

Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

Saskatchewan strikes gold in B.C.

By Warren Goulding
Of Eagle Feather News

COWICHAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA – In what has become a tradition based on a culture of athletic excellence, Saskatchewan athletes dominated the North American Indigenous Games held on Vancouver Island in early August.

After a week of competition in 16 sports including baseball, swimming, lacrosse, and various track and field events, Team Saskatchewan emerged as the overall winner by a wide margin.

The Saskatchewan athletes collected a total of 243 medals, including 94 gold, 81 silver and 68 bronze. The closest competitor was Ontario, a huge team

that garnered 143 medals, 48 gold, 54 silver and 41 bronze. Alberta was third with 124 medals, 48 gold, 42 silver and 34.

Held in the Cowichan Valley, the Games brought 30 teams from all over North America to the event that began in 1991 when 3,000 participants gathered in Edmonton. This year Cowichan played host to more than 9,000 sport and cultural participants.

Since 1990 the Games have been held in five cities, most recently Denver, Colorado in 2006.

Saskatchewan has won the overall team title on every occasion but one. Their only loss came in Winnipeg in 2002, when the host Manitoba team won the Games title.

Team Saskatchewan chef de mission, Courage Bear accepted a paddle illustrated with a hawk and a trout from Delmar Johnnie, the artist who created the Cowichan 2008 logo.

“This paddle is representative so that the team that wins it can steer their way through life,” Johnnie said.

“We’re proud of everybody here,” a beaming Bear, told the crowd before also thanking the volunteers, or ts’uwtun. “The people in the blue shirts — we couldn’t do it without you.”

More than 2,000 volunteers devoted 125,000 hours to making the Games a success.

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Shaquille McDonigle, Akina Shirt and Chantelle Fransoo celebrate their medals won in the swimming competition at the North American Indigenous Games held in British Columbia. (Photo by Warren Goulding)

Mom savours daughter's NAIG participation

By Warren Goulding
Of Eagle Feather News

COWICHAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA – As a former participant in the North American Indigenous Games herself, Jean Cardinal knew the importance of the event and she wanted her daughter, Akina Shirt to have a similar experience.

“I wanted her to see what the Games mean,” Cardinal said as the participants gathered at the cultural centre for

the closing ceremonies.

A volleyball player on Saskatchewan teams that competed in the first games held in Edmonton in 1990 as well as 1993 in Prince Albert and Blaine, Minnesota in 1995, Cardinal carries fond memories of her participation.

“I made so many friends and have so many great experiences to remember from those times,” she said.

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Welcome to our
North American Indigenous Games Issue
Coming In September:
Back to School
CPMA #40027204

Agecoutay battles smog, heat, humidity in dream assignment

Our friend and videographer Richard Agecoutay is in Beijing covering the Olympics for CBC. He is working with Sacha Trudeau (yes, that Sacha Trudeau!) and they are producing six documentaries about China to be run on the National on CBC. Richard is in regular email contact with us and he has agreed to share his experience with the readers of Eagle Feather News. Here is Part 1 of his take on the Beijing experience.

On the weather, smog and pollution...

"When I found my luggage and stepped out of the airport into the sultry China air, holy smokers!!! The temp was ... wait for it ... 40C and the humidex was off the chart!

The heat is unrelenting. Picture taking bacon out of the oven, you know that short blast of heat, but this blast lasts all day.

I don't know how all these Chinese folks can stand to wear pants and long sleeves!

The smog is startling.



Richard Agecoutay is a CBC videographer working at the Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

You can't see for any more than a few city blocks. On the drive in from the airport huge buildings suddenly appeared out of the smog, puff! The sun looks like a glowing penny in the sky; you can actually stare at it for a few moments and not burn out your retina.

The smog cleared today and I can see some mountains to the west. The city is less a mystery with the smog gone. I felt claustrophobic with all the smog because I couldn't see very far.

Working....

I came in today to set up my camera and meet Sacha. He looks like Doogie Howser! I'm going out in a while to shoot the smog, people with masks and any military type stuff.

On Tuesday we're heading out of Beijing (five hour drive) to shoot on a sacred mountain. That should be cool.

I need new batteries for my camera before I go (our shipment did not come in). I saw some great architecture here and can't wait to shoot some stills.

• Continued on Page 18



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NO PROBLEM!

Walk ended just days before missing woman's body found

By André Ledding and
Warren Goulding
Of Eagle Feather News

Less than three weeks after participating in a walk to raise awareness for their missing daughter, Daleen Kay Bosse (Muskego), her family heard the news they have been dreading for almost four years.

On August 11, Saskatoon Police Service Chief Clive Weighill announced that 30-year-old Douglas Hales has been charged with first degree murder in connection with the death of Bosse. Her remains were found three days earlier in a secluded area not far from Warman, a small community north of Saskatoon.

"Due to our long investigation that had intensified in the last six months, our officers went to a secluded area about a 1/4 mile from Warman ... actually a party spot. Her skeletal remains were found there. Mr. Hales was arrested on Saturday at a parking lot in Saskatoon."

Weighill says Hales had been a person of interest in the investigation since the 24-year-old Onion Lake First Nation woman disappeared in May of 2004.

Police believe Hales was the last known person to be seen with Daleen the day she disappeared and was an employee at a nightclub that she was last seen at.

"I want to express our deepest sympathies to the Muskego family and I want to thank them for their patience and understanding as we worked on this case. I also want to thank those people that walked in awareness marches and kept this case in the public (eye)."

In a sad irony, the fourth and final walk to raise awareness for Daleen Kay Bosse Muskego ended July 25 in Saskatoon. Runners and walkers from Muskego's home of Onion Lake, including parents Pauline and Herb, completed the 350 km trek joined by walkers and runners on the way including Beverly Jacobs, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Jacobs, who has been involved with the Muskego family since Daleen first went missing four years ago, said the walk was intended to raise awareness and increase attention for Daleen and others who have gone missing.

"How far we have gone from the great law of peace," said Jacobs, a Mohawk



Marchers walk through Saskatoon in an effort to raise awareness of the issue of missing Aboriginal women.

from the Bear Clan, who spoke of the determination and courage of the Muskego family, in particular Herb and Pauline, who even traveled to Parliament to raise awareness by showing individual MP's powerpoint presentations of Daleen's life, often bringing them to tears.

"We don't want this to happen again."

Jacobs was lead researcher for the Amnesty International report Stolen Sisters, which focused on the incredibly high number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada - since 1957, over 500 - and those are just the reported cases.

Statistics Canada studies indicate not only are Aboriginal women more likely to be victims of assault than non-Aboriginal women, and three times more likely to suffer spousal assault, they are five times more likely than women of the same age to die of violent crimes.

It is estimated that if a similar percentage of non-Aboriginal women disappeared the number would be about 18,000.

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Editorial

'Tourists' had a ball in Sask.

Being self employed can be a double edged sword. You have lots of freedom, but at the same time lots of responsibility. This summer the stars lined up and allowed our family to take our first two-week holiday in almost a decade. We made the most of it and took in Brightsand Lake, Memorial Lake, Shell Lake, Batoche and Waskesiu.

Highlights of the tour included seeing my seven-year-old son bring his first Northern Pike into the boat. He has had fish on the line a few times in the past, but the poor kid just couldn't get one in the boat. That is until Big Shell Lake offered up a nice one for him that he played excellently right into the boat.

