

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Batoche honours Métis veterans

During Back to Batoche Days, Métis Veterans were given the Order of the Métis Nation to honour their sacrifices made during their service. Here, Métis Veterans enjoy the Métis and old time fiddling of Dallas Boyer. (Photo by Peter Beszterda - Gabriel Dumont Institute)



By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

Mother Nature met her match at the annual Back to Batoche Days Festival.

“It was spectacular, regardless of the rain and the cold,” says event manager, Claire Belanger-Parker. “Everyone had a good time.”

The sound of fiddle music and laughter filled the air despite the wet and windy conditions for the July event and no one’s spirits were dampened.

This year’s festival was dedicated specifically to Elders and Métis veterans. Belanger-Parker adds there were many additions to the site to assist in accommodating those who are elderly.

“This year we doubled the workforce to be able to assist the Veterans and Elders on site. We had twice the amount of golf carts to

transport Elders around the site. Next year we plan on doubling those numbers plus keeping the people mover (a tractor pulled trolley),” adds Belanger-Parker.

The evening of Friday, July 22 saw 823 participants gather in the Main Event Centre to attempt to break the World Record for largest spoon ensemble. Unfortunately, the group fell 541 spoon players short.

“This year we fell short of the record, but true to the Métis spirit and way of life, we will keep trying until we succeed so bring your spoons out next year,” event co-chair Robert Doucette said.

The competition for the World Record had heated up this year as a group from Indiana had unofficially broke the previous record on July 4 and they were keeping a close eye on the competition in Batoche.

“We received a phone call at 6

a.m. from our friends in Indiana wondering if we had broken their record. They were happy to hear we didn’t but added they would be keeping an eye on Batoche during the attempt next year and may someday travel up to the festival to participate” said Belanger-Parker.

“It’s going to become an annual tradition, this competition between our two communities. There’s nothing more Metis then some good old healthy competition,” adds Doucette.

The weekend saw great entertainment from singers such as Donny Parenteau, Darren Lavallee and Ryan Keplin. Old time music and dancing filled the main stage during the evenings while competitions heated up during the daytime.

“It really is amazing to see the competitiveness of the Métis.

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James Pratt had a successful career in policing. He’d like to see other Aboriginal people enter the field. - Page 8



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BOOK LAUNCH

Author Lawrie Barkwell recently launched his latest book at Back to Batoche.

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DIDN'T BELONG

Despite his tremendous talent, Charlie Cyr never felt at home on the ice with non-Native players.

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Welcome to our
Justice Edition
Coming In September:
Back to School Issue
CPMA #40027204

Wanuskewin demonstrates importance of the horse

First Nations have a long-standing relationship with the horse. Archaeological evidence demonstrates that ancient horses inhabited North America before the last ice age. Since their return, via Spanish Conquistadors and other newcomers, horses have played a significant role in Plains Indian cultures.

Among Plains First Nations the horse replaced the dog in transportation, which supported the expansion of Plains Indian cultures. The close relation between dogs and horses is evident in Indigenous languages. In Cree a 'dog' is atim, a 'horse' is mistatim (big dog). Another indication of the importance of horses can be found in the Blackfoot language, where, "over 20 words described the types and qualities of horses ... these included race horses, war horses, travois horses, pack horses, as well as 'horses that can go long distances' and 'horses that can run in deep snow.' The reverence with which groups treat their horses also indicate the importance of horses in their cultures."

For many First Nations, horses possess a profound sacredness. The horse has a special place because of its character and strong, spiritual powers.

Horses are known to be honest, loyal, strong, brave, generous, and compassionate.

In the spiritual realm they are protec-



The exhibition provides insights into the relationship between man and horse.

tors and help others to understand their place in the Circle of Life.

Plains Indian Nations continue to revere and honour their horses with Horse Ceremonies, still practiced throughout the Northern Plains. Songs, dedicated to horses, are featured in these and other ceremonies – Horse Medicine is highly valued.

Masinasowatimak, painted horses, have a special significance in Plains

Cultures. Some markings have special spiritual meanings. Medicine Hat horses are the most highly prized as ceremonial horses, buffalo runners and war-horses. Other sacred markings feature breastplates and saddle blankets.

The relationship between man and the horse changed the lives of the Plains First Nations' people. The change of mode of transportation, from dog, to horse, increased mobility and brought about

greater trade opportunities, and a shift in economic strength. People traveled further, faster, communicated more, shared more, and they hunted more, which created greater material wealth.

The important role that the horse played in sustaining the people, both spiritually, and economically is immeasurable, and it has been honoured by sacred ceremonies and by traditional oral history keepers.

The reverence that society has for the horse is demonstrated through significant representation of the horse image in both traditional and contemporary art forms.

Mistatim - I Honour You, continues honouring tradition and sets forth examples of this highly held reverence for the horse, through historical and contemporary artistic expression of the Plains First Nation and Métis Peoples.

The exhibition reveals insights into the traditional world-views of the relationship between man and horse. To the Plains First Nation and Métis peoples, the horse was not a beast of burden, but was respected as an integral part of their health and survival, both spiritually, and earthly.

Visitors will discover that mankind's fascination and love for horses, runs much deeper than purely admiration, but that a deep rooted connection exists where we all can share the love for these magnificent beings.

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Police Service building relationships, new facility

By Braden Dupuis
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatoon Police Service has taken steps to strengthen the relationship between themselves and the aboriginal community by including a cultural room and a memorial to murdered and missing women in the plans for the new police headquarters.

The new police station, to be located on Ontario Avenue and 25th Street, is expected to be completed in 2013 with a budget of nearly \$130 million. That the cultural room and memorial survived the many budget cuts is an encouraging sign, believes Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

"I think we've gone through a difficult time here in the last number of years, and it's imperative that the healing continues," said Chief Felix Thomas. "(This is) a good step in building the relationship between First Nations and the police service."

According to Saskatoon Chief of Police Clive Weighill, the inclusions offer police an opportunity to extend a hand to the aboriginal community.

"We've had a checkered past with the First Nations and Métis community specifically, so we want to make sure that we can build as welcoming an environment as we can," he said.

The cultural room will feature a large circular table for meetings, a full ventilation system for smudge ceremonies, and will be easily accessible to the public.

"We're hoping that people will come to see us more often," said Weighill. "I know that when the capital budget first came in they were asked to cut out the things that were deemed unnecessary. The fact that they kept these two aspects shows the commitment of the police commissioners."

By committing to these inclusions the Saskatoon Police Service is beginning to address two of the major concerns involving police and First Nations relations: the importance of cultural understanding and the need for continued awareness towards an issue that has been met with a somewhat apathetic response in the past.

The issue of sexual abuse and violence against women, particularly aboriginal women, is one that has been notoriously overlooked in previous years.

Becky Sasakamoose-Kuffner, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Officer for the City of Saskatoon, believes the problem has deep roots in a post-colonialist society.

"I think that that idea is actually quite complex," said Sasakamoose-Kuffner.

"I think just on the surface, part of the reason is that aboriginal women, out of years and years of oppression and overt racism, have been subjugated into society into positions that are not really valued as much as they ought to be."



Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners Councillor Bev Dubois, Mayor Don Atchison, Vera Pezer and Gord Martell joined Police Chief Clive Weighill to turn the sod on the future site of the Saskatoon Police Station.

(Photo supplied)

As of 2010, there were 582 known cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls in Canada. Over two-thirds of those cases occurred in the western provinces.

According to statistics gathered by awareness group Sisters in Spirit, police make an arrest and obtain a conviction in about 84 per cent of homicide cases in which the victim is non-native. When the victim is a native woman that percentage drops to around 50 per cent, and in some cases even lower. Alberta's conviction rate is an embarrassing 42 per cent.

Saskatoon, however, is a rare bright spot when it comes to solving crimes against native women. The city boasts a conviction rate of almost 80 per cent, something Police Chief Weighill attributes to increased awareness and revamped missing persons policies.

"I think the awareness has done a lot. The provincial government has given us more money to investigate missing persons," he said. "Policing has changed. Not only has society changed but the way police handle these reports has changed."

Sasakamoose-Kuffner agrees that keeping the issue in the public eye is crucial.

"I believe that there is more awareness now that is created around this issue."

"A lot of aboriginal women groups themselves are starting to realize that they can have an impact when it comes to the political landscape of what they can make happen," she said.

The memorial, paid for with funds directly from the police budget, will help ensure that the issue doesn't go unnoticed, while also giving family members of victims a place to mourn and remember.

• Continued on Page 14



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Editorial

Don't do drugs, don't go to jail

Well, the folks from inside have spoken and the message is clear. In order to cut down on the large number of Aboriginal people in jail, we have to tackle the addictions problem in the community.

This message comes from the men inside jails and remand centres across Saskatchewan who took the time to write us and answer the question we posed to them last month: "What can be done inside and outside of jails to stop people from reoffending and winding up back in jail?"

To a man, the letters talked about the lack of addictions counselling inside our jails. Many admitted that it was their addictions that led them to make bad decisions that led to their incarceration ... and on their release, not having support through counselling, or sadly, often not having support from their peers or family members.

As one writer astutely put it, you sometimes have to drop your friends and find new positive peers instead. Difficult but true.

The solutions offered do go beyond addressing addictions though. There were calls for trades training inside so that they are employable upon their release. There is a need for safe affordable housing to provide a stable environment so it is less desperate and tempting to start using drugs again. There is also a need to work on the overcrowding inside as we had one complaint that the classroom where men used to go to get their GED and Grade 12 is now a bunk house to handle all the extra inmates.

As bad as things are in jail, it is worse for our brothers and sisters on remand. Remand is the purgatory of hell in the justice system. In Remand, you get no programs. Nothing. This is where you sit and stew and try to stay alive while you wait for your court date.

As Andre Charpentier says in his letter, "All you have is a cell and lock-up for 22 hours a day. What a waste of time. You watch three channels on TV or read Archie Comics. It is very frustrating. We had an Elder come and speak for 25 minutes once and my fellow inmates flocked to it, not just to get out of our cells, but because we all want help and it's the only help we're offered."

Solving the crime and punishment issue in Saskatchewan will take a concerted effort from all levels of government with investments in children, youth and education and recreation.

Grab those children and engage them in the community, before they get criminalized.

There have to be other hooks in the community other than those thrown out by the gangs and drug dealers that keep reeling in our vulnerable and youth.

Police searching for man in sexual assault

The Saskatoon Police Service has released a description of a suspect in a sexual assault, along with a composite sketch.

The sexual assault occurred Thursday, July 28, 2011, just before 10:00 a.m. in the 400 block of 31st Street West. A male approached a 19-year-old female and sexually assaulted her before fleeing the scene.

Personal Violence investigators are working with the victim and have developed a composite sketch in hopes that a member of the public may be able to identify him. He is described as a 20-30 year old male, of First Nations descent, 6' in height with a medium build. He has short black hair in a buzz cut, and full lips. He was wearing a grey t-shirt and baggie jeans.

Anyone with information on the suspect or this incident is asked to contact the Saskatoon Police Service at 975-8300 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



Former Aboriginal Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl, who received the Order of the Métis Nation, shares a laugh with Métis Veteran, Edwin St. Pierre. (Photo by Peter Beszterda C Gabriel Dumont Institute)

Memorial will honour Métis veterans of foreign wars

Métis veterans of the Korean and Second World War were honoured at the recent Back to Batoche celebrations.

