

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Bannock, of course, on National Aboriginal Day

Leon Almightyvoice is the proud owner of Twisted Bannock located in Fire Creek Gas and Grill in Saskatoon. He is making plans to cover the big bannock rush on National Aboriginal Day.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



### Twisted Bannock owner straight from One Arrow

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Leon Almightyvoice is preparing hard for National Aboriginal Day when demand for the cultural icon, bannock, is at its greatest.

Almightyvoice is the proud owner of Twisted Bannock, home to some wicked good bannock and bannock derived meals. He operates out of a busy little corner in the Fire Creek Gas Station on the One Arrow urban reserve in the heart of the inner city of Saskatoon.

And he knows there is high demand for his goods on June 21.

“It is always a big day at the shop on National Aboriginal Day. I bring in two extra people and we cook like crazy. Even leading up to it with pre-orders is

pretty good,” said Almightyvoice during a break in the action in his corner restaurant.

He is a member of One Arrow First Nation and a graduate of the SIAST Commercial Chef program and he spent several years with Athabasca Catering cooking at camps in Northern Saskatchewan.

His last job up north was as a sous chef, which Leon describes as “doing all the work while the chef stands at the end of the line and gets all the credit.”

Now he gets all the credit for his kitchen mastery. “I really wanted to become my own boss and become financially independent and also cook at a place where I can let my creativity run wild,” said Almightyvoice.

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National Aboriginal Day Edition

Coming In July - Graduation Issue

# Cook-Searson earns honorary degree from U of R

By Tiffany Head  
For Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – An inspirational role model, she has been described as one of the most successful female leaders in the history of Saskatchewan.

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of Lac La Ronge Indian Band received an honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa at the 42nd University of Regina convocation.

Dean of Education, Jennifer Tupper, introduced Cook-Searson to the dignitaries, graduates and guests and told them of all the contributions and numerous accomplishments of a committed mother, leader and businesswoman.

“There is nothing she is not capable of doing,” said Tupper.

Cook-Searson thanks her parents for teaching her the culture, language and the pride of heritage they instilled in her. She acknowledged the support from her husband who at times had to be the lone parent at home and to her in-laws who helped in looking after the family and last, but not least, her friends.

“I’m feeling really blessed and honored to be an honorary degree recipient. I share this honor with the people that have given me knowledge and wisdom over the years, especially the Lac La Ronge Indian band, the people that I represent,” said Cook-Searson.

When asked how she manages to do it all, she answers that you have to find a balance.

“You have to take the time to look after yourself, because if you don’t look after your health it starts to

weigh in on you and all that you do affect you 20 to 30 years down the road.”

To find her balance, Cook-Searson said that she started running and it helped her to reflect and get into shape.



**Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson was presented an honorary Doctorate of Laws by University of Regina President Vianne Timmins.**

(Photo by Tiffany Head)

“I wasn’t always in shape, I used to chew Copenhagen and then I quit and then I starting running,” said Cook-Searson as she laughs at the memory.

As a leader she said that when you have a job to do that you do it well, “and when you’re elected to represent the people that you do it to the best of your ability.”

U of R President and Vice Chancellor Vianne Tim-

mons said it was an easy choice to pick Chief Cook-Searson from the list of a hundred candidates.

“It’s a very rigorous process to get on the list,” said Timmons.

She explained that the person has to be nominated. The nominations are sent to the executive of council, who thin out the list of names, then the shortened list then goes to the senate, a large group of community members, they shorten the list a bit more and the final list goes to Timmons where she makes the final selection.

“I’m so proud and honored that she accepted it, she honors the University of Regina by accepting it,” she said.

Timmons said that she is in awe of Cook-Searson and the achievements of strong women should be celebrated.

“In this time of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, we need to really pay attention to the accomplishments of First Nations people, there’s so much that has been accomplished and she is the example of that,” said Timmons.

In her speech, with her newly attained title, Dr. Tammy Cook-Searson said that the people of Saskatchewan have to keep moving forward and keep in mind the large Indigenous population and honoring the treaty relationship.

“Ekosi, Kahkinaw kinanâskomitinawaw, thank you so much and I’m very proud of all the graduates today,” said Cook-Searson in her closing statement.

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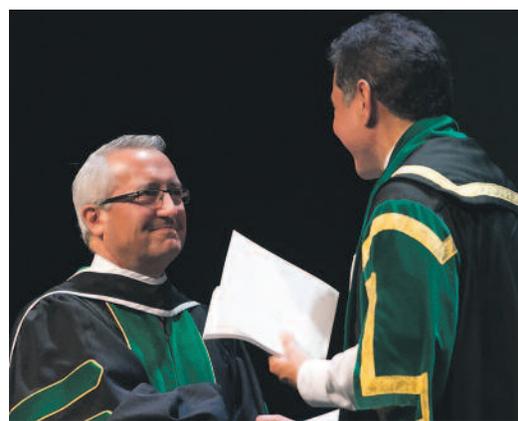
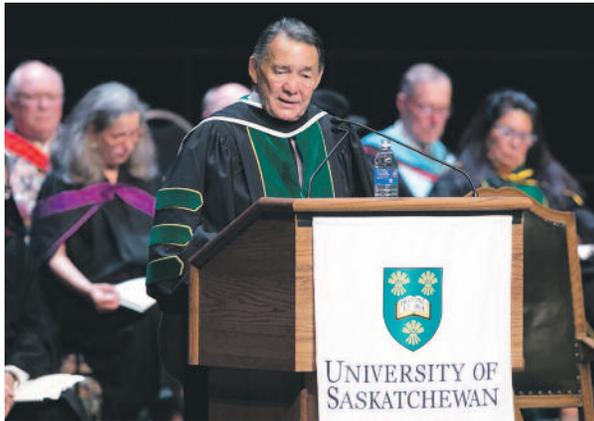
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(Left to right) Ray Ahenakew, Cindy Blackstock and Keith Martel were all presented Honorary Degrees by the University of Saskatchewan Chancellor Blaine Favel. (Photos by University of Saskatchewan)

# Ahenakew, Blackstock, Martel honoured by U of S

**By Angela Hill  
For Eagle Feather News**

**SASKATOON** – During the graduation ceremonies at the University of Saskatchewan this spring, six people received honorary degrees.

Three of those people were being recognized for supporting the Indigenous community: Cindy Blackstock, the executive director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, Keith Martel, chief executive officer of the First Nations Bank of Canada and Ray Ahenakew former president of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

“It’s a humbling phone call and discussion with the university,” said Ahenakew on learning that on June 1 he would receive an honorary doctor of law of in recognition for lifetime achievement.

Throughout his career Ahenakew was a tireless advocate for First Nations access to education and he worked to have Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology credits accepted at other institutions including the U of S Edwards School of Business.

“Education is really the backbone for First Nation development,” he said.

Ahenakew said that in his era and for him, education was not the biggest focus, but that it’s something that has been discussed since there was a treaty right to education. He said he is happy to see that young people now are embracing education, that he can see it in the increasing numbers of Aboriginal students in post-secondary programs.

“The most important thing is to have patience,” he said.

That’s how Ahenakew said he was brought up. And it was the skills he learned while playing hockey for the Quakers in Saskatoon that helped him to figure out how to reach goals. Winning would take patience, hard work, and discussion; the team would make a plan where they wanted to be at the beginning, middle and end of the season, he said.

Ahenakew said, teamwork is causing attitudes to change and in the last five years he has seen a big shift in how all parties look at Aboriginal education.

“Everyone has a role to play supporting each other,” he said.

“This award I got should probably be distributed to the 200 people that I’ve worked with over the years.”

Cindy Blackstock feels similarly about the recognition she received on June 2.

Blackstock is a driving force behind First Nations children’s rights – she pushed that cause to the Federal Court of Appeal as part of her campaign that ended with a landmark decision from the Canadian Human Rights tribunal in January. The end results mean the federal government will need to provide equal funding for child and family services in First Nations communities across the country.

She said receiving the honorary doctorate of law from the U of S gives the work of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, “more credibility.”

“It’s a great honour because I viewed this case as a collective effort,” she said.

During the years she pushed for equal rights, Blackstock made multiple visits to Saskatchewan. She could see the level of support she had by the number of people who would come to her lectures. It was U of S law student Riva Farrell-Racette, who wrote the I am a witness campaign song, she said, and thousands of students sent Valentines to the Prime Minister.

Blackstock said that tens of thousands of children are learning of the inequality and learning there are peaceful ways to address the discrimination, but Blackstock added, “our work isn’t done yet.”

There are ways people can still make a difference and Blackstock asks people to visit [fncaringsociety.com](http://fncaringsociety.com) to see seven free ways to make a difference.

The importance of quality education is something First Nations Bank of Canada’s Keith Martel talks about often.

He said he believes education is the key to the future of Saskatchewan’s growing Aboriginal populations. Martel’s start came after graduating from the U of S in 1985.

“I attribute a lot of my success to that good start,” he said.

He went on to work with KPMG, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and on the board of directors of PotashCorp.

While he has been named member of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40, by The Globe and Mail’s Report on Business

magazine, Martel said he is doing what he loves.

“You don’t do the work that I do for the awards.”

Most recently Martel has been involved with the dean’s advisory committee with the Edwards School of Business, where he said he has seen how a

university degree and opportunity allows people to “turn things around quickly.”

While speaking after receiving the honorary degree on June 1, Martel said what he has is “dad advice” about what makes a good career.

“We have to take advantages as they come forward.”



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# Lots of reasons to celebrate NAD

Just for the record ... this is the first time that bannock has ever appeared on the cover of our paper.

You would think after 18 years, at least one piece would have snuck in there, but no, history is fittingly made with Leon and his Indian Taco gracing the cover for our National Aboriginal Day edition.

It feels like a good NAD is coming. Reconciliation activities have been taking place, grad and grade school pow wows are popping up all over the province, we have a new Prime Minister with a new attitude and people have tons of hope. Just flipping through this issue you can see the success and honours being bestowed.

Fitting examples are Maria Linklater and Devon Fiddler who both won YWCA Saskatoon Women of

Distinction Awards. Maria won for Community Building and deservedly so. She has fostered hundreds of children and impacted thousands of children and families in inner city Saskatoon.

The first time I met Maria was at a mini basketball tournament at a park at St. Mary's inner city school. She sat on a blanket, her skirt around her and she held court. Teaching children, correcting children ... teens, even.

Whenever adults came, they always came and acknowledged her. The park revolved around Maria. The community still does revolve around her. Maria and her husband Walter have prayed for thousands of people at events and in their sweats. Her work in the community has strengthened the people and also opened doors for the next generation, such as the Devon Fiddlers of the world.

For the past several years Devon has been making waves in business and fashion and in the community and she won the Woman Under 29 Award. Her SheNative line of handbags and fashion co-op incubator Her4Directions gave her a stage.

She overcame education obstacles and racism and not being taken seriously. But she persevered. Now she is a regular speaker in

communities, reaching out to youth and teaching them to be entrepreneurs.

Mostly she teaches them to be proud of who they are and to be brave.

Just like what Maria was doing for those kids ... and adults in the park. It is

great to see this generation success take root.

Now there were some extreme headlines lately about racism on the rise and it being the worst on the prairies.

Lots of people can certainly attest to that.

But if you really read into the report, awareness is growing. Almost 75 per cent knew about the residential schools.

A vast majority were in favour of proper funding for education and health for First Nations.

And the single most important finding of this survey is that eight in ten Canadians are open to and wanting to learn more.

That, my friends, is progress.

So that is what we can celebrate this month and on June 21. Bannock. Canadians are starting to engage in a meaningful way.

And being proud of who we are and being brave. Should be a gooder.

...

Be prepared for a **Devon Fiddler the 2016 Under 29 Women of Distinction Award.** (Lauren Winter Photography)



**Maria Linklater, winner of the 2016 Community Building Women of Distinction Award.**

(Lauren Winter Photography)



**Devon Fiddler the 2016 Under 29 Women of Distinction Award.** (Lauren Winter Photography)

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# Uncle Stan taught me not to be afraid

The room was full to overflowing with mourners.

It was the funeral of a dear friend and colleague and we were all very sad. A young man, known for his beautiful voice had been asked to drum and sing a song and as he walked to the front we watched him. For whatever reason, he decided not to sing but to address us instead.

Carefully taking his position at the podium, he looked out at us, then shut his eyes and in his wisest "old man" voice he began to talk.

We listened in amazement as he went on and on about what he had been taught by his "elders" about grief and mourning. His knowledge was pretty thin to say the least, but he was determined we were going to hear it all.

After what seemed like hours a "very old voice" could be heard from the front row. "Holy! Ever taking advantage of us!"

The young man's eyes flew open and for a moment you could have heard a pin drop. Then someone whispered, "Yes it's Dad!" and started to laugh but quickly smothered it.



