

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Protege learning from the master fiddler

John Arcand and Jordan Daniels spend hours together in Johnny's workshop fiddling and honing Jordan's skills. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Jordan Daniels and John Arcand are like a couple of old souls sitting around Johnny's workshop, playing their favourite tunes on fiddle and guitar.

They both wearing their usual rumpled plaid shirts. Their hair is short. Now they slide seamlessly into Jordan's favourite, San Antonio Rose. He fiddles away while Johnny strums along on guitar.

Daniels, actually 61 years junior of Johnny, is one of several of the Métis fiddling legends students. After only four years playing, Daniels has already earned the Junior 13-18 title at Fiddlefest and won Junior Saskatchewan Championships last year and the year before. His progress has come from a lot of work.

On top of the weekly lesson, Daniels practices at least an hour a day.

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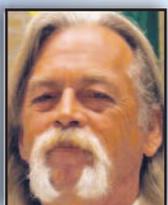
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# Young fiddler following a family tradition

"I wasn't good at all when I first started playing. It took a lot of practicing but I like it," said Daniels whose family has a long connection to the fiddle.

"I am following the tradition of my moshoms. Two of my great grandparents played the fiddle and their dads and one of their dads. I heard the stories about two of them, Lawrence Daniels and Wilfred Badger.

And on my mom's side in Norway, my 7th great grandfather was a fiddler too."

The legend and his protégé have only been working together for four years, but the respect and comfort between the two makes it seem like they have been at it for years.

Maybe it's because the musical relationship between Arcand and the Daniels family goes way back. Arcand actually taught Jordan's great uncle how to play and Jordan's aunt eventually gave Jordan his uncle's fiddle to carry on the tradition. In quite the coincidence, it is a fiddle John Arcand made.

"That fiddle is number 5," said Arcand of the fiddle, one of the 52 he has hand made.

"Jordan didn't want to play it for

the first bit because of the nostalgia of the instrument but he plays it now. He's a good student. It is such a pleasure to



**Jordan picked up the fiddle at age ten. Later his aunt gave him a fiddle that once belonged to his great uncle who also took lessons from John Arcand. And it turns out that fiddle was the fifth one John Arcand ever made.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

teach these kids that have a lot of family support. It makes my job much easier."

Since getting his first fiddle from his kohkum, Thelma, for Christmas at age 10, Daniels has never once missed a lesson. He has performed across Saskatchewan and even gone so far as

travelling to Vancouver to play at a First Peoples event at the Museum of Anthropology at University of British Columbia.

It's becoming old hat.

"I used to get stage fright, but you get used to it," said Daniels. "But playing makes me feel good especially when I get a nice applause when I'm done."

Old soul and lover of old country music with a collection of albums in-

cluding Hank Williams, George Jones and Johnny Cash, Jordan is also a Grade 9 student at St. Joes in Saskatoon. And when he isn't fiddling he plays baseball, basketball, football and hockey both in leagues and for the Saskatoon Tribal Council at the FSIN Winter Games.

In his spare, spare time he has also picked up and learned the guitar, mandolin and banjo.

"Just more forms of blue grass instruments," noted Jordan. "But fiddle is my favourite by far."

With students like Jordan, Johnny is confident that the old school Métis fiddle style won't be lost.

"I'm not concerned at all. I have five really good students at Ile a la Crosse and this guy Jordan is in there too," said Johnny.

"The secret is ... I just tell them to play. You may have to straighten them out in a few places, but just keep them playing.

It takes years and years to perfect something, but it takes one month to lose it all."

And with that, the old souls, on a three count, hit a quick Whiskey Before Breakfast to end their weekly practice session.

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# Parent travelled the world in search of salsa, before winding up in Saskatoon

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – What happens when you combine passion, hard work, determination and a dash of fearlessness?

If you're Kimberly Parent, you get to live your dream!

"I never really made a conscious decision to turn this into a career, it found me. I was doing it because I need to dance."

Parent was raised in Prince Albert, taking all the steps many young people take. Graduate, get a post-secondary education and build a career. Except, that's not always the way things work.

"There I was, with a degree in English and Native Studies, and no job."

Parent picked up a job at an industrial laundry plant, and while there happened to see a flyer for salsa lessons posted on the wall.

"I decided to give it a try, and when I heard the Cuban music, I instantly fell in love. I became crazy about salsa dancing."

Parent met a salsa teacher who became her mentor and taught her how to lead, follow and shared everything she knew about teaching dance.

"Then she left. I had zero experience running a dance studio, but I created the PA Salsa Club and named myself president, which looking back is hilarious as I was the only member."

Taking her love of dance with her, Parent spent time teaching English in Taiwan. Living in another country didn't stop her from seeking out the local salsa scene. Most places have some kind of community of salsa enthusiasts.

When she wasn't satisfied with what she found, she began teaching out of her apartment.

"I needed to show people how much joy you can get from dancing. I remember thinking, let me teach you so we can dance together."

She was able to travel and experience different salsa environments, visiting places like Australia.

When she returned home, she searched for the salsa scene in Saskatoon.

"I was shocked that there was absolutely nothing going on."

True to form, in 2005 Parent set out to build her own.

"You need a community of people to dance. I figured, I'll just start teaching out of my sister's garage. We set up mirrors, took out some ads, randomly decided to charge four bucks per class, and sure enough, people showed up."

It didn't take long, and the need for more space became clear. Parent took out a business licence and began renting space, which she, again, quickly outgrew.

Throughout it all, Parent worked full-time and became a mother to a beautiful daughter.

"My dance company was really a living thing, and I had to keep adjusting to meet its growth needs. That meant taking risks. I felt that staying where I was, out of fear, could mean taking steps backwards."

So, Parent decided to apply to Clarence Campeau Development Fund's (CCDF) Métis Women's Program.

"With that first loan I was able to acquire a tiny studio space all of my own in downtown Saskatoon. CCDF changed my life."

In just two short years, Parent once again outgrew her space and then worked with CCDF and Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO) to purchase her current two studios.

Two years ago Parent took the leap and went all in, running her dance company full-time.

"I decided, if it fails, at least I tried. I'll always have dance."

She made the decision because she wanted to change her work/life balance.

"I wanted to be there for my daughter, and build my life around my family, rather than around a job."

Now Parent is able to "live my daily life within the values that I believe in, and I have the freedom to do what I do with my own integrity."

Eleven years in, Parent has grown Saskatoon Salsa into a thriving business that promotes the love of dance to people of all levels of experience.

"I feel like, if you love to dance, you should dance."

Parent hopes to inspire others to live their dreams.

"I try to do as much as I can to give back to the Métis and the dance community."

She offers grant dance programs for kids, donates to different causes and has participated in Swinging with the Stars for the past five years.

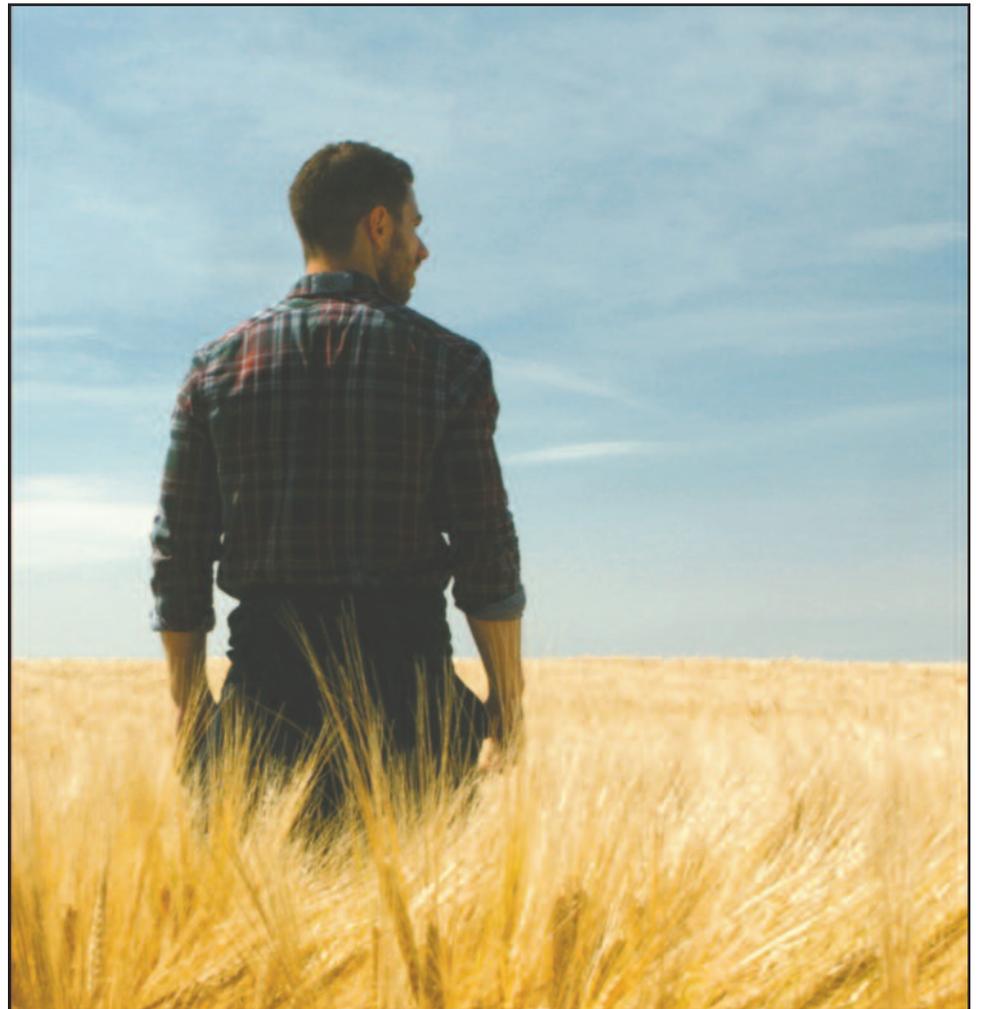
"This is a great charity event that helps to raise money in Saskatoon."

When asked about her most recent experience dancing with Eagle Feather's own John Lagimodiere, she grins and says, "We spent long hours working towards a goal. John's commitment was inspiring, and he didn't seem to mind when I would push hard to make him get things right. We had a blast."



Kimberly Parent has quickly grown Saskatoon Salsa into a thriving dance studio in the Saskatoon scene allowing her to live her dream and balance her family life.

(Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)



## His next challenge? Feed 9 billion people.

To feed the global population of 9 billion expected by the year 2050, worldwide crop production will need to double. Sound impossible? The good news is, farmers are up to the challenge. The better news? So are crop nutrients. Learn more at [PotashCorp.com/Nourish](http://PotashCorp.com/Nourish).

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# Wanuskewin is cultural icon

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is one of my favourite places on Earth and a Saskatchewan cultural institution that must be cherished and nourished.

