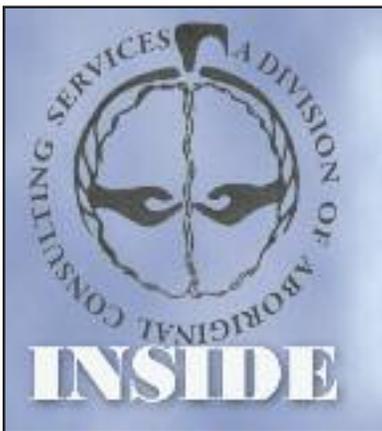


# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE



## LOOKING BACK AT 2013



**SCHOLARSHIP**  
Kevin Littlewolfe has landed a SIGA scholarship of \$1,000.  
- Page 7

### WAR OF 1812

Three artists have been selected to work on a piece of historic art. - Page 10



**ADVANTAGE**  
A provincial scholarship program has helped 13,000 students. - Page 12

### PIPEFITTERS

Good jobs await 13 pipefitting course students. - Page 15



**TAKING ACTION**  
The Province has listened to this task force's recommendations. - Page 26

Welcome to our Year In Review Edition Coming In February: Health & Wellness Issue

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# SIGA scholarship program grows and continues to support students

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

It is students like Kevin Littlewolfe that SIGA scholarships are meant to benefit. The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority recently announced the 2013 recipients of the SIGA First Nations Scholarship Awards. This year, \$30,000 will be awarded by SIGA to First Nations students in Saskatchewan to assist them in their educational pursuits.

Littlewolfe picked up \$1,000 to help support him and his family as he works on completion of his Business Administration Diploma.

"I grew up with SIGA," said Littlewolfe who has six years of service at SIGA in security. His long-term goal is to get his degree and a Masters and then return to his employment with SIGA.

"This scholarship came at the right time of the year," added Littlewolfe whose wife is also in school and there are kids and sports and life to deal with.

"My kids sacrifice a lot while we go to school, so this will really help Christmas. It's all about the kids."

"The SIGA First Nations Scholarships Awards program provides opportunities to encourage education and continued learning. It also helps students successfully achieve career goals within SIGA and the broader community," says Zane Hansen, President and CEO, SIGA.

"SIGA developed the scholarship program to address fields where recruiting has traditionally been a challenge."

For the 2013/2014 academic year, two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to students in Information Technology, Commerce, Hospitality and Tourism Management and/or to students pursuing a Masters or PhD in any field. In addition, two \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to students studying Communication or Electronics and 15 \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to eligible students in any other field.

Pat Cook, VP of Corporate Affairs with SIGA, is pleased with the number of quality applicants that have applied this year.

"In previous years we've awarded \$25,000 annually. We've increased this amount to \$30,000 in response to the record number of applicants and quality candidates for our scholarship program. It's exciting to see many passionate First Nations students seeking quality educational opportunities to enhance their own lives and communities.

"SIGA is proud to contribute to these candidates' educational goals," says Cook.

For Cassandra Opikokew, the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship from SIGA, the award will have a great impact on her ability to conduct her research.

"I would not be where I am today without the generous support of SIGA. They have supported me from my undergraduate, to my Master's, and now my PhD," said Opikokew.

"All the way through, their support has allowed me to continue my research and advocacy work in the area of Indigenous peoples' health and education around the world. I continue to be honoured and humbled by their support and by my group and by my group of fellow recipients."



Kevin Littlewolfe received a scholarship from SIGA to allow him to continue his Business Administration Diploma at SIIT.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Scholarship recipients joined SIGA President Zane Hansen and Vice President of Corporate Affairs Pat Cook for a photo at the event.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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# 2013 was a year of change, turmoil and progress

Four women raised all kinds of issues in 2013 ... and for that I believe we should be grateful.

Formed to educate people about the federal governments gutting of environmental legislation, Idle No More wound up informing Canada and the world about our federal government malfeasance and exposed political rifts in First Nation governments across Canada.

Public round dances, teach-ins, marches and rallies followed as an engaged Aboriginal population took to the streets to voice their concerns and outrage at the federal government. The government was exposed and shamed and the Idle No More movement has grown to be an international environmental phenomenon.

*... time to quit rolling our eyes when we talk about how messed up "Aboriginal" politics are and understand dysfunctional politics is a universal thing.*

The Idle No More folks did a great job of social networking and communicating all of the issues the federal government is short changing Aboriginal people on and this has effectively motivated many in the Aboriginal community to be politically active.

For that we owe Sylvia Macadam, Jess Gordon, Sheelah McLean and Nina Waste thanks.

The energy of INM followers took everyone by surprise. Some used the Idle No More movement to their own means

and political ends – not necessarily in a good way every time – and things became hard to wade through. It was all very dramatic and it played out on a national and international stage

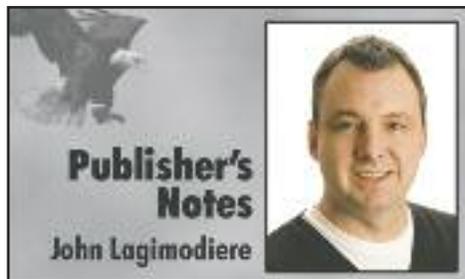
Locally the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan struggled and fought and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Tribal Councils are facing 40-60 per cent budget cuts.

But as much as we worry about the politics of the MN-S, FSIN our Locals or our First Nations, we can take solace on the fact that we are not alone.

In 2013, the United States of America had their government shut down because they were so dysfunctional they couldn't do their jobs.

The Canadian Senate is a quagmire of nepotism, partisanship and loose expense reporting. The Cons Gang and their leader Stephen Harper are the most unaccountable federal government we have ever elected.

Syria is a mess, the Middle East is a powder keg. The Ukrainian Parliament regularly denigrates into brawls where



people throw chairs and smoke bombs and the mayor of the biggest city in Canada is a binge drinking, crack smoking bully.

So overall, time to quit rolling our eyes when we talk about how messed up "Aboriginal" politics are and understand dysfunctional politics is a universal thing. And so fun to watch.



DAVID FINEDAY

Instead of brooding over issues from 2013, we are best left to remember the highlights and in Saskatchewan we had many.

The birth and explosion of INM is legendary. The progress in our youth that is reflected in events like the SaskTel Youth Awards, the First Nation Summer Games and CBC's Boom Box competition.

The court cases won elevating Métis rights and issues across Canada. The return of the Bell of Batoche and the opening of the Gabriel Dumont Museum and Gallery brought light to the Métis community.

The amazing growth and prowess of SIGA and their ability to create jobs and profit for the community always makes us proud. The emergence of Aboriginal business, and we mean big Aboriginal

business in Saskatchewan as Athabasca Basin Development, Pinehouse Business North and Des Nedhe Development flex their northern might across the province.