The look on his face will stick with me forever. His five-year-old sister had caught a few fish last year, making it very important that he catch one this year. Pride and relief were etched on his face and mine, as the pressure was getting to me to get my boy a fish. He made us eat the fish. It was excellent.

A day at Batoche was excellent family entertainment. At the Historic Site there was an outdoor play written by Maria Campbell. It had lots of dancing and a very familiar cast. Great show and the site looks really well cared for. The interpretive guides were very knowledgeable and excellent at engaging the kids.

We then went across the highway to Back to Batoche celebrations. What an event this year. There were thousands of people there. The kids loved the chariot races. They had fun at the kid's village, the food was great, lots of crafts to look at, and the grandstand was packed for the entertainment.

This bodes well for tourism in the area. Congratulations to the board, the Back to Batoche committee and all the volunteers for a job well done. It is nice to see Back to Batoche end in profit and good memories.

Two thumbs up have to go to the guy who plays the Caribou in "The Woodland Caribou Blues" at the Beaver Glen Outdoor Theatre in Waskesiu. The "Caribou Blues" is about the endangered Woodland Caribou and the guy dresses up as a Caribou and sings songs and interacts with kids.

The songs were hilarious. I hadn't laughed that hard since the last time I watched Ishtar, the funniest movie ever made. The line of the summer came from the Caribou guy. He explained that the Caribou had a stout little tail that fit over the Caribou's bum to keep it warm, because: "After all, the only thing worse than being on the endangered list is to be endangered, and have a frozen sphincter!" How true.

Sask. wins again at NAIG

Well imagine that. Team Saskatchewan won NAIG ... again ... by a gigantic margin. Way to go team. Other than the interruption of losing to home team Manitoba two games ago (if it wasn't in Manitoba that year, we would have won) we are indisputably the team to beat in North America. How's that for helping to puff out your chest as citizen of Saskatchewan ... Aboriginal or not.

For the first time ever, a Provincial Minister joined the team as First Nation and Métis Relations Minister June Draude joined the team in Cowichan. Nice touch Minister and it is great to see the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Province all working together in a good way. Sports unite.

People are going to wonder how we keep up this standard of sport excellence but it really is plain old prairie perseverance. The athletes commit to their sport and work at it. The coaches commit to the athletes. The politicians and sponsors commit to keeping the funds and organizations going and volunteers follow and take care of everything else.

A nice touch this year was to see Lorna Arcand carry in the Team Saskatchewan sign. A fixture at sporting events, Lorna puts in countless hours and is one of those key people that make Team Saskatchewan tick. Way to go everyone.

What's next in Eagle Feather News

Coming up in September is our Back to School edition and a look at education. How exciting to be getting ready for school and a regular routine. It helps stop the kids from acting like a pack of little coyotes.

Also, the FSIN October election is coming up with races for 2nd and 4th Vice Chief positions. We will dip our toes in the water and see who has their eyes on the prize.



GOING TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Dale Awasis of Thunderchild First Nation, Chief Ernest Sundown of Big Island Lake, Grand Chief Wayne Moonias of the Confederacy of Treaty Six Chiefs of Alberta, Chief Rose Laboucan of Drift Pile Cree Nation and Vice Chief Guy Lonechild of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations prepare to sign a declaration whose purpose is to create a task force to create and implement a traditional First Nation health system that exercises sovereignty and builds an international lobby. The Declaration is going to be taken to the United Nations.

"It's time Indians took control of Indian health much like we did when we took control of Indian education," says Thunderchild First Nation spokesperson Eldon Okanee. "Today our education institutions produce hundreds of qualified graduates. We have the same vision for universal health care. Our international Indigenous visitors share similar concerns about health care. They also believe its time to take control of health. That's why we are planning on taking this matter together to the United Nations."



WALK BACK TO BATOCHÉ

Ernestine and old Alphonse made their way down to Batoche all the way from Ille a la Crosse. "The walk was difficult," said Ernestine. "So my Alphonse he carried me most of the way like the old Metis with sacks of flour."

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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NAIG athletes following a proud tradition

We grew up listening to Our Native Land, a national CBC radio program that covered news on Indigenous Peoples all across Canada.

Our mom first worked for the program as a correspondent, then in 1972 we moved to Winnipeg when she was hired full time as a documentary journalist, story editor, and eventually producer of the show.

She covered many different kinds of stories – protests, blockades, music, art, education, history – and was best known for her documentary segments. You can find some of her documentaries and news segments in the CBC digital archives on-line at <http://archives.cbc.ca>.

One of the many sports documentaries she did was on the famous Anondaga long distance runner Tom Longboat from Six Nations.

After listening to this story again it occurred to me that stories like his cannot be forgotten because they are so inspirational, especially for our young people who dream of amateur and professional sports careers.

Tom Longboat was born in 1887 and came to prominence in 1907 when he placed first in the Boston Marathon in record time. What was most

astounding was that his closest competitor was four-fifths of a kilometre behind him!

The city of Toronto gave him a \$500 award but Longboat would not accept it because he wanted to run in the Olympics and to take the money would have disqualified him as a professional.

In 1908 he ran the 20-mile in the Olympics in London, England, but halfway through the race, he and a number of other runners, got very ill. There was a lot of discussion that they may have been poisoned.

From 1908 to 1912 he ran professionally and in 1909 won the world professional marathon championship at Madison Square Gardens in New York.

In 1916 he enlisted in the war effort but did not quit racing. He was a dispatch carrier with the 107th Pioneer Battalion in France where he ran messages between units and he kept in competitive form in the inter-battalion sport races.

He was wounded twice, even once

was reported dead, but survived the war and returned home in 1919. Tom Longboat died at the age of 62 in 1949.

There were lots of good long distance athletes from Saskatchewan, too, like Alex Wuttunee Decoteau from Red Pheasant and Paul Acoose from Sakimay.

Alex was born in 1887 and attended Battleford

Industrial School. He started running in 1909 and was the only athlete from Saskatchewan and Alberta who qualified for the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 1914 he set two Alberta provincial records in the one and two mile events.

Alex was also celebrated as the first Indian to become a municipal policeman in Canada and was the first motorcycle policeman in Edmonton. In 1916 he volunteered to the war effort and was killed in 1917 at the Battle of Passchendaele at the age of 30.

Paul Acoose was born in 1883 and began competitive running as a teenager. In 1909 he turned professional and finished the 15-mile race in

record time.

His last professional race was in 1910 in Toronto where he beat Tom Longboat in the 12-mile. He returned to Sakimay where he farmed, served as band councilor, and was a respected Grass Dancer. Paul Acoose passed away in 1978 at the age of 95.

Long distance running among our people is not a new thing. Long before we had horses our people walked and ran great distances.

When I read the journals left by our great-great grandfather Charles Cowley Pratt (Askinoow) I grew a new found respect for how strong and athletic our ancestors were.

In the 1870s Askinoow lived in the Touchwood Hills near present-day Gordon's reserve and sometimes in the winter had to jog across country from his home to the Hudson's Bay Company post at Fort Qu'Appelle.

In the dead of winter, if he started at sundown he arrived at day break carrying little more than a blanket, a gun and a knapsack.

Congratulations to all our athletes on their performance at the Indigenous Games on Vancouver Island!

You made us proud carrying on the legacies of our ancestors with your personal and team accomplishments.



