

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Back to School Treaty 4 style

Lori Whiteman (left) with Connie McNabb and Kai-La Pegig. McNabb, 19, graduated last year from Peepeekisis Pesakastew School and plans to study social work in university. Pegig, 10, is a student at Fort Qu'Appelle Elementary Community School. (Photo by Michael Bell)



Student Success Program offers support

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

Teachers, principals and staff from Treaty Four schools gathered to mark the beginning of a new school year on August 30 in Regina.

The gathering was well attended, beginning with a morning pipe ceremony, followed by welcome speeches, a guest speaker, entertainment and a discussion panel. The event was inspirational in nature, a chance to “come together in unity to celebrate the start of a new school year,” according to organizers.

The event was organized by the Treaty 4 Student Success Program. The program aims to improve Treaty Four students’ quality of education. With funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the 10 member staff of Treaty 4 Student Success Program will offer a variety of support to the 18 schools within Treaty Four.

“It’s all focussed on student outcomes,” said Lori Whiteman, program director of Treaty 4 Student Success Program. Under the umbrella of the program, the schools will get support in a variety of areas: curriculum; instruction; assessment; information technology; program

administration; a student reporting system. With the support of the program, school teachers and staff will feel less isolated, have more financial resources and stability to build on the work they already do, Whiteman said.

The Treaty 4 Student Success Program will also have resources to track student outcomes across the system over time.

Data shows that on and off reserve, First Nation students have overall lower levels of literacy, numeracy attainment, and higher dropout rates than non-First Nation, Whiteman said.

“This is a program that’s designed to channel additional dollars and resources to address some of those issues,” she said.

The challenges facing students, teachers and the system in general are great, but Whiteman also points to the positive aspects of the current situation. A growing body of young, dynamic leaders are challenging the status quo, Whiteman says.

“We have a growing number of highly educated, absolutely amazing people out there, that are stepping forward.”

• Continued on Page 2



INSIDE



HE'S A FIRST

Leon Thompson is the new Vice-President of Student Affairs on the U of S Students Union.

- Page 4



FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS

Darlene Lancel has been a tireless fighter for the treaty right to education.

- Page 6



TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

For decades Buffy Sainte-Marie has been writing and singing about issues that are important to her.

- Page 13



HAPPY CHIEF

Chief Wally Burns is pleased that a deal to construct a major hydro project is getting closer to becoming reality.

- Page 18



HER EXCELLENCY

Deborah Chatsis has been named Canada's ambassador to Vietnam and her family couldn't be more proud.

- Page 19

Welcome to our Education Edition
Coming In October:
Role Model Issue
CPMA #40027204

Day of Mourning honours memory of Saskatoon's deceased sex trade workers

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A couple hundred people gathered in Pleasant Hill Park to honour the lives lost due to the sex trade in Saskatoon.

The 11th Annual Day of Mourning is organized by youth at EGADZ downtown youth centre, and many of them have been affected personally by the sex trade, whether they've been victims of violence or lost a family member.

This year, Saskatchewan Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart was in attendance.

Don Meikle, who works with the youth at EGADZ and helps them plan the event, says that means a lot to the youth.

"They've worked really hard to bring awareness, so the premier had made August 14 the Day of Mourning to remember victims of the sex trade. The more people they can get out, the more education they can get out to people, the better yet they feel."

Meikle hopes societal views change, because he believes many think those in the sex trade want to be there.

"That's the furthest thing from the truth. I've been doing this job for almost 18 years now ... I've never had anybody that I've talked to say this is what I want to do, this is the career chosen," Meikle says.

"It's a horrible life. It's kind of like they live by the sword, they die by the sword."



Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart joined the youth at Egadz for the Day of Mourning. (Photo by Darla Read)

Time right to strengthen education system: Lonechild

• Continued from Page One

"The fact that communities from all over Treaty Four have come together around learning is also a bright spot."

"We think it's high time that a First Nations education system be equal or greater than provincial schools," Chief Guy Lonechild of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations said after delivering his opening remarks.

"It's a new era marked by the Prime Minister's apology to First Nations for the abuses of the residential school system, and now is the time to strengthen the educational system," Lonechild added.

"The other thing is to ensure that language and curriculum is reflective of values and cultures of our First Nations," he said.

"To get student outcomes higher, parents, students and teachers all need to be supported with the right resources, and the (Treaty 4 Student Success Program) is helping to provide that support," he said.

Other highlights of the day included a keynote address given by Robert Animikii Horton. The young activist from Rainy River First Nation in Ontario is currently completing a master's degree in Sociology.

In the afternoon, CTV journalist Nelson Bird moderated a panel discussion on education called "Hope for the Future."

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Governor General hears concerns of youth

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean spent a few hours listening to youth at Egadz talk about their lives, their challenges, their realities and what needs to be done to make Saskatoon and the world a better place.

“Despite youth achievements, there are still those who laugh off your ideas as being too utopian or idealist,” Jean said in her opening remarks.

“And let me say that even though their criticisms may sting, I encourage you not to let them stick ... these people should know that for any revolution and major turning point in world history, young people have always, always been deeply involved.”

The Governor General listened and took notes as youth talked: about costs and difficulty in accessing post-secondary education, the loss of the Saskatoon campus of First Nations University of Canada, homelessness and the high rates of housing in the city, life on the streets, the importance of treaty education for all Canadians.

One young woman, currently a member of the Child Welfare Review Panel, spoke about her experiences in foster care, saying the focus should be on these children and their families of origin, enabling them to stay with family and community, rather than bouncing from house to house with paid strangers.

“Two kids died in care within a six-month period from just one reserve,” she noted.

“There is so much to change – an average of 260 cases per social worker means they can’t even keep track, and get the kids mixed up. I would just run away. I lived



Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean admires a walking stick she was given as a gift. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

in foster homes that locked up their food.”

Mike Tanton, a youth worker at White Buffalo Youth Lodge, spoke about the day-to-day situations of the youth, questioning why the government was spending

\$9 billion on new jails instead of spending preventatively on youth centres and programming.

April Rogers spoke emotionally about the murder of her father and the incarceration of her brother, who is bi-polar and “requires medical assistance, not jail time.”

“We need to remember those who have died on the streets – they had hopes and dreams,” Rogers said, through her tears.

“My mother committed suicide when I was three years old. But we can't give up – we are the seventh generation. Our ancestors signed a treaty not for themselves but for us.”

She invited everyone to the Arnold Nicotine Memorial Feast which was coming up, in memory of her father and also to fundraise for various causes – including a lawyer retention fee of \$5,000 for one of the fathers whose son died in the foster care system, so that he can continue to pressure for positive change and accountability.

“I’m a bilingual Métis disabled guy – I can check every box there is,” said Julien Gaudet, adding that the obstacles faced had nothing to do with why he’s Métis, but everything to do with how society treats that particular box.

“My parents told me to try and be as white as you can, it will make your life easier.”

Amber Bellegarde, FSIN youth rep, asked why Native Studies was only an elective, and sometimes not even available in schools. She shared her frustration in not being educated enough in treaties herself to answer those who negate or minimize them.

• Continued on Page 5

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	Thur. Oct. 14, 6-9 pm	Black Lake	Father Porte Memorial School Gymnasium
	Fri. Oct. 15, 6-9 pm	Wollaston Lake	Father Megret High School Gymnasium
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	Mon. Oct. 18, 6-9 pm	Pinehouse	Minahik Waskahigan School Gymnasium
	Tues. Oct. 19, 6-9 pm	Pátuanak	St. Louis School Gymnasium
	Wed. Oct. 20, 6-9 pm	Southend	Reindeer Lake School
	Thur. Oct. 21, 6-9 pm	La Ronge	Churchill High School
West Side	When	Where	
	Mon. Oct. 25, 6-9 pm	Buffalo Narrows	Twin Lakes School Gymnasium
	Tues. Oct. 26, 6-9 pm	Ile a la Crosse	Rossignol High School Gymnasium
	Wed. Oct. 27, 6-9 pm	Beauval	Valley View School Gymnasium

For more information regarding the Cameco Northern Tour please contact Darwin Roy at (306) 425-4144. You can also reach Darwin at darwin_roy@cameco.com.

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Editorial

Stand up for education

Spend 20 minutes with Darlene Lancely talking about the evolution of funding for First Nation post secondary studies and she will make your head spin.

She has been a champion of the cause since the '80s when she starved herself in a hunger strike. She has picketed, been arrested, written papers, organized students and spoken straight words to the highest ranking politicians and bureaucrats in the land, fighting the fight to get the government to properly recognize the Treaty right to continued education.

Most would have given up after so many years of futility, but she knows what the system has generated so far, warts and all, is success. Four thousand Saskatchewan First Nation graduates in the past ten years is nothing to sneeze at, but because of the government's funding cap of two per cent growth, the number of those funded has dropped from 2,876 students in 2001, to 2,528 students this year, a loss of funding for 348 students at a time when First Nation youth are the fastest growing demographic in Saskatchewan.

Lancely and a group of people that care about the Treaty right to post secondary education are inviting people to the First Nation University of Canada in Regina on Sept. 22 to help send a message to INAC and Canada that First Nations education is a Treaty right and must be fully supported.

