

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Visiting Elders find cozy retreat

Alice Morin and her daughter in law Rose Morin came from the Big River reserve for a medical appointment and appreciated the language services at the Victoria Lodge. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Former Tamara's House put to good use

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

What was once a haven for women in peril has now become a cozy retreat for First Nation medical patients in Saskatoon. The former Tamara's House ran into funding difficulties and it forced the non profit organization to shut its doors, but the board was interested in keeping the spirit of service to the community that the building had.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council just happened to be looking for a similar building to offer important and needed services to the Elders of Saskatchewan and a deal was struck.

The Tribal Council has converted the building into a safe, comfortable and welcoming place for First Nation people, primarily Elders, who are visiting the city for medical appointments.

"The idea came from our elders," said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas. "They say when they

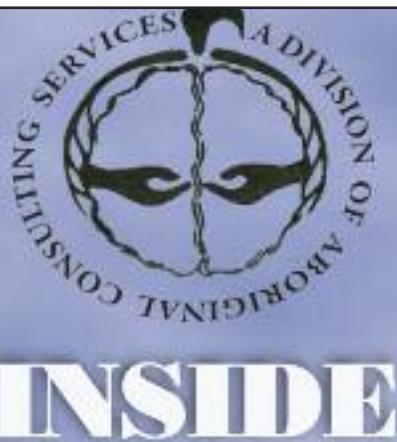
come to town for medical appointments they don't have a place to stay, especially when they are sick. Right now they can stay at various hotels, but they are not as comfortable as here and certainly don't have other services we can offer in terms of linguistic services. We have staff members that speak Cree, Dene or Saulteaux."

It is the comforts of home and the language services that have impressed the first few clients that Victoria Lodge has hosted. Rose Morin from the Big River reserve came with her mother in law Alice for her medical appointment.

"We were talking this morning that we feel so welcome here," said Rose on behalf of Alice whose first language is Cree.

"These people here, some of them speak our language, and that's what she loves about this place. She can't believe we found a place that speaks our language and the way they treat us it is so welcoming.

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RETIREMENT LOOMS

After 25 years in business, Eva Lizotte has decided it is time to put down her needle and thread. - Page 9



LOFTY TARGET MET

Cornelia Laliberte of the Saskatoon United Way says the \$6.2 million target was met. - Page 16



SEEKING JUSTICE

Gordon First Nation Chief Glen Pratt says a \$10-billion lawsuit is all about justice for his community. - Page 18



FRED HONOURED

Former NHLer Fred Sasakamoose has been inducted into the Saskatchewan Hockey Hall of Fame. - Page 25



THE FIGHT CONTINUES

Boxer Wesley Sunshine was a winner in the ring but his toughest battle continues. - Page 27

Coming In March:
Women's Issue

CPMA #40027204

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK – Tyrone Tootoosis – Curator & Manager of Cultural Resources

NEHIYAWAYWIN MASKOWSEWIN - ASKIY PIMATISOWIN

LANGUAGE IS POWER - LAND IS LIFE

"Astam-come," said the grandfather to his grandson. "Saysawotay-tak, kiykwy aywiywiytamatan" – "let's go for a walk as I want to share some things with you."



Rare archival photo of Poundmaker

The Elder led his grandson to a hill overlooking a valley and it was here that they both sat down.

The grandfather started speaking. "Our Cree language is based on a sacred relationship with the land and when one speaks and thinks in Cree, one is continuously reminded to respect and acknowledge the giving spirit of all life. For example, when we say the Cree word for the color red, we say the two part word "Miykonakwan pronounced Mee ko na kwan."

The first part, Miyko, is the Cree word for blood. The second part, nakwan, denotes "the color of".

Another reminder is the Cree word for the color blue. We say the

two-part word "Siypiywakwan", pronounced "See pee ewe na kwan". The first part "Siypiy" is the Cree word for river, "Seepee". In the World of Natural Order, we believe our bodies are similar to "Kikawiynow Askiy" Mother Earth.

The old man slowly held up his right hand and began to speak to his grandson. "Always remember the importance of our sacred ways of knowing for they're based on our spiritual values and beliefs.

Respect yourself in the same way you respect "Kikawiynow Askiy" - Mother Earth. Respect all life, respect the waters, the rivers, the lakes and the creeks."

With his left hand, the old man pointed to his veins on his right hand. "You see these ... my veins are similar to the waters on the land, the rivers and the creeks. If you don't respect and take care of Mother Earth, if you don't respect and take care of your body... neither the Earth nor your body can take care of you.

The veins in our bodies are like the rivers and the creeks that course throughout the land. You see that creek down there? Today, you can drink that creek water, you can go swimming in it, you can catch the fish in it and eat the fish.

THE LAW OF CIRCULAR INTERACTION

Today, the relationship of our language to the land is becoming increasingly difficult relationship. This is due to modern technology and the price for civilization including the insecticides, pesticides and the sewage that is poured into the waterways of this land. Mankind has made the waters sick.

Mankind has made Mother Earth sick. Today, the waters are black and murky with sickness. It's not wise to drink the waters, to go swimming

in many of the rivers and creeks. Nor to eat the fish for they too are sick. The Law of Circular Interaction does not discriminate.

What affects one affects all.

HAIR IS ALIVE, HAIR IS IDENTITY

The plants, the flowers, the medicines, the roots, the trees and all that grows on Mother Earth are like our hair. Mother Earth is alive and has an attitude. Hair is alive. This is one of the beliefs of why we are supposed to take care of our hair by wearing in braids. Hair and the way we wear our hair is not a style. It's an identity. Hair is alive.

One of our customs during very sad times is called "Siykawiy-chikaywin" ("See Ka Wee Chick Kay Win") and this is when we cut off our hair to signal grief and mourning on the loss of a loved one.

My long hair that I braid every morning is not just a style, it is my identity.

"Kahkiyow kiykwy wakootoomakan" - everything is connected."

The Elder continued: "Always remember the importance of our sacred ways of knowing for they're based on our spiritual values and beliefs. Respect yourself in the same way you respect "Kikawiynow Askiy" - Mother Earth.

Respect all the birds and the animals, respect the waters, the air and all that grows."

If you don't respect and take care of Mother Earth, if you don't respect and take care of your body... neither the Earth nor you body can take care of you.

– Content for this article was gleaned from interviews with Cree Elders which are now part of Wanuskewin's Sikakwayan Oral History Collection.



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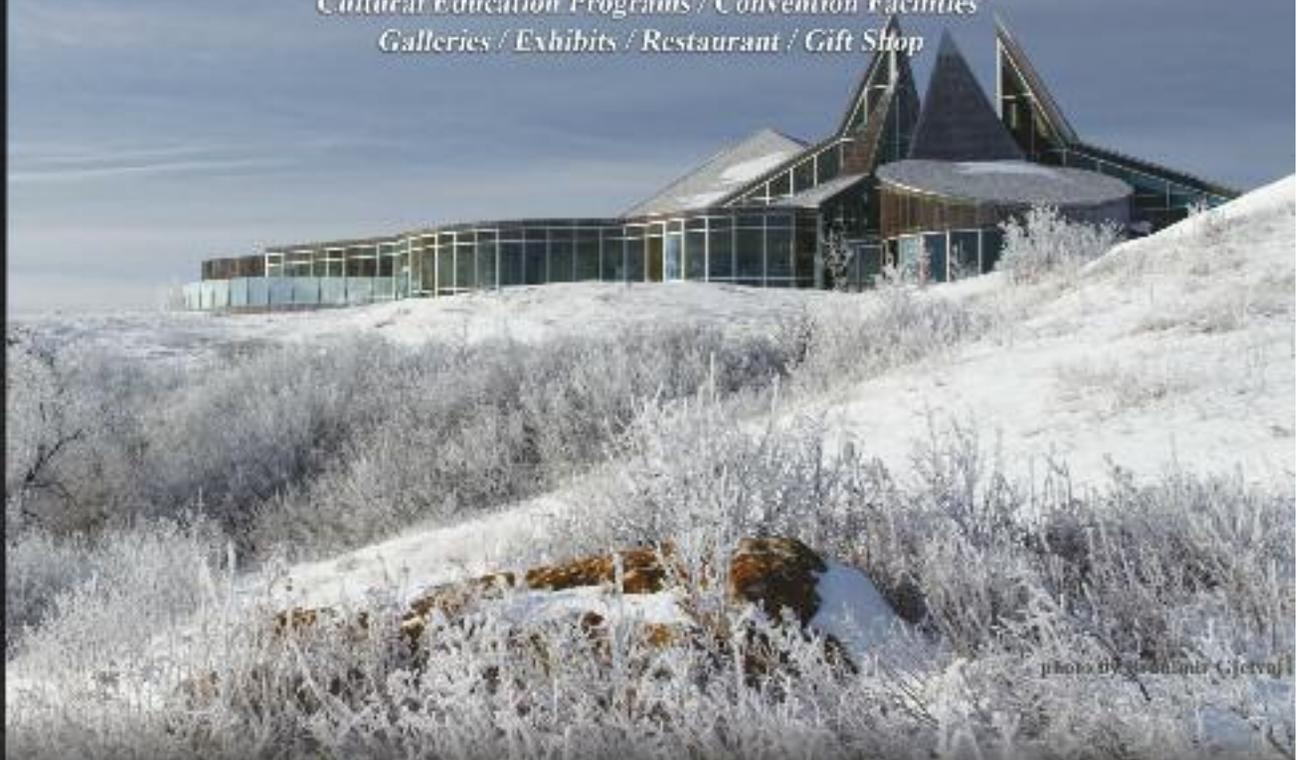
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Leaders hoped for more at Ottawa gathering

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Strengthening Our Relationship – Unlocking Our Potential was the theme of the recent Crown–First Nations Gathering held in Ottawa involving Chiefs from across the country and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Harper called the event “historic” and explained why it took him so long to formally meet with First Nations leaders.

“These past six years have been a time of, putting it mildly, distractions of elections, of minority parliaments, and, of course, world economic and financial crises.”

First Nations leaders say they want concrete action to abolish the Indian Act and carry out Treaties 1-11 to their full spirit and intent, actions Harper and his government aren’t ready to commit to.

“After 136 years, that tree (Indian Act) has deep roots, blowing up the stump would just leave a big hole,” Harper said in opening speeches.

“However, there are ways, creative ways, collaborative ways ... ways that provide options within the Act, or outside of it, for practical, incremental and real change.”

In a joint statement from Harper and the Chiefs after the gathering, it was announced they will establish a task force on economic development and form a group to work on the structuring of financing to First Nations. In addition, a report on education will be reviewed and improving governance and implementation of treaties will be visited.

FSIN Vice-Chief Morley Watson struck an optimistic note.

“Canada realizes that we have a young and energetic workforce that has untapped potential,” Watson said in a prepared statement.

“The vision of our Elders, leaders and people is to prepare our children for life’s challenges. For this to happen, we need our youth (to be) educated, skilled and employed.”

But Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee said feelings in Indian country after the event were that Harper was only interested his own legislative agenda for First Nations.

“The National Chief (Shaun Atleo) has told Prime Minister Harper that a comprehensive action plan would add \$400 billion to the Canadian economy, and eliminate \$150 billion in social costs,” Madahbee said.

“We are the fastest growing population. We are the students and workers of the future. Why do governments constantly overlook us?”

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin criticized Harper’s role in the meeting.

In The Huffington Post, a news website, Martin voiced his displeasure with Harper’s reluctance to get serious, saying the objectives that came out of the gathering have already been achieved. Furthermore, “building a relationship” – as Harper emphasized at the Gathering – has already been established, Martin declared.

“It’s there. It’s on the record.”

Martin also said the least the government



Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations is joined by His Excellency David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper as they head to the opening ceremonies of the historic Crown-First Nations Gathering.
(Photo by Deb Ransom)

can do is commit to ending education discrimination for First Nations children.

“How difficult is it for a government to say ‘we’re going to end discrimination’? If you need to establish a relationship, go to a reserve and read to a six-year-old,” Martin said. “Set up a literacy program.”

“There is no doubt that you’re not going to get economic development unless you have an education.”

Harper’s inability to be more proactive also frustrated AFN National Chief Shaun Atleo. In a CBC News report, Atleo said when it comes to treaty rights regarding resource sharing, Harper doesn’t see First Nations as major players.

“Right now, government feels that through their actions and through their regulatory processes and licenses that First Nations are simply stakeholders,” Atleo said.

“That is simply not the case.”

Resource sharing wasn’t discussed at the gathering, something Atleo didn’t take lightly.

“You can’t disconnect a conversation about economics or major resource development without looking to the issue of land negotiations. The current process, First Nations feel, is deeply flawed. It is unfair. It has not kept pace with changes even in common law,” he said.

“The very poverty that we have seen in places like Attawapiskat are located but 70 plus kilometres from one of the most major mines in this country.”

That is a fact that frustrates people like Grand Council Chief Mudahbee.

“We have epidemic health and social issues, gross inequities in funding for our students, and virtually no share in the billions in resources being stolen from our traditional territories.