Innovative partnerships and joint ventures are changing the employment and business landscape of Saskatchewan and First Nation and Métis people are finally at the table.

And don't forget the overwhelming number of graduates from Grade 12 and post secondary institutions this year. We are also at a point where there are more Aboriginal people employed in Saskatchewan than ever before.

All of these factors bode well for us. So, for 2014, why don't we leave the politics to the politicians, but demand more from them. We as citizens have the freedom to determine our own future.

This concept was summed up well by David Fineday, a student at SIIT in the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer program and a recipient of a provincial Advantage Scholarship. David gave us likely the best quote of 2013 that sums up the situation.

"There are a lot of opportunities out there," said Fineday when asked about his optimism for the future in Saskatchewan. "If you can get up and really want to change, you can change."

Well said, David. Well said. Good luck in 2014 everyone.

## New Website

Make sure you keep checking out our new website. So far we have added over 100 stories, several recipes and some job and career postings that never make it to the paper.

News from the University of Saskatchewan Indigenous Studies Department and a unique program to buy freezers for low income people are some examples.

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# Cold snap reminds us of our responsibilities

**Y**es, 2013 is a year to remember. It began with Idle No More and ended in the worse cold snap I have experienced here in Saskatchewan.

I have no doubt that the crazy weather we are having is a result of climate change which is the result of pollution and all the damage being done to the earth and waters on this planet. Unless we take action against industrial polluters and be more pro-active in our daily lives to reduce our energy use and waste, it will only get worse.

My 2014 pledges include being more creative about conserving my gas and oil use, and be more vigilant with recycling.

The freezing temperatures have been harsh this winter. Many people lost power and struggled to keep their families warm which is a strong reminder of how dependent we are on electricity for our survival. Thirty or more years ago power outages didn't have such a big impact on our communities because many still had wood stoves, coal oil lamps and out houses.

Now that we are all modern we have left ourselves vulnerable and dependent on a corporation that makes huge profits while destroying the natural environment in our own traditional territories.

Kudos to the T'Sou-ke First Nation for setting up the largest solar energy producing community in B.C. and to

Alderville First Nation in Ontario for building a solar farm large enough that it provides power to neighboring farms and homes. Many tribes in the USA are also now producing solar power to support their communities and as successful economic development ventures, like the Moapa Puites in Nevada and the Navajo Nation.

In Saskatchewan we get plenty of sunlight throughout the year and I truly hope our communities and off-reserve members see the potential of solar power and move in this direction. We have the opportunity to not only ensure our people keep warm in the winter but to also become independent of the power companies, reduce pollution and the destruction of our traditional lands, and create new economic opportunities for our people.

The winter has been very harsh and it is heartbreaking to hear news of the number of homeless people in the cities who suffer frostbite, or even worse, death from exposure. Last October, it was reported that there were just under 400 people in shelters or sleeping on the streets in Saskatoon. As individuals we often think that the problem

is too big to tackle and that there is nothing we can do to help. But that's just an excuse.

There are handfuls of people working tirelessly to help the homeless, not just by creating more shelters but to create permanent housing opportunities.

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness reports that it costs about \$130,000 per year per person to keep people in shelters, compared to \$18,000 to provide them with a home of their own with supports.

The United Way report called 'A Plan to End Homelessness' resulted in the creation of A Housing First Program this past year that will help meet some of the needs if they can get enough support for it. The newly established Leadership Committee includes our own John Lagimodiere and Chief Felix Thomas of Saskatoon Tribal Council.

There are many opportunities to support initiatives like this. We can help with fundraising and we can make our voices heard which is a powerful way to raise public consciousness and urge action.

For example, community actions like the Occupy Saskatoon march and camp against homelessness (November of 2011) successfully brought this issue to the forefront and resulted in the studies that are now moving towards reducing homelessness. People do not realize the power they have in numbers and every voice counts. Collectively we can make change happen.

I believe 2014 is going to be a year of great opportunities. But opportunities don't just come along and land in our laps, we make them happen. As we continue to break free from colonial dependency and move towards self-determination we will become more socially and economically pro-active and self-supporting, our traditional values will increasingly replace unhealthy ones that we have internalized, and we will grow in strength and pride.

Building solar and other green power alternatives and creating safe homes for our more vulnerable relatives are just a few of the positive steps we can take in Saskatchewan.

Please remember to check on your old people to make sure they are safe and warm. And please also remember to provide your pets with safe warm places to escape this brutal cold. Many pets and livestock die slow painful deaths because of neglect in the winter months.



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# Taking a look at 2013

Happy New Year! And looking back at 2013...

The year highlighted early the challenges in the relationship between First Nations and Canada. On January 24, a 'Crown Gathering' with the Prime Minister was attended by the Assembly of First Nations and some Chiefs, while others joined a boycott that emerged in the final stages of discussions leading up to the event in Ottawa.

Rhetoric tends to replace substance here as in politics everywhere, with references to 'the Crown' over in London.

The hard truth is that it is the Harper government that rules in Canada and no amount of rhetoric will overcome that fact.

The constitutional theory has long ago set that straight in the Alberta Indian Association Case but the rhetoric persists. There is no trust and there will be no 'reconciliation' with this government.

The year 2013 was the 250th anniversary of the famed 'Royal Proclamation' of King George III of October 1763 that organized government and stopped private purchases of Indian lands in Britain's North American colonies.

At the time the English were having a hard time against the 'Indians' who had been allies of the French. The Proclamation is an historic exercise of the British tactic to use legal witchcraft to replace the more costly military campaigns in far-flung colonies.

Last year saw the introduction of proposed legislation on a First Nation Education Act, first with a 'blueprint' in July, followed later in the year with a draft Bill issued for consultations.

It was not hard to see that the intent was to continue and cement the 'Father Valcourt Knows Best' approach of the Indian Affairs department and opposition to the draft Bill worked to stall its advance for the time being.

The Private Member's Bill of Rob Clarke MP from Saskatchewan, C428, was introduced to repeal some of the more indefensible sections of the Indian Act.

It passed the House of Commons in altered form, with some of the original provisions deleted, ostensibly on account of the complexity and uncertain consequences of their repeal.

In March, the Supreme Court of Canada gave its decision in the Manitoba Métis Federation case, which was started in April 1981. The case is NOT, contrary to almost all publicity about it, a land claims case.

It merely asked for a declaration that the government of Canada failed to implement s.31, the Metis lands provision in the Manitoba Act 1870.

The court granted the declaration, contrary to all reasonable expectations on account of the incredibly bad record of evidence and decisions in the lower courts.

