

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## RIDING IN STYLE

These SIIT Grads decided to go big for their special day and rented themselves a limousine. From left are Colleen Dieter, Karen Pinacie, Karen Kishayinew, Tennille Bear, and Charmaine Pinacie.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)



# Huge graduation at SIIT

By Mike Gosselin  
For Eagle Feather News

It was a Thursday afternoon outside TCU Place in Saskatoon, the first hot and sunny day of June. Throngs of eager spectators filed into the building, anxious for the show to start. But they weren't there to see a Broadway musical, big-time band or a famous comedian.

They were there to see hundreds of graduates from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) walk across the stage.

"This year we had 432 graduates. The most we've ever had," said SIIT President Randell Morris.

"Fortunately not all of our grads could make it ... Because they're already working."

In fact, for many SIIT students the offers start pouring in long before they're done school.

"As soon as I finished my classes I started to work for SaskTel" said Management Studies grad Tennille Bear.

"I took a day off to come to my grad."

Bear attended an assortment of different programs and educational institutions, including the U of S, before finding a home at SIIT.

"I strongly believe attending SIIT prepared me for

the workforce. I completed seven classes in one semester and it was very challenging. But also very rewarding," she said as she prepared to hop into a limo rented by her friends and fellow grads to celebrate their achievement.

"Being up there on that stage was one of the proudest moments of my life and I'm not stopping there. I'm hoping to attend Edwards School of Business in the fall. I am eager to finish my B.Admin, and eventually MBA! That's my goal."

And the Province of Saskatchewan is happy to hear it. SIIT has long been training its students to fill voids in the labour market and the government has taken notice.

"The government are big supporters of SIIT," said President Morris. "They bring us to the table to discuss ways to address labour market needs in the province."

And SIIT's ability to train and graduate hundreds of qualified students each year has evolved into a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

In fact, last January the government announced SIIT would receive capital funds to upgrade its downtown Saskatoon campus. SIIT also receives operating funds from the Province each year.

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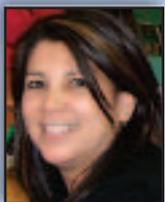
## INSIDE



### VICTORIOUS WOMAN

Doreen Pooyak endured the residential school experience and has come out a strong person.

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### THEY'RE PREPARED

Members of Cowessess First Nation are preparing for a pandemic.

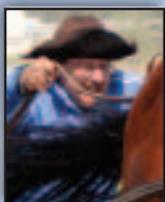
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He may be 54, but Johnnie Marceland went back to school and has now graduated.

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### BACK TO BATOCHÉ

It's that time of the year! More than 10,000 people are expected to visit Batoche.

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Former FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde is hoping to become the next chief of the AFN.

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Welcome to our  
Graduation Issue  
Coming In August :  
Justice Issue  
CPMA #40027204

# Aboriginal Day celebration took on a serious note

By Andrea Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

On a rainy National Aboriginal Day, Elders and families gathered at Wanuskewin Heritage Park to commemorate the first anniversary of the Government of Canada's apology to the First Nations people of Canada for the residential school system and the impact that it had on the community and the culture.

Many survivors and descendants of survivors were in the audience for the Grand Entry.

Noel Starblanket, Master of Ceremonies, spoke briefly of his 11 years at Lebrét Residential School, crediting his survival to the traditions of his ancestors.

"As we're moving toward a settlement agreement, we have been told to share with the public the secret that has been plaguing us," noted Starblanket.

"As we go on in this process, the truth comes out. But we are looking for reconciliation."

He noted that although the apologies have asked for forgiveness, it is up to each individual to look into their own hearts as to what they feel.

"Healing can only begin when the hurting stops," Starblanket quoted, adding that if someone acts wrongly it is important to talk about it to the other and to oneself in order to avoid repeating it, and then find a way to make meaningful restitution.

Elmer Crane, another survivor, performed a song for the gathering, many of whom were visibly moved to tears. The song he composed, 'Look What They



FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph with his sister, Doreen Pooyak, at the National Aboriginal Day celebrations held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Done To Us' is a moshum explaining the pain and sadness of the wounded child within, to his grandson.

All of the survivors and speakers for the day received a CD copy of his recording. Despite poor

health, he is trying to finish recording an entire album of his works, many of which explore the Residential School era and experiences.

• Continued on Page 3

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Elmer Crane, a residential school survivor, delivered a moving message through his music. He is working on an album that will deal with the school experience.

## Aboriginal Day included cultural teachings and demonstrations

• Continued from Page 2

Moss bag teachings have some things in common – in other ways, they are unique to regions and First Nations. Monique Sylvestre, an elder of Buffalo Narrows Dene First Nation, talked about the importance of gathering the right kind of moss, drying it, using it, and returning it to the earth again. Her job as one of the oldest children and young women in her family was to carry the used moss out to a special place a few minutes walk from their home – in all types of weather. Her daughter, Jessie, who works at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, said she is trying to bring more Dene teachings and exposure to the south of the province.

Currently, Cree is predominant. Besides moss bag teachings, Sylvestre showed handwork, sewing, beadwork, and other arts and traditions, including miniature replicas of the dogsleds used.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph's sister, Doreen Pooyak, emphasized the importance for survivors to prepare before telling their stories – many have told their stories for the first time during a commission hearing, and then been rushed to the hospital as they encounter the physical shock and distress.

"I am a hero – a victorious woman of the residential school," said Pooyak, but she has worked hard with a psychologist over the years and urges others to do whatever they need to for healing – with Elders, therapists, counselors.

"I want to leave a powerful legacy – that I was a strong powerful First Nations woman who went through hell and back."

She also spoke of the motives of parents, who wanted their children to be able to survive in the outside world and have the opportunities for education and careers.

"My mother put me there to help me survive – it is part of a sacred journey," said Pooyak. "And we're still here today – they haven't been able to destroy us."

"We are strong and powerful men and women."

## Honourary degree for Freda Ahenakew

This is the season for graduations and academic honours, but not all students or recipients are 20 somethings eager to join the labour force. Often, people who have been exemplary in their occupation are given honorary degrees.

This year, none other than language champion Freda Ahenakew had the University of Manitoba confer an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree on her, May 27 in Winnipeg.

This accomplished woman had 12 children when she received a Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan in 1979. From 1976 to 1981, she taught at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College, the Lac La Ronge Band, and the Saskatchewan Survival School.

In 1984, she received a Master of Arts in Cree linguistics from the University of Manitoba. From 1983 to 1985, she was an assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan. From 1985 to 1989, she was the director of the Saskatchewan Indian Languages Institute. From 1989 to 1996, she was a professor in native studies at the University of Manitoba.

In 1998, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2005, she was

awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. In 1997, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Saskatchewan.

She currently resides on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

"One of my sisters put up a beautiful saying in our house: All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my Mother.

I think that puts our esteem for our mother's gifts to us of unconditional love and a wonderful example very simply," said Dolores Sand, one of Freda's 12 children.



Freda Ahenakew received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Manitoba.

### PIAPOT ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW WOW

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## Editorial

### Some short summer snippets

#### Kids these days

In our travels this summer we stopped by the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation 17th Annual Traditional Powwow. By all accounts it was a fine time. Great drums, lots of dancers, Sanford and Howard were emceeing and there were hundreds of people, even some from France and Algeria, for goodness sakes.

The kids got a few toys out of the fishing pond, we ate some really greasy fries and watched a cool BBQ fire, propane tank be darned. Of course, we took lots of pictures of healthy young people participating in their culture. Took pictures of lots of old people, too. We ran into some old friends and visited and it was great.

We all had a chuckle over the fact a young teenage boy had his pants literally half way down his butt with his pasty white jockeys showing. It was silly and kind of gross. Our friend was going to go over and "pull up his trousers" but resisted the urge to proper up the boy.

Just after that, a young lad standing in front of us conversing with his pal, ripped up a piece of paper, and then just casually tossed it onto the ground. I hate litterbugs. I bit my tongue and turned back to watch all the youth on drum and dancing. Thankfully, there were way more of them than litterbugs.

#### Exactly who do the Conservatives care about?

We know for a fact the federal Conservatives have a policy of active disengagement with the Aboriginal People of Canada. As a party, they are not necessarily glowing in diversity, nor do they seem to care to be.

Now we hear that they are demoting a cabinet member because they okayed funding through tourism dollars for the gay pride parade in Toronto. The Minister has had her approval authority revoked. That is quite harsh and indicative of their narrow mindedness, especially to minority groups.

Have you ever been to a gay pride parade? The one in Saskatoon is growing, but only goes a few blocks. We tripped across a gay pride parade on a recent trip to Vegas and it was quite the sight.

Name a gay type person or persona and they were there. Leather, lace, feathers, young or old, skinny or fat, tall or short and yes, even little people, they were there. And the impact of the tourism dollar was fantastic.

You know how women like to shop, well so do gay men. Double the spending! Here's to a smart investment by recently demoted Minister of State and Tourism Diane Ablonczy for stimulating the City of Toronto in more ways than one.

And here's to the Conservatives for being an equal opportunity stick in the mud. Why treat just one group badly when you can treat them all with disdain.

#### Big show in Regina next year

It has been announced that the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards will be held in Regina March 26, 2010. As usual, there is promise of a really big show. With it being in Saskatchewan next year, it would be great to see a repeat performance of this year when six people with ties to Saskatchewan received awards. How's that for a province with one of the smallest Aboriginal populations in Canada? Make sure you nominate someone you know who has done a fantastic job.

Not to be left out, the NAAF announced that they will hold a Blue Print for the Future career fair in Saskatoon on November 10 at TCU Place. These career fairs attract great employer booths and over a thousand youth.

#### Next month in Eagle Feather News

August is our justice issue. Some students of Jori Cachene's photo journalism class at Regina's Scott Collegiate did a set of articles on missing Aboriginal women. They needed a place to have their articles read and we had the space so their work will be featured.

We also have something on a peacekeepers project in Piapot and other justice related articles. Lots of pictures from Batoche too.

With the Summer Games running on both sides of our publication date, we will bring you what we can of the results from Onion Lake. The Games run from August 9-13.

# Readers Forum



These young ladies were ready to go for the Muskeg Lake Traditional Powwow Grand Entry. From left are Kamron Greyeyes, Rainan Courchene, Alexandra Tawpisin and Trinity Tawpisin.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## Take your best shot ... there's money up for grabs!

Hey all you shutterbugs out there. Summer is the best time to take pictures. Your camera doesn't freeze to your face, it is often sunny and the kids are oh so cute when they are dirty and up to no good.

We want you to capture that summer shot and send it in to us for our first ever summer photo contest. The winner will get \$100. Yes, \$100! And second place will get \$50. Yes, ten treaty payments all at once! Can you believe it?

So get that camera out and shoot your

kohkum at the pow wow, your uncle chasing cattle, some beautiful nature shot or your children at the spray park. Then email it as an attachment to [johnl@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:johnl@eaglefeathernews.com) Make sure to include a little caption about who or what is in the shot and absolutely make sure your name and address are on your email. And in August we will run the best of the best for your enjoyment and all photos that are entered will go on our webpage.

Have fun.



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THIS ISSUE...LAST ISSUE...PAST ISSUES.

# Batoche evokes memories for Métis people

July always brings people back to Batoche. Like many others, over the years I have tried to get there when I could. It is not news that commemorative events like this are part of the social glue of our common belonging to a distinct people.

Distinct peoples have distinct histories and distinct memories that bind. Events like Back to Batoche allow us to remind ourselves of our roots and who we are.

Batoche brings many local Métis and First Nation people, folks from other provinces, some from far away. It is an occasion for journalists to get interviews and for film-makers and photographers to take shots at Métis people without worrying about any shooting back.

I find that over the years there has been a wide range in both the quality and the variety of events featured in a field away from the old village site, the Church and the battle sites near the modern federal government buildings that house a museum. And the attendance has fluctuated widely.