The Métis veterans were given the Order of the Métis Nation as a sign of gratitude for their service. Chuck Strahl, former minister of Aboriginal Affairs, also received the Order of the Métis Nation.

Dave Chartrand, minister of veterans for the Métis National Council, said many of the Second World War veterans are still owed benefits

promised to them before they went overseas.

Chartrand said he is calling on the federal government to compensate those who served.

At the event, the federal government announced it would give \$50,000 to help build a memorial commemorating Métis veterans at the Batoche National Historic Site.

The memorial will include eight granite slabs inscribed with the names of 3,600 Métis who served during the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and the South African War.

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

Justice is a painful issue to write about

This issue is about justice and that's a hard one, thinking and talking about it always makes me a little crazy.

It is such a great and noble thing yet there is so little of it in the world that I wonder about us humans sometime.

Yesterday I walked from Gabriel's Crossing with the Northerners who are walking from Pinehouse to Regina rallying support to stop our government from putting a nuclear waste dump in northern Saskatchewan. A nuclear waste dump! My creator, even the word sounds awful.

Why would anyone, especially a government who is supposed to be our protector, want to have waste in their yard, especially toxic waste? They are going to haul it from Ontario, down our highways, past our homes and into our North. That's if they don't have an accident on the road.

But I forgot, they tell us its safe (isn't that what they said in Japan.) Now I understand why they were in such a hurry to build the St. Louis Bridge and why another multi million dollar bridge is being built in Patuanak. It was foolish of me to think it was being built for the good citizens of the territory.

The walk its self was good and even if I didn't cover many miles I at least let the universe know that I do not want this for my grand and great grandchildren nor do I want it for my country.

Thank you to all the people on the road who honked to show support or who stopped to sign the petitions, donate money, cook food and provide sleeping accommodation for the courageous young people and elders who are leading this walk.

Aboriginal leadership could well take a lesson from them, while they are, as usual, fighting each other as our people fend for themselves and for Mother Earth.

To the "old" leader who told the young man at a northern meeting: "Take the money or be prepared to go to jail or hang yourself with your Métis sash because that's the only choice you'll have if you don't accept this offer to put that stuff in the North" I say to you and all the "sell-out old men" if that's the only advice you can give our youth you are indeed more pitiful then I thought.

I just hope that you at least negotiated a decent fee for yourselves for the sale of our children's future. To our provincial government, I would like to say that I pray you will show us you have more care and vision for our children's future than your predecessors.

More on injustice? Well how about the beautification of our city especially our riverbank where one has to look long and hard to find citizens and their dogs on a walk about or having picnic's with their families. The only people I see using the riverbank on any day but Saturday, when the crowds come to the market, are the people who have been dispossessed as a result of beautification, jacked up rent and real estate prices.

Six years ago I looked at a tiny two-bedroom house that the realtor said "only needs a little tender care." It was listed at \$45,000. I thought it was too much. The

listing is up again and out of curiosity I called the realtor, who said again, it only needs "a bit of loving care." The price is now \$180,000.

The rent on an almost identical slum house beside it is \$1,300 per month and I understand that is reasonable. Now where is the justice in that?

Soon people will have to live in tent villages like they do in the United States.

That was one of the sad sights on my trip to Hawaii. Tent villages of homeless families on the beach while across the road, blocks of boarded up houses. I wonder if city hall here will let people pitch tents along that lovely deserted riverbank.

Tent villages of dispossessed people in our province have happened before. I believe it was in the 1940s. Just Google archival photos. I found one photo of Regina, a sea of tents on Broad Street and 12 Avenue.

The people ended up there as a result of Tommy Douglas's failed plan to move Metis and Non-Status people off the road allowances in southern Saskatchewan to Green Lake. In the late autumn, I might add, and put them in tents to spend the winter.

The majority of them survived the bitter winter but many children and elders didn't. In the spring the people left, walking or using wagons and horses to make their way back to their homes but their homes had been burned to the ground and so they went to Regina hoping to find work.

All of this, by the way, was done while

men were away fighting in the Second World War. No one likes to hear that history, some deny it and even some of our own people will not acknowledge or speak of it because of the shame that is attached to poverty and homelessness. I love our city and province. I think they are among, if not, the most beautiful in the world but it frightens me to see the callousness shown to those who have no power.

I have always wondered how one justifies in their own mind the raising of funds to send to Third World countries when those conditions are right here at home.

True, they are not as visible or "in your face" so to speak but there are people and lots of them, who are not only hungry but homeless as well. They are not just panhandling for something to do or standing around on street corners just to annoy us. And those are just the ones we see. There are many, many more that are not visible.

Don't get me wrong, I am not against money being sent away to help people in war torn countries, but it seems to me justice would be better served if we addressed the issues of poverty and hunger at home before running off to save the world. And remember too that those countries are poverty stricken because someone cleaned out their resources and polluted their land.

If we continue to be as we are we will have tents of refugees here and that time is not so far away. Do I have answers on how to change that? Not really, but I believe that if we sat down together and put people first we could change anything.

That's my take on justice I will try to be lighter next time. Ekosi, hiy hiy.



Reflections
Maria Campbell

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Looking at the NRTA options

Last month we had a look at the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) which is part of the Constitution Act 1930 and therefore a Constitutional document. The NRTA can be amended by agreement between the federal and provincial governments.

This provides a relatively simple way of amending the Constitution in an important area because the NRTA deals with lands and natural resources. In this commentary we look at some concerns about the NRTA and at some approaches for working towards amending the NRTA in order to get better respect and protection for the interests of First Nations in the lands and natural resources in the prairie provinces.

A number of provisions or articles in the NRTA concern the interests and rights of First Nations. The most commonly noticed provision is the one that is often called the 'game laws paragraph'.

Essentially the paragraph provides that provincial game laws shall apply to the "Indians of the Province" but that for the purpose of protecting a supply of game and fish for their "support and subsistence" Indians shall have a right to hunt, fish and trap for food at all seasons of the year without regard to those game laws. The right to hunt, fish and trap may be exercised on all unoccupied Crown lands and on other lands to which the Indians have a right of access.

It is easy to see why this provision would not sit well with First Nation leaders. First, the NRTA refers to the 'Indians of the Province' and makes provincial game laws applicable to Indians. By the way, don't confuse 'game laws' with gambling, which the government, being in charge of gambling, now calls 'gaming'.

Second, the NRTA was a deal between the federal and provincial governments. It dealt with the collective rights of First Nations, and yet First Nations were not involved in the negotiations leading to the NRTA. The consent of First Nations was not obtained. A process like that would not be legitimate today. Dealing with the land rights of indigenous peoples without their participation is not only contrary to international standards; it is also contrary to current constitutional law. In the 1985 Manitoba Language Reference Case the Supreme Court of Canada explained that consent is the basis of constitutional legitimacy in Canada. Arguably the NRTA cannot now be amended without First Nation consent. The First Nations were involved in the NRTA amendment in Saskatchewan that dealt with Treaty Land Entitlement agreements.

Third, the NRTA 'game laws

paragraph' unilaterally infringed Treaty rights. In the Badger case the Supreme Court of Canada decided that the provision removed the Treaty right to hunt and fish commercially, while expanding

the Treaty right to hunt and fish for food beyond Treaty territories, and anywhere within the boundaries of the Province where there is a right of

access. This interpretation of the NRTA reflects the Canadian policy approach to First Nations: we shall allow you to survive but not to prosper. Canadian policy is intolerant of the idea of prosperous First Nations.

Arguably First Nations with a Treaty right to control access to their traditional territories have the option of denying access to their traditional territories to anyone wishing to hunt and fish under the NRTA right. Provinces can be partners in joint management agreements of natural resources. Agreements involving the federal government as well as the province would involve all parties that have constitutional authority over lands and resources. Where a provincial government does not respond favourably to a cooperative approach then First Nations can enter into their own agreements

among themselves. The Treaty right to control access to traditional territories can be called upon to do some strategic work that makes that Treaty right and authority meaningful.

Since First Nations are not expressly included in the amendment of the NRTA then political leverage must be found to motivate the governments to amend the NRTA so as to provide a better deal for First Nations in getting benefits from their lands and natural resources. Political leverage might be found wherever a province needs the cooperation of First Nations to pursue its own goals.

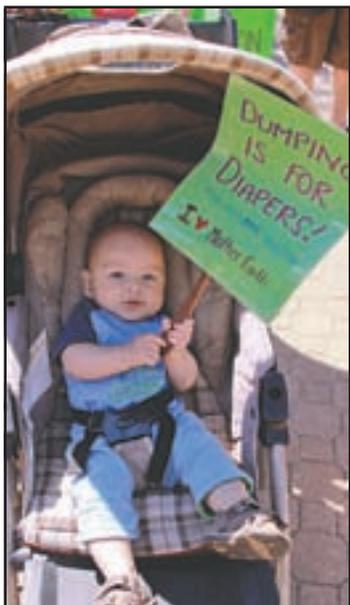
Some leverage may also be gained with the aid of constitutional developments. It has been established that in Canada provinces cannot secede unilaterally in the American revolutionary fashion.

In Canada we talk. So the Supreme Court of Canada has said that if a province wishes to secede then Canada has a duty to negotiate the terms of the Constitution under which the province is prepared to live. This reflects the consent principle mentioned earlier. What is good for the provincial goose is good for the First Nations gander.

With or without the NRTA, any 'aboriginal people' within the meaning of s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982 arguably has the option of calling for negotiations to legitimize the Constitution of Canada.

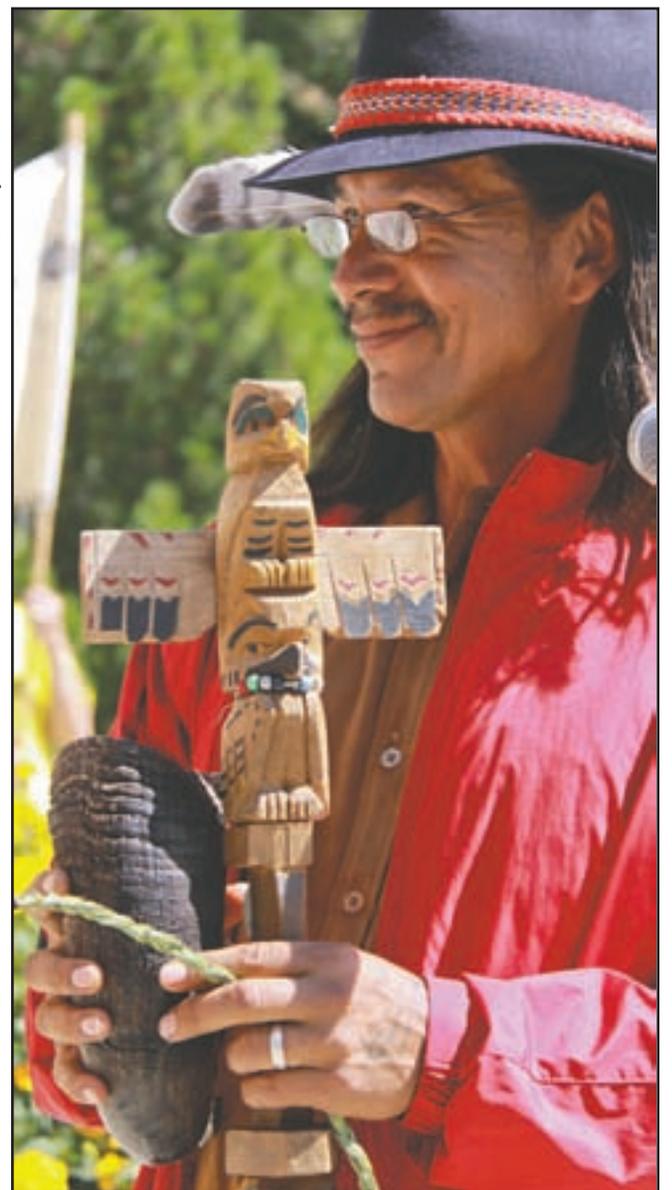


Comment
Paul Chartrand



THE 7000 GENERATIONS WALK AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE

has gathered international interest and support. Several hearty souls, and whoever wanted to join them, set off to walk from Pinehouse to Regina to raise awareness that northern Saskatchewan is being targeted by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to store millions of used nuclear bundles that will remain highly radioactive forever. Max Morin, Spokesman of the group accepted a symbolic offering of water from Saskatoon City Councilor Charlie Clark. The water will be added to that collected from every community, lake and river the walkers have passed on their way through the province. Walkers are carrying a petition to the Legislature to ban nuclear waste storage and transportation into, out of and through Saskatchewan. They are inviting people from across the province to join the Walk for any distance, and sign the petition. They will arrive in Regina on August 15 and ask people to join them to March the Green Mile to the Legislature on August the 16. They expect to arrive at noon. If you want to join the walk or show support, email committeeoffuturegenerations@gmail.com





Grace Barr holds a photograph of her deceased son, Jaron.