The Manitoba Métis Federation announced a committee of non-Métis that it appointed to help it deal with moneys it expects to get from negotiations with governments. This bold move belies the fact that the decision implies that the ultimate beneficiaries of the decision, if any, are descendants of the original persons entitled to receive Manitoba Act lands, many of whom live in Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

So far the Court has an almost perfect record: it has missed the mark on everything it has decided on Métis issues except for the actual granting of the declaration.

Nelson Mandela died late in the year, closing the door on an historic journey against racism in South Africa, and opening the door on protracted politics of opposition that has observers worried.

We might conclude with the question: what is the better way to reconcile the interests of the Indigenous peoples in Canada with the state? As a matter of procedure, the issue of national reconciliation must be maintained as a national issue and led by a Prime Minister.

A national conference of leaders of both sides must be called to set guidelines for negotiations and agreement at the regional and local levels.

As a matter of substance three elements suggest themselves: 1. Recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty rights or making s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982 effective. 2. Enacting laws to fill in gaps for the implementation of the relationship. 3. The creation of a new specialized judicial Tribunal, with Aboriginal representation, to resolve disputes.

If I am not holding my breath about it being done it is not for lack of optimism but appreciation of political reality.

#### And In Sports:

Every year, like many Canadians, I enjoy watching the World Junior Hockey tournament at Christmas time. Congratulations to the Finns for a successful Finnish!

The Finns beat Sweden and the referees to win Gold.



Comment  
Paul Chartrand

# VOLUNTEER

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- Mona Chappell

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# READ Saskatoon playing key role in advancing literacy skills for families

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

Literacy has always been important to Dave Salagubas, and it was instilled in him at a young age.

“As a child, I was always read to,” he recalls.

Now the 30-year-old father of two children (both under the age of two) wants to pass on those skills to his son and daughter, so they also grow up with strong literacy skills.

“I want to make sure my kids have to best chance to succeed in life, and I want to see others succeed, too.”

Salagubas is so passionate about literacy that he has served as a tutor and now a board member for READ Saskatoon, a volunteer organization that provides literacy services to individuals, families, workplaces, and the community. While located in Saskatoon, it has helped communities across the province, including around a dozen First Nations.

On Jan. 27, READ Saskatoon will join in celebrating the 15th annual national Family Literacy Day. This year, it is encouraging families to take “15 Minutes of Fun” to learn together, as well as contests and draws.

“15 Minutes of Fun is a family activity BINGO card that is full of ideas to keep your family busy and learning,” says Sheryl Harrow-Yurach, Executive Director of READ Saskatoon.

“The fast-paced and fun activities will be a blast for your family, and you’ll be helping your children learn

valuable literacy skills along the way.”

As well, READ Saskatoon is giving away a book every day from Jan. 13 to 31. To be entered in the draw, people just need to call READ Saskatoon at (306) 652-5448 or email [lori.tkachuk@readsaskatoon.com](mailto:lori.tkachuk@readsaskatoon.com).

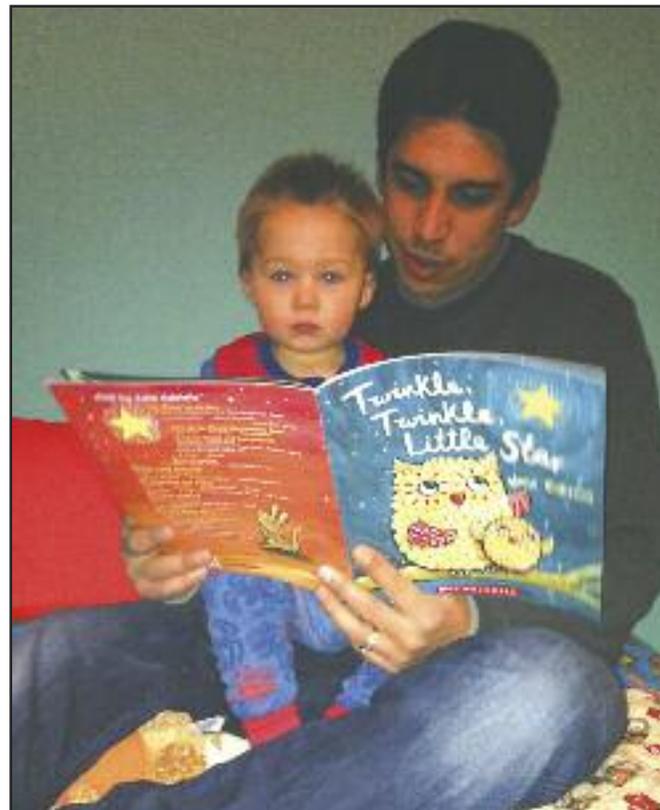
Harrow-Yurach notes taking time every day to read with your child is crucial to his or her literacy development, but will also improve the overall well-being of the whole family.

“Establishing a culture of learning at home encourages an exchange of ideas, enriches family relationships, and bolsters confidence at home, at work, and at school.”

Salagubas agrees literacy is an important tool for everyone to have.

“It enables people to establish a more secure life for themselves and those that depend on them. It’s also important to understand and be in control of your own finances.”

Nearly 90 per cent of READ Saskatoon’s long-term learners reach their goals, which include attending post-secondary, conversation skills, and filling out paperwork. Salagubas points to a man who couldn’t read work orders in his job, but can now thanks to tutoring sessions.



Dave Salagubas reads to one of his young sons.

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# FSIN funding, revenue sharing top agenda: Bellegarde

By Judy Bird  
For Eagle Feather News

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde is looking ahead in 2014 with hope and determination, but also preparing to embrace and manage changes that loom on the horizon.

Perhaps the most pressing issue the FSIN faces now is a substantial funding cut from the federal government. Over two years, funding to the organization was cut by \$2 million.

"That's going to have some huge impacts on how the organizations function, how it operates, and even its effectiveness as a political lobby organization," said Bellegarde.

Without speculating on what cuts might come, he acknowledged that if no new source of revenue is identified by April 1, the organization will have no choice but to restructure. However, with change comes opportunity and Bellegarde believes new doors can open to help distance the FSIN from being dependent on federal funding.

"In order to be a strong effective organization, we cannot be dependent on government money. How can you lobby against the hand that gives you that money?"

"With this cutback, I think it's an opportunity for the chiefs of Saskatchewan, the leadership to find new creative, innovative solutions to finance organizations to really make it a strong, effective lobby organization."

One possible funding source is gaming. Bellegarde hopes to reopen negotiations with the Province to change the way casino profits are shared.

"It's ironic when the premier says there's no revenue sharing agreement in place for any group in Saskatchewan. I say there is one revenue sharing example, but it's from our First Nations profits from SIGA going over to the Province of Saskatchewan's general revenue fund. The province of Saskatchewan gets 25 per cent of our net profits from SIGA and then we in turn get 25 per cent of the net profits from Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw.