Introspection
Winona Wheeler

Indigenous people and the 'justice' system

The prisoner was a big man, well over six feet tall. He was probably in his mid-thirties and was serving a life term. Around him were about 100 of his fellow inmates in the maximum security prison.

Armed guards patrolled from vantage points in the large prison hall. He spoke quietly but forcefully as he told his life story. In childhood he was shuffled from foster home to foster home. He received inhuman treatment from some foster parents, including severe beatings, one that resulted in a horribly broken arm.

That was his childhood. He must have done something very bad to end up in maximum security with a life term, and he asked nothing for himself. As a commissioner of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples holding a hearing in the prison, I asked him what he would ask that we recommend to the government.

"Do something for the children," he said. "My life is ruined. But see if something can be done to prevent others from having a life like mine".

The next week I visited a women's prison. I spoke with a number of the inmates, who wanted to tell their stories. They told of their families, and about their children who had been taken away by the government when they were put into prison. Then the awful realization

sunk in: the vicious cycle that these children were likely being put into ... ending up in the place we had visited last week.

Many Aboriginal people are caught in this spinning intergenerational cycle and it is hard to stop the spinning. People who are convicted of crimes are overwhelmingly poor and undereducated, and often come from troubled family and community circumstances.

Although adults are free to choose where and with whom they live, children are not, and everyone, whether child or adult, is influenced in making choices by family and community and their circumstances. It is hard to choose to get away from the only ones who know and understand you. And in urban areas, alienated people will form their own communities, which can include communities of crime, or 'gangs'.

The prison system itself is an abomination. I heard the late Elder Art Solomon describe it as "An evil empire: a blasphemy in the face of God."

There is no lack of good ideas about what to do about prisons. Ever since George Bernard Shaw wrote a report on English prisons, politicians in modern

English-speaking countries have been ignoring the many sensible recommendations that have been made in official reports.

I speculate that very few people have read the many, many reports that have been made on Aboriginal people and the so-called 'criminal justice system' of Canada. It is a well-worn trick used by many organizations and governments to adopt a name that forces those who refer to it to accept its idea.

There is a criminal law and it is not made by Aboriginal people. There is a system that administers criminal law and enforces it.

Whether or not the law and the system are 'just' and therefore deserves the appellation of 'justice' system is an open question, and much of the answer depends on one's idea of what is 'just'.

Little is done about prisons and about Aboriginal issues because there is little political incentive for governments to act. Aboriginal people and prisoners do not generally influence voting patterns or have the means to influence policy.

Crime can be an attractive political tool for weak or morally rudderless

governments who can shout rhetorical catch-phrases like 'tough-on-crime' while ignoring the option of creating policies to be 'effective to combat crime.'

It is harder to spend money on the root causes of crime and support families, children, education, sports and other socially healthy initiatives than to shout for revenge.

The criminal law and system are reflections of the culture of a country. It is a mirror for society to look at itself. What image of themselves do Canadians want to tolerate? We look a lot more like Americans than Scandinavians.

How should jails and courts and the police and parole officers, the lawyers and the judges fit into the large political vision and strategy of Aboriginal political leaders? Is it the people who need fixing or is it the system?

The standard reaction has been to accept cooption in the administration of peripheral roles such as 'diversion schemes' for those who can be spared a life in jail or in parole systems for those who cannot.

Is it an alternative option to leave the administration of the system to those who insist it is 'just' and to engage only in political oversight of it, while focusing scarce Aboriginal human and other resources on strength-building options?

Meanwhile, many children are growing up.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

The strange world of the alphabet ghetto

There's a bald eagle perched on a billboard watching intently over the intersection of Idylwyld Drive and 20th Street in Saskatoon. It's not real, of course, but it is somehow a fitting entrance to the strange, desperate, hopeful, dynamic, depressing and always interesting world of the inner city.

This is the new Indian country. It's the 'alphabet ghetto' all the way from Avenue A through Avenue W. The cab drivers call it 'Alphabet City' and they don't care much for working there after midnight. It has a reputation as a violent drug-infested neighbourhood.

Hookers work the street corners and youth gangs have earned a fearsome reputation. Violent crime is high but the city officials like to remind everyone that property crimes have dropped. The infamous 20th Street is the main artery running east and west through the heart of the inner city.

It used to be called the wrong side of the tracks until the city tore up the tracks in the late 1960s and replaced them with a mall and a freeway. The Baldwin, The Queens, The Barry and The Albany Hotel have all closed. Most have been demolished then paved over or resurrected as a Galaxy Theatre complex and, in the case of The Albany, a halfway house.

The old, moldering 20th Street was and is being renewed. I walk into a drug store one evening and there's a kid waiting for me outside. I think right away that he's begging for spare change.

"Hey mister," he says. "Do you want to buy a dog?"

He's standing by a shopping cart and in the cart are a bunch of puppies. I take a closer look and see they are all Pit Bulls.

"Hey these are Pit Bulls," I tell him. "Russian Pit Bulls."

The kid replies "Fifty bucks each."

"Hey you wanna party?", a skinny girl in a skimpy dress asks.

"No I wanna go home and watch CSI Miami," I tell her.

"You're no fun," she says.

I go into a pawn shop and there's a couple pawning a wheelchair.

"He can still walk," the lady tells the man over the counter.

Conversations that would be absurd in another context somehow make sense here.

I know people who commit crime in the fall with the intent of going to jail for the winter. They are warm, well fed and pay no rent during the coldest days of the year. This behaviour is logical, illogical and entirely human.

There's a lot of good strong Aboriginal people living in the inner city. They go about their business bothering no one. They make good neighbours and they are as upset with crime as any other citizen.

I have a cousin who was a teacher at St. Mary's elementary school near Avenue P and 20th. There used to be a total enrolment turn over every year. Kids came and left as they pleased. The teachers were totally frustrated because they could not teach.

One day my relative brought a drum into the gym. He began to drum and to sing. A few curious kids stopped what they were doing and watched what he was up to. A few joined

him, picked up drum sticks and sang along. Every day he brought his drum to work and every day he attracted kids.

This was the beginning of the St. Mary's



drum group and the St. Mary's dance troupe. They became a model for other education based cultural programs throughout the city.

One guy from Little Pine sitting at a drum made a very big difference.

The booming economy has done more good than an army of missionaries or social workers. Aboriginals are entering the workforce in very real and growing numbers.

The Fire Creek gas bar does a booming business. Tax free cigarettes and cheaper gas attract a lot of status people living on the west side. Their feisty High Octane coffee blend has all the impact of rocket fuel especially on a slow moving morning. Fire Creek employs a lot of people and has become something of a community centre.

On the plus side the city police are now pouncing on criminals like Oprah on a ham. Overhead Eagle One, the City Police Service's Cessna 185 patrols the sky with a watchful eye. The plane is also known locally as the Ghetto Bird.

The police presence has been beefed up big time. Citizen patrols keep a close watch over the Meadow Green area and property related crimes have dropped significantly as a result. Ironically Pleasant Hill still has the highest crime rate in the city.

Local wisdom cites windows always closed as a sign of a solvent abuse house. Chronic abusers avoid light. Gold spray paint huffed out of a baggie was popular some years back. The worst cheap stuff is huffing hair spray.

There are some chemicals in hair spray that kill off the platelets in the abusers' blood preventing it from clotting. Chronic hair spray huffers can easily bleed to death unless they receive blood transfusions. Even drunks look down on huffers.