(Photo and interview by Braden Dupuis)

Parents irresponsible says grieving mom

Grace Barr knows firsthand the effects and consequences of childhood abuse. She was five years old when she was taken from her parents and placed in a residential school. The mistreatment she suffered there led her, as it did with so many others, to a life of abuse and regret in later years.

Grace found her path, however, when she began seeking council from an elder. She went to university and earned her degree in social work. She got her diploma in addictions, and was planning to go back to school again this fall to become a teacher's aide so she can work more closely with the youth.

Her son, Jaron Tyler (Jahnke)-Lafond was also planning on going back to school this fall to take graphic arts courses.

"He had phoned me one day all excited," said Barr. "'Hey mom! I'm gonna be going to school with you!' I said, right on my boy, you'll be carrying my books every day!"

Grace's son Jaron was shot and killed on July 29th, 2011. His attacker was just 15 years old. The day after his funeral, Grace was kind enough to take the time to talk about her son, parenting, growing up, and the problems facing youth today. The following are excerpts from that conversation.

On the young man who shot her son...

"I feel sorry for that kid (that shot my son), I don't feel any hatred for him, I know exactly the choices we make when we don't have direction."

"It's not the gangster's fault. It's cause they never had anybody to be responsible to, because they don't know responsibility. We need to teach them this. Parent them. They need discipline. They need strict rules about what their boundaries are as a child."

On youth and raising them...

"I want people to know that children are only borrowed. They are not ours to keep. They are ours on loan from the Creator. He can take them back any time he wants, and it's our job to raise them right."

"Teach them that you are the boss. You are not a friend, you are their parent. That's how lots get lost to the street. To the correctionals, and the penitentiaries.

That's why they're filled. Because nobody wants to parent them. Everybody wants to use that excuse, 'Well, I grew up in an abusive situation. I grew up in an alcoholic home.' I did too. Take responsibility for yourself, you know? I don't want my children to go out and hurt anybody. I don't want them to go out and take anybody's life."

"Parents need to start being responsible. It doesn't matter how you grew up. I grew up in alcohol, I grew up in addiction, I grew up in abuse, but does that give me an excuse to go out and hurt another human being? No, it doesn't. I am responsible for myself and my actions."

On the draw of the streets and gangs...

"I am not proud of the way I lived (when I was younger). I do not promote gangsterism, I do not promote drug addiction, I do not promote anything that is bad for you. I always tell (the youth), 'You can make it out. You don't have to live like that. They paint the brush and say you're no good? Prove them wrong!' That's what I got the elders to tell the young boys who were carrying Jaron (at his funeral). There's no need for revenge. It's good to be angry, but talk about it, hurt about it. It's okay to cry."

"I don't want anybody to feel like this. The streets are swallowing up our young children, and nobody is doing anything about it."

On her son and the night he died...

"God doesn't get enough credit for the good things he does. Look outside, it's a beautiful day. I buried my son on a beautiful day yesterday. But I know that's only the package he came in. I know he's okay. We did him right yesterday. I did my crying, and I'm going to miss him. I had the opportunity of bringing him into this world, and being with him when he left."

"I think he waited for me at the hospital... cause when I got there they said 'It's going to be a miracle if he lives the next two hours,' and he hung on. He hung on, and when they let me in to see him I said, 'Jaron, mom is here. Mom is here for you. Always will be. If you need to leave you can go. I'll understand.' That's when his heart stopped. That's when the machine went flat."

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Program prepares recruits for careers in police services

By Cindy M. Burns
For Eagle Feather News

Corporal James Pratt is a retired police officer who served 25 years with the Regina Police Service. Pratt is now working as an instructor with the Aboriginal Police Preparation program at SIAST Wascana Campus because he had a great career and wants others to have the same experience serving their community.

“Role models are important and I try to be a role model for the class and presentations,” says Pratt.

Pratt is a 55-year-old member of Muscowpetung First Nation. He was the first Aboriginal recruit to join Regina City Police. He also served two years as an RCMP officer when he was younger. He was inspired by an RCMP officer who worked in his community and an officer Pratt looked up to as a mentor.

“Mentors are important to young people because this RCMP officer was a nice man. He had the respect (and) he did talk in the school,” says Pratt.

The Aboriginal Police Preparation program started a few years ago in Prince Albert then expanded to Saskatoon and Regina. It’s a six-month program that’s held at SIAST. Recruiting is year round. Normally there are 40 to 45 seats and they currently have 32 students registered for the fall.

The Aboriginal Police Preparation program is open to anyone. Call SIAST if you are interested.

“If you’re shy you won’t leave here shy,” Pratt laughs.

Pratt says the program prepares young candidates for the realities of being a police officer.

“A lot of the time young kids they come in fresh out of high school or they don’t have life skills. Meaning



James Pratt was a member of the RCMP before joining the Regina Police Service.

they haven’t dealt with rude people and never had the chance because they are always close to home. So what we do with this program is we throw in life skills.”

Pratt’s focus is relatively simple.

“To make sure we have good capable Aboriginal police officers to apply.

“Get in that competition. Don’t be scared to bring your confidence up. And step up to the plate and not be shy.”

He encourages youth to get into school, and not be intimidated.

Pratt is adamant about the significance of recruiting Aboriginal police.

“I think it is important because we are the majority of a minority in most if not all major urban centers. And I think that we have to be representative of a community

to be police.”

Dean Tanner is a 24-year-old from Cowessess First Nation, who took the program in 2008-2009.

He is currently working in the provincial courthouse. He found out online about the program (SIAST website), applied and got in.

Tanner knew he wanted to pursue a career in policing by taking the Aboriginal Police Preparation program and it helped him a lot.

“I thought this would be a great stepping stone. It made me that much motivated towards getting into city police in Regina.”

He strongly recommends the program to those who are interested in the law enforcement field.

He also encourages young Aboriginal people to go after what they want because in the end it’s all worth it.

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Lonechild under fire ... MN-S scrambling to unite disgruntled membership



GUY LONECHILD

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Guy Lonechild continues to be dogged by a lack of confidence in his leadership from at least some of the province's chiefs.

Earlier this month, Lonechild was served with a letter from the Indian Government Commission, informing him that he and his political staff have been suspended with pay until a non-confidence vote takes place in a closed meeting on Sept. 1.

The issue has plagued Lonechild ever since it was revealed earlier this year that he had an impaired driving

conviction stemming from an incident that happened before he was elected FSIN Chief. Further questions were raised when there were apparent attempts to hide it by moving the sentencing hearing outside of Saskatoon.

Lonechild has since apologized repeatedly to his family, the organization and chiefs across the province, but at least 25 First Nations have brought forward band council resolutions calling for a non-confidence vote to remove him.

Lonechild attended the IGC meeting, but left, saying it was unlawful and didn't follow proper legislation or policy.

Lonechild had a strong reaction to the fact that First Vice-Chief Morley Watson would be Acting Chief while Lonechild was suspended.

"That's absurd. To me, that feels like it's a coup. They have no legal authority to call executive meetings. Only authorized by the chief of the FSIN are they able to call executive meetings, so they are acting unlawfully under our Convention Act."

He went further during a press conference he held days later.

"I wouldn't feel very comfortable either if Morley Watson was at the helm of the FSIN, just like he was at the helm of the First Nations University of Canada."

Watson admitted he couldn't be entirely positive that proper procedure was followed.

"Because we have a lot of acts, I can't say that with all sureness, but I do believe in what I know, based on the Executive Act and the Indian Government Act, I believe we acted properly, accordingly and within the

legislation we do have."

Lonechild, who is still referring to himself as FSIN Chief, is concerned what kind of impact the whole situation will have on the organization's relationship with government.

He says he spoke to some ministers the morning after he was issued his suspension.

"They certainly are going to be in a holding pattern in terms of what next steps I will take as Chief of the FSIN. It isn't going to provide for good relations with the FSIN, that's for sure."

However, Watson doesn't see it that way.

"We like to think that whoever represents the Federation will always be able to deal with any government at any level. And, I think the Federation has always, throughout the years I've been with it, and that's 11 or 12, we've always tried to maintain a positive relationship regardless of who has been on the Executive."



MORLEY WATSON

Business at Métis Council grinds to a halt

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Due to a nasty political logjam at the Provincial Métis Council level, important business of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, like constitutional reform and election planning, has stopped dead in its tracks.

That impasse led frustrated Métis citizens to petition for a general meeting under Section 9 of The Métis Act. Even though the meeting and any motions that came out of it are not legally binding or recognized in the MN-S constitution, it was a chance for Métis citizens to tell the leadership what they felt. And they got an earful from people who told them to get to work.

"People in the past didn't have the latitude, for the most part, to really question our leadership in a good way

because for fear of reprisal," said MN-S President Robert Doucette.

"Now, during this administration, people can pretty much say what they want, as long as it's not slanderous or libel, and question what's going on. I think that's one of the strengths of this administration."

His administration's strength is being questioned by several Area Directors who have refused to meet as an audit committee and also as the Provincial Métis Council. Helene Johnson spoke to this at the open meeting.

"I tell you, we are just following the Constitution that we have. There was a motion at the MNLA that the Provincial Métis Council cannot meet until the Audit committee has had a meeting, and we haven't had that meeting," said Johnson of the Area Directors' reason for not meeting.

At a press conference the previous day,

Johnson and five other Area Directors had alleged that Doucette and his administration had received large cheques for holiday pay and that they have been denied financial audit records. At that same press conference, Doucette denied the payments and said they have provided full disclosure to the committee.

As to what happens now and if this special non-binding meeting and any motions will actually have any effect in making the politicians do their job, well that is up to the politicians.