So, it has been great news that the Thundering Ahead Campaign was recently launched to revitalize the Park. The \$40 million campaign is led by Saskatoon's business and political elite and co-chaired by Wayne Brownlee of PotashCorp and Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

I have done countless Aboriginal awareness seminars in that place with my partner Winston McLean. And believe me, over the past 20 years we have found no better place in the world for an Aboriginal awareness seminar.

Most memorable was delivering awareness to all of the City of Saskatoon Police Service after the Darrel Knight case way back in 2002-2003. Those cops kept Winston and I on our toes, but what was memorable was watching Elder Walter Linklater smudge with the officers and share his residential school story.

How he had their attention and respect. And how the Police Service changed after those seminars.

I photographed Prince Charles there on a hot and windy day in May 2001 when he received the Cree name Kisikawpimis-kamiyowahpahm ikot (The Sun Shines on Him in a Good Way).

I sat and kept fire with my friends and my son in a teepee on the hill during the Walking With Our Sisters moccasin vamp exhibit.

Met Allen Sapp and got him to sign his book.

I think of the numerous community events, press conferences and historic signings like the Treaty Land Entitlement deal in 1992.

Seeing the giant bison skull donated to the park by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Meeting Dr. Ernie Walker and

hearing him tell the story of Wanuskewin and how it came to be. Seeing hundred of kids swarm the Olympic Torch bearers when they visited Wanuskewin. I think of watching with glee as the Park was featured on the Amazing Race Canada.

And how many cultural celebrations have I been to out there?



**Wanuskewin Heritage Park was built through the sweat of contributors like Dr. Ernie Walker. Now the Thundering Ahead campaign looks to take Wanuskewin to the next level and World Heritage Site designation through UNESCO. (EFN File photos)**

The annual powwow is a must see. Or conferences? Or just sitting and listening to Elders. I think of the walks on the paths. The people, the place, the sights, the feel and the food make for a great experience.

Just being on the land in the Park makes a person better. Clear in the head. Peaceful.

I also remember being part of the first exhibit renewal team back in the day. That experience didn't go so well and the park went into crisis. Remember that?

Those days are long gone and I couldn't be more excited about the future. You should be too.

The Thundering Ahead campaign



is such a worthy investment ... and it's not just up to the corporations.

Small businesses, service groups and individuals can contribute as well. The return will be well worth it. Imagine in 25 years when the Park is surrounded by city and it is an oasis of bison, natural fields, paths, ceremony and a place of learning and experiencing First Nation culture for



## Publisher's Notes

John Lagimodiere

everyone.

By then it will be a deemed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and tourists from around the world will come here to visit us and our lands and our place. And, we hope, witness the place where the Pope once held a public mass and apologized for the Catholic Churches role in the Indian residential school system.

Imagine. I can hear the hoof beats already.

## April fools

We did some creative writing for April Fools and posted a story on our website (Still there if you want to read it) about starting a business called The Half Breed and the Indian and how my buddy Winston and I got a contract from the City of Saskatoon to kill all the rabbits running around the city.

We for sure got one reader who

posted her outrage on our Facebook page at her resentment to the name of our company and her disgust that the city would support such a barbaric practice.

She eventually removed the posting. Gotcha!

We love April Fools. That made it so worthwhile. In the meantime, if you do have a rabbit problem, you know who to call.

**Eagle Feather NEWS**

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204 OISSN #1492-7497 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ., P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4

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**Subscriptions: Annual Canadian subscription rate is \$25 per year, \$26.25 with GST. Bulk subscriptions are also available, call our office for details. Subscription requests can be mailed or emailed to our office. Forms are available on our website.**

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This issue printed on: April 12, 2017  
Next issue to be printed on: May 11, 2017

# The lazy person's guide to gardening

We are going to have a garden this year. It will be just outside my house in the field of calf deep mud that I trek through to get to my truck each morning.

I like the idea of growing my own food; it appeals to me as a cheap person. No more lifting bags of potatoes in the grocery store trying to figure out which weighs slightly more.

No more running outside the office in haste trying to get to the Hutterite food sellers before my coworkers buy them out.

No more searching aimlessly through grocery stores for sweet potatoes – which in terms of taste and nutrition, are like the Idris Elba of potatoes.

But watch out for yams. Though they are a type of sweet potato they are also expectorants and every once in a while when you are eating them, you will spontaneously throw up.

This happened to me three times before I looked it up. I am nothing if not a determined eater.

So this is going to be the year that I return to the land, invest my toil and seeds and in return, I will get a sense of connection to the land – along with millions of dollars' worth of peas (just an estimate.)

I am not a complete newbie. When I was a kid, my mother loved to garden. This was fortuitous because I loved to eat dirt smeared carrots.

Mom taught us to be gentle and careful when planting. I can still remember her dulcet voice reverberating through the reserve, "What the hell are you doing! You already planted the onions in that row and now you're throwing carrot seeds in there?! It'll take a thousand years for them to grow!"

So with that experience plus common sense, I do not think gardening will be difficult. You just need seeds, soil, water and sunshine – I only have to pay for one of these.



Some people also subscribe to this thing called "weeding" but I will not be engaging in that selective discrimination. If a plant wants to grow in my garden, then it will be allowed to do so.

Nature is all about survival of the fittest and I want my garden to reflect that. Whatever plant emerges victorious – then I will eat that plant, even if it is Scottish Thistle.

I also won't be watering my garden because that is the sky's job.

Sometimes, to protect your food, you do have to fight with aggressive and violent predators, like deer and rabbits for instance.

At this point, it's important to have a scarecrow. I've put one together – it's in the shape of a human man, with jowls and an aggressive potbelly wearing an "NRA" t-shirt and a "MAGA" hat.

It frightens me to be honest. To be a good farmer, you have to "get to know"

your soil.

Unfortunately your soil can't fill out a personal profile like an online dater: "happy go lucky, nurturing clay based dirt with no major drainage issues seeks same."

Learning about your soil involves looking at it, walking on it, talking to it – I guess it could also involve tasting it – but I'll leave that to my toddler.

Here's something I was surprised to learn – you can't grow certain plants next to each other.

Apparently plants have plant-buddies that they prefer to others; gardening is like a high school for plants.

Like beans like broccoli and tomatoes but can't stand carrots. Dill likes carrots and broccoli but has a hate-on for beans.

And nobody likes cauliflower who has to eat lunch alone at their own table. Sorry cauliflower, it's your fault for not being sweeter.

Ideally you want to start your garden early. I feel like I've already started by telling people that I'm going to plant a garden.

But some gardeners have already started planting seedlings in their kitchens to give their plants a head-start. These people are cheaters.

I will not be starting my garden until the last frost has frosted.

Only then will I toss my seeds in the ground, add water and six to eight weeks later – voila – I'll be a vegetable baroness.

Now if only there was a way to grow cheese – I'd never have to go to the grocery store again.

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Debbie Thomas, Harriet Burns, Louis Burns and Dora Young enjoy another Elder's presentation during day-long discussions about an Elder-in-residence program for Cumberland College. They met in Tisdale Feb. 27.



Elder Howard Walker speaks during a day-long conference in Tisdale Feb. 27. He is one of several Indigenous leaders contributing to an elders-in-residence program at Cumberland College. (Photos by Emma Meldrum)

## Elders sharing their wisdom at Cumberland College

By Emma Meldrum  
For Eagle Feather News

**TISDALE** – Cumberland College is hoping to make the teachings and wisdom of First Nations and Métis leaders more accessible.

About 20 of these Elders gathered in Tisdale to talk about a fledgling Elders-in-residence program for the college's staff and students.

They came from areas like Kinistin, James Smith, Shoal Lake, Cumberland House and Fishing Lake. Some were Métis, some spoke Cree, and many had experienced life in residential schools.

Despite their differences, they had one goal in common: to assist students.

"I would like to share stories and I would like to share history with them," said Shirley Wolfe-Keller, an Elder from Fishing Lake First Nation near Wadena.

*"I would like to share our way of life back then, how it is now and how it will be in the future."*

– Shirley Wolfe-Keller

"I would like to share our way of life back then, how it is now and how it will be in the future."

She said she would like to share culture and traditional teachings with students.

"All of that today seems to have gone on the wayside, but it's not lost. We have it; we just need the teachings to come alive."

Evelyn Burns from James Smith recalled speaking at a school in Aberdeen and being asked if she still lived in a teepee. She said there is a knowledge gap that needs to be bridged.

Riley Burns, for his part, said he would like to promote and educate kids to help them graduate.

Tom Weegar, president and CEO of Cumberland College, said that this program has been in the works for a few years, but he hopes to have Elders in place within a few weeks.

"I think the goal is really to have a greater degree of supports for our students that elders can provide," said Weegar.

"I often talk with my faculty and staff about teaching Indigenous competencies to our students so that our students are aware of the history of colonization in the country ... how federal government policies have been used to put down First Nations and Indigenous communities and how communities are breaking free of that in a variety of ways."

Elder programs are common in educational institutions in the province, with the University of Regina taking what Weegar described as a leadership role across the country.

"It's really phenomenal stuff. Really what we're doing is kind of emulating some of their successes as well."

RBC and the RBC Foundation have contributed funds to make the Elders-in-residence program possible for the year.

"That's exciting too, that other people are recognizing our success and want to be a part of it."

Weegar said that the program could be useful for faculty as well.

"Faculty can approach an Elder and say, for example, 'I'm teaching this aspect of business in my class right now, can you recommend an Elder or a leader that I can bring in to talk about Indigenous aspects of that business.'"

Since 2014, Cumberland College has worked to 'Indigenize', aiming to

break down barriers and open students and staff to Indigenous perspectives.

 A large graphic for the 19th Annual SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence 2017. The background is a light blue sky with a large, stylized eagle in flight, its wings spread wide. The text "19TH ANNUAL SASKTEL INDIGENOUS YOUTH AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2017" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, slanted upwards across the center. Below the main text, there is information about the gala evening: "Gala Evening May 26th, 2017 TCU Place, Saskatoon". Further down, it says "All nominations must be in by April 7th, 2017. No exceptions." At the bottom, it provides contact information: "For more information visit [www.sasktel.com/siya](http://www.sasktel.com/siya), contact Shawn at [shawn.albert@sasktel.com](mailto:shawn.albert@sasktel.com) or call 306-931-6286." At the bottom left, there is a small logo for "Sharing Each Other". At the bottom center, there is the SaskTel logo. At the bottom right, there is the MGM logo and the Eagle Feather News logo.

# PA Ink a permanent family affair

By NC Raine

For Eagle Feather News

**PRINCE ALBERT** – Brad Tinker could no longer ignore his passion for art and sharing his craft in a personal way.

“I realized that tattooing was something I needed to take more seriously. It couldn’t just be a hobby,” says Tinker. “I needed to learn the industry. When I made that decision, I stuck with it fully and never went back to work. I’ve been doing it ever since.”