What happened at Batoche? Who was there? What is being remembered and why? I was not there and so I do not know. I have read a number of written accounts and listened to some stories. There are many others that deserve to be heard and read.

It seems undisputed, though, that it had

been a hard time in the prairies for Métis and First Nation people. There was lots of starvation in 1884 and the government in Ottawa saw no reason to pay much attention to the demands from the people out here until it saw its own interests being threatened.

Métis scrip was first handed out at Qu'Appelle in the spring of 1885, too late and too little to alter the flowing of events that led to a skirmish at Duck Lake between Gabriel Dumont's men and the North-West Mounted Police. Things then got on fast-forward, with troops and the militia called in to fight under the leadership of a British general who was later convicted of theft back in England.

The success at Fish Creek, which has recently garnered new attention, was followed by the Canadian military fiasco at Batoche that led to the defeat of the Métis fighters.

Into this whirling kaleidoscope of events we can add the Canadian government's shameful actions against local First Nations, ignoring earlier Treaty promises, waging war, taking political prisoners and hanging some of them and sending others including the legendary leader Mistahi Musqua to federal

prison at Stony Mountain.

That notorious Canadian institution is located just north of Winnipeg and today boasts a large population of Indigenous residents. You can tell who is running things.

Batoche beckons our memories, reminding us of the last time when the native peoples still had a good measure of political and economic freedom before the great collapse.

In the opinion of Joseph K. Howard, the American writer who authored *The Strange Empire of Louis Riel*, the best book ever written on the subject, the times of the mid-1880s were the last chance for the peoples to set up an Aboriginal State in Canada.

The 'time when things went wrong' as translated from the Cree reference to these times, is remembered by Canadians as part of the mythic history of the building of the CPR, portrayed in the popular mind by Pierre Berton's book entitled *The Last Spike*.

But from the side of the Indigenous folks, these events were the Last Spike in the days of freedom and the possibilities of getting a working accommodation with Canada on a

sharing of political and economic power.

It is the same everywhere ... economic advantage benefits those who have political power and the subjugated peoples get poverty and criminalization.

Those who died at Batoche are remembered in a small cemetery near the Church. There are Métis people and there are First Nations people, some from One Arrow reserve and some from Sioux territory, men who came to aid Gabriel Dumont because of a treaty between Dumont's and their people.

The story of Batoche draws in stories of old rivalries and old alliances amongst our peoples. I heard some of those stories from my father and from Elders near and far.

The site evokes memories and feelings. Here events may be called out of the darkness of time and feelings may be stirred that may lead to action. Batoche has the potential to develop into a quality event of national significance, attracting visitors with quality accommodations, well-run events and nutritious foods, and showcasing talent in the arts and other areas.

The federal museum shows the interest of Canadians in the site. The interest of our peoples is evident.

Batoche is a part of the history of the Métis and First Nations and part of the history of Canada.



Comment  
Paul Chartrand

**Key First Nation  
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*Also Featuring*  
**Ernest Momias**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
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In the unfortunate death of a Key First Nations member, Event will be postponed to September 4-7, 2009

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# A Saskatchewan flatlander experiences the Grand Canyon

It's a long hot and dusty drive north of Flagstaff, Arizona to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. There's no grass to speak of, only baked pink sand, rocks and scrubby bushes on a far horizon. Here and there strange towering pink whirlwinds dance across the plain.

The only building along the way is an aging trading post in the middle of nowhere.

I consider buying a clear lucite plastic belt buckle with a real tarantula spider or a scorpion entombed within.

The owner said he collects them himself and dunks them into plastic onsite. He says I can watch if I want.

He and they both give me the creeps so I thank him for the invite, buy a cold Coke and head back on the road without the buckle.

The Sonora Desert was much hotter than the high Kaibab plateau I now cross.

Just north of Tucson in the heart of the desert I experienced a sandwich drying out in my hand as the temperature soared to 42 Celsius. I watched heat waves distort a forest of tall Saguaro cactus. They appeared to dance. In so distant a land things are not always what they seem.

The Yaqui Indians live wherever the long armed Saguaro cactus grows. They told me of a time the Saguaro protected them. Mexican soldiers were pursuing a band of guerrilla fighters across the high sierra of northern Mexico.

The army was closing in and the Yaquis were tiring. The army stopped for the night surrounded by hills and saguaros. In the night the cactus walked. In the morning the Mexicans were lost and confused.

The landmarks had changed. The Yaqui then made good their escape.

I like stories where not only do a people protect their land but their land protects them.

Some New Age lady gave me nighthawk feathers and baggie full of peyote. She said the feathers would protect me from police radar and the peyote would keep me awake all the way back to Canada if I wanted.

I didn't want to hurt her feelings so I accepted.

Somewhere near the Salt River Canyon I buried the peyote being careful not to insult the medicine.

The feathers must have worked because no State Trooper stopped me all the way home.

Visitors to the South Rim really don't see much until they park their car and walk past the visitor center to the edge.

There is no railing only a long row

of stones. A look over the edge brings absolute terror to a native from the flat lands of the northern plains.

The canyon drops almost a mile to the Colorado River far below. I have never watched a hawk soar below me. The cliff drops straight down for half a mile. All rational thought screams "get



away from the edge."

There are a bunch of kids scampering along the precipice, their oblivious parents intent on picture taking. I can't handle this so it's into the visitor center I go.

The tour guides are very friendly. I ask an obvious question. "Has anybody ever died here?"

"Every year," the guide replies. "Some suicidal people even drive long distances just so they jump into the canyon."

He said there are often a lot of chartered helicopters carrying tourists through the canyon. One year two collided and everyone died. He said they extract bodies in the early morning before the air is too turbulent. Sometimes they can't find the remains.

Then there's the people who follow the trails down into the canyon but are overcome by the heat and the exertion of climbing back out. Heat stroke and heart attacks take their toll.

I am advised not to stick my hands under rocks if I'm going to wander about. There's rattle snakes, scorpions, black widow spiders and fire ants not to mention Gila Monsters which are the pit bull of the reptile world.

Once they bite they don't let go and squirt massive amounts of venom into your limbs. They can only be removed by cutting their heads off with a machete. I suspect at this point he was stretching it some.

Waskesiu was never this horrific. You'd have to cover yourself in peanut butter and crawl into a bear den to get action anywhere like this back home.

He added that not too long ago a retiree peered over the edge near where I had been standing.

She fainted, tipped over the edge and shot down like a shooting star to the rocks below.

"Don't worry," he said, "Only the stupid people die." I left soon after.



Pow wow goes crowd around the drum of Cree Spirit as they play at the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation 17th Annual Veterans Memorial Traditional Pow Wow.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## Message from the Minister

I am looking forward to the opportunities ahead in my new role as Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations. Many significant achievements have been made in First Nations, Métis and northern communities but many more are on the horizon and I consider it an honour to continue this good work.

Through ongoing collaboration and dialogue, I am confident we will continue to make progress on the issues that are important to us all: consultation, Aboriginal employment development, establishing Northern Enterprise Regions, and strengthening Government's relationships with First Nations, Métis and northern partners.

Together, we will all play an important role in helping make Saskatchewan Strong and Steady well into the future.



Honourable Bill Hutchinson  
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
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As our province continues to grow and prosper so will the need for clean, safe and reliable electricity. Saskatchewan will need to further develop renewables like solar, wind and hydro, while investing in new technology to clean-up our coal plants. We can also do more to conserve electricity and become more energy efficient. However, a strong energy system is built on a balanced supply mix and this is why Saskatchewan needs nuclear power.

Nuclear power is emissions-free, cost-competitive and has a strong record of safety. That's why we support developing nuclear power in Saskatchewan.

Don't listen to the myths and misinformation. Get the real facts about nuclear power.

Then decide.



CANADIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS COUNCIL

For the facts about nuclear power, please visit  
[www.cnwc-cctn.ca](http://www.cnwc-cctn.ca)

# Cowessess First Nation ready for pandemic

By Desarae Eashappie  
For Eagle Feather News

Cowessess First Nation is ready, with a fully developed pandemic plan, to prevent the spread of the H1N1 flu virus (human swine flu) in their community.

The World Health Organization (WHO) website says there is no cause for panic. However, they also say that pandemic influenza planning has "immediate and lasting benefits, for increasing overall response capacity for all threats to public health."

Cowessess is leading the way and many other communities are following closely.

According to Gary Holub, a Health Canada representative, over 96 per cent of First Nations in Saskatchewan have started pandemic planning, and 61 of them are at least three quarters complete.

FSIN vice-chief Glen Pratt, who is responsible for the health portfolio, believes that First Nations should be "as prepared as possible." He said Saskatchewan reserves are on the right track.

"The more prepared they are, the better the outcomes," he said.

The example of Cowessess is very positive. The Cowessess Pandemic Plan 2009 is detailed and elaborate. It includes sections on pre-pandemic, pandemic and post-pandemic situations. Each section contains unique information for each situation about communication, surveillance, vaccination, anti-viral drugs, health care services and infection control.

"If you know more about it and are better prepared for it, there's less to fear," says Alyssa Lerat, co-chairperson of the Cowessess pandemic committee, and community health educator on the reserve.

Their pandemic plan was developed in consultation with representatives of Health Canada, and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. The Cowessess pandemic committee worked closely with

Thea Jacobs, the Saskatchewan regional pandemic coordinator for the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

The committee is dedicated to ensuring the safety of band members and

nication, and organization within their designated area.

Community members will be trained as peacekeepers and will have an important role providing security and

(of 1918) took a terrible toll on the Aboriginal population in Canada, leaving in its wake only 105,000 Indian people – the lowest population in our history."

However, today, First Nations are



Tilly Desnomie (front on the left) Renee Lerat, Deanna Lerat, Desmond Desnomie, Kelly Giroux and Alvina Akapew are some of the Cowessess residents who are preparing for a pandemic.

they have already prepared pandemic care packages to distribute to each household.

The packages include information for infection control and include coloured flags, which will be used as a means of communication. The coloured flag system has been developed for use in the most extreme circumstances. Blue flags are to be hung on the door if the home is need of water; yellow for food; red if a member of the home is sick; and black if someone has passed away.

The reserve is divided into 12 sections, each with its own area captain. The area captains play a prominent role in being responsible for supplies, commu-

reassurance for people on the reserve.

One of the reasons that the committee is taking the risk of a pandemic seriously is because they understand the impacts that epidemics have had on First Nations in the past, said Alvin Delorme, the manager of urban services for Cowessess.

In a recent StarPhoenix column, Doug Cuthand wrote, "The Spanish flu

being pro-active in their response to the possibility of an influenza pandemic.

"The world is better prepared for an influenza pandemic than at any time in history, thanks, in part, to your vigilance and diligence," said Dr. Margaret Chan, the director-general of the World Health Organization, in an address to health organizations.

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## Community Development Trust Fund Helps Build Strong Communities

The Community Development Trust Fund Program provides funding for Saskatchewan communities affected by the global economic downturn, particularly in the forestry sector.

Enterprise Saskatchewan – the government agency responsible for the economic development components of the program – is accepting applications in the following two categories:

- Community infrastructure projects – deadline for applications is September 15, 2009
- Economic development plans and feasibility studies – applications can be made at any time during the year

The federal government announced the three-year national initiative in January 2008. Saskatchewan's share of the fund is \$36.4 million over three years.

Enterprise Saskatchewan has funded 13 projects to date for a total of \$10.6 million. Projects include:

- Upgrading water treatment facilities to supply an ethanol plant in Hudson Bay
- Constructing a road leading to an industrial site in Carrot River
- Developing a regional information centre to promote tourism in Air Ronge
- Studying the feasibility of green energy projects for Prince Albert

For more information on how to apply and the program criteria, go to [www.enterprisesask.ca/cdtfeedback](http://www.enterprisesask.ca/cdtfeedback). Only applications that meet the program criteria will receive funding, and funding is limited.