There's no sugar coating or minimizing Aboriginal misery. Saskatchewan has the highest incidence of intravenous drug use per capita in Canada. It also has the highest rate of teen pregnancy and the highest incarceration rate per capita in all of Canada.

Only Labrador has a higher per capita incidence of suicide. The Innu people in Labrador—astonishingly enough—experience the highest suicide rate in the world. Alphabet city is bubbling pot of conflicting often contradictory human experience. There is hope and despair. Tragedy and humour. Those who build and those who tear down. In the words of singer poet Bob Dylan there are those "who are busy being born or who are busy dying."

Alphabet City is experiencing change out of which will ultimately, hopefully, come a lasting good.



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**September 8 to September 9
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Beginning at 9:00 a.m., elected leaders from across the Province will be come together to exercise Métis governance, and discuss cultural, social, civil and political activities affecting Métis people in Saskatchewan.

Issues on the agenda include, delegate updates on the recent Premiers Roundtable regarding the Duty to Consult, Harvesting and Powley. Partnership announcements and constitutional resolutions will also be exercised during the Legislative Assembly. Guest Speakers are FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph and the Honourable June Draude, Minister of First Nations, Métis Relations and Northern Affairs.

Upon completion of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly there will be an Annual General Assembly September 9 at 1:00 p.m. Over 200 Métis citizens will come together to reflect on this year's activities. The theme will be "**One Nation, One Voice**"; empowering Métis members to provide direction to the MN-S to ensure Métis are represented accurately and proudly within Saskatchewan.

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For more information contact Brian Kembel, Clerk Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Bkembel@mnsask.ca.

President's Message



The Métis people have a long, rich and proud history within this province. Our historic communities have existed and continue to exist along the waterways of Saskatchewan and throughout the province. Our ongoing existence within this province is a testament to the resilience, strength and pride of our people, communities and self governing structures.

We recognise that times are changing and we need a transparent, accountable, results oriented Métis government. With the assistance and willingness of Métis citizens, we can do great things for Métis people living in Saskatchewan and can create an environment where we all live and contribute to the province of Saskatchewan in a healthy, productive manner. I invite all Métis citizens to attend and participate. Your voice is important.

Robert G. Doucette, President
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan



Provincial Métis Council

Back row left to right: Bob McLeod, Max Morin, Lennard Morin, Louis Gardiner, Helene Johnson, Allan Morin, Robert LaFontaine, Billy Kennedy, and President Robert Doucette.

Front row left to right: Karen LaRocque, Beverly Worsley, Marlene Hansen, Gabe Lafond, Mavis Taylor, Pat Knudsen, and Darlene McKay.



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

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Sports help youth develop into successful adults

Tansi sports fans. Our children have returned from a successful defense of their NAIG title in beautiful British Columbia.

I recall many years ago when I was one of the athletes – it was so exciting I couldn't wait to get home and show my parents my medals. I realized from a very young age that sports were an important part of growing up and finding my place.

The problem I had, and many other Aboriginal families have, is that it costs so much money to have your children participate in sports. There are community programs and organizations that help parents pay for the fees and equipment needed so that lower income families can still have their children participate in sports, but the problem is that most of these programs are in urban settings and that doesn't help our on-reserve youth.

Having your child in organized sports does require a huge commitment on the part of the parents. There are practices, games and tournaments but don't let that discourage you from entering your children because the experience they gain and people they meet will have an impact on their lives forever.

Sports are fun, but they also offer benefits and lessons that carry over into all aspects of life. Kids need attention and respect (in that order), but they have few ways to get them.

What is unique about sports is that they offer kids an arena where they can earn attention and respect by exerting their natural abilities.

Kids who participate in organized sports do better in school, have better interpersonal skills, are more team oriented, and are generally healthier. Participation in sports provides opportunities for leadership and socialization, as well as the development of skills for handling success and failure.

Moreover, when playing games, children learn how rules work. They see how groups need rules to keep order, that the individual must accept the rules for the good of the group, that rules entail a consideration of the rights of others.

The benefits for girls participating in sports includes increased self-esteem and self-confidence, healthier body image, significant experiences of competency and success, as well as reduces risk of chronic illness. Furthermore, research shows that female athletes do better academically and have lower dropout rates than their non-athletic counterparts.

The Women's Sports Foundation lists many ways that sports specifically benefit

female athletes. These include their being less likely to become pregnant as teenagers, less likely to begin smoking, more likely to quit smoking, more likely to do well in science, and more likely to graduate from high school and university than females who do not participate in sports.

Kids who play sports develop general physical fitness in a way that's fun, and they establish lifelong habits for good health. Sports allow

kids to clear their minds of academic and social pressures, to literally run off the tension that's accumulated in their muscles.

Sports give kids a satisfying, enjoyable way to develop their own talents: through personal effort they get good at something they're interested in.

Doing something well makes kids feel good about themselves, and equally important, it teaches them about the process of how to improve and work more effectively.

Because sports increase an awareness of one's body and how it responds to different stimuli and circumstances, sports help prevent drug and alcohol abuse. Most athletes value what their bodies can do and

want to maintain those abilities.

Sports provide an unparalleled model for dealing disappointment and misfortune they find ways to deal with losing and going on. Older teens learn that a confident attitude improves their performance, and that they have control over their attitude.

Team sports offer kids a rare opportunity to serve as leaders. Kids can be in a position to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their various teammates and help to exploit their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. They can reinforce values such as fair play, hard work, and mental preparation.

Being part of a group is inordinately important to kids, and sports make kids feel like they belong. Young athletes learn the fundamental lesson of sacrificing immediate gratification for long-term gain. Sports are a social activity athletes develop relationships with their teammates. On a team, they learn about cooperation, camaraderie, give and take.

They learn that you don't have to like someone in order to work together toward a common goal.

Congrats to all the athletes and their parents.

I enjoy hearing from the readers. Send your letters to Eagle Feather News c/o Sandee Sez PO Box 924 ST Main, Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4 or send me an email s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca



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Métis women receive Saskatoon housing help

Families and individuals in Saskatoon working to break free from the cycles of homelessness and poverty and build a stronger future for themselves are getting help from the Government of Canada.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification Canada was in Saskatoon and announced funding for three projects worth over \$434,000 in Saskatoon under the Government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

"Our government is delivering on its commitment to help those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless," said Minister Ambrose.

"We are proud to support community efforts that help find local solutions to local problems. Through this investment, the Western Region Métis Women's Association the Quint Development Corporation, and the Rainbow Community Centre will be able to implement services that help those in need."

The announcement took place at the Western Region Métis Women's Association in Saskatoon, which is receiving over \$400,000 in HPS funding. The organization will create five transitional housing units in Saskatoon for homeless women with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other cognitive disabilities, and will assist in their transition to stability and independence.

"The Western Region Métis Women's Association is pleased to be a partner in providing options for transitional housing for people affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder," said Shirley Isbister, Vice-president of WRMWA.

"This approach allows for as normal a lifestyle as possible with supports in place to provide a sense of community."



Dave Knight, Saskatoon Greater Catholic School Board (CNYC partner), Victoria Morris, CNYC Board Member, Louis Morin, CNYC Youth, The Honorable Carol Skelton, P.C., M.P., Jessie Usselman, CNYC Board Member; Heather Hale, CNYC Board Member, Anita Verlangen, Executive Director for CNYC, Joe Patterson, CNYC Board Member (and his son) pose with the big cheque.