Tinker is the owner and one of the resident tattoo artists of P.A. Ink Custom Tattooing. The shop, which opened in 2009, has become one of northern Saskatchewan’s premier tattoo shops with Tinker himself being named Best Tattoo Artist in 2014 by paNOW.

Granted, opening his own shop was far from a foregone conclusion. Tinker, who is Cree, grew up a natural born artist. He was a painter and a sculptor before ever picking up a tattoo gun. But he had spent a long time – 18 years – working in mines across Saskatchewan before deciding to commit to tattooing.

“Tattooing started out as a hobby at first. I still had my mining job, and would tattoo on my weeks out. It began to take off from there,” says Tinker.

“I thought I would be a painter or a sculptor, but never thought it would be tattooing.”

Tattooing culture was certainly at an upswing at this point, around 2008,

when shows like Miami Ink, L.A. Ink, and Inked were at the height of their popularity, showing a more complex and human side to the tattoo industry.

“It was on TV a lot at that time,” says Tinker. “I realized the demand for it and that I needed to open my own shop.”

But this meant walking away from job security, benefits, and a pension, just to do what you love doing, says Tinker.

“It was a tough choice to make. Especially when you have a young family,” he says. “But looking back now, it’s the best thing I ever did.”

His P.A Ink has since become a family affair, with Tinker mentoring his own daughter, Janie Natomagan, who now works with him as an artist at his shop.

“(Working with her) is awesome. I take pride in it – to teach one of my own my trades. She’s taken it very seriously. It’s a good feeling knowing that someone will carry it on.”

Although tattoo culture continues to gain momentum, there are still those who are less receptive to the medium, he says.

“Growing up in small town Saskatchewan, being old school, a lot of older people, including some of my family, don’t approve,” says Tinker.

“We used to only see tattoos on gang members or people who were in jail. So they thought ‘you must have a reason to look that way’. But now it’s a



**Brad Tinker and his daughter, tattoo artist Janie Natomagan, at P.A. Ink Custom Tattooing in Prince Albert.**

(Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)

fashion. It’s an (artistic) medium.

Despite the distinctions and success, Tinker is committed to continuing to push himself and better his craft for as long as he’s in the industry.

“I am definitely not the person who puts their tools away and says ‘I’m the

best, now I’m done.’ I take the compliment and go back to work and get better,” says Tinker.

“It’s an ever evolving medium. You never quit learning.

“I’ve been doing this for ten years and I’m still learning.”

 A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a lush green forested valley. In the middle ground, there is a large body of water (a lake or reservoir) surrounded by trees. In the background, there are rolling hills and a small town or industrial area with some buildings and a tall chimney. The sky is blue with some light clouds.
 

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# Pinehouse radio station is making waves in Cree

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

**PINEHOUSE** – A small radio station in the Northern Village of Pinehouse is taking great strides in the revitalization of the traditional Cree language.

Starting out as a modest student broadcast out of a trailer in 1983, CFNK has since become an important voice in the tradition and preservation of Indigenous language. It is one of only a handful of Saskatchewan broadcast mediums to offer broadcasts in Cree.

prairies and the North, Cree is lost to many of the younger generations.

“It helps the kids get their heritage back. If they want to understand what’s on the radio, they can ask an Elder, or, they can begin to learn the language,” says Lariviere.

CFNK, which has been broadcasting in Cree for four years, began the venture as a result of Pinehouse Corporate Engagement Officer and Broadcast Manager Vince Natomagan’s desire to feature Cree news broadcasts as a means to keep

(the language).”

The broadcasts have expanded to include a wide variety of offerings, including play-by-play hockey in Cree. It has even become an important educational tool in schools, says Iron.

“In the schools where they teach the Cree language, at times they put us on to listen to me speaking Cree,” says Iron. “The young generation out here, we speak Cree to them on a daily basis. They’re interested in Cree through listening to the radio.”

CFNK has a live streaming app in place, so those interested in hearing and learning Cree, regardless of location, can hear the traditional language. Iron says that audiences tune in from all over Canada and the United States, and they’ve even had listeners as far away as Russia and Ukraine.

“I’d like to see the language continue to grow. Hopefully there will be younger people who will come on board,” says Iron.

“Our goal is to get the youth to come on board and carry on with the tradition of Cree.”



Amy Lariviere at work in CFNK’s Pinehouse office. (Photo courtesy of CFNK)

“We’ve been losing our heritage rapidly, so this (Cree radio broadcast) helps with that,” said Amy Lariviere, administrator and acting manager at CFNK Pinehouse.

Cree is the largest Indigenous language in Canada, spoken by about 120,000 people, with several different dialects, but despite its prevalence in the

the language alive. They received funding from Heritage Canada as part of a language revitalization program, encouraging Indigenous language broadcasting.

“We’ve had a very good response,” says Clarence “Tsi-Boy” Iron, Cree broadcaster at CFNK.

“It’s important because in this community of Pinehouse, we’re pretty much all Cree here. And we’re closely knitted to the communities close by through

Clarence “Tsi-Boy” Iron and Vince Natomagan are two of the Cree speaking voices at CFNK. (Photo courtesy of CFNK)



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# Storyteller revels in the reactions his stories evoke

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

Who doesn't love a good story?

For Wilfred Burton, storytelling has been a rich tapestry that has woven throughout his life linking Métis culture, family history and a lifelong career path.

"I grew up with a wonderfully vast number of stories being told, usually by my mother, about my family, our community and it created in me a great desire to tell stories as well."

Burton recalls the uncensored way

sure there was Métis context and appropriate cultural nuance to the story.

"There was a huge gap in Métis children's literature."

Burton knew that imagery would be really important to portray the movement and cultural connections in the story. He requested the artistic talent of Sherry Farrel Racette, and she jumped at the chance to illustrate. Fiddle Dancer is now in its fifth print edition and was the catalyst to Burton's evolution into authorship.

A trilogy of stories developed about

the positive image of Métis people.

"I have a firm belief that you can't teach only negative things about a culture.

It's important to teach the truth, but it has to be interspersed with the positive. This is a way to create a positive outlook about that culture."

Other books written by Wilfred Burton include Roogaroo Mickey and most recently Road Allowance Kitten which had been nom-

inated for the Rasmussen, Rasmussen & Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award.



Wilfred Burton is surrounded by his collaborators writer Anne Patton on the left and artist Sherry Farrel-Racette. (Photo supplied)

in which his mother would share stories about relatives like Edward Beupre, the Willow Bunch Giant and his time in the World's Fair. There were tales about Louis Riel and the connection between his family and theirs.

Not to mention the immaculate cure of Charles Nolin's first wife and the shrine at St. Laurent.

The telling and retelling of these stories became the way in which the family history would come to life and dance around in all their vibrancy linking the present and the past, and instilling in Burton a great pride for his history and culture.

"I have always been a storyteller, even as a young child."

Burton's professional career took him into the field of education and his love for story telling quickly became a tool to teach children how to read.

"I would actually rewrite stories for the kids by taking an article from the local newspaper and write it at the level that the kids could read it."

He began creating writer's workshops and these became the highlight of the school year for the kids.

"I would have the kids rewrite stories, put them together, laminate them and have them in the classroom. At the end of the year, each kid got to take home a class story."

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Burton's first co-published children's book Fiddle Dancer. Working with Anne Patton, Burton wanted to make

main character "Nolin" including Dancing in My Bones, and Call of the Fiddle which is the only children's book printed that mentions Back to Batoche Days. He holds true to his dedication of capturing the spirit and culture of Métis people.

"The characters themselves, I have fashioned from people I know. I wanted them to be humble, community minded, with strong work ethic and good traditional Métis values and virtues. I also wanted kids to see Nolin try his best and not win."

In the end he goes and shakes other kid's hands. He takes away learning, and the commitment to try again."

Kids identify with the books.

"When I write it's a good story to tell. The benefit is usually realized later."

Burton recalls a time when he was reading one of his books to a classroom of children.

"There was a little kid, one in a class full of children. She had never spoken a single word in the classroom. When I finished reading, the girl put up her hand and said, 'I have a Kookum too.' It was a powerful moment seeing the connection she had made to a word."

He has noticed the same thing happens with an action.

"I did a book reading at a suburban middle class school and after taught a quick jiggling lesson to the kids. It was winter. When they went out to play for recess, they all had their scarves tied around their waists saying 'I'm Métis, I'm Métis' all happily jiggling outside. I love that image – for them it was entertainment – but they remember

## Sheri Benson

Member of Parliament // Saskatoon West

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Canada's Nuclear  
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## Notice of public hearing

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a public hearing to consider an application from AREVA Resources Canada for a 12-year renewal of its uranium mine operating licence for the McClean Lake Operation, located in Saskatchewan. The current licence expires on June 30, 2017.

Dates: June 7–8, 2017

Place: Kikinahk Friendship Centre, 320 Boardman Street, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

Time: As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date

The hearing dates and location may change. Check our website for the latest details. The hearing will be webcast live and then archived online for 90 days.

Members of the public who have an interest or expertise in this matter, or information that may be useful to the Commission, are invited to comment on AREVA's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Secretariat by April 21, 2017 at [nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/intervention](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/intervention) or via the coordinates below. Requirements for these requests are available online or by contacting the Secretariat.

AREVA's submission and CNSC staff's recommendations will be available on request from the Secretariat after March 24, 2017. Find out more about the hearing process at [nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca).

### Contact information:

Secretariat  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B, Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
Tel.: 613-996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: 613-995-5086  
Email: [cnscc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cnscc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca)

[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)



CANADA 150

# Dumont, Lafond write from life experiences

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

Eagle Feather News columnist Dawn Dumont, known for her comedic look at life from an Indigenous perspective in print and live on stage, is launching her third book with ThistleDown Press.

“Glass Beads is a collection of short stories about First Nations youth out on their own for the first time,” explains Dumont.



Dawn Dumont's third book, *Glass Beads*, looks at life in the city in the late '90s and early 2000s.

The stories feature four characters whose lives become intertwined through time and place, including the aftermath of 9/11. They negotiate family catastrophes, personal and cultural identity struggles, racism, and isolation.

“I based the book in the late '90s into the early 2000s. It's about that generation of First Nations people who have lived most of their adult lives off the reserve,” explained Dumont.

“We know why they feel broken – the ongoing effects of colonialism, systemic discrimination, the legacy of residential schools – but (these characters) don't know any of that. They are wandering in the dark, banging up against one another and hurting each other in the process.”

Dumont notes this book is heavier than her previous ThistleDown titles, “Nobody Cries at Bingo” and “Rosie's Run.”

“But I think the characters are compelling enough that readers will stay with

their stories because even at the worst times, there are moments of unexpected kindness and even miracles.”

Dumont adds that writing an authentic character is always a challenge but these characters are people she feels like she's always known.

“I first met them in my twenties, when the first draft of this book was written – and they've stayed with me ever since. Being older now, I felt like I could complete the journey with them.

