

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Speaking up for education

Elders Rose Atimoyoo and Gladys Wapass Greyeyes check out Making The Connection. Gladys commented that if she knew the media were taking pictures, she would have brought her bathing suit! (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Language seen as foundation of culture

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

An amazing collection of Elders shared their stories and thoughts on Cree education practices with a university researcher over 15 years ago. Those thoughts were the basis of a study that turned into a Master's thesis titled The Foundations of Cree Education by Gordon Lobe.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner and Gordon Lobe have now published a logical and practical book for the education system by translating those Elders' words into positive strategies that identify important ways that the Cree community can connect with the education system.

They gathered at Wanuskewin with the surviving Elders and the families of those that had passed to commemorate the launch of the book Making the Connection.

Elder Gladys Wapass Greyeyes and Elder Rose Atimoyoo took time to talk to the media before the ceremonies and both were grateful to have been able to contribute to the project because education was very

important to both of them.

"My mother taught me I have two ears to listen with, and eyes to see, that's how I learned," said Elder Gladys Wapass Greyeyes who took part in the interviews several years ago.

"You listened, looked and learned. And today the difference is our children go to school and learn to read and write. That's one way to pass on the teachings.

"I would appreciate it if the stories are written exactly the way we tell them. It is difficult because you can't literally translate Cree to English. You lose a lot."

Elder Gladys taught Cree for 16 years and also speaks in schools for Treaties in the Classroom. She also has three daughters that teach.

Elder Rose Atimoyoo was fortunate to retain her language because she sees language as the root of your culture.

"Luckily I never did attend the residential school. My mother attended for years and she said none of my kids are going to that school. No one can replace a parent at home.

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Wilma Isbister believes she has the best job in Saskatchewan. And she's got \$2.6 million to back her claim.

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Welcome to our
Role Model Edition
Coming In November:
Veterans Issue
CPMA #40027204

Governments challenged to honour treaty right to education

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

Guy Lonechild's voice reverberated in the glass teepee-shaped atrium at the centre of First Nations University's iconic Regina campus.

The Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations was the first of many to speak before a large crowd of people concerned about the state of post-secondary education. The FSIN's message was aimed at federal and provincial governments to continue funding for post-secondary students.

His finger jabbed the air as he made his points: that there have been over 4,000 post-secondary graduates in the past year who make important economic contributions to Canada; that by 2016, more than 23 per cent of 20 to 30-year-olds in Saskatchewan will be First Nations; that in the same province, about 1,000 First Nations are denied their Treaty right to education each year. The gathered crowd responded enthusiastically to Lonechild's speech.

Among the hundreds of students, elders, children, parents, and staff attending the rally was Clara Acoose and her children. Sebastian's neon green sign read INVEST IN MY FUTURE.

Morgan del Rey's pink sign read LONG LIVE FNU.

It will be years before they have their chance to attend university, but Clara Acoose says that she wants them to have the best opportunities, as much as any other person.

"Their investment in the future is through education," Acoose says.

Acoose lives on Sakimay First Nation, and says it is a typical First Nation where 70 per cent of the popula-



Students, Elders, children and staff gathered at FNUC in Regina to voice concerns over insufficient post secondary funding for First Nation students. (Photo by Michael Bell)

tion is on social assistance or is unemployed.

"I don't want (my kids) to be in that statistic. So it's important that we show our support now," Acoose says.

When asked about her own experience with education, she mentions that her parents lost their language through the residential school system. But when she was a student at FNUC, she had a chance to

learn something of her Saulteaux language. It was important to her, and will be to her children too.

Funding for FNU should be more stable, that it must be stressful for students to not know from one year to another if there will be funding available, said Acoose.

"It's a one of a kind institution, and we're fighting tooth and nail to keep it open," she added.



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Ahenakew inspires Cree Literacy Network



preserving Cree.

“In order to keep our language, we’re going to have to make sure our younger generations are able to read it and write and for them to pass this on

to their children and their grandchildren.

“I come from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, and how can my grandchildren and great-grandchildren truly say that they are of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation if they know nothing about Cree? It’s so important. That’s who we are. It’s our identity.”

Another friend of the network is Arden Ogg, who first worked with Ahenakew 25 years ago when Ahenakew was pursuing her Master’s at the University of Manitoba. Ogg says she learned how to make books from working with her as a researcher and a typographer.

Ogg calls Ahenakew “infectious” and says that is what inspired her.

“The Cree language is a beautiful language. It’s not my language but I’ve become passionate about it through knowing Freda and her work,” Ogg says.

“I see that this is a place where maybe I can help to make a difference. I can help to contribute to this need for reading materials for Cree speakers.”

Ogg says right now the network is creating a list of people who are interested in preserving the language. She says the goal is to make people fluent in reading and writing the language and provide the resources to do that.

“The bookshelves are empty. People are being taught to read, but there are very, very few books for people to use those reading skills on. That’s a deep need that we hope we can address by publishing books of all different sorts ... books for babies, books for young children.

“We want to make books appropriate for adult literacy. We want to have books that talk about culture and the natural environment.”

**By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News**

A national Cree Literacy Network was launched in Saskatoon last month, and during the celebration, the writings of a long-time author and advocate for the language were also honoured.

Freda Ahenakew is one of the founders of the network, and she also wrote the book telling the personal stories of Cecilia Masuskapoe, piko kíkway ê-nakacihtât: kékêk otâcimowina ê-nêhiyawastêki.

Although Ahenakew is 92-years-old, and her health is failing, she still attended the launch, as did her daughter, Dolores Sand, who read selections from her mother’s latest book.

Sand says the network is so important because it will provide resources to people across the country who are interested in



Cecilia Masuskapoe and Freda Ahenakew were the centres of attention at the launch of the Cree Literacy Network.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Athabasca Basin	When	Where
	Tues. Oct. 12, 6-9 pm	Fond du Lac Father Gamache Memorial School Gymnasium
	Wed. Oct. 13, 6-9 pm	Stony Rapids Stony Rapids School Gymnasium
	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
Central Region	When	Where
	Mon. Oct. 18, 6-9 pm	Pinehouse Minahik Waskahigan School Gymnasium
	Tues. Oct. 19, 6-9 pm	Patuanak 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.





Editorial

Role models in demand

The number of role models in our community is amazing and they are changing people's lives every day in Saskatchewan. But there is only so much time and so many people to go around and sadly some kids don't have role models. Or the ones they do have teach them the wrong things. Unfortunately I was witness to the end result of that last month.

I was parked and sitting in my car talking on my cell phone in downtown Saskatoon at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on a Wednesday. Three young fellas crossed the street walking towards me. Nice clean-cut boys of about 14 with bright eyes and smiles and all wearing new crisp red caps and red t-shirts and nice clean baggy pants.

If you were watching a TV commercial, it might have been for boys' clothes, or laundry detergent. If you are in Saskatoon, it's a bit different.

After they passed my car, I looked in the rear view window and they were approaching an old man in a motorized wheelchair. As I watched, they surrounded the poor guy and started rifling through his saddlebags and personals.

I stopped my phone call, got out of the car and yelled at the boys. Two immediately fled, while the last one looked at me, continued to rifle the poor guy's fanny pack, grabbed his money then booked into the alley after his friends.

I started to chase them and the first thought I had when I entered the alley was of me being stabbed in the guts (there is a reason why kids in Pleasant Hill wear cookie trays in the front of their pants).

Fortunately, the three young lads were bounding down the alley like little deer, laughing and knowing the old dude behind them would never catch them. They were right.

Long story short, I phoned the police, we looked for them but never caught them. The old man, who can barely move his arms to defend himself, was out \$40, which to him is a lot of money.

What prompts these kids to prey on a very vulnerable person over \$40? I am sure by the time they got back to the rest of their pack of friends that the story had grown so that they had rolled a 6'2 muscle head that had a bat. But I digress. Where did they learn that was okay? Would their parents really teach them that?

Until we really tear down the gang culture in this province and make behaviour like that shown by our little friends unacceptable, we will continue to lose good kids to bad.

So tip of the hat to role models that work with kids and lead them in the right way. Cheers to the men at Str8up and Father Andre for doing the right thing and convincing gang members to drop those colours and be men.

The good news is there are lots of positive role models featured in this edition; people who represent the future of our community. As for the others, there has to be a better way to reach them than chasing them down an alley.

Next month in Eagle Feather

November is always a time to reflect on the sacrifices and victories of our soldiers and veterans. With it being the Year of the Métis and the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Batoche, we will have a special feature on Métis and First Nations veterans past and present.

Also, the play, The Trial of Louis Riel, will be touring the province in November and we will talk to its producer about the experience. And no doubt we will have analysis and thoughts on the real trial of Métis leader Louis Riel.

Our Letters from Inside feature continues to draw comments and has led to an invite to attend the Saskatoon Correctional Centre for a visit with some members of the ministry. That should make for some interesting conversations and observations.

We will bring them to you plus the FSIN Powwow.

Rank Comix

Adam Martin

THERE'S A LOT OF DISTRUST FOR OUR
INAC FUNDED LEADERS

THEY'RE PERFECT FOR PARLIAMENT

YEAH, INAC SUCKS.



Youngsters demonstrated their displeasure with government's inability to adequately fund education for First Nations students. The rally took place at FNUC in Regina.

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Phone: 306.978.8118 Toll Free: 866.323.6397 Fax: 306.978.8117

Publisher/Editor: John Lagimodiere, johnl@eaglefeathernews.com

Associate Editor: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

Advertising and Sales: Peggy Robillard, peggy.robillard@sasktel.net, 306.202.8005

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

You can eliminate the stuff, but not the memories

“Are you stressed, stretched, cluttered and most days just feeling miserable? If you are, here are some ideas that might kick start your creative juices, take you down memory lane and who knows, might even motivate you not to think about, but, to actually make a life style change.”

This is a quote from an article in a magazine I was reading while waiting for my dentist. It is all about this whole new movement to de-clutter, downsize and move out of your big house into a tiny one. “You don’t need all that room, all that stuff!”

In other words just live like we use to live not all that long ago on the Rez or on the Road Allowance. You know, a 12x12, 16x16 or if you were more well off, an 18x18 shack. Only the writer didn’t call it a shack. He called it “Sweet petite home,” a quirky little house with a tennis court and a breath taking view.

Well, I guess one could say our shacks were quirky and, yes, often with breathtaking views but surrounded by things that were related to survival, food gathering, hunting and fishing. There are no tennis courts in my memory.

Most folks in my childhood began their married life in a 12x12 shack and as children came along they would just cut a few poplar poles and slap another shack alongside the old one. The women would mud plaster and white wash it and presto! Another room. Some people had as many as four shacks strung together as babies started to arrive.

However more than four would have been costly as well as dangerous. Costly in that you had to buy an airtight heater for each room if you wanted to stay warm and

dangerous because they would get red hot in minutes. How many of you have scars on your bums from getting too close to its hot red sides?

I didn’t, but my sister had a scar for life as did many other people. I remember visiting a bunch of Michif girlfriends one night and nearly everyone had a scar which they showed off after several shots of wine. We laughed and told “shack” stories all night.

How we ever survived those long freezing winters is beyond me. By rights we should have burned up or froze to death and some people actually did. Lots of them, in fact. Dangerous is too mild a word to describe those heaters.

They got red hot real fast and one had to be vigilant, watching small children who might fall against them, watching that the wet cloths hanging on the wall to dry didn’t catch fire.

And the stove pipes, all held together with wire, could at any time come crashing to the floor no matter how well you secure them.