“What we heard from Mr. Harper was a lame re-hashing of his government’s so-called accomplishments for our communities and citizens.”

Madahbee noted the Gathering began with ceremony and references to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which envisioned a nation-to-nation relationship between the Crown and First Peoples.

“But the Harper Conservatives just cannot bring themselves to truly honour the treaty relationship of sharing upon which Canada’s

creation was based. Instead, they continue to rely on their bureaucrats who, like the ones who created the racist Indian Act in 1876, still act more as roadblocks to First Nations progress than facilitators,” Madahbee said.

As the dust settles after the first discussions between First Nations leaders and Prime Minister Harper, whispers of positive change continue to swirl around, even if they are quiet.

It was an unprecedented meeting with the possibility of another taking place in one year. Harper stayed longer than expected, even delaying his flight to Switzerland for the World Economic Forum late into the evening – a decision some say points to genuine interest in First Nations relations. And the two sides agreed on five ‘Immediate Steps for Action’.

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Editorial

Snaking through the political rhetoric

It often seems that the relationship between the Government and First Nation leaders is like playing snakes and ladders. You go along like normal, then good things happen and we shoot up a bit. Then something nasty comes around the corner and we go on a freefall slide back down, forced to retreat and sometimes start all over.

This month was no different as we saw three bands take big steps forward in the eternal pursuit of progress. The Sakimay First Nation Chief and Council have successfully concluded negotiations with Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan with respect to the Sakimay Flooding Claim Settlement Agreement. Band members have voted to accept an agreement for them to receive more than \$21 million for land that was flooded in the early 1940s. That was a big ladder Sakimay climbed there.

We also saw the One Arrow First Nation take a big step towards control of their land as they have signed on with the First Nations Land Management Act. This move will allow One Arrow to take their land out of control of the Indian Act and the 34 restrictive land management sections and control that land themselves so they can take advantage of greater economic development opportunities at the speed of business. Another good ladder climb.

And then Chief Darcy Bear, his council and the citizens of Whitecap Dakota First Nation took another huge step towards self-sufficiency by signing an agreement with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to work toward self-government. Whitecap has shown how using land through the First Nations Land Management Act can free you to stimulate economic development which creates jobs and wealth for your people. Whitecap has been climbing big ladders for years.

Relations have been getting better between the Government and the First Nation leaders, and coming off the good vibe that was allegedly created at the First Nations and Prime Ministerial summit in January, we all thought with better relations, life would improve.

All this good news was erased when Member of Parliament Rob Clarke, who represents the northern riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill placed the Government of Canada's relationship with First Nation leadership in Saskatchewan on a big nasty snake that has sent relations back years.

We just came off the Prime Ministers historic meeting with First Nations leaders when Prime Minister Harper promised the leaders they would not touch the Indian Act without consultation in this new era of working together. Then, days later, MP Clarke comes out with a private members bill to repeal the Indian Act!

Clarke says that after consulting northern leaders, they tell him they want the Indian Act gone, so he is doing this bill on their behalf. Now, that's all well and good if you had actually consulted with the leaders, but it turns out he didn't. Chief Tammy Cook Searson of Lac La Ronge Indian Band, the biggest band in Saskatchewan by the way, has come out and said that no, they had not been consulted, not even once on this topic. Oops.

Good relationships are about trust and communication. By not following those values, Clarke has stepped on a nasty snake that has caused a regression of the good will and relationships that had been built recently.

Now the question to ask is this: Did Clarke do this himself without consulting the Prime Minister (aka political suicide in the PC Party), or did he do it with the prime minister's full knowledge (likely), meaning that a month ago Prime Minister Harper was making promises that he likely knew he wasn't going to keep.

What's that they say about a snake's tongue? Forked is it?

Rank Comix

By Adam Martin

...MR. CLARKE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CHANGES TO THE INDIAN ACT?



HARPER CONSULTS WITH FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP

February is Aboriginal Storytelling Month

Storytelling is a gift, a traditional way to transmit culture, language, values, history, and knowledge. In February, First Nations and Métis storytelling events led by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community artists, musicians, and storytellers will teach, entertain, and remember.

Yvette Nolan, writer-in-residence at the Saskatoon Public Library, will be doing theatre games, storytelling, acting and cartooning for ages eight to 12 at Pooh Corner on February 22 at 2 p.m. at the Frances Morrison Library, and February 23 at 2 p.m. at the Library on 20th Street.

"We can celebrate how our storytelling can grow into plays and short stories and novels, all about who we are and where we come from."

Elaine Greyeyes will share stories on February 15 at 1:30 pm at the Mayfair

Branch Library, Paula Howe will lead a community storytelling event on February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Library on 20th Street, and Jason Chamakese and Robert Gladue will present a musical event with cultural teachings on February 28 at 1 p.m. at the Frances Morrison Library.

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre will be hosting two full days of storytelling at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge on February 15 and 29 beginning at 8 a.m. with a pipe ceremony.

Wanuskewin will host an event on February 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. featuring storytelling, food, games, and an author reading by Lisa Bird-Wilson.

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month is organized by Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples Committee.

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Fred a kind man who “doesn’t think highly of himself”

I am in Toronto and I’ve just come in from a long walk. For those of you who are familiar with the city you will know that on the corner of Carlton and Church Street stands the old Maple Leaf Gardens, home of the NHL and Hockey Night in Canada.

I know that Hockey Night in Canada is CBC but for many little kids in the bush in the 1940s and ‘50s it was all one and the same. Maple Leaf Gardens is now the flagship store for Loblaws, a grocery store chain. Times do change.

Once and not all that long ago, this was the place where young people of my generation dreamed of visiting and for some, of coming here to play hockey and becoming stars although we didn’t use words like star, at least not in my community.

But to be a hockey player in the NHL and to play in Maple Leaf Gardens and have Foster Hewitt yell into the radio “he shoots and he scores” amid the yelling and screaming fans was just about as good as life could get for little boys.

I thought about all that as I stood on the street looking at the now renovated arena and I remembered Fred Sasakamoose. Freddy, we called him, and still do. He was our hero and his rise to hockey fame meant that perhaps the rest of us could also aspire to be whatever we wanted to be, something not many of us did in those days.

Most kids didn’t know him personally as he lived in another community but many of us knew his family and some were related to them or at least bragged that they were.

As I walked back to my room I thought about Freddy and about Loretta, his life partner and remembered the big news of their wedding. All us little girls wanted to go and see them get married. For us that was the equivalent of any famous wedding you hear about today. He was “our star” and he was coming home to marry his home girl.

When I arrived back in my room and turned on the television there he was on the evening news speaking about the horrific sexual abuse he was not only subjected to as a child, but also had to watch as it was forced on his little friend. Later that evening I went for another walk and tried to rid my heart of the anger I felt and tried instead to think of the good man that came out of that painful, lonely place and I marvelled at the strength of not only Fred, but of all our people who in spite of – and I won’t go there – have been able to not only face life in a noble way but also to give so much to their people and community.

My late husband, Shannon Two Feathers, went to residential school from the age of five to 16. However, it was only days before his death that I learned of the sexual and physical abuse he had endured as a child and by then it was too late to do anything. I could only mourn the broken child and tormented man.

Shannon was a beautiful man, a kind and gentle husband and father and an incredibly

talented artist, singer and songwriter but he just couldn’t continue to stuff or medicate the pain away. He died of a massive heart attack brought on by the traumatic events and memories of his childhood.

Fred, if you’re reading this, myself, and

I am sure many others remember a small log house, heated with wood and lit by a coal oil lamp. Children and adults crowded around an old radio and you are playing at the Maple Leaf Gardens. All of us holding our breath to hear better, smacking the radio when it sounds like it is going to die, shushing everybody every time your name was mentioned on air.

When the game was over the adults rehashing it all over cups of tea while the kids raced out to play hockey on a slough that had been shovelled clean, the boys arguing over who was going to be you.

I remember also when you and Loretta were spotted in Debden and people said you had a new car and that you stopped to talk to them. “Miyotaw Ana,” they said. “Moya keechameisew. He is kind and he does not think highly of himself.”

That was a great compliment to you and a lesson to those of us who heard. When I started to write this I googled you and read things reporters and writers had written about you. Among the many clippings I found there was one with a quote from you that read: “I

let my people down.”

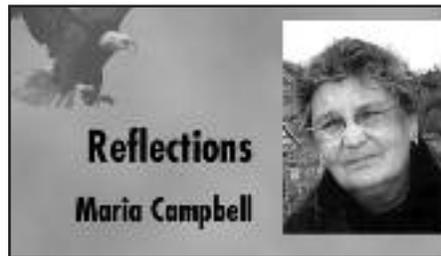
Fred, you never let anybody down. Rather you set an example for the rest of us just as you did today. Everything you have ever done from hockey, working with youth, developing sports programs, to the leadership you give community has mirrored for all of us a good way to live and reminds us of our obligations and responsibilities to family and community.

The last thing I want to tell you is I have just come back from Ottawa where I attended a national conference on Motherhood and Mothering, where Aboriginal mothers and grandmothers from across Canada, including the Artic, talked about old teachings around motherhood, told strong women stories and talked about the importance of role models for their sons and hero’s for their children. They were talking about people like you, Freddie.

We don’t compliment each other enough us Aboriginal people on the good work we do. We are told that is not our way but I don’t believe that. My old chapan was Mariah Mususkaypo Vandal and she was an old, old lady when she passed over.

She always bragged us up when we did good things and that made us feel good and strong inside so I am bragging you up today to send good energy, to you and all the people who have been hurt by the horrors of residential school.

That Hall of Fame will be a better place because your name will be there for our future generations. Hiy hiy ki nanaskomtin.





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Renewing the relationship

Belated Happy New Year greetings to all readers.

The First Nations–Crown Gathering that was held on January 24 attracted a lot of media attention and commentary both positive and negative.

I still find it difficult to know what to make of it. I was surprised that the occasion did not include the announcement of anything of substance, such as new funding for dedicated purposes like First Nation education.

A proposal floated by Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, who is an alumnus of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, got a lot of support from Chiefs. He suggested that the prime minister call a First Ministers' Meeting "to make s.35 effective".

Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 recognizes and affirms Treaty and Aboriginal rights but its effectiveness is impaired by the failure of governments to make the Constitutional guarantee meaningful. Moreover, the general language of s.35 is very slowly, case by case, being decided by judges who are appointed effectively by the prime minister and not by the political representatives of the First Nations themselves.

What merit is there in having appointed judicial civil servants determine what is the meaning of the most fundamental rights of First Nations?

The First Ministers' Meeting proposal made by Nepinak has, unfortunately, not been universally understood by journalists, including Norman Spector in his recent *Globe and Mail* (aka 'Mop and Pail') commentary. It has been wrongly interpreted as a call for national Constitutional reform and rejected on that basis.

No one will seriously argue that direct constitutional reform is not out of the question. Among other problems, it risks awakening the Quebec separatist sleeping dog. Grand Chief Nepinak's proposal is based on the recognition that a meaningful 'renewal' of the relationship between First Nations and Canada as a nation requires a forum and a process for the participation of all of Canada's governmental decision-makers, and that must include the provincial and territorial leaders.

If we look at one of the most pressing issues in recent times, that of substituting First Nation access to an equitable share of the bounty of the Treaty lands and resources for the current system of government underfunding and maladministration of reserves from the public treasury, then it is easy to see why the provinces must participate in any meaningful renewal.

The law of the Constitution has allocated control of lands and resources to the provincial governments. It is true that there is still federal authority over the Treaty and Aboriginal rights aspects of those lands and resources but it is another thing to try to get the federal government to legislate

specifically for the protection of First Nation interests in lands that are otherwise subject to the control of provincial politicians.

So the provincial leaders, as well as First Nations representatives, have to participate in any process that may yield positive change for First Nations.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

No Constitutional guarantee, however elegant its text, is worthwhile without the political motivation to make it meaningful and effective. It is indeed better to work towards achieving a political consensus among the First Nations, the provinces and the federal government rather than to aim for the amendment or elaboration of Constitutional text.

The problem is that the present prime minister does not accept the established forms of cooperative federalism. And so there will be no First Ministers' Meeting, just as there will be no national meetings on a new health accord for the one that ends in 2014. The finance minister has already announced the federal budgetary contributions that will be made to the provinces under the Health transfers for a period well beyond 2014 and beyond the time when the Harper government must face Canadian voters at the end of its term.

In this situation First Nations have to react to the new ways of getting things done, or oppose them and wait for another government. In the sphere of health transfers, the best option for First Nations might be the design of new unique funding formulas negotiated between province-by-province or otherwise and involving First Nations and the federal government.

An imperative across the board would be giving the force of legislation to make agreements effective, as has been recently proposed for a First Nations Education Act by the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, of which Saskatchewan's Lillian Dyck is a member. Legislation is also needed to provide secure funding arrangements, as was proposed by Auditor-General Sheila Fraser.

