

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Exceptional youth honoured

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

On a rainy late April night the 14th Annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards were handed out at TCU Place in Saskatoon. But unlike the weather, the mood inside the building was bright and cheery as over 100 youth, their families, and assorted dignitaries, politicians and community leaders gathered to honor our province's exceptional youth.

As always, it was an evening filled with stories of unbelievable accomplishments, unheard of dedication and commitment and extraordinary acts of kindness, volunteerism and community enrichment.

Female Sports and Recreation Award winner Shayna Thomas, for example, drove three hours, three times a week to attend hockey practice in North Battleford, all while maintaining an honor roll worthy academic average. For Thomas, it's all about choices.

"When I got serious about hockey I had to make many decisions. I had to give up other sports and activities and also spend less time with my friends," Thomas says.

"It was also a struggle to manage my commitment to education as well as hockey but somehow I found the perfect balance."

And examples like Shayna just kept on coming. One Grade 8 student arrives at school 90 minutes early each and every day to help with breakfast so the rest of his classmates and peers can start the day off right. Another student collects bottles to help those less fortunate at Christmas time.

Yes, our kids are alright. And it's safe to say many adults left the building feeling the need to get more active in their own communities after hearing each youth nominee's bio.

This year's Male Outstanding Achievement winner is Perry Opoonechew, a soft-spoken young man with a big presence from Chakastaypasin First Nation near St. Louis.

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Shayna Thomas, an outstanding hockey player and honour roll student, was among the young people honoured at the 14th annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



INSIDE



TOO CUTE!

Getting into the spirit of the powwow, this little girl was one of the participants at the FNUC powwow in April. - Page 4



TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Commissioner Willie Littlechild is looking forward to a huge event in Saskatoon in June.. - Page 11



ROY ROCKS

Zoe Roy did an outstanding job as Saskatoon coordinator for the city's National Arts Week event - Page 14



MINING SUCCESS

People like Terry Bird are finding rewarding careers in the province's booming mining industry. - Page 17 & 18



SHE'S A ROLE MODEL

Taylor Arcand is Larissa St. Onge's pick as her role model. Both girls are students at E.D. Feehan in Saskatoon. - Page 26

Welcome to our Youth Edition

Coming In June -

National Aboriginal Day Issue

CPMA #40027204

Day Camps for Kids Return to Wanuskewin

During February and April school breaks Wanuskewin Heritage Park welcomed kids between the ages of 7 and 10 to our fun-filled day camps. Both camps quickly sold out and we are preparing to host more days camps this July and August. This year is the 20th anniversary of Wanuskewin Heritage Park so check out our website and Facebook page for information on the special events and activities that we will be hosting this summer.

Day Camps for Kids are a week-long, interactive experience for kids between the ages of 7 and 10 that promote a better understanding of Northern Plains First Nation cultures in a safe, supportive environment. The camps run Monday to Friday from 9am to 4:30pm every week in July and August, with before and after camp care available starting at 7:30am. Activities at the summer camps include guided trail walks, watching and participating in traditional First Nation dance performances, an archaeology dig, crafts like pottery, dreamcatchers, kite making, as well as plenty of traditional games.

One parent of two of our camp attendants said, 'our little boys had a very educating and fantastic week with all of you during the Day Camps last February and April. Wanuskewin's employees are great with kids! Our sincere thanks for your dedication to this wonderful program.' Listening to feedback from the kids that have attended our program have helped us to improve the day camp experience even more and our talented interpretive guides are preparing for a fun, interactive summer at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.



Registration for Day Camps for Kids is now open. There are only 20 spots available per camp so register your child now before the camps become sold out. The cost of the 5 day camps is \$215 per child, which includes healthy lunches and snacks!

For more information on our Day Camps or to register your child, please check out www.wanuskewin.com or contact Cameron McRae at 931-6767, ext 244 or cameron.mcrae@wanuskewin.com.



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SaskTel has been honouring Saskatchewan's Aboriginal youth achievement for 14 years

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He's one of those young people who doesn't have much to say but chooses to lead by example.

"Stay dedicated and follow your dreams," is all he had to say when asked if he had any advice for other youth who may be struggling.

An aspiring RCMP or city police officer, Opoonachew will achieve his dreams – the look in his eyes said so.

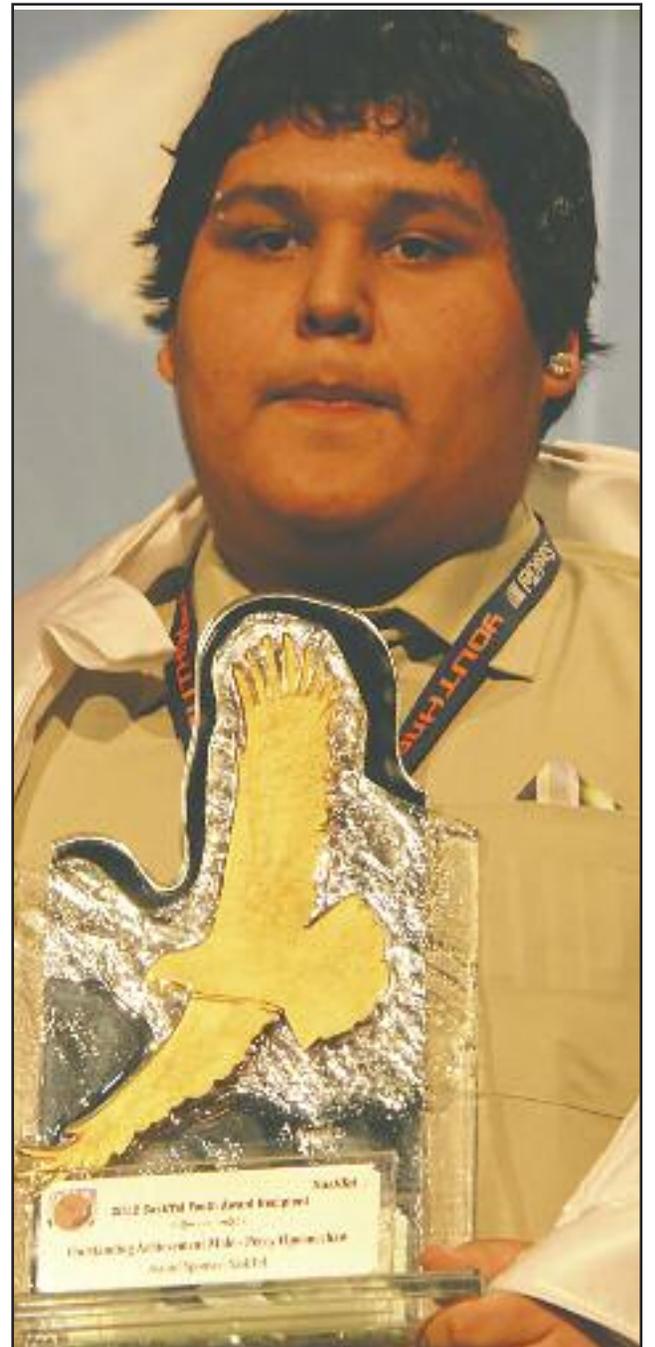
On the other hand, Tara Willett is one of those young people who is ridiculously well-spoken, intelligent beyond her years and sure to be a future leader in our province.

achievements and celebrate all the good things they're doing in their communities, their homes and (with) their families keeps us going," Cameron says.

"And there always a new crop of youth doing exceptional things each year."

The rest of the 2012 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award winners:

Community Service – CHIT 103.3 FM (15 students from Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation); Culture – Amelia Badger; Education – Christopher Dogniez; Enterprise – Christopher Mike; Fine/Performing Arts – Shaquille McGonigle; Leadership – Shyanne St. Denis; Spirit – Wade Lavallee; Male Sports & Recreation – Kieran Johnson.



Perry Opoonachew (above) is this year's recipient of the Male Outstanding Achievement Award. Perry is from Chakastaypasin First Nation. (Left) MLA Gord Wayant presented Tara Willett with the Female Outstanding Achievement Award. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

She won this year's Female Outstanding Achievement and spoke like a seasoned pro when asked how she achieves her goals.

"Say no to drugs and alcohol. Just say no, don't even try it. I've had the opportunity to try them but have seen the negative effects they have. I chose not to and I've never been happier."

Instead of giving in to temptation, she says, simply, get involved.

"Don't stress yourself out but get involved in as many things as you can because the experience, no matter what it is, will pay off. Whether you're writing a resume when you need to get a job or looking for what you're good at, it will pay off."

And when it comes to support, Willett didn't hesitate to say her mom, Shauneen Pete, is the main reason she's able to achieve accolades like the SaskTel Outstanding Achievement Award.

"My mother basically raised me on her own. She's the strongest woman I know and I'm proud to be her daughter. I love her so much."

Needless to say, it's youth like Tara Willett, Perry Opoonachew and Shayna Thomas that make the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards one of the most important events to be held in Saskatchewan each year. Colleen Cameron, committee member and organizer of the Awards, says it's the youth and their accomplishments alone that keep the awards going strong.

"Knowing that we can recognize the youth and their

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— RICHARD FLORIZONE,
Vice-President, Finance and Resources

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Editorial

Métis youth will pay the price

Last month we promised you a preview of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan election that was scheduled for the end of May. This election was pivotal for the MNS as their funding partners had given them five years to work on an official Métis registry, clean up the Election Act, the Constitution and save money to have an election in May.

Because several Area Directors and other members of the Provincial Métis Council refused to attend duly called Provincial Métis Council Meetings, the MNS has not had a meeting with legal quorum since September of 2010. Hence all business that was moved on in that time was deemed not proper throwing the entire election process, and even the workings of the Métis Nation, into chaos. Keeping it short, that means there will not be a Métis election until September 2012 at best.

Now, imagine if your local City Councillor, Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature Assembly kept skipping meetings for no apparent reason other than they didn't like the elected leader. They would obviously get terminated, even before the citizens had a chance to throw them out in an election. Actually it doesn't even happen. That's because those governments have proper constitutions and election acts that have rules around missing meetings and repercussions that will follow. It only makes sense since this is basically taking care of business of the day.

We guess only in the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is it okay for an elected leader to abandon your job duties out of spite, embarrass their members and cause irreparable harm to an organization that should be focusing on getting education and training for their youth, the fastest growing demographic in Saskatchewan at that. You have to know that this latest giant hiccup will do lots of damage to the relationship between the Métis Nation and the provincial and federal governments.

So today we send a big stink eye out to all those folks that have abandoned their jobs at the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and thumbs up to those that are fighting the good fight by at least showing up and doing their jobs. Novel concept that.

Lots of hope, though

This being our youth edition, one can't help but put a shout out to all those young people that are doing amazing things.

Just recently we had the opportunity to be involved in the Boom Box Aboriginal business plan competition and then also be involved as a mentor at Oskayak High School for a student that was in the Martin Entrepreneurial program.

The young people in the contest and in the class had innovative ideas, passion for business and a work ethic that matched the best out there. It certainly gave us hope for the economy of Saskatchewan. Who knows, one of those young people may be the next indigenous W. Brett Wilson.

And of course, each and every youth that was nominated for a SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award inspires. That night, listening to story after story of perseverance and excellence sure does help inflate the waders if you know what we mean. There were lots of adults sitting there in awe of these young people and justifiably. The youth were dedicated, committed and accountable to their peers.

Maybe, if we are lucky, some of them will run in the next Métis Nation election.



POWWOW GIRL

Journey Dubois has mastered the art of looking like a kokum and a little adorable sweet heart all at the same time. Her dad Mike caught her in this ridiculously cute expression at the First Nation University of Canada Powwow held in April.

(Photo by Mike Dubois)

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The world has changed for young people

Thinking about youth. My favorite Facebook wisdom this month is: "It's not what you do for your child, it's what you teach them to do for themselves that builds a strong person."

This little bit of wisdom has many teachings some of us could have used when we were raising kids.

Back then we were so concerned about making a living we neglected to spend enough time with our kids to teach them the little things that help build character.

Our time was wrapped up in our jobs, to be able to buy stuff for them that we never had, and sometimes it was easier to do things for them than to teach them to do things for themselves.

The world around us got materialistic and suddenly there were many things we thought we needed to buy to make life comfortable.

Many kids grew up believing that it was "things" that made life sweet. But did we spend enough time with them to teach them the virtues of hard work, personal sacrifice, sharing, respect, and problem solving?

Sometimes today's youth forget that us oldies were young once and went through many of the emotional ups and

downs that they are going through. The world was a bit different back then. We had no computers, cell phones, colour TVs, or iPods.

Our social media consisted of biking or hiking a ride to visit a friend, or writing a letter, buying a stamp and sending it in the snail mail. We shared our telephone line with five neighbors (called a party line) who could pick up and eavesdrop anytime.

We had two channels on our black and white TVs if we were lucky (one was always the CBC), and music came in the form of LP or 45 rpm records that cost a small fortune (that was before the eight-tracks). Some of us were lucky enough to get a weekly allowance; otherwise we had to take on part-time jobs to get the cash to buy stuff we wanted.

Local gangs consisted of a bunch of mischievous hell-raising cousins and "getting caught" meant a damn good lickin' from any member of the extended family or serious hard labour under Gramma's supervision.

Getting into trouble wasn't as easy then as it is today, mostly because we didn't have the time or technology, there were also fewer rewards and the punishments were immediate.

But we also shared many of the feelings our youth experience today. The transition from childhood to adulthood is emotionally and physically challenging. The struggle to be our own person, free to make our own choices, was a constant teenage challenge.