“Fire!” How many of you out there remember being woke from a dead sleep by your mom screaming “Fire! Fire! Pusi kook kway aho!” and you scrambling out of bed and racing into the freezing cold in your longjohns as the adults formed a human chain filling the bucket from the water barrel beside “the heater” and handing it out to dad up on the roof where flames were shooting out.

And, of course, there were those nights



when the firekeeper fell asleep and you woke up with your hair frozen to the wall. Yes, seriously. Frozen to the wall or the very least covered with frost. A cousin went to bed with wet hair one night and guess what?

You can just imagine what his messed up hair looked like.

My dad was smart. When he could no longer add another shack due to the cost of purchasing more heaters, he decided to build up. It was 16x16, still small but taller, and best of all, after cutting a hole in the ceiling the heat came upstairs and we were warm. The hole was kind of troublesome. At first I think we all crashed into the kitchen at least once until we remembered to watch where we stepped.

We all slept in one room but mom separated the rooms with flour sack curtains so we had a two-story, three bedroom house. We were not exactly a small family either. There was mom and dad, our cheechum and our nokom plus my seven sibling and often one or two aunties. We also had a large extended family who visited often, sometimes for several days at a time. The adults slept on the beds and the kids, sometimes 20 of us would sleep on the floors.

Today when I am complaining that I don’t have enough room I remember that house and I have to laugh and I think of my friend who has a room just for her clothes and shoes never mind the bedrooms, bathrooms, laundry and storage rooms, the huge kitchen, dining and living room. Our whole road allowance would have fit in it.

Her children are all gone and there’s just

her and her husband rattling around in it. Her kokom would have thought she died and went to heaven to have all that room.

I have a two bedroom house, bigger then the house I grew up in and I have to rent storage space. What am I storing? Treasures, lots of treasures. I love fabric you see I am one day going to stay home and just make quilts but I am not cheap but I am too thrifty to go to fabric stores.

I go to every second hand store I can find from one end of Canada to the other. I’ve even dragged old clothes home from Scotland, England and other far away countries. You’d be surprised what those people give away. I buy old skirts, nice soft wool ones in wonderful faded colors and I wash them and lovingly cut them up, iron them and put them in zip lock bags and store them in boxes clearly marked “quilting.”

I’ve been doing that for years and I now have boxes and boxes and boxes and ... well ... you get the picture. I also have boxes of paper and hundreds of books. I’ve been collecting them for years. Some of them are collectors ... one day they will be worth a fortune. Well, you collectors out there know what I mean.

Yes I know I need to get rid of stuff but just the thought of doing it gives me panic attacks, sends my blood pressure soaring, gives me a migraine. Move into a “Sweet petite home” an environmentally friendly little green house.

I don’t think so ... I’ve been there and my memories although funny are not that wonderful and who knows, maybe I will quilt one day and I’ll be sorry I gave all that fabric away.

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Still waiting for first Indigenous Governor General

There has been a lot of media coverage of late, including on these pages, on the subject of the Governor General, who, if the media is to be believed, is a cross between a rock star and a Mother Theresa.

I do not particularly wish to douse the flame of reverence and admiration that some have for the Haitian immigrant Michaëlle Jean whose term has come to an end, but Canadians ought to rethink whether the office of the GG itself is one that ought to come to an end.

This is particularly the case for indigenous people, whose views on the office and role of the Governor-General are unique, to say the least.

The apparent support for the office in Canada seems to focus on the personality of the person holding the job rather than the role of the office itself. This contrasts with the growing movement in Australia for replacing the office of the GG with a head of state such as a president elected by the people and a movement in the United Kingdom for replacing the Queen.

I was living in Australia during the political crisis of November 1975 caused by the dismissal by the Governor General Sir John Kerr of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, who roared to the people from the steps of Parliament, "maintain your

rage". You will get a sense of the feelings in the country from the fact that Sir John Kerr, the son of a butcher, saw fit to exile himself to England, where he died away from his homeland.

Most of the time the job of the GG is to cut cakes and ribbons and to rubber stamp legislation passed by Parliament, but on rare occasions the job includes duties exercisable in times of political crisis, such as a dead-

locked Parliament or a political ploy to avoid responsibility to Parliament, as happened with Steven Harper, the leader of the minority Conservative government last year.

Harper went and asked GG Jean to prorogue Parliament. There is no equivalent to danger pay for the crisis role of the GG.

In the early days the office of GG in the colonies like Canada and Australia was a handy dumping ground for British upper-class cousins that the political elite preferred to have at a bit of a distance away. I suspect that the most prominent names known to the public of holders of the largely irrelevant office of GG will be

the two whose names are associated with the Stanley Cup in hockey and the Grey Cup in football.

In former years when the office was given to Canadians the appointees were usually men with a distinguished public service record who had passed their 'best before' dates and were rewarded with an easy retirement perk, if you don't count having to stand around in public wearing a

stiff and ornate uniform.

Things began to change as the office came to be politicized in the era of Pierre Trudeau who appointed his potential political rival the young Premier of Manitoba, Ed Shreyer, to the post of GG.

A problem with appointing young people is that they outlast their term of office and it just does not seem right to knock on doors for a job and have 'GG' on your resume, does it?

Shreyer was named ambassador to Australia and now Jean is to have a tailor-made United Nations gig. By the way the sycophantic prattle of the press is exemplified by their breathless coverage of Jean's visit to Haiti, where she was

described as offering a model for young Haitians. She may be one of the nicest people you may want to meet, but surely if her life is to be a model for Haitians, the lesson is to leave Haiti, go to Canada and marry a white man.

Nevertheless, she still seems to convey a better image than her predecessor whose own daughters boycotted her investiture.

No doubt today the office of GG is used by the appointing Prime Minister to promote party gains.

If symbolism is important in public affairs, and I believe it is, what does it say that no indigenous person has been appointed? What does it say about the job when the GG is reported to have admitted in her last visit to Saskatoon, that she did not know enough about Treaties to answer questions about them?

What does it say about the office when we observe that the Treaties were entered into in the name of the Governor General and his representatives?

How useful is the office when its symbolic role is still believed by some Elders to be the focus of the Treaty relationship?

Are we not better off creating new institutions that can be effective in promoting Treaty implementation?



Comment
Paul Chartrand



Vigil stresses importance of helping one another

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

The annual October 4 "Sisters in Spirit Vigil" continues to grow in Saskatoon and across Canada. Community gathered at Oskayak High School, led in prayer by Elder Georgina Musqua, before proceeding with signs and candles, then gathering in the Oskayak gymnasium for soup and bannock, speakers, song, drumming, and a round dance.

While many women shared heart-breaking stories about missing loved ones, the men also came out to show support. Drummers Bobby Rainey Jr. of the Whitefish Jr's, and friends, led the march with a police escort. Drivers honked support, while some Nutana residents waved from houses, yards, and apartment balconies.

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild emphasized the importance of prayer and looking out for one another.

"We must make sure our women are

protected now, and here, and forever."

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette said there would be no Aboriginal peoples without First Nation and Métis women.

"I had to be here because of my daughters – I have three daughters and they mean the world to me," Doucette said.

"Missing doesn't mean only physically missing – it is all those taken away during the residential schools, the '60s scoops, our missing language and cultures."

Audrey Ben tearfully spoke about her niece Calinda Waterhen, murdered by serial killer John Martin Crawford.

"We are very powerful women no matter what people say about us. We need to take back our power. There are so many that want to give up. So please, iskwewuk, walk your route, stick to your language, go back to your Elders, be a good mother or grandmother. Please go back to your roots," said Ben. "Help one another stand together."

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Peacekeepers offers youth leadership skills

For the past 15 years the Saskatoon Police Service along with its partners, John Howard Society and members of the community, have teamed up to offer a unique program for youth ages 12-18.

The Peacekeepers Leadership Development Program provides youth the opportunity to develop experience and learn skills and techniques that are beneficial in many aspects of their lives.

Activities and excursions are planned throughout the year. This fall the 14 successful youth earned a trip to Canmore, Alberta. In Canmore, the youth were involved in team building exercises that include hiking and mountain biking in the Rockies.

Michael Linklater, member of the University of Saskatchewan National Champion Basketball team joined the youth to speak about the obstacles, gang influences, and barriers that he faced growing up.

Over the course of the year, the Peacekeepers Leadership Development Program youth are involved with community volunteering, recycling projects and fund raising events in order to develop their potential leadership skills.



The Peacekeepers and Saskatoon Police were joined by role model Mike Linklater (far left) as they biked in Canmore, Alberta. (Photo Matt Maloney)

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Métis health study revealing

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Although this health study is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan, Métis leaders are not surprised by the results.

The Metis Nation – Saskatchewan partnered with the University of Saskatchewan and First Nations University of Canada to survey more than 1,500 Métis citizens about their health. The study was released the end of September.

MN-S President Robert Doucette says the results aren't shocking.

"As this and many other reports generated across Canada on Metis health all conclude one thing: Métis citizens generally have poorer health than the average Canadian, do not have access to other programs and services afforded to First Nations and Inuit Canadians, and have higher rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure."

The study found that more than half of those surveyed use tobacco, calling it a major public health issue and leading cause of premature death.

High blood pressure, particularly in those over the age of 50, was also noted as an area to tackle, with 25.5 per cent of participants suffering from it, while the general Canadian population sits around 21 per cent.

The study found diabetes rates around 12.5 per cent, which is similar to rates among

First Nations people. The study found there were higher rates among those who are unemployed.

MN-S Secretary Max Morin says the disparities in service in the North are very real. He says he knows of Elders with cancer who have hitch-hiked to Saskatoon for treatment.

"Because there's no availability of services. They don't have coverage. They only have old age pension to live with, and they don't have any way of coming down to Saskatoon."

Doucette says sometimes Elders have to choose between eating and medications as well.

However, not all the news was bad, as noted by Dr. Vivian Ramsden, Association Professor of Family Medicine at the U of S. She says funding has been provided for the Green Light Program.

"(This) will identify smoke-free homes and build on the strengths rather than focus on what we can't do at the moment. And, then subsequently look at tobacco addiction in a way that will be with the community, and how we might do that might is with peer counselling and other elements," explains Ramsden.

She says the key will be to work with the communities to find out what their needs are.

Doucette says this study will help the MN-S access funding because he says governments only provide dollars if there is evidence to back up the concerns.



Dr. Vivian Ramsden and MN-S President Robert Doucette released the Métis health study showing more than half of respondents use tobacco. (Photo by Darla Read)

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

**ABORIGINAL HEALTH CAREERS
BURSARY AWARDS**

**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION (PSE)
BURSARY AWARDS**

**Deadline to apply to the
National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation
is NOVEMBER 1, 2010**

The above bursaries are open to those in full-time studies anytime between September 2010 and August 2011. Full eligibility criteria is available in the respective application guidelines.

2010-2011 Bursary and Scholarship recipients are not eligible to apply.

The above bursary applications are open to
First Nation, Inuit & Métis applicants

If you have questions, please contact the
Education Department of NAAF
Telephone at 1.800.329.9780
Email: education@naaf.ca

naaf.ca



NEW TOBACCO CONTROL LEGISLATION

IMPORTANT CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1st

New provincial legislation prohibits smoking in the following locations:

In vehicles when a child under 16 years of age is present.

Within 3 metres of doorways, windows and air intakes of public buildings. (This includes shopping centres, restaurants, bars, recreational facilities, office buildings, and more.)

Common areas of multi-unit dwellings.