Following the conclusion of the Crown-First Nations Gathering, the prime minister's office unilaterally issued a statement called an 'Outcome Statement' that was widely misconstrued as a joint statement. It is difficult to discern exactly what is in store from the opaque and general language in the Statement.

I did notice that this Conservative government did not pick up any of the basic recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples that was appointed by the Mulroney Conservative government in the 1990s.

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of Saskatoon & Area

United Way of Saskatoon and Area would like to thank the individuals, organizations and employees who continue to support and believe in our mission. Your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure have achieved a 2011 campaign total of over \$6.3 Million for our community.

At United Way of Saskatoon and Area, we pool resources – time, knowledge, influence, dollars – and disperse them throughout the community. We do this in various ways, the best-known being funding of human service

agencies such as Core Neighborhood Youth Co-op, Saskatoon Indian Metis Friendship Centre, Saskatoon Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH) and White Buffalo Youth Lodge. (To learn more about our funding process, please visit www.unitedwaysaskatoon.ca.)

But funding is only part of what we do. We also coordinate capacity building programs and build partnerships. This includes building respectful relationships within the Aboriginal community. Recognizing that it is important to include the voices of all, the Strength of Spirit committee has been assisting and guiding United Way in this important endeavor.

Our community is growing and changing rapidly, and United Way of Saskatoon and Area is responding. Together, we are making our community a place that is truly great, for everyone.

Sincerely,

Cornelia Laliberte

Cornelia Laliberte
Chair, United Way of Saskatoon & Area
Board of Directors



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Concept of fatherhood took a beating over the years

What's the most confusing day on the reserve? The answer to the old riddle is, of course, Father's Day!

It's supposed to be a joke, but take a look at the majority of First Nations families and they really are missing the fathers.

Blind Spot is a one-hour television documentary filmed in North Central Regina by Geoff Leo of CBC Saskatchewan. Blind Spot – What happened to Canada's Aboriginal Fathers is a documentary that shines a light on the largely unknown and unstudied issue of fatherlessness in Aboriginal communities. It follows three First Nations men as they face their own personal demons in their quest to become better fathers even with the odds stacked against them.

So what happened? There was a time when Aboriginal men were fathers and providers. There was a time when Aboriginal families were solid family units. Things began to change for Aboriginal people as more and more settlers came to this land. The need for land increased the need to herd Aboriginal people onto reserves. Buffalo were disappearing and the people were hungry so the government introduced a few new

systems: reserves, residential schools and the Indian Act. All of these 'systems' led to where Aboriginal people are today.

The most devastating blow to aboriginal families was the creation of residential schools. Children were forced to attend these schools, separated from their parents and their communities. The children were beaten and abused in those church run government funded schools.

This policy removed the day-to-day family roles from the aboriginal children.

There was a time when Aboriginal families were solid family units.

They didn't get to see how a father or mother dealt with their responsibilities and as such were unprepared when they became parents themselves. Being a loving parent is a learned behavior; we learn it from our parents.



Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew

How can this society expect Aboriginal people to be kind loving people and responsible parents when they don't know how? Who taught them how to love?

They were taught to beat and hurt each other.

They were taught that they were dirty and unwanted. These schools not only took the 'Indian' out of the child but they also took their souls and spirits. How can they be expected to be a good parent?

Seven generations of Aboriginal children were forced to go to residential schools where they lived a regimented, institutionalized existence devoid of love and acceptance.

The children were taught to be

ashamed of their culture and language. They were beaten and abused. How can they be expected to be loving parents with a foundation and history like that? It took a long time to create this mess and it will take just as much time to fix it.

What these fathers need are programs to teach them how to be parents.

Geoff Leo's documentary has brought the spotlight to this issue and it's time that Canadian society opened their eyes and their hearts. Stop telling Aboriginal people to 'get over it' because there is a long way to go before healing can begin.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is currently travelling across the country listening to residential school survivor testimonies I encourage people to go listen and then you may understand why Aboriginal people cannot just get over it.

Until next month be kind to one another.

I enjoy hearing from readers. You can send your letters to Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon Sk., S7K 3M4 or email Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

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Retirement looms for Eva

**Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News**

Eva Lizotte has put the final stitches in a long and successful career. She has been designing clothes, blankets and fashion with a First Nations flair for more than 25 years. Her shop, Kihiw Crafts and Fashions, was nestled in an aging mini mall in Saskatoon's west side for a decade. Now, Lizotte has retired and closed the doors.

Her designs are recognizable across the province – men's ribbon and star shirts, custom bridal gowns, white satin quilts and athletic track suits. The First Nations and Metis-inspired looks were popular, and as Saskatchewan's economy boomed, so did the demand.

Lizotte says that same booming economy changed her neighbourhood.

"That seclusion isn't there anymore," she said. "We used to be on the outskirts of town, now we're not on the outskirts, there's development all around us," she added.

While developers built suburbs around her, Lizotte began to become weary of the work required to run her booming business by herself.

"It's gotten too big for me," she said. "There's a lot of stress that comes with the business. There's a lot of last minute orders, a lot of rush orders, a lot of deadlines. When those deadlines have to be met, they just have to be met."

During pow wow season, Lizotte said she would often go an entire weekend without sleeping, just to get the orders done. She says that kind of constant stress has left her in ailing health.

Lizotte and her husband are building a home in quiet Rockford, Saskatchewan, three hours east of Saskatoon.

"We are going to be moving back onto the land that we have, it's just a slower pace of life, just more time to sit down and reflect on what's important to you," she said.

Lizotte says she hopes returning to a more traditional lifestyle will help her regain her health. She says the decision still wasn't easy. Lizotte couldn't find the right person to take over, sobbing as she talked about saying goodbye.

"It's still my baby and I take it very seriously and I don't want to just pass it on to anybody," she said.

"I need to know that the person that it goes to cares about it as much as I care about it because it's been such a big part of my life."

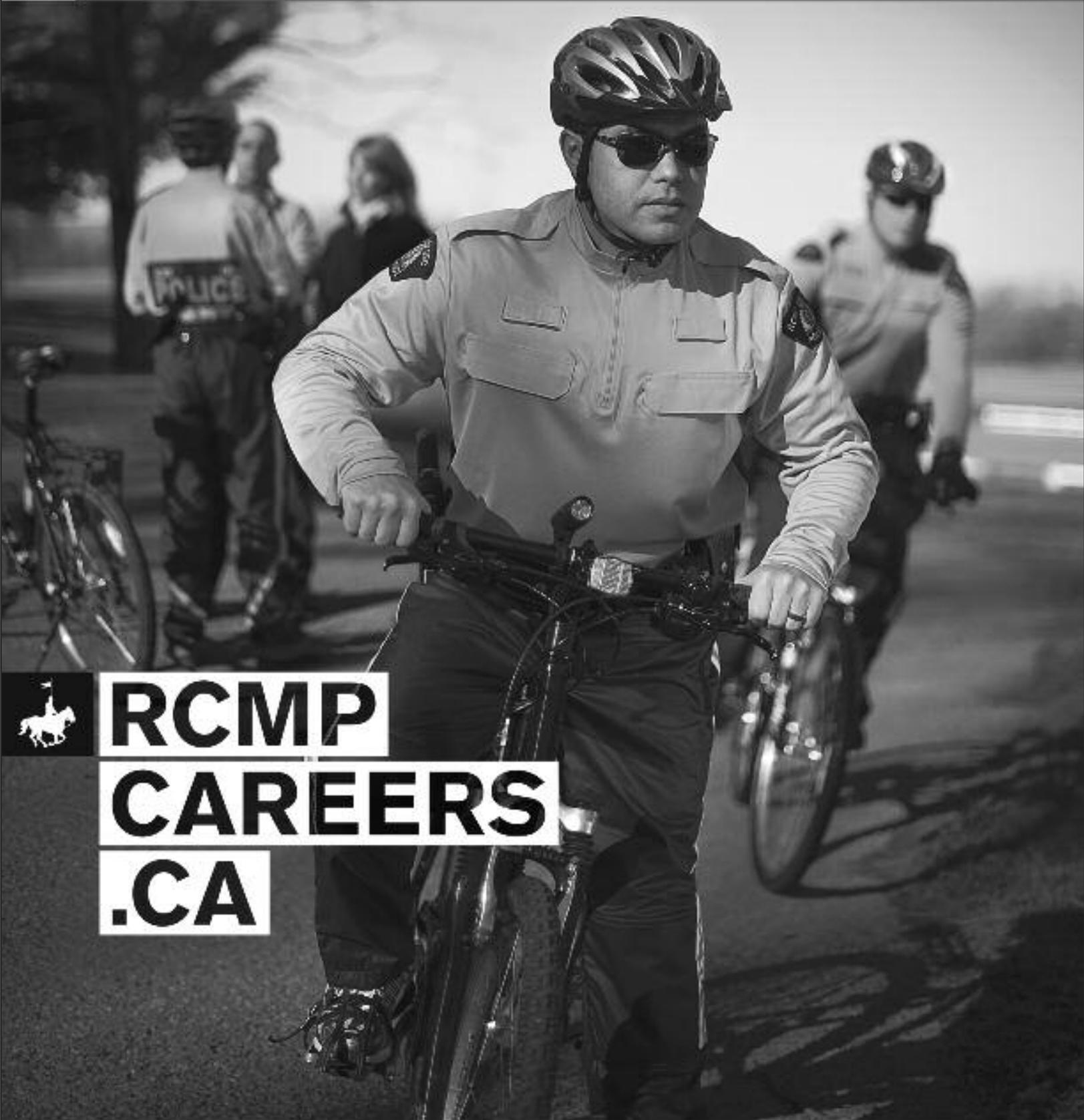
Lizotte says she'll continue to design as a hobby from Rockford, but any sewing and manufacturing will be sent overseas.



After more than two decades, Eva Lizotte has decided it's time to slow down a little.



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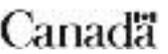




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Facing the challenges of pesticides in our foods

By Flo Lavallie

For Eagle Feather News

The flyers we receive in the mail advertise organic food opposite to soda pop. The power of advertising and a person's informed choices are a challenge.



Flo Lavallie

In the First Nations and Aboriginal culture, as well as the European culture, we were raised close to Mother Earth. In my childhood years, we as children gathered dandelions, flower greens, saskatoons, chokecherries, cranberries, strawberries and raspberries. The Native population gathered and dried blueberries, meat, juniper berries and Labrador tea.

We picked stones and roots with horses to prepare the land for our organic food. The mastery of chemicals has ruined our food to the point of illness and poisoning.

In the grocery stores food comes from

Mexico and United States and it's fresh? How can that be? In my garden, when I pick my vegetables, within half an hour the lettuce leaves and radish leaves are wilted and the radishes are soft.

The study done by Dr. Paula Baillie Hamilton M.D. P.H.D. author of Toxic Overload says that a chemical called Triclosan is a toxic chemical that acts on the hormone producing glands. The thyroid especially is affected.

It can lead to brain fog, mood swings, fatigue and weight gain and other symptoms. Triclosan is also found in toothpaste, liquid soaps, cosmetics, clothing and plastics. These pesticides that are found in our food triggers learning, attention and memory problems in children and adults and can cause infertility in women.

Perchlorate, a toxin in lettuce, is affecting women's sex drive. Up to 93 per cent of all leafy greens have perchlorate, an odorless industrial toxin that hinders the Thyroid's output of sex drive hormones.

A multivitamin can often reverse the damage toxic foods have created. Selenium will help to detoxify the toxins. Zinc will help build the immune system. Vitamin D will protect the body of deficiencies as well. Probiotics will strengthen the body and help the body against bowel diseases. Yogurt can be used to

sweeten foods like oatmeal.

Nutrients in common spices like nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, cayenne, cumin, curry, oregano, rosemary, sage and basil have powerful anti-inflammatory qualities and fight bowel problems. They also restore the liver's ability to flush

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Public Safety Message for residents of northern Saskatchewan

Crews are now at work clearing overgrown trees and brush along the major power line from **Lindsay Lake to Key Lake**.

This work involves the use of dangerous equipment and the falling of large trees. For the safety of our crews, and the general public, **please stay away from this area while the clearing is taking place.**

The project will continue through the winter, as long as it is safe to do so (weather permitting).

Here's what you can expect while the work is going on.

- Crews and equipment will arrive in the area by helicopter. You'll see and hear more helicopter traffic.
- The workers operate out of camps set up along the power line. This helps them get the work done safely and efficiently.
- There will be more highway and road traffic in and around the Key Lake and Lindsay Lake areas as workers arrive and equipment and supplies are delivered.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve electricity service to our customers in northern Saskatchewan.

To our crews and everyone involved in this project, thank you and stay safe.

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A University of Saskatchewan notebook

Working Together to help the most vulnerable (Bonita Beatty)

Greetings from the faculty and students of the Native Studies Department at the University of Saskatchewan! We are entering the middle of the academic term and everyone is plowing full speed ahead on course work and research projects. All are looking forward to our week-long mid-term break (February 20-24).

