

Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

Pipeline protest produces agreement

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Less than a week after Treaty Four and Treaty Six leaders occupied Enbridge Pipelines sites, the camps were taken down and an 'interim' agreement reached.

The occupation camps were set up the end of September at the Waschuk site near White City and near Kerrobert. First Nations leaders set up tepees and tents and said they weren't going anywhere until they were properly consulted by Enbridge.

"We've had enough. And it's time that we're going to stand as Indian people from BC, Alberta,

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and across Canada to ensure that we get our fair share of the resources that come out of our traditional territories," said Red Pheasant First Nation Chief Sheldon Wuttunee, flanked by chiefs from across Treaty Six as well as other provinces.

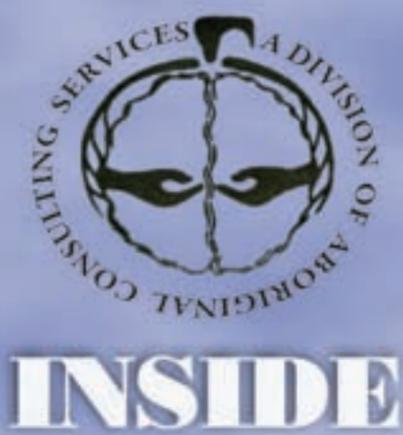
Workers contracted by Enbridge were sent home during the occupation, and the protest eventually led to meetings between First Nations leaders and Enbridge officials in Saskatoon.

The marathon-like discussions went on for 14 hours with the parties dispersing into separate rooms and rejoining each other a number of times before the

three parties involved emerged with a tentative deal that saw employment and training for First Nations people, the opportunity for First Nations to apply for contracts, and the possibility of equity and lump sum payments in the future.

"What we agreed to was to fund a number of training positions for skilled trades people. Everything from crane operators to heavy equipment operators to pipe stringing for example," explained Vice-President of Major Projects with Enbridge, Byron Neiles, who said people would be paid salaries while being trained and then Enbridge would find them a job as well.

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Our own Sandy Ahenakew has produced a documentary telling her story of surviving cancer.
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Neal Hughes made it to the CFL after learning his craft at a Regina high school.
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Guy Lonechild is taking a break from politics but vows to return in time to take a run at the top job.
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Welcome to our
Role Model Issue
Coming In November:
Salute to our Veterans
CPMA #40027204



Red Pheasant Chief Sheldon Wuttunee was one of the most vocal leaders of the Treaty Six Chiefs.

Aboriginal Music Festival a resounding success

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

The Indigenous Peoples Program Aboriginal Music Festival (AMF) was held at TCU Place in Saskatoon recently and organizers are ecstatic to report another sell out.

In its fifth year, AMF started at Amigos and has progressed beyond expectation, according to Co-Chair Alex Munoz.

"AMF was a huge success. Over 2000 attendees had the privilege of listening to National and International Aboriginal Award Winners throughout the entire six plus hours."

The AMF featured 24 musical acts, including award winners Star Naye, Wayne Lavallee, Fara Palmer, JC Campbell, Tracy Bone, Shakti Hayes, New Horizon, Black Rain, Chester Knight, John Arcand, Out of the Blue, Yvonne St. Germaine, Jason Chamakese, Mykal Gambull, and John J. Cook.

"It was amazing night," said John J. Cook. "To

showcase Aboriginal talent in such a way is simply inspiring."

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Shakti Hayes and Jared Stewart rock the house.

Organizers plan even better show for next Aboriginal Music Festival

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Cook was performing for the first time with a backing band and notes it seemed like they had played together for years.

"We were only able to practice a few



Kevin Arcand from Beardy's and Okemasis countried up the crowd.

times before going up there. At first the dance floor was empty but after our first song, it was packed. I think I'll keep them (the band)," he adds with a chuckle.

MC's Cal 'Crazy Legs' Arcand and Larissa Burnouf kept the evening on track and the audience never had to wait more than a few minutes for the acts to set up and begin playing. Adding to the spectacle was a multi-media package that included a live feed to big screens set up at the front of the room.

"Visually, there were four cameras, two large screens displaying broadcast quality up close viewing for all the audience, about 15 beautiful murals sponsored by SCYAP with two terrific and very lovely MCs who had the audience attentive and at times busting at the seams," Munoz beams. "To top it off, we had the largest number of corporate sponsorship for the AMF to date."

AMF had over 30 corporate sponsors, 10 corporate tables, 50 silent auction items, 50/50 draws, delicious finger foods and desserts for everyone and vendors as far as the eye could see.

And the music just kept on coming.

Shakti Hayes is a singer/songwriter from Saskatchewan who performed with guitarist Jared Stewart.

"I found out Shakti needed a guitarist and I jumped in my car and drove right up," said Stewart after the set.

"I'm from Montana and it took me



MBC Radio's Larissa Burnouf poses for a picture with musician John J. Cook.

about 12 or 13 hours to get here but it was well worth it."

Watching Hayes perform was somewhat of surreal experience – she's a small woman ... with a big voice and a big guitar.

"I learned on a bass and am used to playing really aggressive," said Hayes, "I hope I wasn't too aggressive, though."

No she wasn't. In fact, judging from the crowd's response, her voice and guitar playing, flanked by Stewart's skillful rifts and solos, made them a spectacle.

The evening as whole was a spectacle, a testament to the organizers, performers, volunteers, supporters and of course, the community members who paid to be there. According to Munoz, the 2008 AMF met and/or exceeded all of their goals and objectives.

"The AMF '08 far outreached both its objective to engage the Aboriginal community to the arts by increasing the playtime of AMF musical artists on major media outlets and providing a lively stage for young musicians to play alongside high profile seasoned veterans."

For the next Aboriginal Music Festival, Munoz says organizers are going to build on this year's success to make it even better.

"We are planning a two day festival, two stages, workshops, comedians, fashion shows, theatrical performances, youth activities, larger venue, more food, combined with the top of the line Aboriginal performer."

"And all for the same price as we have always had it ... 20 beans for everything, a price for our community."



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NO PROBLEM!

Draude promises Sask. First Nations will benefit from booming economy

• Continued from Page One

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Chief Edmund Bellegarde emerged from the talks encouraged by the agreement, saying the longer-term goals required more research before he could comment.

"We've agreed to look at exploring other options that are long-term partnerships and have some significant financial analysis attached with them."

Representatives from the provincial government also attended the hours-long discussions, including First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude. She said her role was mostly to encourage, but afterwards offered to hold a summit the end of October or in November for First Nations. She said the goal of the summit would be to find ways to ensure First Nations are also benefiting from the booming economy, but shied away from the term "resource revenue sharing."

"We are not talking about resource revenue sharing of any sort. We're talking about making sure everybody can be a part of our economy."

Bellegarde has a long list of things he wants discussed during the summit.

"Duty to consult and government's legal obligation there. Environmental stewardship, the economy and First Nations role in that economy, the natural resource development that's happening in



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish sat with some Elders during the Enbridge roadblocks.

(Photo by Darla Read)

this province, what role the First Nations play in there. Those are some of the objectives that we will endeavour to complete with some of the summit and follow-up work."

First Nations leaders immediately

took the interim agreement back to their communities and Elders for their approval. Later that day, they held a pipe ceremony with Enbridge officials to formally

end the days of action. Following that, Enbridge joined the chiefs in a ceremonial horseback walk down Highway 1 to formally end the days of action.

Historic Northern summit with First Nations Leaders a first step

A historic dialogue began in Prince Albert between six government ministers and First Nations leaders from Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC).

"This is a historic meeting, held just 10 months after we became government, and it was clear that we have common goals," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said.

"Both our government and First Nations want to find ways to ensure First Nations share in the wealth of the province, stimulate job creation and secure contracts while maintaining environmental stewardship."

The meeting with 13 chiefs and three elected Tribal Council representatives started a dialogue that will continue into the future.

"I am glad we could have a respectful dialogue," Draude said.

"There can be differences of opinion, but we discussed them in a professional manner. The question is to find a way to balance the rights of First Nations with economic opportunities and environmental stewardship."

Ministers attending the meeting in Prince Albert included Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz, Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd, Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart, Environment Minister Nancy Heppner and Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Hutchinson.



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Editorial

In praise of our role models

October is always a month when we look at role models in our community. You know if you watch or read the mainstream media you often get overwhelmed with the negatives that are happening in our community.

Sure, bad things happen, but more good events and good people populate our community than bad. So many so that we had to hold a couple back for next month because we ran out of room in this edition to cover some of the people or organizations that are making us so proud.

When we went looking for potential role models this month, we didn't have to look far. Our health columnist and close personal friend Sandra Ahenakew has released a DVD documentary that her and her friend, Tracey Stevens, wrote, filmed and self-financed. It is called, One of One Percent, and it chronicles Sandra's breast cancer experience.

When I first met Sandra, she was a boisterous, hilarious and powerful dame. She was a student at the time and it was agreed upon that she would come and intern at Eagle Feather News for some months. Just prior to her internship beginning we were hit with some devastating news, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, the same disease that took her mom.

Of course, the internship took a back seat as she underwent a double mastectomy and the chemotherapy that goes along with fighting cancer. We saw our Sandra lose weight, her hair and her spark (but only for a little bit). She soon insisted on coming in to work her internship. She had nice scarves on her bald head and carried herself with such courage and dignity that she was a treasure to have around.

Eventually she found herself a job in the communications field and she left us with fond memories and the threat to still write for us and we are so happy she shares her health information with everyone.

In the meantime she has noticed that there is little advocacy or awareness of cancer, cancer treatments and support groups for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan.

So, darn it, she became an advocate. She goes out and talks to women about their breasts ... and to the old guys about their prostate. This led to the documentary project.

The documentary has previewed at a conference in Winnipeg and at the McKenzie Gallery in Regina and is coming to Saskatoon at the end of the month, coincidentally being a great way to wind up Breast Cancer Awareness month. The documentary will also be in the Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival.

So, good job Sandra, for all you do for Aboriginal women and the health of all Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. You are truly a role model and we are lucky to have you work with us.

The role models don't stop there, though. In Saskatchewan they are everywhere. Cecile Smith at St. Mary's school in Saskatoon takes in people who have no shelter and helps find them homes. People volunteer to teach young inner city musicians piano.

Coach Kevin Irvine, a teacher at Oskayak High School in Saskatoon dips into his own pocket to buy his students on his soccer team, all 17 of them, proper socks, shin pads and other equipment because there was no budget at the school for it. Good job coach.

The examples of role models are endless in our communities. Do not buy into the stereotypes that people have put on the Aboriginal community.

Emulate the role models in our community. Support them, become one. We do have many role models, but we need many more.

What's next in Eagle Feather News

November is always dedicated to our veterans so we will profile some. And remember, not all veterans are old guys walking in the grand entry. Some of our veterans are fresh back from Afghanistan and home to young families.

We will talk to them about their experiences.

We also have some left over role models we didn't get into this edition so look for them as well.

Until then, please go out and exercise your right to vote. Your vote does count.



Tracy Stevens, Producer of One of One Percent, Grace Ahenakew and our health columnist Sandra Ahenakew, holding the flowers, at the DVD premiere of the documentary that captures Sandra's epic battle with breast cancer, and her family's unique genetic situation that makes them highly vulnerable to breast cancer. The touching documentary has been shown at a breast cancer conference in Winnipeg and will premiere in Saskatoon on October 29 at the Roxy Theatre. Sandra has been a strong advocate for cancer awareness in the Aboriginal community, becoming quite famous for her talks urging women to "get a hold of their breasts."

Letter to the Editor ...

Life is made up of many challenges and there are times when people are trying to change and become better citizens within our communities. My son is trying to change his way of life from alcoholism and dependence on cocaine (he is a white Caucasian male). He spent a week in the detox centre in Regina and happened to meet a young Aboriginal male by the name of Jim (names changed due to confidentiality) who also had similar addictions.

Jim's story is one that is filled with hope but the little I hear about him I also have concern for him. He needs to find the support within the Aboriginal community that he so much deserves. I understand he came from a northern reserve and knew he had to leave in order to change.

He had enough money to get on a bus and come to Regina. Once in Regina he found the detox centre. After leaving detox he had to find a place to stay and ended up in the Salvation Centre. His goal was to make sure he attended two AA or NA meetings a day which he has done faithfully, according to my son who is also trying to do the same.

Someone, out of kindness, also gave him a bike to get him back and forth to these meetings. He has also tried to get employment at some of the local restaurants but has had no luck to date. He wants to find a small place to live and asked

my son if he would be a reference. My son said he would be happy to give a reference for a rental accommodation, however if they ask how long he has known Jim he will have to indicate it has only been about a month now.

My heart goes out to both of them as they struggle to be addiction free and at times try and support one another by having a familiar face at these meetings. They both need a good job to keep them busy. My son at least has us as parents to support him as much as possible, but Jim really has no one here other than the people who attend these meetings.

There should be someone within the Aboriginal community that can help Jim. I would be more than willing to help him get in contact with the right people to give him the support he needs. Can you help?

Eagle Feather News received this appeal for help from a concerned Regina citizen. Are there any readers out there that can recommend a place to live and offer up decent jobs for these young men trying to do the right thing? Let us know at Eagle Feather and we will relay the information to the mother who is doing the right thing. Call us toll free at 1-866-323-6397 or email johnl@eaglefeathernews.com



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Band members have role to play in governance

It's election time in Canada and the USA and we are caught in a flood of election rhetoric on the TV and internet, and political billboards are everywhere. It's very much an 'in your face' campaign bombarding us these days.

Thank goodness for the media, though. Through it we are informed on how well incumbents lived up to their previous election promises, how well all the candidates behaved themselves, and we get a good idea of the issues that will be watch-dogged by the opposition.

It's election time on many of our reserves these days also but there's no TV coverage, no billboards and only a few internet blogs informing us. That said, there are some First Nations that do have public campaign forums for Band members on-reserve and in urban centres.

These forums are great; they allow Band members to question the candidates on their views and their intentions if they get voted in.

They give us a chance to ask the incumbents to account for their time in office – did they follow through on promises? Did they conduct their work in an open, transparent and accountable fashion? Did they use our gaming monies to create programs for our youth or did they use it to pay off their debts?

What did they do to help create employment and reduce welfare dependency on-reserve? Are those in office and those with jobs getting their heat and light bills paid for by the Band?

There are so many questions we can ask to determine if our leaders are doing their jobs well and so few opportunities to get answers.

At election time there's a lot of lip service given to transparency and accountability. Many politicians sling it around in their speeches as if they knew what it was.

Transparency means showing people how decisions were made, what kind of evidence and supporting information was used to decide what course of action to take.

It is about opening the books and honestly showing people how all the money was spent. It happens in regular and open Band meetings where folks get to see for themselves.