Protecting people from exposure to tobacco smoke is important. It supports a healthier Saskatchewan for everyone.

For more information contact:

1-800-667-7766
www.health.gov.sk.ca



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Health

Breast cancer survival rate shows impressive gains

The neck bone's connected to the breast bone ... It was a sea of pink Sunday Oct. 3 as thousands of people participated in the CIBC Run for the Cure.

Did you know that breast cancer affects thousands of Canadian families every year? The good news is since 1999, the incidence of breast cancer in Canada has stabilized and breast cancer mortality rates have declined 30 per cent since 1986.

The great news is that the five-year survival rate for breast cancer has increased to 87 per cent. The significant improvement in survival rates for women with breast cancer is a result of increased participation in regular screening mammography programs and improvements and treatments.

The Canadian Cancer Society encourages women to take an active role in maintaining their health to reduce their risk of cancer. When cancer is found early, it is often easier to treat, so it is important to be aware of your body and discuss any changes you notice with your doctor.

We also recommend becoming familiar with screening programs available in your province. I encourage women to get to know how their breasts. Look and feel for changes in the breast and armpit areas, and have unusual changes checked by your doctor. Have regular clinical breast

exams performed by a trained health care professional. Reduce your risk of developing breast cancer by being physically active and eating a healthy diet.

No matter what your age, breast health starts with knowing your breasts. You should be aware of what is normal for your breasts even if you are having regular screening tests. Many women discover their own breast cancer through changes in the look and feel of their breasts.

Breast tissue covers an area larger than just the breast. It extends up to the collarbone and from the armpit across to the breastbone in the centre of the chest. The breasts sit on the chest muscles that cover the ribs. Become familiar with your breast tissue by looking at and feeling your breasts.

Experts used to suggest that this should be done by following a particular method every month. Research has shown that this isn't necessary. There really isn't a right or wrong way to check your breasts, as long as you get to know the whole area of your breast tissue – up to your collarbone, under your armpits and including



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

your nipples – well enough to notice changes.

So, get to know your breasts and what is normal for you, any way that works best for you.

It may be normal for your breasts to be lumpy or tender before your period. Breast tissue changes with age, too. Understanding what is normal for you will help you recognize changes and know what to report to your doctor.

Remember, lumps in the breast are very common, especially just before your period. Keep in mind that most lumps are not breast cancer. Most often breast cancer is first noticed as a painless lump in the breast or armpit.

You or your partner may discover the lump, or your doctor may find it during a routine physical exam or screening mammogram. Other signs might include: lump or swelling in the armpit, changes in breast size or shape, dimpling or puckering of the skin – thickening and dimpling skin is sometimes called orange peel, redness, swelling and increased warmth in the affected breast, inverted nipple – nipple turns inwards, or crusting or scaling on the nipple.

Often, these symptoms are not caused by cancer. Other health problems can cause them. Testing is necessary to make a diagnosis. Men have breast tissue just like women, and can develop breast cancer.

In Canada, less than one per cent of all breast cancers occur in men. Breast cancer is most commonly diagnosed in men over 60, but can be found in men of all ages. Breast health starts with knowing your breasts so that you are more likely to notice changes that may lead to problems.

The most frequently diagnosed kind of breast cancer in men is found in the breast ducts (ductal carcinoma). Common symptoms are: a small, painless lump close in the breast, or a small discharge from the nipple. Being a man and being treated for breast cancer can affect how you feel about your body and your sexuality.

Whether you're single or have a partner, talking about these issues and finding information to help you cope can be difficult. A good start is to talk to your healthcare team. They can help you get the information and support that you need.

Thank you for your emails and letters we love hearing from the readers. Write to Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon Sask. S7K 3M4 or email Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

Early detection is your best defence against breast cancer

More than one out of every three women in Canada will develop cancer during her lifetime, but when cancer is found early it is generally more treatable and people have a better chance of survival. This makes screening and early detection your best defence against cancer.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency operates provincial screening programs for the early detection of breast and cervical cancers.

"Every woman screened is a potential life saved," said Sangeeta Gupta, manager of the Screening Program for Breast Cancer. "Early detection makes a difference and having a mammogram is an effective way of detecting breast cancer."

Women 50 to 69 years of age can receive a mammogram at offices located in Regina and Saskatoon, and through satellite offices in Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Swift Current, Prince Albert, and North Battleford. A mobile unit also provides mammograms for women in over 44 different rural and northern sites over a two-year cycle.

Women do not need a doctor's referral to make an appointment for a mammogram through the Screening

Program for Breast Cancer.

Given that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, women are encouraged to book an appointment by calling 1-800-667-0017 (Regina) or 1-800-567-7271 (Saskatoon).

October is also known for national Pap Test Week. A Pap test takes precious little time to have done, but it could save a woman's life.

Through the Prevention Program for Cervical Cancer, Saskatchewan women 18 to 69 years are encouraged to have regular Pap tests as the best way to prevent cervical cancer. Oct. 24 to 30 is national Pap test week.

"Our goal during this week is to make it easy for women to get a Pap test simply by dropping in at a participating clinic in her health region," said Jenny Colin, manager of the Prevention Program for Cervical Cancer.

Women can find a list of Pap test clinics on the internet at www.saskcancer.ca or by calling the screening program at 1-800-667-0017.

While no test is 100 per cent effective, what screening does is provide an opportunity to detect cancer early and potentially save a life.

Early detection saves lives

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency operates prevention and early detection programs, provides safe, quality cancer treatment and conducts innovative research.

For more information call 1-800-667-0017 or visit www.saskcancer.ca

PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR CERVICAL CANCER



SCREENING PROGRAM FOR BREAST CANCER

Legislation protects people from tobacco smoke

The Saskatchewan government is following through on its commitment to protect children under 16 from second-hand smoke in vehicles.

This is one of the provisions that came into effect on Oct. 1 as part of the second round of amendments under The Tobacco Control Amendment Act. It also includes prohibiting smoking in enclosed common areas of multi-unit dwellings and prohibiting smoking within three meters of doorways, windows and air intakes of public buildings.

Other provisions that will also come into effect at this time are prohibiting the sale of little cigars in packages of less than 20, a ban on all outdoor signs that advertise tobacco products, and increased restrictions on the use of indoor signs promoting tobacco.

"Protecting people from exposure to tobacco smoke is important and we believe this new tobacco control legislation supports a healthier Saskatchewan for everyone," Health Minister Don McMorris said.

The legislation under The Tobacco Control Amendment Act is being implemented in three stages. The provision prohibiting tobacco use on school grounds was proclaimed on August 15.

"The Oct. 1 provisions will further restrict youth access to tobacco products and continue to protect our residents from the harms of environmental

tobacco smoke," McMorris added.

The final stage will occur early in 2011 and will

include the provision that prohibits the sale of tobacco in pharmacies.

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Clinics open October 12

<p>PrairieLand Park 503 Ruth Street W.</p> <p>Tuesday - Friday October 12 - 15 10 am - 7 pm</p> <p>Saturday, October 16 10 - 5 pm</p> <p>Monday & Tuesday October 18-19 10 am - 7 pm</p> <p>Monday - Wednesday November 1 - 3 9 am - 6 pm</p>	<p>Cosmo Civic Centre 3130 Laurier Drive</p> <p>Wednesday October 20 10 am - 6 pm</p> <p>Cornerstone Church 315 Lenore Drive</p> <p>Thursday & Friday October 21 & 22 10 am - 6 pm</p> <p>Saturday October 23 10 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 12 & 19 CUMFI/Our Neighbourhood Health Centre 315 Avenue M South 10 am - 4 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, October 13 & 20 St. Thomas Wesley Church 808 20th Street W. 1 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, October 13 Food Bank 202 Avenue C South 9 am - 3 pm</p> <p>Thursday, October 14 Indian & Metis Friendship Centre 168 Wall Street 10 am - 4 pm</p> <p>Thursday, October 14 & 21 W. P. Bate School 2515 18th Street West 1:30 - 4 pm</p> <p>Friday, October 15 Friendship Inn 619 20th Street West 10 am - 2 pm</p> <p>Monday, October 18 Pleasant Hill School 215 Avenue S South 12:30 - 4 pm</p>
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For more information and other clinic locations:

Check the October Saskatoon SUN ads, visit www.4flu.ca or call the flu line at **(306) 655-4358** or **1-877-757-4358**



Grants Available

2011 SASKATOON COLLABORATIVE FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

For Saskatoon based organizations only.

2011 APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 30, 2010

The Saskatoon Collaborative Funding Partnership is a collaboration of the following Saskatoon and area funding organizations. Its members all use the same application form in order to make it easier and simpler for community groups to apply for grants.

- City of Saskatoon - Social Services Grant
- Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)
- United Way of Saskatoon and Area - Community Initiatives Fund

All new applicants for funding from the members of the Saskatoon Collaborative Funding Partnership must attend an information workshop.

Please call 975-3383 to register for one of the workshops.

For more information on the funding priorities and criteria of each funder contact the funder directly.

- City of Saskatoon - Social Services Grant
Phone: 975-3383 Website: www.saskatoon.ca (look under "G" for Grants)
- Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)
OFI Program Development Officer - Phone: 373-0528
UAS Coordinator - Phone: 477-9347
- United Way of Saskatoon and Area - Community Initiatives Fund
Phone: 975-7700
Website: www.unitedwaysaskatoon.ca



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Société canadienne
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Tootoosis returns to stage in role of Gordon Winter

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The play *Gordon Winter*, by playwright Kenneth Williams, is about an RCMP officer, outspoken activist, residential school survivor, community leader and staunch bigot who gets charged with promoting hatred after a racist comment is said at an inopportune time.

Sound sort of familiar? If the life and times of deceased First Nation leader David Ahenakew popped into mind, then Williams will be happy, because that is who he had in mind when he wrote the play.

"This play is not about David Ahenakew, but he is the shadow that is cast on this play," said Williams during a break in rehearsals at the Persephone Theatre.

"Knowing the story, I had to write about it because it is an amazingly dramatic situation. You have a great man who did great things, but at the end of his life, he is defined by a moment of extreme bigotry.

"Now how do you come to terms with that? So we try to show in the play who Gordon Winter is and why he became the man that he is."

Tagged to play *Gordon Winter* is Saskatchewan acting legend Gordon Tootoosis. This will be his return to the theatre stage after a 16 year absence dedicated to TV, film and the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company. Adding to the play is the fact that Tootoosis was good friends with David Ahenakew and his family but that doesn't bother Tootoosis.

"I took it as a storyteller would. A story needs to be told. I am a storyteller and will tell it the way the writer created it. That's my job," said Tootoosis.

"Personally, he was a good friend as is his family, but as a professional, that's different and we are here to tell this story."



Gordon Tootoosis with *Gordon Winter* playwright Kenneth Williams.

Tootoosis was glad to be walking back into a theatre again, but he admits that at first he was worried.

"It was a hell of a feeling coming back, totally different. I first thought I got myself into something I couldn't handle," laughed Tootoosis.

"In TV and film I had no problem with dialogue. I would learn lines on the spot, do it, then leave it and forget it. On stage for a run of many days, you can't do that. But it is an interesting challenge. I am glad I am back.

"The rest of the cast is a wild bunch and I am having so much fun, I wish I was at least 20 or 30 years younger to keep up to them."

The play will run in the Deep End, the back stage at Persephone and they expect record crowds. Williams has proven to be a hit playwright and when *Gordon Winter* opens, it will see Williams have two opening nights on the same day and three plays on the go around Canada.

And to have Gordon Tootoosis star in his most recent creation is a big feather in his cap.

