

# Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

## 2006 - The Year In Review

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CPMA# 40027204

Eagle Feather News  
Remembering 2006  
Next Month - Health Issue



### A year of sadness, accomplishment and progress

**I**t was a year that some people in Saskatchewan people will never forget, and, yes, 2006 will be one that others will like to purge from their memory banks.

For men like Member of Parliament Gary Merasty - named Eagle Feather News' Newsmaker of the Year - and Lawrence Joseph, the newly elected Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, 2006 can be considered the high points of their distinguished political careers.

The pages of Eagle Feather News have carried the accounts of progress in the fields of business, education, entertainment and health over the last 12 months.

Names like Andrea Menard, the prolific and immensely talented entertainer, and the young leaders such as Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Chief Darcy Bear of Whitecap Dakota First Nation have appeared frequently on our pages, and for good reason.

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# Dumont Institute lands \$22 million to establish new training division

The Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada recently signed a \$22.1 million Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement with the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Under the agreement, Gabriel Dumont Institute will establish a new training and employment arm that will offer a broad range of human resources development programs in rural, Northern and urban Métis communities through 10 new regional delivery offices.

"Canada's New Government is committed to ensuring that Métis people in Saskatchewan can access the services they need to find long-term employment, build stronger communities and increase self-sufficiency," said Minister Skelton. "Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force."

Gabriel Dumont Institute was incorporated in 1980 to serve the educational and cultural needs of Saskatchewan's Métis community. The Institute offers university accredited programming, including the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP), in cooperation with Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Regina. Adult basic education and skills training is offered in communities across the province through Gabriel Dumont Institute's adult upgrading and technical training arm, the Dumont Technical Institute, which is federated with the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

"Métis control and responsibility for Métis human resources development are at the heart of this agreement," said Gabriel Dumont Institute's Vice Chair, Doyle Vermette.

"This agreement is a necessary measure for Métis people to address the economic and social disparities between ourselves and the mainstream population. Not only Métis people will benefit from a highly trained and skilled Métis labour force; so will all residents of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada."

Funding for this agreement is provided through the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy which is designed to expand employment opportunities for Aboriginal people across Canada. Under the Strategy, Aboriginal organizations design and deliver employment programs and services best suited to meeting the unique needs of their communities.

There are currently 80 Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement holders delivering labour market programs and services in over 400 locations across Canada.

With the announcement, there are now two Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements in Saskatchewan: one with Gabriel Dumont Institute to address the employment and training needs of Métis people, and one with the Saskatchewan Indian Training Assessment Group to meet the employment and training needs of First Nations people.

In next month's Eagle Feather News we will bring the complete picture on the impact of this major funding announcement.



## Mountie's death the saddest event of 2006

• Continued from Page One

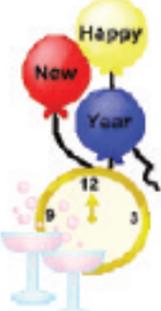
In the sports world, Team Saskatchewan did us all proud by winning gold at the North American Indigenous Games this summer. It was a remarkable accomplishment by our young athletes.

In the courts, progress is finally being made on the thousands of claims from residential school survivors. The year 2006 should go down as a turning point in the history of this scandalous affair. In April, the Minister of Indian Affairs, Jim Prentice, announced the details of a comprehensive compensation package.

On the education front, there was good news and distressing news in 2006. At the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Marie Battiste, Academic Director of the Aboriginal Education Research Centre, played an integral role in the launch of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Unfortunately, the news coming out of Regina was not so positive for the First Nations University of Canada. Turmoil at the once proud institution has cast a pall over the university, one that has been upsetting for everyone connected to the school, particularly students.

Without question, the saddest event of 2006 was the death of RCMP officer Robin Cameron in July. The young Mountie was shot by a fleeing suspect on July 7 and she died several days later. Cameron, 29, was a much loved and respected member of the Beaudry's and Okemasis First Nation near Duck Lake.



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# National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Foundation names 2007 winners

**Toronto** - Fourteen outstanding achievers have been named as recipients of the 2007 Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

They include the CEO of Canada's winning 2010 Olympic bid, the producer of one of Canada's longest-running TV series, a world-class diver and 11 other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit role models of people who converted their potential into success.

"The 2007 award winners are an amazing celebration of achievement," said Roberta Jamieson, CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

"We invite all Canadians to join us in recognizing these outstanding persons who have contributed so much to Canada and the world.

The awards will be presented at a gala event in Edmonton next March and will be televised on both Global and APTN."

The Foundation is delighted that Adam Beach, most recently seen in *Flags of Our Fathers*, will host the awards while Jennifer Podemski – prominent producer, actor and writer is the Creative Producer.

Juno award winners, Gemini-nominated actors, and a slate of talent that reads like the who's who of Aboriginal Canadian entertainers will honour the recipients with performances at the 14th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards on March 16, 2007 in Edmonton at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

The recipients and their categories for the 14th annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards are:

**Joanne Cardinal Schubert** – Arts  
...a writer, curator, lecturer, poet and Aboriginal arts activist, Cardinal-Schubert inspires and enables Native artists across the continent to challenge and reclaim their creative identities.

**Jack Poole** – Business and Commerce  
...is credited with bringing the 2010 Olympics to Canada and it's little surprise Poole's been called a cautious optimist, a visionary and a modest overachiever, it's what help shape him into becoming one of the most successful real estate developers and community builders in North America.

**Alestine Andre** – Cultural, Heritage and Spirituality  
...a Heritage Researcher for her community she successfully combines her gifts of Gwich'in traditional knowledge with that of Western Science.

**Joe Michel** – Education  
...one of the most outspoken advocates and leaders on Aboriginal education in the country.

Michel has gone on to develop curriculum for linguistic courses in universities and played a major role in reviving the near extinct Secwepemc language back into the schools.

**Chief David Walkem** – Environment  
...builds communication bridges with developers and forestry companies that allow Aboriginal people to benefit from the business of forestry but also allow the land to regenerate and renew.

**Joe Couture** – Health  
...as the first Aboriginal person to receive a Ph.D in psychology, Dr. Joe, as

he is affectionately known, has not only built bridges of understanding between two cultures but has systematically affected generations of educators and students with his straightforward and profound traditional healing methods.

**Hugh Braker** – Law and Justice  
...the first Nu Cha Nulth lawyer in the country, has been the Director of Self Government for the Assembly of First Nations, and is renowned for his work on Aboriginal child welfare law and protecting Aboriginal children.

**Bertha Clark Jones** – Lifetime Achievement  
...always spoke out for the underdog and moved women's rights groups

ability to share what he's learned through nationally syndicated columns, programming university research projects and combining his family's wisdom with that of his ongoing quest to further his knowledge.

The recipients are selected by a national jury comprised of past award recipients and individuals representing First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples from diverse geographic regions of Canada and areas of the economy.

The awards are produced by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Canada's leading Aboriginal charity dedicated to providing financial assistance to Aboriginal students for post-

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## Celebrated actor Adam Beach to host Aboriginal Awards in Edmonton

While Oscar-buzz surrounds Adam Beach, one of Canada's top actors, the Aboriginal star has signed on as host to hand out the highest honours in the Aboriginal community at the 14th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in March 2007.

"I am so proud to be a part of the Aboriginal Achievement Awards, it is an opportunity for us to reflect the amazing success and talent in our community and we are so lucky to have Adam Beach hosting. So many people look up to him as a role model, since I have known him he has always put his

community first and his commitment to the awards is a testament to that," says the awards' Creative Producer, Jennifer Podemski, a celebrity in her own right. Jennifer, an award winning producer and celebrated actor, co-stars with Adam in the upcoming series *Moose TV*, due to hit the small screen in the spring.

With Adam's intense schedule, taking him to places like Palm Springs and Italy, he still has found time to give back to his community by taking on the commitment to host the awards.

forward by strides when she founded the Alberta Native Women's Voices in the late 1960s.

That organization blossomed to become the Native Women's Association of Canada, a powerful voice for Native women in the country.

**Lisa Meeches** – Media and Communications  
...helped lead Aboriginal media into the mainstream by exposing the 'truth', Meeches buries old prejudices and opens minds with her meaningful and traditional-based approach to television production.

**Freddie Carmichael** – Politics  
...currently a second-term President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council piloting the direction for a successful cultural and socio-economic future which includes building a foundation for self-government.

**Lewis Cardinal** – Public Service  
...is designing education systems that integrate traditional knowledge, and is involved on an international level in a global forum where the world's Indigenous peoples meet to share, discuss and participate in building a more sustainable future for everyone.

**Wegadesk Gorup-Paul** – Sports  
...a champion diver who began a diving career at age 12, Gorup-Paul is stirring up the waters in the world competitive diving world. He's traveled the globe competing against the sports' top divers in the Pan Am Games, the Commonwealth Games and even the South African National Championships.

**Monica Peters** – Technology and Trades  
...Indigenous languages are at risk. By combining modern technology with ancient words she built an instrument that not only gave her identity but has the potential to save threatened languages of the world.