  
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# Wise to be on guard against threat of H1N1

Well folks – it's flu season and not just your seasonal flu outbreak but a more serious strain that has nothing to do with pigs.

The Centre for Disease Control is busy this summer with H1N1 (referred to as swine flu, early on). This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009 and has made its way into Canada – it has now made its way into the First Nations communities.

This flu virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal flu viruses spread.

The symptoms of the H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include headache, chills and fatigue, fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and body aches.

Many people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death have occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

Spread of the H1N1 virus is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads, and is

spreading fast particularly among young people (from ages 10 to 45). The severity of the disease ranges from very mild symptoms to severe illnesses that can result in death.

The majority of people who contract the virus experience the milder disease and recover without antiviral treatment or medical care. Of the more serious cases, more than half of hospitalized people had underlying health conditions or weak immune systems.

Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with the flu. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses (door knobs, grocery carts, telephones or computer key boards) on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

With seasonal flu, studies have shown that people may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to seven days after they

get sick. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods.

Do everyone a favour and stay home if you're having any of these symptoms. In the meantime there are a few things that you can do to prevent the spread. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the garbage after you use it. Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze (alcohol-based hand cleaners can also be used).

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, try to avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick for at least seven days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.

Most people experience mild illness and recover at home. If you're home sick with this flu virus, rest, drink plenty of fluids and use pain reliever

for aches. A person should seek medical care if they experience shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or if a fever continues more than three days.

For parents with a young child who is ill, seek medical care if your child has fast or laboured breathing, continuing fever or convulsions (seizures).

So there you have it folks – careful on the pow wow trail, at sporting events or any other large gathering over the next few months.

The flu isn't the only thing we have to think about during the summer. Remember that long periods of time spent in the sun can produce a nasty sunburn so don't forget your sun screen.

Parents, if you're going to chase the kids outside during the summer months don't forget to slather them with sun block.

On a personal note; I was so sad to hear of Michael Jackson's passing. I have been a huge fan all my life. Rest in peace Michael.

Keep your emails and letters coming – it's always nice to hear from the readers. Write to Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon S7K 3M4 or email s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca



Sandee Sez  
Sandra Ahenakew



## Message from Vice Chief Glen Pratt

Since taking over the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations' (FSIN) Urban Development file in November 2008, Vice Chief Glen Pratt has worked hard to address the plethora of issues that face First Nations people who make their homes in one of Saskatchewan's cities.

Under the direction of the FSIN's Health and Social Development Commission Chiefs, and with the excellent technical support of the FSIN Urban Development Working Group, Pratt's office has worked to bring about coherence and coordination in the delivery of services to urban First Nations people.

"There are literally hundreds of Community Based Organizations (CBO) in each urban centre that provide services for urban First Nations people," Pratt says, "and this leaves the funding and the services fragmented, duplicated and inefficient."

According to Pratt, this fragmentation leaves the First Nations person feeling isolated, abandoned and helpless in the face of crisis, and must be unified into a coherent model under the authority of First Nations Tribal/Grand/Agency Councils and Independent Bands.

The province's 10 Tribal/Grand/Agency Councils and representatives of the Independent Bands have come together and developed a protocol agreement that will aid in the coordination of service delivery in the cities. The protocol recognizes that Treaty rights are portable, and each party to the protocol agrees to assist any First Nation person who lives in the city, regardless of what Tribal Council area the person's home community lies in.

"This is a huge step forward for urban First Nations people and agencies," Pratt says. "Our Tribal Councils have the

skills, expertise, training and ability to service our members in a culturally appropriate way."

The next step, according to Pratt, is to unify the funding process for service delivery to First Nations people in the urban centers.

"There are way too many CBOs operating in the cities, each with funding based on how many clients they service," Pratt says. "This creates a situation where funding is spread too thin across too many organizations, and no one is funded in an adequate way."

Further, according to Pratt, many First Nations people, especially those who are newly arrived in a city, are forced to deal with upwards of 27 agencies simply to get the basic services they need to establish themselves.

The Urban Protocol Agreement is designed to eliminate the need to access dozens of agencies, and to centralize services in the Tribal/Grand/Agency Councils where they belong.

Once First Nations people realize that they can go to the local Tribal Council for services, the need for multi and fragmented CBO services will dissolve. The Tribal/Agency/Grand Councils offer programming and services in many areas, including:

- Youth
- Special needs/disabilities
- Women and children's issues
- Education and Training Services
- Health Services
- Economic and Employment Development
- Lands Protection and Development
- Market Housing and Social Housing Initiatives

- First Nations Child and Family Protection Services
- Social Assistance Programs
- Justice and Just Relations
- Sports, Recreation, and Culture Programs
- Other mutually agreed upon areas of service delivery programming.

Vice Chief Pratt says he is putting the province and the federal government on notice that it is the First Nation governments of Saskatchewan's intention to make the Agency/Grand/Tribal Councils the first point of access for all services for First Nations people in the urban centers.

"We want all levels of government and the funding agencies to understand that we are more than capable of seeing to the needs of our own people," says Pratt. "Our front-line workers are skilled and trained and, more importantly, the Agency/Grand/Tribal Councils are uniquely positioned to understand the needs of First Nations people within a Treaty and cultural context."

All First Nations people who are in the urban centers are encouraged to contact the local Agency/Grand/Tribal Council for services and programs.

"Our Tribal Councils are the local First Nations 'Welcome Wagon' for First Nations people," Pratt says.

"I sincerely hope that we can get the word out to our people that they are welcome in the cities, and that there is help and hope for them in our urban centers."



Vice Chief Glen Pratt

# Peace Keepers turn attention to health issue

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Four years ago, a couple of Saskatoon Police Service members wanted to do something for the First Nation community. Sgt. Tony Nadon and Sgt. Keith Salzl had been working closely with the Aboriginal community in their roles with the Peace Keepers and they realized the impact that Type 2 Diabetes was having on their friends and colleagues.

They decided to make diabetes awareness their cause, and to do so they created Peacekeepers Pedaling for Aboriginal Diabetes (PPAD), with the intent of biking across Canada, stopping in Aboriginal communities and spreading the word.

Finally, after five years of spring time riding, this year seven members of the Saskatoon Police Service pedaled into St. John's, Newfoundland to complete their coast-to-coast odyssey. They were met at Mile Zero by Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill, the Deputy Mayor of St. John's and members of their support team including Elders Florence Highway and Evelyn Linklater, who are both diabetics.

"Biking into St. John's gave us a real sense of accomplishment," said Sgt. Nadon. "It was a long five years and over 10,000 kilometers but it was very worthwhile."

The team would stop in First Nation communities they came to in their travels and would give presentations to the communities about diabetes and healthy living.

"Giving the presentations was my favourite part," said Elder Evelyn Linklater, who, on the last leg of the tour, would drive ahead of the bikers with cohort Florence Highway and then walk on average six kilometers daily.

"The officers were great. Just before we left this year, one of the officers was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes as well," Linklater said. "This allowed us to really bond and to share with him tips about diet, activity and making bannock with whole wheat flour and healthy portion eating."

Const. Matt Maloney was the officer diagnosed with diabetes and the bike ride and time with Evelyn and Flo changed his life.

"Presenting in the communities and sitting and listening to Evelyn and Flo was very humbling," said Maloney.

He found out he had Type 2 Diabetes in January, shortly after his dad had a diabetes related heart attack.

"This disease affects people, but it also connects people. We had such an amazing experience in New Brunswick at a reserve school. The kids were amazing and the school was urging them to drop the pop."

"And Flo and Evelyn, I tell you are lovely people. They taught me not to give up and to believe in myself. Don't judge, just do. Those ladies just made us happy the entire trip."

In all, well over \$10,000 was raised for research, but most important, there was lots of awareness raised about the disease.

"It was amazing how the communities welcomed us," said Nadon. "They opened their houses to us, fed us and often tears were shed. We developed some great partnerships."

On any trip that spans 10,000 kilometers of biking, you are going to see lots and have some highs and lows. For Nadon, the highs and lows were easy to take.

"I tell you, the biking is a lot easier to deal with than diabetes. People dealing with it go through highs and lows, just like us through the mountains. So when we got down, we remembered who and what we were biking for so that helped us keep perspective."

Evelyn will be keeping good memories of the trip, but the odyssey is far from over for her and other diabetics.

"I told them, that the trip will never be over for me," said Linklater. "There is no cure for diabetes and I have to work at my diet and health everyday, always be aware of it and live well. But still, what these police officers did for the community and diabetes awareness was a really good thing."

**Fast facts from Tony Nadon on a 10,000 km. bike ride**

**Highest speed?** 92 kilometers an hour down hill ... hang on and pray

**Flat tires?** 25 total ... average 6 minutes to fix

**Roadkills?** Over 100. The worst are the moose in



Elders Florence Highway and Evelyn Linklater were an integral part of the PPAD team. And they averaged over six kilometers walking daily. Below they are joined, from left, by Sergeant Tony Nadon, Sgt. Keith Salzl, Const. Wade Bourassa, Const. Matt Maloney, Const. Todd Bayly, Chief Clive Weighill and Warren Isbister, City of Saskatoon in St. John's at the end of the journey. (Photo supplied)

Ontario. You smell them before you see them. We saw 20 or so.

**Bottles of water?** Over 15,000

**Saddlesores?** None (good equipment!)

**Equipment?** Norco Road Bikes

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# Dogzlyfe has a positive message for youth

**W**ow! Just when I thought no one reads the words I work so hard to produce each month for my beloved Eagle Feather News, I finally received some backlash.

At last I have managed to piss some people off for praising the one-hour documentary *Dogzlyfe: Burdens of a Gangsta Rapper* by Cory Generoux in last month's column.

In the words of Pulp Fiction character Jules Winfield, please "allow me to retort."

I have had discussions and traded emails with a few concerned readers who feel praising a film about Robin Favel, a well-known Regina rapper with a history in gangs, sends the wrong message to our youth. The film, they say, glorifies gangs and makes it even more appealing for young people to get involved in a life that includes addiction, crime and violence.

The fear is Favel is made out to be a hero; a man who achieved notoriety and fame due to his shady past. Favel has been in and out of jail for much of his life, convicted of various offenses including physically abusing his girlfriend.

Cory Generoux, who directed the film, constantly finds himself defending the film for 'glorifying' gang life. But he did his homework before making *Dogzlyfe* – which won Best Aboriginal Production at this year's Yorkton Film Festival.

"Before I set out to make this film, I spoke with several Elders about how best to approach this subject," Generoux explains. "This is what was told to me and what was always in my head throughout the entire making of it:

"When we are asked to pray for those who have wandered off the red road – those on the streets, those in the jails, those

in gangs, those who are living a negative lifestyle – this film is a window into a man's life that represents those we are asked to pray for. Like him (Robin Favel) or not, or like him even less at the end (of the film), he still embodies those we are asked to pray for, be it a certain individual, or a small group, or a community, we will get a better understanding of those we are praying for."

Favel, whose stage name is Burden, raps about the trials and tribulations of being a gang member. In *Dogzlyfe*, he claims to be a storyteller and nothing more. Just an artist singing songs about the world he knows, the world he grew up in.

And his life isn't pretty. Nor is the documentary about him. It's gritty, honest and sometimes difficult to watch – that's what makes it such a good film. If nothing else, I feel *Dogzlyfe* is an example of the life our youth shouldn't want.

In fact, I think young people should watch *Dogzlyfe*. The film doesn't make jail look cool or Favel look like a hero. It documents the hardship and constant misery associated with gang life.

And nowhere in the film does Favel profess to be a role model. He's not. It's obvious. If people want to blame a film like *Dogzlyfe* for attracting our youth to

join gangs then I think it's obvious there's a much bigger problem at hand. Generoux agrees.

