

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Affinity CU opens first on-reserve credit union

By Warren Goulding
Of Eagle Feather News

The arrival in Cowessess First Nation of Saskatchewan's second largest credit union is the beginning of a new era in banking.

For Candace Seitz, business development manager at Affinity Credit Union and a resident of Cowessess, the personal connection means everything.

"It means a lot to the First Nation people especially, when they receive service from someone from the community," Seitz said following the opening of the full-service branch on February 4.

"It gives them a sense of comfort and it makes them feel more stable with what they are doing. Traditionally, banking intimidates our people. With my experience I can comfort them and reassure them in their banking needs," she suggests.

The new, 1,912 square foot facility will serve the needs of the 3,500 Cowessess band members in a way that hasn't been possible up until now, Seitz says.

"I know, traditionally, with the major banks, it was hard for me to help people in areas of loans because of lack of education around the credit bureau and their credit rating," says Seitz who has been working in the financial industry for 13 years.

"I think with Affinity being seen to give more back to the community, it will increase our number of accounts. They will see that the business brought in will come back to them."

Affinity was created in 2005 with the amalgamation of PAGE Credit Union, Sask Valley Credit Union and St. Mary's Credit Union, a merger that resulted in an organization that had 14 branches in central Saskatchewan. Today, after partnering with FirstSask Credit Union in 2008, Affinity has over 95,000 members through a network of 46 branches in 37 communities across the province.

Affinity's chief executive officer, George Keter, says the match between credit union values and First Nation culture and tradition turns out to be a complementary relationship.

"In the old days there was the thought that the credit union was 'the farmers' bank' but over the last couple of years as we built the First Nations District there is an awareness and people are tuning into the values," Keter says.

"Affinity Credit Union members will do much more business with First Nations and it will help our profitability," he adds. "Our First Nation District will share in the



Candace Seitz is the business development manager at Affinity Credit Union on Cowessess First Nation. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

profits from the operation of this district. They will actually be receiving the larger share of those profits. It is a unique business model that will benefit First Nations and Affinity Credit Union for years to come.

"The First Nation business is something new to us, something we did not have before so it will certainly benefit us profit-wise."

Cy Standing, Chief of Wahpeton First Nation and Chair of the First Nations District Council, says locating the Affinity branch on-reserve will have immediate and significant benefits.

"First Nations want to deposit their money on reserve for the tax benefits. And that was key," Standing explains.

"Other bands were hesitant to join. But now that we have this, we will grow deposits. The other draw is the sharing of the profits back to our membership.

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Welcome to our
Health and Wellness Edition
Coming In March:
Women's Issue
CPMA #40027204

Medicine tied to healing, culture and land

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Medicines to Help Us started as a painting commissioned from Christi Belcourt by Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) in 2003, and kept expanding to the point where it was nominated in three categories at the 2008 Sask Book Awards.

“The original painting illustrates traditional medicines Métis women have used for healing over the centuries,” explained Darren Prefontaine, curriculum development officer at GDI.

“We wanted something which would highlight the painting and incorporate the Métis languages ... to honor the women and their healing traditions, and address the so-called disconnect between Western science and traditional knowledge.”

Elders such as Rose Richardson and Olive Whitford, translators Laura Burnouf and Rita Flamand, and the GDI staff all contributed to the project which artist and first-time author Christi Belcourt fleshed out with photography, research, and a series of prints to isolate each plant, describe how the medicine or herb is used to heal, and name it in Cree, Ojibway, and two Michif dialects.

“You can't disconnect healing with language and culture,” noted Prefontaine.

“And the beautiful artwork and research centres the whole thing, which was a community project as well.”

He emphasizes the Michif flavour to everything GDI does, with a mandate on helping emerging and first-time authors and illustrators. He also praised the layout work of Christi's sister, Suzanne, as outstanding – a work of art which is also an educational resource, puzzle, and field guide on plants.

“It was a real fun project for GDI to work on,” Prefontaine said, adding they are always looking for innovative flexible products. “We really like the cross-cultural aspects – it can reach everybody – not necessarily Aboriginal audiences



“As our ancestors picked and used plants, they told stories, and in the winters, they retold the stories in pictographs and patterns they sewed and beaded on jackets and clothing. All our bedding and household belongings told stories of our spirituality, our respect, and our understanding of the signatures of a divine power.”

only.”

Belcourt calls her book a starting point in Métis plant use, and emphasizes how important the Elders and medicine people are to the preservation of medicinal lore. She notes opportunities for children

to learn from their Elders are too far and few between, and school/book learning needs to be balanced with lessons about nature.

“In my life I've been lucky to have met a few Elders who have shared a little bit of what they know with me. They are my inspiration.”

She adds their teachings and stories

- Elder Rose Richardson

have showed her that everything is alive - plants have spirits, and we are truly connected

to everything, and everything to us.

A quote from the book reads: “As human beings, our existence on this planet is wholly dependent upon Mother Earth. Mother Earth provides the plant world with what it needs to survive, the plant world in turn provides the animal world with its sustenance, and we, as human beings exist only because of the kinship that exists between all of us.”

“There is no doubt that the effects of global warming and other man-made problems are affecting them,” Belcourt said. “We, human beings, are really messing things up here. We have to do everything we can as individuals to try to help reverse this.”

“I think GDI did an amazing job with the publishing,” says Belcourt, also commenting on the collaborative effort. She has gone on to write a second book, and has a website at christibelcourt.com.

“GDI more than deserved the nominations they received for publishing ... they are the leading publishing house in the whole Métis Nation. I've admired their work for many years and so it was an honour to work with them.”

Medicines To Help Us and other award-winning publications can be purchased directly from GDI, or online at their catalogue at: www.gdins/catalog.

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Health survey will address needs of Métis people in Saskatchewan

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

Improved inclusive health services are needed for Métis people, no debate there. But there is no data base or linkage with Health or Statistics Canada so that evidence-based decisions can be made, and that infrastructure needs to be created.

Enter Kelly Patrick, interim Director of Health for Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS). Backed by the University of Saskatchewan, who will provide training for the Métis field interviewers in a Métis created survey, MNS is collecting the data – something she sees as incredibly empowering to communities.

“It’s a federally funded initiative partnered with SaskHealth,” explains Patrick. “It focuses on relationship building and is a huge opportunity for the Métis people to provide leadership.”

Health Minister Don McMorris was aghast to hear stories of Métis elders donning snowmobile suits to hitch-hike hours to the city for mid-winter cancer treatments, but these sorts of gaps and disparities are a reality. And with Saskatchewan’s heavily burdened health care system things are only getting worse.

“The belief is that health care is universal here, but if non-Aboriginals are already on a long waiting list for services, who is on the bottom of that list?” notes Patrick.

It is complicated for Métis who largely exist in what Patrick describes as “a jurisdictional black hole especially with service delivery, for those in remote areas like Northern Saskatchewan, very difficult and costly to the individual.”

The solution lies partly in this feasibility study, which is a community-based participatory survey – but it will rely heavily on the co-operation of the Métis people in coming forward to provide their leadership with the necessary data.

“We need as many to self-identify and participate as possible,” Patrick says, adding they have been working closely with Karen Larocque of Regina Métis Sports and Culture, who ran successful

programs which they are adapting to a provincial scope.

Ideally each health region will have a minimum of 200 participants in the survey – but MNS needs people to come forward, and the more the better, so that an accurate ‘health snapshot’ will address actual needs.

“When the survey is completed, we can go to SaskHealth to address the gaps and partner to better deliver services,” she adds. “While government funding will end in 2010, MNS hopes to continue sustainability. We want to develop programming, improve services and access.”

They also hope to address specific Métis communities who do not receive the insured or non-insured health benefits other First Nations communities receive.

“The status quo is failing everyone, particularly the Métis,” added Patrick, noting the importance of a holistic approach versus a western/systemic/one diagnosis fits all.

“Health care needs to respect the individual as a whole, their community, their environment, their history.”

Historical marginalization and the struggle for self-governance factor heavily into the current situation, but the ultimate goal is to ensure those in need are getting timely assistance.

Ignoring the distinctiveness and needs of communities ultimately costs everyone whether in health care dollars, addictions services, or policing – healthy communities are more structurally effective for everyone. When the system fails the vulnerable, everyone else pays, notes Patrick.

The survey will examine what services already exist, how they are being accessed and where they need improvements, and build relationships with bodies like First Nations University of Canada, the Health Quality Control Council, and the Northern Health Strategy (NHS). Patrick notes Nap Gardiner of NHS has been an incredible resource in bringing forth the ignored needs of isolated communities.

Patrick has 23 Métis field interviewers preparing for training workshops in



Left to Right, Vivian Ramsden, Director, Research Division, Department of Academic Family Medicine, University of Saskatchewan; Jackie Crowe, Métis Community Representative and Peer Researcher; Kelly Patrick, Interim Director of Health, Métis Nation Saskatchewan. Missing from photo: Carrie Bourassa, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Health Studies, First Nations University of Saskatchewan.

Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert, and Buffalo Narrows, and expects the reports and feasibility studies to be ready sometime this spring, depending on participation.

“Basically I’m just hoping all the Métis co-operate and get this done, because it is for the betterment of our people,” said Darlene McKay, current Minister of Health for MNS. “I can see gaps right now in programs and services – and this will help us determine what needs to be done.”

Minister McMorris has shown support from the province, and acknowledged the uniqueness of the Métis community through their leadership.

Robert Doucette, president of MNS, has

been meeting with the Province and further roundtables are in the works, to ensure resources are allocated appropriately.

“In this process we are looking at the Province as partners,” said MNS President Robert Doucette.

“It is really important that our partners understand how important it is to plan at a community level. When you combine that with the programs and services that may or may not be there, we can have a win-win situation. The main goal is to improve the health of the Métis people. This process is critically important for the health of the Métis of this province and for the people of Saskatchewan.”

Message from the Minister

Learning is our path into the future. A child's excitement for learning is a lesson for all of us. We need to keep this spirit alive by ensuring their school experience is positive. Their hands may be small now, but in time, they will shape the future of Saskatchewan. Let's be sure that they are ready.

Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Saskatchewan Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations

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Editorial

Time to begin closer relationship with Doc

There comes a time in every man's life when he has to face the inevitable fact that he is getting older. No longer can you stay out all night swinging from the trees with your pals and still make it to work in the morning.

You can no longer play four games of hockey over a weekend tournament, unless you want to ask your wife to help you get out of bed Monday morning.

That horse ride seems to take a lot out of you and you don't remember your bum being that sore before. You wrestle with your kids and you get winded and you use that as an excuse for actually losing the match. You can hear your knees when you walk up the stairs. You have dickdo ... that means your gut sticks out more than your d**k do.

Every man has to face these horrible realities and when you get up and go seems to have gotten up and went it is inevitable that you have recently turned 40. The dreaded BIG Four OH, when you finally qualify to play in the masters division of the hockey tournament.

When you hear someone is 50 and you don't think that that they are old at all. That's when it all changes for us guys. Body parts hurt, some stop working so well, others kick into overdrive and your relationship with your doctor becomes markedly different ... often in an awkward way.

At age 40, all guys have to start worrying about our health. At one time we were all invincible, but after 40, diabetes rears its head. Depending on our lifestyle choices, our livers may be hardening, our lungs may be getting darker, our blood pressure skyrocketing, potential cancer tumors ... all kinds of ailments that may take us from our families and to an early grave.

One of the things a doctor may insist upon at your yearly checkup after 40 (Yes fellas, I said yearly ... that means every year!) is to examine your colon. Colon cancer is one of the most treatable cancers out there and unfortunately also very common. They test it by inserting a gloved and lubricated finger in your rectum to test the consistency of the area.

This is by no means pleasant for yourself, but it is totally bearable if you believe in preventative medicine. If you think it is no fun, imagine what the doctor is going through or ponder the idea of months of chemotherapy.

Another way to test for colon cancer or trouble in your guts is to test for blood in your stool (that means your poop, not the thing the dairy farmer sits on!). To do that, a friendly nurse tells you to go home and poop in a bowl at least three different times and to wipe some of that 'stuff' on a special piece of cardboard to send for testing.

A friend of mine with pooping in a bowl phobias decided to just poop in his sink and go from there ... me, I haven't been to visit that friend for a bit and I may keep it that way.

These topics and tests are all very important things to discuss with your family doctor. Do not be shy when you visit your doctor, they have heard it all by now. Actually, keep track of your health for a year. Every time you get a cold, flu, fever or anything, write it down and bring it to your annual check up. It makes the doctor's job that much easier.

It may seem awkward to discuss the cough test, or the colon test with your doctor, but to them it is all business. And for all the guys from up North, if you do the colon test, you will not, I repeat will not "go gay." It is totally safe, and your responsibility to get done.

Think of the extra years you can offer your wife and children. If that doesn't motivate you, think how many extra fishing trips you could have. Your health is worth the effort. Do something about it.

Coming next in Eagle Feather News

March is always devoted to the women in our community. March 8 is International Women's day and we will celebrate the women in our community in the arts, sports, education, business and politics.

March 21 is also the International day for the Elimination of Racism and we will be looking at events that will be taking place across the province.

Readers Forum

Let's get tough on smoking

Smoking should be banned and smokes should be taxed on-reserve?