Accountability is about accounting for your actions especially to those who are affected by your actions – the people you serve and those who provide the

resources. It's not just about money, it is also about demonstrating that you are doing what you said you would do and doing it in a good way, that you are serving your people by doing your best to meet their needs.

Transparency and accountability are not just election jingles, they should be practiced daily.

What does election time look like with your First Nation? Are there public forums where people have a voice and can get honest answers?

Are the books opened for everyone to see, or is it party time and a great opportunity to get your name jacked up to the top of the housing list?

Sometimes listening to people complain about Band politics gets sickening, especially when folks complain that it's the same corrupt old guard that gets back in year after year.

They are referring to those leaders who act like dictators and dole out favours to family members and buddies.

We hear it all the time – who gets the best jobs, new houses, and who gets bailed out from their gambling and bingo

debts with Band money?

Reality is, that these leaders don't get into power by themselves, they are voted in. The people decide who their leaders are. So when you think about it, to a large degree your leadership reflects who you are as a people.

Are you a person who believes in sharing the meagre resources we have for the common good of the community?

Or do you prefer a leader who throws you favours and freebies? Are you a person who expects your leadership to be accountable and transparent and fair in all their dealings?

Or are you a person worried about keeping your job?

In the old days, if a leader was not living up to the expectations of community, that leader was ousted and another put in place. Nowadays we have to wait for elections to make change happen.

What we most often forget is that we, as Band members, also have roles and responsibilities in local governance.

We have the power to make change happen in our communities.

By asking questions, getting involved, demanding accountability, and behaving with integrity and pride in all our dealings, we have the power to clean up dirty politics.



Law and politics make an interesting combination

Politics and law intertwine in interesting ways. The pre-election prattle gives us one example. Métis people asking judges for rights gives us another one.

The Conservative minority government of Mr. Harper, propped up in power by the Liberals and NDP for quite some time now, is ready to ask Canadians for a mandate to rule on its own. Getting power in Ottawa requires wooing Quebecers who have a third of the vote in this country, and last week the PM was pitching 'open federalism' aimed at Quebec.

The issue was stiffer sentences for children who commit serious crimes. Children as young as 14 years old would get life and 14 years in jail for other serious offences.

Now, we know that all experts agree that 'tough on crime' policies do not work. Throwing children in jail will not reduce juvenile crime. What works is improving life conditions.

In order to woo Quebec, Harper proposed a plan that would allow provinces to set different and higher age thresholds for adult sentencing. This was aimed at Quebec where rehabilitation is valued more than the idea of being 'tough'.

By the way, statistics have shown that Aboriginal people are not over-represented in Quebec jails as they are in most of the rest of Canada, especially in the West.

Another aspect of Harper's plan would eliminate the current shielding of the

identity of young criminals. Now that one is more likely to find favour among Aboriginal folks, where shaming, which makes intuitive sense, has a long history.

The interesting issue behind the Harper proposal for Aboriginal people is the floating of this 'open federalism', based on the idea of distinct criminal law systems in the various provinces.

In the 1980s there was a national process of Aboriginal Constitutional Reform involving First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders. Then the politicians would reject out of hand the idea of Aboriginal self-government, citing as an example of their concern, the idea that crime in Canada would be treated differently depending on where the crime was committed.

In that case the differences would be between the uniform federal system of criminal law in Canada, and the application of criminal law on Aboriginal territory governed by an Aboriginal people or nation.

The logic of the Harper proposal on flexible and differential juvenile sentencing law goes against the grain of Canadian history and attitude. Our country has few national myths to sustain its soul.

Local or regional autonomy in criminal law is not feared or opposed there. "Open federalism" works there. Is this an instance of Harper pitching an American idea inspired by Republicans?

The 'Mountie' who 'always gets his man' is one of those rare national symbols, represented within the form of one federal system of criminal law across the land. This uniform criminal law approach contrasts sharply with the experience of our American neighbours, where the states have authority over most crimes. Interestingly, in the USA the inherent sovereignty of Indian tribes is recognized, and one of the results is the existence of Indian tribal law, tribal police and tribal courts which apply criminal laws on their reservations that are distinct from neighbouring state laws.

I do not know, but the more significant point for Aboriginal Canadians is the issue whether the logic of Harper's open federalism for provinces means that his party would now favour Aboriginal self-government in the sphere of criminal law. This would open the door to 'open federalism' of the kind that could not gain acceptance at the four First Ministers' meetings from 1983 to 1987.

It has often been said by the judges who have to decide difficult legal contests in court that in making tough decisions on what will work, "law and logic must part ways...".

My inclination is to think the same applies to the case of logic and politics, especially pre-election politics. Logic and politics are strangers to one another, and we should not wait for the hearts of Conservative politicians to suddenly expand in favour of Aboriginal self-government simply because Harper thinks an American model makes sense to attract votes in Quebec.

My other example of law's entanglement with politics is the curious case of Métis people asking judges to decide who belongs to our communities. The Constitution recognizes the group rights of the Métis people. Individual rights are not at stake. The basic issue is to identify a rights-bearing Métis community and then to ask who belongs to it.

Who can rightfully answer that question? Clearly all sensible answers point to the community and not to lawyers and judges. The practical way to resolve this issue is through political action.

Political agreement on the identity of Métis communities that constitute the Métis Nation can be followed by legal action that creates a sensible regime to govern the exercise of group rights. Political action ought to drive legal development, and not the other way around.

Interesting how law and politics mingle and intertwine.



Coming to terms with the new Prince Albert

Prince Albert is the city of my birth. I have been there many times over the years but somehow I lost touch 20 years ago.

The Prince Albert I thought I knew has changed. P.A. is a small city that has acquired big city problems.

Central Avenue west through West Flats over to the P.A. Pen is now the new Indian Country. The city center is emptying and new businesses are opening in the suburbs.

I went into the First Nations University of Canada campus on Central Avenue and found a sign posted on the wall warning of used needles. Druggers can become as empty as the needles they leave behind. I asked the security guards what was going on and they said I must not know P.A. too well.

I'm no "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" but what I saw shocked me.

There was the poster promoting the "community walk against violence." A new and very spiffy town hall contrasted with the for rent signs on empty stores, the pawn shops and service agencies.

It reminded me of the emptying of the downtown I had witnessed in Winnipeg a decade before. There's a whole lot of people living without purpose or direction in the new inner city.

Prince Albert used to be called Saskatchewan's biggest small town and for good reason. The P.A. I remember

from the 1970s was a small sleepy backwater city.

It's citizens were folksy right wing conservative. No vote was ever sent in Trudeau's direction and local home boy John Diefenbaker was still Prime Minister of Canada to a whole lot of people.

J.J. Cennon, the often outrageous host of the Wake Up Shake Up Show, kept every radio dial from Shell Lake to Tisdale and Rosthern north through La Ronge locked on CKBI 900 AM.

Prince Albert was also called the 'Gateway to the North'. Every winter the Prince Albert Winter Festival drew revelers and contestants from throughout the region.

The dog sled races and King Trapper Events featured real northerners living it real. The Metis were recognized as the best outdoorsmen.

The Carrier family from Cumberland House were especially famous. This was no gathering of re-enacting hobbyists dressing up as mountain men for a lark and a weekend of frivolity.

These were the real thing, bush born and raised, lean and strong.

The Annual Trappers Convention was and remains a distinctly Prince Albert cultural event. I remember in the early '70s at one convention, their members grumbling about the newly introduced Connibear trap which killed quick but could break fingers in an instant.

The centuries old leg hold trap had had its day and the Connibear was the future. I wonder what these old trappers would have thought if they had seen P.A. 35 years into the future.

I remember one old veteran of the King Trapper events lamenting his creaking legs and aching back wishing he could pass on his bush skills to a new generation.

Prince Albert must have the nicest park of any Saskatchewan city. Red River Park is just across the North Saskatchewan River surrounded by stately pines and meadows nestled into hills by a winding creek. Mercifully, it is a part of Prince Albert untouched by the increasingly violent and addiction ridden inner city.

Prince Albert was and is ringed by five correctional facilities including a juvenile delinquent center, the Pine

Grove women's correctional facility, the Provincial Correctional Centre and the Prince Albert Maximum Security Penitentiary with adjoining farm annex. The inmates are alienated and marginalized Aboriginals for the most part.

Correctional workers can't help growing jaded and cynical working in such an intense and dark place. The pay is high as it must be to retain workers in such a negative environment. Even so it must be damn hard owing \$200,000 and hating your job.

The old Prince Albert knew a racial tension, too, but nothing so intense as the new Prince Albert. Twenty years ago, city council was dead set against Indians acquiring an urban reserve. It took the federal government threatening to act alone to make the urban reserve a reality.

Today the Prince Albert Tribal Council runs the popular and lucrative Northern Lights Casino with an adjoining hotel and convention center. There are Indians in the workforce and the numbers swell as the years pass by.

The Aboriginal peoples will one day decide elections and hold positions of power as the Black and Hispanic peoples did when their numbers swelled and they, too, gained power.

I look forward to that day but I will miss the sound of a single Otter float plane taking off from the river its roar echoing down Central Avenue.



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Election contests heating up around Sask.

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

October certainly is silly season. The federal election has been cornering the market on headlines for the last bit and after October the 14, things will get back to abnormal in Ottawa and we can turn our attention to some interesting election battles in Indian Country.

years after replacing Gary Merasty who left for Ottawa. Prior to that Michel was Chief of PBCN for 18 of the past 23 years.

Bird was chief of Montreal Lake for nine years and a councilor for 11. He was a Vice Chief at the FSIN for three years and was also a Regional Director for Indian and Northern Affairs for many years in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

province. More so than Orchard and Clarke.

Over at the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Chief Joe Quewezance is retiring and the Tribal Council has decided to also bring back the Vice Chief position so there are two spots open.

Felix Thomas, former Chief of Kinistin First Nation will be squaring off against

former Mistawasis First Nation Chief Daryl Watson for the position of Tribal Chief.

There is a three way race for Vice Chief and those people are Geraldine Arcand from Muskeg Lake, Richard Lumberjack from Kinistin and Roddy Stonne from One Arrow who round out the field.



Lyle Whitefish has been acclaimed and will return to his position of Vice Chief.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Saskatoon Tribal Council all have elections in the next three weeks.

At the Federation, Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish was acclaimed and will remain Fourth Vice-Chief of the Federation. Second Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild will not seek re-election and will end his term at the FSIN Fall Assembly in Saskatoon.

Seeking Lonechild's position are former Chief of Thunderchild and FSIN Vice Chief Delbert Wapass, former Chief of Keeseekoose, Ted Quewezance, and former Chief of White Bear, Bernard Shepherd. It will be an interesting race as all three have extensive experience at the band level and have worked in and around the Federation off and on for the past several years.

They are also from three different eras of First Nation Governance. Quewezance broke a lot of trails in his day and is not afraid of the microphone. He showed great leadership as a spokesperson and representative of residential school survivors.

Bernard Shepherd was a leader in the Indian Gaming movement and led his band in creating the first Indian run casino in Saskatchewan. The first and last casino to get raided by the RCMP, at that too.

Delbert Wapass is a well educated young candidate who was partially raised in the city, but received a great gift of his Cree language from his grandparents and is an accomplished dancer. Tie that in with the network he created in his recent run for Federation Chief last election and he is a force.

Good luck to all of the candidates.

At the PAGC, we see veteran politician and incumbent Chief Ron Michel of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation going up against a very worthy opponent in Roy Bird of Montreal Lake Cree Nation.

Michel has been Chief for three

These two gentlemen come from huge reserves and are considered heavyweights. This battle will be the most interesting in the

All Saskatchewan residents are the beneficiaries of Treaties. Treaties are the foundation on which we built our province.

Our government is dedicated to strengthening partnerships between First Nations and non-First Nations people in Saskatchewan in the spirit of the Treaties. As such, we are ensuring that instruction in the history and content of the Treaties is mandatory in the provincial K-12 system.

We honour the strong relationships forged with First Nations and Metis education authorities and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner that focus on improved outcomes for all students in the area of Treaty essential learnings.

Ministry of First Nations and Metis Relations | Ministry of Education

Le mardi 14 octobre, je peux faire un geste qui compte. Je peux voter!
Pour voter, les électeurs doivent prouver leur identité et leur adresse.

Avez-vous reçu cette carte?
Conservez la carte d'information de l'électeur que vous a envoyée Elections Canada. Elle vous indique où et quand voter. Le processus de vote sera plus rapide si vous l'avez en main.

Si vous ne l'avez pas reçue, ou si vous avez trouvé une erreur dans votre nom ou votre adresse, communiquez avec votre bureau local d'Élections Canada. Vous trouverez le numéro de téléphone à www.elections.ca en cliquant sur « Service d'information à l'électeur ».

Où et quand voter?
Vote par anticipation
Vous pouvez voter avant le jour de l'élection. Le vote par anticipation aura lieu le vendredi 3 octobre, le samedi 4 octobre et le lundi 6 octobre, de midi à 20 h. Les adresses des bureaux de vote par anticipation figurent au verso de la carte d'information de l'électeur.

Vous pouvez voter par la poste ou à votre bureau local d'Élections Canada au moyen du bulletin de vote spécial, si vous en faites la demande au plus tard le mardi 7 octobre à 18 h.

Vous pouvez télécharger le formulaire d'inscription disponible à www.elections.ca en cliquant sur « Mon vote, je le poste! », ou téléphoner à Elections Canada pour l'obtenir et poser vos questions.

Connaissez-vous les nouvelles mesures d'identification pour voter?
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Pour consulter la liste des pièces d'identité acceptées par le directeur général des élections du Canada, veuillez consulter le dépliant d'Élections Canada que vous avez reçu par la poste, visitez le site www.elections.ca et cliquez sur « Électeurs autochtones » ou composez notre numéro sans frais.

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pour les personnes sourdes ou malentendantes, sans frais au Canada et aux États-Unis, ou 613-991-2082 de partout au monde.

Study will focus on body image, health

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Jennifer Poudrier, a sociologist at the University of Saskatchewan, is innovative yet respectful in her research approach – let the group being studied frame their own issues and suggest possible solutions.

Her Métis background also grounds her in cultural sensitivity, so when Janice Kennedy of Miwayawin/Battleford Tribal Council Indian Health Services approached her with a needed area of study, she was the ideal research partner to a less-than-ideal focus for many women – body image, particularly obesity in Aboriginal women.

The pilot project, funded in part by a research grant from Indigenous People's Health Research Centre and the prestigious Canadian Institute of Health Research will build on qualitative research about body image, diabetes, and Aboriginal women's health issues.

"We want the women's feedback on what a healthy body is," said Poudrier, adding that consultation with Elders and respecting the values of the community is important.

"We're addressing the body, mind, and soul of Aboriginal women – so often in caring for our others, our selves get put last."