“Growing up in the '90s, Julie, Nellie, Taz and Everett are longing for something that they believe will make them complete. With Julie, it's a child. For Nellie, it's Everett. For Taz, it's power. And for Everett (sorry, Nellie!), it's Julie.”

Joining Dumont at the May 11 book launch at Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre will be poet Mika Lafond.

Lafond says the words for her groundbreaking poems in *nipê wânîn*, Cree poetry with English translations, come from her childhood.

“I don't speak fluent Cree, but the words sound familiar to me and I am learning that I know many words that I hadn't forgotten, but just hadn't used for a very long time.”

Her mosom spoke Cree to all of his grandchildren until he passed away when she was seven.

“I remember that I always understood him, which means I knew the language at one time in my life.”

She also notes that Cree language revitalization in Muskeg Lake began when the late Anita Greyeyes organized a Cree Camp led by Gladys Wapass-Greyeyes, Judy Bear, and the late Dr. Freda Ahenakew. Wapass-Greyeyes was also Lafond's elementary school Cree teacher, becoming her adopted grandmother to teach her Cree culture and language through to adulthood.

“Gladys helped me to translate the poems in *nipê wânîn*. Women from my community led the revitalization of Cree language in our community, and in writing this book I wanted to honor their work by continuing to use the language.”

She explains that *nipê wânîn* means “my way back” because each poem represents Cree traditional teachings and womanhood, and applying these stories and teachings from childhood to her own life was a deep learning experience.

“I was told, “You know who you



Mika Lafond went back to her childhood for inspiration for her book of poetry *nipê wânîn*.

are. It's inside you. Your story is the story you own and that is where you should start.”

She describes each poem as a photo album snapshot of a Cree woman trying to find her way back to her Cree roots. The book is separated into three sections, beginning with *acâhk/spirit*.

“These are poems about my relationship with the stories I heard about

Creator's laws, kinship, and my connection to the past and the future.”

The second section, *niya/me*, is a glimpse of life experiences as a girl growing into a woman. The book ends with a section about *askiy/land*: memories of growing up in Muskeg Lake, and what the land and animals had showed her.

“*nôhkom* Gladys always tells me that her classroom was the land, and that everything can be learned from listening, viewing, and taking in the intricate creation of balance in the natural world.

She notes that the book comes from a place deep within she's been holding onto for a long time.

“I lost my way a few times in my life, but after some really bad experiences, I found my way back to *nôhkom* and to myself,” says Lafond, adding the book is about a woman reflecting on traditional stories and applying them to her life.

“It's about healing. It's about returning to a language that was taken without permission. It's about coming back to the original laws and balance of being a healthy Cree woman.”

Lafond and Dumont will launch their books together at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Centre on May 11 at 7 p.m.



## Apply for District Council Funding



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Learn more about the funding guidelines and submit an application by visiting [affinitycu.ca](http://affinitycu.ca) > Your Community > Funding Programs > District Council Funding.

Application deadline: May 29, 2017

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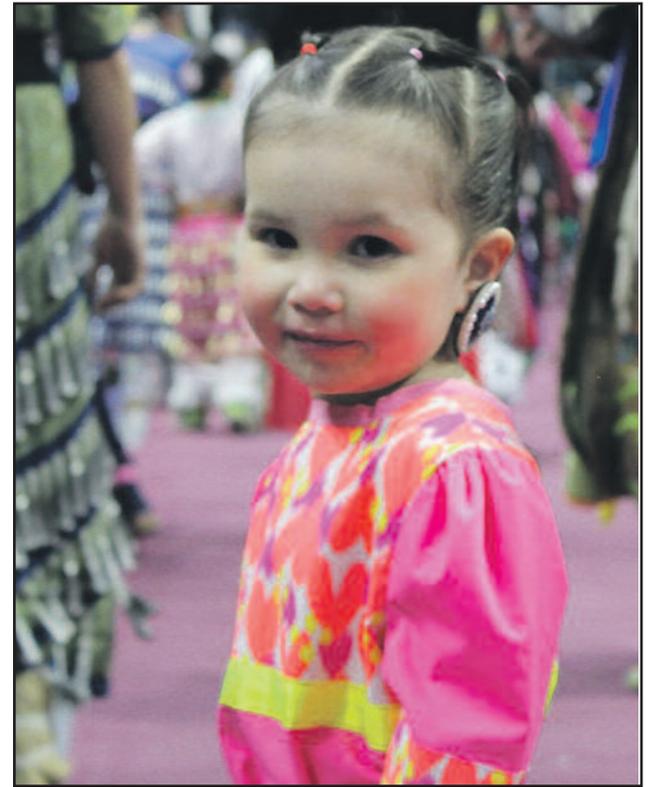
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First Nation University of Canada Student Association President Fraser Heathen thinks the powwow committee did a great job bringing young and old together for the 39th Anniversary celebration. (Photos by Jeanelle Mandes)

## Largest ever FNUniv powwow inspires committee for 40th anniversary next year

**By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News**

Over 7,000 people including over 750 registered dancers, 21 drum groups, volunteers, vendors and spectators made this year's First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) 39th powwow the biggest event ever.

Elder and veteran Tony Cote was one of the visionary chiefs who helped establish the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) now known as FNUniv. He has witnessed the powwow celebration grow from day one and says this year's event was a great sight to see.

"I've never seen a bigger crowd than this," he says. "The first grand entry was just grand. It was wonderful to see the colors the dancers wear. It was beautiful."

Cote says people are starting to get back to their traditions and culture and commends the younger generations for becoming more involved in the cultural event.

"That's a good sign. I see a lot of

young people participating and that's how it should be," he says.

"We got to try encouraging our young people to take up their culture."

Richard Missens, the chair of the powwow committee, says 39 years ago the event was begun by Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) students.

"They wanted to celebrate the school year after finishing exams and papers. It's a good time to celebrate," he says.

Missens has been the chair of the powwow committee for 12 years and says this is the most dancers and registered drums since he's been there.

"The students have begun to get more involved and the nice thing is that we're using technology now to share with the world," says Missens. "When I started as chair, we didn't have that kind of technology."

Missens says the powwow committee is already thinking about planning for next year's 40th annual powwow celebration.



**Richard Missens**



Grand entries were packed for the 39th Annual FNUniv Powwow with over 750 registered dancers. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

"The committee have all kinds of ideas so we want to do something wonderful, something beautiful and something special," he says.

Fraser Heathen, a third-year Business Administration student and also the newly elected FNUniv Student Association president, hopes the SA will work closely with the powwow committee to brainstorm ideas for next year's 40th event.

"We're all in this working together. We'll make it happen and make it big," he says.

"I commend the powwow committee, they did a great job."

The powwow event held many dance specials, the FNUniv Princess Pageant and even a moment of silence for the soldiers who fought and died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge during the First World War.

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# Roger Jerome striking gold

By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News

**AIR RONGE** – Roger Jerome is giving new meaning to “the golden years”.

The 72-year-old resident of Air Ronge is using his retirement years to explore a new artistic medium. Over the years he has worked in chalk, pastels, charcoal, airbrush, acrylics and oil paints. Now, he’s interested in gold leaf, and has spent many hours studying the technique and researching suppliers.

He still can’t quite get over the irony of it.

“It seems ludicrous,” he says, that a starving artist, senior pensioner would be painting with 23 karat gold leaf.

Jerome says he has been fascinated with gilding ever since he saw pictures of the gold mask on the sarcophagus of King Tut. He is also intrigued with the medium itself.

“Gold is one of the most recycled commodities in the world,” he says. “I wonder where it’s been.”

He imagines that hardship forces some individuals to sell their gold and it gets melted down, but he also wonders whether some of the material he works with might have a history dating back to ancient Mayans or Incas.

Recently, he used gold leaf on glass to create a tribute to this year’s 50th anniversary of the Robertson Trading Com-

pany in La Ronge. Illustrating the diversity of his talents, Jerome was also responsible for the sandblasted cedar sign that has hung on the front of Robertson’s store for the past 25 years.

Inside, in the family’s private collection, are several of Jerome’s original paintings, and for sale, a variety of prints.

Further down the street, in Mistasinik Place, the provincial government building, hangs the maquette (small scale version) of the monumental “Northern Tradition and Transition” mural the Métis artist created for the Saskatchewan Legislative Building in Regina.

That mural, 24 feet wide and 17 feet high, covers the north wall of the third floor rotunda. It was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II during Saskatchewan’s Centennial celebrations in 2005.

“It’s just like a dream,” says Jerome. “I still can’t believe it.”

He is now in the discussion stages with officials with Northlands College who have invited him to create a mural for the institution’s Mine School in Air Ronge. Fortunately, the dimensions for this one are not quite as daunting.

This past winter, Jerome taught a series of five classes in acrylic painting to community members as part of an art instruction project facilitated by the La Ronge Arts Council.



After working in many different media, artist Roger Jerome is now enjoying working with 23 karat gold leaf. Here, he holds up the tribute to the Robertson Trading Company’s 50th anniversary that he created. (Photo by Linda Mikolayenko)

“I always learn, myself, when I teach,” he says.

Jerome’s curiosity and willingness to learn is continually taking him in a variety of different directions, including glass etching. He has also taken an interest in working with drill core samples from northern Saskatchewan, and even built his own machine to polish the rock. He is experimenting with different designs, and is looking at the possibility of

selling unique rock jewelry and other gift items.

“I’ve never excelled at being an astute business man,” he acknowledges, but yet Jerome rightly predicted that his art print sales would go down.

“When the economy gets tight, that’s the first thing to go,” he says.

He is hopeful his new interests will be “another avenue to garner a bit of income, and still stay creative.”



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS To Address Homelessness in Saskatoon

The Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), in partnership with the Saskatoon Community Advisory Board on Saskatoon Homelessness (CAB-SH) invites eligible organizations operating in the city of Saskatoon to submit proposals for the Government of Canada Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding. Two funds are available: Designated Communities, and Aboriginal Homelessness. To be eligible, proposals must address one or more of the priorities of the Saskatoon HPS Community Plan (2014-2019).

For further information and application packages, you are invited to attend an information session on Wednesday, April 26 at 9:30am at The Two Twenty Building 220 20th Street West, 2nd Floor Board Room Saskatoon, SK, visit [www.shipweb.ca](http://www.shipweb.ca), or contact: Dionne Miazdyck-Shield at (306) 979-6706 or [dmiazyck@shipweb.ca](mailto:dmiazyck@shipweb.ca)

The deadline for printed submission of a completed application and proposal is: Friday, May 12, 2017 at 4:00pm CST

## APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS Pour adresser l'itinérance à Saskatoon

Le Partenariat des initiatives de logement de Saskatoon (SHIP), conjointement avec le Conseil consultatif sur l'itinérance de la communauté de Saskatoon (CAB-SH) invite les organisations admissibles qui œuvrent dans la ville de Saskatoon à soumettre leurs propositions de financement à la Stratégie des partenariats de lutte contre l'itinérance du Gouvernement du Canada (SPLI). Deux volets de financement sont disponibles: Collectivités désignées et Itinérance chez les Autochtones. Pour être admissible les propositions doivent adresser une ou deux des secteurs ciblés par les priorités du Plan communautaire SPLI de Saskatoon (2014-2019).