"SIGA makes more money than Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw, so we're giving more of our net profits to the provincial government than we're getting back."

Some of those gaming profits could resource FSIN, but also be directed to economic development and education initiatives, he says.

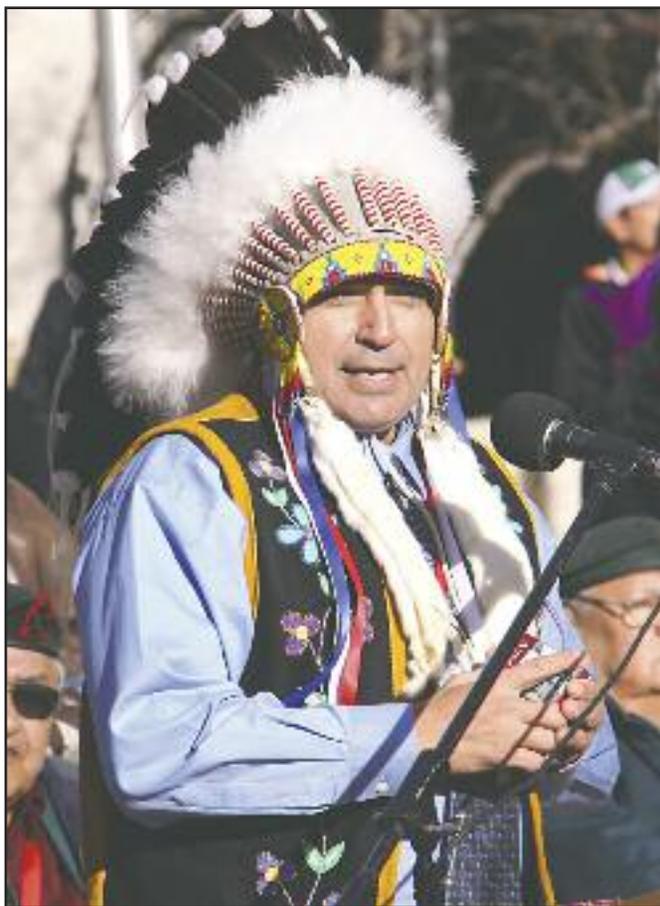
"When we talk to the province about relationships and about revenue resource sharing, that's a good thing because we're supposed to benefit equally from the land and resource wealth. It just takes the political will and I'm hoping that Premier Brad Wall and his government will see that."

Bellegarde will continue the push to have First Nations included by industry as well. Partnering to build positive relationships is key whether it is in natural resources such as mining, or with pipeline companies that want to run lines through First Nations territories.

"There's an opportunity for not only employment, economic development spinoff but also for ownership. Why can't First Nations people own equity?" he asked.

Involving First Nations people in the natural resource industry meets another objective: responsible environmental stewardship.

"We bring that expertise concerning respecting the environment, the land and



Perry Bellegarde sees 2014 as a year of reconciliation.

the water so that there's a balance between the environment and the economy."

For his years at the helm of FSIN, previous and current, Bellegarde has held treaty implementation as a priority, and 2014 is no different.

"We are all treaty

people. We are to mutually benefit and share the land and resource wealth equally. This country was founded on the treaty making relationship and the treaty commissioners. One of the ideas that's being talked about is looking at establishing a national

treaty commissioner that will report to the Crown, and to us regarding the whole treaty implementation.

"That's something new and innovative. We're going to flush that out this year."

Bellegarde hopes all residents embrace the ideas of resource revenue sharing, treaty implementation and self-determination of Indigenous peoples.

"I always tell people don't be afraid of the concept for self determination of Indigenous peoples, of resource revenue sharing, of treaty implementation because if you embrace those, you will see that huge poverty gap close."

He repeated the findings of UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya, that based on the UN Human Development Index, Canada ranked sixth in terms of quality of life, while Canada's First Nations ranked 63rd. It's a disturbing truth that requires educating people about this double standard in order to bring change.

"Canadian people, Saskatchewan people are good people. Once they see that and get it, they will join our lobby to bring about that transformative change, and really bring about true reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and the rest of society.

"That's my hope and dream for this year. It's a big one but I think we can do it."

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Special thanks from Saskatoon Tribal Council and White Buffalo Youth Lodge to all STC partners and volunteers who contributed to the 2013 Annual Community Christmas Dinner at White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

**884 meals were served and 415 children received Christmas gifts**

**Thanks to our Sponsors**

Logos: SIGA, Dakota Plains Community Development Corporation, PotashCorp

# Presenting Dawn's best of 2013

I'm sure you're already sick of BEST OF lists but I don't care because I like lists and besides, mine is short. Here are the stories that I found the most important and provocative of 2013.

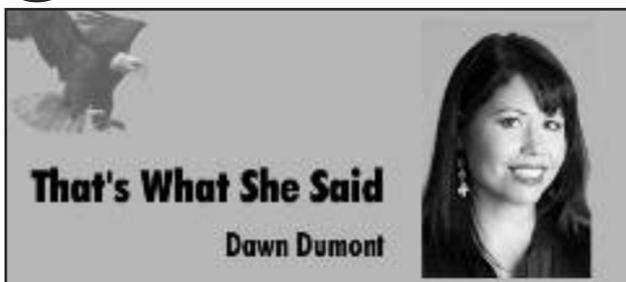
**Rob Ford – Category: Absurd, Annoying, Disgusting**

Throughout the year, the erstwhile mayor of the beleaguered city of Toronto beckoned comedians to make jokes at his expense. He is the comedian gift that keeps giving – from denying that he was addicted to crack to admitting that he did indeed smoke crack but – wait for it – in a “drunken stupor.” Let the absurdity of a “drunken stupor” being a get out of jail free card sink in (“Your Honour, I was driving drunk but I was under the influence of a drunken stupor!”)

Later when accused of sexually harassing a co-worker, Ford denied the allegation. Instead of leaving it at that, he added that he was too busy committing a certain sexual act on his wife to harass another woman. The next day, his wife appeared with him for a media event looking very much like a person who never receives that particular sexual act. I call bullshit.

People got mad when the media continued to talk about Ford: “Stop making fun of him. Stop giving him attention and he'll go away!” Uh, no he won't. Like your cousin who posts angry statuses about their ex on Facebook, they've become addicted to the attention and won't stop until someone jails them or the Internet breaks.

It's important to talk about Little Boy Lewd because it shows us holes in our systems. Toronto reduced his powers but that's hardly the same as kicking him out on his prodigious butt. Ford is also a reminder that it's important to vote for people who are informed about issues, articulate and,



preferably, not crack smokers. Do not vote for the person you would like to have a beer with (or smoke a spliff with, do a line with, etc.), vote for the person who skips beers to stay late at the office. When it comes to leaders, boring = fun.