Federal funds for Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op

The Honorable Carol Skelton, Member of Parliament (Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar), on behalf of the Government of Canada recently announced funding for Saskatoon's Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op.

The \$40,000 in funding will go towards this or-

ganization's Integrating Counselling, Culture, and Skills project. This project will provide Aboriginal young people at risk, between the ages of 15 and 25, with increased access to programs and one-on-one support in the areas of wellness, leadership and identity, and learning and skill development.



Elder Peter Bishop had Minister Rona Ambrose all smiles as they visited after the announcement. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Akina Shirt and her mother Jean Cardinal celebrate medals and an inspiring singing performance by Akina at the North American Indigenous Games.

(Photo by Warren Goulding)



Team Saskatchewan's chef de mission Courage Bear accepts congratulations after his team was awarded the 2008 Games Overall Team Title. It was the sixth time Saskatchewan has won the title.

(Photo by Warren Goulding)

Cardinal competed in earlier NAIG and saw spirit of Games

• Continued from Page One

Cardinal admits it took a little convincing before Akina was sure she wanted to compete in NAIG.

"Now I'm so pleased it came about for her, as well. She has met so many people, made new friends and she has seen the spirit of the Games."

Like everyone who watched the Saskatchewan team in action, Cardinal was impressed with the quality of the athletes.

"It's wonderful how they get such a great team together. They always bring the best of the best to the Games."

Not only did Akina Shirt turn in a medal winning performance in the swim-

ming pool, the young woman from Carry the Kettle First Nation sang O Canada in Cree at the official games opening ceremonies of the Cowichan Aquatic Centre in Duncan.

The North American Indigenous Games swimming competition was the first event to be held in the new Cowichan Aquatic Centre.

Last winter Shirt sang the Cree version of the national anthem before a Calgary Flames NHL game.

"The competition in the pool was phenomenal," added Cardinal.

"The volunteers really worked hard and did a great job. I know it really touched a lot of people."

Once again, Team Saskatchewan has made us proud as they competed successfully at the 2008 North American Indigenous Games held in the Cowichan Valley in British Columbia August 3-10.

Congratulations to the athletes, coaches, organizers and volunteers on your success. Your hard work, dedication and passion for your sports were reflected in the results. Well done!

Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Saskatchewan
Ministry of
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Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program

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The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program at Confederation Park Community School is accepting pre-Kindergarten to Grade Three applications for the 2008-2009 school year.

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Application forms can be picked up at your neighborhood public elementary school, Saskatoon Tribal Council or the Saskatoon Public School's main office.

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VICTORY!

Members of Team Saskatchewan celebrate after winning the Overall Team Title at the North American Indigenous Games in British Columbia. Athletes were dominant in sports including archery and track and field events.

(Photos by Rosemary Ratcliff and Warren Goulding)



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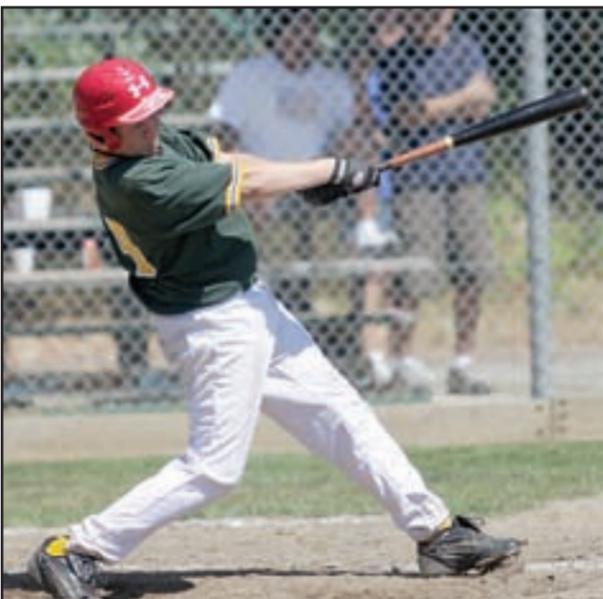
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FUN AND GAMES AT NAIG 2008

(Photos by Warren Goulding)



*Congratulations Team Saskatchewan!
Participants of the 2008 Cowichan North American Indigenous Games!*

Lynne Yelich, M.P. Blackstrap
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Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Congratulations to the athletes, coaches, chaperones, volunteers and staff of Team Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games. Your sportsmanship and performances made us all proud.

The Honourable Bill McKnight PC,
Treaty Commissioner

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Team Sask has a golden experience in Cowichan

Team Saskatchewan has once again brought home the overall team title from the North American Indigenous Games. This is the sixth time that Saskatchewan has won the team title in the history of the games.

The only time that Saskatchewan did not win the title was at the 2002 games that were held in Winnipeg.

As we went to print Saskatchewan had amassed a total of 243 medals. This included 94 gold, 81 silver, and 68 bronze, a total that was well ahead of 2nd place Team Ontario who had 143, and 3rd place Team Alberta who had 124.

Derek Rope, one of the coaches for athletics stated that "Saskatchewan does a great job at fostering and developing athletics.

The leadership in both the First Nation and Métis communities is second to none. We recognize that it is so important to have athletes participate and alleviate the roadblocks in front of them.

We are fortunate to have people like Lorna and Eugene Arcand who have come from the grass roots level and understand the importance of sport.

And that are willing to put their time aside to help both develop and contribute to the success of Team Saskatchewan".

This year's games were hosted by the Cowichan Tribes of British Columbia. They are a large tribe of almost 4,000 members.

And from what Mike Tanton had to say, the experience and the job they did as hosts was exceptional.

"Overall the biggest things about the Games was the hospitality. For me that was something that was different from previous games. Team Sask was put on a pedestal, and the respect the others showed for us was unbelievable. The games being in a smaller venue and a smaller area was nice, we were able to see other sports. Whereas at previous

games we were so far away from other sporting venues, it was nice to have a closeness in the community and have sport and culture so close together and allowed the athletes have a feeling of what the NAIG is supposed to be about."

The next North American Indigenous Games site will be Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Congratulations to them. It is my opinion that it's time to bring the Games here to Saskatchewan once again. We all know the type of Games we could have here. Whether it is in one of our larger cities such as Saskatoon and Regina, or a smaller town with surrounding reserves all contributing, Saskatchewan has earned the right to host!

Let us all say thank you to the people of Cowichan for being so hospitable and welcoming all of our First Nations people from across North America into their community.

And from all of us at Eagle Feather News congratulations TEAM SASK on a job well done.

Riders hurt and not so perfect

The perfect season may be gone, but the Riders still sit atop the CFL West. Despite not playing with a number of both defensive and offensive starters, The Green and White made the game close and would have had a chance to win the game if not for some key plays down the stretch by Henry Burris and the Stamps offence.

In the end the Stamp prevailed winning 30-25 and

splitting the home and home affair with the Riders.

The Riders do have a bye week and will look to heal some of their wounded players. Just to name a few, they are without starters; OT Glenn January, LB John Chick, WR Andy Fantuz, WR Matt Dominguez, and SB DJ Flick.

Now if I was to take the time to list the complete injury list of the Riders I'd be writing into my next column. The situation is that bad!! Especially at receiver, I actually heard they were thinking of bringing back Ray Elgaard (joking of course).

FSNI Chiefs the Kings of junior fastball

The FSIN Chiefs are the 2008 Junior B Provincial Fastball Champions. Despite losing the first two games of their best of three championship series against the Saskatoon Kekembas, the Chiefs stormed backed to win the final three games and championship.

