

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Music and culture to rock NAIG

Tessa Desnomie, NAIG Opening and Closing Ceremonies Coordinator, welcoming everyone to the opening ceremonies to be held at Mosaic Stadium.



Opening ceremonies set for July 20

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – The North American Indigenous Games are just around the corner. The games will start on July 20 when the dynamic opening ceremonies will take place at Mosaic Stadium.

The opening and closing ceremonies coordinator, Tessa Desnomie, says she is thrilled to see the lineup of performers and entertainment.

“All of the entertainers that we have booked for opening and closing ceremonies have been super excited to be a part of this event. I think they all realize the importance to our youth and our athletes and to be a part of something special,” she says.

The speeches at the opening ceremonies will be pre-recorded and they will be played on the jumbo-tron. The only live speakers will be an elder for the opening prayer and a dignitary to declare the Games open.

“There’s going to be entertainment aside from our

oath statement and the lance runners that will be coming in,” she says.

“We have a dance troupe, the Thundering Hills Dance Theatre, that will help bring in our athletes. We also have the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) that will be producing a wonderful story. We will have performances by B.C. pop artist, Inez Jasper, Juno Award winner George Leach, Crystal Shawanda, and Plex, a hip-hop artist from Toronto,” she adds.

Curtis Peeteetuce, the talent coordinator from SNTC, says he was excited but yet feeling the pressure when SNTC was asked to perform in the opening ceremonies.

“I was feeling a little nervous, scared, overwhelmed and intimidated because this is a big event, even though it’s 15 minutes,” says Peeteetuce.

SNTC will be doing a short movement piece according to Peeteetuce. There will be an electronic drum that will display images on the jumbo-tron.

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Graduation Edition

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CPMA #40027204

Opening, closing ceremonies a big part of NAIG

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The show is written by a talented writer, Kenneth T. Williams, from the George Gordon First Nation.

“We started rehearsal on July 3, rehearsing three full weekends from Thursday right to Sunday. We’re going to do that three times before NAIG begins,” says Peeteetuce.

“We have a team of 30 volunteer performers who we will be rehearsing with us in Regina on the field,” he adds.

Desnomie says the closing ceremonies will have a different feel from previous years.

“We really want to keep it upbeat and entertaining. It will happen 8:30 in the evening on the Saturday night. Some of the performers we’ll have Sagkeeng’s Finest, Joey Stylez and a Tribe Called Red, who will be headlining the show. I’m so



The Opening and closing ceremonies for NAIG are massive undertakings packed with culture and the best Indigenous artists and dancers out there. Fans are excited to see Sagkeeng’s Finest rip up the stage and a Tribe Called Red in the closing ceremonies. (Photo Facebook)

excited to see them. I think the kids will love it,” she says.

The opening and closing ceremonies will be packed with great and exciting entertainment.

The opening ceremonies are a ticketed event at a cost of \$10 each.

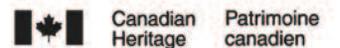
“We’re prepared to have the 4,500 athletes coming through. We are hoping to sell out 9,000 seats, the lower grand stand of Mosaic stadium,” says Desnomie.

The closing ceremonies will be a free event starting at 8:30 pm taking place at the Cultural Village.

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NAIG athletes ready to perform

NAIG Profile

Athlete: Jullian Bird

Age: 18

From: Wahpeton

Sport: Basketball

By Jeanelle Mandes

For Eagle Feather News

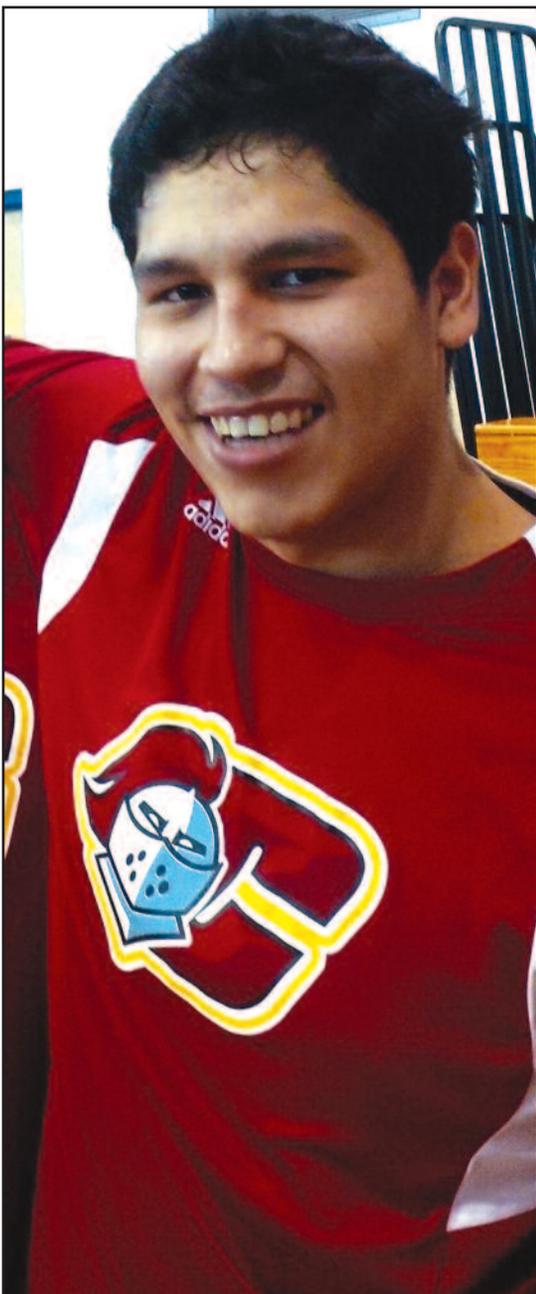
PRINCE ALBERT – Jullian Bird from Wahpeton, Saskatchewan, is excited to be representing Team Saskatchewan for the North American Indigenous Games this year.

“I feel pretty proud of myself for making Team Sask.,” said Bird. Bird, in Grade 12, has been playing basketball since he was in Grade 9. He said his older brother taught him how to play the sport and they practice together whenever they can. Now that the Carlton high school basketball season is over, he tries to practice everyday for the upcoming games.

“I look forward at winning a gold medal at NAIG,” said Bird. He says it is the love of the sport that inspires him to continue playing.

His message to the youth is to never give up.

“Just keep practicing because hard work pays off. If you get cut from a team, just keep trying and never give up,” said Bird.



NAIG Profile

Athlete: Keisha Ermine

Age: 17

From: Sturgeon Lake

Sport: Softball

By Jeanelle Mandes

For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – Keisha Ermine started playing softball starting at a young age and has been playing ever since. She has years of good coaches that have inspired her passion for the sport. When she heard the news that she made it for Team Saskatchewan in the North

American Indigenous Games (NAIG), she was taken by surprise.

“It was very shocking, because there was such good talent. I was really proud of myself because I worked really hard going to the gym everyday for two hours at least, throwing the ball around trying to get ready and it’s really reassuring that I do my job right.”

She continues to train herself almost on a daily basis by throwing the ball around with friends and teammates.

She’s looking forward to having a great and enjoyable experience at NAIG and to play the sport she loves.

“I’m looking forward to represent Team Sask. and try my hardest.”

Her message to the youth is to, “try your hardest and don’t give up. Don’t let others bring you down and do what you want to do. Find someone to push and motivate you.”

The person that most motivates Keisha in her life is her mom, Stacey Ermine.

“She’s been the biggest support system in my life, that’s the one; she’s always there to make sure I’m doing my job, my homework.”

Keisha plans to reach for a post-secondary education after completing high school and try getting a scholarship and hopefully play college ball in the States.



Gary belongs to two communities. We’re proud to be one of them.

Gary Lerat grew up in a community he loves — the Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan. Today, he’s also a member of the PotashCorp community. Thanks to a unique outreach program, we’re tapping into the talents of First Nations and Métis people like Gary. We offered him a career path at our Rocanville mine, and he’s making the most of it. “It’s got that community feel,” says Gary about PotashCorp. “Everyone there is almost like family.” To see the video of Gary’s story, visit PotashCorp.com/25



The ten things I didn't learn in high school

Jordan Cummins and Alyssa Czanojoc jumped for joy at their graduation. Their exuberance, and a well-timed photo, has earned them the honour of being our graduation photo of the year. Jordan and Alyssa are just two of the thousands of First Nation and Métis graduates from Grade 12, Adult Basic Ed, trades and university that are getting ready to take that next step in life.

Graduating from high school can be very difficult, believe me. I barely graduated high school ... the teen years are tough and balancing school, work, family and out of control hormones is almost impossible. You spend most of your time just surviving day-to-day not even thinking to prepare for the future.

I was honoured this year to be asked to give the Address to the Graduates at the Oskayak Graduation in Saskatoon. A record 55 grads and their families and escorts and school staff made for a 600 person banquet. Quite intimidating.

Remembering nothing from high school, I decided to share with the young people ten things that I have learned since I left high school. I hoped these little tips would give them perspective and be of some value to them somewhere down the road. Here they are. Maybe they can help you.

1. You are who you hang out with. Spend too much time with Pooper Pete, Gang Banger Gary or Miserable Mary and you will become them. Try to either lift them up, or cut the tie.

2. It is okay to fail. It shows you are trying and you learn from each failure.

3. Keep learning. Whether it is a trade, university, watching your cousin fix a car, doesn't matter. Read books. Keep that mind sharp.

