

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Rising from the ashes in 2011

Mike Tanton devotes countless hours to helping others in the community. Now he is finding just how much his efforts have been appreciated in his family's time of need following a devastating fire.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Having a fire in your house is a devastating experience. Having your house gutted by fire a week before Christmas takes that hardship to another level, but that is exactly what happened to White Buffalo Youth Lodge Director Mike Tanton and his family on December 17.

"I got a call from my wife that our house was on fire and my heart dropped," said Tanton in an interview outside of the burned shell of his house in Saskatoon.

"Thankfully no one was home when it started and no one was hurt, but still, everything is gone."

The fire was lit by a faulty fan cord in a bedroom. The blaze went up through the roof, across the attic and then back down into the main floor. A passerby noticed smoke and called the fire department.

"The person kicked in the door and allowed our dog Rocko to escape. But Rocko didn't recognize anyone so he ran back inside. Gratefully the firefighters went in and rescued him even though he was growling and is a pit bull," said a relieved Tanton.

"They also rescued my daughter's lizard, Michael

Jackson, so there were no injuries even though they were both covered in smoke and soot so bad that the lizard was black."

What could have been a disastrous Christmas for Tanton, his wife Tanya, five-year-old daughter Willow and one-year-old son Shiah has turned into a story of Christmas giving and community support.

The old saying of what comes around goes around applies here. Tanton has spent countless hours working with youth, coaching basketball and volunteering and that investment has come back to him in spades.

"The amount of support we received from the community was amazing. It just started coming from everywhere," said Tanton.

"At Rawlco radio they got 300 emails telling them about us so we became one of their adopted families for a Christmas hamper. My staff at White Buffalo all came and dropped things off or looked after my pets. Ian Myrtle at the Saskatoon Minor Basketball Association put out a call and there were tons of coaches and players that new me from playing or coaching against me came and dropped off gift cards or things for the kids. We were overwhelmed."

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Welcome to our
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Health & Wellness Issue
CPMA #40027204

Community support overwhelming following pre-Christmas fire

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The U of S vet clinic also treated and cleaned up the lizard Michael Jackson and the What a Mess pet groomers washed and pampered Rocko all for free.

The person having the hardest time with the fire was Willow.

“She was not doing well with it but once the animals were saved she was only concerned about a jewellery box she had and her Monty Rex toy. We found the jewellery box, but we couldn’t find Monty.

“We tried hard to get Santa to find her a new Monty Rex, but we just couldn’t,” added Tanton.

“And she was very worried about our future because we had no house. But I assured her we would be fine. We have watched Harry Potter together and I told her that just like the Phoenix that rises from the ashes, so would our family, Daddy has a new job and she will get a brand new bedroom and we would be just fine. She is getting better every day.”

Tanton admits that sometimes he spends too much time volunteering in the community at the expense of his family and is grateful for his wife’s support of his work, but the response he got from the community when he was in need was proof that he has been doing the right thing all along.

“I constantly try to put myself in a position to build the community. The support we have received solidified the fact that I have been doing good things. It makes me feel good that there are people out there that maybe I affected in a positive way,” said Tanton.

“People are now looking out for us and it makes me want to work harder in the community just because of the support we have received. It lets me know I am on the right path. It feels good.

“We are grateful.”

Chartier re-elected president

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

The incumbent president of the Métis National Council was re-elected at this year’s General Assembly in Saskatoon.

Clem Chartier allowed his name to stand as he sought a third term as MNC president. A former RCMP officer, government employee and businessman, John Keyuk from Ontario, was the only person who ran against Chartier.

Chartier gave his campaign speech first, followed by Keyuk, who gave an impassioned speech when he took the podium, saying he was disappointed by how he’d been treated over the past 48 hours.

“I’ve been insulted. I’ve been chastised. I’ve been told I don’t have a right to run. I’ve insulted people by even considering to run,” Keyuk said.

“I’ve been misquoted, suggesting I’m against women, Métis women, racist, and First Nations. And, as a government employee, (that) I have not stood up for Métis people.”

In the end, delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of Chartier, who took 80 per cent of the 55 votes.

Chartier would like to spend the term moving forward on constitutional reform, noting a stronger relationship between Canada and the Métis could reap benefits for them, such as being able to push for some of the tax revenue the provinces and federal government collect from Métis people.

However, Chartier says the Métis have to get their own governance issues in order before that

can happen.

“We can’t demand recognition of our control over citizenship when we have not yet established a national citizenship system and acceptance process.”

“Before we can realistically press for this stronger relationship, we must strengthen our internal governance. We can’t demand recognition of our constitution when we don’t have one.”

Chartier says they have worked on the constitution for 27 years because it’s complex and requires a lot of research and dialogue on things like how to respect the Métis nation as a whole while respecting provincial jurisdiction, as well as who is Métis and how to create a citizenship registry.

“We need to ensure our registries reflect who is Métis, not someone who simply says ‘I’m of mixed ancestry, I can’t get Indian status, therefore



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Arnott determined to improve human rights process

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The average time it takes for a human rights complaint in Saskatchewan to be settled is three years. To David Arnot, the Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission that is unacceptable. Arnot and his staff have been working hard to make the Commission a Canadian leader and model of 21st Century best practices.

In an exclusive interview with Eagle Feather News, Arnot, who served as the Treaty Commissioner for a decade, reiterated the Commission's commitment to being the best Human Rights Commission in Canada. Already they have legislation before the provincial government that, if passed, will streamline the complaints process and bring about a new level of awareness of our rights, responsibilities and values as Canadian citizens.