Pour plus de renseignements et pour obtenir une trousse de demande, veuillez prendre connaissance d'une séance d'information qui aura lieu le Mercredi 26 avril à 09h30 au Two Twenty (salle de conférence au 2e étage) – 220 20e rue Ouest, Saskatoon, SK, consultez [www.shipweb.ca](http://www.shipweb.ca) ou contactez: Dionne Miazdyck-Shield, 306-979-6706 ou [dmiazyck@shipweb.ca](mailto:dmiazyck@shipweb.ca)

La date limite pour l'impression/présentation d'une demande dûment remplie et la proposition est Vendredi 12 mai 2017 à 16h00 (HNC)



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# GTNT arts auction raises funds for youth in theatre

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

**SASKATOON** – Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre brings Indigenous arts to life in many ways so it is no surprise that Indigenous artists from across the land contribute to an annual art auction to support GTNT and youth in theatre.

“This year all pieces are going to be themed on celebrating our connection to Mother Earth, featuring artists from across Canada and local artists,” explained Osemis Isbister-Bear, GTNT’s general manager.

“The visual artists come out and help the performing artists, and raise money for our youth in the Circle of Voices program.”

PotashCorp is a major sponsor of the event with support from the Sheraton, Saskatoon Media Group, Planet S, Eagle Feather News, Amiskusees Semaganis Worme Family Foundation, and Scoles Fine Arts and Framing.

Curator and contributor Ernie Scoles says since he did the first one about ten years ago, the auctions have gotten better each year.

“They’re for the youth, that’s what it’s all about,” Scoles noted, showing some of the art that has come in so far of an expected 20 to 40 pieces: an Alec Syliboy painting from Truro, a Jason Lucas painting from Thompson, works from local artists such as Johnny Marceland and Kevin Peeace and of course one of Scoles’ originals.

Other pieces include jewelry from Jeff McDougall and a piece from noted stone carver Irvin Head: a real variety of Indigenous visual art to treasure in home or office.

“They’re all originals: no prints.”

The artwork is stunning, and GTNT also puts on an evening of entertainment which includes performing arts. Last year a drum group opened, Indigenous dancers performed to a Buffy St. Marie song, and Krystle Pederson performed an excerpt from *The Post Mistress* by Tomson Highway.

This year will include live music performances and Aiyanna Glenister will perform a monologue from “Iskotew” written by Circle of Voices alumni and co-ordinator Jennifer Dawn Bishop.

Bishop notes that the art auction is a major boost to the theatre company because all profits go directly to programming, particularly the Circle of Voices which has been running since 1999.

“This unique program is so important to us and to all of our participants, in continuing to reach out to different youth and exposing them to the arts and culture,” said Bishop.

“We want to give them the best possible programming and experience, and what helps us most with that is all our fundraisers and donations – and of course what we make from the auction.”

Bishop describes Circle of Voices as life changing for her and many others along the way.

“I believe in this program, and with the help of the auction, it will only further strengthen what we can do for our programming and our youth.”

The art auction takes place Thursday, April 27 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Top of the Inn, Sheraton Cavalier. Tickets can be purchased for \$100 by contacting the GTNT general office or phoning 306-933-2262.



Ernie Scoles displays one of the several wonderful works of art that will be available at the GTNT annual art auction. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

## Gordon Tootoosis Nīkānīwin Theatre Indigenous Art Auction Fundraiser

Presented by



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Helping Nature Provide



Thursday, April 27th 2017

6:00pm

Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Top of the Inn

\$100 per Ticket

306-933-2262

Curated by Ernie Scoles  
of Scoles Fine Arts & Framing

# SIIT taking Truth and Reconciliation calls to action seriously

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – The Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) are a priority for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT).

When Kathleen Worme, Manager of Workforce Development for SIIT first reviewed the calls she immediately looked at them in the perspective of training workshops.

“What I found was these Calls to Action spanned across every sector – health, justice, education, economic development, and so on. Training is needed to ensure that the people in each sector really understand why Aboriginal people live the way they do.”

An opportunity to build a program around this idea presented itself and SIIT welcomed the challenge. SIIT has written and developed teaching curriculum around the history and legacy of Residential Schools in Saskatchewan including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls to Action.

“We hired a curriculum writer and worked diligently to ensure that the content was developed in such a way that reflected the history of Residential Schools in Saskatchewan.”

Through this one-of-a-kind curriculum, education and training on the history and legacy of residential schools

will be used internally for SIIT to better serve their students.

“The main goal is to unite everyone in a common and shared understanding about where our students are coming from,” says Worme.



**Mary Mike speaks to fellow Elder Maria Linklater and facilitator Charlotte Ross about the Truth and Reconciliation training.** (Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)

This is a step towards the TRC recommendation to maximize student success through reconciliation. Engaging in a plan of action, the training will have an inventory of support resources while maintaining a culturally responsive attitude throughout.

“There are currently three facilitators, Charlotte Ross, Janice Linklater, and

Dion Tootoosis. We offer emotional/cultural support on-site during the training through the resolution Health Support Workers. We also ensure that we have at least one Elder present for the duration of each session,” said Worme.

A pilot of the program was launched in January and engaged the Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert City Police, University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, Great Plains College and the City of Saskatoon.

“The two day workshop went over really well.”

Some comments from those who at-

tended include, “(I) liked that that the content was presented in all its complexity and not “dumbed-down” or simplified unrealistically. The Elders are interesting to listen (to) and what an impact their stories have.”

The next session took place for SIIT internal staff to better understand how to create student success. Worme sees this as a tool to “combat racism, instill empathy and compassion for the plight of Indigenous people in Saskatchewan.”

The From Truth to Reconciliation Program provides flexibility that can be applied across industries. It has a train the trainer model that can be a useful takeaway for leaders in various organizations.

“It is fluid, open and always evolving. You could take this training over and over and the intangibles, such as class composition, facilitator and Elder knowledge allow for unexpected outcomes in each learning experience.”

SIIT recognizes that the legacy of residential school experience and the intergenerational trauma resulting from decades of cultural loss has been present in reducing student potential.

With the release of the TRC report, the magnitude of this harm is apparent. Worme speaks passionately about the value of the program.

“Ultimately this type of training is for those who are interested in learning the truth.”

## ANSWERING THE CALLS TO ACTION



**A two-day training program that unites citizens through a common and shared understanding of the history and legacy of the residential school system and how it has impacted the Indigenous peoples of Saskatchewan.**

**For more information, contact:**

**SIIT's Workforce Development Unit**

**Tel: 306-477-9242 or [wormk@siit.ca](mailto:wormk@siit.ca)**



**From Truth to Reconciliation**  
SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGIES

# Provincial spelling bee champs off to T.O. for national competition

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Mastering literacy is a skill that creates confidence.

What better way to ignite a fire of learning than through competition? That’s exactly what the First Nations Provincial Spelling Bee (FNPSB) has been doing for youth across Saskatchewan.

Pauline Favel, President Saskatchewan Region (Spelling Bee of Canada), compares literacy training with the training of athletes.

“When we give support and guidance to natural born athletes, we foster and develop their skills and they excel. It is no different with literacy. We want to prove to these kids, and the public at large, that they are very bright and they can shine if given the opportunity.”

First Nations youth from all over Saskatchewan competed on March 24 at St. Mary’s Wellness & Education Centre in Saskatoon in three categories – primary, junior and intermediate.

Spelling Bee of Canada provided the format and the words that are used across Canada. Participants received their words (approximately 400 words in each category) in the fall of 2016 and began studying for the competition.

“It is a great way to take the kids to a higher level. We are able to see the kids compete up to the best of the best in the province,” says Favel.

The determination and commitment of the youth that competed this year was palpable. Some reviewed and drilled their words right up to the time that they walked on the stage. Parents sat on the edges of their seats spelling along, cheering out support and encouragement for the words spelled right, also comforting and drying tears for the ones who didn’t move on.

Spelling Bee of Canada’s Julie Spence opened the day by stating that: “It is important to remember that these kids that are competing are all winners.”

There could only be one first place winner in each category. Primary Winner - McKenna Fineblanket from Bishop Roborecki School in Saskatoon, Junior Winner - Noah Merasty from Gateway Elementary in Meadow Lake, Intermediate Winner - Makayla Cannepotato from Chief Taylor School in Onion Lake.

The winners in each category are now invited to compete nationally in May of this year at the Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC) Championships in Toronto.

“It is a very exciting opportunity for the kids who win to experience a new place and create memories that last a lifetime.”

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many partners and sponsors. We are able to host the FNPSB because we partner with Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC).

“Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) is our returning title sponsor, Affinity Credit Union has come forward with a significant contribution, and other have been very generous with donations and in-kind services. Without this support, this event would not be possible.”

The future goal is to see the FNPSB become a National Competition, which includes youth from all the First Nations across the country.

“We have so much to learn from one another. This a platform to bring people together.”



Youth from across Saskatchewan participated for a chance to win a trip to Toronto for the National Spelling Bee. (Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)



Noah Merasty from Gateway Elementary in Meadow Lake received his award from Pat Cook of SIGA. (Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)



## First Nations Provincial Spelling Bee





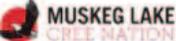
Congratulations to all those who studied hard and competed in our second annual Spelling Bee!

1st Place Primary Winner— McKenna Fineblanket  
1st Place Junior Winner—Noah Merasty  
1st Place Intermediate Winner—Makayla Cannepotato

We wish to express our gratitude to all of you for sharing the FNPSB experience with us! Your kind and generous support (financially, in-kind services, in-kind donations) help to make this a very positive and successful experience for our youth and visitors. We would also like to thank all the many volunteers and officials and the wonderful guest speakers. Thank You!

**Spelling Bee Committee:**  
Pauline Favel, Cecile Smith, Lillian Denton, Lydia Sunchild, Sandra Big Eagle, Julie Ann Wriston










## Your guide to polling stations for May 27, 2017 Métis Nation Saskatchewan election

Polling stations for the Métis Nation Saskatchewan will be available throughout the province to assist in the upcoming May 27 election.

To be eligible to vote, you must find a polling station in the region in which you currently live.

You must have valid ID to cast your vote.

To find your Voting Region for more information on voting locations, candidates and other information you may visit [www.mnselection.ca](http://www.mnselection.ca).

Advance Polls \* and ½ day polls will be held on May 20, 2017.

Regional Returning Offices are not open until the Declaration of Election on April 22, 2017.

NOTE: At this time, these are proposed locations only and are pending finding a suitable polling place and qualified election officers. Some of the locations may change and some may be added or deleted at a later date. Once locations are confirmed the actual poll addresses will be added.

