On his first visit to Saskatchewan in 2001, Prince Charles was given the name Pisimwa Kamiwokakamikohk, or ‘the sun looks at him in a good way’.

Even though the sun failed to make an appearance during the two days the Prince and his wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited Regina, their Royal Highnesses’ warmth and charm dazzled well-wishers and officials alike.

“I wanted to go home because it was cold and raining but when I saw her I forgot all about that,” said eight-year-old Alexandra Ireland of Thames First Nation who, with her Doh-doh Esther Ireland, waited two hours outside First Nations University of Canada for a glimpse of the Royal pair.

“I was the only one who had flowers. She shook my hand and said ‘Hello’ and ‘Thank you’ and later I told my mom ‘I saw the Princess and she was very beautiful and she was happy at me!’”

The heir to the British throne and his wife were in Regina on the last leg of a three-province, three-day whirlwind tour of Canada marking his mother, Queen Elizabeth II’s, Diamond Jubilee. The tour’s theme of service to community and country reflects both the Queen’s 60 years as monarch and acknowledges extraordinary acts of service by Canadians.

Their visit began at the Legislative Building in Regina where Prince Charles presented six Diamond Jubilee Medals, one for each decade of the Queen’s reign, followed by a stop at Government House where they toured then dedicated the new herb garden before arriving at FNUniv.

Cadmus Delorme was the tour guide for the Prince and Duchess.

“We had a great time, they are such nice people. I did my homework on Prince Charles and Camilla, about what interested them,” said Delorme. “He likes things that are self-sufficient, gardening and architecture. I told him about the architect of FNUniv, Douglas Cardinal, the native plant garden, and when we got to the dancers I told him that the dancers were our students and that they were getting educated here through books in the winter and in summer on the powwow trail they get educated in their culture.

“The Duchess didn’t talk much. I think it was her first time seeing full out regalia, dancing and music – she couldn’t stop staring around so I paid more attention to Prince Charles.”

The enormity of the task at hand didn’t hit Delorme till much later.

“It really didn’t sink in until after when I got home and watched the news. In the moment I was so focused on my duties that I wanted to fulfill in the best way I could. It was such an honour, something I’ll never forget, a gift. I wanted to show them that the university makes the students proud and by example showed them how proud I was going to that university.”

• Continued on Page 10
Wanuskewin welcomes
TRC national gathering in
Saskatoon from June 20-21

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The time to celebrate song and
dance through powwow is just
around the corner for Wanuskewin
Heritage Park. Very soon the park will be
filled with singers and dancers gearing up
to perform for this historic two-day
d powwow.

There is much to celebrate for this
year, including the fact that Wanuskewin’s
facility opened its doors 20 years ago and
the Park will share this milestone with the
public on June 20-21.

Not only is the staff at Wanuskewin
gearing up to host their powwow, they are
also preparing to host hundreds, if not
thousands of visitors who will be in
Saskatoon for the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission national gathering that
runs June 21-24.

“We had the army out here yesterday
planning for their logistics,” said
Wanuskewin CEO Dana Soonias. “We
have about 100 acres of grass to mow to
get the camping area ready; we need to
haul in the porta-potties, the army folks
are being really helpful and are bringing
big tents. We have lots of work to do, but
a great committee and lots of help.”

The committee, which has people
from the Tribal Council, the City of
Saskatoon and TRC folk, is responsible
for the powwow and also for the logistics
around helping all the visitors that come
for the TRC gathering to have a great stay.

The City is expecting at least 5,000
visitors per day to the hearings, with many
of them camping and bussing from
Wanuskewin.

It is a fitting place for the people to
gather for the powwow and the TRC
event. Much has changed since the park
opened in 1992, but the emphasis and
value on Aboriginal culture remains. This
event coincides with another significant
event, National Aboriginal Day, which is
a day where all Canadians recognize the
significant contributions that First
Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples have
made to our country.

During those two days, Wanuskewin
invites the public to visit the park but to
not worry about the admission charge.

The 20th Anniversary Celebration
and Powwow will be a free event and it
will be filled with cultural programming
and events.

The anticipation is building up as the
date nears and the staff is looking forward
to hosting such a significant event.

“For sure we are going to look back
and celebrate the history of the Park and
the area, but we are now looking forward
with the renewal process that was envi-
sioned by our elders over the last several
years,” added Soonias.

“And the timing is great with National
Aboriginal Day and TRC. We expect this
to be our biggest powwow ever with 10
Drums and around 1,000 dancers. We are
going to be busy. A good busy.”

The event is free so come out with
your family and enjoy the two day event.

If you would like to volunteer at the
Wanuskewin Heritage Park’s 20th
Anniversary Celebration and Pow Wow,
please contact Roxanne at
roxanne.parker@wanuskewin.com or
306-931-6767.

For more information on the 20th
Anniversary Pow Wow visit
www.wanuskewin.com or find them on
Facebook and Twitter.
It’s summer, the living is good

June is such a wonderful month, brimming with optimism. The trees are lush and the dandelions are in full bloom. Kids, and parents for that matter, are counting the days until school is over and summer holidays can begin with a race to the lake. Folks on the powwow trail are already hopping from stop to stop — ah, it feels good.

And there is always something to do or look forward to in June. Around the corner we have some very important Métis meetings. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and Annual General Meeting will be held in Prince Albert on June 16, 10 a.m. at the Travelodge. This meeting will, hopefully, announce a Chief Electoral Officer for an election we expect to be called in early fall. All signs point to this happening, Let’s hope.

June 17 will see a commemoration of the War of 1812 at Saskatoon’s River Landing. A reading of a play, musicians and fireworks will be the order of the day. Also, don’t be surprised if you see some First Nation people in full regalia riding horses through the city that weekend. It will be the Whitecap Dakota Chief and his people riding out to Wanuskewin. That should make for some great photos.

Wanuskewin is hosting its powwow to celebrate their 20th anniversary on June 20. The powwow will also kick off the Truth and Reconciliation national gathering that is going to be hosted in Saskatoon at the Prairieland Park from June 21-24. Entrance is free at Wanuskewin for the powwow and the TRC events are free as well. There, nothing stopping you from checking it out and witnessing history.

Also, who can forget National Aboriginal Day on June 21? This is the 16th year of this national celebration and make sure you go check out events in your community. We know we always show up in time, coincidently, for soup and bannock. Nice!

Once the corner is turned in July, the focus is on all out summer fun. Who likes to work on those hot steamy days, anyways? Make sure you check out the lake, the local pool or the golf course because it is all about recreation. And besides, swimming is so good for your health. It works every muscle in your body... and who cares if you don’t have a bathing suit body like Dirk Dashing! Go have fun!

We do know some people that will be working hard in July. That is all the contenders in the Assembly of First Nations election for National Chief. Incumbent Shawn Atleo was thought to have an easy go, but now three women have thrown their hats into the ring and they expect a couple more candidates including the wing nut former Chief Terrance Nelson. The process should make for some interesting sound bites. The vote goes July 17-18. Make sure to tune in.

Back to Batoche celebrations are also a must see. This year they go July 19-22. No matter what you plan in it, June is a great month of warming up to a summer of fun in Saskatchewan. Happy National Aboriginal Day everyone! Enjoy the summer.

Oops from last month

We missed listing Gabrielle Abraham as winner of the Technology/Science Award at the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence. Our apologies to Gabrielle.

CAMEDO DONATES FIRE TRUCK

Fred Roy, Mayor of Beauval, recently accepted the keys to the town’s new fire truck — a unit that had a previous life at Cameco’s Key Lake mill. “We were struggling to find the funds to replace the unit we have,” said Roy. “Getting this fire truck from Key Lake means we can continue to respond to our community’s needs.” The 1982 IHC fire truck is in excellent working condition, but had been slated for replacement at Cameco’s Key Lake operation. Key Lake employee Terry Hansen was aware the truck was being phased out at site and saw an opportunity to help his home community of Beauval. He approached his supervisors at Cameco and they agreed to transfer ownership of the fire truck to the Town of Beauval. “Our volunteer fire department has had several fires in the community recently,” added Roy. “This fire truck is valuable asset that we plan to use for many years. We sincerely appreciate Cameco’s generosity.”

M.D. COMMUNITY BUILDING

The staff from M.D. Ambulance has an annual team building day where they do team building exercises in the morning and then do a project in the afternoon. The project this year was to help build a playground and colorize the back yard of Infinity House, one of CUMFI’s buildings on Avenue Q South in Saskatoon. David Dutchak, President and CEO of M.D. Ambulance Care said the choice for the project this year was easy. “We have a strong partnership in the community with Shirley Isbister and CUMFI. We asked if she needed some help, she said yes so she bought the playground equipment and we showed up with paint and labour. It is a beautiful day to work in the community.”
First Nations University of Canada graduation ceremonies

Top left: Jennifer Dubois receives her diploma from FNUniv President Doyle Anderson. Top right: Hoop Dancer ‘Chunk’ Obey performs at Mosaic. Bottom right: Gaylene Benjoe receiving a Bachelor of Education. Below: a group of excited graduates. (Photos by Mike Dubois)
Big celebrations for June 21

By John Lagimodiere
For Eagle Feather News

June is a great month to be Aboriginal. In 2007 the people at the Regina Aboriginal Professional Association (RAPA) were successful in obtaining a local proclamation from the City of Regina.

On June 11, 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan made a formal declaration to support the cause. Nationally, on June 4, 2009, the House of Commons officially accepted the motion to recognize and celebrate the month as ‘National Aboriginal History Month’. We have a whole month to celebrate our history and share it with others.

This year, RAPA will feature a National Aboriginal Month Speaker’s Series celebrating weekly themes and the sharing of stories from a panel of youth, adult and Elder’s perspectives. They include: Week One: Women’s History, Week Two: Oral Storytelling History, Week Three: Art History and Week Four: Sports History.

“This year, the goal of NAHM Speaker’s Series is to celebrate the stories and triumphs of individuals in our community,” said Cherish Deegan, President of RAPA.

“We are taking the approach of focusing on long-term strategic partnerships with corporations as well as promoting community organizations, who continuously volunteer their time and efforts to see their events succeed.”

Also in June we have a day dedicated to celebrating our culture, National Aboriginal Day. On June 21, people will flood to parks for festivals and other community events to enjoy friends and family and perhaps even enjoy an Indian taco. As a treat this year APTN is also hosting Aboriginal Day Live and Celebration, an annual celebration of National Aboriginal Day and the summer solstice, on Saturday, June 23.

Two concerts are scheduled: one at the Forks in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the other at the First Nations University of Canada in Regina, Saskatchewan. Both will be broadcast live across the country on APTN and APTN HD.

In its sixth year, these free concerts will feature some of the biggest names in Aboriginal music. Hosts for the Winnipeg event include Don Kelly, star of the APTN hit series Fish out of Water; Candy Palmater, comedian and star of The Candy Show and APTN’s own Upload personality Chantelle.

Hosts for the Regina event include Aboriginal DJ and actress Crystle Lightning and First Nations producer and actress Jennifer Podemski.

Besides the line up of music, APTN is hosting its celebration, a day-long schedule of family-friendly events. The Regina line up includes: The Local Onlyz, Plex, Riva, Stevie Salas and Bernard Fowler, Samian and the legendary Buffy Sainte-Marie, the legendary artist originally from Piapot in the Qu’Appelle Valley. She has promised that she would play, “stuff that is fun to dance to.”

Make sure you check out some the events in your community. Happy National Aboriginal Day to you!

Buffy Sainte-Marie is expected to rock the crowd at APTN’s Aboriginal Day Live and Celebration in Regina.

(Photo Mike Dubois)

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Saskatchewan National Event
June 21 - 24, 2012 Saskatoon - Prairieland Park
It’s about truth - A National Journey for Healing, Families and Reconciliation

Photo: Saskatchewan Indian Nation

[Image of Buffy Sainte-Marie expected to perform at APTN’s event]
Food powers mankind. But what powers food?

As the world’s developing nations grow and eat healthier, better balanced diets, the need for nutritious food increases. But every time a crop is harvested, it takes nutrients from the soil that must be replaced. Potash, and other essential crop nutrients are responsible for half the world’s food production, helping farmers produce higher yield crops that are stronger, healthier and more abundant. Potash is the food, for the food we need. To learn more about the benefits of potash and how it’s helping power a well-fed future, visit us at PotashCorp.com.