Pitcher Tony Cappel was the catalyst on the mound and helped lead the team to victory. The team also featured two members of Team Canada, Terrell Walker and Dennis Iron.

Favre joins green and white

No not the Riders all you diehards! But what has to be the biggest trade in sports this year, the Green Bay Packers have traded a legend in Brett Favre to the New York Jets for a fourth round draft pick!

I really feel sorry for Aaron Rogers if they are not able to win some games in Green Bay. At least they were smart enough to trade Favre away to a team that plays in the opposite conference. But if the Jets win a tonne a games and the Packers struggle...heads will definitely roll.

Random Thoughts

The Olympics are on right now and I can't wait to watch Team USA crush all opponents on their way to both the Men's and Women's basketball titles ...Who designs Team Canada's track suits, we seriously have to start looking the part of Olympians, those outfits are just ridiculous ... Has anyone else noticed that the Florida Marlins are competing for a wild card spot in the playoffs despite a payroll of about 20 bucks ... get well soon Ron Lancaster!!



Saskatchewan athletes continued their winning ways on the track, on the water and on the field.

(Photo by Rosemary Ratcliff)

Remember...
Buckle Up
For you. For them.

SGM
Take care out there.

SNTC preparing to celebrate tenth anniversary

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) recently announced its plans for a new season of programming, productions and outreach.

While this seems routine for the little theatre company that could, this announcement has a significant purpose – SNTC will soon celebrate its tenth anniversary.

“We are very proud to be entering our tenth year and are honoured to continue contributing to the arts community in Saskatchewan,” said SNTC General Manager Donna Heimbecker. “It’s just amazing.”

Highlights of the announcement include: Santee Smith’s ‘Here on Earth’, the annual Circle of Voices play, the return of ‘The Velvet Devil’ starring Andrea Menard, the 7th Annual Rez Christmas Story, Maria Campbell’s Little Badger and the Fire Spirit and the annual Métis celebration, Expressions Art Auction and Anskohk Literature Festival.



SNTC artistic director Alanis King

“Here on Earth is a contemporary Iroquois creation story told with choreography and four dancers,” said SNTC Artistic Director Alanis King. “And this year’s Circle of Voices play is called Bye, Bye, Banashee.”

“It’s basically a story about an inner-city drama club who get together to do a Cree adaptation of Bye, Bye, Birdie, the Broadway musical. When their own personal

drama gets in the way, it almost prevents opening night.”

As far as The Velvet Devil goes, King said Andrea Menard wanted to take the one-act play to bigger centers that have not yet seen it.

“We’re re-mounting The Velvet Devil because it was invited to the High Performance Rodeo and it’s opening up for Native Earth’s Weesageechak. We’re also waiting to hear confirmation from the Public Theatre in New York City.”

Whew! As always, SNTC is a whirlwind of production, programming, events and outreach.

To think it all started ten short years ago on the set of a film. Gordon Tootoosis was there. So was Tantoo Cardinal, Doug Cuthand, Kenneth Charlette and Lorne Cardinal. They spoke of a dream to reach out to our youth and provide them with a place to learn skills needed to succeed in life and the entertainment industry.

This group of people, or ‘cultural leaders’ as Heimbecker calls them, discussed the huge void in the entertainment industry with respect to Aboriginal performing arts. At the time there were little to no training institutions for Aboriginal people to attend and it was determined our people, especially in Saskatchewan, were not being empowered to pursue careers in the entertainment and performing arts industries.

“It was through the discussions that started on set that day we decided we needed to form a non-profit organization that could provide quality, respectful and meaningful programming for youth and artists,” said Heimbecker.

Ten years later the entertainment industry in Saskatchewan and beyond is reaping the rewards. With the growing TV and film industry in the province, there is a need for skilled individuals to fill important positions within production.

Rabbit Fall: Season II, a supernatural crime drama, was recently shot in and around Saskatoon and it is estimated about a fifth of the faces on set were trained by, worked for or had ties to SNTC – there were director trainees, casting people, grips, lighting, sound techs, ac-

tors, writers, extras ... the list is endless.

And it will continue to grow.

“We’ve really seen a change in who is applying to SNTC for our programs,” said Education Program Coordinator Dale Ahenakew. “Instead of youth-at-risk applying for Circle of Voices, we’re seeing more and more youth who want to work in the entertainment industry applying because of the level of training they’ll receive here.”

But as the legacy continues to grow, so does the need for resources. SNTC has been working on a campaign for over three years to raise funds for a renovation project to bring its existing space. They desperately need an industry standard facility to train the youth and artists that continue to roll through the doors.

“We need to further educate people that we’re more than a theatre company. We’re a training institution that’s trying to raise dollars to expand our operations physically. Everything we create is created here, in this building. We need our space to be up to par.”

You can reach SNTC at 306-933-2262 for event and production information. Also, feel free to swing by and say hello, have coffee and check it out – they’re always happy to see you.

...

CD Contest ...

What was the film Gordon Tootoosis, Tantoo Cardinal, Kenneth Charlette, Doug Cuthand and Lorne Cardinal were working on when they started discussing the idea of creating SNTC? Email your responses to: crazymoonbymike@yahoo.com

The first correct answer will receive a copy of ‘Of Love and Life’ by John J. Cook.

Last month’s winner of the CD Hookers was Peggy Robillard. Congrats Peggy ... we will get that disc to you soon.



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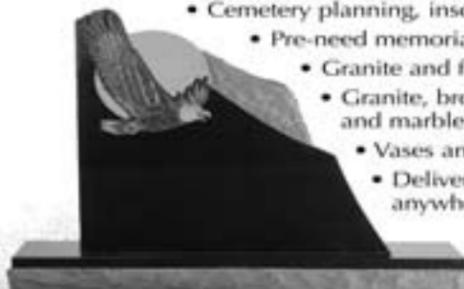


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From the Set of Rabbit Fall

What a treat it was to be able to hang around the set for a few days over the last couple weeks of shooting *Rabbit Fall: Season II*. The last location was near Dundurn on the military base and was excellent for shooting a scene that required a setting for a gathering of ancient tribes ... I'd love to indulge but am sworn to secrecy ... On set were extras Tala Tootoosis, Kelly Werezak and Lorrie Kocay – all SNTC alumni. As the sun set, it really cooled off and the fearless extras, who were clad in skimpy costumes, braved the weather and never complained once ... Another SNTC alumni, Curtis Peeteetuce, worked as a casting trainee under the direction of Jennifer Podemski and was also able to pick up some acting work. On the last day of shooting Curtis was ready to be wrapped when he was needed for an extra scene. Apparently this is called being 'upgraded'. Peeteetuce was up for the challenge and was able to deliver like the pro he is ... Without giving too much away, Andrea Menard was exhausted between takes after having, in her words, "the crap kicked out of me." All I can report is: there's action, lots of action in the last two episodes.

–By Mike Gosselin



Director Rob King, Andrea Menard and Kevin Jubinville on the set of *Rabbit Fall*. (Photo courtesy of Rabbit Fall Films 2, Inc.)

CD Review Of Love and Life John J. Cook Independent

What can one say about a do-it-yourselfer who puts his heart in soul into making music.

John J. Cook's independent release *Of Love and Life* is suited for almost every musical taste: rock, pop, country – you name it, he plays it. Hey, Hey kicks off the album with a catchy groove that leaves you singing along the first time you hear it.