"We all know gangs are a reality in our lives, whether we like it or not. If we sit back, judge and do nothing, we are equally as guilty as those we judge, because we are condoning it by our inaction. When we take action, through the various methods, we are taking responsibility, acknowledging and moving forward. This is healing."

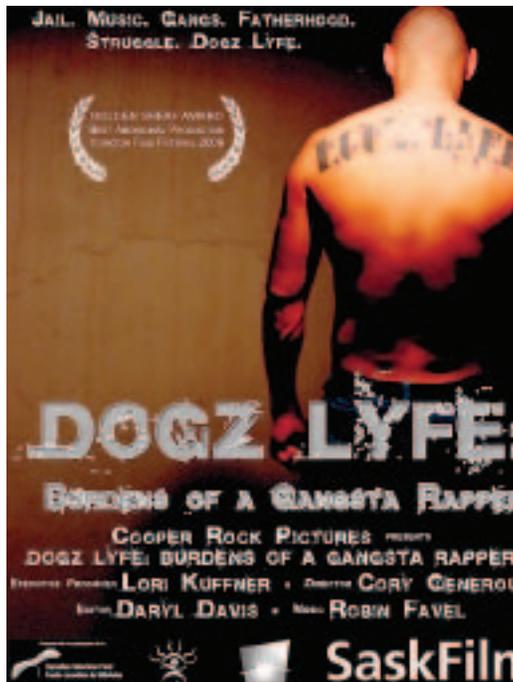
Instead of damning a film like *Dogzlyfe* for damaging our youth, maybe we should watch it with them. If given the chance, they would discuss the film,

critique it and tell us what they think. As a former teacher and youth worker, I have learned a thing or two about our young people. First and foremost, they are smart, articulate and observant.

Too often adults write youth off as sheep who cannot think for themselves. So instead of screening or discussing a film like *Dogzlyfe* to create awareness,

many adults will hide it from them. But that is often an adult's mistake.

The second thing I learned about youth: if you hide something from them, they will find out on their own. So why not take a proactive step and allow them to formulate their own opinion in a safe,



positive setting.

Heck, watching this remarkable film might even inspire them to become filmmakers, rappers or even counselors. A youth worker in *Dogzlyfe*, who's name escapes me, said rapping is a positive thing because it encourages youth to express themselves about the negative world they see around them instead of getting involved in it. Favel said he wished he would have discovered rapping a lot earlier than sitting in a jail cell – it would have saved him a lot of grief.

So, do I think our youth should aspire to be Robin Favel? No. I don't think Favel himself would want young people to go through what he has. But do I think our youth should be exposed to the reality of what goes on around them in the streets, absolutely.

And I believe *Dogzlyfe: Burdens of a Gangsta Rapper*, demonstrates how the choices we make today affect us for the rest of our lives. I think our youth would see it that way too. Especially if a positive role model took the time to talk to them about it.

Generoux doesn't feel all the negativity regarding his film hurts his intent, it just spreads more awareness.

"I know in my heart from where this film is coming from. The negativity only strengthens it. It is making things more aware than they were, that this is an inter-generational problem and not a sudden statistic. Like Robin Favel or not, more or less, everyone will learn something in a good way."

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Shannon Worme, Kawacatoose First Nation

# Attention all highschool students

The INCA students at the FNUniv produced a television show this summer and we want you to watch it! Pay attention...answer the quiz and submit it by email, fax or mail and you'll be entered to win a fun prize! Go to [www.firstnationsuniversity.ca](http://www.firstnationsuniversity.ca) or [www.incachannel.blip.tv](http://www.incachannel.blip.tv) or [www.incasummerinstitute.com](http://www.incasummerinstitute.com) to watch the video.

## Inside the Circle QUIZ

- 1) Who produced the Inside the Circle video?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Name an INCA journalism instructor who works at CBC.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Which department teaches teachers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How many Elders are available to students at First Nations University in Regina?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What's the name of the program in which students went to the Hare Krishna temple for a class assignment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Who is the First Nations University powwow princess?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What language can be learned online at First Nations University?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What makes environmental health different from other health professions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Who is the memorial tipi dedicated to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10) What department develops "political warriors"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11) What department trains students to do land claims research?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12) What is the federal government initiative that First Nations University students are opposing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13) What is Lionel Peychew's statue made out of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14) How tall will Professor Peychew's statue be?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 15) What English course deals with the impacts of Canadian policies toward Indian people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 16) What department offers a Summer Institute in Journalism?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 17) What do INCA students study?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Where did our 2009 Spring Valedictorian get a job?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 19) How many people have graduated from First Nations University?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 20) When was Inside the Circle produced?  
\_\_\_\_\_

You can mail your quiz back to us at:



**First Nations University of Canada**  
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or fax it: 306-790-5992

or send your answers by email to: [boeoup@firstnationsuniversity.ca](mailto:boeoup@firstnationsuniversity.ca)

Yes, I would like more information about FNUniv.

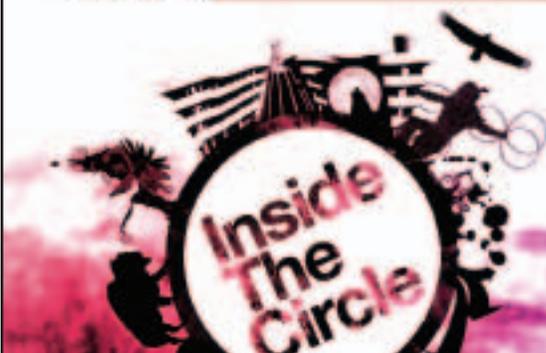
**Student Information**

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Jennifer Dubois - Host

Desarae Eashappie - Host



# SIIT works with gov't to fill labour shortages

• Continued from Page One

“Two years ago the government said they were committed to addressing labour opportunities for Aboriginal people. So far they have delivered on that promise.”

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• Continued on Page 16



Waylon Whitstone from Onion Lake was the Valedictorian for this years SIIT graduation. Whitstone graduated from the First Nations Child Care 1 course with Great Distinction. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)



## Congratulations to all of our 2009 SIIT Graduates

Best of luck in all of your future endeavours





# SIIT Congratulates

## Management Studies & Information Technology

### Prince Albert

#### Management Studies II

Brass, Cheryl G.	Peter Ballantyne
Caisse, Joy M.	Lac La Ronge
Clarke, Clinton J.	James Smith
Clarke, Florence S.	Peter Ballantyne
Davidson, Amanda M.	Metis
Jobb, Bella C.	Peter Ballantyne
MacDonald, Cheyenne	Black Lake (Stoney Rapids)
Merasty, Brian T.	Peter Ballantyne
Merasty, Trevor S.	Peter Ballantyne
Opikokew, Marilyn	Canoe Lake
Peekeekoot, Chad M.	Ahtahkakoop
Sewap, Sarah L.	Peter Ballantyne
Taypotat, Leigha R.	Kahkewistahaw
Turner, Sean-MacGregor	Lac La Ronge
Umpherville, Corry L.	Metis

### Regina

#### Accountancy

Desnomie, Sharidy M.	Star Blanket
Iron, Greg A.	Canoe Lake
Lerat, Gina M.	Cowessess
Pascal, Shelley L.	Kahkewistahaw
Pratt, Roberta	Gordon's
Sparvier, Jessica R.	Cowessess
Valley, Terrence J.	Cowessess

### Management Studies II

Asapace, Sheena D.	Pasqua
Bitternose, Evelyn	Gordon's
Campeau, Renita L.	Muskowekwan
Cote, Karen L.	Cote
Cote, Rochelle L.	Cote
Hotomani, Kimberly H.	Carry the Kettle
Ironstar, Luellan K.	Carry the Kettle
Ironstar, Terilyn	Carry the Kettle
Missens, Errol B.	Cowessess
Pelletier, Audrey M.	Star Blanket
Pelletier, Pauline R.	Pasqua
Sabit, Shelley R.	Fishing Lake
Taypotat, Kim L.	Muscowpetung
Yasinowski, Dana R.	Muskowekwan

### Saskatoon

#### Accountancy

Chamakese, Tyrone B.	Pelican Lake
Checkosis, Hermalene	Little Pine
Head, Selina C. [DISTINCTION]	Red Earth
King, Kendra R.	Lucky Man
Pambrun, Rema M.	Muskowekwan
Young, Bernelda D.	Shoal Lake First Nation

### Information Technologies II

Bueckert, Dale E.	
Harris, Jake W.	Pelican Lake
Metsikassus, Ambrose	Little Red River Cree Nation
Nawakayas, Roxanne T.	Red Earth
Whitehawk, Antoine A.	Cote

### Management Studies II

Angus, Donna M.	Red Pheasant
Bear, Tennille J.	Big River
Churchill, Joanne L.	Peter Ballantyne
Daigneault, Sheena J.	Metis
Gopher, Mavis J.	Saulteaux
Iron, Larry A.	Canoe Lake
Kim, Yangsook (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Kishayinew, Karen	Yellow Quill
Martel, Cherrilynn J. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Metis
McCallum, Ashley B.	Peter Ballantyne

McKay, Kimberly M.	Keeseekoose
Moccasin, Arthur N.	Saulteaux
Okemow, Richard J.	Lucky Man
Pinacie, Charmaine	Muskowekwan
Poorman, Darin	Kawacatoose
Quewezance, Willard	Yellow Quill
Ross, Mark M.	Lac La Ronge
Standingready, Dez	Whitebear
Stushnoff, Michael W.	
Sutherland, Ashley C.E.	Beardy's & Okemasis
Tousaint, Tiffany A.	Fond du Lac
Wiens, Larry J.	Kahkewistahaw
Wuttunee, Daryl C.	Red Pheasant
Wuttunee, Ida M.	Red Pheasant

### Health & Community Studies

#### Onion Lake

#### First Nations Child Care 1

Cardinal, Duane H.	Onion Lake
Chocan, Courtney	Kawacatoose
Chocan, Loralee J. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Onion Lake
Cook, Judy G.	Onion Lake
Dillon, Carrie A.	Onion Lake
Lewis, Nikita D. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Onion Lake
MacDonald, Kara A.	Onion Lake
Pahtayken, Andrea L.	Onion Lake
Stanley, Pamela A.	Frog Lake, AB
Whitstone, Davalynne (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Onion Lake
Whitstone, Waylon (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Onion Lake

### Health Care Aide

Buffalo, Phyllis R.	Onion Lake
Cannepotato, Chantelle	Onion Lake
Cardinal, Jolene P.	Onion Lake
Chief, Carmella R.	Onion Lake
Chief, Pamelyne R.	Onion Lake
Dillon (Naistus), Angie	Onion Lake
Fox, Emily N.M.	Onion Lake
Lewis, Geraldine R.	Onion Lake
Naistus, Janet	Onion Lake
Naistus, Tammy L.	Onion Lake
Pahtayken, Lara B.	Onion Lake
Thompson, Vanora W.	Onion Lake
Tootoosis, Valerie	Onion Lake
Trottier, Tatum (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Onion Lake

### Prince Albert

#### Educational Assistant

Barrone, Tammy M.	Metis
Boyer, Susanne R. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Kuppenbender, Bonnie	
LaSalle, Valerie E. (DISTINCTION)	Metis
Richard, Sandra K.	Metis
Werminsky, Tenille C.	Metis

### Saskatoon

#### Community Health Representative

Apesis, Veronique	English River
Bill, Bernice	Big Island Lake
Desjarlais, Karen M.	Muskowekwan
Fourhorns, Dawn M. (DISTINCTION)	Piapot
Gamble, Jasna R.	Beardy's and Okemasis
McDonald, Mary Anne	Fond du Lac
McKay, Donna P. (DISTINCTION)	James Smith
Morningchild, Doris	Makwa Sahgaiechan
Poitrans, Brenda M.	Muscowpetung
Sylvestre, Renita M.	Buffalo River
Whitecap, Belinda L.	Carry the Kettle
Yew, Florence M.	Canoe Lake

