

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Idle No More protests across Canada

It began as information meetings led by four women and has turned into the Idle No More Movement with Chiefs marching in protest on Parliament Hill, and thousands of people marching in cities across the country. Onion Lake Cree Nation Chief Wallace Fox addresses people on Parliament Hill. (Photo by Leo Baskatawang)



Anger growing in Saskatchewan

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

A Conservative budget bill has triggered an eruption of demonstrations across Canada, including Saskatchewan. One of these protests led a Saskatchewan chief to a scuffle with security on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. More rallies are planned for mid-December.

The protests surround Bill C-45, the government's second supersize budget bill. One of the bill's most controversial measures could allow Indian Affairs to redesignate Indian lands by way of a band referendum. Another measure strips federal protection from millions of waterways from coast to coast to coast.

• Continued on Page 22



INSIDE



AWARD OF MERIT

Ray Ahenakew's service in the worlds of business and education has been recognized with a prestigious award. - Page 3



HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS

Bonnie Blakely of the Saskatoon Health Region is excited about partnerships with First Nations and Métis organizations. - Page 9



WINNER DECLARED

It took a while but May Henderson has been officially sworn in as the Secretary of the MN-S. - Page 18



SQUARING OFF

FSIN Vice-Chief Simon Bird battled Sen. Patrick Brazeau over education issues at a recent Saskatoon event. - Page 20



RINGETTE PHENOM

She scored 86 goals last season and ringette player Teagan Marion has her sites set on the 2015 Winter Games. - Page 28

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Newsmaker of the Year Edition
Coming In January - The Year in Review

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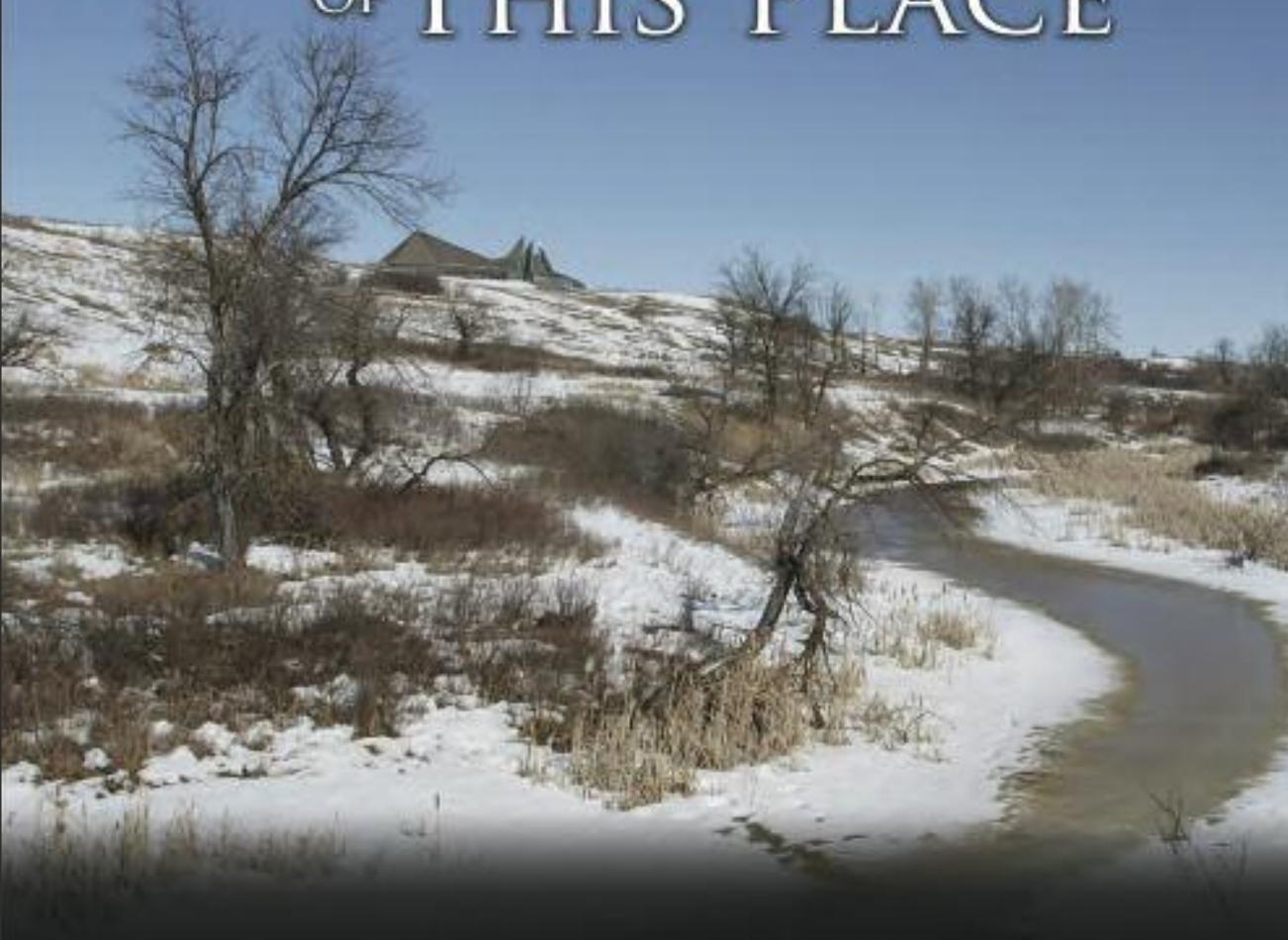
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photos by Stewart Gervais



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Ahenakew did his homework on way to earning Order of Merit

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

With a resume like Ray Ahenakew's, it may be a little difficult to be humbled, but in November when he was honoured with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the First Nation leader and businessman truly was humbled.

contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the province and its residents. Ahenakew's 40 year contribution to the education and economic gains of First Nations people in Saskatchewan could not be overlooked any longer.

As Meadow Lake Tribal Council Chief Executive Officer, Ahenakew

more growth for us."

Ahenakew did all this with just a high school education.

"In my heyday, I was at the end of an era. Back then hard work got you lots of places," he said.

"Nowadays you need at least Grade 12 and hopefully a skill or a trade. It is education first, hard work second. Don't get me wrong, education was always important, but it is more so now."

Like a good student who did his homework, Ahenakew credits his success to his high level of preparation for whatever project he was working on.

"I would read over briefing notes six or seven times before my meetings so I understood exactly what it is we were putting forward," said Ahenakew.

"And at the end of a meeting, I tried to make the other people feel that we understood what they needed and what we brought to the table as Treaty people. I am a strong believer in the Treaty right to education and as we grew, we focused on educating adults and they made the best employees. It was a win-win all over the place."

His commitment to education is now his focus. SIIT is a going concern and is playing a big part in getting Aboriginal people the skills to enter the workplace. But according to Ahenakew, it takes more than just skills to succeed.

"Young people today need to listen to their elders and parents. Lifelong learning comes from listening," he said.

"Be respectful and never give up. Things may be bleak at times, but the more determined you are the better."



Saskatchewan Order of Merit Recipients Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear (2011) and Ray Ahenakew (2012) with their medals proudly displayed.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"Geez, when you look at the list of people that have been honoured and the ones from our community like Darcy Bear and those type of people, to be included in their company is very gratifying," said Ahenakew in an interview from his office at SIIT.

"I admit when I was told of the award, I didn't think much of it. But then the day when we had to go to rehearsals and you meet the other people, it started to sink in and I was truly humbled."

Ahenakew is back for his third stint with SIIT, acting as interim President after the tragic passing of Randell Morris, one of the people who actually nominated Ray for his Order of Merit.

The Order is given to a select few every year. The recipients are recognized for their excellence and outstanding

pioneered self-government negotiations with Ottawa, and secured a \$40 million bank loan to purchase Norsask Forest Products. The loan was paid off in five years and the purchase has benefited the local economy and the council member communities in terms of jobs in logging, trucking, mill workers and tree planting.

"People said we could never do the Norsask deal," said Ahenakew as he reflected on what he considered his career highlight.

"But the Devine government was looking to drop some of the Crowns that weren't working well and we figured a way to make it work when the forest prices were good. And we got harvest rights to 3.5 million hectares of land. That deal showed we could do anything and opened the door for lots

Building relationships today to provide opportunities for tomorrow.

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Mark DeLorme, Roseville



Editorial

Our Newsmaker broke the barriers

This has likely been the most difficult year ever in which to pick a deserving Newsmaker of the Year story or individual.

There has been a lot happening over the past 366 days – yes, it was a Leap Year – and we've witnessed an incredible number of people performing amazing feats.

Since this decision was too big to be attempted by just one person, we decided to use a very unscientific method and conduct an email poll with Eagle Feather News writers. The person or story with the most mentions would earn the distinction of Newsmaker of the Year. Sounded simple, but it wasn't so.

One reporter put a vote squarely on Stephen Harper and the Cons gang in Ottawa.

"Big promises in Ottawa after the meeting with chiefs in January, followed by huge cuts and an undermining of rights, in reality. The Conservative agenda is scary," the scribe suggested. Point well made.

Harper's agenda is the impetus behind the Idle No More movement that is sweeping the nation in an effort to raise awareness of the nefarious plans of gang leader Stephen Harper and his sneaky minions. Organized by Sylvia McAdam, Jess Gordon, Nina Wilson and Sheelah Mclean, the Idle No More movement has now gone viral and included a Chiefs march on Ottawa and then several marches all across the nation on December 10.

Let's see if this momentum keeps up into 2013. We certainly hope it does. If this had happened earlier in 2013, the Idle No More campaign would likely have made it to the top ... but not quite.

A few writers pointed out that Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear made tons of news this year. Federal and provincial announcements are the norm on Whitecap. The War of 1812 drew lots of news and Bear was re-elected recently with an impressive 85 per cent of the vote. But, since we have been spoiled by a pleasant plethora of those kinds of success stories from the Whitecap community, we had to look elsewhere. Tough stuff, this news judging business!

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's national gathering in Saskatoon last June made headlines across the country and drew some votes from the panel. The visit, one of six national stops for the TRC, saw over 50,000 people attend the five-day event and witness the beginning, for some, of the healing process.

But the one person mentioned on most ballots for Newsmaker of the Year was Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice Chief Kim Jonathan.

"FSIN elects a woman – finally!" "Kimmy J!!" "Kim Jonathon breaks through the gender barrier."

These were just a few of the comments that thrust the Jonathan story to top. She became the first woman elected to the FSIN executive in over 30 years, perhaps signalling a shifting in the way things are done and decisions are made.

Winning by a mere nine votes, Kim Jonathan and her historic election upset is our choice for Newsmaker of the Year for 2012.



The late Randell Morris spearheaded many innovative programs for delivery of SIIT programs. Taking the school to reserve communities in RV's one was of those programs.
(Photo John Lagimodiere)

Support of community, friends gave us support

On behalf of the family of the late Randell Morris, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the community support. Thank you for the food, cards, condolences, and care during the loss of Randell.

Ray Ahenakew and the Saskatchewan Institute of Technologies were instrumental in the celebration of his life with support from the board, senior management, students, and staff. We were privileged to have hosted his wake and funeral in a unique manner by integrating both traditional and First Nation cultural values and practices.

It gave our family great strength during a very difficult time. Thank you to Chief Darcy Bear, Premier Brad Wall, and Vice Chief Simon Bird for speaking to Randell's character, career and friendship. To Elder Ben Lafonde and Pastor Jay Lutz, thank you for your support and spiritual guidance.

Thank you to the traditional drummers, the dancers, and Don Speidel for providing the spiritual ceremony honoring him as an education warrior. To Eugene and Lorna Arcand, thank you for leading us through the process with such grace and respect.

To his pallbearers: Shane Szakacs, Wade Freimark, Ed Carleton, Landis Sather, Robert Daniels, Terry McAdam, and Chief Darcy Bear – you were his dearest friends. Thank you for stepping up for us to take on this difficult role.

Randell was a remarkable man and education was his passion. Thank you to those that donated to the SIIT Foundation in his honour.

Thank you to the Ministry of Advanced Education, PotashCorp and Cameco for establishing scholarships to ensure First Nation education remains a high priority. His legacy will live on through the scholarships founded in his name.

We were blessed to have had Randell in our lives for such a short time but our love for him will last a lifetime.

With much appreciation,

Gayle and Alexandra Morris

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Eating 'Monkey food' good for your health

I was reading about the healing powers of the coconut yesterday in a health magazine which set me to thinking about the first time I ever saw one and very reluctantly ate it.

My dad was one of those people who loved trying out new things and whenever he went to the city, which was not all that often, he always brought something special and exotic back for all of us. And believe me, even an orange was special and exotic on the road allowance in the 1940s.

We, my siblings and cousins, would wait, excitedly watching the road all day guessing what it might be this time. On this day we all raced out to meet him as he rode into the yard.

"Daddy what did you bring?" we screamed as he lifted the big white bag lying across the front of his saddle.

"I brought you monkey food," he said as he climbed down and carefully laid the bag on the ground and turned to unsaddle the horse. "And you leave it alone," he told my brother who was feeling the bags contents.

"They're big and round," Ray whispered to us as he got up and raced the house so he could be first to announce the news.

"Mom, Mom, Daddy has monkey food!"

Turning the horse loose in the corral, dad picked up the bag and we all followed him to the woodpile where our uncles were stacking

wood. By now our mom and the nokoms had joined us. As we watched breathlessly, Dad opened the bag and took out a giant hairy brown ball. He handed it to Cheechum, our great grandmother.

"Ay aht tow way stum aht ahn nokom. I bought this for you grandmother," Dad said.

"Wahstuckahch!" our Cheechum said as she turned the ball over and we all crowded around.

"Mitoni mine ahk sew. It does not look very good, Grandson."

"And daddy we're not monkeys," I said disappointed. "We can't eat it."

"Yes we can," he answered, sending my brother for a hammer and big nail. "We can eat it and drink it too. So go get some cups."

We all raced off returning with enough tin cups for everyone and leaned in close to watch him as he put the nail on top the ball and gently tapped it with the hammer til the nail went in. Then tipping it over he poured it into Cheechum and nokom's cups.

"Monkee ahpoi," our uncle Alex chuckled as the old ladies, after a lot of coaxing, took a small mouthful, then another.

"Eey, weekahsin ooma. This is very good." Dad poured the rest of the monkee

juice for the nokoms as our uncles opened the others and shared the juice among us. It was wonderful. While we drank and marveled at the taste, dad chopped the balls open and into small

pieces which he handed around.

"Mamma, this tastes like coconut," my brother Ben said chewing the soft white meat. And right he was, only this was much tastier and softer than the small bag of shredded coconut Mamma bought from the Watkins man to sprinkle on the Christmas cake and cookies.

As we sat around the woodpile on that warm summer day, Dad told us that the coconut grew on tall, tall trees called palms on an Island in the middle of the ocean called Hah why ee. He said it was very hot there and that the natives and the monkeys ate coconuts every day.

"Just like us and bears," he laughed. "We eat blueberries everyday if we can."

Many years later I went to that island in the middle of the ocean and I sat under a tall palm tree and drank coconut milk and ate coconut meat and remembered

that summer day.