"To have Gordon do one of my plays is an honour, a thrill and fun," said Williams. "You think of his resume and how accomplished he is but he is a very humble man and he is working hard with the rest of this great cast and, believe me, they are thrilled to be working with him."

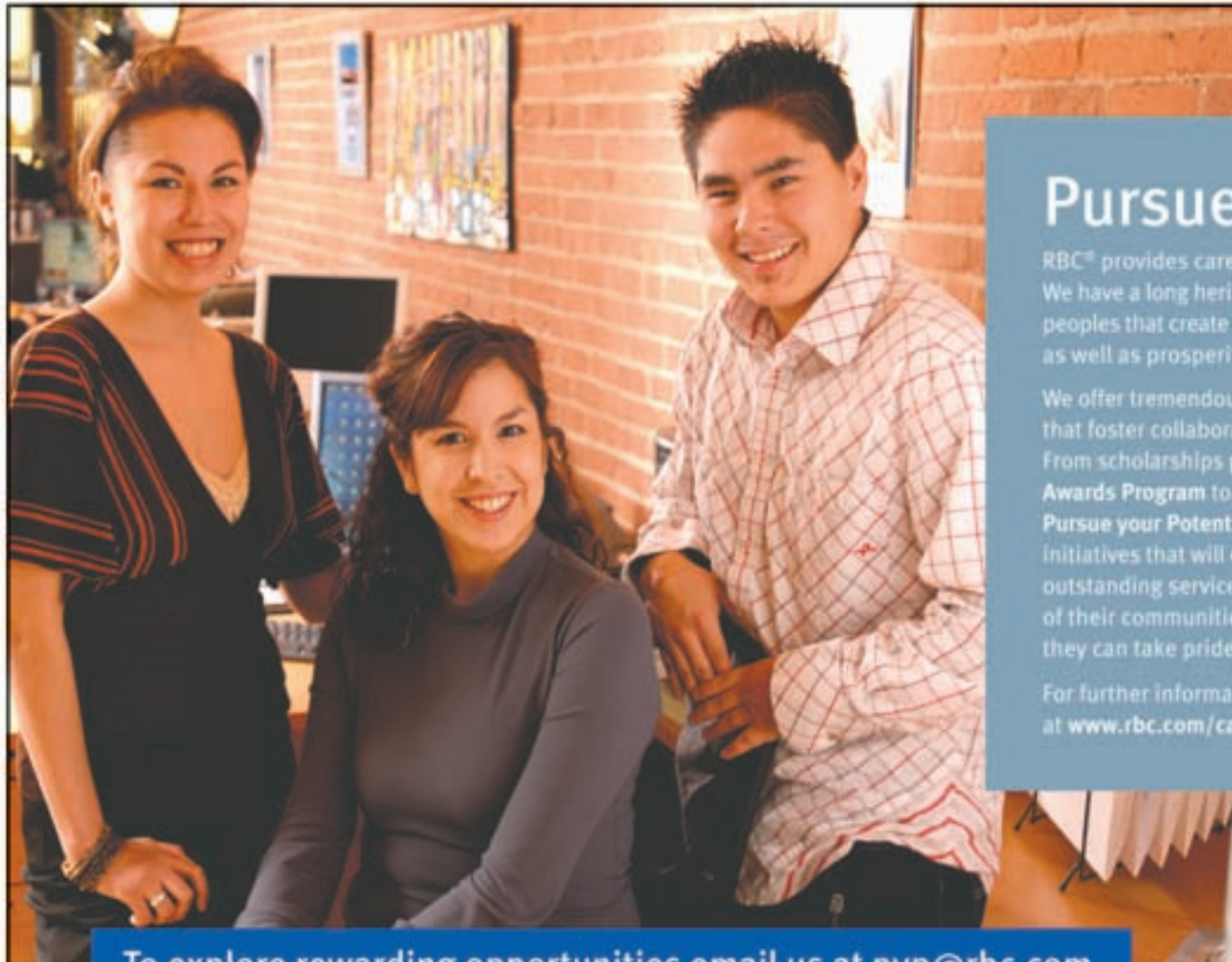
Gordon Winter is sure to amuse and perplex all theatre goers.

"There are some belly laughter moments," said Tootoosis "But also others where you wonder how a person can be a certain way.

Regardless, you will be entertained."

The rest of the cast cover many characters and includes Joshua Beaudry, Robert Benz, Keisha Haines, Kim Harvey and Jamie Lee Shebelski.

Gordon Winter runs October 15-24.



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Beach plays part of role model to perfection

By Carmen Pauls Orthner
Of Eagle Feather News

He's been a youth travelling across America to retrieve his late father's belongings, a Special Victims Unit detective, a fireworks salesman, a Sioux medical doctor, a Marine for both Clint Eastwood and John Woo, and (in real life) he has run for chief of his First Nation.

But one quintessential Native role has eluded 37-year-old film and TV star Adam Beach. That was, until his visit earlier this month to the Woodland Cree community of Stanley Mission. That's where, for a limited engagement, one of Canada's most prominent Native actors became a bingo caller.

Fresh from playing a Wild West cowboy defending Earth from an alien invasion, in an upcoming Hollywood blockbuster starring Harrison Ford and Daniel Crane, Beach spent Oct. 4 to 8 visiting the Lac La Ronge Indian Band's six communities in northern Saskatchewan.

While Beach was sharing a feast of wild meat with Chief Tammy Cook-Searson and her trapper parents, Miriam and Charlie Cook, in Stanley Mission, the chief decided they should stop by the local bingo hall.

And that's how Beach ended up calling a couple of games, and doing a live rendition of his now-famous song from his 1998 breakout film "Smoke Signals", "John Wayne's Teeth", for a delighted crowd, who were perfectly willing to excuse a couple of rookie mistakes from their new bingo caller.

But it wasn't to call bingo that Chief Cook-Searson invited Beach to visit her band's reserves. It was to serve as a role model, a part that Beach seems born to play.

This is a man who has survived the tragic deaths of both his parents when he was only eight years old, a downward spiral into drugs and gangs to recover and become the most prominent young Native actor in Hollywood.

While in Lac La Ronge band territory, Beach spent much of his time in the schools, clinics, group homes and band halls sharing about his life experiences, both good and bad.

But he freely admits that when he first started out as an actor, that would have been the last thing on his mind.

"The reason why I started acting was to throw my reality out the door. I didn't want to be me any more. I wanted to portray something else. I wanted to learn how to be happy, so I'd act happy in a show," Beach says.

"It wasn't until the movie Smoke Signals that I turned my acting into (a portrayal of) reality, because that movie is an exact replica of Adam Beach growing up. All I want to do is talk to my mother and father just once, hear their voices, and say, 'It's okay, it's a good

place.'"

Now he tries to teach people that at the bottom of their own "Pandora's box" of troubles, they can find one last thing: hope.

"I've lived with the worst. I've lost the two most important people in my life, that were supposed to teach me compassion, and be my parents, and I had to do it myself," he says.

He's also had to chart his own path professionally.

"My family are teachers, carpenters, garbage men, welfare recipients," he says. "To say, 'I want to be a Hollywood star'... people think that's crazy, and for me, for where I was from and what I was doing, it's absolutely crazy.

"I grew up in the north end (of Winnipeg), prostitutes in the backyard, I was in the gangs, doing bad stuff... And my mentality was, I'm going to create a new statistic."

By travelling to First Nations communities to speak, and offering the insights gained through a lifetime of struggle and sacrifice, Beach hopes to both give guidance, and smooth the way for others to succeed whether they pursue a career in film or not.

In addition to his own work in film and TV, Beach now has an on-line cable TV platform, which he hopes to use to broadcast projects made by Native individuals in Native communities.

He is also in the process of establishing a film school on Vancouver Island, which will be open to anyone interested in getting into the profession.

He says he is baffled by some people in his profession who, once they get ahead, try to close the door for others coming behind them.

"I don't really look to myself any more," he says. "I'm taken care of - I have an agent, a manager who will say, 'Here's your next film, Adam.' I need people to understand who we are now, and I'm giving the communities an opportunity to tell their stories, good and bad."

Meanwhile, he has no objection, as he laughingly admits, to being the new 'go to' guy for a Native role in any major film. At this point in his career, he says, "I don't have to take a movie (role) to feed my family. I can pick and choose now.

"So if a movie has a Native actor involved and if it's not good enough, I say no, and I wait for something else to come up.

"I'd rather starve than project an image where people look up to me, and have that image tarnished by poor writing," he adds.

"I've worked so hard to be a role model, to be that somebody that our younger generation can look up to and say, 'That's who I want to be.'"

Beach is also trying to break down stereotypes about Native people, both on and off-screen. He takes pride in being known in the Los Angeles movie scene as



Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook Searson looks on as Adam Beach talks about his weeklong role model/bingo calling gig in La Ronge.

(Photo by Carmen Pauls Orthner)

'the Indian', in terms of how he is willing to lend a helping hand and takes pride in his cultural identity

At the same time, he's been glad to take on roles that are not Native-specific, even playing a cowboy - rather than one of 'the Indians' - in his latest film, and to help Hollywood move away from the romanticized notion of the brave warrior

and into more of a present day reality.

He's also tired of only hearing stories in the news media about how screwed up Native people supposedly are.

Pointing to himself and Chief Cook-Searson, he says, "We're not damaged goods. We're ones who faced (the problems) and challenged ourselves to say, 'I don't want to be that any more.'"

Gabriel Dumont Institute
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November 18-19, 2010

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Master of the Métis Fiddle John Arcand
Andrea Menard
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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.

Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation shares gaming profits

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

When people go to the Dakota Dunes Casino, they often leave money in their wake. Millions of it. Once all the bills have been paid and the profit has been divided amongst various governments, a significant amount is reinvested back into the community through a community development fund.

Wilma Isbister is the general manager of the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation and she loves her role.

"I have the best job in the world," said Isbister whose organization invested \$2.6 million to a total of 80 groups in the area surrounding their casino in 2009 alone.

"There are gaps in programs in the community and we always try to help there first, most specifically youth, elders and the disadvantaged."

Sherry Ledingham, president of the Pike Lake Community and School Association can attest to the impact of the Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporations dollars in the community.

"When we received our first investment from the Dakota Dunes people, it was a real shot in the arm for our volunteers.

"We are a small community and we have lots of fundraisers, but it takes lots

of work," said Ledingham at an information meeting hosted at the casino.

"They gave us money for a chair lift at the community centre and now 55 seniors are showing up for cards and that. Last year they helped to totally refurbish our rink. To get this money, it did wonders for us."

The list of yearly recipients is diverse. Organizations range from literacy programs like READ Saskatoon, to the Outlook and District Heritage Museum. The diversity of the investments really keeps the staff at the fund on their toes.

"We go on a case by case basis and look for matching values, like the folks in Pike Lake," said Isbister.

"They call it transformational gift giving. Many groups really rely on these dollars, and it is a very competitive world out there.

"We want to see impact as well so we work with the groups and encourage other partnerships."

The folks at Pike Lake have certainly been grateful for the gift of over \$20,000 so far. In the big scheme of things, \$20,000 isn't much, but invested wisely it can do wonders.

"We really appreciate what they have done for us," said Ledingham. "They have easily put us five or six years ahead of where we would have been. Now we challenge them to a shinny game on our



Wilma Isbister heads an organization that disperses \$2.6 million to 80 community groups in the region close to Dakota Dunes Casino.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

new rink," she added.

The informational session included people sharing their stories of their organizations or communities programs.