4. Be proud of who you are

and your ancestry. Never been a better time for First Nation and Métis people in Canada.

5. When you mess up, own it. Nothing beats a true sincere apology...believe me, done several.

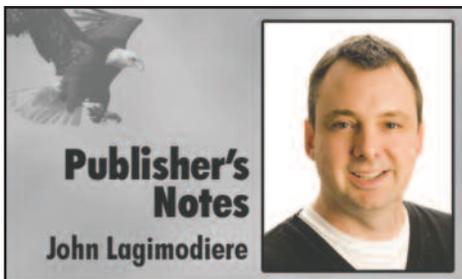
6. It is okay to be successful. You deserve it.

7. Get up in the morning. Move out of the basement. Shave. Clean yourself up.

8. Take care of yourself. Eat a good diet. Feed your spirit. Go fishing.

9. Give back to the community. Volunteer with young people, old people and at sports events. Donate money! Be a secret Santa.

10. Nothing will be given to you. But with all that you have learned and



with your family and community behind you, you can now take opportunities that come your way. We don't have to wait any longer. We have to take it.

Never in my life would I have thought that I would be called on to give words of wisdom to a graduating class and I was deeply honoured to take part in that moving evening. Best of luck to all of the graduates of 2014.

Are you ready for the North American Indigenous Games?

Things are falling into place as Indigenous people from around North America prepare to descend into Regina

for NAIG. I don't know about you but I'm nervous and I bet there is some panic and trepidation from the committee folks as well. Pre game jitters they call it. Because plan as you like, you never know until go time if everything is going to come together. And for this event, there is a whole lot of everything.

Can you really blame them for being nervous? The committee and staff are responsible for raising millions of dollars and for sleeping and feeding thousands.

They have to coordinate coaches, managers and athletes. They need volunteers to coordinate the volunteers.

They need referees, officials, someone to look after parking and the opening and closing ceremonies. Someone has to look after all of the sponsors and make sure the entertainers and Elders have amenities. Someone has to record all those results and work with the media.

They have had to work with several different levels of government and a myriad of business partners to fund and promote the games. And I bet I left off 100 things on the to-do list.

And here we are, 11 days away from the event as this is written. The NAIG team has done a remarkable job so far and we are sure it will all come together without a hitch (a visible one at least) because sometimes, good things are just meant to be.

Couple that with the hard work and professionalism of the NAIG staff and volunteers, and I am sure we are in for a great time in Regina. Good luck to all the athletes and see you at the Opening Ceremonies!

Make sure you follow the coverage of the North American Indigenous Games on our website. Daily results and stories you won't find anywhere else.

www.eaglefeathernews.com



Jordan Cummins and Alyssa Czanojoc's jump for joy after graduating from the SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert from the New Media and Communications Program earned them First Place in our annual Graduation Photo Contest. They are both returning for more school in the fall. Good job and good luck Jordan and Alyssa! (Photo submitted by Tammy Cummins)

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Tansi niciwakinak kinanaskumptinawow

Good evening, I give thanks for all of you being here. My name is Andre Bear niya nehieyawsikason Wapastim Koh Oh Toteet Sakastinohk Napew. My Cree name is White Horse Who Comes from the East Man.

Tonight I am humbly honored to be your 2014 SIMFC Valedictorian.

I am holding this keihiew feather, and this feather alone is my most prized and most sacred possession. A cherished friend that I made during my Grade 12 year honored me with this feather. It was said that this feather had travelled across Turtle Island and that it holds many stories from many people and it has experienced many ceremonies.

These were stories of hurt, injustice, stories of our people from long ago who have walked Mother Earth in this physical world. The stories of our old ones, teach us the battles we must face to carry on the legacy of freedom and love that we as Indian people once knew. It is said that the young people, will be the ones to carry out the dreams of the old ones. Every one of you, carry the battles of a thousand ancestors who walk before you.

Every one of you are carefully guided, directed and protected by these old people. Our ancestors have never died in vain, because their spirits thrive and live amongst all of us. The honoring of an eagle feather represents the journey of these ancestors, the legacy at the same time it tells our own stories. We must first seek who we are and find ourselves within what is real and what is true.

I believe in who we are as First Nations and Métis peoples because we are real, true and natural. As always the only real and natural thing within our physical world is our lands, our waters. Mother Earth is what is true, the grandest most magnificent teacher there is. I was told that this feather also means that our dreams do come true. As long as you continue to find yourselves and remain

connected, anything you could possibly dream of is possible, it represents that you should never bound your beliefs and always let your spirit soar.

I will say it again, dreams do come true. Every natural teacher like this feather brings us back to the land, our ceremonies. Finding yourself within this is what honors your ancestors and launches you onto the path of greatness, the path of love and freedom, the path of truth. As you look amongst my fellow peers you can see that we have indeed found that path, with are the 7th generation, and tonight I say watch closely as we change this world.

From a place of injustice, pain, hurt and suffering. We have every single statistic standing in our way. We are more likely to be in jail than to graduate, we are most likely to turn to drugs then deal with our realities, and we are most likely to take our own lives than to live the lives we do.

We did not create these statistics ourselves. No, this is not a hereditary outcome that we as Indian people are born with. These statistics are forced upon our people each and every day by the dominant colonial oppressor. As it was once said to me, the greatest genocide in the history of mankind was the genocide of First Nations peoples within North America. When we look at our young people, strong and proud we can see that this genocide has never completed.

But the reality of our society is that the genocide has never ended. Every day our peoples face the extinction imposed by the oppressor in regards of total control to the lands and waters.

As long as we have our young people, as long as we have our pride and ceremonies, as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and rivers flow we as Indian people will continue to persevere with great pride and resilience.



Valedictorian Andre Bear

From the bottom of my heart, I look at my fellow graduates and the battles they overcame to get to this point in our lives. I am proud. As the supporters and loved ones of these young people I know you feel the same way, the same way Our Creator, mamowootoweemow is proud these young people.

When I look around this room, I can feel the old ones, our ancestors are with us, and we make them smile. They have never and will never leave our sides. If I could leave one thing for my fellow graduates to remember, it's this.

Remember what is real, and what is true. As you go amongst your journeys remember our ancestors and that they are always with you and that they love you. When you are sad, when you are alone, when you are in need of guidance and direction. Ask. And they will come; they will hold you until you find the strength to pick yourselves up again.

We as Indian people are eternal, we as Indian people are love, we are freedom, and we are light.

Kinanaskumptin, I thank you.

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Recalling some warm summer sports stories

The calendar says it should be warm outside so it must be time for summer stories. For me summer stories are sports stories.

The North American Indigenous Games are being held in Regina July 20 – July 27. I do not know much about NAIG but it appears to be a multi-sports event for junior athletes 18 and under.

I wish all the young athletes the best success in their competitions. It is very nice to see the young ones get a chance to develop their skills and make some friends. It is very important for people to start young in their sports, because that is when the nervous system is developing.

It is well near impossible to excel at the top level in a sport that you did not play as a youngster. Remember when Michael Jordan tried baseball after he retired from basketball? Now I don't mean to start as young as that little 11-year old Lucie Li who played in the Women's U.S. Open last week. That was in golf, for you readers who don't know the great Scottish game.

I believe that most if not all players on the LPGA (the top professional tour in golf for women) could have played at the same level or near to it at 11 years old but most parents prefer a child to grow up in a more normal style rather than put in all

the hard work and practice in one sport. It was cute and so the media jumped all over it. Too many young ones get burnt out and lose their love for the game by the time they leave home.

Being of the remembering generation rather than of the playing generation, I am already well into my summer stories. So I might as well dig a bit more into my desiccated old memory glands and remember how it was 'back in the day'. I grew up in St. Laurent a small Métis community along the southeast shore of Lake Manitoba where school was taught by missionary nuns and sports were taboo.

I learned how to skate when I did Grade 9 at an Oblate residential school where I never returned on account of a case of homesickness. I actually had skated a few times before that. It had been on the local muskrat ponds when my foot fit the one antique pair of dull skates that floated around our family of 11 boys and one girl.

I never went far in hockey, or 'ice hockey' as it is called internationally. I played for senior teams in Manitoba and



Comment

Paul Chartrand

when I ended up in Australia during my adult life I actually was named to the national team that consisted mainly of Canadians, but

unfortunately we had no opposition to play against!

Aussie is far from the hockey world and our team would not have worried any decent North American amateur team. My career highlight was playing for Sagkeeng Old Timers (which was written in as 'Sagging Old Timers' in one tournament schedule) from Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba where a friend and teammate was Saskatchewan Hockey Hall of Fame legend Jim Neilson of New York Rangers fame.

After high school I began to play baseball back home as the community created a team at that time. We played in a local league and I became a pitcher. I think I could throw hard but in those days there were no American baseball scouts looking for professional players so I ended up playing in various leagues in Canada and getting paid for the fun, at least with some teams.

I lived in Australia from 1974 to 1982. The big game there is cricket, followed by various codes of football generally known as 'rugby' in Canada. Baseball was just building up in Australia at that time and I was selected to play on the national team. In this sport at least we had opponents to play against. As a result of my baseball pitching experience today I am competent to order up to five beers in the Japanese language. And to say 'thank you'.

A late friend of mine who was heavily involved in developing the Australian game, Tim Nilsson, had three boys who made the pro ranks and one of them David, was on the American League All-Star team as a catcher with the Milwaukee Brewers 'back in the day'. I am glad to see many young Aussies in the major leagues these days, as well as more and more Canadians who are making it to the 'big time'.