This month we are featuring some of the research conducted by Dr. Bonita Beatty from Deschambault Lake, a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Dr. Beatty is well known for her work in the areas of health management and administration, policy analysis and policy-making, strategic planning, and community development and training.

She is currently an Assistant Professor in Native Studies and Co-Director of Research in the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development. Her commitment to northern communities continues in her many research projects, her teaching and her community service. She is currently conducting research projects on northern life and development and on ways to respect the dignity of elderly people in chronic or end of life care.

Dr. Bonita Beatty, Research Notes: It is well known in research circles that First Nation

reserves are generally poor with limited infrastructure and services. Having worked for First Nations in health services delivery and governance for many years, I have learned that it takes community people engaging with others to make a difference in any area. Success is completing little steps along the way. I have also observed that compassion and persistence were necessary assets for leadership and longevity.

With limited resources, life is often not good for the more vulnerable community members, especially the babies and children, disabled, and elderly (the aged *kihtehayak*). A former U.S. Vice President put it well: "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

The Treaties were intended to establish good relations both inside and outside the communities and these relations were to be based upon the values of sharing, generosity, love and kindness – all of which came from the Creator. The moral responsibility therefore has not changed – people must still work together to benefit and support those who cannot help themselves.

So what can be done? Some of my research in the areas of First Nations elderly care and northern community engagement suggests that

the elderly (*kihtehayak*) should be supported through an organized network of care (health services, family, other agencies) and that all levels of government should invest in the building of Long-Term Care homes in or close to the communities. Furthermore, having youth sit on community committees and boards is great for youth engagement; and social networks between the old and young should be fostered through the organization of intergenerational activities. Lastly, building Healthy families through prevention programs and family support resources can help ensure that the children and disabled get the best possible care.

News: The U of S is entering its Third Integrated Planning four year cycle. This time around the university-wide strategy includes four academic priorities, one of which is "Aboriginal Engagement: Relationships, Scholarship, Programs."

This priority area is intended to encourage "the creation of diversified approaches and flourishing initiatives in every college and unit."

To help meet this priority, the university has made a commitment to co-ordinate university-community relationships and recently appointed Candace Wasacase-Lafferty as the new Director of First Nation & Metis Engagement.

You will find Candace and Wilna

Masuskapoe at the new "Office of Aboriginal Initiatives" on the new U of S campus on the English River urban reserve at Grasswoods Road, south of the city. We also welcome the appointment of Jacob Roesler as the new Aboriginal Undergraduate Student Advisor. Jacob comes from northern Manitoba and is a graduate of First Nations University. He joins Lorie Peters-Whiteman and both can be found at 248 Arts Tower.

Native Studies faculty and students are also busy fundraising and preparing their research papers to present at the upcoming Native American/Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference being held this year at Mohegun Sun Casino in Connecticut, June 4-6.

NAISA is an international academic association university and college teachers and students. It's a professional organization dedicated to supporting scholars and others who work in Indigenous Studies. Last year the conference was held in Sacramento, California, and attracted over 900 conference participants.

The Native Studies faculty at the U of S is honoured to be selected as the NAISA conference host for 2013 which also coincides with our 30th anniversary.

You can check out NAISA at <http://naisa.org/>



Kevin Nabess discusses IT opportunities with Donald Bear.

Students ponder myriad of career choices

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Edwards School of Business, Future is Yours Career Fair, drew hundreds of students from around Saskatchewan to explore career options. The students were exposed to dozens of different career opportunities and breakout sessions extolling jobs in mining, government and health districts to name a few.

Donald Bear is a Representative Workforce Associate for the Saskatoon Health Region and he was kept hopping with the students seeking advice on jobs and careers with Saskatchewan's largest employer.

"I have been telling youth attending the career fair today, that we need more Métis and First Nations doctors, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, providing quality care for our people," said Bear.

"It makes a difference. I also tell youth that there are so many opportunities of employment within the health industry; from entry level environmental worker/food services workers to X-ray and lab technicians. It's very rewarding to motivate and speak with youth about career opportunities and to hear all their positive plans on future career aspirations."

Kevin Nabess is a SIIT student in Information Technology and he was taking in all the information the employers had to offer.

"The future in IT looks good. Everyone needs this service into the future," said Nabess.

"I am using today to network and get my name out there. There are lots of opportunities. Even in health they are hiring IT people and they told me to email them my resume. Times are changing and we have to change with the times."

good food bites

ARE YOU EATING CANDY FOR BREAKFAST?

Eating a well-balanced breakfast to fuel your body is a great way to start the day. However, your present breakfast cereal may not be the healthiest option. Some sugary cereals have just as many or more calories than candy bars. Here are a few tips for making good cereal choices:

Look at the ingredient list.

- Choose a cereal that has whole grains listed as the first ingredient.
- Next, check the nutrition facts table. In a 30 g serving look for:
 - at least 2 grams (g) of fibre
 - less than 8 g of sugar
 - no more than 2 g of fat

If your favourite cereal doesn't fit, try one of these ideas:

- Focus on fibre! Choose a whole grain cereal that has more than 2 g of fibre per serving, even if the sugar is higher than 8 g per serving.
- Mix it up! Combine your favourite cereal with a high fibre, low sugar cereal to ensure you get the added benefits of whole grains and fibre.
- Naturally sweet! Choose a cereal with less than 8 g of sugar and add some fruit such as blueberries, strawberries or banana to add fibre and sweeten it up.

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Tribal Council proud of Lodge

• Continued from Page 1

“Before we would hang out at the hospital and it was difficult. Now we can hang out here, have coffee, watch TV or movies or just relax and listen to music. But they have a really friendly staff.”

Tina Thomas is the Coordinator of Victoria Lodge. She has a background of working for community services and she and the staff are up for the task of creating a welcoming and family atmosphere.

“We are excited about this. To meet the people coming in and providing the best quality service that we can is important to us,” said Thomas as she led a tour through the Lodge.

“Each person can have their own room. We can host up to eight people now and they have access to three square meals a day, and Elders and quiet rooms and support from the staff. These people are dealing with serious health issues sometime and the staff takes their job seriously.

“The direction given to the staff was to treat people as if this was their home away from home. With a lots of smudging and elders around it is going to take us a long way.”

The services the Lodge offers are unique in the city and will save many people boredom, frustration and lost time and the benefits will help the clients and their health.

“We want to emphasize that it is a place to come when you are in town for medical,” said Chief Thomas.

“Some people are spending the day in their car, or in the hospital or driving around while one person is getting dialysis. This is somewhere the people can come that’s close to lots of places, but still quiet where they can enjoy the comforts of home and speak to someone in their language.

“It is nice for people from the north or from reserves to come to a place where there are people they are comfortable with. Obviously they are here under stressful situations and every little bit helps. We will subsidize this if we have to help make it run. It is important.”

Whitecap FN takes another step towards self-government

The Whitecap Dakota First Nation has taken another step toward self-sufficiency after signing a Framework Agreement to negotiate self-government for the First Nation. The Agreement was signed between the John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and Chief Darcy Bear of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation after the historic summit between First Nation leaders and the Prime Minister of Canada.

“Governance, accountability and transparency have been the cornerstone to our continued success,” said Chief Bear.

“This agreement moves us another step forward in our journey to sign a self-government agreement with Canada. A self-government agreement will recognize the Whitecap Dakota First Nation as a government with the ability to create laws, authorities and empower our community members to break the cycle of dependence created by the Indian Act.”

This Framework Agreement marks the start of a process for determining Whitecap Dakota law-making powers, including how they will manage their resources, preserve their culture and build on their successes in economic development. It will foster an autonomous and accountable First Nation government and also include arrangements to ensure harmonious relationships with other governments.

“The signing of this agreement is an important milestone along a path of renewal and reconciliation,” said Duncan.

“Self-government agreements give Aboriginal groups greater control over the decisions that affect their communities, laying the foundation for sound governance and an improved quality of life for their members.”

The Framework Agreement sets out a process for Canada and the Whitecap Dakota First Nation to negotiate a self-government agreement. As the next step in the process, the parties will begin negotiations of an Agreement-in-Principle.



On hand for the inaugural ribbon cutting were from left, Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas, Tina Thomas, Marie Buffalo, Kim Iron Eagle, Jesse Cardinal, Rose Thomas and Saskatoon Tribal Council Vice Chief Geraldine Arcand. Missing Regina Mitsuing. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Looking in the Mirror

a Reflection on Racism

Renowned anti-racism educator Tim Wise will be in Regina and Saskatoon on **March 13-15**, and Prince Albert on **April 4-5, 2012**.

A fiery speaker and prolific author, Wise candidly deconstructs race and privilege.

With passion and humour, he challenges his audiences to acknowledge privilege and dismantle racism in their organizations and everyday lives.

Who Should Attend

- Educators
- Law Enforcement
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All Lectures open to the public for FREE. First come first served seating. Doors open 30 minutes prior to start time.

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<p>Privilege 101 Tuesday, March 13, 2:30-4:30pm @ University of Regina's Education Auditorium</p> <p>White Like Me Tuesday, March 13, 7-9pm @ Knox-Metropolitan United Church, 2340 Victoria Ave.</p>	<p>Dismantling Racism in your Organization Thursday, March 15, 2-4pm @ TCU Place, Saskatoon</p>	<p>Arresting Racism Wednesday, April 4, 9-11am @ St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Prince Albert</p>
<p>Dismantling Racism in your Organization Wednesday, March 14, 2:30-4:30pm @ Knox-Metropolitan United Church, 2340 Victoria Ave.</p> <p>Bringing it Home – a panel discussion on racism in Saskatchewan Wednesday, March 14, 7-9pm @ First Nations University's Atrium</p>	<p>Looking in the Mirror: A Reflection on Racism Thursday, March 15, 7-8:30pm @ TCU Place, Saskatoon</p>	<p>White Like Me Wednesday, April 4, 7-9pm • TBD, Prince Albert</p> <p>Leading Change – By invite only Thursday, April 5</p> <p>Dismantling Racism in your Organization Thursday, April 5, 2-4pm @ E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts, Prince Albert</p>

Thunderbird opens doors to future

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

Leading Thunderbird Lodge, a residential youth treatment centre located near Fort Qu'Appelle, is more than just a place to get clean, it can be the doorway to a brighter future.

The centre, an entity of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, opened its doors in 2007 with a focus on spirituality and culture. It has evolved over the years, but culture has remained a key component.

Michael Tyance, a former client of the centre, is living the life he never dreamed of and couldn't be happier. He is happy such a place exists.

Originally from Thunder Bay, Ont., the now 20-year-old took a chance and travelled to Saskatchewan to seek treatment for his addictions. On Oct 12, 2009, Tyance walked through the doors of the centre and says it was "best decision I ever made."

Although he was only 16, his life was already in a downward spiral addicted to drugs, living on the streets and in trouble with the law.

"I started smoking marijuana at 14 and was addicted to pills by age 16," said Tyance. "I committed crimes to help fuel my habit and had legal problems."

That's when he heard about an aboriginal youth treatment centre in Fort San and agreed to treatment. He admitted

that it was hard at first but eventually came to love his time at the centre.

"There were two main things that I already liked about it," said Tyance. "One was the cultural program that they had and the other was the horse program with Twisted Wire Ranch that I really liked."

It was the first time he had participated in cultural activities or seen a horse. Tyance said the staff at the centre was great and with the facility's programs and support of others he was able to turn his life around.

For 12 weeks, clients participate in cultural, spiritual, clinical and educational programs. Originally, it took both female and male clients but now focuses on males between the ages of 12 and 17.

"I took a chance and never looked back," said Tyance. "I love my life now."

He not only completed the 12-week program, but went on to graduate high school, took up bronco riding and is a Twisted Wire Ranch employee.

"I work hard for what I have," said Tyance.

He plans on taking up a trade such as welding within the next couple of years.

Tyance said his family in Thunder Bay are happy with his successes and are proud of what he has accomplished. If it weren't for the centre he believes he would still be living on the streets of Thunder Bay.

Karen Main, executive director of the



Thunderbird Lodge Executive Director Karen Main is shown here with File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Representative Edmund Bellegarde.

lodge said success stories like Tyance are the most rewarding. On average, about 60-to 75-per-cent of clients graduate. She estimates about 200 youths have received treatment since the centre opened its doors.

Main said the centre continues to evolve to meet the needs of clients. The centre has recently applied for independ-

ent school status.

"Looking back over the past five years, certainly it's about celebrating where we come from over a short time but focusing on where we're going," said Main.

She's looking forward being able to continue offering the unique programming in the future.

The Future Matters!



Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Education and Employment

Starting in February 2012, Statistics Canada will be conducting the Aboriginal Peoples Survey with First Nations people living off reserve, Métis and Inuit across Canada. You may be invited to participate on a voluntary basis.

Your participation will help provide a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges that lead to success in education and employment. Your information will help support the efforts of Aboriginal communities, organizations and governments as they work towards making improvements in the well-being of Aboriginal peoples.

Take part, complete the survey and help make a better future!