Resentment about being bossed around to babysit and work around the house was just as real, as we too wanted space and time to do our own thing and spend time with our buddies.

We challenged their politics, sometimes believing that our older relatives had old-fashioned ideas and beliefs and we rebelled, and we all recall feeling frustrated that they didn't understand us or what we were going through.

Times haven't changed much in this regard. Youth is that stage in life where we flex our muscles, push the bound-

aries, and create space for ourselves in the adult world.

It's not just our physical world that has changed since we were young. More than lack of time and fear of consequences, I think, was the realization that we were needed to help look after our families. Everyone had to chip in and everyone had a job to do that helped keep the household functioning, and through that we learned what it took and how to run a household at an early age.

We got our driver's licences as soon as we turned 16, had part-time jobs and saved up to buy designer clothes and our first car. The ultimate independence was to move out of the house as soon as we saved enough money and had a decent paying job. Most of my generation were out of the family home before we even turned 19.

How did our parents teach us to be independent and to be proud of our independence? The world was different back then but I also believe it's because they expected us to learn this stuff by example and by their patient (and sometimes not so patient) teachings.

They helped us empower ourselves by teaching us to do things for ourselves, not by doing things for us.



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Indigenous peoples' international action

The annual meetings of the United Nations Permanent Forum on International Issues (PFII) are held in May in New York City and are a reminder of the great strides that indigenous peoples' political action has produced in the last generation and more.

This year the sessions run from May 7-18 at UN headquarters. The PFII has an advisory role to the UN only, and its contributions seem to have generated the most attention in the developmental work of the UN in Third World countries. This might be a reminder to indigenous people from developed states like Canada that international action from our side should be regarded in large part as service to the worldwide indigenous community. International action can promote indigenous knowledge and values, such as the peace-promoting fundamental concept of universal kinship.

The PFII continues part of the role of the former Working Group of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva before the latter was ended and replaced by the UN Human Rights Council. As such it can and does hear complaints about the treatment of indigenous peoples by states, but there are other UN forums that also perform that function.

The former Working Group's most prominent accomplishment is, of course, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which was developed as part of its standard-setting mandate. The UNDRIP has received a fair bit of publicity, at least in some circles, in part probably more because of the Harper government's initial wrong-headed opposition to it than its more recent expression of qualified support for it.

The UNDRIP is a Declaration and as a matter of international law it is not binding on states. Its status also means that its standards stand whether or not a state supports it.

The human rights regime at the UN includes quite a number of Special Rapporteurs. These are usually independent experts charged with the job of reporting on the performance of states about their international obligations. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is Jim Anaya, an American Indian scholar from the University of Arizona.

This year the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food is making his first visit to a developed country when he visits Canada from May 6-16, making stops on the Prairies to visit First Nation communities and talk to leaders. The Special Rapporteur will be looking to see how the right to food is recognized in government actions and policies that affect Aboriginal people in this country.

This visit reminds one of the point that Jim Sinclair made to the last First Ministers Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Reform back in 1987,

namely that the provincial government subsidizes whiskey but not milk in northern Saskatchewan. One assumes that governments are just a tad nervous about the visit.

In addition to the UN there is the



regional Organization of American States (OAS), of which both Canada and the USA are members, along with all North and South American states. The OAS is pursuing its own Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington D.C. is available to assist indigenous peoples to reach 'friendly settlement' of disputes with the states in which they live.

The petition of six First Nations on Vancouver Island called the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group respecting the violations of their rights to lands and resources was accepted and was recently argued before the Commission.

The political action of indigenous people continues to influence the development of new international initiatives. The UN General Assembly itself resolved in December 2010 to organize a UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in the year 2014, and that is currently being discussed and organized.

This year also one of the long-anticipated international events, the first World Indigenous Lawyers' Conference will be held in Hamilton New Zealand from Sept. 6-9, 2012. Organized by Te Hunga Roia Maori o Aotearoa (The Maori Law Society) the conference will be hosted by Te Piringa, the Faculty of Law at the University of Waikato. The theme of the conference is "Law as a Tool for Indigenous Peoples' Development: Worldwide strategies and international perspectives" and will include presentations on such topics as constitutional reform, ownership and management of natural resources, family law and health law.

As the conference poster states, the intent is to be provocative. This does not mean inviting bombastic rhetoric to provoke negative reactions but rather, provoking discussion and generating ideas. Folks interested in attending or participating may check the Maori law society's website for the information they need at www.maorilawsociety.co.nz.

We shall see how the world's indigenous lawyers propose to support the political action of indigenous peoples' representatives with a view to improving the relations between states and indigenous peoples and promoting international peace and harmony through justice.

Artwork an effective aspect of indigenous law conference

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

“Our Way”, a conference held at the University of Saskatchewan, focused on Indigenous law-making, was a great success. Not only did it involve close to 200 participants from across Canada, but almost a quarter of those participants were youth.

“There were youth from B.C., Ontario, and Saskatchewan,” noted organizer Audrey Dreaver. “They got to talk about common issues, and being Indigenous youth, and what they hope for the future.”

Not only was it a place for them to discuss issues while learning about traditional forms of justice from many First Nations communities across Canada, but there was also a strong youth artwork component. Dreaver, who has a background in art and is a curator, put the call out for youth artwork focusing on what life might be like if the UN Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples was to be realized, and was blown away by the response.

“Normally with a similar call for adults, you might get ten pieces,” said Dreaver, who wound up with 44 pieces – 27 from Saskatchewan, 17 of those from Oskayak School, with another 17 from Thunder Bay.

“It’s an indication to me that those youth have a voice, they have something to say. They wanted to say it and they did it through art.”

A collage piece from St. Mary’s Elementary School, made of small canvases which created a larger work, included some of the youngest artists Dreaver had worked with.

Oskayak tied in their creative work with a study on Residential Schools by creating gifts for someone who had survived Residential School — a violation of human rights.

“Through adversity, racism and being divided as a people. You stayed true to who you were,” wrote Oskayak student William Pete in a poem.

“You made it possible for me to Love OUR Spirituality and Culture. All because you kept true to your Native Ancestry. Thank you for keeping our culture alive. Thank you for being Survivor.”

At the Thursday night reception at Oskayak, around 120 people from across Canada admired their artwork, which included painting, drawing, photography, sculpture pieces, music, rap, and creative writing and it was then displayed at the conference on campus as well.

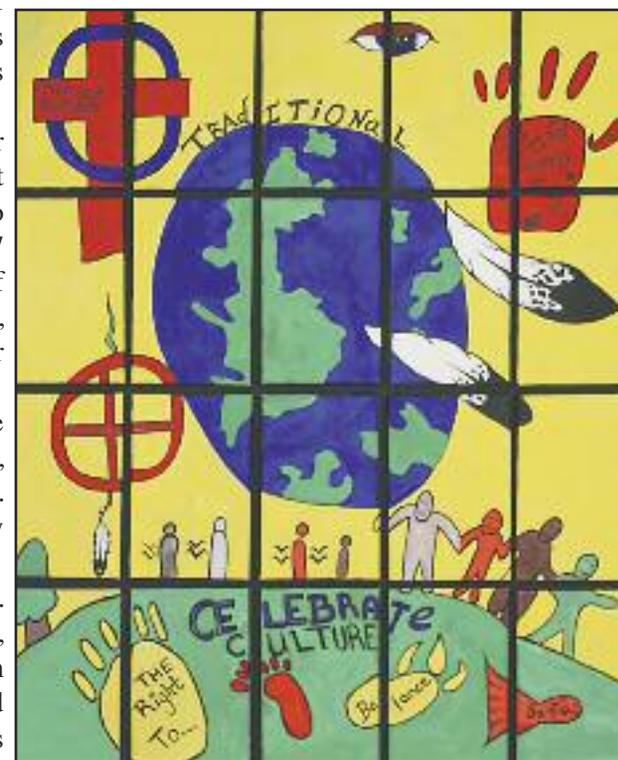
“We wanted a strong youth component because it’s the youth that will bring (Indigenous rights and lawmaking) into everyday life,” said Dreaver. “It’s youth that will make the difference.”

Three of the students from Oskayak went on to be selected for the UN youth meeting in Geneva on Indigenous rights, and despite being some of the youngest in attendance, they made invaluable contributions to the process.

“Oskayak youth were the foundation of the UN resolution made,” Dreaver explained.

Meanwhile, the conference hopes to develop a book reproducing the artwork, as well as displaying it at the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation Commission in June.

“Art is an important tool for youth. If they’re shy or scared or can’t get the words out they might find it easier to use arts as a means to communicate what they’re feeling and thinking.”



Whitecap celebrates role in War of 1812, creation of Canada

By Larissa Burnouf
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatoon is slated to play host to the bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 next month. Beginning on Saturday, June 16, some 200 years after the United States declared war on the British Empire and what later became Canada, commemoration events will take place throughout the city highlighting a defining chapter in our history and a strong cultural alliance.

musical and cultural performances and educational accounts and dramatic depictions of the conflict.

The majority of the events will take place on the riverbanks of Saskatoon. River Landing will then be lit up during the evening with a fireworks display and cannon salute. On Monday, June 18, an education programming announcement is expected to be made during the events which will incorporate hundreds of students from local and area schools.

The Dakota First Nation was an important ally of the British forces during the war.

"It is often overlooked that the Dakota people played a critical role in this historical achievement," says Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear.

"It is important to remind ourselves of these events and that First Nations are an integral part of the fabric of this country."

Many descendants of those who fought and died fending off American troops now reside on Whitecap reserve.

"Commemorating the War of 1812 is not a celebration of conflict," says Bear. "It is a celebration of the lasting legacy partnership between the Dakota and the British Crown. It is also a story that belongs to all of us. It is an important part of our past, when First Nations, the Crown and other allies joined together to protect

their homeland."

Saskatoon Tourism representative Randy Fernets says these events, which expect to draw a large number of spectators, will go a long way in helping the city's economy and further elaborate the rich history of the area.

"The history component on display will help in creating better understanding of First Nations involvement in the development of Canada as a nation. That will be the legacy of these celebrations as they continue through to 2014."

Community members are welcomed to take part in and experience the bicentennial celebrations of the War of 1812 at Saskatoon's River Landing during the weekend's events. Similar celebrations and commemorative events are being held across the country in honor of the conflict that led to the creation of our country.



Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear regularly welcomes Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan to his community. Whitecap received \$50,000 from the Federal government to help commemorate the War of 1812. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

The Whitecap Dakota Nation received a \$50,000 federal contribution from the War of 1812 Commemoration Fund to help finance the three days of family-friendly celebrations.

Kicking off the events on June 16, a commemoration unity horse ride will take place from Whitecap reserve, located south of Saskatoon, to Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Sunday's festivities will include multi-cultural food vendors,

The War of 1812 was the motivating force in the creation of our nation and the development of the Canada-US border. The British defeated the Americans two years after the widely spread war began, but that victory would not have happened if the British military did not have the support and strength of its allies. The British, along with First Nations and the French, unified to prevent an American invasion.

Join the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Partners to commemorate the War of 1812.

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12 noon – 10 pm River Landing, Saskatoon

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Thanks to youth for standing up for what's right

“I can't wait until I'm older.” How many times did I say that when I was young? Now that I'm older I say I wish I was young again. I have learned that “We can't always get what we want.”

Speaking of youth, I am so impressed with the youth today for standing up for things that they believe in like saying no to tuition hikes, anti-bullying, civil rights and gay rights.

The news is filled with stories of students in Quebec holding rallies and challenging the government's mandate to raise tuition fees.

It was two young men who had witnessed one of their classmates being bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school that started the whole Pink Shirt anti-bullying campaign.

A young gay man took his school to court because they refused to let him bring his partner to the graduation as his escort.

Another story highlights how one young man was suspended from school for wearing a T-shirt that had “Jesus”

written on it. He challenged the suspension and was allowed to go back to school. The first day back in school he wore his “Jesus” shirt. Good for him!

Throughout history the youth have stood up against inequalities. Remember the whole civil rights movement in the States and imagine being the only black kid in a school that was once for whites only. Scary.

Movies have been made about these brave young people who had to walk through groups of white adults, yelling and screaming at them, just to get to school. Shameful.

In Saskatchewan, Aboriginal youth are the fastest growing segment of the population and much of the future of this province is reliant on our youth being successful.

These young people have to walk through a minefield of social dispari-



Sandee Sez

Sandrew Ahenakew

ties: poverty, crime, addictions and broken families. They have to learn to work beside someone who may not like them because they are

Aboriginal and don't kid yourself, this stuff happens. Tapew!

Despite all the obstacles, many of the youth are determined to be successful and find jobs in this province. They are ready to fill the gaps but they need someone to believe in them and their abilities.

We don't need to fill the jobs with people from Ireland or the Philippines. We need this province to invest in Aboriginal youth. We are not asking for a handout but a hand up.

It's a tough time. The federal and provincial governments are cutting jobs in an attempt to balance budgets. Programs that used to be there are no more.

If the youth had a dream of working in the Saskatchewan film industry they will have to look to another province.

It's tough being a young person. There are so many decisions to be made. Where should they go to school? What kind of job do they want when they finish school? Should I get my own place? Hopefully the youth have their parents helping make some of the tougher decisions.

I have to tell you it's not so easy being older either. I wish I had listened better to my parents and family but for some reason I always had to do things the hard way. No one could tell me what to do when I was young. I knew everything. Do you know anyone like that?

Thank you, young people, for standing up against bullying and for making this world a better place. Ekosi.