"People like hearing about success

in their community," added Isbister. "I like these events because it creates a great vibe. It shows that we have the leverage together to make real positive change in our communities."



DAKOTA DUNES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

We are a proud partner in the following community success projects for Quarters One and Two of our current 2010-2011 grant funding year.

<p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellow Quill First Nation Saskatchewan Railway Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Store Siding for Existing Shop 	<p>Shields Community Green Space & Beach Committee</p>	<p>Green Space & Beach Development</p>
<p>Social Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kawacatoose First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kinistin Saulteaux Nation Muskoday First Nation Vanscoy Early Learning Centre Community Living Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Day Program Day Care Head Start Injury Prevention Infant Car Seats Engaging Elders - Elder's Van Action for Change Community Events Fence and Play Areas Programs for Special Needs Individuals 	<p>Senior & Youth Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Star First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Muskowekwan First Nation Kinistin Saulteaux Nation Kinistin Saulteaux Nation Muskoday First Nation One Arrow First Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Day Star First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Saskatoon Council on Aging Inc. Saskatoon Youth Development Complex YMCA of Saskatoon Persephone Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder's Lever Door Handles Minor Sports and Recreation Meals on Wheels Ball and Soccer League Hidden Meadows Youth Golf Soccer Program Sport Culture & Recreation Equine Assisted Learning Program Karate Program 2010 Winter Games Meals on Wheels Sports Camp Project 12 Passenger Van Purchase FSIN Youth Championships Unity of Nations Youth Conference Youth Sports and Recreation Ka-nenonaskasehtew Judo Club Minor Sports Youth Activities FSIN Youth Softball Championships Age Friendly Community Training Summer Camp
<p>Justice Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellow Quill First Nation Mistawasis First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace Keepers Program Mistawasis Peacekeepers 	<p>Cultural Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Muskoday First Nation One Arrow First Nation Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre FSIN Sport, Culture, Youth & Recreation Saskatoon Opera Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prairie Gospel Fellowship Grey Buffalo Singers 2010 Pow Wow Drum Making Kawacatoose Pow Wow Youth Cultural Camp Iskinahawaso Program Traditional Pow Wow First Nations Youth Symposium
<p>Educational Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellow Quill First Nation (NEC) Day Star First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Muskowekwan First Nation One Arrow First Nation Nutana Community Association READ Saskatoon READ Saskatoon Saskatchewan Association for Community Living Catholic Family Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym Equipment Mini University Summer Camp AKEC, Computers for Students Feeding an Education School Lunch Program 100th Anniversary Celebration Alphabet Soup Program Romp 'n' Read Family Literacy The "Believe" Family Conference Circle of Courage Workshop 	<p>Community Infrastructure Development & Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Star First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration Complex Door Replacements Band Hall Renovations Spiritual Gathering Centre Bison Ranch, Handling Facilities Backhoe Tires Project Bobcat Purchase Power Mower Purchase ROOF Fund Roof Repairs Roof for Nurses Station
<p>Recreational Facilities Operation & Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muskoday First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation Hague Parks & Recreation Inc. Pike Lake Community & School Association Hub City Boxing Club Meewasin Valley Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round Tables for Community Hall Sports Grounds Maintenance Playground Development Renewing Sports Park Operation/Development of Boxing Gym Meewasin Skating Rink 	<p>Health Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Star First Nation George Gordon First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Muskowekwan Health Services Canadian National Institute for the Blind Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Food Boxes Gordon Hawks Fastball Club Elder Beds Life Line Personal Response System Life Line Personal Response System Visions Luncheon 2010 SWITCH Programming
		<p>Other Charitable Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muskoday First Nation Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Muskowekwan First Nation Saskatoon Tribal Council Wake Ride Association Inc. Federation des Francophones de Saskatoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Shuttle Bus Canadian Fastball Championships 2010 Dakota Dunes Casino Open 2010 Sports Days Canadian Fastball Championships Annual Sports Days Remembrance Day Celebration Christmas Programming Family Summer Camp Canadian Fastball Championships Wake Ride 2010 Newcomer Welcome Community Celebration

For more info, visit:

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The Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation is a subsidiary corporation of the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Making the Most of Our Community Investment



2010 - The Year

Métis education in Saskatchewan

Métis education in Saskatchewan has varied greatly from family and community-based experiential learning, to missionary-based day and residential schools, to provincially-based, church-run schools, to provincial schools, and finally to autonomous community-directed educational post-secondary institutions.

Education in historic Saskatchewan Métis communities focused on skills related to hunting, trapping, and trade economies. The male children of bison hunters learned to ride horses at a very young age and were encouraged to be brave. Men initiated their sons and nephews into their areas of expertise, while girls were instructed in sewing, beadwork, quillwork, healing, and other skills essential to the mothers of large families.

Parents who wanted their children to acquire literacy and increase their employment opportunities sent them away to be educated, usually to the Red River Settlement. Literate individuals often provided basic instruction to family and community members.

Families with adequate financial resources, particularly those with Euro-Canadian or British fathers, developed the practice of sending at least one son to be educated in Canada, Britain, or occasionally the United States. Among the Saskatchewan-born sons to benefit from this practice were Cuthbert Grant and Alexander Kennedy Isbister, who made significant contributions to Métis history.

The first schools in Saskatchewan were the result of missionary activity. Henry Budd, an ordained Cree minister, established an Anglican mission and school at Cumberland House in 1840. In 1847, a Catholic mission and school were established at Ile-à-la-Crosse. In 1860, three members of the Order of the Grey Nuns were sent from Montreal to assist in education and health care; Sara Riel (Sister Marguerite-Marie) worked at the mission school from 1871 until her death in 1883.

Métis Education: Did you know?

Did you know? In 1829, Métis sisters Angélique and Marguerite Nolin of Pembina were recruited by Bishop Provencher to open the first school for girls in the Red River Settlement. The sisters also taught missionaries to speak Anishinaabewin and assisted Father Belcourt in translating Catholic texts.

Did you know? In 1840, Matilda Davis (c1820-1873) opened a boarding school for young Métis girls on River Road, St. Andrew's parish, Red River Settlement. The school operated for more than two decades and had English and French instruction.

Did you know? In 1844, the Grey Nuns came from present-day Quebec to instruct Métis and First Nations girls. Their convent and boarding school in St. Boniface (present day Winnipeg) was built between 1845 and 1851.

Did you know? The Red River Academy (which became St. John's College) was established in 1852 in the Red River Settlement by the Reverend David Jones in order to train the sons of Hudson's Bay Company employees.



Other early mission schools that served Métis communities were the Qu'Appelle mission, established in 1866 on Lake Katepwa, and Bishop Ovide Charlebois' small Catholic school built at Cumberland House in 1890.

In 1879, Nicholas Flood Davin's "Report on Industrial Schools for Indians and Half-breeds" advocated Métis inclusion in federal schools. Parents negotiated school fees with residential school administrators, and some schools took Métis children as day students. However, by 1910 the federal government excluded Métis and non-status Indian children from their schools, limiting their responsibility to the education of treaty or status Indians.

The provincial government also refused to accept responsibility for their education. Since the majority of Métis didn't hold title to their lands, they didn't pay taxes. As a result, most Métis children didn't receive an education.

In 1938, it was estimated that approximately 3,500 Aboriginal children were unable to access basic schooling. The Reid report on education in northern Saskatchewan in 1939 and the Piercy report that followed in 1944 painted a grim picture of Métis education, particularly in the North.

However, it was not until the election of the CCF in 1944 that the Saskatchewan government accepted responsibility for the education of Métis children. Schools were constructed in many communities, and within a decade virtually all Métis children had access to an elementary education. Unfortunately, decades of poverty and neglect were difficult to overcome: very few Métis graduated from high school, attended university, or participated in other post-secondary training.

By 1974, only two schools in northern Saskatchewan offered Grade 12. In 1976, after a painful struggle, Ile-à-la-Crosse gained control of its school system. The same year, the Northern School Board became an elected school board with nine members representing different regions.

Today it is known as the Northern Lights School Division. Also in that year, the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians also began lobbying for a post-secondary institution. While northern Métis have seen an increase in educational autonomy, Métis living in central and southern Saskatchewan participate in the provincial system with more moderate success, although "community" schools in the public and separate systems offer significant Métis and First Nations cultural components within their programming. The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research, established in 1980, is the educational arm of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, and the only Métis-controlled educational institution in Canada.

- Article by Sherry Farrell Racette; adapted from *The Encyclopaedia of Saskatchewan*, (<http://www.esask.uregina.ca>) Canadian Plains Research Center eanne



Year of the Métis

Preparations underway for GDI's 30th anniversary

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) will be hosting a cultural conference and annual general meeting to commemorate its 30th anniversary, November 18-20, 2010. The conference will provide the Institute and the Métis community it serves with an opportunity to celebrate 30 years of successful Métis-specific education and cultural programming.

The theme of the anniversary conference, "Rooted in Culture, Seeding the Future" reflects

GDI's continued endeavours to promote and renew Métis culture through education, research, and materials development. One special component of the conference is the Order of Gabriel Dumont which will recognize those who have served the Métis with distinction.

The award is made at three levels. The bronze awards will honour the success and accomplishments of GDI students.

The silver awards will honour those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis.

The gold awards will recognize those who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis.

In addition to the awards, the conference will have sessions under the general themes of culture, history, education, student leadership, and Michif language.

The educational component will highlight research undertaken by Métis graduate students whose research was supported through the GDC Scholarship Program in



GDI has been preparing students for the workplace for 30 years.

such diverse areas as history, traditional land use and occupancy, education, oral traditions, health, toxicology, business, and finance.

GDI is very pleased to have Maria Campbell—an Officer of the Order of Canada and a recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award—deliver the conference's keynote address. As a writer,

playwright, filmmaker, and community activist, Maria Campbell has made enormous contributions to the Métis Nation and to Canada.

She is currently a fellow of the Trudeau Foundation, a non-partisan agency which identifies and supports the finest thinkers in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

A gala on the evening of Nov. 19 will wrap up the conference, and will include a variety of Métis talent including Donny Parenteau, Andrea Menard, and John Arcand.

The gala will provide the community with the opportunity to celebrate GDI's past, present, and future, and will pay homage to the many individuals who collectively contributed to the Institute's success.

The GDI website has more details on the conference and the nomination forms for the Order of Gabriel Dumont. Contact GDI at 306-657-5719 or visit the website www.gdins.org for additional information.

— Article by Amy Briley



Howard Adams

Chronology of the 1885 Resistance

1885 (July 2)

After avoiding capture, Big Bear, along with his youngest son, Horse Child, surrendered to Middleton. Big Bear was soon tried for treason-felony, found guilty and sentenced to three years in the Stony Mountain Penitentiary in Manitoba. He served two years and was released. He died during the winter of 1887-1888 on the Poundmaker Reserve.

1885 (July 20)

Louis Riel's trial for High Treason began in Regina.

To be continued next month ...

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



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



Yvonne St. Germaine's life has been turned around by music and spirituality.

St. Germaine discovers clear path

By Leisha Grebinski
For Eagle Feather News

Yvonne St. Germaine calls her turning point a miracle. She was addicted to crack-cocaine, pills, alcohol, and had very little hope, but a spiritual pilgrimage in 2006 put her life on a different path.

"I came up to prayer line and when they laid hands on me I felt something in my chest. I fell to my knees and when I stood up I said Lord there has got to be more. Within that second I felt a hand on my shoulder."

She began singing gospel music as a way to share her story of addictions and her source of strength to overcome them and has recorded four CDs and tours the province with her guitar.