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Potash. Helping nature provide.
Presentations breathe life into Treaty 6

By Kira Olfert
For Eagle Feather News

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students and teachers in the Living Sky School Division had a unique opportunity to learn about Treaty 6 this past school year with the Living Histories: Bringing History Alive - Treaty Education For All program, which was first developed as a website two years ago as a place for people to start learning about Treaty 6, according to Sherron Burns, Arts Education Consultant for Living Sky School Division.

But last year, Burns, along with Joseph Naytowhow, Daphie Pooqak and Deanne Kasokeo decided that they wanted to, as Burns puts it, “make Treaty 6 come alive.” To do so, the group developed the Living Histories program, and applied for and received an Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant from Sask Culture in order to implement their plan.

The main goal of the program, says Burns, was to give students the chance to get involved and to come “face to face” with Treaty 6, and to understand what treaty means. To accomplish this goal, guest artists and cultural leaders like storyteller Naytowhow, artist and medicine woman Pooqak and lawyer Kasokeo helped to give basic presentations to schools in the Division. During these presentations, smudging ceremonies were conducted, a prayer was said in Cree, students were taught a little bit about the Treaty and about the history of residential schools, and then students were given the chance to see and hold Treaty 6 artifacts and to talk about what the artifacts meant.

“Holding the objects helped to open up the talking. Maybe one person would know what they were, and the others would be intrigued. It created a welcoming, safe place for discussion,” says Burns.

After the initial presentation, schools then had the opportunity to book further workshops, which included drumming, dancing, or storytelling, among other events. The arts, says Burns, “is the most powerful voice, the easiest way to find common ground” with students, both those of First Nations backgrounds and not.

“It is very powerful to watch students who don’t have a First Nations background sharing in the excitement, and to know they’re reacting to the drums,” says Burns.

Her interactions with students who do have a First Nations heritage have “a different kind of richness. It’s so special watching them. It’s really precious.” She hopes that all of the students who have taken part in the Living Histories program come away with the idea that “there is more than one history out there.”

As of the end of the 2011-2012 school year, The Living Histories program has given 78 presentations and workshops to 31 different schools in the Living Sky School Division.

Unit plans for various grades in science, history, social studies, art and English based on Treaty 6 are available online at:

http://treaty6education.lskysd.ca/teachingunits

The Living Sky School Division hosted a powwow at the Kerrobert School as part of their “Living Histories” project. (Photo supplied)

National Aboriginal Day

Recognize and support the ongoing contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada.

Funding support to plan and hold cultural activities taking place anywhere in Saskatchewan, available through the:

Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Leadership Program
Métis Cultural Development Fund
Multicultural Initiatives Fund

For these and other funding opportunities, visit www.saskculture.sk.ca or call Damon Badger-Heit at (306) 760-9251 or toll-free at 1 866 476-9830.

Requests for culture grants goes ‘through the roof’ in 2011

By Kira Olfert
For Eagle Feather News

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here is no doubt that 2011 was a “landmark” year for Damon Badger-Heit, the Co-Coordinator of First Nations and Métis Initiatives for Sask Culture.

Although applications for grants have been steadily increasing since 2007, during 2011, he saw applications for grants go “through the roof.” In fall 2010, we had seven grant applications,” he explains. “In Fall, 2011, we had 21. That’s a 300 percent increase.”

Badger-Heit credits increased promotion for the grants within the First Nations and Métis communities for the rise in applications. As well, he points to the intricate web of partners among Sask Lottery, Sask Culture, Sask Sport, Parks and Recreation and various Tribal Councils which helped different groups prepare their applications.

The members of this partnership are also where Badger-Heit points to those whose applications are, for whatever reason, denied, in order to better prepare them for the next grant intake. In addition, Sask Culture has teamed up with the Gabriel Dumont Institute in order to promote the often under-accessed Métis Cultural Development Fund.

Badger-Heit points out that it is important that the more grants are applied for, the more money will be made available for them. He adds that these programs also create employment.

Still, Badger-Heit says they are able to accommodate the majority of the applications they receive, which first must be adjudicated by a panel of five volunteers.

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A traditional Red River Cart will be one of the attractions in Lestock’s Centennial Parade this year, thanks to a Sask Culture Métis Cultural Development Fund grant, a partnership with the Town of Lestock, and the vision of Marina Roy.

Last year, Roy, president of the Lestock Métis Local, asked herself what kind of activity she could do to get her Local involved with their heritage. She asked her Local members what they would be interested in, and eventually came up with the idea of building a traditional Red River Cart.

“It may not have sounded like a big project, but it was going to be expensive,” she says. After some research, she decided to apply for the MCDF grant. As the Lestock Local is not incorporated, the Town of Lestock agreed to partner with them on the application, and hold the funds in trust for Roy.

Building day was March 31, 2012. Armand Jerome of Jerome Cartworks from Anola, Manitoba was contracted to lead the group of 29 people, ranging from infants to seniors, in the construction, after first giving them a brief history of the Red River Carts. This teaching continued as the group worked, as he talked about the different materials needed and where they could be found.

Roy says the young people who were involved with the project were thrilled to be involved, calling the day “once in a lifetime event.” She adds that the ingenuity of their Métis ancestors was recognized, especially by one of the participants who was a journeyman carpenter. He spoke, says Roy, with awe of the “technology and complexity that would have to have gone into the carts to survive the conditions of the time,” especially since they are built without nails. The patience it would have taken to build these carts was also commented on.

For Roy, the success of the day is measured far beyond the completion of the cart or the increased interest in the community to learn traditional Métis dancing and fiddling. Instead, it comes from what she felt while watching the cart take shape through the efforts of the members of her Métis Local. “I was so proud to see them participating, and to see them enjoying this part of their culture.” She adds that she sees the long-term impact being “inroads into the community. Our culture has something to offer. Our culture helped build this community.”

The Lestock Metis Local in partnership with the Village of Lestock completed an on-site community based building of a Red River Cart in preparation for their 2012 centennial which will be used in the Lestock Centennial parade. (Photo supplied)

Red River Cart symbolizes Métis heritage

By Kira Olfert
For Eagle Feather News

Many projects focus on youth

• Continued from Page 8

In 2011, this meant that $160,000 worth of MCDF grants were approved, as well as $490,000 in Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grants, which funded 27 different projects throughout the province.

A lot of funding went to projects that focus on youth mentorship and engagement, Badger-Heit explains. He has attended some of these programs, which include dancing, drumming and art exhibits.

“It feels pretty good to see a group of kids up there, jigging their little hearts out,” he says.

He also acknowledges a sense of “impact, insight and knowledge,” provided by these projects. “A lot of activities we are funding are things that were at one time outlawed in our country.” However, along with the importance of teaching about traditional First Nations ways remembered by some of the elders, Badger-Heit is excited to see funding lead to “innovations being made in our culture by those in their 20s and 30s.” In the future, Badger-Heit hopes to focus on “leveraging our partnerships” with different groups in order to increase the accessibility to and the amount of funding.
Royals inspired everyone they met

Promoting education – in particular education through the arts – is high on the Prince’s agenda. After the welcoming prayer, formal greetings and a rap performance by Regina artist Brad Bellegarde, the Prince and Camilla checked out displays showing the work of young aboriginal educators and entrepreneurs.

Fashion house Neechie Gear founder Kendal Netmaker was honoured when the Prince and Camilla accepted his gift of two large, elaborately beaded medallions.

“He said ‘Are you sure?’ looking at the detail, and I said ‘I insist,’” Netmaker said. “A friend said when Camilla’s helper was signalling her to hand the medallion over, she nudged them away and I was like ‘Wow, that’s intense’. I’m still recovering.”

Noticing a traditional native flute on entrepreneur, educator and Wambdi Dance company founder Jacob Pratt’s table, Prince Charles picked it up.

“He said ‘This is something else!’ and asked me if I made it and I said ‘No, I only play them’ and then he said ‘Really? Can you play something?’ I wasn’t expecting to play so I had to come up with something pretty quick!” said Pratt.

“I finished and he said ‘That’s great; it’s a really haunting and beautiful music’. He saw my CD, Eagle Calls, and I said ‘If you want, you can have it’ and he said ‘Oh, I would love that!’

Prince Charles also met Denise Desjarlais, executive director of the non-profit Prairie Spirit Connections.

“I spoke (to him) about our Tending the Fire program and how the youth are involved in their personal healing through the Traditional Art Program,” said Desjarlais.

“I introduced him to the two young girls with me, Bryanna Maple and LaKota Desjarlais, and he shared very uplifting words with them by encouraging them to imagine and dream but then to follow through with action.”

After meetings in the library with First Nations and Metis representatives and a moderated discussion on challenges and opportunity facing First Nation and Metis youth, Prince Charles and Camilla exited the school past a company of dancers and a drum group performing a song of thanks.

The opportunity to meet, even briefly, the heir to the British throne has left an indelible mark of those he spoke to.

“The girls were so uplifted by his words and said they will never forget meeting the prince and his words of encouragement,” Desjarlais said. “He gave them a strong sense of hope.”

Pratt says his encounter with Prince Charles will stay with him forever for many reasons.

“I like that fact that the Royal family is making sure they come and meet with FN people. Our treaties were made with the Crown. Having the Crown taking interest in First Nations people is really important and reinforces those treaties that we made about 100 years ago,” Pratt said.

“It’s important for us as First Nations people to honour the treaties, just as it is important that it be honoured on the other end. (The visit) reinforces those relationships. And as a career highlight, it’s one of the cool things I’ve done and one of the things I’ll always be able to talk about.”

Shirley Ishister received one of the Queen’s Jubilee Medals for her commitment to the community. She also got to meet the Royal couple and attend the symphony with them.

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Jacob Pratt played his flute for Prince Charles and the Duchess Camilla. He also gave the Prince a gift of his latest CD so the Prince could be entertained on a chilly damp night in Buckingham Palace. (Photo by Mike Dubois)

FNUniv President Doyle Anderson looks on as the Royal couple show off some beaded medallions they received as gifts from Kendall Netmaker of Neechie Gear. (Photo by Morgan Beaudry)
1. Which of the following Aboriginal soldiers won 11 military medals, saved a drowning man in 1955, and eventually lived the life of an alcoholic that left him virtually living alone in a Salvation Army hostel until his death in 1977?
A. Tommy Prince
B. Elijah Whiskeyjack
C. Peter Pond
D. Franky Twofingers

2. The Assembly of First Nations used to be called what?
A. Friends talking Treaties
B. Union of Canadian Indians
C. The National Indian Brotherhood
D. Daddy Daycare

3. The current Chief of the AFN is up for reelection in July this summer. What is his name?
A. Phil Fontaine
B. Shawn Atleo
C. Perry Bellegarde
D. Archie Belaney

4. Who did the current AFN Chief finally beat after eight grueling rounds of balloting three years ago?
A. Pamela Palmater
B. Clarence Louie
C. Perry Bellegarde
D. Terry Nelson

5. Where does the word Canada come from?
A. Cree word meaning big
d. Huron-Iroquois word kanata meaning a village
C. Saulteaux word for cold
D. Navajo word for strong territory

6. Who are the three Commissioners on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada?
A. Paul Martin, Jean Cretien and Brian Mulroney
B. Brian Smith, Leroy Stager and Fred Bryant
C. Tyrell Washington, Trina Marten, Phil Nickel
D. Willie Littlechild, Murray Sinclair, Marie Wilson

7. Where was the most famous Truth and Reconciliation Commission held?
A. Germany after WWII
B. England after the Titanic sank
C. America after the Civil War
D. South Africa after Apartheid collapsed

8. According to the TRC website, how many residential schools were in Saskatchewan?
A. 20
B. 12
C. 30
D. 9

9. What year did Buffy St-Marie win the Academy Award for “Up Where We Belong”?
A. 1970
B. 1985
C. 1981
D. 1993

10. What rodent is described by the Canadian Encyclopedia as having “had a greater impact on the history and exploration of Canada than any other animal or plant species?”
A. Gainer the Gopher
B. Beavers
C. Rats
D. Bomber Fans