This magazine was interesting, it said that coconuts are indigenous to the Pacific Rim and South Asia and that they, the coconuts, first immigrated to North America on ocean currents without the aid of humans. American native people found them on the beaches. The coconut meat, water and oil, the magazine said, is all powerful medicine and has many healing properties. It cures all kinds of aches and pains, purifies the blood and slows down the progression of Alzheimers.

Fresh coconut water is also one of the richest sources of electrolytes known to medicine. It has the same electrolytic balance as is found in human blood and during World War II, in the Pacific, both the Americans and their allies as well as the Japanese, regularly used coconut water siphoned directly from the nut to give emergency plasma transfusions to wounded soldiers. That is pretty amazing!

Well not really. I am reminded that my nokoms always said that all indigenous plants are medicinal to their people and that they must always be treated with the same respect we give each other or are supposed to give each. And with that, have a good Christmas all of you and a wonderful O Chay too kee sikow. Kissing Day.

And start eating more munkeesis mee chi win in the New Year for your good health.



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In Memoriam: Jim Sinclair

Jim Sinclair stood tall for his people. His people are the indigenous peoples of the Prairies; the First Nations or Indian people, and the Métis people. I cannot think of another indigenous politician who would be honoured by the leaders of three of the four national Aboriginal organizations, as Jim was at his Regina funeral ceremony in November.

Jim Sinclair's final speech at the end of the series of First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Constitutional Reform on March 27, 1987 has become an icon of indigenous political history in Canada.

It has been put to music and sung. Recently when a United Nations rapporteur on the right to food was visiting First Nations communities in Canada, Jim Sinclair's admonition to Grant Devine then Premier of Saskatchewan, for his subsidy of whisky but not milk in the North, was an inspirational point of reference for presentations to the UN representative. Jim's political legacy thus lives on.

I was in the back rooms of the Ottawa Convention Centre when Jim was preparing that memorable speech in March 1987. Facing the end of national discussions because the First Ministers refused to 'put anything on the table', Jim paced up and down the room, apparently deep in thought. Rob Milen, his legal advisor at the time, began reciting Martin Luther King's speech.

After some time, Jim went downstairs into the Convention Hall where the final speeches were to be made. There he delivered The Speech. It was an amazing presentation. It mesmerized the audience in Ottawa and undoubtedly captivated the national TV audience too.

The speech can be viewed on Tony Belcourt's blog.

...

Who should decide the meaning of Indigenous Peoples's fundamental rights?

Jim Sinclair was a man who worked hard to get governments to the table: to make a deal. In thinking about how to make the Constitutional recognition and affirmation of the Treaty and aboriginal rights in s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982 effective, Jim understood that the most legitimate decision-makers are the legitimate representatives of the people whose rights are at stake, and not unelected judges.

Last month my commentary dealt with that point. I should conclude that commentary now by stating that there are indeed ways in which the courts can be useful in the struggle for rights-recognition. The best cases are those that can bring governments to the table to negotiate.

Canada's courts have established that consent is the foundation of constitutional legitimacy. If that is a constitutional principle of fundamental importance then it must also apply to the case of indigenous peoples and their rights. This approach has the potential of broad application, including to negotiations on the amendment of the Constitution Act 1930 which harbours the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements (NRTA).

The NRTA contains its own amending formula and amendments can be made to constitutionalize a deal between the indigenous peoples and any or all of the Prairie provinces acting with the federal government.

...

Bill C-428: Amending The Indian Act

This is yet another controversial and complex Bill getting support from the Harper government, although its origins are a Private Member's Bill from MP Rob Clarke of Saskatchewan. It proposes among other things to repeal certain provisions dealing with diverse subjects ranging from education, liquor control, wills and

intestacy, and the now ineffective outlawing of free trade of agricultural products from reserves. It proposes the publication of band bylaws and replacing the discretion of the Minister to approve them.

The Bill also requires the Minister to report annually to a Parliamentary committee on "the work undertaken by his or her department in collaboration with First Nations organizations and other interested parties to develop new legislation to replace the Indian Act."

Among the worrisome statements in the preamble is "Whereas the Indian Act is an outdated colonial statute, the application of which results in the people of Canada's First Nations being subjected to differential treatment" This statement lends support to opponents of Treaty and aboriginal rights who

want them overlooked in favour of stripping Indians of their basic constitutional and international law collective rights, and reducing their status to that of ordinary citizens.

Would it not be better to take the opportunity of amending the Act by negotiating proper arrangements and agreements with First Nation leaders on ways to make the Crown-First Nation relationship reflect the 'promise' of s.35 which affirms the collective Treaty and other rights of First Nations?

Could this process not involve preparatory cooperative work leading up to a national Conference of First Nations and First Ministers to agree on guiding principles and processes for regional and local accommodation? Shutting doors on the past is an opportunity to opening new doors to the future.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

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Education Task Force finds reasons for optimism in travels

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

As chair of the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis people, Gary Merasty has heard a lot of interesting stories about education in Saskatchewan.

As they consult with stakeholders, the three Task Force members have heard barriers described and success stories told that impact Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan, but what actually most excites Merasty about the meetings is the tone of the community.

"Despite the troubles in the community and in education, there is lots of hope and optimism to participate in the economy," said Merasty at a press conference to release the Joint Task Forces' interim report to the public.

"When people talk about First Nation and Métis people, the issues are often framed in the negative. But talk to the people in the community and they are passionate to move forward."

The Joint Task Force's interim report is titled, Voice, Vision and Leadership providing an update for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Government of Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, as well as all those who have participated in the dialogues



Education Task Force members Don Hoium, Gary Merasty and Rita Bouvier have released an interim report.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

or have an interest in the work of the Joint Task Force.

Starting in May 2012, the Joint Task Force has travelled to 16 communities holding 63 individual and public consultations with over 820 people. The Interim Report identifies themes that emerged from the voices of consultation participants and submissions in four target areas - early childhood, prekindergarten to Grade 12, post-secondary, and labour-force attachment.

One theme that emerged consistently across all target areas was culture.

"Language was certainly stressed," said Merasty. "And people take a great deal of pride in it."

"Language is a foundational aspect of what we are hearing," added Rita Bouvier, an educator and also a Task Force member. Don Hoium is the third member of

the Task Force.

The interim report noted a number of significant challenges such as jurisdictional chaos, poverty, racism, and the impact of residential schools but the focus of the final report due out in late March will be on the successes.

"We had to ask some of those questions for sure," said Merasty.

"Lots of Commissions have looked at where things go wrong. We wanted to provide an approach in our final report that focuses on the best practices that work and make a difference. Then we have to figure how we can scale those programs across the province. We want the report to be very descriptive."

The final report and recommendations will be submitted in late March, 2013

The Representative Workforce Unit

&

First Nations and Métis Health Service

Wish You a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season



Building an organization that is representative of our community.

Time with family the most precious gift

Twas the night before Christmas and all thru the rez, the Chief and Councillors were all tucked in their bedz.

I in my moccasins and my man in his sash (he's Métis) had just settled down to count up our cash (from bingo). Fiddle music played all thru our house, everyone was jigging, even the mouse. That's all I got folks

People are out and about shopping for gifts for their friends and family but not too many of them are very happy. In fact, I think that Christmas shopping has become a full contact sport and a way of venting your past year's frustrations on poor unsuspecting shoppers who have the nerve to be smiling and happy.

You get bumped in the back of the leg with shopping carts, wait in long line-ups, listen to parents telling their children to "put that down" and "no I'm not buying that", and the classic, "I'm never bringing you shopping again".

This society we live in has created a huge holiday where we feel obligated to buy gifts and in the process we forget about the meaning of the holiday. In my family it's not so much the gifts but it's the food, family, canasta, food, friends and food again.

My grandkids still want everything they see on TV commercials. We can thank the wonderful shopping centres, toy distrib-

utors and manufacturers for making sure that our children and grandchildren can start telling us what they want for Christmas beginning the day after Halloween!

Don't get sucked in by the whole marketing campaign. Don't put off paying your utilities and other bills because some big store company wants to make millions of dollars over this holiday season. The greatest gifts we can give each other is our time – our children are not going to remember what we bought them for Christmas when they were five and six, but they will remember the time you spent with them.

When my girls were children I used to panic when December rolled around all I could think about was how am I going to buy gifts and the food for the holiday? I spent a good portion of the holiday season stressed and feeling inadequate because I couldn't buy all the things my girls wanted.

When we leave this world what our family and friends have left of us are the memories we created over the years.

We didn't have too much food in our little apartment and no decorations for our Christmas tree. I did have some wrapping paper and popcorn, so

I made these tiny little boxes and wrapped them to look like little presents, and then

the girls and I strung popcorn on a string for garland.

I made us sandwiches and we had a picnic on the floor. Do you know that the girls remember that Christmas! They don't remember any of the gifts they

got over the years but they remember that Christmas sitting on the floor of our tiny apartment! Amazing!

Well that was a lesson to me, since that Christmas long ago; I realize that the best gift we can give each other is our time.

When we leave this world what our family and friends have left of us are the memories we created over the years. Give

your family memories for Christmas, buy a scrap book, draw pictures, write stories, but don't get too caught up in the holiday madness of gift giving.

Take time to go for a complete physical with your family doctor and get an annual check-up with your dentist. Give thanks for your health and enjoy the time with family and friends over the holiday season.

I hope we can bring back the old tradition of visiting and sharing our food and kick the new tradition of spending money we don't have to the curb.

Best wishes and a very happy holiday season to you and your family.

Send your letters to Eagle Feather News, Attn: Sandee Sez PO Box 942 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 or you can email me sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



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Whether you are diabetic, looking to lose weight or in perfect health, the key to healthy eating is in your hands – literally. Use your hands as a portion guide to create a healthy meal.

At each meal eat as many vegetables that fit into both of your hands. Vegetables have many important nutrients our bodies need to stay healthy and to fend off disease.

Include 2 fist sized portions of carbohydrate foods with your meals – this includes potatoes, rice, pasta, bread and fruit. These foods are important for energy and good nutrition but just not too much. The starches and sugars found in these foods raise blood sugar more than other foods.

A meat serving is the size of your palm and the thickness of your little finger. Two servings a day contain enough protein to keep you strong and healthy.

Limit the amount of fat in your meals. Fats that are liquid at room temperature are healthier choices; this includes fats from fish and plants.

Try using this portion guide with your next meal to see how you measure up.

Handy portion guide

Your hands can be very useful in estimating appropriate portions. When planning a meal use the following portion sizes as a guide:



FRUITS *GRAINS & STARCHES : Choose an amount the size of your fist for each of Grains and Starches, and Fruit.



VEGETABLES : Choose as much as you can hold in both hands.



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* Food group names taken from Beyond the Basics: Meal Planning for Healthy Eating, Diabetes Prevention, and Management. ©Canadian Diabetes Association, 2005. Please refer to this resource for more details on meal planning.

©Canadian Diabetes Association, 2005.

Healthy partnerships improving quality of life for First Nations, Métis people

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

When Bonnie Blakley, Vice President People and Partnerships with the Saskatoon Health Region, gets to talking about programs and partnerships they have involving First Nation and Métis governments and people, put your seat belt on.



BONNIE BLAKLY

Her passion and energy for the cause will see her list a variety of initiatives running and soon to be announced

at breakneck speed.

"We have developed deep and trusting relationships with the governments and groups in our Region and this has allowed us to inter into real partnerships where we can work collaboratively to have a better impact on people's health," said Blakley.

"We know how important health is and sadly we have increasing health disparities. We need to work with the community better and hear their voice."

Her enthusiasm stems from the traction generated by a myriad of steps the Health Region has taken on. For several years they have run the Step Into Health Program to create more employment ready individuals. To help this along the Region signed a memorandum of understanding with SIIT. They are also involved in a project that involves providing primary health care services on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation reserve with an emphasis on Chronic Disease Management in a more appropriate cultural environment.

"This new partnership with Saskatoon Health Region, and the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada is consistent with Whitecap's approach to building alliances to enhance services and quality of life for the community and area," said Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear at the opening.

The Health Region's most recent formality was a memorandum of agreement signed with the Saskatoon Tribal Council that will provide the framework for the two organizations to collaborate on programs and other initiatives to meet the needs of First Nations families.

"This MOU represents our commitment to improving the quality of life for First Nations citizens," said Chief Felix Thomas, Saskatoon Tribal Council. "This MOU will further our commitment to the protocol agreement we have with other Tribal Councils in the intent of providing quality service and care, not only for STC members, but all First Nations people living in urban centres."

The MOU also includes employment opportunities.



FELIX THOMAS

"We have been working hard to create opportunities to get more young First Nations people into health careers," said Bonnie Blakley who admits she gets excited about the difference they are going to be able to make in peoples' lives.

"But with our strategy and vision, it goes beyond jobs. It goes about engaging the community and really being forward thinking to make a difference in peoples' lives. When people have an experience with the Region we want it to be respectful of language, culture and the transition back into the community.

"It can be complex sometimes with the different jurisdictions but we need to work with the governments to deliver health services because the health of the community is paramount. This really matters to me and in time what we do at the Health Region will send ripples all through the community."

Saskatchewan

Minimum Wage Increase

Effective December 1, 2012, Saskatchewan's minimum wage will be \$10.00 per hour. The minimum call-out pay will increase to \$30.00.

For more information regarding the minimum wage or employment standards, please call 1-800-667-1783 or visit www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/employment-standards.



Ministry of
Labour Relations and
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Anxiety can be very scary but help is available

Anxiety is a general feeling of being worried. Everyone experiences anxiety from time to time as the result of life experiences, but those with generalized anxiety disorder feels anxious frequently or excessively, not necessarily as a result of particular situation.

Signs and symptoms include muscle tension, trembling, trouble breathing, dizziness or impaired concentration, sweating, fatigue, irritability, sleep disturbance. Anxiety can result from many specific causes, such as an underlying medical condition or drugs you are taking.

Factors such as genetic and early life experience may play a role. Your health

care provider will talk to you about when you feel anxious, what it feels like and your medical history. He or she will give you a physical examination and may take blood or

urine samples for laboratory tests. In some cases you may have an electrocardiogram to rule out heart problems.

The first part of the action plan could be trying, a form of relaxation, and if that does not work, prescribing a medication may apply. Treatment may also include short term counseling to help you feel better about life and cope with stress better. Mind body techniques, proper



nutrition and herbs maybe an effective way to treat anxiety. Breathing, meditation may help to reduce anxiety. Reflexology, massage, Reiki,

Yoga should be considered to relax the body.

It is wise to avoid caffeine, alcohol, nicotine, sugar, refined foods. Fresh vegetables, whole grains, protein nourishes the nervous system. Eating fish, chicken, turkey and small amounts of red meat would treat the digestion effectively. Calcium and magnesium with Vitamin D helps support the nervous system and

minimizes the effect of stress. Vitamin B Complex, helps curb stress as well.

Rhodiola-1 with each meal, Passion Flower is useful for anxiety with symptoms of being unable to sleep. Lemon Balm for anxiety with depression and heart palpitations. Skullcap relaxes and revitalizes the nervous system. Essential Oils of lemon balm, bergamot and jasmine are calming and maybe used as aromatherapy. Place several drops in a warm bath or on a cotton ball, in your pillow case to help relax at night when you sleep.