**James Makokis** – Youth  
...his love for his community and his desire to learn the wisdom of his ancestors that drives his passion. It's his unique

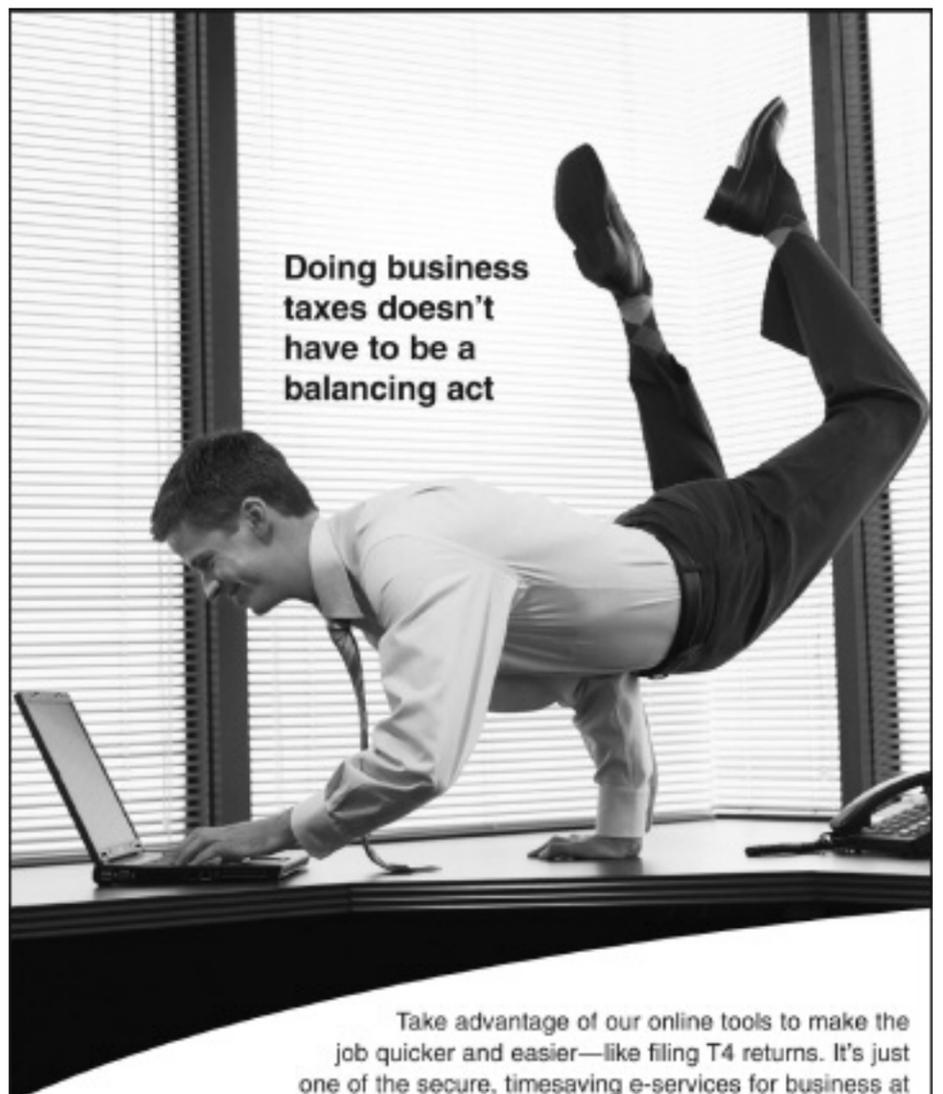
secondary education. Since 1985, the Foundation has awarded more than \$22 million in scholarships to deserving students across the country for all disciplines, including law, medicine, education, psychology, fine arts, business, and computer sciences.

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# Monkey no longer playing second banana in forecasting biz

Last year we had to do a very hard thing. That was to fire the Great Swami, the person we relied on for our yearly predictions.

The previous year he made only four out of 12 correct predictions. A talking monkey replaced him.

These were the monkeys' predictions in 2006, and as you can see, he made eight out of ten correct predictions, missing the rise in seats for the Liberals and NDP and the price of bananas did not go up and only erred a wee bit on the FSIN elections where he said a woman would be elected.

What was he thinking?

- A minority government is formed on January 23. Not sure who gets most votes, but not a lot will change. If it is the Conservatives in a majority government, I will begin to fling poo.

- The Liberals and NDP increase their seats in Saskatchewan in the federal election.

- The First Ministers Meeting money promise is watered down.

- Gordon's First Nation hosts a great First Nation Winter Games in Regina, quickly erasing memories of the flood and mud at Kawacatoose.

- The price of bananas goes up and I get very upset.

- The Velvet Devil movie version will make a new star for CBC.

- Aboriginal voter turnout in 2006 election sets record.

- FSIN elections in October will be hotly contested. Chief Alphonse Bird and Vice Chiefs Watson and Wapass all run, but only one retains a seat. One woman will win one of the seats.

- Team Saskatchewan will win the North American Indigenous Games overall title.

- The best Christmas album ever made in Saskatchewan gets national attention. Way to go

Wyatt for making a deadly good album. Better than Boney M even.

Overall the monkey has an excellent record so we asked him back this year to tell us what is in store for the people of Saskatchewan. He said, "Oooooeee yakyakeeeoo." Here are his 2007 predictions.

## Editorial

- There will be a provincial election in June. The SaskParty wins, but only a minority with the Liberals holding three seats and the balance of power.

- There will be a federal election in April. The Liberals win a minority and Jeremy Harrison says bad people who he used to suck up to for votes stole the election. The Conservatives give him a nooky to suck on and Gary Merasty is made a Minister of Something.

- There will be a Métis Nation Saskatchewan election in September. Clem Chartier returns from Ottawa to run. Rick Laliberte runs, but Robert Doucette runs and wins the first clean Métis election in over a decade. Still everyone will be backstabbing and threatening to form another "organization."

- Buffalo Narrows separates from Canada and takes the old MN-S executive with it. They name Chartier the exalted president.

- Team Sask wins the boys National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Prince Albert. The girls finish third.

- Chief Lawrence Joseph will get mad at the

media ... at least once.

- The First Nation University of Canada controversy will die down after the AUCC pulls their member status. The monkey gets mad and flings poo.

- Post secondary institutions see record numbers of Aboriginal students.

- Red Pheasant hosts a dandy First Nation Summer Games in partnership with North Battleford.

- Someone comes forward publicly and denounces the gangs and street life. The reaction is quick and it works as kids leave the gangs behind for a good life.

Well, we hope that the monkey is right on some of those predictions and is way off on FNUC losing membership in AUCC.

For the last two years, the FNUC "crisis" has spilled lots of ink, blood and tears throughout the province and it is time to move on, hopefully in a positive way.

As to politics, that will never change, but as Aboriginal People, we have to realize the power we have if we vote as a block.

There are many ridings provincially that have enough Aboriginal voters to make winners or losers. And you better believe that the three main parties are lining up to get our vote.

Have you ever seen provincial highways people paving roads into reserves before the last year? Times are changing and Aboriginal people are moving into positions of power in politics, education and business.

I believe 2007 could be our year. You just have to make the personal decision to get involved. If you don't want to do it for yourself, then how about you do it for your children and community?

Make 2007 the year that you become a leader.

## What's Next in Eagle Feather News

This is a huge year for us at Eagle Feather News. In March we will be starting our tenth year of publishing! That is a decade of stories, missed deadlines, made deadlines, interesting people, not so interesting people and lots and lots of ink and paper.

Because it is our special year, you will see some changes ... New Years resolutions so to speak. These changes will occur over the next few issues. Some you won't notice, other changes will slap you in the face (in a good way!).

We have made a resolution to be the best Aboriginal publication in the province, a resolution we intend to keep.

We welcome your reaction.

In February, we will have coverage of the Excellence in Action business conference being hosted by the Province, the FSIN and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. This event will feature the best in Aboriginal business from around Canada.

There will be stories on health and wellness and of course all of our talented and interesting columnists will be there to tease your brain and to challenge the status quo.

We hope to see you then.

Happy New Year.

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Member of:  
Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce  
SREDA

ISSN #1492-7497

Printed by

**Transcontinental**  
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#### Proud Sponsor of:

2000 First Nations Winter Games, 2001 First Nations Summer Games, 2002 First Nations Winter Games, 2003 First Nations Summer Games, Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, FSIN Pow Wow

Eagle Feather News is published monthly (12 issues yearly) by ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services, P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.

Subscription rate is \$20.00 per year.

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement Number 40027204.

#### Eagle Feather News

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# Could that really be Kokom in the mirror?

It is hard to believe another year has gone by. What ever happened to 1957, anyway, it was just here.

I can even hear my kokom yelling, "waht stah kahtch, shut that radio off and get to work! And what are you guys doing? You look like a couple of fleas on a hot stove."

The noise, of course, was Elvis Presley and we, my cousin and I were jiving instead of scrubbing the floor and my kokom just didn't understand.