In summer stories it is always nice to remember how it used to be. But today in places such as NAIG there is the thrill of watching the young ones compete. You can see the energy and life in their faces as they savour the thrill of competition and the rewards for all the hard work that comes before the dream.

Life is good in the summer.

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White Buffalo Youth Centre
602 20th Street West

READ Saskatoon

It's more than words.



Summer Michel-Stevenson receives her Saskatchewan Junior Citizen of the Year award from Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association President Rob Clark at a ceremony in Regina. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

Positive lifestyle earns Stevenson Junior Citizen Award

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Saskatchewan Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield presented Junior Citizen of the Year Awards to four young individuals who live positive lifestyles and who have demonstrated strong leadership roles in their communities.

Summer Michel-Stevenson, from Pelican Narrows, says she was excited and honored to receive such a prestigious award.

“I was really happy and surprised because there’s a lot of other youth that get nominated for this award. It’s an honor that I got chosen,” she said after receiving the award at a ceremony held in Regina in early July.

At the age of 17, Stevenson recently received the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award of Excellence, The Lieutenant Governor’s Award of Excellence, the Bobby Bird award, and so much more. She is the Junior Chief of the youth council back in her home community where she encourages the youth to live a positive lifestyle.

Unlike many youth, Stevenson has the skill to speak her Cree language and takes part in cultural activities such as moose hunting and growing natural medicines.

“Back home, there’s not a lot for the youth to do. That’s why we started up the youth council. We plan trips and events so they have something to do.”

Stevenson’s mom, Bella, is very

proud of her daughter’s achievement.

“For me and my husband, we’re from the northern community and not many people get chosen. We’re very happy and proud of her.”

Chris Ashfield, Chairman of the Junior Citizen Award sponsored by the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association (SWNA), says this year the committee received about 50 nominations for this award.

“These awards recognize outstanding individuals who have positive lifestyles. Programs like this show that Saskatchewan has some great youth. I think we have the best people living here in this province,” says Ashfield.

Each recipient was presented with a medal and a cheque for \$3,000. Stevenson says she plans on investing her money in her future plans.

“I’d probably save it for university, because I applied for Arts and Science in Prince Albert at the First Nations University of Canada and I plan to go on into pediatrician or something,” she says.

“It’s really nice to be drug and alcohol free and to be a positive person because you get these opportunities and awards. Kids will look up to me and want to achieve these goals I’ve achieved,” Stevenson adds.

The other three recipients who received this award are Kaitlyn Budzak, Morgan Fast and Melissa Whelpton.

The award was sponsored by the SWNA, SaskPower and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

 A large advertisement featuring a photograph of a modern, curved building under construction, surrounded by green trees. The text is overlaid on the image.

Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre

under construction on the Saskatoon campus

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Missing Tamra

Barbecue marks ten year anniversary

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA—A barbecue to mark the ten year anniversary of the mysterious disappearance of Tamra Keepness was held in a community park in Regina's core neighbourhood.

Troy Keepness, father of Tamra, says even after ten years it is still hard for him to cope with his daughter's disappearance.

"It's been a long time, a lot of heartache and just in shock of how long it's been. I'm still scared," he says. "I'm afraid if it was the worse thing of her not being alive," he adds.

He says he pictures her as a 15-year-old teenager and tries to imagine what she would look like today. Keepness, five years old at the time, went missing in July 2004 from her Regina home during the night. She was reported missing the next day by her mother, Lorena Keepness.



Tamra's kokum Joyce Keepness.

Erica Beaudin, Urban Services Manager for the Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services (RT/SIS), has been the original organizer for the annual barbecue for Keepness and hopes this event spreads awareness to the public.

"It's to remind the public that we're still searching for Tamra," she says. "If Tamra's out there, she is aware that we are still looking for her and we haven't forgotten



TROY KEEPNESS

her," she adds. Beaudin says they choose the core community park every year because it's the community she grew up in.

RT/SIS has been keeping constant contact with the



police, being aware and ready to search when tips come in.

On behalf of the Regina Police Service, Insp. Darcy Cook says the police remain committed to this investigation.

"We have investigators ongoing looking for information to lead to her location. It's important that the public's assistance is very important," he says. "We encourage everyone to remain diligent in obtaining information and we'll continue this investigation actively."

Many people within the community attend this barbecue to support the search for Tamra and her family. Kyrsten Saulteaux, a youth worker with RT/SIS, says it's very important for her to attend to



Tamra Keepness was five years old when she disappeared from her Regina home one summer night in 2004. The search for the little girl has been ongoing ever since. A reward for information that will help police solve the mystery has been raised to \$50,000 by the Regina Police Service.

support the family and the community because she works with a lot of youth every day.

"It's so important to have our kid's safe and that's why I like being here because of the young kids and I work with them," she says.

Keepness' father encourages people to watch their children closer because there are a lot of bad people out there. He hopes his daughter is out there listening and sends this heartfelt message to her: "I love you and come home."

Recently, the Regina Police Service increased the reward from \$25,000 to \$50,000, hoping someone will come forward with information that will help them solve this case.

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Graduates about to begin real, rewarding life

The times, they are changing, and more and more Aboriginal students are completing high school and going on to university.

Saskatchewan Indian Institute on Technology, First Nations University of Canada and Gabriel Dumont Institute have produced hundreds of graduates over the years and it is becoming a common thing to hear about these students using their education to find jobs.

Statistics Canada keeps highlighting the fact the Aboriginal people are the fastest growing and youngest sector of the Canadian population.

Cap and gown season has arrived. Students and teachers are breathing a sigh of relief as their high school and post secondary educations come to a close.

After years of hard work and dedication families are celebrating the accomplishments of these determined students.

There was a time when the Indian Act stated that any "Indian" receiving a University degree would no longer be entitled to be registered as an Indian and would lose their "Indian status".

Residential schools had a mandate to take the Indian out of the child but we have persevered.

But ... we still have a long way to go, people. There are some folks out there who do not want to hire Aboriginal people ... tapew!

Don't expect that you're going to find a job and start at the manager or director level either; if you are fortunate to get hired it will likely be at an entry level position and you will have to work your way up the ladder.

There are many stereotypes, myths and misconceptions that you are going to have to deal with in the workplaces.

Many people have never met First Nations people who have gone to University or have never actually worked with First Nations people.

Take the opportunity to educate them (in a respectful way). At the end of the day we are all working toward similar goals – to feed ourselves and our families.

I have worked at the same place for over a decade and I am always aware that I am First Nations. No matter how sick I might be (cold, flu or whatever) I will never miss work on a payday or the day after payday

because I don't want people thinking I missed work because I was out partying.

I thought my parents were being paranoid when they told me I was going to have to work twice as hard as everyone else because I was a First Nations woman. My folks were right.

Develop a strong work ethic; come to work on time and do the work assigned to you.

There are many jobs that need to be filled and First Nations people can do the jobs – believe in yourselves and your children. Living on social assistance is not living – it is existing.

The reality is there is no money for anything extra; in fact, most times it's not enough money to pay rent and bills.

University is not the only thing out there. Think about technical institutes, trades, or community colleges. Want to be a barber or hairdresser?

There is a school for you out there.

Graduates you are about to begin real life!! There will be obstacles; there will be days when you wonder why you were so excited to leave high

school.

Remember if you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

As the great Dr. Seuss once said, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own."

And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go."

My last bit of advice; do what you love. You have the gift of time. Use it to do what you love. Believe anything is possible and then work like hell to make it happen.

There is a Cree proverb that says, "Realize that we as human beings have been put on this earth for only a short time and that we must use this time to gain wisdom, knowledge, respect and the understanding for all human beings since we are all relatives."

So be kind to each other and help each other because it is the right thing to do. Congratulations to all the graduates. Ekosi.

Keep your letters and emails coming.

Send your questions or comments to: Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 ST Main Saskatoon, SKK 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



U of S Nursing

Congratulations graduates! Have you considered becoming a nurse? Did you know you don't have to live in Saskatoon to take your U of S Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree?

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Broken brothers and sisters and bingo winged bigots

You may have come to this edition of the Chronicles expecting more about men's health. You are about to be disappointed. I got something I got to get off my chest.

So I am stopped at a red light on one of Saskatchewan's most beautiful cities – and, no, it's not Cupar – when crossing the street are two of the brothers.

Their skin is darkened from far too many hours in the sun, clothes wrinkled from having been slept in the night before, though smoothed out, all traces of leaves and dust brushed away though a hint remains.

Their faces glisten too much, perhaps from too much of the cheaper brand of refreshments they drank, perhaps to help them celebrate waking up on this side of the ground for at least one more day. I don't know.

The lad in front held his head up and a hint of a weary smile was on his face, as though there was hope ahead, perhaps around the corner where a family member or friend could lend a hand. Maybe even a place to stay.

The fella bringing up the rear was taller, thinner. The head he carried was much lower, and though I could not see his eyes, I knew the asphalt stones he stared into were giving him no answers. It was the look of defeat.

I knew at once these young men were lost. Not in the geographic sense, but at the emotional and spiritual level.

They were no danger to anyone except to their own livers. In fact, the sense that swept over me was that these were decent enough guys who were quietly desperate, having been displaced, misplaced and forgotten.

Had circumstances been different, one of these kind blokes could had it in him to have found the cure to cancer. Or written a better story line for Star Wars Part I - The Phantom Menace. Or he could have raised the next P.K. Subban.