The rally at FNUC ties into a National Week of Action being led by the Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo. The week of awareness runs from Sept. 19-24 and includes a First Nations Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill on the 22nd and a powwow on the Hill on the 23rd. This is taking the message directly to the politicians and bureaucrats in their own house.

With a huge turnout at the FNUC rally on the 22nd a message will be sent to Ottawa that this subject can't be swept under the carpet or underfunded any more.

Once people hear the true facts about funding for First Nations students for post secondary, they too will want to stand up and fight for change. Help spread the word and the unity by being at the FNUC campus in Regina on Sept. 22 at 10:30. It will be time well spent.

Last month in Eagle Feather

We have never received so much positive feedback on an article or theme as we did with our "Letters from Inside." There were several phone calls and emails like the following . . .

Firstly, allow me to congratulate the folks at Eagle Feather News. Your publication is both informative and current. I was moved while reading Letters from the Inside in your August, 2010 issue. These alarming and heart wrenching stories along with the spiritual healing initiatives deserve more public exposure . . .

Wow, the Letters from the Inside was an amazing section in the paper this month. The stories from these men and women were powerful and honest and incredible to read. I don't know what motivated you to do this section, but I think it is great and I am looking forward to reading the rest of the letters online. The whole August edition was really well done—I really enjoyed this month's paper . . .

I just read your August issue—a couple columns and the inmate letters. Going to go read some more online. This is a great idea you are breaking open if you ask me. The letters remind people that these are people with families and friends and not just cruel thoughtless criminals. But I think your approach is the best way to remind people who these people are and how the system is failing them. Good idea John . . .

We do have to apologize for not getting the letters on the website as fast as we could but believe us they are there now for everyone to read. Thanks for your comments and keep them coming.

Next month in Eagle Feather

October is our role model issue so when you open it up, expect to find successful men, women, organizations and youth staring back at you. This is a warning.

Thompson a first on U of S student union

Leon Thompson is VP of Student Affairs for the University of Saskatchewan Students Union (USSU). He is the first First Nations representative on the executive in its 101-year existence. Leon is in his fourth year of Political Sciences, with aspiration of Law school. He is a member of the Sweetgrass First Nation, and was raised in Saskatoon. We caught up to him for a little Q&A as he was welcoming students back to school.



Q: What possessed you to run for the USSU position?

I wanted to be a positive role model and to help all students, not just the ones in my college. So far, so good.

Q: How does it feel to be the 'first' First Nations person to be on the USSU executive?

It's bittersweet. I'm proud to have won such a tight election (83 votes) against my opponent Justin Lasnier, he's a great guy. However, I now have to work to make the University experience better, not just for First Nations students but for all students. Which is no small task.

Q: What will be your biggest challenge?

I don't want to limit myself to just one challenge, but helping open the new Place Riel, championing sustainability initiatives, and increasing student participation are some of the big ones. Of course there will be more, you'll just have to wait and see.

Q: When our Governor Michaëlle Jean was on campus, you had a chance to meet her. Tell us,

is she as beautiful in person?

Photographs do not do her justice. She is a beautiful person, and very eloquent! We met at the gala in her honour, and at the University the next day (she remembered my name!). I gave her a copy of Askwina by Doug Cuthand. I hope she likes it.

Q: What in your past has prepared you for this leadership position?

I've volunteered with an international peace education organization called CISV since 2002, with various other camps over the years, and have been a member of student council for the college of arts and science previous to this role.

Q: Any survival tips for students?

STM cafeteria gives you SO MUCH FOOD. Use as many of the free services that are provided by the USSU & the University. Get involved with clubs and rec sports teams. Make new friends, try new things, and keep your mind open.




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

Education can help us live a good life

There is little doubt that getting or having an education will boost one's chances of having a good life. All the social statistics show that those with a better education have higher incomes, better health, all those sorts of things that help make life good.

It is also notorious that in Canada indigenous people have not equally benefitted from educational attainment in comparison with others. For example, a recently released report by the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) observes that non-Aboriginal youth in Canada are three times more likely to complete a high-school diploma than Aboriginal youth, and almost five times more likely to do so than Inuit and First Nations people living on reserves.

Unfortunately, according to CCL's research, Canada is not doing well in promoting educational achievement generally, and steps need to be taken for improvement, particularly for indigenous people.

So important to everyone is a basic education that it is recognized in international law as a basic human right. It is not hard to imagine the challenge of living a life without what used to be called 'functional literacy': the ability to read menus in restaurants or recipes in the kitchen, newspapers, public signs for washrooms and such. (I am not going to mention the value of being able to read the instructions for putting something together that you bought in a package at

a superstore or elsewhere: no one can understand that.)

Today the tall foreheads in education have renamed this ability 'prose literacy'. As another aside, in the 1990s the Assembly of First Nations partnered with the late Peter Gzowski to raise funds to promote literacy through the AFN-PGI annual golf tournament for literacy, held on the Monday of the annual AFN assembly.

According to the CCL report "Taking Stock of Lifelong Learning in Canada (2005-2010): Progress or Complacency?" released on August 25 2010, Canada, unlike competitor countries, is not developing a coordinated approach to education and lifelong learning, and indeed has one of the lowest nation investments at the level of basic education.

Today more than a basic education is required to compete globally. It is necessary to have an advanced education and training. This is true not only in the areas of commerce and industry, but also in the field of government.

One of the three essential ingredients of effective governments is that of resources, or the physical capacity to do things. Among those resources we must

count not only natural resources and fiscal resources but also human resources, that is, a skilled and educated population. It is not much use having all the technology and natural resources in the world if no one knows how to make them work for human goals.

These truths hold for everyone and for every government, and must concern indigenous leaders with designs of

self-government. The sobering reality revealed in the CCL report is that in Canada 42 per cent of adults or roughly nine million people rank below the internationally accepted minimum considered necessary to succeed in today's economy and society.

Many readers will be familiar with the push towards more advanced education and specialized programs for indigenous people that has been on now for the past 30 years and more. Initially focused on teachers and social workers, these programs branched out into law, then engineering, medicine, science and into almost every field short of advanced play-dough technique.

In Saskatoon in the early 1970s, the late Roger Carter, aided by Cree lawyer Rodney Soonias of Red Pheasant First Nation, created the Native Law Centre's

summer pre-law program that has boosted the ranks of indigenous lawyers. Another Saskatchewan giant, the late Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Emmett Hall, worked to promote programs in medicine and engineering.

Other local indigenous people, some without an advanced education themselves, such as the late John McLeod, a legend in Saskatchewan First Nation education, made contributions that have inspired the current generation.

It is good to know that the CCL has been working in partnership with Aboriginal experts in education on pursuing educational improvements for indigenous people. It has, for example, a project called the "Holistic Lifelong Learning Measurement Framework". Time will tell if their laudable efforts will produce desired results. Parenthetically, they might better convince some of us of their good chances to succeed by dropping their esoteric delusion that there are 'different ways of knowing' (as opposed to different ways of acquiring knowledge.)

Education cannot by itself guarantee a good life. But a basic education can help make everyday living easier. An advanced education can provide personal rewards in terms of health and wealth and contribute to society. Education can help all of us live a good life, even if it is only by sharpening our sense of curiosity and wonder at the world.



True equality does not exist in Canada: Jean

• Continued from Page 3

"The best thing you can do for a society is to give young people a voice," noted Colby Tootoosis, who said he was from "the Middle East of Treaty 6 territory" and spoke of how many youth are wanting to leave their bodies, but giving them a voice and helping them heal their hearts can make a difference to everyone.

"If society is a car, young people are the engine."

Jean's tour and dialogue reflects the August declaration of the International Year of Youth. Her new Michaëlle Jean Foundation, headquartered in Ottawa, focuses on empowering youth organizations across Canada. She's held one youth gathering there, and one in Newfoundland. This third gathering was her first visit to Saskatoon, and she also toured Regina and La Ronge.

"Some say it takes a community to raise a child. I would add that it takes youth creativity to uplift a society," noted Jean.

"You have what it takes. I want people to understand that you must be part of the solution."

At the U of S, Jean helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, where she was given a blanket by Elders Walter and Maria Linklater, and the Cree name, "Great Woman Who Leads" (Kihcōkimāskwew Kānikānī).

She shared her experience fleeing Haiti and the strong examples of her mother and grandmother, followed by a panel discussion with U of S faculty and student body, including Graduate Student President Omeasoo Butt who is proudly of Cree descent.

Both the panel and Jean emphasized Aboriginal rights,

particularly those of the missing and murdered Aboriginal women, as priority. Jean referred to past policies of assimilation and discrimination as something all Canadians need face, and the stories she'd heard earlier at Egadz as evidence that equality in Canada still does not truly exist.

"Women's rights are human rights," noted Jean, adding

they are relatively new in Canada, and shouldn't be taken for granted.

"Indeed, we must not forget it was not until the beginning of the last century that we obtained the right to vote in Canada. In Quebec, it was not until 1940, and for all Aboriginal women (and men) it was not until 1960."