### Health Care Aide

Chief, Diane R. (DISTINCTION)	Onion Lake
Contreras, Zenaida B.	
Daniels, Karen L. (DISTINCTION)	Sturgeon Lake

Dhuez, Vicki R. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Dinanga, Agnes T.	
Javinal, Rosalie L.	
Mann, Marla R. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Mastin, Lisa A.	
Okemaysim, Freida	Beardy's and Okemasis
Paddy, Cote L.	Thunderchild
Penner, Vanessa A. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Peters, Bobbie L. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Powers, Dorothy M. (DISTINCTION)	
Reyes, Yessenia	
Schuett, Deana R. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Tomkewich, Kathleen (GREAT DISTINCTION)	

### Community Services - Addictions I

Bildfell, Kara D. (DISTINCTION)	
Campbell, Arlene L.	English River
Dimond, Laurie J. (DISTINCTION)	
Fiddler, Ruby A.	Waterhen Lake
Fraser, Gladys R. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	
Gerard, Faye K.	Cumberland House
Giles, Jillian (DISTINCTION)	
Hunter, Lisa G.	Sturgeon Lake
Larocque-Ekval, Maureen	
Lambert, Raquel L.	Peter Ballantyne
Nippi, Patrick	Kinistin
Olfert, Kimberly A. (DISTINCTION)	
Schaan, Kareena D. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Metis
Spyglass, Matthew E.	Mosquito-Grizzly Bear's Head
Vinterlik, Beverley	Gordon's

### Community Services - Addictions II

Acoose, Amber	Sakimay
Barr-Lafond, Hope G.	Muskeg Lake
Belanger, Julia K.	Ochapowace
Bird, Mavis E.	Montreal Lake
Bird, Wanita	Ahtahkakoop
Coustin, Gabrielle C.	Little Pine
John, Shelley	One Arrow
Kahnpace, Miranda R.	Pasqua
Marceland, Johnnie A.	Birch Narrows First Nation
Merasty, Charlotte L.	Peter Ballantyne
Novakovski, Kristy J.	
Shortt, Agnes D.	Whitecap Dakota/Sioux
Tootoosis, Clint J.	Poundmaker

### Educational Assistant

Bear, Angelique C.	
Bighetty, Brenda L.	Peter Ballantyne
Bob, Myron E.	Kahkewistahaw
Chicoose, Ashley N.	Pasqua
Greyeyes, Andrea M.	Muskeg Lake
McKay, Gertrude M.	Rolling River, MN
Nighttraveller, Judy	Red Pheasant
Pechawis, Kayla M.	Mistawasis
Svoboda, Alexandra M. (GREAT DISTINCTION)	Metis
Toulejour, Janice	Clearwater River Dene Nation
Wright, Bobby-Lee R.	Onion Lake

### Practical Nurse

Aubichon, Cheryl M.	Metis
Durand, Janice A.	Metis
Ewashko, Michael J.	Metis
Kut, Joely-Anne	Samson, AB
Pedersen, Michelle R.	Metis
Semook, Maxine F.	Fishing Lake
Tarasoff, Julie A.	Kispiox, BC
Williams, Carin B.	Muscowpetung

### Addictions/Mental Health (Applied Certificate)

Allary, Freida P.	Ochapowace
Badger, Delores J.	Cote
Bird-Halkett, Theresa	Montreal Lake
Caldwell, Ketha E.	Cote

# all 2009 Graduates

Cameron, Thelma D.  
Fox, Rueben E.  
Friday, Calvin L.  
Friday, Ervin D.  
Geddes-McNabb, Iva M.  
Hyman, Marjorie  
Kayseas, George  
Keepness, Joyce E.  
King, David D. Metis  
Machiskinic, Joan M.  
McArthur, Wayne M.  
McKay, Dianne L.  
Montgrand-Kiezie, Delores  
Nahnepowisk, Luanne  
Pachapis, Violet  
Quewezance, Zelda M.  
Russell, Grace A. Key  
Severight, Sharon P.  
Whitehawk, Wilfred K.  
Whitehead, Marlene G.  
Windigo, Ramona M.  
Wolfe, Leon I.  
Wolfe, Shirley A.

Beardy's and Okemasis  
Onion Lake  
Cote  
Cote  
Gordon's  
Ahtahkakoop  
Fishing Lake  
Muscowpetung  
  
Kawacatoose  
Pheasant Rump  
Standing Buffalo  
Birch Narrows  
Piapot  
Big Island Lake  
Keeseekoose  
  
Cote  
Cote  
Pelican Lake  
Gordon's  
Muskowekwan  
Mistawasis

**Career Development (Applied Certificate)**

Charles, Grace J. Lac La Ronge

**Aboriginal Employment Development**

Aubichon, Karen  
Yew, Sheena

**Trades & Industrial  
Meadow Lake**

**Process Operation Technician 2**

Alexander, David M. Makwa Sahgaiechan  
Almightyvoice, Dorothy G. James Smith  
Billier, Kurt J. (GREAT DISTINCTION) English River  
Cooney, Justin P. (DISTINCTION)  
Gower, Devin G. (DISTINCTION) Metis  
Havlicek, Anthony J. (GREAT DISTINCTION) Metis  
Lafleur, Martina L. (GREAT DISTINCTION) Metis  
McLeod, Waylon J. James Smith  
Ouellette, Patricia (DISTINCTION) Metis  
Villeneuve, Christopher (GREAT DISTINCTION) Sweetgrass

**Ahtahkakoop**

**Carpentry Level 1**

Ahenakew, Jared  
Ahenakew, Trent R.  
Johnstone, Dale S.  
Little, Bobby E.  
Little, Brooks A.  
Masuskapoe, Vincent  
Peekeekoot, Lenny S.  
Williams, Evan  
Williams, Kenneth D.

Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop  
Ahtahkakoop

**Carry the Kettle**

**Carpentry Level 1**

Haywahe, Elton  
Ironquill, Tyson J.  
Jack, Jason C.  
Kennedy, Jaydee  
Pasap, Chad D.  
Pasap, Daniel W.  
Pasap, Doylen W.  
Fort Qu'Appelle  
Welding (Applied Certificate)  
Betham, Matthew T.J.  
Clement, Seamus J.  
Dustyhorn, Garry J.  
Goodwill, Derek R.  
Koochicum, Jade Peepeekisis  
Nelson, Mark A.

Carry the Kettle  
Okanese  
Carry the Kettle  
Carry the Kettle  
White Bear  
Carry the Kettle  
Carry the Kettle  
  
Carry the Kettle  
Okanese  
Carry the Kettle  
Carry the Kettle  
White Bear  
Carry the Kettle  
Carry the Kettle  
  
Kawacatoose  
Standing Buffalo

Skene, Carter  
Kawacatoose  
Carpentry Level 1  
Assoon, Gregory P.  
Brass, Annie R.  
Dustyhorn, Cory D.  
Dustyhorn, Thomas L.  
Dustyhorn, Vanessa M.  
Kay, Sharon L.  
Littlelent, Morley  
Littlelent, Randy P.  
Machiskinic, Derrick  
Machiskinic, Sheldon  
Machiskinic, Utin S.  
Poorman, Allan D.  
Worme, Dennis E.

**North Battleford**

**Welding (Applied Certificate)**

Arcand, Aaron Beardy's and Okemasis  
Armstrong, Isabel R. Mosquito-Grizzly Bear's Head  
Armstrong, Randy K. Sweetgrass  
Atcheynum, Joanna D. Onion Lake  
Bird, Denise M. Mosquito-Grizzly Bear's Head  
Bull, Bradan R. Little Pine  
Gardiner, Dillan J.  
Nicotine, Vernon I. Red Pheasant  
Peyachew, Ricky L. Red Pheasant  
Pooyak, David R. Sweetgrass  
Pritchard, Ryan G.K. Mosquito-Grizzly Bear's Head  
Shingoose, Donlee Cote  
Swiftwolfe, Jeconiah Thunderchild

**Prince Albert**

**Carpentry Level 1**

Charles, Jennifer T.  
Daniels, Robert V.  
Ermine, Christopher  
Felix, Roland R.  
Head, Harris S.  
Jobb, Stacey C.  
McKay, Corey C.  
Nontell, Chad P.  
Whitecap, Dennis R.  
Whitehead, Ricky

Lac La Ronge  
Red Earth  
Sturgeon Lake  
  
Red Earth  
Peter Ballantyne  
James Smith  
Metis  
Red Earth  
Red Earth

**Regina**

**Carpentry Level 1**

Bellegarde, Greg R.  
Ketchemonia, Glen A.  
Leggott, Justin C.  
Lonechild, Lindon B.  
O'Watch, Delanie M.  
Oakes, Randy D.  
Pepequash, Jason T.  
Peters, Stacey D.  
Tanner, Richard K.J.  
Thompson, Clifford L.  
Wilson, Ashley M.

Little Black Bear  
  
Ochapowace  
White Bear  
Carry the Kettle  
Nekaneet  
Key  
  
Cowessess  
Carry the Kettle

**Carpentry Level 3**

Alexson, Trevor L.  
Bedard, Paul  
Brittain, Marius J.  
Evans, Samantha J.  
Fuchs, Brendon J.  
George, Jonathan M.  
Ironchild, Sheldon F.  
Leggott, Tara  
McNab, Shane  
O'Callaghan-Allary, Daniel  
Obey, Keith A.  
Robin, Aaron S.

Kahkewistahaw  
Peter Ballantyne  
James Smith  
  
English River  
Piapot  
Ochapowace  
Gordon's  
  
Piapot

**Welding (Applied Certificate)**

Dustyhorn, Jordan Kawacatoose  
Kendi Blair J.  
LaFrance, Ira Siksika First Nation, AB  
McNab, Ira J. Gordon's  
Nashacappo, Emerson Kawacatoose  
Peltier, Dylan D.  
Redman, Warren Peepeekisis  
Stonechild, Nina A. Peepeekisis

**Saskatoon**

**Carpentry Level 1**

Bear, Ivan W. Muskoday  
Bear, Kevin L. Muskoday  
Bear, Leonard E. Muskoday  
Bear, Robert S. Muskoday  
Greyeyes, Christopher Muskeg Lake  
Langan, Ryan J. Keeseekoose  
Smith, Howard H. Montreal Lake  
Sutherland, Kevin J. Beardy's and Okemasis  
Thomas, Terrance Witchekan Lake

**Carpentry Level 2**

Campbell, Anthony English River  
Chief, Darin P. Onion Lake  
Fiddler, Byron J. Waterhen Lake  
Okanee, Gerald J. Thunderchild  
Peeace, Brett M. Yellow Quill  
Pugh, Nathan S. Metis  
Redbear, Wendell C. Whitecap Dakota/Sioux  
Stovall, Matthew A. Nekaneet  
Thomas, Diana M.A. Squamish

**Welding (Applied Certificate)**

Adam, Marty S. Fond du Lac  
Dreaver, Sheldon Mistawasis  
Morin, Valerie Big River  
Morrison, Angus J.  
Ross, Wilfred J. Montreal Lake  
Wapass-Lafond, Denny

**Journeyman Carpenter**

McNabb, Thomas Peepeekisis  
Squirrel, Eric Yellow Quill



**Kimberly McKay of Keeseekoose graduated from SIIT's Management Studies II program.**

# Never too old to learn or earn an SIIT certificate

## • Continued from Page 13

"It's our way of taking SIIT to the people of Saskatchewan. A way to show them what we offer and help them identify a career they're interested in. From there we can assist them in taking the necessary steps to become trained in that field."

Steps that will take them across the stage at TCU Place with hundreds of their peers to accept their diplomas and certificates. Just like the beautiful Thursday afternoon for this year's convocation.

After the ceremony, graduates, faculty, staff, families and friends filled the foyer for refreshments. The sheer joy and positive energy that filled the room was overwhelming, intriguing, inspiring. Over 400 more Aboriginal people held open tickets to the future in their hands.