My mind, being the way it is, immediately swung over to why they landed here, drifting on the streets nearby the river.

To my mind the story would begin somewhere with their parents or grand-

parents or ancestors, the residential schools, or some other crushing government policy.

Other possible reasons drifted through my skull when the attention of my brain thingy is drawn to the woman in the car next to me. The venom on her face. Wow!

Fully decked out in her judgment-ready bright green blouse this woman of at least 50 is clenching the steering wheel with all the might her flabby arms could muster.

Her bingo winged arms were shaking so much I thought she might take flight. Was it my imagination? Was there spit oozing out of the corner of her mouth?

Hate. It is so unattractive.

I brought this vision to the attention of some of the finer members of Dirk's Board when one of the bigger members mentioned an interesting fact.

To this day, in pursuit of the self-righteous goal of assimilation, government makes it easy for Indians to migrate from reserves to the city centres. However, if things do not go according to plan, there is little to no help to get home.

What are the results? Young men, and young women, are enticed by the lure of an easier, vibrant life in the city, only to find themselves trapped. Displaced, misplaced and forgotten.

There are side-benefits to this plan.

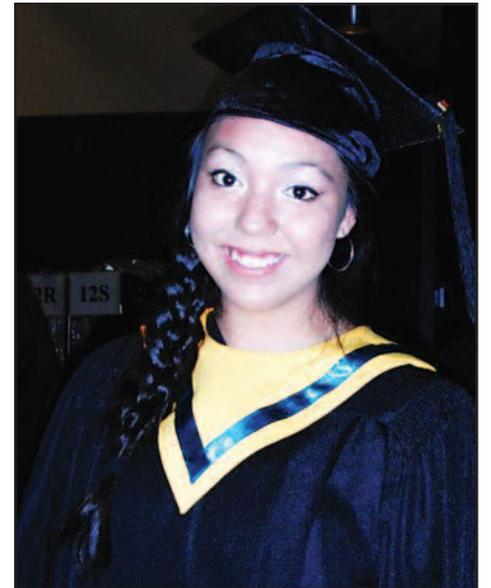
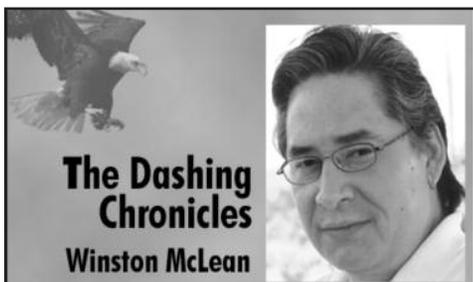
For as long as the situation persists and is reinforced by, for example, broken brothers and sisters haunting the streets, then righteous people can have someone to blame for the ills of this country.

And still others, like the Harpies, can get more votes and build their empires.

If you can demonize a person or a community, it becomes easier to do unspeakable things to them to make yourself feel better.

I am mildly surprised the harpy in the car next to me didn't plow her vehicle over the brothers crossing the street.

Dirk says, She wanted me to whisper dirty things in her ear. I said, "kitchen, bathroom, floors ..."



Coming in second place in our Annual Graduation Photo Contest was Lexi Brunet who graduated from St Joseph High School in Saskatoon. The joyful shot with the historic Bessborough Hotel in the background makes this photo self explanatory. And coming in third is the classic grad shot and great smile of Feather Pewapiconias who graduated from Campbell Collegiate in Regina. These young people are representative of a growing number of First Nation and Métis graduates every year. We know how challenging it can be at times so we want to congratulate all of the graduates in Saskatchewan. Job well done.

SECOND
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FALL 2014



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Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

SIIT grads told they're in demand in today's workforce

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Family and friends gathered recently in Saskatoon to celebrate the achievements of the student in their lives. Around 200 graduates from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies received their diplomas or certificates at convocation.

That was just a fraction of those who graduated this year, though: there were around 2,600 graduates across all of SIIT's programs and campuses.

SIIT has been offering programs for 30 years in

areas such as adult basic education, aircraft maintenance engineer, business administration and information technology, community and health studies, professional development and trades and industrial training.

"I can tell this is an institution like no other in the province and all of Canada," Mark Strahl, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada told the crowd, reflecting on the sense of family amongst students and staff at the school's celebration.

The school's president, Riel Bellegarde, commented that there were two significant days for him this past year.

"The first, when you, the student body, walked through the doors that first week of September, making SIIT your institute of choice.

"The second, today."

He told the students he is very excited about the potential each of them has, and told them "you are in demand" whether they choose to stay and work in Saskatchewan or travel across Canada.



It was smiles and thumbs up all around at a recent SIIT grad. Over 200 students participated in the Saskatoon graduation, but SIIT anticipates over 2000 graduates from programs across the province this year. (Photo by Darla Read)



NEWS THAT NOT ONLY INFORMS, BUT INSPIRES.

Trust Larissa Burnouf, your Saskatoon correspondent, to gather stories from an Aboriginal perspective. *APTN National News* reports each weeknight from regional bureaus across Canada, delivering the stories that affect us all.

aptn.ca/news

Pinehouse heads towards self-determination of elders, new role in resource industry

PINEHOUSE – The Northern Village of Pinehouse is a textbook example of the harm of colonialism on Aboriginal people and how becoming self-determining can turn those communities around.

going to be shy about it.

“We need to grow from it and learn from it and not keep doing the same things. Alcohol is a deadly disease for a lot of communities when you have hopelessness.”

SPECIAL REPORT BY

JOHN LAGIMODIERE OF EAGLE FEATHER NEWS

From humble beginnings in the early 1900s, when a collective of Aboriginal families along the Churchill River started to live a communal and traditional life at what was known as “Snake Lake”, to a community shattered by alcohol, Pinehouse has now grown to a thriving community of 1,500 that has hope and a prosperous future.

As part of their rejuvenation, the community recently hosted their 5th Annual Northern Elders Gathering. Along with daily activities including smoking fish, birch bark biting, storytelling and nightly entertainment, Mayor Mike Natomagan took the opportunity to relate the history of the community to their guests.

The community practiced traditional ways of hunting, fishing, trapping, raising cattle and participating in the fur trade. As the traditional life continued, the community was healthy. The settlement grew, then was moved to its current location and renamed Pinehouse Lake by missionaries around 1945. In the 1950s, a school was established, a store opened and alcohol was introduced into the community. The traditional way of life continued into the ‘60s but the Department of Natural Resources came in and started enforcing conservation rules on the community, curtailing traditional ways and impeding the economy.

In the 1970s, alcoholism became a major issue, so much so that parents took extreme steps to protect their children.

“We had 31 kids in care of the government and we were at 500 population at the time,” said Mayor Mike Natomagan at the Elders Gathering.

“Speaking to elders, that number was an understatement. We didn’t have a road here. When planes came, some of the elders would go to the plane to meet Social Services to try and get their kids out for safe keeping. It is a bad history for us, but at the same time we are not

The town was facing challenges of physical and economic isolation, loss of culture, external governance, poor housing and sanitation and limited access to education and job opportunities.



Annie Natomagan shows off the trout she just filleted. The cooks and the smoker were going steady during the Elders Gathering, feeding everyone amazing fresh fish, moose and soups and of course bannock.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

The alcohol problem drew the attention of the media.

The people received a slap in the face in the late 1970s after CBC’s fifth estate did an expose on the community called The Dry Road Back. It was an unflattering portrayal of alcoholism and poverty and they deemed Pinehouse the “Drinking capital of Northern Saskatchewan.”

It was followed by a Regina Leader Post article calling it the saddest place in the North.

Watching the documentary with Mayor Natomagan is fascinating. His commentary is chilling.

“That person is dead from alcoholism. That person is in the pen,” he points out as the camera shows the people and himself

in rough houses, being fed bannock as their main food.

Natomagan, who was raised by his grandparents on their trapline, used to make a raft and go live on an island with his friends during the summer and fish and hunt birds.

“It was about survival. People in our village were spending \$250,000 a year at the liquor store in La Ronge. Seeing ourselves in this way on the documentary was the turning point for



Young people like Navaeh, Angelina and Pinehouse has 750 people under the age

our community.

“We started rebuilding our community and used local governance, the Kineepik Métis Local was created, health services and education became available and finally sanitation,” said Natomagan.

The turning point also coincided with the development of mines in the North.

“The uranium industry has certainly helped with changing our future. I worked for Cameco for 12 years, both at Key Lake and MacArthur. When the community voted me in at a by-election as Mayor I



Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook Searson and a few trout, learn some new techniques and, under a watchful eye, prepare some fish heads for boiling.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

ation with guidance



and Isabelle are the future of Pinehouse and the North. of 19.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

wondered why the community wasn't taking advantage of the industry here. We should be part of it. We should be creating wealth for the well being of our community."

The connection of the town to the uranium industry has led to controversy that has put undue pressure on the town's meagre resources. In 2012 the Northern Village of Pinehouse and the Kineepik Métis Local signed a collaboration agreement with Cameco and Areva to improve environmental stewardship, secure business, and provide employment and training opportunities to the community.

The Agreement could mean around \$200 million in economic benefits for the people of Pinehouse in the next ten years.

Anti-uranium folks have spoken out against the agreement and have even gone so far that over 30 people have sued the parties of the collaboration agreement to have it overturned. But a vast majority of those people are not from the community.