By the way, expect to see Ford on this list next year, because he is running again.

**Naheed Nenshi - Category: Awesome**

Nenshi is proof that mayors don't have to suck. During the flooding of the Bow River, the Calgary mayor went without sleep to look after his city. He visited flooded homes, went to emergency shelters, addressed the media and tweeted updates that were informative and witty. He is to Rob Ford as cheesecake is to rancid butter.

**The Saskatchewan Party Ads – Category: Stupid, Racist**

This party ran ads attacking the NDP accusing them of being willing to work with First Nations on resource sharing. Let's get this straight – a party was attacked because they were respecting First Nation treaty rights and the rule of law. Is the Saskatchewan Party oblivious to the duty to consult? Or was the temptation to win points via race-baiting too great? Or, are they operating under the doctrine of terra nullius? If so will Premier Brad Wall be bringing back other medieval laws such as prima nocta? If so, expect some fists

to the face. Not only from offended First Nation husbands but from annoyed First Nation women.

**Idle No More, Category: Inspiring**

The Harper government introduced the Omnibus Bill C-45 and four women from Saskatchewan started Idle No More. There are many reasons this movement is the most awesome thing to come along since Netflix but here are a few of mine:

It was started by women. Women are still underrepresented in all levels and types of government. Idle No More showed the world that female voices are as powerful as they are necessary.

It is unique. The movement expressed itself in round dances, flash mobs and teach-ins. It was organized via the Internet which as any Facebook or Twitter account holder knows – is well-populated with Native peeps.

And finally, it unites Indigenous and environmental activists. I find it interesting when politicians say things like, “this law should please the environmentalists...” as if they were a special interest group. From my tiny understanding of science, everyone is a de facto environmentalist unless you're a cyborg that can breathe pollution, eat garbage and bathe in tailings ponds.

**Male Hipster Beards, Category: Why?**

Men, I like your faces and I want to see them – naked and vulnerable as a young male dancer at a rez bachelorette party. Beards don't make you look complicated or manly, they make you look like an unemployed, cheeto-eating stoner who spends all his time in a man-cave that smells like fart. That may be who you actually are but dammit, I don't need to know that straight out of the gate.

In 2014, let me have my delusions.



## Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre Free Programs & Courses

**Canadian Red Cross Babysitting Course**

February 8th & March 8th 2014  
Participants 11 years and older may register for either of the two class dates. This class will take 8 hours to complete. Maximum number per class is 12 and classes will be held downtown at 443 2nd Avenue North.

**Young Worker Readiness Certificate**

Ongoing  
The Young Worker Readiness Certificate Course (YWRCC) is designed for youth ages 14-15, but is recommended for anyone needing a refresher in OHS and LS. The YWRCC certificate is required by law for youth ages 14-15 interested in working in Saskatchewan.

**Food Safe Course**

Offered in 2014 in January and February  
This is a certified course and may be of special interest to those interested in pursuing a career in professional kitchens. The course will be held at SIMFC and will encompass the whole day starting at 9:00 and ending at 5:30. Please contact the SIMFC for exact dates.

**Traditional Parenting Course**

February 2014  
This course helps new parents learn traditional skills in caring for their children. The course is a 2-hour class with Elder Mary Lee which will be held at SIMFC.

**Women's Self-Defense Class**

January 31st & February 21st 6 - 9 pm  
Each of these classes will help women learn techniques which will show them how to protect themselves against personal attacks by would-be assailants. Women will work with a female partner in learning their self-defence skills.

**Métis Sash Weaving Workshop**

Monday, January 27th 3 - 5 pm  
This one-time class will teach participants how to use their fingers, yarn and sticks to make their own Métis sash.

**Jigging Workshop**

Monday January 27th 6 - 7 pm  
In a one-hour class to for anyone interested in learning jigging dance steps. If you enjoy this class you may want to consider competing at this years SIMFC annual Jigging Competition in March.

**Cree Classes**

Mondays 2:00 - 4:00 pm @ SIMFC  
Tuesdays 2:00 - 6:00 pm @ the Library on 20th  
Wednesdays 6:00 - 9:00 @ White Buffalo Youth Lodge  
Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30 pm @ SIMFC  
Learn to speak Cree in a fun environment! The classes are designed to be informative, fun, and interactive with the instructor, Darryl Chamakese, being a fluent Cree speaker and a proud member of Chitek Lake Cree Nation.

**SCOT & WHMIS Online Certification**

Ongoing  
Generalized program which offers basic knowledge in being safe at a construction site; WHMIS also offers basic Workplace & Hazardous Materials and Information System information to participants.

**Forklift/Bobcat Operator's Course**

February 19th & February 20th  
Only 8 seats for forklift training and 8 seats for skid steer (bobcat) training are available for this popular program. Participants will work on-site at Phase II/Cervus Equipment in a hands-on environment for each 4-hour class.

**First Aid & CPR/AED Level C**

2 different class dates in February & March 2014  
Participants will learn basic First Aid and CPR training from Sharalife First Aid. These 2 separate class dates are a level C and will cover the use of AED.



**306.244.0174 Please call to register or for more information**

Programs & Courses Supported By:  
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada  
Canadian Heritage  
Saskatoon Community Foundation

# Artists chosen for 1812 public work of art

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Whitecap Dakota First Nation recently announced the selection of Adrian Stimson, Jean-Sebastien Gauthier and Ian (Happy) Grove as the design team to create and implement a monument and interpretive panels commemorating the Prairies contribution to the War of 1812.

The objective of this public art project is to commemorate and interpret the role and significance of the War of 1812 in a provincial and local context. The project will commemorate the participants of the War of 1812 whose descendants now reside in the Prairies. This includes the Dakota First Nation and other multicultural allies, who have received little acknowledgement in the broader national Bicentennial commemorations.

After a rigorous selection process the Saskatoon team was chosen from 15 submissions.

“This is a great honour for all three of us to be able to create this “Spirit of Alliance” piece to commemorate the people involved in 1812,” said artist Adrian Stimson on behalf of the team of artists.

“The installation will pay homage to the Dakota role in the War of 1812 and hopefully capture a snap shot in time.”

The next steps will see the Design Team preparing two maquettes for review by the Whitecap Dakota First Nation Monument Committee. The process also includes approvals of the work by Meewasin and City of Saskatoon.

These maquettes are available for public viewing courtesy of the Mendel Art Gallery. The actual pieces of art will be a bit larger than life size and the tepee will be wrapped in a canvas.

The proposed site of the monument is River Landing at the roundabout at Avenue A and Spadina Crescent in Saskatoon with an anticipated installation of fall 2014.