She adds it's not possible to have a healthy body without healthy minds and communities, and healthy women are essential – they are the care-givers and child-bearers. This holistic approach connecting community and values is more useful than typical narrowly-focused studies, allowing traditional views academic researchers might not even think of examining.

"For example, it used to be seen as healthy if you were heavier," notes Poudrier.

Visibly stored energy on the body represented health, abundance, fecundity, fertility. On the other hand, extra weight can also seem to stem from basic insecurity, or complex lifestyle choices, or represent a burden to the health system, from outside perspectives.

Tanya Delorme, a health care worker in Battleford, is recruiting in the Red Pheasant, Poundmaker, Moosomin, Sweetgrass, and Lucky Man reserves as well as her home, Mosquito First Nation.

Participating women 18 and over are given digital cameras and told to collect shots of anything which, to them, represents healthy body image.

Delorme even has women in their eighties participating, and is amazed by how easily they all pick up the technology, and their enthusiasm. She is also uplifted and honoured by their open sharing of culture and experience.

"These are women telling their stories and how they see body image. Women are sharing core issues in the community. Balancing being a parent and taking care of their own needs, some have acknowledged they are neglecting themselves," says Delorme.

The feedback has already identified barriers and made recommendations.

"Others have shared very graphic experiences from residential schools and seen it as an opportunity of letting the world know what really happened," Delorme said, adding she is looking forward to the research and papers that come out of the project.

She appreciates the relationship between the University and the health organization, the credentials given to the project by academics but also how invaluable it is to be interviewed by one of their own kind.

"One of them said, you're an Indian person like me, a Cree woman like me – the key point is the relationship we're able to establish."

They are still looking for women from all walks of life to participate in the study. The first response, Delorme notes, is: "Eee – do I have to take pictures of myself?"

But it's however you see body image and want to tell your story – scenery, events, family – once they get into it they take lots of pictures, and in the end share only five with the other women.

Poudrier had previously done a PhotoVoice project with breast cancer survivors, and the results were insightful to research while being empowering and healing to the individual participants.

"It's helpful to develop community services – enhance existing programs to better match lived experiences."

A few weeks after a sharing circle where the participants share concerns and interests and receives cameras, the group reunites to share thoughts and

ideas.

Using participants' ideas as knowledge, and the pictures as data, the value of this approach is that it doesn't compound body image issues with invasive or demeaning methods – for example, tape measures or scales – but assists the individual in defining and accessing community wellness and how it impacts healthy bodies.

The last thing an intergenerational caregiver with two or three jobs needs is a two hour jog and instructions on how to prepare eggplant, Poudrier half-jokes.

"This is not unique to Aboriginal women per se, but certain aspects of their lives are more intense," she adds.

And another feature of the program's approach is the community it reinforces – support groups are formed, and opportunities to learn from Elders are created.

"As they exchange experiences and amazing ideas, you can see lights go on."

Poudrier describes the PhotoVoice process as "reversing the colonial gaze" – a complete shift of control and power with a practical plan to improve something. In our culture we are bombarded



JENNIFER POUDRIER

with images that don't make sense, she says, a visual culture that needs to be disrupted because it affects our health and wellness.

"Philosophically, we're giving the power to the research group rather than the researchers – it's reversed.

"They pick the images and provide the context and meaning. It makes sense, especially for the vulnerable and the marginalized."

Plus, Poudrier adds, it's fun!

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Join the over 25 communities in Saskatchewan that have taken advantage of this skills building program for women!

The Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow program's goal is to empower Aboriginal Women by building leadership and business skills through interactive group activities and fun exercises.

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- Building Personal Skills
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- How to Start Your Own Business
- Governance: Skills Development for Boards and Councils
- Financial Management

Workshops are facilitated by CESO Volunteer Advisers in your community.

For more detailed workshop information or to request to host a workshop for women in your community contact CESO today.



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Building Capacity in Economic
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EMAIL: saskatchewan@ceso-saco.com

www.ceso-saco.com

Inquire about financial support for child and eldercare for participants.

This program is in partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).

Early Detection Is Your Best Defense



Screening mammograms are important for the early detection of breast cancer. For more information call the Screening Program for Breast Cancer at 934-0550 or 1-800-567-7271.



www.saskcancer.ca

A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.

New identification rules to vote!

WHEN YOU VOTE, YOU MUST PROVE YOUR IDENTITY AND ADDRESS.



YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS:

Provide one original piece of identification issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address.
e.g.: driver's licence

OR

Provide two original pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. Both pieces must contain your name and one must also contain your address.
e.g.: health card and hydro bill

OR

Swear an oath and be vouched for by an elector who is on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification.
e.g.: a neighbour, your roommate

PIECES OF IDENTIFICATION AUTHORIZED BY THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OF CANADA

IDENTITY CARDS

- Health Card
- Hospital Card
- Social Insurance Number Card
- Birth Certificate
- Driver's Licence
- Provincial/Territorial Identification Card
- Canadian Passport
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship or Citizenship Card
- Credit/Debit Card with elector name
- Canadian Forces Identity Card
- Veterans Affairs Canada Health Card
- Employee Card issued by employer
- Old Age Security Identification Card
- Public Transportation Card
- Student ID Card
- Library Card
- Liquor Identification Card
- Canadian Blood Services/ Héma-Québec Card
- Fishing Licence
- Wildlife Identification Card
- Hunting Licence
- Firearm Acquisition Card/ Firearm Possession Card
- Outdoors Card and Licences
- Local Community Service Centre Card (CLSC)

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (containing name and address)

- Credit Card Statement
- Bank Statement
- Utility Bill (residential telephone, cable TV, public utilities commission, hydro, gas or water)
- Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authority of an Indian band or reserve
- Local Property Tax Assessment
- School, College or University Report Card or Transcript
- Residential Lease, Residential Mortgage Statement or Agreement
- Canada Child Tax Benefit Statement
- Income Tax Assessment Notice
- Insurance Policy
- Government Cheque or Government Cheque Stub with elector name
- Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid (T4E)
- Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions/ Quebec Pension Plan Statement of Participation
- Statement of Old Age Security (T4A) or Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits (T4AP)
- Statement of Benefits from provincial workplace safety or insurance board
- Statement of Direct Deposit for provincial works or provincial disability support program
- Vehicle Ownership
- Vehicle Insurance
- Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authorities (shelters, soup kitchens, student/senior residences, long-term care facilities)
- Letter from public curator

Note: The pieces of identification required under the *Canada Elections Act* are not the same as those for provincial or municipal elections.

The above information is also available in a number of heritage and Aboriginal languages on the Elections Canada Web site at www.elections.ca.

www.elections.ca

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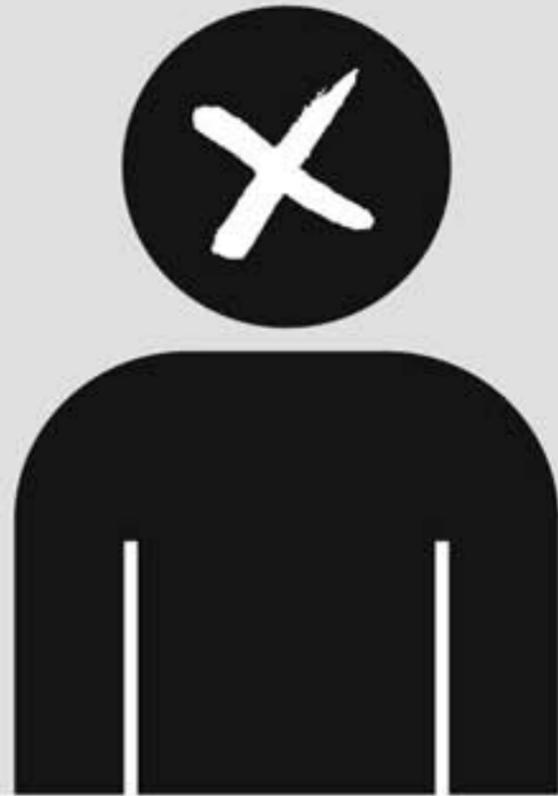
for people who are deaf or hard of hearing



**Une élection générale fédérale
aura lieu le 14 octobre 2008.**

Nouvelles mesures d'identification pour voter!

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DEVEZ PROUVER VOTRE IDENTITÉ
ET VOTRE ADRESSE.**



VOUS AVEZ TROIS OPTIONS :

présenter une pièce d'identité originale
délivrée par un gouvernement ou un
organisme gouvernemental avec vos
photo, nom et adresse.
p. ex. : permis de conduire

OU

présenter deux pièces d'identité
originales autorisées par le directeur
général des élections du Canada,
toutes deux avec votre nom, et l'une
d'elles avec votre adresse.
p. ex. : carte d'assurance-maladie et
facture d'électricité

OU

prêter serment, appuyé par un électeur
inscrit sur la liste électorale de la
même section de vote et qui a la ou
les pièces acceptées.
p. ex. : un voisin, votre colocataire

PIÈCES D'IDENTITÉ AUTORISÉES PAR LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL DES ÉLECTIONS DU CANADA

CARTES D'IDENTITÉ

- Carte d'assurance-maladie
- Carte d'hôpital
- Carte d'assurance sociale
- Certificat de naissance
- Permis de conduire
- Carte d'identité provinciale/territoriale
- Passeport canadien
- Certificat du statut d'Indien
- Certificat de citoyenneté canadienne ou carte de citoyenneté
- Carte de crédit ou de débit avec nom de l'électeur
- Carte d'identité des Forces canadiennes
- Carte d'identité des soins de santé des Anciens combattants
- Carte d'identité d'employé produite par l'employeur
- Carte d'identité de la sécurité de la vieillesse
- Carte de transport en commun
- Carte d'identité d'étudiant
- Carte de bibliothèque
- Carte d'identité d'une société des alcools
- Carte de la Société canadienne du sang/Héma-Québec
- Permis de pêche
- Carte d'identification de la faune
- Permis de chasse
- Carte d'acquisition/Permis de possession d'armes à feu
- Carte Plein air et permis
- Carte d'un centre local de services communautaires (CLSC)

DOCUMENTS ORIGINAUX (avec nom et adresse)

- Relevé de carte de crédit
- État de compte bancaire
- Facture d'un service public (téléphone résidentiel, télédistribution, commission des services publics, électricité, gaz ou eau)
- Attestation de résidence délivrée par une autorité responsable d'une bande ou d'une réserve indienne
- Évaluation municipale de l'impôt foncier
- Bulletin scolaire ou relevé de notes d'études secondaires, collégiales ou universitaires
- Bail d'habitation, état de compte de prêt hypothécaire, acte d'hypothèque
- Prestation fiscale canadienne pour enfants – État des revenus
- Avis de cotisation de l'impôt sur le revenu
- Police d'assurance
- Chèque ou talon de paie du gouvernement avec nom de l'électeur
- État des prestations d'assurance-emploi versées (T4E)
- État de compte du cotisant au Régime de pensions du Canada/ Relevé de participation au Régime des rentes du Québec
- Relevé de la sécurité de la vieillesse (T4A) ou État des prestations du Régime de pensions du Canada (T4AP)
- États des prestations d'une commission provinciale de santé et sécurité au travail ou de l'assurance contre les accidents du travail
- Relevé de dépôt direct d'un régime provincial d'accidents du travail ou d'un programme de soutien aux personnes handicapées
- Document de propriété d'un véhicule
- Document d'assurance d'un véhicule
- Attestation de résidence délivrée par des autorités responsables (refuges, soupes populaires, résidences pour étudiants ou personnes âgées, établissements de soins de longue durée)
- Lettre du curateur public

Attention : les pièces exigées selon la *Loi électorale du Canada* ne sont pas les mêmes qu'aux élections provinciales ou municipales.

Les renseignements ci-dessus sont également disponibles en plusieurs langues d'origine et autochtones sur le site Web d'Élections Canada à www.elections.ca.

www.elections.ca

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pour les personnes sourdes ou malentendantes


Elections Canada

Different reality for Aboriginal cancer patients

October is all about breasts. Cancer came into my life in 1978 when my 30-year-old mother died of breast cancer. I was only 13 and the oldest of four children I had no idea what cancer was but I knew that it was a killer.

It seemed that after Mom's death, cancer started popping up everywhere. Her older sister was diagnosed in the '80s and many more family members followed. I was diagnosed when I was 36 years old – that was one of the scariest moments of my life.

I was sitting in the doctors' office waiting to hear the results of my biopsy – when he came into the examining room and said the news is not good. My heart fell to the floor.

I kept thinking about the similarities between me and my deceased mother – she was young, I was young. She had four children, I had four children. She died, therefore I would die as well.

Who was going to take care of my children? What am I going to do? So many questions and decisions to be made, I was a mess. That was seven years ago and I am still here!

It took time to recover from surgeries and treatments but I did it. I came to realize that the Creator had given me the greatest gift and that was my own mortality. I would never again be able to look at life as anything but a gift.

Life is sweeter and time more

precious. Since my diagnosis my daughters have given me five grandchildren and I feel so blessed. My mother died before any of her grandchildren were born.

There have been many times throughout the years where I have felt this tug at my heart, especially when I see my friends' mothers with their grandchildren and I ask myself why did my mother have to die?

It's a sad fact, but I had to realize that we will lose people to cancer. On the other hand, some lucky ones, like me, will survive. I almost have a feeling of survivor guilt at times – why did she die and I get to live?

Why are so many people in my family being diagnosed with cancer? What can I do to stop this from happening? I'm not a doctor or scientist but I knew that I had to do whatever I could to fight back. The medical community needs to hear stories from patients that have survived or are still battling with cancer.

They need to be reminded that we are human beings with complex emotions and that each individual will react differently to a cancer diagnosis. And what of our family members; how do they deal with it? How do we tell our spouse or children? There are so many issues that I never

thought about until it happened to me. There are so many cancer organizations that provide support and education for people dealing with cancer but nothing specific to Aboriginal people. I found a gap and it was huge.



I took it upon myself to try and bring our Aboriginal voice to the table – what about us? I asked them. People need to feel safe to share personal stories and with

people who have similar interests. What I found was a group of older Caucasian ladies who had no idea about being an "Indian", no idea what it was like living in poverty. There was no way I could relate to their stories of taking time off work to travel with their families to Hawaii because this may be the last holiday they had with their families.

I had never taken my children on a holiday. I had no job to take time off from. I was a divorced single mother in my final semester at the First Nations University of Canada and I needed my student allowance to feed my children. I couldn't eat five to 10 fruits and vegetables a day. I could barely afford to keep food on the table for my children.

This was my reality and the reality of many of our people. I began to think about

those people who live on remote reservations. What would happen to them if they are diagnosed? Is there screening programs for them, and do they participate if they are available?

What happens to all the money that people donate to the 'cause'? We have the Terry Fox Run, CIBC Run for the Cure, Canadian Cancer Society, and Saskatchewan Breast Cancer Network to name a few. Why aren't they offering programs for Aboriginal people?