Protecting the 21st century buffalo hunt

By Darlene Lanceley
For Eagle Feather News

Fast unemployment, low educational attainment, high suicide rates, overrepresentation in the justice system, and the continual removal of children from their homes and communities is the portrait of many First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

This condition is unacceptable in the 21st century in a wealthy country that allows First Nation, Métis and Inuit people to live in conditions of poverty. Education and employment are key indicators in measuring the quality of life and for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

Years ago, First Nations undertook buffalo hunts and everyone had a role in the hunt as it represented what would feed and clothe the community.

Today it is often said education is the new buffalo since education provides the means to provide the necessities of life.

However, we are at a point in social policy that is attempting to shift education from First Nation authorities to a third party, Canada Student Loans.

In the past First Nations did not have access to higher education going back to 1857 with the Gradual Enfranchisement Act that forced First Nations people to give up their Indian Status upon acquiring higher education.

It was not until revisions in the Indian Act (1951-1960) that allowed First Nations to leave the reserve without permission, vote in federal and provincial elections, and have access to post secondary education without giving up Indian Status.

The issue of Treaty Right to Education is not being addressed or recognized in accessing post secondary education. Canada has constitutional authority and fiduciary responsibility to provide education to Treaty Indians as negotiated and promised by the treaty.

The original signatories of treaties had an understanding of formal education for then and modernity. The expectation was that schools would be built, students would attend and be able to further their education plans. This did not always happen.

First Nations are frustrated with the federal government for not adequately consulting or working with First Nations. First Nations are not informed of changes in programs and services First Nations are responsible for delivering. This creates a climate of mistrust and misinformation about the true direction of policy, programs and services that are within the mandate of First Nations administration.

For the past three years different research and position papers have been presented in the area of student financial aid. Student financial aid includes Canada Student Loans, Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation and Service Canada. These government agencies have undertaken research in student financial aid without duty to consult with First Nations, Federation Saskatchewan Indian

Nations or Assembly First Nations.

The Post Secondary Student Support Program is not funded in the same manner as Canada Student Loans or Human Resource and Social Development Canada. In addition, to use variables to measure is not consistent with how the dollars are allocated within First Nations through INAC. Moreover, the responses indicated a movement in direction of shared responsibility and to have parents be accountable and to move away from "full-funding" for First Nations students.

It is very important that First Nations people improve their education levels – especially high school – and to further their education and career goals into trades, vocational, technical and university. Presently, there is a population of individuals who do not have a high school education, have not completed or entered trades, college or university opportunities resulting in barriers and challenges in education and employment.

First Nations understand the need and importance of establishing reliable and credible post-secondary education data collection. Most importantly, with the barriers identified, recommendations made and implemented, First Nations organizations can expect to see the success they have had continue to the benefit of all.

First Nations contribute from other programs such as gaming, economic development, and lands revenue to support students while they are in school. In the past, we have dealt with the threat from Canada Revenue Agency on taxing the PSSSP that our students receive. As well, some of our students work and are income earners while they attend school. When our students graduate and are employed they are contributing to local, municipal and provincial economies.

First Nations know that we must go forward and continue to educate our membership. We need to continue with what we have been doing with an understanding that we can do better if we are adequately resourced, have proper tools for data management and support for our students.

We understand the cost of doing nothing. Our children and grandchildren and those yet to be born will not survive in modernity without access to education and employment. We know we need to "Stamp out Poverty" through education and employment not through a threat of changing the management of post secondary student support to a Canada Student Loan.



DARLENE LANCELEY




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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild, IMikisew Kapopamihahk - Golden Eagle "He who flies in the Four Directions for his People" is a member of the White Bear First Nation in southeast Saskatchewan and is proud to be of Saulteaux, Cree and Assiniboine ancestry.

Before being elected as FSIN Chief in 2009, Guy led a new era of relationship-building for First Nations most notably in the growth of new businesses and employment partnerships. Guy navigated the FSIN's 25 year Economic Development Long-term Strategy which sparked new energy into Sector Task Forces in Agriculture, Retail, Oil & Gas, Alternative Energy and Tourism.

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild lives in Saskatoon with his wife Leah Bittermose and daughter Darian.

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson is the first woman to lead the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, one of the largest and most progressive First Nations Band in Canada. On March 28, 2008, she began her second consecutive three-year term as chief.

Chief Cook-Searson is President of Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, the Band's economic development initiative with several businesses in various sectors. She has also served on numerous local and provincial boards.

Chief Cook-Searson and her family reside in La Ronge, Saskatchewan.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
AUDREY AT 249-5415 OR AUDREYDREAYER@GMAIL.COM**

First Nations University made tough decisions to save institution

Dr. Shauneen Pete, the interim President of the First Nation University of Canada, was tasked with helping make the extremely hard decisions that have allowed the University to keep its doors open. She took time from her busy schedule to answer some questions from Eagle Feather news.

You have had to make some very difficult decisions to save the university. Which has been the hardest?

Dr. Pete – The task of downsizing the university required some very difficult decisions for the executive team. FNUUniv is a small organization. Staff, students and elders alike view one another as family members and the university as our home. We reduced non-academic costs throughout the organization, but cuts to the faculty and staff were inevitable.



DR. SHAUNEEN PETE

The biggest challenge was reducing our operations with a focus on maintaining the positions which were essential to ensuring we meet our mission and at the same time respecting the fact that we would lose some long term employees and friends. This has been one of the greatest challenges for this executive team. We

were guided by the Memorandum of Understanding, our own collective agreements, and by our Business Case. Rationalizing the downsizing was undertaken in a systematic manner.

The Executive Team, Dr. Selinger, Dr. Schneider and I worked to realize a \$3 million reduction in our operating costs while maintaining the academic integrity of the university. We were careful to maintain academic programs, while making horizontal cuts to the whole organization. For example, we reduced the number of faculty in Indigenous Studies at our Regina Campus from six to three members. We did not eliminate Indigenous Studies. The other difficult decision was to not seek additional funding for the National School of Dental Therapy (NSDT). Health Canada (the funding agency) informed the Director of NSDT that the funding would not be extended beyond this academic year.

How will these tough decisions impact the student experience?

Dr. Pete – The impact of the reorganization on the students should be minimal. About 20 per cent of enrolled students were contacted about changes to their academic programs that resulted due to class amalgamation or elimination. Our Student Success Services ensured that all affected students will have been informed about academic program changes prior to the school year starting.

The last five years really shook the foundations of the university. Has the spirit returned to campus yet?

Dr. Pete – We are a resilient people, and we are learning to create a resilient organization. We are guided by ceremony and community. The elders played a very important role in providing us all with avenues for prayer and support. They reminded us all to proceed with an appropriate mind set, to not lose hope, and to believe that our actions can create change. A driving force behind the activism of staff and faculty has always been their relationships with students. This activist spirit was evident during the student initiated live-in, the faculty inspired teach-in, the campus-driven walk from Saskatoon to Regina and the rally's which were held in the winter

months. These actions brought together many different peoples in our community: intercultural grandmothers, politicians, and international friends and colleagues. We share in the collective responsibility of ensuring that FNUUniv continues to provide educational access for the generations to come.

We view ourselves as a family, and like any family who experiences challenges we rally together. The staff continues to be committed to the mission of FNUUniv. Staff and faculty will be engaged in two Task Forces which will provide them with an opportunity to help shape two key areas of academic planning: enrolment management (recruitment and retention of students) and employment forecasting (the identification of employment niches in First Nations communities that require educated people). Staff will play an integral role in defining the university for the future.

The spirit of intergenerational knowledge transmission is ever present here at FNUUniv. We will begin the year as we usually do – in ceremony – bringing together elders, students and staff. In spite of our challenges we never lost sight of our community or family of learners – that is the spirit which makes FNUUniv unique in Canada.

How important has the political support of the FSIN and the province been in rebuilding the university?

Dr. Pete – The work of transforming FNUUniv has been guided by the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed by the partners (U of R; FSIN; the province and FNUUniv). This unique partnership very much saved FNUUniv from closing its doors over the summer. The MOU allows for FNUUniv to continue stabilizing over the next four years. The partners, in particular the University of Regina, will play a supportive role with the Executive Team as they undertake a visioning process and strategic planning. The FSIN supports the transformation of FNUUniv through the amendments of the FNUUniv Act which outlines a new approach to board nominations and selection.

Any message for the students?

Like the elders who imagined the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in the days past, we in the Executive Team believe that FNUUniv is ideally suited to meeting the needs of First Nations adult learners. We are working to strategically place the university as Canada's First Nations University. We aspire to ensure that every student and staff member maximizes their leadership potential in order to enhance First Nations communities; upholds tradition to preserve and protect our languages and culture; and engages in the practice of teaching and learning in a manner reflective of traditional knowledge transmission while not losing sight of innovation.

We in Executive Office are continuing to think in a forward manner. Our aim is to create a strong policy

foundation, build the capacity of all staff so that they can contribute to our evolution, and provide assurance to our stakeholders, all the while maintaining the academic integrity of our programs. We have an incredible story to tell. I am proud to help tell the story as Interim President at First Nations University.

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

Secretary, Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation
c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute
2-604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
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GDI Mission: To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.

Honouring Chief Payepot

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

It was 135 years ago that Chief Payepot negotiated the terms of Treaty Four. To celebrate the great leader's legacy, three days of ceremonies were held in early September.