For more information, call 1-800-263-1136
or go to www.statcan.gc.ca/aps



Marie Wilson

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

Residential school survivors telling stories at Saskatchewan hearings

time again at the hearings. At the hearings, survivors speak publicly about their experience at residential school and what kind of impact that experience has had on their lives. For many it's a very emotional experience.

Wilson said it's important to provide survivors a chance to address the commission.

"What we have seen in almost every community that we've been to for hearings is that survivors play an incredibly important role in inspiring each other," said Wilson. "What does inspired mean? It means the spirit within us. It means somehow we find that spirit within ourselves to also be able to stand up and speak up."

She said the most valuable thing that has been learned from the hearings is that survivors are able to create their own community.

The commission has conducted 20 hearings in northern Canada and six in the Maritimes as well as some national events.

Wilson estimates the commission has hosted 30 detailed hearings like the one that was hosted in Regina.

"It's always new," said Wilson. "It's never the same old same old. It is so heartfelt that you cannot help but feel it at the level of your own heart. But it is also heartfelt in the way it is inspirational, the way it is uplifting."

"People come here not because they have given up but because they are still trying, because they are choosing to do all that they can to try and be well and to live good and positive lives."

She said it's also important for society because the rest of Canada needs to be educated about what went on in residential schools.

"I always take great hope in these gatherings and in the testimonies that we hear because no matter how difficult, no matter how dire, no matter how heartbreaking some of the details are there's almost always a point where people are able to see the positive in that experience or what they learned from those hardships," said Wilson.

She finds inspiration in survivors who are able to put the past behind them and look toward the future.

"I find that very encouraging and very hopeful and very uplifting," said Wilson. "Not only for those who are speaking, but for all of us as we share the next chapter in our Canadian history together."

The TRC was also at the Key First Nation and Prince Albert in January. It is to host hearings at Pelican Narrows from February 13-14 and Stony Rapids February 16-17. It will return to Saskatchewan for a three-day hearing in Onion Lake on April 3-5.

In May the commission will host a two-day event in Fort Qu'Appelle May 14-15 and another in Buffalo Narrows on May 17-18.

There are also events to be held in North Battleford, Beauval and Ile-a-la-Crosse, but those dates have yet to be announced.

Further information on the TRC can be found on its website (www.trc.ca).

Residential school survivors will soon have an opportunity to share their stories. In preparation for the Saskatchewan National Event that is to happen in June in Saskatoon, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be hosting 12 community hearings.

The first of the hearings took place at the First Nations University of Canada.

For three days a large crowd gathered in the atrium of the university – the smell of sweetgrass lingered in the air – as one-by-one survivors recounted their experiences to the TRC. The mood was sombre, many tears were shed by survivors and those in the crowd.

However, during the breaks people gathered in groups sitting, talking and visiting.

Marie Wilson, one of the commissioners, said that type of bonding is something she has witnessed time and

Where The Blood Mixes carries powerful message

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company concludes its 2011/2012 season with the 2009 Governor General Award winning play *Where the Blood Mixes*, written by Kevin Loring.

The play also marks the first full season with Alan Long as SNTC's general manager.

"January was my one-year anniversary and 2011 was a year of renewal for SNTC in which we have made excellent progress as an organization," Long said from his office at Troupe de Jour in Saskatoon.

"We love our new home on 20th and our strong relationships with sponsors and funders that are key to our viability as a charitable organization. We have added seven new board members and created a voting membership base."

And as far as business goes, attendance has been growing steadily throughout the season, something Long hopes *Where the Blood Mixes* will

benefit from.

"SNTC is extremely excited to present this powerful work from one of the hottest Aboriginal artists in Canada (Loring).

"We know that this play, which has a lot to say about residential school issues, will stick with our audience for a long time after the curtain closes," Long said.

Where the Blood Mixes features Saskatoon thespians Kent Allen and Robert Benz acting along side SNTC alumni Curtis Peeteetuce and Muskeg Lake's Carol Greyeyes.

Falen Johnson rounds out the cast. An added bonus is live music performed by Saskatoon musician Lindsay Knight.

Long is so excited for this play, he admits it's already influenced next season.

"Curtis (Peeteetuce, SNTC's artistic director) and I are already planning the next season which also promises to bring strong professional work, rooted in Aboriginal culture, language and history."

For tickets to *Where the Blood Mixes*, call (306) 384-7727 or go to www.sntc.ca

Tattoo artists compiling impressive body of work

I love tattoos. I love having tattoos and I will probably add to my existing ... yes, body ... of artwork. Tattoos can be such interesting, creative pieces of art.

I wondered how many talented, professional Aboriginal tattoo artists were in Saskatchewan, so I asked around on Facebook. Two artists came highly recommended by many different people, so I was very excited when they both agreed to do interviews!

Howie Adams, from Fond Du Lac, opened Rockstar Tattoos in North Battleford in November of last year and has already been making a name for himself. People have booked with him from across Canada, probably due in large part to people noticing his work on others.



Brad Tinker at work in Prince Albert.

It makes sense, as tattoos are a constant source of advertising. These living, breathing works of art can make

a tattoo artist a star, if done right. However, Adams is always improving his work. He's constantly looking around to see what other tattoo artists have done, seeking out inspiration.

"When you see someone else's work and it just wows you, you just start thinking 'I wish I could do something like that.' That inspires you to become better at your work," says Adams.

Adams has been tattooing since he was 16 years old. His first piece was a tattoo on his own arm, and it marked a passion that would continue to linger in the back of his mind for many years. He pursued art school and is experienced in airbrushing, oil and acrylic. He graduated from Vancouver Animation School in 2001 and his artwork has been sold throughout Canada. He still doodles and draws quite a bit, and he hopes to tattoo more of his own freehand work, though he is quite happy to oblige a client who brings in a design of their choosing.

Most clients know what they want before they tattoo, he says. However, he does caution younger clients who don't understand the long-term implications of their choices: "Be smart, start small. Put it in a place where you can hide it, if you need to, for work. No names – unless it's a memorial tattoo."

As the owner of one of only two tattoo shops in North Battleford, Adams gets a steady stream of clients, though he's occasionally able to take walk-ins. If you would like to book a tattoo with Howie Adams, call his shop at: (306)



937-3698, or drop in at: 10201 11th Ave, North Battleford.

See his portfolio at: www.rockstartattoos.ca or on Facebook:

Rockstar Tattoos, North Battleford.

Brad Tinker, from Pinehouse, was in the mining industry for 17 years, but was always into art. He's a mixed medium artist who does sculptures, painting, airbrush, and pencil drawings, as well as tattoos. Several years ago, after he learned how to tattoo, Tinker and his partner, Wiggy, quickly opened up a shop. Their Prince Albert business is called PA Custom Tattooing.

Tinker strongly recommends anyone interested in tattooing get an



A beautiful sample of Howie Adams's work.

apprenticeship. He travelled, went to conventions, took seminars with renowned artists, met artists from all over the world, and he also studied the art on his own, but that gets costly.

Interestingly, Tinker has no tattoos of his own. He likes being different, but he loves tattoos on other people.

"Sometimes when I finish a piece, I wish it was mine," confesses Tinker. Once he ran 'dry lines' on himself – using the tattoo gun minus ink – so that he could understand the pain clients feel, although clients have repeatedly told him he's very sensitive and a great listener.

Tinker loves doing memorial tattoos and portraits. Consultations with clients are a necessary part of direction.

"I plan it out from the get go," says Tinker. "I break a client's body parts down like canvas. I don't frame any of my work. I have ends that are feathered off, so if you do decide to add to it, it's not random pieces all over your body. If you get tattooed from me in the beginning, all my work will flow. I won't just put stamps all over you and make it a sleeve. The plan will be right from Day 1."

In his spare time, Tinker loves to spend time with his wife of 12 years and their three beautiful kids.

"I left a job that paid me a lot of money for only working five months. I left that job to come and do a job that I love," says Tinker.

To book a tattoo with Brad Tinker, call PA Ink Custom Tattooing at (306) 764-3994, or stop by their store at: 160-B 17th Street West, Prince Albert.

See their portfolio on Facebook: PA Ink Custom Tattooing.

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think could be featured in Eagle Feather News, give me a shout at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com. See you next month!

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United Way surpassed lofty objective in 2011

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

When Cornelia Laliberte and the rest of the United Way's campaign cabinet set its most recent campaign target for the 2011 Community Campaign, they knew they were setting a lofty goal, but one they were sure was attainable.

"We were underestimating and being conservative" in past campaigns, says Laliberte, who is finishing up her term as chair of the United Way's Board of Directors, after being on the board for six years.

When Laliberte joined the board six years ago, the United Way's campaign raised \$3.3 million. Last year, a campaign goal was set at \$5.1 million, and \$5.7 million was raised. That's why this time around, she says the campaign cabinet members wanted to set a realistic goal and not underestimate the donations.

She says the campaign cabinet met every two weeks, where it would crunch the numbers to determine just how the campaign was going.

"There were a couple of meetings where we were getting a little nervous," she chuckles.

There was no need to be nervous. The campaign goal was to reach \$6.2 million. When the numbers were tallied, more than \$6.37 million was raised, which is the largest-ever Community Campaign for United Way of Saskatoon and area.

Laliberte says the success of the campaign was in large part due to the top accounts. Forty per cent of donations came from the top four contributors: Cameco and the United Steel Workers (USW) Local 8914; PotashCorp and USW Locals 7458, 7689, and 189; Agrium and USW Local 7552; and Mosaic Potash Colonsay and USW local 7656.

And, for this year's campaign, Cameco Corporation raised more than \$1 million. The company began contributing significantly to the United Way in 2004. Three years ago, it reached "Once in a Million" status



Cornelia Laliberte was confident the United Way would reach its lofty objective in 2011.

after raising a total of \$1 million over a series of campaigns. Two years ago, it reached the \$2 million milestone.

"Because of our achievement, we can admit three to five funded agencies this year," notes Laliberte. She says right now a short-list is being prepared from 20 agencies that applied. Laliberte is happy to point out that now it's standard practice to ask agencies what kind of impact they have on Aboriginal people in Saskatoon.

Prior to this campaign, 2008 was the last time agencies were admitted, and then it was five. Laliberte believes it had been about 10 years prior that any agencies were admitted. The Board hopes to admit these newest agencies by March.

Laliberte is most excited when she talks about the Strength of Spirit advisory committee that was established in 2006. Since its inception, Laliberte has chaired the committee, which made the recommendation to increase funding to Aboriginal organizations or any organization that can illustrate it has a positive impact on the Aboriginal community.

"It's more work to do," says Laliberte, "but I'm

pleased we're working on it."

Because Laliberte is chair, she has served on most of the board's committees, as well as chairing the Allocation Committee, which is the one that will determine which agencies will benefit from the latest campaign dollars.

Laliberte has been busy. With the latest campaign, there were meetings every two weeks from March 2011 until just last month, plus the monthly board meetings and any committee meetings.

As Laliberte's time with the Board draws closer to an end, she says getting a chance to really know and understand what the agencies do has been the most enjoyable part of her time with the United Way Board.

"I got to see what impact the dollars raised has," she explains.

Because of being on the Allocation Committee, she visited many of the agencies in person. She's proud of the wide variety that has been helped, whether it's the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre, or the Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan.

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Students build home for Whitecap family

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

On a freakishly cold morning in Saskatoon, a group of high school students brought a little warmth into the world. Actually it was a lot of warmth.

In the form of their latest 'shop' project.

But instead of tables, shelves or spoon holders, these young people were showing off a house they built. It's a house a family from Whitecap Dakota First Nation will live in.

Fittingly, PotashCorp Centre at Mount Royal Collegiate was packed with politicians, education reps, proud parents and throngs of media types. And as the brand new house posed ominously in the backdrop, a spontaneous theme emerged: "I wish I had this when I was in high school."

Mount Royal Principal Bruce Bradshaw said it. Saskatoon Board of Education Director George Rathwell agreed. The Board's Chair Ray Morrison couldn't resist either.

"I made a lamp in shop class," Rathwell joked.

Fourteen students from six schools across Saskatoon participated in H-CAP – the High School Carpentry Apprenticeship Program. They started in September and did it all: concrete foundations and finishing,

framing, roofing, plumbing, tile setting, carpentry, electrical, dry walling, mudding/taping, insulating, glass work and painting.

Four months later they had a finished house to present. Through a partnership between the Saskatoon Board of Education and Whitecap Dakota First Nation, the

it evolved into "the satisfaction of knowing you put a hard day's work in."

He also learned something very important to achieving successful career in finishing carpentry.

"This is where it's good to have a woman's touch," he said with a shy smile. "Everything has to be pretty."

family will live in it."

Chief Bear went on to say projects like this fit well with Whitecap's current and future housing needs.

"Of the 500 employees who commute to work in Whitecap, 250 said they would live there if they could."

H-CAP not only addresses the need for



To help cut the ribbon, there was from left to right H-CAP teacher Rob Fraser, MLA Jennifer Campeau, Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear, Senator Melvin Littlecrow, H-CAP student Michael Munro, Saskatoon Board of Education Chair Ray Morrison & Director George Rathwell.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

house was presented to Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear.