Keep your emails and letters and letters coming. You can write to me at Sandee Sez, C/O Eagle Feather News, PO Box 924 St Main, Saskatoon SK, S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

“The Secret” – Sexually Abused as a Child

The loss of our children within Residential Schools is one of the most tragic events and largely unknown in our history. Some family histories include shameful things.

In many cases abusers were abused by family members. Abuse passes silently from one generation to another as long as it's kept a “family secret”.

High expectations in society and religious groups made people afraid to admit their problems. Children learn to respect authority. Children learn to trust their parents, if those needs are not met, in order to survive they need to take care of themselves. This attitude of distrust of authority usually will be carried into adulthood.

Trust and respect dies at the hands of betrayal and abused children are betrayed children.

Unable to live up to society's expectation they have developed a secret life of failure. As victims they do not have the power or control to change their lives. They become convinced they cannot win social approval. They learned as children that to win approval involves living up to another's expectations.

To attempt to do so only invites disappointment and failures, they cannot take the risk of more failures. Believing they cannot earn disapproval, they tend

to seek attention through disapproval. Survivors of childhood abuse suffer from emptiness, loneliness, desperation and cannot form close relationships. In order to survive they must trust no one.

They have a deep sense of guilt; they blame themselves for their childhood abuse. They feel a need for punishment. Arrogance and defiance often shroud their sense of personal guilt for having been a child. Some

are most comfortable “at home” in prison. The long term effects are low self-esteem, feelings of guilt, shame or anger, feeling violated, abusing alcohol or drugs, turning to prostitution, suffering from eating disorders, difficulty forming healthy relationships, continuing to experience feelings of victimization, attempting suicide, depression, aggressive behavior, physical ailments (headaches, stomach aches, bedwetting etc.) sleep disturbances, nightmares, venereal disease and promiscuity.

Sexually abused children, just like abused adults, become enormously isolated and dependent on and attached to their abusers. Judgment is placed on the abuse disclosure by the community that makes a statement saying “It's none of my business.”

The message to the victim is “It's my fault”. The result is drugs, alcohol, and suicide or leaving the community by moving.

(The above is Part 1 of a two-part article)



Health Matters

Flo Lavallie

good food bites

FIVE REASONS TO EAT LENTILS

#5. NUTRITIOUS

1 serving (3/4 cup) of cooked lentils provides more than half of your daily protein, fibre, and folic acid requirements and 1/3 of your iron needs. It can help lower cholesterol, prevent high blood sugar spikes, and may even prevent some cancers.

#4 VERSATILE

Not crazy about plain lentils? How about lentil chocolate cake? Lentils have been added to soups, chili, salads, hamburger, vegetable dips, cookies and biscuits without complaint. Go to the internet for tried and true recipes or create some of your own. Cook lentils in lots of water until soft (about 30 minutes) and then add about a cup to your soup or stew or blend up and add ¼ cup to cakes, bannock and cookies. Mm-mm good!

#3 LOCAL

What better way to support Saskatchewan than to eat what grows well here. Saskatchewan produces 99% of Canada's lentil crop and Canada is the world's leading lentil exporter.

#2 A Good Buy

Whether you buy them or not, lentils are a good buy. A serving of dried lentils costs about 20 cents. Compare that with lunch meat (high sodium) a hot dog (high salt and fat) or an A & W burger (high sodium, fat and high cost) and the winner is lentils.

#1 Trendy

Ask anyone. If you want to be in with the “foodies” you need to be eating lentils. Whether you eat Green, Brown or Red lentils, you will be the cool when you're eating lentils!!

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Old TV inspired clear life lessons

There's an old style TV antenna on the roof of our cabin in the mountains. One of these days I need to climb up there and haul it down because it serves no purpose anymore.

We have satellite TV now and even though we don't watch much television it's good to know the reception is clear when we do. That old antenna is an unsightly reminder of a bygone age.

When I was a boy they were everywhere. There was no such thing as cable television and everyone depended on rooftop antennae.

In the North where I was born you had to get accustomed to snow on the show as much as you did snow on the roof. Reception was never a clear given with those old antennae.

I thought about those times the other day and it reminded me of something special I learned from an old TV.

Back in the early 1970s I was a vagabond. I'd left home at 16 and there weren't a lot of opportunities for someone with a Grade 9 education. Finding work was hard and I went from day job to day job and every now and then, when I was lucky, there was work that lasted a month or even two.

You needed to be picky about accommodations when you lived from hand to mouth like that. I couldn't afford apartments, studios or even a bachelor suite. Instead, my finances took me to rooming houses and sleeping rooms in drab buildings that most times begged for a coat of paint and a good cleaning.

Waking up in those places was for the most part, a struggle for hope and positive thinking.

But I remember one place fondly. It was one of those one-room mansions you can find in the heart of any city anywhere. It came with a dresser, a hot plate, a small refrigerator, a creaky old bed and a table and chair.

Twelve of us shared a bathroom and the smell of stale cigarette smoke and the grease from someone's cooking was always in the air. There was a park across the street where I could go sit and watch the regular folk play with their dogs and children but in my room itself there was nothing to occupy me.

One day I saw a portable television in a pawnshop window. It was a small red RCA and I picked it up for ten dollars. The screen was about ten inches wide but to me it represented distraction and a connection to the regular world.

The house I lived in didn't have cable TV and I had to settle for extending the long aluminum aerial and twisting it about if I wanted to watch any of the local stations.

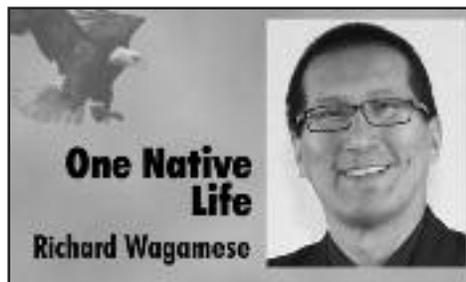
The reception was bad in my room. Often I turned the TV off in frustration because the picture was so horrible. There's nothing worse than trying to watch a hockey game when the skaters are double imaged and the puck is virtually invisible between the dots of heavy snow on the screen. It drove me crazy.

But I discovered that if I stayed close to that television my body acted like an extra antenna and the picture quality was great. I could watch whatever I wanted as long as I stayed within two feet of the screen.

But if I moved to get something from the refrigerator the screen filled with snow and the picture disappeared.

I tried all kinds of things. One of the oldtimers across the hall told me to wrap tin foil around the end of the aerial. Someone else said to keep it by the window.

I moved that TV all around that little room trying to find a spot where the reception would stay clear. Then, one day I set it on the little table in the middle of my room. The picture was perfect.



When I moved three feet away and the picture stayed strong. I moved six feet away, nine feet, right over to the door, and it was perfect. As long as it stayed in the middle of my room I couldn't get far enough away from it to lose the picture.

My room was small enough to allow me the freedom to move about it without losing the program I was trying to see. All the time I was in that room I kept that little TV on the table top smack in the middle of my room. It never failed me.

When I think about those days I smile. The times seem so strange now with their lack of technology and I was such

a different person. I'm older right now than I thought I would ever be back then and the places I live in are regular homes in a regular life. I have cable and satellite television now along with computers, the Internet and MP3s.

But that little red TV taught me something elemental that I've never forgotten.

You see, that little television was like anything that connects you to the world. It's like anything that channels the information, insights, viewpoints and opinions that you need to navigate your world. It could be spirituality, it could be culture, the traditions of your people, a philosophy or even religion.

Whatever gives you your idea of the world and your place in it, whatever anchors you, that's what that little television was like.

It doesn't work so hot if you stick it in the corner and only get to it when you have the time. If you move away from it you miss the message.

You can't be tuned in when the image is scrambled and the audio is crackly.

But if you keep the vital things right smack in the middle of your life, you can move anywhere in your world and you're always going to get the signal you desire, bright and strong and true.

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*Offer is available until June 30, 2012, and is on SaskTel High Speed Basic Internet (regularly \$44.95/mo.) and SaskTel High Speed Plus Internet (regularly \$44.95/mo.). High Speed Classic and Plus Internet include free wireless networking. Additional hardware such as wireless cards and adapters not included. Not all SaskTel High Speed packages are available in all High Speed serving areas. SaskTel High Speed Internet is available in many areas of the province. Some conditions apply.

Official Court Notice



September 19, 2012
is the deadline for Independent Assessment Process applications.
The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.
The healing continues.

On September 19, 2007 the Indian Residential Schools Settlement became effective. An important deadline is now approaching.

Under the terms of the Settlement, September 19, 2012 is the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) Application Deadline. Applications submitted after this date will not be accepted. The IAP is a complex process. Do not wait until just before the deadline to begin, as the application form can take time to complete.

What is the IAP? The IAP is an out-of-court process created to resolve claims of abuse at Indian Residential Schools. People who suffered sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or certain other wrongful acts which caused serious psychological consequences while at a recognized residential school may receive money through the IAP. Awards are based on a point system for different abuses and resulting harms.

Is the IAP different than the Common Experience Payment? Yes. The IAP process is separate and different from the Common Experience Payment (CEP) application process. The CEP is a payment to those who lived at a recognized residential school. The IAP provides payments for specific abuse suffered while at a recognized residential school. Under the settlement, former students could apply for the CEP, or for the IAP, or for both the CEP and IAP. The CEP application deadline was September 19, 2011; however, where former students can establish that they were unable to submit their CEP application due to disability, undue hardship or exceptional circumstances they can still apply for CEP up until September 19, 2012.

Which schools are included? **The list of recognized Indian Residential Schools has been updated.** Decisions regarding a number of other schools are in progress. A complete and updated list of recognized residential schools is available at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.

Who can apply? You can apply for the IAP if you experienced (1) sexual abuse, (2) serious physical abuse, or (3) certain other

wrongful acts which caused serious psychological consequences, while you were either (a) living at a residential school, (b) a student at a residential school, or (c) under the age of 21 and allowed to be at a residential school to take part in authorized school activities. It is not a requirement to have lived at one of the recognized residential schools in order to make an IAP claim for abuse that may have occurred there.

How do I apply for IAP? To apply for an IAP payment you must complete and submit an application form by **September 19, 2012**, to Indian Residential Schools Independent Assessment Process, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber Street North, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3G9. **Applications after this date will not be accepted.** The IAP is a complex process and it is strongly recommended that you hire a lawyer if you wish to submit an IAP application. Do not wait until just before the deadline to begin, as the application form can take time to complete. To get an application, please call 1-866-879-4913 or go to www.iap-pei.ca or www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.

Do I need a lawyer? All of the parties who developed the IAP believe that claimants should have a lawyer to represent them as the IAP is complex and involves difficult legal concepts and processes. It is not required, but it is strongly recommended that you hire a lawyer to help you. For a list of lawyers,

visit www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca. If you do not wish to hire a lawyer you can call 1-866-879-4913 to obtain information about the support available to you.

What if I have already applied for the Independent Assessment Process? If you have already applied, and have not received any information or have questions about your IAP application, please contact the phone number below.

How can I find out the status of my application? There are 3 ways to find out the status of your application:

- 1) Contact your lawyer or legal representative;
- 2) Call 1-866-879-4913; or
- 3) Send an email at info@iap-pei.ca

Information

- About the IAP and how to apply
- Help completing the application
- Find out about a pending IAP claim
1-866-879-4913 • www.iap-pei.ca

Crisis Line

Immediate and culturally appropriate
counselling support
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Truth and Reconciliation Commission plans huge event for Saskatoon

By Creeson Agecutay
For Eagle Feather News

While June 21 is National Aboriginal Day, it is also the beginning of a once in a lifetime event in Saskatoon where the people of Canada can witness firsthand, history in the making.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) will be hosting its national four day event in Saskatoon June 21-24. The event is expected to bring an estimated 80,000 people from across the country to meet in the Bridge City.

With that number of people, Gilles Dorval, Aboriginal Relations Advisor with the City of Saskatoon says it will be a challenge but he believes it is important for the city to host an event of this nature and after months of planning with other organizing committees they will be well prepared.

"We really see that this will be something that will build some bridges between our communities. There are a lot of people that are unaware of the Indian Residential School System and the impact it had on everybody. Not just in the Aboriginal community," said Dorval.

The event will take place in Prairieland Park in Saskatoon with an expected 15,000 to 20,000 residential school survivors a day. The average age of a survivor is 65 or older and local organizing committees want to provide all the accommodations needed for the elderly and their families.

That is why the city will provide RV camping for travellers, transportation for the elderly to get to on site events among other services and levels of cultural and spiritual support.

"We want to provide as many support systems for the survivors (as possible). Right from travel subsidies to accommodations, meals, we (want to) reduce any barriers that would (keep the survivors) from participating," Dorval said.

"It's one of the larger events we hosted but it's not something we would back away from. We're the volunteer capital of Canada and I think Saskatoon is a good location."

The TRC event will also coincide with the Wanuskewin Powwow, beginning June 20. It is a plan that was made well in advance by organizing committees, says Dorval. He says that it will give survivors of residential school not only time to heal but to also celebrate their heritage during the powwow.

For months, the TRC has been travelling across the country, including 12 stops in Saskatchewan, gathering and recording testimonials from residential school survivors.

While these events were educational in themselves, they were much more sombre in nature. For TRC Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild, it has been a very emotional experience.

"Full range depths of emotion. From tears to laughter, deep anger to strong emotions of forgiveness," said Littlechild.

For 14 years, Littlechild spent time in the residential school system.

"For me, it's difficult to listen the stories because my own story is being told through these survivors."

Littlechild wants to point out that the event this June in Saskatoon will be very different than the other TRC events in the past.