She was real old fashioned, you know. She still wore long skirts, blouses buttoned up to her chin and her hair twisted into a bun.

Well, you know how thoughts, actions ... stuff ... always comes back and bites you in the bum. It happened to me.

Several weeks ago I walked into my daughter's house to the deafening sounds of "something". My granddaughter, with her two colored hair and baggy pants, was dancing and talking on her cell phone.

To my great surprise I heard someone say, "wahts stah kahtch shut that noise off and what are you doing anyway, you look like a flea on a hot stove."

There is a mirror on my daughter's kitchen wall and guess what? There was my kokom, with her blue eyes and little

grey bun. Just as I was about to say something, I heard my granddaughter, "I gotta go," she said, my kokom just walked in. And kokom, it's not noise its Atreyu."

Need I say more? My New Year

them and, yes, I have also feared them and this storm, although beautiful, is one of those scary ones.

"Aweea kah otinew" the old people would say about storms like this." It will take somebody."

By the governments who make, or support or ignore wars that kill and pollute not only innocent children but the land as well.

By the farmers who spray pesticides and by us who want neat and tidy lawns and gardens and say nothing about the chaos happening around us.

Perhaps you have heard these words before. I believe they are wise.

"Everything is in a state of constant change. One season falls upon the other.

"People are born, live and die.

"All things change. There are two kinds of change. The coming together of things and the coming apart of things.

"Both kinds of change are necessary and are always connected to each other."

It would be good I think for each of us in this new year to pick up a child, sit down with them in a quiet place discuss the inheritance we are leaving them.

They should know why we are doing this.

It is now Thursday noon and what a storm that was. People stranded all night in stores, service stations, schools and ditches.

Three lives taken and almost the whole province at a standstill.

We won't forget this week for a long time.

## Reflections

Maria Campbell



resolutions, I will never open my mouth without first asking myself, "Whose words are these."

And I will raise my hemlines and lower my necklines a few inches. Who knows, I might even get radical and get rid of the bun?

Well enough of my resolutions and me.

There is a blizzard tonight and the view from my window is beautiful and eerie. The wind is blowing wildly and all I can see is the drifting snow. There are no houses, no cars, and no people.

I am totally and completely alone. I have always loved storms, respected

I remember the cultural stories I heard growing up in the northern bush. Stories of previous worlds destroyed by the elements because humans forgot their kinship to creation.

Forgot to love and respect the land, the creatures and their environment.

The stories taught us that we had to observe all the protocols and to never ever forget that there is always reciprocity, meaning you give an offering to receive an offering.

As I look out at the storm I wonder how many offerings the multi-nationals who mine and clear-cut throughout the world have made to the Creator.

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# How Daystar First Nation came to be

On the north end of Daystar First Nation there is a high hill which is the highest point of land between Riding Mountain National Park and the Cypress Hills.

It is an old landmark that can be seen for many miles, from the plains to the west and across the Quill Lakes to the north. The area is a part of the Touchwood Hills, an old wintering ground of the buffalo and the people who hunted them. The high hill remains to this day an isolated and mystical place.

The story centers around Chief Daystar who, in 1874, signed Treaty Number Four and took his reserve on the land shown to him in a vision, a dream or both.

Chief Daystar began as a councilor in the camp of Chief Piapot. His people traveled far out onto the western plains on to the border of Blackfoot country and as far south as the Upper Missouri River in what is now central Montana.

In his younger days Daystar was attacked by a buffalo which hooked his belt upon its horn and tossed him violently about. His people killed the enraged buffalo sparing Daystar's life. A badly shaken Daystar noticed, much to his surprise and to those with him, that he was not hurt in the least.

Two men from his Band were crossing the flat plains to the west of what is now Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

They were returning from the Bear Paw Mountains to their people camped on the South Saskatchewan River. The wind picked up and they witnessed a thunderstorm moving toward them from the west. They didn't have time to escape so they lay down in a buffalo wallow and prepared to wait out the

approaching storm.

The storm came with a the crashing of thunder and the shaking of the earth. The rain fell in torrents. Through the curtain of rain the men witnessed a strange sight. They saw the outline of an enormous bird lifting a giant wriggling snake in its talons. The great thunderbird struggled to lift the snake. Higher up into rain they went until they vanished in the storm.

In the winter of 1869-1870 a grieving Cree warrior went from winter camp to winter camp crying for war against their enemies to the west, the powerful Blackfoot Confederacy. He collected eleven pipe stems belonging to the war Chiefs of eleven Bands.

Among these bands, committed to a collective raid upon their enemies, was Chief Piapot.

They gathered at the elbow of the South Saskatchewan River and moved west into the no man's land north of the Cypress Hills. It was at this time Chief Piapot was given a prophetic dream. He

saw them fighting an enraged buffalo bull and no matter how many bullets they shot into it they could not stop it from tearing them to pieces.

He shared this dream with the people and told them he interpreted the dream to mean only disaster lay ahead and so he was turning back. The one who had cried for war called Chief Piapot a coward and a child afraid of his dreams. This man could only see revenge for he had lost his brother in the fighting a year before. His way of grieving was to lose himself on the path of rage.

Among those who turned back with Piapot was Daystar. In the Spring of 1870 over 300 Cree and Assiniboine

died in the Battle of the Iron Buffalo. Among the dead was he who cried for war. Seven survived, all were wounded. Among them was Little Pine's War Chief, Masatimwas, my paternal great grandfather. It is said the Old Man River ran red with Cree blood that day.

The battle site is below the University of Lethbridge in southern Alberta.

Daystar was also given a prophetic dream. He left his body and traveled in the sky to the highest hill in the Touchwoods. He was shown the land that was to become Daystar First Nation. He landed upon the hill and a voice said: "Daystar, this where you will raise your grandchildren."

He was a Chief in his own right when camped at the elbow of the south Saskatchewan River he received word it was time to make Treaty Number Four at Fort Qu'Appelle. Daystar followed his dream and selected his land as the spirit had told him. Piapot, a true Plains Indian laughed at Daystar for choosing to raise his children in the trees.

This is how Daystar First Nation came to be. Even to this day the reserve begins where the trees begin. The northern half is rolling hills with birch and poplar stands, meadows and small lakes.

This corner remains much as Daystar would have remembered it and so his people keep it.

## Common Ground

John Cuthand



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# Credit Union continues Aboriginal mandate

BY DAVID SHIELD

The name may have changed, but according to FirstSask Credit Union Chief Financial Officer George Keter, Saskatoon Credit Union's commitment to First Nations and Métis clients remains the same.

Earlier this month, the Saskatoon Credit Union joined forces with the Langham and Shellbrook Credit Unions to create FirstSask. Now one of the largest credit unions in Saskatchewan, the bank has combined assets of one billion dollars.

According to Keter, that means the new institution will have even more resources to throw at its various Aboriginal initiatives. Keter says the credit union's historic commitment to working with Aboriginal people came from the bank's social mandate.

"Seeing your fellow citizens have a hard time, almost all the time, and then go on for a long period of time it just feels wrong. You just feel like this has got to stop."

However, Keter admits that the bank also has a lot to gain financially from working with Aboriginal people – especially working with local band councils.

Board Chair Elwood Harvey says the credit union has already started talking to First Nations and building relationships with them.

"We've had informal discussions with a number of people from chiefs, from the North Battleford tribal council and we're having those ongoing discussions with them," he says.

Donna Renneberg is an important piece of that equation. The credit union's Aboriginal Relationship Manager, Renneberg is responsible for working with local Aboriginal people and making sure the credit union is as aboriginal-friendly as possible.

She says it's vital that institutions like FirstSask make the effort to understand the aboriginal community and its issues.

"You need to get to know the community, you need to understand the community and you need to let that community know that you're there to offer financial solutions for their needs.

"Primarily, it's to let the community know that you do care about their needs."

Renneberg says that cultural understanding is a fairly wide-ranging idea that encompasses everything from cultural sensitivity training reserves to opening an account.

"There are many of our Aboriginal people out there that are, in actuality have never dealt with a bank except to cash their cheques, or whatever.



FirstSask Credit Union's George Keter says his organization's commitment to working with Aboriginal people is a result of its social mandate.

"Beyond that, it's nothing. I've even gotten feedback from our people saying they're intimidated by the process of opening an account, so we've decided that would be an area we would focus on."

Keter says it's vital that the credit union continue working closely with First Nations councils.

"There's terrific leadership emerging in the First Nations community and for the last couple

of years we've been starting to see that we have a lot to learn from that leadership and that there are many commercial developments we can do in partnership."

Ultimately, Harvey says working closely with Aboriginal people is practically a necessity.

"Aboriginal people are going to be such a driving force in the whole economic part of our province that they have to be included or we just lose out."