What was even more inspiring was the fact not all the grads were the mid-twenties demographic, eager to start their working lives. Grads were all ages and from all walks of life.

Johnnie Marceland, 54, completed his Community Services - Addictions II program and was excited to embark on his new career.

"I've always wanted to work with the youth and help



Saskatoon artist Johnnie Marceland was among the more than 400 SIIT graduates. Making the presentation is Randell Morris, president of SIIT. (Photos by Mike Gosselin)

them," he said with his proud wife and daughter by his side.

"I never thought being a bit older and attending school would make it more difficult and it didn't. I think it helped me."

Marceland is a well known Saskatoon artist but decided receiving a certificate in a field he felt he can make a difference was part of his journey.

"Besides," he said with a gleam in his eye, "you're never too old to learn."

And as Johnnie smiled and walked off with his family, his daughter couldn't believe what she just witnessed.

"Daddy's going to be in the news," she said excitedly. "He's famous!"

He sure is ... And so are 431 other SIIT grads.

“



”

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# McLeod embarked on educational journey to lead in two worlds

By Pauline Lonechild  
For Eagle Feather News

Yvonne McLeod received her Ph.D. in Education Administration, but wishes her late aunt and brother who greatly influenced her were there to share in her success.

McLeod grew up as Yvonne Anaquod, a Saulteaux Cree from Muscowpetung First Nation. She was orphaned at a young age and struggled to survive in Residential School.

She later married Alfred McLeod and had two children, Rachel Clarke and Gilbert McLeod. McLeod says that it was her late brother Leonard (Spuddie) Ketchemonia, who was influential in her life but it was her aunt Clara Pasqua who motivated her to become who she is today.

"She went to university at 57 years of age and she was my biggest influence. I thought, 'If she can do it, I can do it,'" says McLeod.

Although she had dropped out of school in Grade 11, McLeod says it was the inspiration of three generations of strong First Nations women that pushed her towards finishing her education. So she went back to school and got her GED.

"The challenge was to build from one generation to the next," says McLeod. "My Aunt Clara built me



Yvonne McLeod at the First Nations University of Canada.

(Photo courtesy Shannon Avison)

towards becoming a teacher."

McLeod's grandmother, Genova Thorne-Asham, was her first teacher and gave McLeod the knowledge for self-direction and personal reflection. It was this grandmother who gave McLeod the knowledge on how to lead in two worlds.

"My cultural values, norms and socialization processes have greatly influenced my learning and leadership," says McLeod.

"Learning to lead is about the power

of intergenerational experiences – not leading by individual power."

McLeod is an accomplished woman who has been a classroom teacher for 15 years and a special educator at both on and off-reserve schools.

She has presented papers on First Nation education, special education and educational administration at conferences around the world. She has published articles and co-authored a book chapter.

Her teaching experiences range from

being a principal, education consultant, and literacy coordinator with a provincial school board to being a professor at the University of Regina.

Currently, she is the director of Windigo Education Authority in Sioux Lookout, Ontario and helps them in preserving Elder, family and community stories through a number of publications.

She continued her university classes in Regina where she obtained her B.Ed, in 1987. She then went back and got her M.Ed in 1998.

Following her earlier success McLeod also completed her Ph.D. from the University of Regina in 2009, and will convocate this fall.

On May 12, McLeod wrote and successfully defended her Doctoral dissertation, "Learning to Lead: A Qualitative Study of Eight Intergeneration First Nations Women"

Since intergenerational First Nations leadership is an understudied area, McLeod has effectively developed an intergenerational First Nations model and intends to develop a curriculum to support the use of the model. McLeod's study serves to add a First Nation's frame of reference to the current leadership studies.

"It is not about ourselves, but for the generations to come" she says.

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### STANDING BUFFALO DAKOTA BAND No. 78

Chief Redman and Council members would like to congratulate the following on their academic accomplishments for 2009.  
Congratulations all graduates.

<p><b>Shawna Bowler</b> Bachelor of Social Work- University of Manitoba</p> <p><b>Nadine Deegan-Nelson</b> Diploma in Early Childhood- SIAS-T-Kelsey</p> <p><b>Miranda Hanas</b> Certificate of Indian Communication of Arts - FNUC-University of Regina</p>	<p><b>Dianne L. McKay</b> Addiction Mental Health Certificate-SIIT</p> <p><b>Derrick R. Goodwill</b> Certificate-Welding-SIIT</p> <p><b>Carol Roussin</b> Office Management Year 1</p> <p><b>Ken Ryder</b> Office Management Year 1</p>	
<b>Community Addiction Training/Advanced Counselling Training Nechi/Parkland Institute</b>		
Maureen Yuzicappi	Claudia Goodwill	Georgie Ann Bear
<b>Adult 10/Parkland</b>		
Brandy Goodwill		Karen Hotonomie
<b>Adult Pre 10-Parkland</b>		
Maureen Bear Arthur Bear Raelee Bear Mario Kaiswatum	Carlos Goodwill Alfred Goodwill Claudette Laswisse Erna Whiteman	Vanessa Yuzicappi Natalie Yuzicappi Jennifer Goodwill Darlene Whiteman
<b>Grade 12 Graduates</b>		
Billy Jo Laswisse Alexandra Goodwill Dylan Yuzicappi Allyson Goodwill	Mathew Ozman Chelsea Isnana Justin Main-Parrfitt Alice Goodpope	Kate Aitcheson Micheal Redman Mary Goodwill

# More horses, power and services at Batoche

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

It begins around the middle of July. Métis across the homeland start to get the itch in their jigging foot. They get a far away look in their eye as the sound of the fiddle rings in their head. They get less productive at work, but at home, the camper starts to fill and plans are being made to go to Back to Batoche again.

The Métis cultural extravaganza is being held July 23-26 this year and the anticipated 10,000 plus visitors will be treated to an improved site, culture and visiting galore, and an extra day of horses and chariots.

Close to half a million dollars has been invested on infrastructure at the Back to Batoche site this year alone.

"We now have a beautiful kitchen," said Darlene McKay, chair of the Back to Batoche Committee and Area Director for Western Region II.

"It has two grills, two deep fryers, great big coolers, a deep freeze and a washroom and shower. This will allow us to feed people and take the pressure off some of the booths, or allow them to move down to the rodeo area."

They have also added some electrified sites, a couple of cabins down the hill by the woods, and another set of washrooms and showers far into the campsites.

"Our affiliates have been so helpful with this," said McKay. "I don't know where we would be without the Clarence Campeau Fund. And DTI, they have done so much."

According to Roland Duplessis, Fund Manager for CCDF, they provide the funds, and DTI provides the bodies.

"Since 1998, the Fund has invested, through loans, or sponsorship, over \$1 million to help get that area to where it is. I think the first investment was for \$37,000 to build washrooms and showers. This year the investment was \$400,000 and the students training at DTI for the trades programs came and built most of the stuff.

"This site is so important. If the Métis Nation can build it to a revenue generator, it would be great for the Métis and the province," said Duplessis.

McKay and Duplessis both see the benefit of growing the site into more than just a four-day a year facility.

"We are close," said McKay. "The services are great here now. Peter Rydyck who is our project manager has done a fantastic job. Last week there was a gathering of the Francophone community out there with 400 people. And they raised more money for their event than our entire budget for Back to Batoche.

"And we are expecting 10,000 people. Thank goodness for volunteers."

Duplessis and the staff at CCDF have had a record year in 2008 helping Métis business grow with 55 commercial loans made, 87 business plans created and over 230 jobs created. That entrepreneurial spirit has Duplessis planting seeds of a bed and breakfast on site, horse tours, school groups and family reunions using the spot.

"This is such an important space, and the potential to fill the tourism need in this area is there. Just look at how big Batoche will be this year," said Duplessis.

To ensure good crowds, the organizers have tracked down the best in Métis music to come and strut their stuff. The masters of ceremony are Randy Gaudry and Murray Hamilton and they will be introducing amazing talent such as Chris Villebrun, Dallas Boyer and Donnie Parenteau and dance troupes from across the homeland.

There is good news for the cowboy club out there. The chuckwagon and chariot races are going three days this year instead of two and there will also be more action on the track on Sunday.

For the kids, there is the cool little train, a bouncy house and a storyteller who can play guitar.

Remember to bring your bug spray, your sunscreen, a hat, your kids and a camera. Enjoy!



Back to Batoche 2009 will feature more chuckwagon and chariot races over three days.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Gabe Lafond of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, Diane Boyko, Chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and Doris Turcotte of CUPE participated in a launch for a program that will see Métis people trained to work as classroom educational assistants. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

# Program will mean more 'brown' faces in the classroom

By Andrea Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

Dumont Technical Institute Inc. (DTI) and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools are partnering to launch a new program training Métis people as classroom educational assistants.

The program will begin this fall, offering a 10-month program to 15 students in a hands-on classroom environment, where they will assist individual students and help in preparing instructional material.

The program launch on June 25 emphasized the partnership based out of E.D. Feehan High School. The educational assistants will work throughout the city in the separate division, while their instruction will be provided by both DTI and the separate board.

The school division is working towards a more representative workforce, so that the children being taught have some role models of varying ancestry and gender to relate to. A partnership agreement was signed a few years ago with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the teacher's association, and the provincial First Nations and Métis Relations ministry.

Tony Blacklock, Program Co-ordinator for DTI, the adult upgrading and technical training arm of Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research, said his wife currently works as a learning assistant.

"It's nice for the kids to see that 'brown face', someone who they can identify with," he said, adding kids talk and relate to educational assistants differently.

"It's another adult you can come to."

He adds Feehan is a core neighbourhood with many Métis and First Nations students and families, and a central location. Kurt Breiker, in Human Development with the school board, says the practicums will provide more opportunities – over 100 postings a year, and a certain number of guaranteed spots upon graduating.

Ilsa Arnesen-Kun, an EA at St. Mary's for eight years, says it's a big comfort for kids to have someone they can relate to. She sees it as trust – bridging a huge gap for students, and helping them be proud of who they are.

## Back to Batoche Days

July 23 to 26

On the plains where our ancestors fought the last battle of the North-West Resistance, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan celebrates and honors their identity and culture. For decades the grounds of Batoche, have come alive each summer for "Back to Batoche Days" July 23, 24, 25, & 26th 2009.

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## Missens helping others help themselves

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

After experiencing a lengthy series of personal and painful experiences, Jan Missens has not only succeeded within her own healing journey on herself but earning certification to help others.

Her new business venture "It's ok to be you" is based on the teachings and philosophy of Louise L. Hay.

"Many times throughout my life I felt like a victim and wondered 'why me?' I was at a particularly very low point in my life when, through the course of my work, I came across a leaflet entitled Love Yourself, Heal Your Life with information

about a two-day workshop," said Missens.

"I knew then that this was just what I had been looking for and I immediately signed up to attend. It was amazing. I realized and learned so much about myself.

"Most importantly, I realized how much I disapproved of myself, and came to the realization that I can love and accept myself just the way I am. Once that happened, everything else in my life started to fall into place – and it's a good feeling," she explains.

"I took those first steps to discover who I was and why I was the way that I was."

Missens found that by practicing the concepts of Louise Hay and by continuing her affirmations, she was happy to accept herself exactly the way she was.

"I have a deeper understanding of myself, and no longer do I ask why me? Instead I say, why not me?" she added.

Missens' healing process continued through education including an Aboriginal Addictions diploma from the NECHI Institute in Edmonton. In April 2008, she had the opportunity to take the training in Florida and qualify as a Certified Heal Your Life-Achieve Your Dreams Workshop Leader.

"It was a dream come true for me," she said.

The workshop accommodated 22 students from around the world who took the training based on Louise L. Hay, an acclaimed American author and publisher of *You Can Heal Your Life*.