Be sure to tell your health care provider if you are pregnant, because there are several herbs that are not safe during pregnancy.

FILE HILLS FIRST NATIONS POLICE SERVICE, CHIEF OF POLICE

TITLE: Chief of Police, Full Time

LOCATION: File Hills First Nations Police Service, based at Okanese First Nations

SUPERVISOR: Chair and/or designate, File Hills Police Commission Board Inc.



Position Description:

The Chief of Police is responsible for the management, administration and operation of the police service, including the hiring and dismissal of the File Hills Police Officers and support staff of the File Hills First Nations Police Service and the managing of the budget of the police service; the maintenance of law and order in the File Hills First Nations; and the maintenance of discipline within the police service.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The Chief of Police manages the File Hills First Nations Police Service and oversees its operation in accordance with the objectives, priorities, strategic operational plan and policies established by the Board;
- ensures that members of the File Hills First Nations Police Service carry out their duties and responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner that reflects the culture, traditions and needs of the communities;
- ensures that the File Hills First Nations Police Service provides community-based preventive policing services;
- identifying, recruiting and hiring suitable candidates for the File Hills First Nations Police Service;
- acts as liaison with the RCMP with respect to the provision of specialized policing services; and
- ensuring discipline is maintained in the File Hills First Nations Police Service in accordance with the objectives, priorities and policies established by the Board, The Police Act, 1990 (Saskatchewan), R.S.S. 1990, c. P-15.01 and regulations in force pursuant thereto.
- The Chief of Police reports to the Board and shall obey its lawful orders and directions.
- On an occasional basis the duties may include but not limited to:
 - Appear before Chief's and Council meetings as requested.
 - Review, recommend and propose changes which would improve the ability of the Police Service to protect and serve the citizens of the community.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Grade 12 Education or Equivalent.
- Minimum of 10 years practical police experience where recency of police service is in the past three years.
- Minimum 5 years practical administrative and operational management experience in a law enforcement environment that includes knowledge of police science, organization, criminal investigation methods, the use of police records, and their application to the solution of crime problems.
- Knowledge of community-based policing and restorative justice programs.
- Exemplary character and habits.
- The ability to express ideas clearly, concisely, tactfully and courteously both orally and in writing.
- English essential, the ability to speak and understand the local First Nations language is an asset.
- Excellent mediation and negotiation skills.
- Proficient in working with computers (the Police Service utilizes the RCMP ROSS, PROG, Microsoft applications, CPIC and other programs, software as added)
- A valid Province of Origin driver's license with a good driver's abstract.
- No Criminal Record.
- Ability to establish rapport with community members and Elders.
- Understanding of First Nations cultures.
- Valid First Aid Certificate, CPR, Basic Life Support Level "C" Certificate within the previous two years.

Physical Demands:

- Physically able to perform the duties required of a management police position, including but not limited to:
 - the use of equipment commonly used by law enforcement officers and;
 - the essential job functions of a police officer.
 - thorough knowledge of personnel management techniques.

Work Environment:

- Ability to deal effectively with time pressures, stress, and changing demands of the job on a regular basis.
- Ability to respond efficiently, professionally and perform a leadership role to emergencies such as search and rescue, natural disasters, homicides, and a variety of other incidents relevant to police duties.
- As required to attend upgrade, renewal, refresher or new training relevant to the Chief of Police duties, roles and responsibilities. These are necessary developmental processes to meet the changing needs of policing leadership, managerial skills, knowledge and abilities to perform this job.
- To meet the needs of the role of Chief of Police, residency requirements are to live in the Police Services area is necessary.

NCO Supervisor/Investigator Corporal

TITLE: NCO Supervisor/Investigator Corporal

POSITION: FULL TIME

LOCATION: File Hills First Nations Police Service based at Okanese First Nations

SUPERVISOR: File Hills First Nations Police Service, Chief of Police.

Employer is the File Hills Board of Commissioners Inc.



Position Description:

The Corporal is a middle management position of the File Hills First Nation Police Service. The Corporal, where two positions are designated, is a representative of the Service and as such, is governed by not only legal standards, but by moral standards of the highest nature. The individual's philosophy must be one of dedication to the public service, setting aside personal interest for the common good.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- The Corporal(s) are under the direct supervision of the Chief of Police.
- Will stand ready to assume the duties in the absence of the Chief of Police.
- Will supervise and direct the performance of the Members under their command.
- Must be thoroughly familiar with, and be responsible for, enforcing all codes of conduct, directives, policy and memorandums pertaining to the performance of patrol duties and the performance of subordinates in the police service.
- Is required to supervise all personnel and must also set an example for subordinates by engaging in active, assertive patrol duties.
- Will be familiar with Federal laws, thoroughly familiar with Provincial statutes and have a working knowledge of the Band By-laws and Resolutions as well as the Police Service Code of Conduct, policies, procedures, directives and memorandums.
- Must have a strong working knowledge of police management methods.
- Is required to make decisions and issue orders within the scope of authority and will accept responsibility for determinations and decisions.
- Will not abuse authority, but exercise it judiciously and responsibly.
- Scheduling members for routine patrol and special events; checks the availability of Members.
- Provide an evaluation of each member under their command annually. Where necessary, develop an evaluation process for those under their command.
- To perform those duties and responsibilities as necessary to support an operational police office, its personnel, the infrastructure, inspection of buildings, vehicles, and operational budget management.
- These roles and responsibilities are not limited to this advertising, on hire, a policy and procedures manual will be presented to outline specific duties and functions of this position.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Grade 12 Education or Equivalent
- A minimum of 3 years of experience of Law Enforcement where recency of police service is within the past 3 years.
- Must possess a valid Province of Origin driver's licence with a good driver's abstract.
- No Criminal Record.
- Excellent mediation and negotiation skills.
- Exemplary character and habits
- The ability to establish or update policies, procedures that will be used by the Police service.
- Thorough knowledge of principles and practices of modern police administration.
- Thorough knowledge of police science, organization, criminal investigation methods, the use of police records, and their application to the solution of crime problems.
- The ability to assign, direct, co-ordinate, and evaluate subordinates and their work product.
- The ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other File Hills First Nations Police Service members, civilian employees and the public.
- The ability to express ideas clearly, concisely, tactfully, and courteously both orally and in writing.
- Thorough knowledge of personnel management techniques.
- A knowledge of File Hills First Nations area culture is an asset.
- A willingness to participate in future learning of File Hills First Nations area culture.
- A knowledge of the local First Nations language is an asset.

Physical Demands:

Physically able to perform the duties required of a middle management police position, including but not limited to: (1) The use of equipment commonly used by law enforcement members and; (2) The essential job functions of a police Member.

Work Environment:

- Ability to deal effectively with time pressures, stress, and changing demands of the job on a regular basis.
- Ability to respond efficiently, professionally and perform a leadership role to emergencies such as search and rescue, natural disasters, homicides and a variety of other incidents relevant to police duties.
- Ability to work in a team environment and to lead a team effectively.
- As required to attend upgrade, renewal, refresher or new training relevant to the duties of a manager in a police service. These are necessary to meet the changing needs of policing leadership, managerial skills, knowledge and abilities to perform this job.
- To meet the needs as a Non-Commissioned Officer, Corporal, residency requirements are to live in the Police service's area is necessary.

Please submit your interest in application for this position(s) to the attention of :

Chief of Police, File Hills First Nations Police Service, P.O. Box 450, Balcarres, Saskatchewan, S0G 0C0
Your application will include a cover letter, resume, three references and a copy of accredited Police training certification. Interested candidates will be contacted in writing on receipt of your application. Only those who meet all the criteria will be notified for an interview. Thank you.

Conference addresses root causes of HIV infection

By Morgan Beaudry
For Eagle Feather News

Testing HIV positive doesn't just mean a person might get sick will full-blown AIDS; it is proof positive that there is another, more terrifying sickness already present.

"We have to address the root causes of sickness in our communities and a lot of those stem from colonization and residential school," said Margaret Poitras, CEO of the All Nations Hope AIDS Network (ANHAN).

"Generations of abuse was suffered and we need to talk about that."

ANHAN is a network of organization, agencies and individuals providing education, supporting and programming to Aboriginal people and communities affected by HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C.

The theme of this year's annual conference matched the current international AIDS Day theme, "Getting to zero" – zero new cases, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths.

"Getting to zero has us working with health regions and other organizations doing similar work and ensuring that they approach their services in a way that will make a difference and get to the root causes – the trauma," Poitras said.

Dr. Gabor Maté, a medical doctor who worked at a Vancouver safe-injection site, was keynote speaker at the Nov. 29 – 30 conference.

In his best-selling, award-winning book, *In The Realm Of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addictions*, Dr. Maté suggests that addiction is occurring on a massive scale in Western society because so many people have an inner emptiness caused by societal dislocation, including the destruction of traditional relationships

within families and communities.

Future addicts are born, not made, he also suggests. Expecting parents who are depressed, overworked, stressed, or dealing with crises that take them away from the child can literally make things go haywire in the unborn infant's brain, contributing to addiction later in life.

"There is a direct line between trauma and addiction and HIV. There are users using with family members in families where two or three generations are all HIV positive. To move forward we must take care of ourselves and remove the traumas," said Poitras.

"At ANHAN, we incorporate the Creator in everything we do. It is not a pill or vaccine that will cure HIV. If a person comes into our office homeless, sick, addicted and diabetic – first we feed them mentally, spiritually, emotionally, physically, start a relationship, welcome them back to the world, and provide access to workers and elders. Then, after that is done, we talk to them about HIV."

The two-day conference is the second annual AIDS conference hosted by ANHAN. In previous years,

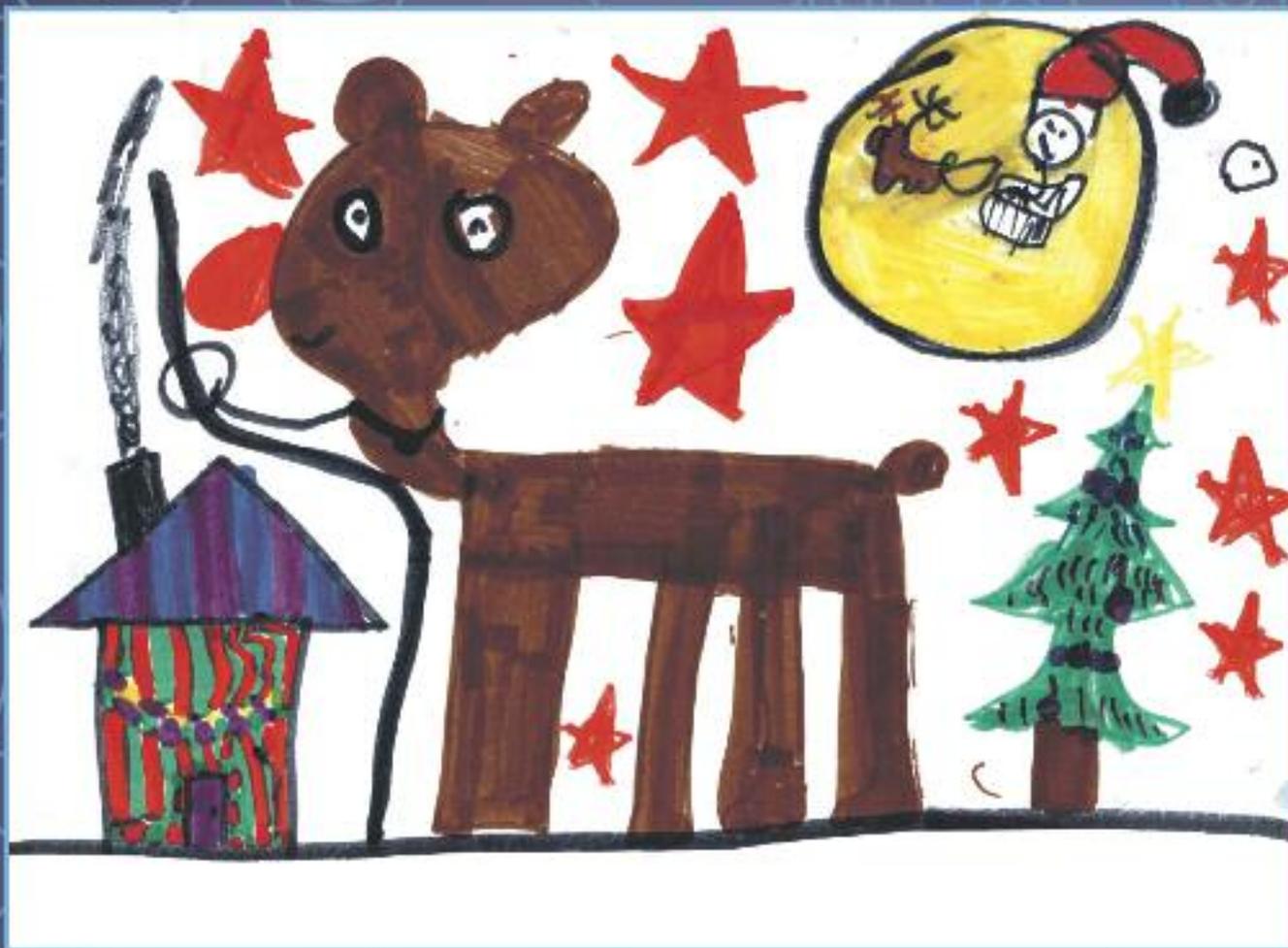


Dr. Gabor Maté is a medical doctor who worked at a safe injection site in Vancouver. "There is a direct line between trauma and addiction and HIV," he said. (Photo by Morgan Beaudry)

ANHAN has hosted a series of conferences including a conference on family structures and another on harm reduction.

Working towards solutions and treatments is critical because Saskatchewan leads the nation in the rate of new HIV infections – roughly double the national average. According to information provided by ANHAN 79 per cent of new cases in 2009 Aboriginal people. Intravenous drug use continues to be the leading cause of transmission.

Congratulations to our Christmas card contest winners



Season's Greetings from Cameco

Draylin Montgrand – Age: 7 – Patuanak – St. Louis School
For more winning images, visit our website.



We're all in this together, let's celebrate

We've been busy doing renovations on a basement suite in a house we own and rent out. There's a lot of work to do.

The last tenant left a considerable mess behind and just to make it livable again there's painting, flooring, filling holes in wallboards, replacing toilets, cleaning, replacing light fixtures and a probably a lot of things we won't discover until we find them.

It's a good space. Sure, it's still a basement with the requisite shadow but we're working hard at making it a bright, cheerful place for someone to call home. The rooms are big and the potential for making it a special place to live is already there.

We're just renovating the physical parts of it and allowing the natural grace of the place to come to the fore. It's good work, challenging at times but good nonetheless.

As we work we think about the person who will walk through the door when we're finished and say that this place is just the kind of place they were looking for.

We think how happy we're making someone by doing a little work beforehand. We think about what we would like to see around us when we arrive home from a journey or a hard day at work. It makes work feel less like work.