"The two individuals that are leading the chaos from the town against me and our

growth, they both ran against me at the last election. I won over 85 per cent of the votes," said Natomagan.

"It all started with the NWMO when we signed onto the process to learn about nuclear waste. It then spilled over when we signed the agreement. The industry has been here since 1980 and we never took advantage of anything for our community.

"We have had people here that wanted to stop uranium mining, but since then they have built five mines. Our community really depends on that. We have over 250 people directly impacted in the industry and we can't have them stop working and come home to welfare."

Mayor Natomagan and the Village are also facing a freedom of information challenge by the anti-nuclear magazine Briarpatch.

"The things they are asking for are ridiculous. For example, they want every email and phone call I have received from Cameco since 2007," said Natomagan. "I have trouble finding emails from last week."

So far the litigation on the Collaboration Agreement and time commitment to the access to information actions has cost the Village \$100,000 with no end in sight.



Elder Yvonne Maurice works at the school with the children and is an avid wildlife photographer. Her work is on display at the town office and in houses throughout the North.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Pinehouse Mayor Mike Natomagan and School Principal Rosalina Smith have played pivotal roles in rejuvenating their community. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"How do we deal with it? We keep going. We have 750 kids under age 19. We need to be doing something to get ready for these kids coming up," added Natomagan.

The predominately Cree speaking community has seen lots of positive change in the last decade. There is new housing stock and a co-op food store. There is a new rink and community centre, plans for a golf course and hotel, a high school with a new outdoor track and an improving bottom line of graduates. Employment is up and there is hope.

"The community improved through working together," says Elder Yvonne Maurice who is an Elder at the school and is a fixture at community events with her trusty Canon camera.

"I know how hard poverty is with no electricity or water. And when I was a child, education wasn't important. Now we have so many children in school and there are a lot of young people that work now and are taking training," says Maurice.

"It wasn't like this before. I think the impact of the agreement has been good. I have a grandson in training."

To better unify the community, a strategy was created. Representatives of various community services meet monthly at Reclaiming Our Community meetings where they trouble shoot issues and present solutions. There are also weekly intervention meetings with groups from social services and the school that Elder Yvonne attends.

Events like the Elders gathering bring together the entire community to act as hosts to all their northern neighbours. The event is about sharing and helping each other.

"We learn from other communities how you do things. Like watching people cut fish today," said Elder Yvonne who is also a very talented wildlife photographer.

"Patuanak cutting style is really good, Stanley Mission is really good, too. But they do it different. I learned in Patuanak. But in the end, it all tasted the same! Seeing people make birch bark biting and weaving. The young people learn and the elders learn.

"Putting up the teepees this morning, everyone helped. The young people, they get really excited when we start to get ready. Everyone helps out each other."

Hundreds enjoyed the hospitality of the Pinehouse hosts over the course of the five-day Elders Gathering. Mayor Mike Natomagan took full advantage of the opportunity to sit with the Elders as well.

"My highlight is meeting different elders from different communities and getting advice," said Natomagan. "This morning I talked to an elder from La Ronge who is 86 years old. He said 'You guys never had anything. Now seeing you are rich. You got it made. I see you working together and just turn it around.' That is the message we are sending to the kids.

"By uniting and working together you can make a difference. At the same time they are learning respect and serving the elders. I don't think you can ever go wrong with that."

The hard work continues for the Village of Pinehouse and for Natomagan. But he is confident his people are on the right track despite the challenges. "My community is a blessing. As one of the leaders, the difference that we see today compared to growing up, I am very proud of the community for making a difference by uniting. This is what we talked about when we started the elders gathering. I know we are spending a lot of money to make this happen. But it creates unity. Unity of thought brings us together," said Natomagan.

"The challenge is keeping the vision going and the goals. Keep uniting people with common vision. Seeing a bit of results keeps us going. We want to show the whole North it can be done. If there is a will, anything can happen."

Imagine the music, history at Back to Batoche, Fiddlefest

Anticipation is building for a couple of must attend summer festivals, Back to Batoche and the Johnny Arcand Fiddlefest.

And this year, both events have something special for their visitors.

On July 19, the Métis Veterans Memorial Monument will be unveiled at the Back to Batoche site. In a labour of love, the Gabriel Dumont Institute has been fundraising for several years to properly honour the 7,000 Métis people that served Canada in the Armed Forces.

At the unveiling there will also be dozens of honour runners present. They will have run a part of or all the way from Saskatoon to Batoche as a symbol of their gratitude to the veterans for their service.

The main stage will be the usual highlight of Métis talent and the jigging and fiddling competitions are much anticipated.

Paid admission at Back to Batoche



help visitors explore Métis history, making it easier to access more remote areas of the national historic site.

And history will be made at the 17th Annual Johnny Arcand Fiddlefest.

Arcand achieved another milestone this year after becoming the recipient of the \$50,000 Molson Prize for the Arts.

That puts a grand exclamation mark on a marvelous career for an amazing fiddler.

Now Arcand's ultimate dream is set to come true when the Fiddlefest hosts its closing concert.

It is anticipated that there will be a concert of fiddlers with every one of them playing one of Johnny's 35 handmade fiddles.

Imagine the music.

gives you free admission to the Batoche National Historic Site across the highway. To help make it easier, guests will

now be able to hitch a ride on the new Batoche shuttle. Besides moving people from the sites, the shuttle will

Imagine the history. Safe travels!



17TH ANNUAL JOHN ARCAND FIDDLE FEST

AUGUST 7 - 10, 2014
 DAY \$25.00 & WEEKEND \$60.00
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FREE Shuttle Service to and from Saskatoon sponsored by: 

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Call or visit our website for schedule details (306) 382-0111 www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com
 Just SW of Saskatoon at Windy Acres on Pike Lake Hwy #60
 Please bring your own lawn chair and a non-perishable food donation for the Saskatoon Food Bank



Back to Batoche 2014
JULY 17-20TH

Activities include: Square Dancing Showcases, Honouring Our Veterans, Darren Kavaliec, Traditional Metis Arts & Crafts, Jigging & Competitions, Ryan Gordon, The Outlaws, Jason Lepore, Scott Cornelius, The Dallas & Phil Boyer Band, Ol' Time Open Mic Hosted by J.J. Lavallee.

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MÉTIS VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT UNVEILING CEREMONY

10:30–11:30 a.m, Saturday, July 19, 2014

Back to Batoche Festival Grounds

Free admission until noon.

The Métis have always defended their right to be free people, *les gens libre*, and the *Otipaymishoowuk* — “the people who own themselves.” This value, a gift from our ancestors, has been demonstrated in our early history and by thousands of Métis who have served in Canada’s Armed Forces. The Métis have served alongside other Canadian servicemen and servicewomen in the South African War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and in each of the efforts since then to defend our country and contribute to international peace and security.

The Métis Veterans Memorial Monument at this site is a national project that honours Métis servicemen and servicewomen from across Canada. The monument expresses a long-held dream of the Métis to honour and commemorate the contributions of over 7,000 Métis veterans who have valiantly served our nation and defended our land and freedom.

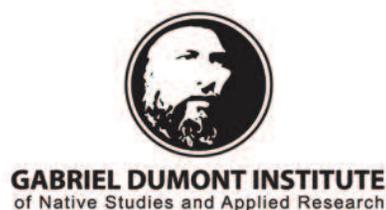
In July 2010, during the *Year of the Métis*, the site was officially designated in a ceremony attended by the Honourable John Duncan, then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is leading the fundraising effort for the monument. Over two-thirds of the cost of the monument has been realized through contributions from the Institute, the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, Veteran Affairs Canada, the Saskatchewan Community Initiatives Fund, and donations from individuals, businesses, and service organizations.

The Métis Veterans Memorial Monument is a fitting tribute to our veterans and will remind us of the sacrifices they made so we can enjoy our freedom and spend time with family and friends, *the Métis way*, at Batoche.

Maarsii, Merci, Thank you!

The Métis Veterans Memorial Monument has been realized through the support of the following major sponsors:



Donations made by the many individual, group, and private donors are also greatly appreciated!

To make a donation, please visit www.gdins.org/metis-culture/veterans-monument or call us Toll Free at 1-877-488-6888.

Heroes are everywhere

The older I get the more I discover how little I really know about the world. Sure, I've accomplished a lot and there is a line of my books on library shelves across the country, but just when I think I have it figured, people come forward and astound me.

I like that. I like the feeling of being surprised, awed, shocked sometimes and humbled by what human spirit can accomplish against long odds. It's what

keeps me going and keeps me writing.

People are amazing. We've had the opportunity to travel across the country and participate in a variety of gatherings, conferences and events.

What makes those jaunts memorable are the people we meet. We hear an incredible number of stories from a pastiche of sources and they never fail to astound me.

For me, the idea of Canada lives in the rich mosaic of voices that make up the great, grand clamor of her. That too keeps me writing.

The thing is that you really never have to look very far for a heart-warming story. They are all around us and all we really need do is open ourselves to the possibility of them. When you do that, great stories literally walk up and knock on your door.

For instance, I have a great friend named Cheryl. I've known her for five years now and I've watched her literally evolve and take shape in front of me.

It's been a real pleasure and though sometimes I've have had to hold her hand to get her through things it's been a special process.

See, Cheryl came to live in a rooming house I used to help manage. She arrived with enormous black eyes and bruises.

She'd been beaten by a so-called street friend. She was a month off a chronic crack cocaine addiction and she looked small, defeated and lonely. Her hands trembled when she spoke and she had a lot of trouble making eye contact. But there was a light that shone through the bleakness.