"My goal is to help others through motivational training, seminars, workshops and presentations," said Missens. Since receiving her certification, Missens has begun to realize her goal and has hosted many workshops.

"Change is hard, scary and it takes time. This workshop was the best thing I did to help me with change," said one participant. "It also helped me with my hurt, pain and past. It gave me the skills I need to live a happy, prosperous, non-stressful life. Jan, you were an awesome facilitator!"

Missens decided to do something for herself and the community after becoming frustrated after reading the news.

"You see about gangs and suicide and abandonment in our community," said Missens. "That behaviour comes because those people do not love themselves. I am confident that as a licensed Certified Heal Your Life workshop leader and Life Coach that I can empower others to overcome their negative mind set that has limited their success in business, education, careers, financial abundance, intimate relationships, spiritual growth, family and community relationships, and to begin the healing.

"This is a passion of mine and I had to do something to help build a better and brighter future for our people."

More information can be obtained from Missens' website at [www.itsok2bu.ca](http://www.itsok2bu.ca).



Jan Missens (right) with author Louise L. Hay.

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The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand Aboriginal police preparation training in Saskatchewan. The transfer credit agreement will see SIAST's Aboriginal Police Preparation courses offered through the FNUUniv campus in Saskatoon. Training will be provided in partnership by SIAST and the Saskatoon Police Service. From Left to Right: Dr. Herman Michel (FNUC Faculty), SPS Constable Preston Parranto, Janice Acoose (FNUC Faculty), Dr. Judy Harrower (SIAST), Deputy Police Chief Gary Broste (SPS). (Photo supplied by FNUC)

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All of the staff at CreeWay helped earn the President's Award from PetroCanada. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

## CreeWay earns PetroCanada Presidents Award

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

The staff at CreeWay gas was recently honoured with the Presidents Award from PetroCanada. The staff and Chief Cliff Tawpisin were joined by Karen Jackson, territory manager for PetroCanada and Kirk Watts, sales coordinator for western Canada as the team made the presentation of a plaque to general manager Troy Larmer.

"This is all about the staff," said larmer when asked about the award. "The good service just keeps our clients coming back, and the service also helps us keep new clients. The award is a great reflection of the entire team."

The Presidents Award is given based on certain criteria.

"The company recognizes one site yearly," said Jackson. "We look at volume, service and PetroPoint enrollment. This property does lots of volume, so it shows great service from the staff and leadership on Troy and Norm's part ... and the Chief and council, of course. Troy

is certainly a motivator."

Chief Cliff Tawpisin is proud of the team at CreeWay for their achievement.

"When we develop a business, we look at the economic program.

"This business provides service to our members. Unfortunately INAC agreements are never sufficient to provide proper services to our members," said the Chief.

"So when we look at our business ventures, the plan is our community, building our nation. The success here gives opportunity to our youth for jobs, and our Elders benefit in the community.

"CreeWay ensures the success of our community and self sufficiency is our goal. We can't rely on federal and provincial coffers. Any chance we have to build our economic program, we will."

As with any celebration, there were balloons and two gigantic cakes that were devoured by hungry staff and customers .... it was really good cake.

Congratulations to the team at CreeWay for their hard work and success.



Norm Ledoux, Troy Larmer and Chief Cliff Tawpisin cut the cake.



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# New library opening in stages

By Andrea Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatoon's newest library branch, The Library on 20th Street Branch is opening its doors – one room at a time.

"It's been a long-awaited branch," said Zenon Zuzak, Director of Libraries. "At a community meeting in April of 2008, there was very good turnout – definitely the community was clear to us it was the community's library."

There were many ideas, expectations, and suggested services – and he hopes to meet most of them.

"Our summer programming is packed with superb children's performers, great book-based programs and fun activities. We're excited to offer these to children in the community in advance of the actual opening ... we think it's worth it.

"So we'll just be opening the Library Meeting Room for these programs," said Zuzak. "The rest of the Library will not open until July 28."

An earlier opening was hoped for but construction, furnishings, and lease details with Sask Housing caused minor delays.

Beginning July 7, children's programming at 2 p.m. includes Book Camp Tuesdays, A Mixed Bag Wednesdays (children's performers), and I Spy Fridays and the TD Summer Reading Club. A weekly Family Story Time on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. will also be available – all in the Library Meeting Room, accessible by the Saskatchewan Housing entrance doors 30 minutes before each program.

"Although we still have a lot of behind-the-scenes work to do, we're confident that on July 28 our furniture will have arrived, our shelves will be stocked and our staff will be in position to provide the community with this eagerly anticipated library service," said Zuzak.

The branch has been in planning for years, and more than 25 locations were looked at in the Riversdale and Pleasant Hill areas. When discussion opened around the Station 20 West project, it seemed like an ideal opportunity.

"We did want to lease, and not own – so we worked in partnership with the City of Saskatoon, Station 20, QUINT and CHEP, as well as Sask Housing – our partners that allowed us to secure a space for a branch in that core neighbourhood," he noted. The branch name was submitted by a patron, after sending out requests for public input.

"Every time we name a branch it's a challenge and the board was determined to come up with a geographic name."

The content, resources, and collections of the library will reflect community interests and the diversity of the core neighbourhoods, in a variety of mediums. Besides housing a multi-lingual collection, with a focus on Aboriginal content as well as Chinese, Urdu, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and German – they are hoping to hire a community development representative workforce coordinator, who will work on behalf of the entire public library system out of this branch office, for a representative workforce

The Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations, are working on agreements to be signed so that communities being served are represented by the workforce serving them.



Joyce busy shelving books in the children's section of the new Library on 20th. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

## St. Michael students build Medicine Wheel

By Blue Pelletier  
For Eagle Feather News

Grade 6 students at St. Michael Community School in Saskatoon built a Medicine Wheel and now the wheel is on full display in the front of their school on 33rd Street.

Their wheel was made with four stones, one in each of the four directions. There was also one placed in the middle.

The circle represents an harmonious relationship with nature and with all living things who are our relatives and that all things are connected and equal because in a circle there is no beginning and no end.

Each of the four areas was decorated with flowers. And each the flowers was a different colour to signify traditional First Nations colours.

The wheel was unveiled at a ceremony on June 23 as part of National Aboriginal Day. Elder Charlie Sutherland was on hand to bless the wheel.

Nikita Q, a student in Rod Figueroa's class read a short piece about her thoughts on the Medicine Wheel. Candace D, another student in Figueroa's class read her award winning essay about National Aboriginal Day.

"I truly believe that teaching my students about their strong Aboriginal heritage will enrich in them the sense of pride that cannot be taken away," said Figueroa, a Grade 6 teacher.

"I am proud of my students and all of their accomplishments. This Medicine Wheel is another example of their dedication and respect to Mother Earth."



St. Michael students work on their Medicine Wheel in front of the school.

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before  
programs begin

## Proudly announcing

### The Library on 20th Street Branch

100 - 219 Avenue K South  
Telephone: 975-7508

**We** are so excited about our summer programs for kids that we are hosting programs at The Library on 20th Street before the Branch is even open! Children's programs include musical and storytelling performances, book-based games, family story times and fun activities.

By July 28 we'll have our new computers hooked up; books, magazines, DVDs and CDs on the shelves; and staff in place to help make our Library a welcoming and exciting place.

**Hours** (starting Tuesday, July 28):  
Monday: closed  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Friday: 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
\*Sunday 1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

\*In the summer all Saskatoon Public Libraries are closed Sundays, from May 17 until after September 6.

All branches of the Saskatoon Public Library are wheelchair accessible except the lower level of the J.S. Wood Branch.

-SPL photo

**Mark Your Calendar**

**July 7:**  
Library Meeting Room begins opening for children's programs only

**July 28:**  
The Library on 20th Street opens

**August 29:**  
Grand Opening — let the celebrations begin! Watch for details!

**saskatoonlibrary.ca**



Signing the Aboriginal Employment Agreement were Meadow Lake Tribal Council Chief Helen Ben, Kirby Korchinski, Director of Field Operations INAC and First Nation and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson. (Photo supplied by FNMR)



**RIBBON CUTTING**

The Saskatchewan First Nations Family & Community Institute Inc. recently had a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate their Grand Opening. On hand to make the opening official were Left to Right: Board Chair Raymond Shin-goose, Elder Miles Musqua, FSIN Senator/Elder Elma Kytwayhat, Elder Sam Isaac, Executive Director Monty Montgomery. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)

# Meadow Lake Tribal Council inks partnership

The Meadow Lake Tribal Council brings an extensive and experienced network of First Nations representatives to a new Aboriginal Employment Development partnership signed recently with the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada in Meadow Lake.

The goal of the partnership is to increase First Nations participation in Saskatchewan's growing economy and to address labour market shortages that the province faces now and in the future.

Meadow Lake Tribal Council is comprised of nine First Nations communities representing more than 11,000 people.

"Meadow Lake Tribal Council's nine member First Nations offer a huge talent pool to the province," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson said.

"The Tribal Council is also an innovative and noteworthy employer in its own right," he added.

"This partnership is a positive step

forward for the First Nations that make up the council," Meadow Lake Tribal Council Chief Helen Ben said.

"It will ensure that our governments are working together so that our community members can contribute to and share in the prosperity of Saskatchewan's economy."

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada also joined forces with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and the provincial government to sign this agreement at the Meadow Lake Tribal Council offices on Flying Dust First Nation.

## INTERESTED IN OPENING LICENSED CHILD CARE SPACES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



The Saskatchewan Government announced funding for the development of 1,000 new child care spaces this year...

The Ministry of Education is inviting proposals for the development of new licensed child care spaces from parent groups, non-profit corporations, co-operatives, municipalities, family home providers and other interested parties.

Information regarding the development process, licensing standards and other requirements can be found at [www.education.gov.sk.ca\ELCC](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca\ELCC).

Grants are available to support capital and start-up costs, monthly operating costs and training for early childhood educators.

Proposals for new or expanded child care services that will be operational as of March 2010 are of particular interest; proposals for future developments are also welcome.

Visit [www.education.gov.sk.ca\ELCC](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca\ELCC) for further information.



**Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Education**

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level II

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking two responsible persons to serve as Justices of the Peace for the community of Rosthern. Aboriginal persons are encouraged to apply.

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of Provincial Statutes, Bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants for Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons in custody and charges under Provincial Statutes.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

**To qualify for appointment, you must:**

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- grade twelve education or combination of training and experience to carry out the duties;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace;
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a Police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal, Municipal and Band Council employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

Training is mandatory for all Justices of the Peace and is provided by the province.

Appointment is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

For an application form or further information please contact:

**Don Webster**  
Acting Supervising Justice of the Peace  
3rd Floor, 1815 Smith Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2N5  
Phone: (306) 787-8006

**Closing Date: August 6, 2009**



**Saskatchewan  
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3rd Floor, 1815 Smith Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2N5  
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Closing Date: July 27, 2009



Saskatchewan  
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Angie Chief, Asst. Games Coordinator, at 306-381-5047

Denise Waskewitch, Asst. Games Coordinator, at 780-870-4634

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NEWS

# Campaign on to elect successor to retiring Chief Phil Fontaine



Former FSIN Perry Bellegarde is vying for the top job at the AFN.

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

On July 22, the Chiefs and delegates of the Assembly of First Nations will pick a new Chief. This is the first time in over decade that Chief Phil Fontaine has not been on the ballot, guaranteeing a new National Chief for the people.

The job will go to one of five gentlemen. Hometown favourite and former FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde will be facing off against Traditional Chief Shawn Atleo from British Columbia, Grand Council Chief John Beaucage from Ontario, Chief Terrance Nelson from Manitoba and Chief Bill Wilson from British Columbia.

Atleo, Wilson and Bellegarde all have extensive experience working with the AFN as either Regional Vice Chiefs or as staff and this will certainly give them an advantage on the national stage. Nelson has risen to prominence due to his advocacy and sometimes off the wall statements that infuriate the average Canadian. He has also threatened to block rail lines in Manitoba. Beaucage has been a Chief for many years and is

an economist by trade.