We both know the joy inherent in the feeling of coming home. Maybe that's what makes my wife such an awesome landlord. She intuits how someone will feel and she goes out of her way to give them a place to feel comfortable, secure, happy and cozy.

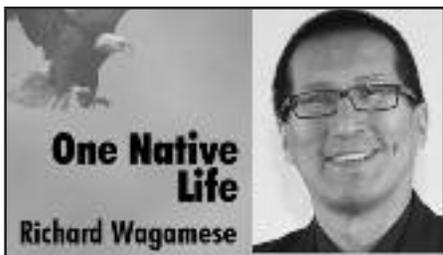
I'm a guy and intuition isn't my strong suit so for the most part I just follow her lead, but I'm privileged to be on the receiving end of her wisdom while I sand and scrape and paint.

While I work, I think about all of the places that I've called home over the years. Sometimes, I didn't have landlords who cared. They were content to rent me a place that was dusty, musty and in all sorts of disrepair.

They seldom knew my name beyond what was stamped on the checks and they had no idea the type of person I was or dreamed of becoming.

But those places were always home. They were always a place to lay my head down and rest after a day carving out survival. Sometimes I only had a hot plate and a tea kettle.

Sometimes I rented furnished places with saggy chairs and mattresses. Other times I rented small rooms with nothing in them at all. I remember



sitting in dank, dirty rooms wondering if I would ever rise above any of it.

I always wanted more for myself. Even though there were times when I had no idea of how to get it for myself, I still carried the desire. Maybe, in the end, that's what allowed me to actually make that journey. Maybe it was that desire framed by getting up and cleaning those places, fixing things, replacing the broken, the unnecessary, the dingy in exchange for the bright.

My wife gets that and she's a scrupulous shopper. She looks for the little things that will alter a room magnificently. In her mind, and mine as I learn from her, is empathy for people in search of a good home.

She knows what it takes to make her feel good about her surroundings and she is unafraid to renovate in order to allow someone else to feel the same way. She doesn't break the bank but gives great things anyway.

That's important to remember at this time of year when we're busy buying special gifts for special people, when we're shelling out big bucks to put a smile on someone's face. Christmas has come to mean extravagance a lot of times.

We're more conscious about what we give and how it's received. The truth is that there are a lot of people out there who will go without gifts, not to mention loved ones, food, or shelter this Christmas.

As we look around the homes we're fortunate enough to occupy, we tend to forget that there are others engaged in a struggle to just make it through a day.

Our bright rooms, warm fires and full refrigerators are not present in a lot of lives. We take a lot for granted and it's not helping anybody.

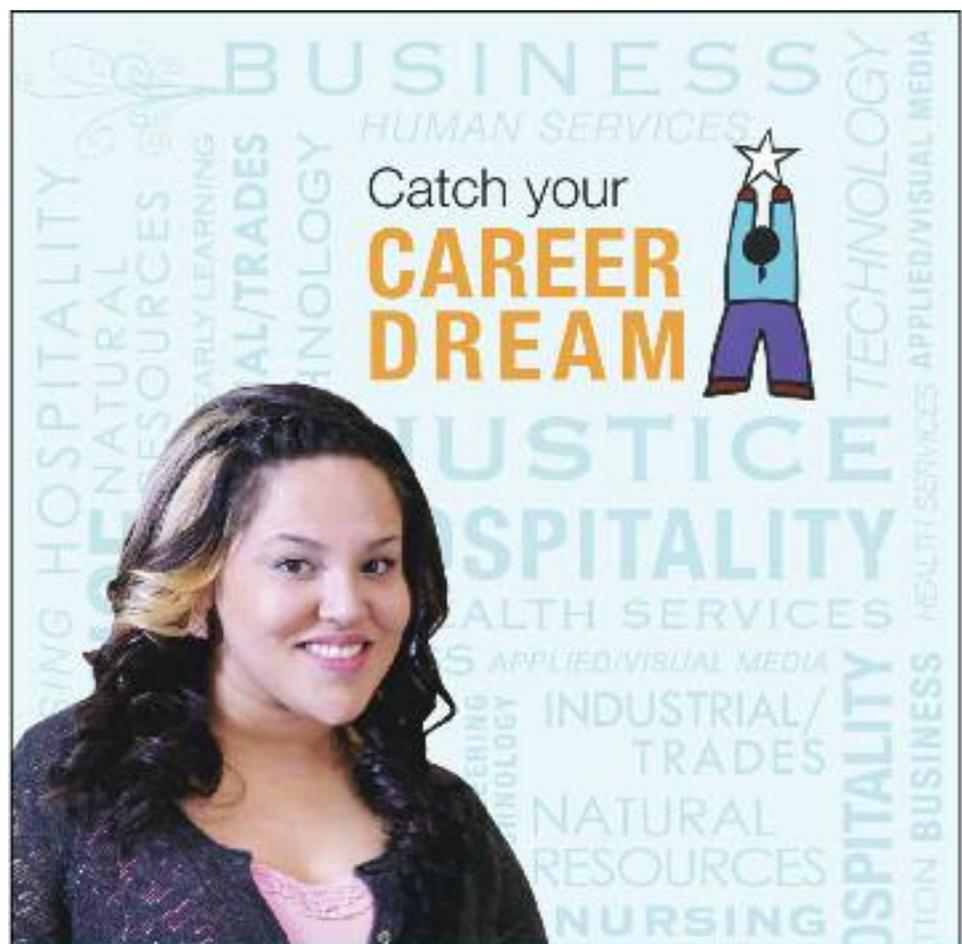
So we need to work at renovating the place we live. We need to renovate our neighborhoods, our communities, our countries, the world and the planet. We need to take care of each other.

We need to care that someone is hungry, cold and lonely.

This Christmas perhaps we can celebrate the fact that we're all in this together – and then do something about it.



The Saskatoon Tribal Council's Youth Entrepreneurship Program recently ran the 2nd Annual Mino-Bimaadiziwin Youth Business Plan Competition. The competition targets Saskatchewan First Nation youth between the ages of 16-35. The Mino-Bimaadiziwin Youth Business Plan Competition is geared towards First Nations youth to encourage the submission of new and existing business plans in order to turn those plans into business realities. The business plan competition winners earn money they will be able to put toward their cash equity when looking for funding for their business start-ups. The prize money for the 2012 competition totaled \$11,000 and is possible through the sponsorship of PotashCorp. This year's winner was Shayne Gladue of Flying Dust First Nation whose Warrior Enterprises is a log/gravel haul contracting trailer unit. Second place went to Lindsay Sutherland Photography and third went to Heather Abbey and her Shopcairo.ca website. From left are STC Chief Felix Thomas, Shayne Gladue, Lindsay Sutherland, Heather Abbey and Leanne Bellegarde from PotashCorp. (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)



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SIAST

Don't let the skulkers in the Big Box stores get you down this holiday season

By Carol Daniels
For Eagle Feather News

I love Christmas and the whole Holiday Season. I love it a lot, for more than one reason. The smell of cinnamon and cloves makes me smile.

As does choosing the perfect gift for my (husband/son/daughter/friend), it's why I'd walk a mile. Not surprisingly, I love Christmas Carols too.

But there is a dark side to all the revelry.

For Aboriginal shoppers, sadly, it's more of a reality.

There are things I do not like at all. Like trying to find parking spot at the mall. I'm not crazy about line-ups while standing there in my heavy winter boots. And, I don't like being accused of stealing someone else's loot.

That is what Wesakechak did to me just the other day, whilst wearing his everyday clothing, so as not to give his "I've been hired as a security guard" status away.

Skulking around the department store, Wesakechak spies me looking at a red sweater that I adore. Minutes later, I get stopped at the door. Wesakechak grabs my elbow and I hear him say, "Ma'am, I need you to come with me – this way," he says, pointing his lips to an office in the corner.

"You think I'm stealing, don't you?" I smile and ask.

"Just let me look in your bag, Ma'am," he sneers, wanting to get on with the task.

"I will let you look in this bag, if you stop calling me Ma'am."

I know I'm not youthful but nor am I am a Kookum. Then I tell him a story about a young waiter once calling me "Miss". To that respectful lad, I left a large tip.

"Okay, Miss," he grunts. I hand over the bag. Wesakechak roots through the contents; not once, not twice, but thrice. What he says next is not very nice, "Where's the red sweater that I saw you try on?"

"I didn't get it," I say. "Just browsing."

My response makes him frown.

"Well, you were acting guilty," he huffs.

"No," I say, "I was just acting brown."

"Acting brown? What kind of remark is that?" Wesakechak's embarrassed, upon realizing, I've been watching him too.

I noticed some type of micro-chip-like device near the corner of his ear. It's placed there and programmed, by the Big Box stores, to spy, specifically, on Aboriginal people this time of year.

When we shop during the Christmas season, being brown means, we get stopped a lot and for no particular reason.

I want to rid Wesakechak of the device, called by its other name – racism – it is the pits. Even worse than having nits.

In the spirit of the season, I don't react with hatred. That's what he expects. Instead, I smile and open a little pouch of kisses that I'd purchased, "Want one?" I offer, knowing that chocolate never misses.

That's when I hear a little tinkle, as the Big Box-programmed shard falls from his head. What he uttered next, I shall never forget what he said, "It's true, they told me – to profile and follow you – because you are a Cree."

At this admission, he starts to cry, a single, salty tear rolls from his eye.

Poor Wesakechak.

He says I need to hear that he took the security guard job because he's had a hard year.

He got laid off and didn't know what to do.

He became a Big Box security dude to support his family too.

But being racist is shameful and sad; Wesakechak knew what he did,

"I'll quit the Big Box job – it's not good for my kids. They don't need to see."

Perpetuating hatred, stereotypes and lies has no place at Christmas or any season.

No one should stalk Indians when shopping, for no reason, other than being brown."

Later, Wesakechak finds a better job at a small business in the city. It's owned by an Aboriginal sister.

She's an entrepreneur who blazes a trail and brightens our days, like nechis do, in so many ways.



Some great Christmas gift ideas with an Indigenous touch in mind

Need some easy but good Christmas ideas? Look no further as we have three sweet selections for you that are affordable, interesting and indigenous.

Buffy Sainte-Marie is a symbol of the free expression movement of the 1960s and her powerful songs inspired countless people seeking hope and change.

She is also a darling here in her birth territory of Saskatchewan.

Professor and author Blair Stonechild scored the assignment of a lifetime by getting to write her biography. In this ambitious biography of an international cultural icon, Blair Stonechild seeks to bring together the many facets of a remarkable life, and to develop a sense of the woman behind it all.

In doing so, Stonechild also traces some of the tumultuous history of the Cree people, offers a fascinating and challenging view into the impoverished Saskatchewan reserve where Sainte-Marie was born, and explores the story and context of a Native culture which

Sainte-Marie continues to inspire today.

Buffy is likely the most famous Cree from Saskatchewan and her story is fascinating and well worth the \$24.95 list price. Available at book stores across Saskatchewan.

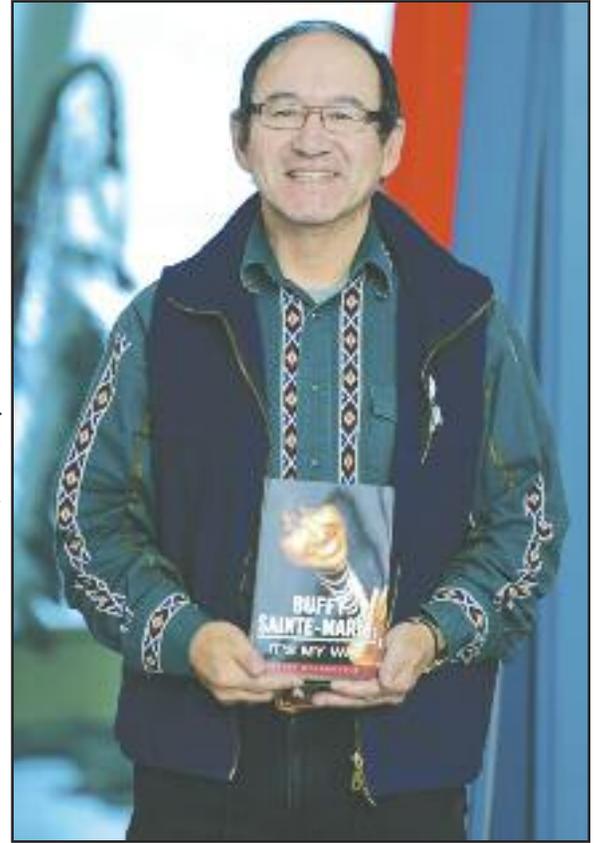
Another literary gem comes to us from prodigious author and entertainer Thomas King. *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North*

governments north and south of the 49th.

Check it out, you won't regret it. Retail is \$34.95. Available at book stores across Saskatchewan.

For those with an ear for music and a good cause, you can't go wrong in purchasing *Honouring Our Heroes: A Tribute to Métis Veterans*. This compilation CD is brought to you by the Gabriel Dumont Institute and costs an affordable \$20 and all of that \$20 goes to the fundraising campaign to build a veterans monument at the Back to Batoche site.

Donny Parenteau was in charge of assembling the crew for this CD and he scoured the homeland for the best of the best and he delivered. The CD features himself, Andrea Menard, Krystle Pederson, Mike Gouchie, Jess Lee and the ultimate Métis music legend Ray St. Germain.



Author Blair Stonechild has written the biography of musical icon Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Each artist gets two songs and they collaborate on others. The CD was officially launched at the DTI 20th anniversary where each performer took the stage. The evening was amazing and the music was world class.

Do yourself and the Métis veterans' monument a favour and give this gift of music and legacy this Christmas. For details call GDI at 1-877-488-6888.



America surveys the relationship between Indians and Whites as he revisits events long cloaked in myth to reveal the fair accounts. He uncovers massacres of settlers by Indians that never actually happened and provides a refreshing, alternate view of General Custer ... yes THE General Custer.

King is very smart and wickedly funny and he brings to life characters like John Smith and Pocahontas, Will Rogers, Louis Riel and others. He also brings to light the systemic attacks on Indians and their culture by the



Building a Future Through Investment

We started ten years ago, working together so that all seven communities in the Athabasca could participate in the opportunities generated by the local mining industry.

Today, we have ownership in ten companies that provide services for the mining industry, employ over 1,400 people and generate millions in consolidated revenues.

We're a proud aboriginal success story, creating opportunities for Saskatchewan's communities and as we look forward, we'll continue to grow and create a bright future.

Just imagine where we'll be tomorrow.



Dirk Dashing's annual Christmas wish list for men

John L. It's that time of year when women of all makes and models contemplate the best gifts for their men. Some spouses nail it – thank you Deirdra for the frilly scrapbook with the photo of Celine Dion and the words to My Heart Will Go On, on the front.

But some women fail to get it right, leaving many men wondering, "What the hell did I do now?" Here to advise you on what to buy that special man in your life our resident expert on manhood, Mr. Dirk Dashing.

