

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

It's back to the books!

These students from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation attended the Indigenous Peoples Program Career Fair and Music Gala. They thought the music was cool and the best part of being back to school was recess.



Music Fest kicks off new school year

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Aboriginal Music Festival has been a staple of back-to-school for the past six years. Always held in early September, the celebration of culture and education has grown in a big way and has morphed from a music festival to much more.

Alex Munoz is the driving force behind the music festival which is hosted by the Indigenous Peoples Program at the University of Saskatchewan.

From humble beginnings at Amigos Cantina, the event now takes over TCU Place in Saskatoon for two full days and has incorporated a career development element into it. While the youth are visiting booths, Aboriginal entertainers are performing in the main hall at the top of TCU Place.

The Music Fest, with over 15 acts, including Juno winner Leela Gilday, caps off day two.

"We had over 55 schools so far today and over 1,500 students, but by the end of it, we expect over 2500 students," said Munoz. "We decided to offer the career development angle to complement the music side of things. These youth are going to breakouts that include health, the media and lots of career angles.

"Winston Wuttunee has been a real treat. He

makes the kids laugh and can really connect with them. It is amazing to see the kid's faces. He is an entertainer, but also an elder. So with him, it is good for the kids."

Brett Lafond is one of the students brought in for the event. From Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Lafond is a typical Grade 12 student, trying to balance friends, school and his passion for hockey.

"This event is alright and it shows us what to do when we are done school, and the music is cool too," said Lafond.

"I want to focus on school and hopefully graduate and go to university. I will figure out my career later."

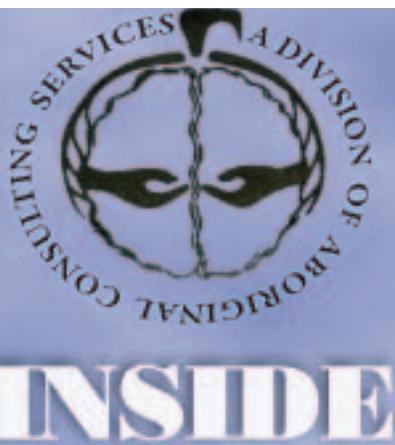
The challenge for Lafond, who plays AAA hockey with the Beardy's Blackhawks is to balance everything.

"I try to put school first, but it is tough as we travel lots with hockey."

Torin Greyeyes was a little less excited about being back in school.

"My favourite part of school is home time," he said with a chuckle. "The music is pretty cool here."

His pals chipped in that they love recess and gym the best and the best part of the career fair was the candy. And when you were a kid, who didn't love gym, candy and recess?



SHOOT A GIRL?

Charlotte Jolly's death was brutal and tragic. Police need help in locating her killer.

- Page 4



METIS CHAMPION

The Judge passed away recently leaving a legacy of achievement and contributions to the Métis community.

- Page 7



STRONG WORDS

David Anehakew looks back on a lifetime of accomplishment and controversy.

Page 9



NEW PREZ

Monell Bailey was recently elected president of the Métis Women's Association.

- Page 10



STUDENT UNREST

First Nations University student Adam Martin sees opportunity despite the turmoil.

- Page 17

Welcome to our
Back To School Issue
Coming In October :
Role Model Issue
CPMA #40027204



Beginners get some valuable tips from the old masters of the fiddle.



Everyone welcome, including Maggie Hills who is warming up her fiddle skills.

Arcand's Fiddle Fest just keeps getting bigger and better

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

After a dozen years and still growing, John Arcand's Annual August Fiddle Fest kept up the trend of drawing more and more visitors from both further afield, and closer to home. Attendance for the four day event was at about 5,000 visitors, and 46 fiddlers and 27 jiggers from across Western Canada took home over \$10 000 in prize money.

Vicki Arcand noticed an increase in day attendance.

"I hope the locals are realizing, 'Wow here we have access to this amazing

music' – whether they take in one evening concert or all four, it's an amazing deal," she said, chatting between duties as fiddling competitions got underway.

Thursday and Friday free workshops are provided for all skill levels from absolute beginner to advanced – jiggling, fiddling, and piano or guitar accompaniment.

"The instructors are second to none, and they love coming here too," Arcand said. And visitors came from the US and all parts of Canada, some even taking advantage of the un-serviced camping a week early, with what she described as "a

mini village" in their hay meadow.

And three years into the "Raise The Roof" campaign – to provide a permanent structure rather than relying solely on canvas and large tents – the Arcands are hopeful that 2010 will be the year it all happens, with less than \$40,000 to go.

"We're getting really close – people have been generous and supportive – hopefully next spring will see us putting up that structure."

They are doing another fundraiser on Nov. 10 – a Christmas fiddle and comedy show featuring Metro, at the Western Development Museum. Tickets are

available for \$20 – much like the fiddle-fest itself, reasonably priced.

"Forty dollars for an entire weekend – including workshops, camping, children's activities, and concerts every night – where else can you go for that kind of deal," muses Arcand. Children 12 and under are free of charge, and one of her favourite parts, which others also rave about, is the Saturday night concert – kicked off by youngsters paired with instructors, eventually all taking the stage together for a finale. "That's what it's all about – passing it on to the next generations."

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Editorial

Chronic under funding undermines education

"If, under the guise of education, residential schools were tools to disconnect families, take children away from communities, language and culture, shouldn't then education be the tool that supports the resurgence of language, supports the reconnection of families to their culture, to their language, to their land?"

- Shawn Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

Certainly those are wise words from the Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Chief Atleo has hit the nail on the head. The only way that Aboriginal people are going to take their due place in this country is if we raise our education levels to that of everyone else. Sadly, we are far from that.

Depending on your source, an average First Nation student on-reserve is funded anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 less per year than a student attending school off-reserve. On-reserve, according to the AFN, graduation from Grade 12 is rare, with 70 per cent of on reserve students NEVER getting their high school diploma. The chronic under-funding leaves many reserve schools at a disadvantage as they often watch many of their students hop on a bus and head to the nearest town for their education.

The on-reserve schools are also at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to recruiting teachers. Only a handful of on-reserve schools in Saskatchewan allow their teachers to be part of the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation. Being part of this union allows teachers some job security and access to benefits and training.

On the other hand, many on-reserve schools go with year-to-year contracts and with the lack of money from the federal government, programs and extra curricular activities are always threatened. This scenario is not easy to explain to teachers that you are trying to lure to your community.

The challenge of getting an education doesn't get any easier in the city either. Many Aboriginal people face issues related to poverty and wind up living in substandard housing in rougher neighbourhoods. With the lure of gangs, drugs and the party lifestyle, many kids never get a decent shot at an education, preferring often to drop out and go street.

That it is why it is so important for our province and school boards to invest the proper amount of resources into inner city schools.

Many people were upset when the province of Saskatchewan made the Saskatoon Catholic School board reduce in size by 15 per cent the new St Mary's School. This school is already a hub of the neighbourhood and will be even more so once the new school is built in 2011, but the provincial government seems to be a bit shortsighted in reducing the size of the school.

There will always be lots of kids being born in the 'hood and they will always need lots of services. Shortchanging the investment in an inner city school will cost you more in health, justice and social dollars in the long run. We thought that politicians knew that.

Now it is on the shoulders of both the provincial and federal governments to do their best to invest the correct amount of money into the education of First Nation and Métis youth in Saskatchewan.

Current statistics say that First Nations will take 28 years to catch up to the mainstream education levels. I am afraid we don't have that kind of time.

Considering the birth rates on reserve and that over half of the First Nation population is under the age of 20, this trend can not continue

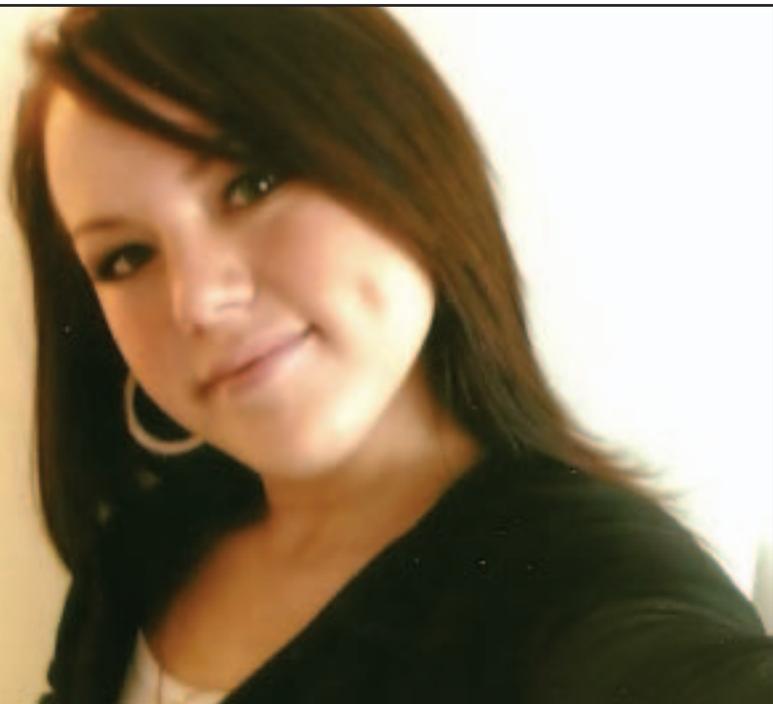
What's next in Eagle Feather News

October is our role model edition and we will have profiles on youth, old people, athletes, artists and you name it. There will be a story on an avid historian who has sleuthed that fact that an historic picture has been misidentifying three provincial Chiefs for almost a century.

We will correct the history. Also in October, we will give you mini profiles of every candidate who is running for the FSIN election in October.

Readers Forum

Are you going to shoot a girl?



Those were the last words of Charlotte Jolly, the latest victim of violent crime in Saskatoon.

Jolly and her friends were coming home early in the morning on Sept. 1 and were challenged by some young men in an alley. Her friends went to approach the men when one person proceeded to pull out a rifle and take a shot at them.

The men then fled. According to witnesses Charlotte Jolly confronted the men and asked them if they were going to shoot a girl. At that time, Jolly was shot. She died later that morning. She is the third murder victim in Saskatoon this year.

Jolly was 19 years old and the mother of Alexis Jolly-Ross. Alexis is not even two years old. Alexis is now in the care of Charlotte's mother. A trust fund for the care of Alexis has been set up at the Affinity Credit Union.

To contribute, you can go to any branch of Affinity Credit Union in Saskatchewan and quote the following account number No.

10218691. The police are still investigating the case. If you have any information relating to the events on the night in question, no matter how trivial it may seem, please report it to the police.

The investigation continues and the cold blooded murderer must be brought to justice. The police can be reached anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.




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THIS ISSUE...LAST ISSUE...PAST ISSUES.

Métis not served well by Indian Act

The political actions of the late Harry W. Daniels of Regina Beach led to the recognition of the rights of 'the Métis people' in the 1982 amendments to the Constitution of Canada. In the 19th century the political actions led by Louis Riel gave rise to the recognition of Métis rights in the new Constitution of the province of Manitoba in 1870.