I am happy to say that in the last six years I have begun to see posters from the various agencies depicting our faces and hearing our voices on radio commercials. We have come a long way, but we have a long way ahead of us.

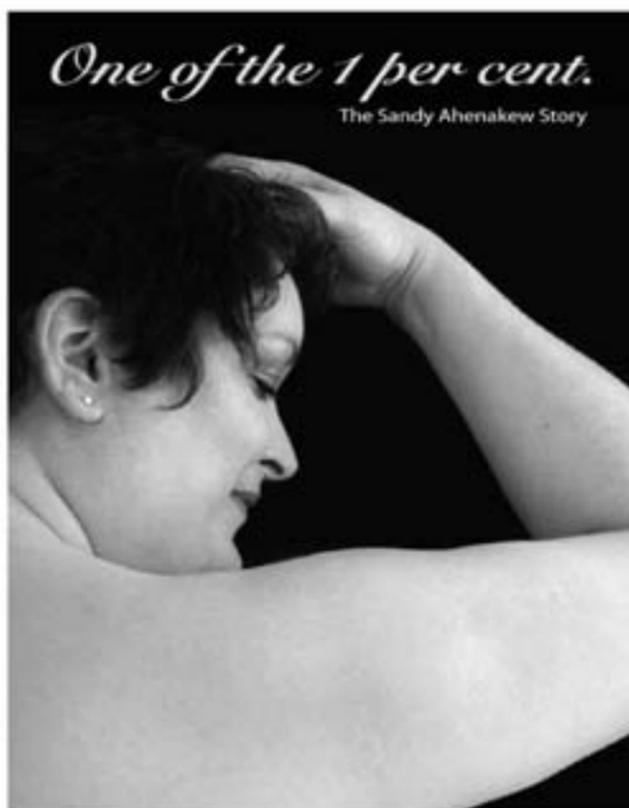
If a gap exists then fill it. Create your own support groups, talk to your family and friends about cancer, and when the opportunity arises to take part in screening programs take it!

People are living longer with cancer – I am living proof, and yes we will still lose people but don't get lost in that fact.

Life is meant to be lived and enjoyed. It is the greatest gift given to us, so enjoy. Thank you for your letters and emails it is always nice to hear from the readers.

You can write to me at Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Sez PO Box 924 ST Main, Saskatoon Saskatchewan or send me an email to s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca.

Until next month, take care. Ekosi.



Dear Friend:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and you are invited to help raise awareness by attending the screening of the documentary video *One of the 1 Per Cent – The Sandy Ahenakew Story*.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, breast cancer survivors represent one per cent of the female population. Meet Sandy Ahenakew. She is one of the one per cent.

Unlike many breast cancer survivors Sandy did not face her battle alone. That's because the young Cree woman is from an incredible bunch of cancer survivors and in her family they focus on living - not dying.

One of the 1 Per Cent is 47-minute documentary video that explores the unique story of Sandy's family and their experiences living with cancer. It is told with sensitivity and a sense of humour from an aboriginal woman's point of view.

One of the 1 Per Cent – The Sandy Ahenakew Story

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

The Roxy Theatre
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Discussion to follow

Copies of DVD for sale

Brought to you by Eagle Feather News
Admission \$10 or by donation at the door.

Funds raised go to breast cancer advocacy and costs associated with creating this inspiring documentary.

Housing crunch taking its toll on Saskatoon families

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Cecile Smith, a worker at St. Mary Community School, is concerned about the housing crisis. She has already helped a family who were in a tent for three months, and knows of others living 20 to a home who will be evicted if their names are mentioned.

"A lot of people don't have the money for a one or two bedroom – and our families are large, our Aboriginal families," says Smith.

"Landlords are telling people there's not enough room for your whole family, they won't rent a three-bedroom house to people with more than two or three kids – and many of our First Nations families have more – four or five."

Beyond systemic discrimination for larger families, outrageous rent increases are hitting low-income families hard.

"If a four-bedroom house is \$1,700 a month, social assistance only covers about \$500," says Smith, and the rest would have to come from elsewhere – places like the child tax benefit which is supposed to cover food and clothing.

"The children are the ones who are suffering," Smith says.

Smith brought one family into her own home this fall. They had been in a tent since July, when their rental home of ten years was put on the market after their landlord died, only a few months after the sudden death of the female head of the household. They were evicted with 30 days notice by a speculator from Alberta who immediately put it back on the market to try and realize a profit.

"It was cold at night," said Smith simply. "I'd go out in the morning and feel sick to my stomach knowing this. I want to ask the politicians and the landlords, how did you sleep last night? Were you warm?"

Sask Native Rentals and MLA Lorne Calvert's office worker, Yvonne were instrumental in finding a home for the family,

a father figure whose first language is Cree, two young adults, and a three-year-old.

"They had applied all over but since they were living in a tent they had no phone number, contact replies could only come after hours when they could access borrowed phones. They had to lie about an address just to get food – with no address, you have no access to help," Smith points out.

Social Assistance won't pay for motel rooms, and the family was terrified that so suddenly after the loss of their mother, they would also be separated.

They were told the young woman would have to go to the Y, the men to the Salvation Army, and the toddler to the Crisis Nursery.

After the unexpected loss of his wife to a heart attack, the dad was shaken up and needed the support of his young adult children. They were afraid they would lose the three-year-old altogether.

"So they camped in two little tents in a former neighbour's backyard, eating sandwiches and cooking whatever, whenever they could, and bathing at different people's homes," Smith explains.

Smith wonders how many others are in this situation and falling through the cracks. She knows some have had to return to reserves but others don't have that option. Still others are house-hunting after three or four months of staying with relatives – and no landlord references.

"If your house is full of mice and your door has a snow bank on the inside and you have to scratch the frost off inner windows just to see out, and you dare to complain – the landlord is not going to give you a good reference."

Smith doubts anyone benefits from the rent increases. Even landlords will be compounding their problems down the road with direct societal and investment repercussions.

Seven McNab Place residents appealed illegal eviction notices and poor living conditions with the help of CLASSIC law. But

the extensions haven't helped much, and some are paying the price for disputing with their landlord.

Patricia Speevie was served her new eviction notice with a vengeance – a copy taped to her door, mailed to her, and then hand-delivered to her while someone videotaped it, "just to make sure".

Worse, the property manager, Guardian Commercial Real Estate, is refusing to give her the necessary reference to rent another place, saying she never filled in a tenant's form.

"But I've been paying the rent for three-and-a-half years," noted Speevie in a phone interview. "This is a punishment for taking them to court."

Speevie says it's really hard to find a place in Saskatoon even with references, with prices at least \$1,000 for a one-bedroom. She was previously paying \$560 a month, which jumped to \$760 after three months notice.

"I've looked at everything from condos to low-income, talked to a couple of the other tenants a few days ago and they'd found nothing. Three months and absolutely nothing."

A potential house rental was denied for lack of Guardian's reference. Gilbert Dobroskay of Guardian had commented most have found places, those that haven't are merely lacking initiative, and those who can't are bad tenants and will be turned down because of their track record.

"I don't know what to do – I've got until the end of the month, then I'm on the streets," Speevie said.

"Do I go to the motel, or the Y? Lots of people are going to be on the streets, housing is ridiculous. If you want assistance or low-income, a single working person takes two years or longer on waiting lists."

Part of the difficulty Speevie sees is lack of rent control, which either the city or province could remedy with legislation. Currently landlords can charge whatever they want, as long as they give notice.

Dobroskay, whose company takes orders from the owners – private developers from Alberta – says McNab is changing over because the City made a residential change in 2002.

"All the developers are doing is following the guidelines and wishes of the city."

Former tenant Linda Coates and her daughter have found a place, for more than double the rent.

"\$1,400 a month is a huge jump. We're in a four-bedroom house but have two more roommates, we couldn't afford to make it otherwise. And that doesn't even include utilities," Coates said.

"We were worried about it, we had until November 1 but didn't want to wait or take chances with winter coming. We were really fortunate to find this place."

Coates says she was also strong-armed by Guardian. When she gave notice after finding a place, she was told to drop the case if she wanted her damage deposit back.

"So far no damage deposit. It said right in the papers we got that you would have the money the next day after moving out," Coates said, adding it's been almost two weeks without a sign of either the damage deposit or the promised \$200 moving allowance.

She sympathizes with the many she knows of who haven't yet found a place – not everyone has vehicles or a flexible schedule. It took two-plus months poring over newspapers and traveling from trailer park to apartment to basement suite.

"You go see a place and there's 350 people looking at the same place, they have to sift through all those the applications. You make an appointment and get there a half hour later and they're saying it's taken already – we got that a lot.

"People would promise you'd get the place and then suddenly it wasn't available – you've really got no say," she said, adding with the market demand you're lucky to find a place, and can't possibly haggle.

"You have to pay whatever they ask."

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MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN

Preparing a Nation for the 21st Century

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The 2008 Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and Annual General Assembly were held September 8th and 9th in Saskatoon. The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) is pleased the assemblies were a resounding success.

Greetings were received from Métis National Council President Clem Chartier, Saskatchewan Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations June Draude, Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison, and FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph who addressed delegates at the gala banquet.

Agenda items included updates on economic, social, and political activities conducted by the Provincial Métis Council over the past year.

A major announcement from the Treasurer's Office concerning the reduction of outstanding debts from \$700,000 to \$120,000 was applauded by all in attendance.

Elected Presidents, Regional Directors, and Executive members passed constitutional amendments, legislative resolutions and brought forward motions to provide future direction for the MN-S. These items included an amendment to the *Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan*, *Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act 2007*, *Senate Act*, and *Citizenship Act* regarding the role of the Senate as cultural advisors;

"Therefore be it resolved that the Senate be delegated, by constitutional and legislative repeal and amendment, the authority of an advisory body within the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitution and Legislation."

Métis Consultation and Accommodation Statement of Principles regarding the Duty to Consult were passed to direct the relationship between the MN-S, different levels of government, and industry. These Principles are a major step towards the development of the consultation process during a time of economic movement in Saskatchewan.

The theme of "One Nation - One Voice" was echoed in the respectable conduct of all those who took the floor to express opinions and congratulate the progress made to re-establish the MN-S within the province and nationally.

The elected delegation was invited to a gala banquet after the first day of assembly. They were entertained by Métis Fiddling guru John Arcand, Métis singer/actress Krystle Pederson, the Sakitawak Jigging & Square Dancing Group, and Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company. It was an enjoyable evening filled with good food, humour, and a chance to reconnect.

Thank you to Saskatchewan's Minister of Social Services Donna Harpauer and Minister of Enterprise and Innovation Lyle Stewart and their staff and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians representative Jeff Betker for attending the Assemblies.

The MN-S looks forward to continuing to build relationships and capacity through trust and transparency under the direction of the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan. Thanks to all those who participated in making this event a success.

MÉTIS CONSULTATION AND ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

- ∞ The Crown's duty to consult and accommodate finds its source in the *Constitution Act, 1982*. This duty cannot be limited, by provincial or federal legislation, regulations or policy.
- ∞ The obligation to fulfill the duty to consult and accommodate rests with the Crown and the Crown alone.
- ∞ The Crown has the same constitutional "honour" to all Aboriginal peoples - First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. There is no hierarchy of rights.
- ∞ Métis rights co-exist with First Nation rights throughout Saskatchewan.
- ∞ Consultation and accommodation must be with the rights-bearing Métis community.
- ∞ Rights-bearing Métis communities are regional in size and scope and are not limited to individual villages, towns or cities.
- ∞ The Crown has real knowledge of credible Métis rights claims throughout the entire province.
- ∞ The Crown's duty to consult and accommodate is engaged in planning, development, implementation and monitoring of activities that have the potential to affect Métis rights, interests and way of life throughout Saskatchewan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Nation finds its foundation on the will of the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan. This MNL/AGA re-engaged the Métis leadership at the community level refocusing the Nation on the wishes of Saskatchewan Métis. It is a testament to the spirit of reconciliation needed to move forward, rebuild relationships resulting in a re-energized Métis Nation. Thank you to members of the Provincial Métis Council, Local Presidents, Métis Women and Youth, and Métis citizens for your efforts in revitalizing our Nation. Your voice builds the most accountable Métis Nation in Canada. We are leading the Nation on issues such as the Duty to Consult, Harvesting and the Métis Rights Agendas "One Nation - One Voice". This has been a year of work where we have had to address the issues Facing Métis in Saskatchewan in a balanced manner. Further, our programs and services to address the needs of our communities is one of our keys to re-establish the health and relevancy of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.

Robert Doucette, President Métis Nation-Saskatchewan



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Métis and Francophones gathered together for dialogue after 130 years

By Cherish Francis
For Eagle Feather News

WILLOW BUNCH, SK: It's the first time in over a century, the Métis and the Francophone in Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan have gathered for a roundtable discussion, to discuss the issues that have separated the two distinct communities.

"I think there's opportunity to re-establish an old tradition which we've lost. Where the Métis and the French learned from each other and helped each other. That was the way it was in the beginning and we've drifted away from that tradition," said Peter Dorrington.

Dorrington is with University of Regina Institut Francais and is the one who organized the open dialogue between the groups.



RANDY GAUDRY

"The Francophone community and the Métis community have butted heads for a number of years and there are still problems that have to be ironed out.

"They want these roundtables to see if we can work things out," said Randy Gaudry, the former president of Willow Bunch Local #17.

"I think this kind of roundtable will help us understand each other better. De-

termine some specific common goals and see if we can form alliances and partnerships to progress. We want to look in a forward manner," said Michel Dube, who is with the Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise, a group participating in the roundtable discussions.

The Insitut Francais organized the three-day event to try and break down the barriers that have been up for over a century in the community of Willow Bunch and the surrounding area.

"This may be a small step in re-establishing the relationship," said Dorrington.

The event was not only about the historic roundtable discussions. It was also about sharing both the Métis and Francophone culture and creating positive relations between the two groups.

"The past has to be addressed before we can go on. A lot of stereotypical things that we can put to rest," said Gaudry.

"Over the years, there has been segregation and unfair description of Métis of Willow Bunch in history books and the internet."

The roundtable discussion was a success with both groups discussing their culture, their history and leaving them with a better understanding of each other.

"We may not see it in our generation but our children and grandchildren are going to learn to work together," said Gaudry.

This is the second roundtable discussion University of Regina's Institut Francais has organized. Last year, they hosted a roundtable in Batoche, between the Métis and Francophone in that area.

"With each roundtable, interest grows and I think that's a positive thing," said Dorrington.

There's plan to have a similar roundtable discussion next year for Métis and Francophone's province wide. The location has not been determined.



A roundtable participant lights candles at the Willow Bunch gathering.

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Letter to the Editor...