Dirk: John, last year's Christmas list was a fantastic success. So like last year I canvassed only the manliest specimens of manhood and we crafted a sure-fire list of what to get and what to avoid. So John, let's get on with it and list the gifts guys don't want:

- 10. Thighmaster – unless he is upgrading his skills and endurance for the bedroom, no man wants to be caught dead with this thing between his knees.
- 9. Huge Brown Leather Mitts – like grandpa used to wear, lined with scratchy grey socks with the red stripe on them.
- 8. Cheesy Sweater – yeah, no.
- 7. Chick Flick – we want movies with super heroes featuring plenty of action.
- 6. Snuggly Sleep Blanket – unless you're in it.
- 5. Bieber Cologne – when in doubt go for Old Spice or Brut 33.
- 4. Restaurant Gift Certificates – unless

that restaurant is Hooters, in which case you are going to come

- 3. Hickory Farms Gift Basket – yeah, no
- 2. Second Hand Austin Power's Swedish Enlarger - creepy.

1. Anything featuring Celine Dion – creepy.

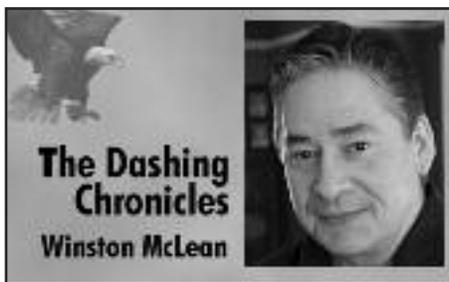
John L.: Great list, Dirk, although I got to say that Celine Dion is awesome and that Bieber cologne is not all bad.

Dirk:

John L.: Ok. Um, so what did the guys say should be on the ultimate Christmas wish list for men?

Dirk: Y'know John, I worry about our brothers, their states of mind and, well, their quality of shall we say life. I had to clean this list up quite a bit this year, and some ideas were not fit for print. At any rate, here we go...

- 10. A Pack of Golf Passes with Cart - can't go wrong with this.
- 9. A Remote Control Helicopter – the one with a digital video camera.
- 8. Wireless Sports Car Mouse – awesome, especially if he has the real thing in the drive way.
- 7. Star Trek Enterprise Pizza Cutter – the thing is just crazy looking and we're into that.
- 6. Fifty Shades of Grey home Re-



Enactment Starter Kit – this is more for you than for us.

5. Wireless TV Headphones – will save relationships.

4. Bathroom Reading Material – like "WTF?: How To

Survive 101 of Life's Worst F*#!-ing Situations", "Book of Secrets", or anything from the "Forbidden Knowledge: 101 Things..." series.

3. Stock Car Driving Session – gets the testosterone fired up.

2. Brand New Austin Power's Swedish Enlarger – with gift receipt in case results fail to meet expectations.

1. A 70 inch HD 600MHz 3D Capable, Internet Browsing Smart TV with WiFi and Bluetooth – yeah, baby.

John L.: Once again, Dirk, you never fail to amaze, awe and inspire.

Dirk: Just doing my job. But I could not have pulled this off without the aid of certain mental giants. These commandos of love even had a few Christmas wishes for other people too.

For instance, "Santa, bring Prime Minister Steven Harper a visit from the Jewish people, so they might remind him that his silencing of any that oppose him reeks of the rise of the Nazi's in 1930s Germany."

"Minister Duncan's legislative and policy changes may be misguided, disastrous, myopic, and ultimately evil, but he says he is sincere. Santa, bring him a good history lesson to remedy his clear conscience."

To the policy wonks in government comes this stocking stuffer: "If we ditch the Treaties then Saskatchewan taxpayers inherit a \$600 million health care liability. Add welfare, education, and so on, and then Harper's gift to you is going to cripple us all come tax season."

To the Indian People of Saskatchewan: "You may not be a fan of the FSIN, but if it becomes extinct as per Harper's "Accountability Strategy" then say good-bye to an important line of defense for your Treaty rights."

And finally, Santa, we feel a soul might cure Senator Patrick Brazeau of his megalomania, hypocrisy and callous disregard for truth. Then again, those are the qualities needed to be a member of Harper's SS, in which case he already has the heart of a turnip.

John L.: Wow. A little crusty for Christmas, Dirk, but we are out of space. Next month Dirk brings you his 2013 predictions for 2013. That's what it says.

Dirk says, "Going to church doesn't make you a good Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a Ferrari."

Season's Greetings

Wishing you peace, happiness and prosperity.

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority
SIGA.sk.ca

BEAR CLAW CASINO & HOTEL

DAKOTA DUNES CASINO

GOLD DUNES CASINO

LIVING SKY CASINO

NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO

RED HAND CASINO

Play Responsibly

IT sector represents opportunity for First Nations

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Cara Greyeyes wants to turn you into a believer in the power of fibre optics. Greyeyes is Program Manager at Keewatin Career Development Corporation (KCDC) and has been involved in IT and delivery of online programs and services for over a decade and she knows the benefits a community reaps when that community is truly wired in.

To help share the importance and opportunities in fibre optics, KCDC has partnered with SaskTel to bring about the 1st Annual Saskatchewan First Nation ICT conference to be held at the Dakota Dunes Casino Event Centre in January 2013. The inspiration for the conference has been the high need among Saskatchewan First Nation communities to fully embrace fibre optic internet connectivity and to learn about options for future growth.

"SaskTel has recently announced that the fibre optic infrastructure is going to be available to these communities very soon," said Greyeyes. "This opens the door for technology to be front and centre. Not only as internet to the school, but think about using technology in the health centre.

"Or think about a call centre or the ability of a band to be the supplier of internet to all their members on reserve. The business potential is fantastic."

Being able to move at the speed of business is always an asset. Many communities are still reliant on satellite or dial up for their Internet, and both systems can be inconsistent and are almost always slower than high speed.



Cara Greyeyes of KCDC wants people to embrace fibre optic technology on reserve and is hosting a conference to help facilitate that.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

SaskTel and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations have a strong history of working together and have a signed memorandum of understanding to bring much faster broadband speeds to all First Nations communities and facilities in order to provide equitable access to services such as communications, education, health, electronic business and entertainment.

"The sky is the limit after that," added Greyeyes.

KCDC is a non-profit corporation that is comprised of members from northern First Nation, Métis, and provincial educational and career organizations and KCDC has successfully managed the transition of school connectivity through two generations of satellite service and connection to the provincial Wide Area Networks - Supernet in Alberta and CommunityNet in Saskatchewan.

This background makes them ideal hosts for this conference.

"We want to show these leaders how to transform educational and health business practises into an "e-community" creating a web-enabled infrastructure that creates business opportunities for e-commerce among Saskatchewan First Nations," added Greyeyes.

"There are a lot of eager and proactive people out there that want to embrace this. At this conference we will showcase the opportunities that can be created by this infrastructure."

For more information, please go to:
<http://skfirsnationsict.ca>

Helping Build Brighter Futures



Practical Nursing Program
Prince Albert & Saskatoon, SK

Start Date: September 3, 2013
End Date: April 2015

Dumont Technical Institute, a Métis post-secondary institute, is proud to be delivering a Practical Nursing Program that will provide professional nursing care as a member of a health care team. Practical Nurses provide nursing care in settings such as the patient's home, community, acute care hospitals, and long term care facilities. This program is provincially accredited and graduates receive a SIAST/DTI diploma in Practical Nursing.

Entrance Requirements:

- Minimum Grade 12 with a minimum 65% overall average in the following courses:
- English Language Arts A50
- English Language Arts B30
- One of History 30/Social Studies 30/Native Studies 30
- One of Biology 30/Chemistry 30/Physics 30
- Mathematics — 30 level

Application Requirements:

- A cover letter explaining why you want to take the course
- Completed Dumont Technical Institute application form
- Transcripts

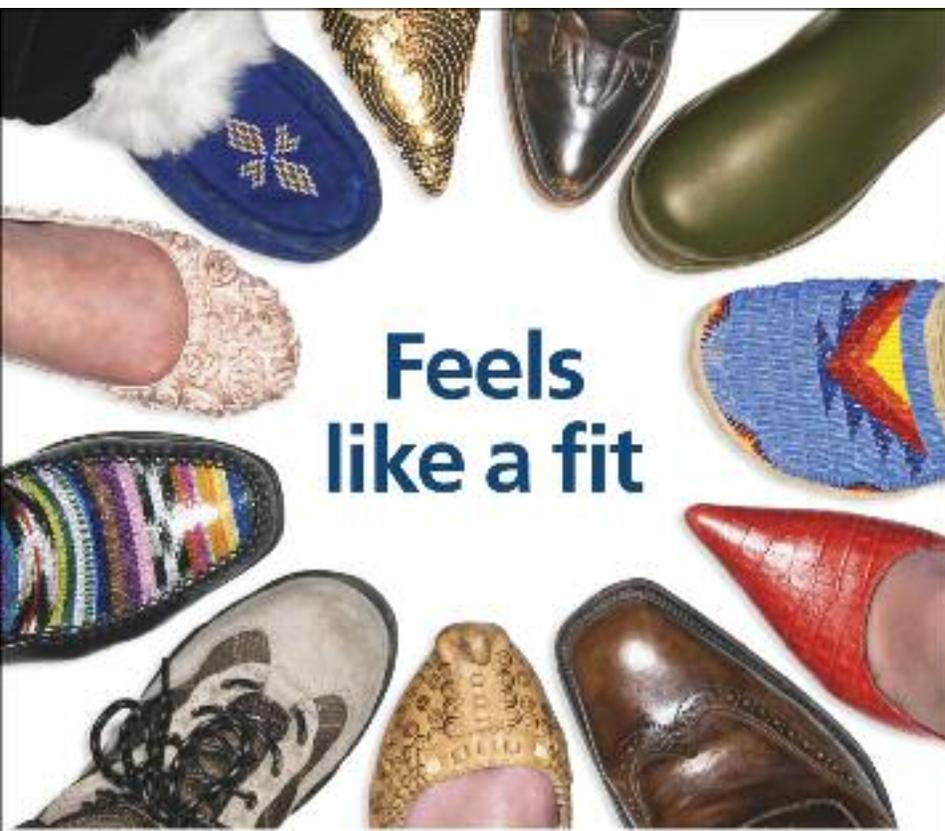
Application Deadline: February 28, 2013

For more information or to obtain an application form, please stop by your local Dumont Technical Institute office at 48 12th St. E., Prince Albert, SK

Apply online at www.gdins.org

Contact:
Tony Blacklock or Tracy LaPrise - Program Coordinators
Dumont Technical Institute
Saskatoon, SK
Phone: 306-242-6070 or Toll Free: 1-877-488-6888
Fax: 306-242-0002

The success of the student that will lead to a successful career is the success of the development of Métis culture through research, innovation, leadership, the cultivation and stimulation of their interests, and the design, development and delivery of ICT to support educational programs and services.



Feels like a fit

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At FCC, we've built a culture where you can be yourself. You're an individual and it takes strong individuals to make a strong team. So, be who you are and feel at home when you go to work.

www.fcc.ca/diversity




Financial services by the people, for the people

By Morgan Beaudry
For Eagle Feather News

Chartered banks make big bucks on interest charges but insofar as providing services to First Nations communities in Saskatchewan, there was little if any interest at all.

Requests for credit weren't processed quickly and, when denied, were rejected without explanation. Fees were high, services few and hard to access.

Fed up, several communities decided they could do better by creating their own credit union but it was a short-lived dream. Consultation with Affinity Credit Union illustrated the staggering capital costs of such a venture. Then the solution presented itself.

"When you look at their governance and their values, a lot of those values are identical to First Nations values. It's about being community based and driven," said Bonnie Lavallee, chair of Affinity's First Nation District council, and a member of Affinity Credit Union's 15-member board of directors.

Created in 2006, Affinity's new district blew the cobwebs off of business-as-usual banking.

"We can be strong agents for change within the communities we serve. We look at bottom line, too, but it's not only thing we look at," said Chris Sicotte, First Nations Business Development Manager. Sicotte, who hails from Flin Flon, but whose family traces its roots to Cumberland House, has spent much of his financial service career in First Nations banking.

"A community came to us at Affinity with a cheque cashing issue. They were near a retail branch but it charged a \$5 fee for cheque cashing. Grocery and liquor stores were happy to take the cheques but that didn't sit well with the chief and council so we created an account for the band that all members could use, with no fee."

The District began with eight First Nations communities. Now, a dozen belong to Affinity and that number is set to grow.

"We approach this as a long-term partnership. Members can bank at 44 locations throughout Saskatchewan. We opened one of the first on-reserve retail locations, the Last Oak Branch on Cowessess First Nation, as an expression of our commitment to this market," said Affinity Credit Union CEO Mark Lane.

Transparency is core value for the credit union, and they key aspect that was lacking in the communities' past dealing with the chartered banks.

"Communities were having a hard time understanding why credit was being declined, deferred or ignored. Early on, we saw that a real commitment we could make is increasing understanding and financial literacy," said Lane.

"There was a lack of competitiveness on fee side was well. We saw there was an opportunity to introduce a fairer fee structure whereas, prior, First Nation communities had been paying fees and rates that were actually higher than what the market would normally bear.

The business side of financial services was a bit slow to start but in the last 18 months, Sicotte said he's noticed activity is up.

This past spring, Affinity launched a new business micro-loans program. Borrowers can access between \$5,000 and \$50,000, just enough to finance or invest in a small business. The Saskatchewan-wide program is perfectly timed to capitalize on the trend of Boomer-generation business owners looking to sell business and retire.

"They also have a First Nations Approval Process, just for First Nations people and bands," said Lavallee. "They are compassionate and respectful of First Nations people and culture."

Because the credit union philosophy is rooted in community, Affinity has involved itself in many community-driven events and initiatives including

Canada Day celebrations, the 2011 First Nations Summer Games, and many health, sports and arts programs, including Regina Symphony Orchestra's Piapot Project.

"Ours really is a true partnership. Banks talk about it but we actually do it," said Sicotte. "When we sponsor an event, we will actually make an effort to be at the event. It's about getting out there and really being part of the community.

Sicotte is also hoping that credit union staff, like him, and board members like Lavallee attract more aboriginal people to a career in the financial services industry.

"It's also still viewed as a White, male dominated industry and hard to see role models because there aren't enough First Nations and Métis choosing financial services as a career right out of school," said Sicotte.

"My mentor – the late Steve Prince – was with the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council economic development branch. He was instrumental in helping me develop the mindset to always work for the greater good. Financial services can be about people.

"The more we can do for the community, the more the community can do."



Chris Sicotte, First Nation Business Development Manager, Mark Lane CEO and Murray Foster the First Nations Account Manager at Affinity Credit Union have changed the way many financial services have been delivered to First Nations.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

1st Annual Saskatchewan First Nations Information Communication Technology Conference

What does fibre connection mean for First Nations communities?