STAN CUTHAND

The young man walked back to his seat and the Master of Ceremonies carried on as if nothing had happened while the rest of us were almost sick from suppressed laughter.

The very wise "old man" was the Reverend Stan Cuthand, known as Uncle Stan to most of us whom he had either mentored, taught or helped in some way. Greatly loved and respected but certainly not the old uncle you ever wanted to offend in any way.

The rest of the funeral went well and I am sure that our dearly departed has enjoyed that story each time it is repeated for it was the highlight of her funeral and one that always brings lots of laughter as each person remembers

"their" version of it.

Uncle Stan who left us on May 23, was, as Neal Macleod wrote in his remembering of him, a scholar, an intellectual and a fierce keeper and protector of Cree language and culture. He was also very wise but in a quirky, cranky sort of way.

Don't get me wrong, he was one of the kindest people I knew. Perhaps Winona Wheeler says it best, "He taught us how to be brave."

Very true because brave you'd better be if you were going to ask him for advice or tell him something because he would tell you exactly what he thought with very little regard for your tender feelings and believe me, you came away wiser and often a bit bruised.

Many of us carry those stories with a sense of pride. I know I certainly like to think I am braver because he certainly never spared my feelings. But he was also generous, loving and he had a great sense of humor.

This story from Brenda Macdougall happened when she was Acting Head at the Indigenous Studies Department at the U of S. As she tells it, she invited Stan to come as the Elder to a graduation ceremony. She also invited the Wanuskewin Singers to do the honour song for the students.

She said she was seated next to him at the head table and that she was feeling pretty moved by the song when he leaned over to her and said, "That was not an honour song. Go and tell the lead singer that and also tell him never to do that again."

Brenda said she was just sick as she wasn't exactly the brownest person in the room and in Cree country young women do not tell drummers and singers they don't know what they're doing. But Stan insisted, telling her that as the department head it was her job to let people know they can't get away with slipshod work so, she did as she was told.

She bravely walked up to the lead singer and said, "the old man over there says that was not an honour song and that you are never to do that again."

The singers looked at her in shock and were about to say something when they saw the "old man." They wisely said nothing and Brenda says she was never again afraid to speak up about anything.

"How could I be afraid after telling drummers and singers they didn't know what they were doing," she laughs.

There are many stories like this and I have been hearing them all week. All funny and all teaching stories.

Mine, although not funny happened in the mid 1980s at the opening night of

Jessica, my first professional theatre production. Jessica is a play about ceremony and up till that time no one, to my knowledge, had ever written about ceremony, much less questioned the teachings of elders, which is what the main character does.

I was worried that I would be in trouble when I was writing it but then I thought, "Don't worry about it, elders never go to the theatre."

Well guess what? There they all were, Stan among them, on opening night, sitting in the front row. I was so freaked I spent the night watching them instead of the play and not once did they smile, laugh or react in anyway.

They just watched intently which scared me even more and I swore I would never do this again! And why did I do it anyway. I must have had rocks in my head! I was sorry, no I wasn't! I went through every emotion imaginable throughout the play and I remember little else about that night.

When it was over, I had to come out. Stan was the first to meet me. He reached out shook my hand and kissed my cheek.



"Real good," he said. "I really liked that Vitaline. She reminds me of some old ladies I know and Jessica reminds me of myself as a young man."

I still get emotional when I think of that moment. He led the way and all those elders shook my hand and hugged me and I knew that even if they didn't approve of everything, they supported what I did and understood why I did it.

Uncle Stan and Christine left for somewhere in South America the next week and on the plane he wrote me a letter, which I still take out and read when I am afraid. In it he wrote that he understood about how hard it is and how scary to stand up for what you believe in but he said, "we have to do it, the sacrifice is small compared to the ones made by our ancestors."

He also thanked me for not romanticizing our people, especially our old people.

"They don't deserve that," he said. "They have worked too hard."

Have a good journey dear friend, teacher, uncle and yes, may the road be full of singers with beautiful songs.

Thank you Doug, Beth, John and Ruth for sharing him with us. And from my family he was a pretty special "old man."

Ekosi.



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Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield and Isabelle Impey at the Saskatchewan Order of Merit ceremony. (Photo by D3 Imaging Inc.)

# Isabelle Impey's service recognized

By Jessica Iron Joseph  
For Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – Isabelle Impey of Prince Albert has been awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit for her contributions to her community.

In her award biography, it states: “Ms. Impey has provided leadership and service to her community and beyond in the areas of culture, family life, justice, education and the alleviation of poverty.”

Impey did not expect the nomination and was quite humbled to be one of 10 recipients.

“It was a surprise,” she said, “I have a lot of people to share it with because I have a lot of good people around me who helped make this happen, so I’m not totally entitled to it.”

“I don’t do it alone,” she explained. “I do a food program. It’s not part of the food bank. It’s a program that I initiated under the Second Harvest Circle group that used to have it and they decided to discontinue doing it.

“There was such a need in the community for it that I decided 15 years ago to take over it.”

By operating the Prince Albert Aid to the Homeless and Hungry program out of her own garage, she keeps costs low.

“I have a furnace in my garage, so I just re-organized my garage and I use it for giving out food. I’ve been doing it out of my home so it saves the cost of getting a building. I do it once a week.”

Along with her volunteers, she gives out food, clothes and furniture. But that’s not all she

does. Fifteen years ago she also began putting on a huge community Christmas meal.

“When we initially started, it was mostly my family – I kind of put them in a spot where they had to volunteer,” she said.

“We prepared food for 700, and last Christmas we had food for two and half thousand. It’s getting bigger and the need is greater. Last year we gave gifts to all the kids and treat bags. And we also gave toques and scarves and mitts for all the people that were there that needed something to keep them warm.”

She was quick to point out that she is always helped by her tireless volunteers.

“When I count all the volunteers, I have many, many, many volunteers. They’re so wonderful. They’re so good about coming out to help,” she said.

As a social worker and child advocate, she also started the Opikanawasowin program, which is an alternate dispute resolution between families and the Ministry of Social Services.

“We have an Elders’ circle. We hear from the families, we hear from their supports, we hear from the children,” she said.

“It’s the only place where the children have a voice. At the end the Elders’ circle makes recommendations to the judge for what should happen to that family,” she said.

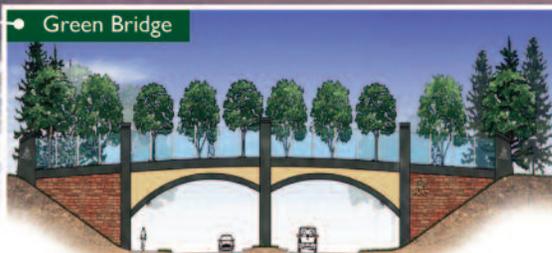
Impey is grateful to be acknowledged.

“I’m glad people think that I am doing OK, doing a good job helping people. I think that in itself is a real gift, a real blessing.”



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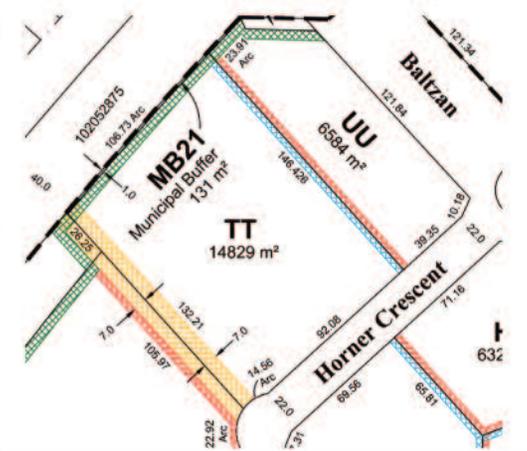
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# Lafond joins illustrious company

**REGINA** – George Lafond had served the public in Tribal and Federal politics, education and business for the past 35 years. Having just finished a stint as the Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan, he received a call from the Provincial Protocol office informing him that because of his exemplary service to the community he was going to be a recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

“It was actually profoundly sobering,” said Lafond, a member of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, on a phone call between board meetings from Ottawa.

“My first thought was what did I do to deserve this then it turned to thoughts on my 35 years of public service and how lucky I was to be surrounded by great people.”

The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is a prestigious recognition of excellence, achievement and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well being of the province and its residents. It takes precedence over all other provincial honours and awards and is Saskatchewan’s highest honour.

Not only did Lafond join the ranks of 219 esteemed Saskatchewanians, he joined his mom, Alpha Lafond, who also is an Order of Merit recipient.

“My second thought was for my mom. She received the award in 1985. She was a great mom. A leader, a Chief and she also raised six kids on the reserve. She did not do too bad in my books.”

Lafond joined ten other recipients this year,

amongst them business leaders and community builders like Isabelle Impey.

“It is humbling when you look at the accomplishments of the other recipients, especially Isabelle Impey. She gives of herself daily and has created a family that is changing Saskatchewan,” said Lafond.

“I also noticed that eight of the 10 recipients had some sort of tie to the University of Saskatchewan. One of my favourite assignments was working at the University, and I am proud to be an alumnus of a place that consistently punches above its weight.”

Now that Lafond is out of the political spotlight, he is focused on a couple boards and his family. The boards are quite different. One is to help plan for senior’s services as Canada ages and the other is for emerging green technology. He also intends to focus on First Nation education and be an apostle on climate change.

“We as First Nations have a lot to gain and contribute to the climate change discussion. And now that my public service life is winding down, I would like to see big change in education and start making incremental change in green technology,” said Lafond.

And then there is the family including four kids.

“I like being a father and having fun with my kids. Though I am challenged by the rapid change they are facing in society,” added Lafond.

“At least with the Order of Merit the kids have seen me do something now instead of just being the grumpy old guy on the couch.”



Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield presented George Lafond with his Saskatchewan Order of Merit. (Photo by D3 Imaging Inc.)



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# Flag symbolizes T&R call to action

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

**SASKATOON** – Residential School survivor Eugene Arcand encourages everyone to build the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action into each day.

He instructed those present at the Reconciliation Flag-Raising to go and shake hands with someone they didn't know.

"You're all smiling now, it can be fun to follow the Calls to Action, and I challenge you to take up that challenge every day," noted Arcand, further challenging everyone to commit this June to reading, sharing, and bringing to life the 94 Calls to Action in the 20-page document put out by the TRC.

"It's more than shaking hands, it's changing behaviour so that attitudes change."

Arcand was one of many speakers and dignitaries to address the crowd gathered in front of City Hall on the morning of June 1 to launch a month long series of events of reconciliation in Saskatoon.

Shae Eagle sang O Canada in the Dakota language, followed by Krystle Pederson singing the Métis National Anthem, while the Wild Horses Drum Group sang the Treaty 6 Song. STC Tribal Chief Felix Thomas shared his thoughts, including the dictionary definition of reconciliation.

"Reconciliation means the restoration of friendly relations," noted Chief Thomas. "And we know that the treaties, the gifts and obligations, were made in peace and friendship ... these responsibilities are on all of us."

Mayor Don Atchison brought greetings on behalf of the city, recalling the installation of the Treaty 6 and Métis flags at City Hall and the importance of knowing the past so that the present and future can continue to

improve.

FSIN Senator Ted Quewezance reflected on his own experiences.

"From the perspective of a Residential School survivor, forgiveness is one of the hardest things to do," said Quewezance, adding it took him about seven years of hard work.

"All the terrible things they did to us as little boys and little girls ... sometimes that little boy comes out, but it's something as an individual, and a family, we have to move forward."

He emphasized the importance of culture and traditions, and the painful process of colonization, challenging each and every person to decolonize themselves despite the pain.

"We have to reach out, and as a survivor I'm reaching out to everyone because reconciliation is needed in our country, in our province, in our cities and in our communities," said Quewezance.

"Without reconciliation it's not Canada. We are treaty people and we reached out to the settlers and today the benefits are there for all Canadians."

CUMFI President Shirley Isbister noted that the process of preparing for this day had really inspired her, as people came forward with their TRC commitments.

"The Call to Action is individual, we each have to find how we're going to survive day by day and welcome people into that circle of ours," said Isbister, adding that's the first step towards reconciliation.

"Saskatoon is so rich in diversity and it's up to us to mine that commodity."

After a Métis music break with Phil and Dallas Boyer, Leanne Bellegarde brought valued sponsorship greetings from PotashCorp, Acting Police Chief Mark



**Residential School survivor Eugene Arcand addressed the crowd before the reconciliation flag raising at City Hall.** (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

Chatterbox brought greetings from the Saskatoon Police Service, a representative from the United Church spoke, and Harry Lafond brought greetings from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

In a ceremony of unity and reconciliation, the reconciliation flag was passed around for everyone to touch. While an Honour Song played and survivors shared words, veteran Edward Baldhead raised the flag.