"There is a lot more going on. There will be a youth focus and an agenda that sees churches that

will be involved attending with photographic displays. For survivors, it will be very emotional to see former classmates (in those photographic displays)," said Littlechild. Testimonials will also be recorded during the event for survivors willing to tell their story.

On a more symbolic note, ashes from the fires lit during the previous TRC events will be brought to Saskatoon and those ashes will go to the next national event.

With Saskatoon recently hosting the First Nation Winter Games, Dorval feels confident that the city will be able to accommodate everyone's needs.

"I don't have any doubt in my mind that we can't pull off a top quality event," said Gilles.

Littlechild also feels the event will be important time for everyone to come together, heal and move forward.

"To see, hear and feel the strength and resilience of people because they've been beaten but can stand up and say, 'I forgive you' or 'I may not have been a good dad but I love you,' he said.

"That is powerful."



WILLIE LITTLECHILD



SASKATCHEWAN NATIONAL EVENT

JUNE 21-24, 2012

SASKATOON | PRAIRIELAND PARK



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada will host its fourth National Event in Saskatoon. This is an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.

Saskatchewan Regional Hearings:

- **Fort Qu'Appelle | May 14-15**
Treaty Four Governance Center-Tipi at 740 Sioux Ave S.
- **La Ronge | June 5-7**
Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre.

Join the TRC from June 21-24, 2012 for:

- Statement Gathering
- Traditional Ceremonies
- Survivor Gatherings
- Education Day
- Witnessing Survivor Statements
- Cultural Performances
- Films, and more

These events are free and open to everyone.

Call toll-free 1 (888) 872-5554

For live webcasts visit trc.ca

Saskatoon show will showcase emerging artists

One thing I love about art is how healing it is. Time and again I hear stories of how artists use their chosen medium to help them process their feelings. Whether it takes one piece or several, or even an entire lifetime to convey, using art for expression is undeniably therapeutic for the soul.

Such is the case of painter Daniel Sanderson-O'Shea, who was taken into the foster care system and adopted by an Irish family when he was just four and a half years old.

From what he understands, when he was a child his family's cabin was deliberately set on fire by arsonists. He and his sister were taken out of the building and left outside.

In the confusion they were separated from his family. The RCMP came along and picked up Sanderson-O'Shea and his sister without asking any questions, simply placing them in foster care.

It wasn't until he was an adult that Sanderson-O'Shea learned of the AIM (Adopt Indian and Métis Children) program, which was a pilot project created by the federal government from 1969-1971, around the time he was placed in foster care. Sanderson-O'Shea did some research and found a photo in the StarPhoenix from this time, advertising photos of Indian and Métis children, asking if anyone wanted to adopt them for \$4,000 per child.

He was never really clear on whether his family paid for him, but they were in

the United States when he was adopted. The family then transferred to Saskatoon, where he grew up.

"I think foster care is always a difficult thing, for anybody. There were just so many misunderstandings with my adoption and my foster care," says Sanderson-O'Shea.

"I always had a hard time fitting in, but the art really helped me. My art helps me tell my story."

Sanderson-O'Shea channelled his feelings into his artwork, producing a mass quantity that would help him find his family, and ultimately his identity.

"When I left high school in 1989, I went to Ontario to look for my sister. That's why I began selling artwork, because it basically paid for my way around Canada. I have sold over 3,000 paintings since 1989."

"I was always travelling around endlessly, looking for my Sanderson family, and the O'Sheas always knew that but I think they misinterpreted my seeking to understand my identity and who I am.

"They thought it was because I wasn't happy with them. I had to repair a lot of history with my O'Shea family. I think



that's one of the problems with adoption that we all go through ... trying to make it so that we don't hurt anybody in the process of our seeking. That's

something I like to tell people, especially people who are in foster care."

In 1993 he was reunited with his Sanderson family in La Ronge, and he learned that he was the second youngest of 14 children.

His biological father died just before Sanderson-O'Shea could meet him, but he was able to meet his biological mother and spend several years with her before she passed on.

The first seven of his siblings all died of genetic defects, and another died in a fire, but he still maintains close contact with his remaining Sanderson family.

Sanderson-O'Shea now teaches art in the Saskatoon Catholic school system, as well as art workshops throughout Saskatchewan and is passionate about sharing his story of foster care and adoption with others who are in similar situations.

On June 9, Sanderson-O'Shea is hosting the 7th Annual Emerging Aboriginal Art Show at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 211 Ave 0 South, Saskatoon, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show will feature artwork by Sanderson-O'Shea, John Spyglass, Ruth Cuthand, many other established artists, and plenty of new, emerging artists, including students from schools across Saskatoon.

There will be a line-up of entertainers and speakers throughout the day, in conjunction with a walk-around art display. There will also be food for sale in the kitchen.

"Dakota House will be there, as well as Adam Jack and Drew Hayden Taylor, who would like to sing a few songs. It promises to be a really good time!"

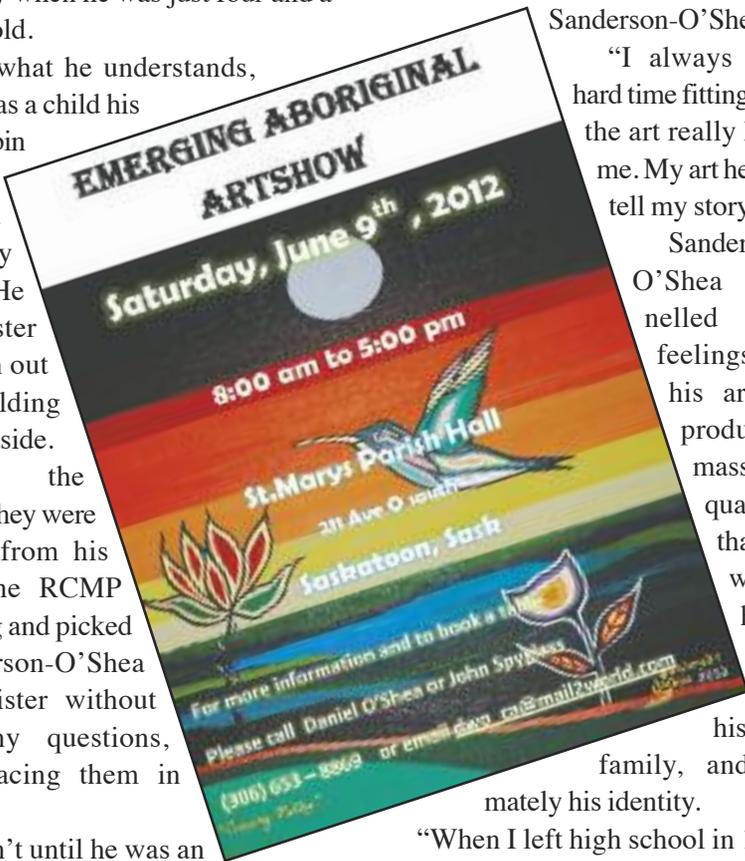
Sanderson-O'Shea also hopes to use the art show as a platform to discuss foster care and adoption.

To contact Daniel Sanderson O'Shea, for more information on the art show, or foster care and adoption, call 653-8869.

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think could be featured in Eagle Feather News, give me a shout at:

snazyjess@hotmail.com.

See you next month!



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Contact your local Forest Protection office or visit www.environment.gov.sk.ca.

Spot a wildfire? Call 1-800-667-9660 immediately.

Protecting our forests is everyone's responsibility.



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
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Kinsmen Young Company present flawless MacBeth

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

The Kinsmen Young Company (KYC) is a program dedicated to developing Saskatoon's next generation of theatre talent. Members of this year's KYC have been training since September.

Their workshops classes and seminars have included everything from fight choreography to costume design and their instructors are the best Saskatoon has to offer, including Chip Chuipka, Curtis Peeteetuce and Heather Morrison.

The culmination of their intensive training was a recent run of MacBeth at the Backstage Stage in the Persephone Theatre. The play was a unique take on the Shakespeare's beloved play, set in a post-apocalyptic wasteland instead of the Scottish uplands. And according to director Will Brooks, the kids did alright.

"These projects are intense and we work these guys butts off. It's great for the working artists in town to get to work with these guys," Brooks says.

"There's nothing more inspiring than watching a teenager figure things out."

As far as their production of MacBeth, it seemed every cast member had done more than their fair share of homework. Kyle Docken, a Métis currently attending Walter Murray High School in Saskatoon, played the lead. With such a challenging role, it came

down to a matter of preparation and dedication for the young actor.

"This was by far the biggest challenge

I've ever faced," Docken said after one of the performances.

"But the best way to prepare is

practice every single day, every single minute. It's a big role. I don't think there's any actor in the world that can simply pick up MacBeth and do it. It comes down to constant work and constant practice."

Dalton Lightfoot is First Nations from North Battleford and played dual roles of Malcolm and Hecate in the play. One of the more experienced actors in KYC, he's more than appreciative of the chance to get more experience in theatre, an industry in which he hopes to one day turn pro.

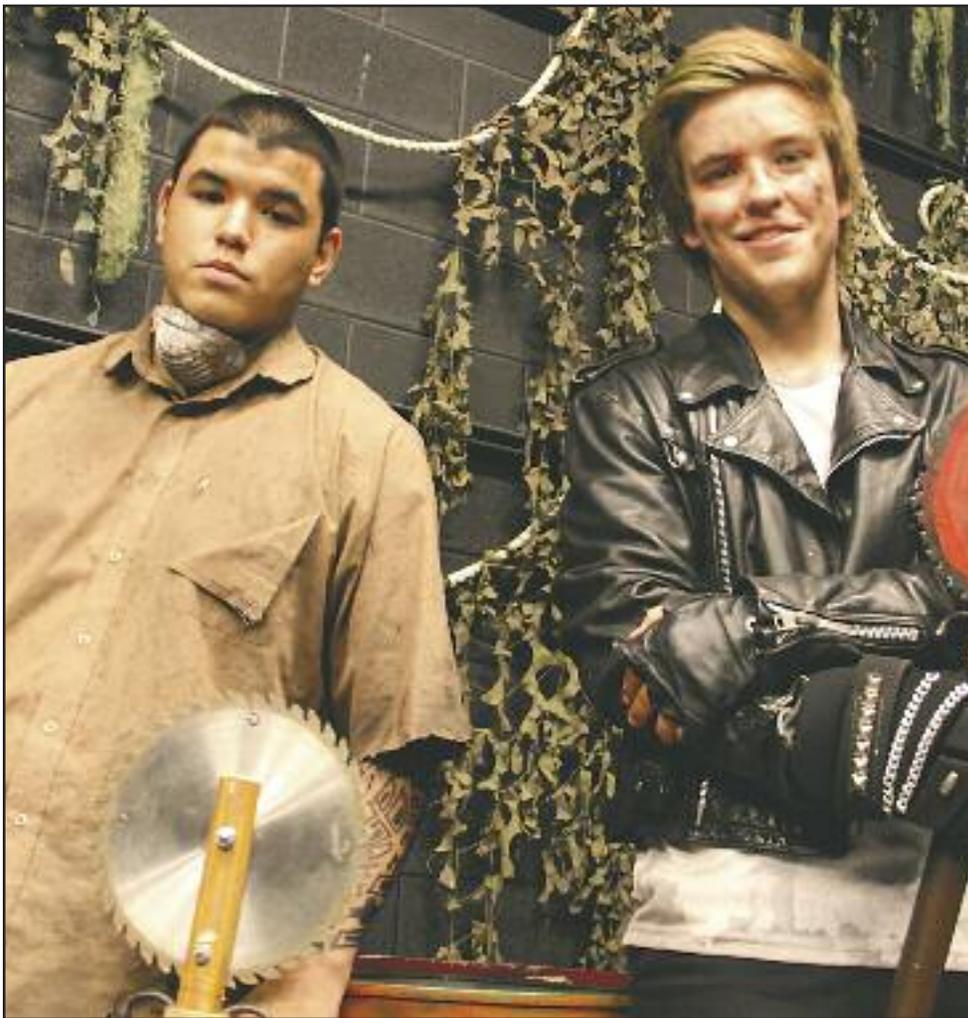
"The beginning of it we learned a lot about Shakespeare and theatre. We had a bunch of different really, really talented actors who are really big in the community who taught us what they knew about doing Shakespeare and it really helped us in the final production."

And as far as prepping for a difficult Shakespeare play while maintaining their academic studies, Brooks says it was a tight schedule for the youth.

"We quite literally put them through the same number of hours as a professional would do at the same time as going to school.

"We spread it out over a little bit longer of a period but... You'd be amazed what a group of teenagers can accomplish when it's not assumed they can't do something."

Those words rang so true with KYC's seemingly flawless production of MacBeth.



Dalton Lightfoot and Kyle Docken took part in a modern version of Shakespeare's MacBeth at Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

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Educating & Training for over Thirty Years

Roy rocks as Saskatoon coordinator for successful National Arts Week

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

At the beginning of the month, Saskatoon took part in the largest youth-lead celebration ever held in Canada. National Youth Arts Week was held from May 1-7 and included a variety of art showcases across the city and in simultaneous conjunction with events from coast to coast.

Events and showcases were held in broad range of disciplines, like traditional (dancing, theatre and painting) to the inventive (cooking, gardening and spoken word).

Zoe Roy, Saskatoon's Community Coordinator for National Arts Week, says the event is for the community and not just youth.

"National Youth Arts Week is a catalyst to bring community together. What is has taught me is that Saskatoon's vibrant artistic community is strong and community lives here," Roy explains.

"Now, we need to create more sustainable opportunities for young people to express themselves artistically. There is an artist in all of us."