"Once I've been given direction from Métis citizens, I'm going to follow it," said Doucette regarding the motion that was passed directing the Audit committee and the PMC to meet before or on the third Wednesday in September and to report back to the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan.

"They followed a process, and now



ROBERT DOUCETTE

Métis leaders, me included, have to respect and act on that direction."

... people can pretty much say what they want. - Robert Doucette

Letters from the Inside ...

Every August, we solicit letters from men and women who are incarcerated in prison or remand units. This year we asked them to tell us what can be done inside and out in order to stop folks from reoffending and winding up back in jail, often within a short period of time.

We would like to thank Andre Charpentier, Aaron Lee Abbott, Cyrus David Merasty, Wallace Natatch, Edwin Pow-Wow Nicotine, Tyler Morin, Malcolm Herman and Todd Maurice for their insights. All of the letters are posted on our website at www.eaglefeathernews.com

You have to leave your negative peers

Hey Eagle Feather News, my name is Malcolm Herman from La Loche. I was born and raised in La Loche and have been in the justice system since I was 12 years old.

I am now 23 and have two kids, Kirel and Ryder Herman, and a beautiful common-law wife, Amanda Johnson, here in Saskatoon.

I moved away four years ago from La Loche to get away from the violence and criminal lifestyle and to change my life, but just a year and a half ago I ran into the wrong crowd and I'm back in jail for serious charges.

The best way to avoid jail and so you don't reoffend, you have to leave your negative peers and find new positive peers and you have to stay away from alcohol and drugs, in order to avoid justice system and not to reoffend. If you need anger management, take it. Take whatever programs is available to change your life and also get a job so you can make a living and keep busy and not get bored and turn to criminal and gang activity cause they have nothing to do and hanging with negative peers.

Thanks for taking your time to read this letter.
Sincerely,

M. Herman

A stable place to live is important

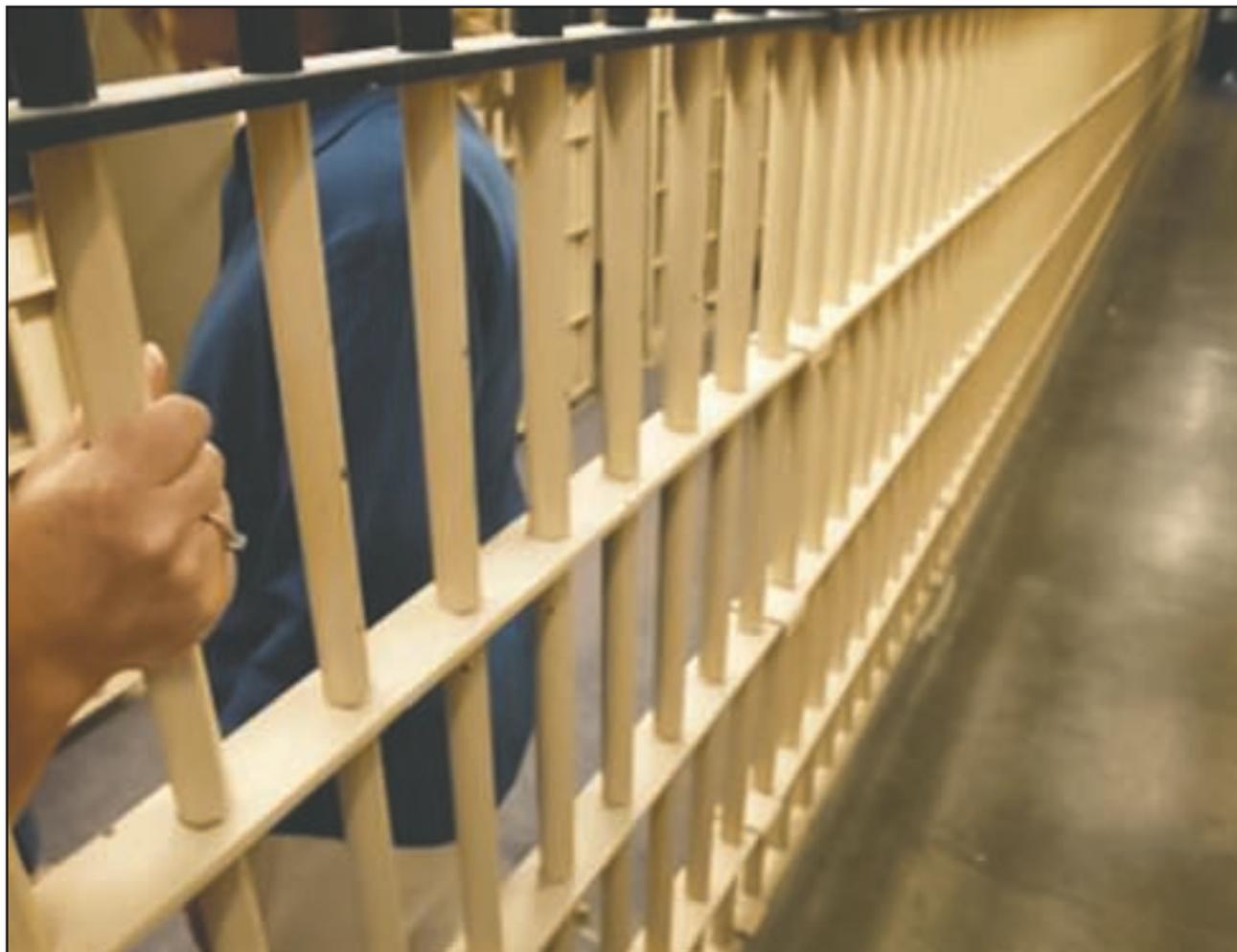
Dear Eagle Feather News

My name is Tyler Morin and I've been in the prison system for about 12 years now. I've been incarcerated for everything from swearing in a public place to robbery. I've seen friends get released after finishing their sentences and end up right back a week later. (The latter being me) Most of the people I've seen come back are aboriginal and people that never got a chance to seek help for their problems and addictions.

From experience, it is my opinion that to help inmates stay out of prison after finishing their sentences, they need a number of things: Programming, training, spiritual healing, a helping hand, guidance and support. Programs for addictions would be the most significant in helping inmates stay out of prison. Addictions are one of the root causes that land people in prison. So, helping inmates deal with these addictions would greatly reduce their chances of coming back. Also helping inmates with skills in trades while serving a sentence can help them get a job after they're released which will keep them from re-offending.

A stable place to live is also essential for inmates to stay out after they've finished their sentences. Without guidance, support, and a stable place to live most will just wonder and lapse back into their old ways. So, whether it be the Salvation Army or a relative's place, a stable environment is an important part in helping stay out after they're released.

Last but not least, it's up to the inmate to make the



correct choices to stay out of prison. Keep doing addiction counselling, even after being released. It's all about staying busy in a positive way, the more you stay busy in a positive way after being released the less likely you'll end up back in the prison.
Respectfully

Tyler Morin

Not being able to hug or hold a loved one numbs us

My name is Todd Maurice 057116266 at the Prince Albert Correctional facility. I am writing in response to the letters from the inside article. As this is my first time in the facility (one month into a six month sentence) I can only say what I've noticed first-hand so far.

It is in my opinion that most inmates who get re-

leased after serving a period of incarceration will return to jail at some point, therefore getting our opinions on how to make changes within the system seems the best way to forestall some of the wrong choices we make that seem to land us back in jail. It seems alcohol addictions and unemployment or lack of skills to obtain gainful employment seem to be the biggest issues facing inmates today. I think some simple solutions would be great for addictions like maybe having AA meetings in here and even NA meetings, maybe even more intense drug specific counselling.

Anger and violence are very prevalent issues in our institutions. It seems we need more group sessions as it seems inmates respond better to their peers than to the outside staff i.e. counsellors, teachers etc.

Work placement or more opportunities to provide for our families while incarcerated seems to be a big issue, as we ourselves are being punished for the crimes why should our family be placed with such financial burdens as most of us are the main provider for them.

Education and employment I feel go hand, if we had more pre-employment training for specific trades or jobs within the center as well as a faster approach to upgrading inmates would fare better in the real world as what they learned would actually apply.

I feel government should look at building more C.T.R. houses and healing lodges and even another bush camp would do a lot more for communities and families than more jails would.

I don't think it would hurt to have programs or classes for social skills, self awareness and even in knowing your potential. There are a lot of people in jail that have great talent for art, lyric writing even learning to play an instrument. We could try open

mic nights for people who write lyrics poetry or even short stories.

It seems there is a big demand for more cultural activities involvement in spiritual workshops.

Most inmates say they would like to seek out more elders to come to the centre even bringing in classes to learn Native languages or any language for that matter. I don't see how leaving jail bilingual or trilingual could hurt.

Currently in provincial correction centres, there are no contact visits which is sad to see. Having to see children and loved ones through glass cannot be good for anyone on either side. I think physical contact registers on both sides the human aspect of it gets me I feel not being able to hug or hold a loved one numbs us on an emotional level.

Physical contact makes us feel better even if only in our mind. It keeps our mental state in a better state than putting your hand to a piece of cold glass. Anyways I'm ramblin.

Thank you for your time.

Todd Maurice

Batoche beat the weather but spoon record will have to wait until next year

• Continued from Page 1

“They came together, had a great time, great spirits and I think it speaks volumes to the levels of top rated talent that comes to compete at the festival year after year,” praises Belanger-Parker.

The weather was a factor in overall weekend attendance, as the final numbers fell near the 3,500 mark. This also affected volunteer turnout say organizers.

“We need more volunteers to help make the festival a success for next year. We really need those who sign up to show up,” said Belanger-Parker.

“A large number of volunteers who signed up were MIA and it really affected the festival’s organizers and ability to deliver services to those on the site.”

At the kitchen facilities, for example, some of the volunteers were on their feet for 17-hour days with no relief.

Plans for next year’s festival, which will run from July 19 until July 22 are



Following morning mass, the annual procession to the grave site at the site of the Battle of Batoche is always very emotional. (Photo by Peter Beszterda C Gabriel Dumont Institute)

already underway.

Organizers are in talks to bring students from the culinary arts program with the Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council to send some of their Métis chefs to the site to learn traditional dishes from the elders and help assist in the kitchens.

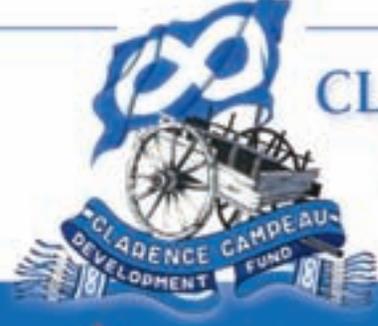
A call for entertainers is also out as well as tenders will also be going out for Métis Locals and communities to utilize the three small kitchens on site as well as some of the services.

“We really want to include the communities into the success of Batoche,” says Belanger-Parker.

For more information on the festival, visit the Back to Batoche website at www.backtobatoche.org



The crowd was 500 spoons short in their world record attempt even though this little guy tried his hardest. (Photo credit to 2011 Kymber Rae Photography)



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GDI launches new books at this year's Back to Batoche

By Darren Préfontaine
For Eagle Feather News

At this year's Back to Batoche celebration, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) had the pleasure of launching two engaging books relating to Métis heroism during the 1885 Resistance: Lawrence J. Barkwell's *Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance* and Darren Préfontaine's *Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words*. The launch was held in July at the Elders' Lodge and was attended by approximately 40 people.