There are many health issues affecting Aboriginal people. Some diseases like diabetes or alcoholism you are born with and have to learn to live with. Cancer is also a big nasty that may be hereditary, or from the environment (if you live near oil sands) or from your decision to continue smoking.

Smoking related cancer is one of the world's biggest tragedies because it is totally avoidable. Like it says, smoking is a major cause of cancer. And Aboriginal people lead the pack in smoking. Over 50 per cent of Aboriginal people smoke. That is a staggering statistic and a precursor of many cancer related deaths in Saskatchewan.

Quitting smoking is quite difficult, but not impossible. All you need is a good plan and some willpower.

Here is a good plan....

1. Call the Smokers Help Line (ad on Page 9!). They will help immeasurably
2. Remember the 3's. Three days of hell withdrawing (but it is kind of fun!), three weeks to get all the nicotine out of your body and after three months you are clean and clear.
3. When you are having a wicked craving drink water ... lots of it. It helps flush your body and makes you healthier.
4. Avoid 'smoking' situations until you are tougher.
5. Be proud to be a non-smoker. You don't stink, have yellow fingers, bad breath and are healthy.
6. Never, ever stick a smoke in your mouth. Nothing is ever so important or drastic or will make you die that sticking that evil little smoke in your mouth will heal. It only makes it worse.

7. Lobby in your community for smoke free buildings. On reserve it is a bit tougher, but it is one of the best public health policies a community can have.

8. Believe in yourself. Quitting smoking is the right thing to do and you will never regret it!



With all that being said, we now throw it over to you the fine reader for your advice.

Should all bands have smoke free public places? Everyone knows that as you narrow the amount of places one can smoke, people wind up smoking less.

How about band governments imposing a \$2 tax on a pack of cigarettes and using that money to run smoking cessation clinics or other health

programs? Or does taxing smokes on reserve get you unelected, even though cost will deter kids from smoking?

Is your community doing something about smoking?

Send your thoughts in on smoking, quitting and what to do about it to...

johnl@eaglefeathernews.com or fax them to 1-306-978-8117 or mail them to PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.

The best letter receives a subscription to Eagle Feather News and a Safeway gift card (for food, not smokes!)



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Job One is to protect our Treaty Rights

First Nations that have gone through the Specific Claims process to settle outstanding claims know how cumbersome the process is and how long it took to get to settlement negotiations.

In some instances it took the Department of Justice years to render a decision on whether or not it would accept or validate a claim. The federal government's definition of a claim was also so narrow that many claims to loss of reserve land did not qualify. For example, the appropriation of reserve land for road and hydro right of ways.

According to the regulations under the Indian Act First Nations must receive compensation for these kinds of appropriations but in many cases the amount of the compensation was a pathetic \$1. The Specific Claims process denied First Nations the right to pursue a claim against this unfair consideration.

After much protest and numerous studies that criticized the Specific Claims process the federal government launched a new process on October 16, 2008, the Specific Claims Tribunal Act (SCTA). The SCTA was created to improve the specific claims resolution process.

The three key elements of the new SCTA process are as follows:

1. The creation of a tribunal independent

of the federal government that will have the power to make binding decisions on specific claims valued up to \$150 million. The Tribunal will be composed of judges and the Assembly of First Nations will have some input into the selection of its members.

2. Time limits will be imposed on the federal government to determine whether it will accept a claim for negotiation and, once accepted, time lines to negotiate and reach acceptable settlement agreements. The timelines for each of these phases is three years. If these deadlines are not met the claim will automatically go to the Specific Claims Tribunal for a binding decision.

3. The definition of a specific claim has expanded to include failure to provide adequate compensation for reserve land taken for public purposes, and claims based on failure to complete unilateral undertakings or unfulfilled commitments by the Crown.

Many people working in the area of specific claims are optimistic that this new process will not only speed the process up but provide an

opportunity for previously rejected claims to be reconsidered. It is the responsibility of our political watchdogs, our political organizations, to carefully monitor the process to ensure that

adequate resources are committed to all stages of the new process and to ensure that the process is fair to First Nations.

It is also their responsibility to keep us informed.

So far, a few criticisms have surfaced about the timelines imposed on First Nations to submit claims that were rejected in the past but we need to know more.

The best role for our political organization is to stick to political watch-dogging and stay out of program delivery. If they were doing their jobs perhaps our Treaty Rights would be better protected.

The FSIN (FSI and, even earlier, the Union of Saskatchewan Indians) was created to protect our Treaty Rights. So how is it that we have lost the right to provincial tax exemption off-reserve in this province? Why is our Treaty Right to

health care almost non-existent? We get the same coverage folks on social assistance get and many medical procedures are not even covered.

And, yet again, our Treaty Right to post-secondary education is being tossed out the window as the feds plan to off-load to student loans or other bursary type agencies.

If our provincial organization spent as much time fighting for our Treaty Rights as it does meddling in the administrative affairs of our institutions we might not have lost so much ground over the past 10 to 20 years.

This flaw in our political systems and processes has been raised ad nauseam and it's killing any hope we have of effective and fair self-government. Why are our Chiefs spending so much time and energy fighting us to control our own institutions when they have little to no background expertise to help our institutions grow?

A message to our leaders: Learn from your mistakes with humility and honour, and fix the problems you've created. Learn from your SIEF experience and stop your control-freaking micro-managing. GET OUT of FNUniv and let more qualified experts handle its administration and development, and get back to what you were created to do—Protect our Treaty Rights!!



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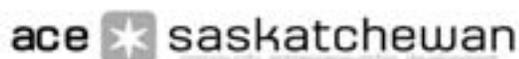
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Apartheid by choice impacts quality of care

In the summer of 1992 a large youth group from the Poundmaker Adolescent Treatment Center in St. Paul Alberta went into the mountains near Jasper, Alberta. They were swimming in a mountain lake when the kids noticed a few adults diving off a cliff.

The group moved over to the high rock and dove into the deep cold water. It was a tragedy in the making.

The poorly trained staff was working with far too large a group. They did not intervene but instead enabled and became involved not as parental figures but as peers. It wasn't until they gathered for supper that a head count was taken and they noticed one was missing.

They returned to the cliff and frantically began a deep water search for the missing youth. Only a couple of youth could dive deep enough to reach the bottom of the lake. Finally he was found and his body brought back to the surface. His heart was still beating but soon stopped. The youth died.

Recriminations flew thick and fast. The Poundmaker director blamed her staff. Staff blamed the director and each other. The Alberta government stepped in and stopped all outings. Authority was realigned between the principal and the director. The center then returned to functioning as before with a poorly trained staff, no youth model and a very large poorly functioning group.

I was at the feast a year later. The entire center showed up and mingled with our large Davis Islet camp. The mother and father and our four Elders attended. I was concerned because over 50 clients were intermingling and no matter how well trained the staff could have been, there was no way the kids could be properly supervised. Lessons that could have been learned weren't.

I began work with Poundmaker a year later and what I saw deeply disturbed me. Troubled youth, fresh from closed custody, mingled with non-custody youth. I went to my supervisor, concerned kids were being muscled and intimidated only to be told the abused youths needed to learn to stand up for themselves.

Another time I saw a sex offender in the same group as his victim. Again I approached my supervisor and I was told it was being taken care of and not to get concerned about it. I was appalled and soon after left for other work.

Poundmaker has now been shut down and all federally funded Aboriginal treatment centers must now be located on First Nation land.

Good intentions are not enough. It takes skills to work effectively with troubled youth. The foundations of

quality care – trained competent staff, manageable group size and a progressive youth model – need to be in place, understood, and upheld. Institutional safety is priority one. No one can heal if they don't feel safe.



Common Ground
John Cuthand

In Saskatchewan, Oyate, Four Directions youth center and Leading Thunderbird all have or are experiencing problems. Some years ago Red Pheasant youth treatment shut down permanently. Oyate's troubles were so severe the center was also shut down and Four Directions reopened after being shut down for a time.

The non-Aboriginal centers have also experienced their share of woes. Red Willow in Saskatoon was embroiled in troubles when it began. The North Battleford Youth Center was a very dysfunctional place in its time. Social Services also has its controversies over the years.

There are no smug faces or clean hands in all of this. I have also noticed the high functioning centers carefully screen out the clients who they can best work with and those they can't. They also work with small groups and a high staff to client ratio. Under those conditions most Aboriginal Centers would experience a corresponding success rate too.

Aboriginal centers are far more accepting of more extreme clients in far more numbers, a formula that doesn't work well.

When Oyate was shut down, the Children's Advocate made an observation and recommendation that appears to have gone unfulfilled. He noticed there was a lack of communication between Social Services and Oyate.

Isolation is readily apparent in this province. The "white" institutions and the "Indian" institutions barely, if ever, communicate or work together. It is apartheid by choice. Each look upon the other as incompetent and they both may be right. Addictions and Mental Health in Saskatoon has a shocking lack of Aboriginal staff despite a clientele composed of up to 80 per cent Aboriginal.

The best hope for improving quality of care it seems to me is to let down the drawbridges and take the best of both worlds for the benefit of both. The non-Aboriginal groups must abandon their arrogance and the Aboriginal groups must put aside the bitterness. Tall order.



Drive Safe... to our Winter Tour



2009 Performance Locations

February 23	Waterhen Lake First Nation Jonas Samson Junior High School, Meadow Lake
February 24	Onion Lake First Nation Little Pine First Nation
February 25	Poundmaker First Nation Sweetgrass First Nation
February 26	Sakewew High School, North Battleford Thunderchild First Nation
March 2	Carlton Comprehensive High School, Prince Albert Muskoday First Nation
March 3	Kinistin First Nation
March 4	Fishing Lake First Nation Piapot First Nation
March 5	Gordon First Nation Balfour Collegiate, Regina

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Readers Forum

Patrick Brazeau not the man for the Senate, say Eagle Feather readers

Many more qualified

With the appointment of Patrick Brazeau to the Senate, Steven Harper has spoken loudly and clearly that he does not respect Aboriginal people. It seems clear to me that Mr. Harper appointed Brazeau as much out of spite and disdain for the Senate and the process of appointments, as he did as a payback for Brazeau's *derriere* kissing.

It sickens me to think that Mr. Brazeau is now going to carry water for Harper within the Senate and pose as somehow representing the voice of Aboriginal people while he's there.

In 1971, when I was four years old, my dad and mom moved our family from Edmonton to Ottawa. At the time, my dad, Tony Belcourt, had just become the founding President of the Native Council of Canada (now known as the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples).

At the time, my dad felt moving to Ottawa was necessary because he said he needed to be in Ottawa to be able to "knock on the doors" of government in person. He was right. And although it was a sacrifice for us to move there, because we were isolated from any of our extended family, there was no other way for him to lobby the government.

He got a lot done for Métis and Non-Status people, as did the leaders who became President after him, like Harry Daniels.

Those were the days before Bill C-31, when thousands of Métis and non-status Indians were really in the same legal boat, and there was a need for us as off-reserve people to join forces, and form one national voice from which to lobby government.

After Bill C-31 was passed and many non-status people regained their status, the legal issues that once united non-status people and Métis people had changed. For this reason, and other reasons too, the Native Council of Canada began to lose relevancy. All these many years later, the Congress of Aboriginal People is a shell of what it was in its heyday, and many of the 'national chiefs' (what they call themselves), like Patrick Brazeau, are basically riding the wave of the successes of the pre-Bill-C-31 era.

The Congress of Aboriginal People has become a national joke among politically plugged-in Aboriginal people. Nobody knows who they are, or who the members of their organization are. They are thought of basically as a 'paper' organization. Some of their provincial organizations are known to sell 'Métis cards' to anyone with fifty bucks (I have personally witnessed this in a local mall, and have been embarrassed to try to explain the difference between my legitimate Métis citizenship card and one of these bogus cards to non-Métis friends who don't know the difference).

They don't hold elections. And I could go on, but anyhow, it's a total sham and we know it. And the federal government refuses to listen to the other Aboriginal organizations who have been complaining about this bogus organization for years and years. So they keep

funding them, and year after year, it's the federal government that gives them their legitimacy by propping them up with funding. In hindsight, I think this is essentially why this story is a dreary one – it's that because without the government keeping CAP alive all these years, Mr. Brazeau would never be where he is today.

It is safe to say that I grew up immersed in Métis politics, and the politics of off-reserve people. Harry Daniels and my dad, along with other Aboriginal leaders spent many, many hours arguing passionately in our house in Ottawa. Many of these people were young then, but have since gone on to be respected nationally as Elder Statesmen/women. Some of them, like Harry, are no longer with us.

Anyway, the point I'm making is that there is a wide array of Aboriginal people infinitely more qualified than Patrick Brazeau that Prime Minister Harper could have appointed to the Senate, people like: Madeleine Dion Stout, Sylvia Watt Cloutier, Paul Chartrand, Roberta Jamieson, Phil Fontaine, Maria Campbell, and people like my dad Tony – just to name but a few.

I'm not sure any of them would have accepted had they have been asked. But these are the calibre and type of statesmen and women I'm talking about. People who are well known, well respected and well regarded across the country, and who each have more political experience in their little finger than Mr. Brazeau has on a whole.

But Mr. Harper knew what he was doing. And sadly, the country is not better off for his short-sighted decision.

Christi Belcourt

Too easy to read, boy!

