

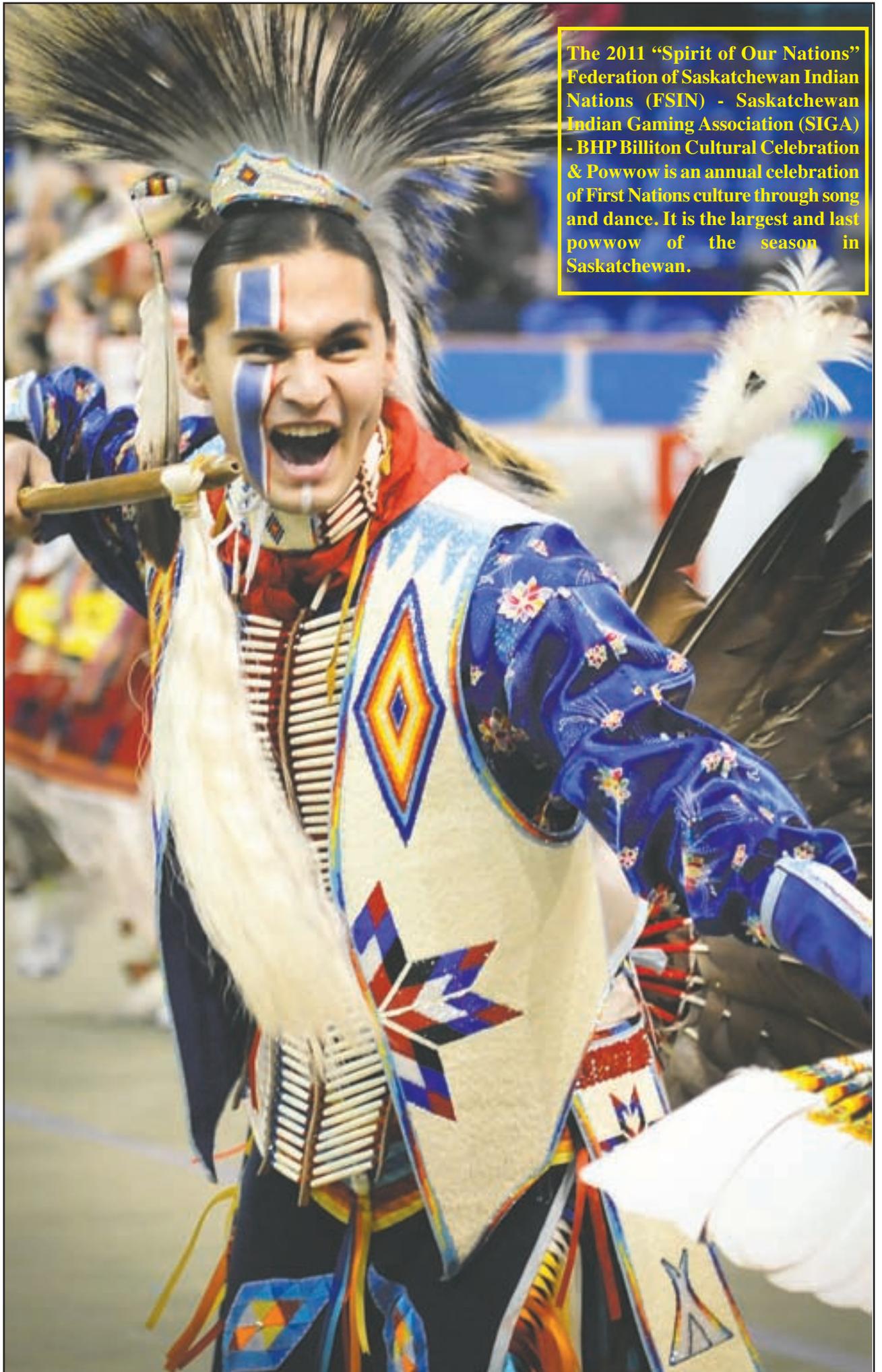
Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Year-end celebration of culture

Jacob Pratt finishes strong for the crowd during the men's traditional competition at the SIGA-BHP Billiton Powwow. More photos on Page 3.

(Photo by Mike Dubois)



The 2011 "Spirit of Our Nations" Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) - Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association (SIGA) - BHP Billiton Cultural Celebration & Powwow is an annual celebration of First Nations culture through song and dance. It is the largest and last powwow of the season in Saskatchewan.



INSIDE



WILL BE MISSED

Respected Elder Isadore Pelletier passed away recently. His loss will be felt at First Nations University. - Page 3



BEAR EARNS HONOUR

Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear is a recipient of Saskatchewan's highest honour. - Page 6



OCEAN MAN SUCCESS

Chief Gloria Shepherd is working hard to help her members find jobs and develop good work habits. - Page 16



LANGUAGE KEEPER

Ken Crowe knows from personal experience how important it is to retain your language and pass it on to youth. - Page 24



INSPIRED BY SPORTS

Amanda Stonechild has found inspiration and success in her sports pursuits as well as a SaskTel Youth Award. - Page 25

Welcome to our Christmas Edition
Coming In January:
Year in Review Issue
CPMA #40027204

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK - Tyrone Tootoosis - Curator & Manager of Cultural Resources

Sikakwayan Oral History and Archival Visual Collections

- Wanuskewin Heritage Park is now home to the Sikakwayan Oral History Collection and Archival Visual Collection. The oral history collection consists of recorded interviews of Elders from many different projects including First Nation Elder's Conferences, one-on-one interviews, book manuscripts, film, video, radio and theatre. WHP hopes these interviews can be made available to the children, grandchildren and greatgrand children of the Elders who were interviewed including both teachers and students. I was gifted with cassette tape copies of most of the interviews that were done with the Elders from the North Battleford area First Nations. The following is a brief summary on where some of the Elder interview recordings came from:

WILFRED TOOTOOSIS COLLECTION - My late father Wilfred interviewed many Elders over several decades. I distinctly remember when Dad interviewed and recorded Elder Antoine Lonesinger who shared story after story late into the winter nights of the early 1960's. Antoine used to live with us in our little house on Poundmaker in the early 1960's and he was renowned for being a master story teller with a formidable memory. Dad also worked on several other projects including interviewing and then transcribing Elder's interviews from Cree into English. This included Allen Sapp's first autobiography. As well, Dad interviewed Elders from Frog Lake, Poundmaker, Little Pine, Sweetgrass, Beardy's Okimasis and One Arrow First Nations for Dr. Blair Stonechild's 1980's Case Study on the tragic events of 1885.

BERNELDA WHEELER COLLECTION - It was in the winter of 2000 when I was gifted with a few boxes of reel to reel tapes of interviews of First Nation Elders by my mother-in-law Bernelda. These interviews were from her highly successful career as host, producer and investigative journalist for her radio program *Our Native Land* between 1972 and 1982. My late father always had one or two radios blaring in the house, upstairs and downstairs and always tuned to CBC Radio. I remember listening to Bernelda as she dedicated it specifically to aboriginal issues. She was also the author of numerous short stories and poems and was best known for her four children's books. She received the Children's Choice and the Toronto Children's Book Award for "Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?" and "I Can't Have Bannock but the Beaver has a Dam".

NORMA SLUMAN & JEAN GOODWILL COLLECTION - Shortly after Norma Sluman passed, her children contacted me and then gifted me with a couple of boxes of their late Mother's recorded interviews, original photographs, newspaper clippings, original letters and many other documents from her seminal work in writing autobiographies on Crowfoot, Poundmaker and John Tootoosis.

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER COLLECTION - From 1970 to 1978, the SICC hosted both Men and Women Elder's workshops which resulted in approximately 413 Elders being interviewed during this period. The Elders came from over 55 different First Nation communities.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM COLLECTION - Between 1970 to 1978, the RAM Royal Alberta Museum approached the Poorman First Nation and interviewed all the Elders in the community. This resulted in a great collection of stories, teachings and songs.

LOYAL TILL DEATH COLLECTION - This was a project that was a continuum of the Case Study on 1885 by Dr. Blair Stonechild. He coauthored this book with Dr. Bill Waiser in an effort to present the First Nation's perspective on the fateful events of 1885.

STAN CUTHAND COLLECTION - A few years ago, I received a phone call from Stan Cuthand requesting that I go and see him at his home. I called him and made plans to do so. Upon my arrival at his place, he informed me that he was going to give me his oral history collection of cassette tapes which he promptly did.



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SPIRIT OF OUR NATIONS POWWOW



Tiny tots holding hands during intermission on Saturday afternoon hope to someday dance like junior jingle dress dancer Patience Benjoe (right).
(Photos by Mike Dubois)



Eli Snow dances with his baby Wakinyan Ahee during intermission songs.



Newly elected Vice Chief Bobby Cameron receives his headdress during a swearing-in ceremony.
(Photo by Mike Dubois)

2011 "Spirit of Our Nations" FSIN-SIGA-BHP Billiton Cultural Celebration & Pow Wow

Artwork by: Garry Meeches

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Editorial

Lonechild made unfortunate news

Last year in this space we looked back and chose the First Nations University of Canada controversy as the newsmaker of the year for 2010. Operations are now running smoothly as the new board has hired a new president and the school is returning to normal. This normal was made possible by the leadership of the then Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Guy Lonechild.

Little did we know that almost one year later, the sky would fall on Lonechild and his remarkable career in First Nation politics. By a majority vote of Eagle Feather News writers, Guy Lonechild has been named newsmaker of the year for 2012. The revelation of his impaired driving charge created a media and political storm that soon dominated the headlines in Saskatchewan.

The vote was a close one as our voters also mentioned the devastating tsunami in Japan, the democracy revolutions in the Middle East and even the deaths of three hockey enforcers. Also mentioned and dearly missed was our old pal, the iconic Gordon Tootoosis, who passed away this summer. The housing crisis at Attawapiskat has recently barrelled onto the news scene, but the votes were already tallied.

But it was the surprise revelation of the drunk driving charge and eventual guilty plea and political firestorm that took up most ink in Saskatchewan. With the revelation, Lonechild came under attack by those that had voted him in. They felt betrayed because they were kept in the dark about something that eventually brought embarrassment to the Federation and to Lonechild himself.

The alleged large buyout negotiated for him and his staff had people scratching their heads and wondering about the direction of the Federation into the future. The entire episode was sad as prior to this, Guy Lonechild had enjoyed an excellent career and shown strong leadership up till the point of making the bad decision to drive drunk, then conceal the charges. In a recent CBC interview Lonechild stated he was moving on and working as a consultant with individual bands. We wish him and his family all the best as he was not a villain in this process; he was a victim of addiction and bad advice.

Many questions have been asked and the leaders of the Federation have now taken a long hard look at how they do things up there and change is imminent.

In this, the 65th year of operations for the Federation, they are leaving behind one of their toughest years ever and have celebrated, rightfully so, with an amazing gala that honoured former and current leaders.

After all of the controversy the Federation had this year, it is important to remember all of the gains made in education, employment and business in the past 65 years. We do know how hard it is for First Nation and Métis leaders in this day and age. Just imagine what it was like 65 years ago.

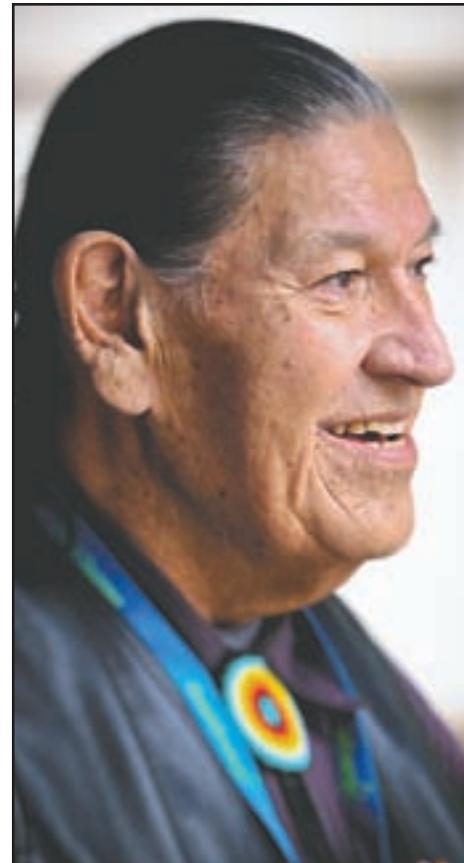
On behalf of all the folks that bring you Eagle Feather News every month, we wish you a safe and merry Christmas season.