Both authors were on hand to discuss these books, and share with the audience some revealing bits of information contained in them. During the course of Back to Batoche, both books sold well, and many, in particular, were touched to see their ancestors listed in *Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance*.

The Institute would like to thank the Métis Nation –Saskatchewan for allowing GDI to launch these books at this year's Back to Batoche celebration.

Both books can be purchased from GDI's Publishing Department in Saskatoon.

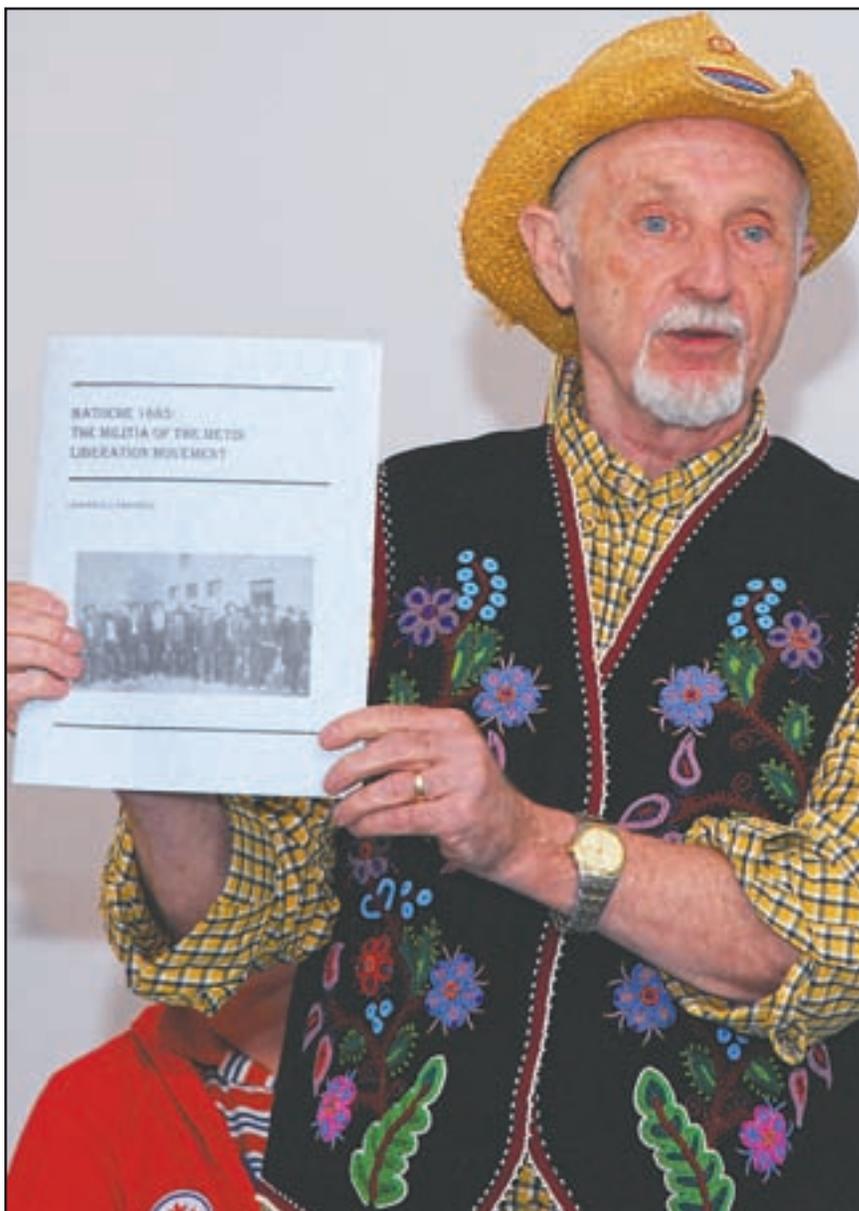
Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance: One hundred and twenty-six years ago, approximately 250 Métis men took up arms to fight for their rights against an oppressive political regime. In this timely monograph, Lawrence J. Barkwell documents the Métis resistance in 1885 and the South Branch Métis Settlement's military and political structures.

Besides methodically listing all the Métis participants in the 1885 Resistance, this useful genealogical

resource also documents the Métis heroines of Batoche as well as the First Nations and Euro-Canadians who rallied to the Métis cause. Perhaps most importantly, this monograph provides a tangible link between contemporary Métis community people and their ancestors who desperately fought to preserve their way of life so long ago.

Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words focuses on visual images and journalistic interpretations of the Métis leader, and contains many "new" insights into his life and mission as a Métis nationalist that have been lost to history.

Included for the first time, in this attractive, innovative coffee-table style book, is an analysis of Gabriel Dumont upon the collective psyche of the Métis people, an overview of Dumont-related historical photographs, illustrated historical, material culture and popular culture images, and artistic representations of Dumont, and images relating to his public commemoration. In this visual tribute to Gabriel Dumont, this book also includes a thorough listing of various journalistic and first-hand accounts of him since the 1860s until the present.



Author Lawrie Barkwell speaking at the launch of his latest book.

(Photo by Peter Beszterda - Gabriel Dumont Institute)

Métis floral beadwork resource and workshops keep tradition thriving

At this year's Back to Batoche celebrations, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted two beginners' learn to bead workshops facilitated by Gregory Scofield and Amy Briley.

The workshops coincided with the release of GDI's newest resource, *wâpikwaniy: A Beginner's Guide to Métis Floral Beadwork*, co-authored by the facilitators. The book, GDI's first "how to" publication, aims to teach beginner beadworkers the steps to creating a traditional five petal flower, and comes with an instructional DVD that can be used with the book or on its own.

The vision for a beginner's guide to Métis

floral beadwork was proposed a year earlier during the 2010 Back to Batoche festival. One year later, the guide was ready for release and was available for purchase.

Scofield and Briley spent the last year, brainstorming and collaborating on a resource guide that would cater to the beginner beadworker as well as to teachers who wish to share this culturally relevant art with their students. Scofield, a nationally known Métis poet, included anecdotal script throughout the book, spoken from his auntie's voice as a way of telling the story of how he learned to bead.

In his introduction, Scofield attributes his love for beadwork to his auntie.

"I am a cook because I loved a cook. I am a storyteller because I loved a storyteller. I am a beadworker because I loved my auntie, who made me thread my own needle."

Briley, a curriculum developer with GDI's Publishing Department, was taught to bead by Scofield and together they have facilitated a number of beading workshops including two at Batoche on July 22 and 23 at the newly re-opened Batoche National Historical Site Visitor Centre.

• Continued on Page 13

GDI searching for Métis historians

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, in partnership with Parks Canada, is looking for people who can share Métis history, information and stories about Fort Battleford, Fort Walsh, and Grasslands National Park and the surrounding areas around the Battlefords, Maple Creek, Swift Current, and Val Marie.

The partners are looking to identify and interview Métis community members who have a connection to these historically and culturally significant places.

Are you Métis? Do you or your family have a historic and contemporary connection to the areas in and around Fort Walsh, Fort Battleford or Grasslands National Park? Would you like to share your stories with the partners? If so, please contact me so we can arrange an interview.

Darren Préfontaine

Gabriel Dumont Institute

2—604 22nd Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7M 5W1

T: 306.657.5711

E: darren.prefontaine@gdi.gdins.org

If you would like to call collect, please phone 1-877-488-6888 and ask for Darren Préfontaine. Please leave a message with your contact information if we are unable to speak directly and we will return your call.

Marsii/Thank you for your time and consideration!





Amy Briley (centre) helps participants at the beginners learn to bead workshop.

(Photo by Peter Beszterda - Gabriel Dumont Institute)

Beading brings Métis closer to culture

• Continued from Page 12

The beading workshops were a huge success with participants ranging in age from youth to Elder, including a three generation family of grandmother, mother, and daughter.

The workshop participants learned to create a beaded flower while telling stories to one another, much the way Métis beadworkers have done for generations.

“Learning to bead not only brings us closer to our culture, it brings people together,” says Briley.

“When we teach people to bead, we become connected, the same way the individual beads come together to form a unique and beautiful flower.”

For more information on Métis beadwork or to purchase a copy of wâpikwaniy, please visit www.gdins.org.

Celebrating our Métis heroes

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

The Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Project is supported by the Métis community by way of a Métis National Council Annual General Assembly resolution and a Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S) Provincial Métis Council resolution.

Already a site sacred to the Métis, Batoche is a fitting site for people to gather to remember and honour Métis Veterans. It is accessible to all Métis people and the general public. In July 2010 Métis Honour Runners ran 100 kilometers to raise funds and show support for the Métis Veterans Memorial project.

Each July governing members of MNC make an annual pilgrimage to Batoche. The Batoche grounds are maintained by the MN—S and the Métis Veterans Memorial will be maintained as part of the existing maintenance of the site.

As a contribution to this project, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has agreed to donate its time and resources and will oversee all work related to the completion of this project. The cost to build this monument is \$300,000. Currently, GDI has received \$52,000 in funding for this project and is seeking the balance of \$248,000 from corporate sponsorship, private donations, and community fundraising activities.

Please consider supporting the Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Project. All donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt issued from GDI which is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization.

Your donation to the Veterans Memorial Monument can be sent to the Gabriel Dumont Institute clearly indicating that the donation is for the Métis Veterans Monument.

Métis Veterans Memorial Monument Project

c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute

917-22nd Street West

Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9

Tel: 1-877-488-6888

You may contact Amy Briley, at 306.657.5719 or at amy.briley@gdi.gdins.org for more information. Also visit: <http://www.gdins.org/veteransmonument>

Our goal is to ensure the monument recognizes and honours all of our Métis Veterans, past and present. If you know of a Métis veteran who should be recognized, please provide the following to the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

- **Veteran's name**
- **Service Number, Rank, Branch (Army, Navy, Air) and Unit served**
- **Dates of service (enlistment and discharge)**
- **Date of birth (and death if deceased)**
- **Theatre of service (which war, overseas, etc.)**

Marsii/Thank you for your time and consideration!

The Gabriel Dumont Institute promotes the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Enjoy three new resources from the Gabriel Dumont Institute!

Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words
An analysis of Gabriel Dumont upon the collective psyche of the Métis people, an overview of Dumont-related historical photographs, illustrated historical, material culture and popular culture images, and artistic representations of Dumont, and images relating to his public commemoration. This book also includes a thorough listing of various journalistic and first-hand accounts of Gabriel Dumont since the 1860s until the present.

wâpikwaniy: A Beginner's Guide to Métis Floral Beadwork (Book/DVD)
This resource provides a step-by-step approach to creating your own flower beadwork, including an instructional DVD.

Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance
In this timely monograph, Lawrence J. Barkwell documents the Métis resistance in 1885 and the South Branch Métis Settlement's military and political structures. Besides methodically listing all the Métis participants in the 1885 Resistance, this useful genealogical resource also documents the Métis heroines of Batoche as well as the First Nations and Euro-Canadians who rallied to the Métis cause. Perhaps most importantly, this monograph provides a tangible link between contemporary Métis community people and their ancestors who desperately fought to preserve their way of life so long ago.

Please contact us at the address to the right for ordering information or order online at www.gdins.org/catalog.

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The new police building in Saskatoon will have a special place for families of missing or murdered Aboriginal women.