What political actions of today and tomorrow will lead to a workable understanding of the identity of 'the Métis people' and to meaningful recognition of Métis rights?

Last month we took a glimpse at the history of Canadian federal policy regarding the recognition of the First Nations. That was the first commentary in a series that will examine the issues surrounding the challenge of identifying and defining the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This month we look at the Métis side of history.

When the Government of Canada began to enter into Treaties with the First Nations it did not make it its business to decide who belonged with a First Nation. Even when the federal government passed its early 'Indian' laws in the 19th century, it recognized as an 'Indian' anyone living with a First Nation community. So 'white' persons could be included where they married into or lived with a First Nation.

Later on, about the mid-1800s, in what is now Ontario, government officials met the presence of many persons of mixed European and First Nation parentage. In

some cases these folks lived with the First Nations and in other cases a number of 'frontier families' lived in separate communities. Again the government took the view that anyone belonging to a First Nation community would be recognized as an 'Indian'. But distinct communities of persons with 'mixed-ancestry' would not be recognized as Indian communities.

Meanwhile, in what is now Western and North-western Canada, a number of things had led to the emergence of a large number of people who identified as distinct from both First Nations and Canadians. Their 'mixed' ancestry was only one factor. Most important were their ways of living as part of the fur trade system, and their coming together to live in large communities at convenient places along the waterways of trade and commerce.

In addition, they had joined the buffalo-hunting and horse culture of the Great Plains. Moreover, they engaged in relations of war and peace, including treaties, with their First Nation neighbours, thus cementing their distinct identity at the same time as their place as an indigenous people. By political action they obtained practical recognition as a distinct people by both First Nations and Canadians.

Out of the political action led by Louis

Riel at Red River came the Constitutional recognition of the rights of the Métis people in the Manitoba Act 1870. After the stalemate, broken promises and fraud that make up that history, came the troubles that ended at Batoche in 1885, and the end of the era of freedom for the Plains Aboriginal peoples.

Meanwhile, the lands promises that were made to the Métis in Manitoba were again repeated in the more Westerly regions of what is now Saskatchewan and Alberta and the

Northwest Territories from the late 1870s and well into the 20th century. But now paper certificates or 'scrip' was substituted for lands. The story of the dispossession of the Métis is well known under the labels of 'Road Allowance People' and 'the Forgotten People'. Railway and Lands companies made fortunes for their shareholders out of the inheritance of the Métis people. Western fortunes that fuelled Canadian expansion have tainted histories.

The government set aside land 'reserves' for the use of the First Nations, but generally not for Métis communities. In Alberta there are eight Métis settlements that originate from 12 reserves set aside in the late 1930s by the Social Credit government.

The official reasons for giving Métis people individual lands or scrip certificates

instead of reserves come from the racist thinking associated with the original meaning of the word 'Métis', or 'mixed-blood'. Racist ideas suggested that Aboriginal people were inferior to 'Whites' and therefore those who were 'part' Aboriginal by parentage were somewhat less inferior because of their 'White' ancestry.

The Métis scrip system is based on the idea of 'enfranchisement' that was set up for First Nations in the Indian Act. Those who fit the model of the 'civilized' citizen of the day and who were seen as able to protect their own lands in the public market were granted individual lands apart from the Indian reserve communal lands.

The scrip system applied this model to all Métis persons. It just happened also to be an easy way for friends of the government to make fortunes in scrip-trading. In the 1950s Indian Act amendments set up a new registration system for reserve residents and band members. Its disastrous administration left many thousands out of the system. The early Métis organizations in the West were alliances of 'non-status Indians' and Métis people.

Some may believe that a Métis identification or definition system can be built at the boundary of the Indian Act registration system. Its history and administration show conclusively that a rational system based on the Act is not possible.

The issue of creating a rational system to identify the Aboriginal peoples of Canada requires some challenging political action.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

We're losing ground on treaty right to education

We've often heard that in these modern times "education is our buffalo" and there are many teachings this saying offers us.

Like the buffalo from the old days, education today will help look after us. Gaining an education, whether in the trades or in academics, will provide our young people the means to make a good living and break the poverty and welfare cycles that run rampant in our communities. Receiving our certificates, diplomas and degrees is also like counting coup because it we earned it, we beat the odds, and can live independently with pride.

Post-secondary education is a hard road paved with many trials, challenges, and hardships. For students it takes a lot of willpower, skill, hard work and support from family and community to succeed. It requires a lot of personal sacrifice to succeed.

There are only a few sources for post-secondary student funding: family, loans, bursaries (needs based), scholarships (merit based), and First Nations students can apply for funding from their Bands. The Bands get their funds from Indian Affairs post-secondary program monies, but there is never enough funds to support all the students who apply for it. Many students are forced to rely on Canada Student Loans.

When Indian students first started trickling into universities and colleges in the early 1900s

the only funding they could get was from the churches but only on the condition they went into medicine, teaching or theology. Indian Affairs did not provide any assistance until the late 1950s.

It wasn't until the 1972 "Indian Control of Indian Education" position paper by the National Indian Brotherhood that Indian Affairs created the Post-Secondary Education Assistance Program (PSEAP) which was adjusted each year to accommodate the growing numbers of Indian students entering colleges and universities.

The PSEAP funding was first seriously capped in the early 1980s when INAC cut funding for off-reserve adult upgrading. While INAC cut off university prep support, it was happy to fund mature students to attend university who didn't have university preparation, which basically set them up for failure. One of the results was that less than half the first year students didn't make it into second year.

The next cap in post-secondary funding came in 1988 Indian Affairs announced the restructuring of PSEAP. First Nation students and supporters across the country held protests and sit-ins at INAC offices and a hunger strike

to oppose the unilateral decision of INAC to change the PSEAP policy. But all our efforts had little impact and INAC went ahead with its plan.

Students and supporters were rounded up and thrown in jail for standing up for our Treaty Right to education because we truly believed that post-secondary is a Treaty Right and that INAC had no right to unilaterally change our Treaty

Rights. But the federal government rejects this interpretation. According to Indian Affairs, it only provides post-secondary assistance as a matter of social policy which means that Indian Affairs can

change its policies whenever it feels like it. 20 years later INAC wants to download its 'social policy' to Canada Student Loans or some other agency. It seems we are losing ground on Treaty Rights protection at a time in our history when we have the highest number of First Nation students enrolling in universities.

We are fortunate that many of our people are going on to Masters, PhD and professional programs. The funding challenges for graduate students, however, are even more difficult because of the INAC guidelines and the funding priorities established at the Band level.

A young Anishinaabe student I know

completed a Bachelor of Arts double degree and was accepted into the Masters of Oral History program at Columbia University in New York City. His family is so proud that he was accepted into an Ivy League school (among the best in North America) and is the first, First Nation student person accepted into that program.

But he can't go to Columbia this year, though, because his Band won't sponsor him and Canada Student Loans does not support out of country studies. Neither can he apply for funding in the U.S. because he's not a U.S. resident, and since he does not belong to a U.S. "federally recognized tribe" he is also not eligible for Native American scholarships and bursaries. It's awful sad that his Treaty Right to education is not protected, that INAC sees no value in sponsoring graduate students, and that the Band won't support him.

He's not giving up, though. The Masters program in Oral History at Columbia is the only one of its kind in North America. The skills and knowledge he will gain from his studies there will be of tremendous benefit in helping us all preserve the knowledge and teachings of our Elders, especially now when so few are left among us.

He plans to spend the next year working as many jobs as he can to save money and try fundraising.

I have no doubt he will make it on his own with help from family and friends.



Introspection
Winona Wheeler

The strange world of New Age frauds and phony Aboriginal Elders

The World Council of Elders held its third annual International Sun Dance in August near Prior, Montana. It sounded good and no doubt many traditionalists from Western Canada would have made their way there had the little known event been better promoted.

Those who finally heard about it weren't entirely convinced it was worth attending when they heard more about the gathering and the people holding it. Woody Vaspra is the World Council of Elders founder, president and "International Sun Dance Chief." He claims to be of Hawaiian descent. The Montana Sun Dance was by invitation only, a factor that upset many traditional Elders who say ceremonies should be open to all and come without a price tag.

The World Council of Elders is described on their website as a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational organization. Their stated goal is "to facilitate the gathering of the world's wisdom keepers and to help them share their wisdom world wide for the benefits of all people."

The World Council website makes no mention if the gathering had the support and participation of the Crow Nation on whose ancestral lands it was held. There is also no mention of the Kutenai, Rocky Boy Cree, Northern Cheyenne or Blackfoot Tribal Councils nor their tribal Elders. These Montana Tribes and their Elders represent among the most traditional people the World Council of Elders purports to value and promote.

The leading watchdog on spiritual frauds exploiting Aboriginal culture is the Internet website newagefraud.org. This Aboriginal run site uses many Aboriginal sources across North America to share information about frauds abusing Aboriginal culture.

Some of the posts involve some very serious criminal abuse against women and children by some very phony and dangerous individuals. They name names and research dubious claims by would-be impostors. There have been many attempts by the fraudsters to shut down this site including legal action and death threats but the site, like the Energizer Bunny, just keeps going and going. There is no condemnation of the World Council of Elders yet but they remain a very carefully watched and controversial group.

I find New Agers to be, for the most part, lost children running amuck in a spiritual candy store.

Criticism is not limited to New Age want-to-be Indians but also to Aboriginal exploiters of Aboriginal culture. The newagefraud.org site examines the spiritual misadventures of

Saskatchewan's own Lawrence Agecutay also known as Kaneekaneet. This individual from Pasqua First Nation is not the Lawrence Agecutay from Cowessess. The Cowessess Agecutay is a well-respected individual.



Kaneekaneet proclaims himself to be, the "Seventh Generation Traditional Head Chief of the Anishinabe Nations of the Great Turtle Island" ... I possess four sacred pipes. I am Head Chief of the League of Indian Nations of North America. I am further recognized as Chief of the United Indian Nations of North America."

Modest he is not.

Kaneekaneet is nuttier than a fruit cake.

He was convicted of running a marijuana grow-op on the Pasqua First Nation. Clinging to his medicine bundle in court he vigorously defended himself to the bitter end. He was later imprisoned and given his background may just have a chance of making Chief of the Native Brotherhood in whatever correctional center he may still be languishing in.

The list of frauds Aboriginal or otherwise goes on and on ad nauseam. Where do these people come from?

This past month I was invited to a fasting camp held in the mountains west of Vanderhoof, British Columbia hosted by the Carrier Sekani Family Services. Their land is beautiful and so are their people.

My family was treated well. We were formally introduced at a Potlatch ceremony by the Caribou Clan with whom we sat. I was impressed by their culture and history but I was somewhat angry when I heard how a phony medicine man from Saskatchewan had abused their kindness. He took a lot of money from them and was, in the end, caught by police with outstanding warrants for his arrest and in possession of a stolen car.