Respected First Nations University of Canada Elder, Isadore Pelletier passes

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

Hundreds of people gathered at the First Nations University of Canada on December 4, 2011. They were saying goodbye to renowned elder Isadore Pelletier, and his wife Joan.

Isadore died November 30 in Regina, with his wife by his side, at the age of 74. Joan passed away just two days later.



ISADORE PELLETIER

At the service, the couple's niece, Maria Adams, said the two were always inseparable.

"My aunty was always beside my uncle, always there," Adams said. "She sacrificed a lot to do that," she added.

Adams said the couple spent that last day holding hands. When a nurse jokingly asked Joan if that was "her boyfriend," Joan answered, "Yeah! We're in love."

Isadore was born in Lestock, Saskatchewan. He was an ironworker

for 37 years. When he retired, he started spending time at the First Nations University, then known as Saskatchewan Indian Federated College.

He was a resident elder for students and staff at FNUniv for almost 20 years.

Cadmus Delorme is the student president at FNUniv's Regina campus. He says Isadore will be dearly missed.

"He always served the people," Delorme said. "You know to me that's what a traditional leader is, that's what a ceremonial leader is and Isadore was just that and I am so glad that I had the last four years to know Isadore," he added.

Delorme says Isadore personally helped him through the crisis times at First Nations University – and helped him learn about his traditional roots.

"I did not know pipe ceremony before I came to First Nations University," Delorme said.

"He was my guidance teacher, he was my spiritual teacher and I am going to miss him dearly," he added.

In an interview he gave in September, Isadore said he was passionate about education.

"People would come in here and they would say 'I would like to be a teacher,'" Isadore said. "I would tell them that's very important," he added.

Isadore said it "brought tears to (his) eyes" the day he realized the University's Regina building was finally going up. He spoke about how much he enjoyed his 18 years at FNUniv.

"I just love the work, I love working at this university," he said. "I hope I made a difference in this place, I hope I did."

Pelletier's family has asked people to make donations to a scholarship fund, set up through CIBC at the Victoria Square Mall in Regina.

Eagle Feather NEWS

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204 OSSN #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 faxed to our office. Forms are available on our website.

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This issue printed on: December 10, 2011 Next issue to be printed on: January 11, 2012

Isadore and Joan, a beautiful love story

Seventy-five-year old elder, healer and community champion Isadore Pelletier, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at the Pasqua Hospital in Regina.

He was followed by his wife Joan on Friday, Dec. 2. The joint wake and funeral held at First Nations University was filled to capacity and the love and respect people had for the "gentle giant" as he was known, and for his tiny wife, was evident in the memories and stories shared by students and friends.

Young people in particular talked about their kindness, generosity and inclusiveness.

"They never made us feel lesser because we didn't know our language or culture," one of them said. "They were just really kind with lots of room in their hearts for everyone."

"They were inseparable," another man said. "They reminded me of my grandma and grandpa. If Isadore was around you always knew Joan was nearby so it was no surprise that when it was time to go home they went together. Isadore just went ahead to make camp," the man laughed and that made sense to all of us.

I met Isadore in the early 1980s when we shared a table at a conference where we were both speaking. I was feeling very nervous and trying not to show it but I guessed he sensed it because he leaned over and whispered words of support.

I never forgot that because he made me feel like I had something useful to say

and his kindness gave me courage to do my work.

Our friendship developed around the things we were passionate about. The ceremonies and teachings that helped us come home, our shared road allowance history and our work with community.

Both Joan and Isadore believed that the key to a good life was education, a good grounding in the cultural knowledge and history of our people and the ability to give unconditional love and support all of which was reflected in the way they lived their lives. I feel blessed to have known them.

Isadore was born in 1937 on the Lestock Road Allowance in the Qu'Appelle Valley. In an interview he did for an upcoming documentary film, he talked about the good times of childhood. He also spoke about the grinding poverty and the feeling of powerlessness he felt as a child when Lestock became one of several road allowance communities to be burned down and the people forced to leave in the late 1940s.

"I remember all of us getting on the train. We couldn't take very much, our blankets, some clothes, a few horses, and some chickens that was about all. It was pretty darn sad. I remember my mom crying as the train pulled out and we saw some men running around with torches setting fire to our houses."

It was this memory of powerlessness that was the motivation in his work for change and in particular his work with young people.

"I never wanted anyone else to feel as powerless as I did that day," he said.

Joan was born and raised on the Starblanket First Nation. She worked for many years as a nurse at the Pasqua Hospital and retired from there as a social worker.

She and Isadore met and fell in love.

He always said she was "as pretty as a new penny." They were married for 52 years and raised four children.

At the time of their death they had 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

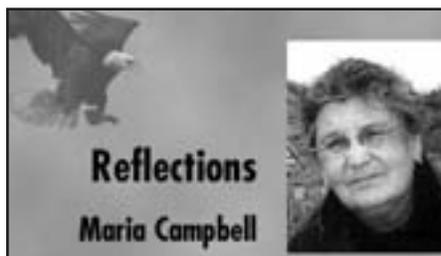
dren whom they loved and were very proud of.

Last night in a coffee shop working on this column, I became distracted by a couple in their mid-seventies who sat down across from me and immediately began texting on their cell phones. Except for the occasional chuckles and the ordering of their latte's not one word was spoken between them in an hour and a half.

I couldn't help but think about Isadore and Joan, who after 50 years of marriage still laughed, talked and flirted with each other and who in fact held hands in their shared hospital room until Isadore left.

Now, I don't want to be the old lady who does not believe in technology while typing on a computer, but this couple could have learned a thing or two about love from Isadore and Joan. But mind you, that couple could have been texting sweet nothings to each other.

Can death be romantic? Of course it can. The story of the two of them sharing a hospital room and holding hands is beautiful. In this day and age a 52-year marriage is almost unheard of. To hold hands and plan the trip to the other world together is inspiring. We will miss them and I am sure I speak for all of us when I say to their family, hiy, hiy, marci and thank you for sharing your parents with us. They were very special and our prayers and love are with you during this Christmas and the many more to come.



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Chief Bear honoured with Saskatchewan Order of Merit



Darcy Bear is the Chief of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and he was just admitted into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the highest award a citizen of Saskatchewan can earn.

In 1994 he became Chief and is currently serving his sixth term. Chief Bear's accomplishments have made him a leader recognized throughout Canada and through strong governance and economic development he has fostered relationships between First Nations and non-First Nations people.

He has been named one of the "Ten Most Influential People in Saskatchewan" by Saskatchewan Business magazine. Whitecap was also awarded the CANDO "Economic Developer of the Year" for 2006. Chief Bear continues to play instrumental roles on numerous boards and commissions to enhance the future of First Nations people in Saskatchewan and Canada. Eagle Feather News caught up to Chief Bear at Whitecap and asked for his thoughts on his newest award.

Eagle Feather News: So have you seen the list of the Sask Order of Merit recipients?

Chief Bear: All I know is there are 184 people named since 1985. I know some of the folks like Ray Ahenakew, Lester Lafond and Alma Kytwahat.

Eagle Feather News: The list contains some really established people that have done some amazing things for the province. You are about 20 years younger than everybody so you're coming in as the

young guy at the Sask Order of Merit. What does it mean to you being acknowledged at that level at such a young age? Are you shocked?

Chief Bear: To tell you the truth when I first got the phone call that I was nominated for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit I didn't even know what the award was. So I said what is this about? What kind of award is this? Then the lady said it is the highest honour in Saskatchewan. I said, "Oh really." It certainly is an honour, that you are being acknowledged for the work that we've done, but again it is something that I could not have achieved alone. It is work that I have achieved with my councils through the years because I have had different councils. It is also that I worked with my community members and working with our elders and all of our people. It is all about transparency and accountability. That whole process has given us an open transparent relationship with our people and that has helped us move forward and I think it is because of that relationship that we have built what we have today. We have an economic environment that investors know that their assets are protected when they come into Whitecap. Bankers know that when something goes wrong that our leasehold interests hold value, so it has been a lot of work but I couldn't do it alone. It is a very nice honour.

Eagle Feather News: We have heard you say many times that accountability has helped propel Whitecap into prosperity, but what is the secret to your success?

Chief Bear: Do I have a secret? Always find a solution I guess. Anyone can identify a problem, but what is the solution? That is what I tell my team. When we sit around the table identify the problem, but what is the solution. You need to find the solution. That is the key to our success.

Eagle Feather News: If you could do anything different in your entire life what would it be? Any regrets? Anything left on the table that makes you look back and say I wish I would have done something different?

Chief Bear: Actually I was raised in my community by my grandparents and I never grew up ever thinking I would be the Chief of my community. There was never anything I ever said I wanted to be when I grew up. I actually studied to become an engineer. I took all the calculus, the geotrig, the physics, the chemistry all those things I had to take. I had an 89 average coming out of high school. I actually got accepted into the College of Engineering, but engineering wasn't for me and I ended up in the College of Commerce. Then all of a sudden I get this calling to come and lead in the community and actually I have no regrets now because I was raised here in the community. I have seen the difference

in my community members and the quality of life we have now. Even the water we drink today with the reverse osmosis system with certified operators. It is all these things. The paved roads, street lights, the jobs, the opportunities. It is all these things. It is good to see. We made change in our community.

Eagle Feather News: If you were not chosen to lead what would you be doing today?

Chief Bear: Oh I probably would have been entrepreneur somewhere. I would be doing business absolutely. It is something that comes easy to me. A lot of the things that we have done here in our community, it has been right from the ground up, right from the first idea making it happen.

Eagle Feather News: Any tips for young people that want to get into leadership, entrepreneurship whatever it may be. What can you hand down to people who look at your success and want to know a couple of tips?

Chief Bear: Listen. You have to be a good listener. You go to school, they teach you how to read and teach you how to write, but they never really teach you how to listen right, and I think that is very important. You have to listen and be empathetic. Put yourself in the other person's shoes and always be willing to help because someday you may need help yourself.

That is very important. And of course, always be on time. Always.

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Recognizing exceptional youth a proud, annual tradition

By Kerry Benjoe
for Eagle Feather News

The Proud Generation Aboriginal Role Model program has once again found some exceptional Saskatchewan youths to profile this year – from a figure skater to a world champion bull rider to an accomplished artist.

Each year, committee members select 12 to 14 role models from around the province, who are between the ages of 15 and 30, to feature in its annual A Proud Generation Calendar.

The program highlights the achievements and success stories of aboriginal youth in the province.

“This year was a little bit different because we added in a new feature,” said Kristin Francis, chair of the committee. “What we did was invite a past Proud Generation role model and did a feature on (him), like a flashback.”

She said a role model from the first calendar was selected and it was great to see where he was then and where he's at now.

Francis said it's difficult for her and her six-member committee to select youth to profile.

This year, the calendar profiles 12 role models plus the feature on the past role model.

“They are all really good and are successful in their own way,” said Francis. “The goal of the calendar is to inspire youth to basically set goals for themselves and ultimately achieve them. We hope that we can provide some role models so people can look up to them and realize that they can do that too.”

The committee looks for role models who are pursuing post-secondary education or a trade, volunteerism as well as their past accomplishments.

Francis said this year the Casino Regina is the presenting sponsor.

“We wouldn't be able to put together the calendar without our sponsors,” said Francis.



Back Row (L-R) - Eric Johnstone, Big River First Nation, Ty Taypotat, Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Christine Ginter, Saskatoon, Kirk Bear, Ochapowace First Nation, Garrett Gosselin, Regina, Thomas Benjoe, Regina. Front Row (L-R) - Chandre Lerat-Yew, Cowessess First Nation, Tara Willett, Little Pine First Nation, Jessica Gervais, Piapot First Nation, Kendra Weenie, Sweetgrass First Nation, Jenna Tanner, Cowessess First Nation.