(Photo supplied)

Police service working hard to build trust

• Continued from Page 3

“If you have somebody missing, you have really no place you can go to reflect for that loved one, and this will give you a small little place at least to go back and you can reflect, say what you want to your loved one,” said Weighill. “It will give us a great place for (awareness) marches and things in the city regarding it.”

While the issues facing Saskatoon’s police service and the aboriginal community are not likely to be resolved over night, Sasakamoose-Kuffner believes that the city is on the right track.

“I would just like to commend the police on what it is that they’re doing so far to be able to bring awareness to what some of the major issues are within Saskatoon,” she said. “I think that they’re moving in the right direction, and I would hope to see that they continue to

really create a better situation for all of Saskatoon.”

Tribal Chief Thomas says he is fully dedicated to creating just such a situation.

“If I can help in any way to keep building the relationship I’m certainly committed to that, and if we can get more and more First Nations involved in the justice system, not the criminal system but the justice system, we can all benefit.”

The first step towards improving the city’s situation is repairing the damaged bonds of trust between aboriginals and the police, something Police Chief Weighill says is already happening.

“We’re not where we want to be yet, but we’re certainly going in the right direction. I think people know that we have a history that we’re not going to forget, but we’ve gotta move on from it

and we’ve learned from it.”

Tribal Chief Thomas is optimistic that things can improve with a little bit of hard work and honesty. “This relationship is going to have to be nurtured for

many years to come. I think if we keep working, keep talking and communicating, being open and honest about these events, that eventually we’ll build some trust in there.”

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Students find literacy camp a great way to spend summer



A pilot project in Mistawasis First Nation introduced literacy camps to over 300 young campers. By using fun, literacy-related activities such as Balloon Relay and Mannequin Mania, campers were reading, writing, thinking and being physically active.

The camp, which is funded by PotashCorp, is run by Frontier College. Frontier College is a national, not-for-profit literacy organization founded in 1899 which has a long history of working with Aboriginal communities in Canada. It operates over 60 summer literacy camps across the country, and has seen great success using this model.

"If school was this much fun, I'd want to go every single day," said eight-year-old Carlene, who spent two weeks at camp, improving her literacy skills.

Her mom was equally impressed.

"She got up every day for camp without a fight, like we have on a usual school day."

Parents often find that the children experience a smoother transition to school, and notice that the children take books home more often and feel more confident in

their reading skills.

PotashCorp is a proud partner of Frontier College.

"Literacy is the basis of all learning and is instrumental for a high quality of life," said Rhonda Speiss, PotashCorp's Manager of Corporate Philanthropy.

"At PotashCorp, we strive to improve the quality of life in the communities where we operate, and we were pleased to play a role in bringing these camps to Mistawasis First Nations."

There are camps continuing throughout the summer in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

In Saskatchewan, camps ran until August 12 in Beauval, Cumberland House, Green Lake, La Loche, Air Ronge, Pinehouse, St. Georges Hill, Stony Rapids, and Timber Bay.

Camp counsellor Leona Whitefish from Mistawasis First Nation helps the students working on finishing their book reviews and camp evaluations.

(Photo supplied)

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Future entrepreneurs learning the biz ropes

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Ten Saskatchewan youth had the opportunity to learn all about the business world this past summer.

They were selected to participate in the 2011 Native American Youth Entrepreneurship Camp in Arizona, thanks to a partnership between the Saskatoon Tribal Council and PotashCorp.

Entrepreneurship is important to Jennifer Campeau, who coordinated the trip through her job at STC. She says the six-day camp in July was intense and says the youth were inundated with information, but good information, such as how to write a business plan, how to start a business and the basic fundamentals of professional development.

She says they also learned the importance of time management.

"They had to actually think about how their time was going to be used starting in the fall. They had to block off time for school and for studies," explains Campeau.

Campeau says it taught the youth how to network and to see what kind of opportunities are out there. She says many of them have very viable plans from wanting to open a recording studio for Aboriginal arts to going into the trades and becoming



Saskatchewan youth are learning skills that will help them become successful entrepreneurs in the future.

their own bosses.

"None of them came up with a plan where they're going to be a CEO for 500 employees. They were for small- and medium-sized businesses, which is workable."

One of the youth who attended was David Bear from Whitecap Dakota First Nation. He is one of the co-founders of Tipi Tones, which produces ring tones based on Aboriginal culture.

He says he wanted to learn more about business, because it's "probably the direction I'll be heading in school. I want to go to Edward School of Business in the

future, so it's a good introduction."

Bear and the Tipi Tones team have big plans for their company.

"One thing we might do is a partnership with SaskTel and they'll be selling the ring tones for us and all we have to do is produce them."

Satisa Schapansky also attended the camp. From Kinistin, she is already an avid photographer who will be attending Emily Carr University of Arts and Design in Vancouver this fall.

She says the camp showed her running a business is more complicated than it seems.

"All the finances, all the planning you have to do. You have to have a solid plan and follow through. You can't just go with the flow unless you are established first."

Schapansky uses her photographs to help raise awareness about issues that are important to her. She says it's an art form people can easily relate to.

She has no plans to set up a business right away, though. Her program is five years long.

"I want to set up something solid first before I start selling and creating a business out of it. I want to prepare first," Schapansky says.

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Changing perspectives on graffiti one piece at a time

By Brad Bellegarde
For Eagle Feather News

To the average person, graffiti is just another word for vandalism. For Josh Goff it is a way to express himself creatively and artistically.

Goff is a 28-year-old artist from Regina, Saskatchewan. He started sketching and drawing in Grade 6 and began doing graffiti when he was in Grade 9.

"I started looking at magazines and then I remember seeing a couple (graffiti) videos on the Internet and that set it off," he said.

Goff, whose graffiti moniker is True, isn't just a "graff," or graffiti writer. He is also an artist who teaches his craft in elementary schools.

"I teach how I find my identity through graffiti," he said.

A resident artist with Connecting Regina Educators and Artists Through Experience (CREATE), he is eager to turn the negative perspective of graffiti into a positive.

Goff loves to show his work off to the public and this is evident around the Regina area. He has done murals for many businesses and events as well as the occasional resident's garage—at their request of course, he said.

His first major piece was commissioned by the City of Regina when he was in Grade 11. He was asked to do a workshop for kids in the Winston Knoll area. Along with the workshop he was also asked to paint the new skate park next to the school.

"I was stoked," he said.

His first teaching opportunity came from a grant partnership through Common Weal Community Arts and the Centennial Committee for Saskatchewan's 100th anniversary called the Prairie Roots Project. After that the offers to do murals started pouring in.



People hate getting tagged by a graffiti artist. Vandalism some call it while others call it art. Commissioned urban murals are now all the rage. And help stop vandalism.

He feels that art is a great way to express yourself and your emotions.

One big event that graffiti has taken him to has been Craven Country Jamboree, when Canada's largest country music event requested some graffiti for their venue. The organizing committee contacted fellow artist Def3 who then contacted True and "it was on."

For the past four years he's been going out to Craven Jamboree and creating his art work on walls through out the midway area. His Clint Eastwood-inspired portraits of gun toting outlaws are some of the graffiti-influenced murals on the sides of the buildings.

"Just because I'm into graffiti, I'm not all about hip hop," he said. "I listen to different types of music."

The Cathedral Arts Festival in May gave the Regina public a chance to watch Goff create a brand new master piece. Each year he and a group of his 'graff homies' create a new mural on the west-facing wall of Brandee's on 13th Avenue.

Recently, he has been invited to listen to Regina's new graffiti management program by the City of Regina, Regina Police Service and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI). "I'm hoping that they won't make this situation any worse than it is," he Goff. "But I'm happy to be the ear on the streets so to speak."

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Wishing students a fun, safe and successful school year.



That tough love thingy tough to figure out

From time to time Eagle Feather News gives Dirk Dashing's unrelenting brain a break and hauls in the renowned Mr. Answer Guy. In case you forgot Mr. Answer Guy is our answer to Craig Ferguson, Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Phil, only more pointless and taller.

Our first letter comes from Rusty Sawks, from Mistawasis. He writes, "My nephew Johnny got caught stealing. I wanted to go to court to show him I gave a damn, but his mom said we need to show him tough love so let him appear in court alone. That's messed up!"

It is not messed up, Rusty. The justice system needs young customers like your nephew to become lifelong patrons. Credit the residential school system and its wonderful insights on tough love.

Here's how it works. After a night in the cell Little Johnny appears in court. He's terrified. He glances around looking for a familiar, family face. Seeing none he turns to any source of support and guidance. That means fellow inmates.

From his fellow inmates he will learn the finer points on how to be a better criminal. For safety reasons he might join a gang. The induction ceremony might be brutal, but at least he will have a career upon his release.

Later, sometime after his release, he gets caught again and so begins the merry-go-

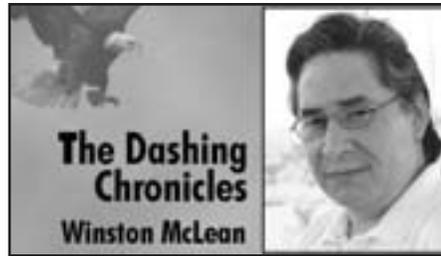
round of the youth criminal justice system until he graduates to the adult system.

That is how you breed new clients for a justice system. That system has personnel—people with responsibilities like mortgages, investment plans and families. It is a system that has cells that must be filled or they will sit empty and idle. That is a waste of taxpayer's dollars.

Had Little Johnny's mom not done her part, hundreds of employees in the criminal justice system would have nothing to do. They might lose their jobs and join philosophy students, manicurists and mimes in crowded unemployment lines. They might become florists, and if there is one thing this country does not need are more florists. Or philosophy students.

Our next letter comes from Arsenio Liqmabhut of Lebret who writes, "I don't get how tough love figures into the thinking of Little Johnny's mom. And how does the residential school system factor into all this?"

Jesus may have taught love, compassion and forgiveness but his minions running the residential schools knew more and better. They keyed into the dark and bizarre belief that to save someone who has done something wrong, like be bom the wrong race, you must deny them love



and compassion until they come around.

This is done out of love. To many that is love.

So what Little Johnny's mom did was an act of love.

The idea is you do not receive love or compassion or nurturing or healing or any of that artsy fartsy, touchy feely crapola until you relent, repent and change your ways. If need be you may have to be played into shape.

Bleeding hearts and artists will argue that tough love only pushes people further out of balance. That too much tough love for too long will twist a person's self worth and cripple their ability to give and receive love. It creates more heartache and may be a source of violence and criminality.

I say, who you gonna believe? Government agents who set up the residential schools to benefit Indians and the churches that ran them? Or social justice scientists who have nothing better to do than study these things?

Besides, if we don't support the criminal justice system and the principle of tough love that sustains it waves and waves of florists could overwhelm this country. Philosophy students and manicurists will be squeezed out of their special hidey-holes in society and they may be forced to become productive members of society. I am against that.

Our next letter comes from Timpsey Runs-With-Ribbons, who hails all the way from Kindersley. Timpsey writes, "Mr. Answer Guy, are you on crack?"

Short answer, No. Long answer, No.

Why do people keep asking me that?

The final letter is written by Kyle Prays-With-A-Blackberry of no particular address. Kyle wants to know, "Mr. Answer Guy I want to sound highly sophisticated like you. Any tips?"

First, start by having deep thoughts. For instance, what is the nature of grape nuts. They are neither grapes nor are they nuts. What gives?