St. Germaine is now nominated for an Aboriginal People's Choice Music Award, two Gospel Music Association awards, and a NAMMY, the Native American Music Awards.

"I was a rock bottom lady and now I'm receiving awards for praising his name," she says.

After she sobered up with the help of counselling, St. Germaine went back to school. She also worked a night security job to help her get by. But it was her music that truly fed her soul.

St. Germaine has been playing guitar since she was a teenager, playing at jam

sessions in bars. But this turning point in her life helped her take music more seriously.

"I made it and now the rewards are coming!"

St. Germaine says it is a great honour just to be nominated.

"When I got the emails I was just yelling around the house woo-hoo! I was acting like a little kid."

She says it is also extra special to be recognized and honoured amongst other Aboriginal people.

"A lot of us don't grow up in good homes," she says. "I went through all that and now I can be the voice. I am able to speak up and say that I am healed."

St. Germaine calls her style country-gospel and she was happy to hear some of her songs hit the number one charts on MBC Radio.

She now sings at churches, shelters, and in jails, hoping to spread her message of hope and healing

"When you see the look on someone's face and knowing that you've helped them in some way is overwhelming. I want them to know they are not alone."

St. Germaine is also a single mother. With so much touring people ask how she is able to manage it all.

"It's never a burden," she says. "I believe the lord has made a clear path for me."

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Directed by Del Surjik • Assistant Director Rob Roy
Set/Lighting/Sound Design by Jim Quesdo • Costume Design by Carla Cross
Stage Manager Jennifer Bashie-Wright

There are many ways Gordon Winter can be described: residential school survivor, RCMP hero, lifelong champion of First Nations rights, and bigot. In this topical new play by Kenneth T. Williams, we delve into the complicated history of a man who has fought oppression his entire life and yet clings unapologetically to his own prejudices.

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Goulet documentary captures family dichotomy

You don't have to travel far in Saskatchewan to find families, particularly First Nation and Metis, that suffer from an intergenerational cultural gap. Many factors contribute to the disparity that exists between older and younger generations, but perhaps the most telltale sign of this is the pervasive silence dividing both groups ... the disconnect.

This is what Danis Goulet's short, neo-realist film "Wapawekka" conveys in a mere 16 minutes.

Though her film, shot in beautiful Northern Saskatchewan, has very little dialogue, Goulet manages to successfully capture the dichotomy between a father and son on their final trip to Wapawekka Lake.

Inspired by the scenery at Wapawekka, where her family owns a cabin, Goulet wrote the script and used her own family members as the cast.



Danis Goulet

"The father in the film is actually my own dad and the person who plays the son is my cousin" she says.

"It's kind of an interesting project in that I was departing from a sort of traditional way of constructing a drama. I really was kind of leaning into documentary territory, but creating what would end up being a dramatic piece.

"Always, its intention was for it to be fiction. I was definitely borrowing from the tradition of documentary filmmaking and we had always decided that we were going to use non-actors.

"The characters were based on my own family members, so I just decided to create it that way."

Though the script had lines for the cast to use, most of the dialogue wound up being ad-libbed.

"There's a scene between my dad and my uncle where they're leaving the cabin for the last time, and they chat away for ages in Cree ... but for the most part the film is quiet and that was also a choice based on the envi-

ronment that we were in.

"Wapawekka Lake is fairly undeveloped and it's beautiful and quiet and the film sort of endeavors to capture the energy of the place."



The father and son don't necessarily come to a resolution in the end. But for Goulet, the end result was less about the relationship and more about the son finding a connection to Wapawekka, mirroring her own experience.

My favourite part of the film is how Goulet effortlessly blends traditional documentary filmmaking with semi-scripted drama, in a modern flair. Subtle, yet appropriate; the leitmotif of old and new appears to have also carried into her storytelling.

The commingled effect creates a perfect vehicle for the story – synchronicity at its finest.

Her talents were quickly recognized at the Toronto International Film Festival, where Wapawekka was one of 40 short films selected from hundreds of submissions. Goulet was amazed by the positive audience response and grateful for her Saskatchewan support.

"It was incredibly moving. Not only to share a part of myself with an audience in a huge festival, but also to bring a little slice of home – a little representation of where I'm from that you just don't see represented on film anywhere.

"It was like part of the reason, part of my inspiration for even making films in the first place. I just don't see that represented very often, so that to me was really exciting," she says.

Goulet already has two other short films to her credit. Spin (2003) and Divided by Zero (2005) have both been



Keith Goulet

shown in numerous international festivals. She lives in Toronto where she has begun the processes of writing and developing two more films – another short film, and her first feature length film.

"For the most part, I find the process pretty hard," admits Goulet. "I think it's a really challenging endeavor. I've only made three shorts, and all of them were made quite differently.

"So for me, there's sort of been no way that has seemed to emerge yet – in terms of structure or a way that I approach it.

"Part of creating a vision for a film, I think, is just starting to construct what that film is going to look and feel like, and for all people I think that's a different thing. But for me, what really helped was seeing other work at festivals. Or talking to other artists about what their process is and starting to get a sense of how to make it work."

Contrary to what some may believe, Goulet has found that her fellow filmmakers are encouraging.

"I haven't really found that it's been competitive.

"For the most part, everyone is just really supportive and positive and proud of one another."

Danis Goulet is certainly someone



Josh Goulet

we can all be proud of. I'm looking forward to seeing more of her brilliant and original films! If you can get your hands on a copy, I highly recommend Wapawekka.

It's a spectacular film, and one that has beautifully captured a slice of Northern Saskatchewan and its incredible people.

Drop me a line or tell me about amazing artists/entertainers in your community at: snazzy-jess@hotmail.com. I'm always hunting for great stories!

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 Ernie Scoles, Owner/Artist



REMEMBER 1885!



Louise Halfe invites you to join her with a circle of her friends at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for an afternoon of readings, fellowship and refreshments.

October 17, 1:30 to 3:30 at 168 Wall Street, Saskatoon

Rita Bouvier's publications include two books of poetry, the collaborative *The Batoche Musical* and the collaborative book *Better That Way*.

Doug Cuthand is an independent producer, writer and director. He owns Blue Hill Productions, an independent television production company.

Myrna Kostash is a full-time writer in Edmonton. In 2009 she published *The Frog Lake Reader*.

Morningstar Mercredi is an actress, activist and author of *Morningstar: A Warrior's Spirit*.

Louise Halfe Sky Dancer's latest book is *The Crooked Good*. She was Saskatchewan's Poet Laureate in 2005 and 2006.

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We wish to thank all interested parties for submitting resumes. However, only candidates who are going to be interviewed will be contacted. The search for all positions will remain open until suitable candidates are found. Additional information can be found at www.sntc.ca.



TRC hearing gestures of reconciliation

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

“There is no Aboriginal person who has not been touched by the Residential Schools story,” said Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Chair Justice Murray Sinclair.

“There is no issue going on within Aboriginal communities that is not connected in some way to the residential school experience.”

Sinclair, along with Commissioners Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild, held an Aboriginal media teleconference after presenting to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on progress since the June 2008 Residential Schools apology.

Sinclair said all Canadians need to engage with this issue: while Aboriginal students were taken, traumatized, and taught their identity was inferior, non-Aboriginal Canada was being taught they were superior, Canada’s great shame.

“Education, or what passed for it, got us into this situation, and education is what will lead us out.”

So far statement gathering of thousands of survivors has taken place in private sessions and public sharing circles, in community halls, homes, hospitals, and teepees.

The TRC was present at Batoche this past summer, despite Clem Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, noting to the Senate Committee that very few Métis in Residential Schools were covered by the Settlement Agreement.

Wilson and Sinclair acknowledged the

Métis situation is complicated—day-students or boarders at church-run schools are not included on the government settlement list—but with the same assimilation policies impact was almost identical, and their stories important to record, if it wasn’t against legal counsel.

The TRC must report recommendations to all parties of the court-ordered Settlement Agreement, continue collecting accurate and public historical record of the past—what happened to the children, and what former employees recall—and establish a national research centre as a permanent resource for all Canadians.

Sinclair said a five-year mandate to deal with 150 years of stress, and seven or eight generations of residential school survivors is not a terribly realistic timeline to resolve everything.

Already in year two, Commission findings are only the beginning and the parties will have to proceed together.

Gestures of reconciliation have come from all levels of Canadians, but many remain unengaged considering it an Aboriginal issue. On an international level, the UN forum on Indigenous Issues has recognized the TRC as a model of best practices, and an inspiration for other countries.

The second of seven national events to promote awareness and public education about the impact and legacy will take place in Inuvik, NWT in June 2011.



Commissioners Willie Littlechild, Murray Sinclair and Marie Wilson have been hearing from residential school survivors in communities across Canada.

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Attendance at a career presentation is now the mandatory first step in the application process. / Assister à une séance d'information sur les carrières est maintenant la première étape obligatoire du processus de recrutement.

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Métis sign agreement with mining companies

Goal is to ensure Métis northerners participate in development of Saskatchewan's North

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A mutually beneficial agreement was recently reached between industry and Métis groups in Northern Saskatchewan.

The Métis Northern Regions I, II, III and Eastern Region I of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan have signed an Agreement with Cameco and Areva that establishes a working group to focus on five key areas.

Sean Willy, Director Corporate Social Responsibility at Cameco believes the agreement will help the two companies and Métis people in northern Saskatchewan.

“This really promotes cooperation between the groups,” said Willy. “The industry and the Métis community have future needs as the North continues to develop. With a focus on the five pillars, we can build a strong North where we all benefit.”

The MOU between the mining companies and the four MN-S Regions establishes a working group that will focus on five key areas (Workforce Development, Business Development, Community Engagement, Community Investment, and Regulatory and Government Relations).

Northern employers are constantly looking to people from the Northern Administration District as their main source for employees. Cameco has over 150 employees from the historic Métis communities of Pinehouse, Beauval and Ile a La Crosse alone, and over 600 Aboriginal employees from all of northern Saskatchewan.

Each of the four Métis Regions is located within the boundaries of the Northern Administrative District in Northern Saskatchewan.

Representatives from the MN-S, Cameco and Areva were on hand to witness the agreement take place. This agreement is the first of its kind between Cameco, Areva and the MN-S northern regions. It holds significance for each of the Métis regions involved.

The agreement was signed with the mandate to assist the Métis regions in becoming more involved in economic development opportunities, developing the young Métis workforce and supporting Métis community initiatives.

“Our goal is to work towards ensuring that Métis Northerners are part of the Northern Economy, along with establishing a positive working relationship with Cameco and Areva,” said Louis Gardiner – Regional Director – NR III – MN-S.



Celebrating the agreement were: (top row left to right) Gerald Scherman Sr. VP and CFO AREVA, Richard Gladue VP CSR AREVA, Max Morin Secretary MN-S, Gary Merasty VP CSR Cameco, Grant Issac Sr. VP Corporate Services Cameco, Jamie Dickson Legal Advisor Cameco. (Bottom row left to right) Al Rivard Regional Director MN-S Northern Region I, Lennard Morin Regional Director MN-S Eastern Region I, Louis Gardiner Regional Director III MN-S. (Missing from photo is Marlene Hansen Regional Director Northern Region II MN-S)

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Program designed to open doors for employment in agriculture

A new agreement under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program is set to create 104 long-term, sustainable employment opportunities in Saskatchewan and Alberta's agriculture industry.