Other sponsors include SaskEnergy, PotashCorp. and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

The calendars can be purchased at the Casino Regina and Moose Jaw box offices, Cowessess Gas Bar, Creeland Mini mart or online at www.aproudgeneration.com.

“The proceeds go back into the program and that's how we provide the bursaries,” said Francis. “We're doing a lot more work within the community, such as getting the role models to go out and make presentations.”

The calendar was launched in 2003 by Tracy George-Heese when she was working at an inner-city high school in Regina.

Despite its humble beginnings, George-Heese knew the project had potential. She dedicated five years to ensuring the calendar would become what she envisioned and has turned over to a youth committee, which was her original goal.

George-Heese believes there's potential for further growth and would like to one day see such a calendar in every major city in the province.

On behalf of the
**Saskatchewan Indian
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and happy holiday season*

*Merry
Christmas*



The perfect traditional gift ... a horse, of course

“Mom can I have a pony for Christmas?” How many parents are going to hear that their children want a real horse for Christmas or their birthday or for Easter?

I remember growing up and wishing I could have a pony but I knew there was no point in asking as we didn't have a place to keep it nor the money to feed it.

Fast forward a few decades and I can finally say that I have a pony – a real live horse!

A couple of weeks ago my daughter's boyfriend called and asked what was I doing the following Saturday? I had no plans. He said, “Well don't make any plans, I'll be at your house at ten in the morning to pick you up,” he told me.

“Where are we going?” I asked.

“I can't tell you. Wait til Saturday.”

Saturday finally came and as promised he was at my door at 10 and he brought my daughter with him. We headed out of town, heading east, and still neither of them would tell me where we were going.

We finally arrived at a small town about 45 minutes from the city and he pulled over and said: “So here's the deal,

I really want to marry your daughter and we are here to buy you a horse.”

I was totally blown away by this gesture. I remembered telling him a story about how men used to offer horses and other livestock to the family of the woman he wished to marry.

“I was only joking when I said you would have to offer me a horse when you asked for my daughter's hand,” I said. “I would be fine with a toy horse; you really don't have to buy me a horse.”

I guess the bar has been set for any future suitors. Who knows, maybe I'll be buying a farm in the future.

He insisted so into the building we went. We walked into a livestock auction to purchase a horse! For real!

I know nothing about horses, only that they are beautiful. I have no idea how to pick out a horse.

As we walked through the stalls looking at the horses I asked one of the



other shoppers, “What do you look for in a horse? How will I know which a good horse is and which one is not?” I asked.

One guy knew what he was talking about.

“Look at the legs. See how that horse's knee is twisted? You want to look for a horse with straight legs. See that horse with one blue eye and a white face? They are prone to getting cancer,” he says.

I had no idea there were so many

things to consider when purchasing a horse.

I saw this beautiful little cinnamon coloured yearling with a white patch on her butt and white socks. This is the horse I picked. I made a mental note of the number attached to her and now all we had to do was wait for the auction to

start.

This young man had thought of everything. His friend owns a horse ranch 30 minutes from the city and he had made arrangements with his friend to keep this horse on his ranch.

He will go out to his friend's farm and clean barns, feed the horses and do whatever he can to ensure my horse is well taken care of. What a guy.

It was a Saturday that will stay in my mind and heart forever. I told my daughter that she is worth so much more than this one little pony and I cried. My daughter is going to get married.

So, I have a horse and a story to tell for years to come. I have four daughters and this will be the first one to get married.

I guess the bar has been set for any future suitors. Who knows, maybe I'll be buying a farm in the future.

I have prayed for the Creator to send good men to my daughters. Men who will love and respect them. So far the three young fellows my daughters have chosen are pretty awesome.

They love my daughters and fit well into our family. Prayers work.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and thank you for reading Eagle Feather News. Ekosi.



Close shave for Doucette

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

With November now being turned into Movember, moustaches have become ubiquitous this time of year to help raise awareness about prostate cancer.

To do his part, since he already had a Mo, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Doucette decided to do the opposite and shave his off his 'stache if his staff raised over \$1,000 for prostate cancer research.

“I've had this moustache for 31 years and thought that offering to shave it off was a fun way to inspire fundraising for this important cause,” said Robert Doucette.

“This campaign is close to my heart as my biological father died of cancer.”

A grand total of \$1,200 was raised,

forcing President Doucette to keep his promise and part with his good friend and lip concealer, his 31-year-old Mo.

Between giggles, Doucette courageously allowed his cookie duster to fall to the ground like yesterday's news. Underneath there was actually a pristine lip and a young and spry looking Métis President.

“It feels weird to talk,” was his biggest adjustment to make but he had no regrets. “If we can raise some awareness and money for a good cause, it is worth it. Now I'm going to start growing my moustache back.”



Aboriginal Agriculture and Land Management Post-Graduate Diploma

Food security and land resource management are two of the major issues facing Aboriginal people in Canada today. There is a growing need for professionally trained people with the necessary skills to handle these challenging and complex problems.

The Aboriginal agriculture and land management diploma is specifically designed to prepare students for employment in the agriculture and agribusiness sector as well as to develop the skills necessary to become effective land and resource managers. The program blends applied training in agribusiness management and agricultural production systems with training in land and resource management issues specific to Aboriginal communities. This program will be of interest to Aboriginal students with a wide range of academic backgrounds.

Financial assistance is available to eligible students through the generous support of the Sprott Family Foundation.



For additional information and applications:

Wayne Robinson
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Campus Masinahikanis

A University of Saskatchewan notebook

Tansi and tawaw! Greetings from the faculty and students of the Native Studies Department at the University of Saskatchewan.

“Campus Masinahikan” (little notes) is about sharing what we are doing here on campus – as researchers, community activists, and teachers – and to encourage more dialogue and community engagement.

Each column will include research notes on one or more research projects our people are engaged in as well as notes on activities and interesting initiatives. This month Dr. Priscilla Settee shares a bit about her recent book *Âhkamêyimowak*.

Research Notes: There is a force among women which I call *Âhkamêyimowak*, or persistence, which provides the strength for women to carry on in the face of extreme adversity. I have given my new book this name.

Âhkamêyimowak, is a Cree word and embodies the strength that drives women to survive, flourish and work for change within their communities. Women are the unsung heroes of their communities, often using minimal resources to challenge oppressive structures and create powerful alternatives in the arts, education, and workplace.

Stories are a means of transmitting vital information from within community as well as to outside communities. The stories of women are central to my life and my work. What sets this book apart from other books about women is the central role of culture. While it is ever adapting and changing, the role of Aboriginal culture on

community, families, and relationships has deep impact on women.

Since the 1970s, I have worked with Native women at the local, regional, national, and later, international levels. Since the late 1970s, the global community has been my home and my working space. Over the years, I have developed relationships with colleagues and friends learning about Indigenous struggles in many regions of the world. I have been inspired to learn the stories and saddened as I realized the inequities that exist in not only faraway places in the world but right here as well.

It is important to analyze the situation of our Indigenous communities' within a larger context – a set of relations, as it were. Relations are something fundamental to Indigenous communities the world over.

Besides our human relationships, there is a bigger set of relationships that keep some people marginalized and others in positions of power.

This book tells the stories of both sets of relationships. Some women tell powerful personal stories and others describe institutional relationships that

keep Indigenous women in Canada – along with women generally, people of colour, Indigenous peoples and youth around the world – in the margins. In both

cases, the clarity of vision that comes from the margins is astounding and compelling.

In the Cree worldview, a core value is *miyo-wichih-towin*, which means “having good relations.” Individually and collectively, people are instructed by cultural teachings to strive and conduct themselves in ways that create positive relationships with our extended community.

The concept of extended community and family is fundamental in Indigenous communities. Aunts, uncles, and grandparents are surrogate parents. The community is an extension of the family. I interviewed many aunties, grandmothers and community women to discover what gives them strength, and the power to persist.

Throughout the book the arts such as music, painting, and writing are identified as a powerful form of resistance and source

of healing and a track of forward mobility for women. Indigenous lifestyles and community survival have been greatly impacted on our traditional territories, whether it be clearcut forests, megadams or water pollution, women such as Judy Da Silva represent a voice of resistance to “western development intrusion”.

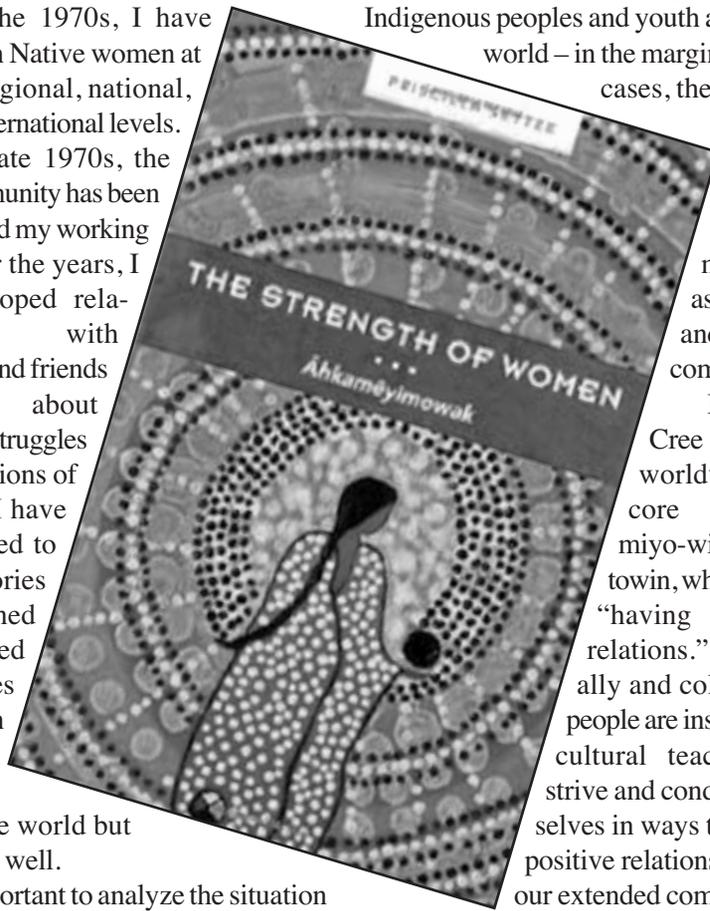
Other stories from the book give recognition to Indigenous women as the backbone of our communities. The *Âhkamêyimowak*, women's stories, produced by Coteau Publishers (Regina) demonstrate their role in the preservation of social, cultural, and economic foundations of their communities.

Initiatives: We are currently undergoing a name change from “Native Studies” to “Indigenous Studies.” We are doing this because “Native” is a vague and imprecise term (it could mean a native Saskatoonian), and also because the other terms do not include non-status Indians or Indigenous peoples from other parts of the world. “First Nations” is exclusively used to refer to Bands or status Indians, while “Aboriginal” has been defined in the Canadian Constitution as “Indians, Metis, and Inuit.”

We strive to refer to peoples by what they call themselves but when we are talking about experiences that we share on a global level, the term “Indigenous” is both respectful and inclusive – it includes all Indigenous peoples regardless of how colonial governments define them.

We invite your feedback or comments.
Email: native.studies@usask.ca

– Contributed by *Priscilla Settee and Winona Wheeler*



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The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Board (RAB) and the Aboriginal Regional Advisory Board (Ab-RAB), is currently accepting funding applications from organizations interested in obtaining financial assistance to achieve the priorities established by the Saskatchewan RAB and Ab-RAB specific to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) – Rural and Remote and Aboriginal Homelessness funding streams to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Homelessness Partnering Strategy Call for Proposals

Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be received at:

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Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8

no later than **January 31st, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.**

For an application package or more information, contact:

Tamara McKay at 306-953-8421 or tamara.mckay@servicecanada.gc.ca.