Second, do not move to Kindersley or Cupar. They believe drab is a colour.

Finally, insert yourself in conversations by saying clever things like, "...yeah, but that's a completely different box of frogs altogether." It creates the impression that you are terribly insightful and a mental force to be reckoned with.

That's it for Mr. Answer Guy. Thanks for all your letters. Next month Dirk will be back.

Readers are reminded that if you have complaints direct them to the owner/editor of Eagle Feather News, Mr. John Likestowatchlemmings. If you have cash just mail it to me. Also, no athletes were hurt in the making of this column. Go hard, baby!

Dirk says, Never go to bed angry. Stay awake and plot revenge.

dirkdashing@shaw.ca

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Regina Homelessness Committee (RHC), is currently accepting funding applications from organizations interested in obtaining financial assistance to achieve the priorities established by the RHC specific to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) – Designated Communities and Aboriginal Homelessness funding streams to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Regina.

Regina Homelessness Partnering Strategy Call for Proposals

Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be received at
Service Canada Centre
1783 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2B6
no later than **September 16, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.**

An information session will be held on:
August 23, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. to noon
United Way of Regina
1440 Scarth Street, Regina, Saskatchewan

To register for the information session, to receive an application package or for more information, contact:
Collin Pullar at 306-564-5356 or collin.pullar@servicecanada.gc.ca or
Robyn Edwards-Benz at 306-564-5409 or robyn.edwardsbentz@servicecanada.gc.ca

Canada

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Prince Albert Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Community Advisory Board (CAB), is currently accepting funding applications from organizations interested in obtaining financial assistance to achieve the priorities established by the Prince Albert HPS CAB specific to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) – Designated Communities funding stream to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the city of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Prince Albert Homelessness Partnering Strategy Call for Proposals

Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be received at
Service Canada Centre
1288 Central Avenue
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 4V8
no later than **August 31, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.**

For an application package or more information, contact:
Tamara McKay at 306-953-8421
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We do art because it moves us

What a busy month July was for me! First I married The World's Most Amazing Man and then we flew to London, England for our honeymoon. It was incredibly fun and I floated for weeks.

Then we returned home and I got my mail. I had my fingers crossed that I would receive good news about a grant I had applied for to help out with costs while I wrote my book.

Sadly, I was not selected.

I was upset for a little while, because the money would have definitely helped out while I stayed home to write. Those are the chances you take, I suppose. Not everyone will be selected.

However, I consoled myself by vowing to continue writing my book anyway. I have a lot of faith in myself, and in this wonderful, bountiful universe.

Besides which, I began writing the book even before I had applied for the grant, so why would I stop after receiving that letter?

As I told one lady, not being selected for a grant has no bearing on whether or not my book will be published when I finish it.

I then realized I could turn my undesirable situation into something very worthwhile. I wanted to share my story, because there are undoubtedly many artists out there who received letters similar to mine – or even artists who fear rejection.

Rejection, shmecton, I say. The arts existed for thousands of years and they will continue – so long as your heart drives you to create something wonderful and new. Trust in yourself and your talent and you will persevere, and maybe even prosper.

My husband, Kevin, cheered me on from the sidelines too. He reminded me that true artists do it not for awards, fame, money or recognition. They do it because their spirit is weakened when they don't.

He's absolutely right. Any time I've spent away from painting or writing, I feel like the Anti-Jess.

It's not me. I paint and I write because that's who I am. I do it because I have to, because something in me feels this ineffable joy when I'm creating something, and it's a joy I haven't been able to find anywhere else.

So I continue to write my book. Will it be published? Maybe. Probably. Someday, I hope. And after I finish my first book, I'll write another.

There will be paintings too, lots and lots of paintings, and maybe some sculptures too, and whether I make a penny off any of my creations or not, I will continue. I committed to this path awhile ago, and for me it really is about the journey and not the destination, because the destination will mean I'm dead! haha.

That's the only time I plan to stop!

Plus, I always think of the hecklers, and ask myself if



Arts & Entertainment
Jessica Iron

I'm writing for 'the hecklers'. Who are the hecklers, you ask.

You're probably envisioning comedians who get heckled, and if you are, you're absolutely right. Hecklers are the annoying people who shout from the back of the room negative, rude, annoying

things when they don't like a comedian.

However, hecklers exist everywhere in the world. They're the negative voice you give power to, the one you listen to, even if dozens of other positive people try to tell you otherwise. If one person doubts you, don't agree with them.

If ever a moment of doubt lingers in my mind – which is usually fear-based, I ask myself if I'm writing for the hecklers; or if I'm painting for the hecklers; or if I'm

I don't need heckler validation and neither do you.

(fill in the blank) for the hecklers? Am I trying to convince one negative person, discounting all others who might enjoy something I'm working on? When I ask myself that, I usually give my head a

shake. I don't need a heckler's validation and neither do you.

Don't let someone's heckling become your life sentence – which it will, if you let their comments fester in your mind long enough to stall and/or stop your creativity. Obviously you can't make everyone like everything you do, so why try? That's far too idealistic anyway.

I urge other artists to do the same. Whether you dance, paint, write or play music, don't worry about speed bumps or think of the end result, just do it because it moves you. And support one another.

Don't compare or compete with others. We all draw from each other, and because of that, we need to support one another.

So, artists and entertainers, keep on creating, no matter what, because people like me thrive in the wake of your creations!

If you have an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, drop me a line at: snazyjess@hotmail.com.

See you next month!

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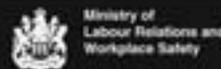
Artist Lucille Scott

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Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Increase

Effective September 1, 2011, Saskatchewan's minimum wage will be **\$9.50 per hour**. The minimum call-out pay will increase to \$28.50.

For more information regarding the minimum wage or employment standards, please call 1-800-667-1783 or visit www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/labour-standards.



Government of Canada

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New Horizons for Seniors Program Call for Proposals

The Government of Canada is now accepting funding applications for community-based projects under the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

This funding will support projects that promote volunteerism, mentoring, elder abuse awareness and social participation, as well as provide capital assistance for new or existing projects and programs for seniors.

The deadline for applications is September 16, 2011.

1-800-277-9914

TTY: 1-800-255-4786

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors

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Poundmaker divided as chief and council face criminal charges

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Elder Wes Favel went through a lot of emotions last month when charges were laid against members of the Poundmaker Cree Nation's Chief and Council.

"Jubilant, very ecstatic, glad it came about because it took seven years (from when the investigation was launched)," says Favel, who was part of a working group that collected evidence and then handed it over to the RCMP, alleging band and Treaty Land Entitlement funds were misspent.

As a result of the investigation, nine people were charged with theft and fraud over \$5,000, including current Chief Duane Antoine, as well as current councillors, a past chief and councillor and past and current TLE trustees. They will appear in court this month.

Now band members want answers, many saying they've been asking questions for years and haven't been given adequate responses.

"I'm sure I'm not the only one who would like to see the reserve move forward with answers," says Elder Annie Weenie, noting that likely won't happen until the court process. "Hopefully we wake up and move forward."

Weenie says the community is very divided, especially when it comes to how to interpret its band custom law. Under band custom, band members are able to remove Chief and Council if there are grounds for it.

"The present Chief and Council don't want to acknowledge we are under band custom and keep misinforming people," says Weenie.

She says a lot of members want to believe Pound-

maker operates under band custom, but she thinks the majority doesn't understand what that means.

"It's sad in a way."

Her daughter, Bridget Weenie, says the last band meeting, one of two emergency meetings called since the charges were laid, was very tense.

"I was sitting there, and my heart was just racing," she recalls. "People were attacking people, verbally attacking people, and it got out of hand."

She would like to see the band start fresh by letting everybody go who works in the band office, rehire and hold elections for a new Chief and Council.

Weenie would also like to see band custom in writing so there is no confusion or debate.

"Everybody's for it, and when we exercise our right to band custom," she says, pointing to a non-confidence vote the band had a year ago, "it didn't even go through, because they (chief and council) were saying there wasn't enough band members present at that meeting."

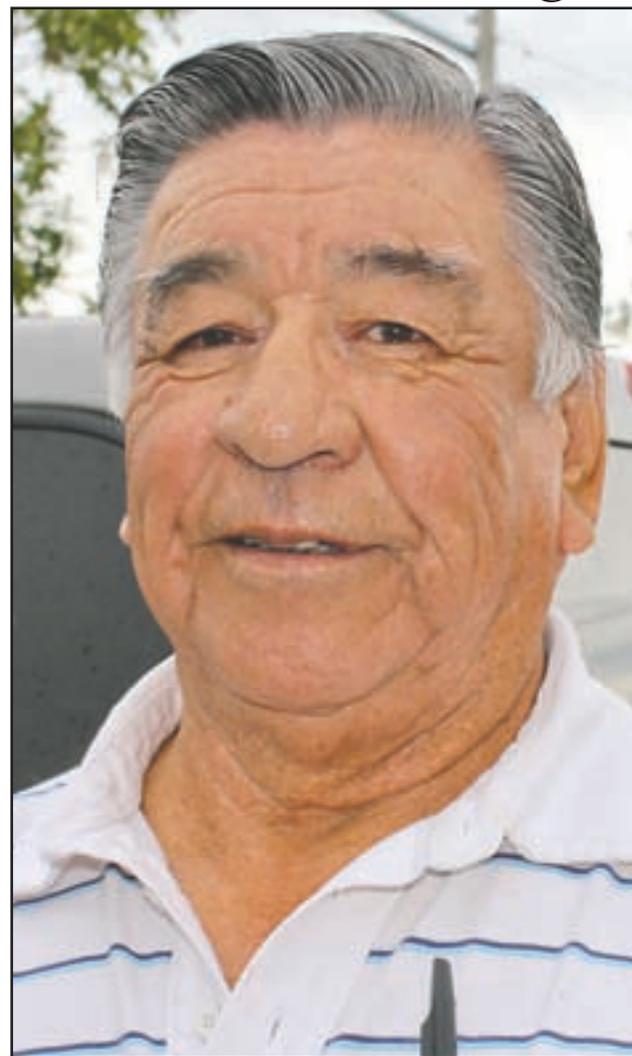
"But, we learned at the last band meeting, in the past, 30 people in attendance at a band meeting were able to let go of two councillors."

Favel says band members have questions about full reporting and transparency around numerous issues, ranging from land sales to housing to education.

He says he will continue to speak out.

"I'm a contractor, independent. I have a band house. They can't ostracize me," although he says at the last band meeting, Chief and Council tried to point the finger at him for taking money that he says he borrowed and will pay back.

Favel says they did that to send a message to other band members, that there will be consequences for speaking out, but Favel doesn't care.



WES FAVEL

"I'm not scared to tell the truth."
Calls to the band office and Chief were not returned.

Diabetes prevention: Let's educate ourselves

By Flo Lavallie
For Eagle Feather News

Repeated spikes in blood sugar puts a lot of stress on the body.

There are two groups of carbohydrates, simple and complex. Simple carbohydrates are found in fruits and vegetables but most simple sugars consumed in Canada are in the form of refined sugar like sucrose (white sugar).

When sugar foods are eaten alone, blood sugar levels rise quickly. Insulin lowers blood glucose by increasing the rate glucose is taken up by the cells throughout the body.

The blood sugar spikes after a meal contributes to the development of diabetes complications, like heart disease and diseases of the small blood vessels within the eye, kidney and nerves.