11. How many Aboriginal soldiers served in the Canadian army in WI, WWII and Korea?
A. 12,000
B. 900
C. 30,000
D. 5,000

12. This Métis leader just received the Queen’s Jubilee Medal and, besides our columnists, likely holds the record for most appearances in photos in Eagle Feather News.
A. Annabelle Bouchard
B. Marie Deuxtoes
C. Jeanette De la Ronde
D. Shirley Ibister

13. This young First Nation leader looks great in green, just toured Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla around and is a heck of a golfer.
A. Cadmus Delorme
B. Neil Putsky
C. Tommy Twolnhewoods
D. Hihi Rodriguez

14. During his visit here in 2001 Prince Charles received the Cree name Kiskakwispim-kamiyowah-pahm ikot. What does it mean?
A. careful your comb over with this wind
B. can you help us out here with that ‘Honour’ thing we talked about?
C. The sun watches over him in a good way
D. dances with deers

15. Speaking of the Prince’s visit in 2001, do you remember who the master of ceremonies was that day at Wanuskewin?
A. Don Atchison
B. George Lafond
C. Alexander Morris
D. Cliff Wright

16. This hockey player from Meadow Lake and former Beardy’s Blackhawk had everyone watching the chase for the Stanley Cup!
A. Eugene Arcand
B. Jaromir Jagr
C. Jarret Stoll
D. Dwight King

17. According to the book Saskatchewan: A New History, which was the last Plains Cree group to settle on reserve in Western Canada?
A. Wood Mountain
B. Big Bear
C. Nekaneet
D. Little Big Horn

18. This Blackstone Actress won the Gemini Award in 2011 for Best Actress. She also does a mean old kokum.
A. Michelle Thrush
B. Andrea Menard
C. Tantoo Cardinal
D. Jennifer Podemski

19. According to the Census in 1901 how many Indians and Métis lived in Saskatchewan territory?
A. 3,000 Indians, 8,000 Métis
B. 5,682 Indians, about 4,000 Métis
C. 1,780 Indians, 3,980 Métis
D. 7,491 Indians and about 10,000 Métis

20. What year did the Métis Society based in Regina and the Métis Association of Saskatchewan located in the North, merge into the Métis Society of Saskatchewan?
A. Still fighting over it
B. 1967
C. 1982
D. 1993

Answer Key

Hey, if you got 20 out of 20, pat yourself on the back because you are elite at trivia! If you were in the 15-19 range, consider yourself a pro. 10-14, you can be a contender but have to read way more to move up to pro. 5-9 is likely average, this quiz ain’t for the faint of heart….and if you scored under 5, your punishment is hanging out with Dirk Dashing on page B12 for a while. Maybe cheer you up. Thanks for playing.
The mild winter and the booming economy have both contributed to a year of record earnings for the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA).

At a press conference at head office, FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson, SIGA CEO Zane Hansen and new Board Chair, Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas announced revenues of $267.2 million and a profit of $81.6 million for the 2011/2012 fiscal year. This represents an increase of 27 per cent over the previous year’s net earnings.

“The improvements to our facilities and our focus on a number of operational enhancements have improved the entertainment experience for our customers and will provide long-term sustainable returns for our beneficiaries,” said Hansen.

“I am pleased with our net earnings of $81.6 million, making this the fifth straight year of net earnings above $60 million. I want to thank our customers for their continued patronage and thank our employees who do us proud by offering traditional First Nations hospitality which is second to none.”

As a non-profit corporation, 100 per cent of SIGA’s profits are distributed to its beneficiaries in Saskatchewan.

SIGA, as a company owned by the First Nations of Saskatchewan, fully reports its financial and operational performance to its shareholders and the public. Profits generated from SIGA’s operations are administered by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Besides the mild weather and favourable market conditions including a strong provincial economy, the growth can also be attributed to SIGA’s focus on efficiency improvements and to significant capital reinvestment over the last number of years.

“All of our recent renovations are paying off,” added Hansen. “And our two busiest casinos are the Dakota Dunes and the Northern Lights Casino. And we owe a lot to our staff. They are the employees that keep our clients happy and coming back. Their hospitality is second to none.”

SIGA has become the largest employer of First Nation people in Canada according to Watson.

“We have 1,900 employees, 1,300 of which are First Nation people. And we have, at SIGA, over the past sixteen years, made many progressive gains,” said Watson.

Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Thomas replaced Acting Chair, Chief Edward Henderson of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation the day prior to the meeting and he said he was grateful of the work Henderson had done before him but he aimed the reason primarily at the staff and the people they serve.

“As it is my first day as Board Chair, I would love to take all the credit,” joked Thomas. “But it goes to our customers.”

According to Hansen, SIGA isn’t done growing yet.

“There is a broad appeal out there. New forms of gaming or maybe online gaming are options and there may be an opportunity to get into sports wagering, or we may look at markets outside of Saskatchewan.”

SIGA continues on winning roll, announces record earnings

SIGA Board Chair Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas addresses the media as SIGA CEO Zane Hansen and FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson look on. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Métis played key role in War of 1812

By Darren R. Prefontaine
For Eagle Feather News

June 18, 2012 marks the bicentenary of the beginning of the War of 1812, a little understood war, which guided the course of North America’s development.

As celebrations begin across Canada and in Saskatchewan, much will be said about this war, and much of it will be hyperbolic and will perpetuate long-going mythmaking about this period in Canadian and American history.

Aboriginal peoples, including the Métis, played key roles as allies of the British and Upper and Lower Canadians. Almost all Aboriginal peoples in the Great Lakes basin and in Upper and Lower Canada were loyal to the British Crown and fought with British regulars and the British-North American colonial militias to resist the American invaders. British and colonial authorities actively encouraged alliances with Aboriginal peoples since the Americans vastly outnumbered the British American colonies.

One of the fortunate results of this bloody war has been a 200-year peace between the United States and the British North American colonies, and their successor state, Canada.

However, this long peace also meant that British and Canadian officials no longer needed Aboriginal peoples as allies, and as a result, repression soon followed and included the Province of Canada’s stridently racist Aboriginal policies in the 1850s, which were later consolidated in the 1876 Indian Act.

Several hundred Métis helped repel American invaders in key battles such as those at Detroit, Queenston’s Heights, Lundy’s Lane, Mackinac, Raisin River, and Prairie Du Chien. Métis warriors served in the North West Company’s Corps of Canadian Voyageurs, Caldwell’s Western Rangers, the Michigan Fencibles, and in the Mississippi Volunteers.

Many of the Métis who fought in the War of 1812 either had roots in what is now Western Canada or would soon move here following the war’s conclusion in 1814. The direct descendants of these Métis warriors include the Dease, Ducharme, Fisher, McGillivray, Nolin, Pambrun, Rainville, Rivard, Rolette, and Sayers families.

For more information about Métis participation in the War of 1812, please consult Lawrence J. Barkwell’s booklet, Metis Soldiers in the War of 1812.

The document can be downloaded from the Gabriel Dumont Institute website, The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture at the following link: http://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/13476.
**EWCA honours two Women of Distinction**

May Henderson and Peggy Vermette have been working for the betterment of the community for decades. These unsung heroes toil daily to help alleviate the social conditions Aboriginal people face in the city and have helped countless people improve their lives. It was only fitting then that both of them were named as Women of Distinction at the EWCA Women of Distinction Awards.

May Henderson was pretty sure she wasn’t going to win, so she was actually across the street from the Awards at one of her community events.

“I went to the awards early for the group photo of all the nominees, and then I went back across the street for the grad,” said Henderson, director of the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre who was hosting a Grade 12 grad celebration for 101 Aboriginal grads.

“I intend to retire this year, and I didn’t want to miss the grad because it is so important.”

Henderson was informed by a board member that she had won. She was surprised.

“I am humbled really,” she said of her award in Leadership and Management. “But really, this award is testament to the staff here at the Friendship Centre. It is for all of us.”

Peggy Vermette who was nominated for Community Building, was at the awards, along with four tables of friends and family.

“I was honoured just being nominated by IANE. When your community acknowledges you for what you do or have done, you already won. I did not know if I was going to win because when I read the bios of the nominees, talk about impressive women, so I didn’t know one way or another,” said Vermette who is the Labour Force Development Project Coordinator for the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

“I had four tables of friends and families there. When they announced my name, they were screaming and crying and stuff like that and I could barely escape them to go get the award,” she laughed.

“The EWCA does a wonderful job in the community. They said they raised over $100,000 that night and set a record for attendance. Good for them. I send clients there and have worked with the EWCA over the years. They do a really good job for the city,” added Vermette.

Vermette and Henderson when asked what was best about their jobs both replied serving the community.

Thank goodness for women like May Henderson and Peggy Vermette.
The War of 1812: A Dakota Nation’s Contribution to Canada

By Larissa Burnoff
For Eagle Feather News

“T is a story that belongs to all of us. It is an important part of our past, when First Nations, the Crown and other allies joined together to protect their homeland.”

Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear shares the legacy of his people. Some 200 years following the War of 1812, the descendants of the Dakota warriors who contributed to the foundation and protection of what later became Canada against an invasion of the United States, recount how their ancestors became an integral part of Canadian history.

The Dakota Nation’s history stretches far back through European contact and across many boundaries, with roots reaching into territories from Wisconsin, Minnesota and some central Canadian provinces.

The establishment of the relationship between the British Crown and the Dakotas dates back to the 1700s when the British persuaded the Dakota people to join as allies to the Crown in exchange for the promised protection of the sovereignty that they held over their native territory and to retain the territories they occupied at the time.

History documents that the Dakota held councils with British representatives in 1761, where promises of peace, friendship, protection and alliance were exchanged by all parties, and two years later led to The Royal Proclamation of 1763.

In it, all traditional lands of the First Nations people west of the Mississippi River were to be protected. In exchange, the Dakotas and other First Nations allies willingly gave up hunting and harvest resources when needed or when called into service by the British Crown.

As American colonists began settling in British and First Nation territories as they pleased, so began the conflict famously known as the American Revolution in 1776.

The British, along with the Dakota allies, battled the Americans for years before eventually facing defeat in 1783. During the battle, many Dakota warriors including Chief Wabasha were honored for their allegiance to the Crown by receiving positions in the British army. Chief Wabasha became a British General in 1778 and although the war was lost, he and other Dakota leaders remained dedicated to Britain.

In the years following the American Revolution, the Dakota met with the Crown in trade and peace councils in order to keep the allegiance strong and to form the first written treaty signed between both in 1787.

By the 1800s the Dakota established strong trade routes in their regions with settlers and fur traders supplying necessities and goods for their survival but it wasn’t long before the British and Americans wanted to gain control over territory inhabited by the Dakotas. Trade restrictions on American goods, the British support of indigenous tribes and the general discontent of the Royal Proclamation by the Americans can all be considered factors which led to the War of 1812. The United States also dealt with First Nations in a very different manner than that of the British Crown, which often included savage and violent seizures of First Nations lands. As settlers moved in on Dakota and other First Nations territories in what can be referred to as a “land grab”, so began the war on June 18, 1812.

As Britain continued to wage war on Napoleon in Europe, they lacked war and personnel resources in North America. The Americans saw it as a perfect opportunity to declare war on Britain and expand into the British and First Nations lands.

Over two years, the bloody battle reached from Atlantic coast, across the Western Frontier, through the Great Lakes, into the St. Lawrence River and down along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

It’s believed that nearly 10,000 First Nations people allied with the British in the War of 1812, playing significant roles in the defense of their traditional lands.

Several great Dakota warriors were identified as leaders in the war including Chief Wabasha, Little Crow, Red Thunder and Waneta. Historians believe that some of the most successful battles, including forts at the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and Fort Detroit were fought and won at the aid of the Dakotas.

On Christmas Eve 1814, the British and Americans negotiated peace in the Treaty of Ghent, which signified the end of the War of 1812.

Despite the role the Dakotas and other First Nations played in the war as allies to Britain and following years of promises for land base and protection, they were left out of the peace treaty and negotiations of lands with the Americans. Insulting the Dakotas further, Britain handed the Dakotas traditional lands, without negotiation, to the Americans.