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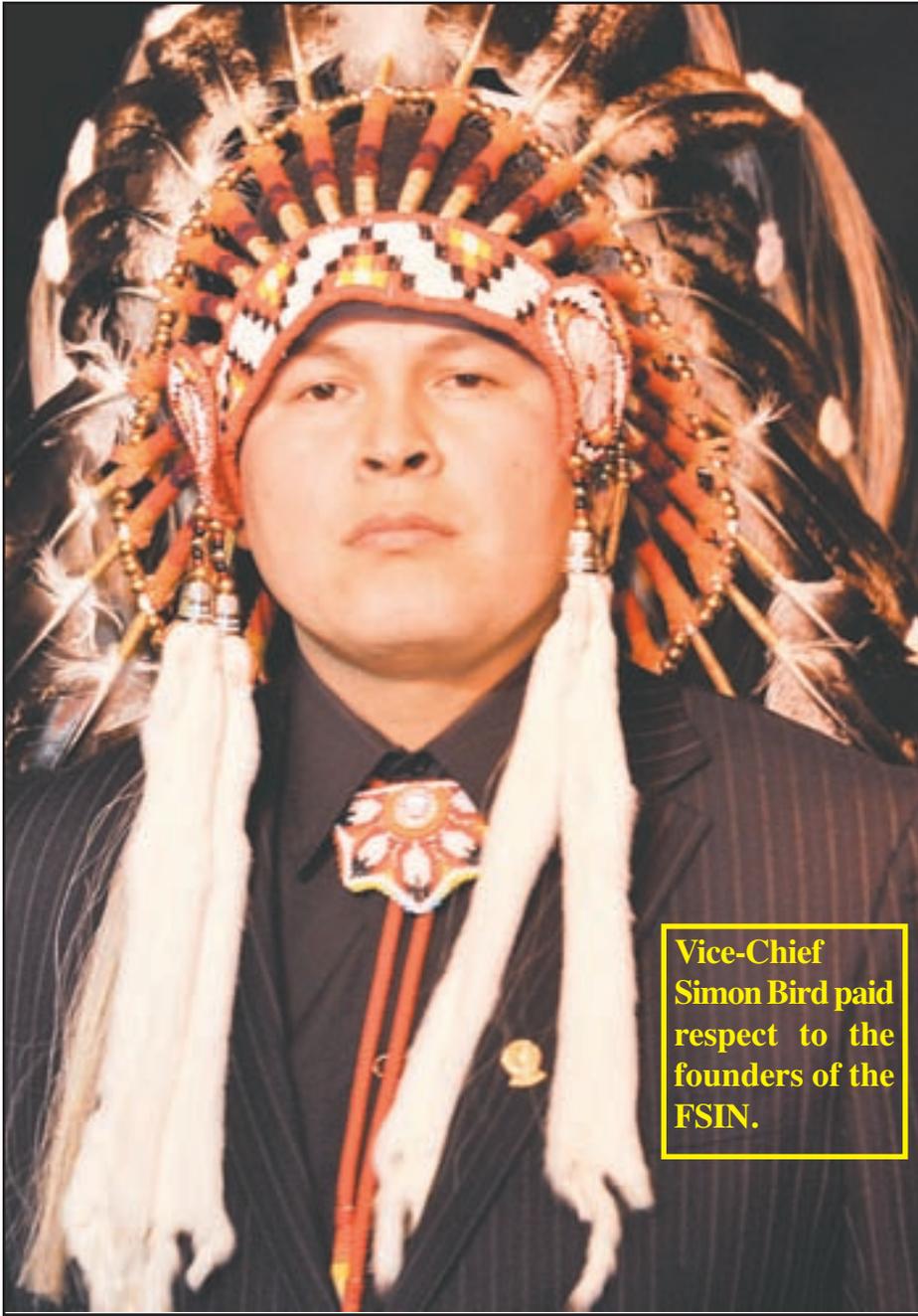
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**Vice-Chief
Simon Bird paid
respect to the
founders of the
FSIN.**

FSIN honours founding fathers

By Delaney Windigo
For Eagle Feather News

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) honoured the founding fathers and past leaders of the organization at a 65th anniversary gala in Saskatoon on December 9.

The organization, which represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, invited families of those who founded the organization and honoured them at the event.

"It's nice to see the families being honoured," said former FSIN chief, Blaine Favel. "It takes a lot of energy out of the family, so it's just nice to see the community recognizing the sacrifice."

Starting in 1946 through an amalgamation of several organizations, the Union of Saskatchewan Indians was formed, the predecessor to the FSIN. This new political organization would form a collective voice for First Nations people across the province.

Issues regarding the protection of treaty rights were at the forefront of the organization's goals. Improving education, social and economic outcomes for First Nations were other objectives.

Aiming to fulfill its mandate, in 1972, the FSI wrote a paper calling for, "Indian Control of Indian Education." This led to the replacement of residential schools with band controlled schools.

The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (now the First Nations University of Canada), other educational and cultural institutions were spearheaded by the FSIN.

"We've had many great leaders that have built the organization to what it is today," commented FSIN vice chief Morley Watson.

Despite its successes, the FSIN has been shrouded in controversy in recent years.

• Continued on Page 13



Sol Sanderson was a respected chief of the FSIN from 1979 to 1986.

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Organization survived peaks and valleys

• Continued from Page 12

Most recently, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority fired the chair of its board. The chair alleged he was fired because he wanted to cut the board's spending.

The FSIN was also the center of attention this year when former chief Guy Lonechild was ousted following a drunk driving conviction.

The First Nations University had its funding pulled after allegations of refusal to reform and financial misspending.

Regardless of those controversies, Favel

said the FSIN is still relevant and needed.

"I think they had a rough year last year with the leadership crisis," Favel said. "(But) because of the elders council, the senate, the role of veterans, the role of the women, it's a very strong organization."

The gala reflected on and honoured those who formed the FSIN and all of the chiefs who served the organization.

"The Federation has been through some peaks and valleys but we've always managed to stay unified," Vice chief Watson said.



Former Chiefs Perry Bellegarde and Blaine Favel renewed acquaintances at the gala. (Photos by Mike Dubois)



Buffy Sainte-Marie, a member of Piapot First Nation, entertained at the gala.

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Report identifies \$90 billion gap in Aboriginal education

By Lisa Wilson
For Eagle Feather News

On November 9, 2011 Gabriel Dumont Institute, along with economist Eric Howe, held a public event for the release of a new report by Howe on bridging the Aboriginal education gap in Saskatchewan.

The report title, Mishchetaen kishkayhtamihk nawut ki wiichihthonaan: Bridging the Aboriginal Education Gap in Saskatchewan, begins with a Michif phrase which means: "The more knowledge we have the more we help one another."

We chose this title to honour our Métis heritage language, and our Elders, the traditional knowledge keepers, who have taught us that learning, sharing knowledge, and helping one another is a cherished traditional value.

According to the report, Saskatchewan's economy is foregoing \$90 billion by not closing the Aboriginal education gap. The lost benefits are

greater than all sales of potash in the history of Saskatchewan. In a province where our greatest natural resource is thought to be potash, this research sheds new light on what we thought we knew to be true.

An even greater resource is Aboriginal people – and this is a resource that we have not developed. By closing the Aboriginal education gap, Howe notes, we could be looking at a first-ever made-in-Saskatchewan economic boom with greater impact and permanence than the natural resource or technological booms of the past. Report

"Closing Saskatchewan's Aboriginal education gap would have the direct effect of yielding \$90 billion in benefits," said Howe.

"To put this into context, the potash industry is universally understood to be critical to the economy of our province. However, the total production of potash in Saskatchewan back to the start of the industry is four-fifths of \$90 billion."

In the three-part report, Howe notes

that without an education Aboriginal people earn dramatically less than non-Aboriginal people, but education causes earnings to catch up. Thus, Aboriginal earnings increase more with education than for non-Aboriginals.

Not only are there benefits to the individual, but also significant benefits to society. Howe combines the benefits of bridging the Aboriginal education gap to come up with the \$90 billion figure.

"This report is an eye opener," said Glenn Lafleur, Vice Chair of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

"Most people understand the importance of education to earnings in a general sort of way. What this report does is to show just how much, in dollar figures, that benefit is worth."

Howe also examines the socioeconomic benefit of Saskatchewan's only Métis professional degree program, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).

He concludes that although the size of the Aboriginal education gap is large



Geordy McCaffrey welcomed the report.

and will take decades to bridge, it would have been larger without the contributions that SUNTEP has made with its 975 Aboriginal graduates.

The full report is available for download at www.gdins.org

Howe is an economist and Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan whose specialties include Aboriginal social policy research and the economy of the Canadian prairies. The Gabriel Dumont Institute engaged Professor Howe to conduct the research.

Métis flag takes rightful place in Regina

Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

It was a historic day when the City of Regina permanently raised the Métis flag.

"We may be the first city to do it, but it wasn't about us, it was about the recognition of our Métis people," said Mayor Pat Fiocco.

On Nov. 15, the Métis flag was raised in the courtyard of city hall, where it is become a permanent fixture alongside the national, provincial, British, municipal and Treaty 4 flags.

The Treaty 4 flag was raised Oct. 16 in a similar ceremony at city hall.

"There's no question that we're making history and we're certainly hoping other cities will follow," said Fiocco. "It is recognition of the history of our country, particularly, in our province and in our city in respect to both First Nations and Métis culture and peoples."

Russell Fayant, member of the Regina Riel Métis Council, commended the mayor and his council for being brave enough to be the first city in Canada to fly the Treaty 4 and Métis flags.

"It's quite a momentous occasion," he said. "I see it as a metaphor. First Nation and Métis are people starting to claim their rightful places in Regina, in Saskatchewan (and) in society. Symbols can be powerful things and I think both those flags speak to the growing recognition that people of this province have for our contributions."

During the event, Fayant provided a history of the Métis flag. The flag consists of two circles coming together, which represent the joining of two cultures – indigenous and European – to create a new and



The Métis flag flies proudly in front of Regina's City hall

distinct culture.

"It was given to us as a gift from the Northwest

Company in 1816, which makes it the oldest flag indigenous to Canada," said Fayant. "The Fleur-de-lis and the British ensign were imported and the Maple Leaf didn't come around until 1976."

Fayant said to witness the event was both motivating and miraculous.

"As a Métis person living in Regina, we don't have very many symbols of our culture to reflect back at us," said Fayant. "For the Métis youth, who attended the ceremony today, I hope that they look at that flag and think that they have things to aspire to and be proud to show their culture."

Once the flag was raised everyone in the courtyard broke into dance.

Fayant said for Métis people it's not uncommon for them to celebrate by dancing the Red River jig and that's exactly what happened on that cold November day.

Fiocco joined in the festivities and said the spontaneous dancing that occurred was a high point because he knew what the city had done was a good thing.

The event coincided with national celebrations that commemorated Métis leader Louis Riel who died on Nov. 16, 1885.

Fayant said the irony was not lost on the Métis people. He said Riel would have passed by that site on his way to court 126 years ago.

"I would like to think his spirit is still with us today and would see this as quite a turnaround in history and the beginning, of hopefully, a meaningful and positive reconciliation between Métis and non-Métis citizens," said Fayant.



The Twelve Days of Christmas: Métis Style

(Adapted by Karon Shmon)

Twelve jiggers jigging,
 Eleven buffalo
 roaming,
 Ten fiddlers fiddling,
 Nine bannocks baking,
 Eight hides a tanning,
 Seven sashes swaying,
 Six beaders beading,
 Five Métis flags,
 Four smoked fish,
 Three parfleche,
 Two spoons to click,
 And a ruffed grouse
 in a
 spruce tree!

2012

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Ocean Man First Nation sees members' potential, helping build better lives

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

Chief Gloria Shepherd of the Ocean Man First Nation is building a better future for her community one member at a time.

She has made it her mission to help unlock an individual's potential by providing the supports they need to become successful.



CHIEF GLORIA SHEPHERD

"It started when I was a councillor and I had the education portfolio," said Shepherd. "We tried to get as much skills and training (opportunities) for our social assistance

clients and, well, basically anyone who needed upgrading or needed some kind of skill development."

She said helping others to help themselves has become her passion.

"We're always looking at ways to assist them on their career path and at the end of the day get them a job or help them find employment," said Shepherd.

Two years ago, when Shepherd became chief, she carried that passion with her into her new leadership role.

Ideally, she would like to have everyone employed and no social assistance clients on Ocean Man.

The First Nation is located 19 kilometres north of Stoughton. The small reserve has a population of approximately 460 members, about 200 of which live on-reserve.