- Enhance Community Capacity
- Improved Program Services
- Economic Development
- Expand Means of Communication
- Fibre-based Services 4G and LTE

Who Should Attend: Chiefs/
Councillors, Directors, Band
Administration, Program
Directors, Land Managers,
IT Directors/Managers/
Technicians

When: January 29 & 30, 2013

Where: Dakota Dunes Casino

For more information or
to register, please visit
www.skfirstnationsict.ca or
contact Charlotte Ross at:
Phone: 306-281-9462
Email: charlotte.ross@kcdc.ca



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BRINGING TECHNOLOGY
TO FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES



MN-S SECRETARY CONFIRMED

After a long wait for a judicial recount, May Henderson was finally named Secretary of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. The former Director of the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre campaigned on accountability and hard work. "I will show up every day and work hard for the Métis people of Saskatchewan," she said. Henderson was officially sworn in at a ceremony at her old haunt, the Friendship Centre in Saskatoon just prior to Louis Riel Day celebrations. Senator Nora Cummings led her in the oath of office. Henderson, true to form, had to leave shortly afterwards to work a bingo fundraiser for the Friendship Centre. "My last one that I promised to do as a fundraiser for the Grade 12 grad party," said Henderson. "Then it's to work at the MN-S." That lady never stops. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

White Bear First Nations and BRIDG are providing the following information for the shareholder members to consider a Board member application. The White Bear Development Corporation is owned and controlled by the White Bear First Nations overseeing a group of companies involved in oil and gas, tourism, and commercial owned operations. The newly established board will be elected at White Bear Development Corporation's Annual General Meeting early in 2013.

The following seven (7) positions will be elected:

- Board Chair – White Bear First Nations appointee (3-yr)
- Board Member – White Bear First Nations appointee (3-yr)
- Board Member – White Bear First Nations appointee (3-yr)
- Board Member – White Bear First Nations appointee (2-yr)
- Independent Director – At Large (3-yr)
- Independent Director – At Large (2-yr)
- Independent Director – At Large (2-yr)



Director nomination applications will be accepted until December 31, 2012.

The full Director application form can be found at: www.eaglefeathernews.com

Ask the
nwmo



nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

Transportation

As Canada's used fuel inventory is currently stored at seven nuclear sites across four provinces, transportation of the nuclear material to a centralized facility is required. While there may be concerns about the transportation of used nuclear fuel, Canadian and international experience demonstrate that used fuel can be transported safely.

The NWMO is committed to planning and operating a safe and secure transportation system that incorporates the lessons learned from over 40,000 shipments worldwide over 45 years. The NWMO acknowledges that transportation is of great interest to the public. The NWMO will identify preferred transportation modes and potential routes, and will welcome communities along the transportation route as a large group with a shared interest to raise questions or concerns to be addressed in the process.

Q Where is Canada's used nuclear fuel currently stored?

A. Canada's used nuclear fuel inventory is currently stored at seven nuclear sites across four provinces; transportation of the nuclear material to a centralized facility is a necessary component of Adaptive Phased Management (APM). A key component of APM is the design and implementation of an integrated transportation plan for the safe, secure delivery of used fuel from current, interim storage locations to Canada's long-term facility. Approximately 90% of Canada's used nuclear fuel is located in Ontario, and about 5% each in New Brunswick and Quebec.

Q When will the transportation of used fuel to the deep geological repository begin?

A. Transporting used nuclear fuel could begin in 2035 at the earliest, upon completion of the deep geological repository. Based on current projections, a total of 4.6 million used fuel bundles will be shipped to the repository over a 38-year period. Fuel bundles are about the size of a fireplace log and weigh approximately 24 kilograms each.

Q How is the transportation of used nuclear fuel regulated?

A. In Canada, a comprehensive regulatory framework governs the transportation of radioactive materials. Safe and secure movement of used fuel is highly regulated and conducted in accordance with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Transport Canada regulations.

The CNSC regulates the transport of nuclear material through the Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations. These include a series of safety-based regulatory requirements such as package design requirements, operational controls during transport, loading and unloading of the package, and inspection and maintenance requirements. The CNSC certifies the transport package design and issues a licence to transport in accordance with these regulations. A CNSC fact sheet on regulating packaging and transport of nuclear substances is available at <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/readingroom/factsheets/packaging-and-transport-of-nuclear-substances.cfm>.

Transport Canada establishes requirements for training, emergency planning, labeling, safe handling and documentation, and carries out compliance inspections. Transport Canada's regulations for the transportation of dangerous goods have been adopted at the provincial and territorial levels through agreements.

The NWMO will have to meet the regulatory requirements and will have the responsibility for all used fuel transportation operations to the repository. This includes planning, obtaining licences, documenting, tracking all shipments, and ensuring that workers and first responders are adequately trained.

Q How robust are the transportation containers?

A. Packages designed to transport used nuclear fuel are based on international standards and Canadian regulations. The containers are extremely robust and are tested to provide protection against the impact of a severe collision and the effects of fire and immersion in water.

The current package design prototype is made of a solid stainless steel box with walls nearly 30 centimetres thick and a lid attached by 32 bolts. It has been designed to meet a series of challenging performance requirements – specified in the CNSC transportation regulations – and based on international standards to demonstrate the ability to withstand severe impact, fire and immersion in water. The package can contain 192 used fuel bundles, weighs almost 35 tonnes when loaded and can be carried by all modes of transport. The CNSC is responsible for reviewing the design of the package and ensuring that the package passes all tests before issuing a certificate of approval.



Ulf Stahmer is a licensed Professional Engineer who began his career designing brake systems for freight railcars. For the past 12 years, Mr. Stahmer has held senior engineering positions in Radioactive Waste Transportation Design for Ontario Power Generation and the NWMO. He has authored several papers presented at international conferences and is a member of the Canadian Advisory Committee for the Transportation of Radioactive Material. Mr. Stahmer has seven patents.

"Ask the NWMO" is an advertising feature published regularly in this and other community newspapers to respond to readers' questions about Canada's plan for managing used nuclear fuel over the long term and its implementation. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization welcomes your questions. Please forward your questions to askthenwmo@nwmo.ca.



Heavenly Kakakaway and Heaven Lee Adams show off their U-Pass cards. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

U-Pass program getting traction

The universal bus pass or U-Pass is now being offered by the City of Saskatoon as a pilot project to students at Oskayak High School. The U-Pass will provide students unlimited, city-wide bus access.

This partnership means that Oskayak will be able to offer transportation solutions to the entire student body. Not only will students have easier access to get to school, with unlimited access to transit services, they will also be better able to connect with the wider community for day to day activities outside of their school.

"The U-Pass helps me not only get to school but I can get to appointments and my part-time job, and I can visit family and friends on the weekend!" said Heavenly Kakakaway, a Grade 12 Oskayak student.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Inroads to Agriculture Program is a partnership with SIIT - Regina, SIIT - Saskatoon, Parkland College - Yorkton, and Lakeland College - Alberta. We provide training programs to our Aboriginal people which are geared toward Agriculture. We have training programs that are starting in the new year. Could you see yourself in any of the following careers? Call us at the numbers below if you can picture it. New Year, new career!

Class 1A Driver Training: Each participant will be trained in the following and be employment ready after successfully completing the program, this program runs 2 to 4 weeks depending on the level of training each participant needs. This program is always ongoing.

- Air brake
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Logbook / Hours of Service

Welding Certificate: Successful participants can apply 650 hours of training towards their level 1 apprenticeship hours upon program completion. Each participant will be trained and employment ready after successfully completing the program. This is a 22 week program starting in Saskatoon January 28, 2013 and February 5, 2013 in Regina and North Battleford.

- Properties of metal and sheet
- Understanding blueprint reading and welding symbols
- Various welding methods as requested by the employer

Agriculture Crop Production Worker Program: Each participant will be trained in aspects of crop production and be employment ready after 18 weeks of in-class and 24 weeks on the job paid training. This is a 42 week course starting February 18, 2013.

This program will be held at the Parkland College in Yorkton.

- + Introduction to Agriculture and Essential Skills (11 weeks)
- + Seeding, spraying, harvesting
- + Further career exploration in industry such as 1A driver training, agronomy training, pesticide application, post secondary Agriculture programs

Inroads to Agriculture Contact Information

#325-2555 Grasswood Road East
Saskatoon, Sask. S7T 0K1, Fax 979 - 2044

Mural Bird - Project Manager
979 - 8055 ext 453, 260 - 3400 cell
mbird@inroadstoagriculture.com

Sheila Gordon - Project Coordinator
979 - 8055 ext 452, 260 - 2212 cell, gordon@inroadstoagriculture.com





ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - SERVICIERE MONTÉE DU CANADA



<p>JOIN THE RCMP</p> <p>CAREER PRESENTATION</p> <p>January 8 at 6 PM</p> <p>SIAST, Kelsey Campus, Rm 309 Idylwyld & 33rd Street, Main Bldg. Saskatoon, SK</p>	<p>DEVENEZ MEMBRE DE LA GRC</p> <p>PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES</p> <p>8 janvier à 18 h</p> <p>SIAST, campus de Kelsey, salle 309 Immeuble principal, Idylwyld et 33rd St Saskatoon (SK)</p>
<p>CAREER PRESENTATION</p> <p>January 12 at 10 AM</p> <p>SIAST, Wascana Campus 4500 Wascana Parkway, Rm 619 Regina, SK</p>	<p>PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES</p> <p>12 janvier à 10 h</p> <p>SIAST, campus de Wascana 4500 Wascana Parkway, salle 619 Regina (SK)</p>

Attendance at a career presentation is now the mandatory first step in the application process. / Assister à une séance d'information sur les carrières est maintenant la première étape obligatoire du processus de recrutement.

1-877-RCMP-GRC (1-877-726-7472)




GENERAL MANAGER for White Bear Lake Resort

General Manager's Duties:

- Recruit, train and develop a team of resort administration/personnel.
- Responsible for managing the daily operation of the Lake Resort while maintaining established Resort's facility costs and quality standards.
- Establish departmental responsibilities and coordinate functions among maintenance departments, resort and cottage development, campsite and lakefront amenities.
- Manage and achieve all areas of the budgets by implementing proper controls.
- Direct, plan, and implement policies, objectives, and activities of the White Bear Development Corporation LP, its partner organizations, (golf course, casino and hotel sub-leases), or businesses to ensure continuity in operations, to maximize returns on investments.
- Direct and coordinate activities of businesses or marketing departments concerned with production, competitive pricing, sales, or promotion of the Lake Resort's facilities.
- Monitor and maintain procedures for worker's safety and the safety of guests and security personnel.
- Prepare and present reports concerning activities, expenses, budgets, by-laws of the White Bear First Nations, other government statutes and rulings, and other items affecting businesses or Lake Resort services.
- Coordinate and oversee all Lake Resort programs and activities, and aim to market and coordinate the Resort activities with golf tournaments, special groups, swimming instruction and packaging local retail promotions and opportunities.
- Ensure consistent high standards of customer service across all Lake Resort properties and operations.

Education
A diploma or degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or Hospitality and Tourism Management along with 5 years of management experience, in local government or an equivalent combination.

Salary and Potential Bonus Structure
The annual salary range is \$55,000.00 - \$65,000.00, not inclusive of bonus incentives. Salary and benefits are negotiable with qualifications.

Full Job Description is available at www.eaglefeathernews.com

Please submit the required documents by E-mail or facsimile to
ATTENTION: General Manager Posting
White Bear Lake Resort Inc./ INTERIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS
c/o Guy Lonschild, Interim Manager/Point Person
Business Ready Investments Development Gateway, Box 700, Carlyle, SK S0C 0R0
Facsimile: 1(306) 577-4363 E-mail: guyloeschild29@gmail.com
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY February 4th, 2013 4:00 pm





PATRICK BRAZEAU

Vice-Chief, Senator square off on rights for off-reserve band members

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

On November 21, members of the Senate, including Senator Lillian Dyck and Senator Patrick Brazeau, came to Saskatoon's Indian and Metis Friendship Centre to review the rights of urban Aboriginals.

In the morning, Vice-Chief Simon Bird of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations addressed the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights as they conducted their parliamentary review of the rights of First Nations band members living off-reserve. Bird noted that treaty and inherent rights have been avoided and neglected, and afterwards told reporters that Bill C-45's then-pending omnibus bill was also hugely problematic.

"We need to make sure people understand that our treaty rights were never properly implemented," said Bird.

There were some heated exchanges between Brazeau and Bird, usually ending in applause from the 50 or so community members for Bird's respectful but pointed retorts. (It was a bit like watching a Trudeau-Brazeau rematch, without the gloves or boxing ring.)

In one exchange, Brazeau pointed out that despite off-reserve urban Aboriginals receiving \$1 funding for \$8 that on-reserve First Nations members received, the urban Aboriginals were sometimes faring better economically. Bird quickly pointed out that all Aboriginal programming and services are chronically underfunded across the board, and on- and off-reserve Aboriginals consistently fare worse than everyone else in the country when it comes to comparisons.

"Statistics will tell you that the large number of inmates in prisons obviously don't have the right programs in place, and more needs to be invested in our urban First Nations," said Bird, adding that urban Aboriginals are often unable to access the appropriate programming and services, and redirecting funding from building bigger prisons to instead providing those better programming and services is what is needed from government.

"We need to keep programs that improve quality of life," said Bill Mintram, acting assistant director and program coordinator with the Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, in a subsequent panel. He added there are diverse issues for urban First Nations members: affordable housing, homelessness, education, and resources.

Mintram wishes his centre had the funding to deliver everything it wants to, and everything that the community is asking for, but is hopeful that the Senate will recommend to Ottawa to provide these resources for off-reserve programming.

The AFCS, Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, and Kikinahk Friendship Centre accepted the invitation to testify, and was included in a Western Canadian tour which began in Winnipeg and ended in Vancouver. Three scheduled hours of testimony began in the morning, after smudge and prayer led by Elder Michael Maurice, followed by a community lunch, and afternoon tour of the Centre.



SIMON BIRD

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At SaskPower, we generate more than just electricity for Saskatchewan residents. We offer some of the best career opportunities in the province. There's never been a better time to join our team. Challenging careers, competitive salaries, attractive benefits, professional development, career advancement and the chance to become involved in your community await you. For career opportunities check out our website at saskpower.com.

Power Line Technician Apprenticeship Positions

(Job #CAAR-690346) Various Saskatchewan Locations

Looking for an exciting and challenging career - SaskPower has it! SaskPower's Power Line Technicians play a vital role in bringing electricity to homes and industry in Saskatchewan.

Would you like to work outdoors, learn to climb power poles and become part of our team at SaskPower? SaskPower is looking for enthusiastic people interested in joining our team as Apprentice Power Line Technicians. Successful apprenticeships will result in Journeyed status which allows for a variety of career opportunities within SaskPower.

Minimum qualifications include: 20-level Math (Math 20, Workplace and Apprenticeship 20; Foundations 20; or Pre-Calculus 20) and 10 level Science and/or Grade 12 diploma (no modified classes) or GED 12. You must be physically fit to meet the challenge of physically demanding work. Also, you must be able to work in all types of weather, capable of working at heights on poles, willing to relocate anywhere in the province, and possess a valid Class 5 driver's licence. A valid Class 1 driver's licence is considered an asset. Apprentice salary for this position starts at \$25.41 per hour plus benefits.

You have the option of applying online at saskpower.com, or by submitting making clear reference to the job # to our fax (306) 566-2087 or by mail to the attention of Carla at the address listed below. To be considered for this opportunity, your application must be accompanied by a copy of your high school transcripts, valid driver's licence, and a driver's abstract. You have the option of attaching these documents when you apply online at saskpower.com. Your application/resume and/or above mentioned accompanying documents must reach our office no later than January 14, 2013.