It didn't take long to be able to see qualities in Cheryl that made her unique among her peers in the house. She wasn't a quitter for one thing. She wasn't about to lie down and let life run roughshod. She wanted more and she was determined to get it.

Cheryl had been married for a long time to a military man until her addictions took that marriage away. The addictions sprang from horrific

childhood sexual abuse and shaming.

Where she came from required a long, arduous climb up.

But despite all that she began to treat the rooming house as a community. She took time to look out for other people even when she had so little herself.

She was savvy and street smart and could spot a game player yards away and was always alert to tell me when someone shady was looking for a room with us. She cared about her home and it wasn't long before Cheryl became the caretaker.

After a couple years she tried a university prep program. She hadn't been in a classroom for decades but she wanted something more and better for her life and she took the risk.

But Cheryl came from a history of abuse and trauma.

Her childhood continued to haunt her and all that accumulated pain made it impossible for her to finish the program. But she was determined to go back.

So she went back a second time. Still the old wounds and trauma stood up against her. She left the program again. She worried about that but I told her what a marvelous thing it was for her to try it again.

I talked to her about the example of courage she was showing all the people around her. The third time she went she finished the program.

Nowadays, Cheryl is in the Human Services program as a full time student. She's been clean from her addiction for over four years.

She got As on her first few tests and when she's come up against tougher material she's bore down and gotten through.

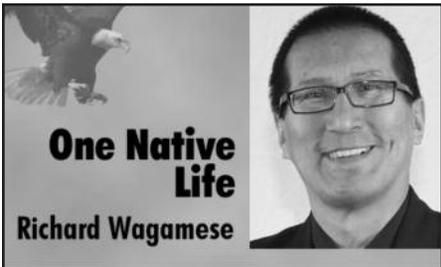
She found a tutor and joined a study group. She set up a whiteboard so she can map out every assignment and project that she needs to do. It's hard work but she's there every day fighting for her life.

When she graduates, as we're certain she will, it will be a testament to a colossal and enduring spirit.

So we don't have to look far for heroes in life. They're as close as the person beside us on the bus or the in the grocery line.

Everywhere there are heroic people fighting to reclaim their lives – and doing it. Cheryl is one of my heroes.

Look around you. They're everywhere.



One Native Life
Richard Wagamese

SIAST STUDENT PROFILE

Michelle Bigwolf

Michelle Bigwolf is one busy woman with many part-time jobs. She enrolled at SIAST to get her Adult 12 Basic Education. While studying, she was elected president of the SIAST Kelsey Aboriginal Student Association for 2012–2013 and at the same time was raising three young children.

She also made time to participate in several important volunteer initiatives at school, including a Métis flag-raising for the commemoration of Louis Riel Day, the Christmas hamper giveaway, and hosting 150 Aboriginal students from across Canada for a national "Indspire" event held at SIAST Kelsey Campus.

Bigwolf says self-reliance for herself and her family was a big motivator for returning to school, and her very full schedule proves she already "gets" the reliability part. How does she do it?

"Hard work and the Aboriginal student centre," she replies. "Those have been a huge part of my success. I now am convinced that through education, I can be anything I want to be. Nothing is going to stop me."



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APPLY NOW!

Nailed it!

Congratulations to all the graduates out there. Whether you're graduating from high school, university, or sex addiction rehab – it's important to acknowledge your hard work and perseverance.

But the thing about life is, once you leap over one hurdle, there's always another one, then another one, like a never ending Olympics without the medals, fame or cereal sponsorships.

Enjoy your graduation day, but remember tomorrow you're just another unemployed person with a crap-load of debt. I learned this early on. The day after I graduated from law school, I was sitting on my parents' couch.

Well, not sitting so much as melding into the cushions with a reserve-sized bag of chips perched on my chest to minimize distance from bag to mouth.

I had no immediate plans for my future other than wresting control of the TV from my dad and maybe eating another bag of chips (but something fancy, like hot barbecue). Then, in walked the Chief of my reserve (and also my aunt).

She looked me up and down with an expression of disgust so it was kind of redundant when she said, "Shouldn't you have a job?"

When my parents were young, getting a job was as easy as showing up at a place of business with pants, hands and a face.

Maybe not even all of those things if they were in a busy period. But things have changed and now you have to nail the interview as well.

A job interview is a lot like a first date and not just because you're lying your ass off. It's important that you are clean, neat and moderately sober. No matter how shitty life has been to you up to this point, you gotta put all that aside and stride forward with the optimistic bearing of a Kennedy.

Preparation for a job interview is essential – like find out where the company is located and what they do. Also, take the time to review your social media presence.

I recommend removing all those YouTube videos of you getting your dog drunk. Then head over to Facebook and get rid of everything that identifies you as a human being with interests, desires and flaws.

Your online profile should be as bland as a white guy in khakis. Employers assiduously research job applicants on the Internet (when they're not watching cat videos) and they may form a negative opinion of you based on pictures of you dancing in a cage (unless you are applying for a cage-dancing job

then the more, the better.)

There are people in this world with cheerful demeanors and basic manners, but the rest of us have to fake it. One technique to fake a good personality is called "mirroring." Basically you just do whatever your interviewer does like a subtle game of Simon Says. If they sit forward, you sit forward. If they lean back, you lean back. If they walk to their car, you walk to their car. Eventually you'll creep them out to the point where they will hire you in hopes of not pissing you off.

Job interview questions have hidden minefields. One of the most dangerous questions is "what is your

greatest weakness?" This is a trick.

Obviously, don't tell the truth. No one needs to know that you have the attention span of a dumb toddler or the typing skills of Shridhar Chillal (current Guinness world record holder of longest fingernails). And don't go the kiss-ass route and say something like, "I work too hard" or "I'm a perfectionist."

You will sound slimmer than a boxing promoter. Better to identify a trait that doesn't have anything to do with work at all like, "My greatest weakness is trains." (Full disclosure: my weaknesses are puppies, chubby babies and Métis guys holding chubby babies and puppies.)

During the interview, you may be asked about your technical skills. Don't freak out if you have none – just repeat the name of the thing and add something vague and oddly sexual like "I've played around with it." If someone asks, "what kind of experience do you have with Dreamweaver?"

Then you answer, "Dreamweaver – yes, great program, I've taken it for a ride around the block." If you do it right, the interviewer will feel uncomfortable and will drop the subject.

It's a really good sign if the interviewer asks you, "How soon can you start?" Here's where I suggest replying, "I already have." That's a baller move and suggests that you are ultra-confident, like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

Who would not want to work with the Rock? We all want to smell what he's been cooking.

Basically if you don't walk out of that job interview feeling like a total and complete fraud, then you have failed, my friend, and are totally undeserving of potato chips.



Editors Marilyn Poitras and Tasha Hubbard joined MLA Rob Norris, Treaty Commissioner George Lafond and former Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight for the launch of *The Land is Everything: Treaty Land Entitlement*. (Photo by Winston McLean)

The Land is Everything tells the Treaty story

By Winston McLean
For Eagle Feather News

On Sept. 22, 1992, the largest Treaty-based land claim in Canadian history was signed at Wanuskewin, just outside of Saskatoon. The impacts of that event on all Saskatchewan people are still being felt over 22 years later.

To keep the Treaty conversation going in this province, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner hired two of Saskatchewan's top Aboriginal academics to produce *The Land Is Everything: Treaty Land Entitlement*. Their work was launched June 25 at the McNally Robinson bookstore.

Edited by Marilyn Poitras and Tasha Hubbard, *The Land Is Everything* is a collection of accounts and perspectives from people affected by the Treaty land entitlement story.

Elder Danny Musqua, Chief Marie-Ann Daywalker, Doug Cuthand, Harry Swain, Jarita Greyeyes, Mitchell Pound-

maker, Robert Innes, Neal McLeod and Howard Walker share their stories. One of the most dramatic accounts was the result of the conversations held with students from the Oskayak High School in Saskatoon.

Treaty Commissioner George Lafond himself regaled over 40 guests and dignitaries at the launch with his own personal, often humorous, connections to the Treaty land entitlement deal. He noted the agreement was not just a political or economic deal, Treaty land entitlement is about "a spiritual journey, too."

Both Hubbard and Poitras stated how much of an honour it was to have been a part of the research, getting to meet and interview so many knowledgeable people.

"For me, I wanted the book to be a start for conversations," Hubbard explained. "About Treaty, about Treaty land entitlement, about our connection to land, for both newcomers and First Nation Treaty people."

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APPLY NOW!

Young Northern golfers earned tips from the professionals

Youth from Pinehouse introduced to new sport

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON—Aspiring young golfers from northern and southern Saskatchewan teed off on a balmy Sunday morning with PGA Tour Canada players in the Cameco Kids Pro-Am.

In partnership with Golf Saskatchewan, the Cameco Kids Pro-Am features young golfers (11-14 years old) being placed in foursomes with a PGA Tour Canada player for a round at Silverwood Golf Course. The pros were in town for the PGA Canada Dakota Dunes Tournament.

Twelve lucky golfers from the Northern Village of Pinehouse earned their way on the trip through good behaviour.

“We like to expose our youth to different experiences, show them the province, introduce them to a new sport and meet other people,” said Chris Novkowski, recreation director for the Village.

“These young people represent Pinehouse in a good way.”