I have written about this before. He fooled a lot of people. Despite this outrage the Carrier Sekani people remain good friends with the Cree, especially the Cree people from Saddle Lake, Alberta.

I feel the culture blossoms best when caring people come together with good intentions.

They need not all be Aboriginals. My time in the mountains was time well spent. The phony healer is gone and will not return.

ELECTION Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board

Municipal elections will be held Wednesday, October 28. Ten trustees will be elected to the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education. Seven trustees will be elected at large in Saskatoon, one trustee will be elected to represent Humboldt, one trustee will be elected to represent Biggar and one will be elected to represent specific rural areas surrounding Saskatoon (Aberdeen, Clavet, Viscount and South Corman Park).

To vote in a Catholic school board election, a person must be:

- a Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age
- a resident of the school division for at least three months and a resident of Saskatchewan for six months; and
- a Catholic.

A candidate for the Catholic school board must meet the qualifications above and the people signing the nomination papers must be Catholic.

In Saskatoon, nomination forms are available at City Hall or the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools board office at 420 - 22nd Street East or any Catholic school. Those

seeking election outside of Saskatoon may contact the applicable town, village or city office in their area for a nomination form. A candidate information package is available at www.gscs.sk.ca. Nominations may be filed until September 30.



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Family and comrades were present when the body of Darby Morin came home.

Fallen soldier dreamed of making his mother proud

The body of a Saskatchewan soldier killed in Afghanistan has been returned to his home at the Big River First Nation.

More than 100 people were on hand for the arrival of the plane bearing the body of Sgt. Darby Morin, 25. He was buried on Sept. 1. His funeral attracted almost 1,000 people from around North America. Morin, who was serving with the U.S. Army, died in a vehicle rollover.



SGT. DARBY MORIN

When he was 11 years old, Morin told his mother Irene he would make her proud some day when he joined the army. Right after he graduated from the Big River First Nation High School in 2003, Morin joined the United States Army. He spent four years stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia

before being transferred to Fort Drum, New York in April of 2008.

Later that year in December, Morin was deployed to the Charkh District centre in Logar province, Afghanistan. On August 22, 2009 Darby was on night patrol traveling on a foggy mountain road along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border when the driver lost control of their military vehicle and it rolled. Sgt. Morin died in the accident, the immediate family was told by the U.S. Army.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph describes the late Sgt. Morin as a hero and role model.

"I want to send my deepest condolences to the family of Darby Morin. It's really sad that he leaves behind his wife and two small children but at the same time they can be extremely proud of his memory and honour," says Chief Joseph.

"Darby joined the fight for freedom. He makes us all proud for the sacrifice he made against the war on terrorism."

Morin and his wife, Veronica, had two sons, Christian, 3, and Blue Sky, 19 months.

The Big River community is also mourning the loss of Kyle Whitehead, a private in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He also died on Aug. 22 when a car he was driving on the Big River First Nation went into a ditch and rolled several times. He had been in the Canadian Army for only a year.

Métis Nation loses champions

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan lost three long serving advocates in August. Jeff Morin, a pipe carrying Elder from Ile-a-la-Croix passed on August 11. Morin was an advocate for residential school survivors and a tireless champion of land claims and Métis rights.

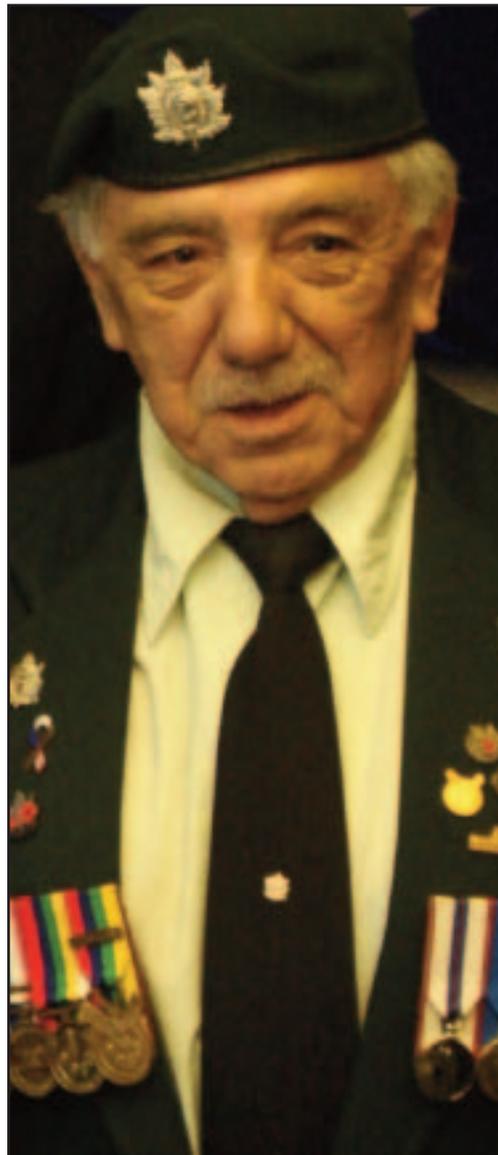
The long time President of Local 31 in Meadow Lake, James Kennedy, also passed in August. He had initiated the All-Aboriginal hockey tournament that ran in Meadow Lake for many years.

And in late August, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Senator Roy Fosseneuve passed away. Better known as the Judge, Fosseneuve always had a kind word for everyone and was an advocate for Métis veterans and their families.

The Judge was faithful in ensuring that Remembrance Day ceremonies were honoured by the community. He was the former chair of the Senate where he worked to bring awareness of Métis specific rights.

A traditional man, the Judge often performed ceremonies for the MN-S. His funeral was held in Cumberland House.

Fosseneuve leaves to mourn his eight children, his special friend, Paulette Hofkamp, and several grandchildren.



ROY FOSSENEUVE



Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program

The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program was established to encourage the Métis from Saskatchewan to pursue post-secondary educational training in fields related to Aboriginal peoples.

Napoleon LaFontaine was instrumental in organizing the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (formerly 'Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan'). Over the years, he devoted himself to developing social and educational policy for Aboriginal people. These scholarships are so named in recognition of his many contributions.

There are six types of scholarships: entrance, undergraduate, graduation, graduate, loan remission and special.

For additional information including eligibility, academic criteria and application forms, please visit our website at www.gdins.org or contact:

The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program
c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute
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Applications must be submitted prior to the May 1st and October 1st deadlines.

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Zero tolerance best defence against gangs

*Dear Sandee,
I am a single parent and I work two jobs and as a result I am away from home a lot. I want to make a better life from me and my daughter. I know I should spend more time with her but I need to pay the rent.*

My daughter recently came home wearing a bandana and covered in bruises. I am concerned that the gangs may have got to her. I read somewhere that gangs initiate new members with beatings, is this true?

Emma

Dear Emma,

It never ceases to amaze me the violence and rules that the kids are willing to put up with in order to join and to belong to a gang. That is why, once they become a member, it is very difficult to get them out. So the obvious solution is to try to prevent their involvement in the first place.

This can be done by having a ZERO TOLERANCE attitude towards gang attire and gang affiliation. Keeping the child involved in sports or other activities will help to keep them occupied so they won't be tempted because of idle time.

Knowing where they go and who

they go with, and keeping in touch and having an open line of communication with their friends' parents will also help. But probably the most important thing you can do as a parent is to be educated and know what to look for.

Many kids are intrigued by the lifestyle of the gangsters and are drawn to them like magnets. They will hang with them constantly trying to prove their allegiance. They may be asked to commit crimes to prove themselves.

Once they have proven themselves, they will be initiated. Once a kid gets into a gang, over and over they are told there is no way out.

They fear serious reprisals from fellow gang members if a defection is suspected. Some are told they will be killed if they try to get out.

The best advice is to stay away from gang activities no matter what. Participants have said the mere interaction of members, listening to each others' problems and sharing the other trials and

tribulations today's teens are faced with are the drawing card for them to become a 'banger'.

Gang members also claim to enjoy the respect or fear others exhibit around them. Then, they say, the money begins flowing, and with that comes all of the things associated with material wealth that is usually beyond the reach of these adolescents without the criminal activity of being involved in a gang.

Check your neighborhood community centre and see if they offer after school programs this might help to keep your daughter busy. Reaffirm your love to her and let her know she is the most important person in your life.

*Dear Sandee,
I am in a new relationship and I thought things were going great, but we just had a huge fight and both of us said some pretty hurtful things to each other. Is it possible to fight nice? Will the respect come back?*

I am so confused right now.

Shirley

Dear Shirley,

All relationships go through difficult times – it's how you handle those times that makes the difference between staying together and splitting up. Happy and successful relationships are based on understanding – of yourself, your partner and how you relate.

Talking and listening are probably the most important skills in a relationship. There'll always be tensions and disagreements, but if you can communicate well, you can overcome almost any problem.

The most successful couples are those that make spending time together a priority. Like a plant without water, a relationship without time can wither and die. You need it to share your hopes and dreams, as well as your fears and failings; to keep in touch with what's happening in your lives ... and to have fun.

Thank you for your emails and letters I enjoy hearing from the readers. Please send your question to s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca or you can mail your questions to Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Sez PO Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon S7K 3M4



First Nations assert jurisdiction in Child and Family Services

In 1990, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations' (FSIN) Chiefs-in-Assembly ratified the Indian Child and Family Services Act (amended 1994). This piece of legislation was the collective effort of the First Nations Chiefs across Saskatchewan to assert their jurisdiction over First Nations children, and to address the high number of First Nations children who were in the care of the province's child welfare agencies. Later that same year, Touchwood Agency Indian and Child Family Services opened its doors in Saskatchewan, the first of 17 such agencies that deal with First Nations children on reserve.

This Act was the first step on a long and bumpy road towards total jurisdiction over First Nations families – a journey that is not yet complete.

"The history of First Nations children and families in Canada is far more complicated than most people know," says Vice Chief Glen Pratt of the FSIN. "There is a long history of taking First Nations children from their parents that starts with the Residential Schools, goes through the Adopt Indian and Métis Program (AIM) of the 1960s where Aboriginal children were offered for adoption to non-First Nations families, right up to today, when there are more children in the care of Child Welfare Agencies than there ever were in Residential Schools."

According to Pratt, this history shows that the European methods of addressing the needs of First Nations children at risk have failed. In fact, rather than improving, the number of First Nations Children in care, on and off reserve, rose from 3,374 in March of 2003 to 4,354 in March of 2009.

"Things are not getting better," Pratt says. "In fact, they are much, much worse. It's time to try something other than removing these children from their homes and families."

Pratt points to the recent Saskatchewan Children's Advocate report on foster home overcrowding and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child as evidence that Saskatchewan's First Nations children are being failed by the province.

The Children's Advocate report demonstrated that children

are being removed from their homes and placed into actual physical danger in overcrowded foster care homes. Further, removing children from their families and communities often violates their right, under the UN Declaration, to access to their culture, language, traditions and customs.