I have just read the article in regards to Patrick Brazeau. (*Eagle Feather News, January 2009*)

As a First Nation man I am appalled that a person of Patrick Brazeau's character could ever be named to such a position in the Canadian government as a senator.

I do not recognize this man as a person that has blazed any historic political trails for First Nation people in this country. I only see a man that has not even gained the respect of his own people from his own First Nation.

I feel strongly that a person has to gain the respect of his own before he can be a representative of all. I do not accept his view on urban First Nation issues. I do not accept his approach and disrespect to admired and constructive First Nation leaders from recognized organizations such as AFN.

He has not paid the price to be where he is at. I strongly believe he is a puppet to be used by Harper's government to be an example of reform to Canadians that don't truly support or understand the Treaties that we are trying to protect.

He is shady in his organizational practices and just doesn't have true grassroots support for any of his strategies other than from disgruntled Bill - C31 people and Urban First Nations people that refuse to have any relationship with their respective First Nation.

When I see and read the information that the media

releases it makes me think that he is a very self-centered person. I do see his attraction to politics or public office, as he calls it; it is going to mean that he will make millions for nothing ... just because of his misjudged appointment.

I would have liked to see some one like Matthew Coon Come or Phil Fontaine or Billy Diamond get this appointment. Sure, people would of had their reasons to be critical of these men also. I do know they have served their people and have gathered the respect and have blazed a trail for First Nations people.

What has Patrick Brazeau done? He and his organization are under investigation for misspent Health Canada dollars and his personal internal problems with in his own organization won't be resolved because he has stepped down and run to his senate appointment.

Where is accountability in all of this mess? And then to have the gall to want his \$100,000 salary from CAP and his \$130,000 salary as a senator?

Someone get a pail of cold water for this guy.

Anyways, I would even gong him on the Gong Whow for his antics, and as far as I am concerned, he doesn't represent me and I am hoping he doesn't represent others. Pay the price, Mr. Brazeau ... you're too easy to read, boy!

Ekosi !!!!

Rod Belanger

Sober, second thought?

I had to wipe my eyes three times to see if they were playing tricks on me. Senator Patrick Brazeau? This some kind of cruel joke, I thought.

Patrick Brazeau a senator? The Senate is the cornerstone of Canadian democracy, reserved for respected citizens who have displayed commitment and resolve for their country.

Sir John A. Macdonald described the Upper House as a place for "sober second thought" to reign in the powers of the Lower House (parliament). From reading up on Brazeau's antics from papers and from people that know him, I think that our young "up and comer" won't be of much use for "second sober thought".

More importantly, there could have been wiser picks and it makes one wonder what our Conservative government is up to with such a brazen move?

I am still shaking my head. I hope I am wrong or that he is on the way to Ottawa to become a Senator ... the kind that play hockey. Now that would have been more believable.

Jamie Lavallee



Aboriginal youth more at risk for suicide

By Cassandra Opikokew
For Eagle Feather News

Pamela Sparvier stands next to the clothesline pole in her backyard in Regina where, at only 16 years old, her brother Darren committed suicide after hanging himself with a power drill cord and rope.

Darren is actually Pamela's uncle. She was raised by her grandparents after her mom died in a car accident when she was only one year old. She refers to Darren as her brother and her grandparents as mom and dad. And Darren isn't the first brother she's lost to suicide.

When Sparvier was only five, her 18-year-old brother Ricky committed suicide at their home on Kahkewistahaw First Nation before they moved into the city.

"We were sitting around the table ... he said he was going outside to shoot some dogs that kept coming around the house bothering us. We heard a shot. Next thing we know my sister Shane comes crying and my parents looked out the window and he (had) shot himself out by our shed."

Sadly, Sparvier's story, while tragic, is not unique.

Suicide rates are five to seven times higher for First Nations youth than for non-Aboriginal youth, according to Health Canada. The suicide rates for Inuit youth are even higher at 11 times the national average.

A recent visit to the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Regina during a lunch break confirmed the distressing statistics. When 10 students and staff members were asked if they knew an Aboriginal youth who had committed suicide, all but one put up their hand. But that one person said he did know of some youth who had overdosed on drugs.

Shane Keepness, a student at the U of R, lost one of his friends to suicide in high school.

"One of my good buddies in my Grade 12 year of school committed suicide during the school year. No one was really aware that he was going to. He just kind of did it out of nowhere."

Sparvier says her family also never knew why her brothers committed suicide, since neither of them left suicide notes.

Marcia Ernest is a community support worker for the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy in Meadow Lake. She says the reasons behind why anyone commits suicide are different for each person, but there do seem to be some commonalities in suicides among Aboriginal youth.

"There are so many contributing factors as to why the rates are higher. Drugs, alcohol, relationships, lack of understanding, family dysfunction, abuse – many of the same factors that contribute to, say, alcohol or drug abuse."

Sparvier agrees with Ernest and says her family has some guesses as to why her brothers killed themselves.

"Relationship problems. Alcoholism. Hopelessness. They thought they had no way out. You don't talk to people at school. You don't talk to teachers. You don't talk to anyone."

Ernest says that part of the difficulty in dealing with Aboriginal youth suicide is that there is not a lot of reliable, comprehensive information available yet on the issue, beyond national statistics.

"Stats can be collected from, say, health care providers or therapists or hospitals but they're all recorded in different ways from each of these places so it's hard to accurately record. We've discussed in our region how to get accurate stats (including) suicide attempts because they're just as important for tracking."

Beyond having more research and statistics, Ernest says the first steps toward bringing down the suicide rates are education and awareness. Involving the youth



Pamela Sparvier sits at her kitchen table looking at family photos of her two brothers she lost to suicide. (Photo by Cassandra Opikokew)

and asking them what sort of programs or supports they would like to see is also vital.

"Suicide is something that's not talked about in some communities and in some families it's taboo – like talking about sex. We need to be involving our youth and some people say 'our youth are our future' but they don't listen to them really. I think honoring that statement in our communities will make a great big difference."

For Sparvier and her family, any changes will be too late to save her brothers. Since losing them, she

has also suffered through her own suicide attempts but continues to try and work through her grief.

"It's very difficult. You try and think their thoughts and think why did they have to do that or what caused them to do that to themselves."

As for what will happen if more is not done to prevent and deal with Aboriginal youth suicides in communities, Ernest has only one thing to say.

"The same thing that's been happening all these years will keep happening. We're going to keep losing our Aboriginal youth."

Call for Applications:

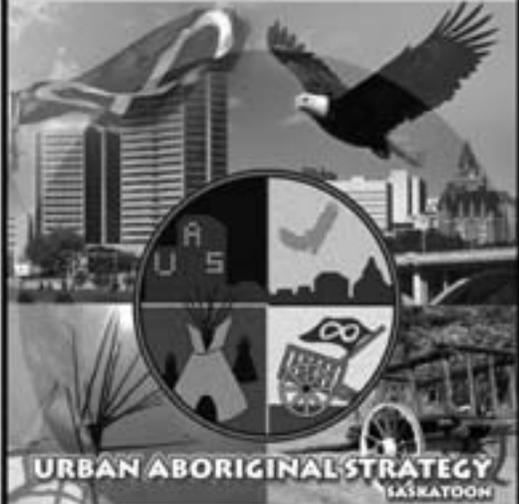
Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Steering Committee Membership

Applications are now being accepted for the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) Steering Committee. Being on the Steering Committee is an opportunity for you to:

- Be connected with community needs and priorities
- Ensure the community voice guides the UAS and echoes throughout community programs, services and policies
- Have a say in policies and programs that impact your community
- Make recommendations to government for funding in Saskatoon
- Work with community-based organizations including not-for-profits
- Contribute towards the work of the Saskatoon UAS
- Take part in activities or training opportunities to develop personal and professional skills
- Champion the UAS and make a difference in the community

All Aboriginal people with an interest in working for the community, 18 years of age or older, and living in Saskatoon for at least one year are able to apply. Application deadline is February 16, 2009.

To receive an application package and/or further information on the application process, please email wassaskatoon@sasktel.net or mail Urban Aboriginal Strategy Box 9200 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3X5.



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY
SASKATOON

Justice Health Capacity Building Youth Economic Development

Soup, Sandwich, and Selection of Committee Members

Don't miss out on the opportunity to decide who will be the new members of the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Steering Committee... and enjoy a free lunch. Join us at 10 a.m. on February 21, 2009 at TCU place (25-22nd St. East).

The **SASKATOON URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY** is a community-based initiative developed by the Government of Canada to improve social and economic opportunities of Aboriginal people living in Saskatoon. Through the Strategy the Government of Canada partners with the Aboriginal community and organizations, the private sector, and provincial and municipal governments. These partnerships support projects that respond to Saskatoon priorities within the national UAS priority areas of improving life skills, promoting job training, skills and entrepreneurship and supporting Aboriginal women, children and families. The Steering Committee's role is to bring together partners and make recommendations to all levels of government on urban Aboriginal matters in Saskatoon including funding. Come to this event and have a say in who will be a member of the Steering Committee. For further information please direct questions to wassaskatoon@sasktel.net.

No shame in asking for help when needed

Don Burnstick, an Aboriginal comedian, has this bit that he does called: "You might be a red skin..."

Through humour Burnstick is able to address ongoing issues in our communities, issues like abuse and alcoholism, marriage and infidelity.

It's normal human behaviour to feel discomfort when these topics arise. No one wants to admit that they have problems with alcohol or that they beat their spouse. It seems we would much rather bury our heads in the sand than admit we have problems. The problems will still be there when we sober up or pull our heads out of the sand.

The question is how do we deal with the issues? The answers are crucial to our survival as humans. There are departments and agencies dedicated to addressing these "social problems" yet, still, the problems exist in our communities.

We must accept responsibility as citizens of our communities to stop these unhealthy behaviours. What kind of a community do we want to live in? What kind of values do we want to teach our children – the next generation?

If we want a healthy community then

what are we willing to do to make that happen? Too often we expect Chief and council to fix the problems in our communities – why? Where is our responsibility? What are we willing to do to make our communities safer, healthier places for our children and grandchildren?

A wise man once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

We have become a complacent generation, content to sit back.

Life is not a movie to be watched – it is meant to be lived. We have choices in everything we do and say. Choices come with consequences; some good, some not so good. If you choose to skip a child support payment, then your children go without food; if you choose to beat your spouse, then you may end up in jail.

On the flip side, if you choose to make regular support payments your children learn responsibility and they get to eat! If you choose to take a walk and clear your head before talking to your spouse then you

might avoid going to jail.

Working on our issues takes time but it is worth it. Living with a spouse who doesn't hit you is your right – stand up for your rights! Making our communities healthy is going to take time and hard work. It will require that citizens accept the

responsibility for their choices and actions, so do your part.

Reach out to your neighbours when you see them struggling. Talk to your sons and daughters and find

out how they are doing in school and take an active role in their education – it is your responsibility.

Go for yearly check-ups with a physician – it's your body – take care of it. Teeth bothering you – see a dentist. Depressed for long periods – see a mental health specialist. Having marital problems – talk to a counsellor.

There is help out there you just have to find it. There is no shame in asking for help. No one knows our bodies better than we do, so when something isn't right, seek the help

of a professional.

Healthy communities have healthy citizens. We must do our part to ensure the future generations have healthy communities in which they can blossom and flourish. It's time to address the issues head-on and collectively pull our heads out of the sand.

Humour can help us bring the issues forward and we can laugh but when the laughter fades it's time to address our issues. Children are being hurt as their parents fight over custody and child support payments, husbands and wives are beating each other, drugs and alcohol are causing problems in our communities.

Unemployment and under education are leading to higher crime rates. We don't need studies or research to tell us what's going on – we need to open our eyes and be honest with ourselves.

Ask yourself; what can I do to make my community a healthier place? What can I do to make my home a safe place? How can I help my child through school?

Stop blaming and start claiming. Until next month. Thank you for your letters and emails. Write to me at: Snail mail: Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 or Email: s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

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Some tales from the Duct-Tape Hospital

Does Canada have a health-care system we can be proud of?

We Canadians have a free universal health-care system that looks after us from the cradle to the grave, right? That we should be proud of our 'medicare' system is a national myth that finds widespread support, from ringing declarations in provincial statutes to the words of 'Joe Six-Pack'. And while we are at it, we can sniff at the 'evil' American system, right?

Brian Sinclair, an Aboriginal man, recently died in his wheelchair from a treatable ailment in the main lobby of the emergency room in the Winnipeg General.

A horrified citizen found his body, stiff with rigor mortis 34 hours after he was wheeled in and spoke to employees. This tragedy is sure to continue to focus national attention on our health-care system.

How much truth is behind the national myth? Saskatchewan, the 'birth-place of medicare' and the home of Eagle Feather News, is a good place to ask. Out of deference to Saskatchewan's reputation in the field, I will take my facts from elsewhere. Readers may offer home-grown examples in support or rebuttal.

A few years back a hard-working citizen found out that after waiting more than three years for two hip replacements he was Canada's longest-suffering hip replacement patient on a waiting list. Which of the following 'Tales from the 'DTH' (Duct-Tape Hospital) that he witnessed should we be proud of?

- Nurses spending precious time, not doing their job of tending to patients, but taking tools and repairing broken down wheelchairs which were strewn along the hallway.