Paul Natomagan, Nathan Durocher and Justin Lariviere were paired with golfer Tyler Ostrovsky, a first year pro from Los Angeles. It was Ostrovsky’s first trip to Saskatchewan. He was impressed with the Dakota Dunes course and the people, but he did have one issue to deal with.

“I don’t like the bugs,” said the affable pro, but he was looking forward to a round with the youth.

“It gives us a chance to give back a bit and share our skills. The one thing I want to teach them today is about tempo.”

The boys were just eager to get on the course and try out the new sets of clubs that Cameco had donated to the community. “I just want to be a better golfer,” said Paul Natomagan.

This first-ever fun Pro-Am included golf tips but more importantly, it gave



Paul Natomagan, Nathan Durocher, pro Tyler Ostrovsky and Justin Lariviere posed before their round on Silverwood’s first hole.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

young golfers a chance to interact with positive role models.

“The youth had very close interaction with the pro and a chance to learn and golf,” said Jonathon Huntington, Manager, Communications & Community Investment with Cameco.

“It was great of Pinehouse to help get the kids here. It is nothing but smiles all around and they will go home with fabulous memories.”

After playing a round with the PGA Tour Canada pros, the young golfers witnessed the final holes at the SIGA Dakota Dunes Open presented by SaskTel as Matt Harmon came in at 24 under to seal the victory.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - CEO PRESIDENT

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Investment Management Corp

We are seeking a leader with a proven capability to manage and motivate staff to maximize returns from current business operations and seek out and develop growth opportunities.

Position Objective

The CEO/President is responsible to direct, promote, and coordinate operations in a manner that will optimize the efficiency of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Investment Management Corp. (MLCNIMC) and help achieve the organization’s mission and goals resulting in outstanding customer service and profitability.

Position Responsibilities

The CEO/President is responsible for financial and other objectives as established by the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include supervision of the senior management team, public relations, marketing, sales, customer service, business growth and development, business analysis and other duties as assigned by the Board. The CEO/President will maintain a positive attitude that promotes team work and a favorable image of MLCNIMC. Key expectations are maximum profitability from existing business operations and seek and implement growth opportunities.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Investment Management Corporation

The MLCNIMC has an independent Board of Directors to manage and grow the commercial enterprises owned by Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. The commercial enterprises consist of a commercial/industrial center in Saskatoon, two convenience/gas stores and an interest in the Dakota Dunes Golf Course. The commercial center has serviced and undeveloped land offering potential for substantial growth.

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For more information please contact:
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Young people from Montreal Lake Jared Assoon, Justin Smallchild, Jesse Starr, Ernest Brown, Stephanie Worm, Kyle Kay, Alexis Isnana, Gabrielle Geddes, Jaily Allen, Shyra McNab, Nathaniel Blackbird, Shane Blackbird, Taniesha McDonald joined Allan Ross and escort Corporal Earl Keewatin of Waskesiu RCMP and the NAIG Symbols assembled for a commemorative photo when the NAIG Lance run visited the community. (Photo by thatconradguy)

NAIG Profile

Athlete: Justin Smallchild

Age: 15

Grade: 9 in the Fall

From: Beardy's Okemasis First Nation

Sport: Lance Runner

**By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News**

REGINA – Justin Smallchild, one of NAIG's Lance runners, was excited when he found out he was picked as one of many runners.

"My teacher wanted me to join, so I tried it. A lot of people were surprised that I got in and they were happy for me," he says. "I was really surprised and happy."

There are many benefits for those running with the Lance stick and runners have many reasons why they chose to run.

"It's a chance to meet people and run for people who can't run, especially for my family and my friends. They've always been there for me," he says.

He's been preparing for the Lance Run by training himself almost on daily basis doing running laps and squats in his home community.

So far, he's enjoying his experience and says he's having a lot of fun on his adventure.

"I've meet new people, new friends and making new memories to take home."



Runners carrying lance from Prince Albert to Regina

REGINA – In the weeks leading up to the Opening Ceremonies of the Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) being held on July 20, the Host Society began the ceremonial transfer of the Official Lance of Regina 2014 NAIG from Prince Albert to Regina, Saskatchewan.

The purpose is to honour the traditional ceremonies and spirituality of the Games, as well as to increase awareness and excitement for the Games by having youth athletes embark on a cross-provincial journey – traveling through urban and rural – Indigenous and Non-

Indigenous communities.

In an effort to increase the excitement of the Games, the Lance-Run will be promoted throughout all the communities it travels through.

The final stops are in July 18 10 a.m. at Fort Qu'Appelle and Standing Buffalo at 4 p.m. the same day and on July 19 the lance arrives in Piapot and spends the night then arrives at the VIP Indigenous Leaders Night in Regina.

Opening Ceremonies start at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 20 when the lance will be run into the stadium.



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Cultural Village the place to be during NAIG week

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) will be the host of the Cultural Village during the week of the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Regina.

The Cultural Village will be packed with events, booths, and entertainment that will keep everyone entertained for the whole week of NAIG.

The entertainment will be located on the lawn of FNUUniv with a main stage that will showcase a variety of Indigenous entertainment all week.

There will be a Tipi Village with a variety of exhibits and demonstrations including Tipi workshops that will start from Monday, July 21 and will run till Saturday, July 26 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily.

This will be free of charge and open to all of the athletes and to the public. The schedules for the workshops are: Teepee teachings and protocols, traditional dance, Indigenous California lifestyle, Métis, Sweetgrass teachings, singing and drumming, elders storytelling, traditional hand games, Saskatchewan Indigenous languages, Indigenous filmmaking, Treaty awareness, dream catchers, carving, beading, writing and storytelling, cultural elements from the Northwest Territories, and finally the closing ceremony.

There will also be Indigenous food booths, a VIP area, a trade show, the Elder's program and a first aid booth. Everything will be accessible for the public.

The opening ceremonies will be held at Mosaic Stadium on Sunday, July 20 but after that, everything else will be held at FNUUniv.

The headliners for each day at the Cultural Village



A Tribe Called Red will be the star attraction at the closing ceremonies for NAIG.

are Crystal Shawanda, Inez Jasper, Digging Roots, Indian City and Joey Stylez.

The closing ceremonies will be held on the Saturday, July 26 starting at 7:30 till 10:30 that evening. Some of the Indigenous entertainment will be; Sagkeeng's Finest, Asham Stompers, Island Breeze, TNT Square Dancers,

Aboriginal School of Dance and the headlining performance by A Tribe Called Red.

A map of the Cultural Village layout and a full list of the line of entertainment can be viewed at: <http://regina2014naig.com/cultural-program/workshop-facilitators-2/>.

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NAIG Profile

Athlete: Tianna Longman
Age: 16
From: George Gordon
First Nation
Sport: Athletics



By Jeanelle Mandes
 For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – Tianna has been involved in athletics since she was ten years old. Her biggest inspirations are her family and the youth in her community. “My parents and family always support and push me to do my best and the younger generation of athletes inspires me to do my best because I want to be a positive role model.” She said she was ecstatic when she got the call that she made it to represent Team Saskatchewan in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). “I was really happy and excited to be chosen. The thought of representing Team Saskatchewan was amazing to me. I was relieved because before I got the call I made the team, I was seeing different athlete’s statuses on Facebook saying they made the team and I didn’t get the call yet so I was kind of nervous.” But when she finally received the call, she imagined all the fun she’ll be having. “I’m really looking forward to the experience and meeting new people and competing at a high level.” Tianna has been continuously training herself for NAIG to ensure she is ready when the games are here. “I’m always physically active involved in a variety of sports; I do a lot of my training at home and during the winter and im now currently doing training with other team members on my reserve.” Her plan after completing high school is to continue her education at a higher level.

“I’d like to study kinesiology and one day become a coach for either volleyball or track to give back to my community and to help kids achieve their goals too.” Her advice to the younger generations who want to pursue their passion for sports is to never lose trust in yourself. “Believe in yourself and your abilities with hard work, determination and faith, all things are possible.”

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NAIG Profile

Athlete: Savanna Gall
Age: 16
From: Regina
Sport: Soccer



By Jeanelle Mandes
 For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – Savanna Gall, from Regina, has been playing soccer since she could walk. She’s inspired to be a part of a team and to get out there and enjoy kicking the ball around. She was happy when she heard that she made it for Team Saskatchewan in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). “I was pretty excited because my sister played for NAIG and I get to be a part of it, too.” She looks up to her older sister Chelsea and hopes to follow her path. “She’s a really good soccer player; she taught me everything I know. When she played for NAIG; they won Gold. I want to follow her footsteps and hopefully we succeed.” Savanna kicks the ball around in her backyard with her siblings whenever she can to prepare herself for NAIG. She said she’s excited to be participating in the games this year. “Just to be a part of it, it’s a big opportunity; I get to be a part of something that’s once in a lifetime.” Her biggest challenge she had to overcome to be where she is now is pushing herself extra hard to train with the city’s soccer league to get where she is now. Her message to the youth who want the same opportunity to play in NAIG is to believe in yourself to get to where you want to be. “If you keep pushing yourself to achieve your goal; you will get your goal.” Her plan after completing high school is to pursue a career in photography specializing in landscapes.

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NAIG Profile

Athlete: Autumn Breeze Thomas

Age: 18

From: Big River First Nation

Sport: Soccer

**By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News**

PRINCE ALBERT – Autumn Breeze felt really happy when she heard that she made it for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) to represent Team Saskatchewan. “I was happy and I always believed that I could make it.”