### Northern Region 1

LaRonge Returning Office  
Kikiwhak Friendship Centre

Stoney Rapids\*  
Uranium City\*  
LaRonge  
Weyakwin  
Timber Bay

### Northern Region 2

Buffalo Narrows Returning Office  
La Loche\*  
Michel Lake ½ day  
St. Georges Hill ½ day  
Bear Creek ½ day  
Black Pointe ½ day

### Northern Region 3

Beauval Returning Office  
Ile-a-la-Crosse\*  
Pinehouse\*  
Dore Lake ½ day  
Patuanak ½ day  
Beauval  
Ile-a-la-Crosse  
Pinehouse  
Green Lake  
Jan Bay/Cole Bay

### Eastern Region 1

Denare Beach Returning Office  
1700 Wigwan Dr.  
Cumberland House\*  
Cumberland House  
Creighton  
Pelican Narrows  
Sandy Bay

### Eastern Region 2

Watson Returning Office  
104 HWY 6 (Chegus RV Sales)  
Tisdale\*  
Nipawin\*  
Porcupine Plains ½ day  
Melfort  
Nipawin  
Archerwill  
Hudson Bay  
Wynyard  
Sturgis

### Eastern Region 2A

Yorkton Returning Office  
#7-285B Broadway St. E  
Melville\*  
Yorkton  
Melville  
Esterhazy  
Langenburg  
Togo

### Eastern Region 3

Indian Head Returning Office  
514 Grand Ave  
Weyburn\*  
Indian Head  
Lestock  
Fort Qu'Appelle  
Rocanville  
Weyburn  
Estevan  
Kenosee

### Western Region 1

Meadow Lake Returning Office  
112C Centre Street  
Glaslyn\*  
Spiritwood\*  
Pierceland ½ day  
Meadow Lake  
Glaslyn  
Brightsand  
Leoville  
Chitek Lake

### Western Region 1A

North Battleford Returning Office  
1662-100 St.  
Lloydminster\*  
Frenchman Butte ½ day  
Wilke ½ day  
North Battleford  
Battleford  
Lloydminster

### Western Region 2

Prince Albert Returning Office  
1008-1st Ave W  
Prince Albert\*  
Prince Albert  
Big River  
Debden  
Leask  
Duck Lake  
Kinistino  
St. Louis  
Shell Lake, MacDowell

### Western Region 2A

Saskatoon Returning Office  
Unit 60-300 Confederation Dr.  
Saskatoon\*  
Outlook ½ day  
Humboldt ½ day  
Watrous ½ day  
Saskatoon  
Biggar  
Rosetown  
Kindersley  
Scott

### Western Region 3

Moose Jaw Returning Office  
TBA  
Regina\*  
Swift Current\*  
Ponteix ½ day  
Shaunavon ½ day  
Regina  
Moosejaw  
Maple Creek  
Assiniboia  
Willow Bunch  
Swift Current

**For complete coverage about advance polls, candidate declarations and details as the election unfolds, visit [www.eaglefeathernews.ca](http://www.eaglefeathernews.ca)**



## MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN ELECTION

# VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

### NOTICE:

## MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN CITIZENS

Chief Electoral Office 1-844-615-2017

### Regional Returning Offices

May 12 - 19  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
closed Sunday

### Advance Polls

May 20  
12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

### Election Day

May 27  
9:00 am - 7:00 pm

**Vote in the Region in which you live  
Register at the poll  
Bring your ID**

Polling Locations announced on [www.mnselection.ca](http://www.mnselection.ca)

# Green Lake going greener

By NC Raine

For Eagle Feather News

**GREEN LAKE** – The Northern Village of Green Lake is taking an important first step in investing in renewable energy.

In participation with the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, Green Lake will be installing solar panels on its community centre this spring.

“Our village is predominately Métis, and we have an understanding that we like to find opportunities to live gently on the land. To not damage or leave as much of a footprint,” said Green Lake Mayor Ric Richardson.

The solar panels project, which is the first renewable energy project for Green Lake, will aim to provide the building’s entire energy needs for the year, which will save the community an estimated six to seven thousand dollars annually.

“Our previous and present councils have been 100 per cent in support of (the solar project). And I’ve never heard a member of our community that didn’t like it. So the fact that we have such a high degree of interest and support in the community is what’s going to make it work,” says Richardson.

Green Lake hopes the solar panel project translates to employment opportunities, with maintenance requirements for the panels, as well as future economic

opportunities in developing additional renewable energy projects. In effort to become energy self-sufficient, they intend to create a solar farm in the future, with the capacity to provide energy for the entire community, says Richardson.

“There’s a high degree of interest in the North over this. A lot of it has to do with the amount of power outages we have and the distance from the source power,” he says.

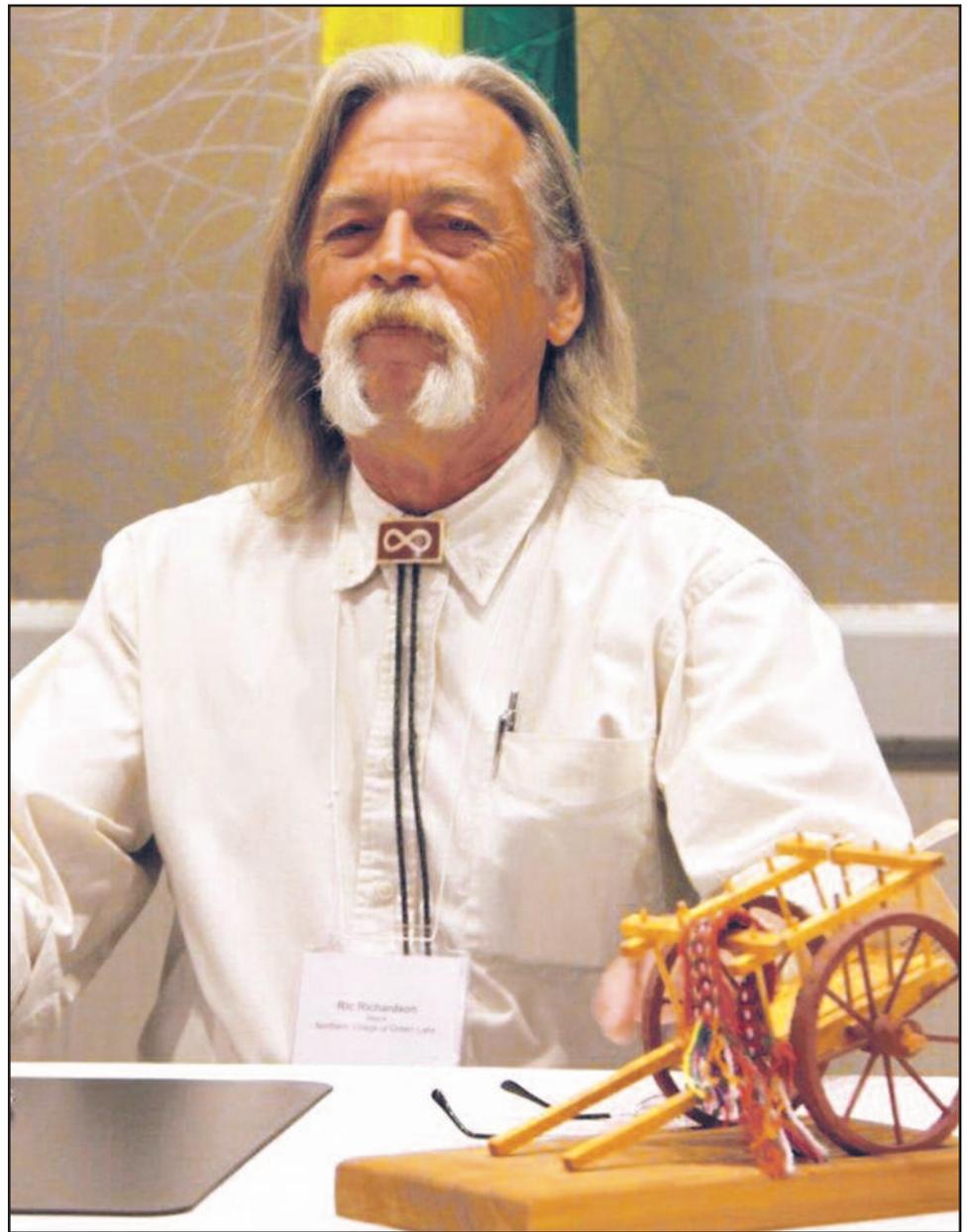
“Power reliability is something we hope for with other projects going forward – developing a system that could provide all the power we need for a year.”

Private individuals in the community also stand to benefit from this project, as Green Lake will offer the same bulk purchasing rate to community members wishing to purchase solar panels for their home, in an effort to incentivize green energy.

With funding from provincial, federal, and private sources, Green Lake believes this will be the first step of many in investing in renewable energy.

“We’re not just a Métis community, but have First Nations and non-Native people, and all have expressed their support of this,” say Richardson.

“This project aligns itself very well with traditional values of Aboriginal people, but also the common interests nowadays of all people.”



Mayor Ric Richardson of the Northern Village of Green Lake is hopeful that their solar panel project will spur more renewable energy use in the North.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## Companies mining Indigenous culture

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – The world loves the Canadian Mining Industry, and Saskatchewan is a giant amid this landscape.

Delegates at the recently held Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum heard about many of the boast worthy attributes that the province’s mining industry have to offer.



**Durwin Herrington of Power Chief Scaffolding spoke of incorporating Indigenous ways in safety.**

(Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)

Recently given first place status for mining investment in Canada by the Fraser Institute, also beating Australia for number one position globally, Saskatchewan is a bright example of what happens when the mining industry and provincial policies work together to get things right.

Industry and Indigenous suppliers gathered at the opening of the event during the Navigating the Industry Supply Chain Forum to hear from Indigenous contractors and entrepreneurs about what it takes to succeed in the sector.

Panel speakers included William Lavallee – Four Souls Cleaning Inc., Brad Darbyshire – STC Industrial Contracting (formerly Lynco Eagle), and Durwin Herrington – Power Chief Scaffolding.

Finding ways to build culture into Power Chief Scaffolding has been central for Durwin Herrington.

“We have gone so far as to build an industrial teepee on our sites, and have included a morning smudge into our tailgate meetings. Elders are brought out to bless our site, and spend time talking with our crew.

“This keeps our young people focus on living clean and sober lives, which ultimately contributes to everyone’s safety.”

Co-hosted by the Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA), Saskatchewan Ministry of Economy and the Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining Suppliers Association (SIMSA), the forum welcomed over 1,000 delegates to share in success stories, learn of updates in the industry, the forecasted economic outlook, and visit the 200 suppliers at the sold out Trade Show.

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Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7 p.m.  
Broadway Theatre, 715 Broadway Ave.