Currently, the province places a high priority on what they call 'permanency planning,' which is essentially a strategy to make sure that there is some stability for children who are taken into care, especially in the long term.

According to Pratt, "First Nations leaders see the need for some form of 'permanency planning' to keep children from being shuffled from home to home of course, but the whole focus on how to deal with children in care neglects to seek preventative solutions that would keep First Nations children out of care in the first place."

According to Pratt, much of the province's work in child welfare is engaged in developing policies regarding how children are dealt with after they've been apprehended. In fact, the province is bringing forward new legislation, The Drug Endangered Child Act, which would expand upon its already far-reaching powers to remove children from their homes.

"After over 100 years of taking kids out of their homes and away from their families, maybe it's time to try something else," Pratt says.

The FSIN's Health and Social Development Commission is working on a number of initiatives that will focus on creating strong, safe and healthy homes for First Nations children within their families and cultures.

Currently, the 1994 Indian Child and Family Services Act is being revised and re-written to provide for more holistic and preventative measures and to encompass an approach that would work with whole families rather than apprehended children.

A second major step towards First Nations jurisdiction is the planning of a First Nations forum to discuss and develop policy regarding children in care.

"Oftentimes we, as First Nations people, are drawn into de-

pending on someone else's rules, regulations and policies because we haven't got our own," Pratt says.

According to Pratt, the First Nations Chiefs, who represent their communities on the Health and Social Development Commission, and the Chiefs-in-Assembly have long recognized that in order to take full jurisdiction a series of checks and balances must be in place. Those checks and balances, however, must be developed by First Nations people for First Nations children so that they protect the traditions, values and customs of the children at risk.

Another step towards First Nations jurisdiction is the current lobby to have the province provide funding for a Foster Care housing strategy.

"Everywhere I go these days I see posters saying that foster families are desperately needed," Pratt says. "Yet many families who have the stability and compassion to help these children simply lack adequate living space."

Pratt is convinced that if there were appropriate housing available, many First Nations families could and would provide safe and nurturing foster care for children at risk.

Finally, according to Vice Chief Pratt, what is needed now is more cooperation from the Province as First Nations transition towards full jurisdiction.

"Currently, we have a lot of miscommunication between the Province and our FNCFS agencies," Pratt says.

"We would hope that as First Nations communities move towards more control over child welfare, the province will work with us to incorporate our ideas and solutions into their case planning when First Nations children are involved."



Vice Chief Glen Pratt

David Ahenakew: A man of his words

David Ahenakew is one of Canada's best known First Nation leaders. To many he is better known for his controversial remarks regarding the Holocaust and the Jewish community but there is much more to Dave Ahenakew than insensitive remarks and court trials. He was a strong leader who played a huge role in the advancement of all First Nation Canadians.

Nelson Bird, the host of CTV's "Indigenous Circle," visited David at his house on the Ahtahkakoop First Nation for an extended interview recently. Both David and his loving wife, Grace, have been diagnosed with terminal cancer and are undergoing traditional and 'non-traditional' treatments.

Here are excerpts from Nelson's exclusive interview which is part of a documentary titled "David Ahenakew: A Man of His Words" set to air Sunday, Oct. 18.

Nelson: Tell me about your childhood.

Dave: I was born just across the lake here in 1933. I was delivered by my grandmothers, both medicine women. We were never in the hospital – never. We had all our medicines and everything so that's what I call independence and we lost it. We could have still had it I'm sure. People helped each other. Someone built a house, people would go there ... people looked after each other.

Nelson: What about education? Did you go to Residential School?

Dave: I went to school right on the reserve. I never went to Residential School because my parents didn't believe in it. We went to school and sometimes walked seven miles when our horse got out of the pasture.

Nelson: You joined the army as a young man. Why?

Dave: Me and my cousin, Ben Ahenakew, said "Let's get out of here. There's nothing to do. We're never going to get anywhere. Let's go see what's going on the other side of the boundaries on the reserve." So, we took the train to P.A. and joined the army at the depot office there. We were always talking about seeing the world and wondering what it was like.

Nelson: You married Grace when you were both around 17 years old. Had you known her long?

Dave: We used to plan in school and instead of learning we'd talk about what we'd do when we got married and have kids. Three days after we were married (in 1951) I left for Yukon to build airstrips for roads in the army; winter training. Engineering things like mines and demolition. That's what I was doing building roads and destroying them and air strips and so on. Cree was my first language and it was hard trying to remember the names of the machines guns, for example. You had to remember each part and I couldn't think of the words and the English words so

you say it in Cree and translate it and that's how I used to get by sometimes.

Nelson: You fought in the Korean conflict and stayed in the army for a total of 16 years. Tell me about that.

Dave: I went to Egypt and Lebanon, Gaza and Palestine. That's where I saw how the Palestinians were being treated ... and I saw ourselves in it. They were isolated and boxed in and forced in. We had fences right around our reserve.

Every reserve in Treaty 6 was fenced in. It was to be kept in there. You couldn't say what you wanted because the church would come after you, and the police.

Nelson: Is that when you decided to enter politics?

Dave: In Egypt and Lebanon, that's when I made up my mind. I couldn't face this anymore. I couldn't think about our own people being treated the same way. I thought, 'no way ... and if I am going to complain about this, I better get in there and do something and I'll do something.' I thought I could help achieve certain objectives and change.

Nelson: How did you get started as a leader?

Dave: Walter Deiter was the chief of the FSI and he always said to me, 'come and work with me. Let's change things.' So one morning I phoned him and said 'Look, is the job still open?' He said 'yes' and I said 'I'll be there this afternoon.' And then several months later I took over for him but he was national president then. You see I was different than what those people were used to. Our people didn't fight that much. There were only certain chiefs that fought the government and their policies and their intrusion into our sovereign territory.

Nelson: What was your priority?

Dave: Treaties. They automatically bind us together; nothing else, not because you're a good speaker or people like you, but because they understand it's the treaties that do that and not one individual.

Nelson: If there's one thing you could look at and say 'we did that' what would you say?

Dave: Education. The big thing ... we started saying 'we're going to take control of our education. It's a treaty right and we're going to have to save the treaty because it's going elsewhere.'

Nelson: Politically, what was the biggest disappointment?

Dave: The big disappointment was land entitlement. We had that worked out with Lloyd Barber, who worked with Trudeau, a good buddy of mine (Barber) and we called that unfulfilled land claims. Ours (land claim solution) was simple. For example, for the last 100 years you've deprived us of so many acres. The population was this and the population is this now. We want that land but we've lost all that money because of your skullduggery and so forth.



David Ahenakew (right) talks about his life with Indigenous Circle host Nelson Bird.

Nelson: What has life been like for you since 2002 (and the court trial)?

Dave: You're violated, alienated, you're ignored. You've busted your rear for these people for such a long time and then when you need them, they're not there. I couldn't sleep at night and I'd talk to my wife and kids and say, "What I'm doing in the eyes of many of our people is wrong. I should admit I'm wrong."

Nelson: What are your thoughts on today's First Nation Leadership?

Dave: During my bad moments in the last seven years I use to call them a bunch of wimps and cowards. There's no leadership out there because if there was, we wouldn't be losing our treaty rights and institutions that we created.

Nelson: What advice do you have for current and future leaders?

Dave: If you're going to be a leader, you're going to have strength and know what you're doing and be able to talk to people. Understand them and be convinced by your convictions and do it. If you're going to waffle and so forth, you're not a leader.

Nelson: How do you want to be remembered?

Dave: I want to be remembered for all the things we created in this province. I had something to do with. I was the leader and I am proud of that. The big thing was the (First Nation) University because the Grandmothers and Mothers and old people said education is our survival.



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Métis Women's Association determined to improve profile under newly elected president Monell Bailey

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

The Métis Women's Association held elections at the Central Urban Metis Federation Incorporated (CUMFI) offices in Saskatoon during their annual workshops and meeting in late August.

Newly elected president Monell Bailey said the entire weekend was very positive and well organized. She is looking forward to representing and involving all Métis women, and hopes to develop a stronger presence on the Internet to keep women informed and connected across the province.

The organization wants more of a voice at various organizations and levels of government in representing their concerns and views, and advocating for the community. Bailey hopes to see the Association grow in numbers as well as presence, including an Internet component so they are easily accessible.

"Websites, emails, FaceBook – we can be more effective at ensuring communication is accurate. In the past, the moccasin telegraph hasn't always been reliable. So we're getting re-established – starting over," said Bailey.

"And making sure we're at the table when it comes to decisions that affect our community."

Besides educational, yet entertaining workshops on governance and teamwork, and exercises in leadership and team-building, health and wellness was not only proclaimed, but practiced.

"They really pampered us all, there were manicures, massages, and other services provided to emphasize wellness and taking care of ourselves and of each other,"

she said. "It was a nice treat for the elders, too."

Shirley Isbister, CUMFI president, said the idea for a 'mini-spa' came when they were organizing. It seemed like a great opportunity to really honour and pamper the women who were taking time to represent and serve each other, their families, and communities.

"We want to emphasize wellness and taking care of ourselves and each other too, so we thought it would be a perfect fit. Mary Johnson, CUMFI's director of Sports and Recreation, organized that end of it for us," Isbister noted.

She also had high words of praise for the whole event, saying that not only the Saturday workshops but the banquet, storytelling, and the election itself were very positive and with fewer tensions than ever before.

"There was laughing, and hugging – we really wanted to focus on unity, teamwork, and getting on the same page to work together. And I am so proud of our women for what they accomplished this weekend. We've come a long way."

Another popular activity was Métis Jeopardy, a game based on the TV game show. Created and designed by Saskatoon Public School Board resource teacher Faye Maurice to teach general trivia while having fun, many hoped they would be able to get a copy of the game on CD. It is a fun way to learn new facts and polish up their history and cultural knowledge.

Robert Doucette, president of Metis Nation – Saskatchewan, was present at Sunday morning's elections, full of praise for the female leaders and the process.

Other newly elected officials to the board include vice-president May Henderson, secretary Pat Letendre, and treasurer Pat Caron.



Monell Bailey in the new president of the Métis Women's Association after an August gathering.

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Tenth Day of Mourning held in Saskatoon

Angel Peeace and Ralayna Watcheston took part in the 10th Annual Day of Mourning ceremony and walk of remembrance around the community. (below) Jess and Mike were part of the entertainment for the evening. They rapped about lost friends and family. These two have a future in the music scene based on their performance as the song moved many to tears. (top right) People who participated in the march through the stroll were each handed a candle to carry. At the end of the walk, before they released balloons with the names of those who have fallen to the streets, people planted the candles in a table garden.

(Photos by John Lagimodiere)



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Library on 20th officially opens in Saskatoon

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

The Library on 20th Street Branch celebrated its grand opening with greetings from officials, dignitaries, employees, and community representatives and organizations.

Elder Ina Ahenakew opened the August ceremony with a blessing in both Cree and English, and Dr. Sue Abrams, Chair of the Saskatoon Library Board the program was the MC.