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# MOU is a healthy sign forgiving has begun for Lac La Ronge Band

By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News

**LA RONGE** – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s health-related Calls to Action was signed in La Ronge on May 20.

“This is such a historic event,” said Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) Chief Tammy Cook-Searson.

In addition to Cook-Searson signing on behalf of the LLRIB, other signatories were Ron Woytowich, Chair of the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority on behalf of the health region, and Dr. Preston Smith, Dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, on behalf of Northern Medical Services.

Written in English and Cree (both Syllabics and Roman orthography), the MOU reads: “Intergenerational impacts of Indian Residential Schools have affected the health of Lac La Ronge Indian Band members and communities. In the Spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the parties commit to working together to improve health services for the members and communities of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and all people of northern Saskatchewan.”

“We were already working together,” said Cook-Searson, emphasizing the desire “to build on that working relationship and making it stronger.”

Woytowich brought greetings from the provincial Minister of Health, Dustin Duncan, who acknowledged the harm that has resulted from past policies.

“Our government shares your desire to provide culturally-appropriate, accessible healthcare and services for First Nations residents,” said Duncan.

“We will continue to take steps to address disparities in health outcomes and build a health workforce that reflects our province’s population.”

Northern Medical Services, which is part of the College of Medicine, is the main physician employer within northern Saskatchewan. Smith noted that the College has taken the initiative of Aboriginal teaching within the medical curriculum to support culturally-safe care.

“We also offer a two-week health elective in clinical settings where Western and Indigenous healing are blended, and students learn from Elders, healers, and women’s helpers, as well as physicians,” said Smith.

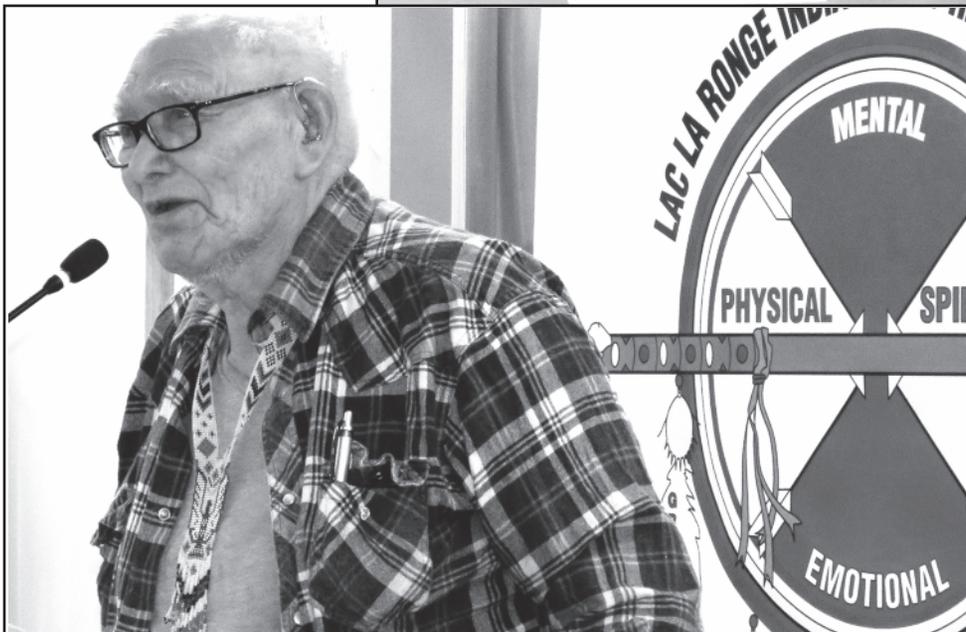
The MOU, the first in Saskatchewan in response to the Calls for Action, was proposed by the local Health Services Integration Fund committee. Coordinator Cathy Wheaton said one of the objectives was to create more understanding and recognition of the health impacts of the residential school experience, particularly on emotional and mental well-being.

Elder Albert Ross attended the school that once stood on the site of the current Kiskinwuhumatowin Urban Reserve in La Ronge, and spoke at the signing ceremony.

“A lot of times we’ll feel sad about what happened to us, but let’s forget it,” said Ross. “That’s the only way we can be healed – if we work together, and try to forget the past.”

As part of the journey to healing, Cook-Searson believes that, after years of denial, the time is right for action.

“It was one of those things you just didn’t talk about, and I think we’re at a place now where we can start to open up and be more understanding of each other, and start forgiving each other.”



(Above) Signing a Memorandum of Understanding in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s health-related Calls to Action are (l. to r.) Ron Woytowich, Chair of the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority, Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson and Dr. Preston Smith, Dean of the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. (Left) Elder Albert Ross, a former residential school student, spoke at the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

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# SCYAP grads have expanded their urban canvas to a world of art

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

**SASKATOON** – SCYAP held their eleventh graduation and closing ceremony for their Urban Canvas Project in May with ten graduates showing their individual and group art at the Snelgrove Gallery at the University of Saskatchewan campus.

Along with receiving their completion certificates, they also received congratulations and remarks from many supportive organizations and dignitaries.

## CATS, NINJAS, MERMAIDS, SERIAL KILLERS AND POUTINE.

SCYAP's URBAN CANVAS ELEVEN PARTICIPANTS:

Sam Bird  
Lenny Bolton  
Tristan Favel  
Keesha Johnstone  
Lisa Lam  
Chlarissa Martell  
Winnie Marie  
Hope Rosie  
Christopher Scott  
Alexander Zimmerman

The Urban Canvas program through SCYAP has been a resounding success with a countless amount of young people being inspired and empowered through art and culture. Check out some of their work at the Snelgrove gallery at the U of S Campus. (Photo by SCYAP)

Graduate Chlarissa Martell, after welcoming dignitaries, explained more about the program.

“The Urban Canvas Project is a full-time Monday to Friday commercial and fine arts skills enhancement and personal development project for young people between the ages of 16 and 30 who have faced multiple barriers to employment,” explained Martell, adding that skills, employment, community service, and portfolio building were some of the components, along with “an introduction to the world of art and its’ benefits.”

Graduate Hope Rosie brought a greeting from the class, noting they had all grown from being nervous youth to being confident artists ready to move on to bigger and better things, after learning not only from their instructors but from one another.

“Art is what brought us together, into Urban Canvas Eleven. Thanks to our sponsors who let us know we were important and can do awesome things

in our life,” noted Rosie.

Graduate Alexander Zimmerman then introduced Ministries from the Government of Saskatchewan, SCYAP, Eagle Feather News, and CARFAC as major sponsors making Urban Canvas possible, along with support from the City of Saskatoon, and Affinity Credit Union, and many other generous organizations and individuals.

“That list is simply too lengthy to go through, but their assistance is no less appreciated,” noted Zimmerman.

Mayor Don Atchison agreed, congratulating not only the graduates but also the volunteers and donors, while provincial minister Mark Wyatt noted that over 2,500 youth have benefitted from SCYAP programs over the years.

Superintendent Dave Hague of the Saskatoon City Police brought greetings on behalf of Chief Clive Weighill, and noted the courage of the artists in displaying their work, while EFN editor John Lagimodiere sent words of praise for the accomplishments of the youth and of SCYAP.

Other participants and graduates besides Martell, Rosie, and Zimmerman included Sam Bird, Lenny Bolton, Tristan Favel, Keesha Johnstone, Winnie Marie, Christopher Scott, and Lisa Lam.

After all the remarks, the graduates were presented with framed diplomas by Mayor Atchison and their SCYAP instructors.

The program concluded with thanks and remarks from SCYAP founder Darrell Lechman, who had special words for the graduates and sponsors and the SCYAP board and volunteers.

A large mural which the students painted was being installed downtown later that day. SCYAP also promoted their public drop-in art times, their Art in the Park initiative in July and August, and their face painting team which does many events.



Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison was present to help hand out certificates and gifts to the graduating members of Urban Canvas 11. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

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# CONGRATULATIONS Graduates!

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**390**  
 U of S Aboriginal students graduated this spring.



**MORE THAN 1,500**  
 children from 46 schools across the province attended the Graduation Powwow.



**338**  
 Aboriginal graduates from 25 high schools across Saskatchewan were honoured at the powwow.



**FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS**  
 the U of S has hosted a powwow on its Saskatoon campus.



# Pow wow dancer forced to put career plan on hold

By Tiffany Head  
For Eagle Feather News

**SWEET GRASS FIRST NATION** – A world champion dancer who sacrifices all that she can for her children was awarded a big prize at Gathering Our Nations Powwow.

Thirty-two-year-old jingle dancer Lacy Albert from Sweet Grass First Nation had been attending school at Northwest Regional College in North Battleford to attain a licensed practical nurse (LPN) degree but had to withdraw.

“They told us that my son would be born with a heart defect so I had to make a decision because he would need surgery after he was born,” said Albert.

Her son Jett had been born on April 22, 2015 with dextrocardia which can sometimes cause abnormalities in the pulmonary arteries, and Jett required two open heart surgeries.

“From having three healthy children, and then having that happen is scary,” said Albert.

Her son is now 13 months old and is a healthy active baby boy, though he will go through another surgery when he is two and half years old.

“He scoots on his butt. He wasn’t able to go on his chest, because of all the wires (so) he started butt scooting, so that’s how he gets around,” said Albert.

Albert recently attended the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico and was victorious in her performance. She was named champion, winning \$2,000 and another \$700 and a star blanket in other jingle dance categories.

“I’ve been going for a while, but I only ever go is there ever a special in that category. I won fifth there the first time I ever went there, I was so happy, it was like winning first,” said Albert.

A champion in her own right, she has been dancing since she could walk and says they have travelled all over for powwow competitions.

Last year they were not able to attend but this year it was a good year. She danced for her son and also in memory of her grandmother who had passed on recently.



Lacy Albert became a National Dance Champion this year at Gathering Our Nations, but her focus is on her son Jett. (Photo supplied)

“She taught me and the patterns that I use, and a lot of people ask me to do their moccasin pattern, I make them nice and fitted. She just passed away, Easter time,” said Albert.

She says she mostly stays home nowadays and takes orders for moss bags and makes new outfits for her children.

“I’m just always working on stuff for us,” said Albert who says she’s always beading and wouldn’t know what to do with herself if she didn’t have something to work on.

She uses the pattern her grandmother taught her.

“My new bead work, I make them like hers and a bit contemporary.”

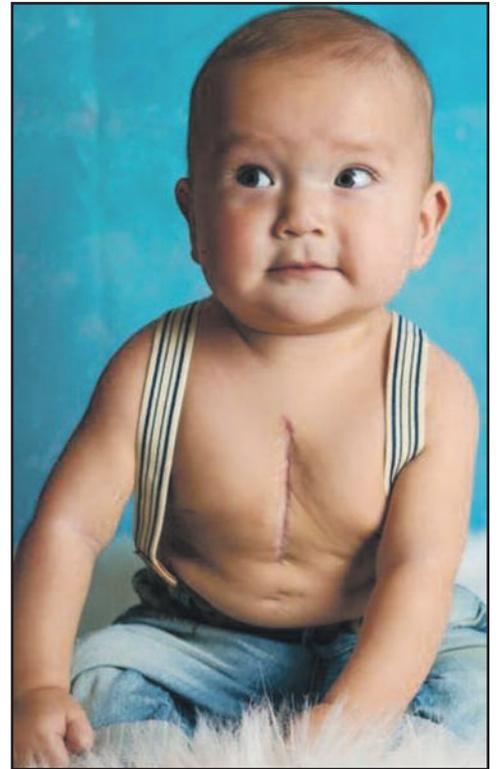
Albert says that it is a busy season for her family and will be traveling all summer.

She says she will go back to school one day but for now she will continue to bead and make moss bags.

“I’ll go back it’s something I’ve always wanted to do, just have to wait until my children grow older,” said Albert on her LPN degree.

Albert has a page on Facebook for all her bead work, moss bags and designs so check them out if you are interested.

<https://www.facebook.com/Cree-florals-designs-by-Lacy-Albert-1542062109449015/>



Jett had some health setbacks in his young life but has a strong mom and family supporting him. (Photo supplied)



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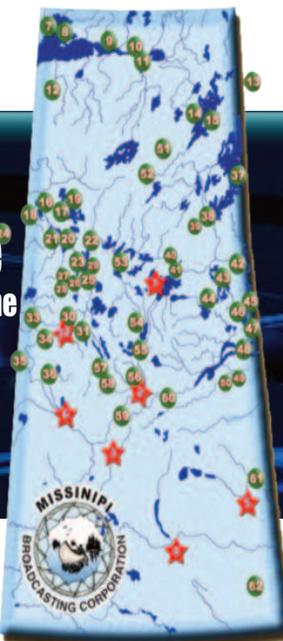
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# Powwow celebrates success of U of S graduates

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

**SASKATOON** – The annual Graduation Powwow was held at the University of Saskatchewan in late May, with hundreds of high school graduates in the morning and over 400 university graduates celebrated in the afternoon, a record high.