## MBC's Top Ten Songs of 2006

### TOP 10 COUNTRY SONGS OF 2006

- #10 - Johnny Reid – Gypsy in My Soul
- #9 - Steve Holy - Brand New Girlfriend
- #8 - Kenny Chesney - Living in Fast Forward
- #7 - Aaron Pritchett – Hold My Beer
- #6 - Bon Jovi & Jenn Nettles - Who Says You Can't Go Home
- #5 - The Wreckers - Leave the Pieces
- #4 - Emerson Drive - Good Man
- #3 - Dixie Chicks - Not Ready to Make Nice
- #2 - Carrie Underwood - Before He Cheats
- #1 - Rascal Flatts - What Hurts the Most

### TOP 10 ABORIGINAL SONGS OF 2006

- #10 - Teagan Littlechief – Once an Eagle
- #9 - After the Rain – I'm Coming Home
- #8 - John Cook - Baby
- #7 - Daze Dene – I'm Not Like That
- #6 - Black Rain – Wild Women
- #5 - Andrea Menard – My Laughing Fool
- #4 - Broken Trust – The Sun Always Shines Through
- #3 - Dennis Bruno – I Love You
- #2 - Daze Dene – Wheeler River
- #1 - New Horizon – I Won't Let You Go



**YOUR NDP MLAs**

**Roads to Prosperity**

**Planning & Building**

- New Roads
- Upgrading Existing Northern Roads
- Upgrading Northern Community Access Roads
- Creating Skills Training & Employment in the North

**Wollaston Lake Here We come!**

<p>Peter Prebble, MLA Saskatoon Greystone 651-2240</p> <p>Frank Quennell, MLA Saskatoon Meewasin 651-3581 www.frankquennell.ca</p> <p>David Forbes, MLA Saskatoon Centre 244-3555 www.davidforbesmla.ca</p> <p>Eric Cline, MLA Saskatoon Massey Place 384-7200 www.ericcline.ca</p>	<p>Lorne Calvert, MLA Saskatoon Riversdale 651-1211 www.lornecalvert.ca</p> <p>Judy Junor, MLA Saskatoon Eastview 477-4233 www.judyjunor.ca</p> <p>Andy Iwanchuk, MLA Saskatoon Fairview 651-3801 www.andyiwanchuk.ca</p>	<p>Pat Atkinson, MLA Saskatoon Nutana 664-6101</p> <p>Graham Addley, MLA Saskatoon Sutherland 651-3242 www.grahamaddley.ca</p>
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**Working for YOU in Saskatoon!**



**"Healing Together"**

A Series of Hepatitis C Workshops

Regina: Feb. 26, 2007 @ The Regina Inn  
Saskatoon: Feb. 27, 2007 @ The Travelodge  
Prince Albert: Feb. 28, 2007 @ E.A Rawlinson Centre



The keynote speaker will be Dr. Gilles Pinette. He will be presenting to the community in the morning and the doctors/professionals in the afternoon.

Dr. Pinette is the face of Aboriginal medicine across Canada. He has taken the ancient knowledge of the Medicine Wheel and other traditional aboriginal health teachings and combined them with Western medical training to help us understand how we can all learn from Mother Nature, from others, from the spirits, and from the Elders to achieve better health and balance within our lives. He currently divides his time between his private practice and a hepatitis C clinic (which he founded) in the core urban area of Winnipeg.

The afternoon workshops will consist of local facilitators on the subject of hepatitis C. The workshops will focus on awareness, prevention, treatment and harm reduction.

Registration fee is \$25 to attend. Workshops will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. Registration fees will be waived for Elders, youth and people living with hepatitis C and/or HIV/AIDS. Please contact the office to register. All people attending have to REGISTER!

All Nations Hope AIDS Network → 2815 5th Ave. → Regina, SK S4T 0L2 →  
Phone (306) 924-8424 → Toll Free 1-877-210-7622 → Fax (306) 525-3698 →  
Email [allnationshope2@sasktel.net](mailto:allnationshope2@sasktel.net) → Website [www.allnationshope.ca](http://www.allnationshope.ca)



## Another banner year for Andrea Menard

**How did it feel to win three awards at a show you were hosting? Awkward?**

*Yeah I was terribly self-conscious when I won the first award, like I should just quickly accept and get off the stage like a good host! But by the end, I let myself just say what I wanted to say. I was truly grateful for the recognition and I wanted to include all the people who made the win possible.*

**You have been on a roll lately. How many performances have you done in the last three months?**

*I've performed at almost all the music awards shows: The WCMA's, the APCMA's, the San*

*Francisco American Indian Film Festival, and the night before the CAMA's, played a 7-date concert tour with Brad Johner, performed on CBC's Christmas show, and played at the Casino Regina recently. Can't count!*

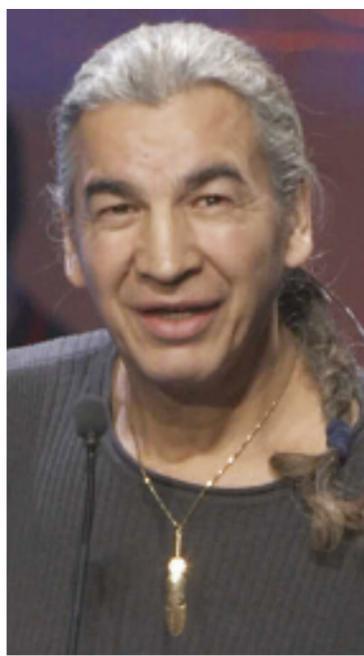
**ANDREA MENARD**

**What was the most gratifying?**

*I loved the Kitchen Party tour for the Food Banks.*

**What is next for Andrea Menard?**

*Writing retreat for my screenplay. I also just returned from a songwriting retreat with Robert Walsh, for our next TWO albums. It is going to be great getting to the orchestral album! And a Christmas album next year. Also Moccasin Flats, has been approved for a movie of the week. And Rabbit Fall has been green lit for six episodes. And who knows what else!*



## Joe Naytowhow's work as keeper of tradition was recognized by CAMA

**How did it feel to win a lifetime contribution award at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards?**

*I didn't realize it was a lifetime contribution award. I only knew that I'd won an award for keeper of tradition within the Aboriginal music category. Now that you ask, I was very surprised at first. Later I felt very happy about it. At first I wasn't sure that I'd won it and wondered who had nominated me. I thank them for their support. In retrospect, after the award presentation I felt like a celebrity. I felt really privileged to receive so*

**JOE NAYTOWHOW**

*much recognition. This is quite a prestigious award. I was in a place of honour, not just for myself but also for all the keepers of tradition across the land and beyond.*

**"I was terribly self-conscious when I won the first award."**

**- Andrea Menard**

**An Eagle Feather News Question and Answer Session with two of Saskatchewan's brightest stars**

**"After the award presentation I felt like a celebrity."**

**- Joe Naytowhow**

**What is the most gratifying thing about what you do?**

*The most gratifying thing about what I do is doing what I have been gifted to do as a musician, storyteller and inter-disciplinary artist with joy and appreciation. I sometimes wish I could do more creative work before my body or mind give out. I take things in stride and work hard in spite of the*

*difficulties that have been set on my path by a watchful Creator.*

**If you weren't a storyteller and singer, what would you be?**

*If I weren't a storyteller or musician I would be a publisher of children's novels, a visual artist, a professional jigger (with some work) and a ceremonialist (something I have some vested interest in already).*

**What is next for Joe Naytowhow?**

*Since I am up late probably the next thing for me is my bed. hahahaha. Actually I have some stories that I began recording in Banff and I want to produce a CD. I delve into characters when I do voice over for video or DVD and on peoples telephone answering machines; so some kind of involvement with theatre would be fun. And if I receive my residential school settlement in 2044 I will travel the world in my private 4 cylinder plane.*



*"I use ASIST in virtually every crisis situation, volunteer and work... Thank you for this life-changing program."*

*- Dwight Thompson, crisis centre volunteer*



**ASIST**

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The *Training for Trainers (T4T)* course prepares local resource persons to be trainers of the ASIST workshop.

**ASIST Training for Trainers (T4T) course**

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**Jennifer Lejan**

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Fax Line - 306-234-2339  
[merastg1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:merastg1@parl.gc.ca)

Hill Office  
Confederation Building  
- Room 718  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Main Line - 613-995-8321  
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1-866-400-2334



# Beloved uncle was not just another 'homeless bum'

**Alvin Elif Constant**

**February, 1946 – November 24, 2006**

My name is Shelley Mike, I am the niece of the late, Alvin Elif Constant.

He was not just another dead homeless person, he was not just another statistic, he was my Uncle.

We received a call from Alberta on Nov. 30, 2006, regarding my Uncle Alvin. He was found frozen to death on the streets of Calgary on Friday, Nov. 24, 2006, it made national news across Canada as one of the four homeless people's deaths in Calgary.

My Uncle had no identification on him, therefore it was difficult for the police to contact family members. Police fingerprinted and identified him and searched for the next of kin. With no success, the police announced his death and printed his name and age in the Calgary Sun, hoping that family would step forward.

We received the call early Thursday morning from the Calgary Police, they informed my sister of the death and then told us we must contact the Calgary Medical Examiner.