Recently the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan held its Legislative Assembly. I attended and found it very interesting. At the Assembly a lot of work was done on behalf of the Métis people in the province.

I am concerned that I was the only Local President from our Region to attend. As well, I noted that the Western Region I Director was not in attendance. These absences cannot be considered a good sign for Métis people in our area.

If Local leaders are not attending meetings, then the Métis people's voice

locally will not be heard. They will not be able to influence or vote on important issues that concern them. I call on all the Métis people in the region to speak with their leaders and let them know how important it is to be involved in provincial matters.

I sincerely hope that local leaders will rise to the challenge and begin to get involved with their communities and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

Alex Morin
President Loon Lake
Makwa Local #32



Construction program grads hammering out a career

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Shelley Macnab plods up the five floors of stairs to the top of the old King George Hotel building in downtown Saskatoon. It is currently a construction site with no walls or roof as Meridian Developments works to turn it into a downtown masterpiece.

Macnab is there to follow up with one of her former students from the SIIT Construction Careers, Women in Trades program.

Macnab helps recruit and train women who are interested in pursuing a career in the trades. Then she supports them through their careers and future training. Today she is visiting Diana Thomas, a graduate from two years ago who will be going back to school in November as she pursues her carpenter ticket.

There are calls for 'Pinky' as Macnab tracks down her friend. Diana 'Pinky' Thomas appears and greets Macnab like an old friend. Diana used to work with mentally challenged people.

"I had to move on from that career," said a jovial Thomas as her buddies kidded her.

"I went by SIIT to enroll in a welding course, and that was when I met Shelley and then I got into her program. After the course I worked with my dad a bit and now I am here. I love my job. I get along with everyone.

at it, good. If not, try something different."

As the guys continue to tease Pinky about being interviewed, she explains that they are looking for pink boots and kneepads for her.

"I like pink," she said to laughter.

Finally Diana booked a meeting with Macnab for a couple weeks down the road to discuss the training around the corner.

"The program gave me lots of support," Diana added.

"I see Shelley every once in a while and phone her at work and stuff. I am going into second year carpentry right away and I am quite proud of my progress. I am two and a half years from journeypersons where you can make \$27/hour. That's a good goal to work for and I love where I am."

As Macnab makes her way back down to ground level, she smiles at how well her pal 'Pinky' is doing.

"When we get women that have no experience, we

train them, then find them a job site and then we do the mentoring and the follow-up and the apprentice piece and we stay in touch and recruit and be role models and champions," said Macnab.

"We celebrate people's success and get that word out there. It is a win win. Industry gets workers, people's lives change, and they make more money and the families and children benefit."



Diana (Pinky) Thomas is thriving in her chosen career as a carpenter. She loves the idea of working with a team of fellow tradespeople. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Are you a First Nation woman interested in a TRADE?

WTC Urban First Nations Services Inc. in partnership with Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies is looking for First Nation women interested in exploring a career in the construction trades.

Women in Trades is a three month program especially for women interested in a career in construction. The program is a hands-on approach and participants will gain skills in framing, painting, electrical and plumbing. No previous construction experience is required.

CONSTRUCTION CAREERS SASKATOON

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All participants must have their (Grade 10) or equivalent and be able to perform physical work.

Program Dates:
The program starts January 14 to April 3, 2009

If you think you might be interested, please call
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"We are a team. Those guys, they tease me, but I tease right back. It's a piece of cake and all in a good way."

Thomas and Macnab discuss the upcoming classroom training she will be taking, and she is grateful that it will be during the winter so she won't freeze this year.

"The experience and the hands-on work are great. I like building and framing," said Thomas.

"At the end of the day I am very tired. And you know, I have a 12-year-old and a nine-year-old and they love what I do. They are into it. They fix things in my house."

Thomas is one of a growing trend that is seeing Aboriginal women entering the trades, occupations that they generally were excluded from. Macnab sees the trend firsthand.

"Response from industry is very positive especially in this tight labour climate," said Macnab.

"In the last few years, women are in every major city and working and excelling. Industry is right outside. Industry representatives are on our committees and they recruit from our projects so we are pleased with the way women are being accepted into traditionally male dominated careers. And believe me, these are good careers."

Pinky agrees when it comes to construction for women.

"The paycheque is good and you get to meet good people, bug the guys and become a team with them. And the experience of doing physical work, it gets you motivated.

"I always tell my friends you never know unless you try it. That's what I did. Any other job you try it, if you're good

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Hughes living his dream in Rider green

Neal Hughes is a running back with the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders. He grew up in Regina and played for Thom Collegiate and the University of Regina Rams. Hughes, who is Métis, has been with the Riders for five years. Interestingly, Mike Gosselin of Eagle Feather News also went to Thom Collegiate and played running back. Mike tossed these questions in Hughes direction.

Q. Who is the most feared Linebacker in the CFL?

A. **Reggie Hunt – Montreal Alouettes, a personal friend.**

Q. Other than Mosaic, what is the best place to play in CFL and why?

A. **Calgary because they always have more Rider fans than Stamps fans.**

Q. What is the worst Place to play and why?

A. **Edmonton. Because it's Edmonton.**

Q. If you weren't a running back what position would you like to play?

A. **Linebacker, because I like to hit.**

Q. Seeing how you never won a provincial title in high school (Editor's note: Mike Gosselin played on two title winning teams) the Grey Cup must have been pretty cool. What do you value most about last season?

A. **Wow, thanks for rubbing it in. Winning the Cup and receiving the ring is something I will remember for the rest of my life. Not many people get the opportunity to play in a Grey Cup, let alone win one.**

Q. Other than winning the Grey Cup, what is your CFL highlight?

A. **Scoring my first CFL touchdown in my most hated place, Edmonton in 2007.**

Q. Thom Collegiate has produced quite a few CFL players.

Why do you think that is?

A. **Work ethic was instilled in us from the first day of practice until the last day of school. Whether it was football, basketball or rugby, Thom has a proud tradition of hard work and dedication in sports and in the classroom. Our coaches made sure we were the hardest working team in the high school ranks. This great work ethic was instilled in me and other CFL players from Thom.**

Q. Other than a certain Thom fullback – hint, hint, nudge, nudge- who was your role model or hero growing up?

A. **Ha, ha, good one. I had a few role models, but none stuck out more than a running back by the name of Walter Payton, one of the greatest NFL running backs of all time. He was fast, tough and just loved to play the game.**

Q. What do you do to stay busy in the offseason?

A. **The past few off seasons I have been a part of the Fine Foods Community Youth Challenge. It is a program that allows players to travel all across Saskatchewan to small communities and speak to youth about many issues surrounding their everyday lives.**

Q. Ken Miller has quite the reputation for being a players' coach. What do you like most about him?

A. **In a way he reminds me of my grandpa. He makes you want to play hard for him because he puts all of his trust in you, and he makes you believe you can get the job done.**

Q. You had quite the future ahead of you in rugby. What made you choose football instead?

A. **I chose football because it was my first love. I started playing when I was seven and haven't missed a year since.**

Q. Who is the most inspirational player on the Riders? Why?

A. **I would say Gene Makowsky, because he has lasted so long in this league and he is still as dedicated now as he was when I started playing five years ago. He is the epitome of professionalism.**

Q. If you weren't playing professional football what would you like to be?

A. **A teacher.**

Q. What advice would you give aspiring Canadian football players whose dream is to play in the CFL?

A. **If you have a dream, you need to keep your focus on making that dream a reality. Dreams do come true, but only if you are focused on reaching it. One of my favorite sayings is: "Shoot for the moon, and if you miss you will still be amongst the stars!"**

Q. What degree were you pursuing in University? Did you finish?

A. **I finished my B. Ed. at SUNTEP in Regina in 2007**

Q. If the NFL came calling, would you give it a second thought?

A. **I would love to see what all the fuss is about. I think it would also be a great experience, being from Canada.**

Q. Who's faster, you or Stu Foord (be honest)?

A. **Well, when I was his age and about 20 pounds lighter I think I would have been faster.**



Rider running back Neal Hughes is a graduate of Thom Collegiate in Regina. (Saskatchewan Roughriders photo)

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Tootoosis receives Lieutenant-Governor's Award

Eagle Feather News sends big congratulations to Tyrone Tootoosis for winning the Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Award in Arts and Learning.

They wrote a very nice blurb about him in the program: "Tyrone W. Tootoosis.

From dancing for the Queen to serving as a host, narrator and producer of radio and television documentaries, Tyrone is a determined and passionate advo-

cate for, and educator of, Indigenous ways. As a film actor and artist in creative visual arts and writing, as well as an educator, he shows us the potential we have to build better futures for ourselves, our families and our communities.

Tyrone was presented with a cheque (that went to paying off his horses) and a beautiful statue created by renowned artist Joe Fafard who wanted the award's sculpture to contain a universal meaning and he incor-



Tyrone Tootoosis holds the Award created by artist Joe Fafard.

porated animal, vegetable and mineral.

It features a raven holding the sun in its beak while standing on a potato and a rock.

"(It goes) back to the legend that the raven stole the sun and gave it to the world," explained Fafard. "It seemed like a fitting legend and worked well for our own history and our own activities here in Saskatchewan."

He used a potato from his own garden to create the mold for the sculpture.

"There seemed to be an imprint of an arrowhead of the potato, so that seemed like a good omen," explained Fafard.

• Continued on Page 26

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Photo by Ted Whitecalf



Kids board one of Fond du Lac Dene Nations five aircraft. (Photo by Darla Read)

Fond du Lac proud of its economic endeavours

By Cherish Francis
For Eagle Feather News

Living in Saskatchewan's far north has its challenges when it comes to economic development. That's why the community of the Fond du Lac Dene Nation chose to invest millions of dollars into aviation.

Twelve years ago, Fond du Lac noticed how much money they were spending on traveling to and from the remote fly-in community. That is when they decided to buy an aircraft.

"We found that it was all expenditure. No money was coming back, so we decided that we should get into aviation and that's what we have done," said Napoleon Mercredi, Fond du Lac's Economic Development Officer.

Now the band owns five aircraft that are leased back to Transwest Air in Northern Saskatchewan.

"They went from nothing 12 years ago to owning five aircraft. Well over three to four million dollars in value. They own three of them outright. They have done really well for themselves," said Jim Glass, Transwest Air's co-owner.

On Sept. 25, Transwest Air and the Fond du Lac band showed off the aircraft they owned to their band members.

"It's good for the community. They will know more about what Fond du Lac

band owns and all that. Especially the kids in kindergarten through high school. So maybe it will motivate them to become pilots or create jobs for students," said Fond du Lac's Band councillor Joyce Stenne.

Each month the band receives \$50,000 from Transwest Air for the use of its planes. The band plans on buying more aircraft to expand its fleet in the North.

"First of all it's isolated and everything you do must fly in so that is the only way in. So we pretty well much have a monopoly over transportation here," said Mercredi.

Transwest Air also has similar agreements in place with Stony Rapids, Black Lake and Hatchet Lake First Nations.

"Forty per cent of our business is with First Nations in the North," said Glass.

Fond du Lac is also part owner in the Athabasca Economic Development Company. The company is owned by seven First Nations and owns seven different businesses in the North.

"We are really isolated and we try as much as we can to get partnerships with local businesses like Transwest and surrounding communities," said Stenne.

"There's 300 kids going to school. So we have to look at that and be ready for them in the future," said Mercredi.



Fond du Lac Dene Nation is an isolated northern community. (Photo by Darla Read)

Attention Residential School Survivors

Former Residential School students who suffered sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or abuse that caused serious psychological effects may be eligible to apply for compensation under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) through the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

If you, or someone that you know, are planning to apply for compensation under the Independent Assessment Process, then this information is for you!

Things You Need to Know

- IAP compensation is available to survivors in addition to the Common Experience Payment from 2007.
- The IAP is the only way a former student may pursue a sexual or serious physical abuse claim, unless they have opted out of the Settlement Agreement.
- To apply, former students will need to complete a detailed and lengthy application form.
- If accepted, most IAP claims will be dealt with at a hearing conducted by an adjudicator or neutral decision-maker.
- Survivors will be required to participate in these hearings.
- The IAP process is complex and it is recommended that former students retain a lawyer to assist them with the application and hearing process. There are many complex legal issues and procedures that can be difficult to work through.
- The compensation award is up to a maximum of \$275,000 and the adjudicator decides what award amount is appropriate.
- The Federal Government will contribute 15% of the settlement award towards the survivor's legal fees.
- Lawyers are not permitted to charge more than 30% of a survivor's compensation award and any amount beyond the 15% covered by the Federal Government must be reviewed by an adjudicator to ensure the fee is appropriate.
- The deadline to submit an IAP application form is September 19, 2012.

Support Is Available

Completing the application can be a very painful process and help is available. The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program provides the following services:

- professional counselling
- emotional support provided by Resolution Health Support Workers
- cultural support provided by Elders
- assistance with the cost of transportation

Contact Info

Independent Assessment Process **1-877-635-2648**
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada **1-866-879-4913**

Counselling, emotional and cultural support for survivors
Saskatchewan Region **1-866-250-1529**
(Monday to Friday 9:00am—5:00pm)
24-hour support crisis line **1-866-925-4419**

For further information about the Independent Assessment Process go to website www.irsad-sapi.gc.ca.

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SNTC's Circle of Voices debuts Bye, Bye Beneshe

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) recently premiered its latest Circle of Voices play, Bye, Bye Beneshe at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on 20th Street in Saskatoon.

Circle of Voices is SNTC's youth program for youth-at-risk and puts participants in collaboration with theatre professionals to develop a play with contemporary themes and issues. Bye, Bye Beneshe set out to dispel misconceptions regarding gays and lesbians and provided awareness about two-spirited people.

Bye, Bye Beneshe tells the story of a youth theatre group attempting to produce an adaptation of Bye, Bye Birdie amidst some very difficult struggles. Shawnee, played by Kimberly Cherisse Kayseas, is a recovering meth addict who drowns her peers with religion after finding God as a means for her recovery. Her judgmental, close-minded views create barriers with the other members, especially Dakota, played by Tyson Mitchell Dwayne Night – a young gay man who struggles with 'coming out' to his family.

Added to the mix is Knapper Cruz, played by Melissa Worme, a successful Native rapper who is homophobic and refusing to work alongside Dakota. Knapper's sister Kwens, played by Michelle Lee Tootoosis, is the voice of reason among the group and tries her hardest to smooth Knapper and Dakota's relationship, at least enough to premiere the play on opening night.

Bye, Bye Beneshe utilized the skills and abilities of its participants and included an effective mix of live music in the play. Loretta Desjarlais is a talented singer/songwriter who appeared on stage with her guitar in almost every scene and sang an assortment of beautiful songs.

Tyson Mitchell Dwayne Night, shone in his role as Dakota and provided comedic relief as well as some heart-wrenching drama throughout the play.