And it's people like Zoe Roy who have the drive to make those opportunities available. It's her drive that helped

create the opportunity to be the only privately contracted coordinator for the event.

"(I was) in Toronto when I was planning Rock the Vote for Ontario's 40th General Election. I had met with Linda Albright, the Executive Director for the Arts Network for Children and Youth. She was really taken aback by what I work towards and at that time mentioned her initiative, National Youth Arts Week.

"At first, I worked with other young people from Toronto to build a youth council. From there, I moved back to Saskatoon and stayed connected."

And heading into Arts Week, she had big hopes when it came to accomplishing goals for the event.

"I hope National Youth Arts Week will reach 1,000 youth in Saskatoon during the week's festivities. I hope to create an opportunity for young artists to get noticed and others to find their inner child and experience the peace that art brings."

Results were not available as press time.

Of course events like National Youth Arts week don't come without a plethora of thank you's, which Roy was



Zoe Roy is one of those young people in the community that just keep doing and doing really good things. The most recent project involved youth and art for National Youth Arts Week.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

adamant on mentioning.

"I want to give a huge thank you to Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op, Walking the Journey, Kinsmen Activity Place, Shades of Red, PAVED Arts, Tonight It's Poetry, SCYAP, CRU Youth Wellness Centre and Brent Poncelet for the involvement and dedication to the community.

"I also want to give a virtual high five to Saskatoon's coordinating team, Andrea Cessna, Melissa Gan, Samantha Katherine and Maile Crowe for 'making it happen'!"

For more information on getting involved in the arts scene or how to volunteer for next year's National Youth Arts Week, you can reach Zoe by email: zondra.roy@youthartsweek.ca

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering & Awards Gala 2012
"Honouring Your Self, Building on Your Strengths"

Queensbury Convention Centre, Regina, SK

The Gathering
May 24th & 25th, 2012

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Charlotte Ross & Perry Schlegel

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WINNERS

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by Curtis R. McManis (University of Calgary Press)

POETRY AWARD
Sponsored by the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Public Library
The Celophane Sky: Jazz Poems
by Jeff Paul (Olagos Press)

FICTION AWARD
Sponsored by Saskatoon
Rock Creek Blues
by Debra Poirier (Coteau Books)

REGINA BOOK AWARD
Sponsored by Dr. Morris & Joqui Shewchuk
Racing Home
by John Dant (Coteau Books)

SCHOLARLY WRITING AWARD
Sponsored by Luther College and the Faculty of Arts, University of Regina
Seeing Red: A History of Natives in Canadian Newspapers
by Mark Crawford Anderson and Carmen L. Robertson (University of Manitoba Press)

FIRST PEOPLES' WRITING AWARD
Sponsored by Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan and Diversity, LPO Distributors and Solutions
To the Edge of the Sea
by Anne McDonald (Chameleon Press)

BOOK OF THE YEAR
Sponsored by the University of Regina
The Coast Stars
by Harold Jackson (Thistleloft Press)

AWARD FOR PUBLISHING
Sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Gabriel Dumont: Le Chef Michif in Images And in Words
by Doreen E. Perreault (Gabriel Dumont Institute)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AWARD
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Coteau Books
For Stories, Director Sinks #5
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SNTC planning ambitious fundraiser for May 25

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) is kicking off its 2012/2013 programming year with a fundraising event appropriately called the Arts Fundraiser.

SNTC general manager Alan Long says the upcoming year is an exciting one.

"This year will include Performers' Playhouse Summer drama camps for youth, the Circle of Voices (COV), a new twist on the Rez Christmas Show, a presentation of an award winning play from Toronto and a new Kenneth T. Williams play."

Long stayed mum on the specifics, urging those interested to attend the fundraiser on Friday, May 25 at the Farmer's Market in Saskatoon. The event will feature Silent and Live Auctions, live entertainment by Krystle Pedersen, Tala Tootoosis and Angus Vincent, an Organic Menu and a staged reading by past COV members.

SNTC artistic director Curtis Peeteetuce will announce the theatre's program year at the fundraiser.

COV is an award-winning program that recruits youth-at-risk, puts them through rigorous theatre training and presents a stage play as the culmination.

"The focus of SNTC is to bring back this award winning program and make it

our primary theatre training activity. The best way to do that is to honour our alumni and let them tell our supporters why the program was so important in their lives," Long says.

The fundraiser is also to inform the public, supporters and past members of the company about SNTC's new direction.

"Transparency and accountability is what we have with all funders, members and stakeholders. (We have) a broad-based board of directors connected to the community. We support our neighbours on 20th Street as much as possible – arts organizations, community groups, businesses, churches. Everyone in the core neighbourhood is really pulling together right now and are excited about (SNTC's) change."

Long is also excited about COV alumni Curtis Peeteetuce taking over as artistic director at SNTC and says the theatre needs public support to keep up their good work.

"SNTC is a charitable organization that brings First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture language and history to the stage, and the creation of quality professional theatrical art is our highest priority. No one else does this in our province.

"We have completed a financial recovery which has now made the return of our COV youth program possible.



The Circle of Voices program was one of SNTC's most impactful programs, introducing at risk youth to high level arts training. Here the crew from Kihew are seen with SNTC founder and former board member the recently deceased Gordon Tootoosis. They are doing a staged reading of the play as part of their fundraiser and season launch in late May.-9-12.

"We need your (public) support to make sure we have the people in place to provide a safe environment for the youth."

Long was excited to announce SNTC's new Board of Directors. They are: Irene Oakes and Jeff Dumba (co-

chairs), Jeff Dumba (treasurer), Jennifer Bishop (secretary), Gary Beaudin, Donald Speidel, Angela Bishop and Roberta Bear (directors).

For tickets to SNTC's Arts Fundraiser, go to www.persephonetheatre.org or call 306-384-7727.

Aboriginal Literacy Network planning Regina Gathering

By Janine Ahenakew
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network is planning for a fifth dynamic meeting of learners, practitioners, and leaders in Aboriginal literacy. The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Gathering will be held May 24 and 25 at Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina.

The event is called a Gathering, not a conference, to convey the special connection and interaction the participants will experience at the Gathering. People come together to share and learn from one another in this natural setting.

Keynote speakers include well-known Aboriginal scholar, Charlotte Ross, and Chief Perry Bellegarde. They promise to inspire participants with their insights, stories, and perspectives.

The Gathering also welcomes ten leaders in literacy from across Canada who will present their ideas in workshops throughout the Gathering. The unique approach to Aboriginal literacy encompasses an inherent link to culture. Many Elders will be in attendance to provide sessions to guide people along the path exploring literacy and linking Aboriginal culture and teachings.

The Gathering is also home to the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Awards Gala where an Elder, a Practitioner, Adult learner, Youth and a Business/Organization will be recognized for their effort in the development, enhancement, and/or promotion of Aboriginal literacy in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Awards Gala takes place on the evening of May 24. This year's Gala features entertainment by beloved Aboriginal actor and performer, Tom Jackson.

For more information visit www.saln.ca



Actor and singer Tom Jackson will perform at The Gathering.

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Athabasca Basin Development buys shares in West Wind

Athabasca Basin Development, an entrepreneurial aboriginal-owned investment company, announced recently that it has purchased 29.85 per cent of West Wind Aviation.

"We are excited to be investing in West Wind Aviation. This investment is consistent with our previous transactions in that West Wind is a significant supplier to the resource industry and is leveraged to the continuing growth of Saskatchewan," says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development.

"West Wind's dedicated management and employees are known for providing excellent, award-winning service and for their exemplary safety record, as well as being recognized as one of Canada's 50 best managed companies. Our group of investments provide a broad range of services to the mining and exploration industry, and our success stems from the strengths of our partnerships.

"West Wind Aviation is an excellent fit for us, and we look forward to working with Gord Gillespie and his team," Gay added.

West Wind Aviation will continue to provide award-winning customer service, and there will be no changes to current operations as a result of this.

"This partnership is truly a win-win for all sides," says Gord Gillespie, CEO of West Wind Aviation.

"Athabasca Basin Development has a proven track record investing in companies, and is dedicated to supporting strong companies focused on growth. Athabasca Basin Development is a good fit to help us continue the incredible path of growth

that West Wind has experienced since it was established, and we are thrilled to be partnering with such a dynamic and thriving organization."

Based in Saskatoon, West Wind Aviation operates a fleet of 23 aircraft and employs over 250 people. The company was established in 1983 to provide corporate air charter service, and its expertise has grown to include air charter, corporate aircraft management, medevac/air ambulance, maintenance, avionics, world-class Aerocentre facilities in Regina and Saskatoon, ground services, fueling, and scheduled flights with its ExpressAir and Pronto Airways divisions.

Athabasca Basin Development is an aboriginal investment company owned by the seven Far North communities in Saskatchewan that looks for investments that are sustainable, well-managed and generate value for its shareholders. Investments are focused on the mining and exploration sector, and include partial or complete ownership in construction (Points Athabasca), underground mining (Mudjatik Thyssen Mining), security (Athabasca Basin Security), diamond drilling (Team Drilling), logistics (Points North), electrical (Flyer Electric), road maintenance (Lonona Contracting), and air transport (West Wind Aviation).

Since its formation in 2002, Athabasca Basin Development and its group of companies have grown to employ over 1,000 people and recent consolidated revenues exceeded \$75 million.



Gord Gillespie, CEO of West Wind Aviation receives a painting from Athabasca Basin Development CEO Geoff Gay to commemorate their investment in West Wind Aviation.



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Mining industry offers fulfilling careers for First Nations and Métis workers

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Attention all job seekers. The mining industry in Saskatchewan needs about 15,000 new workers over the next ten years and with the aging population in Saskatchewan, mining companies are opening their doors to First Nation and Métis people of this territory.

And they are not kidding. They are looking for entry level people, skilled trades, operators, managers and executives. And many non-miners are changing career paths and finding their way into the booming industry.

"We know that many of our members are investing directly into education and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan," said Pam Schwann executive director of the Saskatchewan Mining Association.

"The labour shortage is real and there are various things happening to find solutions, including procurement policies, head hunting employees and events that bring together interested parties to create a network."



GARY MERASTY

Terry Bird is currently working as a consultant for a new to Saskatchewan potash mining company. He recently left a stable job at SaskTel where he had worked for 14 years in human resources and also procurement.

"I thought it would be a new opportunity to engage Aboriginal people in the economy. I want to work from within to help steer the company through some of the issues they may face when employing and contracting with Aboriginal people," said Bird during a break at a mining Supply Chain Forum hosted by the Saskatchewan Mining Association.

"I went through this at SaskTel and I know it will benefit the community. There is way more growth and jobs in the resource industry right now and a great time to get involved."

Bird, a member of the George Gordon

First Nation, could have gone on for a long time when asked about the opportunities available for business and individuals.

"It is one thing to talk about direct employment of which the industry needs lots of workers, but there is so much happening on the supply side and those people all need employees as well," added Bird.

"It is exciting to me to work in industry. SaskTel was great, but as a Crown there were lots of policies and things moved slowly sometimes. In business, we can move quickly to manage and solve problems and work on hiring and retaining Aboriginal people. But at the same time, we have to have patience as we grow relationships.

"There has to be lots of education on both sides about the individuals needs as well as the companies needs."

Cameco has become a world leader in developing relationships with indigenous communities around the world and is the leading industrial employer of Aboriginal people in North America. Several years ago they recruited former PAGC Grand Chief and Member of Parliament Gary Merasty to become their Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility and Northern Affairs. It is a job he is highly suited for.

"When I decided to leave federal politics, there were lots of opportunities and mining was one of them. I was exposed to the industry through my work at the Grand Council and I felt Cameco provided me the best opportunity to help First Nation and Métis communities," said Merasty.

"At Cameco I can directly impact employment and education and training opportunities and I could see the chance to take it to the next level. Politics can tend to move a little slower."

Merasty worked after high school at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting in Flin Flon for three years, finishing his career there as Lead Caster in a cadmium plant. After several years as an educator and politician, he came back to mining at a very high level job that has the same stress levels as politicians, but more control over that stress.

"Mind you, the travel schedule is just as hectic in both jobs," added Merasty. "When it comes to solving problems though, politics moves way slower. At Cameco, we can address issues almost immediately, get to the core of the problem and seek resolution. That is a very rewarding part of my job."

Merasty also gets reward from the impact on families in the community. One job in one family can do much to change the fate of the children.

"Just seeing people get jobs that pay \$50,000 to \$80,000 a year and how that changes their lives and their kids lives," added Merasty.

• Continued on Page 18



Terry Bird has left the telecommunications industry to be a consultant for a mining company.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Mining job agrees with family man Mike Tanton

• Continued from Page 17

“That is what it is about. And then more people in that family get jobs and the community becomes better and we can see the wealth that is created and the businesses that grow in those communities. It is not just about one job and one person. It goes beyond that to communities. That is what I take great pride in for my job.”

Mike Tanton went a different way when he left his dream job as director for the White Buffalo Youth Lodge to become a labourer at the PCS Cory Mine just outside of Saskatoon. It was a choice he found easy.

“I did it for my family,” said Tanton.

His family home had a major fire in late 2010 and it changed his focus on what was important for him.

“I had some situations in front of me and I had to make some choices. At the Lodge, there were lots of time demands. Now since I work 12 hour shifts, technically I only work six and a half months a year.

“The rest of the time I spend with

my children. Also, I make way more money mining, even as a Mine-Op 2 which is a labour position, than I did as director of the Youth Lodge.”

He has two children under six and his family is expecting another addition in August making his time with the children irreplaceable.