We began to make plans to have his body brought back to Saskatchewan. It was a difficult, timely and costly process, I thank God for all the money needed for such expenses, came all together. We laid my Uncle to rest on the James Smith Reserve on December 5, 2006, 11 days after this whole ordeal began.

My Uncle was always a transient man, never staying in one place too long, always traveling, finding odd jobs and painting his pictures. He always had a home with us whenever he wanted but I could never understand what always drew him back to the street. His nick name was "Wandering Spirit" and the very clothes on his back and a portfolio of paintings was all he needed.

I could name everything he owned on one hand. Materialistic value never mattered to my Uncle, if he had his last \$5 he would be sure to give it to someone who needed it much more than he did. He had a heart of gold beyond his scraggly looks. At one point I wanted to tattoo my name and phone number on his forearm, just in case something should ever happen to him, unfortunately, it's too late.

To you, my Uncle may have looked like a homeless bum, his clothes, not the best, his face showed many years of hard times. He was by no means a criminal just because he lived on the street. He would have done what we called, "panhandling", he called "survival". The people you see on the street, didn't wake up one day and say "I think I'll go live on the street", there's a story to be told, the decisions they made, how it's affected their entire lives. Stop and listen to what they're saying.

I am angry at myself for allowing him to leave, I am angry he was transient and always searching for something. I am angry my Uncle had to freeze to death, I am angry that my uncle could not depend on the warmth of a shelter in a oil rich city such as Calgary.

I searched the internet for the Mustard Seed Ministry that spoke on behalf of the homeless in Calgary. My Uncle's body was found two blocks from their building. Was he one of many who were turned away from the shelter that night? Was he on his way to the shelter and tired out? Where was he going? Was he wearing a jacket, socks, gloves, a hat? What were his last thoughts?

Would this have happened in Vancouver, where he often said that they treat the homeless better there than anywhere else in Canada. "It's always warm there, they look after us good," he said. "Tourists listen to my stories and buy my paintings, you can survive."

My thoughts run rapidly everyday when I think of him laying against a building in the snow, it breaks my heart.

I am sad because my Uncle's death has opened my eyes to the street, the homeless and how much our people are desperately hurting. SOMEBODY loves those people on the street, SOMEBODY cares where they are, no matter who they are or what they're doing, somebody loves them. They are somebody's mother, father, brother, sister, auntie, uncle, somebody's friend.

It is by the grace of God that my path has crossed with Pastor Andrew Bear and the Lighthouse Mission in Prince Albert. I am one voice but I want to be heard, I want people to open their eyes. The Committee is attempting to set up a Men's Shelter in Prince Albert, I want to fully support their efforts. Shelters are provided for women, children, the abused, the gamblers, the drug addict, the alcoholic, and unless you fit into one those categories, you fall through the gaps. Men are left out because society says they can "look after themselves, they can get a job", in all reality they need our support and hope. They feel cold, they get hungry, they have hopes and dreams, they too, have feelings such as you and I. The public can't forget how important life is and not to take it for granted, provide a shelter for them, it could make a small difference in someone's life.

I made a personal request to Pastor Bear that when this shelter gets up and running, if it could be named after my Uncle in his memory "The Alvin E. Constant Memorial Shelter for Men".

This is becoming a passion in my heart and maybe it will lead to healing by assisting Pastor Bear in this project in any way that I am able. I truly applaud those people with true hearts that take the time and efforts to provide unconditional care for the people who live on the street.

When my Uncle left my home, he said, "don't worry, Sally Ann always treats me good."

He depended on the missions to provide food, shelter and clothing.

My heart is broken, the

Uncle I loved so much is now gone. Next time you walk by a person on the street whose in need, don't shun them, I was guilty of doing the same, give something and remember, "your eyes are opened only after it hits home". Please find it in your hearts to support our missions by giving blankets, socks, gloves and toques, for those men who cannot provide for themselves. Yes, men in need are out there.



3rd annual  
**Expression**  
Aboriginal art auction

**February 8, 2007**  
TCU Place  
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Art viewing 6:30 p.m.  
Live Auction 8:00 p.m.  
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Circles of Voices by Sironne McLeod



**Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Week**  
February 5 - 9, 2007

**Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Week Provincial Launch**  
Mon. | Feb. 5 | 10:30 a.m. | Theatre | Frances Morrison Library

Saskatoon Public Library is proud to host the provincial launch of Aboriginal Storytelling Week 2007. In addition to several special guests, our program includes a number of talented Aboriginal storytellers from our community who will share the oral tradition in a light-hearted and informal atmosphere. Curtis Peeteetuce, playwright and Writer in Residence at the Library, will emcee the event. All members of our community are invited to attend this spirited celebration of sharing. Food and refreshments will follow.

**Storytelling Programs at Saskatoon Public Library**

**Mocikun: Having and Creating Joy**  
Monday | February 5 | 1:30 p.m. | Room 3 | Frances Morrison Library  
Storytellers: Joseph Naytowhow & Erika Faith

**Caribou Song**  
Tuesday | February 6 | 1:30 p.m. | Cliff Wright Branch | Auditorium  
Storytellers: The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's Ensemble Theatre Arts Program (ETAP)

**The Story of the Sky Thunderbirds**  
Wednesday | February 7 | 1:30 p.m. | Mayfair Branch | Community Room  
Storyteller: Dieter Braun

**Aboriginal Women's Storytelling Circle**  
Thursday | February 8 | 1:30 p.m. | Carlyle King Branch | Multipurpose Room  
Storytellers: Women from the community.  
Childcare will be provided.

**Nehiyaw Askiy Wasinahikan: Cree Land Map**  
Friday | February 9 | 1:30 p.m. | J.S. Wood Branch | Auditorium  
StoryKeeper: Tyrone Tootoosis

**your Library**  
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## Make a 'grateful journal'

Hello readers and happy New Year. I have found the fountain of youth!

It has been said. "you don't quit playing when you grow old; you grow old when you quit playing." I'm liking that analogy. I have five grandchildren and it was awesome playing and wrestling with the kids over the holidays.

If I can regain any of my youth then please let it be my memory.

Christmas on the rez was very different from the Christmas of 2006. Back in the day, my family; aunts, uncles

and cousins, used to get together every Christmas. Us kids would play outside until our feet ached and our fingers near froze.

Over the years the aunts and uncles started staying home with their own little families and we all just drifted apart. This Christmas my brothers, their wives and children made us a surprise visit – when everyone was in the house the headcount was 34!

I hadn't even met some of my nieces and nephews. It was the best Christmas so far!

With a New Year comes these resolutions to make changes in our lives. This year I am going to lose weight, or quit smoking, join the gym or take jiggling lessons.

Whatever the resolution, it seems they all have a common denominator: personal health. We all want to be healthy, or do we?

According to recent studies, the youth of North America get a failing grade when it comes to physical fitness and the adults aren't exactly passing with flying colours.

If you want to make changes to your physical health you need to exercise, reduces stress, get plenty of rest, and eat well-balanced meals.

Equally important is a yearly physical with your family physician and regular check-up with your dentist. It sounds so easy but reality is – it's difficult for many Aboriginal people in

Saskatchewan.

On a more positive note, the face of Saskatchewan will soon change. More Aboriginal youth are entering the field of medicine (yeah). The provincial public servants are reaching retirement age and the potential is there for Aboriginal people to fill those vacant positions. We have a couple of Aboriginal MPs in Ottawa and MLAs in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

The future is looking brighter for

### Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew



the coming generations. So let's do all we can to encourage the youth to stay in school and stay in the province.

"Our future is wide open." I like that slogan and so does Premier Lorne Calvert.

I wonder if there are any reserves in Saskatchewan that have slogans? If your rez has a slogan write in and tell us what it is or what you think it should be. Enjoy 2007. Make yourself a grateful journal and write down all the things you are grateful for (a little trick I learned from Oprah). Take time to laugh each day (listen to Don Burnstick).

I am happy to have today for that is the only certainty. I am thankful for my health, family, job, and my partner. I'm glad I was born in Canada and not in Afghanistan. Most of all I am so happy to be a Kokum. Austin, Joshua, Cassidy, Nicholas and Bronco (my grand babies) thank you for coming into my life. You are my fountain of youth and my reason for living.

To you, the readers, I look forward to reading your emails in the coming year.

Send your emails to sandee2says@yahoo.ca Finally, make a list of things you must do in 2007. (I'll start a list for you); get a physical, see the dentist, have a Pap test, have a mammogram, check your prostate, practice safe sex, wear your seatbelt and learn to make bannock. Until next month - take care and play safe. Ekosi.

## FSIN Vice-Chief has praise for judges approving Residential School Agreement

FSIN Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish has commended Canadian judges for working together swiftly to approve the Indian Residential School Settlement today. This approval is ahead of schedule and it hopefully means that survivors will receive their payments sooner.

The courts have shown compassion towards the survivors who have been waiting for decades for some recognition of the suffering they endured in residential schools.

"Five survivors die every day in Canada, so receiving compensation becomes a race against time," Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish said.

This court approval means the "Common Experience Payments" for all residential school survivors will likely begin in the summer of 2007.