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- GUY VANDERHAEGHE
- HAROLD JOHNSON
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Today is the day

# Ochapowace Thunder storm to victory at Senator's Cup

By Chelsea Laskowski  
For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – The stakes were high at the third annual Senator's Cup tournament, with the host Prince Albert Grand Council upping the ante over previous years with a first-place prize of \$20,000, runner-up purse of \$12,000, third-place prize of \$10,000 and for the first time ever, a fourth-place prize of \$4,000.

In the end, it was the Ochapowace Thunder hoisting the Senator's Cup and taking the top cash prize after winning a frenzied final game against the Stanley Mission River Hawks with a score of 4-2 on Sunday night. The second half showed some aggressive play, with one Stanley Mission player falling to the ice and escorted to the bench with what seemed to be an ankle injury.

Earlier in the day, the Metis team St. Louis Blues took third after losing to the River Hawks.

"The plan was to bring out the best

talent possible across western Canada, to represent a bunch of the communities in Saskatchewan and I think we accom-

plished that. We also represented the Metis communities," said Corey Diehl, one of the tournament coordinators.

Wacey Rabbit, who played for Ochapowace, is originally from the Kainai Nation in southern Alberta.

He admitted it's physically demanding to play four games in a single day like his team did on "money Sunday," especially when your team has only two or three lines playing compared to a professional team's four lines.

WHL days – is "the cherry on top" of a great weekend.

"I would come off and have 10 seconds rest and right back out there," he said.

His competition in the final game included former NHLer D.J. King, originally of Meadow Lake, and Todd Fiddler, also of Meadow Lake, who plays hockey at the top university level.

"To see the level of hockey that our people are achieving, I think it's great.

And just to be a part of that is just an honour," Rabbit said.

Overall, 11 teams played in the tournament and Prince Albert's Art Hauser Centre saw around 1,600 people walk through the doors of daily between April 7 and 9.



Ochapowace Thunder holds the Senator's Cup after winning the final.

(Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)

# Sasakamoose, Resch team up for Chief Thunderstick

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Former NHL player Fred Sasakamoose, at 83 years old, continues to carve out a cultural and pioneering legacy.

Sasakamoose will forever be remembered as "The Original", the first Indigenous player in the NHL, who played 11 games for the Chicago Blackhawks in 1954.

Now Sasakamoose hopes to inspire younger generations of Indigenous young people with the 2nd Annual Fred Sasakamoose "Chief Thunderstick" All-Reserve/Métis Hockey Tournament.

"It's up to us to show these young people the pride and joy of something they can look forward to," said Sasakamoose at a conference in Saskatoon announcing the year's tournament.

Sasakamoose, a Saskatchewan native from Big River First Nation and Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, is a residential school survivor, where he endured emotional, physical, and sexual abuse for his cultural associations. He knows how important sport is in the lives of young people dealing with struggles.

"I'm not going to sit idle anymore. I'm going to see my children back in that game. They deserve to be there," said Sasakamoose.

Partnering with Sasakamoose in the 2nd Annual Chief Thunderstick tournament is former NHL great Chico Resch, a Moose Jaw native, who played 14 seasons in the NHL, including winning a Stanley Cup Championship with the New York Islanders in 1980. Resch says that once players retire, they begin to grapple with their legacy and how they'll be remembered.

"Once you've retired after reaching the top, after hearing people chanting your name, you ask yourself what your legacy is going to be. I know Freddy (Sasakamoose) wants to leave a legacy behind," said Resch.

"I want to be part of this process. Non-First Na-

tions and First Nations, it's been sort of a separation. They'll come and do some (work in the community) and then they're gone. It just hasn't worked. What I envision, we need to be standing together with our arms around each other and say 'are we going to do something together or are we going to just feel bad?'"

Resch says the goal of the tournament is not just to promote sport, but to make a long term impact on the

lives of young people everywhere.

"Freddy and I are committed to building this," says Resch. "We need committed people from all walks of life to help solve problems not just for young people but everyone in this world."

(Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)



Freddie Sasakamoose and NHL legend Chico Resch are bringing the Chief Thunderstick contact tournament to Saskatoon in late April.

(Photo by NC Raine)

Resch says the goal of the tournament is not just to promote sport, but to make a long term impact on the

lives of young people everywhere.

"Freddy and I are committed to building this," says Resch. "We need committed people from all walks of life to help solve problems not just for young people but everyone in this world."

The 2nd Annual Thunderstick Hockey Tournament takes place April 28-30th at Harold Latrace arena in Saskatoon.

# Planet Beyak is a wild and not so wonderful place

For those of you who don't know, Lynn Beyak was the flouncy Senator on the Aboriginal Affairs Committee that proudly announced, "I speak partly for the record, but mostly in memory of the kindly and well-intentioned men and women and their descendants – perhaps some of us here in this chamber – whose remarkable works, good deeds and historical tales in the residential schools go unacknowledged for the most part and are overshadowed by negative reports."

Because I often pretend to be a journalist, I felt it was my duty to at least pretend to do some investigating into who she is and why she would say such ridiculous things with what apparently counts as a straight face.

Duty. Love that word. Even though it sounds suspiciously like doody. But I digest.

I spent an entire minute googling her origins. What I discovered shocked and amazed me.

She grew up the eldest of 12 children in coal country. Her family was dirt poor. At an early age she married a war veteran who helped her launch her career as a singer. Or was that Katy Perry?

Fact is, I didn't get much info on Beyak because I got bored. Sure, there's the question of her time as an insurance agent. Allegations she was in real estate. And, before entering the murky waters of politics, she polished her craft as an automotive dealership, um, dealer.

To escape the boredom I began to fantasize that Beyak is an alien. Then things began to make sense.

On Planet Beyak it is par for the course to break several thousand eggs to make a few decent omelets.

"Hey look, this one turned out kinda nifty! Our cold, ham-fisted, superiority is working. Let's celebrate with cake! We're gonna need, more, eggs."

True enough, there are reports that a few kids did have a decent time at the residential schools.

Hell, even a busted clock "works" at least twice a day.

Now here is where I may lose a few of you. It is also true there were decent people who worked in those institutions, who tried to make things better.

And when these good people saw the evil going down in these schools they were silenced.

Peter Bryce is a great example.

Unlike Beyak, Bryce was neither an insurance agent, realtor nor a car dealer. He was a mere a doctor and a public official with the federal government at the peak of the residential school system in the early 1900s.

Bryce investigated the schools and wrote a book called *The Story of a National Crime: Being a Record of the Health Conditions of the Indians of Canada from 1904 to 1921*.

It was not a happy story. His findings got him pushed out of his job with

government.

So part of Beyak's obnoxious rant may be true, but not in the way she thinks.

And her rose

coloured view of the world does not overwhelm the fact the schools were traumatizing, genocidal factories.

What kept me interested in this story was Beyak's deft, or daft, attempts to stickhandle her way through the storm she summoned, saying her comments were to be taken in a larger context of taxes and a push for an audit of First Nation spending.

Being your humble fake news-ologist – which sounds suspiciously like proctologist – I tried to grasp how taxes and audits are connected to the benefits of child abuse. I wanted to get to the bottom of things.

My brain attempted several tortured moves and stretches and a couple of twists of imagination.

She's a better mental gymnast than I, but then again, that's not saying much. Have you seen my Olympic ribbon-dance routine? It needs work.

Perhaps on Planet Beyak the lack of gravity enables one to leap over facts and realities in a single flounce.

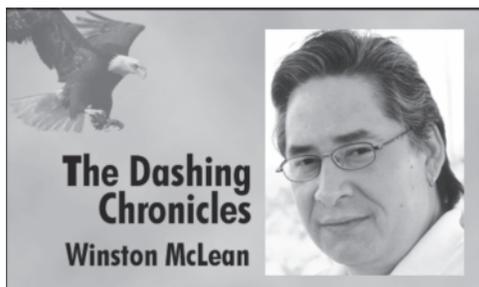
Perhaps that same lack of gravity allows the brain to function with less blood so that depth-defying turns of logic can be performed with ease.

My money is on the fact that, like Superman, our Sun has given her superpowers rendering her immune to the truth.

Like a slice of lemon against an oncoming asteroid, the truth does not stand a chance.

• • •

Dirk knows too many of you are picturing me in sparkly man-tights, dancing across a large gymnasium mat to the tune "Another One Bites The Dust", jasmine ribbons flowing awkwardly in the air. You people are sick.



## ABORIGINAL Coaches & Officials Program

### ABORIGINAL COACHING MODULE (ACM)

8 hours

The ACM is a professional development training tool for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal coaches who work with Aboriginal youth in a sport or recreational environment. This interactive workshop includes unique methods and perspectives not found in mainstream coaching certification programs. The three delivery models include: Holistic Approach to Coaching, Dealing with Racism in Sport and Lifestyle, Health and Nutrition.

### CAS INTRODUCTION TO COACHING

3 hours

This workshop is intended to inform beginner coaches with some of the more important issues involved in coaching and should be taken prior to any National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) training. The course is delivered in three sections: The Role of the Coach, Physical Preparation and Planning. Taking this course is a first step to ensuring that all coaches have basic knowledge and skills, necessary to coach effectively.

### NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS (NCCP)

varies

The NCCP is a program is a partnership between the government of Canada, provincial government, and national and provincial sport governing bodies to train and build consistency and confidence in coaches across the country. Coaches have access to training at all levels of involvement. From entry level community coaching to advanced national team coaching there is a workshop for you.

All Coach training is stored in a national database called the LOCKER. For more information on the NCCP, please visit: <http://www.coach.ca>

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

varies

The Coaching Association of Saskatchewan (CAS) and ACOP work together to give Aboriginal coaches and officials opportunities to gain experience and enhance their skills through participation in various professional development opportunities. Opportunities include participation in local and national sport conferences, coach development grants, Apprentice Coach Programs, etc. For more information on current opportunities, please contact the ACOP coordinator.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Sylvester Gardypie  
ACOP Coordinator  
Sask Sport/Coaches Association of Saskatchewan  
510 Cynthia Street  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 7K7

Phone: 306.975.0865  
Fax: 306.242.8007  
email: [sgardypie@sasksport.sk.ca](mailto:sgardypie@sasksport.sk.ca)





The Red Pheasant Rebels had a great run to take the 17th annual LWC Championship trophy. Red Pheasant Rebels import Doug McLeod earned the tournament MVP.

# Red Pheasant Rebels rally to win LWC Cup

**THE BATTLEFORDS – TREATY SIX TERRITORY** – The Red Pheasant Rebels played six games coming up from the B side to retain their hold on the coveted LWC championship trophy.

The Rebels lost a squeaker to Onion Lake Braves on Sunday and then defeated Mistawasis Warriors and in the repeat A-B sudden death one-game final, beating the Braves by a score of 6-5 in a very fast paced, exciting match-up.

Stellar goaltending on both ends by Rebels' Jordan Nighthtraveller and Braves' Shelby Chief kept the game close throughout the contest.

Kolten Baptiste netted two goals for the Rebels and Aaron Starr set up three goals to clinch the LWC title.