Adrian Stimson, Jean-Sebastien Gauthier and Ian (Happy) Grove are the design team to create and implement a monument and interpretive panels commemorating the Prairies contribution to the War of 1812.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



These people represent the Dakota of 1812 and the British army.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



## ‘âhkamêyimo (Aspire)

“Having role models within the City of Saskatoon is important. Seeing more Aboriginal People in leadership roles and positions within the organization makes me realize the importance of the work we do!”

Warren Isbister, Aboriginal and Inclusion Consultant,  
Community Development, City of Saskatoon



New job postings every Wednesday at [www.saskatoon.ca](http://www.saskatoon.ca)  
For more information contact Jodi at 306-975-2661.



S A S K A T C H E W A N



**PLEASE JOIN US**

In our continuous commitment to consult and engage with First Nations and Métis people regarding the Mackenzie River Basin Bilateral Water Management Agreement, the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan will be hosting information sessions within the Saskatchewan portion of the Watershed.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Location:** Dene Building, La Loche Community School, La Loche, SK

**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Location:** Stony Rapids Community Hall, Johnson Street, Stony Rapids, SK

**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Location:** Paskwa Room, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, SK

This is your chance to learn more about the project, to ask questions and provide input on the Agreement Framework and other information previously provided to you.

For more details, please visit our website at [wsask.ca](http://wsask.ca)

# Elder's predictions have come to fruition

So far it's been an unsettling year. There's rumours of horrendous outcomes at the Fukushima nuclear plant and a devastating cold snap in Eastern Canada.

It used to be that a Canadian winter that has blasted our eastern neighbors, was just typical. We expected it. But climate change altered our perception and appreciation.

Milder winters with less snow and severe temperatures lulled us into false security. So that the sudden teeth of a raging Canadian winter storm knocks us for a loop.

When the earthquake in 2010 caused ruptures in the nuclear reactors in Fukushima, Japan, there was the requisite media frenzy.

But the typical shelf life of even as dangerous a story as that, meant that Fukushima vanished from our TVs, radios and newspapers and only the environmentally conscious kept tabs on it. Entering 2014 there was speculation that a meltdown in one of the reactors was imminent.

For me, it's not exactly news.

About 30 years ago now I was at a bundle opening ceremony in Wyoming. Bundles are sacred artifacts that contain items of great significance to the people.

They are used to guide prayers, ritual and ceremonies. Typically, they are opened to allow them to be re-energized every year just after the first thunders are heard. Those ceremonies around a bundle opening are very solemn and prayerful.

That year we sat in a council lodge, a very large teepee. There were about 30 of us there. Late on the second night one of the elders was speaking on the importance of the bundle to the well-being of the people.

Then he started talking about its use in conjunction with another very old artifact. He called it the Prophecy Pole.

He asked his assistant to bring it into the circle. It was wrapped in hide and when it was revealed we could tell that it was very old and very powerful.

The elder explained that it was carved by generations

of seers. All along its length were symbols and when it was shown to us up close, those symbols were mysterious and wonder inducing.

Near the top of the pole were symbols of lightning bolts flying through the air. He explained that this was the time we were about to enter back then.

The lightning bolts referred to people being able to speak to each across great distances. They referred to instantaneous communication.

They referred to the Internet and cell phones and computers. They referred to these days now.

He said that in this time other symbols on the pole referred to the Earth becoming unstable because all the lightning bolts flying through the air would change

important things. I know now that he referred to the magnetic field. Birds would lose their way, he said.

The ancient migrations of hoofed animals would be altered forever. The normal articulation of the seasons would become onerous; droughts, wildfires, storms, and earthquakes.

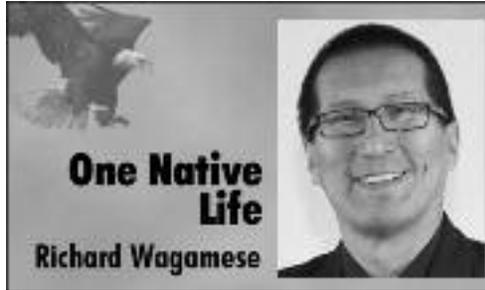
Everything he said 30 years ago has come to fruition. We live in an age of an unstable planet. We live in a time when great and sudden changes will continue. I'm not saying this because of the prophecy pole.

I'm saying it because it is true. What seeing and learning about the prophecy pole did for me was introduce me to the idea of predictable change.

Predictable change. We know that every action we take affects something or someone else. That's true for the planet as well.

Every pipeline, every open pit mine, tar sands development, or act of resource depletion profoundly affects the planet we call our home.

Predictable change. It's in our power to stop it. It always was.



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# Sask. Advantage Scholarships benefit thousands of students

Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris recently recognized recipients of the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship program.

"Since the program began in 2012, nearly 13,000 students have received the scholarship, totalling more than \$6.4 million in support," Norris said. "This scholarship is helping thousands of students pursue post-secondary education in Saskatchewan."

The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship provides current Saskatchewan Grade 12 graduates who enroll at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution with a scholarship of up to \$500 per year to a lifetime maximum of \$2,000. A student has up to 10 years to use the benefit.

David Fineday is in the first year Aircraft Maintenance Engineer program at SIIT and is a beneficiary of the Advantage Scholarship.

"The program is going really



Several Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship recipients were on hand for the announcement by Minister Rob Norris.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

well. The money is \$500 and it helps," said Fineday who is quite thankful about the scholarship and optimistic about the future of Saskatchewan. "I use the money for good things. And I have two more years of school for sure but my hours count towards my apprentice. There are a lot of opportunities out there if you can get up and really want to change, you can change."

The Saskatchewan Advantage Schol-

arship reduces tuition for students entering post-secondary programs at Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions.

"To support the continued growth of our province, we need to ensure that more of our students are entering post-secondary education, completing their training and connecting to jobs in the Saskatchewan economy," Norris said. "The Saskatchewan Advantage Schol-

ship helps make post-secondary education more affordable and accessible for students.

"Since 2008, our government has invested \$4.6 billion in our post-secondary institutions and students.

"This includes the Graduate Retention Program which provides up to a \$20,000 refundable and non-refundable tax credit for graduates who live in Saskatchewan."



DAVID FINEDAY

## Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation



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**Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation**

SAWCC joins Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan by taking a leadership role in responding to and addressing issues of interest and concern to Aboriginal women and their families to deliver responsive, effective, and valued resources, education, programming and advocacy at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

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## A decade of advocating for Aboriginal women

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation (SAWCC) is celebrating ten years of advocating for First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in the province. One of their highlights is an annual conference, which this year will be held February 6 and 7 in Saskatoon.