The first day's event was held at the Payepot School at Piapot First Nation on a sunny day in the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley. The day's events included a pipe ceremony, followed by official tributes to Chief Payepot by past and present First Nation leaders.

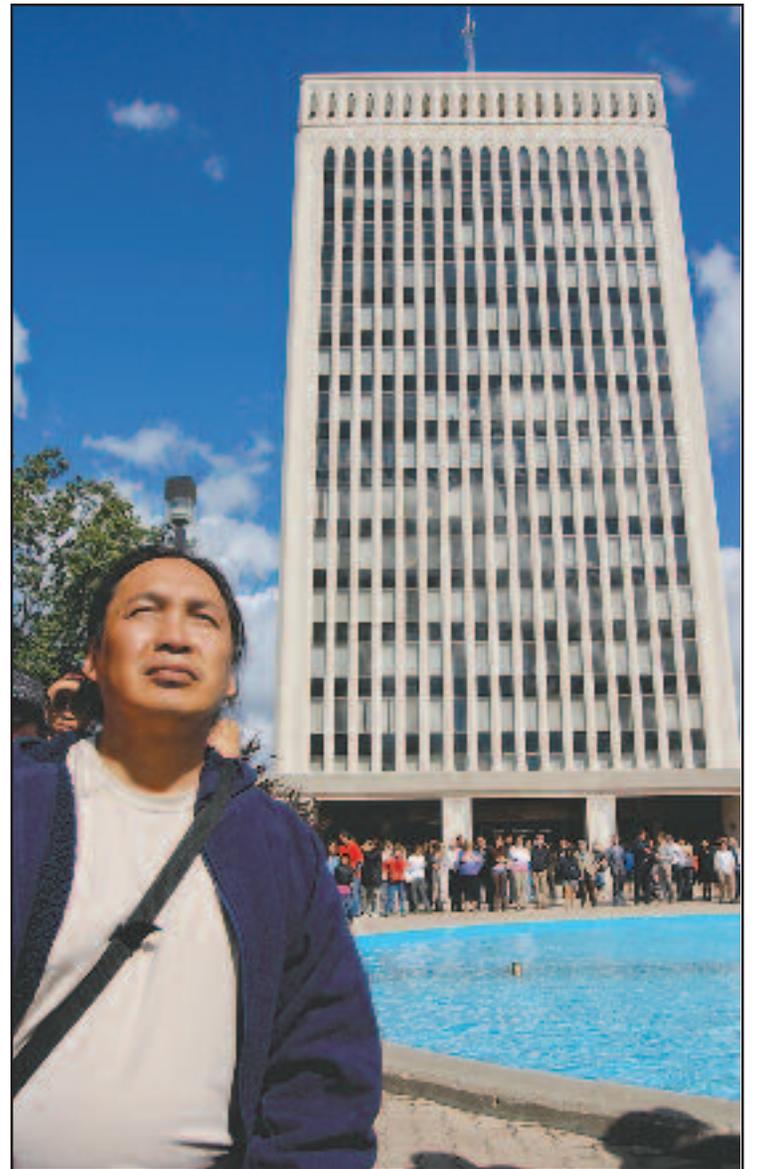
The main event was the unveiling of a large bronze statue, sculptured in Payepot's likeness. The unveiling was accompanied by an honour song, performed by Buffy St. Marie. A round dance, accompanied by singing and drumming from the group Dancing Young Piapot (right) sat in the front row, closest to the stage. "I am a direct descendant of Payepot: First son, first son, first son." (Photos by Michael Bell)



Former Piapot Chief Art Kaiswatum (left) paid tribute to the legacy of Chief Payepot. Today, Kaiswatum is a respected elder and pipe carrier. Marvyn Buffalo, kicked off a community feast.

The Payepot sculpture was unveiled for a second time by the Lt.-Gov. Gordon L. Barnhart at a ceremony in front of Regina City Hall on Sept. 2. A couple hundred of people attended the event, where numerous delegates spoke about Payepot and his legacy. Among them were Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco; FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild; Chief Terrence Nelson (Vice-chair of the American Indian Movement); Chief Perry Bellegarde; Col. Bigaouette (RCAF); Roger L. Brown (RCMP); Gavin Semple (CEO, Brandt Industries); Buffy St. Marie. Payepot's statue is now on permanent public display in front of Regina's City Hall.

A multi-media symphony called Oscana conducted by composer Andrew Balfour closed the three day celebration. The Regina Symphony Orchestra performed the four-movement piece, which included accompanying digital video and live singers, drummers and powwow dancers. According to a Leader-Post preview, the performance cost approximately \$100,000 to put together.



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Post secondary education a wise investment

Welcome back students! It is so good to see so many Indigenous faces on campus from all across the province and many also from the east and west of us.

Looking out at a class of 285 students taking 'Introduction to Native Studies' this afternoon I saw our future scholars and professionals, our future leaders.

Their presence in post secondary institutions and the hard work and commitment they give to their studies is inspiring and helps keep my faith in our collective future alive.

Post secondary institutions are among the few places in this society where everyone has the right to free speech and the right to question authority without fear of retribution.

It is a safe place where we learn critical thinking skills that help us better understand our current circumstances and how we can make change for the betterment of our people.

We learn what influences in our lives shaped how we think and what influences our actions, and we have the opportunity to shed those ways of thinking that get in the way of our own personal growth and development. Post secondary education

provides the means for us to make a living, but just as important, it provides the opportunity to grow as human beings and use our newly acquired skills to help others.

Long ago our old people had faith in our ability to learn "the cunning of the White man" and retain the traditional teachings and laws of our people. Today, we're finally seeing traditional and western knowledge meeting in the halls of universities across this land. Traditional knowledge keepers in the classrooms, ceremonies, students going out on the land, professors who practice traditional ways ... it's a new era in Indigenous post secondary education, the dreams and visions of our long gone old people are finally coming true. We have much to be thankful for.

Long ago and recent history makes it clear that whenever we make great strides forward our paths get blocked by some new "initiative" of Indian Affairs.

Back in 1988 when our post secondary student numbers reached an all time high, Indian Affairs slapped a cap on the funding.

Fewer students were able to get funding resulting in fewer students attending post secondary and more students forced to take out student loans.

Some students never receive any post secondary funding and end up with huge student loan bills to pay off when they graduate.

Now there are rumblings that Indian Affairs is trying to absolve all its responsibilities for post secondary education.

We all know that the federal government takes the position that post sec is NOT a Treaty Right, that they only provide support as a matter of social policy. So they see no reason to consult and believe they are justified in changing or abolishing this "social program" whenever they want.

Many Canadians do not understand the nature of our Treaty Relationship nor do they acknowledge how much they have benefited from the Treaties as they complain about "their" tax dollars being wasted.

Wake up Canada!! Upholding our Treaty Rights and supporting post secondary support programs is an invest-

ment that will continue to have big pay-offs. My buddy, Darlene Lanceley, a PhD student at U of S, posted some interesting facts and figures.

- 27 per cent of First Nations people under the age of 44 have a post secondary education in contrast to 46 per cent of other Canadians in that age group.

- Over 4,000 First Nations people in Saskatchewan have graduated from post secondary in the last 10 years and are now contributing to the provincial and Canadian economies.

- Fewer students are being funded in 2010 than in 2001.

- By 2016 more than 23 per cent of 20-30 year olds in Saskatchewan will be First Nations.

- Post secondary funding averages about \$19,000 per student per year while incarceration costs upwards of \$100,000 per year per inmate.

First Nations post secondary education is a wise investment with big long term benefits for all Canadians. If you're interested in supporting our students' right to post secondary funding there will be a Post Secondary Education rally on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the FNUC Regina campus.



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2010 - The Year



A record 54 fiddlers competed in the festival's competition, and 27 competed in the jiggling competitions from as far away as Alaska, North Dakota, and South Carolina.

Arcand Fiddle Fest attracts thousands for annual event



Young fiddlers practice before taking to the stage.

Mother Nature tried to dampen the spirits of those attending the 13th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest, but at least this year the rain was kept at bay with the new roof.

Overall attendance was down a bit this year, but still, more than 4,600 people travelled to Windy Acres for the event.

One of them was Art Franks, who drove about nine hours with his wife, Diane, from Petersville, Manitoba.

"I volunteer here every year. Come out a few days in advance to help start up, help John and Vicki get settled in and straighten out whatever they have to do."

Master of the Métis Fiddle John Arcand attributes the success of the event to its large appeal.

"It's actually the only family-oriented event left in Saskatchewan that all kinds of ages can participate in and have fun doing it. I think it's really, really beneficial for kids to learn to play an instrument of any kind."

Arcand says the fiddle fest has come a long way.

"The first one we ever had was underneath a 50-foot tarp. We had a 50-foot dance floor under it. We had it on for two days, and it rained out the second day. Completely rained out."

Luckily that didn't happen this year with the new 80 by 200 foot structure, which looks similar to a big pole shed. Unfortunately, Friday's rain forced almost all of the workshops to be canceled, but that created the opportunity for a huge jam session under the roof where 83 fiddlers, five guitarists, and one mandolin player played beautiful music.

The music is what draws Franks back year after year.

"Just hearing all the fiddle music. People are trying to learn the best they can, like the fiddle contest. You hear all these young kids that are just fantastic. It makes me just want to smash my fiddle up!" he jokes.