The Dakotas and other First Nations allies joined as allies to the Crown in exchange for protection and alliance were reinforced by all parties, and two years later led to The Royal Proclamation of 1763.

The Chiefs brought with them the medals and flags given to them by the British and reminded the officials of the promises which were made to them.

The conflict in Minnesota ended on December 26, 1862 with the hanging of 38 Dakota men in the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

* Continued on Page A-17

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The Dakota fought land rights battle after War of 1812

Continued from Page A-16

Throughout the remainder of the 1860s, the different Dakota nations expanded throughout Saskatchewan as far reaching as the Saskatchewan River, where now stands the Whitecap Dakota First Nation just South of Saskatoon, and includes the Standing Buffalo First Nation, occupying land in the Qu’Appelle Valley.

Despite a long-standing allegiance with Britain, the Dakota faced another battle for rights to the land promised to them during the War of 1812, as Canadian officials saw the Dakota as “American refugees.” By the late 1870s, the Dakota were formally granted territory in Saskatchewan at the time of the signing of the numbered Treaties, though they themselves are not signatory to Treaty.

Chief Darcy Bear asserts, “Throughout history, one of the core values of the Dakota people that has been passed from generation to generation is the spirit of alliance. Present day Whitecap continues to practice this—whether that be through economic development, or administration of programs—working in partnership is key to building a strong community, a strong Saskatchewan and a strong nation.”

History credited to the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

The Dakota fought land rights battle after War of 1812

Northern Lights general manager honoured by SIAST

Richard Ahenakew has accomplished a lot since he started as a maintenance worker at the Northern Lights casino so many years ago. Since then he has climbed the ladder to the role of general manager of the casino and is involved in a multitude of community activities. It is this accomplishment and commitment that led SIAST to bestow on him an honorary diploma. Ahenakew, a member of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation, belongs to a number of committees and boards, including Saskatchewan Human Resources, Waniska, Waskegun, Prince Albert Problem Gambling, Prince Albert Tourism and the Northern Lights Casino Pow Wow. He is a member of the Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, of which he was chair in 2010-11. He was the first Aboriginal person in Canada to chair a provincial chamber. After the ceremony, they took time for this photo.

From left to right Gerry Bonsal, Acting Campus Director, SIAST Woodland Campus, Campus Director SIAST Kelsey Campus, Dr. Bob McCulloch, SIAST President and CEO, Richard Ahenakew, Northern Lights Casino, general manager, David Walls, SIAST Provost and Vice President, Academic.

WE ARE CANADA BECAUSE OF 1812

Although the War of 1812 is often forgotten, it played a vital role in establishing our Canadian identity. The Dakota Nation played a pivotal role in the conflict, uniting the British and their Aboriginal allies in a spirit of alliance. Join us June 17th to celebrate this alliance and commemorate the War of 1812.

June 17th River Landing, 12 PM – 10 PM

- Ceremonial activities including a narrated production (1:00 - 7:00 PM)
- Entertainment by Denny Parenteau (8 PM) followed by the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (9 PM)
- Multicultural food booths
- Fireworks (9:45 PM)

www.whitecapdakota1812.com
Friends of Batoche hosts historic Métis women’s art show by Leah Dorion

By Brenda Hrycuik
For Eagle Feather News

From May until September 2012, the Friends of Batoche, in conjunction with the Batoche National Historic Site of Canada, Gabriel Dumont Institute, and SaskCulture/SaskLotteries will host the art show called Country Wives and Daughters of the Country: Métis Women of this Land by Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion. This art show honours the important historical roles played by Métis women in the development of Canada. The following is a conversation between the artist and Brenda Hrycuik representing the Friends of Batoche organization.

What inspired you to create this art show?
Well, the concept was birthed in my mind at least five years ago when I was at the Batoche National Historical Site co-facilitating a family history research workshop with Métis Elder Grandma Rose Fleury. At that event we were passionately discussing the historic role of our First Nations grandmothers in developing the Métis people. As we all looked at our collective family trees it became evidently clear how important these First Nations women were in creating the Métis Nation. In this conversation, Métis Elder Joanna Pondy, said to me, “We need to start recognizing these women in our family histories because our written and visual history has typically been so male-centered.” I really must credit the spark of inspiration, or my “ah-ha” moment, to Joanna because she said to me, “Leah, there are no pictures of these women; you should paint them back into existence.” Her words spoke volumes to me because my artistic practice always centered on honouring Aboriginal women and their beautiful gifts as life givers. So, since that time I have been working on this show and I have dedicated specific paintings to historical Métis women.

Why dedicate these paintings to specific Métis women?
I wanted our communities and the general public to hear the actual names of some of these documented First Nation and Métis women in history who contributed so much to the social, cultural, political, and economic development of our people. I found myself dedicating many paintings to the Métis women who worked rigorously behind the scenes with our men leaders such as Madeleine Dumont (the wife of Gabriel Dumont), Sara Riel (Sister of Louis Riel), and Marguerite Riel (the wife of Louis Riel). I have acknowledged a specific woman in history who is known to have participated in the growth of fur trade society. I also focused on historical women matrixarchs such as Nadoway Sinclair and Granny McGillis who were vital Métis family leaders, community sentinels, and traditional knowledge keepers.

What key themes and teachings are in your art show?
Many of the themes in this Country Wives art show and its related imagery focus on the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge of using the land and resources. The beauty and strength of Métis women is a core philosophy and concept in my work and I have done my best to respectfully demonstrate these values by utilizing my own unique artistic playful style. I believe that art can be a wonderful way to reinterpret the world and if this show helps our children and public see our Métis women in a more culturally appropriate way then I have accomplished my goal for healing and recognition. I want to use my art form to show the beautiful contributors to this world.

Why did you approach the Batoche National Historic Site and Friends of Batoche to host this show?
I am so grateful that the Country Wives show will be hosted at the Site because I consider this land a sacred space, a healing space, an educational space, and a place for telling stories. The BNHS has engaged in several wonderful projects to uncover the women’s stories related to the history of Batoche. I feel my work really complements the direction taken to reinterpret and tell the whole story of the Métis at Batoche. I hope the visitors enjoy the show as much as I do. (I would also like to acknowledge Gabriel Dumont Institute and Parks Canada for their support and assistance. Funding for this Art Exhibit is supported by SaskCulture/SaskLotteries)

VETERANS DONATE TO SIMFC

The Canadian Veterans for Justice and Fairness Group recently made a donation to the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre in the amount of $10,008. They said the reason they chose the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre was because whenever they held their meetings there they were always treated so well and always felt so welcome at the Centre and that Friendship Centre staff did so much for them. “On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, thank you to Canadian Veterans for Justice and Fairness,” said May Henderson, Executive Director of the Friendship Centre. From left to right: Ray Sorsdahl, Canadian Veterans for Justice and Fairness, Louise Oelke, President, Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, W.J. Schmidt, Canadian Veterans for Justice and Fairness and May Henderson, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre share in the cheque presentation.
I've been reconnected with my people for over 30 years now. I made it home when I was 24. From the time I was a toddler until I was a grown man, I was removed from anything Ojibway in my foster homes and adopted home.

Coming back to my people and our cultural and traditional way was hard. There's a lot of shame involved in not knowing anything about who you are and it was a tough struggle to overcome that.

Still, the journey has been a great adventure. I’ve traveled most of this country and been privileged to sit with teachers from a lot of First Nations cultures.

My life since 1979 has been centered around writing and storytelling and learning the ways of my people. I've been to ceremonies and celebrations, traditional camps and teaching lodges, powwows, feasts and Sun Dances. Everything felt like a reconnection experience and it still does.

But one of the great conceits we as human beings carry is that once we're exposed to something we start to think we know it all. We believe that things are inherently simple and that we're savvy enough to get things automatically. While that may be true for some people, it wasn’t true for me.

When I confronted the issue of residential schools for the first time I was shocked. I’d grown up in white Canada and the history I’d been fed was a white interpretation. The schools were never mentioned in history books and the pitiable amount regarding First Nations people in curriculum at that time gave me no sense of my own people or their struggles. I never knew the legacy of pain and abuse those schools left on the generations of our people who attended them.

When I learned it I felt as though I suffered too. My first introduction came in the early 1980s as a radio broadcaster in Saskatchewan. I did a profile piece on a traditional healer who spoke of his journey and what residential schools had nearly cost him. It was a powerful and wrenching story and I began to look at my own people in a different light.

But it wasn’t their pain that stunned me. I started to see a people who had within them a great dignity, strength and humanity that the entire country could benefit from if they knew it.

I saw a people who struggled with their pain – and some it was enormous – and who managed to rise above that and create vibrant communities and retain their cultural and spiritual ways. I saw a people bent and bruised but not broken. I saw nations of warriors who fought with their hearts and I was honored to be one of them.

I saw young adults embrace the traditional teaching of their elders and begin to revitalize the old ways and I saw their children and the tremendous impact that reclamation made on their young lives.

But as much as I want I can’t bring back generations lost to us even though it ache to. I can’t return loved ones to anybody’s arms and I can’t reduce the impact of the horror of those schools. But what I can do is continue the spiritual line – I can dance and sing and drum and pray and do ceremony in honor of all those lost ones.

I can do my part in the reinvigoration of communities by embracing the teachings and living my life as an example of their spiritual power. I can stand proud and be an example of a people’s resilience and fortitude.

See, if I become as strong in my cultural and spiritual and ceremonial way as possible, all that suffering will not have been in vain. If I encourage someone I meet on my path to do the same, I double the impact.

If we all do that the residual effect will speak for itself. Everywhere another heart will have risen above the effects of history and we as a whole will have reclaimed more of ourselves.

That’s what my own people have shown me and taught me by their examples.

An old adage says that ‘you can’t give away what you don’t have.’ In these days of truth and reconciliation that’s very true. When we can face the true nature of our hurts and find reconciliation within our own hearts and heal and walk again we have something powerful to say to another. To a country.

If you’re going to break, break going forward not away. That’s what residential school survivors have to teach us.

The reward at the end is the journey itself.

I’m made more from learning our history and working to create a new one.
The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

When SIGA was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations had a vision for strengthening the lives of First Nations people through employment and economic growth. The impact SIGA has had on First Nations people and the province of Saskatchewan since then has been unprecedented.

SIGA’s 2011-2012 year has had a positive economic impact on this province and on the communities where they work and live. At the heart of SIGA’s identity is their commitment to their communities. SIGA has made a commitment to enrich the lives of Saskatchewan and First Nations people across this province. Whether it is through their participation in programs such as education, health, culture and sports through their investments into employment, tourism, First Nations culture, sports and recreation. They continue to honour and respect their own company values by conducting business with integrity. Developing long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with the communities, is part of their long-term sustainability plan and it remains a focus. They are working on a future that will benefit all First Nations people as well as all citizens of Saskatchewan.

I would like to thank SIGA’s Board of Directors and all their hard work and dedication. I am proud to say that SIGA is one of the largest and most successful First Nations employers in Canada.

Sincerely,

Vice Chair Merley Watson

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

With over 1,000 employees, SIGA is one of the largest employers in Saskatchewan. In addition, we are the largest employer of First Nations people in the province. First Nations employees represent 45 percent of SIGA’s workforce. The company continues to strengthen the lives of First Nations people in Saskatchewan through employment and community relations initiatives. SIGA operates six casinos in Saskatchewan, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Swift Current, White Bear First Nation, Chief Robie, Dakota First Nation, and Yorkton. Our family of casinos offer a diverse First Nations entertainment experience that reflects the traditional aspect of First Nations heritage and culture.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA), we would like to proudly announce today that we have earned $237.7M and a profit of $18.4M for the 2011/12 fiscal year, this represents an increase of 27% over the previous year’s net earnings. As a result, our operating profit of 10.8% remains strong and profit margins are distributed to its stakeholders in Saskatchewan. SIGA fully reports its financial and operational performance to its stakeholders and the public.

SIGA, we take great pride in being a leading First Nations gaming and entertainment organization. SIGA has been and continues to be an important business entity owned and operated by Saskatchewan First Nations. We would especially like to thank our customers for their continued patronage, and to express our pride and gratitude to all our employees. Not only do they deliver traditional First Nations hospitality to our patrons, but second to none, but then generously give of their time and energy to our communities. By keeping a focus on serving our customers and the management of our resources, we have been able to produce steady progressive gains in our performance.