I Did Not Leave! is a mainstay on MBC's rotation and is his most requested single. *I Cry* has hit single

written all over it and *Don't Pull Me Down* tells detractors, nitpicks and vibe-killers to back off and let him do his thing.

Overall, a large budget for recording with a professional producer would help John J. Cook's sound tremendously. But here's to John J. Cook for producing 39 minutes of catchy, well-written, meaningful music.

4 Eagle Feathers out of 5.

– Review by Mike Gosselin



The Museums Association of Saskatchewan



Director of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage - MAS

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan is accepting applications for the full time term position of Director of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. Duties include developing a Repatriation model; working with Elders to outline protocol for museums; updating Museum Standards in relation to First Nations and Metis heritage, among other duties. Application deadline is August 22, 2008. For full details, go to our website at www.saskmuseums.org/jobpostings

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August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies II	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Accounting Year 3	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology I	\$2800	\$1000/\$415
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology II	\$2800	\$1000/\$415
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Education Assistant	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Community Services Addictions I	\$3400	\$1000/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Community Services Addictions II	\$4300	\$1000/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Health Care Aide	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
August 18, 2008 – April 30, 2009	Adult Pre-10	\$2200	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – June 30, 2009	Adult 10	\$2200	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – June 30, 2009	Adult 12	\$2200	\$450/\$365
September 2, 2008 – January 30, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
January 19, 2009 – June 19, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
REGINA CAMPUS			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology I	\$2800	\$1000/\$615
August 18, 2008 – December 19, 2008	Office Management Certificate	\$1400	\$225/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies I	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies II	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Adult 10	\$2200	\$450/\$365
September 2, 2008 – January 30, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
January 19, 2009 – June 19, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology I	\$2800	\$1000/\$415
August 18, 2008 – December 19, 2008	Office Management Certificate	\$1400	\$225/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies I	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies II	\$2800	\$450/\$365
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January 19, 2009 – June 19, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
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August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	First Nations Child Care	\$2800	\$800/\$365
FORT QU'APPELLE			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Health Care Aide	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
September 2, 2008 – February 13, 2009	Welding (MTL)	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
YORKTON			
August 18, 2008 – June 30, 2009	Adult 12	\$2200	\$450

Start dates may vary. Program availability subject to enrolment. Tuition subject to final approval.

NOTICE



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY SASKATOON

PLEASE NOTE

The Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) is going through a process of review. Currently there is no walk-in office representing UAS in Saskatoon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mr. Dwayne Docken, Consultant, is the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy contact person.
email: dwaynedocken@sasktel.net
phone: 290-7188



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City of Saskatoon

Sāsīpenita Project Coordinator

The City of Saskatoon in partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council has developed the following Work Experience Partnership for First Nations applicants. Please declare yourself on your application.

Project
The creation of a portable exhibit to address the impact of racism in our communities which will include dynamic content about First Nations & Métis people of Saskatchewan. The exhibit will provide a catalyst for promoting understanding and respect for First Nations and Métis peoples and focus on First Nations and Métis contributions to the development of our province.

Duties

- Coordinate and attend committee meetings
- Take minutes
- Assist in writing proposals and grant applications
- Coordinate correspondence between committee and community members
- Assist in planning events and fundraisers
- Flag items for follow-up
- Provide assistance in initiatives as needed

Qualifications

- A variety of computer software applications i.e. Microsoft Office, Word, Internet and e-mail
- Ability to work independently, following timelines and meeting project expectations and deadlines
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willingness to learn new skills

Program Criteria

- Individual must be a resident of Saskatoon
- Individual must be a registered status Indian

Salary: \$15.00 per hour (Flexible Hours Required)
Application Deadline: Friday, August 22, 2008.

Please forward your resume and two letters of support/references to:
Becky Kuffner, 3130 Laurier Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7L 5J7 or email: becky.kuffner@saskatoon.ca
For further information, please contact Becky Kuffner at 975-7826.
While we sincerely appreciate the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

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ABORIGINAL ELDER (CONTRACT)
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF CANADA (CSC)
ENGLISH IS ESSENTIAL

The Correctional Service of Canada is seeking applicants for the Contract Position of ELDER at the Saskatoon Parole Office. The contract is open to Aboriginal applicants including First Nations, Metis and Inuit persons that reside in Saskatoon or surrounding areas.

CONTRACT: The Elder shall provide 1196 hours of service to male/female offenders that are supervised at the Saskatoon and Prince Albert Parole Offices. Elder services will be required to be provided in daytime, evening and weekend hours.

DUTIES: The Aboriginal Elder shall provide offenders teachings of traditional Aboriginal ways of life through individual counseling, mentorship, and by the coordination and facilitation of traditional and spiritual ceremonies. The Elder will liaise with Parole Office Staff to assist, support and encourage offenders in following the conditions indicated on their correctional plans. The Elder will attend urban justice committee meetings regarding section 84 offenders.

SCREENING QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be recognized as an Elder in good standing in his/her community with experience in cultural education and teachings. Fluency in an Aboriginal language (such as Cree, Ojibway or Michif) would be beneficial; proficiency in English is essential.

Applicant must have valid Class 5 drivers license.

Applicant must meet security clearance requirements.

Candidates must clearly demonstrate in writing that they meet the screening criteria and submit with their application 2 letters of reference that confirm the applicant as a recognized Elder in the community.

Please submit your resume/statement of qualifications quoting reference "ELDER" on or before Sept. 1, 2008 to:

Lesia Sorokan
Area Director, Saskatoon Parole Office
603- 230 22nd Street
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0E9
Fax: (306) 975-4532

A full statement of work is available upon request at (306) 975-4065.

Canada

We thank all those who apply but advise that only those candidates who meet the requirements will be contacted.

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For complete employment details, go to www.saskatoon.ca, visit us at Human Resources - City Hall (222 Third Avenue N), or call 975-3261.

City of Saskatoon

While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



Job was all about building partnerships

When I first moved to Saskatoon, life was not entirely easy. Living in Vancouver for so long had dampened my prairie resilience, even though I could still recall my childhood of being a free spirit on the James Smith Reserve.

My wife and I traded the hustle and bustle of Vancouver for a city that was "struggling to remain a town." The job market in Saskatoon at the time was not good so my wife and I with our two kids in tow opened a small coffee shop that we named Nitotem Bannock and Coffee House.

I pursued my lifelong dream of owning my own business, being my own boss, earning lots of money. My advice to anyone wanting to do this is this: make sure that you like long hours, being away from your family every day and feeling like you're married to your business.

The restaurant business in Saskatoon is unforgiving and the competition is fierce. However, I was determined to make it work until that fateful day when I received a call to pursue an even higher passion. It was the Saskatoon Police Service and I could not pass up the opportunity to become a police officer in Saskatoon.

I knew that although I was 38 years old and had not run in over five years, my determination and drive was greater than my age and lacking level of fitness combined. Fortunately, our business closed and I have not looked back since.

Soon after becoming a member of the Saskatoon Police Service, I was offered a position as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer. Although I loved the work of patrol and was hesitant at first to take the job, I saw this as an opportunity to facilitate meaningful change. I accepted the position and worked in it for the next three and a half years. The job involved developing partnerships with Aboriginal organizations in and around Saskatoon and beyond.