- Professional and janitorial staff all dressed as they please, the janitor cleaning the floors wearing green surgeon's clothing, the nurses wearing anything under the sun including track suits, as did the orderlies and nurses' aides.

When the patient sees someone coming at him with

a needle he doesn't know if it is a nurse or a delusional drug-addict who walked in off the street and mistook him for his habit buddy.

- If a patient needed help in the middle of the night, the nurses would come and talk in very loud voices in the large hospital room, without regard to the sick trying to get some sleep.

Do you remember the 'Quiet: Hospital Zone' signs we used to see out on the streets?

- Ailing mothers and grannies forced to stay in co-ed rooms, stripped of their dignity in their time of distress, warehoused next to strange men.

- Tender or terrible treatment dependent entirely upon the personality of the nurses, with no evidence of universal professional habits: from angels of mercy to little army generals.

As for the 'evil' American system, one man told me this story recently. He was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago. He was told he had three months to live.

He went to the hospital and was told he would get looked after in six months. He got treated in the U.S.A. and is just fine today.

"I owe my life to the American system," he said. Should our Canadian system be allowed to come up three months short on life or death?

Universal health care means that the government controls the market in health services. This is a monopoly, something that is outlawed and condemned in private enterprise. It seems to me that whoever undertakes a monopoly ought to do well in performing the monopolist's mandate.

Unlike in the free enterprise system, citizens have no recourse to another seller across the street if the monopolist fails to provide a good quality of goods or services. If you accept this basic idea then we must insist on good performance. Call your politician today.

There is one difference between us and France,

which is reputed to have perhaps the best health care system

in the world. You probably won't make that call. In France a million people would be out in the streets the next day, demanding the resignation of the health minister.

Canadians are used to deferring to authority and generally shun agitation of all sorts, including political agitation.

It is hard to say what is the problem with the system, even though some issues seem easy to fix. Roy Romanow had lots of ideas in his 2002 Commission report but Senator Kirby's committee differed on important points.

My guess is the administration part of it needs to change. The government's local boards help to insulate it from criticism but contribute to inefficiency. Why not a competitive system administered privately, where doctors doctor, nurses nurse, and the government pays the bills with our tax money?

I would gladly join the crowds in the streets tomorrow to agitate for change, but I have a sore knee right now and I am a Canadian.

Duct-tape, eh?



Comment
Paul Chartrand



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Canada



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Nuclear Medicine Technology, SAIT, Calgary, AB
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Optometry, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON
Orthotics and Prosthetics, BCIT, Burnaby, BC
Respiratory Therapy, SAIT, Calgary, AB

For more information visit Advanced Education, Employment and Labour's Interprovincial Health Training website:
www.aeel.gov.sk.ca/interprovincialhealthtraining



Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour

The Bruce Power logo features the company name in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized sunburst icon above the letter 'o' in 'Power'.A large background image showing a person's shoulder and arm in the foreground, looking out over a vast, flat landscape under a cloudy sky. In the distance, there are some structures and a utility pole. The text 'Saskatchewan 2020' is overlaid in large white letters.

Saskatchewan 2020

In June 2008, Bruce Power launched a feasibility study to consider the role nuclear power could play in Saskatchewan. We have completed our study and believe nuclear energy could provide Saskatchewan and neighbouring jurisdictions with clean power for generations to come.

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For the next step, we plan to identify possible sites spanning from Lloydminster, including the Battlefords and Prince Albert, that could be considered for an Environmental Assessment. We also plan to work with SaskPower to jointly assess future power demand, transmission infrastructure requirements and possible export markets.

As our decision-making process continues, we are committed to being open with you about our plans. That's why our feasibility study is available online and why we are distributing over 50,000 copies of the document in the coming weeks.



To learn more about our feasibility study and nuclear power please visit:

www.brucepower.com

Clean energy. New opportunity.

Sierra Noble to perform in Saskatoon this month

Métis fiddling sensation Sierra Noble will perform at the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's Masters Series at TCU Place on Feb. 21. Canadian icon Ian Tyson is performing with the Symphony and Noble is the special guest performer.

Noble shot into the national spotlight a couple of years back and has not stopped mesmerizing audiences around the world. She has performed from coast to coast in Canada and traveled to Japan, France and Mexico to share her remarkable talents as she blows through every musical style – from bluegrass to Celtic to jazz.

Noble has released one instrumental CD along with her debut vocal EP Possibilities in late 2008. She's on the brink of international stardom so get your tickets.

Go to www.saskatoonsymphony.org for tickets.

APTN announces First Tracks winners

Seven musicians or bands will have music videos produced in 2009 with the help of APTN's First Tracks (formerly Open Call) initiative.

"There is an outstanding range of new music being generated by Aboriginal musicians," says Jean LaRose, APTN's Chief Executive Officer.

"As Canada's only Aboriginal broadcaster, APTN is proud to support these musicians through First Tracks.

Each artist or group was required to apply and after a rigorous jury process, the selections were made. This year's First Tracks artists are: George Leach, Melisa Pash, Ry Moran, Janet Panic, Lucie Idlout, Digging Roots and Trish North.

Aboriginal Achievement Awards set for March 6

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards will take place March 6 in Winnipeg and will air March 21 on APTN and Global.

This year's gala will be hosted by Adam Beach, who returns to his hometown, and Tina Keeper, also a native of Manitoba and past National Aboriginal Achievement Award winner.

Performers for this year's event include Janet Panic, George Leach, Eagle and Hawk with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and the Métis Fiddler Quartet accompanied by Métis jigging group The Asham

Stompers.

This year's recipients include Saskatoon's Dennis and Melanie Jackson in the Arts category. Together the married couple owns and operates Dark Thunder Productions. Along with documentaries and feature films, the Jacksons also produce, write and direct Wapos Bay. Their National Aboriginal Achievement Awards will definitely be a welcomed edition to their trophy case – it already holds three Gemini Awards.

The other recipients are: Rev. Stan Cuthand – Lifetime; Chelsea Lavallee – Special Youth Award; Allan C. MacLeod – Business and Commerce; Stephen J. Augustine – Culture, Spirit and Heritage; Cecil King – Education; Gordon W. Prest – Environment and Natural Resources; Candace Grier-Lowe – Health; Delia Opekokew – Law and Justice; Carol Morin – Media and Communication; Paul Okalik – Politics; Joan Glode – Public Service; Adam Sioui – Sports; and Mervin J. Dewasha – Technology and Trades.

"Every year the jury selects an extraordinary group of recipients who reveal such outstanding talent and dedicated service," said Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

"I know that by honouring their achievement we will continue to inspire many others, just waiting to demonstrate their potential – that's why the work of the Foundation in providing bursaries to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students is so essential."

Eekwol makes 'comeback'

Don't think because Lindsay Knight became a mother there's no more room for Hip Hop in her life. Along with her brother Mils, Eekwol took the stage at the University of Saskatchewan's Neatby Timlin Theatre to open for Sol Guy, who was in Saskatoon to talk about his work with activists in the developing world.

Sol Guy is the co-creator, co-producer and host of CTV/MTV Canada's 4Real, an original documentary series that follows celebrities as they journey to some of the most heartbreaking places on Earth. According to

Eekwol, it was an amazing experience.

"It was awesome! We got to meet Sol and chat him up about music. There was close to 200 people there and for our first comeback performance it was pure energy. We did a couple of our new tracks that'll be on an upcoming album where Mils is fully back into the emcee role."

No release date has been set but Eagle Feather News will keep you posted.



Mils and Lindsay Knight with Sol Guy (centre)

Corrigan doc coming to Saskatoon

Filmmaker Jean Corrigan second television documentary Jim Setee: The Way Home will be screened in Saskatoon at the Broadway Theatre on March 15. It will also air on SCN on March 25 and APTN at a later date.

The documentary celebrates the life of Corrigan's spiritual mentor - Saskatchewan Elder Jim Setee. The film tells the story of Setee's life but also showcases a transformation in the filmmaker as she explores different aspects of one's universal journey to find 'home'.

Corrigan was born and raised in the lake and forest country of central Saskatchewan. She co-produced, co-wrote and co-directed her first documentary, Near to Nature's Heart: The Women of Wasquesiu.

The film was broadcast on SCN for over six years and is now used for educational purposes throughout the province. Jim Setee: The Way Home marks Corrigan's first effort as Director.

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SCYAP played role in changing Creighton Jimmy's life

Several dozen people gathered in the basement of the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon to admire the art work and celebrate the graduation of a new generation of Saskatchewan artists.

The artists were graduating from the Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming (SCYAP) Urban Canvas VIII project. Urban Canvas Project is a Monday to Friday arts skills and personal development training program for youth at risk. The project consists of practical experience and public art portfolio building obtained through community art projects, skill enhancement workshops, and life skills training, and post-project employment preparation.

Creighton Jimmy is a graduate who epitomizes the success of the program. Just a year and a half ago, he was in and out of jail and a regular user of crystal meth. The day after his mother died, he decided to go clean.

"I tried out meth once and was addicted right there and then. I had four really hard years," said Jimmy at the grad.

"You lose everything, you lose your friends. Well, you think they are your friends but really they are your enemies. One day I woke up and didn't want to do it and haven't done it since."

Creighton's art piece that was on display is titled "The Fu** Show."

"Anyone who has been in the meth scene knows what I am talking about," he added. "It is truly a fu** show. The people on meth, they call it the fu** show cause whenever they have the chance, they will fu** you over.

"They will steal from you when you are sleeping, or come rob your house. They have no idea what they are doing. They have lost their brain."

Fortunately, Creighton stopped before he lost his brain. He was introduced to the people at SCYAP and he knew some teachers from before. He got an interview and has not looked back since.

Darrell Lechman, the Founder and Executive Director of SCYAP, has seen many youth come through their doors in the past and he is well aware of their challenges.

"Creighton is a young fella who had some trying times and been in and out of some difficult situations, like jail and has had lots of challenges," said Lechman. "But he has come to a point where he wants to make a change in his life. He is now happy, healthy and productive and he just needed to have some support and options at that time in his life to take that route. For our benefit at SCYAP he came and he soared with it."

Creighton Jimmy is now taking his arts skills and his life story into a different realm. He is going into public speaking, telling his story so that others may learn from him.

"Crystal meth is the stupidest thing to do," added Jimmy. "I hope I can persuade people not to do it. Like my piece shows ... it is a life of chaos. It is not good to smoke stuff that you don't know what goes into it."



Creighton Jimmy turned his back on crystal meth and discovered his artistic side.

As Jimmy joined his graduating cohorts for a final class picture, Darrell Lechman thanked sponsors and sat with a smile of pride on his face.

"This class went really well. It is not an easy task what these youth have achieved," said Lechman.

"These young people have so much going on in their life that it is difficult to come in daily and to sit in a structured environment, do repetitive art work, attend lectures, tour agencies go out in the community and work with them.

"To come through with the confidence and excitement about the future is great. And to see that they are sad to leave. It gives me goose bumps. It is hard to keep from getting emotional."

Arts Board Grant Deadlines

SaskFestivals Project Grants
Up to \$5,000 is available to assist Saskatchewan festivals present community-based programs in the arts.
Deadline: Mon., March 2, 2009

Independent Artists Grants
Grants are available for established and emerging artists in support of creative projects, professional development and research. Maximum funding levels vary.
Deadline: Mon., Mar. 16, 2009

Project Assistance Grants
A new program provides three funding options: ArtVenture supports the creation and presentation of arts projects; ArtConnect assists with the presentation of productions, performances or exhibitions; ArtInquire encourages learning in the arts. Maximum funding levels vary.
Deadline: Mon., Mar. 16, 2009

APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL MUST BE DELIVERED OR POSTMARKED BY 4:30 P.M. ON THE DEADLINE DATE.

Application packages are available at: www.artsboard.sk.ca.

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Rita Bouvier signs copies of her book, *Better That Way*. Sitting to her left in the white coat is Carrie Saganace, illustrator of *Stories of Our People*.

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

January 29 found the Saskatoon bookstore, McNally-Robinson, “full of Michif” - story-telling, fiddling, and jigging. Gabriel Dumont Institute held a Métis Literature and Culture night, featuring *Stories of Our People*, a graphic novel illustrated by Carrie Saganace, and *Better That Way*, Rita Bouvier’s poetic book with illustrations by Sherry Farrell Racette.

Bouvier’s book, like most GDI publications, includes a CD with Michif recordings – using and reviving Michif in an accessible, engaging way.

Norman Fleury, resource, contributor, and speaker of seven languages including Michif, spoke on the proud history of the Michif nation – preferring ‘la Michif’ to Métis, a French-Canadian term.

Of his grandmother, a medicine woman who delivered most babies in their communities including her own grandchildren, Fleury noted, “They all lived the traditional lifestyle, they didn’t have to read about it.”

Fleury sees Michif language and culture as closely connected – even one and the same. Adding “la Michif, the culture, has never been lost”, Fleury says these books capture important parts of traditions, the spirit of the ancestors, and teachings passed from one generation to the next.

“Winter was always the time for legends and stories,” noted Fleury, recalling his own childhood stories, card games, and Michif community steeped in Catholic practices such as Lenten fasting.

“We would listen to stories of the Rougarou during Lent – it was a scary thought being eaten alive.”