She has been playing soccer since she was ten years old. She’s an athlete of many talents; she’s played in the summer and winter games for soccer and broomball taking home the gold medal each year.

“I feel free and happy on the field.”

Not only is she excited to win a gold medal at this year’s NAIG, but she hopes to enjoy the experience of it all.

“I’m looking forward to bonding with the team and playing against other provinces and states.”

When she’s not training with the team once a month, she continues to prepare herself at home.

“I train myself by going on an eight km jog around the reserve.”

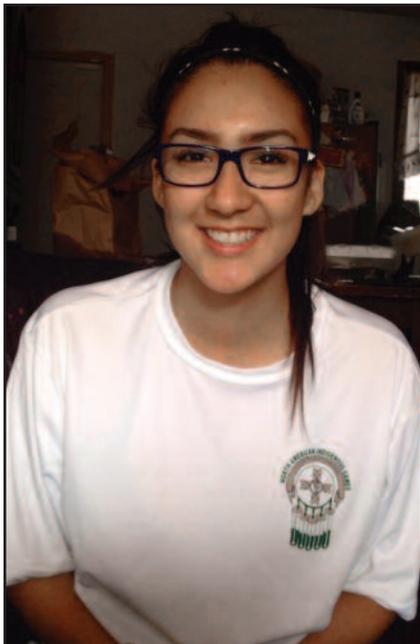
She strives high to set good examples for others including those in her family especially her little brothers.

“I’m a role model to them. I want them to look up to me to follow my footsteps and try doing well for our family.”

Autumn Breeze plans on continuing her education after she completes her Grade 12 education next year.

“I’m planning on going into mechanics at SIAST for one year and from there go to university but not sure what to take yet.” Her message to the youth who want to further their passion for sports is to never stop believing in yourself.

“Just try hard, give it your 110 per cent and don’t give up to be where you want to get.”



NAIG Profile

Athlete: Sage Fox

Age: 15

From: Big River First Nation

Sport: Softball

**By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News**

PRINCE ALBERT – Sage will be representing Team Saskatchewan in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) playing softball. He began playing the sport about four years ago watching the older kids play.

“It inspired me to go hard at the sport and don’t stop trying.”

He said when he heard the news that he made it for NAIG it was a good feeling.

“At first I was in shock, I wasn’t excited at first then half an hour later it hit me. I couldn’t wait.”

He said he’s been training to prepare himself for the upcoming games.

“I hit the ball around in my backyard with my older brother. We try to do that once a day every now and then.”

Not only is Sage looking forward to bringing home a gold medal, he hopes to take home a memorable experience.

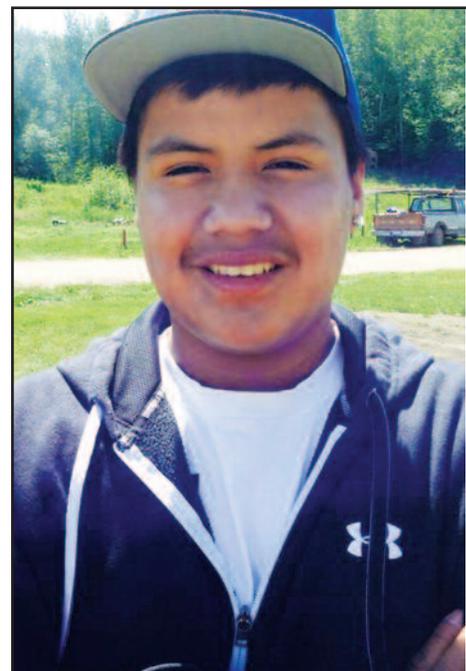
“I’m looking forward to having fun, playing hard and making new friends.”

Sage’s hope after he completes high school is to continue his education at a higher level.

“I’d like to go to school and try becoming an engineer, a trucker or a driver, something like that.”

His message for the youth who want to pursue their passion in sports is to keep believing in yourself to reach for what you want.

“Just keep trying and don’t be down on yourself to make it or not. Keep pushing hard. Follow your dreams and play the sports you love.”



Building Relationships

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Alaina Gillespie-Meise, Occupational Health Consultant



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NAIG Profile

Athlete: Summer Michel-Stevenson
Age: 17
School: Recently graduated from Grade 12
From: Pelican Narrows
Sport: Canoe

By Jeanelle Mandes
 For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – Summer Michel-Stevenson has been canoeing for about five years. Her mother, Bella Stevenson, had attended the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) twice in her lifetime in the canoeing event.

“She’s really big into canoeing. I watched her all the time and I followed her foot-steps and it’s something I really enjoy doing, too.”

She followed her mother’s path and turned it into a reality for herself. She comes from a community where canoeing is part of their culture. There are different types of canoeing but she enjoys the two person canoe.

“I really like it because it’s really active and fun. All my friends and I, we all go canoeing back home.”

Stevenson said there were about 15 canoe athletes from her community that were chosen to represent Team Saskatchewan for this year’s NAIG. She said was happy when she heard she made it to NAIG. “It was really cool and really amazing. It was a happy moment.” She trains every second day with her friend in the evenings for an hour or two at the most. Her advice to the youth who want to pursue a passion in sports such as canoeing is to have fun.

“It’s not all about competing, it’s about having fun. It doesn’t matter if you win or lose. Try your best. It’s not all about winning. It’s about going out there and enjoying yourself.” Summer will be attending the First Nations University of Canada in Prince Albert to take two years of Arts and Science. She plans on working towards a career in Pediatrics.



NAIG Profile

Athlete: Kaeden Mandes
Age: 19
From: Muskeg First Nation
Sport: Fastball (U19)

By Jeanelle Mandes
 For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – Kaeden has been playing fastball since he could walk. He says his mom, Jen Arcand, was his biggest inspiration to play the sport.

He was surprised when he received the call that he made it for Team Saskatchewan in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

“I was proud and I was kind of amazed that I actually did make it because I haven’t played ball in about seven years.”

Kaeden gets his motivation from his mom; she was the one who encouraged and pushed him to try out for NAIG.

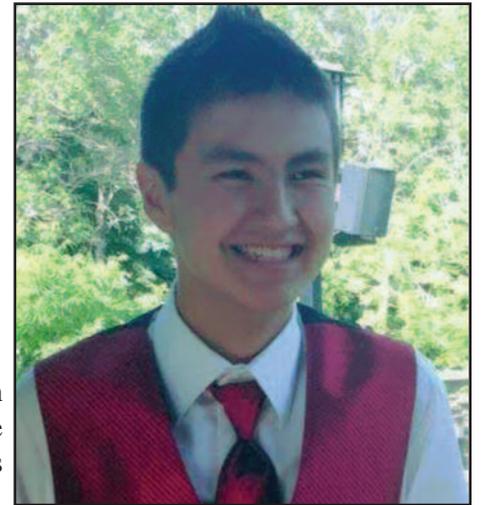
He said he’s looking forward to competing against other teams at the games. He trains when he can almost every two weeks doing drills and basic practices in Hague and Saskatoon.

He recently graduated high school and owes it all to his mom for her continuous encouragement.

“I dropped out of school for a year I just couldn’t do it anymore so I moved away from my mom and I lived with my grandma with a couple of months. The house rules were if I wanted to move back home, I had to go back to school.”

Which he did and he doesn’t plan on stopping there. He’ll be continuing his education at a higher level starting in the fall.

“I’m going to go into aircraft maintenance. I’ll be taking a two month course at SIIT just so I could get my work experience for aircraft maintenance and I would be registered to go in airports and work on airplanes.” From sports to education, his advice to the younger generation is simple but straight to the point, “Don’t quit and keep on trying.”



NAIG 2014 ○ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sport	Competition Dates		20-Jul-14	21-Jul-14	22-Jul-14	23-Jul-14	24-Jul-14	25-Jul-14	26-Jul-14	P = Practice Date C = Contingency Date
			Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Opening Ceremonies	20-Jul-14									Mosaic Stadium
3D Archery	22-Jul-14	24-Jul-14				P				Wascana Archers Outdoor Range
Athletics	23-Jul-14	25-Jul-14			P				C	Canada Games Athletic Complex
Badminton	21-Jul-14	25-Jul-14	P						C	Sportplex - Fieldhouse
Baseball	21-Jul-14	25-Jul-14	P						C	Optimist Park
Basketball	20-Jul-14	23-Jul-14					C			University of Regina / Miller Collegiate
Canoe	21-Jul-14	24-Jul-14	P					C		Wascana Lake
Cross Country	26-Jul-14	26-Jul-14						P		Canada Games Athletic Complex / Wascana Park
Golf	22-Jul-14	25-Jul-14		P					C	Tor Hill Golf Course
Kayak	21-Jul-14	24-Jul-14	P					C		Wascana Lake
Lacrosse	21-Jul-14	25-Jul-14	P						C	AI Ritchie Arena / Doug Wickenheiser Arena
Rifle Shooting	22-Jul-14	24-Jul-14		P				C		Regina Wildlife Federation
Soccer	21-Jul-14	26-Jul-14	P							University of Regina / Leibel Field
Softball	22-Jul-14	26-Jul-14		P						Rambler Park / Douglas Park
Volleyball	24-Jul-14	26-Jul-14				P				University of Regina / LeBoldus Collegiate
Wrestling	21-Jul-14	23-Jul-14		P			C			University of Regina
Closing Ceremonies		26-Jul-14								Cultural Village, First Nations University

NORTH AMERICAN
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