We encourage you to view the Line Trade Video at saskpower.com prior to submitting your application.

The closing date is January 14, 2013.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those being interviewed will be contacted.

To apply online please visit saskpower.com, or send your resume making clear reference to the job #, to:

SaskPower Recruitment
2025 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 0S1
Fax 306.566.2087

Our goal is to have a workforce as diverse as the customers we serve.



Saskatchewan is moving forward.
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Saskatchewan's labour legislation...
to protect workers, promote growth and
support our vibrant provincial economy.

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Northerners looking for economic development ideas

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Northern leaders and ground-breakers, the movers and shakers of the North – representatives of industry, local and regional economic development workers, and other key community figures recently gathered in La Ronge for the 2012 Northern Economic Summit.

The meeting was to build momentum on last year's gathering that saw the launching of 17 different initiatives to help the North benefit from the booming economy in Saskatchewan.

The participants were drawn together by a committee of people from Enterprise Regions across the North that are faced with the changing landscape of economic development since the provincial government removal of provincial funding for the three northern Saskatchewan enterprise regions.

Les Ostryk, a resident of Creighton and chairperson of the 2012 Committee knows the challenges they face.

"There is a definite need for a North-wide, unified economic development entity that is by the North and is a voice of the North," said Ostryk upon reflection after the Summit.

He also acknowledged that they have to live in a new reality around government funding.

"This new economic development entity needs to come from private membership that shows industry investment because they see the value added benefits of a specific focus on Northern economic development. We can't rely on government anymore."

This year Northerners were asked to discuss a new potential Northern economic development entity that would work to support and implement initiatives beneficial to all northerners. They were led in facilitated group discussions, the content of which will come back to the committee and participants for consideration for next steps. Last year roadblocks to Northern development including poor roads, housing and education were listed. The new entity is needed and expected to lobby government to improve on those deficiencies.

"My job is to protect and promote the Métis Nation of Sandy Bay. We need to work together in the North. We are uniting and want to be included for the needs and wants of our people," said Gerald Morin who was representing Sandy Bay, Saskatchewan Métis Local #90.

"This Summit brings diverse people together to talk about economic development and being prosperous. With the kind of people I meet around, I am confident in the North's ability to take this on."

To help frame the conversation the

Summit participants heard from speakers Darwin Roy of Cameco, Curtis Hemming from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and Jerome Slavik, a renowned collaboration agreement nego-

board of the Churchill River Enterprise Region will then meet to review this report and determine what steps need to be taken next to implement the recommendations," said Ostryk.



Gerald Morin, representing Sandy Bay Métis Local #90 at the Northern Economic Summit, reports back on his group's discussions. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

tiator. There was also entertainment from New Dawn Singers and the Strong Sisters.

Now that consensus has been reached, the Committee awaits the report and then will proceed with the work and lobbying at hand.

"Once we get the report, the Summit organizing committee along with the

"The most gratifying perspective at the conclusion of the Summit was the unanimous and overwhelming feeling that all Northern stakeholders expressed about having one unified voice for the interests of all northern economic development across the entire northern Saskatchewan landscape."



Clarence Campeau Development Fund

Season's Greetings

From the Board of Directors & Staff of the
Clarence Campeau Development Fund



Check out our (NEW) programs at:
www.clarencecampeau.com



First Nations protest feds controversial Bill C-45

• Continued from Page One

Protesters say these changes have been pushed through parliament without consultation.

Those changes have Sylvia McAdam furious. McAdam, along with three other women, are behind a series of protests over the past month in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Called "Idle No More," McAdam is organizing another series of rallies from her home on the Whitefish Lake First Nation.

"I feel attacked as an individual, a collective, as a nation and it's the generations to come that are being attacked as well," she said.



SYLVIA McADAM

Many First Nations leaders are furious over Bill C-45, as well. On Dec. 4, chiefs and leaders from across the country were in Ottawa for meeting with the AFN. At the very same time, the bill was under debate in the House of Commons. Indigenous Governance expert Pam Palmater said that didn't sit right with her.

"As I was sitting (in the assembly), I had this huge profound sense of 'What am I doing at an assembly when all this is happening at parliament?'" she said. "We have to try and rally," she added.

Palmater slipped into the hallway to think about what to do. That's where she ran into Wallace Fox, the chief of the Onion Lake Cree Nation.

"He was thinking the same thing," she said.

Palmater took to Twitter and Facebook to gather a crowd of supporters at Parliament Hill. Later that day, a crowd rallied on the hill, led in part by Chief Fox.

"The status quo of meetings and passing resolutions is over," he said. "Our youth are saying take action, so we are taking action."

Fox and the procession made their way

into Parliament to speak with Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver. After a brief discussion, the chiefs attempted to storm the House of Commons. That led to a short scuffle with security.

"There was some pushing. All we wanted to do was address Parliament, as it should have been in the first place," he said.

Bill C-45 was passed unamended later that night.

Chief Fox says this protest is just the beginning, if the Conservative government doesn't change the way they make and pass laws affecting First Nations people.

"Their idea of consultation, is 'we talked to the National Chief for 20 minutes,'" Fox said. "No one has come to my territory, Treaty Six. No one has come to Onion Lake and talked to the elders," he said.

"So we are going to take matters into our own hands," he added.

Back in Saskatchewan, that's what a group of Grade 7 students at Nawigizigweyas School on the Yellow Quill First Nation did. Led by their teacher, Melody Iron, students from that class took to the hallways, and to the local gas station to collect signatures for a petition against C-45.

"I wanted to see if I could get them passionate about something," Iron said.

But first, the students needed a lesson in parliamentary procedure. So Iron did what any smart teacher would do – she used Justin Bieber.

"I had them all call out a topic – Justin Bieber, Black OPS 2, it didn't matter," she said.

Iron had the class vote on each topic individually, then forced them to vote on all of them as a whole.

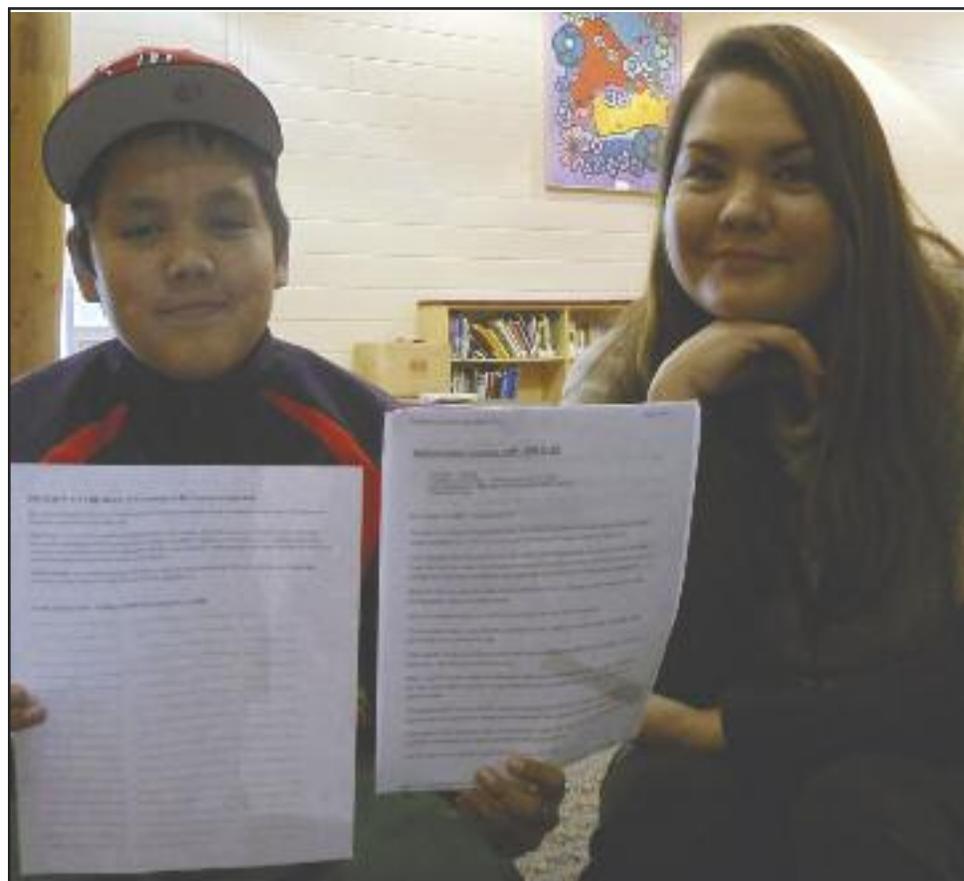
"It was like a light bulb switched on for them," she said.

Soon after, normally quiet students were jumping at the chance to take the petition around the school. One student even took the petition to the local gas station to get more signatures.

Iron hopes she and her class can continue to collect signatures to stop the bill. That might not be easy.

Bill C-45 has passed second reading in the House of Commons, and is destined for a third reading in the Senate. "The Senate isn't known (to stop bills), says Sylvia McAdam. That isn't stopping her from organizing more Idle No More rallies. Around Dec. 10, she's hoping communities across Canada will join her in calling down the bill and what's to come.

"There's approximately eight bills making their way through Parliament... and all of them have one goal – to legislate



Grade 7 student Kain Cheechan and Yellow Quill teacher Melody Iron who found a creative way to get her students thinking about parliamentary procedure and important issues. (Photograph by Jocelyn Neapetung)

indigenous people into extinction," she said. "I don't think I'm being far-fetched making that statement."

Clearly emotional, McAdam looks to her legal background to urge people to speak out.

"In Canadian law, there's something called 'acquiescence' – your silence is

consent. We cannot be silent. Our numbers have to tell that we are not silent.

"If we are silent, then that is our consent," she urges.

More information on the rallies and the Idle No More movement can be found at www.idlenomore.ca.

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The mission of the Dumont Technical Institute is to promote the personal development of Métis culture through research, career development, the collection and distribution of these materials, and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.

"In Canadian law, there's something called 'acquiescence' – your silence is consent. We cannot be silent."

– Sylvia McAdam

Mourners gather to honour an accomplished leader

By Lisa Bird-Wilson
For Eagle Feather News

Born in 1933 on a road allowance near Punnichy, Saskatchewan, the legend of Jim Sinclair's birth registers like a prophecy.

The story goes that Jim Sinclair was born with a veil covering his face. The midwife read the sign and told his parents that the child would grow up to do great deeds and to become a great leader. Seventy-nine years and many considerable accomplishments later, family, friends, supporters, and politicians gathered to say farewell.

The funeral for Elder and statesman Jim Sinclair was held at the Brandt Centre in Regina on Thursday November 15, 2012. As attendees descended to the floor level of the large arena, the scent of sweetgrass was strong in the air. About 25 rows of chairs flanked either side of a wide red carpet that ran down the centre aisle and led to the open casket that was draped with a woolen blanket over a white quilt, topped with a red Métis sash.

In the air, along with the essence of sweetgrass, was the whisper of reverence that attendees held for the important leader.

Just as Elder AJ Felix began to invoke good thoughts for Jim, asking mourners to take a moment of silence to think about Jim, to talk to him, to send him our own messages and thoughts, a renewed wave of sweetgrass wafted through the hall as if it was gathering and carrying all the good thoughts home to the Creator.

Letters of condolence from national and provincial leaders were read, impressing upon anyone who might not have been aware, the influence and range that Jim Sinclair had as a politician and a national Aboriginal leader.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper noted that Jim Sinclair's work to include the Métis in the Constitution would endure and form his legacy. A similar message was echoed by former Prime Ministers Paul Martin and Brian Mulroney. Premier Brad Wall declared that the flags at the Saskatchewan Legislature would fly at half-mast in Jim's honour.

Jim's close friends, Wayne McKenzie and Lyle Daniels, each gave a eulogy. As co-emcee Graham Murdoch noted, the family had a difficult time narrowing down who would do the eulogy because Jim had so many close friends.

Over the duration of the four-hour



Jim Sinclair was ailing when he attended the FSIN Assembly in October.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

funeral it became apparent that above all else, a great many people considered themselves fortunate to call Jim a good friend. As a human being, he had a knack for making people feel significant and worthy.

The first eulogy given by Jim's long-time friend, Wayne McKenzie, was filled with humorous stories about a man with a flair for negotiating everything, from politics to food. Wayne was first among many to refer to Jim's penchant for, "Hot soup. Good hot soup. Boiling."

Two films were shown, one produced by Rodger W. Ross and the second produced by Kim Sinclair. Both films clearly evinced the deep love, honour, and respect that followed Jim through his life, and the interest by those who remain of carrying forward his legacy.

Quite fitting at the memorial service of such a strong political leader, current national and provincial Aboriginal leaders were called upon to make remarks. Among those to speak were National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, MNC President Clem Chartier, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Chief Betty Ann Lavallee, MNS President Robert Doucette, FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde, as well as MP Tom Lukiwski and MLA Buckley Belanger.

Chief Atleo described Jim as "a true giant among our people," while President Chartier called Jim Sinclair "the greatest First Nations and Métis leader of the 21st century."

Chief Lavallee said the enduring

lesson she learnt from Jim was "humility above all else."

Perhaps the strongest acknowledgement of Jim Sinclair's legacy came from Chief Bellegarde. Bellegarde noted that Jim Sinclair will be remembered among our greatest leaders: "Poundmaker, Big Bear, Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, Jim Sinclair," he said. Chief Bellegarde then surprised many in attendance by singing a beautiful honour song for Jim that left many a damp eye amongst the crowd.

"A Métis at heart" is how Jim Sinclair was described and is how many will continue to remember him. His legacy of ensuring the Métis are included in the Canadian Constitution will endure as will his legacy of building many Métis institutions, here at home, and setting their foundations deep and true.

Gabriel Dumont Institute, for one, owes a debt of gratitude to this leader, who lobbied, advocated, organized and mobilized people, and ultimately negotiated a strong agreement for Métis education in Saskatchewan. While many people were enthusiastic to have a Métis educational institution it was really Jim Sinclair, the politician and negotiator, who carried the dream forward and made sure it became a reality.

Thirty-two years later, GDI continues to hold as the largest, most well established, and most successful Métis educational institution in Canada.

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Maarsii, Jim Sinclair.

Marii Krissmiss
& Jwyeu Nowel
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Carol Daniels shared her love of Saskatchewan with youngsters visiting her at the Family Ag Centre in Regina where she was Artist-in-Residence. (Photo by Morgan Beaudry)

Agribition art project built on ideas

By Morgan Beaudry
For Eagle Feather News

Carol Morin isn't creating art as part of her stint as the Canadian Western Agribition's Artist-in-Residence. The children flocking to her space at the Saskatchewan Arts Board's exhibition space in the Family Ag Centre are doing that.

Morin has created a multi-part, collaboratively-built work of art comprised of facts and insights about the province.

"I'm inviting them to learn a little bit about this incredible province of ours. They looked up and learned a fact about Saskatchewan, wrote it on a miniature paper bison and those became part of the giant bison that we will built together," said Morin.