The mild weather and favorable market conditions including a strong provincial economy contributed to increased visitation at the casinos and overall revenues. In addition, the growth can be attributed to SIGA’s focus on efficiencies, improvements and significant capital reinvestment over the last number of years. The Board of Directors is committed to the growth and profitability of the corporation and the success of the shareholders through organizational performance. SIGA operates in one of Canada’s most highly regulated economic systems; a small portion of the industry has developed policies and standards consistent with industries of similar size and nature. We have been recognized, both provincially and nationally, for our operational excellence.

For the past five years, we have successfully grown our company by expanding our operations to other First Nations communities across Canada. With the help of our First Nations development partners, we have created an unprecedented $25M in economic investment on reserves in Saskatchewan. We are proud of our accomplishments and the progress we have made to become a respected leader in the industry.

Since opening its doors in 1996, SIGA has demonstrated that it has been committed to operate in a responsible manner by maintaining a responsible gambling environment, providing responsible gambling and being transparent in the issue of problem gambling. We make a concerted effort to provide our patrons with the resources to make informed decisions about their level of gambling. SIGA has grown into Saskatchewan’s 23rd largest employer and has generated over $100M in net earnings since opening its doors. SIGA’s growth represents a significant milestone in the development of the gaming industry in Saskatchewan. We are proud of our accomplishments and the progress we have made to become a respected leader in the industry.

It is important to note that at the time there were no direct investments in the development of the industry. The capital investment has been sourced through traditional means and direct investment from our stakeholders. In fact, 27% of our proceeds go directly to the Provincial government. In addition we continue to be a responsible corporate citizen.

This year, SIGA once again invested $1.3M to support hundreds of community groups across the province. This comes in addition to the $1M we have invested in First Nations gaming facilities in the past five years. SIGA is committed to supporting our communities and to the development of First Nations gaming facilities to support our communities.

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority - Board of Directors

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Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority - 259 - 93C Pacific Avenue - Saskatoon, SK, Canada - 306-977-7777
As University of Saskatchewan’s President Mr. Peter MacKinnon steps down from his role as U of S President, he was honoured with two gifts designed and created by Robert Badger, Cultural Coordinator and Métis Liaison at the U of S Aboriginal Student’s Center. One was a framed fan feather and the other a blanket. “These gifts symbolize the common foundational necessities of education and for all people, First Nations, Metis, Non-Native, and foreign to co-exist in cultural harmony,” said Badger as he presented them to MacKinnon. “The Blanket is a cultural gift giving tradition, stemming way back, at powwow’s or celebrations signifying warmth and protection.” (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)

Grade 12 Oskayak High School graduate students honoured at the powwow included from left to right: Creedence Pete, 18, from Little Pine First Nations, Tricia Buffalo, 19, from Waywayseecappo First Nation, Manitoba and Brooke Thomas, 18, from English River. (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)

New Town Drum Group from North Dakota hosted at Saskatoon’s Mount Royal School the day before the U of S graduation powwow. (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)

Lorna Arcand and daughter Cara Arcand were snapped during an intertribal dance. Cara Arcand graduated this year from the University of Saskatchewan earning a Nursing Degree. (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)

As University of Saskatchewan’s President Mr. Peter MacKinnon steps down from his role as U of S President, he was honoured with two gifts designed and created by Robert Badger, Cultural Coordinator and Métis Liaison at the U of S Aboriginal Student’s Center. One was a framed fan feather and the other a blanket. “These gifts symbolize the common foundational necessities of education and for all people, First Nations, Metis, Non-Native, and foreign to co-exist in cultural harmony,” said Badger as he presented them to MacKinnon. “The Blanket is a cultural gift giving tradition, stemming way back, at powwow’s or celebrations signifying warmth and protection.” (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)

Grade 12 Oskayak High School graduate students honoured at the powwow included from left to right: Creedence Pete, 18, from Little Pine First Nations, Tricia Buffalo, 19, from Waywayseecappo First Nation, Manitoba and Brooke Thomas, 18, from English River. (Photo by Trina Kingfisher)
I have recently tried to cultivate more compassion and positivity into my life, through a daily meditation and yoga practice, along with prayer, and a major overhaul to my diet.

As a result, I can seriously feel the changes radiating throughout my body, soul, and ultimately, my life.

These changes have been so incredibly powerful that when I found myself staring at the calendar, I knew precisely what I needed to write about for June. I had wanted to kick off summer with a powwow issue – powwow being the apex of Indian art and entertainment for many – but I wasn’t sure who to feature. A dancer? A drum group?

Then it occurred to me that I knew the perfect person to interview: someone charming, knowledgeable and very much involved in nearly every aspect of the powwow circuit, my ex-husband, Dion Tootoosis.

I laughed because several years ago there was no way I could write such a column. Such a feat would require forgiveness, maturity, respect. Yet here I was, almost a decade later, embracing all the wonders brought by the passage of time and the invitation of change.

Thankfully he was receptive to the idea, and my current husband encouraging, because now Dominic, the son all three of us raise, can celebrate that his parents overcame animosity and strife, replacing these with harmony, admiration, and curiously enough … friendship.

I really enjoyed the interview, and listening to all the magic that is powwow, from one of powwow’s biggest fans.

“It’s that feeling when you’re pulling up to the powwow and the first thing you hear are those drums. There’s something about that music, or just the beat alone, it invigorates your spirit.” Dion explained.

“You get out and feel the energy. Everybody’s culminating to the circle, everybody’s getting sucked in to see what’s going on. As they get closer to the arbour, they hear the announcer, they hear people cheering, then they get into the stands and they see people dancing.

“It’s almost electric, the feeling is amazing. It’s a high watching that. On top of that, you get to see people that you haven’t seen in awhile because everybody meets at the powwow,” says Dion.

“There’s also, too, the spirit of giving. There’s also, too, the spirit of giving, with the huge amounts of prize money. People covet money, it’s just our reality in this capitalist society, but in our traditional way, you give away what you cherish the most. It’s investing in what we call ‘karma’. They’re investing in that positive energy. Not many people talk about that.”

Dion was fortunate having been born into the powwow world, which undoubtedly influenced and shaped his life.

“I saw myself grow within the powwow circuit. I went from being one of those dirty little kids under the bleachers with a poopy pamper and snotty nose,” laughs Dion, “to dancing as a kid, just for fun, and then getting into the competitive side.

“I branched out not only in dancing, but also into singing. In singing you try to achieve a ‘one-ness’ with the group. You’re trying get one voice, one beat, and when you achieve that, it’s like a high,” says Dion.

From singing and dancing, Dion graduated to arena director, and then eventually, Master of Ceremonies.

“As an MC, you’ve got to say things that people don’t, like talking about that music, or just the beat alone, it invigorates your spirit.” Dion explained.

“You’ve got to say things that people don’t, like talking about that music, or just the beat alone, it invigorates your spirit.” Dion explained.
To drive home the message that youth must seize opportunities that come their way, Simon Bird, the fourth Vice-Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) seized one of his own by breaking protocol during the Royal tour of Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, during their visit to First Nations University of Canada.

Bird, along with Star Blanket Chief Michael Starr and Métis Nation of Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette, were seated with the Royal Couple during the formal portion of the visit to the school.

Bird also brought along a gift, and a powerful message, to give the Royal pair in the form of a medal he designed and the Federation intends to give to all First Nation high school graduates and hoped to give it to the Royal pair if the opportunity presented itself.

“It said on it, Education Is Our Treaty Right, and I took every advantage to put it in their hands,” said Bird. A seating mix-up placed Bird next to Camilla instead of the Prince and gave Bird his chance. He broke protocol to have a brief, whispered chat with Camilla.

He began by handing her a medal, identical to one he was wearing.

“Mostly I was explaining our treaty rights to education are still a major priority. I told her ‘the sun is still shining, the grass still growing and the water still flowing,” said Bird.

“Camilla turned to show Prince Charles the medal. Bird says they both complimented its look and purpose before returning it to Bird. As the Royal couple departed, the Prince accepted from Bird the very medal he’d worn around his neck minutes earlier.

“When you have a small window of opportunity like what we had – with the crowd yelling their names and security walking with you and the wind blowing and time ticking away – you have to take it,” said Bird.

“In the same way, I want our youth to be prepared for any opportunity and be ready for anything because you never know when that opportunity will come again.

“When our students have the same medal that was given to the Prince in their hands, they will think more of its significance.”

FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird broke Royal protocol to talk to the Duchess and the Prince about the medals the Federation will be presenting to on reserve grade 12 graduates in Saskatchewan.
The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre has been hosting a special night honouring First Nation and Métis Grade 12 graduates in Saskatoon for over 30 years.

This year was no different as the Class of 2012 graduates from various high schools throughout Saskatoon gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn to celebrate their success. The main sponsor this year was mining giant BHP Billiton. The room was all decorated up, the students were in their best outfits and family members were walking around very proud of their young people. This year there was a record number of graduates at 101!

Oskayak student Warren Nekurak received an award from the Saskatoon Police Service and plans to attend the U of S Law specializing in Indigenous Rights. Many students boldly shared about overcoming obstacles which include homelessness, and peer pressure.

Christian Nepoose stated that “being financially independent, a man of my word and being open are important values to maintain!”

Travis Joydea and Rozina Ermine faced some hardships to get to where they are today, but it only made them stronger. Joydea has been working two jobs. Ermine has been raising her child along with two foster children and has a three step plan to become a police officer that includes attending the Citizen Police Academy, enrolling in the Aboriginal Preparation Program and then attending the U of S Aboriginal Justice of Criminology.

The students said their sources of encouragement were parents, extended family members including siblings, faculty, staff and educators. Certificates in hand and with ambitious dreams and hearts of determination, students prepared to step out on new adventures in pursuit of their careers.

SIMFC honours 101 grads in Class of 2012


(Photo by Trina Kingfisher)
Former FSIN Chief honoured by U of S

By Creeson Agecoutay
For Eagle Feather News

To pay tribute to the biggest role model in his life, Blaine Favel, originally from the Poundmaker First Nation, dedicated his keynote speech to his 85-year-old mother, after accepting an honorary doctor of laws by the University of Saskatchewan earlier this month.

“I’m really glad that my mother was there. My speech (to the graduates) was about the values that she taught us growing up. Trying hard, always having faith and that we’re part of a broader community,” said Favel in a phone interview from his home in Calgary.

Favel’s mother, Lucy Favel, attended the convocation ceremonies at TCU Place in Saskatoon, along with Blaine’s four sisters, who are also university alumni in education.

“It’s very humbling and gratifying because I’m a University of Saskatchewan alumni and a proud Saskatchewan citizen still,” said Favel.

The granddaughter of Chief Big Bear, Lucy became an orphan at an early age after her mother died. Favel said although she later grew up in foster care, she was still able to raise him, his older brother and five older sisters.

“She was the first woman band councillor on our reserve. She has seen a lot in her life in terms of the changing of our (First Nation) people. She is always a big supporter of education in making all of her children go to school and encouraged us to try our hardest all the time,” said Favel.

Growing up, Blaine’s father, Henry Favel, and grandfather, Thomas Favel, were also a huge inspiration in his life as both were once chiefs of Poundmaker. Thomas was also the last lifetime chief of Poundmaker.

The university also recognized Blaine’s father by naming the Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program scholarship after him.

Favel received his bachelor of education from the University of Saskatchewan in 1987, also becoming a graduate of the university’s Native Law Program. He then moved to Ontario to obtain a law degree from Queen’s University in 1990.

He later went on and finished his master’s in business administration at Harvard Business School in 2001, becoming the first First Nation person to graduate from that prestigious school.

For years Favel has been helping First Nation people in the areas of justice, banking and employment. The former chief of the Poundmaker First Nation, Favel created the first community-based justice program for First Nations with the introduction of sentencing circles on reserves.

During his term as leader of the FSIN, Favel also negotiated and signed agreements with the government of Saskatchewan to form the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) in 1994, which has employed thousands of people and has distributed millions of dollars to assist First Nation people.