Michael Munro was one of the students in H-CAP. He admitted to initially thinking of the project as an easy credit but

Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear said there is already a basement ready for the house.

"It will be added to Whitecap Housing Corporation's rental stock. It'll be advertised, people will apply for it and a working

housing, it also addresses the shortage of skilled tradespeople in Saskatchewan.

The 14 students who completed H-CAP can now challenge their first year apprenticeship exam.

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\$10-billion lawsuit about justice: Pratt

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

The George Gordon First Nation has launched a \$10-billion claim against the federal and provincial governments. In a prepared statement, Chief Glen Pratt said the lawsuit was about justice.

"As a people we are sick and tired of being cheated out of the wealth that rightly belongs to us under our treaty and Canadian and international law," he added.

The suit served on Jan. 10, alleges Canada and Saskatchewan improperly denied George Gordon access to billions of dollars worth of potash and oil and gas lands through misconduct by both levels of government throughout the George Gordon Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreement process. The agreement was entered into by all three parties on Aug. 11, 2008.

"The general tenor of the lawsuit is that George Gordon First Nation, like many First Nations in Saskatchewan, are still owed land by Canada and Saskatchewan and before disposing of valuable oil and gas or potash lands to third parties ... that there's an obligation on the governments to find out from the First Nations whether they are interested in acquiring those lands first, which they did not do," said Jeffrey R. W. Rath, an Alberta-based lawyer, who is representing the First Nation.

The leadership of George Gordon is raising a number of issues and concerns about two mines near the reserve and on land located in its traditional territory. One is an underground potash mine called the Jansen Project owned by BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc., a member of BHP Billiton Group of Companies. The mine is located 75.4 kilometres away from Punnichy, where George Gordon is located.

Rath said George Gordon had the right to select the lands in question.

Also in July 2008, Acron Joint Stock Company (Acron), acquired the majority shares of a Saskatchewan Corporation, which owns the rights to vast potassium deposits in lands bordering on the George Gordon reserve lands.

According to Rath, the \$10-billion-figure was achieved through economists and experts.

"We're looking at just the cost of development," said Rath.

"The cost for the BHP mine is somewhere around \$8 billion. What we were advised by the experts we consulted in drafting the statement of claim is that it's the value of resources George Gordon was not provided as a result of Canada and Saskatchewan's actions. It could potentially reach that amount if you're looking at oil and gas lands or potash lands or whatever it is.

"Then economic losses as well, certainly there are different multipliers and calculations that goes into figuring out what a First Nation loses by not being able to assess taxes and royalties against people developing these resources."

The George Gordon First Nation further alleges that Canada acted unconstitutionally by not counting all of its members or potential members in the settlement as would now be required following amendments to the Indian Act under Bill C-3 in January of 2011.

The Province intends to fight the action.

"At this point I can just say that we are confident in the Province's constitutional authority to be able to manage and control the natural resources of the province, and we'll be defending the lawsuit vigorously," said Lindsay Rabyj, communications director at Saskatchewan Justice.

A spokesperson for the federal government was to review the claim and said that a statement of defence would be filed in due course.

A statement of claim contains allegations that have not yet been proven in court.



Gordon First Nation Chief Glen Pratt

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This Month: What Is Canada's Plan?

Q. What is Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel?

A. Canada's plan involves the construction of a national repository for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel, which is a waste product from the generation of electricity in nuclear power plants. It also involves the development of a used fuel transportation system and construction of a centre of expertise that will be a hub for national and international collaboration. Canada's plan is called Adaptive Phased Management.

The plan requires that used nuclear fuel be contained and isolated in a deep geological repository in a suitable rock formation. Used fuel will be safely and securely contained and isolated from people and the environment in the repository using a multiple-barrier system. This approach is the culmination of more than 30 years of research, development and demonstration of technologies and techniques in Canada, the United States, Switzerland, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Deep geological repositories have been constructed and are operating around the world for various types of radioactive wastes.

A fundamental tenet of Canada's plan is the incorporation of learning and knowledge at each step, to guide a process of phased decision-making. The plan builds in flexibility to adjust the plan if needed.

The plan will be implemented over several decades. Over this period of time, we may experience changes in the values and preferences of Canadian society, and advancements in knowledge and technologies. Adaptive Phased Management is designed to be flexible to ensure new learning and social priorities are incorporated in Canada's plan and to allow this plan to adapt to other changes we may encounter along the way.

The site selection process that is currently underway is designed to ensure that any community that is selected to host this high-technology, national infrastructure facility is both informed about the project and willing to host it. The siting process is also designed to ensure that surrounding communities, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit who will potentially be affected by the implementation of this project, are involved in project assessment and planning.

Q. How was this plan developed?

A. The design of Adaptive Phased Management emerged through a three-year study and dialogue with Canadians about a range of management options (2002–2005). The study engaged thousands of citizens, specialists and Aboriginal peoples in every province and territory. The plan was selected as Canada's plan by the Government of Canada in 2007.

Q. Why is this plan needed?

A. For decades Canadians have been using electricity generated by nuclear power reactors in Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec. When used nuclear fuel is removed from a reactor, it remains a potential health risk for many hundreds of thousands of years and must be safely isolated from people and the environment, essentially indefinitely.

Today Canada's used nuclear fuel is safely stored on an interim basis at licensed facilities located where it is produced. Like many other countries with nuclear power programs, Canada is planning for the future. Ensuring the long-term, safe and secure management of used nuclear fuel is an important responsibility we, as Canadians, share.



Jo-Ann Facella is the Director of Social Research and Dialogue at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. She has worked for prominent public opinion firms (Gallup Canada and Goldfarb Consultants) and as Senior Advisor at Ontario Power Generation before joining the NWMO in 2002. Over the past 20 years, her work has focused on public involvement in policy making, and in particular, societal needs and expectations concerning the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Ms. Facella has a master's degree in Political Science.

"Ask the NWMO" is an advertising feature published regularly in this and other community newspapers to respond to readers' questions about Canada's plan for managing used nuclear fuel over the long term and its implementation. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization welcomes your questions. Please forward your questions to askthenwmo@nwmo.ca.



www.nwmo.ca

Kawacatoose stepping into potash industry

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

The Kawacatoose First Nation is planning on delving into the potash mining business but is willing to share the wealth.

Chief Darin Poorman announced in January that a partnership agreement has been reached between Kawacatoose and Native American Resource Partners (NARP) to develop the band's potash resources.

"We're going to move forward as a collective not just as Kawacatoose," Poorman said.

The Chief said to expect an announcement sometime in the future regarding a coalition of other First Nations that plan to become part of the partnership.

"I believe in the collective approach," said Poorman. "I believe we can do things as one voice as First Nations people. I think that's the way to move forward. We have to start doing things for ourselves."

Once it was decided that NARP was the company that fit the criteria, Poorman began spreading the word to other First Nations. He said the momentum is strong.

"We still have some that are skeptical but that's how we are as First Nations," said Poorman. "We don't move into anything until we are absolutely sure because we always have to remember the children yet unborn, as our forefathers did with the treaties."

"We still enjoy the benefits because they thought about (future generations) and leadership have to keep that concept in (mind)."

He believes this venture will stand the test of time and create a brighter future for First Nations people, because there is power in numbers. Poorman said as First Nations person he's not confined to his own reserve. He has relatives from other parts of the province and he's hunted on other reserves. It's about sharing with one another and that need to help one another is what motivated him to try to form a coalition of First Nations invested in the project.

Poorman said in the end it may mean Kawacatoose's share may decrease as more First Nations join but it also means more First Nations will benefit from the proposed project.

• Continued on Page 20



Will this be the view that potash miners see at the Kawacatoose potash mine? (EFN File photo)

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<p>CAREER PRESENTATION</p> <p>March 13 at 6 PM SIAST, Wascana Campus 4500 Wascana Parkway, room 619 Regina, SK</p>	<p>PRESENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES</p> <p>13 mars à 18 h SIAST, campus Wascana 4500, promenade Wascana, salle 619 Regina (SK)</p>

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Kawacatoose sitting on rich deposits: Poorman



Chief Darin Poorman

• Continued from Page 19

He said potash mining is going on all around them but Kawacatoose hasn't been a part of it.

"We know we have the resources," said Poorman. "We know we sit on the richest deposits of potash based on some of the drilling that has been done in our area."

He said the deal with NARP wasn't a deal that was entered into lightly.

Companies from as far away as China and India approached the First Nation all hoping to develop the natural resources.

With so much interest in Kawacatoose's resources, the leadership knew it was time to act.

It was decided that their best course of action would be to hire experts and research each of the companies.

Poorman said it was very important to take time to choose the right company.

"It wasn't like we did this in 10 days," he said. "This happened over a two-year period."

NARP was selected by Kawacatoose."

It is a Canada-U.S. private investment firm, which only serves First Nations by providing capital so First Nations can develop their own natural resource

projects. It has offices in Saskatoon, Calgary and Salt Lake City.

John Jurrius, CEO of NARP, said a lot of research is done before it enters into any project.

"After researching the potash industry for over three years we decided it was a sector we were comfortable with moving into," said Jurrius. "With three major potash players in the province, over \$100 billion in market assets, almost \$10 billion annually in revenues and you look around at the 39-million acre potash belt there is not one acre of First Nation land involved in any of these mines."

He said the potential is there for First Nations in

Saskatchewan to be a part of the industry and that's why his company is willing to partner with Kawacatoose.

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Castle Glass artists breaking new ground

By Darla Rread
For Eagle Feather News

Gary Natomagan has been an artist for more than 25 years, but it was only recently he began creating pieces of art in glass.

Self-taught, he draws his inspiration from growing up on the trapline.

Natomagan has done a lot of work with animals from Northern Saskatchewan. He says there are many other animals he'd now like to try to produce on glass, such as African animals.

When he was introduced to Castle Designer Glass owner Janet Parkinson, he had never worked with glass before, but discovered he enjoyed the process, particularly texturing glass.

"I like doing something new," he says, "instead of just using a pen."

Parkinson says Natomagan's glass art has made its way into homes and businesses in Saskatoon and surrounding area, and says he has mastered techniques in glass slumping, fusing and back-painting.

Parkinson started Castle Designer Glass in October of 2009. She wanted to

showcase the unique glass 'slumping' process to potential clients.

Slumping is where glass is heated enough to make it sag or 'slump' over a mold, but not hot enough to turn it into molten liquid.

"I was driven by my love of glass and the increasing demand for new and exciting designer products for the booming building industry," explains Parkinson, noting glass forms come alive when you add bold, vibrant colours.

Colour isn't something artist Erin Lalonde is used to. The Northern Saskatchewan artist joined Castle Designer Glass earlier this year. Much of her previous work has been in acrylics or oil paints, pencil, or wood carvings.

"Initially, I found (colour) intimidating and overwhelming," she laughs. However, it's part of what Lalonde likes about her new job as a glass artist.

"I like that I'm often out of my comfort zone. I'm always pushing myself to grow and evolve."

There are a variety of glass products produced by Castle Designer Glass that

would be a unique addition to a home, such as backsplashes, counters, free-standing or wall-mounted art, dividers, door inserts, railings, or shower doors and walls. Commercial installations include hotel lobbies, casino wall murals, restaurant and board room feature walls, and glass logos and signs.

Parkinson was influenced at an early age by her father, a landscape and portrait artist.

She says because of that, she has always appreciated many forms of art.

"I am drawn to Aboriginal artists because I believe their use of bold colors and creative artistry speaks to the heart."



Gary Natomagan and Erin Lalonde use their artistic expertise to create magical pieces of art that function as backsplashes, shower doors or counters for Castle Glass. (Photo by Darla Rread)

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Métis Heritage Days

In February, various groups in Canada celebrate their heritage. Such events include Black History Month, and in Saskatchewan, Aboriginal Storytelling Month. All events culminate on February 21, which is Heritage Day in Canada. Of course, heritage days occur throughout the calendar year. Below are some important contemporary and historic Métis-specific heritage days.

January 1: Li jhoor di laan or New Year's Day. On this day, the social event of the year, families got together, and fathers and grandfathers blessed and kissed each child and grandchild (la bénédiction paternelle), then everybody kissed one other, feasted on lii beignes (fried bread), li gallett (bannock), lii boulettes (meatballs), li rababou (stew), and other items, and then continued this tradition with their extended family members throughout the day. The day concluded with all-night dance and fiddle parties.

approached Bishop Grandin to make St. Joseph a distinct patron saint for the Métis. St. Jean Baptiste (St. John the Baptist), the patron saint of French Canadians, remains the Métis' secondary patron saint. On March 19, 1885, Louis Riel and the Batoche Métis established the Provisional Government of the Saskatchewan or the Exovodate.

March 26 (1885): Commemorates the Battle of Duck Lake, a Métis victory over the members of the NWMP and the Prince Albert Volunteers.