Seven-year-old Autumn Hamblin from St. Mary's French Immersion School in Regina contributed her piece of the art installation when she visited the exhibition with her class in November.

"I liked learning about Saskatchewan," she said.

Hamblin was one of about 1,300 children that came to the First Nations and Family Ag Pavilion each day of the six-day agri-business showcase.

Morin is a writer, artist, and storyteller, and a member of the Cree First Nation. Her visual art has most recently been featured at the First Nations University of Canada and at the Elsie Scherle Art Galleries. She has also been inspiring students as a touring artist with the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society. She is currently working on a new children's book that will feature new, original stories and illustrations by Morin.

The art project at Agribition is all about collaboration. Visitors spun a colour-coded wheel that directed children to facts about Saskatchewan's geography, ecology, history and people. Once this new insight is transferred to a card, the card joined hundreds of others to form a stylized bison whose shape grew and changes throughout the week.

"Kids love interactive activities and once they create their art they go away knowing something about Saskatchewan they may not have known before," said Morin.

"I love this province and I think that every day we should take time to think about what a special place this is and be proud of who and what we are."

A promotional poster for a live comedy and hypnosis show. The background is a blue brick wall. At the top left, the text "LIVE COMEDY HYPNOSIS SHOW!" is written in a stylized font. In the center, a man (Scott Ward) is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark shirt. To the right of the man, it says "TICKETS: \$20". Below the man, the word "Hypnotist" is written in a large, bold, black font with yellow stars on either side. Underneath that, the name "Scott Ward" is written in a very large, bold, yellow font with a black outline. Below the name, it says "DECEMBER 22nd, 2012 - ODEON EVENT CENTER SASKATOON, SK". At the bottom, there is a logo for "DJ KRACKA JACK" featuring a DJ turntable and a laurel wreath. Below the logo, it says "DOORS: 8:00pm AGES: 19+" and "Tickets available online, box office, or by phone 1-866-973-9614 www.theodeon.ca".

Photographer inspired by brave models

Photography is known for capturing and creating beautiful images – even illusions, like most idealized artwork. It is often an escape into a world that is more appealing than ordinary life.

So, it is daring when a photographer attempts to capture the raw form of an object, shucking accepted rules and standards leaving something intact and unaltered – challenging our idealized perceptions of beauty.



I came across a photo album on Facebook where a First Nations photographer, Gerald Ratt, featured women who would not typically be viewed as models. The models were mostly scantily clad and carrying a label which objectified them. It reminded me of a photo shoot on America's Next Top Model, cycle 15, where the girls did an empowerment challenge as statements against teen bullying.

They each wore bikinis and were scribbled on with

bullying words and their counterparts: 'power words'.

I thought Ratt's take on the photo shoot was bold and interesting. The messages were loud and jarring, but the women were all a variety of sizes, which was refreshing to see.

"The series I did for Positive Passions, in Saskatoon, 'celebrating femininity and addressing issues that affect women' was a series dedicated to women who have struggled with concepts/words that society places on them because of media. It was a chance to empower women," says Ratt.

He claims it has been his favourite photo shoot so far.

"It was a two day photo shoot with all types of women. I had a casting call and a small interview with each woman where I expressed my ideas and what I wanted. I had women of all different body types, ages and racial backgrounds. I wanted to show my audience that I could take photos of any type of 'model', because I have been asked before why I only took photos of skinny models. The women who were a part of the Positive Passions series were so brave."

Mixing up the models as he did was not only effective, but unapologetic. Had he used exclusively "skinny" models, I don't think the messages would have been as powerful. Most women in the real world do not resemble tall, skinny supermodels, so featuring a variety of 'real' women speaks volumes to celebrating women.

To see real women carrying labels like: Squaw/Perseverance, Volumptuous, Dyke/Pride and an overweight Ms Universe leaves a dynamic impression on the viewer and encourages self-acceptance.

For such a new photographer, Ratt has already made a profound start.

"I enjoy all types of photography but fashion photography is my favourite because I feel that's where you can be most creative. I enjoy images that make me think."

Ratt, 30, is from Lac La Ronge First Nation. He is a self-taught photographer. In 2007, while living in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, he started taking photos with a \$90 digital camera. He was influenced by what the camera

would capture. Today, he likes to keep his photos unaltered.

"I don't like to edit my images because that takes away from the person's beauty. If I am paid to edit then I will, but in any other case the image is what it's meant to be: original."

When not behind a camera, Ratt can even be found in front of it.

"I have modeled

locally in Saskatchewan while branching out as a photographer. It is important to build your network with other models, hair and makeup artists, designers and other photographers. I have also helped out aspiring First Nations models with their portfolios."

He also enjoys fashion, empowering youth at risk, live music, travel, fitness, culture, the environment and sleeping.

Currently he is working as a Project Supervisor for the Sudbury (Ontario) – Ukraine Youth Exchange for Canada World Youth. As of Dec. 1 he will be living in Europe for four months.

When he returns, he will gladly resume his passion for photography.

"My plan as a photographer is to improve as an artist. I want to continue to challenge society and break stereotypes and barriers. I want to use my talent to get conversations started with a single image. I want to have more photo exhibits and I also want to work for a fashion magazine."

To view his work, visit him online at: www.gerald-rattphotography.com or find his page on Facebook: Gerald Ratt Photography.

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, give me a shout at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com. See you next month!



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Ideas Inc. and BHP Billiton Canada Inc. have joined forces to assist in the development of First Nations and Métis entrepreneurs. The EMPOWER Business Program will provide entrepreneurs the focused resources they need to get ideas off the ground, grow their companies and receive continued support for future success.

Open House information sessions on the EMPOWER Business Program are being co-hosted by BHP Billiton and Ideas Inc. on 12 December 2012 in Saskatoon, 19 December 2012 in Punnichy, 9 January 2013 in Regina and 16 January 2013 in Prince Albert.

The first round of applications for the program will be accepted between 1 December 2012 and 31 January 2013.

Further information on the program and open house locations can be located on the Ideas Inc. website at www.saskatoonideas.com.



For further information, please contact:

Kim Hill
EMPOWER Business Program
200-120 Sonnenschein Place
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Piapot music program sounding all the right notes

By Morgan Beaudry
For Eagle Feather News

Even with the occasional harsh note, a simple violin arrangement of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, played by half a dozen second graders at Piapot School is starting to sound pretty polished.

It better be. Their first-ever Christmas concert is set for Dec. 20 and a lot of people – their community, their friends, their instructor, retired Regina Symphony Orchestra concert master Eduard Minevich, and those who support this unique music program – are looking forward to a stellar performance.

“Many children who play violin start at age 4. They started just over a year ago. It’s not a long time. Now they are reading music and can memorize whole passages of music – they are amazing,” said Minevich.

The Piapot Project, now in its second year, was inspired by El Sistema, an El Salvadoran music education program that started with eight students playing in economist and musician José Antonio Abreu’s garage. Abreu believes music education drives positive social change. Now a nationally funded school program has schools in the U.S., the UK, and Canada eager to launch similar programs.

Minevich approached Regina Symphony Orchestra executive director Maxim Antoshin in January 2011 with the idea to start a music program for Piapot First Nation.

“He told me he wanted to teach First Nations kids and had wanted to for a long time. But he didn’t know where to start or sure if the RSO was interested in supporting a program,” said Antoshin.

“We met with the chief and council and they were supportive right from the start.”

Project sponsors Affinity Credit Union and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority also jumped at



Kalissa Kaiswatum flashes a mile wide smiles during one of the RSO violin lessons at Piapot School.

(Photo by Morgan Beaudry)

the chance to support the program.

With the 11 violins purchased by the council and another six donated by Minevich, the program welcomed its first 16 students, all first graders. Instruction was three hours once per week.

Now that the project is in its second year, Minevich and Calderon are there twice a week for the full-morning music classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Shawna Watetch says her son, Brandon, 7, practices daily without prompting.

“He says he likes it a lot. He wants an Xbox for Christmas but I think he’d like a violin more,” she said.

Marilyn Kaiswatum’s daughter Kalissa, 8, begged to be in the class. Just three weeks into the program, Kalissa has proved a quick learner.

“My father plays fiddle so maybe that’s where she gets it from. She loves it,” Kaiswatum said.

As part of the program, the RSO provides students’ families tickets to RSO performances that include

backstage access where students and meet RSO players.

The Piapot students have also performed at Darke Hall with the Regina’s Amadeus Youth Orchestra. The RSO wants the Piapot Project to be model for music education programs at other First Nations schools in Saskatchewan.

Russian-born Minevich, who was educated at the world-famous N. A. Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg State Conservatory, worries that his old-school highly exacting approach is tough on the children.

“I have a lot of passion. I am not patient,” Minevich said. “But I am a determined person. Until they give up on me I will not give up on them.”

“In the first year of the program, the Piapot students achieved in nine months what most private students do in two years. They are very talented,” Antoshin said.

“I know what Russian violin school and teaching manner is like but Ed loves them like they are his own grandkids. He is so proud of them.”

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New St. Mary's School designed to meet needs of the community

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The drum, dignitaries, several hundred happy students and the aroma of

sage welcomed visitors to the recent grand opening of St. Mary's School in Saskatoon.

Designed to accommodate 375 students, this school features educational and instructional space, as well as a health and wellness centre that includes a medical clinic, which will be available to students and the community.

Through donations from partners such as Potash Corp, Cameco, SaskTel and the City of Saskatoon, the school boasts an upper level walking track and an enhanced wellness and gym facility that will also be available to the broader community. A unique community room equipped with separate ventilation will allow for cultural and First Nations and Métis specific cultural events and activities.

"The continued investment into education and our education facilities is integral to the future of our province," Education



Trinity Rabbitskin and Aliyah Moccasin sang O Canada as Elder Mike Maurice looked on with the eagle staff. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas accepts a photo to be placed in a time capsule from Alicia Moccasin as Board Chair Diane Boyko and Mayor Don Atchison look on. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Minister Russ Marchuk said.

"We are familiar with the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child'. This school demonstrates that the involvement of the community can have a huge and lasting effect on our students and that fostering a community of learning has the potential to positively impact student success."

The Government of Saskatchewan contributed almost \$12 million toward the innovative education facility that was finished with a total budget of over \$18 million.

"We are proud to open the doors of

the St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre as we continue our tradition of providing Catholic education to families and children in Pleasant Hill," Greater Saskatoon School Division Board Chair Diane Boyko said.

"In recent years we have established many strong partnerships that help us more fully address the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical development of the students at St. Mary's. In this innovative new school, those partnerships will continue to flourish, as will our students."

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



Front row L-R - Janelle Pewapsonias and son Ethan, Wilna Masuskaopoe, Becky Sasakamboose Kuffner and her daughter Che, Elder Peter Bishop Back row L-R - Brad Bird, Don Bear, CeCe Baptiste, Ashley Kayseas, Victor Munroe, Warren Isbister Missing - Jessica Gordon, Bill Mintram, Raquel Pasap, Teri Walker, Shannon Hanson, Doug Rain, Shirley Greyeyes, Elder Yvonne Garipey, Cornelia Laliberte, Mike Tanton, Lori Buffalo Delaronde

We would like to introduce our new Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Coordinator, Brad Bird.



Brad has been involved with Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre since 2003, initially as a staff member working with youth, then as a board member for the last several years.

Born and raised in Saskatoon, Brad is a member of the George Gordon First Nation. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in the spring of 2012 with a degree in Political Science, majoring in Aboriginal Public Administration and a Native Studies minor.

Family and friends are an important part of his life, as well as leading an active lifestyle playing a variety of sports such as basketball and golf. Brad feels that working with the Urban Aboriginal Strategy will allow him to gain a better understanding of the needs in the community and give him the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.

955-0762, uascoordinator@sasktel.net



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

URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY SASKATOON

ASHLEY KAYSEAS AND WILNA MASUSKAPOE SUAS CO-CHAIRS

Ringette star shoots for 2015 Winter Games



Name: Teagan Marion

Sport: Ringette

Position: Forward

Shoots: Right

Number: 8

Nickname: Teags

GOZ: Seeing how it's our Christmas edition of Eagle Feather News, what are your plans for the Christmas Holidays? Going to any tournaments?

TEAGS: I'll be spending the holidays with my family, I have four brothers who play hockey in the Saskatoon Aces Zone. So during the holidays I will practice both my ringette and hockey skills on the backyard rink. And I'll be attending the 23rd annual Jim Benning Invitational tournament which is held in Regina.

GOZ: What was it like playing on the Provincial Tween U14 team?

TEAGS: It was a really great experience. During off-season I also played with Team Saskatchewan for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in May 2012. The team won Silver. I also had the opportunity to play with the Sask Can AAA females. We attended the Beantown Classic in Boston in July.

GOZ: You scored 86 goals last season, that's more than I scored in 20 years of hockey. Does scoring so much ever get boring?

TEAGS: Sometimes scoring does get boring. But not when your playing an intense game and you score the winning or tying goal.

GOZ: What do you love about ringette?

TEAGS: I love a lot of things about ringette, they say it's the fastest sport on ice and I would have to agree. The rules are a lot different from hockey and the stick handling changes everything. The sport is supposed to be non-contact but people would be surprised how physical it is.

GOZ: Here's the scenario – you're down by one with 10 seconds left. You have the ring on two on one and ... What happens next?

TEAGS: That's easy. You drive to the net, fake like you're going to skate to the right but really you're going to the left. The goalie will move sideways to the post, making the five hole wide open. If it doesn't go in the second player coming in gets the rebound.

GOZ: I understand Team Canada is one of your goals. What's it going to take to get there? What different levels do you have to achieve?

TEAGS: So far my time being has been dedicated to training for the 2015 Canada Winter Games. It's a three-year AAA program for elite players. Then there is NRL (National Ringette League) consisting of 16 teams across Canada. Most players who play for Team Canada usually play in the NRL. My goal is to play for hometown team Saskatoon Wild.

GOZ: At 14, any plans for what you're going to do after graduating high school?

TEAGS: I think it would be nice to take a couple of months off school and sports and travel the world.

GOZ: So you're at a Justin Bieber concert (fan or

not). Suddenly his 'people' approach you and surprisingly ask about your mad ringette skills. It seems The Beibs had this whole dance planned around a couple ringette players on ice and one of their performers got injured!! They need an emergency replacement!! Do you do it? Why or why not?

TEAGS: Yes, no hesitation, I would do anything to be in the same building as that guy.

GOZ: What does a good coach mean to you?

TEAGS: A good coach is someone you can trust, who thinks winning isn't everything. As long as you're having fun they're doing their job right.

GOZ: What is your favorite Christmas movie of all time? Why?

TEAGS: It would have to be Home Alone, I always watch with my siblings and have some good laughs no matter how many times we watch it.



Indian Governments of Saskatchewan

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Protecting Inherent and Treaty Rights since 1946

*"What is Christmas?
It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present,
hope for the future.
It is a fervent wish
that every cup may overflow
with blessings rich and eternal,
and that every path
may lead to peace."*

Agnes M. Pham

*Wishing you all the best for the 2012-2013 holiday season!
From the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*