In conversation with Perry Bellegarde, he expects a tight race, but one he fully expects to win.

“The campaign is going great,” said Bellegarde who was the first to declare his candidacy.

“I have been planting seeds and meeting with Chiefs across Canada for a long time now and recently we have had all Chief forums. The campaign is friendly because ultimately it is about unity at the AFN.”

Bellegarde intends to restore unity amongst the Chiefs and then focus on economic development through resource sharing to alleviate some of the poverty in the communities.

“If we do get our true share of the natural resources, we can close the economic gap but we also have to look at education and training,” said Bellegarde.

“The government has to eliminate the cap on education. The AFN has to get in front of the Prime Ministers cabinet, not just INAC. We can’t work in isolation.”

One of the other front running contenders is BC AFN Regional Vice Chief and Hereditary Chief Shawn Atleo.

“I am excited about the potential of our people across this country,” said Atleo in an interview with Eagle Feather News.

“In the last five years, across the country I see we have significant untapped potential in our young people, and an increased awareness growing amongst the Canadian citizens about the situation of First Nations people. We do have significant challenges in relationship with governments, but now is the time to build on the spirit and intent of the recent apology from Stephen Harper, and to build on the momentum of the passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

“Internally, we have to overcome the externally imposed divisions on our people that of on reserve and off, status and non status. Those who grew up with their language and those who didn’t. We have huge divisions and limited resources. That leads to splits, sometimes even in families.”

He sees the immediate future as “Our time.”

Bellegarde felt he never really had a choice when it came time to make the difficult decision to run for the AFN.

“I have been a servant to my people since I graduated from university,” said Bellegarde. “I had 12 years as a Tribal Rep and then six years at the FSIN and



British Columbia’s Shawn Atleo is regarded as a strong candidate.

now I am back home as a councilor on Little Black Bear. I do it because I am trying to make a difference and create hope for our children.”

The Chiefs of Canada will make the decision on National Chief at the AFN Assembly in Calgary, July 21-23.

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## Golf clinic brings pros and youth together

A small group of youths between the ages of 12 and 18 gathered at the Dakota Dunes to participate in a golf clinic. The event was a partnership between Saskatoon Tribal Council and Ernie Scoles Fine Arts and Framing.

Barry O'Neill of Ireland and Ryan Thomas of Wales were instructors at the clinic. They are both players on the Canadian Professional Golf Tour. The Tour is in town for the 2nd Annual Saskatchewan Open.

It was a great opportunity for young people to take in some training from some professionals who were there to compete in the tour stop at the Dakota Dunes Golf Course on July 9-12.

Ernie Scoles grew up playing golf. He wanted to help give kids a chance to play the game he still plays to this day. And through Scoles Fine Arts and Framing, a program dedicated to youth, he sponsors an annual tournament and clinics like this one.

"Golf has a lot of good things come

out of it," Scoles says. "You do it on your own, you are by yourself. And it teaches youth self-discipline and patience."

Golf can be an expensive game and for families who don't have the money to purchase clubs or pay for a round at a local course, playing the game can be a real hurdle.

Todd Standing works for Saskatoon Tribal Council and says that through sporting funds they have purchased sets of clubs that are at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

It gives youth the opportunity to play the game and have outings to golf courses that perhaps they might have never been exposed to.

"The kids like the game. It's not easy as they make it look on TV," Standing says.

"Kids realize how difficult it is. That it's a social thing, sort of a community event. Hopefully, when they are older and working they get the bug to play the game and remember how fun it is."

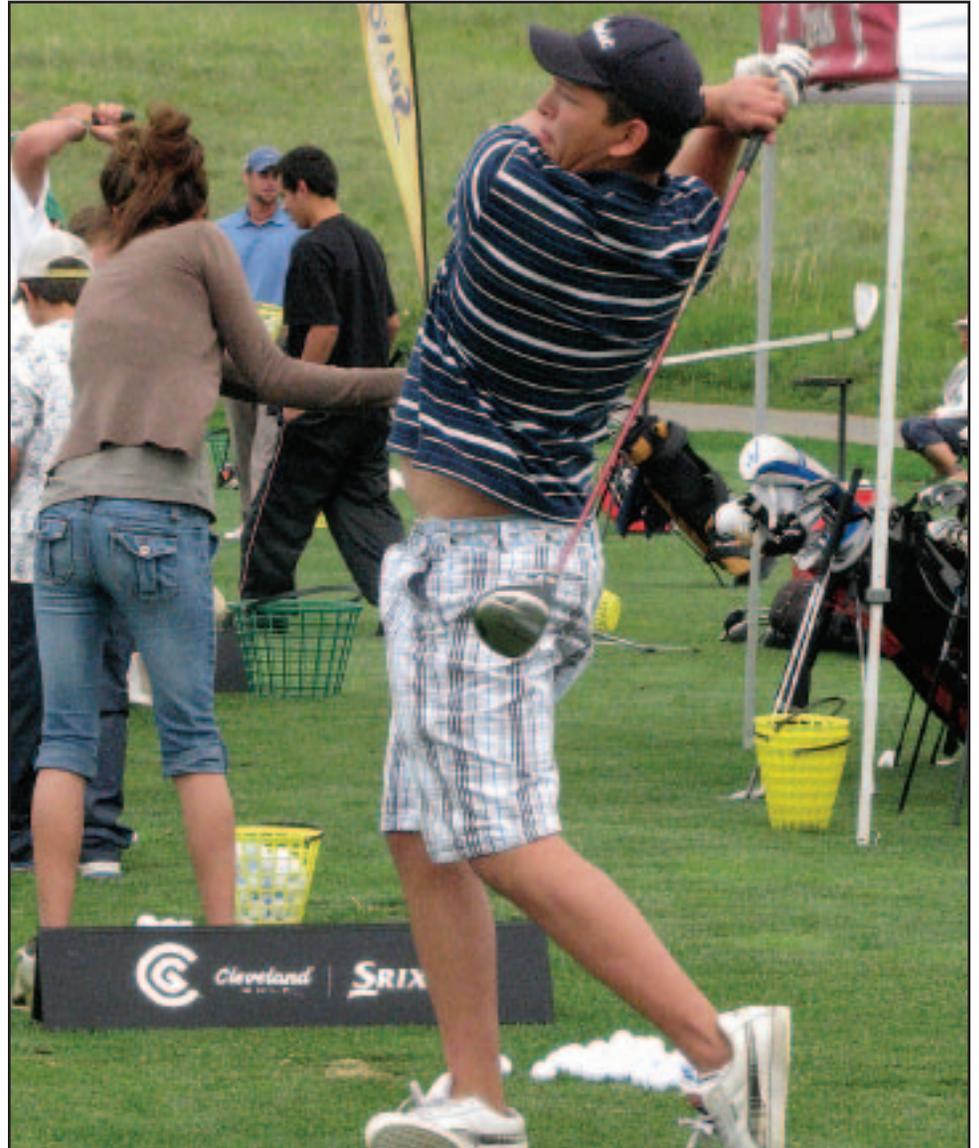
After the clinic all the participants were treated to a barbecue and given gifts such as golf hat and balls.

"It was nice to rub shoulders with professionals and spend an afternoon having fun with the kids," Scoles says.

Dustin Cameron is 15 years old and is from the Beardy's First Nation.

"I golf every day. It was nice to learn more about golf," Cameron says. "I would like to take the game as far as I can. We'll see what happens."

I saw this kid hit the ball, he definitely has a future.



Raymond Cameron from Beardy's hits a mighty three wood off the tee. Scoles Fine Arts and Framing, the Saskatoon Tribal Council and SIIT were sponsors of the event. (Photo by Blue Pelletier)

## Bridge City tournament a real shootout in final

The Bridge City Shootout could only crown one champion, but it should have had two. It was quite honestly the best basketball game ever seen in this city. The Bus Drivers out of Winnipeg won a triple overtime thriller over the Old School Squad from Saskatoon.

Chris Kraus of the Bus Drivers was the MVP and was unreal. Dude looks like your average Joe but his game is just ridiculous.

Big ups to Mike Leiffers of the Bus Drivers who won the 3-point shootout and was also the Slam Dunk Champ!

The tournament had over 250 participants, with 25 teams in three different divisions.

In the Women's final the Huskies blew away the ECP Bulls in a game that was never in question. Led by MVP Jill Humbert and a cast of former and current Huskie players they were met with little challenge throughout the tourney and cruised to the championship.

The Saskatoon Phoenix defeated the Maskawacis Warriors in the Youth Final.

Tournament organizer Mike Tanton was thrilled with the response to the tourney.

"The tournament was a complete success. Teams commented on how good the calibre of play was," Tanton said.

"We at For The Love Basketball are happy that we had the volunteers to make

everything go as smooth as possible. I also look forward to working with the teams and sponsors for next year's event to make it even bigger, with more teams and more fun. Until the next chapter of the Bridge city shootout. Peace and Bannock Grease!"

## Riders start season with a roar with win over B.C.

It was a huge win for the Riders in their season opener, avenging a 33-12 defeat in the playoffs last year with a 28-24 win over the BC Lions.

It wasn't really a pretty game to watch with turnovers and points off turnovers accounting for nearly all the points.

After the Riders jumped out to a 25-7 lead the Lions charged back before falling short.

Former Lion Jason Clermont made his first catch for the Riders just before halftime and received a standing ovation.

Winston Dressler called it "a big win to start the season."

The crowd was crazy as usual. Announced attendance was 30,062.

## Random thoughts ...

The Leafs and the Raptors both made some big moves, too bad they will both still disappoint a nation of fans ... Joe Sakic is one of the best ever ... NFL Fantasy Leagues about to start, my first pick would no doubt be Adrian Peterson ... R.I.P. Steve McNair



Gainer the Gopher and the rest of his friends, the Saskatchewan Roughriders, hopped the bus and came to Saskatoon for a training camp day and autograph signing. It seems the trip to Saskatoon proved fruitful. Even though they went 0-2 in the preseason, the Riders are already 1-0 at press time. The undefeated Riders look like a cinch to win the Grey Cup this year with BC, Edmonton and Calgary all struggling. Edmonton would be 0-1, but they beat the horrible Winnipeg Blue Bombers by two points to look like they aren't that bad. But they are. Gainer was a big hit with the fans and couldn't go anywhere without a kids stopping him for a high five. In the picture, he is signing autographs for some special Rider fans. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



## PLEASANT HILL POW WOW

Powwow announcer extraordinaire Donnie Peidel (bottom left) was called upon to keep the Pleasant Hill Powwow moving and entertaining. Cecile Smith (left), a mainstay at St. Mary's School had her granddaughter out to enjoy the sights and sounds of the pow wow. Turns out it was the girl's first time in her pow wow regalia and Cecile hopes she turns into a great jingle dress dancer someday. Raven Saganace (right), a future great jingle dress dancer, went by during an intertribal. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



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	Saturday	July 25	2:00		Saturday	October 24	3:30
	Sunday	August 16	5:00		Saturday	November 7	6:00

\* SASKATCHEWAN TIME

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Affinity Credit Union staff (bottom left) have been volunteering and sponsoring National Aboriginal Day festivities in Saskatoon for years. This year, the staff from the Fairhaven Branch made a great impression. From left they are Roy Bluehorn, Terry Dering and Ursula Fiddler. As usual, there was a wide array of talent lined up to entertain the masses. Emcee Sanford Strongarm introduced several drummers, fiddlers, jiggers and First Nation dancers. Elder and veteran Edward Baldhead (top right) was given the honour of carrying the Eagle Staff in the Grand Entry. He was joined by other veterans, soldiers, Saskatoon Police officers and members of the RCMP. The organizing committee chose to celebrate the men and women who serve and protect our society, including members of the Armed Forces, police forces, the fire department and ambulance services. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



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