April 24 (1885): Commemorates the Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek, a Métis victory over the North West Field Force.

May 9-12 (1885): Commemorates the Battle of Batoche in which the Métis and their First Nations, and Euro-Canadian allies were defeated by the North West Field Force under General Middleton.

May 19 (1906): On this day, Gabriel Dumont, the Adjutant General of the Métis Nation during the 1885 Resistance, died.

day honours Canada's First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

July 1: Is Canada Day. In its original incarnation as "Dominion Day," Métis celebrated this holiday by attending and taking part in various sports days. In Wood Mountain, in province's southwest, the Métis, along with the local Lakota and members of the NWMP, took part in the Wood Mountain Stampede, the oldest continuous rodeo in Canada. The Métis in the Crescent Lake area around Yorkton camped at Saltcoats to celebrate at the annual fair on Dominion Day. Métis in Cumberland House took part in canoe races on Dominion Day, a carryover from various competitive and social events that were tied to the summer solstice since time immemorial.

July 13-14 (1851): On this day the Métis defeated a large group of Dakota at Grand Coteau in what is now North Dakota. By the early 1860s, the Métis and Dakota would conduct a peace treaty.

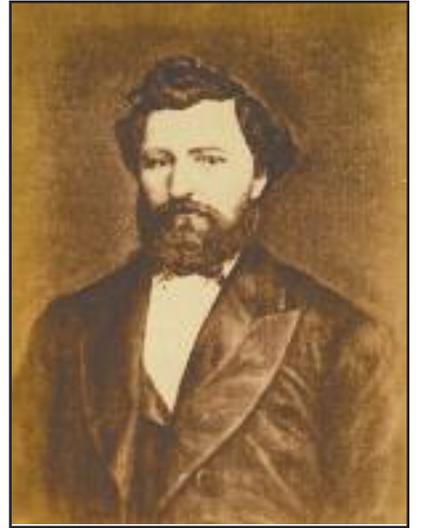
July 15 (1870): The Manitoba Act became law. To Louis Riel and his followers, the act was seen as a pact between the Dominion of Canada and the Métis Nation.

July 15-16: Is the annual pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at St. Laurent de Grandin near Duck Lake. This pilgrimage—which commemorates the "miraculous" cure of Rosalie (née Lépine) Nolin, the wife of Charles Nolin—has been important to the Métis since 1884.

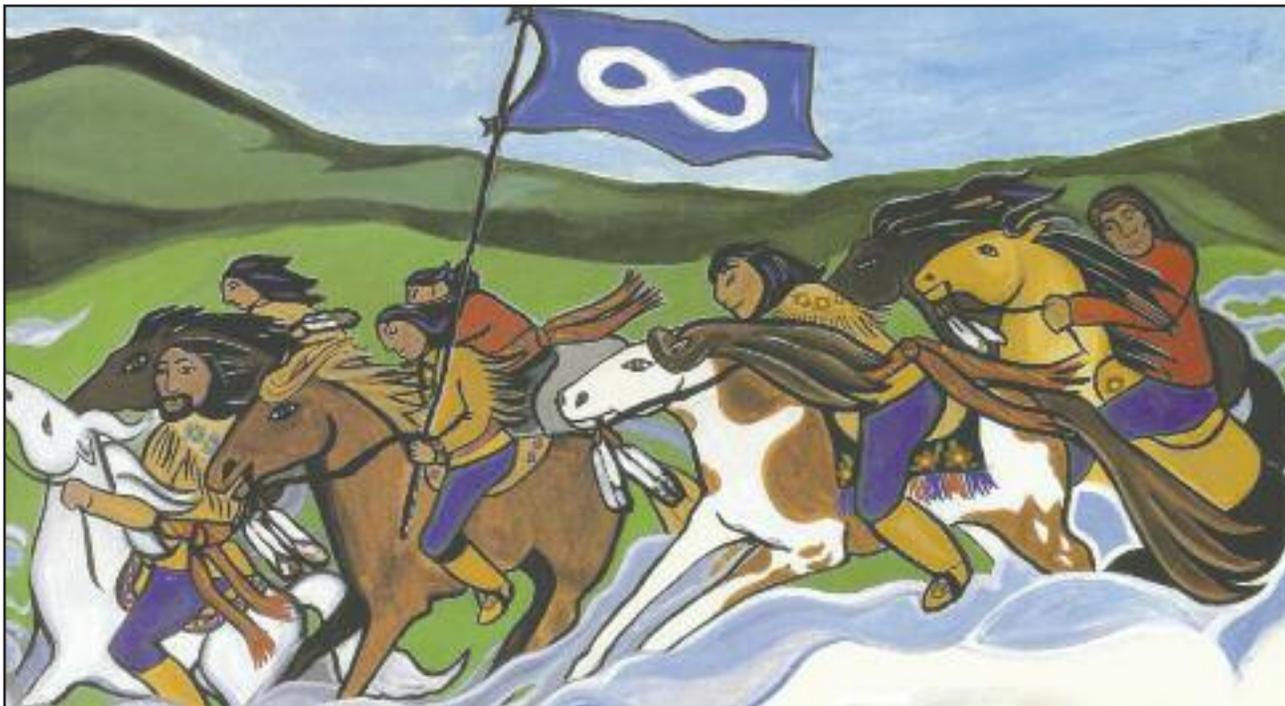
July 17 (1887): The Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba, the oldest Métis organization, was founded in St. Vital, Manitoba. A few years previous, on September 24, 1885, Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont founded the Association nationale des Métis, which later became the Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph.

July (third week): Back to Batoche Days. Since 1971, the modern Back to Batoche celebration has been held at Batoche, although for its first two decades, dates alternated throughout the spring, summer, and fall. It wasn't until the mid-1990s that the event would be held during the third week of July around the time of the original "St. Joseph's Day" celebration.

July 24: Was celebrated by the Métis around



Louis Riel



The Battle of Seven Oaks by Sherry Farrell Racette.

February 4-March 10 to March 22-April: Li karem or Lent is a period of spiritual reflection and self-denial. During Lent, many traditional Métis stories, including those involving li Jiyaab (the Devil), li

Roogaroo (werewolf), Whiitigo (cannibal spirit), and Paakuk (flying skeleton), were often told to ensure that youth would honour their Lenten obligations.

March 19: Is the Feast of St. Joseph—the Patron Saint of the Métis (and of Canada). In August 1884, Louis Riel

May 31 (1816): Was when the Métis infinity/Circle of Eight flag was first documented. On this date, Métis allied to the North West Company under Cuthbert Grant flew this flag in the Qu'Appelle Valley. The Métis flag is the oldest patriotic flag indigenous to Canada.

June 19 (1816): The Métis or the Bois-Brûlés defeated Hudson Bay Company employees at the Battle of Seven Oaks. The Métis raconteur Pierre "Pierriche" Falcon soon chronicled the Métis victory in his famous song "la chanson de la grenouillère/gournouillère" ("The Battle of Frog Plain")—the oldest patriotic song to have originated in Canada.

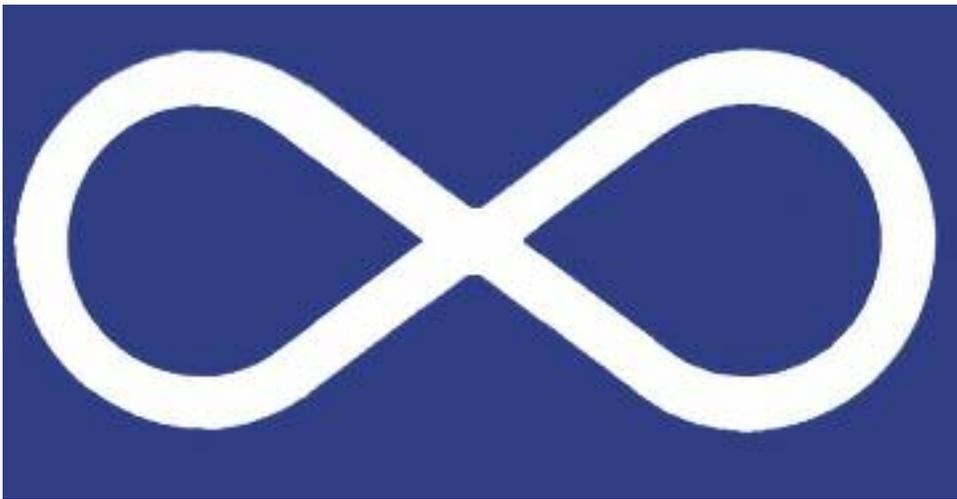
June 21: Is National Aboriginal Day in Canada. First celebrated in 1996, this



Pierre Falcon



Midnight Mass at Batoche, Armand Paquette, Parks Canada.



November 16 most important day on Métis calendar

Batoche as “St. Joseph’s Day” or “la fête nationale.” In 1884, Batoche area Métis inaugurated this day as a national Métis holiday. From 1886 until 1958, St. Joseph’s Day was celebrated at Batoche, although its Michif-French character had started to erode



during the 1930s. St. Joseph is the Métis’ patron saint, and not surprisingly, the celebration focused on a feast (an ox was “hunted” in the fashion of the plains bison hunts), a mass, and a country fair with music and dancing. Men participated in horseracing, shooting, and arm wrestling contests while women displayed their embroidery, quilting, rug hooking, sash weaving, and crocheting.

November 16: Louis Riel Day. On November 16, 1885, Louis Riel was executed for treason by the Canadian state. Every November 16, Métis across Canada celebrate Riel’s life, and honour his sacrifice on this day, which is not to be confused with Manitoba’s statutory holiday in February which also has the same name. Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, states that “November 16 is the most important day on the calendar of the Métis Nation. It was on this day in 1885 that our

fearless leader Louis Riel, was executed for defending the rights of his people, the Métis.” Ironically, November 16 is also the International Day for Tolerance.

December 24: Li réveillon was the meal that Métis families traditionally held after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Li réveillon was also celebrated on New Year’s Eve, but this was more a social event, and was comprised of various extended families rather than the Christmas Eve gathering, which focused more on nuclear families.

– Article by Darren R. Prefontaine



Cumberland House canoe races...photo from the Louis Dorion archives.



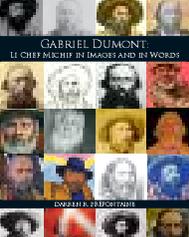
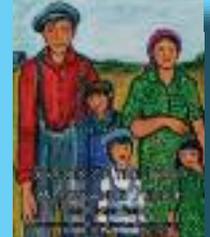
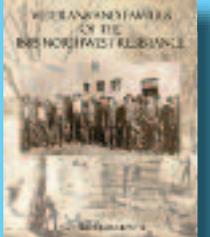
These dancers rocked at Back to Batoche in 2004. (Photo GDI)

Image Credits: Gabriel Dumont Institute Archival Collection (Gabriel Dumont, Louis Riel, Blue Infinity Flag, Back to Batoche 2004, Cumberland House Canoe Races, Battle of Seven Oaks by Sherry Farrell Racette); Parks Canada (Midnight Mass at Batoche by Armand Paquette), and the Archives of Manitoba (Pierre Falcon)



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Saskatchewan students join national protest against rising fees

By Creeson Agecutay
For Eagle Feather News



Hundreds of students from the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada marched to demand better funding for post secondary education.

(Photo by Creeson Agecutay)

Thousands of university students from across Canada came together as one on February 1 during the National Day of Action. They voiced their concerns to the government.

The nationwide rally was called, "All Out On February 1st". At the University of Regina dozens of students from all backgrounds rallied through the halls carrying signs that read, "Reduce Tuition Fees", "Drop Student Debt", while shouting, "We gotta beat back the Harper attack."

Daphne Kay from Cowessess First Nation was among them and believes that this day is important for her and the future of many.

"If we make enough noise today, we're going to make the federal government rethink what they're trying to do to our post-secondary education for all students, not just Aboriginal students," Kay said.

Like Kay, many First Nation students, oppose the two per cent cap on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP). PSSSP provides financial assistance to all Status Indian and Inuit students who are enrolled in a post-secondary program but not all students are approved funding.

Since 1996, the government has limited funding to thousands of First Nation students who want to attend university. Wait lists are long and many potential students will never attend university.

Canadian Federation of Students Saskatchewan chairperson, Haanim Nur, believes the cap is unfair to many present and future First Nation students.

"There are students who have a Grade 12 diploma and an acceptance letter from a post-secondary institution but they're being denied funding to walk through the front doors of (the University of Regina)," said Nur.

Patrick Smoke, the Aboriginal representative for the Canadian Federation of Students echoes Nur's message.

"Currently, 10,000 students in Canada who are entitled to funding do not receive funding at all. One thousand of those students live in Saskatchewan. This is not just an Aboriginal issue, this is a Canadian issue and we need the support of everyone if we're ever going to make a change."

Students ended their march at the First Nations University with speeches from Chief Perry Bellegarde and Veteran Tony Cote, among other dignitaries. Cadmus Delorme, president of the FNUniv Students Association hopes that the student's message is loud enough to reach Parliament Hill and abroad.