At the start of the year, there were 64 individuals on social assistance. However, by providing education, training and work opportunities that number has been reduced to 25.

"It's going down further because there are more opportunities that we're trying to fit the clientele into," said Shepherd.

She said the leadership actively searches out funding opportunities in order to provide programs for members.

"We have a young membership on-



The pre-trades course at Ocean Man has helped people get into the labour force.

reserve and in order to get them out of the cycle of being dependent on social assistance, we tried to see what training they needed and where they would fit into employment," said Shepherd.

"One of our mandates is to bring down that social assistance dependency. It's not acceptable. We're right in the middle of the oil industry in our area."

She said one of the main reasons she wants to break that dependency cycle is because of the social problems that come along with it.

Shepherd said one cannot adequately sustain themselves on what is provided on social assistance.

In order to break that cycle, Shepherd said barriers to finding employment must be identified and addressed.

"We've been doing life skills (training)," said Shepherd. "We want to make sure they're prepared for lifelong employment or

career development."

This sometimes means helping with things like getting identification, opening a bank account and budgeting.

She said the members who have been able to get off social assistance and find meaningful employment have a new attitude.

"They are much happier," said Shepherd. "They gain more confidence. It's a whole different (attitude) when you go and talk to them.

"They feel like they are participating fully in the economy and the labour force. So it's a good feeling for them and I think that's what we need on First Nations is that people have confidence and a hope for their future."

She admits it hasn't been an easy road to but believes in the long run the efforts put in now will pay off because they are building a stronger, healthier and productive community.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Wishing you peace,
happiness and
prosperity.

 SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN GAMING AUTHORITY

Play Responsibly

Northerners step up for children

Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation, Cameco Corporation and the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan have established a new standard for radiothons in support of the province's new children's hospital.

The three partners raised a total of \$625,856 in the seven-hour radiothon that aired in November across the entire MBC Radio Network. The previous record total raised in a radio fundraiser for this cause was approximately \$320,000.

Cameco provided half of the record total through a matching dollars commitment.

The largest pledge of the day came courtesy of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and its affiliated companies, who contributed \$115,685.

Gary Merasty Vice President of Northern Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility at Cameco, Lac la Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook Searson and Deborah Charles the CEO of Missinipi Broadcasting were integral players and busy with the all day event, and all of them were very pleased with the community involvement and compassion.

"It was a very emotional day for everyone and you could feel a real spirit as we proceeded," said Deb Charles of MBC.

"I am still on a high from it. We had people from all over the North raising money. We even had nursery school students and kindergarten children from Bell's Point bring in \$201 worth of pennies. With Cameco's matching dollars, that's \$400 from kids aged 4 to 6. Amazing."

The Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan has collected just over half of the \$25 million it wants to raise for research, equipment and family-centered care for when the facility opens in 2016.

The provincial government previously committed \$200 million for the new hospital's construction costs.

MBC is getting good at radiothons. Last year they raised over \$200,000 for the ultrasound in their community. With over 100,000 regular listeners across Saskatchewan, they are a force.

"I figured we would raise about \$330,000 this year and we did, but there is even more trickling in and we expect it to grow another \$100,000," added Charles. "And we want to do it again next year. Imagine if we had a year to plan."

"The golf tournaments and extra events we could do. Considering the time allowed this year, we did very well."



Thanks to you, Saskatchewan's children have 625,856 new reasons to smile.

MBC radio's network-wide radio-a-thon in support of the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan raised \$312,928 on November 25. With Cameco's commitment to match every dollar donated, the overall total doubled to \$625,856.

Together, we're making a difference.



Nap Gardiner was one of the organizers as well as a performer during the radiothon.

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Keethanow Lumber and Furniture
KFC La Ronge
Kitsaki Management Ltd. Partnership
Kitsaki Procon LP
La Ronge Elks #554
La Ronge Hotel & Suites
Little Red River Reserve
Northern Enterprises Fund
Northern Lights Foods
NRT LP
Order of the Royal Purple
Pinehouse Business North Development
Pinehouse Lake Co-operative Ltd
Prince Albert Grand Council
Management Co. Ltd.
Robertson Trading
Snake Lake Group of Companies
USW Local 8914 Key Lake/
McArthur River

Worst and best gifts for guys at Christmas

John L: Dirk, my man, rumour has it you've been working on a Christmas special, just for us guys.

Dirk: I been talking with the fellas and it seems our women need help knowing what we really want for Christmas. To help me get a fix on this I canvassed an elite bunch of studs, mental giants and swarthy types called Dirk's Dangerous Posse, or the DDP's as we like to call ourselves.

John L: DDP's, eh. Alright, tell me what this intellectual think tank came up with.

Dirk: John, we're going to start with the worst gifts the guys got, from bad to worst. They are...

10. *Hypnosis Tapes* – what the hell?
9. *Underwear with a Message on the Front* – damn well better be accurate, like *Maximus* or *Gusher*

8. *Filly Scrapbook of Sentiment* – we're dudes, not 12-year-old girls

7. *Poems* – unless your boyfriend is *Bill Shakespeare*, *Robbie Williams* or *Usher* forget it

6. *Celine Dion CD* – already gave him one? He plays it often? Start asking questions

5. *Tickets to a Ballet* – I don't care if the girls are wearing tights

4. *Bathroom Scale* – yeah, we get it

3. *Fluffy Ear Muffs Fitted with Headphones* – the guys are still laughing

2. *Man Bag* – unless your guy is 6'2', 225 pounds and cut like *Georges St. Pierre* forget it

1. *Scrapbook with Photo of Celine Dion and the Words to "My Heart Will Go On"* – what the hell?

John L: Good list. Guess I've been lucky. But I notice socks are not up there.

Dirk: The guys had socks on their worst gift list but I had to overrule them with my large, huge brain-thingy. Socks rock if you consider their symbolic place in many family histories.

John L: Ok. I am sufficiently intrigued, lay the truth on me.

Dirk: As a kid I remember getting socks from Grandpa and thought, "Man, this sucks!" But as I got older I looked forward to getting them because I knew where they came from. For months the old fella saved a piece of his pension just to make sure his grandkids got something. He could afford socks.

John L: That's true, that generation couldn't afford much but they gave what they could, and it was often a huge sacrifice.

Dirk: Then, when the old fella passed, I knew a piece of Christmas left with him. But the next Christmas I got a fresh pack of socks. John, my one feeling was touched. I asked around and the guys remember much the same thing. Some got oranges, others a scarf or mitts.

John L: Alright, but now I'm worried that all I'll get for Christmas is a boat load of socks or oranges from loved ones who are just cheaping out.

Dirk: Good point, John. So you ladies don't mess this up, here are the top 10 gifts guys really want...

10. *Foosball Table* – recalls the teen years when the babes gasped as we jammed the ball and scored

9. *Satellite Radio* – with subscriptions for the comedy channels, but not *Playboy*...what's the point if you can't see

8. *Wireless Headphones* – so we can grab a few precious moments of peace

7. *Leatherman Multi-Tool* – they are just freakin' awesome

6. *Subscription to Men's Health Magazine* – useful stuff

to help us maintain our manhood and keep us on this side of the ground

5. *Certificates for Indoor Golf* – guys only, and don't wait up

4. *Personalized Sports Jersey* – get our favourite team right, and that means no *Maple Leafs*

3. *Play Station 3* – not just for games, but so we can watch the *Notebook* with you in high definition

2. *Wireless Home Theatre Sound System* – so we can hear the *Notebook* in full digital surround sound

1. *Affection* – and by "affection" we mean more physi...

John L: DIRK!... I gotta stop you

right there. This is a family newspaper. Also, we're running out of space. Any final thoughts?

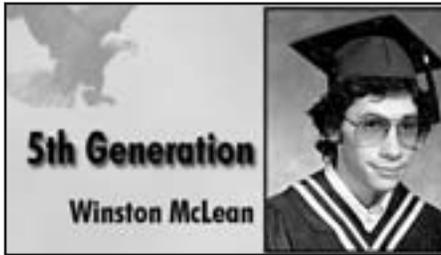
Dirk: Ok John. The coolest but perhaps most difficult gifts include running drills at the Rider training camp or playing a shift in an NHL pre-season game. A pool table or tickets to the Grey Cup or Super Bowl. Electric gadgets are always safe, but some guys, all they want is a huge bag of ripple chips and a can of dip all to ourselves without the withering glare from our women that says, "Those aren't good for you."

John L: Thanks Dirk. Next month, you'll give us your predictions for 2012?

Dirk: You bet. It was a pleasure for you to have me here. By the way, Mr. Lacelinedionlover, what did you do with that frilly scrapbook you got from your boss last year? The DDP's were asking.

Dirk says, "Anyone who believes men are equal to women hasn't seen us wrap gifts."

Send Dirk the love at DirkDashing@shaw.ca



FNUniv labs building bridges

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) now has the facilities to help students and faculty conduct cutting edge research.

The new addition was made possible by Carrie Bourassa, associate professor for Indigenous Health Studies at FNUniv, who secured a \$154,645 infrastructure grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

"I'm so excited," she said, after the launch of the labs. "I never thought I would get the award. It's a hard award to get."

FNUniv now has two Indigenous community-based research labs – one is a community-based training lab and the other is a student training lab.

"Community-based research is by and for Indigenous communities and so the labs are going to help facilitate the

research so that we can train graduate and undergraduate Indigenous students," said Bourassa.

She believes the new labs will do a lot for the university since there is a growing need for more student researchers in the field of Indigenous health research.

"I get some, but unfortunately I don't get enough," said Bourassa.

"I think having the facility to train them is going to attract and retain them in graduate and under-graduate programs."

The labs are also going to help build a bridge between the university and the community because there's a place for them to come in and do the more technical work.

"To have the space and equipment to undertake some of the specialized research we do is only going to help grow their capacity for the work they are already doing," said Bourassa.

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Neechie Gear founder hasn't forgotten helping hand

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Although he didn't realize it at the time, the idea for a clothing company with a social conscience was born years ago when its founder, Kendal Netmaker-Weenie, was in elementary school.

A friend noticed that Netmaker-Weenie had a lot of talent when it came to sports, but wasn't involved in any organized team sports.

"He asked me, 'Why aren't you playing on these teams?' and I told him ... we don't even have a vehicle, I can't get to these practices, and we don't have money for registration."

The next day, his friend returned and told him that after telling his parents about Netmaker-Weenie, they wanted to pay his registration fees and promised to drive him back home to his reserve after practices.

"By the time we were in Grade 6, they gave us their old, used vehicle," recalls Netmaker-Weenie. "That was our stepping stone to get me ... and my sisters into sports."

Netmaker-Weenie says that generosity shown years ago means he can make a difference in the lives of youth today who want to play sports but can't afford to join a team.

"I truly believe because of that one friend that helped us, that enabled me to get to where I am today.

"You need to help people in order to get to where you are."