Common Experience Payments are based on attendance at a residential school and survivors who will receive \$10,000 for the first year or portion of a year attended, and \$3,000 per year or portion of subsequent years they attended. The total amount of this fund is \$1.9 billion.

The other positive news for survivors is the court ratification triggers the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as soon as next summer.

"This commission has the potential to bring Canadians vital insight into the attempt to destroy the identity of First Nations people in a resolute manner. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is a long-awaited chance for survivors to tell

their stories of loss of family and culture and they may be able to help Canadians understand the damage caused by the residential schools and by the racist agenda that created the schools in the first place."



LYLE WHITEFISH

Now, the survivors will have six months to "opt out" of the agreement if they do not feel the deal is fair. If 5,000 survivors across Canada opt out of the agreement, it will be rejected.

## Your Saskatchewan Party MLAs



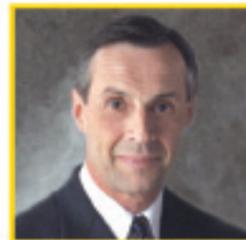
Official Opposition Leader

Brad Wall  
Swift Current  
778-2429



Aboriginal Affairs Critic

June Draude  
Kelvington-Wadena  
1-800-234-4134



Deputy Aboriginal Affairs

Don Morgan  
Saskatoon Southeast  
955-4755



Environment Critic

Glen Hart  
Last Mountain-Touchwood  
1-877-723-4488

"On behalf of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus, I'd like to recognize the many contributions and accomplishments Aboriginal people have made in the province, and thank them for all they've done to make Saskatchewan great."

-Brad Wall

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# Wanuskewin Park receiving \$2.5 million from province's Building Communities Program

The Wanuskewin Heritage Park near Saskatoon will receive funding from the \$100 million Building Communities Program that has been designed to assist in addressing regional cultural and recreational infrastructure needs.

Culture, Youth and Recreation Minister Glenn Hagel was in Wanuskewin Heritage Park recently to announce that the Building Communities Program is providing \$2.5 million to support the continued development of the national and provincial heritage property site.

The Building Communities Program supports the Provincial Government's commitment to making life better for Saskatchewan families and building a better future for young people.

"Cultural and recreational activities are key contributors to the quality of life that we celebrate in this province," Hagel said. "The community has demonstrated that the Wanuskewin Heritage Site is essential to the cultural vibrancy of the region. The Building Communities Program is one more way we are ensuring that Saskatchewan families and communities benefit from our strong economy."

Located five kilometres north of Saskatoon, the Wanuskewin Heritage Site is planning a significant expansion to enhance the visitor's experience. This includes the renewal and addition of exhibits.

"There is a significant historical, cultural and spiritual significance in how all people experience the park," Wanuskewin Heritage Park acting chair Ken Pontikes said. "Extensive discussion with First Nations people and others in the community as well as museum professionals has brought about a better understanding of how we can tell these stories through our Park renewal."

The Building Communities Program will provide \$100 million over three years – up to \$20 million in the first year (2006-2007) and \$40 million for each of years two (2007-2008) and three (2008-2009). This includes \$2 million for infrastructure needs in northern Saskatchewan.

# Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

FSIN Vice-Chief Glen Pratt and Nekaneet Chief Alice Pahtayken are alerting Saskatchewan First Nations about an elk hunt scheduled by Saskatchewan Environment for the Cypress Hills area in early 2007.

"FSIN is stepping in to inform First Nations hunters about this opportunity because Saskatchewan Environment failed to do so," Vice-Chief Pratt said.

"First Nations living in the area and throughout the province deserve the right to begin hunting immediately so they can provide meat for their families. The Cypress Hills area is an important hunting ground for Saskatchewan First Nations."

Chief Pahtayken echoed Vice Chief Pratt's comments regarding the importance of the hunt.

"The game found in the Cypress Hills provides necessary sustenance for our people and the animal hides are used for First Nation traditional crafts. The use of these hides has significant economic value to First Nation people as well."

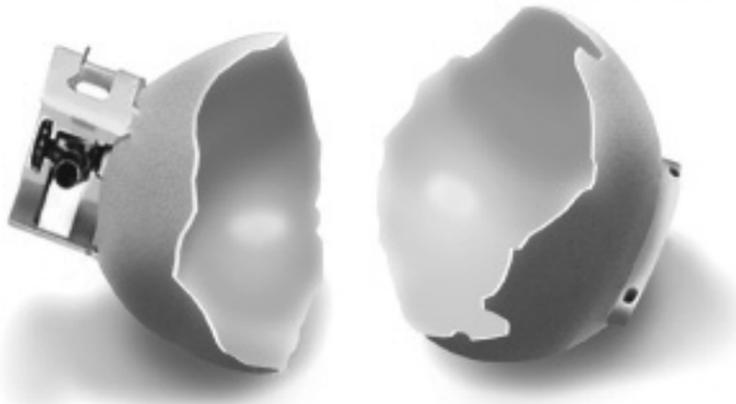
There are 775 adult elk living around the centre block of Cypress Hills but Saskatchewan Environment says its goal is to maintain a population of only 300 animals so they don't damage the nearby crops. Removing adult females and young adults is the best way to reduce the herd size.

First Nations hunters can begin their hunt immediately on unoccupied Crown land and on private land as long as they have permission in writing.



Ken Pontikes, Cy Standing, Glen Hagel and Sheila Gamble were present for the announcement that Wanuskewin would be receiving \$2.5 million to expand its facility and programs.

When propane leaks, it smells like  
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But don't wait until you smell it to make your home safe.

**Tip 1:** Outside, make sure your propane storage cylinder is upright and fastened to the wall. A cylinder that's on its side or hanging from its hose is much more likely to leak and cause a fire.



**Tip 2:** During winter, make sure that the top of the cylinder, where you find the valve, is clear of snow and ice.



**Tip 3:** Keep your tank at least one-third full during the winter to ensure that propane is supplied to your equipment and vaporizes properly.



**Tip 4:** Keep all your propane cylinders and barbecues outside. They should never be stored or used inside the house.



**Tip 5:** Be sure you only use your propane or electric stove for cooking. It's not meant for heating your house.



**Tip 6:** Keep all your appliances free of dust, lint and anything else that could catch fire. Do not store any flammable or combustible material next to your propane appliance.



**Tip 7:** Call a licensed gas contractor or propane supplier to ensure your propane equipment is serviced properly.



Keep your home warm and safe this winter. A safety message from SaskPower.

# Organization determined to raise awareness of Species at Risk Act

## 1) What is the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources' (CIER) role as SAR pathfinder for Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

CIER's goal as the SAR Pathfinder is to increase awareness about the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and to help First Nations groups to build their capacity to participate effectively and meaningfully in the SARA process

## 2) Why is it important for Aboriginal people to learn more about the Species at Risk Act?

Aboriginal involvement in the Species at Risk Act (SARA) is important for two main reasons. Firstly, the purpose of the SARA (to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct, to help in their recovery, and to protect their critical habitat) is closely aligned with the goal of many Aboriginal groups - to ensure that plant and animal species are around for future generations.

Secondly, Aboriginal groups should become involved in order to maximize the benefits and minimize any adverse impacts that this Act may have.

## 3) In what ways could Aboriginal people benefit or be negatively impacted by the Species at Risk Act?

Due to its protective role of species and habitat, the SARA presents a number of potential benefits to Aboriginal peoples that rely upon plants and animals for food and medicine. For example, the government has the power to alter the activities (e.g. forestry, mining, commercial fishing, industrial development, etc.) of non-Aboriginal groups whose activities may have adverse impacts on the activities and health of Aboriginal peoples. By limiting involvement of outside groups, species that are used by Aboriginal peoples for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes are more likely to be around for future generations. In that way, SARA can act as a tool for Aboriginal peoples.

Despite these benefits, concerns have been raised that SARA may change Aboriginal peoples' access to resource areas and restrict the type of species that can be harvested by community members and the methods for doing so. Although restrictions may only be for the short-term, this could affect activities such as hunting, gathering, and fishing. Species protection could also result in changes to economic land-use practices (e.g. agriculture, forestry, mining, or commercial fishing) on reserve lands and restriction of certain types of economic development projects in areas

considered as critical habitat to a species at risk. The Government of Canada can, however, decrease potential adverse affects of SARA on Aboriginal peoples through several measures such as applying provisions (e.g. exemptions and compensation) within the Act, making a decision not to list a species under SARA, and involving Aboriginal peoples throughout the entire SARA process. Ultimately, Aboriginal peoples will need to ensure that they are meaningfully involved throughout the SARA process so that they can use this legislation as a tool to achieve their own goals for protection of wildlife on their territories.

## 4) How can Aboriginal people get involved in the SARA process?

In order to maximize benefits and minimize potential negative impacts, Aboriginal peoples should become involved in SARA at several steps, including to:

- Provide input to Aboriginal committees related to species at risk (such as National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk, NACOSAR, and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee)
- Become meaningfully involved in consultations with government (regarding potential listing of and draft recovery strategies for species at risk)
- Implement stewardship activities on their lands and waters to help protect and recovery species at risk.