“This is an almost 30-year tradition now, this powwow,” said Peter Stoicheff, President of the U of S.

“I’d like to acknowledge, in particular, all you who are graduating today. You can tell, of course, from the acknowledgement of the crowd, how important it is, how significant it is. Everyone knows how difficult it is to get a degree at a university ... all the challenges you have had to overcome in order to be successful, and everybody is very proud of you.”

He also acknowledged the importance of the support of friends and families.

“It’s not only a wonderful thing that you have accomplished but it comes with a lot of responsibility,” noted Stoicheff, adding that it was a privilege to get a degree and be able to make a difference in the world, to make the country a better place.

“And so I ask you to consider how you can use the influence that you have in order to accomplish that, in your own communities, in this province, and across this country, world-wide.”

Describing it as an opportunity made, he also thanked the Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty and staff lined up to congratulate and support the students at the pow wow, adding that the U of S likes to consider itself a leader in the country in terms of Indigenous education.

Graduate Dana Carriere addressed the students as well.

“We are not only here to celebrate our graduates and achievements; we are here to celebrate our families, our mentors, our communities, and our culture. I can guarantee most of us didn’t get here on our own,” noted Carriere, adding that supporting one another was important. “Success is possible. We are unstoppable, we are strong.”

Eugene Arcand spoke to the gathering, which was taking place in the large Physical Education gym due to inclement weather.

“I wore this hat that day in honour of those that maintained our language and our culture, our ceremonies while we were away at the Residential Schools,” noted Arcand, taking the hat off his head.

“I now wear this hat today to honour the graduates and high school graduates.”

He reminded the graduates that they would need to promote the TRC Calls to Action in their various paths and careers, as they used their education to better the world.

“I encourage you to take up the challenge of these Calls to Action,” said Arcand as he congratulated them and exhorted them to stay strong in their culture, language, and ceremony.



**Warren Isbister and Osemis Bear, both graduates at the University of Saskatchewan, participated in the grand entry at the annual Graduation Powwow.** (Photo by University of Saskatchewan)



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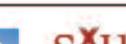
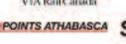
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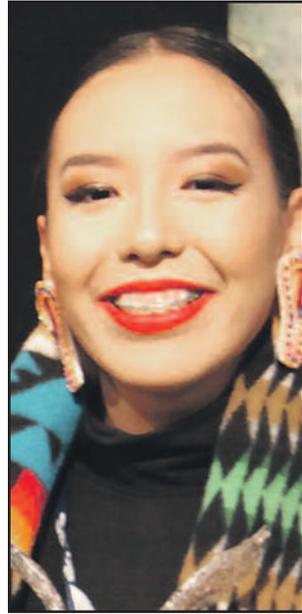
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MAGGIE EASTMAN



JOSHUA FANDREY



EMILY NOON



**Organizer Colleen Cameron says the Awards are important for the youth, their families and their communities.**

## SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards indicate bright

**By Andréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News**

**SASKATOON** – The SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards are designed to celebrate success and courage in young people like Mario Ahenakew.

Ahenakew was almost lost to the gang life. Arrested 10 times before he was 12, he was on the fast track to becoming a statistic. Now, the Grade 11 student at Holy Cross High School is an active student and role model who speaks about the perils of the gang life. His courage and progress have earned him the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Spirit Award.

The 18th Annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards took place in late May at TCU Place. Eighty-nine outstanding youth were nominated for 12 category awards, and their families and the community were proud witnesses to their achievements.

“These awards have become so important to not just the youth, but their families and com-

munities for the inspiration the awards and recipients generate,” organizer Colleen Cameron said, explaining that celebrating youth was an effective part of the TRC’s Calls to Action.

“It is a privilege to read your stories and many of you share truth and honesty with us ... we understand your story and we thank you for sharing it. All of you are deserving of an award.”

Cameron explained that the winners are the ones who follow the nomination process most closely, because it is hard for the committee to select one winner from among such excellence.

The first award recipient was Victoria Penner of Ahtahkakoop First Nation, who won a new Saskatchewan Polytechnic Award, covering her first year of tuition and books as a registered nurse at Sask Polytechnic.

Jodi Delorme won the Community Service Award, while the Education Award went to Shayna Uhryn with an average of 99.3 per cent — the highest average of any past award recipients — and the Culture Award to Maggie Eastman.

Joshua Fandrey received the Science and Technology Award, and Emily Noon was recipient of the Fine/Performing Arts Award.

The Spirit Award was created for students with inner strength which helps them overcome obstacles, and each nominated youth deserves it, noted Cameron.

Mario Ahenakew was achieving academic success when he got mixed up with the wrong crowd, becoming sidetracked in criminal activity and an unhealthy lifestyle. He managed to turn things around again, using supports like STR8UP, and is now finishing his Grade 11 year at Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon while sharing his story about why not to join gangs.

His goal is to become a defense attorney for those who

need legal assistance.

“I feel that with all the made in life, you can still cha into the positive. Life is what y Ahenakew afterwards.

“I feel really honoured here for the experience, and thing. Considering where I cor I’ve been through, it makes m about myself.

What really helped me v self motivation — I knew tha ter than this.”

When asked what advice other youth who find thems in trouble, he said that no m what happens in life, you can the best out of it.

“And no matter what stru you’re going through, keep head up and have faith,” Ahenakew. “Anything is possi

Kaylan Muir received th male Sports Award, while Th Johnston was recipient of the Sports Award.

Leah Boyer, from Lloyc ster, received the Leade Award, while Outstanding was won by Liam Cummins. standing Female Isabel Gagne among her many achievem raised over \$10,000 in a shoe for kids who couldn’t affor letic footwear in inner city Re after she noticed the need dur volleyball game.

The Indigenous Ense group from the Saskatoon P School Board provided some tional dancing at the end of the quet, while drumming for Grand Entry, the Ensemble, an Honour Songs was provided b Wild Horse Drum Group.

Master of Ceremonies D Speidel kept things run smoothly, and greetings and congratulations were brought by dignitaries including the Lieut Governor of Saskatchewan, Chief Bobby Cameron, STC

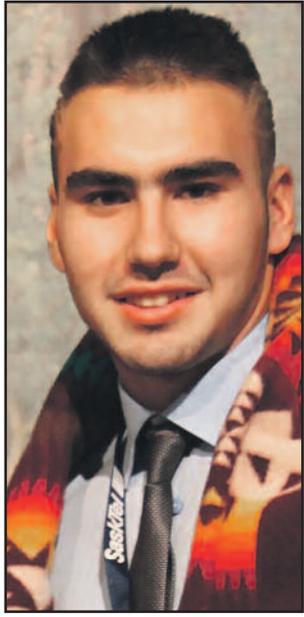
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MARIO AHENAKEW



KAYLAN MUIR



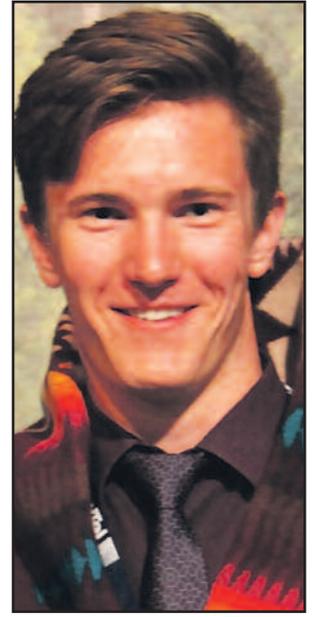
THOMAS JOHNSTON



LEAH BOYER



ISABEL GAGNE



LIAM CUMMINS

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Felix Thomas, MNS President Robert Doucette, and Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison.

The Wichitowin Foundation responsible for the Awards was created in 1995, 50 years after the Second World War, as a legacy to Aboriginal veterans, honouring them by nurturing Aboriginal youth. Wichitowin, a Cree word meaning "helping each other", reflects the foundation's overall mission.

The SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards is the culmination of the foundation's efforts to seek out and recognize today's excelling Aboriginal youth who are becoming strong role models.



Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield with this year's SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award winners.

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# NORTEP a resounding success over four decades

By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News

**LA RONGE** – The Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) and the Northern Professional Access College (NORPAC) held 40th anniversary celebrations in La Ronge in June.

Since NORTEP was first established as a program in 1976, there has been an evolution in the programming and there have been changes in funding, governance, facilities, and even the logo. However, the goal of providing accessible post-secondary education for Northerners, in the North, has been constant.

When it began, there were fewer than five teachers of Aboriginal ancestry teaching in Northern Saskatchewan, says Dr. Michael Tymchak, who served as the first director.

To date, there have been 472 NORTEP graduates, the majority of whom are Aboriginal and work in the North.

“It’s the graduates who made the program a success,” says Tymchak. “They had to perform well for the program to gain credibility.”

The Northern School Board (which became the Northern Lights School Division) began the program with the help of both federal and provincial funding, and in co-operation with both the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan.

Initially, it was a school-based model. Students would alternate between several weeks of classes in La Ronge, and a practicum experience in the schools in their home communities. To counter the critics who were skeptical that they wouldn’t measure up, says Tymchak, NORTEP students were required then to spend the final six months on campus.

Bev Cheechoo was in the first NORTEP graduate class in 1979.

“The expectations were very high,” she says. “The instructors gave us a lot of work, but they still were very, very supportive. Even the students – we all helped each other.”

Cheechoo spent most of her teaching career at Charlebois School in Cumberland House, and was rec-

ognized by the Canadian Teachers’ Federation as the 2010 Outstanding Aboriginal Teacher. After retiring and working for several years at other jobs, she is back in the classroom at Nisto Awasisik Memorial School. She believes that the first graduates became important role models and opened many doors for education in the North.

Tymchak says the NORTEP experience convinced them that if students had the right start, they could go on to further their education and be successful in other careers. NORPAC was established in 1989 and now offers Arts and Science courses that can be used as transfer credits into programs such as Social Work, Commerce, Law and Journalism. There is also a one-year Pre-Nursing program, and students can take courses leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies without leaving the North, as well.

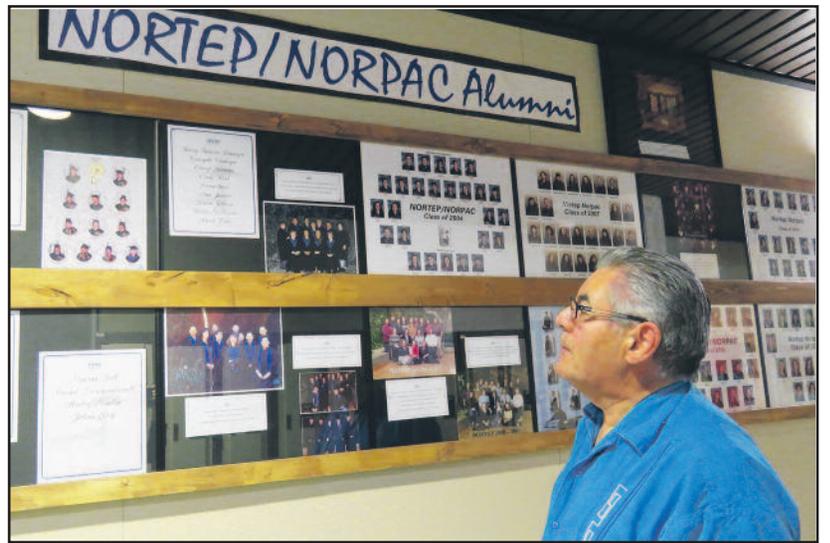
As of this year, 239 students have been recognized for completing NORPAC programs, including 73 who have earned a Bachelor of Arts.

In addition, over the past several years, NORTEP-NORPAC has successfully delivered Masters in Education programs, with over 60 graduates.

Earl Cook was NORTEP’s director from 1985-88, and is currently a faculty member. He says NORTEP-NORPAC is unique in that it requires students to take a course in an Aboriginal language, either Cree or Dené. He also notes it is completely governed by Northerners. The current Board of Governors consists of representatives from the Northern Lights, Île-à-la-Crosse and Creighton School Divisions, as well as the Prince Albert Grand Council and Meadow Lake Tribal Council.

As one of the organizers for the anniversary celebrations, Cook takes pleasure in reflecting on the many accomplishments of alumni.

There are teachers, principals, Directors of Education, a lawyer, an engineer and a judge, he says, pro-



**Earl Cook, a former NORTEP director and current faculty member, reviews a wall of photos of NORTEP-NORPAC alumni at Mistasinihk Place in La Ronge, and reflects on their many accomplishments.**

viding just a small sample – “Home-grown people, contributing to the development of the North.”