The Inroads to Agriculture Institute is a \$5.09 million partnership between the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, One Earth Farms Corporation, First Nations and training institutes. Under the program, First Nations and Métis learners will receive vital training, certification and job placement support to advance in the agriculture and agri-services sectors.

"One Earth Farms is excited about the

prospect of employing individuals who have an opportunity to gain practical agricultural training through the ASEP program," One Earth Farms CEO Larry Ruud said.

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership is a nationally managed program that provides Aboriginal people with the skills they need to participate in economic opportunities such as agriculture, northern mining, oil and gas, and hydro development projects across Canada. ASEP's overall objective is sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic industries, leading to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities, families and individuals.



At the announcement of funding for 104 agriculture training spots, Elder Joe Quewezance was asked to offer an opening prayer by Inroads to Agriculture Board Chair Richard Gladue. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear, Councillor Frank Royal, Manager Corrine Buffalo and Councillor Gary Eagle celebrate after Elder Melvina Eagle cuts the ribbon to open the Whitecap Trail Convenience store. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

Replacing dollar store made good sense for Whitecap First Nation

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

People are always flocking to the Dakota Dunes Casino or to the world class Dakota Dunes Golf Links to the tune of over one million people visits to the Whitecap Dakota First Nation every year. Not bad for a little First Nation of about 500 people.

To capitalize on all those visits and to provide service to their residents, the band has replaced the "dollar store" on the corner of the Chief Whitecap Trail with a shining new Whitecap Trail Convenience Store.

The Chief and Council bought the original building back from some band members that had wanted to be entrepreneurs.

"They bought an old Chicken Delight Shack from up north, trucked it here and they tried to make a go with a gas bar," said Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear.

"We wound up buying the operation from them for a dollar, hence the dollar store."

In its place is a spanking new business that sees over \$2 million in sales a year and will be an anchor to an industrial park planned for the area across the road.

"This opening is the result of a lot of

hard work on the part of many people and is a positive event that is a continuation of many projects we have already undertaken here at Whitecap," added Chief Bear.

The Whitecap economic development people are hoping that across the street there will eventually be a plant manufacturing vehicles for the military and other assorted industrial ventures. Whitecap already has a boom happening on their community and they expect to see the on reserve population grow from 350 to over 700 in two years.

That will happen with a residential development where people can build and own their own house on leased reserve land. The lure of opportunity and jobs are drawing people to the reserve and they are needed. With unemployment under 5 per cent on reserve and with only eight welfare cheques having to be run last month, things are looking good at Whitecap.

"One of the benchmarks I have always used is that we will have succeeded when we have more jobs than residents at Whitecap," said Chief Bear.

"Today we have about 600 jobs compared to an on reserve population of just over 350 people. We are doing well, but we have the potential to accomplish much more here at Whitecap."

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Oskayak Powwow a hit

By John Spyglass
For Eagle Feather News

First the Bannock report: Kohkum and Moshum approved! Delicious! Despite the cloudy weather the 2010 Oskayak Powwow was a success. Principal Craig Schellenberg was ecstatic about the turnout they had on Friday, Sept. 17. Due to the cold weather and frequent rain showers, the powwow was moved into the gym.

The organizing committee consisted of the students and staff from the Oskayak High School with the direction of the community Elders. This was all part of the cultural learning experience that is an integral part of the high school.

The Tipi Raising Ceremony was held at 7:00 a.m. to start off the celebrations. Elder Mary Lee, along with her helpers, organized the tipi setup which was followed by the Pipe Ceremony at 8:00 a.m., bringing together veterans, Elders, staff and students for the annual event.

The Grand Entry was underway at

10:00 a.m., the host drum Young Thunder from the Thunderchild First Nations bought in the Flags, Eagle Staff, followed by the Veterans, dignitaries, powwow committee and, of course, the dancers.

There were six drum groups from across the province: Young Bull from North Battleford, Seekaskootch Jrs from Onion Lake, Mean Mustangs from the Little Pine First Nation, Sky Boys from Beardys, Big Drum from North Battleford.

"Coming together to celebrate the youth, to welcome the students and parents to provide a place where people come together and to introduce the staff with prayer, tobacco, and tipi raising. We need to have the awareness to pass the culture to our children and to our grandchildren," said Mary Lee Cultural Advisor, Community Elder, Oskayak High School.

Oskayak would like to thank the Elders, staff and students as well as the many individuals and organizations who helped to make this year's powwow a success.



Young dancers performed at the Oskayak Powwow in Saskatoon.

Senators study education issue

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Six senators on the Senate's Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples were in Saskatchewan earlier this month to hear what is working and what isn't with First Nations education.

First they visited with the two school boards and some individual chiefs at the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Senator Lillian Dyck says all parties made it clear that money alone won't fix things, but working together will.

"Funding alone won't solve the problems. What we heard a lot about today were many of the partnerships between individual First Nations, with different school boards, different schools, with the provinces, and that made for advances in better education outcomes for students both in elementary and secondary," Dyck said.

Senator Gerry St. Germain says it's clear the system in the past didn't work because it didn't reflect First Nations culture.

"The system up to now hasn't recognized the cultural aspect of our Aboriginal peoples. And, by virtue of that, it's failed to inspire a lot of our Aboriginal youth into furthering their formal education," suggested St. Germain.

The senators also toured Whitecap Dakota First Nation as well as the Onion Lake Cree Nation before moving onto Alberta. They will travel to various First Nations across Canada, and then their findings will be compiled into a report of recommendations they hope the federal government will implement.



Senators Gerry St. Germain and Lillian Dyck believe the education system must do a better job of reflecting First Nations culture. (Photo by Darla Read)



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Use of Cree language helps promote understanding

• Continued from Page One

"We are the ones that give the love and the teachings. And that's how it was," said Elder Rose. "My dad said the time is coming where we have to be in touch with the world and we have to teach our youth to understand English. That is the only way we can survive into the future, but never ever let go of your spiritual way of life.

"I remember ... why did the Indian people survive? He says it was their belief, that's why they survived."

Elder Rose worked in the health field for many years and her Cree language was a big asset in her work.

The chapters of the guide in *Making the Connection* are direct policy statements and the information that follows gives sample strategies and activities to achieve those goals. They include chapters on Cree language, Elders and Parents, customs and spirituality and Cree world view.

When it comes to strategies around Elders, they say to incorporate storytelling into curriculum, schedule First Nation ceremonies and activities on calendars and notes announcing upcoming events and to teach proper protocol to all students and staff.



The idea behind the book is to create First Nation friendly schools.

"My experience at residential school, it was not a very loving place. My two months at home every year is where I learned to love," said Elder Gladys.

"This booklet ... what I am seeing, is with teaching Treaties in the Classroom, and what's happening. It is compulsory and maybe now, maybe, the thing we agreed in treaty, good relationships, to get a long and respect one another.

"Maybe in the future we will see that good relationship. This is one way. When they took me as a child, if they built on what I brought in and strengthened that, and then taught me another language, that would have probably worked.

"But they tried to whip the language out of me. Today I am very proud of to be a Cree woman and Cree speaker. I was determined that they wouldn't whip it out of me. Now, I can pass it on."

Sasipenita means never give up

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

Sasipenita held its SIGA sponsored fundraising luncheon, and announced the hiring of Audrey Dreaver as Exhibit Project Manager.

Sasipenita, Cree for "never give up" (literally to get back up after falling) will showcase First Nations and Métis contributions and accomplishments in a portable Educational Exhibit, beginning with achievements of Aboriginal women.

After a blessing from Elder Michael Maurice, Nelson Bird emceed the event which included dignitaries and keynote speakers Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Guy Lonechild and Lac La Ronge Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson.

Lonechild noted that we only have to check the comment boards of news websites to find evidence of racism, but said a shift is coming, as the many people present wishing to make a difference proved. Saskatchewan's motto, "From many people, strength" includes the Métis and First Nations people.

Cook-Searson shared her journey

into politics as first female leader of Lac La Ronge Indian Band, largest band in the province at almost 10,000 people – knocking on doors while her dad waited in the truck with her new baby, campaigning in Pinehouse while she was still breastfeeding.

"Don't stop moving until you pass the finish line, we won by three votes, the last three people we took to the polls," she said.

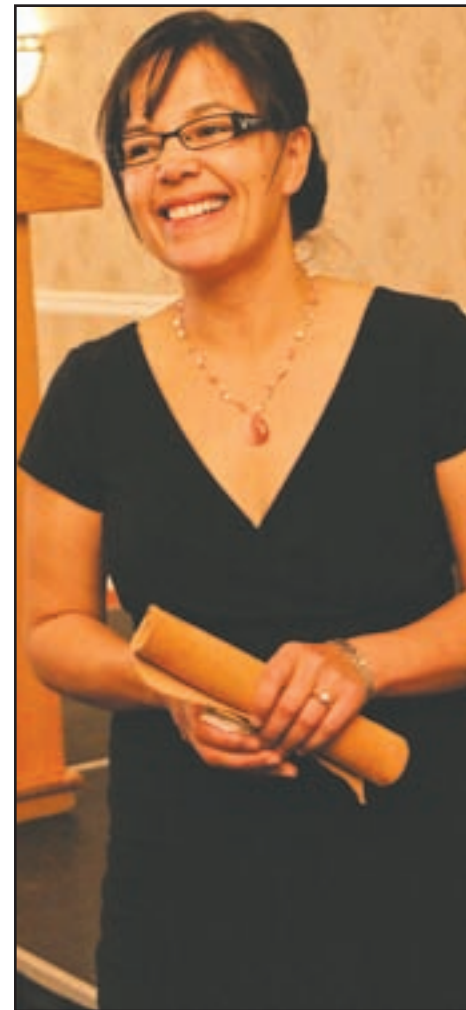
She's had her share of sorrows – her sister committed suicide, and her two-year-old son drowned.

"But I've been in politics 13 years to make a difference, and because I care about people.

"Don't give up – be proud of who you are, you can't be anyone else, we are who we are. It's up to us to take care of each other and support each other. We're all human beings. We're all people. We need to have that respect for each other and for our history.

"And we need to love ourselves, it's up to me to love myself and who I am. After a loss get back up and keep on going," she said.

"Surround yourself with supporters. There are so many people that will



Chief Tammy Cook Searson

support you and help you and love you no matter what you've done or been through."



Chief Clarence Louie was presented with a painting by SREDA CEO Tim LeClair. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Osoyoos Chief delivers strong message

By **John Lagimodiere**
Of **Eagle Feather News**

The Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority wants to stimulate Aboriginal business in Saskatoon.

At a recent development forum, the folks at SREDA brought in Osoyoos Indian Band Chief Clarence Louie as a keynote speaker. Chief Louie is known as a no nonsense businessman who says that economic development is the key to the future of First Nations self government.

He addressed a welcoming business crowd of 200 and received strong applause for pointing out a table of students from the Edwards School of Business at the University of

Saskatchewan and commenting that it was about time we had more Natives in business school rather than social work and education.

"We want to make money and create jobs. We can scream at the federal government all we want about how much they owe us, but many of those issues are 100-year-old issues and there is no end in sight to them," said Louie in an interview after his speech.

"Everyone hollers at the feds every budget. I tell Native people, you gotta start making your own money. It makes more sense to me at the reserve level that we turn over every stone we can to make our own jobs.

"You will only go as far as your work ethic will carry you."

Green stresses need for educational partnerships

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Brenda Green began her career path studying with SUNTEP and is now the first Aboriginal Superintendent for the Saskatoon Public School Board.

"I was fortunate enough to be in Prince Albert, and Murray Hamilton and I happened to cross paths," said Green, who recalls helping the Grade 1 teacher when she was in Grade 5 but never thought about being a teacher.