Other readers and speakers included Bouvier, David Morin, and elder and contributor Jeanne Pelletier, with music by Phil and Dallas Fiddler Boyer, and jigging by Scott and Noah Duffee.

Kahkewistahaw Theatre Group addresses youth suicide

‘yes we can’ attitude. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among young Aboriginal people and 20 youth from Kahkewistahaw First Nation are doing something about it.

Since 2006, the Kahkewistahaw Youth Theatre Group has been performing *Faye* – a rendition of the Greek play *Hippolytus* by Euripides – to spread awareness and knowledge about suicide.

Their most recent performance was at the FSIN National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy Conference in Saskatoon. Project Coordinator Kiran Kashyap believes theatre has the power to change even the most difficult problems.

“It is said Voltaire’s drama *Candide* so affected the society that it changed it forever and (the) French Revolution followed,” she said. “So we (Kahkewistahaw Youth Initiatives) said why not use the power of the drama to eradicate the issues in the Aboriginal world. And who could do it better than the youth.”

Kashyap goes on to say not only has the group done the job well, the performers have also benefitted greatly. The youth have developed incredible self-esteem, the ability to speak in public, have pride in who they are as Aboriginal youth and a

And their work has not gone unnoticed. Not only has the group been featured on CTV, CBC and in the Regina Leader-Post, they were also instrumental in Kahkewistahaw Youth Initiatives being awarded the Regional Centre of Expertise’s Award of Excellence.

Kashyap hopes the group’s success will attract more youth to the project, especially since people under nineteen make up 51 percent of Kahkewistahaw’s population.

“Involving youth would be involving the majority of the people in the community. And we said to ourselves if there are 20 actors in a play, and every actor brought in two other youth into the circle...”

“The sheer mathematics suggested this way a large part of the community will get involved.”

The Kahkewistahaw Theatre Group includes: Fallon Alexson, Katie Alexson, April Bear, Danielle Belanger, Alicia Bob, Adrienne Crowe, Cady Fitzgerald, Alexis Kaysaywaysemat, Alfred Kaysaywaysemat, Desmond Kaysaywaysemat, Ariel Taypotat and Avery Taypotat. The project is made possible by Health Canada and Kahkewistahaw Health. - *Mike Gosselin*



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Cowessess will build on asset base, Chief says

• Continued from Page One

“The profit does not go back to Toronto or New York. It stays with us.”

Affinity says the new branch opening represents a key investment in the area and is part of Affinity’s



Thunderchild Chief Dale Awasis is heavily involved in Affinity’s First Nations District.



MLA Don Toth, Wahpeton Chief Cy Standing, Cowessess Chief Gordon Lerat, Elder George Tanner, Affinity Credit Union CEO George Keter and FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph participated in the ribbon cutting.

(Photos by John Lagimodiere)

strategic plan to provide access to financial services to First Nations people across the province.

“Now that we have this open, we can look at other options and get other branches open,” says Standing. “We have to look at the demographics of where the First Nations are in Saskatchewan and locate branches in strategic points.”

Cowessess First Nation Chief Gordon Lerat was pleased to witness the opening of the first on-reserve credit union in Saskatchewan.

“It is a great feeling to have this branch open in our community. I feel the potential of the opportunities for

our people,” said Lerat.

“Our greatest assets are our land and our people and we have an abundance of both. I look forward to the opportunities we can make for those people on the TLE lands we have acquired over the years.”

Lerat says there are many development possibilities that come with the ties with Affinity.

“Many bands in Saskatchewan do not have as strong a relationship with Affinity as us, and we can grow that there. There will be positive community development and a greater understanding in First Nations on how finances work and how to develop economically.”

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Affinity Credit Union is proud to announce the opening of their full service branch on the Cowessess First Nation. This new branch is a key investment in the area and is part of Affinity’s strategic plan to provide access to financial services to First Nations people across the province through a unique First Nations District.



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Rawlco role models stress importance of business education

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

In a powerful and moving presentation, a role model campaign was launched at Oskayak High School in Saskatoon. The Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan celebrated Aboriginal achievement with the launch of www.thisisyourfuture.ca.

The website features the introduction of the Rawlco Aboriginal Role Models and will promote a business education to Aboriginal youth. Four of the chosen role models were on hand to relate their life experiences to the assembled youth.

"You know the Rawlco Role Models just spoke from the heart about the challenges of getting an education," said Leanne Bellegarde, Edwards School of Business Director of Aboriginal Initiatives.

"Monica Goulet spoke about sobering up and returning to school after dropping out, Wendy Lerat spoke about how tough it was at times to raise five kids and go to school and how she'd cry into her pillow some nights, and Candace Pete spoke about studying at the kitchen table at night with her kid sleeping on the floor at her feet.

Finally, Kelly Lendsey just reminded them that we're creating the opportunities for them and they have to prepare themselves to step up and realize them."

Many role model campaigns have been marched out in the last decade, some have fizzled, but this one seemed to catch the youth and media in attendance. These role models have achieved, some to the very top of their chosen profession. What made them connect with the youth was that they all came from somewhere and they all had struggles that were all too familiar to many of the students in the room.

Wendy Lerat considers herself blessed to be a role model.

"Back home at Cowessess, I was fortunate to work at our golf course. So I was always involved in business. That led me to the University of Regina, but I did not complete a degree because I had a family," said Lerat, who is vice-president of student services and academics at SIIT.

"I went back to finish in my mid-thirties after a divorce ... and I had five children at the time, that was the biggest challenge of my adult life. But I was very fortunate to have role models and a mentor ... my dad. He was my hero and a World War Two vet.

"My sisters, Susan Beaudin and Betty-Ann are my greatest supporters. Being the mother of five children, I always try to set a good example and believe in role models. As a First Nation person coming from a not-so-easy background, you find people. I received so much help at the University of Saskatchewan where I completed my MBA."

Aboriginal youth present a growing demographic for post-secondary recruitment in this province. Studies show that Aboriginal youth are greatly influenced by positive role

models. Putting a face on business education not only inspires students to pursue a post secondary education, it introduces them to varied and exciting career opportunities through the Rawlco Role Models.

"The campaign highlights our achievements in Aboriginal business education and our commitment to continue to provide First Nations and Métis people with a great choice for their business education," says Grant Isaac, Dean of the Edwards School of Business.

The production of the powerful Rawlco Role Model campaign is made possible through the generous donation of alumnus, Gordon Rawlinson, who made a \$1 million donation in 2001 to undergraduate business education at the Edwards School of Business.

The Rawlco Resource Trust Fund makes possible a number of activities, supports, and services, which enhance the Aboriginal student experience at the Edwards School of Business.

"I myself was inspired by the role models and their presentations," added Bellegarde. "There were people crying, one of our associate deans said it was the best morning he could remember and that he was personally inspired, and best of all a young student came up to her teacher and said, 'I know what I'm going to do now, go to business school!'" That gave

me goose bumps."

The role models take their positions very seriously and understand the value of representing their success in a good way.

"If I can give back by inspiring Aboriginal youth to dream a bigger dream and realize that a business education is in reach, then I've helped create a brighter future for us all," added Role Model Kelly Lendsey, BCOMM, MBA, and President and CEO of Aboriginal Human Resource Council.

"We have bright, talented Aboriginal youth in this province who just need to be given the opportunity to explore the possibilities."

The University of Saskatchewan wants to be well positioned to fulfill those needs and to help realize those dreams.

"We are the only business school in Canada that has a dedicated Aboriginal student space, the RAWLCO Resource Room, and a host of Aboriginal student supports and services," said Leanne Bellegarde.

"The Rawlco Role Model campaign highlights the success we've had as a result of these supports and services and these students and alumni represent the outstanding quality and caliber of our efforts at the Edwards School of Business."

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SIIT gets \$2 million injection from Province

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

As part of a \$26.4 million investment in the Saskatchewan's advanced education system, the Saskatoon Campus of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) is receiving a major facelift.

"Investing in post-secondary institutions will help Saskatchewan build the highly-skilled workforce we need to address our ongoing talent challenge," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said.

"At the same time, these investments are part of government's 'economic booster shot,' to stimulate new opportunities and new economic activity."

Norris was at the downtown Saskatoon location of SIIT to deliver the good news that the injection was a cool \$2 million.

"We are making up for a legacy of neglect from the previous government. Many institutions were not given the weight or significance that we think they deserve. Look at the regional colleges. It has been decades since there have been investments," added Norris.

"As we continue to grow, we want the First Nation and Métis people to grow with us."



Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris shares a laugh with SIIT President Randell Morris and FSIN Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish at the \$2 million dollar announcement in Saskatoon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

The funding will support much-needed improvements at SIIT's Saskatoon campus to enable SIIT to develop video-conferencing capacity and redevelop part of its existing facility to support the coaching and mentoring services that are an essential part of SIIT's student experience.

"We are very pleased and honoured

to receive funds to increase our capacity within our existing facilities," SIIT President Randell Morris said.

"This is a fantastic way to start the month of February. We appreciate the confidence the Province of Saskatchewan has in our institution and in our ability to produce quality graduates that will enhance the economy and help to increase

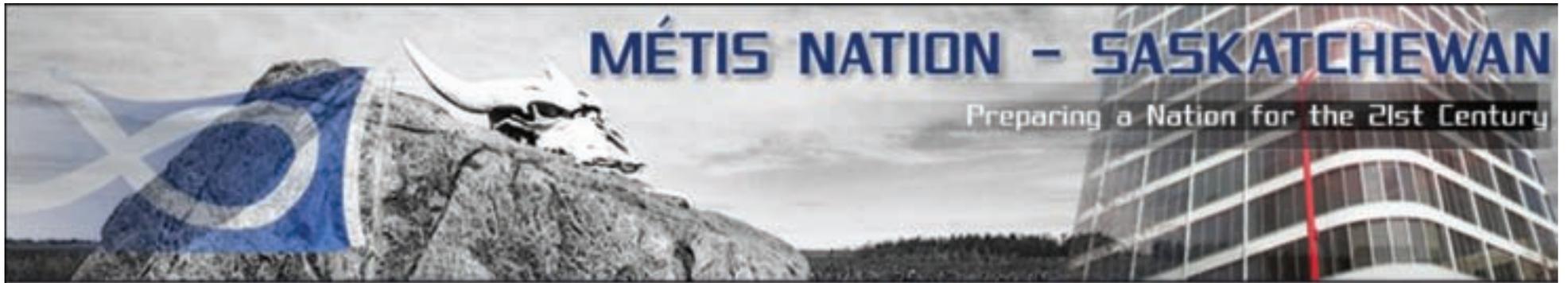
the First Nations labour force in the province."

The seventh floor of the downtown SIIT campus is stripped to the floor boards and wiring, and ready to be a welcoming place for video conferencing and for student mentoring. Some of the money will also be directed to mobile assessment units that will do outreach into the communities.

"We have developed a great relationship with Minister Norris and the people at Advanced Education and Labour," added Morris. "We are starting our planning phase for next year and also five years into the future. This investment is very timely. We will spend it very responsibly," he promised.

"This investment will support quality post-secondary education and skills training opportunities for our province's First Nations people," Norris said. "By investing in education and training opportunities for First Nations people, we are making an investment in a stronger future for all of Saskatchewan."

Norris said that the government will continue to work to build a seamless path among education, jobs and careers, and that investing in First Nations and Métis post-secondary education and training institutions is a key milestone on that path.



Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Citizenship Registry

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) is pleased to announce that the Registry Department is taking form and working towards the development of a new objectively verifiable registration system.

In January 2009, the MN-S welcomed Deb Donaldson Director of Registry, Tammy Valley Genealogist, Tammy Mah File Maintenance Officer, Breen Ouellette IT Manager and Julie Wriston Director of Communications to the Registry Department.

The objective for the Registry Department is to register eligible Métis citizens in Saskatchewan through a secure, efficient, standardized, and objectively verifiable process.



Front Row (L-R): Brian Kembel CEO, Robert G. Doucette Minister, Breen Ouellette IT Manager
Back Row (L-R): Julie Nolin-Wriston Communications Director, Tammy Valley Genealogist, Tammy Mah File Maintenance Officer, Deb Donaldson Registry Director

ELIGIBLE means a person who is Métis based on the approved definition:

"Métis" means a person who self identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

SECURE means Métis citizens have a right to the privacy of their citizenship data, and a right to protection against misuse of their data.

EFFICIENT means the shortest route possible to a completed application process while still maintaining the integrity and security of the system.

STANDARDIZED means every element of the citizenship application process is governed by written procedure to ensure a fair, efficient process and a verifiable result.

OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE means that the integrity of the process and the resulting identification of Métis citizenship are recognized by all stakeholders.

The development of a new registry application process means that all Métis citizens in Saskatchewan will be asked to take part in the Registry Process. There will be no provision to "grandfather in" any member of the Métis Nation.

This process will be beneficial to all Métis Nation citizens as it will ensure a tamper-proof system that will clearly identify rights-bearing individuals allowing them to harvest, as well as access programs such as education, employment, health and housing. It will also provide stability to the electoral process and assist Métis people in reconnecting with their roots.

The Registry Department is currently in the development stages of this new more efficient process. The MN-S will be traveling out to the communities to engage the Métis people and ask for input regarding the Registry application process. Updated information regarding registry applications will be posted regularly on the MN-S website.