Coun. Bev Dubois, representing the City of Saskatoon, spoke of the importance of co-operation in opening the new Branch.

"Partnerships are the way of the future," she observed, listing some of the many stakeholders in the new branch including the city, the provincial government, and Sask Housing. "It's a very tight-working group that we've had."

Dubois also mentioned Saskatoon's excellent reputation for well-run libraries which includes one of the highest usage rates in Canada, and a long-running writer-in-residence program filled with writers of national and international reputations.

On behalf of White Buffalo Youth Lodge, program coordinator Mike Tanton brought greetings and enthusiasm for the new neighbourhood meeting space, and opportunities to run programming in conjunction with the new branch.

"This will not only renew this neighbourhood and area, but the minds of the residents who live here," he noted. "It's an excellent way to get kids into books, and not only does it look great, but libraries expand minds and make a good place for everyone to be."

Sean Sanford-Beck, on behalf of the Riversdale Community Association, spoke of libraries as "a sacred place" and repository of worlds, views, information, and wisdom.

"Libraries are places where communities gather and share, and they create a vital focal gathering place which is safe for everyone," he said. "They bring us the gifts of energy, wisdom, and compassion."

Karen Archibald, representing CHEP (Child Hunger and Education Program), noted that the safe family setting was nothing less than the power of a community to realize positive change, observing that five years ago the site was largely a weed-filled abandoned lots with old vehicles, chain link fences with a guard dog, and a pawn shop and bar.

"This demonstrates our power to dream of better things, and to dream a better reality," she said.

Zenon Zuzak, director of Libraries, was pleased with the day.

"We've had a great turnout, a steady flow of people from 11 a.m. onwards," he said, noting that minority and ethnic groups and the aboriginal community were well represented among the visitors of the core neighbourhood location.

"That's important to us – it's their library, and it's going to have a good future. We wouldn't be here without this community."

Zuzak was also pleased that Lonetta Hjermanrude, whose library name suggestion was selected from among more than 300 entries, was in attendance and was presented with a gift of appreciation which included an Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan and other Library goodies.

"The name just came to me," she shared afterwards. "Right off the bat, it seemed like the natural name for it – 'Library on 20th Street' – but I was surprised that my suggestion was the one actually chosen."

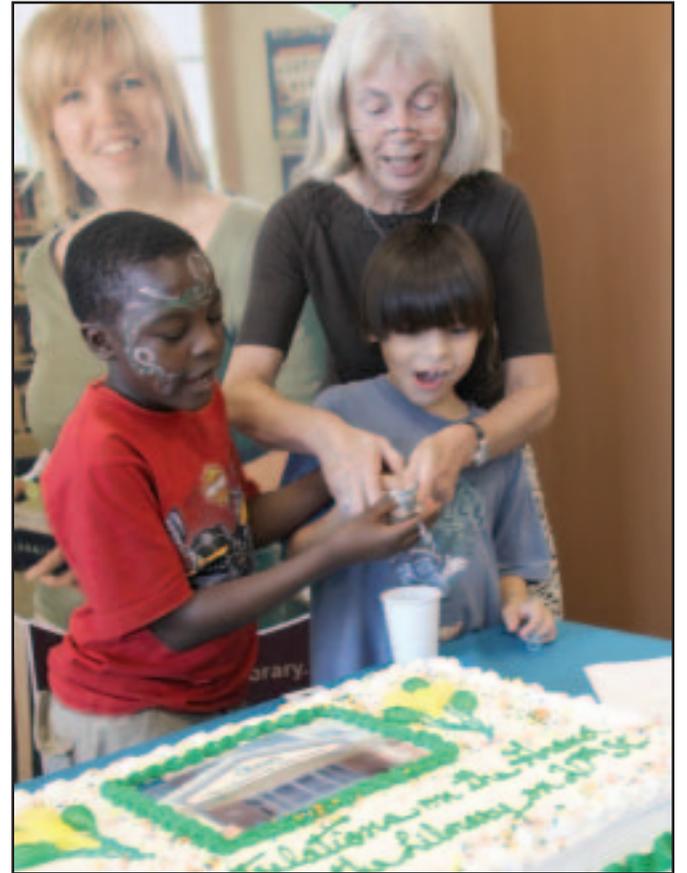
Deborah Lee from the University of Saskatchewan and Wendy Sinclair of Regina's Albert Branch both attended as well – they are, along with Zuzak, part of the provincial group overseeing Library Services for Saskatchewan's Aboriginal Peoples, including local, private, public, and academic library representatives from across the province.

"We want a library system that will respect and continue to reflect the community it serves," said Lee. "It's important to see aboriginal people working within it as well as using it."

Sinclair echoed that sentiment, noting the presence of "a brown face" makes it a safe and welcoming place. Regina's Albert Branch has been operating since about 1980 in a similar neighbourhood as Riversdale, with great success.

Their provincial group is also responsible for the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling which has taken place every February the past six years.

"We want to respect First Nation traditions, that stories are told when snow is on the ground, so we provide money for organizations and communities to host events by a First Nation or Métis storyteller," said Sinclair, noting they have a network of storytellers available across the province, and an event which grows every year – 2009 saw about 12 000 attending storytelling events.



Nyasha and Reid helped Saskatoon Library Board Chair Dr. Sue Abrams cut the cake during the grand opening of the Library on 20th.



Clint Arcand and his son, Nolan, checked out the computers at the new Library on 20th. The Arcands live near the library and have been active users of the computers and internet. "The kids always want to come here, about an hour a day," said Arcand.

(Photos by John Lagimodiere)

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FSIN election getting crowded

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A fourth person has thrown his hat in the ring to be the next Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Red Pheasant Chief Sheldon Wuttunee officially launched his campaign in August, joining incumbent Chief Lawrence Joseph, former Vice Chief Guy Lonechild and Chief Reg Bellerose of Muskowekwon. This is one of the most hotly contested Chiefs race in a long time.



ROBIN MCLEOD

first-hand issues of underfunded programs. In saying that, there are many positive opportunities and we have

Wuttunee has been Chief of Red Pheasant for the past two terms. Elected Chief in 2006, in four years he has moved the First Nation from third party management to co-management and finally out of debt. He has also been instrumental in the formation of The Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Tribal Council and continues to play a lead role in advocacy relating to the duty to consult in relation to First Nations.

“I have served the community of Red Pheasant and understand

time to react,” said Wuttunee.

“Access to training in all First Nation communities is key to develop the necessary capacities for our people to obtain employment, manage projects and move further into ownership interests in resource development as well as other economic development opportunities.”

Wuttunee was one of the leaders of a group of Chiefs that stood up and blockaded the passage of the Enbridge Pipeline.

“I have been fortunate to work closely and collaboratively with well-respected Chiefs in both southern and northern Saskatchewan and First Nations in Alberta and Manitoba regarding the Crown’s duty to consult with First Nations on traditional territories,” Wuttunee says.

“This experience has shown me that the FSIN is in an ideal position to advocate and ensure the fiduciary obligations and responsibilities of the Crown are upheld and to protect and enhance Treaty and Inherent Rights. The FSIN is also an important vehicle to facilitate the necessary structural changes within government that can create meaningful change directly for First Nation communities and people,” Wuttunee stated.

Wuttunee has a Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan and is a champion pow wow dancer and wants to do things a bit different.

“I can bring some fresh ideas. I have led in my community and all my life. I will put my money where my mouth is and take direction from the leaders of our communities,” said Wuttunee.

“It is important to realign our approach to inherent and treaty rights as they are being eroded. It is critical for our next generation. We have to focus on health care, housing and education because together those aspects



SHELDON WUTTUNEE

make healthy communities.”

The race for the two Vice Chief positions is also heating up. Though not official, it is believed that Morley Watson and Glen Pratt are both running again for First Vice Chief and Third Vice Chief respectively. Running against Vice Chief Watson is Robin McLeod, a member of the Lac la Ronge Indian Band.

It also appears that Cowessess First Nation councilor and former SIGA CEO Dutch Lerat intends to run for Third Vice Chief.

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Face painting was all the rage for both young and old at the CUMFI community barbecue.



CUMFI barbecue a huge success

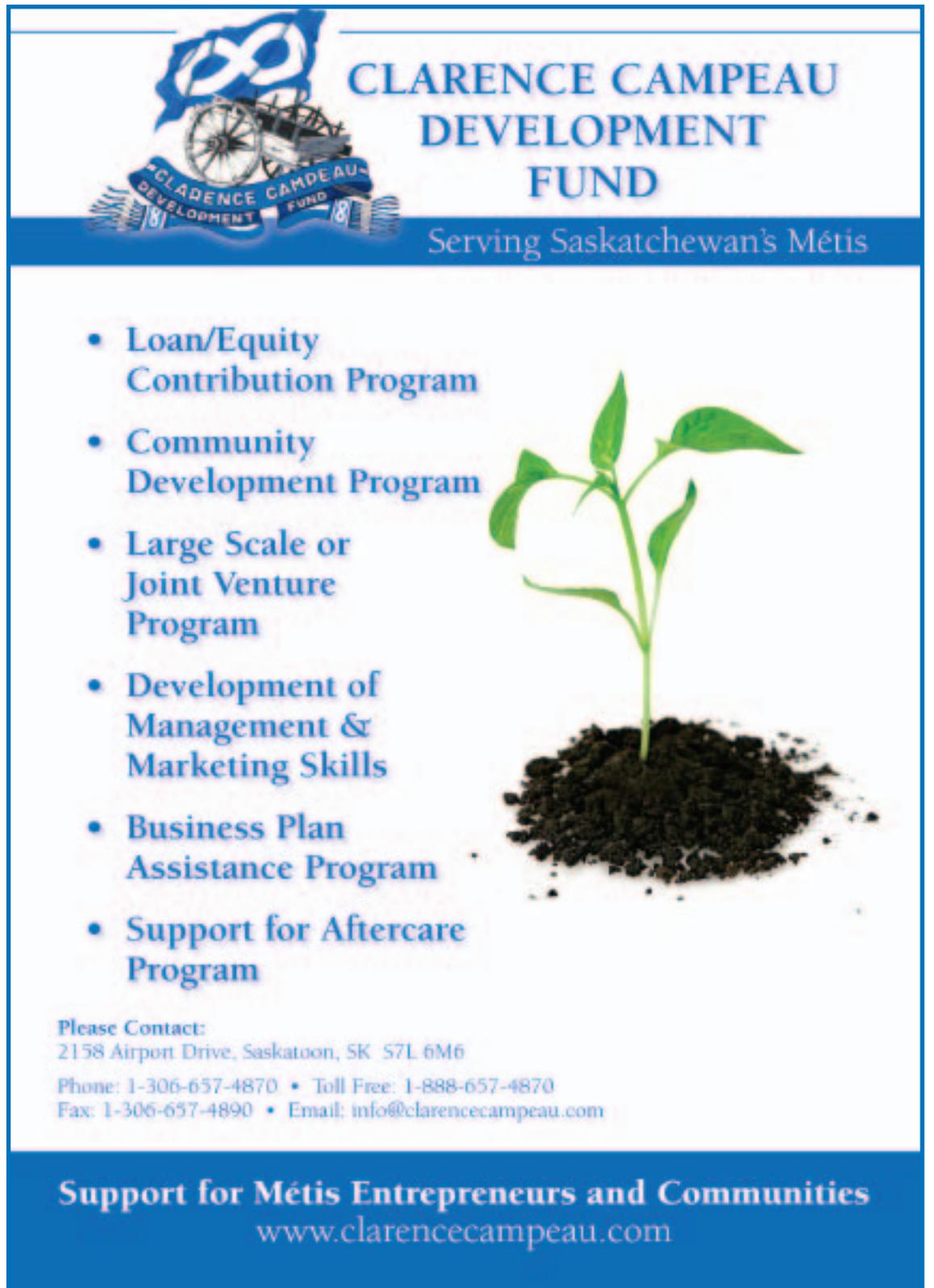
By Eileen Trotchie
For Eagle Feather News

In August, Central Urban Métis Federation (CUMFI) held a community barbecue that was open and free to all.