Improve health by making sure the body has all the necessary vitamins and minerals that contribute to insulin function. A good multivitamin and mineral formula, a health promoting diet. Minerals such as magnesium, chromium, mungense and B vitamins.

Alpha-Lipoic Acid and Vitamin E have been found to reduce free radical damage to the body cells and preventing diabetic complications such as retinopathy (eyes) and neuropathy (nerves) ending.

In consultation with your physician and your healthcare provider is essential

for total health. Regular visits to your eye doctor and dentist is also recommended.

Stevia Leaf powder is allowed as a sweetener, fructose has a very low glycemic index, used in small doses improve blood sugar control. Xylitol is naturally extracted and completely purified from birchwood.

human body produces more than 15 grams of xylitol everyday which is then utilized in normal metabolism.

The most common starting points are the digestion, cravings for sugar and drinks, tiredness, lack of energy with low blood sugar. Avoiding refined sugar, processed meats, ham, bacon, wieners, energy drinks, and caffeine. Alcohol, drugs, pop, sweetened fruit juices, preservatives and additives in your food.

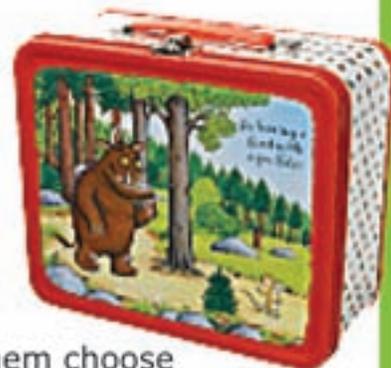
Remember if you can't pronounce the additives or preservatives don't eat it.

Suggested good foods: Multi grain bread, diluted water and juice, wild rice, brown rice, potatoes, white beans, kidney, navy, pinto lima, chick peas, oatmeal, hemp, flax added to cereals, muffins, salads, vegetables, carrots, peas, turnips, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, beets, romaine and leaf lettuce. (Make your own dressing with olive oil and lemon juice, garlic onions and herbs) popcorn, pumpkin seeds, nuts, chicken, fish, turkey, red and wild meat.

good food bites

LUNCHES TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

Wondering what to fill those school lunch boxes with? Here are a few tips for lunches you and your kids will love!



- Get the kids involved! Let them choose lunch items from a choice of healthy foods
- Include foods from all 4 food groups from Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide
- Include a small ice pack to keep meat and dairy items at a food safe temperature
- Some healthy kid pleasing lunch additions can include: homemade muffins, yogurt tubes, oatmeal cookies, flavored milk, slice of banana bread, pudding cups, applesauce, etc.
- Use traditional foods such as bannock for sandwiches or on the side with leftover wild meat stew or vegetable chili with with soup or chili
- Add fresh or frozen berries to yogurt

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Chualo's fight continues

By W. J. Rutherford
For Eagle Feather News

Former world-rated heavyweight champion George Chualo who punched his way through the heavyweight division in the '60s and '70s made an equally hard-hitting appearance at Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation during the Treaty Day celebrations, his second trip to the First Nation in six months.

"In terms of healing, we thought if we brought in a speaker such as him, it would really help our young people," explains Beardy's councillor Ralph Gardippi.

"We've had so many deaths with accidents in the last year."

The 73-year-old Chualo punched it out with a total five heavyweight champions during his career, including going 27 rounds in two fights with Muhammad Ali, but this time around his fight is against drugs.

Chualo is no stranger to the tragedy brought on by drug addiction. Every boxer takes plenty of punishment in the ring, but it's nothing compared to the blows the former heavyweight contender received watching drugs destroy his family.

Chualo began his gut-wrenching presentation telling the audience, "Drugs killed half my family."

Steven's body slumped in a chair wearing just a pair of undershorts, a syringe sticking out of his left arm and an unlit cigarette between the first two fingers of his right hand. After he shot the heroin into his veins, before my son could light a cigarette, he was dead. It took about seven seconds."

It's a wonder how any man, let alone a former Canadian heavyweight champion, could find the strength to carry on, but Chualo did. Perhaps it was his years of toughing it out in the squared-circle. Maybe it was the love he received from his friends and family after the tragedy. Possibly it was just his conviction that he could help others avoid the same pain in their lives.

His Fight Against Drugs message was heartfelt and straightforward. Respect your parents, respect yourself, and don't use drugs.

When asked what it took to prepare himself for the many drug presentations he has given, Chualo revealed in a careful measured way.

"It never gets easier. That's my family I'm talking about, and what's more important than your family?"

Chualo is a member of both the Canadian and World Boxing Hall of Fame located in California. His 1965 fight in Madison Square Garden with Floyd



BATOCHE AT PLAY

As usual, the rodeo grounds were hoping at this year's Back to Batoche celebrations. The rodeo grounds are annually overtaken with the chuck wagon and chariot folks who always put on a good show for the fans. (Photo by Peter Beszterda Gabriel Dumont Institute) The cutthroat sport of bingo also drew them in.

(Photo by 2011 Kymber Rae Photography)



Former world-rated heavyweight George Chualo poses for a picture with a fan at the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation Treaty Day celebration.

Unable to deal with a drug addiction, Chualo's youngest son Jesse committed suicide in 1985, only nine months and fifteen days after trying heroin for the first time.

On Oct. 31, 1993 Chualo's namesake, George Lee, died from an overdose. Chualo's grief-stricken wife Lynn committed suicide just four days later.

But this wasn't the end of Chualo's pain from illicit drugs. His son Steven died from an overdose of heroin in 1996, while George was away in Albuquerque preparing Johnny Tapia for a title fight.

Chualo explained the scene.

"The police came and cut the inside chain and walked inside my daughter's apartment and they found my son

Patterson in was voted the fight of year by Ring Magazine. Throughout his 23-year boxing career Chualo was never knocked down, and the deaths of three sons and his wife due to drugs couldn't knock him down either.

In 1994, he married his second wife, Joanne, and he is stepfather to two children, Jesse and Ruby. Chualo has a daughter Vanessa from his first marriage who has two daughters of her own. His one remaining son, Mitch, is married with two sons, and works as a Phys. Ed. Teacher in Toronto. Since 1996 Chualo had made over 1,600 Fight Against Drugs presentations across Canada.

His website can be found at: www.fightagainstdrugs.ca.



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Talented Cyr didn't feel he belonged

By Barbara Woolsey
For Eagle Feather News

Colton Cyr will always remember his father, Charlie, through the kind words of others.

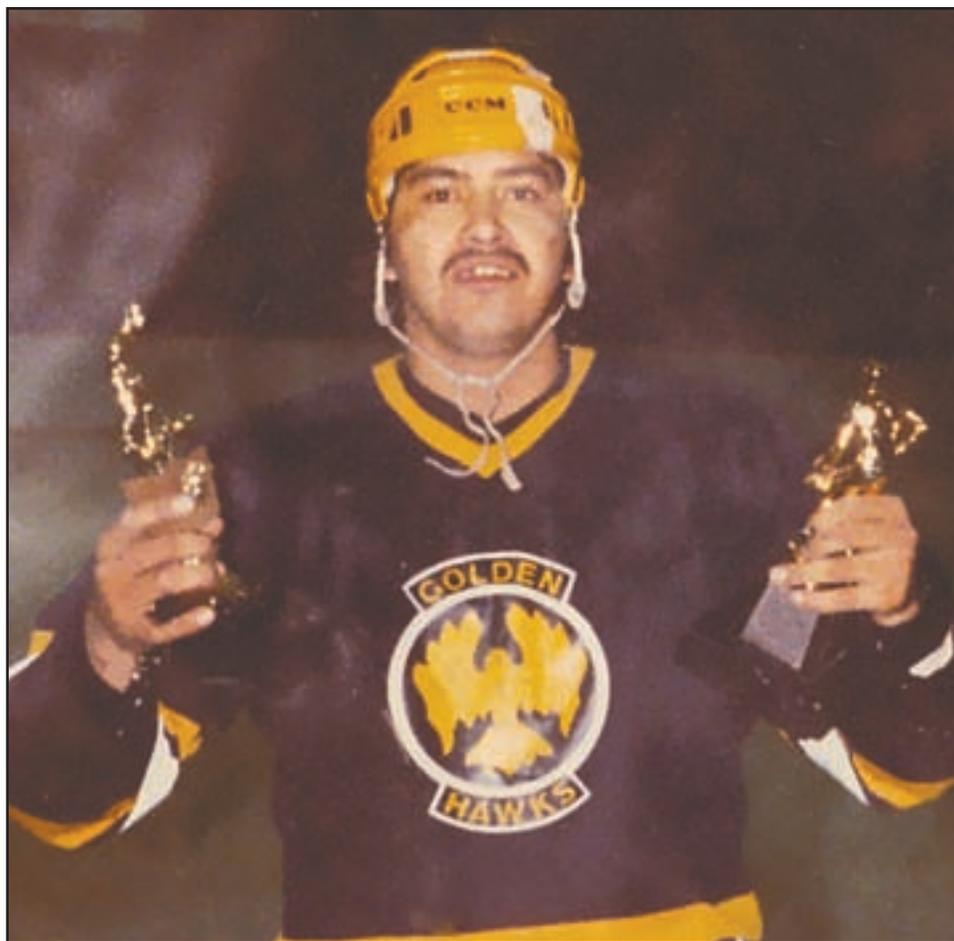
"They would say, 'I played hockey with him and he was one of the best I ever played with,'" said Colton.

"I always heard he was one of the greatest Native hockey players ... that he had the quickest hands, (he was the) fastest skater around with the hardest shot and the quickest shot."

Charlie "Snazz" Cyr is a legend in the Indian Hockey League. He is well-known for his time on the Gordon's Golden Hawks, but played for a few provincial teams throughout his career – even changing the record books on the Cote Chiefs by scoring 101 points in just one season.

"He was known for great moves and goals that people still talk about today," said Albert McNab, a long-time friend and teammate of Cyr. "That's what he did his whole life."

In 1975, Charlie was scouted and invited to training camp with the NHL's Winnipeg Jets. The opportunity would mean moving from Junior B ranks straight to pro hockey – an almost



Teammates and opponents praised Charlie Cyr, calling him one of the finest Native hockey players they had the good fortune to watch.

unheard of achievement.

But Cyr had money problems and couldn't afford to go to camp.

"We used to talk about it and in a way, he kind of thought that he didn't belong," said McNab. "Being a Native

hockey player, it's always hard on our younger athletes to leave home.

"But the way I see it, he was always good enough to be an NHL player."

Cyr stayed active with sports on the reserve for most of his life, as a volunteer and a coach. McNab has many fond memories playing by Cyr's side, from minor hockey all the way to "old-timer" games. He and Charlie were even the first Aboriginal fastball players in Regina, McNab said.

Colton Cyr would also go on to play for the Gordon's Golden Hawks. He honoured his father by wearing the same number 20 jersey.

"One of the reasons I played hockey was I wanted to be just like him," explained Colton.

"I never lived up to it, but one time he even told me I was better than him at my age. That was something that made me feel really good."

Charlie Cyr passed away in Regina last month, at the age of 56. A funeral was held on Gordon's First Nation for family and friends.

"He was the most kind gentleman I know," said McNab.

"People all over Canada know who Charlie Cyr is."

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