For more information contact: Deb Donaldson, Director of Registry

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First Nations University students concerned about turmoil

By Nathan Devlin
For Eagle Feather News

Nearly a month after well-respected Vice-President of Academics for the First Nations University of Canada, Dr Shauneen Pete, was fired without a publicly stated cause, the anger and confusion felt by students continues to permeate the relationship between the beleaguered university executive and its frustrated student body.

"I don't think any of us feel represented by an administration that hasn't given a proper account of why she [Dr. Pete] was let go," says First Nations University student Chris Harant.

"It's amazing that someone who was so perfect for her job – Pete holds a PhD in Aboriginal Higher Education – was fired by what seems like an old boys club. No one agrees with it. As students, a lot of us would love to get some answers."

The Students Association of FNUUniv has been trying to get those answers ever since Dr. Pete was let go. On Jan. 13 they held a stand-in to protest her unexplained dismissal.

Since then, a meeting was held between the Students Association and members of FNUUniv's Executive, including President Charles Pratt and interim VP of Academics Herman Michell, to try and repair the relationship between the students and executive and open up communication between the two sides, but still no justification was offered for Dr. Pete's dismissal.

"It was a big shock to us when Shauneen was let go," says Diane Adams, a student at FNUUniv and the Events Manager for the Students Association. "She had such a great reputation with the students.

"She was the type of person that came down and introduced herself to us. She'd have a cup of coffee with you or chat. She was just down to earth."

It seems every student of the university that came in contact with Dr. Pete wishes she were still there.

"I was sad to see her let go. We all looked up to her as a role model," says Shannon McNab. "She advocated for us, and she stood up for the university. She gave the notion that this university and the students were her number one priorities, and for them [the University's

executive body] not to tell us why she was let go, it's like "What are you hiding?"

Morgan Watson, also a student at FNUUniv, shares those feelings.

"I've had friends from outside ask me what the situation is, and I'm embarrassed, because I don't know. They don't tell us what's going on."

That lack of communication frustrates FNUUniv's student body; every student spoken to expressed a shared feeling of pride in their university.

Now the reputation of this university is being hurt by another negative story involving the school's executive, and that frustration is turning into anger for some of the students.

"I'm sick of seeing all the negative stories about FNUUniv," says Jacob Pratt. "We've had no reasonable explanation why she was fired. This kind of thing only causes more negative media, which we don't need.

"This is an amazing place. The faculty is superb. They make their best effort to provide us the best education possible. This is the only First Nation's University in Canada, and it needs to be protected."

The FNUUniv executive continues to decline to comment on matters involving Dr. Pete's dismissal, so for now, the only side speaking up is the students.

It remains a testament to the respect students feel for Dr. Pete, that despite the negative attention protesting her dismissal brings on FNUUniv and the damage that attention can cause for a university they are all proud of, they still choose to speak out.

"We look at the First Nation's University as something great. We want to come here and we want to see it succeed, and we don't want to see it go down over stupid stuff," says McNab.

Speaking of the recent meeting between the FNUUniv Executive and the Students Association, Diane Adams said, "We made it clear that the university should always be presenting a good image, because we need good press.

"We want the executive to work with us and turn around the reputation of the university, so that it has the reputation it deserves."

Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program

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The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program at Confederation Park Community School is accepting Pre-Kindergarten to Grade Three registrations for the 2009-2010 school year.

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Diane Adams believes the university made a mistake in firing Shauneen Pete.

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Aboriginal storytelling a valuable part of culture

For the past five years, provincial Aboriginal storytelling initiatives have been spearheaded by the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples committee.

The storytelling is a great way to promote First Nations and Métis oral traditions. A wide range of events celebrating different aspects of Aboriginal culture have been planned for this year.

Recently at the Saskatoon Aboriginal Literacy Network, Jacob Roesler hosted two classes of students from St. Michaels Community School for an afternoon of storytelling. Roesler is from Northern Manitoba and grew up on an island at the

tip of Reindeer Lake.

He had the children mesmerized as he wove tales of his childhood into his introduction. He related to them about growing up with an outhouse and how in the middle of winter someone would have to knock down the mountain of pee that would freeze up in the middle.

That grossed the kids out, but they were more than attentive when he talked of his pet baby bald eagles that lived with them, or the fact that they would leave fish guts on the reefs so that seagulls would nest there so the family could harvest eggs twice a year.

Roesler was masterful and had the



Jacob Roesler had the young listeners eating out of his hand as he told stories.

kids eating out of his had, just like the bear cub that used to visit him on "Macaroni Island."

Jacob Roesler will be telling stories at least two more times in Saskatoon during the month of February. Throughout the province such storytellers as Joe Naytowhow, Barry Ahenakew, Randy

Morin, Mary Lee with Tipi Teachings and Belinda Daniels will be sharing with whoever wants to come out and watch and listen and learn.

The children of St. Michaels Community School were certainly treated to a great show; why not treat your kids to an outing?

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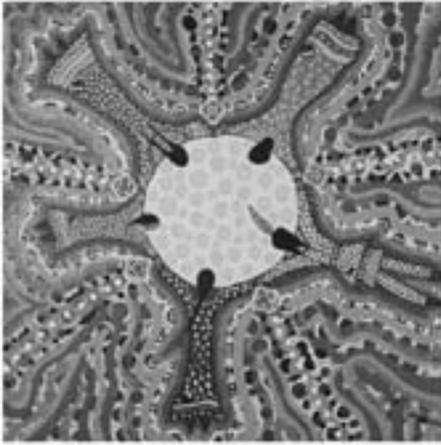
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Something for Everyone

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month in Saskatoon

Saskatoon Public Library is one of seven Saskatoon and district organizations hosting events in February as part of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month.



Aboriginal cultural teachings are passed on to the next generation through storytelling activities, traditionally held during the winter months. A wide range of events celebrating different aspects of Aboriginal culture have been planned. For the past five years, provincial Aboriginal storytelling initiatives have been spearheaded by the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples committee (LSSAP) to promote First Nations and Métis oral traditions.

The provincial launch for Aboriginal Storytelling Month was held at North Battleford Public Library on February 1st.

Aboriginal Storytelling Month Programs at Saskatoon Public Library
For more information contact Donna at 975-7572

Family Story Time with Storyteller **Jacob Roesler** held at two locations:

- Sunday / February 22 / 2 pm / Pooh Corner
Frances Morrison Library / 311 - 23rd Street East
- Wednesday / February 25 / 7 pm
Carlyle King Branch / Cosmo Civic Centre / 3130 Laurier Drive

Other Storytelling Month Programs in Saskatoon and District

First Nations University of Canada 710 Duke Street, Saskatoon For more information contact Miriam at 931-1800 ext 5206 or mncnab@firstnationsuniversity.ca	Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre 120 - 33rd Street East, Saskatoon For more information contact Donna or Evelyn at 244-1146
Indigenous Peoples Program University of Saskatchewan For more information contact Alex at 966-2027 or Raul at 966-4272	University of Saskatchewan For more information contact Vicky Duncan at 966-6023 or vicky.duncan@usask.ca
Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network 1017B - 22nd Street West, Saskatoon For more information contact Carol at 934-2632	Wheatland Regional Library For more information phone 652-5077 or visit www.wheatland.sk.ca

This ad has been paid for by Saskatoon Public Library and Eagle Feather News.

saskatoonlibrary.ca

Guilty verdict enables mother to begin new journey

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

It was as if the weight of the last six years was lifted off Betty Ann Smith's shoulders when she emerged, beaming, from Saskatoon's Court of Queen's Bench on a cold Wednesday evening after a nearly three-week trial.

"Yay!" she shouted with a big smile on her face. "That was wonderful. That was so wonderful to hear he got life. I prayed for first-degree murder because it was first degree murder."

Smith was referring to 60-year-old Brian Casement who was convicted of killing her daughter, Victoria Jane Nashacappo.

Nashacappo was 21 when she went missing Sept. 25, 2002. Her family thought that was odd and unlike her as she was in the process of going back to school. Her mother says Nashacappo was very proud of that.

Smith says for three years, nine months, and two days, she wandered around consumed with grief as she waited for news of her oldest child, the one she describes as the peacemaker among the seven children.

"She always made sure that they were safe and always at home. If she found them wandering around, she'd chase them home."

Smith learned in June 2006 where her daughter had been and heard last month details of what happened.

Smith and other supporters watched in horror as videotaped evidence was played of Casement speaking to undercover police officers in British Columbia where he was under investigation for an unrelated murder. Casement told them he picked up a Native girl in Saskatoon named Victoria. He went on to say that he paid her for sex, and then she told him she was just a student and wanted to go home. Casement matter-of-factly described raping and strangling her before tossing her body in the basement of a demolished house south of Saskatoon. His rationale to the undercover officers was "dead people don't talk."

Casement led officers to Nashacappo's body, clothing, and backpack with her schoolbooks at the end of June 2006.

When Casement took the stand in his own defense, he told a different story. He testified that Nashacappo agreed to have sex with him and asked him to choke her during it. Casement said he panicked when he saw she wasn't breathing and didn't

take her to the hospital because he feared persecution and being ostracized.

One of Nashacappo's aunts couldn't listen to Casement's testimony, and part way through she stood and shouted that he was dirty and a liar before she rushed out of the courtroom.

Casement was tried by jury, which began deliberating in the afternoon. The eight men and four women returned after less than two hours, asking to review the video and audio tapes where Casement confessed. They returned to the jury room for mere minutes.

Around five minutes later, and after only two and a half hours of deliberating, the jury returned a guilty verdict.

Crown prosecutor Melodi Kujawa says the speed at which the jury reached a verdict spoke to more than just the strength of the Crown's case.

"I think it delivered a strong message that Aboriginal women are not expendable."

Smith says the past few years have been hard, but says she never gave up and wants other families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women to do the same.

"This is the end of my journey with my daughter. Now I can start a new one with my grandchildren. I hope all the missing people find their peace like I have. I hope they never give up hope in finding their loved ones, because I hadn't."

Smith says she and her children can move forward now, and they will always have a piece of Nashacappo with them: she didn't live to see it, but Nashacappo has a niece named after her.



Betty Ann Smith holds photos of her daughter, Victoria Nashacappo, who was murdered by Brian Casement.

StudentPower.

SaskPower supports post-secondary education by hiring students for the May to August term in various Saskatchewan locations.

To participate in this program, students must currently be attending a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis and be registered to attend in fall 2009.

SaskPower offers opportunities for summer positions across the province, including:

- Clerical/Administration
- Finance/Accounting
- Engineering
- Labourer

We encourage students to apply for our summer positions by February 27, 2009. We thank all applicants in advance for their interest.

Those under consideration will be contacted.

Apply online at saskpower.com



SaskPower
Powering the future



www.saskatoon.ca

2009 Summer Employment Opportunities

Playground and Youth Centre Leaders Notice No. N-001

Recreation Program Leaders - PLAYGROUND LEADERS
Plan, organize and direct social and recreational activities for children. This includes sports, games, arts, crafts, drama, music and special events.

Recreation Program Leaders - YOUTH CENTRE LEADERS
Plan, organize and direct social and recreational activities for youth. This includes sports, games, arts, crafts, drama, music and special events.

Recreation Program Leaders - METAWETAN YOUTH CENTRE LEADERS
Plan, organize and direct social and recreational activities for youth. This includes sports, games, arts, crafts, drama, music and special events with an emphasis on Aboriginal culture.

Note: Only ONE Application Form is required for the above listed position. The 2009 Summer Program Application Cover Sheet can be obtained from Human Resources in City Hall or by downloading a copy from the careers page at www.saskatoon.ca

Activity Leaders - Weekend Paddling Pool Attendants Community Development Branch Notice No. N-002

Supervise children attending the paddling pool site and maintain a safe, hazard-free and clean activity area at the paddling pool.

Recreation Technician 8 - Summer Program Coordinators Community Development Branch Notice No. N-003

Supervise, coordinate and administer the summer playground, youth centre and weekend paddling pool programs in a designated area of the City. Supervision includes evaluating the performance of Playground and Youth Centre Leaders, as well as the Weekend Paddling Pool Attendants in a designated area.

Closing date for applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009



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



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

Tara Lyn Poorman missing since Dec. 12

Family believes information being withheld, offers \$5,000 reward



TARA LYN POORMAN

The Regina Police Service is requesting help from the public in locating a missing 17-year-old female who was last seen at a residence in the 400 block of Halifax Street on Friday, December 12, 2008.

Seventeen-year-old Tara-Lyn Poorman, born on May 9, 1991, is described as: female, Aboriginal, 5' 3" tall, weighing about 130 pounds, medium build, with long, brown hair with highlights and brown eyes. Tara-Lyn has a beauty mark under her right eye.

She was last seen wearing a long purple shirt, black leggings, black ¾ length winter coat and black suede knee high boots. She also wears glasses.

The family is offering \$5,000 to anyone who can help locate her. Shellyn Kay, Tara-Lynn's mother, told reporters recently that she believes people in the community have information about her daughter, but are not cooperating with police.

Since the disappearance, Poorman's family has been holding community dinners and bingos to raise money for the reward and support search efforts.

Anyone who has information as to the whereabouts of Tara -Lyn Poorman, or sees someone matching her description, is asked to contact the Regina Police Service at 777-6500 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222 - 8477.