"We want to educate the public, the unions, the educators, the politicians about the realities of today. Education is the key to success for anybody in this world. The economy has turned into a service world and education gets you that professional service," Delorme said.

Rising tuition fees, overwhelming student debt and underfunded post-secondary institutions were also a hot issue at the rally.

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Sasakamoose, Trottier inducted into Hall

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Hockey Hall of Fame recently announced its first crop of inductees to be enshrined at their headquarters in Swift Current this July.

Six builders, ten players and five teams made the list. Among among them are Fred Sasakamoose and Bryan Trottier.

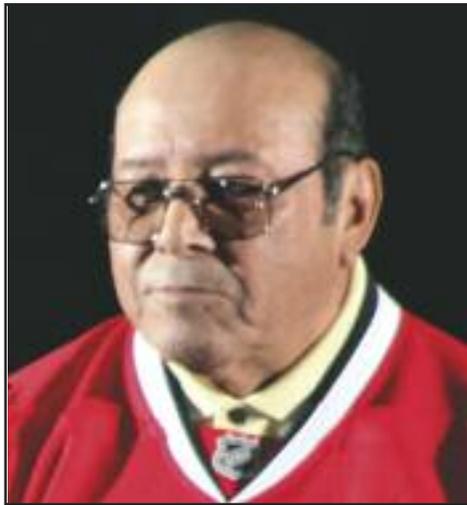
Trottier is Métis and hails from Val Marie. He played minor hockey in Climax before moving up to the junior ranks with the SJHL's Swift Current Broncos.

A natural choice for the Hall, Trottier is already a member of the official Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto and is a seven-time Stanley Cup winner.

His first four Cups were with the famed late '70s and early '80s New York Islander teams that featured Mike Bossy, Billy Smith and Denis Potvin.

Then he won hockey's biggest trophy twice with Mario Lemieux and the Pittsburgh Penguins and another with the Colorado Avalanche as an assistant coach.

Trottier has won the Calder, Art Ross, Conn Smythe and Hart trophies and was selected as an all-star 12 times. In other



Fred Sasakamoose

words, he's hockey royalty.

Sasakamoose was more of an unconventional choice. His NHL career lasted a total of 11 games with the '53-54 Chicago Blackhawks. But those 11 games broke a barrier. Sasakamoose was the first full blooded Indian to play in the show.

Fittingly, the guy from Ahtahkakoop is a First Nations hockey hero. He is the guy Foster Hewitt once asked "how the hell do you say your name?" The guy who high-tailed 'er home to be with his sweetheart after a whirlwind trip to the Bigs. The guy who blew a hole right through the color



Bryan Trottier

barrier for Aboriginal hockey players like Bryan Trottier – one of hockey's best ever.

In fact, many people, including the likes of Steve Yzerman, believe Trottier is

the greatest player of all-time. Even better than Howe and Gretzky, some suggest.

Saskatchewan Hockey Hall of Fame inaugural inductees:

BUILDERS: Gordon Jukes, Ed Chynoweth, Athol Murray, Doc Seaman, Bill Hunter, Grassroots Contributors Bill Ford

PLAYERS: Gordie Howe, Sid Abel, Glenn Hall, Johnny Bower, Fred Sasakamoose, Metro Prystai, Bryan Trottier, Max Bentley, Doug Bentley, Elmer Lach

TEAMS: 1982-83 University of Saskatchewan Huskies, 1974 Regina Pats, 1985 Prince Albert Raiders, 1989 Swift Current Broncos, 1955-64 Semans Wheat Kings

OFFICIALS: Dennis Pottage

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NEW FUNDING DEADLINES

Funding Available for Cultural Activity

SaskCulture offers a variety of funding programs to support cultural activity in communities throughout Saskatchewan.

Métis Cultural Development Fund
In partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, this fund supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve and pass on the Métis culture and traditions.
New deadlines: April 30, October 31

Aboriginal Arts & Culture Leadership Fund
Aims to increase capacity in Métis and First Nations communities through the development of arts and cultural leadership opportunities involving youth and mentors.
Deadlines: April 15 and October 15

Capacity Building Grant
Supports capacity-building opportunities in existing, new and emerging cultural organizations.
New deadlines: May 7, October 15

Multicultural Initiatives Fund
Supports, multicultural, ethno-cultural and Aboriginal cultural initiatives and activities, as well as initiatives that contribute to the advancement of cultural understanding in Saskatchewan.
New deadlines: March 15, September 30, January 31

For more information, contact Damon Badger Helt at (306) 780-9251 or toll-free at 1-866-476-6830, email: dbheit@saskculture.sk.ca, or visit www.saskculture.sk.ca.

Cultural Activity

CULTURE BUILDS COMMUNITY

War cry of the coward rings hollow

Dirk Dashing lent me, Mr. Answer Guy, the mental resources of his crew, those awesome specimens of manhood called Dirk's Posse.

I asked them what they want from their women on Valentine's Day. I cannot use any of their responses in a newspaper of this quality. Thankfully – or regrettably, as you will soon see – I did receive a couple of responses from alert readers. The first is rather disturbing and it comes from a troubled young lady I will call Laura.

Laura writes, "Mr. Answer Guy, my boyfriend calls me down and sometimes he hits me. He says I make him do these things, but he is always sorry. Why do I keep making him treat me so bad?"

That ain't love, Laura. That is abuse. He's training you to be a thing. And the complaint, "She made me hit her" is just the pathetic war-cry of the coward.

The guy is a loser. Perhaps he was born with a hole running through his soul and he needs a beautiful woman to fill that void with her tears.

But maybe it's your fear of being alone that compels you to stay. Maybe your self worth has been so damaged, so wounded you cannot conceive of deserving good, nurturing love.

Perhaps he inherited a script from his parents that says love is about undermining your woman's power to cover up his laundry-list of failures and character defects – like a sick movie that must be re-enacted over and over.

It may be that he is guilty of things he has done while he has been with you, that you're not even aware of or cannot come to see.

His shame and irresponsibility compete for control, creating a constant state of frustration and rage that can only overwhelm him.

Either way, it cannot be his fault. So he takes it out on you.

Part of you may already know this and, logically, you know you must leave. But maybe it's your fear of being alone that compels you to stay. Maybe your self worth has been so damaged, so wounded you cannot conceive of deserving good, nurturing love.

But perhaps you are so terrified of him you have resigned yourself to living out what remains of your life in a quiet, desolate form of desperation.

As if that weren't bad enough, your kids – if you have any – are learning that that is what love is, that is how mommies and daddies get along, that is normal.

And so the abuse becomes an infection.

We could say the disease acquired at the residential schools, that it is there where we learned that mental, emotional, spiritual and physical violence is the way of relationships. There is truth to that.

But the greater truth is that no woman deserves to be treated that way.

It's scary, Laura, but I wish you the best in reclaiming your power. In doing so I hope you discover how



you got here, so you can save another from the same fate.

There are good men out there, Laura. Men like the huge members of Dirk's Posse who know that a warrior fought for what stood behind him – his family, community and territory – and not for the hate he saw in front of him. Or inside him.

Shalabad Manyfingers of Broadview writes, "When Dirk writes about women is he really writing about the women in his life? 'Cause if he does, he's a moron."

Now hold on here, Dirk may be a moron but ... wait. What?

Dirk never uses the beautiful women in his life as

material for this column. Dirk relies on the brainpower of the Posse, even if some of their ideas are more suited to Penthouse or Playboy.

And Dirk also get great ideas from fans through his email dirkdashing@shaw.ca and his facebook page. And he never uses their real names, Shalabad!

So ladies, your secrets are safe. And thanks for making this life a brighter one with your presence and your patience.

The last word goes to Dwight Glows-With-Feathers who asks, "What is the best Valentine's gift you ever got?"

That would be a card I got from my kids, saying I was the Best Valentine Dad, ever.

Dirk says, "No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes."

Saskatoon Interval House at 244-0185

Regina Women's Community Centre at 522-2777

Iskew, Women Helping Women (PA) at 953-6229



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For information contact: Rory Irving 425-7260 (cell) or 425-4852 (work)

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ALL PROCEEDS TO JRMCC MINOR HOCKEY

Fight continues for Sunshine

Wesley Sunshine

Sport: Boxing

Hometown: Regina

First Nation: Fishing Lake

Member of: Senior Canadian National Team (four years), Saskatchewan

Provincial Team (nine years)

Record: 237 fights 17 losses

Goz: Researching you wasn't easy since your heyday was before the Internet! What it was like traveling around the world with no cell or Internet access??

WS: I remember sending post cards or letters home when I was traveling overseas, and then sometimes getting home before the post cards or letters arrived!

Goz: Best memory of being a member of the National Boxing Team?

WS: When I made the team for the first time at 17. I was training, competing and hanging out with all of the guys I idolized and looked up to. Lennox Lewis, Edgerton Marcus, Raymond Downey, Scotty Olson, Mike Strange, Marc Leduc, Arturo Gatti, Oscar De La Hoya, Vernon Forrest, Ivan Robinson

Goz: A lot of tragedy around the 1989 National team. Any thoughts on why so many young boxers go down tragic roads after their boxing careers end?

WS: I believe people who have been in the spotlight for their talents and abilities, have a difficult time ad-

justing to normalcy after its gone. For me it was difficult because I had a dream, and that dream was going to the Olympic Games to test my skills against the world. There was a lot of pressure and sacrifice leading up to that point in my career. Then in an instant it was gone! What now? You're not that person anymore, your friends aren't the same, you're not treated the same. Everything changes and it's a real blow to your psyche. All of a sudden I felt lost and alone. This is a vicious opponent that we as fighters deal with in many different ways, and unfortunately it usually manifests itself in unproductive habits and risky behavior.

Goz: What did you do immediately after boxing?

WS: I was lucky enough to work for the Ranch Ehrlo Society, a home for clients with a wide range of emotional and social issues. I am still involved in boxing as a coach and share my knowledge with youth that

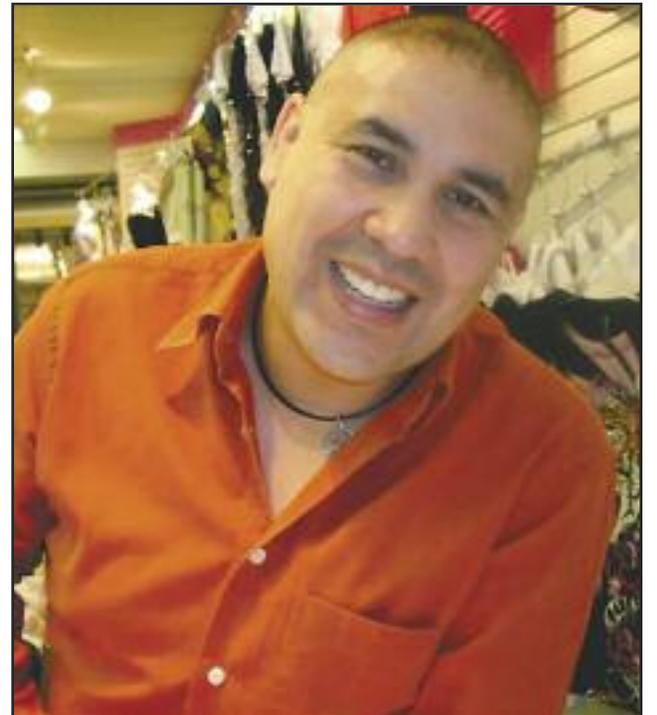
want to learn the sweet science.

Goz: What do you do for work now?

WS: I own a women's clothing store called Alexis Clubwear with my wife Allison. I also had my own boxing gym in the basement of the Aspen Links Golf and Country Club in Emerald Park (but) it burnt to the ground. Everything was lost including some really special boxing memorabilia.

Goz: Toughest opponent you ever faced?

WS: I have had many tough matches all round the globe with the best in the world, but the toughest match I fight today is alcoholism. I have come to rec-



Wesley Sunshine

ognize the seriousness of this disease and its tight grip it has on your soul, credibility, values. It has no social boundaries and destroys people and families from all walks of life. I am dealing with this opponent every day, and will for the rest of my life. I am a fighter and when backed into a corner I come back with a vengeance, so I am determined to gain control over this disease.

Goz: What is the dirtiest thing a fighter did to you in the ring?

WS: I have been pushed, lifted and thrown, choked, spit at, elbowed, head butted, and low blowed. What goes around sometimes comes around.

Goz: Pound for pound the best boxer to ever live?

WS: My idol growing up was Sugar Ray Leonard. He was my inspiration and I admired his speed, skill, technique, and image.

Sports Chat with Mike



want to learn the sweet science.

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Email inquiries: oskanacup@gmail.com

Entry Fees with Payout (Based on PAID Entries)

We accept: Certified or Business Cheques and Money Orders

All Cheques and Money Orders Payable to: Oskana Minor Hockey Development Inc.

Mailing Address: Oskana Minor Hockey Development Inc., PO Box 3727 5th Main, REGINA, SK S4P 3N8

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