## 5) What is the history, role and membership of the National Aboriginal Council (NACOSAR) on Species at Risk?

The National Aboriginal Council (NACOSAR) was inaugurated in September 2005, and has since been working to help ensure that the interests of Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations, are represented in the SARA process.

NACOSAR is made up of six representatives of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada who are appointed by the Minister of the Environment based upon recommendations by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Métis National Council (MNC) and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). The mandate of NACOSAR is to advise the Minister of the Environment and the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC) on the administration of SARA, taking into consideration the interests of Aboriginal peoples. Advise may relate to issues such as legal listing or de-listing of

species at risk, inclusion of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) in species assessments, consultations with Aboriginal peoples, and Aboriginal involvement in stewardship activities to protect or recover species at risk. NACOSAR is also available to exchange information about SARA with Aboriginal governments, organizations, and individuals. As part of its communication strategy, NACOSAR is currently developing an interactive website where Aboriginal peoples can get more information about NACOSAR, its role, and activities.

## 6) What is the history, role and membership of the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee?

The Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee was established in 2006 to provide advice regarding ATK to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). COSEWIC is the group of experts that assesses the status (e.g. Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern) of species at risk in Canada. Including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in species assessments is important for helping to determine the accurate status of a species and bringing forward information and perspectives that are not available in published scientific literature.

The ATK SC is made up of individuals who can serve as a contact point to a broad array of knowledge holders in different regions of Canada.

These individuals are recommended by five national Aboriginal organizations including the Assembly of First Nations, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Métis National Council, and Native Women's

Association of Canada.

Currently, The ATK SC has two co-chairs (Larry Carpenter of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Henry Lickers of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne) who have directed the work of the ATK SC since April 2002. (Mammals) Ultimately, the ATK SC envisions establishing a network of Aboriginal knowledge-holders and experts from approximately 35 ecological regions across Canada who will provide expertise to support the work of the ATK SC.

## 7) Where can I get further information about species at risk and SARA?

You can access additional information in the 'Species at Risk Information Package' on the CIER website ([www.cier.ca](http://www.cier.ca)), the Species at Risk Act (SARA) Toolkit on the Assembly of First Nations website ([www.afn.ca/cmslib/general/SARA.pdf](http://www.afn.ca/cmslib/general/SARA.pdf)), and on the following government of Canada websites: (1) [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca) (provides information on the SARA and related legal documents, including the List of Wildlife Species at Risk, permit applications, recovery strategies, action plans, regulations, orders and notices for public consultations); (2) [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca) (rovides information on the biology of species at risk in Canada, their distribution, habitat requirements and threats); (3) [www.aquatic-speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.aquatic-speciesatrisk.gc.ca) (provides information on aquatic species at risk in Canada, including fish, reptiles, marine mammals and molluscs); and (4) [www.pc.gc.ca/nature/ee-psar/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/nature/ee-psar/index_e.asp) (provides information on Parks Canada's role in the recovery of species at risk).

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Crystal's practice focuses on corporate/commercial, taxation and Aboriginal law. She earned a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in 1995 from the U of S and a Bachelor of Law degree in 2001 from UBC in Vancouver. Crystal is also very involved in various aspects of business and economic development in Saskatchewan and offers her service to various business boards. Crystal is a First Nations woman and a member of the Yellow Quill First Nation.

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# Dirk Dashing on stuff coming down in 2007

John L.: ... and now, ladies and gentlemen, it's time for Eagle Feather News senior political correspondent, Dirk Dashing. Before we get to your predictions for 2007, how was Christmas?

**Dirk:** It was great, John. I spent all night painting eggs, stashing them around the house and I had a big bowl of candy by the door all in readiness for the Great Pumpkin who comes by for the birthday of Canada. The kids are grown up now, but they still get a thrill from the festivities.

John L.: Uh, Dirk, I think you've got a few holidays mixed together there and they're all in the wrong season.

**Dirk:** John, maybe you like to celebrate things the conventional way, with tinsel, firecrackers and the exchange of chocolates in heart-shaped boxes. Go ahead, suck up to the colonizers. Cuddle up in the warm blankets of state sanctioned holidays and pickled hams. At the Dashing house we do things different. We stick it to the man.

John L.: Why don't we get to your predictions. What can we expect in 2007.

**Dirk:** Well, John, I was reading Doug Cuthand's column the other day and it turns out he is more than your average bubbling crock pot of male hormones. No, John, he is more than eye candy for the soul. Every now and then, Doug Cuthand makes a point.

John L.: And what point would that be?

**Dirk:** Mr. Cuthand was going on and on about how the 1995 gaming agreement between the Federation of Saskatchewan

Indian Nations, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and the NDP gummint really shafted us poor little Inians. First Nations raised all the money, took all the risks while the gummint sat on their fat bottoms and told the Inians

gummint - I mean government - has only been around since 1933. And you're forgetting that First Nations people were here first. **Dirk:** True, the NDP looks recent, but if you have jurisdiction you can, theoretically, assert your authority backwards,

## 5th Generation

Winston McLean



what they could and could not do. Damn it, they even took a cut of the pie they had no hand in baking!

John L.: I've heard there's resentment over the NDP's position on Indian gaming. But I understand the agreement is up for renegotiation and that this is a chance for First Nations to address jurisdiction issues.

**Dirk:** You would think so, John. But upon careful reflection we little Inians owe the NDP gummint everything. Since time immemorial the NDP gummint has been guiding us on everything from our buffalo hunts, to how we speak to the Creator, to how we should get together to make more little Inians. John, it turns out the NDP gummint has jurisdiction over everything, so we damn well better be thankful.

John L.: That's absurd, Dirk. The NDP

through space and time. You could even pass a law stating you existed when the universe came into being. As for First Nations being here first, this planet operates on the principle of "But we got here second!" It's called international law.

John L.: So, First Nations will not get a new gaming agreement from the NDP. What else have you got for us?

**Dirk:** John, rumour has it that I'm up for a Pulitzer. Though what the hell I'm supposed to do with another blender I don't know.

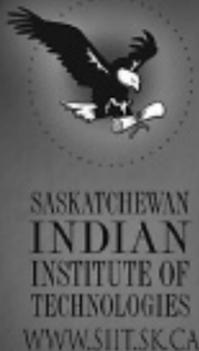
John L.: Actually, Dirk, a Pulitzer is an American award given out for journalism, and I don't think you qualify since you're Canadian.

**Dirk:** Think, Jay Treaty. Do I detect a hint of jealousy. I bet you see yourself

carrying the Pulitzer cup in a victory lap around a rink of crazed female fans who dream of touching your finely sculpted elbows. Don't you? I'm disappointed in you, John, but I haven't the time nor space to deal with your petty jealousy or bizarre imaginations. Here are the rest of my predictions:

- FNUC will stay in the AUCC because the FSIN will send in a new team to lead the healing process
  - The provincial election will happen before the summer holidays
  - David Karwacki will be seen leaping up and down all over Saskatchewan stirring up all sorts of apathy
  - Lorne Calvert will be revealed as a sheep in sheep's clothing
  - Brad Wall will suffer through an untimely bout of puberty
  - Jeremy Harrison, Maurice Vellacot and Jim Pankiw will join the STF, also known as the Saskatchewan Taxpayers Federation
  - To reflect its new direction, the STF will change it's initials to NAMBLA
- John L.: I'll have to look that up. Dirk, thanks for your time.
- Dirk:** It's always a pleasure for you, John. By the way, I hear you have a monkey making your predictions this year. So, if your monkey gets his predictions for 2007 wrong, do you spank it?

*Dirk says, "If you don't eat your meat, you can't have any pudding. How can you have any pudding if you don't eat your meat!"*  
dirkdashing@shaw.ca



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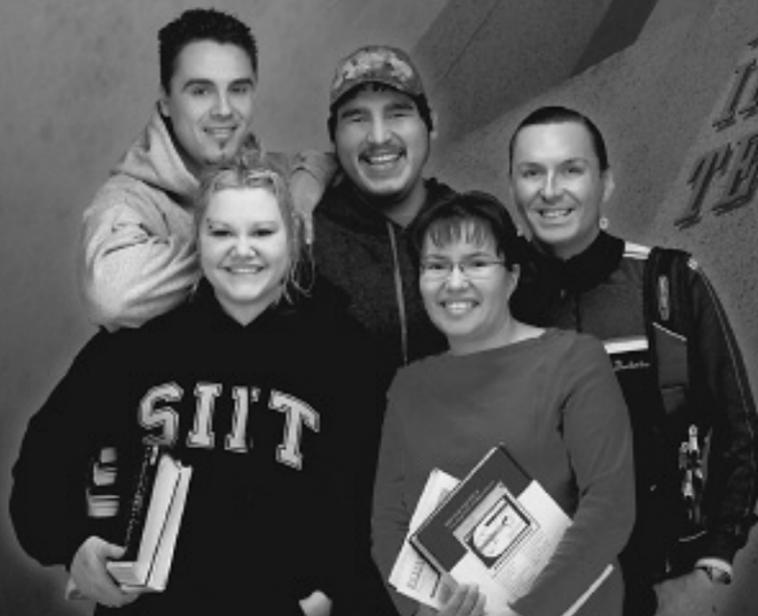
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# Funding in place to build \$1.5 million arena in Pinehouse

The Northern Village of Pinehouse has received \$248,000 from the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to build a new hockey arena.