"We're focussing on economic opportunities, entrepreneurship and employment for Aboriginal women," explained SAWCC president Judy Hughes.

Statistics show that Aboriginal women make up a large pool of potential employers and employees for the Saskatchewan economy. According to research, the unemployment rate of First Nations women is 20.65 per cent on-reserve and 13.8 per cent off-reserve, while the unemployment rate of Inuit is 23.8 per cent and Métis women 10.5 per cent.

"This two-day event will engage a wide range of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, governments, corporations and organizations to identify and set targets to increase economic opportunities, entrepreneurship, and employment development for Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan."

The main goal of the conference is to not only explore possibilities for the present and the future, but to critically examine and address root causes of under-representation of Aboriginal women,

explore possibilities, build partnerships, and develop strategies.

Not only will the gathering work towards these goals, but additionally it will gather stakeholders and provide the opportunity for them to create individual and group action plans, including a draft grassroots Action Plan including the information, experiences, and data shared, what steps need to be taken and how these actions can best be supported.

Some of the targeted industry sectors besides individual businesses and entrepreneurial activities including manufacturing, hospitality, health, mining, banking, administration, industry and trade, and any non-traditional occupations or sectors underrepresented by Aboriginal people, especially women. Potential employers and industry partners have been included in the process, and the two days will have diverse programming, dynamic speakers and industry leaders, panels, and round-tables along with valuable opportunities to network and support one another while learning and sharing information.

SAWCC is a volunteer membership-based organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the status of Aboriginal women and families and their environments. This includes education, employment, advocacy, research and resource sharing.

The website is [www.sawcc.sk.ca](http://www.sawcc.sk.ca).

# Pipe fitting project leads to jobs for 13 students

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

A recent graduation of 13 future pipe fitters from the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and George Gordon First Nation was a small but significant event in mid December.

Not only did all 13 that enrolled complete the course, they all have worked lined up in the new year. Faced with a greying workforce, the Saskatchewan Piping Industry Joint Training Committee is investing in training First Nation people to be the next generation of the builders of Saskatchewan.

Kaine Gladue from Flying Dust was asked to speak at the grad on behalf of the students. He has a job lined up in the North in early 2014.

"This course showed me what it is like on-site. We helped each other out. We worked as a team to get ahead. If one of us finishes early, we go help another guy out. Working together to achieve a goal," said Gladue.

"We got lots of information in this eight week program. We learn stuff that they learn in fourth year at SIAST. When we go out to a work site, we will have a good grasp of what we are doing. When it



Every participant that started the training completed the training and all were offered employment. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

is time for us to go to SIAST for apprenticeship, we already have a foot in the door. I am feeling very good about the future."

The 13 participants were led by instructor Daniel Moose. He has been a journeyman since 2010 and has also won a national apprenticeship skills competition. Oftentimes one of only a few First Nations guys on site, now he is teaching

the next generation.

"Feels like I have reached a milestone in my career where I can pass on what I know," said Moose. "For advice for these guys, I tell them never be afraid to ask questions. Never quit trying."

Ken Busch, director of training at the Saskatchewan Piping Industry Joint Training Committee's Pipe Trades

Training Centre in Saskatoon, sees the demographic writing on the wall.

"Our membership is getting older. To make sure we have enough people in five years to help build Saskatchewan, we have recruited several new apprentices," said Busch.

"And we know the Aboriginal community is fast-growing and there is a need for jobs in industries around their communities. The work is not going to slow down."

The training took place at the Pipe Trades Training Centre a 9,000 square foot facility housing a weld shop, a pipe trades shop and classrooms and has been operational since 2011. The program was custom designed at the training centre using the United Associations training manuals and experience in training and taught by journeyman members of the union.

"I tell these guys the good careers they can have and how to handle themselves at work and this training centre is great for that," added Daniel Moose. "But I also tell them how good it feels for me to drive by a project I worked on like the Upgrader in Regina and I can say that I helped build Saskatchewan. Soon they can say that too."

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Application deadline: January 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.  
**Saskatoon Public Schools Inspiring Learning**

# Education task force recommendations prompt action

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

The Province of Saskatchewan is providing \$3 million for two initiatives that aim to improve education outcomes for First Nations and Métis students. The initiatives are based on recommendations made by the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

Gary Merasty, Chair of the Task Force, spoke at the official announcement, noting the task force members tried to be pragmatic and practical when identifying the existing gaps but also look at the assets that currently exist in the provincial and Aboriginal schools.

“And look at how those assets can best fill and address a lot of the gaps. And, I’m very pleased that this is the approach that the partners have embraced going forward. I encourage them to continue their work together,” he said, noting he would like to see a multi-year plan.

The \$3 million will be evenly split between expanding an already existing program and ensuring support services at on-reserve schools are on par with those offered at off-reserve schools.

language and culture through learning and telling their own stories.

“Our languages are really important to us ... I’ve made an effort to make sure that my children and grandchildren will be speaking the languages of their forefathers and foremothers.”

Saskatchewan Education Minister Don Morgan acknowledged at the announcement that First Nations and Métis education falls under the federal government’s jurisdiction.

“(However), we think it’s important to tear down some jurisdictional walls,” he told the media, noting the province would not get into the business of building infrastructure, but would consider providing money for programming.

The Province aims to

have these enhanced programs implemented for the beginning of the next school year. Already implemented and recommended by the Joint Task Force was driver training education for on-reserve schools.



FSIN Vice-Chief Bobby Cameron and Task Force chair Gary Merasty go over details of the announcement. (Photo by Darla Read)

The already existing program to be expanded to include another 100 on- and off-reserve schools is called ‘Help Me Tell My Story,’ and at its core is a stuffed turtle mascot named Askî, who is there for the assessment part of the program and returns for the review.

Maureen Taylor, Superintendent of the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, says the program, and the turtle, have already made a big difference for First Nations and Métis children, as well as their families.

“We have seen non-communicative children run to hug him and say ‘He’s back! He’s back!’ much to the amazement of their teacher,” noted Taylor. “We’ve had parents come to school to hear about the results and see the parent portal, only to leave and return an hour later with their spouse.”

The remaining \$1.5 million will expand services including speech language pathologists or reading and math coaches.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-Chief Bobby Cameron said the announcement illustrates a good working relationship where everyone is working toward the common goal of a better life for everyone in the province.

“What this signifies is that progress can happen,” said Cameron. “What’s going to have a positive impact for our people, whether we’re First Nations, Métis, or non-First Nations people.”

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette noted the funding will help students retain their

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# We need leaders like Nelson Mandela

What does it take to be a leader? On December 5, 2013 the world lost a legendary freedom fighter with the passing of Nelson Mandela.

He was the type of leader that comes along once in a lifetime and a role model to many people throughout the world. William Shakespeare said: "Do not be afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them."