In 1997, Favel also helped to establish the First Nations Bank of Canada in partnership with The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Today, Favel currently is the CEO of One Earth Oil and Gas, a privately owned company dedicated to working with First Nation people in the oil and gas sector.

With many other achievements in treaty implementation and demographic studies on aboriginal people, Favel wants to continue helping First Nation people and has an important message for the youth.

“Believe in yourself and your dignity, believe that you are a special person and not to give up on any dreams that you have, that nothing worth having comes easy. There’s a big community of family and a broader community that will be there to support you and applaud your success as you go forward. Life is worth living,” said Favel, who said he was also happy to be visiting Saskatoon again.

“I’m feeling old to tell you the truth. I graduated 25 years ago and I’m 47 now, but I don’t know how to describe it. It’s a happy feeling. The University of Saskatchewan has a special place in my career.”

Canada’s #1 industrial employer of Aboriginal people
Aircraft grads soaring

By Creeson Agecoutay
For Eagle Feather News

For as long as he can remember, 33-year old Gerald Glasser of Buffalo Narrows has had a love for aircraft. But he did not want to leave his home and family to pursue his dream.

“I didn’t want to go out of province to go to school,” explains Glasser.

Unsure of how to turn his love into a career, Glasser can now say he has.

Glasser is part of the first Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT) 2012 graduating class of the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) Program in Saskatchewan. Last month, eight graduates accepted their honorary plaques as family, officials and instructors gave them a standing ovation in SIIT’s new aviation learning centre near the Saskatoon airport.

“This is our first graduating class and we put all of our hard work and effort into them. Our students have been focused since the day they walked into the door,” said Shane Clark, program head with SIIT’s aircraft maintenance engineer program.

“Any Saskatchewan resident that wanted an education as an aircraft mechanic had to go outside the province for it. With the economic growth, we are seeing an increased amount of air travel and aircraft. That translates right down for the need of air mechanic engineers,” adds Clark.

The two-year program trains students in the theory of flight, electrical, turbine and other areas of mechanical aviation. Clark said he has been hearing from companies since February. They are all looking for help.

“All of our students have had jobs lined up as of the beginning of May. I had to turn companies away telling them, ‘you just missed them.’”

The eight students will now take part in a two-year paid apprenticeship with various aviation companies in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows.

“They’re getting their school here, they’re getting their job here, they’re staying here and you can’t beat that,” Clark said.

“It’s a really good program. I would recommend it to anyone out there that is interested in being a mechanic and working on planes. If you have the mechanical incline, anyone can do it,” said Tyson Phillip, 22, who is also happy to graduate.

A member of the Sakimay First Nation, Phillip grew up in Saskatoon. He later adopted an interest in aircraft after joining the 702 Lynx Squadron Air Cadets at 11 years of age.

“That’s where I got my interest and I always wanted to work on planes and eventually fly one too,” said Phillip.

After finishing high school and wondering what to do next, Phillip’s mother suggested he give the SIIT AME program a try.

“When I first walked in the door I was overwhelmed because I didn’t know what I was getting into but I took it one step at a time and the teachers helped us through it.

“I got to work on King Airs, a Twin Otter and a couple Cessna business citation jets. It’s real experience and it’s a challenge. Which is what I like,” Phillip said, laughing and glad to be done.

Glasser, who is from the Clearwater River Dene Nation is thrilled to be able to continue his career in Saskatoon with his family.

“Hounded to get into school because I was so eager to get in and finish it and have a career. It’s the biggest accomplishment of my life. Now that I’m in it, I’ll never look back.”

Entrance requirements include a strong Grade 11 and 12 math and physics.

“For high school students, get your math and physics in high school. It will go a long way and make things a whole lot easier,” said Clark.

For information on the AME program and other SIIT programs, call 306-244-4444 or visit, www.siit.sk.ca

Contact Student Recruitment at 306-477-9300 or Enrolment Management Centre at 477-9325
Email: studentrecruitment@siit.ca

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Cities and communities across Canada will celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21. It’s the one day in the whole year when it’s cool to be Aboriginal.

The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal peoples: Indians (First Nations), Inuit and Métis. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Over the years many people have pushed for a national day to recognize and celebrate Canada’s Aboriginal peoples and cultures prior to 1996.

For example, in 1982 the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations) called for June 21 to be National Aboriginal Solidarity Day. In 1995 the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended for a National First Peoples Day to be designated.

The Sacred Assembly, a national conference of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Aboriginal peoples.

Canada’s governor general proclaimed the first National Aboriginal Day in 1996. In cooperation with Aboriginal organizations, the Canadian government chose June 21 for National Aboriginal Day because it was on or near the summer solstice. In the past many of Canada’s Aboriginal peoples celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day for many generations.

In addition to National Aboriginal Day celebrations, June is graduation month. Hundreds of Aboriginal youth will be graduating from high schools across the country. Aboriginal people are the fastest growing segment of Canadian society.

It is encouraging to see so many Aboriginal youth graduating as they are our future and the future looks brighter because of them. Congratulations to all the students on their graduations and convocations – you make us all proud! Good job parents.

It is clear that some First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth are choosing to lead healthy, active lives and succeeding in all areas, including the arts, humanities, commerce, politics, sports, science and technology. They give others the courage to push beyond their own potential, opening the door to new possibilities. Their accomplishments underline the positive outcome of hard work, dedication, and leading a healthy lifestyle to reach goals.

So how do parents raise children who will choose a healthy lifestyle? These things might be good to think about; show and guide kids by modeling good behaviour yourself; learn to look at life in a good way; have the good things from the past; look forward to and do things to make a better future; let your kids dream and talk of the things they want to do and of the people they want to be when they grow up; show your kids that you believe in them; support your kids and family in the good things that they do.

Finally, try to match what you say with what you do. These are the values of parenting that have been passed down to us from our ancestors.

Enjoy the celebration in your communities and remember that life is to be enjoyed. A wise man once said, “Life is not what it’s supposed to be. It’s the way it is! The way we cope with it is what makes the difference”.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy graduation ceremony and congratulations. Happy National Aboriginal Day. Ekosi!

Keep your letters and emails coming.

Send your questions or comments to: Sandee Sez, c/o Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 ST Main Saskatoon, SK 3N4 or you can email sannder.ahenakew@gmail.com
The Secret: Sexually abused as a child

(Part 2 - Continued from May)

Little boys need to be cuddled and nurtured in ways that are not sexual. If they don’t get this intimacy in childhood they will find it with their friends in adolescence, the intimacy they find will almost always turn sexual.

It is the connection between emotional intimacy and sex in their mind. The only way they can think of to express their tender emotions is through sex.

Sexual abuse happens when a defenseless person (usually a child) is used for the sexual excitement or pleasure of someone older, stronger or with more authority. It includes touching, rubbing or patting that is meant to bring sexual pleasure to the offender.

It’s time we change our thinking about child abuse. It didn’t only happen in residential schools and it didn’t stop when the schools were closed. Even when they don’t sexually abuse others they often cope with their pain through anger, anxiety and fear. Their families pay a painful price.

The invisible damage done by sexual abuse hurts the mind will and emotions. Bruises heal but the imprint on the mind of all these types of abuse stays. As much as one desires to push it back into the subconscious, the imprint remains, stealing from them what they cannot do without – their very childhood. It forces them to become adults overnight.

What makes children good victims? Good children can make ideal victims by being told “Respect your Elders” or “Don’t be a tattletale” and “Children should be seen but not heard.”

The best way to protect is to establish rules early. “If any one touches you or makes you feel uncomfortable, tell me. I don’t care who it is, Grandpa, Grandma, Auntie, Uncle, Teacher, I don’t care who it is.”

The power to conquer, healing and hope is an honor and can be an agent of change to discover ways to conquer haunting memories and heal old wounds from the past. There are self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Talking to your healthcare provider, physicians, and social worker can help.

A person finds peace and release pain and guilt. If you do not take care of your anxiety, fear, blame, guilt or anger you will become very tired. Depression may result as the result of having made poor choices birthed out of pain or pain of your past.

In my experience, body memories have developed over the years from the lack of self-expression. Healing modalities such as Reiki and Reflexology and massage have assisted people with their body memories. Lifestyle changes including regular eating habits, sharing circles and sweat lodges make the path easier to cope with painful memories.

Flo Lavallie can be contacted at WWW.companionhealthoasis.com

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- Must be proficient in the operation and maintenance of Track hoe, chain trencher, wheel digger, sashers, backhoes, loaders, skid steer, room boom and heavy trucks.
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- Valid 5A Kinley, clean abstracts and drug testing mandatory.
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To apply, email your resume to valleywest@sasktel.net

**Mentorship Program**

**CALL FOR ARTISTS**

CARFAC Sask operates a mentorship program that pairs emerging artists one-on-one with experienced mentors. We are calling for visual artists as mentors and mentors working in all visual media including craft, traditional arts and media arts for this year’s program that runs from September 1, 2013 to June 2013. This program provides support for emerging artists in their development through individual mentorships, workshops & group meetings. The time commitment for mentor & trainee meetings is a minimum of six hours per month plus two group meetings. Trainers are expected to commit additional time to the production and development of their art practices.

Mentors must be experienced artists. Trainers must be adults and not registered as students. Mentors and trainees must be Saskatchewan residents. Mentors are compensated for their time & trainees receive a travel allowance if required.

**Deadline for applications is July 16, 2012**

For info call Wendy at (306)522-9788
e-mail: mentor_program@carfac.sk.ca

**First Nations University of Canada**

**STUDENT RECRUITMENT OFFICER (Permanent)**

**Northern Campus**

**Reporting to the Director of Student Success Services and functionally supervised by the Campus Manager, this position will create and maintain a marketing plan for promoting the First Nations University of Canada and its academic programs and student support services primarily in northern Saskatchewan and to promote the FNUs to prospective students and their families, Pro-Secondary Coordinators, guidance counselors and teachers; provide information regarding academic programs, student success services, and campus activities through classroom and community presentations; attend and present marketing information; develop recruitment strategies, projects and support services for students in collaboration with the department and other partners; including methods such as email, social networking sites; establish and maintain effective working relationships with provincial and First Nations high schools and their guidance counselors; and maintain student information; create promotional material; contribute to the evaluation of student recruitment activities; and related duties as assigned.**

The successful candidate will have a Bachelor’s degree and three years experience directly related to the duties specified, and a valid Driver’s license with the ability to travel extensively, knowledge of this property and services including admission requirements, student related database information systems, employment/career opportunity trends, strong interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively and ability to think strategically. The ability to speak a First Nations language is considered an asset.

The annual salary range for this position is $46,707 to $56,993.

Preference will be given to FNUs, Aboriginal, and other designated group members (SHRC/2013-43) therefore, please indicate your status on the covering letter.

Please forward your resume and cover letter by June 20, 2012 to:

Human Resources Department, 1 First Nations Way, Regina, SK S4S 7K2

Phone: (306) 796 - 9590 Ext. 2500, Fax (306) 790 - 5997

Email: humanresources@fnuniv.ca

First Nations University of Canada would like to thank all those that applied; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Spot a wildfire? Call 1-800-657-9660 immediately.

Protecting our forests is everyone’s responsibility.
INCA student selected for CBC's Newsworld

By Melanie McKay
For Eagle Feather News

INCA student Alina Perrault is spending her summer at CBC Newsworld, getting experience and training for her career in journalism.

Perrault’s mother is from Muscowpetung First Nation, but she was raised in the francophone community of Zenon Park.

Perrault completed the Indian Communication Arts (INCA) Summer Institute in Journalism at First Nations University of Canada in May/June 2011.

Prior to enrolling in INCA, Perrault had a Bachelor of Sociology from University of Saskatchewan and a certificate from the eight-month program at the Western Academy of Broadcasting.

“It gave me a lot of technical skills, but what I really wanted to do was journalism, true journalism – where you write stories about individuals or help them tell their story. We didn’t do any of that,” she says.

Perrault wanted more training in journalism and storytelling. She did some research and came across the INCA program.

“What I wanted was to tell stories and help other people tell their stories and with INCA really found that,” she says. “I just needed someone to teach me how to do it.”

Perrault completed the seven-week INCA Summer Institute, covering print, online, radio and television reporting. She wrote articles that were published in Eagle Feather News, produced radio and television stories, hosted a radio program, and worked with other students to produce a one-hour television special.