Melissa Worme turned in a stellar performance as Knapper, so much so it was hard to tell it was a woman playing the role – an indication of her obvious talent.

Curtis Peeteetuce directed Bye, Bye Beneshe and was also an emergency replacement for a lead role when a participant was forced to pull out. Being the pro he is, Peeteetuce pulled it off and portrayed two characters MBAAP and the Drama Preacher.

Opening night is always nerve-racking with miscues, sound glitches and mishaps but this year's Circle of

screening of Out in the Cold, a 30-minute film about the notorious Starlight Tours by Saskatoon Police officers. Out in the Cold stars Gordon Tootoosis and Errol Kinistino.

Eagle Feather News will be there and bring you in-depth coverage in our November issue.

Hip Hop Artist Blu represents Saskatchewan at Native American Music Awards

Hip Hop artist Blu (Barry Morin Jr.) was nominated for Debut Artist of the Year and Best Hip Hop Recording at the



at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Awards in Winnipeg this November. Show our own homegrown talent some support and vote online at www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com

Voters have until October 17 so don't delay, Blu would really appreciate it.

The good news is that some Saskatchewan talent came home with some hardware. Edmund Bull won Best Male Artist at the NAMMYs and Turtle Island Music won best compilation with Round Dance Old Style.

Good job Edmund and Turtle Island Music.

Cashing In shooting this month in Winnipeg

Cashing In, a half hour comedy/drama set in a First Nations casino, began shooting October 6 in Winnipeg. It airs this February on APTN and Global. Even yours truly must subscribe to a shameless plug every now and again. I had the opportunity to write Episode 6 and can hardly contain my

excitement with how this is going to turn out. I haven't heard for sure who the cast is but rumblings about Glenn Gould, Gregory Odjig and Eric Schweig have buzzed through my ears. I'll keep ya posted as news filters into Eagle Feather World Headquarters.

Rabbit Fall: Season 2 to air on Space and APTN this month

Rabbit Fall: Season 2 is set to air on APTN October 28 (8:30 pm CST) and on Space Network October 28 (8:00 pm CST).

The cast and crew are extremely excited with the new season so please tune in, you won't be disappointed.



Circle of Voices participants Michelle Tootoosis, Tyson Night and Erica Brass fluffed it up for their premiere of Bye Bye Beneshe in Saskatoon.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

Voices, along with their fearless leader Curtis Peeteetuce, pulled it off and SNTC was able to provide another successful evening of live theatre for its participants, supporters and audience.

Mispon Film Festival set for the end of October

The Mispon Aboriginal Filmmaking Festival is set for Thursday, October 23 – Sunday, October 26 at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina, with a feast kicking things off at 3:30 on Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

Workshops, screenings and the popular pitch session – with a panel of broadcasters and producers – make up the event. Highlighting the festival is a

tenth annual Native American Music Awards (NAMMY's) at the Seneca Resort & Casino in Niagara Falls, New York.

The only Canadian-based artist in these categories, Blu also lead off a group performance of all six Hip Hop acts up for awards. Although Blu didn't win, the 20-year-old was ecstatic to be nominated.

"I'm just really honoured to go there and represent the new movement ... Native Hip Hop in Canada," he said via a press release.

The accolades don't stop at the NAMMYs. Blu is also up for two awards

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Bob Boyer: His Life's Work now open at the MacKenzie

The MacKenzie Art Gallery recently announced the opening of Bob Boyer: His Life's Work, a retrospective exhibition featuring 60 works by one of Saskatchewan's most fondly remembered artists.

Born in Saskatchewan in 1948, Bob Boyer joined the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in Regina where he worked until his untimely death in 2004. He actively contributed to the development of the Indian Fine Arts Program at the College and was appointed a full Professor of Indian Art and Art History in 2004.

Boyer's work has been included in many major group exhibitions of Aboriginal art in Canada over the past 25 years, including two internationally traveling exhibitions organized by the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Throughout his career as artist and educator, Boyer tirelessly championed the need for a heightened recognition of Aboriginal art and artists in Canada. He was also a groundbreaking curator, organizing exhibitions for the MacKenzie

Art Gallery which highlighted the achievements of historical and contemporary Aboriginal artists.

Bob Boyer: His Life's Work and the accompanying publication are a celebration of the art, life and critical contribution of this influential artist.

Casino Regina generously donated to the exhibition and to the Powwow to Honour the Artwork of the Late Bob Boyer Sr., which was held on the grounds behind the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

"Without the support of great community partners like Casino Regina, the MacKenzie would not be able to present this kind of high quality exhibition and programming free of charge to our visitors," said Kate Davis, director of the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

"This wonderful investment marks the largest single corporate sponsorship in the history of the Gallery and we look very forward to continuing our work with this community-minded organization," she added.

"We are very excited to be part of this unique exhibit. Bob Boyer was an



Lee-Ann Martin and Bob Boyer at the 1st MacKenzie Art Gallery Pow Wow, September 2000. (Photo by Jeffrey Thomas)

important and highly respected member of the artistic and Aboriginal communities, and we're proud to help honour his work," said Twyla Meredith, acting president and CEO of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, which operates Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw.

"As a corporation, we wanted to be

involved with an event that would be important to our staff," said Meredith.

"We have such a diverse workforce, with nearly half of our staff having First Nations or Métis heritage, and it's important for us to support events that are reflective of that and give them an opportunity to participate."

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- Preparing a Will and Effectively Deal with an Estate
- Starting a Business

The workshop includes hands on exercises, lunch and take-home resources for participants. Its aim is to support all survivors and all community members impacted by residential schools.

Also ask about the **Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow Program**, a five day workshop designed to build personal, business and leadership skills.

For information on hosting this free workshop contact:

 Mark Brown, CESO Regional Manager
PH: 306-384-7858
EMAIL: mbrown@ceso-saco.com
www.ceso-saco.com

Not enough hours in the day for Connie Walker

Like we promised, here is the quick Q & A with Connie Walker, our favourite CBC star. She recently returned home to become the host of Living Saskatchewan, a half hour daily show that, according to their website, will show you the best tips and tricks to living well in Saskatchewan. We asked her some questions ... and she kindly answered.

What is it like to be hosting your own show?

It has been amazing and incredible. To be near my family and friends, but also to be back in Saskatchewan. I haven't been here for a number of years and I am getting to rediscover the province through this really fun television show where I am learning the best things about living here.

Biggest shock coming home?

That would be the housing market. I was looking for an apartment and it took me so long. And the rents compare to Toronto. I was not expecting that. I thought I would save some money!

Been at CBC for how long? And a career highlight?

Seven years now. I would say that one highlight was when I did a story on Shane Yellowbird and we went to his dad's ranch in Hobemma. It was all about him being a rising star and all his nominations. We were sitting on a porch and he was playing guitar and singing and I was struck by the fact that my mom said later, there were two Aboriginal people on television and it's not about being Aboriginal. I just happen to be a reporter and he is a great musician who happens to be Aboriginal. The second was when I was in New York City and we were filming on the top of the Empire State Building. I thought "this is my life, I'm in New York for work and on the top of the Empire State Building."

Are aboriginal issues alive in Toronto?

They are on the radar in the newsroom but it is different being there than here. In Toronto, there are

so many visible minorities that it is no big deal. But when you come back to Saskatchewan it really hits home. I notice being an Aboriginal person more here than there.

Any changes you would like to see?

Things have improved a bit here, but I think, we should always be trying to improve relations in all aspects of society. I am just a host of a show ... doing lots of fun things and learning about Saskatchewan. It is not about being Aboriginal. I don't have to be doing an Aboriginal story. Just having an Aboriginal person on TV is great. If we can see ourselves on TV and hear ourselves on radio it is a good thing. People can identify with it and that is great.

What is the best thing about your job?

Every day is fun and something new. Doing current affairs for the last four years was tough ... asking the tough questions was awkward at times as well. But this job is fun. Everywhere we go is fun, fun, fun. Yesterday I got to play in a pet store and hold a hamster. I went to a Rider game for my first show and learned how to be a great Rider fan. It is all about discovering Saskatchewan.

What is the worst thing about your job?

Really busy. There are not enough hours in the day. We make a half hour everyday and that is a lot of stories. I wish there was two of me.

Have any tips for young people to get into journalism?

I would be a psychologist if it wasn't for the Indian Communication Arts program at FNUC. I was in psychology, then I met Shannon Avison, the department head, and that was it. Journalism is fun, exciting. It is not for the meek or shy. You have to be really enthusiastic. Good things happen to people who want good things for themselves, so if you stay positive, good things will happen to you.



CBC Television host Connie Walker.

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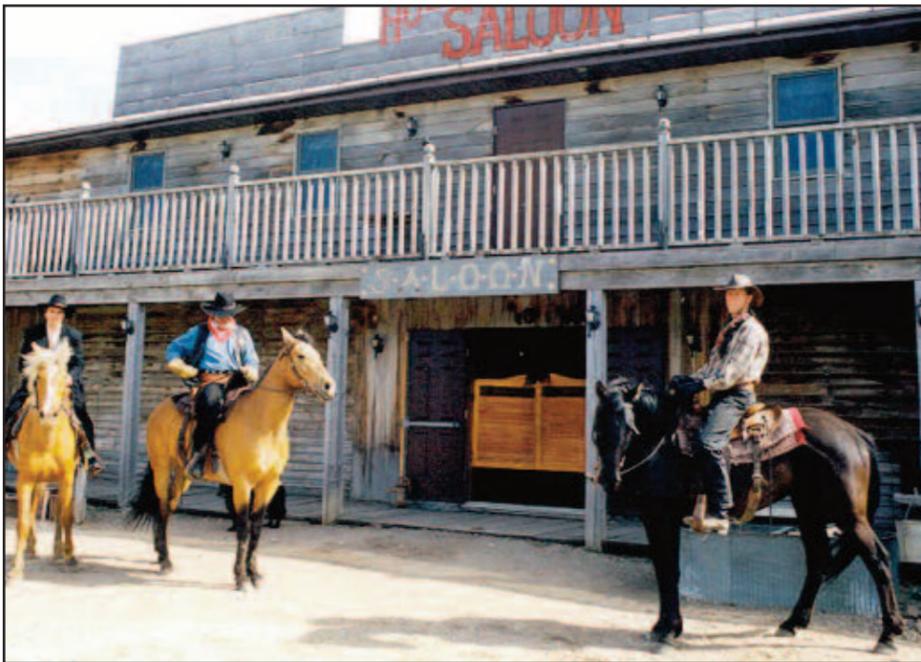
Aboriginal owned and operated

Watch it pardner, you'll get busted in Champetre County

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Just 20 minutes out of Saskatoon is a unique tourism experience that is gaining a strong niche in the Saskatchewan market. Champetre County is a theme destination where corporations or big family reunions can go for a truly western experience that builds family and corporate teams.

All groups are greeted on horseback by the Sheriff of the County, Arthur Denis. He shows up and stops the bus, enters and lays down the law about behaviour in Champetre County and the consequences of acting up.



Riders greet visitors to Champetre County where the Sheriff lays down the law.

"When they see me come with the badge as the sheriff they get a little scared and we tease them and send them back to their childhood," said Sheriff Arthur.

"Then we meet them in the yard with other people in character and the groups

get right into it."

The scenery and setting certainly help with the mood setting.

"When they get off the bus, they get off into another world," said the Mayor of Champetre County, Therese Denis, wife of the Sheriff.

"All of the wood in our buildings is from old barns so the site looks really authentic. We moved in a store. It is basically a little town, but we have RV hookups, horses, and great food."

The family business generally caters to companies looking for a team building day with their staff. The site and kitchen have accommodated up to a group of

600, but the Mayor insists they could do 1,000.

With the growth in the family business, the Denis family was always working with banks, but found the process frustrating.

"In our business the banks don't

want us. They don't know how to deal with the tourism industry," said Sheriff Arthur.

"They are not adventurous. We were finally able to find the people at the Clarence Campeau Development Fund to get money to do things we had to do to grow the business. We didn't have to explain all the time. It was a very interesting experience and they really helped us for the plans we had."

Since they have grown as a company, they won the Saskatchewan Tourism Business of the Year in 2005.

"They have earned every award," said Monica Brunet, their representative at Clarence Campeau Development Fund who works closely with them to secure their funding needs.

"I really enjoyed working with the Denis family. We even had a family reunion out there and it was a gas. They get so into their characters. They rode up and met us. It was an awesome place to spend a day or a weekend. Everyone loved it."

The Denis clan intends to keep running the business for the time being because of the fringe benefits, mostly.

"Right now we can run and make money," said Therese. "And working with our daughter, son-in-law and grandkids is excellent. We have our ups and downs, but we understand each other."

"We still hire other people, but as a family, the ups are better than the downs."

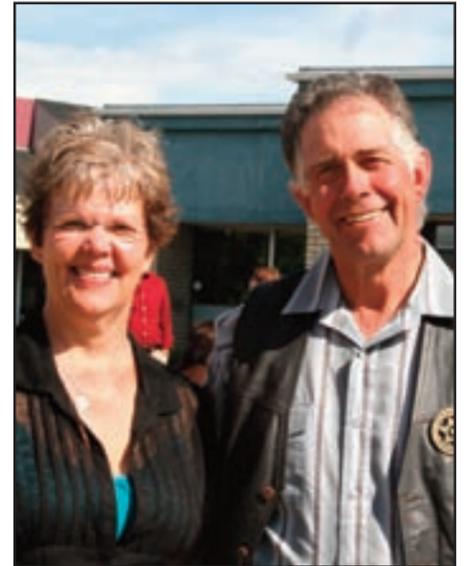
The Sheriff wholeheartedly agreed.

"You know we each have our own components. I see her, but I don't work beside her, what she decides, she decides, and me, too. We act lots here and it is fun with my grandkids calling me sheriff."

"Sometimes it takes my breath away. I am lucky; some people don't see their

grandchildren. I work with mine."

The Sheriff and Mayor are full of old lore and tips for entrepreneurs as they have seen lots in their dusty travels. The Sheriff's tips are as expected.



Mayor Therese Denis and Sheriff Arthur Denis are operating a family business not far from Saskatoon.

"You have to have the spirit to not copy," says this unique man. "You're cheating yourself if you copy. It is not you going into it. You need that passion."

"If you are going for the money, there are easier ways. Passion, you wake up and hate staying in bed."

And the Mayor realizes it takes more than one.

"There has to be a team effort. We walk the same line, but we see things differently. Find good support like my husband and the people at the Clarence Campeau Fund and work with them."

And with a tip of the hat, the Sheriff swept the Mayor off her feet and onto the back of his horse and they rode off into the sunset.

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Heart of the City Piano Program desperately seeking instructors to fill growing needs of students

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Fourteen-year-old Yolanda Roper joined Heart of the City Piano Program because a lot of her friends were in it. During her six years with Heart of the City Piano Program, she's won best overall, city-wide at the Saskatoon Music Festival the past three years.