There were rides for the kids, face painting, a fish pond, Mr. Wizzard, giveaways, hot dogs, chips, ice cream, fruit and fiddle playing.

Shirley Isbister, President of CUMFI, said it was exciting to see over 700 people come out and enjoy themselves. People were dancing, singing, laughing and visiting.

This would not have been possible without great partnerships and community dedication. A big thank you to Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, CHEP, Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, Kinistin First Nation, Strengthening the Circle for improved health for Aboriginal people, The Saskatoon Health Region, Mr Wizzard, SCYAP, SIGA, Aboriginal Sport Culture and Recreation and IPAC (Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada) who are medical students that sent forty volunteers 1000 bottles of water and give aways. A big thank you to all the CUMFI volunteers, Board of Directors, staff, and our summer students who were great.

First Nations taking aim at control of on-reserve gaming

First Nations leaders have announced they are taking another step toward reclaiming full control of on-reserve gaming.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation (FSIN) Chief Lawrence Joseph made the announcement at a First Nations Gaming Expo held last month on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. He says from now on there will be a First Nations Gaming Commission.

Joseph says First Nations have been asserting their jurisdiction over gaming since the Bear Claw casino opened in 1993. He says there is historical evidence, some of which was presented at the expo, that supports this, as First Nations have been participating in gaming for hundreds of years.

Joseph says he is encouraged that the Province of Saskatchewan has indicated it will sit down and discuss jurisdiction.

“First Nations indeed have jurisdiction over gaming. Minister Christine Tell, of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, told the media that the province is willing to sit down and meet with First Nations to discuss jurisdiction”

Tell has indeed said this and welcomes their proposal for taking control of gaming. She says the biggest issue that could get in the way of this happening is there would have to be changes to the Criminal Code. Tell says in order for such changes to take place, every province would have to be on board.

Even with a willingness to discuss, Tell won't say where the Province stands on First Nations taking complete control of gaming.

“I'm not one to presuppose the meeting. We haven't sat down with a proposal coming from this commission. I want to sit down with them and discuss that issue and other issues,” Tell says.

“At this point in time, it's really premature for us to



Demonstrating gaming traditions going back hundreds, if not thousands of years, pre-contact, two teams from Onion Lake First Nation play a traditional hand game. One team sings while their player hides the male and female pieces, and then the other team's player guesses where the female piece is – left or right. Decorated counting sticks keep track of points. The winning team earns and keeps the most points.

(Photo by Andréa Ledding)

say yes, no, maybe. I want to ensure that these processes and the meetings are respectful, and I want to have those discussions face to face.”

FSIN Senator Roland Crowe, a former chief who signed the original gaming agreement with the Province, says First Nations never surrendered jurisdiction over gaming. He says First Nations aren't trying to interfere with any of the Province's casinos, he says they just want what is rightfully theirs.

“I'm just talking from a pure common sense, courtesy, and respect for

each other. We don't intend to try and take jurisdiction off-reserve from the province in regards to gaming. And on the other hand, that same courtesy should be to us, that they don't take the jurisdiction on First Nations territories.”

In addition to the commission being responsible for gaming, it will also be responsible for the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, the First Nations Trust Fund, and Community Development Corporations.



Chief Mike Star of the Starblanket First Nation is one of the members of the Board of Directors for the Centre of Excellence. Beside him is Elder Joe Jimmy who did the opening prayer for the ceremony.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Resource centre now open

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Many people say the economic future of First Nations lies in being involved with the development of our natural resources.

In order to facilitate that industry development, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations has officially opened the First Nations Resource Centre of Excellence on Packham Avenue in Saskatoon.

“The Centre of Excellence is a benefit for First Nations, the Province of Saskatchewan and industry,” said FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph. Chief Joseph and Vice Chief Delbert Wapass are co-chairs of the Centre.

“We want to learn from the best practices of other jurisdictions. In Saskatchewan it is a hot spot for exploration in Canada with a real need for expertise, guidance and service in the resource sector. This Centre of Excellence will fill those needs.”

With an initial focus on oil and gas development, the role of the Centre will be to provide training to member First Nations; maintain a repository of information on sample agreements; provide analysis on government regulations and legislation; maintain an up to date list of Crown land sales and network with experts in the field.

The Director of the Centre is Carla Nokusis.

Bernard Michel Scholarship

Brent Daigneault
College of Engineering
University of Saskatchewan

Cameco Corporation congratulates Brent Daigneault from La Ronge, recipient of its 2009 Bernard Michel scholarship. At Cameco, we are proud to support the educational goals of Aboriginal youth.

The Cameco Bernard Michel Scholarship is awarded every 2nd year, and is valued at up to \$50,000 in financial support. The scholarship is awarded to a Saskatchewan Aboriginal student enrolling in Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, Land Use and Environmental Studies or Toxicology at the University of Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal youth experienced week of business boot camp

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

Ten Aboriginal students from across Saskatchewan experienced, in one week, how to run their own business. They were taking part in the first annual Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Camp at the First Nations University in Regina.

Bob Kayseas, the department head for the School of Business and Public Administration, said he created the camp specifically with Aboriginal communities in mind.

"The program we have developed here at the school has focused really on what kind of needs we have in our communities, and what kinds of things we can provide for our students here for them to go back and help some of our Aboriginal communities," explained Kayseas.

The students learned the basics in business, marketing, advertising and promotion.

Kayseas wants to encourage young Aboriginals to run their own businesses.

"We want them to really start preaching the excitement of business education, and start sewing the seeds of

new business leaders," he said.

The students developed their own product and a 30-second commercial based on their creation. They were graded by a point system to receive prizes. An award ceremony was held for the students on the last day.

Adam Jack, a student originally from Thunderchild First Nation, won awards for Best Entrepreneur and Best Essay.

He was awarded with the grand prize of a mini Dell Laptop and FNUUniv jacket. Jack, who already runs his own business called Bigg Entertainment, said the camp will help develop a stronger network and further the success of his business.

"It will provide some opportunity getting contacts, getting some type of form of moral basics in terms of what I am already doing with my business," Jack said.

"It will kind of help me further myself in my industry and give me some more skills and necessities for doing so."

Thomas Benjoe, a fourth year Aboriginal student at the FNUUniv, was the camp organizer. He says this is something he never had when he was



(Left to right) Demi Benjoe, Abreana Deneyou, Anna Illauq, Sabrina Greyeyes, Santana Gardipy, Meriah Kayseas (supervisor), Adam Jack, Michele Missens, Craig Pratt, Joanna Isaac and Anthony Mark Fox participated in the recent Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Camp.

in high school. Benjoe said he was happy to give the opportunity to other students.

"Just to be able to come to university and be able to offer this back to the high school students and show them that there are really great opportunities out there, and to be able to be a part of something that's not going to cost them a whole lot," said Benjoe.

Kayseas says the camp is a small

step towards the future of Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

"I do a lot of work with First Nations and I recognize that in order for our communities to really get developed we need more businesses.

"The value that I'm going to get is just one small step to help creating more much needed wealth in our communities," said Kayseas, adding he hopes to offer the camp every summer.

Medicine Chest Task Force finds home

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Medicine Chest Task Force was created by Treaty No. 6 Chiefs to take control of Indian health. The have decided to house the Task Force at the First Nation University of Canada.

In a mutually beneficial arrangement, the Task Force will provide new and exciting opportunities for FNUUniv professionals in health, sciences and social work to contribute to the research, planning and development of First Nations traditional and contemporary health systems as it falls under First Nation laws and jurisdictions.

"The establishment of the most effective and efficient organizational infrastructure at the beginning of this initiative is crucial," said Eldon Okanee, Chair of the Task Force.

"Through this new partnership, we are excited about the level of expertise the University will bring to furthering this process."

Sol Sanderson, a First Nations governance expert working with the Task Force, says they took control of Indian education over 20 years ago and have made much progress.

"When we took control of education, we had almost no teachers and almost no university grads," said Sanderson. "If we do it with health, imagine what we can accomplish. The playing field is not fair.

"We want \$1.8 million a year to run this and you know the University of Saskatchewan gets almost \$10 million a year to study Aboriginal health. Our traditional medicines and practices need to be administered and controlled by First Nations."



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Student sees opportunities despite the turmoil

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

It is no secret that as an institution, the First Nations University of Canada has gone through turbulent times.

The problems that have plagued the board of governors and the administration have been reported widely in the native and non-native press for the past four years. Today the university's academic staff and students continue forward despite difficult external and internal circumstances.

In 2009, the school was again in the spotlight. In December 2008, the Canadian Association of University Teachers censured the First Nations University over governance issues. The censure boycotts the University, asking academic staff from Canada and around the world to decline teaching positions and public speaking engagements at the university.

A month later, controversy continued with the firing of then vice-president of academics Shauneen Pete. The firing further frustrated the provincial government and the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Meanwhile, students protested Pete's firing and the Canadian Association of University Teachers' censure. In February 2009, the provincial government froze \$200,000 of funding. During that time the Leader-Post reported that enrolment had plummeted from 1,770 students in 2005 to 787 in 2009.

The University's administration claimed a victory in May 2009 when the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed a case over the academic freedom of one of its professors.

It was a short-lived victory: in June the federal government withheld more than \$2 million of funding from First Nations University. The school's executive has until Jan. 1, 2010 to present an action plan in order to restore full funding.

Amid the wrangling between the university's administrators, provincial and federal governments and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, students have also been making their voice heard in different ways.

Adam Martin is one such student. Martin came to First Nations University in 2005, and has been both a student and an employee of the institution. This past summer he worked as a studio technician in the Indian Fine Arts department, and continues to work part-time as a student. He's also worked in the communications department. In addition, he's also participated in the students' association.

Frustrated by the Canadian Association of University Teachers censure and the firing of Shauneen Pete, Martin had had enough. He created a Facebook page called "FNU Board of Governors/Administration change now".