Onion Lake's Justin Waskewitch notched a goal and an assist in the thrilling final game, earning him an all-star team nomination. Red Pheasant Rebels import Doug McLeod earned the tournament MVP trophy.

In the Legends (35+) division, it was the Saddle Lake Warriors coming up from the B side to steal the champi-

onship trophy away from the Beardy's Blackhawks.

Warriors' Edward Houle netted the winning goal with only 4.3 seconds remaining in the final game. Bill Cameron Jr. of the Blackhawks was chosen the tournament MVP.

In the Masters (45+) division, Onion Lake Border Chiefs easily won the over Poundmaker Raiders, Agency Chiefs and the Sask River Kree to capture this newly added division. The MVP award went to Pete Chief of the Border Chiefs squad.

"This year's format was an experiment and it seemed to work out for the most part," said tournament founder and organizer Milton Tootoosis.

"We added the Masters 45+ division in order to give us aging hockey players an opportunity to continue playing and we hope to attract some women's teams in 2018," he added.

The LWC Tomahockey has become a regular event on the Indian rec hockey tournament circuit and attracts teams from primarily the north central region of the Treaty Six territory. The event is

about promoting fair play, healthy competition and rebuilding of First Nations community teams. The inclusion of two imports per team only adds to the level of competitiveness of the tournament.

The 17th LWC Tomahockey had 20 teams compete in three divisions, 34 games with no major injuries, \$22,300 paid out in cash prizes, division all-star

awards and had excellent attendance at the venues and the socials at the Gold Eagle Casino.

The host committee is already in planning stages for the 18th Annual in 2018.

For more information visit [www.lwctomahockey.com](http://www.lwctomahockey.com) or find the event on Facebook.



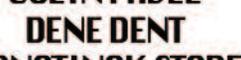
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# Aboriginal Track and Field Championships a runaway success

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – By the numbers, the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Track and Field Championships were a resounding success.

With 423 athletes, 65 officials, 25 volunteers, eight board members, hundreds of parents and family and one or possibly two pulled Mayoral hamstrings, the numbers don't lie.

The Championships took over the Field House in Saskatoon on March 31 and April 1, highlighting the growing body of track and field athletes emerging from the Aboriginal community.

"We have over 100 more athletes this year than our biggest meet ever," said Derek Rope who is on the board of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Track and Field, the non-profit that runs the Championships.



The community relay was a hit at this year's Aboriginal Track and Field Championships. Six teams took part including the eventual winning Fire Department team. The City of Saskatoon, led by Coun. Bev Dubois and Mayor Charlie Clark secured sixth place with a solid finish from Mayor Clark who sacrificed his hamstrings to finish the race. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

see how I can better myself and improve and also see who I have to race," said Lapratt who earned bronze in the 200 meter.

And after the race, Clark admitted he should have come up short during the race.

"I pulled something for sure," laughed the mayor. "I felt something but didn't want to let up at all. It was lots of fun racing and seeing so many community members here and all the athletes. I'm really glad we ran."

Clark is an avid bicyclist and long distance runner but he learned something that day.

"I'm not a sprinter."

The event is fully sanctioned by SaskAthletics who also supply 65 officials who volunteer their time.

"We plan all year and work with

SaskAthletics. We couldn't do it without them. We have and we also have 25 community volunteers that it takes to run this meet," said Rope.

"And we were really glad to welcome Bo Carrier. Bo is a Special Olympian and he ran in the community relay challenge with the City of Saskatoon and Mayor Charlie Clark and Coun. Bev Dubois.

"When we are looking at inclusion and participation of our First Nation and Métis athletes and communities, they jumped at the opportunity to show their support for these youth making positive and healthy lifestyle choices. It's been a great weekend."



These young women athletes earned medals in girls shot put. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"Now we have lots of athletes in the youth and open categories so that shows they are continuing on with the sport as they get older. That is a great thing to see the growth of athletics in our First Nation and Métis communities."

Lucas Lapratt from Waterhen Lake

"Nice seeing other athletes run and do what I like to do, which is running."

New to the meet this year was the Community Relay Challenge where organizers asked sponsors and community groups to participate in a 4 x 100 relay. Six teams took up the challenge includ-



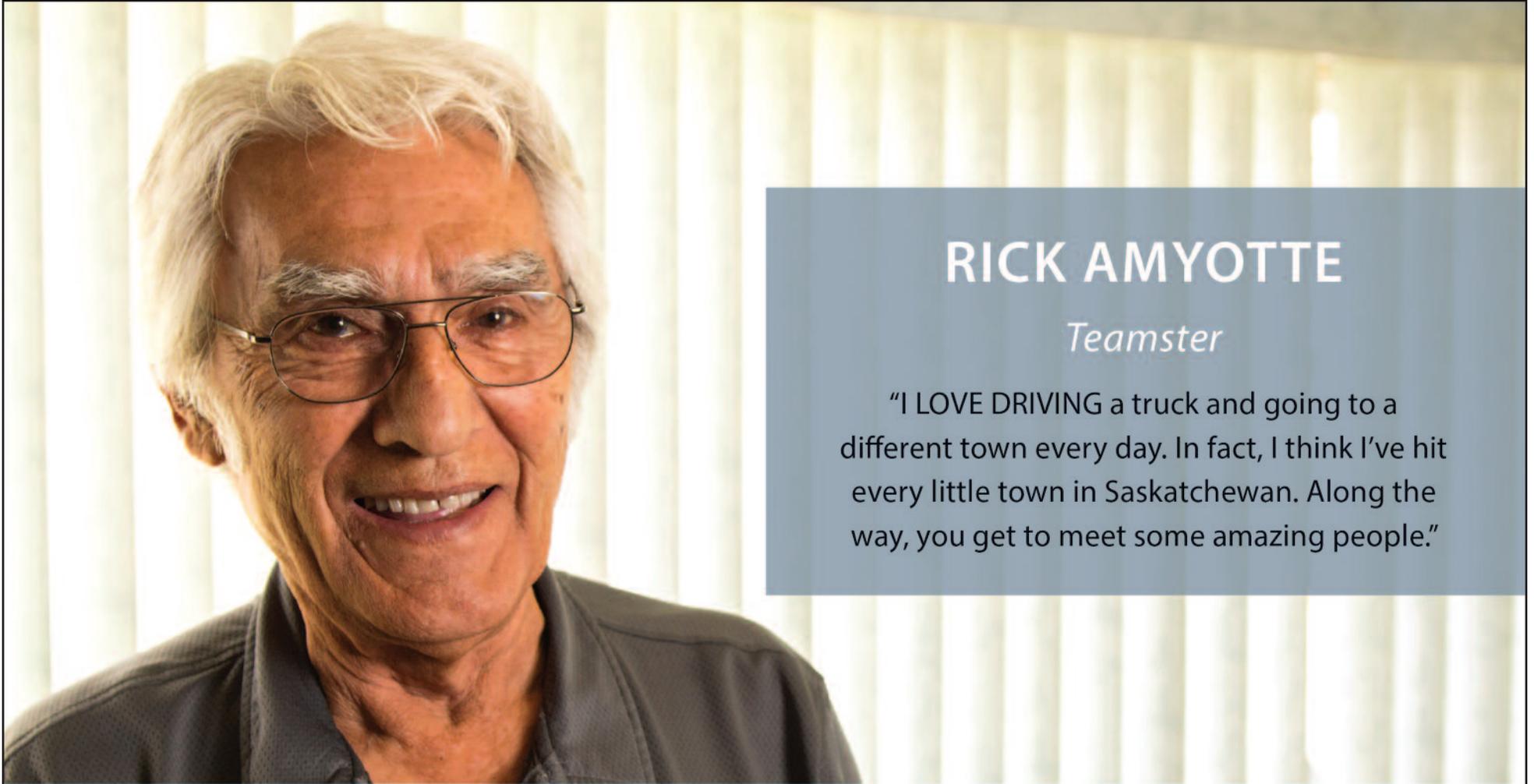
Athletes from north, south, east and west came to battle in their respective disciplines. And sportsmanship was always front and centre. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

competed in the 60 meter and 200 meter races. The Grade 9 student is also on the North American Indigenous Games team and is using the meet as a stepping stone to the big event this summer.

"This really helps as a practice to

ing the winning Fire Department team.

A valiant effort was put in by the City of Saskatoon team that included Mayor Charlie Clark, Coun. Bev Dubois, Special Olympian Bo Carrier and Celeste Cross-Child but they came up short.



## RICK AMYOTTE

*Teamster*

"I LOVE DRIVING a truck and going to a different town every day. In fact, I think I've hit every little town in Saskatchewan. Along the way, you get to meet some amazing people."

### Rick Amyotte:

#### *It's been a great ride*

When it comes to Rick Amyotte's job, he's in it for the long-haul.

Amyotte began driving trucks as a teamster once he received his chauffeur's license in 1956. He didn't retire until the age of 73 due to health reasons. However, the 77-year-old said he's still willing and able to take on the odd job here and there.

"I'm ready anytime they call me," said Amyotte, who was born in the Resort Village of Katepwa. "I love driving a truck and going to a different town every day. In fact, I think I've hit every little town in Saskatchewan. Along the way, you get to meet some amazing people. The training is always ongoing and you learn something every day. Every day there's something different."

Amyotte's career began in Regina with a company called Soo Security Motorways. However, he's had the opportunity to travel across the country over the years. Jobs would often take him through the mountains and he also used to run up to Yellowknife on the ice roads.

He said that one of the most challenging jobs he did was the transportation of pipelines.

"Sometimes for a year at a time I hauled pipe and strung it. It can be dangerous because you're playing with 90-foot pipe all the time," he said. "As a truck driver, you're often on the road for 12 to 14 hours a day, so every job has its challenges. You get a little tired sometimes, but then you stop for a coffee or a meal break."

Early on in his career, Amyotte joined Teamsters, Local 395. Over the years, he has witnessed a lot of positive changes in the union that has led to more benefits for drivers.

"I've enjoyed being a member all of these years," he said. "They have really taken great strides to put truck drivers first. You definitely have a sense of protection with the union behind you. Employers can't tell you, 'Hello and goodbye.' They have to have a legitimate excuse for getting rid of you."

"I have met a lot of operators over the years who didn't work for a union. You'd see these drivers one day and then after that you wouldn't see them again."

When it comes down to it, Amyotte said it was the friendships he formed on the job and while stopping at small-town coffee shops that really stick with him. This is apparent when he talks about how he spends his retired days living in Regina.

"I like to socialize with some of the older people I worked with; that's my hobby," he said. "We meet every day and have coffee in the morning or we go for a beer in the afternoon."

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"I'VE ENJOYED BEING A MEMBER all of these years," he said. "They have really taken great strides to put truck drivers first. You definitely have a sense of protection with the union behind you. Employers can't tell you, 'Hello and goodbye.' They have to have a legitimate excuse for getting rid of you."



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