took me until I was in my thirties," said Petit.

"I hope they come out with a stronger voice, coming back to their communities. We encouraged them to go capture their relative's stories, their Kohkums and Moshum's stories."

"I came back with some more knowledge of filming. When I first heard about this camp I was scared I wouldn't be able to do it," Bear noted.

"We all had to show each other what to do and had to actually talk and get to know each other. We had a lot of teamwork."

Petit agrees, and says something like this when he was that age

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Yancoal recognizes that there will substantially more traffic as a result of the project on Highway #6 and on the remainder of the access route to the core facility (currently, anticipated to be Grid Road 731, also known as the Strasbourg Grid). Traffic volumes during the construction period will be of utmost importance. Peak traffic volumes will occur over 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening with congestion being highly likely during these times. In addition to ensuring road design and maintenance requirements meet or exceed standards, Yancoal will develop a traffic management plan to further increase safety. Yancoal anticipates this plan will include measures stipulated by Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and Transport Canada, as well as requests from the communities. The plan will control the timing and circulation of the traffic to the extent possible, provide a code of conduct to drivers, outline a corrective action plan for drivers that do not comply with this code, provide incentives to encourage carpooling, have a closed construction camp, and outline additional safety measures required (e.g., extend the lowered speed zone through the Town of Southey).



Yancoal Canada Resources

Mailing Address:  
Unit 300, 211 4th Avenue South  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 1N1  
Office Phone Number: 1-306-668-5558

Asad Naqvi: ext. 6011, cell number 1-306-261-6906, or Email A.Naqvi@yancoal.ca  
Robin Kusch: ext. 6015, cell number 1-306-227-1073, or Email r.kusch@yancoal.ca



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- 10:30 am: Competitive Relay & Individual Adventure Race
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**ADMISSION:**

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Julian Austin



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