Mandela was not afraid. He was born great and lived his whole life to make this world a better place for all of us. He taught us to stand up for our rights as human beings; that we are all equal and should be treated as such.

I believe that at the end of our lives we should all question what did we do to make this world a better place? Mandela said, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we lived.

It is what difference we have made in the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

How many of us actually live our lives with the intention of making the world a better place for others?

We appear to be in a world where everyone is out to make their own little

world better for themselves with little thought about for fellow human beings.

There are gangs in our communities that have "leaders" influencing our youth.

Believe me their intention is not to make our communities better and they don't give a crap about the little minions they are recruiting to do the dirty work. Just think what these people could do if they used their powers for good instead of evil?

We all have a stake in making our communities safer places for our children and grandchildren. There can only be gangs when our children are left to their own devices, when we, as parents and community members, don't give the youth the things they need to succeed.

Youth need love and attention, encouragement and support; they need to know that they are important people in our families and communities. If we ever hope to put an end to the violence and the attraction of belonging to gangs then we need to step up to our leadership roles.

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in

prison for fighting for the freedom of his people. Our young people are spending years in prison for property crimes and crimes of violence. We also

have community members who have never been in trouble with the law. They take care of their families and do every-

thing they can to help their children succeed. We need more people like this for they are the true leaders.

I'm sure that Nelson Mandela thought that he needed to make his community a better place, one that was fair and just for everyone.

We have seen great leaders from our communities over the years: John Tootoosis, Ovide Mercredi, Matthew Coon Come, Theresa Spence, David Ahenakew, Wally Fox, Sol Sanderson, Elijah Harper, Harry Cook and so many more.

They were committed to making our communities better places for our children and grandchildren. They pushed the provincial governments to change our education curriculums to

include the history of First Nation people and when that didn't happen they fought for Indian control of Indian Education. This fight continues.

We expect much from our leaders but what do we give in return? A leader can only be as good as the people he or she serves!

Ask yourself what do you do to make your community better? If your answer is nothing, then you have some work ahead of you. It has been said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step; well, neechi's step up!

Some of our past leaders sacrificed time with their own families to lobby the government to acknowledge Aboriginal rights in our constitution but there is still much that needs to be done.

I know we have leaders that have the same commitment to our people as Nelson Mandela had for his.

Step up people, we need you. Aboriginal rights are recognized in the Canadian Constitution but they are not defined. This is the job of our future leaders. Tapwe!

You can write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 St Main Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4 or email [sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com)



Sandee Sez  
Sandra Ahenakew

## Train the Trainer Traditional Family Parenting

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March 10 - 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Facilitator: Janet Fox, Onion Lake Sk

This workshop is recommended for Parents, Elders, Leadership, Youth, Teachers, Social Workers and Front Line Staff

**Workshop Topics:**

- Training to facilitate the Traditional Parenting
- How Our Ancestors Raised their Children
- Importance of Bonding, Soft Spot, Moss Bag, Swing
- Renew Parenting Skills using the Teachings & Values
- Lateral Violence - Healing Our Communities

Cost - \$495/per person  
Includes a parenting manual and all power points presentations. Lunch is on your own – coffee/refreshments provided  
**Please bring a memory stick for the power point presentations**

For more information contact:  
Lynn Muskwa (780) 983-8553  
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# ABORIGINAL *Coaches & Officials Program*

## BECOME A COACH OR OFFICIAL

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT:**

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Email: [nlukiw@sasksport.sk.ca](mailto:nlukiw@sasksport.sk.ca)  
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# Dirk Dashing's fearless predictions for 2014

Like many of you I am not surprised when my predictions for a new year are proven correct. And much like a member of parliament who has stumbled over the truth, I quickly pick myself up and hustle down the street as if nothing had happened.

This year, instead of dreary political forecasts for 2014, I will cast my net wider and venture into areas I know little to nothing about. In other words, nothing new.

## The Year of the Snake

We start with the Chinese Zodiac. According to the ancient Chinese astrologer, Warren 'Golden Rod' Goulding, 2014 is the Year of the Snake.

Apparently, anyone born this year will grow up with certain characteristics. They will be complete arses. People will laugh at them because they have a comical grasp of the English language. On the bright side, they will have rich imaginations, due in part to their fleeting and erratic acquaintance with reality.

Right about now, readers are wondering, "Well isn't that interesting. How on earth can we verify this?"

Everyone has a dingbat somewhere in their life. Sneak a look at their birth certificate. Odds are they were born in the years

2002, 1990, 1978 and 1966 - also Years of the Snake.

I kid, of course. Not all people born in the Year of the Snake will be idiots. Some of them will be worse. Some of them will come from Whitewood.

## A Domsday Prophecy

Moving on to the world of doomsday prophecies, I must take issue with Nostradamus, the famous French doomsday prophet from the 16th century.

Apparently, one of his signs of the apocalypse is that the Poles will melt, and many scientist types today seem to be in agreement. The theory goes that once the Poles melt the world will be covered in water, just like in that Kevin Costner movie, Dances With Wolves.

Is there something to the Polish diet that will cause them to combust, leaving behind vast puddles of burrito juice, which is, I am told, their national meal.

Yeah, I don't think so. The Poles I've met seem healthy enough.

## Our Solar System

In an unusual planetary alignment

Mars will say, "To Zeus with this, I'm going for it!" and consummate a promising but always thwarted intimate relationship with Venus.

This hook-up will trigger massive events on Earth, who only pretended to be Mars' wing-man but was in fact holding secret feelings for Venus, and was messing up Mars' game. Despite his

## The Weather

The weather will improve in March.

Maybe April.

## Scientific Revelations

The year 2014 will be the year of science. Among some of the fantastic discoveries to expect?

First, God does exist and he is American. Scientists will base this conclusion on the miraculous appearance of Gideon bibles in every hotel room across North America and the fact that every bible is written in American.

Second, the owner and editor of Eagle Feather News - one Jim Lagiderriere or

something - was in fact breastfed by rainbows, sired by sunshine, mentored by daffodils, imitated by stallions.

Third, it will be confirmed that science works, not because it has a monopoly on the truth, but because it gets results. Hence the revelation about Jim above.

## Cultural Developments

In the area of culture two developments are of note.

First, the federal government will launch another ill-advised employment program. The latest work for welfare program will see Indians refusing to work in government subsidized helium factories. Why? We refuse to be spoken to in that tone.

Think about it.

Helium factory? Spoken to in that tone?

The second cultural development will occur when I am informed that my column is irritating by not one person, not two people, not three people, not four people, not five people, not six people, not seven people ...

That's it. Now you know what to expect in 2014.

Dirk says, "I have often been described as having a mind like a steel trap. Things wander in and get mangled."



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