- By Darla Read



John Arcand poses with jiggling and fiddling winners.

Métis Did you know?

Did you know? Harry Daniels, a prominent Métis leader, was responsible for putting the Métis into The Constitution Act, 1982.

Did you know? Howard Adams, born in St. Louis, was the first Métis in Saskatchewan to obtain a Ph.D (History, Berkeley).

Did you know? Métis communities often honour the social, cultural or political contributions of talented Métis by awarding them the "Order of the Sash."



ar of the Métis

Métis fiddling goes

back to days of Hudson's Bay Company



Canada has long been blessed with a number of vibrant folk fiddling traditions among Acadians, Celtic Maritimers, French Canadians, First Nations, and Métis. All these traditions are similar, but distinct. All variations of Canadian folk fiddling have a common origin from the Celtic fringes of Western Europe: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany.

From these places, the predecessors of today's jigs, reels, and quadrilles made their way to England and France, and were eventually brought to Canada by the French and Scots.

There are two separate points from which the Métis became aware of fiddling. The first, by Scots and Orcadians employed with the Hudson's Bay Company, was along Hudson Bay and its drainage basin. The second, along the Great Lakes and Lake Winnipeg's drainage basin, was brought to the Métis by French coureurs-des-bois and later French-Canadian voyageurs and Scots bourgeois working with the Montréal-based fur trade.

Indigenous North America had no fiddling tradition prior to Contact. Nevertheless, as this culture developed in North America, local Indigenous populations embraced the violin, and incorporated distinct rhythms and harmonies into existing European tunes. The Métis are the most widely-recognized Aboriginal fiddle players.

At fur trade posts, fiddle playing was a common feature of social gatherings. Fiddle tunes were played while the men visited, as well as at balls and dances. In the early nineteenth century, the Métis quickly began playing the fiddle throughout the Red River Settlement.

Unfortunately, it is not known who the first Métis fiddle player was or what the first Métis jig or reel was. However, the first recorded reference to the "Red River Jig" appeared in 1860. Apparently, Mr. McDallas composed the tune for the wedding dance of a Métis couple. Père Brocher, who conducted the marriage ceremony, named the tune the "Red River Jig."

Others argue that the Desjarlais family at Red River created this tune. Regardless of the "Red River Jig's" true origins, it has become an unofficial Métis anthem, and is played at almost all Métis functions. Others feel that it was based on a widely known French-Canadian tune, "la Grande Gigue Simple."

Accounts by missionaries, fur traders, and artists' sketches indicate that the sociable Red River Métis were passionate about fiddling, dancing, and celebrating. A Red River ball, with numerous fiddle players and callers, was the social highlight of the year, and was attended by all the local Métis. Fiddling within Métis society was very equal since both the elite and the rank and

file enjoyed playing the fiddle.

Every Métis family had a fiddle player, who, on a mere moment's notice, could play a tune if everybody was in the mood to celebrate. Those who could not play the fiddle, aspired to learn how to play this instrument.

Despite informal training, many Métis became maestro fiddle players. For instance, William Arcand, a Métis originally from Saskatchewan, played for Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) in England. In more recent times, two Manitoba Métis fiddlers: Andy Dejarlis and Eugene Laderoute, who composed the popular "Keystone Reel," were famous throughout the world.

Today, Métis youth are continuing this tradition and are learning from such accomplished Métis fiddle players as John Arcand and Donny Parenteau. Fiddle music continues to be a large part of dances, and social and cultural events in communities across the Métis Homeland.

Adapted from "Traditional Métis Socialization and Entertainment" by Todd Paquin, Darren R. Préfontaine, and Patrick Young (www.metismuseum.ca)



Chronology of the 1885 Resistance

1885 (June 4)

The Cree retrieved their dead from the west-side of the ford and buried them. They headed north and crossed a second narrow. Big Bear's Plains Cree and the Wood Cree separated. Big Bear headed south and the Wood Cree continued north. They took the hostages with them. Wandering Spirit travelled with Big Bear but soon broke with the band and rejoined the Wood Cree. The hostages, including W.J. McLean, were released and they backtracked through the marsh and returned to Fort Pitt.

1885 (June 24)

W.J. McLean arrived back at Fort Pitt. He interceded on behalf of the Wood Cree and arranged for them to surrender to Middleton at the fort.

To be continued next month ...

Prepared by the Gabriel Dumont Institute with material developed by Darren Préfontaine, Leah Dorion, Ron Laliberté, and Father Guy Lavallée.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Morning Pages works

My goal this month was to contribute to artists and entertainers – to give back. Normally I would celebrate and promote creative types, but as a writer and artist myself, I know that sometimes we need a little inspiration. So here it is.

Two Christmases ago I received an amazing gift that changed the artist in me forever. I have no idea where Kevin came across it, but he bought me a book that has since been my most treasured kick-in-the-butt. The Artist's Way – a Course in Discovering and Recovering Your Creative Self, by Julia Cameron, is without a doubt the fastest way for anyone remotely creative to unlock, de-block, focus your mind and channel your energy.

Then, once you tap into the source of your passion, the process begins. You will find your creativity effusively rush out as your spirit awakens.

If that's too deep for you, and you aren't prepared for the surplus of prolific glory that awaits you, then I wouldn't recommend this book. But, if you dare to imagine a life as an unfettered artist or entertainer, where inspiration and creativity bathe

your soul daily – then I highly recommend this book.

The 12-week course is designed for anyone artistic: artists, writers, photographers, musicians, dancers, etc. There are many different exercises to follow, but perhaps the two most effective – and challenging – are: Morning Pages and The Artist Date.

Morning Pages are an exercise where you write three full, handwritten pages about anything and everything first thing in the morning. You cannot type them or write two pages ... or worse, skip them. You must do them, and having practiced Morning Pages, I can attest to how incredibly powerful they are.

No one sees them, so you are free to write whatever you want. A few times I've written three pages complaining of how horrible it is to write Morning Pages. Sometimes I've been plagued with a problem, in search of an answer. Other times I just wanted to be outside, enjoying the beautiful morning, but instead chained myself to the chair to write three pages of seriously inane babble.

Two and a half years later, I still love Morning Pages because I know they are essentially de-blockers that

release the superficial self-talk that occupies most of our thoughts. Then, after the brain has said its piece and is free to relax, your creative side joyfully takes over.



The second exercise is another difficult one to master – The Artist Date. Here, you are expected to take your inner artist out on a date – alone, once a week. You can go to a museum, a movie, a new restaurant or try something you've never done before. The purpose being that you must nurture your creative spirit by treating it and honouring it – essentially

making time to be distracted, and finding enjoyment in the act.

These dates are marvellous ways to gather and discover new and exciting sources of inspiration. However, more than anything, you must give yourself permission to: a) be alone, and b) do something fun.

I've used both processes many times with my writing. Although honestly, when I first received the book I was more touched by the sentiment behind it. I was flattered that Kevin could be so supportive, especially on days when I suffered the agony of my most debilitating and formidable foe: writer's block.

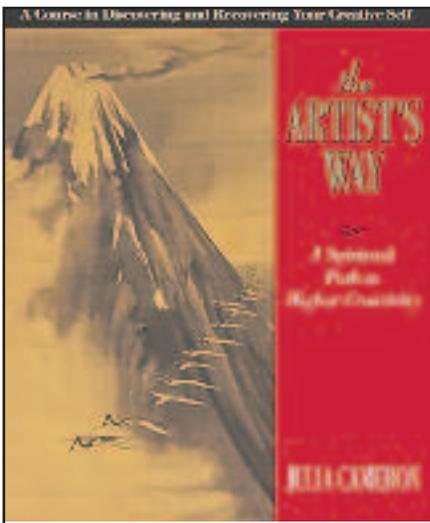
It seemed like a fanciful notion that a simple program could help me find what I sought. Weren't artists meant to struggle? If I was truly committed to being an artist, didn't it mean I agreed to eternal damnation and a tortured soul?

Well, it turns out that art and inspiration don't have to be synonymous with depravity. Unless of course that's your thing ... and if that's the case, then by all means, brood away!

However, selfish me would love nothing more than to be flooded by a sea of fresh art and entertainment, so that I may continually draw upon it as a source of inspiration for my own work. Help me reach my goal by treating yourself to this book. And don't forget, it also makes a great Christmas gift for an artist that you love!

Hey, send me in your ideas or let me know about the next great artist ... send me an email.

snazyjess@hotmail.com



ON PARADE

It was a cold and rainy day for the Annual Saskatoon Exhibition Parade, but that didn't stop the folks at Whitecap Dakota First Nation from being hot. Whitecap won two different awards from their participation in the parade. They won first in Commercial and they also took home first in Equestrian/Animal entries for Mounted Group. Nice!

(Photos supplied)



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Buffy Sainte-Marie performed at Regina's Folk Festival. (Photo by Michael Bell)

Buffy still taking responsibility

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

It's a hot Saturday afternoon in Victoria Park in the middle of the Regina Folk Festival. Music lovers fold blankets and collapse festival chairs, to migrate to other stages and hunt for a new musical experience.