On this page, he posts links to news stories, encourages students to join the group and discuss the issues First Nations University faces. He also posts links to the everyday activities at the university. As of the writing of this story, his Facebook group boasted 373 members, 50 more members than the official First Nations University Facebook group.

"It's like some serious backwards Indian politics happening around here," Martin said in a phone interview. Many students are misinformed about what's happening at the university, while others just don't seem to care too much, he said.

But Martin decided to take an independent position about the First Nations University and its problems.

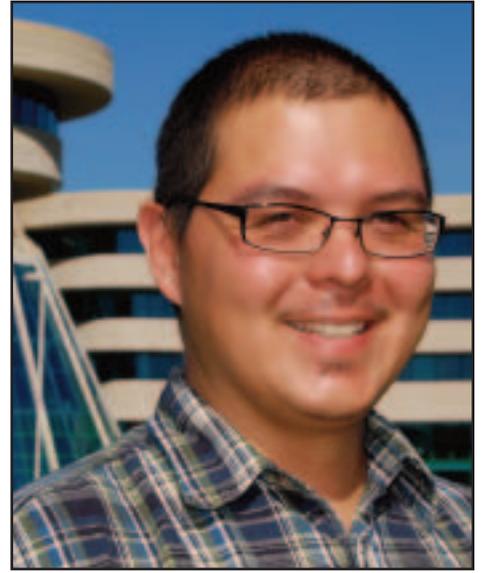
"All I see is opportunities at university, and a lot of this crap is getting in the way of what needs to be done," he said.

Since creating the Facebook group, he's also written directly to First Nations University's executive and to its board of governors asking detailed questions about their activities. For example, when Martin heard that the board was going to have a July meeting in Calgary to coincide with the Assembly of First Nations election, he emailed chair Chief Clarence Bellegarde with copies to the First Nations University executive, questioning the decision.

"How much is the next (First Nations University board of governor's) meeting in Calgary, going to cost? How has the FNU (board of governor's) justified having a meeting, so far away from the FNU when the FNU is so famously underfunded?," Martin wrote in an email on July 16.

While Martin never received an email that answered his questions, they were responded to at the July 20 Calgary board of governor's meeting, says Diane Adams, First Nations University's Student Associations' interim board of governors representative. Then board of governor's student representative Mike Dubois wrote in his report to the Students' Association that Clarence Bellegarde addressed some of the concerns raised in Martin's email.

In Dubois' report, Bellegarde said that meeting in Calgary was "the most optimal time to achieve quorum" since the majority of Saskatchewan chiefs would be in town for the AFN. There was also urgency to approve the budget to ensure continuity of funding for First Nations University, the report says.



ADAM MARTIN

Adams has been involved with First Nations University Students' Association for two years. Every student at the university has a right to participate in campus politics in whatever way they feel is most appropriate, she says.

"But we especially encourage them to do so through their board of governors representative and the students' association," she said.

The association has not been silent on the First Nations University's problems, she said. Not long after Shauneen Pete's firing in January 2009, the association organized a forum.

"We brought the concerns of student enrollment forward, we brought the Canadian Association of University Teachers censure concerns forward to (First Nations University's executive)," Adams said.

As the current semester is beginning, Adams is upbeat on the opportunities that students have in their association.

"It's a new year and a new students' association, we now have a group of people really committed to using that position and the power that goes with it," Adams said.

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Ranch Ehrlo Society's Light Horse Niyanan Mistatimawak 4H Club completes inaugural season with a celebration

Niyanan Mistatimawak is the name chosen for the inauguration of Ranch Ehrlo Society's 4-H Club's first year. This means "Five Horses" in Woodland Cree.

Our first year began with five youth and four volunteers participating. Our number one goal for our 4-H club was to incorporate the culture of our First Nation youth into every aspect of our club and its activities.

We saw the 4-H club as an opportunity to engage our youth in the Saskatchewan horse community. Our winter project was the creation of a club banner which we will continue to add to this year. By introducing basic horsemanship and riding, our members began to excel!

We frequently rode three times a week and participated in monthly general meetings. One highlight of the year was our presentation of a musical ride at the Prince Albert Exhibition Grounds for the Ranch Ehrlo Society's Annual Awards Night Celebration, attended by over 270 people.

We also held an Achievement Day which was a great success. We began with a potluck barbecue for the members,

leaders, family and friends. Afterwards, all were invited to watch our horse show. We had events and classes setup up to showcase what our members had learned throughout our short year.

The events consisted of a walk trot class, keyhole race, barrel race, a halter class and a high point winner. Our Senior Director was asked to be a guest to judge our events and hand out the ribbons.

The competition was stiff as each rider claimed at least one first place and second place ribbon. All of the prizes were donated by local Prince Albert businesses and community supporters. Our club would like to extend our appreciation to the Prince Albert Police Department, Canadian Tire, Davidners' Western Clothing Store and the Co-Op Home and Agro Centre.

To end our year we had dinner and a movie night for all of our club members. The club's first year was a great success and we are looking forward to our second year with the continued development of the program which will include the contributions from a local Elder and the use of a new indoor riding arena built by the Ranch Ehrlo Society.

— Submitted



PREPARING THE FUTURE WORK FORCE

The City of Saskatoon, in partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council hosted the ATOSKE – leadership camp this summer. This camp was called "atoske" which is the Cree word for 'work' and the acronym for 'Aboriginal Training Opportunity for future Saskatoon Employment'. The youth who attended the camp were; Dennis Cook, Joshua Cook, Jordan Rekve, Isaac Rekve, Warren (Ryan) Ahenakew, Gina McGillivray, Terry (TJ) Keewatin Jr., Darla Wuttnee, Kerra Johnstone, Bradley Pechawis, Donald Bear and Justin Crain. (Photo supplied)



Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan 4-H program involves members and leaders sharing, learning, growing and becoming the best they can be. Through real-life situations, 4-H helps youth develop life skills such as: communication, citizenship, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal relations, and global awareness. Youth learn these practical skills through many different projects and programming activities.

When everyone in today's world is busy and over extended, it just makes good sense to belong to an organization that involves the entire family. Skills learned through 4-H help youth become better members of their families, communities and our country.

START A 4-H CLUB TODAY!

It only takes four members and one leader to start a 4-H club. And don't worry, you don't have to be an expert to become a 4-H leader; you only require enthusiasm and a desire to make a positive impact in your life and the lives of Saskatchewan youth.



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SIAST

Winds of change blowing through Riversdale riding

By Blue Pelletier
For Eagle Feather News

When former premier Lorne Calvert resigned his seat as in the Saskatchewan legislature as the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, eventually someone had to replace him.

That time has come. People in the area of Saskatoon Riversdale will have their chance to elect a new representative in a byelection scheduled for Sept. 21.

The NDP has held Riversdale since 1986 when another former premier, Roy Romanow, reclaimed the seat that was lost to a young Progressive Conservative rookie by the name of Jo-Ann Zazelenchuk in the Grant Devine sweep of 1982.

It was a devastating loss for Romanow and the NDP but Riversdale is generally considered safe turf for the left wing party. And the NDP is hoping that that trend continues with Danielle Chartier.

Chartier has strong ties to the community and her family has lived in the area since 1940. She grew up in a very political, strong NDP family.

"It's important to find a party

that matches your values and find a way to work within that party to make the changes necessary," suggests Chartier.

She says her campaign strategy is to connect with the people of Riversdale.

Chartier says she wants them to know she is one of them, sharing concerns and values of the citizens in the area.

"The NDP addresses concerns of everyday life, of the everyday average person," Chartier says.

The Liberal candidate in the upcoming byelection is Eileen Gelowitz, a strong participant in Saskatchewan politics for many years.

Gelowitz has worked vigorously to create a better place for all First Nations people during her life. She says she sees a bright future for her people not just in Riversdale but all across Saskatchewan.

This passion led her to create Achak Solutions, a company that works alongside companies to help hire and create jobs for First Nations people.

"In 50 years, when we are 50% of the population, we have to be part of the social, economic and

political fabric of this province," says Gelowitz.

She thinks the Riversdale area typifies Saskatchewan since it is a reserve type area with so many First Nations people living in a few neighbourhoods.

Elderly residents form a large part of the population in the Riversdale riding. It is also a working class neighbourhood, notes Gelowitz.

Gelowitz says that she "is just a kokum who cares about what will be left for her kids and her grandkids."

It is her goal to give the people of Riversdale sustainability in all facets of life.

The Saskatchewan Party candidate is Corey O'Soup, a teacher at City Park Collegiate. He runs the Last Chance Program for kids who are about to get the boot from high school for good.

O'Soup thinks the Saskatchewan Party has done a great job at keeping their promises to further developing Riversdale as a community.

"They will continue to make good on all their promises that they have outlined in the past," O'Soup promises.

He feels that issues like gangs, and crime prevention need to be at the forefront. The people in all the areas of Riversdale, even out in Montgomery, are concerned with crime and how it effects their areas, O'Soup says.

O'Soup says he has a vision to help create a Youth Centre that will stay open 24 hours a day. It would be a place where the youth of Riversdale will feel safe and can do positive things, he says.

O'Soup says that the Saskatchewan Party will "continue to do things they said they will do" while taking on new and important issues that matter to all the people of Riversdale.

The Green Party has a longshot candidate in the person of Tobi-Dawne Smith who hopes to improve on the 2007 showing of another Green candidate, Jan Norris who drew less than two per cent of the vote.

With two First Nations candidates, and two women candidates, a change is inevitable.

And that is big news for a community that has been home to the premier of the province since 1991.



DANIELLE CHARTIER



COREY O'SOUP



EILEEN GELOWITZ



Aboriginal Community Sport Grant

What is the Aboriginal Community Sport Grant?
The purpose of the Aboriginal Community Sport Grant Program (ACSGP) is to provide greater sport participation and development opportunities for Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan. The program will assist and support the implementation of organized community sport programs to increase sport opportunities for youth in the Aboriginal community, specifically in urban, rural, on-reserve, isolated and northern communities.

* The Aboriginal Community Sport Development grant will focus on communities and building their capacity to offer quality, organized sport programs** for Aboriginal youth.

Who can apply?

- Organizations that provide services with First Nations and Métis people and are registered under the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act are eligible to apply (these organizations must have been incorporated and in existence for a minimum of one year); or
- Communities are eligible to apply provided endorsement is received from a Bonded Authorized Officer (i.e. Mayor, Reeve or Chief);
- Applicants must have appropriate levels of participants insurance covering projects, events and activities that fall under its sanction;
- Ineligible communities or organizations may partner with eligible communities/organizations to apply for support and deliver activities that meet the objectives of the program;
- Individuals and provincial organizations may not apply for funding assistance through this program;

How much funding is available?