The program has given her more than just accolades, though. Her mother, Liz, says it's built up her self-esteem.

"After joining, it opened up her world. She became more sociable."

Last year around 140 students took part in the not-for-profit program that provides free piano lessons to inner city kids. The teachers are volunteers, one of them being Jennifer Sutherland.

She says her favourite part is when her students smile at the end of their song or hug her at the end of a lesson.

"They also seem to be really excited about the lessons," she explains.

"I had one little girl last year who was on the wait list for lessons. She wanted to learn so bad that she'd hide out behind another piano in the music room while I was teaching. She desperately wanted to feel like she was part of the music, too. Sadly, there's just one volunteer available to help at her school this year, so she likely won't get lessons this year either."

Unfortunately that little girl might not be the only one to miss out, as Heart of the City Piano Program is having difficulty recruiting enough teachers this year. Last year there were nearly 50 teachers, but there are only about half that this year.

Times are flexible for anyone who wants to become a teacher, and it requires about an hour of time once a week.

Roper says she might teach students like herself one day but for now she's focused on being a student.

Please contact Melanie at 668-1317 if you are interested in more information about Heart of the City Piano Program.



Yolanda Roper is an avid student in the Heart of the City Piano Program.

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U OF S POW WOW

The University of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Students Centre (ASC) hosted its annual pow wow to welcome their returning students. The event was held in the beautiful and multi purpose Physical Activity Centre. This year's pow wow was themed: **Celebrating Aboriginal Achievement**. According to Kathleen Makela, Manager for the ASC, their original goal was to honour a number of students, alumni and faculty whose personal commitment to Aboriginal achievement has contributed significantly to the development and growth of First Nation, Métis and Inuit youth within our province and country. "The committee soon realized the amount of people they could honour was almost limitless so we decided to bring together as many people as possible and celebrate our successes together," said Makela. At the pow wow, there was a traditional giveaway and the two of the ASC Elders, Walter and Maria Linklater, were honoured with blankets. They were presented by Pat Olesiuk and Kathleen Makela.

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Regional colleges playing vital role in Sask.

Enrolment is up again for Aboriginal Employment Development (AED) as the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations welcomed seven Saskatchewan Regional Colleges as the newest partners at a partnership agreement signing in Saskatoon.

The signing is unprecedented in terms of the number of educational institutions coming together to increase First Nations and Métis employment, which in turn will support Saskatchewan's growing economy.

Signing the AED partnership agreement were Carlton Trail Regional College, Cumberland College, Great Plains College, Northlands College, North West Regional College, Parkland College and Southeast Regional College. These colleges span the province and include all regions.

"Having the Regional Colleges come on board is important to the growing success of AED," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said.

"As employers, they will work to open their institutions to more First Nations and Métis employees and First Nations and Métis suppliers of goods and services. As training centres of excellence they will develop the targeted training that will graduate people with the skills needed to help keep Saskatchewan's economy growing," Draude said.

"The Regional Colleges are working with First Nations and Métis communities to make sure our workplaces are prepared to welcome many more Aboriginal employees," Parkland College president and chair of the Council of CEOs Dr. Fay Myers said.

"Not only will this help to address our future human resources needs, but it will provide us with greater understanding when we develop training programs to meet the needs of employers who are trying themselves to seize the growing economic development opportunities across Saskatchewan," said Myers.

"This supports our strategy to sustain our growing economy by building a high-quality post-secondary sys-



To celebrate the historic signing, all of the Regional College Presidents, from left, Lisa Cantlon, Southeast Regional College, Leslee Serack, Cumberland College, Rob Barber, Carlton Trail Regional College, Fay Myers, Parkland College, Brian Nylander, Northwest Regional College, Bill McLaughlin, Northlands College, Bruce Probert (formerly Pinaire West Regional College, now Great Plains College) posed with Acting Deputy Minister of First Nation and Métis Relations, Ron Crowe at the Renaissance in Saskatoon.

tem that meets the needs of learners and employers," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said.

"It also emphasizes the commitment of our institutions to educate and train our First Nations and Métis people so they can participate in the labour market."

The Aboriginal Employment Development initiative is focused on bringing the under-trained and largely untapped First Nations and Métis workforce into play to support Saskatchewan's growing economy.

Through workplace audits, existing AED employers and union partners will identify jobs into the future that will need trained employees. Educational institutions, including the Regional Colleges, can then develop and offer programs to give First Nations and Métis people the

skills they need to compete successfully for the open positions.

All AED partners work to identify and address barriers to training, hiring and retaining First Nations and Métis employees. The overarching goal is to see First Nations and Métis people achieve representation in the provincial workforce at all occupational levels in proportion to their population numbers.

"Some of our campuses have a really high Aboriginal student enrollment," said Dr. Meyers.

"Many are taking upgrading, but we are seeing the trend to skills training and our university programs as well. Aboriginal enrollments are growing in all areas. At the Parkland College, we had our first Aboriginal accounting graduate, so it is happening."

Reading More into Education Education Week October 26 - November 1, 2008



I am pleased to proclaim October 26 to November 1 as Education Week 2008.

This year's Education Week theme, *Reading More into Education*, highlights the many aspects of education undertaken in our province's schools. The theme also emphasizes foundational skills, such as reading, that are integral for students' achievement and future success. From innovative programming and extra-curricular activities, to the inclusion of school-linked services, today's education sector is more diverse than ever before.

Education plays an important role in the growth and success of Saskatchewan and its students. The Government of Saskatchewan believes that the learning success and achievement of our young people is vital for securing the future of our province.

I invite all Saskatchewan residents to celebrate the achievement of our schools and students during Education Week 2008.

Ken Krawetz

Honourable Ken Krawetz
Minister of Education



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Education

The Education Week Committee includes partners from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF), League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (LEADS), Saskatchewan Association of School Councils (SASC), Conseil des écoles francophones, Regina Catholic Schools and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).





Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz sings the deal as Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight and FSIN Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish look on.

Treaty education becomes mandatory

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC), Ministry of Education and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations have made a formal commitment to moving mandatory Treaty education forward.

They introduced two new resources: Kindergarten to Grade 6 Teaching Treaties in the Classroom and Treaty Essential Learnings.

"Our government is committed to strengthening partnerships between First Nations and non-First Nations people in Saskatchewan in the spirit of the Treaties," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ken Krawetz said.

"As such, we are committed to ensuring that instruction in the history and content of the Treaties is mandatory in the provincial Kindergarten through Grade 12 system. I wish to recognize and thank the Elders, teachers, First Nations and Métis partners, and so many others who assisted the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in developing these new additional resources for inclusion in the Treaty Resource Kits already in all schools.

The new instructional materials are designed to contribute to the knowledge base and understanding, for both teachers and students, of the role of Treaties in building

Canada.

"All Saskatchewan residents are the beneficiaries of Treaties," OTC Commissioner Bill McKnight said.

"Treaties are the foundation on which we built our province. In support of this commitment, all Kindergarten through Grade 6 classrooms in the provincial and First Nations education systems will receive these OTC materials. With these materials, schools will have resources for Kindergarten to Grade 12," McKnight said.

"This is a good step toward using education to eliminate some of the misconceptions of Treaty," FSIN Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish said.

"We are all Treaty people and that includes non-First Nation citizens. We all have a responsibility to learn more and understand the Treaty relationship."

The Minister said that the Ministry of Education, the OTC and the FSIN continue to collaborate to build awareness and resources. The Ministry of Education's current curriculum renewal process fully supports the foundational entrenchment of First Nations and Métis ways of knowing, content and perspectives resulting in an opportunity for Treaty Essential Learning's to be incorporated as learning outcomes.

Find a dream, advises Tootoosis

• Continued from Page 17

We asked Tootoosis for his thoughts on the award and life. Here are his words.

What was your career highlight? Performing for The Queen? Being Poundmaker?

Being cast as Poundmaker in Big Bear and in The Trial of Poundmaker was a huge gift. I will never have a bigger role because Poundmaker and his older brother YellowMudBlanket have always been giants in the history of our family and our people.

What was the biggest hurdle you have faced in your career?

Probably trying to balance my artistic pursuits in tandem with my political activism. I come from a long line of political activists, radicals, rebels, people who knew there was no protection in silence ... and I make no apology for standing up for what I believe needed to be said. Or done.

How did you feel when they announced your name as the 2008 Lieutenant Governor's Arts and Education Award recipient?

I just sat there for about 15, 20 seconds. I didn't think I was going to win. In fact, I wasn't planning on going to the Awards but then my wife, Winona, really wanted to go and made a point of letting me know that she had booked her flight (she teaches at University of Athabasca in Alberta). Plus a few days before the Awards, the Sask Arts Board called to say that they were going to cover all my travel and accommodation expenses. So, after that I didn't have an excuse.

Where is the award? Mantle, bedside table?

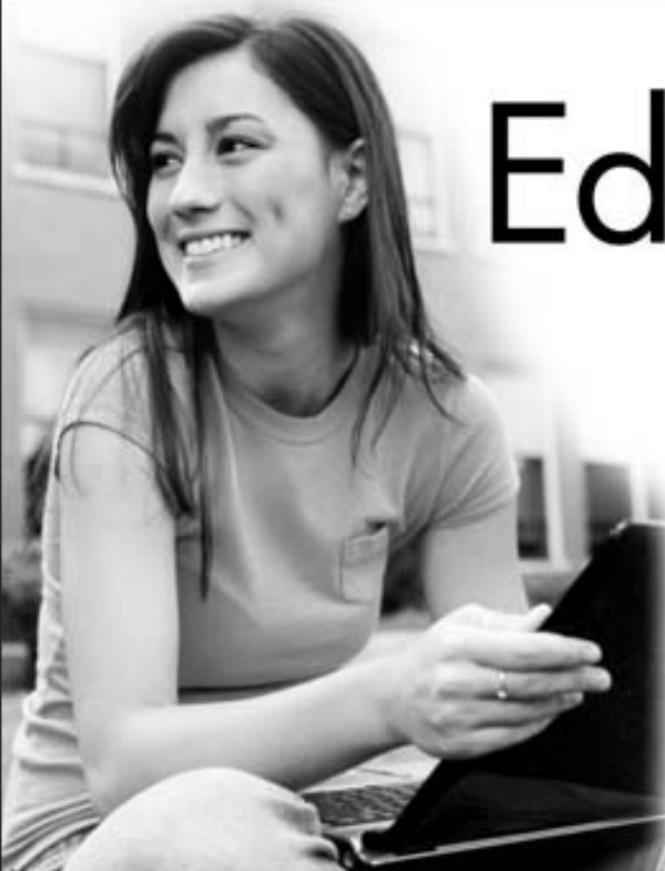
It's sitting in my bedroom. One the left side of it is my wax head as Chief Little Soldier from my most recent film, The Englishman's Boy and on the other side of the Award is the very long dreadlock wig I wore as Chief Poundmaker.

Is First Nation culture alive and well in Saskatchewan?

I think we as First Nations could do way more to revitalize and remind our youth on the importance and value of language and culture. My grandfather said, "Nehiyawaywin maskowciywin" - the language is the power," Askiy Pimatisowin" - and the land is the life. Unfortunately, it seems that there are less Cree speakers today than when I was growing up back home on Poundmaker. With the current demographics, the vast majority of our people are moving from the reserves into urban centers and the sacred connection to the land becomes a greater challenge.

Any tips for the young people coming up that they can put in their tool kit for success?

Never give up your dream and if you don't have a dream, find one, then work on making it a reality. Stay away from drugs and alcohol because they will hold you back from growth. There is an incredibly clean power that comes from being able to abstain but one must earn it. It isn't easy but the feeling of good strong health is well worth it. When you wake up and can see the sun, thank the Creator because time flies and things can change. Find a good meaningful cause you believe in and make a contribution to the greater good. What goes around comes around. The spiritual law of circular interaction is still here amongst the people.



Education

is its own reward

(but this helps).



2008 Post-Secondary Scholarship Winners

The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation recognizes students who demonstrate a commitment to balancing education, family, work and being active in the community.




SGC congratulates all of this year's winners. Don't miss your opportunity to see your name here next year. Application forms are available online at casinoregina.com or casinomoosejaw.com and educational institutions throughout Saskatchewan. Application deadline May 31, 2009.

Community Leadership Award (\$2,500)

Justin Anderson, Lloydminster

University Entrance & Undergraduate Scholarships (\$1,000)

Tyler Ayers, Regina
Thomas Benjoe, Regina
Caitlin Fiddler, Raymore
James Horsman, Fort Qu'Appelle
Marit Johnson, Regina
Iyonia Rabayaa, Regina

Regional College & Technical Institute Scholarships (\$500)

Laura Demyen, Moose Jaw
Alicia Elliot, Saskatoon
Stacey Fries, White City
Kristen Jordison, Regina
Nicole LaPlante, North Battleford
Val Lowdermilk, Hanley
Ashley McCallum, Saskatoon
Kacey Palidwat, Nipawin
Michael Stushnoff, Saskatoon

Provincial funding for First Nations University

An agreement was signed recently by the Province and the First Nations University of Canada that allocates up to \$1.6 million in funding for the institution.

"We have negotiated this agreement to ensure that the institution has what it needs to assist Saskatchewan's students in meeting their education and career goals," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said.

"The \$1.6 million is an important part of ensuring the institution operates effectively, and can provide the best possible education and experience to learners."

The agreement allows for one-time provincial funding that will assist First Nations University with collective agreement ratification costs and other operating costs.

The Ministry has allocated an additional \$400,000 to conduct a strategic and operational review that will support the university's long-term sustainability and accountability.

"We are excited to reach this new agreement with the province," First Nations University Board of Governors

chair Chief Clarence Bellegarde said.

"This agreement supports our commitment to bring our faculty mem-

bers closer to parity with their colleagues at other universities, and it also supports our collective efforts to developing our institution to its fullest potential as we prepare our students for the future."

"The First Nations University of Canada is a fundamental part of post-

secondary education in our province, ensuring that First Nations students have access to a culturally supportive learning

environment," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said. "Our government is pleased to continue to work with the institution to ensure that the needs of learners, First Nations communities and all people in our province are met," Draude added.

"As one of our federated colleges,

First Nations University of Canada is a valued partner of the University of Regina, and plays a unique and important role in post-secondary education for Canada's Aboriginal students," University of Regina president Vianne Timmons said.

"We are pleased that the government recognizes this role and has made such a strong commitment to Aboriginal post-secondary education in the province."

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-Chief Lyle Whitefish appreciates the Provincial Government's \$1.6 Million cash injection.

"We welcome the review to ensure a long-term funding plan is in place," says Vice-Chief Whitefish.

"I'm glad to see the Province recognizing our Treaty Right to education. The next step is to get the federal government to hon-

our its Treaty obligation.