Métissage, a musical work-shop featuring French and Métis singers from across Canada has just wrapped up. Buffy Sainte-Marie emerges from under the domed canvas that shelters the stage. A woman from the audience approaches Buffy, gushing admiration and clutching a digital camera. Sainte-Marie smiles, poses beside the woman for the photo, something she has done innumerable times before.

Sainte-Marie's artistic career is as deep as it is wide: peace activist, digital visual artist, cultural icon, philanthropist, popular educator, professor, and of course, musician. However, as great as her achievements have been, it would be a mistake to focus on her past. At 68 years of age, Sainte-Marie is a working musician, and her voice is as strong and relevant today as ever.

Running For The Drum, released in 2009, is her eighteen album. It is a musically and thematically diverse work, ranging from energetic, bluesy love songs (I Bet My Heart On You), to soulful heartache (When I Had You), to celebratory joy (Cho Cho Fire). The title track from the album is No No Keshagesh, a politically-charged dance-rock tune that tears into the world's "old men" in "business suits" who have "got Mother Nature on a luncheon plate / they carve her up and call it real estate" and who "send in the troopers if the Natives resist."

"No No Keshagesh is kind of an extension of the same concerns that I had in the '60s when I wrote Univeral Soldier and Little Wheel Spin and Spin. It's about the connection between war and greed," Sainte-Marie said during an interview in the performers' area of the festival.

Often stated reasons for going to war – defending the freedom to practice religion, protecting human rights, the liberation of women in Afghanistan – are

not really the causes of war, says Sainte-Marie. The song instead points to the greed of powerful individuals who plot to control the world's resources at any cost.

"These old men they make their dirty deals / Go in the back room and see what they can steal / Talk about your beautiful for spacious skies / It's about uranium. It's about the water rights

Look at these people Lord they're on a roll / Got to have it all; gotta have complete control / Want all the resources and all of the land / They break the law over it; blow things up for it."

Despite the song's heavy lyrics, Sainte-Marie inserts some humour by using the word Keshagesh.

"It's Cree, and we had a little puppy and we called him Keshagesh," she says. The word means greedy guts. When the puppy would eat all his own food, he'd go after the others' food too. Basically, she's calling war profiteers greedy little puppies.

"Serious issues sometimes profit by a lighter touch," Sainte-Marie says. By making the song highly danceable, she hopes its message may reach a wider audience.

Music reviews of the new album refer to Sainte-Marie as a "humanitarian;" the "original eco warrior rock star" and a "peace campaigner." Yet Running For The Drum contains numerous songs that dwell on more personal topics of love and loss. Does she believe that artists have a special obligation to engage in social or political messages?

Artists don't have any more social responsibility than anyone else, Sainte-Marie says.

"If I write songs that seem to be taking responsibility, it's because that's how I felt that day. And I don't feel that way all the time. I don't think there are any obligations in being an artist.

"Because, you know, what do you say about someone who is a classical piano player or a powwow singer? It's all good. Music is huge, music is just huge, we don't even know what it is. It's a whole language, and you can say all kinds of things in a language, including nothing," she says.

Boys take their humour seriously

By Jessica Iron
For Eagle Feather News

What do you get when you cross a white guy, an Indian and a Metis? The Bionic Bannock Boys, of course! The comedic trio has delighted crowds for years, earning them a 6-part series on APTN every Tuesday night, beginning September 7 at 9:30.

"We take our humour very seriously!" jokes Cory Generoux. "We're a legion of superheroes born and bred out of the tipi fire. We're basically out there fighting evil and we're going to save the planet!"

Generoux, from Sturgeon Lake and Kahkewistahaw First Nations, along with Keon Francis, a Métis from Green Lake, and Sean Dean, a non-Native from Ontario, make up the trio. Masters at sketch comedy, the Bionic Bannock Boys deliver 6 half-hour episodes based on their funniest skits to date.

It was a long three-year process to finally land a spot on APTN – likely because their show was difficult to explain on paper. It was structureless, but with a layout similar to Monty Python and Saturday Night Live.

On a scant budget, they produced a pilot episode, which APTN aired for about a year. With many positive reviews, they were then offered a six-part series set to air in the spring of 2010.

The transition from stage to television was a little challenging for The Bionic Bannock Boys, claims Generoux. Usually crowd-driven, their semi-scripted/improvisation shows no longer had the energy of an immediate audience. However, they're



The Bionic Bannock Boys: Sean Dean (top), Cory Generoux and Keon Francis.

positive they will continue to deliver fun and entertaining episodes from fan feedback, including viewer input on their website.

With on-going characters like Greasy Neechie, a rez mechanic who only ever grunts, and Deep Moshum who tells long, philosophical stories punctuated by cheap punch lines, life is always interesting at their fictitious setting, Broken Elbow Reserve.

"The characters we do are very versatile," says Generoux. "So they can translate into different types of shows."

Catch them on APTN every Tuesday night, and then 'Watch & Win'! After each show, visit their website at: www.bionicbannockboys.com, answer a trivia question about the episode and you could win Bionic Bannock Boys merchandise.

Don't get burned by the sun – How to protect yourself

In Saskatchewan, the warmer weather brings people out of their homes to soak up the sun. While natural sunlight is important for good health, too much time in the sun may come with a dangerous tradeoff for many people. Skin cancer is very common in Canada, and in 2007 there were 2,899 cases of skin cancer diagnosed in Saskatchewan and 26 people died from this disease.

Saskatchewan averages the most sunshine of any Canadian province, which means that if you are not careful while in the outdoors you can easily get sunburned. While a sunburn eventually goes away, the damage to the skin stays behind.

You are at greater risk of developing skin cancer if you:

- Have fair skin that burns easily
- Have a lot of moles or freckles
- Have had sunburns as a child
- Have a job where you work outside
- Have a past history of skin cancer
- Use tanning beds

“When it comes to skin cancer, knowledge is the first step to prevention,” said Cheryl Whiting, Provincial Leader of Prevention at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

“Sun protection is important year round and people need to remember to protect their skin from the sun. People with naturally dark skin may be less sensitive to the sun; however, even people with brown or black skin can get skin cancer.”

In 2009, the Saskatchewan Skin Cancer Prevention Coalition formed with the goal of helping to reduce skin cancer. The Coalition is a partnership of agencies and individuals from the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, regional health authorities, Ministries of Health and Education, Saskatchewan Dermatology Association, College of

Pharmacy and Nutrition (University of Saskatchewan), Canadian Cancer Society (Saskatchewan Division), and Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Program (Saskatchewan Region).

The Coalition's vision is: aware and engaged communities throughout Saskatchewan actively preventing skin cancer. The Coalition works to create awareness of the risk for skin cancer and encourages other organizations, groups and individuals to increase skin cancer prevention efforts focusing on children and youth in Saskatchewan.

The Coalition wants people to know that they can enjoy the outdoors and still reduce the risk of skin cancer by practicing sun safety:

- Limit your time in the sun between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when the sun's rays are very strong (UV Index is 3 or higher).
- Look for shade or create your own shade (umbrella, beach tents, and canopies) to lessen your time in the sun when outdoors.
- Use sun block to protect your skin. The sun block should have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15.
- Cover your skin with clothing (dark, loose, closely woven fabric that covers your arms and legs).
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat that shades your ears, face and neck.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from sun damage. Choose ones with lenses that block the sun's harmful rays.
- Avoid tanning beds; especially youth under the age of 18.
- Use sun block even on cloudy days.
- Use sun block when near water, snow, ice, sand and concrete because these surfaces will reflect the sun.
- Teach children about sun safety and be a good

example for them to follow.

“Practicing sun safety helps to reduce the risk of developing skin cancer and is an important part of a healthy lifestyle,” Whiting said.

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The conference will encourage men to seek health care and to take better care of their health. Men, especially young men, need to be encouraged to adopt positive behaviors and to play a greater role in caring for their partners and families.

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Be careful when you're sucking on that neckbone

Well, it's official, not only are Saskatchewan Indians the neck bone eating champions of the prairies but it appears that we are also the neck sucking champions.

That's right folks, look around the next time you're at the rodeo, sports days, Treaty days or powwows and you will see a sea of red necks – hickies that is. Maybe it's because there are so many vampire shows. Perhaps it's a social signal to other people to stay away because you bear the mark of a neck bone sucking champion.

It's the funniest thing seeing 'love bites' on older people – people my age. I ran into an old school chum that I hadn't seen in years and all I could do was stare at the marks on her neck.

It looked like the dude was trying to suck his initials on her neck! Tapwe!

I have four daughters and believe me I have seen my fair share of neck decorations over the years but no matter how many times I see hickies I just think they look gross and dirty.

Ladies and gentlemen have you ever taken a look at the collars of your shirts? Ring around the collar. It is covered with our sweat, dust and who

knows what else? Why would you want to suck someone's neck? Ever sick.

I'll admit that when I was younger I came home a couple of times with hickies. I thought I was so smart because all teenagers are so smart. My parents would never see my neck. I would simply walk around for the next week wearing the only turtle-neck sweater I owned.

If they asked any questions I would say I dropped the curling iron and burnt my neck, or me and my friend were wrestling and she gave me a pinch hickey.

The only thing hickies ever got me was hours of lectures. Every family member that came around was sure to make fun of the love bites, it was the constant ribbing that led to the end of my neck sucking career – thank goodness!