“If you were a kid that grew up driving a Tonka Toy around all day. This is a career for you.”

– Mike Tanton

As well as making more money, his work stress has abated somewhat.

“At the Lodge we had politics, the gangs in the community and I had to worry about staff and our youth. At the mine, there is still stress, for example I have never worked around so many big machines before and of course we are underground and there is a fear of a cave in,” he said.

“But the company really emphasizes safety and everyone looks out for each other.”

A typical day for Tanton sees him gear up and head to the hoist. After a five minute descent into the mine, he and his crew may have to drive up to 45 minutes to get to

where they are cutting ore. Then he hangs curtains that help supply fresh air to the mining machines.

“Twelve hours a day I do that. I tell my little girl that I bend air for a living.

She loves it,” he added.

“But really, I have no regrets on the move and the choice of mining.

“This is a huge corporation and there are more than just mining jobs I can pursue here, but I tell ya, if you were a kid that grew up driving a Tonka Toy around all day. This is a career for you.”



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Warren Nekurak, Cheyenne Norton and Brandon Sand attended a UN conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Oskayak students speak up for Indigenous Rights

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Three students from Oskayak High School began studying the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and wound up taking a trip to Geneva to become the youngest participants creating a resolution about the environment, based on traditional knowledge, that will be given to the General Assembly in Rio, Brazil.

"Because they were involved in the UN Declaration in their class and the U of S "Our Way" conference, they started to study a lot of human rights issues," explained Oskayak vice-principal D'Arcy Blacklock, adding that the conference in Geneva was really tied into what the students were doing.

So five students submitted position papers to the UN Selections Committee, based on Aboriginal teachings of traditional knowledge and the link to mother earth, and three of them — Cheyenne Norton, 16, Brandon Sand, 18, and Warren Nekurak, 19 — were selected to attend the conference.

Thanks to connections made through the "Our Way" conference, and Mary Eberts, who currently occupies the Ariel F. Sallows chair in Human Rights at the College of Law, funding was provided from an anonymous Aboriginal law firm out of Toronto.

"The U of S Our Way Conference got me interested in Aboriginal Law and I just jumped at the chance for the opportunity to go to the youth conference in Geneva," said Warren Nekurak.

The students left for Geneva on April 25 to attend the conference which went from April 26 to 29. Despite the other youth delegates being university age, 20 years or older, the Oskayak High School youth made a significant contribution to their committee resolution, a two page document presented to the entire General Assembly of youth delegates.

"The student's involvement was crucial — the other youth in their committee said they don't know what they would have done had our students not been there with their strong knowledge," noted Blacklock.

"Their committee was in a room with 25 other students from all corners of the Earth — from Africa, Europe of course, and Asia — it was a really eye-opening experience for everyone."

Even the opening quote, which opened up their recommendations and resolutions on the importance of keeping traditional knowledge in any environmental discussion, was provided by the Oskayak students: "When an Elder dies, a library burns."

"They were the only high school students there and yet had the most impact on this committee," noted Blacklock. "Most of the other students came up and said they really opened their eyes. And we were treated so respectfully and with such dignity — they sat prouder and taller in their seats every day," said Blacklock.

"I got a broad understanding of global issues. I firmly want to be involved in politics to promote global awareness of First Nations Issues," said Brandon Sand of his experience.

Putting in long hours — starting at 9 a.m. and going until 6 p.m. — they explored threats and solutions to traditional knowledge from an Indigenous perspective, explaining that when we take from the earth we must give back. Other youth didn't know why tobacco was laid down, or the value and natural law behind it of respect, living in harmony and compatibility, but it was exactly what they were trying to get at although they didn't know the practice.

"They wouldn't have had a very strong base to work from without our students," said Blacklock, adding that their contributions were overwhelmingly and unanimously supported by the general assembly. "Not one person disagreed with the value of traditional knowledge and that alone was so inspiring for our youth. "If we return to a more healthy living and traditional knowledge base, then our world will be a more balanced place."

Their families back home were very proud too. At the airport, Cheyenne's father, from Beardy's First Nation, told Blacklock that Cheyenne was the first family member to ever leave the country to do something like this, and how important it was to them. "No one in my family has ever been out of Canada or achieved the level of education that I have," said an equally proud Cheyenne.

"It was awe-inspiring. It will change those kids' lives, all of them. The hopefulness of youth is really important to us all," added Blacklock.

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Tribal Council, partners, team up to create affordable housing units

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas knows that affordable housing is drastically needed for post secondary students and people in entry level jobs. In order to meet that demand, the Tribal Council has constructed a 27 rental suite building in Saskatoon's Riversdale neighbourhood.

"This project is another example of how the Saskatoon Tribal Council works toward improving the quality of life for our people," Tribal Chief Felix Thomas said.

"This project in particular speaks also to the commitment toward education and providing our youth with a fundamental platform to build a successful life, which is affordable and quality housing. We have over 1,000 people on a waiting list at Cress Housing and we know many of them are students and we needed something specifically for them."

The suites are built for one person and are around 300 square feet, specifically designed to stop people from having several people move in with them. The rent is also affordable at \$300 per month.

"We know most students receive around \$650 monthly for a living allowance when they are in school, and by keeping the cost low, they can now afford good food and maybe even the occasional pizza," added Tribal Chief Thomas.

The building is situated on a big lot that used to have two abandoned houses that were the targets of vandals, homeless people and garbage.

"When we bought these lots two years ago, people asked 'Why there?' My answer was why not there," said Chief Thomas. "If we don't invest in this area, who will? So we have built it to be safe, it is gated, well lit and has closed circuit cameras.

"We will work to find good candidates to live here and it will help improve the neighbourhood."

Several dignitaries were on hand for the opening including Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison who has become an advocate for safe and affordable housing.

"The City of Saskatoon



From left, MLA Jennifer Campeau, Minister Rob Norris, Mayor Don Atchison, Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, Elder and Senator Melvin Littlecrow, FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird and Kinistin Saulteaux Nation Chief Albert Scott prepare for the ribbon cutting to open the new facility.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

proudly supports this new student housing project by Cress Housing," Atchison said.

"Safe, affordable, quality housing is very important to ensure that tomorrow's generation of professionals, trades people and business leaders are well educated and get a good start in life. One of the City's priorities in our new strategic plan is to develop partnerships with Aboriginal organizations to enhance economic, employment and training opportunities. It all starts with proper housing."

The Province, through Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC), provided about \$2.6 million toward the total project cost of approximately \$3.1 million. The City of Saskatoon provided a capital grant of \$300,000 as well as a five-year incremental property tax abatement.

"We are proud that this project supports our government's goal of creating housing options specifically for students," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said on behalf of Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation June Draude.

"These suites create additional housing for First Nations students pursuing further education, a key component to the future success of the urban First Nations population and to keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage."

They expect residents to be moving in to the building at 315 Avenue H South in July.

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For each project where Participant Funding is to be made available, the NEB establishes an independent Funding Review Committee (FRC) to review the applications and make recommendations on funding allocations.

Opportunities exist for one or more FRC member positions on an as required basis. This recruitment process is being initiated to fill current and future openings that will be required to provide a service based on demand with a per diem compensation. This position could be conducted remotely.

Requirements:

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- Not currently employed by a governmental institution or agency; and
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Interested candidates should forward their curriculum vitae and cover letter by **22 May 2012**, by email to pfp.pafp@neb-one.gc.ca or by fax: 1-877-288-8803. For more information, please contact Mathieu Fecteau at 403-221-3260 or (toll free) 1-800-899-1265.

Additional details about the program are available on the Board's Web site. Please visit www.neb-one.gc.ca, select *Public Participation* in the left margin and click on *Participant Funding Program*.

The NEB is an independent federal regulator of several parts of Canada's energy industry. Its purpose is to regulate pipelines, energy development and trade in the Canadian public interest.





Jared Brown is the first Aboriginal U of S Students' Union president.

Presidency a 'big thing' for Brown

By Kris Foster
On Campus News, U of S
For Eagle Feather News

Jared Brown is the newly elected University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) president, and he is also the first Aboriginal student to step into that position.

"I think the Aboriginal perspectives are overlooked, not for any reason other than people don't understand the issues," said the 22-year-old Brown, who was born in Prince Albert.

"I bring that perspective. It's already in my mind so I don't have to learn it or ask someone about it."

Brown explained that legally, he is Métis but "socially I am Aboriginal and I kind of look Italian or Portuguese, so I have been able to sit on the fence and listen to a lot of different conversations, and some of the conversations I have heard definitely need an Aboriginal perspective."

Being the first elected Aboriginal USSU president isn't lost on Brown.

"It is a big thing, I get that. It is breaking down barriers. But beyond that, I hope I can help improve Aboriginal retention rates and issues of feeling comfortable at the university."

Brown also hopes that other Aboriginal students will be encouraged to get involved in student politics at the university.

"We have a very strong Aboriginal community here—mentors, students, teachers and programs. It's a great place to come and get an education as an Aboriginal student. The experience is strong, but it could also be stronger. I think more Aboriginal perspective will do that. But I know I will need to focus on more than Aboriginal issues."

Looking beyond the Aboriginal perspective, Brown said that his area of study will provide new insight at the USSU table.

"As a sociology student, I think I will also look at repercussions of decisions from a social point of view, not just an economic or political one."

It is an important distinction, he explained, as the last few USSU presidents have come from political science

backgrounds.

"The USSU should not be just about breeding politicians; it should be about creating leaders—within communities, families and our campus. I am really excited to get started and learning what the USSU does."

While Brown recognizes there is a learning curve with his new position, he is no stranger to U of S politics having served as president of the Indigenous Students' Council and as a member of the USSU student council.

"I realize that a year is not a very long time to get things done. When I talked to people before the election I avoided rhetoric like 'I will lower tuition.' I didn't talk about revolution, that takes more than a year," he said, referencing the Place Riel project that was many years in the works.

Some of the ideas Brown hopes to move forward with include developing a partnership with the art department so that student's art can be displayed in Place Riel.

"Art is tough to get on public display and there are a lot of good artists at the U of S who could benefit from some profile in a high traffic area like Place Riel."

He also wants to work with Campus Safety to improve lighting on campus and "maybe get some cameras installed in the libraries. When students are in libraries doing what we should be doing, we should feel safe, I think cameras would help with that, but we need money for this project so it could be tougher."

Now that his final exams are done and his papers are handed in, Brown can give all of his attention to next year and the work he and the new USSU executive—including Steven Heidel (VP operations and finance), Ruvimbo Kanyemba (VP academic affairs) and Alex Wrenka (VP student affairs)—will tackle, not to mention the last two classes he needs to finish to get his degree. "I was also accepted into law this year, but I am hoping to get that deferred until the following year."

"It would just be too busy to manage all of that at once. But for now I can focus on one thing: I am Jared Brown, USSU president," he said with a laugh.

Ask the
nwmo



nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

Assessing the Safety of a Site

Canada's plan for the long-term management of the country's used nuclear fuel requires that used fuel be safely and securely contained and isolated in a deep geological repository in a suitable rock formation. The NWMO is committed to implement Canada's plan in a manner that protects human health, safety, security and the environment.

Q. What studies will be conducted to assess the safety of a site?

A. The safety of any potential site will be assessed using a thorough site evaluation process and a comprehensive list of site evaluation criteria that are both technical and social in nature. It is expected that it will take between seven and 10 years to complete all the site evaluations and studies that are necessary to confirm the suitability of a site. The site will be assessed in a series of steps. Each step is designed to evaluate the site in greater detail than the step before. A site may be found to be unsuitable at any stage of evaluation, at which point work at that site would cease and the site would no longer be considered for a deep geological repository.

These studies will be conducted only in communities that have expressed an interest.

Q. What are the initial screening criteria?

A. Any site will need to first meet a minimum set of initial criteria in order to be considered.

- The site must have available land of sufficient size to accommodate the surface and underground facilities.
- This available land must be outside protected areas, heritage sites, provincial parks and national parks.
- This available land must not contain known groundwater resources at the repository depth that could be used for drinking, agriculture or industrial uses.
- This available land must not contain economically exploitable natural resources.
- This available land must not be located in areas with known geological and hydrogeological characteristics that would prevent the site from being safe.

Potentially suitable sites that meet these initial criteria will be the subject of progressively more detailed studies in two primary areas:

- First, ensuring safety – that is, the ability of the site to protect people and the environment, now and in the future.
- Second, beyond safety – the effect of the project on the sustainability and well-being of the host community.

Q. What will detailed studies examine?

A. Detailed studies will focus on the following questions:

1. Are the characteristics of the rock at the site appropriate to ensuring the long-term containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel from humans, the environment and surface disturbances caused by human activities and natural events?
2. Is the rock formation at the site geologically stable and likely to remain stable over the very long term considering geological and climate change processes such as earthquakes and glacial cycles?
3. Are conditions at the site suitable for the safe construction, operation and closure of the repository?
4. Is human intrusion at the site unlikely, for instance through future exploration or mining?
5. Can the geological conditions at the site be practically studied and described?
6. Can a transportation route be identified or developed by which used nuclear fuel can safely and securely be transported to the site from the locations at which it is stored?

A robust safety case will be developed. The preferred site will be in a rock formation with desirable characteristics (geological, hydrogeological, chemical and mechanical). The rock formation must support containment and repository performance that meet or exceed the regulatory expectations of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, the guidance of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the experience in other countries with nuclear waste management programs.