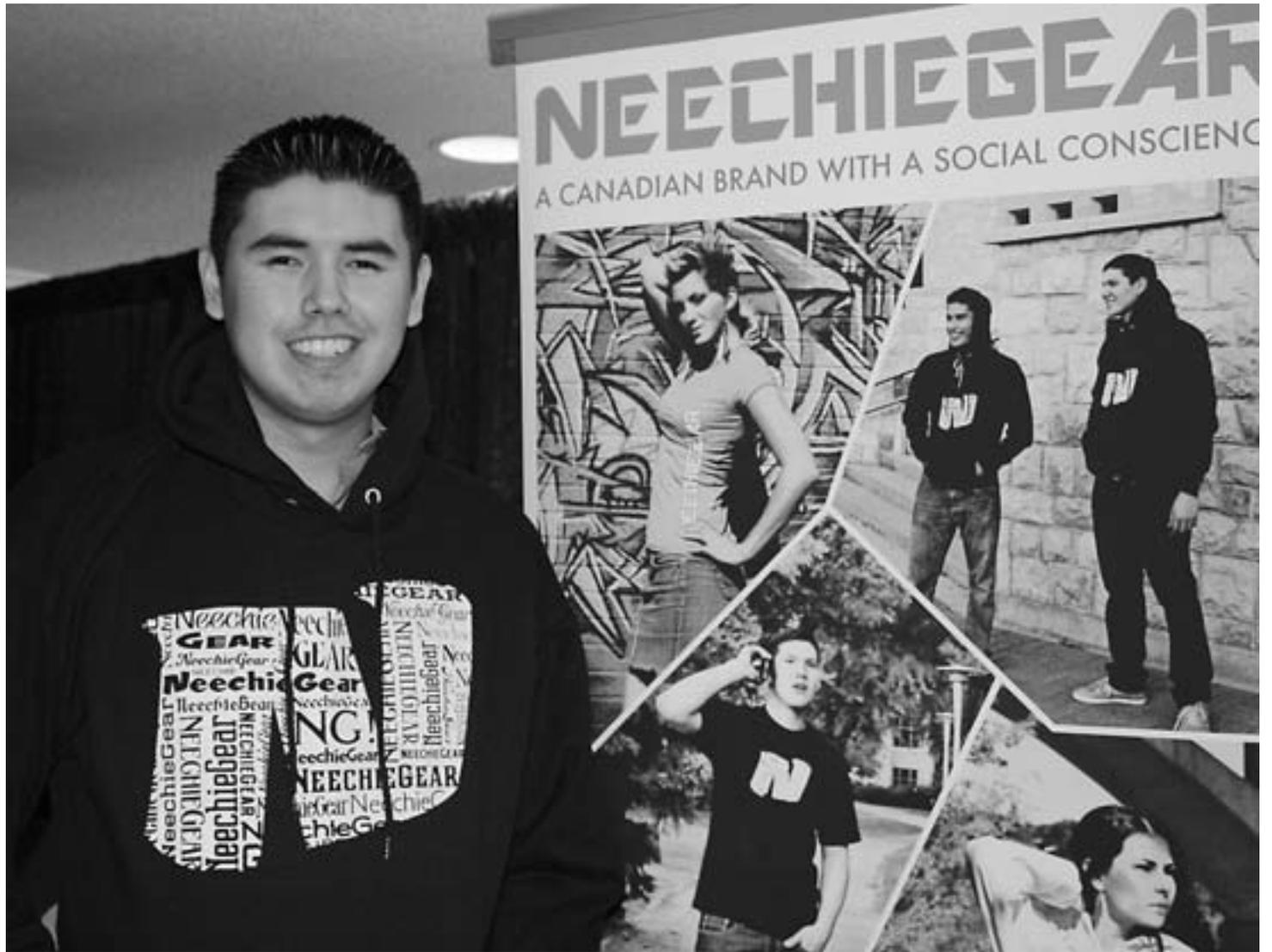
Neechie Gear has been getting a lot of attention lately.

Most recently, Neechie Gear was nominated for two Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX Awards: Aboriginal Partnership and Community Involvement.

"We didn't come out with an award there, but to be recognized at that level is unbelievable for us," says Netmaker-Weenie, noting being nominated and mentioned in front of a crowd of 700 people is a big boost in terms of marketing.

Prior to that, Neechie Gear won the 2011 CANDO Economic Developer of the Year Award - Aboriginal Private Sector Business Award, and Netmaker-Weenie was one of 30 Canadian youth entrepreneurs chosen from 200 to attend the G20 Youth Entrepreneur Summit in Nice, France.

"All these opportunities are coming



Kendall Netmaker-Weenie has hit the ground running with his business Neechie Gear. He has been nominated for 2 ABEX Awards and his business has been named Economic Developer of the Year by CANDO. (Photo by Darla Read)

because of our commitment to help youth and sports," says Netmaker-Weenie.

He says running a business with a social conscience sets Neechie Gear apart from other clothing companies.

"That's what's taken us places and been our competitive edge against competitors, bringing in customers because they believe in what we're doing."

Neechie Gear sold nearly \$4,000 worth of clothing at the FSIN/SIGA powwow in November. Netmaker-Weenie says the company continues to expand its inventory by experimenting with ladies yoga pants, youth t-shirts and baby onesies.

His next step is to get that inventory into stores.

Netmaker-Weenie is also working on pulling together two volleyball teams - what Neechie Gear is all about.

He hopes to have one boys and one girls team, and says depending on who comes to tryouts, the teams will be under 16 or under 18.



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RBC® is pleased to announce Matt Simeoni to the position of Vice President Aboriginal Markets for Manitoba, Saskatchewan & NW Ontario.



Matt Simeoni
Vice President
Aboriginal Markets
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In addition to his current role as Vice President, Commercial Markets, Northwestern Ontario, Matt is now pleased to assume leadership responsibilities managing RBC's team of Aboriginal Banking specialists across this region.

Matt's responsibilities include working closely with the Aboriginal community to provide access to financial services and solutions, as well as employment opportunities, training and education, procurement, and capital, community and social development. The Aboriginal Banking team continues to specialize in providing expert advice and solutions to Aboriginal clients, Aboriginal governments and Aboriginal owned businesses.

Matt joined RBC in 1999 and has since held positions of increasing responsibility in various roles in Western Canada and Northwestern Ontario. He continues to have responsibility for the overall management of RBC's Commercial Markets team throughout Northwestern Ontario.

A graduate of Lakehead University and born and raised in Thunder Bay, Matt and his family proudly call Northwestern Ontario home. Matt values the lifestyle and opportunities this great part of Canada offers, and the relationships and commitment to community that are so strong throughout the area.

Matt looks forward to fostering relationships and forging new connections with Aboriginal and First Nations communities across this geography. If you would like more information or to learn how Matt and his team can assist you, please contact him at 807-684-8303 or matt.simeoni@rbc.com.

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First Nations pavilion new addition to Western Canadian Agribition in Regina

By Miranda Hanus
For Eagle Feather News

According to one First Nation Chief, Elmer Eashappie may not be an elected leader but he is leading the way for First Nation cross-cultural relations.

First, with Treaty 4 and Métis flag raisings at Regina City Hall, and now, a First Nations pavilion at last month's Canadian Western Agribition.

It's the first time in the event's 41-year history that First Nation culture has been featured.

The First Nations pavilion held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 22.

Eashappie, the pavilion's 'architect, is from the Carry the Kettle First Nation.

"It's a great cross-cultural opportunity to promote First Nations from across Saskatchewan," he commented.

Hosted by the Kawacatoose First Nation and the Cowessess First Nation, displays included crafts such as beading and sewing, ceremonial dance demonstrations, tipis and language lessons in Cree, Saulteaux, and Dakota from First Nations University instructors.

Eashappie said the pavilion has taken 12 years of discussions for his vision to become reality.

He adds it's also a chance to promote the fact that First Nation people are actively involved in ranching and farming operations as well.

Agribition visitors can reach up to 130,000 people.

Marty Seymour, CEO of the Canadian Western Agribition, said the



Elmer Eashappie (center) cuts the ribbon for the official opening of the First Nation Pavilion at the Canadian Western Agribition. Also pictured are Agribition CEO and General Manager Marty Seymour (second from right) and Vice-President of Agribition, Reed Andrew. Also pictured is Chief Perry Bellegarde (far left), Chief Glen Pratt (second from left). (Photo ProAV)

addition of the First Nations pavilion is a great match, adding that celebrating history and community is what Agribition is all about.

In two years, Eashappie anticipates a pavilion inside a full arena displaying all First Nation cultures from across Canada, coast-to-coast.

The opening ceremony included a performance by the Thundering Hills First Nation Dance Troupe.

The first night of the Agribition rodeo also had a First Nation theme with an introduction by Chief Delbert Wapass of the Thunderchild First Nation and O Canada sung in Cree by Stacey Cyr.

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Powering the future

IGR sponsors Christmas card contest for kids

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

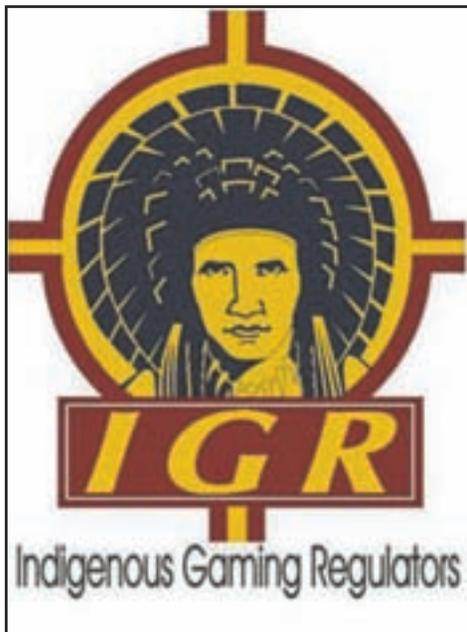
Christmas artwork of First Nations children is being distributed across the province each Christmas, thanks to the Indigenous Gaming Regulators.

Every year, IGR holds an artwork contest in a different school either on a First Nation or in a Saskatoon inner city school, trying to pick a school in a community of its board members.

Four drawings are then chosen for the Christmas cards that IGR gives out. This year, the four winning cards will also be displayed in the company's newsletter.

IGR CEO Greg Ahenakew says the idea came from one of the staff members and notes it's a good one.

"It's to give back to our communities, particularly to the children," says



Ahenakew.

"You should just see their eyes when their name is picked.

"It's wonderful to see them so happy." IGR makes a donation to the school and prizes are handed out to all children who participate. Representatives from IGR visit the school to make the presentations, and Ahenakew says it means a lot to the children.

He recalls one story where the principal followed up with him after the contest and visit.

"There was one little girl who was very shy with low self-esteem," he recalls. The

principal told him the contest really made a difference in her and she just brightened up.

Presentations will be made to the card winners on Dec. 19.



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At United Way of Saskatoon & Area, we pool resources – time, knowledge, influence, dollars – and disperse them throughout the community. We do this in various ways; the best-known being funding of human service agencies such as Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op, Saskatoon Indian Metis Friendship Centre, Saskatoon Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH) and White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

Agencies submit applications to United Way for two different kinds of funding: short-term strategic investments that meet vital or emerging community needs; and ongoing annual operating funding. Decisions are made by community volunteers and our Board of Directors, and based on our priority areas.

But funding is only part of what we do. We also coordinate capacity building programs and build partnerships. This includes building respectful relationships within the Aboriginal community. Recognizing that it is important to include the voices of all, the Strength of Spirit committee has been assisting and guiding United Way in this important endeavor.

Our community is growing and changing, and United Way of Saskatoon and Area is responding.

Without generosity of donors, our work would not be possible. Thank you to the individuals, businesses and employees who continue to support United Way of Saskatoon and Area.

Sincerely,
Cornelia Laliberte
Cornelia Laliberte
Chair, United Way of Saskatoon & Area
Board of Directors



Happy Holidays!

The staff and members of the University of Saskatchewan's **International Centre for Northern Governance & Development** wish you a very happy and safe holiday season.

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Saskatoon, SREDA sharing info about development opportunities

Saskatoon is growing rapidly and is becoming a target for many land developers, many of them First Nations. To help promote opportunities and to examine best practices, the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority hosted Building Bridges for Success II, and invited experts in the field to share with participants on how they have gone forward and accomplished great things in the Aboriginal community.

The keynote speakers both shared success of development on reserve. Darrell Balkwill the CEO of the Whitecap Development Corporation and the Director of Economic Development for the Whitecap Dakota First Nation explained how Whitecap has become so successful over the years. A strong commitment to accountability, forward thinking and self-reliance has led Whitecap to having only four per cent unemployment, over \$20 million in revenues yearly and, very soon, an entire housing development inside their community.

Chief Shane Gottfriedson, who is currently in his third term as Chief of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc (also known as the Kamloops Indian Band), explained how his band went from having nothing, to being a model of development.

"Our vision was to create something, anything, because we really had nothing going on except our location," said Chief Gottfriedson.

"Now we have turned that location into something special. We are home to the first geothermal community in all of Canada with the Sun Rivers Golf Resort Community. We are currently at 350 houses but the plan is for over 2,000."

And these are not your average houses. Prices in Sun River range from \$500,000 to over \$2 million. Each lease is for 100 years with renewal clauses in them and there is a world class golf course in the community.

The band also has a ranch, a gas bar and car wash, interests in mining, forestry and agriculture and is home to one of the largest powwows in North America.