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

Oh, the younger days ...What I find amazing is that people wear their hickies with pride while they stand in line at McDonalds with their grandchildren!

Maybe someone out there can create a hickey stamp so that when people are feeling like letting the world know they got lucky they can leave those tiny blood vessels on the neck alone.

I heard that some schools invite health professional or community police to give talks to students about some health related issues with hickies. There are many blood diseases these days so be careful when you're sucking on that neck bone.

Aboriginal comedian Don Burnstick once said, "White people they buy their girlfriends diamond engagement rings; us Indian we give

our women hickies."

If you must wear a hickey then have your partner suck the back of your knee where it's less conspicuous.

I have two older sisters and neither one of them ever came home with hickies – they did their homework after school and were active in Girl Guides. Both graduated from high school and went on to university.

My sister, Deborah, was recently appointed as the new Canadian Ambassador to Vietnam and we are so proud of her.

Her new title in Vietnam is Her Excellency but here at home we just call her most excellent.

The moral of the story? Don't hide in cars and corners neck sucking. Stay in school and eventually all your hard work will pay off.

Next month is Breast Cancer Awareness month, so check out events in your community and support the cause.

It's great hearing from you, keep your emails and letters coming?

Write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News, P.O. Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon SK S7M 2M1 or email me at sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Arthritis doesn't discriminate

More than four million Canadians are affected by arthritis. It is a life long disease that knows no boundaries; it can strike anyone at any time, regardless of their age, physical condition or ethnicity.

Once you develop it, you have it for the rest of your life. Arthritis affects more adults than cancer, heart disease, respiratory conditions and spinal cord trauma, having a serious impact on quality of life.

Aboriginal Canadians are harder hit by arthritis, especially older women. A staggering number of Canada's Aboriginal people live with arthritis; it's one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in this population. Nineteen per cent of Aboriginal Canadians, aged 20 years and older, living on-reserve reported having been diagnosed with the disease.

According to Statistics Canada, five percent of off-reserve Aboriginal people are affected by severe auto-immune arthritis that restricts their ability to work or participate in the community, compared to one percent for non-Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal women are affected the most, with 70 per cent aged 65 and older living with the disease, compared to 50 per cent of non-Aboriginal women in the same age group. Arthritis causes severe joint pain and inflammation, which can mean not being able to get dressed, open a door, or even hold a fork.

Arthritis is a leading cause of disability in Canada today, leaving more than 600,000 Canadians unable to work because of effects of the disease. The term "arthritis" includes more than 100 diseases and conditions – rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, gout, lupus and juvenile arthritis are just a few.

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of the disease in adults, affecting one in 10 Canadians. Juvenile arthritis is among the most common chronic childhood disorders, causing severe pain, disability and even deformity.

The reality is many people who suffer from arthritis may not know what's causing the symptoms. As a result, they don't always go to seek medical attention immediately. Have you been diagnosed with arthritis or suspect you may have it? Have you been frustrated by the pain cycle?

The Arthritis Society offers a variety of programs and services to help people with arthritis become better informed on facing these challenges and on living well with arthritis. Health is a balance of mind, body, emotions and spirit.

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Plan to improve services for disabled people in North

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Northern leaders have signed a document committing to improve the lives of those living with disabilities.

Representatives from New North, Metis National Council, Metis Nation – Saskatchewan, and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations joined Gary Tinker from the Gary Tinker Federation for the Disabled last month in Saskatoon to sign the Declaration from the North.

“For too, too long the government neglected the issues in the North. It’s time for the leaders to sit down with the disabled individuals to come up with an action plan,” says Tinker, who was born in 1967 with cerebral palsy.

He has spent much of his life fighting for more services in the North for disabled people. Twenty-one years ago, he embarked on a walk south from La Ronge to raise awareness.

“It was easier to walk down that highway than it was getting the services (needed).”

Max Morin, Treasurer of the MN-S, agrees there used to be very little in the way of services.

“Twenty-one years ago, there were very few facilities. We’re still lacking, but what we do have, we have because



of Gary Tinker.”

Tinker says there have been some improvements. “Ramps today, now there’s ramps in the North. I never saw that before when I was growing up in the North.”

However, he says there is still a need for housing and transportation especially as the North continues to expand.

Tinker says another issue is that disabled people still have difficulty finding jobs.

“It’s so hard to get a job even with education,” he says. “That’s discrimination under the Constitution.”

Morin says that is definitely an area that leaders need to focus on. He recalled a participant’s story from last year’s Compassion to Action conference in La Ronge.

“He was staying at home, contemplating suicide,” he says. “We already have high unemployment in the North, so it’s harder to find jobs for people with disabilities.”

The Declaration says leaders will work to ensure disabled people have the same standard of living as others in the North. The Gary Tinker Federation will be taking the declaration around the North to be endorsed by communities in advance of next year’s Gary Tinker Disability Day on August 1, 2011.

MNC President Clem Chartier, FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild, MNS Secretary Max Morin and Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities Chair and Mayor of Buffalo Narrows Bobby Woods have Gary Tinker’s back. (Photo

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WAYNE RUDE

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

Wayly Burns is smiling after two announcements related to the Pehonan Hydroelectric Project.

"I'm very happy that everything is moving forward," the chief of the James Smith Cree Nation said in a phone interview.

On May 15, the James Smith Cree Nation, Peter Chapman Cree Nation, the Chakastapaysin Band of the Cree, plus its partners Brookfield Renewable Power and Kiewit and Sons Co., announced that an agreement was reached with SaskPower that permits the Pehonan Hydroelectric Project to continue to the feasibility stage of its development.

For the members of the three First Nations, it means that potentially hundreds of jobs will be created on James Smith territory, should the hydro project be constructed.

The other announcement came in June when Prince Albert MP Randy Hobuck said funding totalling \$15 million would be provided to the Fort-A-La-Corne Employment Development Partnership.

A powerful partnership

The announcement means that hundreds of aboriginal people from the area will be able to train through Cumberland College to become skilled workers and potentially work in the construction of the Pehonan Hydroelectric Project.

The idea of a hydroelectric project being located somewhere between the forks of the North and South Saskatchewan River and Nipawin has been talked about and studied for years.

Now the feasibility study will determine the project's economic viability, both from a technological and environmental perspective. It may take up to four years to complete the study.

It will also allow Brookfield to determine the best place to construct the dam and develop preliminary designs, said Ian Kerr, vice president of development for Brookfield.

The relationship between Brookfield and the three First Nations has been building positively since 2006, Kerr said. He added that the partnership is a good one, and there are many benefits for both sides.

"I think we're at a point now where there is a very solid relationship, and one that hopefully can stand the test of time because they're very long-term projects," Kerr said.

If the project goes ahead, Brookfield and James Smith have agreed on the principle of hiring local workers.

"It's really that we will give local preference wherever there are qualified persons available, and the terms are commercially competitive," he said.

It's all positive news for Chief Burns. But he says that his government now needs to develop a plan for when the project goes ahead so that housing, education, health and economic benefits can be enjoyed by everyone.

"(We need) to implement a good strategic plan in regards to the wealth that's going to come in," Burns said.

Burns is also confident that the environmental impact of the project will be minimal.

Pehonan will be a "run-of-river" project, according to Brookfield's website. A dam will be constructed across the river, and the water flow will be diverted through turbines that will generate electricity. No reservoirs would be created and the river would only rise marginally in the area of the hydro project itself.

Brookfield will have to meet all the provincial and federal environmental assessments for the project to go ahead, Kerr said.

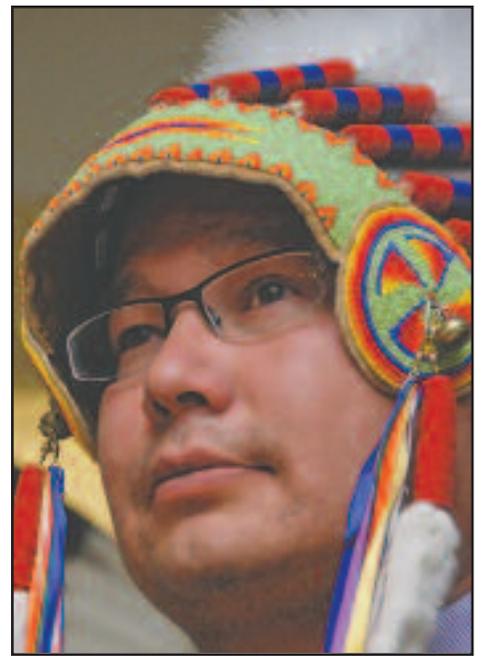
"We'll need to work closely with regulators," Kerr said.

If the project is constructed, Brookfield and the three First Nation Partners would be co-owners of the project. Both Kerr and Burns said that there has been much discussion about the ownership arrangement, but neither would comment in any detail.

"The Pehonan project is going to have a huge, I hope, positive impact, to James Smith as well as the whole Melfort area," says Wayne Rude, manager of aboriginal relations for SaskPower.

"Hydro in Canada just isn't going to be developed without First Nations' involvement in the future," he added.