Following the Institute, Perrault was hired as an intern by CBC Saskatchewan as a reporter-producer for radio. When her internship ended, she was hired as a television producer on SCN’s news program, Five Days.

She was encouraged by INCA department head, Shannon Avison to apply for the CBC Newsworld Joan Donaldson Internship/Scholarship, which is offered to just eight students from the major journalism schools across Canada.

“We had to write a letter describing our background and interests, and do a critical analysis of a news program, and submit our own television or radio stories,” said Perrault.

Most of the articles Perrault submitted were completed during her training and internships with INCA.

Finally, students who were short-listed did an interview that Perrault characterized as “intense.”

When she received the call from Newsworld, she recalls, “I thought they were calling to tell me I didn’t get it. When he said I was selected, I had to ask him to repeat it. I was so thrilled. For me, it’s a huge achievement.”

Perrault is working at the Newsworld production centre in Toronto, as an editorial assistant and chase producer (researching and finding and pre-interviewing guests). She will spend a month in Vancouver before returning to Toronto to complete her internship in radio syndication.

She is keeping an eye on the job postings at CBC and other broadcasters and hopes to continue at CBC somewhere in Canada when her internship ends.

“For me, this is a dream come true,” she says. “What I learned is, don’t give up on your dreams. You have to work for them, but everything is possible.”

For more information about the INCA program, contact Shannon Avison at savison@fnuniv.ca
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation’s George Lafond is the new Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan. Lafond is no stranger to high profile jobs. He has been Vice Chief and later Tribal Chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council from 1995 to 2002 and he was also the Special Advisor on Aboriginal Initiatives to the President of the University of Saskatchewan.

He is eager to begin the important work.

“In all the jobs I have had, you try to move the story line forward for young people,” said Lafond as he was prepared to enter the rink for a spring hockey game.

“I have always been one who wants to open the door and support young people.”

Lafond, who began his career as a teacher, was a special assistant to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the mid 1980s and early 1990s. He advised on several matters including the creation of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and its mandate, new strategies to strengthen First Nation governance, and the establishment of the first urban reserve in Canada.

In 1991, as part of the Spicer Commission on Canadian Unity, Mr. Lafond managed the provincial consultations out in Regina, Saskatchewan. The consultations were considered one of the most effectively managed regions in the country due to a thorough community consultation process.

At the Saskatoon Tribal Council he played an integral role in finding partnership support for the creation of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge a facility in inner city Saskatoon.

The Treaty Commissioner has been a presence in Saskatchewan since 1989 when Cliff Wright helped move the Treaty Land Entitlement settlement forward. He was followed by Judge David Arnot who saw the need for public education and branded the term: “We are all Treaty people.”

Bill McKnight, the most recent Commissioner, focused on using the Treaties as a way to get First Nation people into the economy. For Lafond, his priority will be health.

“I grew up in the ’60s and have seen how the world has changed. Treaty 6 mentions the medicine chest and First Nations mention the spirit and intent and we need clarity on the obligation of the Crown,” said Lafond.

“In our communities we have obesity, diabetes, arthritis and lack of good access to support a good diet. And it seems as though we are always coming in after the fact. Everything links to health.

“We need to focus on the maternal health and those children before the health issues start. I just finished on a national education panel and we are seeing the need for special education.

“Some kids are being held back and not learning because they have not had appropriate eye and ear care and diagnosis. That is a slam dunk to fix. Why don’t we?”

For now, Lafond intends to study what his predecessors have done and then enter into a strategic planning process with the Crown and the First Nations.

“Once you have your direction and plan, you make sure it is sound,” said Lafond. “You pick your main areas and try to make a difference and you can make change.”

Lafond has a Bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of Saskatchewan.
Here’s why we need a White History Month, campers

John L: June is Aboriginal History Month. On the 21st we celebrate National Aboriginal Day, which is also the start of hearings in Saskatoon by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Here to comment on these developments is Eagle Feather News’ own Dirk Dashing.

Dirk: John, contrary to popular opinion, Jesus was not born on December 25. That date was picked as a compromise between those who followed the Julianne Moore and Gregory Peck calendars, later to be etched into the cultural fabric of the land by the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit calendar. The Swimsuit edition is definitely multicultural – at least last time I checked, I mean that’s what I’m told.

John L: I have learned not to argue facts with you, but most of the holidays we celebrate are based on European culture and tradition.

Dirk: Some history, John, but not all. They came across the big water fleeing oppression, limited opportunities, and the Scots. But upon jumping on the boats they signed an unwritten contract – leave your family histories and defining beliefs in the old country and come to Canada and be equal.

John L: That’s a little simplistic, but let’s go back to the idea that white Canada needs a commission to examine their mistreatment. Are you suggesting they, too, were misled or abused in coming to this country?

Dirk: Today, there are oodles of fantastic white Canadians who feel ripped-off, John. One of the other great, unwritten myths holds that if you work hard enough you will be successful.

John L: I know this idea, though I cannot pin down where or when I learned it. What’s the problem?

Dirk: The myth obscures from view is that for a couple of centuries barriers were put in front of people with copper coloured skin to free up space so folks of the vanilla variety could get ahead.

John L: When you talk of barriers are you talking about residential schools and the pass system for Indians, the burning of Métis homes, while European immigrants got incentives?

Dirk: Yes. But these barriers are coming down. Sweet caramel-coloured sports fans are getting in the game, and the current generation of frosty-coloured campers are confused and feel squeezed out.

John L: You know, most of that history was never taught in school. I can see how people feel some resentment.

Dirk: Yet, when the average light-coloured Canadian learns about the true history of this country – the great and the dark bits – their reactions range from anger at having had this stuff concealed from them to genuine relief that their resentments are based on misconceptions that should be misbelieved and misheld.

John L: Am not sure those are words, but I see the direction you have drifted. So to sum up, you believe white Canada needs a National European History Month and a National European Settler Day?

Dirk: And a commission to rectify the gaping holes in all Canadian minds, including descendents of original settlers, and the Scottish. I mean who picks the thistle for a national flower? We all need answers, John.

John L: Alright, until then they’ll have to settle for Good Friday, Easter, or the Victoria, Canada, and Labour days, and other Christian holidays. As for culture we’ll get by with social studies in high school, or go to Mosaic in Regina or FolkFest in Saskatoon, or the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, the Western Development Museum, or Buds on Broadway, or Diva’s, or …

Dirk: Once again you miss the point. We need a holiday or our colour-deprived co-habitants will feel left out of the very country they helped found. For didn’t the bunny say in the Bible, “Yea, tho it be Easter, let the Gentles come unto me bearing fruit and taste of the chocolates that we may all be basking.” Kinda says it all, John.

John L: Thanks again, Dirk. Of all the columns you have written this … is the most recent.

Readers are urged to check out the unedited version of this column at Dirk Dashing’s Facebook page.

Dirk says, “I drew a gun. He drew a gun. I drew another. Soon we were surrounded by lovely drawings of guns.” – thanks to Chic Murray.
Former Philadelphia Flyer gives Boys & Girls Club a lift during Saskatoon visit

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Philadelphia Flyer fans in Saskatchewan likely felt a little Flyer karma in May as the legendary Flyer defenseman Brad Marsh biked through the province on this leg of his 90 Day Challenge. He is doing it to raise awareness of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada.

He and his son Erik made a stop at Saskatoon’s Pleasant Hill School to visit the children in the after school program run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Saskatoon. Turns out Marsh donates lots of his time to the Boys and Girls Club in Ottawa and was concerned to find out people didn’t know about what the group did.

“I figured we should do something for them,” hence the bike trip said Marsh, moments before a wild floor hockey game broke out.

“So off we go. Erik is driving the van and biking a bit, but it has been good. We received a police escort in Calgary and we are running into lots of NHL alumni and we are raising awareness of the important work they do at the Club.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of Saskatoon is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving children and youth in Saskatoon. The Clubs provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life.

They have been offering programs in Saskatoon since 1974 and 2,773 children and youth attended their programs in 2011.

Marsh spent 15 years in the NHL, most of those years with the Flyers including his most memorable years of playing in the Stanley Cup finals in 1985 and 87.

“It hurt to lose those series,” he said. “But there are more important things in life. So we do our part. So we hope we can bring some attention and help to this group. These kids need role models.”

And off he went to drop the puck and go play his position. Defense of course.

The entire gang of the Pleasant Hill School Boys and Girls Club got in on the picture with Brad Marsh. He is standing in the back right corner beside my cousin Wanda.

(Photoby John Lagimodiere)
PUBLIC NOTICE

ENBRIDGE BAKKEN PIPELINE COMPANY INC., or behalf of
ENBRIDGE BAKKEN PIPELINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Bakken Pipeline Project Canada

Notice of Proposed Detailed Route Pursuant
to Paragraph 34.(1)(b) of the National Energy Board Act

IN THE MATTER of the National Energy Board Act and the Regulations made thereunder.
AND IN THE MATTER OF the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity GC-59 approving the general route of the Bakken Pipeline Project Canada.
AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by Enbridge Bakken Pipeline Company Inc. ("Enbridge Bakken") on behalf of Enbridge Bakken Pipeline Limited Partnership, respecting the determination and approval of the detailed route for the construction of the Bakken Pipeline, approximately 123.4 kilometres in length, beginning at the Bakken Pump Station, near Steelman, Saskatchewan, and terminating at the Enbridge Pipelines Inc. Cottonwood Terminal, near Granum, Manitoba, as shown on the above Route Map.

If you anticipate that your lands may be adversely affected by the proposed detailed route of the Bakken Pipeline, you may oppose the proposed detailed route, including the method and timing of construction of the pipeline, by filing a written statement of opposition with the Board within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice. The written statement of opposition must set out the nature of your interest in the proposed detailed route and the grounds for your opposition to that route. A copy of any written statement of opposition to this detailed route must be sent to the following addresses:

National Energy Board
444 – Seventh Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8
Attention: Shari Young,
Secretary of the Board
Toll Free Fax: 1-877-283-8803
E-mail: info@neb-one.gc.ca

And to:
Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
10201 Jasper Avenue
PO Box 368
Edmonton, AB T5J 3N7
Attention: Ramona Salamucha, Regulatory Counsel
Fax: (780)420-5185
E-mail: ramona.salamucha@enbridge.com

Where a written statement of opposition is filed with the Board within thirty (30) days following the publication of this notice, the Board shall forthwith order, subject to certain exceptions as noted below, that a public hearing be conducted with respect to any grounds of opposition set out in the statement, in relation to any section or part of the pipeline affected by the concerns disclosed in the written statement. The Board is not required to give any notice, hold any hearing or take any other action with respect to any written statement of opposition filed with the Board and may at any time disregard any such written statement if the person who filed the statement files a notice of withdrawal, or if it appears to the Board that the statement is frivolous, vexatious or is not made in good faith.

If the Board determines it appropriate to hold a public hearing, the Board will fix a suitable time and place for the hearing and will publish a notice of the hearing in at least one issue of a publication in general circulation within the area in which the lands acquired or proposed to be acquired are situated. The Board will also send a notice of the public hearing to each person who has filed a written statement of opposition with the Board. The public hearing will be held near to where the lands to which the statement relates are situated. The Board, or a person authorized by the Board, may make such inspection of the lands acquired or proposed to be acquired, or affected by, construction of the Bakken Pipeline, as deemed necessary by the Board.

At the public hearing, the Board will permit each person who filed a written statement of opposition to make representations and may allow any other interested person to make representations before it as the Board deems proper. The Board will take into account all written statements of opposition and all representations made at the public hearing to determine the best possible detailed route for the Bakken Pipeline, and to determine the most appropriate methods and timing of construction for the Bakken Pipeline. The Board may impose in any approval, such terms and conditions as it considers proper. Where the Board has held a public hearing in respect of any section or part of the Bakken Pipeline, and has approved or refused to approve the plan, profile and book of reference respecting that section or part, it will forward a copy of its decision and reasons to each person who made representations to the Board at the public hearing.