I worked closely with two other police members and although we each had



Const. Mike McLean spent more than three years as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer with the Saskatoon Police Service.

our own areas of specialty we were unified in teaching diversity to anyone who wanted to hear it. Our presentations involved instructing why diversity is important in a workplace, what it means to be tolerant of other races and cultures, and how people of different cultures and backgrounds add value to our communities.

In these three and a half years I have learned that when it comes to the police and the Aboriginal community there is an undeniable amount of politics involved. There were protocols that could not be broken and we often learned these through trial and error.

This was not because we were unfamiliar with the traditions of the First Nations community but rather because we were learning the political boundaries and building partnerships. I am proud to say I was the first Treaty Indian to work in the Aboriginal Liaison Unit in the history of the Saskatoon Police Service and I really wanted to encourage a rapid change of attitude with everyone. Along with my partners we set out to define our role as that of a valuable resource to the Police Service.

I feel that we accomplished this task with the greatest of ease thanks to a forward thinking and forgiving executive staff. No "good idea" was turned away and no "outside the box" request was

denied. Because of this, we have accomplished what I believe no other Police Service in the country has ... we have achieved a degree of unity in our communities.

The notion that we are "all in this together" has been influential throughout my journey. However, the biggest lesson I take away from my time as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer is that people can be provided with the tools that they need but the changes in attitude must come from within.

There is one question I get asked all

the time: "is there racism where you work?" My answer to that question is a resounding "No, I have not seen that behavior where I work."

The men and women of the Saskatoon Police Service are hard working people who want to go home to their families at the end of the day just like everyone else. I'll admit that there have been personal challenges along the way, but I would not want to work anywhere else and I encourage others, who want to make a difference, to join me here.

Constable Michael McLean 531

Ombudsman
SASKATCHEWAN

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Saskatoon Office

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New or Used Vehicles

Here I am in Beijing! 10,000 miles from home!

• Continued from Page 2

You know, it hasn't sunk in yet that I am 10,000 miles away. The scenery is different and so are the people. Maybe it'll sink in tomorrow. I was up last night at 2:00 and really felt alone.

Had a long hard day. The heat again was intense.

We interviewed an 85-year-old man. In his day he was a famous barber. Sacha was about to receive a shave from the old man with a straight razor. He had a two day growth on his face, that fury Québécois! The old man pulled out his ancient kit bag and spread his tools out on a table. As I was shooting the razors and scissors, I wondered how many thousands of shaves he must have dispensed using these tools. Before he began shaving Sacha, he gleaned an edge on the razor using a coarse piece of leather. He had a small basin with a tiny pool of warm water in it. He used a bar of soap to lather up his victim.

The audio was great; I could hear the razor cutting and scraping through Sacha's whiskers. The old gent was very focused; his eyes were soft but were clear. Although he was ancient, his hands were steady and his blade sharp. Sacha had a bit of a wild look in his eye; who would sit for a shave from a feeble old dude. One tremor, one slip and oops, there goes the jugular! The old man was thorough; at the end of he even shaved Sacha's forehead and snipped his nasal hair. No! I didn't roll on that!



RICHARD AGECOUTAY

When he was finished we interviewed him for 30 minutes through an interpreter. He recalled his youth, his life and how China has changed. He says today's young people do not appreciate what his generation went through. Starvation, oppression, unemployment and religious persecution. When he was young he had one set of clothes and he marvels at today's youth when they tire of old styles and toss out the clothes they don't want. He said in his day you never threw away clothes because he had only one shirt, one pair of pants, one pair of underwear and if it was good year he had shoes and socks. Many times he went barefoot!

His one-room dwelling was contained in a labyrinth of alleyways crowded with laundry lines, bicycles and trolleys. As we wound our way through the tiny alleys, small dogs

barked from within the other rooms and people peered out from the shadows of their doorways. It was amazing, the vision of this little microcosm of humanity. When we were finished four of his girlfriends showed up and started playing a game of Mahjong. As I was shooting the game one of the gals motioned to me to wipe my face. I guess it looked like my head was leaking from all the sweat and my shirt was soaked!

It was a great day to be a shooter! That video camera of mine has taken me on many journeys through my life and this day was one of the most memorable!

I finally got some batteries for my still camera. As we were winding our way through Beijing traffic I was inserting the batteries in my camera. When I was done the camera didn't work, I had a moment of panic but I checked the batteries and one of them was upside down! When I got power to my camera the thought hit me ... I'm in f*ckin' Beijing, covering one of the biggest events on the face of the earth!

All the way back to the International Broadcast center I was just wired about being in Beijing! It was my still camera that kicked me in the gut and made me realize where I am. I couldn't help but remember that line from the Scorpions "Here I am ... Rock you like a hurricane!" Here I am in Beijing ... ROCK ME LIKE A HURRICANE!

Look for Part 2 in September as Richard gets into the Olympic swing of things.

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A day at Back to Batoche 2008 ... priceless

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Mel Vandale was recognized as Mr. Batoche for 2008. Mel and his band are regulars around the province and they most recently played at the ceremony where they changed the name of the Fish Creek site to Tourand's Coulee.

"It was nice to be involved with that and an honour to be Mr. Batoche," said Vandale.

"It is not often you get a special name or recognition. It is an honour to carry on the tradition site and be a good ambassador for the Métis community."

Miss Teen Batoche was Danielle Zaretsky. She goes to Bethlehem Catholic High School and will be entering Grade 10 in the fall. Danielle loves to do the Red River Jig which she learned from her grandmother. In her spare time she dances hip hop and hang out with friends. In the future she wants to be a K-9 Officer.

Shirley Ross, President of Langham Martensville Local #159 was named Mrs. Batoche. She found out Tuesday night when she was told to come early to get good parking.

"I thought that was funny," said Ross. "But really it is an honour. I have worked in the Métis community for many years as a president, in politics, and as a redneck. My duties are mostly ceremonial this week, mostly just to talk to people young and old. I actually just had a great chat with a gent from Nottingham, England."

Shirley says she loves coming out to Batoche for the good food, great entertainment and great people.

This year at Batoche was busiest in over a decade. Many events drew in people. There was slow pitch, a full rodeo and chariot racing, rides and games for the kids (could have used a tent or shade maker), crafts, great food and of course lots of culture entertainment. The busiest food booth seemed to be CUMFI's and good job on feeding those Elders. Tied in with events over at the National Historic Site, the week offered much for a family to do. This will continue to be a huge tourism week for that territory and this year was a great example of what happens with good organizing.

The Historic Site hosted a play written by Maria Campbell and



Chariot racing action at Back to Batoche 2008.



Ryan Cote, Waylon Machiskinic, Modeste MacKenzie, Mitchell Poundmaker and the young fiddle prodigy whose name we don't remember joined Krystle Pederson, a pretty young lass, Brenda Macdougall and Yvonne Chartrand as they performed "The Crossing" a play by Maria Campbell about Madeliene and Gabriel Dumont at Batoche National Historic Site.

choreographed by Yvonne Chartrand. The show is outdoors and incorporated buildings and the audience.

It was an excellent summer play with an energetic cast and great music and great dancing.



SHIRLEY ROSS



MEL VANDALE



DANIELLE ZARETSKY

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MAKING AN APPEARANCE

Lorna Arcand (below) carries the flag at the opening ceremonies of the North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan, British Columbia. Métis singer Andrea Menard had the audience cheering as she sang her emotional Halfbreed Blues at the closing ceremonies.

(Photos by Warren Goulding)



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