- Recipients are permitted to apply for more than one community sport initiative; however a separate application per initiative is required. If an organization or community is submitting more than one application, consideration will be given to the second or subsequent application(s) after all other community submissions have been reviewed.
- The maximum eligible amount a community can receive per initiative is \$5,000 per year. The minimum application amount to be considered is \$1,000 per initiative, per year.
- For approved sport initiatives, grant recipients will be eligible to apply for additional funding support in subsequent years. Initiatives can be funded for up to three years but the maximum eligible amount a grant recipient can receive is \$10,000 per initiative, over the three years.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Winter Programs-	November 1 st , 2009
Spring/Summer Programs-	February 1 st , 2010
Fall Programs-	June 1 st , 2010

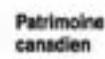
For more information or to receive your application form/workbook please contact the Saskatoon Sports Council 975-0830 or saskatoonsportscouncil@shaw.ca

The ACSGP is jointly funded through Sport Canada's Aboriginal Participation Bilateral the Province of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.





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Sgt. Gary David and Const. Aaron Piprell take to the skies to keep the streets safe.

Eagle eye in the Saskatoon sky

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Bad guys in Saskatoon used to have to watch their backs to see if the police were after them. Nowadays, they also have to watch the sky. The Saskatoon Police Service often has a plane floating 2,500 feet above the city providing them a powerful perspective when it comes to policing a large city.

Sgt. Gary David is one of the pilots of the 1998 Cessna 182, that is outfitted with a high power infrared camera.

"Everything that he points the camera at is on video, other than that, it is a police car with wings," said Sgt David.

"Our advantage is that in 30 seconds to two minutes we can have eyes in any area of the city. Because we have an elevated platform, we can be a mile or two off and still see what is going on in there. By the time we cross the river, we can focus the camera into the area and try to find the suspects or vehicle."

The plane has helped the police avoid several high-speed and dangerous car chases. Constable Aaron Piprell is one of the regular camera operators. He sits right behind the pilot and has a computer screen in front of him as he focuses the camera with a joy stick.

"I like the capabilities we have to support the officers on the ground with this incredible tool. We find vehicles quite often and can guide the cars to them.

"We have a huge field of view and often these bad guys have no idea we are there," said Piprell.

"There was a stolen car once and the driver was speeding about 90-100 K in a residential area and the cars had all backed off and let him go. He even threw a beer bottle at a citizen who came out to stop him and he almost hit a few cars and we were following him from above and I'm watching him.

"He ditched the vehicle and ran into a backyard. We guided the cars in and caught him. We avoided a chase."

The camera is powerful enough and sneaky enough to follow the warmth of your body, just like in an episode of Cops and it is virtually impossible to hide from it out of doors.

"We had a guy surrender to us once. And we were in the air," said Constable Piprell. "I watched him jumping fences then after a while he just went to the middle of an alley and laid face down, arms out and surrendered. The cars were three blocks away still but he knew he was caught."

3rd Annual Aboriginal HIV/AIDS & HCV Conference

"In the Spirit of the Family"
Women: Keepers of the Tipi
November 15-17, 2009
Ramada Hotel and Convention Centre
Regina, SK

All Nations Hope
AIDS Network

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Frontline workers, professionals, students, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, and/or hepatitis C, addictions counselors, Chiefs/Council members, physicians and any community member who wants to make a difference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- ▶ **LaVerne Monette - "Tired of Waiting"** - This keynote presentation will cover historical and current reasons why Aboriginal women are at risk for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, and what we, as Aboriginal peoples need to do about it.
- ▶ **Jessica Yee - "Young Aboriginal Women: Empowering Ourselves for the Next 7 Generations"** - This presentation will focus on the voices and experiences of young Aboriginal women on where we are being silenced, so we can work collectively to take our power back for the next 7 generations.

Banquet: All Nations Hope AIDS Network is pleased to present Sierra Noble, a 19 year old Métis girl from Winnipeg, MB as your entertainment for the evening. "Possibility" is her debut vocal single and the video for this song is being played on CMT Canada and MuchMoreMusic. One of her most recent and exciting performances was opening for Sir Paul McCartney in Halifax in July 2009.
Don't miss out on the opportunity to see Sierra, get your ticket for the banquet.

Features:

- ▶ Traditional teaching & ceremonies
- ▶ Displays with current resources
- ▶ Grand Entry
- ▶ Honour songs for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or HCV

For more information contact:
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Cashing in shooting second season in Winnipeg

APTN, Buffalo Gals Pictures and Animiki See Productions started shooting Cashing In: Season II in Winnipeg in early September.

If you don't know already, Cashing In is a half-hour comedy/drama about the high stakes world of a First Nations casino.

Expect Cashing In: Season II to hit airwaves in early March on APTN.

Flicks' File

Just when I thought my Education degree wasn't exactly paying off for me, an amazing opportunity presented itself one day a couple months back. On a whim I acted on it. Three weeks later I was

and develop young filmmakers and inspiring them to become welcomed additions to the TV/Film community in Saskatchewan.

In any case, Flicks is currently presenting selected screenings of family oriented films at the Broadway Theatre each month. On Saturday Oct. 17 at 1:00 p.m., Flicks and the Broadway will present: Scooby-Doo Meets the Boo Brothers.

More Flicks events and programming coming soon. Catch a Flick at the Broadway Theatre!



Free Documentary Website

As a staunch believer in most conspiracy theories, I was recently delighted to stumble on the website freedocumentaries.org. Since my welcomed discovery just a couple weeks ago, I have managed to watch nine episodes of The Men Who Killed Kennedy, George Orwell Would Roll In His Grave, Zeitgeist (two times), The Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Loose Change, Sicko...

Many of these documentaries would wallow in obscurity if it weren't for this wonderful site so take advantage and watch a doc or two. There is something for everyone. That is if you don't believe everything you hear.



Karen Holness as Liz, Glen Gould as John in APTN's Cashing In.

The show will air on APTN this spring and has increased from six episodes in Season One to seven in Season Two. Tina Keeper will guest star along with returnees Eric Schweig, Sarah Podemski, Glen Gould, Karen Holness and Wesley French.

Word from the set is the crew and actors are happy with the way the Season II stories turned out.

"Every season a TV Show tries to improve and I think we did that this year. We were able to build on Season One to create a really good, really exciting Season Two," said producer Vanessa Loewen.

There is a rumored second guest star but that info is currently classified and unavailable at press time. Shooting will run through to mid-October, after which the real work begins in the editing suite.

handed the keys to a groovy office as the new Festival Producer at Flicks International Film Festival for Young People.

I had intended to never accept another full-time job for as long as I lived but this one was different. I have always loved teaching but could never find an avenue to interact with and selfishly teach youth what I wanted. Until now...

In order to skip a sappy tangent about the potential of youth in our city, please play the song 'Greatest Love of All' by Whitney Houston right now.

"I believe the children are our future..."

Basically all I want to say is I'm very excited to be part of getting people excited about film and encouraging community members to get involved in our small but strong film scene in Saskatchewan. And if I have my way we'll be helping to foster

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Agency Chiefs sit on top at Summer Games

The Agency Chiefs Tribal Council was by far and away the most dominant team at this year's First Nations Summer Games hosted by the Onion Lake First Nation.

The team was comprised of athletes from the Big River, Pelican Lake and Witchehan Lake First Nations. With solid performances in athletics and golf Agency Chiefs was able to win the overall team title by nearly 200 points. Their final tally was 978 points.

With 779 points, the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council had a great showing

at this year's games. It was quite an improvement from the 2007 games for this team.

The people of Onion Lake were great hosts to this year's games. All the athletes were taken care of quite well.

In a community so far away from so many other First Nations in the province it was great to see such a nice turnout.

Events were spread out all over Onion Lake and a few were in the neighboring community of Lloydminster.

Canoeing was dominated by the Prince Albert Grand Council. They finished 30 points clear of their closest

competitors.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council finished a distant fifth in the chase for the overall title but did quite well in the archery competition, winning the overall title in that particular sport.

Archery participant Joshua Thomas from Saskatoon Tribal Council enjoyed the Games experience.

"It was nice to come all the way here and see my relatives and just have some fun," Thomas said.

The host Onion Lake First Nation competes as an independent with no ties to a particular tribal council. They finished a very respectable sixth out of 13 teams and had a point total of 571. It speaks to the quality of athletic programming they have out there and the amount of work parents, coaches and volunteers do on Onion Lake.

The Games were a great time and the hosts couldn't have done a better job. See



you all in 2011 out at Thunderchild!
Random Thoughts

Wow, UFC 102 was one of the best I've ever seen, Couture may have lost the fight but man did he win a lot of respect ... Richard Seymour to the Raiders ha ha ha ... Does anyone think someone other than Roberto Luongo should be Canada's starting goalie at the 2010 Winter Olympics? Like really ... Baseball needs a salary cap like the NFL. Is anybody else getting sick of the Red Sox and Yankees in the playoffs year after year ... Canada is off to the World Championships of Basketball in Turkey. Much respect to the coaching staff and players for playing so well at the Tournament of Americas.



An archer shows his skill at the Summer Games held at Onion Lake First Nation.

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Treaty Commissioner, the Honourable Bill McKnight PC,

CONGRATULATES
2009 Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games medal winners and participants.

I also want to thank the organizers, volunteers, family, and friends who helped host the games.



The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is working to achieve a common understanding between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Government of Canada on Treaties in Saskatchewan.

Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Bay 215 - 2553 Grasswood Road East, Saskatoon S7T 1C8
Phone: 306-244-2100 Fax: 306-667-5654



Beardy's and Little Pine claim FSIN soccer titles

By Blue Pelletier
For Eagle Feather News

The Beardy's women continued their dominance of the FSIN soccer tournament winning a fourth consecutive title. They downed the ladies of Little Pine 4-0 in the final.

The game was full of chances at both ends, but Beardy's was able to capitalize and execute just a little better that day.

The girls credit their outstanding soccer program on the Beardy's First Nation with developing some great talent. A lot of the girls are younger, but because of their programs they have played together for quite some time. During the soccer season they play in the Saskatoon Soccer League Division III.

It was an emotional win for a lot of the players. They lost their good friend and teammate Kate Montour recently. The team all wore black ribbons on the shoulder of their uniform to honour her memory.

"Whoever plays with us is like family, we are all very close," says Beardy's fullback Cheryl Okemaysin.

On the men's side the Little Pine First Nation got past a very game Poundmaker squad 2-0. The neighbouring First Nations are all friendly off the field, many of them playing for the same team during the season. But when they stepped on the



The Beardy's First Nation women's team won the FSIN soccer team and dedicated the victory to their lost friend and teammate Kate Montour.

pitch that day it was all business.

The game was fast paced and quick. Players were riled up and really ready to go.

Both teams were flying around the field. The game was very intense and

full of passion. Almost too much at times as one Poundmaker player was red carded during the first half and they were forced to play a man down the rest of the game.

Tanyn Nighthtraveller opened the

scoring Little Pine. He would go on to win MVP honours and best forward of the tournament.

Goalkeeper Kerry Franks would score on a penalty kick later in the game to seal the win.

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