The Regina Police Service thanks the media and the public for their help in this matter.

A jpeg image of Tara-Lyn POORMAN is available on the Regina Police Service website at www.reginapoliice.ca.

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Deodorant Body Cream

Pedicures

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154-2nd Ave S, Saskatoon
373-0129 boutiquebeyouteiful.com

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As the leading producer of top-quality hamburger products in Saskatchewan, New Food Classics employs more than 150 of the province's best people. If you are interested in joining New Food Classics' dynamic and diverse team at our Saskatoon facility, please contact the Human Resources department at:

**820 60th Street East,
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 8G8
Fax: 683-5022**

New Food Classics

RCMP

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

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NEAR ORDINARY.

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Want to make a difference in your community and your country?

For a variety of ways to join the RCMP, including the Aboriginal Youth Training Program (AYTP), please contact your local recruiting office or visit the Recruiting section of our website at www.rcmp.ca

1-877-RCMP-GRC (1-877-726-7472)

National business forum will focus on Aboriginal business and economic development

By Eldon Henderson
For Eagle Feather News

For three days in May, Saskatoon is going to be the hub of activity for Aboriginal business and economic development leaders from across Canada. In addition, both levels of government and industry sectors are expected to play an important role in a major conference.

On May 19, 20 and 21, the Canadian Aboriginal Business & Economic Development Forum: "The Rise of Aboriginal Business, Enterprise & Corporate Entities" will be taking place at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

From the onset, Montreal Lake Cree Nation Chief Roger Bird wanted to bring together a solid team from different sectors and organizations to plan and strategize on hosting a major national Aboriginal economic development gathering.



CHIEF ROGER BIRD

"We had to come up with a conference objective that would best represent and reflect the business climate for Canadian Aboriginal on/off reserve economies," said Chief Bird.

"In essence, we see Aboriginal business generating their wealth and I believe this contributes to the overall Canadian economy. We're also hosting a major trade exhibit for various businesses and sectors," he said.

"We have our initial poster run for this month to get the word out, but we're following up with a new one with the rest of the sponsors to be included."

"We also wanted to ensure all the delegates would get a chance to meet and utilize the conference as a business arena to discuss new ventures and opportunities between different bands and tribal councils along with the private sector, government and industry" said, Johnny Walker, CEO for the Prince Albert Grand Council.

Walker is positive the forum will provide concise workshop and panel discussions to allow all the delegates to better discuss the rise of Aboriginal business, enterprise and corporate entities within the Canadian economy.

"Canada's First Nations have been an untapped resource in all sectors of the economy, but industry and government need to partner with us because we are becoming a stronger force and voice beyond anyone's expectations" said, Prince Albert Grand Council Chief Ron Michel.

"We see some Aboriginal companies trading on the stock-exchange as investors and aligning themselves with new international markets opening up for their specific products. Our ventures are the backbone of many First Nation communities across Canada and it's no different here in Saskatchewan."

*Build a Career...
Shape a City!*

www.saskatoon.ca

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



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



Saskatchewan Arts Board Arts Consultant – Creative Industries [Permanent Full-Time]

The Saskatchewan Arts Board is looking for a full-time permanent Arts Consultant - Creative Industries. Reporting to the Associate Executive Director, the successful candidate will provide specialized leadership in the management of programs and services involving the creative industries sector. This position also provides advice to management on program policy, design, and implementation, and functions as part of the team of program consultants for the agency.

The expected start date for this Regina based position is Apr. 1, 2009. To explore this opportunity further, please forward your application by Thurs., Feb. 26, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in confidence to:

Kelly Phipps, Human Resources
Saskatchewan Arts Board
2135 Broad Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1Y6
(306) 787-4056 or 1-800-667-7526 (Sask)
Fax (306)787-4199
kelly@artsboard.sk.ca

60
years



Supporting the arts
community for 60 years.

The Saskatchewan Arts Board values a diverse work force and encourages applications from qualified women and men, including Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and visible minorities.

For a comprehensive job description please visit: www.artsboard.sk.ca/News/news.shtml (Opportunities in the Arts)

While we appreciate your interest, only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level II

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Indian Head

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of Provincial Statutes, Bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants for Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons in custody and charges under Provincial Statutes.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- grade twelve education or combination of training and experience to carry out the duties;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace; and
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a Police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal, Municipal and Band Council employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

Training is mandatory for all Justices of the Peace and is provided by the province.

Appointment is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

For an application form or further information please contact:

Don Webster
Supervising Justice of the Peace
3rd Floor, 1815 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2N5
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Closing Date: February 27, 2009



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Justice and
Attorney General

March opening for new Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton

YORKTON, SK – The new \$30 million Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton will officially open to the public on March 11.

“Our staff and our loyal customers are very excited about the new building,” said Curtis Standing, Painted Hand Casino general manager.

“The new facility will much better serve our established patron base, providing a comfortable and modern environment.”

Since opening its doors for the first time on Dec. 14, 1996, the Painted Hand Casino has become the number one entertainment spot in the Yorkton area. The new 43,000 sq. ft. facility will include 217 slots, seven live table games, a restaurant and a multi-purpose room.

“It is our pleasure to present the first payment for the first month’s lease of this



From left holding the cheque are Curtis Standing, GM Painted Hand Casino, Randy Sangwais, Painted Hand Casino Holdings Limited Board Chair, Zane Hansen, SIGA President and CEO. They were joined by the members of the Painted Hand Casino board. The cheque is for the first month’s rent at the new casino on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation urban reserve in Yorkton.

new facility,” said Zane Hansen, SIGA President and CEO.

“As a tenant, this demonstrates SIGA’s commitment to First Nations economic development. It is another example of how SIGA is fulfilling its original mandate set out by the First Nations leaders of Saskatchewan.”

The Kahkewistahaw First Nation is the host site for the new multi-million dollar Painted Hand Casino located on Broadway Avenue in the west end of Yorkton.

SIGA operates six casinos in Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Yorkton and on the White Bear First Nation near Carlyle.

As a non-profit First Nations owned company, 100% of profits are returned to SIGA’s beneficiaries.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Farm Operator (2 positions)

Reliable, self starting, mechanical, fit persons needed for farm operation near Swift Current. Must have valid license with clean abstract. Class 1A an asset but not required.

Duties: Operate and maintain farm equipment, grow, harvest, and transport crops, tend livestock, maintain buildings, and yard sites.

Mar 1 - Oct 31 with opportunity for full time or permanent seasonal. Six day work week, some long hours depending on farming season. Accommodation available.

Wage: \$10-\$15/hour depending on experience.

Send resume to: Darrel Monette, Monette Farms Ltd.
Fax: 306-627-3753 Email: dmonette11@hotmail.com

HELP WANTED
Labourer/Equipment Operator

QUALIFICATIONS: Current class1a drivers licence, clean drivers abstract, zero tolerance for substance abuse, willingness to do a variety of tasks including installation of centre pivot irrigation equipment and pipeline and vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance.

WAGE: \$12 to \$20 per hour depending on experience and qualifications.

To apply, please phone
Simonson Electric at 1-306-867-8979

HELP WANTED
Full Time
Food Counter Attendant

Wage: \$10.80/hour
Hours: 40/week, includes weekends
Experience: Not required
Education: Grade 12

Essential Skills: customer service oriented, able to speak, read, and write English, team player

Food Counter Skills: Take customers’ orders, prepare, heat and finish simple food items, package take-out food, portion and wrap foods, clean and sanitize kitchen including work surfaces, cupboards, storage areas, appliances and equipment

Apply in person to Todd or Ron at:
Taco Time, 1699 2nd Ave W, Prince Albert.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level II

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Strasbourg

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of Provincial Statutes, Bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants for Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons in custody and charges under Provincial Statutes.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- grade twelve education or combination of training and experience to carry out the duties;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace; and
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a Police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal, Municipal and Band Council employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

Training is mandatory for all Justices of the Peace and is provided by the province.

Appointment is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

For an application form or further information please contact:

Don Webster
Supervising Justice of the Peace
3rd Floor, 1815 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2N5
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Closing Date: February 27, 2009

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Saskatoon Police Service

Honour - Spirit - Vision

POLICE

Recruitment Information Sessions

Monday, February 16 7:30 pm
Monday, March 16 7:30 pm
Saskatoon Police Service Classroom
130 4th Avenue North, Saskatoon

Consider a career as a police constable. Everyone is welcome to attend information sessions and registration is not required.

Please register to write the entrance exam and take the physical abilities test by completing and submitting the registration form on our website to recruiting@police.saskatoon.sk.ca.

Written Entrance Exam

The written entrance exams will be held at 8:00am followed by a psychological exam at 1:00pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 18 8:00am
TCU Place – Gallery A, 35 – 22nd Street East, Saskatoon

Saturday, March 14 8:00 am
Saskatoon Police Service Classroom, 130 4th Avenue North, Saskatoon

Wednesday, March 18 8:00am
TCU Place – Gallery A, 35 – 22nd Street East, Saskatoon

Physical Abilities Test

Thursday, February 19 9:30 am Thursday, March 19 9:30 am
College of Kinesiology, 87 Campus Drive, University of Saskatchewan

saskatoonpoliceservice.ca



James Sylvestre of Buffalo River Dene Nation in Africa as part of Making The Links program.

Linking Buffalo River Dene Nation and Africa

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

James Sylvestre, a member of the Buffalo River Dene Nation in Dillon Saskatchewan, traveled to Africa last June thanks to a program called "Making The Links". Run by the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, it has been working for about five years with students and communities to provide collaborative student training that also addresses actual community health needs, with sites in Northern Saskatchewan and Mozambique. Most importantly, they are approaching Indigenous communities to learn from Aboriginal wisdom, language, practices, and culture.

Sylvestre has been a host and contact person for the Making the Links program in Dillon, and runs a sweat lodge there.

"I had the young student doctors help make the lodge when they were up here. Every time we have a sweat we pray for them, think of them," said Sylvestre. He has, in fact, adopted two of the students, Rachel Gough and Mike Beyde.

"Mike has been learning Dene. I'll leave messages on his machine in Dene and he'll understand them, and he uses it in his practice now with patients. Even in Saskatoon he gets a chance to use it, and people like to hear their own language especially when they're down south away from home."

Sylvestre also said it is comforting for the people of his community to make contacts with health care workers who have familiarity with traditions and languages – especially in times of stress or medical concern. He shared the story of an elderly woman in La Loche who brought her husband to act as translator, and Beyde was able to actually talk directly with her about her ailment and symptoms instead of working through the husband's English translation.

"Afterwards, she asked Mike if his parents spoke Dene too," noted Sylvestre.

"The goal was a program that taught students about issues and made the connections between the developing world, Aboriginal issues, and inner city health, in a way that was also of use to the community," explained Dr. Ryan Meili, Chair of Social Accountability at the College of Medicine, and a family doctor at Westside Community Clinic.

He has worked closely with aboriginal communities in Northern Saskatchewan, particularly Dillon and Ile-a-la-Crosse, as well as core neighbourhoods in Saskatoon through Student Wellness Initiative Through Community Health (SWITCH). The organization has already won recognition for its approach to community wellness, based on integrating different modalities of health care, education, and training with First Nations culture, including a Tommy Douglas award for innovation in health care.

According to Meili, three health care workers from

the Making the Links site in Mozambique felt most at home in a three month stay in the province, during a short visit to the northern communities.

"The sweat lodge, pipes, family structure, they found many similarities between Northern Saskatchewan and African culture," said Meili.

Traditions are close, or just slightly different, such as which hand is used for passing sacred objects, but were overall very familiar to the African visitors.

The international connections are mutual as Sylvestre looked forward to examining the pipes in Mozambique. A few years ago while looking for arrowheads with his daughter, he found a pipe which an archaeologist at the U of S dated at being almost 2000 years old, a pipe which he now uses in his sweat lodge.

Of the continued rapport between the students and the communities, Sylvestre says, "They like the native ways with the medicine and the healing – the roots that we know work for the people towards healing . . . it's good for them."

Meili agrees, noting the next step in the Making The Links program is collaborative research, based on community suggestions.

We want to know what you think about young people working

- Should Saskatchewan have an absolute minimum age of employment? If so, what should that minimum age be?
- Should restrictions be placed on young people working? If so, what types of restrictions should be in place?
- How can we further protect the health and safety of young workers?

Amendments to *The Minimum Wage Regulations* have lowered the minimum age of employment to 15 in five sectors, including hotels, restaurants, educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes. Fifteen-year-olds are not allowed to work more than 16 hours per week in these sectors. This is a pilot project that will be reviewed in May 2009.

Saskatchewan does not currently have an age restriction for young people except for the five sectors. Provincial legislation does restrict young workers: in the sale, handling or service of alcohol; during school hours; and in certain high-risk occupations. The province has no absolute minimum age of employment.

We welcome your feedback; the deadline is May 1, 2009.

Email to:
labourlegislationAEEL@gov.sk.ca

Or, write to:
Minimum Age of Employment Feedback
Legislative Services Unit
400-1870 Albert Street
Regina, SK, S4P 4W1

For more information go to
www.aeel.gov.sk.ca/fs.