"We found, through development,



Gilles Dorval with the City of Saskatoon presented a gift to Kamloops Indian Band Chief Shane Gottfriedson after his presentation on his bands developments and success.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

that we can become self-sufficient," said Chief Gottfriedson.

"We also allow Certificates of Possession on our community and that allows

our members to develop their own lands. The more self-sufficient our members are, the less reliant they are on the band. That's a good thing."

Partnership creates Points Athabasca FHQ, promotes First Nation employment

The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council LP, Graham Business Trust and Points North Athabasca Contracting have officially entered into a new partnership called Points Athabasca FHQ.

On Nov. 30, First Nations Leadership and Industry were in Regina to witness the signing agreement of Points Athabasca FHQ. The new company will focus on getting more First Nations people into the workforce and help alleviate the strain of replacing the aging working force in Saskatchewan.

"We want to contribute to the economy and be a part of the solution," said File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council's

chairperson and FHQ Developments president, Edmund Bellegarde.

"We want to mobilize our people and get them into careers where they can make a living for themselves and their families."

Points Athabasca FHQ will provide a solution to clients seeking the participation of the fast growing First Nations population in the province. The company will provide a meaningful and sustainable role for First Nations in business development, gradually replacing the aging workforce and promoting community growth. First Nations communities, businesses and clients will benefit from the

new venture through its full range of services offering industrial, commercial and infrastructure construction capacity.

"Points North Athabasca will be the vehicle where we can meet those challenges head on and help train First Nations to ensure they are ready, willing and able to take on the challenges ahead of them," said Glen Strong with Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd.

"This partnership will be the vehicle that will create a healthy and sustainable First Nations workforce."

Points Athabasca Contracting has been operating a successful Aboriginal capacity building business in Northern Saskatchewan for the last decade and recently won the Aboriginal Business Partnership ABEX award from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The award is based on demonstrated leadership and commitment to the growth of Aboriginal business in Saskatchewan.

"Points Athabasca Partnership LP is a very successful business in the North and they wanted to expand into the province's southern market where there's significant growth happening in the oil and gas sector as well as the potash sector," said Bellegarde.

"This new partnership will bring us one step closer in playing a significant role in the province's fast growing natural resource development sector."

Bellegarde believes that creating First Nations own source revenue will help improve standards of living for people living both on and off-reserve. The lack of resources, housing, education and the health challenges First Nations face will be eliminated if there is money flowing back into the communities.

"Part of this strategy is to help alleviate the infrastructure needs in our communities," said Bellegarde. "This partnership will offer this opportunity as well."

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council is comprised of 11 First Nations communities in Southern Saskatchewan: Carry the Kettle, Little Black Bear, Nekaneet, Okanese, Pasqua, Peepeekisis, Piapot, Standing Buffalo, Star Blanket, Muscowpetung and Wood Mountain.



From left to right, Edmund Bellegarde Tribal Chairperson for FHQTC, Glen Strong, Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd., Brian Lueken, Graham Group Ltd.

Derek Miller and band sharing their gifts

I believe it is our obligation to always pass on knowledge and experience to younger generations in any given field. Knowledge is meant to be shared. Maybe it's the mother in me, or the former teacher in me, but I believe youth development is empowerment and insurance for the future.

Derek Miller and his band arrived in Prince Albert for the Northern Spirits Workshop on Nov. 17. By chance, no one was available to greet him, so I was sent. Man, I was nervous! He's a two-time Juno award winning blues singer/songwriter/guitarist. He has even played with Buffy Sainte-Marie and Willie Nelson.

Turns out I had nothing to be nervous about. Derek and his band were incredibly friendly and fun people. I even got to have supper with them!

Later, at the workshop, organizer Sheryl Kimbley had Derek and his band perform a surprise set for the kids who weren't expecting him until the next day. They were so excited to see him and immediately afterward they got on stage to perform for him.

Northern Spirits Workshop was created several years ago because the founder of Voices of the North, Bernice Sayese, wanted to share her knowledge with young musicians, between the ages of 13 and 18. Sadly, she passed away, so Sheryl Kimbley

initiated Northern Spirits with the help of a grant from Sask. Sports, Culture & Recreation.

Since then, every element of how to put on musical events is

shown to the students, including: set design, photography, technical/behind the stage elements, stage presence, journalism, as well as the different roles of musicians. It is emphasized that youth learn how to behave professionally, without a diva attitude. They are also taught to be supportive, not competitive, with one another.

The workshop always brings in a host band for the students to work on their songs. This year's back up band featured the very talented Mitch Daigneault and Grant Kimbley.

The students are also brought to Mosaic Music Studio in Prince Albert, to see how the recording process works. Mosaic Music has been involved for the last couple of years.

Last year, when I worked at MBC as a writer, I also had the opportunity to show the youth various elements of the radio business. It was fun, and even then I could see the impact this workshop makes on young, creative youth.



Arts & Entertainment
Jessica Iron

Most communities spend a great deal of money on sports activities, in the hopes that youth will learn about healthy, positive lifestyles, and I'm all for it. I completely

understand the benefits that you gain, having taken part in many different sports when I was younger.

However, I also understand that not all youth are athletic, and being a creative person, I know that there is a strong need for youth who are full of ideas and emotions to express themselves in a safe, mentored environment, and to know that it is okay to be different. That's what Northern Spirits Workshop is all about.

On the second day of the workshop I was thrilled to see newly elected Vice-Chief Simon Bird at the workshop. He gave great tips to the youth on rehearsing speeches. I think his presence sent a great message to the youth that even large organizations like the FSIN recognize the importance of young artists and entertainers in our communities.

Then Derek Miller and his band returned, starting with a jam where he made up a song on the spot, to show the youth their creative process. He said he fed off the

crowd's energy and really wanted to make an impact. He spoke quite eloquently about the practical elements of making music, and our need as First Nations people to care for our natural resources. "Protect your resources," said Miller. "Song writing and music are part of those natural resources."

He spoke of his love for travel and meeting new people. He mentioned his start in the business, his hits on the radio, and even his two Juno wins.

He also spoke of his low moments, like when he was a teen dad without a career, as well as when he went to rehab. But through it all, he persevered with his music.

"I could have quit a lot of times, but I couldn't quit because I had a great passion for it and I just kept going. Now I'm at a point where my imagination shapes my reality. I think about things and stuff happens now," said Miller.

For instance, a little while ago he wished he had a television show and recently he was offered a spot on APTN, airing in 2013. It will be called, "The Guilt-Free Zone with Derek Miller".

Personally, I think good things happen to those who give back.

Do you know of an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, drop me a line at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com

On behalf of Saskatoon's Urban Aboriginal Strategy steering committee,



Front Row: L-R: Warren Isbister, Elder Peter Bishop, Elder Yvonne Gariepy, Ashley Kayseas (Co-Chair)
Back Row L-R: Belinda Daniels holding daughter Wasina Lily, Bill Mintram, Becky Sasakamoose-Kuffner, Jessica Gordon, Don Bear (Co-Chair), Janelle Pewapsonias holding son Ethan
Missing from Photo: Victor Munroe, Sheena LaPlante, Tamara Young, Marlene McKay, Shannon Hanson, Kelly Fiddler, Shirley Greyeyes, Cornelia Laliberte, Mike Tanton, CeCe Baptiste, Lori Buffalo-Delaronde

We would like to introduce our new Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Coordinator, **Tori-Lynn Wanotch.**



Tori-Lynn Wanotch is of Mohawk-German ancestry and has strong family connections to the Canoe Lake First Nation.

Tori-Lynn has extensive work experience in the areas of social and community health and is passionate about youth initiatives. Born and raised in Saskatoon, and armed with traditional knowledge, Tori Lynn offers creative solutions to issues facing urban Aboriginal people.

Having worked primarily for non-profit Aboriginal organizations, Tori Lynn is ready to make a difference for our community.

Tori-Lynn has completed a management studies Diploma at Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and she says she is looking forward to working with the Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

975-2091, uascoordinator@sasktel.net



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY SASKATOON

*we wish you a safe and joyous
Holiday Season
filled with health & happiness*

DONALD BEAR & ASHLEY KAYSEAS SUAS CO-CHAIRS

Language Keepers Conference honours residential school survivors

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Ken Crowe grew up speaking the languages and practicing the cultural traditions of the Dakota and Cree.

That was until he was forced to leave Wahpeton Dakota Nation to attend residential school in Prince Albert. There, he recalls cleaning the floors as one of the punishments when he would speak his mother or father tongue instead of English.

"They totally ignored who I was and what I was. They just wanted to remould me ... mould me into what they wanted me to be.

"Everybody looked forward to June, because that's when we'd all go home, and

be Indians again."

Crowe, like many residential school survivors, lost much of his language and culture, but he is also part of a movement to reclaim them.

Survivors like him were honoured at this past month's First Nations Language Keepers Conference in Saskatoon.

"The loss of language has been impacted by Indian residential schools. And, it's not the fault of the survivors that many don't have their languages and other critical information relating to their identity, their heritage," says Dorothy Myo, President of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, which hosts the annual event.

The conference focuses on the preser-

Paranormal TV series seeks applicants

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Nothing says Christmas like applying to be on a factual TV series about the paranormal. But despite the time of year, Saskatoon-based Bamboo Shoots and Jennifer Podemski of RedCloud Studios in Toronto are excited to begin work on *The Other Side*, an APTN documentary series that begins shooting in June.

Native culture typically accepts that spirits move among us all the time. That doesn't make it any less disturbing when they enter our lives. Haunted by the unknown, the show's subjects open the door to the unexplained. And although shooting doesn't start for over six months, 'tis the season to get the ball rolling!

Field producer Adrienne Thomas says the show is currently looking for people to share their experiences with 'unsettled spirits'. The show also needs locations.

"We need personal residences, commercial and historical buildings. Basically, anywhere people are being affected by paranormal activity and are willing to have our expert team come in and conduct an investigation."

The team consists of paranormal and technical experts who consult with healers and Elders to bring relief to people troubled by contact with spirits.

"Being mindful of traditional protocol is key to this show. Our investigative team is actually there to help any unsettled spirits with traditional beliefs, as well as other methods of communication," she said.