Funding was announced recently by Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Community Resources Minister and Athabasca MLA Buckley Belanger on behalf of Government Relations Minister Harry Van Mulligen.

Cameco Corporation, the world's largest uranium producer, has uranium operations in northern Saskatchewan, as well as employees from the village. The Saskatchewan-based mining company will contribute more than \$145,000 to the project, including in-kind donations.

"Canada's new government is getting things done for the people of Pinehouse," said Skelton.

"We are working to promote fitness and healthy lifestyles for families. This arena will give the residents of Pinehouse new recreational options and will benefit the community for years to come."

"The province is very pleased to contribute toward the funding of a new arena, which will make life better for local families, especially young people, by providing a high-quality recreational facility," Belanger said. "Saskatchewan has been home to many terrific hockey players, from Gordie Howe to Fred Sasakamoose, the NHL's first Canadian First Nations player, or Hayley Wickenheiser. With this arena, maybe a future Hockey Hall of Famer will come from Pinehouse," he said.

"Today is a very optimistic start for our community of Pinehouse," Pinehouse Mayor Mike Natomagan said. "We are very grateful to Cameco Corporation for their unwavering support over the years. In addition, we also want to thank Harry Van Mulligen and Buckley Belanger from the provincial government for pushing this endeavor through to reality," the mayor added.

"Cameco is committed to the health of northern communities in the areas in which we operate," Cameco president and CEO Jerry Grandey said. "We support the communities with employment opportunities, economic development and direct investment into projects such as this. The arena will be a lasting legacy of our commit-



ment to Pinehouse and youth in the community."

Cameco also arranged for in-kind donations of engineering services from UMA Engineering, site prepara-

tion services from Golder Associates Ltd. and earth moving services from Snake Lake Construction, to help reduce costs for the community.

This MRIF investment will allow the Northern Village of Pinehouse to build a new hockey arena worth more than \$1.5 million. In Pinehouse, youth represent the largest percentage of the population and the new arena will provide them with healthy recreational choices.

The federal and provincial governments are investing a total of \$76 million in the four-year Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Participating communities are expected to contribute one-half the cost of any project, which will raise the total infrastructure investment above \$152 million.

For more information on the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan's infrastructure programs, visit [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca) or [www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/prosimsi.shtml](http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/prosimsi.shtml).

## \$2 million earmarked for recreational and cultural infrastructure in the North

Residents of Northern Saskatchewan will soon be enjoying enhanced recreational and cultural facilities, thanks to a \$2 million investment from the provincial government through the Building Communities Program.

"We believe that all our citizens, including those who live in the North, should benefit from having access to cultural and recreational activities," Community Resources Minister Buckley Belanger told participants attending the Northern Municipal Roundtable in Prince Albert.

"These activities are key contributors to the quality of life that we celebrate in Saskatchewan. The Building Communities Program supports the government's commitment to make life better for all Saskatchewan families and build a better future for our young people."

The Building Communities Program has established separate criteria that recognize the unique needs of communities in the North. For example, these projects may qualify for funding if they are less than \$1 million in total cost.

As well, the total cost of the project may be covered. In the rest of the province, up to 25 per cent of the cost will be covered for those projects that qualify.

## Celebrating the Spirit of CBOs

Has a community based organization (CBO) helped you or someone you know become self-reliant or independent? Or do you work for a CBO that has provided excellent service, delivered impressive results or partnered with others to improve the lives of the people it serves?

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Community based organizations are eligible if they received funding in 2006-07 from Saskatchewan Community Resources or the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, an agency of Community Resources, to provide programs or services in one of the following categories:

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# Beardy's Blackhawks perform well at Mac's Tourney

BY BLUE PELLETIER

The Beardy's Blackhawks have had a tremendous year so far, they currently sit in first place in the Saskatchewan Midget AAA league. Over the holidays they participated in the prestigious Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament in Calgary.

The team got off to a hot start and were able to win their first three games, with the highlight of their tournament being a convincing 4-2 victory over the Swiss Nationals. Unfortunately for the boys they lost consecutive games and were eliminated in the quarter-finals by the eventual champions Notre Dame Hounds. The game was tight throughout and after a hard fought battle the Hounds were able to win it in overtime.

Team Manager Mel Parenteau said traveling to Calgary was great for the team and that "the food and the experience was well worth it and that the boys were given the opportunity to watch the Calgary Flames and the Los Angeles practice".

Forward Craig McCallum and Defenseman Chris Jungwirth, along with their Coach Dale Grayston were chosen to participate in the Tournament All-Star game.

The team wanted to send thanks out to SIGA, The Battleford and Meadow Lake Tribal Councils, Sasktel, and Northern Lights Development Corp for their sponsorship of their trip to Calgary.

The Westside Warriors from Saskatoon were able to ride an undefeated record all the way to the championship, led by Tournament MVP Mike Linklater and Tournament All-Star Robin Daniels.

They met Standing Buffalo in the final after they defeated another Saskatoon team, the Bad Guyz in the semi-final.

## The year in review

The big news of the year came over the summer when Team Saskatchewan brought back the team title from the 2006 North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colorado. Sports such as Volleyball, Softball, Swimming, and Athletics were dominated by Saskatchewan athletes.

Who could forget entering Mile High Stadium and hearing chants of Team Sask! Team Sask! echoing throughout ... it was awesome.

Team Saskatchewan Midget Men's Softball Team had a huge year. This group not only won the gold at the Indigenous Games, they also won both the provincial and national titles this year. What a year, and all the best to this team in the future.

The Beardy's Women Soccer Team took the FSIN Soccer title from the women of Little Pine. This marked the

first time that another team had won this title in 5 years. It was also a rewarding end to what has been a long journey to these ladies.

## Some athletes to watch in 2007

A special mention to a few athletes who are making big impacts in the sports community:

Taryne Boudreau and her phenom status in the soccer world, watch for this girl in the future.

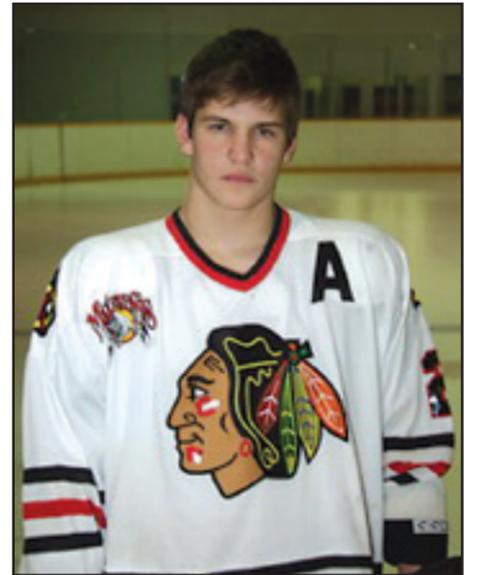
Nathan Dixon and Mike Linklater are tearing things up on the basketball courts in Alberta; look for both of them to play on bigger stages in the near future.

Desai, Sierra, and Savannah the Walkingbear brothers, have the tools to make it big in volleyball.

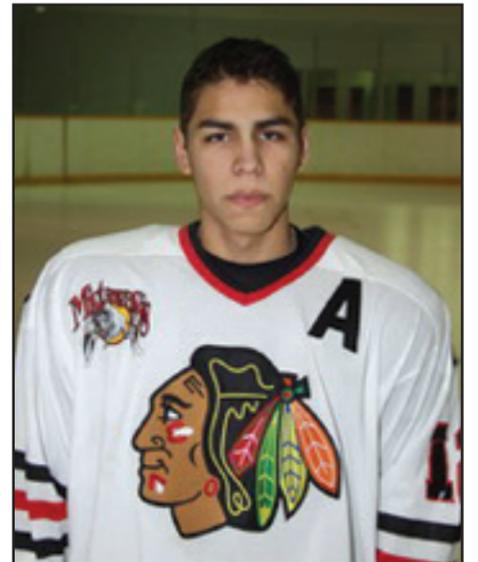
In the coming year watch for the Kevin Moccassin Memorial Tournament, this will be the final year. Kevin was a rising basketball star, and the tournament that honours his memory draws some of the best basketball talent in Canada.

This year the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will be played in Price Albert. Look for this to be a major success, and let's hope Saskatchewan keeps the title here.

Happy New Year to all of our readers and supporters!!



CURTIS JUNGWIRTH



CRAIG McCALLUM

## Westside takes championship home

The Cote First Nation held their first annual Basketball Tournament December 15 and 16. Teams were made up of First Nations individuals from across Saskatchewan.

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