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Commission



Passing of Chief Starblanket compared to loss of library

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph describes the passing of Chief Irvin Starblanket, from the Star Blanket Cree Nation, as a tremendous loss for Canada, Saskatchewan and First Nation people.

library to a fire. Fortunately for us, like his Elders before him, Chief Starblanket passed his knowledge down whenever he was called upon. His wisdom will be forever remembered.”

Chief Irvin Starblanket was from the Starblanket First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. He completed his senior matriculation at St. Paul's High School in Lebret. Before being elected as Chief of Starblanket, he was the band manager for two years. Chief Starblanket served over 28 years as Chief of the Starblanket First Nation.

Chief Irvin Starblanket served on many Boards and Commission of the FSIN and the TFHQ Tribal Council and was on the IGR board as the representative from TFHQ.

Starblanket was a strong Treaty advocate and a firm believer in the power of education for his people. According to the Leader-Post, his last words were, “Look after our people.”

The wake was held at the Lebret Gymnasium on Friday, Feb. 6, 2009. Burial services were held Saturday at the Starblanket Cemetery.

“Chief Starblanket is the epitome of Treaty Rights Protection,” adds Chief Joseph. “He stood on the front lines of the Treaty

protection battle.

“The life and legacy of Chief Starblanket will impact on our collective efforts towards Treaty Implementation.”



CHIEF IRVIN STARBLANKET

Chief Starblanket was an elected leader for more than 30 years. He passed away Tuesday February 3, 2009 after suffering cardiac arrest.

“Chief Irvin Starblanket did a lot of Treaty work for First Nations across the country. He was a knowledge keeper,” says Chief Joseph.

“His death is equivalent to a community losing a

Tawpisin new chief at Muskeg Lake

Membership of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation held their Chief and Council election on February 9, 2009 and the voters made a choice for change.

The new Chief of Muskeg Lake is Clifford Tawpisin, Jr. He replaces Gil Ledoux who had been under fire the past two years with accusations of being unaccountable, an assault charge after punching one of his councilors and the loss of a couple membership votes that would have allowed a Tim Horton's onto their urban reserve. The problem was no one knew who was going to own the franchise.

Cliff Tawpisin Jr. was one of Ledoux's harshest critics. He had previously served as urban councilor.

New council members elected are Harry J. Lafond, Dolores Greyeyes-Sand, Les Arcand, Josephine Longneck and Orrin Greyeyes in the position of urban councilor. Incumbent councilor Albert Dean Lafond was re-elected.

Muskeg has one chief, and six councilors with one council position designated for urban representation. Muskeg Lake Cree Nation elects its leadership according to customary legislation.

We will provide more on the election in Eagle Feather News next month.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as a Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Moose Jaw

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of provincial statutes, bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants to Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons being held in custody.

Remuneration is on a weekly stipend basis, currently paying \$400.00 per week, while on call.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- have a grade twelve education or combination of training and experience;
- possess very good oral and written communication skills; and
- have knowledge of and live in the community served by this position.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a police force or elected officials cannot be considered for appointment.

Training is mandatory and the ability to take the training and achieve competency is essential.

Appointment is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

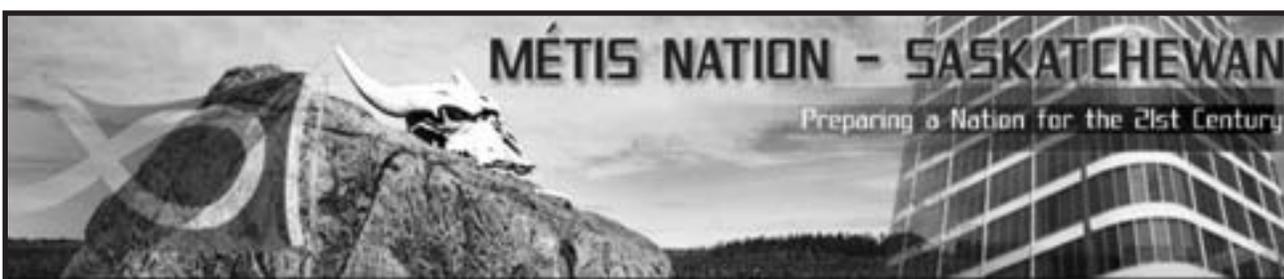
For an application form or further information please contact:

Don Webster
Supervising Justice of the Peace
3rd Floor, 1815 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2N5
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Applications will not be accepted after February 28, 2009.



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Justice and
Attorney General



Under the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund (AHTF) - Adaption Plan; the Métis Nation Saskatchewan is seeking qualified candidates for the following contract positions for 1 year term starting immediately:

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

The Director of Health must be a strong team player and organizational Leader committed to quality service while carrying out objectives of the AHTF responsible for a wide range of duties. This is a senior management position, based at the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon, with travel throughout the province.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COORDINATORS

Under the AHTF, two Community Health Coordinators are required in Regina (1) and Prince Albert (1). The Community Health Coordinator will work under the supervision of the Director of Health and will assist with the goals of the AHTF in and around these two centres.

The Métis Nation Saskatchewan is the governance organization that represents Métis in Saskatchewan. Preference will be given to qualified Métis applicants.

For more information and detailed job descriptions please contact Brian Kembel, CEO Métis Nation-Saskatchewan by email at bkembel@mnsask.ca or visit the MNS website at metna.sasktelwebhosting.com.



MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN

219 Robin Crescent Saskatoon S7L 6M8
Ph: 306-343-8285 Toll Free 1-888-343-6667





Cote First Nation's Brigette Lacquette is a star on the ice and on the softball diamond.



So, when the opportunity came up for her to play here, the 26-year-old jumped at the chance.

It all started with a call to Terry McAdam, coach of the Saskatoon Wild Ringette Club, who also happens to work at SIIT. He said they needed some help in marketing and finance. With a job in place, and a team to play for, she jumped on the plane and came to Canada.

Since arriving in Canada, not only has she played ringette, but she has been soaking up First Nation's culture. She attended her first pow wow and said "it was so amazing that I almost cried there, the energy is just awesome."

Her friend, Lydia Campbell, has been teaching her how to make dreamcatchers. Her co-worker, Ron McHugh, has been teaching all sorts of cool things about First

Nation's culture.

Her plan is to stay until April, although she says "it will be hard to leave, but the ticket is already booked."

If you would like to see Kyhälä in action stop by the Harold Latrace Arena at 1 p.m. on February 14.

She will be playing in a tournament all weekend and that is their first game.

FSIN Basketball Tourney Reminder

If you and your rez have enough good 'ballers to take a run at the title come out to the FSIN Basketball Tournament to be held in Leask.

All players must play for their respective First Nation. The tournament takes place on February 20, 21, and 22.

For more info or to register contact Robin at (306) 466-7987.

This two-sport star is only 16

Brigette Lacquette is 16 years old and hails from the Cote First Nation. This year she was named to Team Canada's Under 18 Hockey Team.

At the World Championships in Fussen, Germany, Lacquette and her teammates played hard before losing the hard fought gold medal game to the Americans 3-2 in overtime.

"It was a great experience being the youngest player on the team and the only First Nations player on the team," says Lacquette.

Back at home, in Mallard, Manitoba she plays defence for her club teams, the Winnipegis Tigers Midget boys team and Westman Wildcats AAA female team from Hartney.

In November she was a member of Team Manitoba at the National under 18 Female Hockey Championships in Napanee, Ontario. Her team finished third and Lacquette was named the tourney's top defenceman.

Away from hockey, during the summer, you can find Lacquette playing softball. She is a member of the Cote Blue Jays. It is a women's team and with that team Lacquette has won several tournaments. Her play on the ball diamonds has earned her MVP awards along with several top pitcher awards.

Lacquette carries herself like a seasoned veteran. Her dad, Terrance says "she is very hardworking, respects the others around her and is always concerned about the well-being of others."

"If not for those values I don't think she would be where she is today."

Lacquette has achieved one of her goals by making the under 18 Women's National Team. But she has her eyes on the Senior National Team and, more importantly, the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. That is quite the lofty

goal considering all the talent in Canada.

Once done High School Lacquette will be going to the University of Manitoba to pursue a degree in Education. She hopes to be able to do her part and give back by helping our young First Nations people achieve their goals.

If they can reach anywhere near the goals this young lady already has, those kids will do just fine.

From Helsinki to SIIT

Salla Kyhälä has travelled the world to play ringette. She had visited Canada in the past, having made stops in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Regina for tournaments.



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Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc.

Announcement of

Annual General Meeting

4:30 – 9 PM
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Contact: 306-934-2632
www.aboriginal.sk.literacy.ca



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Harold Latrace Arena
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Contact Milton Tootoosis at (306) 341-1876 E: creemastershockey@yahoo.ca
Basil Quewezance at (306) 291-1969 E: bruin2703@hotmail.com
Mark Arcand at (306) (306) 280-5394 E: markarcand@sktc.sk.ca

Committee not responsible for injuries, theft, loss or any other mishaps during the event.

www.lwchockey.ca

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan
Presents

2009 National Aboriginal Curling Championship

April 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2009
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Granite Curling Club, 480 - 1st Ave. North

Men
28 Team Limit
\$400.00 Entry Fee

1st: \$4,000.00 Plus Jackets
2nd: \$2,000.00
3rd & 4th: \$1,000.00 each
5th-8th: \$600.00 each

Youth Mixed 19 & Under
16 Team Limit
\$200.00 Entry Fee

1st: \$2,000.00 Plus Jackets
2nd: \$1,000.00
3rd: \$500.00
4th: \$500.00
5th-7th: \$200.00 each



DEADLINE TO ENTER: APRIL 2, 2009 5:00 P.M.

Can Only Play in One Division!

Mixed (2 Male, 2 Female)
28 Team Limit
\$400.00 Entry Fee

1st: \$4,000.00 Plus Jackets
2nd: \$2,000.00
3rd & 4th: \$1,000.00 each
5th-8th: \$600.00 each

Send cheque or money order to:
2009 National Aboriginal Curling Championship
Box 159, Ile a la Crosse, Saskatchewan S0M 1C0

For more information or to enter a team please phone
Louis Gardiner at 306-833-2420 or
e-mail l.gardiner@sasktel.net or cell number 306-833-7766

Tournament committee not responsible for theft or injuries incurred during this event.
Proceeds from this event to Metis Youth & Sports Fund.



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TCU Place, Saskatoon

NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT, APRIL 24TH, 2009

For more information and nominations go to: www.sasktel.com or contact aboriginal.youthawards@sasktel.sk.ca or call toll free: 1-866-931-6205




Petition seeks to fire Reggie The Rifle into Hall of Fame

The good citizens of Riverton, Manitoba have started a petition to induct Reggie Leach into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Reggie is a regular visitor to Saskatchewan, donating his time and name to the Oskana Cup, The Reggie Leach Hockey Challenge in Regina. That tournament raises money for minor hockey in that city.

The petition reads as follows:

Reggie (The Rifle) Leach grew up and played his minor hockey in Riverton. An Aboriginal child of limited means, Reggie never had his own skates until 12 years of age.

Reggie's skill at hockey progressed, enabling him to crack the roster of the Flin Flon Bombers of the MJHL/WCJHL in 1966-1967. He led the league in scoring twice, was named to the First All-Star Team three times, and was Player of the Year in 1970. Reggie was then drafted by the Boston Bruins in the 1970 NHL Amateur Draft, Round 1, #3 overall, and it was later with the Philadelphia Flyers that Reggie's skills made his light shine its brightest.

In the 1974-1975 season, Reggie and the Philadelphia Flyers won the Stanley Cup. In the 1975-1976 season, Reggie scored 61 regular season goals, tops in the league, and had a +/- rating of +73. In the playoffs, Reggie scored 19 goals, a record he holds to this day, and shares with another player, a Hall of Fame member. Reggie's 19 goals came in 16 games. Reggie also holds the record for most goals in a playoff game, with five. He shares this record with four other players, all of whom are in the Hall of Fame. Reggie is also a Conn Smythe Trophy winner, as Playoff MVP in 1975-1976. He won the award as his team lost the Stanley Cup Finals. Reggie is the only NHL non-goaltend-

ing player to win the Conn Smythe Trophy in a losing cause.

Reggie also played for Team Canada in the 1976 Canada Cup, as Canada came away the champions. Reggie recorded another 50 goal regular season in 1979-1980 with the Philadelphia Flyers.

On an interesting note, Reggie's slapshot was clocked at 115 mph, achieved using a wooden stick. Hence his famous nickname.

For a past number of years, Reggie has regularly returned to Riverton to run a hockey tournament, the Reggie Leach Classic, locally known as The Reggie. He also hosts local golf tournaments in the summer. These activities are to raise money for the Riverton Minor Hockey Association, to provide needed equipment to teams, and to keep hockey fees at an affordable rate, so all kids can play.

He also participates in clinics to teach hockey skills to Native youth, and speaks to them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Today, Reggie coaches the Manitoulin Islanders of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League. He continues to give to The Game that he loves, and that gave him much. We believe that Reggie's accomplishments and records are recorded for all to see, and we congratulate him for these. Therefore, we graciously offer this petition to: "Induct Reginald Joseph Leach into the Hockey Hall of Fame".

To help get Reggie into the Hall of Fame, go to the following website and sign up. There are almost 2,000 names there, already, but an estimated 10,000 signatures are needed.

<http://www.petitiononline.com:80/TheRifle/>



REGGIE (THE RIFLE) LEACH

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