Despite the important role it plays, funding for NORTEP-NORPAC is a continuing challenge, says current President and CEO, Dr. Herman Michell. Federal funding has been completely cut, and although a recently-signed five-year agreement with the Province will provide some stability, he says there is an opportunity to do much more if there was sufficient support, particularly in light of the recommendations for education made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“Our work in the North is really critical,” says Michell. “We’ve been doing reconciliation work for 40 years.”

The loon, a powerful northern symbol, is part of the NORTEP-NORPAC logo. Previously, the loon appeared swimming in the water, but the logo has recently been updated to show the loon flying.

“It sends a message that our graduates are doing really wonderful things within the province,” says Michell. “They fly off into the horizon.”

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Treaty 6 Flag Raising Ceremony  
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# Grade 10 students' magazine shows respect for Mother Earth

By Tiffany Head  
For Eagle Feather News

**FORT QU'APPELLE** – The Grade 10 students were in full celebration mode as they held the final product of what they worked so hard on all semester.

The magazine written and developed entirely by the students from Prairie Valley School Division (PVSD) and adjoining First Nations schools was unveiled at the Treaty 4 Governance Center in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak – Our Young People Speak: The Environment Edition is the fifth edition to be released by PVSD.

Reila Bird, First Nations & Metis Education Consultant for PVSD, is the lead project manager who co-ordinated the students and the teachers.

“The magazine serves as a teaching and learning resource for students and educators and it focuses on respect for Mother Earth, natural balance in nature, and the impacts of living respectfully on the land which is the foundation of many First Nations worldviews,” said Bird.

Bird said the project was introduced to the students in January by their teachers and it took place mainly in English classes. However, there were connections to sci-



**Grade 10 students from Balcarres Community school posed by the magazine cover poster. The magazine focussed on environmental issues.** (Photo Courtesy of PVSD)

ence classes and one school that even did the foods study class.

“It fits with the curriculum with respect to treaty education. They go hand-in-hand, so it’s a way to honour that in the classroom,” said Bird.

Bird said after the project was introduced to the Grade 10 students all the schools came together in February for the magazine symposium, in which they had a mini workshop day.

The students went from session to session to listen to speakers Elder Wayne Goodwill, Elder Noel Starblanket and Elder Murray Ironchild and keynote speaker Phillip Brass.

“One spoke about traditional medicines, one spoke about the connection to

the hunting, trapping and farming industry and the other one spoke about the Treaty Four flag and how that came to be,” said Bird.

Brass spoke about the climate change and the impact that it has on Mother Earth.

“The students went back to their schools, to think about everything they were listening to at the symposium,” said Bird.

The students focused their research on environmental concerns and topics in which they also shared their personal stories and histories.

On the last pages of the article, the contributors’ page, you can read about what the students learned from the project.

“We need to respect and love the en-

vironment, and try our best to take care of it. We need to encourage others to respect the environment and our surroundings,” Chaya Poitras from Bert Fox Community High School said.

Brian Ironstar from Nakoda Oyade Education Center added, “No one will understand what the water is truly worth until it is fully polluted or until the well is dry. Then we’ll understand and it will be too late.”

In the magazine there are various artworks, photographs taken by students, poems and stories.

“A lot of creativity went into this project, It wasn’t just a, let’s sit down and write a story,” said Bird pointing out the artwork and photography.



## NOTICE: MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN CITIZENS

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“MN-S”) will hold a Legislative Assembly (“MNLA”) followed by a General Assembly on the following dates:

Delegate Registration	July 29, 2016	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
MNLA	July 30, 2016	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
MNLA	July 31, 2016	9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
General Assembly	July 31, 2016	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Location:** Gallagher Centre  
455 West Broadway St.  
Yorkton, SK

30 days notice of this session of the MNLA as required by the Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan will be sent to all delegates of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. For more information visit [www.metisnationsk.com](http://www.metisnationsk.com), contact your respective local Regional Director listed on the website, or contact Evan Shoforost (Ernst & Young) at (306) 649-8242.



# Cadets earned their stripes

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – The Princess Alexandra Community School gymnasium was alive with the stomping of boots and the crisp orders of Drill Instructor Const. Marc Belanger.

Once he brought them into line he asked them: “If one fails?” “We all fail!” responded 27 highly motivated and disciplined cadets.

The cadets were at their best for their grad. The Grade 4 to 8 students had just completed over six months of training in the Saskatoon Police Peacekeepers Cadets program and their parents and peers were on hand to celebrate the accomplishment.

“We are so proud of all of these young people for what they have accomplished,” said Const. Derek Chesney the coordinator of the program.

“Just to see the kids grow. When we start they are a bit disruptive and out of control. But now at the end of the program, they work in unison and come with smiles on their faces and mature as people and now are prepared to give something back to the community.”

The cadets meet every Wednesday night and do a variety of different activities.

“Const. Belanger teaches them drill where they learn discipline and working as a team and unit. We play lots of sports, go to Blades games. Bottom line is giving these kids a choice,” said Chesney.

“They don’t have to get involved in gangs or drugs and alcohol. They can work towards better goals and a better life.”

This is the second year of the program and it is run in conjunction with the Dream Brokers program with the Public Schools and their support has been pivotal in keeping the program running as well as the dedication of the many police officers who are involved.

“We teach the kids good values. Respect, honesty, service to the community

and respect of your elders,” said Chesney.

“We try and get them into the community doing stuff. We had them volunteer at Friendship Inn and working with and helping elders. This is stuff they may never get a chance to be exposed to.”

Zoe Wilkinson-Lerat is in Grade 5 at Princess Alexandra and she was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate award.

“I had lots of fun in the program. I learned respect. We would go every Wednesday night. Then play a bit, and then do drill. Also do good things in the community. It was all fun,” she said at the graduation.

But it looks like the police might not be able to benefit from her training as she wants to go in kind of a different direction in her career.

“I learned the police job is very serious and that I want to be a firefighter when I grow up.”



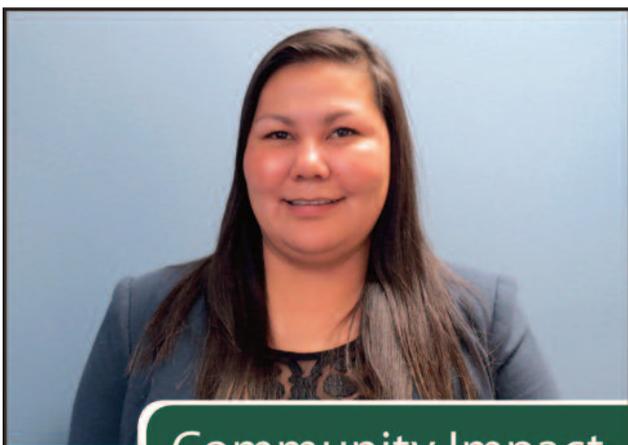
**Zoe Wilkinson-Lerat is in Grade 5 at Princess Alexandra and she received the Outstanding Graduate Award from Deputy Police Chief Mark Chatterbok.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



**Drill Instructor Constable Marc Belanger had the Saskatoon Police Service Peacekeeper Cadet troop in ship shape for their graduation ceremony.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



## Community Impact

“ My position at the City of Saskatoon provides me with the opportunity to work where my heart is; making a direct positive impact on the Aboriginal community through sport and recreation. ”

Alicia Worm-Littlewolfe, Aboriginal Program Coordinator



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# Dump Trump, but Hillary's a hard choice

America is on what appears to be year ten of its current election cycle and the candidates have been reduced to Donald Trump, an orange-skinned man with an obsession with gold (has anyone checked his birth certificate to see if he's a leprechaun?); Bernie Sanders, an elderly man who dreams of taking apart the banks with his bare hands and Hillary Clinton, a woman with the grit and determination of a jealous girlfriend trying to unlock her boyfriend's phone.

The war between Bernie and Hillary is its own battle unto itself. Her supporters declare that Bernie supporters are inherently misogynist.

The "Feel the Bern" supporters point to Hillary and her husband's political baggage, connections to Wall Street and general look of corruption. It's true middle-aged people with money just look corrupt – I think it's the self-tanners and comfortable shoes.

I was on the fence about this election. There was no Obama, no witty handsome dude with a talent for speeches crammed full of so many big words that it left this English major breathless.

So then, between Bernie and Hillary – the only important quality appeared to be who could beat Trump. But after watching the last few months of election coverage, I'm now recommending a different quality take the lead: blandness of personality.

I'm tired of political candidates who capture the media's attention with grandiose gestures, nasty insults and policy statements that appear to be written on the fly.

No, you can keep your charismatic personalities

and flashing smiles and evocative eyes. Give me the candidate who wouldn't recognize great oration if it punched her in the face. Give me the plodding campaigner whose smile has a shelf-life of about 15 annoying people. Give me the boring, smart person



who feels more at home in front of a bunch of law books than sitting on a couch next to Jimmy Kimmel.

Personality has had its day. Celebrities provide us with portrayals of their perfect existence and try to convince us that "they just woke up like this." They claim to run huge corporations without giving credit to the people doing the actual grunt work while they pick out paint colours for the foyer.

People now believe that they can do anything they want without having do all the hard work that comes along with it.

I've read one of Hillary's books and one of Trump's. Actually, to be perfectly accurate, I read Trump's Art of the Deal in a couple days and I began Hillary's book and tried over a course of two weeks to read it before giving up.

Trump's book was the kind of book that riled you

up and makes you think – "look at all I could do with my life if I took risks!"

But then a few hours into planning your takeover of McDonald's you realize, "wait, I kind of need a million dollar inheritance to get this all started."

He does have an ability to draw you in and make you think that anything is possible. But then if you step back and think – he's basically acting like life is an episode of Dallas and that there's no such thing as legislation or legalities or basic human rights.

Hillary's book, Hard Choices, was the size of the Bible and about as engaging as a long sermon in a hot church. Every inch of text was crammed full of her activities. It was like reading an insecure employee's report on activities. It was so long that the Hard Choice was deciding whether to continue reading or to live a normal life.

Hillary comes off as fake which is the irony. Because I think she is real. She's angry and ambitious and hard working and mean and hurt and wants to do a good job. Trump and Bernie supporters say that their candidates are real and that's what they love. But you know what they say – If you can fake sincerity ...

Bernie has a lot of great ideas – many of which are shared by stoned university hipsters.

Trump has a lot of ideas – most of which are about as sane as letting a gorilla babysit your toddler.

Hillary may not be capable of grand-scale reform or transformative change but she'll keep America running and maybe that's all we can ask for at this point.



**Reconciliation**  
SASKATOON

Join the month of activities leading up to:

JUNE 21 National Aboriginal Day  
 JUNE 22 Day of Reconciliation starting with the "Rock Your Roots" Walk for Reconciliation  
 9:30 a.m. Victoria Park – 17th St. W & Spadina Cres. W  
 Full events schedule at: [www.otc.ca](http://www.otc.ca)

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# A quiet, hidden crisis facing men out there

This month we are going to dial back the usual witty banter and clever wit.

There was a death in Dirk's extended family. A young warrior took his life, leaving behind a loving wife, babies, siblings and parents.

As I tried to make sense of his devastating decision, I was selfishly reminded of my own battles to keep my marbles and struggle for the good life.

It's true. Dirk. A beacon of literary joy for the dozen of his fans. The deacon of insight. The never ending season of sarcastic wisdom. The very reason his mommy smiles. He, too, knows the depths of despair, and maybe anxiety... I don't know, I'm not a professional psychic guy.

And as I looked across the gym at all the people who came to support the family in their time of grief I wondered, "How many men, how many boys, have done battle with demons in the quiet of their souls?"

They estimate that for every eight adults in Canada at least one of them experienced depression in their lifetime. If that's true of mainstream Canucks, and rates for First Nation people are usually 2-3 times higher, then one out of every four of our First Nations brothers and

sisters have suffered this affliction.

The math might be off. I'm a columnist, not a mathematician.

But think about it.

After generations of having your traditional ideas for what it means to be a "Good Man" thoroughly demeaned by the righteous authorities of the residential schools, Indian agents and certain sectors of mainstream culture, is it any wonder so many of our men are confused, lost, frustrated and angry.

The situation for mainstream men is not that much brighter. After hundreds and maybe thousands of year's, boys were told "a man is the king of the castle", "a real man is never emotional", "a man is his job", "a man doesn't communicate" and other seemingly noble and "helpful" fantasies.

These ideals are toxic. And toxic not just for the women and children we love, but for our very physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health.

And, yet, for at least five generations these were the very ideals we First Nation men were supposed to buy

into!

No wonder so many of our brothers are messed up. We're all wandering around saying, "WTF!" which, I'm told is short for "where's the falafel" or some such baffling saying.

"What is my role as a man, as a father, as a husband, lover, brother, son, servant?"

"To get ahead how am I supposed to behave, at home, at work, at play? Do I get to play?"