Dr. Mahrez Ben Belfadhel is the Director of Used Fuel Repository Geoscience at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. His team is responsible for assessing the geoscientific suitability of potential host sites. Dr. Ben Belfadhel has more than 25 years of combined multidisciplinary experience in areas related to geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering. With the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, he worked as a geoscience and safety assessment specialist for 11 years, during which he also assumed the responsibility of Acting Director of the Waste and Decommissioning Division. He has maintained an active involvement in the international nuclear waste community, mainly through his work with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Dr. Ben Belfadhel has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from École Polytechnique of Algiers, and a master's degree and Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering from Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec. He is also a registered Professional Engineer.

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

For more information, please visit:
www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess_overview/



www.nwmo.ca

Aboriginal entrepreneurs take a bite of shark's knowledge

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

In downtown Saskatoon's industrial-chic Two Twenty, six aspiring aboriginal entrepreneurs await their fate.

Three will walk away with a cheque in their hand, three more will leave empty handed. These are the finalists for CBC Saskatchewan's The Boom Box.

In the crowd are family and friends, and some of the most influential people in the Saskatoon entrepreneurship community. But for the pitchers, the most important person in the room is W. Brett Wilson. Best known for his time on CBC's Television Show Dragon's Den, Wilson is the front man (along with CBC Saskatchewan) for Boom Box. Today, Wilson will hand out \$5,000 of his own cash to three winners.

CBC Producer Merelda Fiddler says The Boom Box competition was an opportunity to reach out and explore a growing business trend in Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis circles.

"We wanted to do this to be part of a growing entrepreneurial underground swell growing in the Aboriginal community," she said.

The competition asked Aboriginal people to submit their business ideas in a short video and 40 aspiring entrepreneurs submitted an entry. A panel from the aboriginal business communities, CBC and the Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence chose four finalists to attend the Boom Box pitch session at the Two Twenty. In addition, CBC's audience would choose one finalist by a popular vote and as a final surprise, Brett Wilson would select a "Wilson Wildcard" for a sixth and final spot at the pitch session.

Six finalists to made the cut.

Jacob Pratt, a model, hoop dancer and motivational speaker pitched "Wambdi Dance," an aboriginal talent agency. His agency would connect aboriginal talent and entertainers with clients looking for workshops and performances at their events.

Dean Villeneuve, a student at the University of Saskatchewan, pitched his idea for a website that would connect local food producers and farmers with restaurants that want to serve local fare.

Jen Dubois, a journeyman hairdresser and business student, aspires to open a salon and spa that offers "A First Nation Experience."

Moe Mathieu, a chef with a "spicy" idea hopes to open "The Heatery," a restaurant that serves spicy fare from around the world.

When the voting for the "Audience Choice" spot opened, more than 10,000 votes were cast in just a single day. In the end, sisters Annie Charles and Janine Windolph would win the coveted spot, for their entry "Soulful of Mother Nature."

The sisters pitched a storefront for Aboriginal fine artists and craftspeople and in the end their idea garnered nearly 40,000 votes from across the globe.

And finally, as a special surprise, a sixth finalist would make the cut as the "Wilson Wildcard." Brett Wilson hand-picked Heather Abbey, a single mother who calls herself a "momprenneur." She hoped to get investment in her aboriginal marketplace website called "ShopCairo.ca."

On that day, in that urban space-turned-television set, the six finalists made their pitch. Nervously, they stood in front of cameras, the studio audience, CBC journalists and a panel of four judges. On the panel was Eagle Feather News'

own John Lagimodiere, First Nations University President and Business Expert Doyle Anderson, Director of the Wilson Centre for Excellence Stephanie Yong, and Saskatchewan's own superstar entrepreneur, W. Brett Wilson.

The pitchers faced tough questions, got expert advice, and defended their business ideas to the panel of judges. After the marathon pitch session, the judges sequestered themselves and after much deliberation, Brett Wilson emerged with a cheque book in-hand.

"We chose three people who all had businesses that were fairly advanced in development and very advanced in their thinking, and we think we've got three winners," he said.

In the end, Jacob Pratt and his business "Wambdi Dance" would win the top prize of \$2,500. Jen Dubois and her First Nations Salon would take second, and Heather Abbey's ShopCairo.ca would win her third. All three would also get three months of mentorship with an Aboriginal business leader.

But there was a twist. For Moe Mathieu, there would be no prize money but a prize of time... Brett Wilson's time. Wilson said Mathieu's pitch stood out far beyond the rest.

"One stood out so much above the crowd, that we decided not to give him any money and I got to take him," he said.

Calling Mathieu's pitch one of the best he had ever seen, Wilson offered Mathieu an hour of personal business consultation. Wilson said he thought his time would be far more valuable for Mathieu than the prize money.

Wilson says he decided to partner with CBC because he sees exciting potential in the Aboriginal community, especially through entrepreneurship.



Wilson and 3rd place finisher Heather Abbey pose for the official last photograph of a hectic and intense morning. Wilson and 1st place winner Jacob Pratt, FNUC President and panellist Doyle Anderson, and 2nd place winner Jen Dubois.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"I happen to believe that there are, within everybody, the seeds of entrepreneurship and with the aboriginal community, it all comes down to planting those seeds and then watering them," he said.

He hopes more aboriginal people will watch Boom Box and believe that starting a business can be a career.

"That's my real message to the aboriginal entrepreneurs, believe in yourself and the rest will come," he said.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Project

The importance of Métis veterans to the Métis community cannot be understated. Our veterans occupy a point of honour at all Métis gatherings and cultural events. The Métis Veterans Memorial Monument will be a landmark for generations of Métis people to gather and pay homage to the servicemen and servicewomen who have served our country.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has been chosen to oversee the building of the Métis Veterans Memorial Monument at Batoche, and is seeking donations towards the total project cost of \$300,000. Donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt.

Donations over \$25 will receive the CD *Honouring Our Heroes: A Tribute to Métis Veterans*, featuring Métis performing artists ~ Donny Parenteau, Andrea Menard, Ray St. Germain, Jess Lee, Mike Gouchie, and Krystle Pederson.

Donations over \$50 will receive the CD above as well as the book: *Métis Veterans of Saskatchewan: 1914-1953* by Cathy Littlejohn.

Our goal is to ensure the monument recognizes and honours all of our Métis Veterans, past and present. If you know of a Métis veteran who should be recognized, please visit the website below for submission information.

For more information, please contact the Gabriel Dumont Institute toll-free at 1-877-488-6888 or visit the website www.gdins.org/veteransmonument.

Donations can be mailed to:
Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Project
c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute
917-22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9

GDI Mission: To promote the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and distribution of those materials and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.

GDI wins big at Saskatchewan Book Awards

By David Morin

The 2011 Saskatchewan Book Awards were held on April 28 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. With over 300 people in attendance, a thunderous applause erupted in the room as Darren Préfontaine was called up as the winner of the Book of the Year Award for his book, Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words.

The Book of the Year award is presented to a Saskatchewan author (or pair of authors) for the best book judged on the quality of writing and the quality of presentation including visual appeal, illustrations, and photography.

Préfontaine's book was three years in the making, and was also recognized as the winner of the Award for Publishing, which is presented to the Saskatchewan publisher of the best book, based on literary or artistic value, the



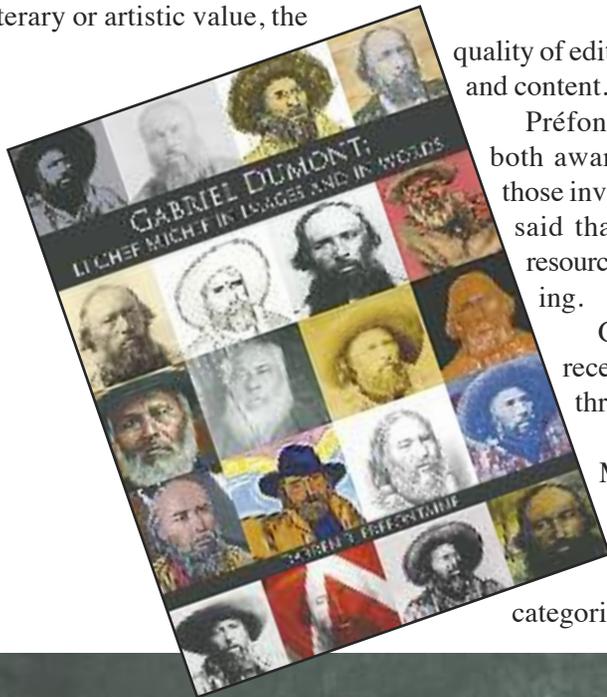
David Morin, Lisa Bird-Wilson, Amy Briley, Bradley Brown, Collette Robertson, Karon Shmon, Guy Blondeau and Darren Préfontaine (sitting) celebrate a big win at the 2011 Saskatchewan Book Awards. (Image courtesy of Brian Cobbleddick - unBound Images Inc.)

quality of editing, book design, production and content.

Préfontaine was quite humbled by both awards and made sure to thank those involved with its production. He said that it was a true community resource with many people contributing.

GDI was also honoured by receiving nine other nominations throughout the evening.

Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words was also nominated in the Saskatoon Book Award and Non-Fiction Book Award categories.



Dr. Thomas Chase, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) of the University of Regina congratulates Darren Préfontaine for his award for Book of the Year.

(Image courtesy of Brian Cobbleddick - unBound Images Inc.)

Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton's Call of the Fiddle was nominated for the Regina Book Award and First Peoples' Publishing.

Leah Dorion's Relatives with Roots was up for five awards, including First Peoples' Publishing, Publishing in Education, First Peoples' Writing, the Children's Literature Award, and the Book of the Year.

Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation

GOLF TOURNAMENT

••• Special Guest Golfer and Supper Entertainment by: Donny Parenteau •••

<p>Format: 4 Person Texas Scramble - Best Ball</p>	<p>When: Thursday May 3rd, 2012 11:30 a.m. Registration 12:30 p.m. Shot Gun Start</p>	<p>Where:  MOONLAKE Golf and Country Club</p>
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<p>Corporate Sponsorship \$325.00 includes full color sign on course, 1 complimentary golf registration and cart, supper and banquet recognition.</p>	<p>Team Registration \$650.00 Includes golf for 4 people (18 holes and power cart) and supper.</p>
<p>Individual Registration \$170.00 includes golf for 1 person (18 holes and power cart), and supper.</p>	<p>Individual Banquet Supper Tickets \$25.00 meal only</p>

For more information, or to download registration forms, please visit:
••• www.gdins.org/node/281 •••

Submit registration form with PAYMENT before May 18th, 2012 to secure your spot: Gabriel Dumont Institute 917-22nd Street West Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 0R9

\$10,000 Hole-In-One Prize

50/50 DRAW

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

More of the same for Indian Child Welfare?

Dirk Dashing's delicious brain is on hatus ... hitus, ... taking a break. In his stead Eagle Feather News brings you Mr. Answer Guy. His job? Answer questions from alert readers.

Johnny Crazy Legs Bird, from Crutwell, SK, writes, "What's the deal with all the Indian kids in the child welfare system? And be funny about it!"

Hard to be funny about the fate of thousands of little yard monkeys in government care, 80 per cent of whom are of the brown variety. Should we allow these kids to become raw material for the justice factories or do we invest in a recovery effort? I can feel you blinking like a cheerleader at a physics conference. Let me explain.

There are those in positions of privilege whose frail little minds can only see messed up parents who willfully neglect their children: "There are so damned many of them. Something must be inherently wrong with those people.

"Perhaps their culture makes them so," is a fleeting thought. But it matters little to them, for they are men and women of action. They didn't elbow and claw their way to the top by asking "why?" Talk of history and root causes makes their eyes roll in their heads, and not in the moaning, good vibrations kind of way.

Their solution? Get these kids out of

Indian clutches and into those of the dominant society. Do it quick, because the little buggers cost taxpayers dearly. And if the little ingrates won't fall in line, we have a youth justice system ready to show them who's boss.

The mind-boggling lack of insight is matched only by patient renegades in the ranks of the child welfare system. They only seem few and far between, but they know the "why", and they know who can help.

Fussy Persimmon, First Churchlady of the Immaculate Reception in North Battleford, writes, "History is in the past. We have a God given right to care for the children. I purse my lips and snort in your general direction."

Go hard baby! But at the risk of making you groan and curl your toes let's review, because that history is unfolding now.

In the 1870s residential schools began the awe-inspiring task of fixing healthy First Nation families because they were inferior. The relentless fixing continued until the 1960s when new set of well-intentioned busy-bodies



decided, "Hey, we screwed-up. Now we have messed up, neglected Indian kids by the truckload. We gotta fix this problem, 'cause the Indians can't fix themselves."

With the zeal of sailors on weekend passes, social service agents flounced into the homes of Indian families and scooped up scores and scores of Indian tykes, shuffling them off to well-intentioned white homes. Admittedly, some of these homes were awesome, but these exceptions do not prove the rule. Things were done. The results? Not good.

Yet, in a perverse way, it was brilliant.

Why? Once taken from the backward, heathen influence of family and community the odds improved that the rescued child would enjoy the warm embrace of the youth justice system. From there they could graduate into the adult justice system.

The bonus? These adults bred, creating more kids in need of care. Millions were spent, institutions rose up, mortgages were paid, and retirement plans fattened.

Interestingly, a wrinkle emerged. In the last few decades Indian parents and commu-

nities began a healing process. And, working with the enlightened in the child welfare system, some Indian leaders found the audacity to reclaim their Creator given right to care for Indian children.

The results of these initiatives are promising, but even though healthier families means lower crime, I suspect you don't care about this.

Diphthong Policy Wonk, Federal Minister of Child Processing, writes, "If a child is neglected we have a mandate to intervene. We are colour-blind. I have a responsibility to care about all children, regardless of race, and I will do what must be done."