"At one time Indian Affairs provided more than a half-a-million dollars in top-up funding to First Nations University.

"We would like that reinstated as an on-going commitment in good faith as promised according to Treaty."



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Marchers paid tribute to Aboriginal women who have been victims of violence. In Saskatoon, walkers took a route marked by pink scarves and other symbols. (Right) Myrna Laplante and her friend Raj participated in the march. (Photos by Andrea Ledding)

Violence perpetuated by indifference

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Missing and murdered Aboriginal women were honoured and remembered in close to 40 communities across Canada during the annual Sisters In Spirit March. In Saskatoon, walkers gathered at Friendship Park and proceeded to Egadz along a route marked by pink scarves or prayer flags with a black cross painted on, representing the spirits of missing women.

"Aboriginal women are valued, loved and honoured" read some of the signs, while others read "Not One More" in Cree, Spanish, and English – a quote from the recent conference held in Regina which explored the hazards of colonization on indigenous women in North America.

"We need to address racism, sexism, and colonialism," said Helen Smith-McIntyre of Amnesty International. "Recently, Canada voted against the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous people. We have work to do."

After the march, Senator Lillian Dyck of Gordon's First Nation led the panelists, including Smith-McIntyre, Vice Chief Glenn Pratt of FSIN, Professor Patricia Monture of the University of Saskatchewan, MLA Joceline Schreimer, and Saskatoon Chief of Police Clive Weighill.

Co-organizer Myrna LaPlante of Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik spoke of her aunty Emily, who at 78, has been

now missing for a year. Pauline Muskego and other family members shared a slide and video presentation celebrating Daleen's life – in Daleen's case, her body has been recovered and the suspect is awaiting trial, but the beautiful daughter, sister, mother, and wife now lives on only in the hearts of those who loved and knew her.

Monture spoke about the long-term impact of living in a community where systemic violence is tolerated, sharing a story of her son, then 12, being chased and threatened with an axe by two grown men. When she phoned the police, the dispatcher turned the report into two Aboriginal men threatening a Caucasian boy instead of the reverse.

"My son learned that day, police were not there to protect him," said Monture, sharing other racially based remarks and experiences. She spoke of people who live in a cycle of trauma, and being re-traumatized on a daily basis, merely surviving when they deserve so much more.

"Inequality is embedded in our society and our legislation."

The grieving that results from losses which are and were preventable cannot be denied, but Monture also emphasized the strength, dignity, and pride that come from who we are and what we have survived.

"We are strong, creative, intelligent, and resilient people," she said.

Schreimer, a former police officer, shared a story of being an undercover prostitute and the very brief exposure to being verbally treated as worse than dirt by a john, before the satisfaction of seeing him arrested.

"(Minus the satisfaction) this is what many women experience for years, not just a few moments," she noted, adding that while she had a career, education, and every imaginable support – it still affected her tremendously. She couldn't imagine the impact of long-term experience, day-in and day-out.

Dehumanizing contempt, degradation, and abuse by men is a reality for many Aboriginal women, regardless of their occupations or situations, and often from an early age.

Senator Dyck spoke of the importance of continuing to build awareness – there has been suggestion of a monument or gathering place, and a regular memorial day to be placed on the calendar. In her address she pointed out that Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia have the highest number of missing women reported, of the 500 acknowledged in the past 30 years.

"In Saskatchewan, 16 of the 28 missing women are Aboriginal, close to 60 per cent, but only 14 per cent of the Saskatchewan population is Aboriginal."

She attributes this to racialized, sexualized systemic violence towards Aboriginal women, perpetuated by societal indifference.

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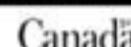
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Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation Board member and Whitecap Dakota First Nation Councillor Dwayne Eagle handed over a check for \$100,000 to Willard Ahenakew, Board Member of the Western Development Museum. The money from the Dunes Development Corporation is a sponsorship of the First Nations Diorama in Section Two of the museum's Winning the Prairie Gamble exhibit.

The Diorama depicts a thriving First Nations farming family. The Diorama includes the facade of a log cabin with an Elder drying the days catch of fish. A mural by Saskatchewan-born artist Dwayne Harty showcases the rest of the family enjoying the warm sun-drenched Saskatchewan summer.

A number of First Nations women and children from the King George Community School in Saskatoon served as models for the mural.

"We all have heard many times that when the buffalo disappeared our ancestors a proud and successful society-suffered immensely," aid Willard Ahenakew.

"This is true, but what is very seldom remembered or told is how they rebounded and mastered a new lifestyle-farming." (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



The Board, Director & staff would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt "thanks" to all our support home caregivers for their time and dedication to our children.

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Harmony run trots through city

The World Harmony Run was inspired in 1987 by the late visionary Sri Chinmoy as a way of giving citizens a dynamic way to express their own hopes and dreams for a more harmonious world and to promote international friendship and understanding.

An athlete, philosopher, artist, musician and poet, Sri Chinmoy dedicated his life to advancing the ideals of world harmony and said: "If we have perseverance, then that is our first step towards world harmony."

The World Harmony Run is organized and financed by an international network of volunteers inspired by Sri Chinmoy's vision of a more harmonious world. Partners in communities and cities often provide accommodation and food.

Everyone can participate in the World Harmony Run: athletes and non-athletes, young and old alike. Everyone can carry the Torch a few steps, a few blocks or a few miles or just come out and cheer the runners as they pass through. People can join local school children, celebrities, and government officials in one of the thousands of welcoming ceremonies along the route.

The torch hit Saskatoon in late September and it was carried down the Meewasin Valley trail from City Park High School to Rotary Park where several hundred students gathered around the Peace Pole for a ceremonial lighting. Students from Bedford Road, Mount Royal and the First Nations University of Canada participated.



Avery Fineday is a Grade 10 student at City Park and he carried the torch for five minutes during the relay to the park. He thought it was a great experience.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

&

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Football fans mourn Little General's passing

Last month the Riders lost one of their own. Rider legend Ron Lancaster passed away after battling lung cancer. For those who saw him play, they say he was the best ever.

I never had the honor of seeing him play. I remember him as the coach of the Edmonton Eskimo's and the Tiger Cats.

He was a blessing to all of Saskatchewan. He came to the Riders in 1962, after two years with Ottawa. He would go on to play 16 years here.



While at the helm of the Riders they would go to five Grey Cups, winning it all in 1966.

During his 18 year career he would have only two losing seasons as a starter. He was that good.

Lancaster's Death caught many across the CFL by surprise. His death came only a month after he had announced that he was seeking treatment. Ron Lancaster was 69 years old.

Linklater returns home

Michael Linklater made yet another return to Saskatoon, this time in a Lakeland College uniform.



Michael Linklater returned to Saskatoon as a member of the Lakeland College squad but his old team, the U of S Huskies proved to be a formidable opponent.

This should be the final stop in his storied basketball career, a journey that saw a stop in North Dakota where he attended the United Tribes College. After that he came home to Saskatoon where he played one year at the University of Saskatchewan before moving to SAIT a year later.

Linklater returned this time to lead an overmatched Lakeland team. They fell badly to his old team, the Huskies 103 - 65. Despite his 25 points the Rustlers just don't have the horses to stay with the Huskies.

He is also returning from a serious knee injury. The knee seemed alright and despite not playing a large portion of the first half, he still looked like one of the better players out there.

Injuries taking their toll

Are the Riders really starting to show their true colours or are they just unfortunate?

Like any true Rider fan I will choose the latter. We just might get Flick and Fantuz back this month and hopefully that helps the sputtering offense. Jeremy O'day being injured is also a big loss. He was playing well and O-lineman are hard to replace.

We need players to step up and for management to pick a quarterback and let's turn this ship around. Wes Cates, get well soon!

It was just a month ago we were sitting pretty looking down at teams across the CFL. Now we are stuck in a three-way tie for first in the West.

But we are still the best team in the CFL - when healthy - and we will repeat. Rider pride!

Are Sharks unbiteable?

It might be a year late, but I think the best team in the NHL this year will be the San Jose Sharks. And I also think the second best team in the NHL is in their own division, the Dallas Stars.

Because of this they will not win the President's Trophy. That dubious, and meaningless, honour will go to the Red Wings.

I like the moves the Lightning made, but they have no goalie. Pittsburgh lost too much firepower to be taken serious this year.

So, my pick to come out of the East will be the Philadelphia Flyers. They have a nice mix of talent. They have offensive firepower in guys like Jeff Carter and Daniel Briere, one of the grittiest leaders in the league in Mike Richards, not to mention a healthy Simon Gagne.

Your Art Ross and Hart trophy winner will again be Alexander Ovechkin. Sorry Sid lovers, but until they play him with Malkin full time, neither one will put up the stats they are capable of.

But in the end adding Robert Blake and Dan Boyle to an already solid lineup gives the Sharks the Cup. And they will skate with the only trophy that really matters in the NHL.



This file photo of Ron Lancaster was taken when the '66' championship team was once honoured at Mosaic Stadium. The province lost a legend last month with the passing of the Little General.

(Photo by Jamie Gibson)

Some random thoughts

Q: Who names their goalie team captain? A: A desperate franchise, that's who.

The Hilltops look scary good this year ... I must admit, getting Jermaine

O'Neal almost makes me a Raptor fan, wait for it, NOT! ... Hardcore Radio on the Score is awesome, if you don't know, now you know ... Did anyone else notice that OJ is finally going to jail... Showron Glover is real nice ... Sugar Cane, Sugar Cane, Sugar Cane

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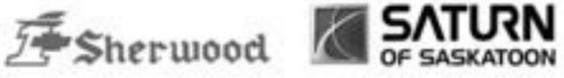


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Oskayak High School kickstarts new tradition

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Savana Walkingbear is a Grade 12 student at Oskayak High school and he is part of history. He is the captain of the newly created soccer team, the Eagles.

"It is a good experience to be captain," said Savana before a tournament game at the Saskatoon Soccer Centre. "We have only had one game so far but it is tough and fun."

Walkingbear was chatting on the sidelines as his teammates got ready for their second game of the tournament, heck their second game ever. They were in a tournament hosted by Centennial Collegiate and they were playing teams from schools with enrollments of over a thousand. Oskayak has fewer than 200 students, about 70 of whom are boys.

The pressure does not faze Walkingbear though.

"It is all about having fun. We are playing teams way above our level. Playing 4A teams when we are 1A. These teams are hard but having fun is the key and we try hard."

The Eagles are led by Coach Kevin Irvine.

"I did not start this team. The boys came to me with the desire to play. They showed up and asked me to make a team and I said I will. Bruce Gordon told me there was a tournament and we entered and here we are," said Irvine, the unsung hero of the team.

He dug up resources from the school board to cover the cost of some of the jerseys, but he personally dug into his own pocket to make sure the boys had nice shoes, socks and shin pads.

"Some of these guys are really talented," added Irvine. "I think the key thing is to motivate them. Even though we are only a 1A school, we can compete."

"I always tell the boys it does not matter where you come from or how fancy your jerseys are, it is how hard you play. I am really proud of these guys."

Come the end of the tournament and the Oskayak Eagles wound up losing every game, but they did compete hard. Savana Walkingbear scored the first ever Eagles goal and they represented well.

"We accept the challenge of competing against tougher teams," said Savana. "It makes me a better person. I learn more. Our team has fun. Coach is great. He fought to get us in the tournament and we appreciate it. We are very happy to have him as our coach."

"These kids really sacrifice to play the game," added Coach Irvine. "There are five or six tournaments coming up and we are slowly building a program. The reward comes when the guys approach me about the team singing the Oskayak school song before the game."

When we first started, they approached and they know we are here to have fun, have a good time and play hard. I am really proud of these guys."



Here they are, the Oskayak Eagles. (left to right) Coach; Bruce Gordon, Elmer Tootoosis, Vince Sinclair, Brian Jr. Paul, Reagan Kennedy, Marty Martell, Brett Worme, Harvey Jr. Mercredi, Cameron Smoke, Tracey Gunn, Jamie Ledoux, Coach; Delvin Kanewiyakiho, Blaine Sinclair, Andrew Martin, Justin Kishayinew, Team Captain Savana Walkingbear, Coach; Kevin Irvine, Front Row: Jagger Ray Pooyak and Wayne Adams.

(Photos by John Lagimodiere)



Team captain Savana Walkingbear (left) is a proud member of the Oskayak Eagles soccer team.

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Guy Lonechild has his eye on FSIN's top job

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

He kept it close to his chest all along, but it wasn't until declaration day that FSIN Vice-Chief Guy Lonechild finally confirmed that he was not running for his old job at the Federation.

Rumours of a potential run at the Chief position next year were around and Lonechild did little to discourage the rumours.

"I am certainly interested in doing that," said Lonechild when queried in an interview in late August, but he was coy and insisted that he "had to talk to my Elders and advisors before any real decision is made."

So does his resigning mean he will be running for the top job against Lawrence Joseph next year?

"Yes it does," said Lonechild in an exclusive interview with Eagle Feather News.

"I have met with a Tribal Council and my Chief and we have agreed that we will make a formal announcement at the Assembly. I look forward to the challenge and to restoring the people's confidence in the Federation."

Lonechild has spent the last nine years as 2nd Vice Chief at the Federation. He was elected at the ripe old age of 26 and will be 36 when he runs for Chief. Now though, he wants to take a breather and spend time with his family.

"My daughter Darian broke her finger on her writing hand and I have been helping with the homework," said Lonechild.

"We are working on sentences and I am doing the writing. It is great and I want to do more of that, then look at some business opportunities, eventually. I have



Guy Lonechild is taking a break from politics but says he'll be back in a year to take a run at the Chief's job.

one year to campaign. But for now it is family first."

He was also excited about his wife Leah being called to the bar the next day and beginning her career at the Children's Advocate Office.

"Kids are near and dear to our heart," he added. "Children, youth and family are priority. We have to run fast towards full implementation of rights of children and youth instead of spinning our wheels in bureaucratic rhetoric."

During his term, he was most proud of the \$104.8 million deal with INAC for prevention services for children and an memorandum of understanding signed with federal Minister of Health Tony Clement.

A very amiable fellow, Lonechild hit it off with politicians from all stripes.

"I was fortunate to have met three prime ministers and many provincial ministers and leaders from other provinces," said Lonechild.

"But Saskatchewan by far produces the most passionate and courageous people I have met. We have such strong defenders of Treaty principles locally and on the national stage from this territory.

"I have been fortunate to work with many and have no trouble working with those from the left, the right or the centre.

"I would like to thank the chiefs of Saskatchewan for giving me the opportunity to serve all of the 74 First Nations in the past nine years," said Lonechild as he left for a meeting with three Saulteaux Bands to work on developing a Saulteaux specific on-reserve treatment centre.

"It is my hope and desire that the incoming executive will continue on this very important work on behalf of our future generations."

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