The Board may fix such amount as it deems reasonable in respect of the actual costs reasonably incurred by any person who makes representations to the Board at such a public hearing, and the amount so fixed will be paid forthwith to the person by Enbridge Bakken.
PUBLIC NOTICE

ENBRIDGE BAKKEN PIPELINE COMPANY INC., on behalf of ENBRIDGE BAKKEN PIPELINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Bakken Pipeline Project Canada

Notice of Proposed Detailed Route Pursuant to Paragraph 34(1)(o) of the National Energy Board Act

LAND DESCRIPTION

RM OF BROWNING NO. 34, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

NE 24-6-5 W2M...........Eagle Feather Pipe Line Company Inc.

NW 9-4-5 W2M...........Nicholas L J Lechicka

NE 9-4-5 W2M...........Nicholas L J Lechicka

SE 1-4-5 W2M...........John & Mel Miller

SE 2-4-5 W2M...........Paula Miller

SW 10-4-5 W2M...........Canadian Natural Resources Limited

SE 10-4-5 W2M...........Robbin Harris

SW 11-4-5 W2M...........Murray Fleck

NW 2-4-5 W2M...........Kady & Jamie Fleck

NE 1-4-5 W2M...........Robert & Colton Horn

NE 1-10-5 W2M...........Kenneth & Linda Horn

NE 1-10-6 W2M...........Martin Lechicka

NE 1-10-7 W2M...........Karl Lechicka

SW 1-5-6 W2M...........Karl Joseph Lechicka

SW 1-5-7 W2M...........Karl Joseph Lechicka

SW 2-4-4 W2M ext 1...........Martin Lechicka

SW 2-4-4 W2M ext 2...........Martin Lechicka

Ptns SE 4-4-4 W2M...........Canadian National Railway Company

RM OF COALFIELDS NO. 4, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

NE 11-4-5 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

Ptns NE 31-3-4 W2M...........Canadian National Railway Company

SE 32-3-4 W2M...........Merlin & Beverly Branden

SW 32-3-4 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

SE 32-3-5 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

SW 32-3-5 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

SW 33-3-6 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

SW 33-3-7 W2M...........Floris Wilkie

SW 33-3-8 W2M...........Glenda Cook

SW 33-3-9 W2M...........Lisa Elliott

SW 33-3-10 W2M...........Laurine Elliott

NE 28-3-4 W2M...........David Rowley

NE 18-3-4 W2M...........David Rowley

NW 27-3-4 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

NE 27-2-4 W2M...........Oliver Family Farm Ltd.

NW 26-3-4 W2M...........Colby Family Ltd.

NE 16-3-4 W2M...........Brian & Rhonda Hall

SW 16-3-4 W2M...........Raymond (Terril) Quin

SE 16-4-4 W2M...........Gordon King

SW 36-4-5 W2M...........Ardon & Murray Nunn

NE 36-3-4 W2M...........Kenneth & Marilyn Dreyer

RM OF EMBRILLKEN NO. 5, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

NE 31-3-3 W2M...........Stuart Ross Moncriet & Harold Moncriet

NE 31-3-3 W2M...........Stuart Ross Moncriet & Harold Moncriet

Copies of the plan, profile and book of reference for the detailed route of the Bakken Pipeline is available for inspection by you at the following locations:

National Energy Board
444 – Seventh Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 0X6
Toll Free Telephone: 1-800-880-1265

Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
1021 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Telephone: (780) 420-5148

Enbridge Pipelines (Westspur) Inc.
402 Kensington Avenue
Estevan, SK S4A 2K9
Telephone: (306) 534-2581

Rural Municipality of Pipestone
401 – 3rd Avenue
Reston, SK ROM 1X0

Please contact Mr. Tyler Lyne of Enbridge Bakken at (204) 825-4466, or the National Energy Board offices at 1-800-880-1265, should you have any questions concerning this notice, the proposed detailed route, or the Board’s detailed route procedures.

Attachment: Listing of All Lands Affected by the Proposed Detailed Route.
## PUBLIC NOTICE

ENBRIDGE BAKKEN PIPELINE COMPANY INC., on behalf of ENBRIDGE BAKKEN PIPELINE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Bakken Pipeline Project Canada

Notice of Proposed Detailed Route Pursuant to Paragraph 34(1)(b) of the National Energy Board Act

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### LAND DESCRIPTION | LANDOWNER(S)
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| NW 12 1/4 W1/2 | Greg Swaffeur & Paula Swaffeur |
| SW 13 1/4 W1/2 | Mitchell & Christine Beriault |
| SE 14 1/4 W1/2 | Mark & Cynthia Beriault |

### RM OF RECIPROCITY NO. 32, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

**FRATIONAL**

- SW 15 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 16 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 17 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 18 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 23 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 24 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 25 1/2-34 W1/2
- SW 26 1/2-34 W1/2

**IN THE NAME OF**

- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault
- John & Susan Beriault

### RM OF PIPESTONE, MB – AFFECTED LANDS

**N 7 2/8 W1/2**

- James & Robert Inglis
- June & Robert Inglis

### RM OF AMTLER NO. 61, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

**N 6 1/2-31 W1/2**

- Daanne Lehman
- Leanne Lehman
- Art Stoffel
- Art Stoffel

### RM OF STUDTHAUS NO. 2, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

**S 31 1/2-31 W1/2**

- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan
- Cameron & Vivian Logan

### RM OF AMTLER NO. 61, SK – AFFECTED LANDS

**S 6 1/2-31 W1/2**

- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco
- Jeanne Fosco

### LAND DESCRIPTION | LANDOWNER(S)
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| NE 6-6-31 W1/2 | Vera Arthur |
| SE 7-6-32 W1/2 | Brian Arthur |
| SE 8-6-32 W1/2 | Peter Nissen |
| SE 9-6-32 W1/2 | Peter Nissen |
| NW 1-6-32 W1/2 | & A Farms Ltd. |
| NE 2-6-32 W1/2 | Peter Nissen |
| SE 3-6-32 W1/2 | Barbara Novak |
| SE 4-6-32 W1/2 | Barbra Novak |
| SW 1-6-32 W1/2 | Barry Miller |
| SW 2-6-32 W1/2 | Barry Miller |
| SW 3-6-32 W1/2 | Barry Miller |
| NE 6-6-32 W1/2 | Michael & Ann Wizniski |
| NW 15-6-32 W1/2 | Mark Hrcka & Tim Hrcka |
| SW 22-9-32 W1/2 | Barry Miller |
| SE 22-9-32 W1/2 | Joanne Wizniski |
| SE 22-9-32 W1/2 | Joanne Wizniski |
| NE 23-6-32 W1/2 | Joseph Wizniski |
| NE 23-6-32 W1/2 | Joseph Wizniski |
| SW 26-6-32 W1/2 | Marcel & Linda Daoust |
| SE 25-6-32 W1/2 | Marcel & Linda Daoust |
| SW 25-6-32 W1/2 | Marcel & Linda Daoust |
| SE 26-6-32 W1/2 | Marcel & Linda Daoust |
| NE 18-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 19-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 20-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 21-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 22-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 23-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 24-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |
| NE 25-5-33 W1/2 | Jeanne & Murray Faust |

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Team Saskatchewan cleaned up in the Boys All-Star Selections and MVP Voting. (Photo supplied)

Team Saskatchewan scores once again at National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

By John Lagimodiere
For Eagle Feather News

C lay DeBray was the winning coach on Team Saskatchewan at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in May, hosted by the Saskatoon Tribal Council. He is now settling in La Pas, Manitoba to be the associate coach of the OCN Blizzard. We caught him for some quick questions and his thoughts on the tourney.

Obviously, other than winning the fifth straight National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, was there any moment that really stood out for you during the tournament?

There were a lot of things that stood out during the tournament, for our team, the discipline and hard work that our players showed was the key to our success and that is what really stands out for me.

Any standout players on your squad that made a difference?

I feel that our whole team played like a championship team all the way through the tournament. We make sure to instill teamwork and everyone wore the green and gold were big factors to our success, although some players were rewarded with individual success. Jared Iron MVP, Ryan Pilon Top Defenceman, Colby Daniels Top Forward, Jarrid Martin Allstar team forward, Taryn Phaneuf Allstar team Goalie.

How was the tournament overall? Was the Tribal Council a good host as usual?

The tournament was an overall success. The Saskatoon Tribal Council is known for their great events and they did not disappoint this time, for sure. A lot of fans and other province reps also complimented the overall tournament and how it was hosted. Job well done STC!!

How does this experience help you down the coaching path?

As a coach, anytime that I can coach elite athletes, I will take the opportunity. The players, managers, volunteers and everyone else who make up Team Sask are very welcoming and respectful. As coach, it makes the job a little easier when you are surrounded by great people.

Winning five national championships is something that no one can ever take away from the players and staff. Every day that I can be on the ice or bench is a day for learning and teaching and I truly love that aspect. I do feel that while coaching Team Sask I have gained a lot more knowledge and teachings for the future areas of my coaching career.

Can Team Sask count on winning number six next year?

As for winning a sixth consecutive, that is a good question for now. I know for sure that I will be able to answer that one after our last game at next year’s NAHC. The target on our back keeps getting bigger and bigger every year. By saying that, everyone always wants to knock us off the top. The one thing I’ve realized is that winning never gets old!”

CLAY DeBRAY

Michael Hwang is the Chief Financial Officer at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Prior to joining the NWMO, Mr. Hwang held various positions in financial planning and reporting, accounting and treasury at Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One. Mr. Hwang holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Economics from the University of Toronto and a Master of Business Administration from the Schulich School of Business in Toronto. He is also a Certified Management Accountant (CMA).

The NWMO wishes to acknowledge the support of the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Northern Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

JUNE 2012

Eagle Feather News - Sports
Eugene Arcand  
Sports: Hockey  
Position: Power Forward  
Nickname: Bird  
Other Sports Played:  
Fastball, Soccer

Goz: As a standout in both Native and Senior hockey here in the province in the '70s and '80s, how did the two styles differ?  
Bird: The majority of us (Native hockey players) came out of Residential School. So we had two different personalities. In mainstream hockey we’d take on all comers – you had to! We were playing for survival because it was usually about racism. They call people who went to Residential School ‘survivors’ for a reason. Even on the ice. In Native hockey it was all about respect. It was about playing hard. If you had to drop ’em you did it without hesitation and you fought out of respect for your opponent. But after the game we would congratulate each other and be friends with no hard feelings.

Goz: So are you saying you were an enforcer?  
Bird: I didn’t consider myself enforcement, it just came my way. I didn’t play hockey to fight. I played hockey because I loved the game. Fighting, especially in mainstream hockey, was about preservation. And back when I played we didn’t wear helmets and oftentimes you’d have two or three fights a game as long as you didn’t pull hair or scratch.

Goz: Did you ever get any pro interest?  
Bird: You know what, I was so dysfunctional at the time in my life, I was just starting to experience freedom for the first time. I had all kinds of people telling me I should be (in the pros) but back then it was water off the duck’s back.

Goz: What would say is your most memorable moment in hockey?  
Bird: Going down to Chicago when the Blackhawks were honoring Freddie (Sasakamoose) 50 years after he played there. Out of all the people he could have taken, he took me. I couldn’t believe it. We were in the coaches’ room before the ceremony with (Darryl) Sutter and (Denis) Savard. They told him to put on his jersey and Freddie said no. He told them “I left here a hockey player and I’m coming back an Indian.” During the national anthem someone held up his jersey and Fred wore his buckskin jacket. The whole arena was on the feet clapping and cheering. I can’t even explain the feeling in the building that day.

Goz: Last question … should fighting be banned from hockey?  
Bird: No. If fighting was taken out of hockey, there’d be a whole lot more Sean Avery’s skating around injuring people. If there’s no intimidation, a whole lot more players will get hurt playing the game than fighting.
RIDER CAMP

(Bottom left then clockwise) Veteran running back #32 Neil Hughes is waiting for drill instructions. Hughes has family ties to Lebret and is a prized local Regina boy on the Riders. New head coach Cory Chamblin addresses the team after practice, and Darian Durant and offensive co-ordinator Bob Dyce have a chat about plays. (Photos Mike Dubois)
On behalf of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, our seven First Nations members and the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship committee, we thank our many sponsors for supporting our youth in this national sporting event.

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