Numerous First Nations across Saskatchewan are exploring renewable power generation projects of varying capacity. SaskPower recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Black Lake First Nations to begin talks regarding a hydroelectric project. Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has publicly expressed interest in a 200 megawatt hydro project. Meadow Lake Tribal Council has an MOU with a private partner



CHIEF WALLY BURNS

on a potential 84 megawatt biomass generator. Gordon Lake First Nation has talked to a private company to develop a multi-million dollar wind project.

There are a couple of factors that explain why numerous First Nations are looking into renewable energy. One is simply the fact that SaskPower anticipates increased demand for energy in the coming years. Another is the provincial government's willingness to work with First Nations on energy generation. In May, Premier Brad Wall issued a mandate letter to then Minister of Energy and Resources, Bill Boyd. In the letter, Wall indicates that SaskPower should "pursue co-generation opportunities with First Nations."

SaskPower is always looking at new electrical generation projects, says Wayne Rude. But he cautions that energy projects need to fit into SaskPower's supply needs.

"It doesn't mean that the projects are going to get built, it means we have the dialogue on them and see how does that fit into our short, medium and long term supply needs for Saskatchewan," Rude said.

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Ambassador to Vietnam a Circle of Honour recipient

By Verla Chatsis
For Eagle Feather News

My sister's latest accomplishment has turned our family into braggarts. Deborah Chatsis, a member of Ahtahkakoop First Nation, has been appointed as Canada's ambassador to Vietnam.

Our sister, Sandra, brother Brian, and I would like to take some credit for this, but we can't, so we'll just tell everyone we know what our sister has done. If our parents were still alive, my Dad's belly would have popped his suspenders and my Mom would have burst her bra with pride at the news.

Deborah's many achievements are partly the result of our parents, who encouraged us to get a good education. So after Deborah graduated from high school in Prince Albert, she went to the University of Saskatchewan. She received a mechanical engineering and a law degree, and then started working for the Department of Foreign Affairs. The job involves a lot of travel and living in other countries.

Deborah's first posting was in Beijing, China, and my parents were both excited and worried that she was so far away. My father went to visit her, probably just to make sure that the Canadian government was keeping his little girl safe. Deborah has lived in numerous places, including Columbia, Miami, Switzerland, New York City, and Ottawa. The family joke was that she was a spy, but some of her jobs included dealing with immigration issues, and representing Canada at the United Nations on human rights issues.

Deborah is very good at juggling multiple tasks – she makes the rest of our family look like lazy slugs by comparison. When she was back in Ottawa in 1998, she received her Master's degree in law from the University of Ottawa. That same year, Deborah won a Foreign Service award for her involvement with the treaty banning land mines.

While this was happening, she was also undergoing successful treatment for breast cancer. Again, my parents were both worried and proud. Since then, Deborah has worked in the Privy Council Office, spent 10 weeks in Afghanistan, and was director of the office of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. I read or watched TV while she did all this.

Not satisfied with three university degrees, in 2007 Deborah got her Master's

Degree in Public Administration from Harvard. This settled a 30-year argument about which one of us was smarter – I admitted that she was. After this, whenever anyone asked what I did, I would say, "I work in Edmonton, but did you know that my sister graduated from Harvard?" She makes us all look smarter than we are.

Deborah will be managing the Canadian embassy in Hanoi, which represents Canada's interests in Vietnam. Her official title is "Excellency", but in our family, we call her "Most Excellent" sister, aunt, niece, or cousin. Deborah, you have made the families of Chatsis, Ahenakew, Greyeyes and Favel puff out our chests and bigger bellies with pride.

2010 Circle of Honour recipients announced

The Circle of Honour Awards have been in existence since 1998. The awards will be handed out at a gala in Regina on September 13.

The remaining recipients of Circle of Honour Awards are: Russell Steven Gardipy - Professional Athlete, Waylon Riel Louison - Youth Role Model (Cultural), Warren Isbister - Health-Healing Policy Initiative, Oliver Cameron - Labour Force Development, Mistawasis Peacekeeper Program - Community Safety Award, Arthur Anderson - Citizen of the Year - Male, Patsy Roberts-Head - Citizen of the Year - Female, Melvin Littecrow - Lifetime Achievement Award, George Benson - Honourable Service Award, Nelson Bird - Media Award, Doreen George-Acoose - Honouring Our Mothers, Deborah Chatsis - Women Leadership Award, Native Son's Soccer Team - Team Award, Douglas Gamble - Justice Initiative - Individual Award, Chenaya Taypotat - Female Academic Achievement Award, Edmund Bull - Arts/Culture/Music Award, Darlene Lancelly - Teacher/Instructor Award, Cowessess First Nation Health - Healing and Policy Initiative Community Award, Dennis Sapp - Posthumous Award, Jesse Lee Greyeyes - Youth Disabilities Award, Jaimee Marks - Youth/Adolescent tobacco Control Initiative Award, Michael Linklater - Amateur Athlete Award, Courage Bear - Special Presentation, Cumberland House - Environmental Respect Community Award, Lac La Ronge Housing Demonstration Project - Housing Initiative Award, Thunder Employment and Field Services - Business First Nation Owned/Operated.

"The First Nation Circle of Honour Awards has become an institution of outstanding achievement that recognizes First Nation people in Saskatchewan," says FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild.



DEBORAH CHATSI

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Fans passionate about their Roughriders

Over the last couple editions, we have been soliciting Rider Pride stories and photos so we could give away some precious Riders tickets we had burning a hole in our pockets.

Congratulations to young MacKenzie Ericson Lemaigre and Don McKay for showing that Rider Pride (or frustration) in your dress and actions. MacKenzie will be attending her first ever Rider game at Mosaic Stadium ... we hope she has a gas. Their letters are below.

Hi there. I just saw the contest in the Eagle Feather News and thought I would share this story with you.

Last year's Grey Cup game will live on in many people's memory including our families. My eight-year-old daughter, MacKenzie, learned about football from her



Don McKay was kickin' it in the campground this summer with his custom Rider melon head that took him three hours to carve. Check out the three S's across the top. Nice attention to detail!

older brother who played three years for the Rosthern Longhorns. Prior to that no one in the family knew anything about football. (And this little girl would rather play dress up and dance then watch any type of sporting event).

Gearing up for the Grey Cup was the result of her school's passion for the Riders –Turgeon Community School in Prince Albert. She wore green proudly for the school and for her Riders.

The night of the big game she had her Rider gear on and waved her StarPhoenix flag of the Riders proudly. We watched the game intently and she cheered, booed and ate like she had been a fan forever. When the game was over and the reality hit that the Riders had lost, my sweet, darling, angel of a little girl turned into 'Number 1 Fan'. She tore off her jersey, stomped on it, and threw it in the garbage (the garbage! _do you know how much that cost), tore up her StarPhoenix flag and screamed "aughhhhhhhhhhh" how could they lose?

After I got over my shock of watching this unfold I had the best laugh ever. My baby, Riders number one fan!! Hope you enjoy the story – we sure do!! Thanks for the opportunity!!

MacKenzie Ericson-Lemaigre's mom, Wendy

Hi there.

I would like to enter my picture for the biggest Saskatchewan Roughriders Fan contest. I was on vacation this summer and was sitting at St. Brieux Lake watching the July 31 game against Hamilton and this is what I looked like sitting at the camp ground watching the game outdoors.

I bought that watermelon at the St. Brieux Co-op and it took me about three hours to carve it out. Those are SK Rough Riders sunglasses. Not bad for a Cumberland House Boy Yeah!

My most memorable game was three years ago in



MacKenzie Ericson-Lemaigre was so upset after the Riders lost the 2009 Grey Cup because of the 13th man, she stomped on and threw out her Riders jersey and would not let mom take it out of the garbage (her mom borrowed one for this photo!) Her parents promised her a new jersey if they went to a game in Regina. Looks like MacKenzie gets a new jersey in October. MacKenzie is a member of the Clearwater River Dene Nation.

August when we were sitting at the game in Regina and a storm moved in and knocked the power out and it was hailing. The game was completely sold out and when the power went out and it was hailing fans were panicking and running out of the Stadium but my wife and I stayed in our seats. The Riders were losing when the power went out.

The game resumed about 45 minutes later and half of the fans were still in the stands.

The Riders players were so impressed that half of the fans stayed to watch the rest of the game that it gave the players extra motivation and they ended up winning that game, it was against Edmonton.

Don McKay

CANADIAN
NATIVE
FASTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **CANADIAN NATIVE FASTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS** held July 30 - August 1 were a great success. On behalf of the 2010 hosts Dakota Cree Sports, its member First Nations Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Whitecap Dakota First Nation, and Saskatoon Tribal Council, we want to say **Thank You** to our sponsors, organizers and volunteers.

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Youth Empowerment Week

September 24th - 29th 2010
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Saturday September 25
@ White Buffalo Youth Lodge

Opportunity Fair / Carnival /
Motivational Speakers
@ White Buffalo Youth Lodge
Grade 6 - 8 : September 28th
Grade 9 - 12 : September 29th

Youth Empowerment Week
Hip-Hop Dance
@ Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre
Grade 9 - 12 : Wednesday September 29th

For more info contact:
Kendra Greyeyes - 306-956-6181
Booth/Vendor info contact:
Tenille Thomson - 306-978-0391
*More updates and activities to be announced

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