"When she gets angry, should I talk to her, hold her or throw her a bag of Hershey's Kisses and hide?"

I'm not saying my departed relation had a crisis of identity of epic proportions that pushed him over the edge. There were other factors that overwhelmed and took over his mind which I have no intention of covering here.

And I haven't even come close to addressing the utterly tragic situations playing out amongst First Nation youth in some of our communities.

Nor have I touched on how this

topic might, could, should figure into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry.

What I am wondering is, if there is a quiet, hidden crisis amongst First Nation men that needs to be brought into the open. We want the best for our loved ones and for ourselves. But the destination, the road map and the means to get there, is almost a mystery... like women.

And a real man does not ask for directions.

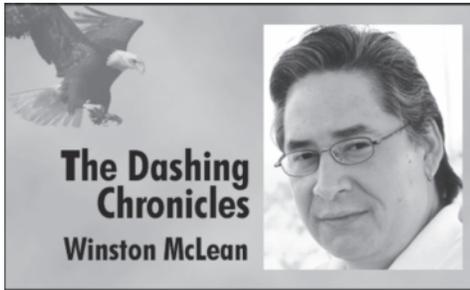
That, my friends, is poppycock. Personally, I said, "F it!" and looked for help. The journey hasn't been easy, and I still have my "off-days."

But now I'm having more fantastic days than good, and am pretty damned sure my loved ones are glad I'm still this side of the ground.

There's no need to suffer in silence. Get those elusive directions. They're out there.

That's something to think about this Father's Day.

*Dirk says, "It can hardly be a coincidence that no language on earth has ever produced the expression, 'As pretty as an airport.'" — from Douglas Adams, The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul*



## Survey finds non-Indigenous Canadians support immediate government measures to address First Nations challenges

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

A new survey shows non-Indigenous Canadians are increasingly aware of the unique challenges Indigenous people face and support institutions like government taking action to address these challenges.

However, the same survey reveals many non-Indigenous people are unaware of Canada's historic obligations to First Nations as part of the treaties and possess little knowledge of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission or its calls to action.

The survey was conducted by the non-profit Environics Institute for Survey Research in partnership with seven leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.

It comes roughly a year after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's interim report, which was released in June 2015.

Some highlights include about two-thirds or 66 per cent of non-Indigenous Canadians are at least somewhat familiar with the legacy of the Indian residential school system, a substantial increase from 2008, and 73 per cent believe the

challenges Indigenous people face today are to some extent the result of residential schools.

Ninety-one per cent believe government funding for Indigenous education should match other provincial levels, 90 per cent support increased funding for clean drinking water and adequate housing on First Nations reserves and 97 per cent favour the teaching of Indigenous history and culture being made part of the core curriculum in schools.

"I think the general appetite for education and closing the gap by Canadians was presently surprising," Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Ry Moran says.

"We're up around the 80 to 90 per cent levels of support for those initiatives and I think that's very positive. I think that gives politicians and decision makers a very strong mandate to pursue these agendas very vigorously."

Nevertheless, the survey finds although most non-Indigenous people believe Indigenous history and culture are characteristics that make Canada unique, they are divided on whether First Nations people have inherent rights and privileges as first inhabitants.

"To put it bluntly, that is primarily a measure of the ignorance rather than a measure of opinion really," Moran says.

"When Canadians say that they don't think Indigenous people have unique rights, they're just plain wrong, they do. In the constitution we have treaty rights, we have other Indigenous rights that have been confirmed by the courts time and again and now we have the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that's in play as well.

"So, that just means that Canadians simply are unaware of this and they don't really understand what Indigenous rights are. Some do but a lot don't and it's an indication of the education that needs to happen."

The survey also finds just over four in ten non-Indigenous people have heard or read something about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and few in this group can recall any of the commission's calls to action.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Bobby Cameron agrees the survey contains a number of positives and, like Moran, he says education is key to addressing some of the current

shortcomings.

"It (education on Indigenous history and treaty rights) has to start and it must start in the classrooms," he says. "Obviously K-12, whatever they decide but we currently support and will continue to push for that item to be introduced in schools."

Cameron is also hopeful that some day soon universities will offer a comprehensive four-year degree program on the history and long-term ramifications of the treaties.

In Saskatchewan, some teaching of First Nations treaties is currently part of the core curriculum in kindergarten to Grade 12 schools.

The survey also finds 78 per cent of non-Indigenous Canadians favour government funding to protect Indigenous languages, 66 per cent believe First Nations communities should be given full control over natural resources on traditional territories and 60 per cent say all outstanding land claims should be settled regardless of cost.



BOBBY CAMERON

# A day to celebrate the iconic bannock

• Continued from Page 1

“This spot became available and I just fired out a bid on the place then it just took off from there. There was a lot of start up costs I used all my savings and a line of credit and went for broke. There was no planning I just dove right in cause of my work and management skills from previous jobs and school.”

Adhering to the old saying “too many cooks ruin the soup” the entrepreneurial bannock maker has one full-time employee and is training a part-timer. They will all be working on June 21 as the demand for Leon’s awesome product sky rockets.

A lot went into honing his craft of making bannock. “I learned how to make bannock at Fire Creek Gas and Grill four years ago when I first worked there. Then it took some practicing so basically self taught through experience,” explains Almightyvoice.

“The reaction from the customers is great when they come to find fresh hot bannock. The reaction when they take that first bite on their face is priceless.”

Almightyvoice intends to grow the business through deliveries and keep selling bannock to the neighbourhood and eventually open a full restaurant. He loves his job and encourages others to live the dream and find their bannock.

“I would say if you really want something bad enough in your life seize the moment and go with it. Don’t doubt yourself you only get one life be the best you can be and work hard work toward your goals in life.”

But for now its heads down working and getting ready



Leon Almightyvoice has built a good little business in Fire Creek Gas and Grill. And Leon’s bannock is in such demand, Mouse the security guard comes in to make sure there is no trouble. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



for the big bannock day where his most popular items, fried bannock, baked bannock, Indian tacos and bannock burgers will be flying out the door on National Aboriginal Day.




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**Celebrating 20 Years  
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A message from Sheri Benson, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon West



**Sheri Benson**  
Member of Parliament - Saskatoon West  
Your Voice in the House of Commons

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Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S1  
306.975.6555  
SheriBenson@parl.gc.ca

Ottawa Office  
678 Confederation Building  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
613.992.1899  
SheriBenson.ndp.ca

# National Aboriginal Day History Quiz – Test Your knowledge!

1. This place was host to a leg of the Amazing Race Canada in 2015.

- a. The Syncrotron
- b. Thunderchild First Nation
- c. Wanuskewin
- d. Wal-Mart



2. This Métis leader's fight was finally won in the Supreme Court of Canada this year making Métis people 'Indians'.

- a. Jim Sinclair
- b. Harry Daniels
- c. Jim Brady
- d. Clem Chartier

3. This award event turned 18 years old in 2016.

- a. Sasktel Aboriginal Youth Awards
- b. Women of the Dawn
- c. The Oscars
- d. FSIN Circle of Honour

4. Jack Saddleback was a groundbreaker at the U of S in what way?

- a. He was the first two-spirited President of the Students Union
- b. Found a meteor
- c. His yearlong silent protest in a tree in the Bowl
- d. Youngest ever PhD

5. What rodent is described by the Canadian Encyclopedia as having "had a greater impact on the history and exploration of Canada than any other animal or plant species?"

- a. Gainer the Gopher
- b. Beavers
- c. Rats
- d. Bomber Fans

6. Who was the Province of Saskatchewan's Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in 2015?

- a. Jennifer Campeau
- b. Rob Norris
- c. Brad Wall
- d. Jim Reiter

7. This Métis artist donated more than 100 paintings to the Allen Sapp Gallery in North Battleford.

- a. Sherry Farrell Racette
- b. Maria Campbell
- c. Leah Dorion
- d. David Garneau

8. This actress nailed it in the recent run of "Salt Baby" in Saskatoon.

- a. Dakota Ray Hebert
- b. Andrea Menard
- c. Tina Keeper
- d. Tantoo Cardinal

9. This seven time Stanley Cup Champion Métis from Val Marie was recently named to the Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

- a. Theo Fleury
- b. Bryan Trottier
- c. Louis Gardiner
- d. Dwight King



10. Members of Black Lake First Nation are excited about what development in their territory that is expected to bring in over \$1 billion in economic development?

- a. More fish!
- b. The Tazi Twé Hydroelectric Project
- c. New Wal-Mart
- d. Water slides on the sand dunes

11. Shanawdithit, born 1801, was the last recorded surviving member of which East Coast tribe that became extinct in 1829.

- a. the Beothuk people.
- b. Mohawks
- c. Iriquois
- d. Mikmaq



## HAPPY NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

AREVA is happy to celebrate National Aboriginal Day with its employees and northern neighbours. We are proud that nearly 50% of our McClean Lake operation employees are of Aboriginal ancestry and that we all share the values of respect for people, culture and the land.

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



**AREVA**

# National Aboriginal Day History Quiz – Test Your knowledge!

12. What APTN show features comedians Don Kelly and Dawn Dumont?

- a. APTN Nightly News
- b. City folk gone wild
- c. Fish out of Water
- d. Separated at birth

13. Who is the longest serving Indigenous active journalist in Saskatchewan?

- a. Nelson Bird, CTV
- b. Betty Ann Adam, The Star Phoenix
- c. John Lagimodiere, Eagle Feather News
- d. Creeson Agecutay, CTV

14. What wonder food is known in Latin as panicum?

- a. quinoa
- b. Slurpees
- c. Bannock
- d. Squished Paninis

15. What year did the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations become the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations?

- a. 1982
- b. 1967
- c. 1946
- d. 1992

16. When did Prime Minister Stephen Harper stand in the House of Commons and apologize on behalf of Canadians for the Indian Residential Schools?

- a. June 11, 2012
- b. June 11, 2008
- c. July 4, 2010
- d. June 21, 2000

17. How many “Calls to Action” were put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

- a. an even dozen
- b. 100
- c. 94
- d. 6

18. What First Nation leader was buried in St. Boniface beside Louis Riel until his community came and brought him home in 2007?

- a. Big Bear
- b. Poundmaker
- c. Beardy’s
- d. One Arrow

19. Who is the Minister of Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada?

- a. Carolyn Bennett
- b. Rona Ambrose
- c. Jodi Raybold-Wilson
- d. Stephan Dion

20. What year was a Métis sash interred in the Saskatchewan Legislature as a lasting symbol of inclusion for the Métis?

- a. 2012
- b. 2010
- c. 1985
- d. 2015



Well? How did you do? Check the answers at the bottom of the page.

Are you a bannock master who got 15 or more right! Fried bannock for you! 10-15 is pretty good. 5-10 means you are trying at least. 0-5 shows some struggles but ya know what, you tried the quiz and that’s all that matters.

Happy National Aboriginal Day.

Here are the answers:  
 1. c 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. b 6. d 7. c 8. a 9. b 10. b 11. a 12. c  
 13. b 14. c 15. a 16. b 17. c 18. d 19. a 20. b The Year  
 of the Métis.

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“Careful you don’t tie those bags too tight on your babies,” called Elder Albert Scott, while Elder Frances Scott knelt on the grass with students carefully tying life-sized infant dolls into moss bags, as he noted, “They enjoy this hands-on learning, both the boys and the girls do it.”

# Celebration honours youth, stresses importance of language and culture

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

**SASKATOON** – “Honouring Our Youth” was the theme of the fourth annual Indigenous Language Celebration held at E.D. Feehan High School.

A collaboration between Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS), and Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) with support from SaskCulture, the event saw over 400 elementary school students ages 5 to 12 participating in cultural language-based activities.

“Our goal is to help our children grow up with a strong identity, speaking their language, and standing proud as Nehiyawak, Dakota, Michif, or Nakawe,” noted Master of Ceremonies Delvin Kanewiyakiho after the Grand Entry.

Elder Melvina Eagle led the opening prayer, and students from Muskoday First Nation sang the national anthem in Cree (Nehiyawak), while the Muskeg Lake Singers sang the Flag and Victory Songs. Dignitaries and school trustees shared comments on the importance of incorporating Indigenous languages and culture into reinforcing a strong identity for students.

“There was a time not too long ago that our language and our culture was something that we were not allowed to do, but here we are, a couple of generations later,” said STC Director of Education Valerie Harper, noting that the partnership between STC, the two Saskatoon school systems, SaskCulture, and reserve schools has been an innovative and Indigenous-based approach.

It has brought Elders into classrooms and school spaces where they have shared their historical Indigenous perspectives, provided counselling, and shared access to ceremonies and traditional practices.

“I know that many schools and classrooms start the day off with prayers and smudging, again something that wasn’t allowed a few years ago,” noted Harper.

“We are very pleased with the response to the TRC Call to Action. Language and culture is a priority and it is going to be supported by the government. We look forward to that government support of our culture and our language.”