"He had spoken to me about enrolling so I was really excited about those opportunities, and working with little ones."

She credits Hamilton with opening her eyes to opportunity. SUNTEP really engaged her as a learner.

"Because of the small classroom size, we had amazing opportunities for discussions and critical conversations."

After Bill C-31 came into play she became a band member of the Wahpeton Dakota First Nation. She then taught at both elementary and high school levels in various school divisions.

"My first experience was at a Community School in Prince Albert. It was an exciting opportunity but I felt a lot of pressure from others to be the role model," she noted.

She was also on a lot of committees, which prepared her for administration. Eventually she moved to the board office as coordinator of Aboriginal education, and then to the U of S where she worked with future teachers and taught classes as well – educational foundations, curriculum, and psychology.



Brenda Green is dedicated to improving educational levels for Aboriginal students.

"From there I moved to the Ministry of Education as a provincial superintendent with the First Nation and Métis Education Branch," Green explained.

"I learned from the Elders, inspirational leaders, curriculum experts, academics, teachers, and my own experiences with students in the classroom."

With this big picture scenario of how things fit together, Green was a natural for her current job. There are seven Superintendents of Education for approximately 20,000 students. Responsibilities include the considerable health portfolio, with two foundational partnerships which form "Okiciyapi" – Saskatoon Tribal Council and CUMFI – as

well as an educational partnership with Whitecap First Nation.

She also oversees the curriculum: learning, teaching, and assessment models grades nine to twelve.

"Our goal is to improve educational outcomes for our students," Green explained.

"I think it's really important to have partnerships with our First Nation and Métis communities. Not only at the tribal council level and executive but also parents and community and academics passionate about research in supporting us; having the conversation to say how do we move ahead, how do we continue to work together."

Outcomes and data are being examined to help all students, especially Aboriginal students, and to work collaboratively with partners.

"We need all assessment perspectives to ensure we're supporting the whole child, not just the academic side but the whole child is important."

She hopes providing culturally responsive schools for Aboriginal youth will help them make smooth transitions and receive equitable treatment, not only graduating but having the academic marks to ensure a full range of options in life, including post-secondary education.

"It's a good school division. I feel like we are fish that are swimming in the same direction rather than hitting rocks all the time," she said.

"The Elders and the people that I've worked with and the students that I've taught and the leaders that I've worked with as well, they have really inspired me and motivated me through their stories."

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Banin determined to make most of her life by starting at a young age

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

Keely Banin is one of the most surprised recipients of this year's SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. She didn't even know she was Aboriginal until her guidance counselor told her halfway through Grade 10, asking her to represent Regina's Miller Comprehensive High School at an awards event.

"I said I would go," said Banin in a phone interview. "And I'm ultra-competitive and I said I'm going to do it and I'm going to win ... but I didn't know what I was getting into."

At one of her first events, a pre-med club with a special lunch for Aboriginal students, she was with another girl also unfamiliar with protocol.

"Elders are supposed to eat first, but we went up right away because we were starving – and we were so embarrassed because we didn't know what was going on," she laughs. "Every day ... we learn something new every day."

Because her parents have been separated and divorced since she was really young, she hadn't registered or explored her culture, but says it's helped open doors for her already.

"If you look at me you wouldn't be able to tell, I'm the palest person you've ever seen," Banin says, adding when she tells friends she's Métis they don't believe her.

"I didn't know this was open to me, and every time I go into my culture I'm shocked at the diversity. There are so many things set aside especially for Aboriginal students, and I didn't know there was this much help and support available."

Recipient of the Technology and Science Award, Banin is now in her Grade 11 year but is taking mostly Grade 12 classes so she can get college board exams done and skip first year university.

"If you take AP, Advanced Placement, classes you can take a college board final at the end of May," she explains. "And if you pass four or five you get a credit for first year English, Math, Computer Science, and Psychology."

She's taking all these classes, along with Chemistry, Biology, and Physics, planning to go into forensic sciences.

"It's a lot of homework – that's the most I can say."

Surprised to receive the letter to attend the Award night in Saskatoon, she and her mother took time off, got dressed up, and went on a road trip.

"I didn't expect it to be as big as it was. So much time, arrangement, food, decorations, it was beautiful I was really shocked at the time and effort, I expected a small gathering," she said. "And the starblankets were so pretty and my Mom was sitting beside me and suddenly said 'that green one has your name on the back of it.' I thought she was joking, I didn't believe her, but then they called my name."

Mom's support and Keely's dedication to school has kept her focus, instead of buying into high school being the time of your life to go party.

"If you want to make something of yourself you have to start young, start dedicating yourself at the beginning. Don't wait until the last minute when it's too late."



Keely Banin won the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award for Technology and Science.

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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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SIIT opens Regina campus

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

Midday sunlight poured in through the tall windows of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Regina campus. The



Instructor Angelique Chenard in her new office as she laughs with students and pretends a reporter isn't taking her picture.



Burton O'Soup has been a career coach for just over a year with SIIT.

brightness complemented the happy atmosphere during the official grand opening of its new location at the north end of Albert Street in Regina.

After the opening prayer by Elder Harry Francis and an honour song performed by Thundering Dancing Horse, SIIT president Randell Morris spoke to the 100 students, staff, media and guests that had gathered for the event.

The demand for SIIT's programs outgrew the old facility's ability to provide them, said Morris. It reflects the growing numbers of First Nation youth who are looking for jobs and opportunities.

The new facility's renovations were recently completed and the pleasing smell of wood and fresh paint still lingers in the

air. Inside, all the walls are white and each of the doors is painted blue. The main and second floor classrooms all have natural light and are fitted with new tables, chairs and white boards.

It's exciting to have a our own building, says Angelique Chenard, an SIIT business instructor of 10 years. The older building was not as well lit and was a space shared with other organizations.

"There's a sense of ownership from the students," Chenard says of the new campus.


During the day, SIIT students offered visitors tours of the campus. Kimberly Wesaquate, a first-year student in an addictions course, enthusiastically showed off the different classrooms.


Wesaquate, originally from Piapot First Nation, aims to complete two years of training and then work with women who struggle with addiction.

Outside the campus, the SIIT's mobile education unit was also on display. The internet-enabled recruitment RV travels to various communities around the province.

SIIT facilitators meet with potential students of all ages to help them decide what education options are available to them.

There are 100 students and 24 staff at the Regina campus. Students are from diverse background including Métis, Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Saulteaux and Cree, according to SIIT's website.






I am pleased to proclaim October 17 to October 23 as Education Week 2010. This year's theme, *Valuing Diversity*, celebrates Saskatchewan's diverse multicultural landscape, as well as diversity in teaching and learning techniques utilized across the province. From innovative programming to extra-curricular activities, today's education sector is more diverse than ever before.

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

I invite all Saskatchewan residents to celebrate the achievement of our schools and our students during Education Week 2010.

Donna Harpauer
Honourable Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education

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Credenda graduates celebrate completion of online journey

By Fabian Ratt
For Eagle Feather News

The door opened to Senator Allan Bird Memorial Centre and the distinct voice of Vince Hill, Director at Credenda Virtual High School and College, filled the air.

So, too, did a sense of excitement and anticipation. Years of hard work are finally going to pay off for many students at Credenda, and for some it has been four years spent working to understand children and themselves as well. Thirty-four students occupied the seats in front of the stage, waiting to receive their Educational Assistant Certificate, Early Learning and Childcare Certificates, and Early Learning and Childcare Diplomas.

With nearly as many dignitaries on stage to congratulate them, this day was also filled with happiness and pride felt by everyone present, especially the many supporters who also filled the gymnasium seating.

Carol Wolverine from English River First Nation came to show her support and pride for Tanya Ramona George, who received her Early Learning and Childcare Certificate (ELCC).

"We are very proud of English River People who graduate, and go to school," Wolverine said.

"Elders in the community encourage people to go to school so they (students) can help their community."

George hopes that with her certificate she can find employment in her home community.

Gloria Bird, who also received her ELCC, was encouraged by the director of the Child Care Centre where she is working to take the program. Bird had no experience with computers, but the way the program is organized, she was still able to complete her program, and graduate.

"I never touched a computer before, now I used one to get a Certificate. It was a lot of fun too," said a beaming Gloria at the grad.

Vince Hill was on hand to MC the graduation ceremony, and his pride was evident in the tone of his voice, and the smile that rarely left his face.

"Even though this was an online program, we felt it was important for the adult students to experience a ceremony to celebrate the completion of their program," he explained.

"That way they can get a feeling of accomplishment, they have reached a goal," said Hill.

"And this is an accredited program. So the students can go to the University of Saskatchewan, and they will honour these credits, towards a BA in Northern Studies."

Graduation may seem like the end of a path, but it really is a new beginning. As the students walked out into the bright sunlight, the doors may have been the first they walked through as graduates, but many more doors will soon open to them.



Credenda graduates and dignitaries included: EA – Sara Lundrigan; ELCC – Tara Aubichon, Gloria Bird, Alma Derange, Bernice DJonaire, Tanya Romona George, Trena Larocque, Michelle Marion, Clara Moccasin, Shelby Munro, Marlene Venne; ELCD – Roxanne Adam, Ruby Adam, Marie Buffalo-Gamble, Camille Cousins, Rosanda Daniels, Joanne Derocher, Roxanne Ermine, Caroline Eyahpaise, Madeline Fiddler, Connie Head, Debbie Iron, Jennifer Kitchener, Cathy Marion, Melanie Martin, Bertha Mercredi, Tanya Mercredi-Paquette, Lisa Nateweyes, Sarah-Ann Nawakayas, Kathleen Piche, Arlene Ray, Eileen Sanderson, Hazel Sewap, Loretta Young; Dignitaries- Director Vince Hill, Mayor Jim Scarrow, Grand Chief Ron Michel, Gerry Hurton, Rosalie Tsannie, Alice Wainwright-Stewart, Hendrick Head, Shirley Kraus, and Jason Dewling.



Graduate Alma Derange with Credenda director Vince Hill.

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NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY 2010

"Honoring the year of the Métis"

Gold Sponsors

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"Spirit of Our Nations"



FSIN-SIGA POW WOW 2010

October 29, 30, 31
Credit Union Centre
Saskatoon, SK

Grand Entry

Friday, October 29
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 30
12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 31
12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

Registration

October 29
3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

October 30
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Admission

\$10.00 per day
5 yrs. & under FREE!

Head Staff

Announcers
Howard Walker
Sanford Strongarm

Guest Announcer
Jason Goodstriker

Arena Director
Kevin Haywahe

Whip Man
Milton Gamble

Head Drum Judge
Randall Paskiman

Head Drum Judge
Angelo Wasteste

Results
Clayton Crain

Miss FSIN
Amelia Badger

Education Symposium

October 25
Saskatoon Inn
Contact: Kim Quinney
956-1022

Trade Show Booths

Contact: Shelley Mike
667-1876

General Inquiries

Contact: Lorna Arcand
667-1874

\$100,000 Prize Payout

Adults & Golden Age
\$1000, 800, 600, 400, 200

Teen Categories
\$500, 400, 300, 200, 100

Junior Categories
\$300, 200, 150, 100, 50

Drum Competitions
\$5000, 4000, 3000, 2000,
1000, 1000, 1000, 1000

Year of the Metis
Jigging Competition
\$1000, 500, 300, 200, 100

Host Hotel

Saskatoon Inn
1-800-667-8789



Photo: FSIN Archives



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