Thomas goes on to say applicants should be aware that there are three steps to

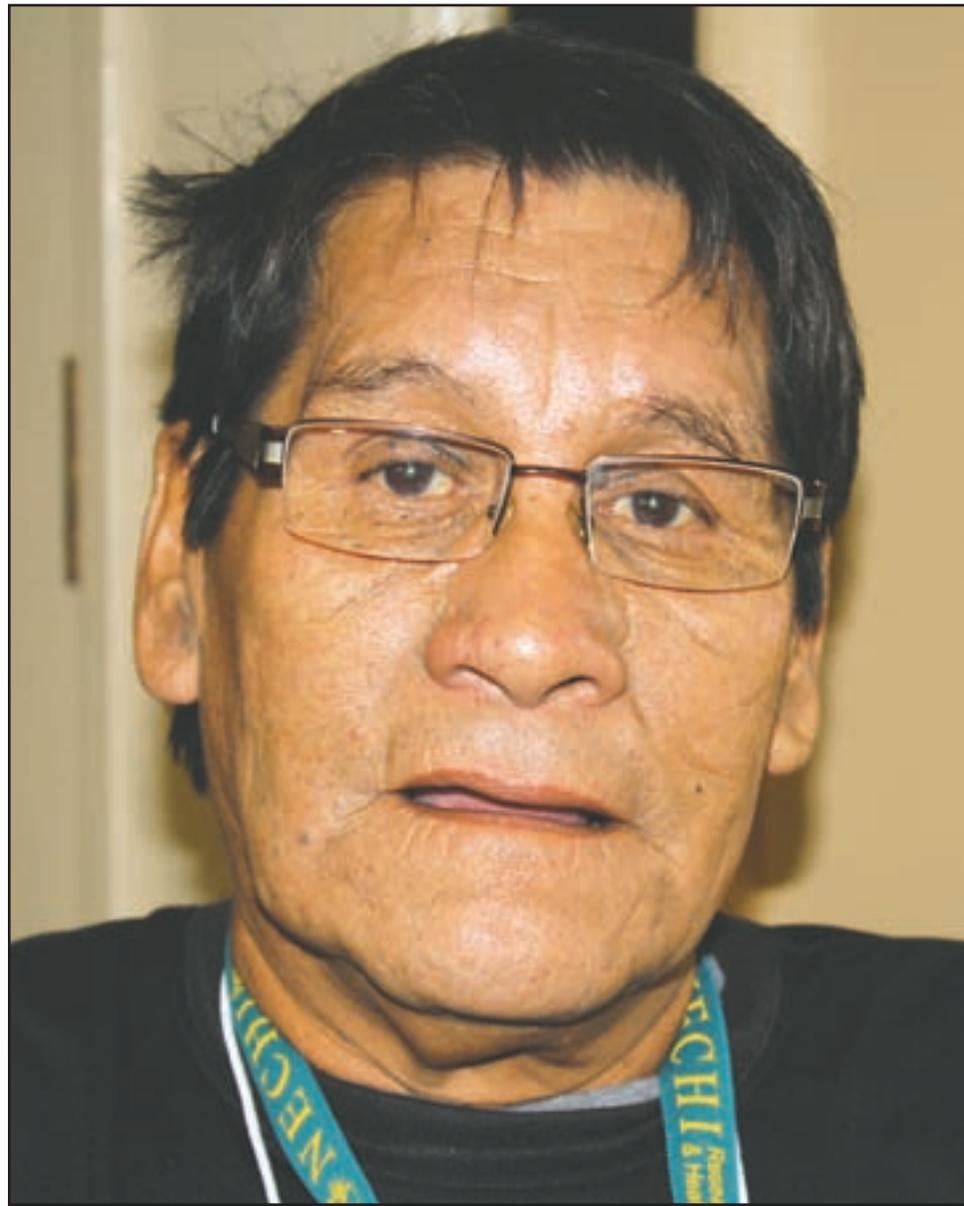


getting on the show: the application process, background research and the actual investigation. In short, the show doesn't want ghost stories, it wants people who really believe they're having negative paranormal experiences and need help restoring the peace.

"This show is unique. The first of it's kind in Canada. We want to tell the best stories and help people that need it."

In each location, the investigative team will encounter a mysterious world where anything can happen. They'll capture their findings with high tech sensors, cameras and gadgets while attempting to bring about communication with the visitors.

"What happens is anyone's guess," Thomas exclaims. "That's the beauty of doing these types of shows. You honestly never know what's going to happen!" If you have a compelling story about experiences with the paranormal and would like to apply to be on *The Other Side*, please send an email to: info@bambooshoots.ca



Ken Crowe is part of a movement to reclaim traditional languages.

vation and revitalization of First Nations languages. This year's theme was "Honouring Residential School Survivors."

"We want to honour them in a good way by having that as our theme, but also creating an opportunity and forum whereby they can come in and find resources so they can reclaim their languages and their culture," explains Myo.

For Crowe, it was after he was married that he decided to go back to his roots.

"Probably around 32, 35 somewhere in there, I said that's enough of this trying to be something that I'm not. This language that I'm speaking, there's something wrong with this language

(English)."

Crowe continues to study Dakota and Cree and passes on what he knows.

"What the wife and I are doing now is I'm teaching my kids Dakota what I know, what I still remember, and she's teaching them Cree. I throw in a little bit in Cree, too. We're teaching them.

"I want to pass that on. Those languages should not die. They should not go into history to say this used to be a language at one time and it's not here anymore."

Crowe's goal, in the next 10 years, is to teach his children at least half of what he knows but hopefully all of his knowledge of Dakota and Cree.

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miyo-manitou kisikaw
tell'eghe yati
neba horel'ya nu'lay

Merry Christmas

News, weather, interviews, music & more

Sports inspiring for SaskTel Youth Award recipient

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Amanda Stonechild is the 2011 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award recipient of the Female Athlete Award.

"I was very honored to be nominated for the Female Athlete Award. It was one of the most amazing nights of my life," Stonechild noted.

"The night made me feel so important and special. There were so many inspirational youth attending the banquet, I never expected to win. In fact, I was so shocked when they announced my name. I was showered with great gifts, presentations and attention. This night is fixed in my memory forever!"

Stonechild is so busy living up to her title, we just about had to join a team to catch up with her. She lives in Saskatoon with her parents and her three younger



Amanda Stonechild received a blanket from one of the sponsors as part of being honoured for her athletics at the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards in May.

(Photo by Marcel Petit)

sisters, where she attended French Immersion until Grade 9, and went on to high school at Evan Hardy Collegiate. She is now in Grade 11 there, with a heavy academic schedule on top of her sports commitments.

"I really want to attend university and possibly the College of Medicine," Stonechild explained. "Since the awards night I continue to fill my extra time with sports."

This past spring she played fastball for the Prince Albert Aces, and at the First Nations Summer Games this Summer, her fastball team won gold.

"And I was asked and honoured to play in the FSIN Fastball Ladies tournament with the Muscowpetung Mystiques."

This past fall Stonechild continued to be part of

her senior school sports teams.

"I played on the senior volleyball team this fall and now I am playing on the senior basketball team. Outside of school I continue to play Tier One Club Volleyball and I just took up badminton as I want to make the school badminton team this spring."

Stonechild has good general advice for all youth.

"I would encourage all Aboriginal youth to fill their spare time with something they are passionate about. For me, sports were the best choice and I never regret the time I spent playing them."

"Sports have taught me skills, dedication and discipline. They have also opened doors to new possibilities and friendships."



Former NHLer Rich Pilon coaching young players.

Cameco's hockey camps provide inspiration for young players

Cameco's Dream & Believe hockey camps provide youth with on-ice instruction, while reinforcing the importance of striving for and believing in one's individual goals and dreams.

Rich Pilon is a former New York Islander and is an on-ice instructor and motivational speaker for Dream & Believe. Recently the crew hosted Camp in Buffalo Narrows, and due to his status as a former big leaguer, Pilon had the full attention of all the players.

This year also marked the first time inner-city students in Saskatoon's Kinsmen Hockey League participated in the Dream & Believe hockey camp and had the opportunity to hear Pilon's story about overcoming adversity to realize his dream of playing in the National Hockey League.



Chooch's sock full of memories includes note from Santa

Sports Chat with Mike



Michael Linklater

Nickname: Chooch

Sport: Basketball

Position: Point Guard

Team: Kanata Senior Mens Team

Last Pro Team: Edmonton Energy (IBL)

Shoots: Right-Handed

Goz: That's a most interesting nickname. How did you get it?

Chooch: My grandparents used to call me "choo choo boy" because I caught a train from Trenton, New Jersey, where I was born, to Thunder Bay to live with them when I was 10 days old. Over time they stopped calling me "choo choo boy" and "Chooch" stuck. To this day my close friends and family know me as Chooch.

Goz: Not anymore. So, what does a typical Linklater Christmas entail?

Chooch: A Linklater Christmas looks like the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow! We have a large family. Lots of gifts for the kids and a couple nervous breakdowns thrown in there to make for one entertaining time of year!

Goz: Your first foray into professional basketball was with the Edmonton Energy of the International Basketball League. A good experience?

Chooch: At first the coach didn't really believe in me

as much as I did. But once I was given the opportunity to play more, I quickly became a fan favorite with my hard work and hustle plays. I would change the momentum of the game when I stepped on the floor. It was a lot of fun!

Goz: So you're in the movie *White Men Can't Jump* and heading into the finals against Woody and Wesley but your teammate suffers a tournament ending injury! Who do you pick to replace him? What is the alternate ending?

Chooch: If it had to be an actor, it would have to be Justin Bieber (for) good fan support! Then when Woody goes up for his slow motion dunk, I would come out of no where and block him! And we would win with a buzzer beater from Bieber!

Goz: You have to play either Steve Nash or Jason Kidd one-on-one. Who do you take on? Of course you win, no matter what, but by how many?

Chooch: I have actually played against Steve Nash back in '99. He was guarding me and I ran him off a screen and scored a lay-up. True story! That was at the Top 80 All Canadian Nike Camp in Toronto in Grade 10. And if I get to win it would be by 1!

Goz: You're offered a million dollar contract to play a professional sport other than basketball. What sport and position would you be playing?

Chooch: I think I will play it safe and go with soccer. I would be a striker. It would be great to play in a stadium with over 80,000 people! Plus I love to run!

Goz: Ever going to play pro basketball again?

Chooch: If the opportunity presents itself and the cards are right, I will definitely play. I love the game and it will be a part of who I am for the rest of my life whether I'm playing or not.

Goz: The NBA lockout just ended. Happy? Who's your team?

Chooch: Yes! Extremely! I don't really have a team.



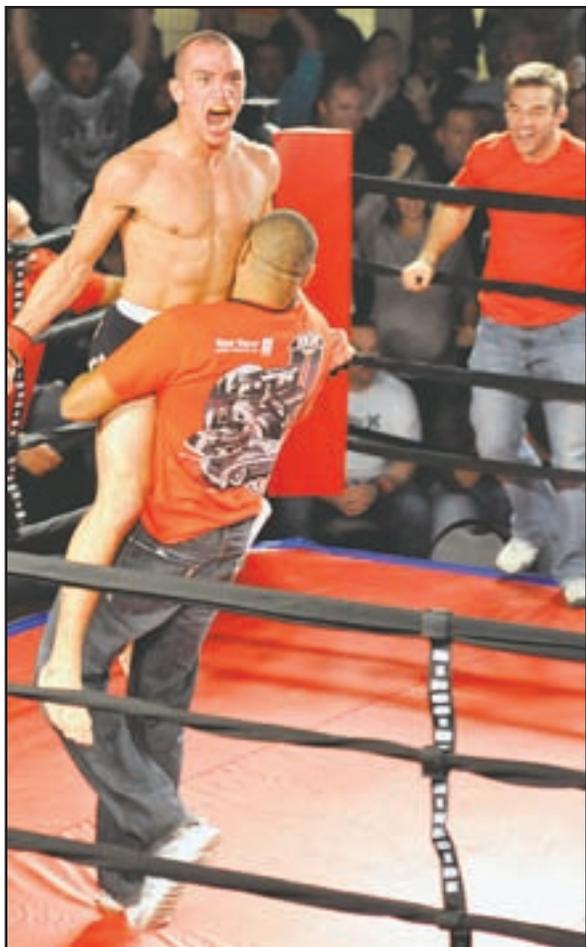
Mike Linklater has won championships and played pro basketball in Edmonton in a great hoops career.

I enjoy watching good games and solid exciting players. I learn a lot from watching the players in the NBA.

Goz: Last but not least, do you believe in Santa?

Chooch: Of course! I still have the note he left me when I was a kid. Santa brings my kids presents every year! I love Santa.

Saturday Night Fights - Round Four a hit for Regina audience



Mixed Martial Arts have quickly become the most popular spectator sport in North America. To capitalize on the opportunity and to give the fans what they want, The Saturday Night Fights - Round Four took place on Dec. 3 in Regina. Produced by Center Ring Promotion and Regina Aboriginal entrepreneur AJ Scales, the card featured 11 sanctioned MMA fights from various fighting backgrounds.

Fighters from across Canada came in to fight in front of a sold out crowd at the Turvey Center.

Our photographer Mike Dubois, was there with the best seat in the house with his lens resting right on the mat.

He also had his assistant, Austin Thomson, who is only 12 years old, shooting from the balcony with a big zoom lens. Austin snapped Sam King celebrating with his Coach AJ Scales (CompleteMMA) after landing a devastating knockout punch in the first round.

Mike also shot CompleteMMA athlete Troy Lavalley catching Team Ringshark Cody Moliger with an uppercut in the third round. Lavalley won the fight by judge's decision. Both fighters were given a standing ovation at the end of the fight.





On Behalf of the
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Executive and Staff, we wish you

*Season's Greetings @
Happy New Year!*

First Vice Chief Morley Watson
Second Vice Chief Bobby Cameron
Third Vice Chief E. Dutch Lerat
Fourth Vice Chief Simon Bird





Clarence Campeau Development Fund

"Serving Saskatchewan's Métis"

*On behalf of the Board, Management & Staff
of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund,
we wish you a Merry Christmas as well as
health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.*

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