After the dignitaries were presented with hand-made gifts from the students, the youth began their indoor and outdoor activity rotations: storytelling, lacrosse, buffalo games, dancing, beading, acting, drumming, basket weaving, hand games and moss bag teachings were some of the many opportunities for students to practice culture and language.

Teachers, knowledge-keepers, and Elders all participated to present 30 different workshops, taught three times in half hour increments while rotating student groups through. Participants came from both urban school systems, Mistawasis, Muskeg Lake, Kinistin, Yellow Quill, Muskoday, Whitecap, and One Arrow.

**June 21st 2016**

**Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre  
National Aboriginal Day Celebrations**

**This Years Theme  
is Reconciliation**

**Victoria Park**

**8 AM** Pipe Ceremony  
**10 AM** Grand Entry  
**12 PM** Soup & Bannock Lunch  
**12 to 4 PM** Entertainment

**Treaty Days: 9 am to 4 pm.**  
**Children's activities throughout the day.**

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## National Aboriginal Day

K+S Potash Canada extends best wishes to all First Nations & Métis People on National Aboriginal Day. Our company recognizes the significant contributions of all Aboriginal people to the province of Saskatchewan and to Canada. We join you in celebrating Aboriginal heritage and tradition – a proud legacy to build upon and inspire Aboriginal youth, who will play an important role in our future.

We salute the many Aboriginal individuals and businesses working with us to build the Legacy Project – a solution potash mine near Bethune, SK. This is the first greenfield (completely new) potash mine built in Saskatchewan in 40 years.

National Aboriginal Day provides a means to raise awareness of and celebrate the unique heritage of Canada’s Indigenous people and serves to strengthen the ties of co-operation among all Canadians.

**Eric Cline**  
Vice President,  
Land and Sustainable Development  
K+S Potash Canada GP

**Terry Bird**  
Lead Advisor, First Nation & Métis Initiatives  
Land and Sustainable Development  
K+S Potash Canada GP



K+S Potash Canada

# 7 Minutes a winner at Yorkton festival

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

**YORKTON** – “7 Minutes” is one young woman’s story about how quick thinking led her to escape a stalker, re-enacted dramatically in film while she tells what happened in her own words — and it has just captured the Short Docs Award at the Yorkton Film Festival.

A true story narrated by “Marie,” a newly-relocated post-secondary student to Saskatoon, captures an all-too common experience for many, noted producer Marilyn Poitras.

“To just know and have to accept that she’s not safe on her own, what it’s like to live like that,” Poitras explained.

“The film is a story, and the story is what people want to hear ... the story becomes “Marie’s” story and she trusted us with this story — to talk about what had happened to her, with the understanding hopefully this would get people brave enough to get talking about “well this is happening to me too” — which is exactly what’s happening.”

Poitras was brought on as producer with film director Tasha Hubbard, as the two began an exploration of how to make short films — ten minutes or under — through a process she described as a boot camp run by the National Screen Institute, in a competition in which four teams are selected.

“They teach you all the skills you need to know. I went to producer camp, she went to director camp, and we got selected as one of the teams. They give you a little budget ... and you get to talk to people,” noted Poitras.

“We went in with the big picture idea of exploring the media objectification of Indigenous women.”

In the process, they were asked to continually refine their story’s pitch, something they saw as examining the portrayal of Indigenous women as being disposable commodities, until they arrived at “Marie’s” story, which Tasha had heard shared in a circle. “Marie” gave permission to use the story, and they re-enacted it with actress Darian Lonechild.

The film, not only titled as “7 Minutes” but that is also the running length, has met with acclaim from the Film Festival and viewers alike. The Yorkton Film Festival is billed as one of the oldest film festivals in North America, and Poitras noted there were many Indigenous filmmakers there, including big names like Alanis Obamsowin and Shane Belcourt. One filmmaker noted this is how she decolonizes. Poitras highly recommends it.

“It was amazing to see the entire community come together,” said Poitras. “Indigenous film-making is part of the mainstream now.”



**Filmmaker Tasha Hubbard and Producer Marilyn Poitras won the Short Docs Award at the prestigious Yorkton Film Festival for their film, 7 Minutes.**

(Photo by Ted Whitecalf)

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Environmental sustainability is Yancoal Canada’s vision for the Southey Project. Yancoal Canada wants to reassure local residents that water quality and water usage is recognized with the utmost importance. We all use it, therefore, we all benefit from protecting it. At the time of production (estimated at late 2020 or early 2021) the Southey Project will use water from Buffalo Pound Lake, which is part of the Upper Qu’Appelle Sub-Watershed and fed by Lake Diefenbaker. The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency’s assessment identified the system as having the capacity and reliability to provide water to the mine for the next 65 to 100 years. Yancoal Canada knows that this lake is the source of drinking water for the Cities of Moose Jaw and Regina, and in the near future will be the water source for the Legacy Project near Bethune. This system is a vital water source and Yancoal Canada recognizes the need for monitoring to track changes in water quantity (flow, water levels) and quality is critical.

In 2014 alone, Yanzhou Coal (parent company) contributed over 19 million Canadian dollars to ecological and environmental improvements. Yancoal Canada plans to show the same respect to the people and environment that support their local operations. At the time of production, a plan of action will be developed in consultation with local authorities (e.g., Water Security Agency), First Nations, Metis Nations, and local communities to contribute to the development or continuation of regional environmental monitoring, remediation or protection initiatives.

**Yancoal Canada Resources**

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Robin Kusch: ext. 6015, cell number 1-306-227-1073, or  
Email r.kusch@yancoal.ca



FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron and Vice Chiefs Heather Bear, Kim Jonathan, Robert Merasty and Dutch Lerat presented Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk with a star blanket after her visit to the FSIN Assembly. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## FSIN hears promise of money for training

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**NORTH BATTLEFORD** – It was an interesting morning in North Battleford. It turns out the first Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Assembly to be hosted in this city is also the last one as well ... at least in this form.

The Assembly opened with MaryAnn Mihychuk, the Federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, addressing the Assembly and she announced millions in training money from the federal government.

The goal is to increase opportunities for Indigenous people to develop their skills and access support services they need to get jobs and succeed in the labour market.

Some measures supported by this targeted funding to at-risk Indigenous communities could include: flexible supports for costs associated with obtaining child care; transportation needs and services; and driver education and licensing.

Mihychuk also informed the audience of a new call for proposals for the Skills and Partnership Fund, with a total value of \$50 million per year. The Fund encourages Indigenous organizations to create partnerships with governments, businesses and community organizations to improve skills training. The call for proposals closes on July 5, 2016.

The Minister was passionate in her address about having the government do things differently than they had in the past.

“I apologize on behalf of government for the terrible ASETS application form,” she said jokingly but seriously.

“You have had to spend hundreds of hours filling in forms to get funding instead of doing important work. I tell you our department is ready for a major cultural change. In the past they were told to find ways to say no and not reach out. Today we encourage reaching out and to make success, not failure.”

Federation Chief Bobby Cameron was glad to host the Federal Minister.

“We welcome the federal government investment into the development of our people’s skills and training needs. Our First Nation people require education and training opportunities to build healthier families and communities,” said

Chief Cameron.

“This is a positive step forward to the importance of life-long learning. We look forward to our continued nation-to-nation Inherent and Treaty based relationship.”

Senator Ted Quewezance also addressed the Minister and presented her with tobacco and a copy of the rules and regulations on the FSIN. The Senate also welcomed new Senator John Charles Thomas of Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation.

The second order of the day saw the Chiefs vote to change the historic institutions name from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. The revision of the name reflects the Treaty Nations and Territories that were in existence prior to the Canadian constitution and the imposition of provincial boundaries.

“Using the word Saskatchewan is not a reflection of our Treaty territories that prevail over provincial boundaries,” said Chief Bobby Cameron. “The new name is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which supports our inherent, Treaty and Indigenous peoples’ rights at an international level.”

The Assembly also endorsed a set of guidelines to regulate provincial conservation officer’s entry onto reserve lands. These new guidelines were jointly developed between the FSIN and Ministry of Environment to ensure that permission is obtained before entry and that the jurisdiction of First Nations is respected.

The direction came from Chiefs-in-Assembly for the FSIN to work with the provincial Ministry of Environment to develop a draft Principles Document entitled, “Guidelines for Entry of Conservation Officers on First Nation Reserves” to be used as a template – for the First Nation governments to adopt as their own.

“This new set of guidelines recognizes, incorporates and are based upon the First Nations inherent and Treaty rights to hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering,” said Chief Cameron.

“This is an example of how an issue can be resolved as long as the governments are willing to work together.”



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- July 1 Canada Day - Free Admission
- July 9 Kidfest
- July 24 Mass At Historic Church
- Aug. 20 & 21 NEW!! Louis Riel Relay Days
- Oct. 2 Culture, Food & Crafts Festival
- Oct. 7 2016 Closing Day

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# DAKOTA DUNES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dakota Dunes Community Development Corp. supports community initiatives that help improve the quality of life for children, families and communities. We are proud to present our 2015-2016 community investments listing.

### Social Development

Building Bridges for the Future Saskatoon Inc.	WBYL Annual Community Christmas Event
Canadian Paraplegic Association (Sask) Inc.	Aboriginal Services
Day Star First Nation	Community Christmas Activities
Day Star First Nation	Community Advertising Monitor
Day Star First Nation	Family Week 2016
Day Star First Nation	I.A. Computer Software Upgrade
Fishing Lake First Nation	2015 Sports Days
Fishing Lake First Nation	2015 Christmas Dinner
Hague Parks & Recreation Inc.	Family Day 2016
Hague Parks & Recreation Inc.	Hague Summer Blast 2016
Kawacatoose First Nation	Social Development Manager
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Christmas Celebrations 2015
Lighthouse Supported Living	Aboriginal Peer Support Worker
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Staff Capacity & Team Building
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Treaty Day
Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming	SCVAP Community Workshops
Saskatoon Public Schools - Bedford Road	2nd Annual Strengthening the Circle Transition Camp
Saskatoon Public Schools - Dundonald	Anti-bullying, Tolerance & Acceptance Workshop
Saskatoon Public Schools - Fairhaven	Get Real Workshop
Special Events	Community Christmas Events
Special Events	Remembrance Day Celebrations
United Way of Saskatoon and Area	Building Culturally Competent Organizations – Supporting Intercultural Development Training
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	WDFN Website 2016
Yellow Quill First Nation	Community Communications Newsletter
Yellow Quill Urban Services Inc.	Urban Services

### Education Development

Association des parents Fransaskois in.	Early Childhood & Family Program
Awasis Aboriginal Education Council	Awasis Aboriginal Education Conference 2015
Child Find Saskatchewan Inc.	School Resource Officer Partnership Program
Children's Discovery Museum on the Saskatchewan	Access Program for Schools, Preschools & Community
Columbus Bosco Homes, A Society for Children and Adolescents Inc.	Family Support Centre
Fishing Lake First Nation	Office Equipment
Frontier College	Free Children's Literacy Programming in Saskatoon
Frontier College	Kid's Summer Literacy Programs
George Gordon First Nation	Daycare/Headstart Landscaping
Global Indigenous Experience Network	Great Mother's Wisdom in Dancing Power Circle
Gordon Tootoosis Nikiwin Theatre	Nehiyawak Cree Language Experience
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Education Scholarship Trust Foundation Development
Muskoday First Nation	Adult Basic Education Program
Muskoday First Nation	Day Care Centre
Muskoday First Nation	Pre-K Programming: Providing a Positive First Start to School
One Arrow First Nation	Equine Assisted Learning 2015
Read Saskatoon	Volunteer Sponsor of READ Saskatoon
Read Saskatoon	Books & Programming Materials
Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre	2015 First Nations Language Keepers Conference
Saskatoon Family Child Care Home Assoc.	Music, Cultural & Educational Enrichment
Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre	SIMFC Aboriginal Graduation Gala
Saskatoon Public Schools - Howard Coad	Cross Cultural Youth Leadership Camp
Saskatoon Public Schools - Royal West Campus	Circle Program - Using Culture to Engage & Facilitate Learning
Saskatoon Student Child Care Services Inc.	KOPE Parent Support Program
Saskatoon Tribal Council	Professional Director Training
Skills Canada Saskatchewan	Cardboard Boat Challenge
St. Mary's Wellness & Education Centre	Adopt a Classroom 2015
Tamarack Foundation (Camp Tamarack)	Education in the Great Outdoors
The Word On The Street	The Word On The Street Saskatoon Festival 2015
Whitecap Dakota Elementary School	Computer Coding Language
Yellow Quill First Nation	NEC School Smart Boards
Yellow Quill First Nation	NEC Hot Breakfast Program