Sounds honourable enough, Minister. But to be colour-blind also means being blind to the subtle ways in which colour already influences people's decisions and oppresses those of colour. But let's keep this simple.

If you want to destroy lives, raise crime and feed the justice economy, eliminate the legislated timelines in child welfare laws. It will speed up the adoption process. The timelines are being exploited by Indian parents and their communities to reclaim their children anyway.

The founders of the residential schools will be proud of you.

Dirk wonders, Why is abbreviation such a long word?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. (CLASSIC) is a non-profit legal clinic whose mandate is to provide free and professional legal services to low-income, historically disadvantaged Saskatchewan residents, with particular attention to the needs of First Nations and Métis peoples, through a legal clinic that meets the needs of the community. CLASSIC is partnered with the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan and its services are generally provided by law students under the supervision of lawyers. This provides law students with clinical experience, new insights into the social reality of law, and fosters ethics of social justice and cultural understanding.

CLASSIC is seeking a full-time Executive Director to work under the oversight of the Board of Directors. Anticipated Start Date: June 2012

The eligible candidate will be working to achieve CLASSIC's mandate and ensure the continuing operation of CLASSIC's programs and services. The candidate will be expected to: act as an ambassador for CLASSIC; take responsibility for CLASSIC's programming and finances; manage the staff under the direction of the Board of Directors; liaise with CLASSIC's community partners and funders; maintain and foster links with community organizations and individuals, especially within First Nations and Métis communities; prepare funding proposals and grant applications; and solicit funding from new donors.

The Executive Director will be available to CLASSIC 40 hours per week, including attendance at monthly meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees. Preference will be given to applicants of First Nations and Métis ancestry. The salary range is negotiable.

The ideal candidate would possess the following experience and skills:

- demonstrated success in grantsmanship and fundraising;
- experience in the administration of a non-profit organization, including program development, coordination and evaluation, and community development;
- experience in management and human resources;
- knowledge of current community challenges, issues and opportunities relating to CLASSIC's mandate, including knowledge of justice systems and the legal community;
- knowledge of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis history, culture, traditions, communities and community based organizations; and
- strong communication, leadership, organization, teamwork and problem-solving skills, especially in a community-based environment.

Assets:

- a post-secondary degree, preferably in law, public administration or business management;
- a background with the legal community and justice systems; and
- ability to communicate in a First Nations language or Michif.

Interested candidates should forward a cover letter, curriculum vitae and contact information for 3 references to Darlene Speidel, Interim Chair of the CLASSIC Board of Directors via mail to: CLASSIC, 123 - 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7M 0W7 or via email to: info@classiclaw.ca. All correspondence will be kept confidential. Deadline for applications: May 25, 2012 at 5 pm.

joint task force

Improve Early Child Outcomes

Increase Graduation Rates

Labour Force

Quality of Life

THE JOINT TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS PEOPLE

The Joint Task Force is a partnership between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan. Over the next year, the Joint Task Force will be travelling throughout Saskatchewan and meeting with First Nations and Métis communities and organizations to discuss education and employment successes and ways to build on these successes. Following these meetings, policy changes, programs and practical approaches will be recommended to improve education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis People.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

MEADOW LAKE - May 22 at 7:00 P.M. Civic Centre, 420 3rd St E, Meadow Lake
YORKTON - May 29, time and location TBD
FORT QU'APPELLE - May 30, time and location TBD
REGINA - May 31, time and location TBD

Watch the Joint Task Force website for updates on Community Discussion times and locations.

JOINT TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Gary Merasty
Vice President
Corporate
Social Responsibility
Cameco

Rita Bouvier
Researcher/Writer
and Community-
learning Facilitator

Don Hoium
Executive
Director, League
of Educational
Administrators,
Directors and
Superintendents
of Saskatchewan

www.jointtaskforce.ca



Agency Chiefs Tribal Council players, coaches, organizers, fans and parents poured onto the ice at Harold Latrace Arena to celebrate their victory as overall champions at the First Nation Winter Games in Saskatoon. They finished with 289.6 points over top of second place Saskatoon Tribal Council at 273.6 and Team Woodland third with 202.9 points. The Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, though it is one of the smallest, had the most gold and silver medals of any Tribal Council. The 2012 Tony Cote Award went to the Yorkton Tribal Council. (Photo by Darcy McKenzie)



Brothers Jordan and Jay Daniels had the good fortune to play hockey on the same team all year with the Atomic Aces in Saskatoon and to top the year off they got to lace up together for the Saskatoon Tribal Council Atom Team for the First Nation Winter Games. They had a heck of a run to the finals but in the end, Team Woodland beat them in a squeaker by 2 goals, including an empty netter and they had to settle for silver. But a pretty special silver medal at that.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



2012 FNUNiv princess Rosalind Shepherd was crowned at the First Nation University of Canada Powwow. Photographer Mike Dubois also captured this unknown jr boys traditional dancer giving it his all. (Photos by Mike Dubois)



Ginter taking a long walk in quest for new shoes

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Less fortunate kids needing equipment to participate in sports will get a much-needed influx of shoes.

Christine Ginter is the founder of Inspiring Youth 4 Success Inc., an organization dedicated to empowering youth-at-risk. She has committed to a 250 km walk from Regina to Saskatoon to collect quality athletic shoes for kids.

"One of our objectives at Inspiring Youth 4 Success is to support youth 'at-risk' in their goals and dreams," Ginter says.

"All of the athletic shoes we collect will go towards the Sask Sports Council. Each fall, they do a sports equipment drive to enable kids at a disadvantage to play sports."

The idea to help Sask Sport get a head start on the shoe drive came when Ginter was thinking of a way to raise awareness about Inspiring Youth 4 Success – like shaving heads for cancer.

"It was one of those 'aha' moments. At first, I shared the walking from Regina to Saskatoon idea with my husband and he immediately started figuring out how long it would take, our route ... and I knew I had his support."

From there Christine recruited her brother Curtis Vinish, a director at Inspiring Youth 4 Success, and he immediately agreed to do the walk with her.

Her husband, Ryan, will be the 'runner', which means he'll drive back and forth to Saskatoon to provide clothes and food once they complete their daily goal of 50 km.

"My brother and I are both of Métis descent. We are walking to fundraise for our youth foundation, create awareness of what we do as an organization, collect



Brother and sister team Curtis Vinish and Christine Ginter are going to walk all the way from Regina to Saskatoon to help less fortunate kids to get access to good footwear for sports. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)

athletic shoes for disadvantaged youth and spread the message that anything in life is possible," Ginter explains.

"Some people use messages, commercials, songs. We wanted to use a unique method in letting youth know that someone believes in them."

Partners in the walk, which begins on June 4, include Sask Sport, Footlocker, Neechie Gear and Floorit.ca. Ginter hopes the walk will result in the acquisition of 100

pairs of donated shoes and she says those who want to help have a number of options.

Any monetary donations can be done through their website: www.inspiringyouthforsuccess.ca or dropped off at Floorit.ca (418 51st Street East).

Athletic shoes for kids can be dropped off in our shoe bins at the Mall of Lawson Heights or the Huskie Store on 8th Street, both in Saskatoon.

Taylor Arcand a role model for fellow Feehan student

"To the world, you may just be somebody. But to somebody, you may just might be the world" author unknown. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools encouraged their Grade 12 students to participate in a writing competition. These students were asked to interview an Aboriginal role model and to write about how outstanding that person is. The following was written by a student from E. D. Feehan High School who recognizes a fellow student to be her role model.

By Larissa St. Onge
E.D. Feehan High School

Not everybody can be looked up to as a positive influence when they're only 17 years old, but Taylor Arcand has managed to not only maintain a great understanding of her culture but has also won several awards

for competing in wrestling competitions around Saskatchewan.

Throughout high school Arcand has been one of E.D. Feehan's most prized athletes through her amazing wrestling ability. Since Grade 9 she has made it to top three in the city championships, and in Grade 12 she won third place in the province. Even with wrestling in the way she still manages to save time for her friends and family.

Arcand was born in Saskatoon and her family belongs to the Beardy's and Okemasis reserve which is located southwest of Prince Albert. In her childhood she would travel to her reserve to see her mooshum and kukum,

as well as other family members. One of Arcand's fondest memories as a young girl was when she would watch her kukum make bannock. She enjoys spending lots of time with her family. They always have things to do, like going to different round dances and powwows.



Larissa St. Onge chose her friend Taylor Arcand as her role model. According to St. Onge, Arcand is not only an accomplished wrestler, but also a very positive person. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

For many years now Arcand has been going to powwows and round dances as a way to bond with her family and her culture. She travels to places all around Saskatchewan in order to participate, like Regina, Beardy's, Witchaken, Saskatoon, Onion Lake, and more. She does so much to stay in tune with her

culture, and she always has a story to tell about the last powwow.

Arcand is always a positive person to see around the school. She is constantly smiling and making jokes, as well as getting involved in sports. Not only is Taylor Arcand a great wrestler, but a great role model as well.

Young athlete shines on ice and in the classroom

Name: Shayna Thomas
Sport: Hockey
Other Sports Played: Fastball, badminton, golf, volleyball
Shoots: Right
Number: 7
Position: Defense

Goz: Now that you're heading into the offseason, what are your summer plans?
Shayna: This summer I am playing for a Sask-Can AAA summer hockey team and we are going to a tournament in Saskatoon, as well as Boston, so practices and tournaments will keep me busy. I also have a summer job at the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Goz: Do you train during the offseason, as well. If so, what do you do?

Shayna: I am in the middle of a program called

P90X and during the summer I will also keep up my training. I will be playing hockey and also hitting the gym regularly.

Goz: How do you deal with all the pressure of being a young athlete, honor role student and an all around good person?

Shayna: I don't feel that much pressure because I like being a young athlete, honor role student and I try to be the best person I can. I would feel pressure if these things were not a part of my life.

Goz: You won the Female Sports & Recreation Award at the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. What does this award mean to you?

Shayna: This award is really big because it stands for all of my hard work that I've done and assures me that all of my sacrifices were worth it because I am on the right track.

Goz: What is your most memorable moment in hockey?

Shayna: This past year my club team, The North Battleford AAA Sharks, had a really close game against Swift Current. We all played our hardest and ended up winning the game 1-0. It was just a regular season game but after in the dressing room the positive energy and happiness my team and I shared was unbelievable.

Goz: Who is your favorite hockey player, male or female? Why?

Shayna: I like Jordin Tootoo because he is a great hockey player and role model.

Goz: Who is your pick to win the Stanley Cup this year?

Shayna: L.A. Kings because they have two awesome First Nations role models - Dwight King and Jordan Nolan.

Goz: Favorite hockey movie of all time?

Shayna: "Miracle" hands down.

Goz: Do you have any non-sports related interest or hobbies?

Shayna: I like to read and play the piano.

Goz: As far as traveling goes, where do you most want to visit?

Shayna: I have been very fortunate and have traveled to many places in the world like Europe, Australia and throughout North America. Someday I would like to visit the other four continents.

Goz: Any pre-game superstitions?

Shayna: I don't know why but I always catch myself tying my left skate first. I guess you could count that.

Goz: So here's the scenario ... it's a 0-0 tie in the big championship and you're up for the shootout winner. Obviously, the goalie's been hot and stopped everything that came her way all game. What are you planning? Deke her out or pick a corner and let it rip?

Shayna: Well, I have one shootout move but it's a killer! I'd fake a forehand shot but drag it to my backhand and lift it right over the goalie.



Shayna Thomas plays defense for the North Battleford Sharks.



Shayna Thomas was joined by her parents Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas and mom Dawne for a photo to commemorate her SaskTel Youth Award of Excellence. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Thursday, June 21, 2012

11:00AM - 4:30PM

FRIENDSHIP PARK

BROADWAY BRIDGE & 19 STREET EAST
SASKATOON, SK.

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- METIS & FIRST NATIONS MUSIC
- JIGGING
- FIRST NATIONS DANCERS
- FIDDLING
- FREE FOOD
- ESSAY CONTEST
- CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES AND MORE !!!

For more information Contact:
 May Henderson Phone: (306) 244-0174
 Email: executive@director_simfco_shaw.ca



Graduation Powwow

May 30, 2012

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

In The Bowl, U of S Campus in Saskatoon

FIRST GRAND ENTRY: 11 a.m. (honoring high school graduates)

SECOND GRAND ENTRY: 6 p.m. (honoring U of S graduates)

- Everyone is welcome. Free admission
- Vendor and artisan tables available

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Howie Thompson and Don "Tatanka Hoksila" Speidel

ARENA DIRECTORS: Ron McNab and Mike Laliberte

HEAD DRUM JUDGES: Dale Roberts, Chris Scribe

HOST DRUM: Two Nations,
2011 U of S singing champions

**Over \$25,000
in prize money
will be available in
the Dance, Drum
and Three-man
Hand Drum
competitions**

Register online at students.usask.ca/powwow

- **DRUMMERS AND DANCERS** please register online.
- **GRADUATING ABORIGINAL STUDENTS** (from the U of S and high schools) can register online to participate in the powwow's grand entry and to have their names appear in the powwow's program. Deadline to register is Thursday, May 10.
- **SCHOOL GROUPS** please register online.

Powwow Committee requires all competitors (over the age of 16) supply their Social Insurance Numbers in order to receive award payments. The University of Saskatchewan reserves the right to take photographs of this event, including attendees, for use in future promotional materials. The Committee is not liable for theft, injury or extenuating personal circumstances.

For more information, contact: Aboriginal Students' Centre at (306) 966-5790