### Recreational Facilities Operation & Development

George Gordon First Nation	2016 GGFN Aboriginal Track & Field
George Gordon First Nation	GGFN Arena Project
Hague Parks and Recreation Inc.	Expression Swing
Kawacatoose First Nation	Recreation Coordinator
Kawacatoose First Nation	Kawacatoose Van Transportation
Kenaston Community Recreation Board	Kenaston Arena Compressor Replacement
Mayfair Lawn Bowling Club	Purchase of a Verticutter Machine
One Arrow First Nation	One Arrow Youth Centre 2016
Saskatoon Zoo Foundation	Zoogala
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Sportsplex Maintenance
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Outdoor Rink Phase

### Other Charitable Purposes

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Emergency Disaster Relief
Bear Claw Community Development Corporation	Community Projects
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	Sask First Nations Network on Disabilities
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	First Nations Cup
Living Sky Community Development Corporation	Community Projects
Muskeg Horse Rally Club	8th Annual Wagon/Horse Rally
Resort Village of Thode Parks & Rec Committee	Boat Poker Rally
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology	40th Anniversary
Saskatoon Tribal Council	STC Relay for Life Team
Saskatoon Tribal Council	Tanning Hydes Event
Saskatoon Tribal Council	Media Event
Saskatoon Tribal Council	2nd Annual Vampire Gala

### Economic Development

Association of Professional Fundraisers	15th Annual National Philanthropy Day Celebration
Fishing Lake First Nation	FL Convenience Store POS System
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Economic Development - Martins Lake Campground
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology	Network Replacement & Upgrade Project
Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre	Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Whitecap Business Park
Yellow Quill First Nation	Community Store

### Senior and Youth Programs

Day Star First Nation	Sask First Nation Summer Games 2015
Child Find Saskatchewan Inc.	Charity Breakfast
CJWW Denny Carr's Secret Santa Foundation	Secret Santa 2015
Day Star First Nation	Elders Group Project
Day Star First Nation	Sports Equipment Purchases
Day Star First Nation	Youth & Elders NAAW Activities
Day Star First Nation	Children's Early Learning & Resources Purchases
Day Star First Nation	Sask First Nation Winter Games Expenses
Fishing Lake First Nation	Youth Sports Equipment
Fishing Lake First Nation	1st Annual Youth Golf Tournament
FSIN Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation	Sask First Nations Veterans Association Annual General Meeting
FSIN Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation	Team Sask NAHC 2016
FSIN Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation	Youth Hockey Championships 2016
George Gordon First Nation	2015 Bantam Boys Hockey Team
George Gordon First Nation	Summer Student Project
George Gordon First Nation	Sask First Nations Summer Games 2015
George Gordon First Nation	Youth Wellness Camp
George Gordon First Nation	Meals On Wheels for Elders
George Gordon First Nation	Sask First Nations Winter Games 2016
George Gordon First Nation	GGFN Cadet Program
George Gordon First Nation	GGFN Community Family Weeks
George Gordon First Nation	Lifeline 2015 2016
Girl Guides of Canada - Bridging Rivers	Lone Star District Girl Guides - Sleeping w/ Dinosaurs
Hague Senior Citizens Housing Corp	Fall Social Program
Hague Senior Citizens Housing Corp	Summer Gardening Program
Hague Senior Citizens Housing Corp.	Bingo Night
Kawacatoose First Nation	Elders Council
Kawacatoose First Nation	Sask First Nations Summer Games 2015
Kawacatoose First Nation	Kawacatoose Elder Council
Kawacatoose First Nation	Kawacatoose Winter Games 2016
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Recreation/Wellness Program
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	15th Annual Youth Golf Tournament
Marathon Sport Saskatoon	Motionball
Mistawasis First Nation	Sask First Nations Summer Games 2015
Mistawasis First Nation	Rush Lacrosse
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Community Winterfest
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Youth, Sports & Recreation
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Elder's Event
Muskoday First Nation	Elder Liaison
Muskoday First Nation	Youth Sport Culture & Recreation Activities
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Camp 2015 (Youth Summer Activities)
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Elders 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Medical Assist 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Sewing Club 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Youth Activities 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Sask First Nations Winter Games 2016
Muskowekwan First Nation	Christmas Community 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Elder Lifeline & Meals on Wheels 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Band Hall Equipment 2016
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Canada Day Community Event 2016
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Circus 2016
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Family Week 2016
Muskowekwan First Nation	Winter Fun Community Event
One Arrow Equestrian Centre	5th Annual Golf Tournament
One Arrow Equestrian Centre	High School Rodeo
Operation Santa	Christmas Hampers & Toys
Outlook Daycare Project Inc.	Small Steps Early Learning Centre - Yard Enclosure
Persephone Theatre	2015-2016 Youth Series
Saskatchewan Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Inc.	Bow Making Project
Saskatchewan Downtown Youth Centre/EGADZ	Action to Employment Dinner Evening
Saskatoon Council on Aging	Seniors Global Walk Fitness Program
Saskatoon Council on Aging	How to Handle Bullies (Expanded Project)
Saskatoon Crisis Nursery	Day of Play
Saskatoon Downton Youth Centre Inc.	2nd Annual Golf Tournament
Saskatoon Public Schools	King George Community School Before School Program
Saskatoon Public Schools - College Park	Spring Break Circus Arts Camp
Saskatoon Public Schools - Walter W. Brown	Community Council Snack Attack
Saskatoon Track & Field Club	Inner-City Track & Field Program
Saskatoon Tribal Council	STC Team Development
Saskatoon Tribal Council	Sask First Nations Winter Games 2016
Saskatoon Youth Development Complex	Summer Camp for Underprivileged Youth
St. Frances Catholic School	Christmas Family Day
STC Urban First Nations Services	WBYL - Children, Youth & Family Program
Tatanka Aboriginal Youth Wellness Society Inc.	You're Just Right - Youth Wellness Initiative
The Princess Shop	9th Annual Glass Slipper Ball
The Sask Assoc for Community Living	Youth Engagement Program
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	Sask First Nations Summer Games 2015
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	Sask First Nations Winter Games 2016
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	Justice Conference - Support for Elders
Whitecap Dakota Elementary School	Family Bingo Night
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Sask First Nations Winter Games 2016
Wicilitowin Foundation	SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards
Yellow Quill First Nation	Basic Computer Skills Training
Yellow Quill First Nation	7th Annual Youth Golf Tournament
Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble	Thanking Our Seniors

### Health Initiatives

Children's Health & Hospital Foundation	Ultrasound Machine Purchase
Day Star First Nation	Guardian Air Purifier Purchase Project
Fishing Lake First Nation	Health X-Ray Equipment
George Gordon First Nation	Meals on Wheels 2015 2016
George Gordon First Nation	Diabetic & Pedorthic Shoes Program
George Gordon First Nation	Meals on Wheels for Elders
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Medic Alert Emergency Services Project
Muskoday First Nation	Harm Reduction
Muskowekwan First Nation	Diabetic Shoe Program 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Feeding An Education
Muskowekwan First Nation	Muskowekwan Personnel Enhancement
Out Saskatoon	AIDS Walk
Sask Dental Hygienists Assoc.	My Smile Matters: A Youth Movement
Saskatoon Friendship Inn	Sponsor a Day at the Inn
Saskatoon Tribal Council	Wellness Summit
Saskatoon Tribal Council - Health	STC Call to Action Forum
Saskatoon Tribal Council Inc.	Saskatoon Corporate Challenge
St. Paul's Hospital Foundation Inc.	Healing Arts Program
The Lung Association	Inhaler Video Series
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	School Nutrition Program

### Community Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

Canadian Diabetes Assoc. North SK Region	Diabetes Risk Assessment & Education
Conquest Community Improvement Assoc. Inc.	Furnace Replacement
Core Neighbourhood Youth Cooperative	CNYC Marketing Plan
Day Star First Nation	Parking Lots Improvement Project
Day Star First Nation	Admin Centre Parking Lot Improvement
Day Star First Nation	Audio/Visual Upgrade
Day Star First Nation	New Photocopier Purchase
Fishing Lake First Nation	Parking Lot Improvement Project
Fishing Lake First Nation	Truck & Box Scraper
Fishing Lake First Nation	Infrastructure Equipment
George Gordon First Nation	Community Hall Upgrade
George Gordon First Nation	Emergency Road Repair and Drainage
George Gordon First Nation	Water Treatment Plant Electrical & Software Upgrade
George Gordon First Nation	Church Improvement Project
George Gordon First Nation	Community Van Enhancement
George Gordon First Nation	Communication Project
Girl Guides of Canada - Bridging Rivers Area	Roof Repair & Replacement
Kawacatoose First Nation	Fire Truck Repair
Kawacatoose First Nation	Equipment Upgrade
Kenaston Wheatland Library	Library Furnace Replacement
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Legacy Park Project
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Kinistin Education Center Playground Equipment Project
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Ceremonial Houses Renovation Project
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Furnace Replacement Project
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	School Bus Replacement Project
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Band Office Window Repair
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Security System Update
Lakeview Playground Enhancement Committee	Playground Enhancement
Lighthouse Supported Living	Replacement of Dining Room Tables & Chairs
Mistawasis First Nation	IBC Training Workshop Concrete Base
Mistawasis First Nation	Xyntax Enterprise System
Mistawasis First Nation	Overhead Doors Public Works Maintenance Shop
Mistawasis First Nation	Timber Harvest/Honour the Water
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Building Maintenance
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Maintenance Equipment
Muskoday First Nation	Fire Department Equipment
Muskoday First Nation	Fire Department Transportation
Muskoday First Nation	Pest Control
Outlook Daycare Project Inc.	Small Steps Early Learning Centre - Exterior Site Development
Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre	Community Transportation Project
Touchwood Agency Tribal Council	TATC Server Upgrade
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Public Works Enhancement
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Flags & Signage
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Fire Truck

### Cultural Development

All Nations Traditional Family & Youth Gathering	Traditional Family & Youth Gathering
Dakota Dunes Casino	9th Annual Pow Wow
Fishing Lake First Nation	Cultural Camp
FSIN Sports, Culture, Youth & Recreation	Spirit of our Nations Cultural Celebration & Pow Wow
George Gordon First Nation	2015 Pow Wow
George Gordon First Nation	Community Events
Habitat for Humanity	Tombola at the Bessborough
Kinistin Saulteaux Nation	Cultural Gathering Group
La Troupe du Jour	Lights, Acrobats, Family!
Lighthouse Supported Living	Christmas Round Dance
Many Nations Dance Troupe	World Indigenous Games
Mistawasis First Nation	Home Coming Community Celebration 2015
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Community Events
Muskowekwan First Nation	Youth Culture 2015
Muskowekwan First Nation	Elders in Residences
Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival	2015 Children's Festival - Activity Stage
One Arrow First Nation	One Arrow Powwow July 2015
Pleasant Hill Community Association	Families Keeping Active
Pleasant Hill Community Association	Pleasant Hill Community Pow Wow
Saskatchewan Abilities Council Inc.	Aboriginal Acquired Brain Injury Community Support
Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre	SICC National Aboriginal Day Celebration
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies	Culture Week Activities
Saskatchewan Intercultural Association	Learning Interculturalism Through Employment (LITE) Program
Saskatchewan Native Theatre Co.	2015/2016 Theatre Season Support
Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre	Oskapewis Program
Saskatoon Opera Association	Rissini's "The Barber of Seville"
Saskatoon Public Schools - Bedford Road	Bedford Road Collegiate Pow Wow
Saskatoon Public Schools - Mount Royal	Mount Royal Pow Wow & Festival of Nations
Saskatoon Symphony Society	Bugs Bunny at the Symphony
Scopes Fine Arts & Framing	Friends of the Prince Albert National Park
Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan	All female production of Julius Caesar
Special Events	Community Pow Wows
Special Events	Community Culture Camps
Sum Theatre	Theatre in the Park 2016
University of Saskatchewan	Indigenous Water Forum: Bridging Cultural Knowledge on Water/Health
Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority	Wanuskewin Days Cultural Celebration 2015
Whitecap Dakota First Nation	Parade Float
Yellow Quill First Nation	Community Cultural Circle
Yellow Quill First Nation	Yellow Quill School Mini Pow Wow
Yellow Quill First Nation	Yellow Quill Community Room/Elder's Lounge

### Justice Initiatives

Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC)	Summer Student Project on Aboriginal Sentencing
George Gordon First Nation	GGFN Women's Group
Muskoday First Nation	Muskoday Security Program
Office of the Treaty Commissioner	Silent Survivors, IRS Media Presentation
Saskatoon Tribal Council	Truth and Reconciliation
Yellow Quill First Nation	Community Justice Peacekeepers
Yellow Quill First Nation	Enhanced Communication in Security

*Making the Most of Our  
Community Investment*

For more info, visit:

[www.dakotadunescdc.com](http://www.dakotadunescdc.com)