"We know the current system is not working effectively," said Arnot. "We want to take it in a new direction and to get there we have studied the best practices in Canada and have met with over 50 stakeholder groups to discuss the changes we have proposed to the Human Rights Code," he explains.

"These groups overwhelmingly embrace alternative dispute resolution over prosecution and litigation and they affirmed the need for change."

Currently if there is a complaint, an investigation takes around 15 months with an additional 21 months before the case is heard by a tribunal made up of lawyers. If the case is not resolved to everyone's liking, it may move up to the Queen's Bench or beyond.

"We studied the Manitoba practice of directed mediation which has been very successful for them," said Arnot. "Ninety-eight per cent of their complaints are settled by reso-

lution and settlement without litigation, prosecution and tribunals. In the last two years they have only conducted three prosecutions. We want to resolve issues before it gets to a tribunal or judge."

The Commission is proposing to change their ways based on four pillars. First they want to be efficient and effective in investigation, prosecution and gate keeping for complaints of discrimination.

Second, like in Manitoba, they want to see an increased focus on early resolution using mediation, collaboration and other forms of dispute resolution. This section will incorporate principles from the Aboriginal community. They also want to dissolve the tribunal and move any cases that can't be resolved through alternative measures right to the courts in front of a judge.

Third they want to pursue increased systemic advocacy for issues that affect multiple persons or groups.

Fourth, they want to develop a pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 program that teaches citizenship rights, responsibilities and respect in all Saskatchewan schools.

The fourth pillar is very similar to a project started when Arnot was the Treaty Commissioner. Arnot discovered that there were many issues tied to the fact that people had no understanding whatsoever of the treaties. Now all schools in Saskatchewan have mandatory Treaty education.

"Many cases come to our attention because people just do not know their rights and responsibilities as Canadian citizens," added Arnot. "We have worked closely with the Ministry of Education about this curriculum and ultimately, the more people will know about their rights, we will get fewer complaints through the door. It is like preventative education. It is exciting change to help people know their rights, responsibilities and values."



DAVID ARNOTT

The legislation to help move these changes along is due to be debated in the legislature in the spring and Arnot is hoping it all passes smoothly.

"They say the price of freedom is eternal vigilance, but for that you need education," added the Commissioner.

"If we make the changes that we foresee, we will have the best human rights commission in Canada. The people of Saskatchewan deserve the best we can do."

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Editorial

The year in review

For many people, the year 2010 looks better in the rear view mirror. For others it was fantastic and full of great memories. Anyway you look at it, 2010 was an interesting year in Saskatchewan.

The sporting community was kept hopping as always. Saskatoon hosted the World Junior Hockey Championships to open the year. Sadly, a dramatic overtime loss robbed the home team of the storybook ending but a silver medal is still something to be proud of. We also saw the Olympic torch make its way through many Saskatchewan communities with several Aboriginal people having the opportunity to carry the torch and represent the community in a good way.

Saskatoon welcomed the First Nation Winter Games, won by the host Saskatoon Tribal Council by one point over the Agency Chiefs Tribal Council. Memorable from that event was witnessing hockey star Theo Fleury and AFN Chief Shawn Atleo break dance together during the Opening Ceremonies.

The National Native Fastball Championships were hosted at Whitecap Dakota First Nation and they made it the best championships ever with the Siksika Rebels winning the big prize.

In education, we had the FNUC drama that kept our attention. From the announcement in February of the loss of funding, the announced closure and sale of the Saskatoon campus and the eventual recovery plan, the rollercoaster ride was unforgettable.

We also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, a Canadian leader in Métis education, language and culture.

And don't forget the hundreds of First Nation and Métis graduates from 2010 who are going to be our future business and community leaders.

The Year of the Métis celebrations created many real and lasting memories. People who participated in the Reconciliation Ceremony at the Batoche National Historic Site will carry the sound of Andrea Menard's voice carrying through the valley and the echo of all the names of the people who died in 1885 from all sides of the skirmish being read by two young Métis people. From the 70-some thousand people that attended Back to Batoche to witness Shannon Louttit and her Honour Runners end their 100km run, to the Michelle Wright concert to the oh so close spoon playing record, this year's Back to Batoche was unforgettable.

To top off the Year of the Métis, a sash was presented to the Legislature and will be there on the table in the middle of the House for all to see and to include the Métis in the political and social fabric of Saskatchewan.

Hardship struck the people of Kawacatoose when a summer tornado ripped through the community destroying several homes and causing millions of dollars worth of damage. The community is still working to recover from the hit.

Many achieved on the personal front in 2010. Richard Ahenakew, general manager of the Northern Lights Casino was elected President of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the first Cree person to attain such a position. Deborah Chatsis, a member of Ahtahkakoop First Nation was named Canadian Ambassador to Vietnam of all places ... that's something! Saskatoon-based lawyer Don Worme received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Chief Paypot was given his proper due with a nice statue of him erected in downtown Regina and the old historic church at Stanley Mission turned 150 years old.

The year 2010 will also be remembered as the year that the potash industry entered into the sights of First Nation and Métis leadership. The BHP Billiton takeover bid of PotashCorp raised the profile of the wonderful pink rock in Saskatchewan and the world and it hit the radar of Aboriginal political leaders who wondered why there aren't more First Nation and Métis people employed in the industry. The takeover bid ultimately failed, but Aboriginal leaders are still asking questions. Will 2011 be the year that will be known as the year of potash?

Well, 2010 was a wild ride but it set the table well for 2011. Watch for a focus on education and training for Aboriginal people as the demand ramps up for us to take our rightful place in the labour market. Potash will still be a hot topic and we will see inroads into that once foreign industry.

And the world will keep on turning.



DOING THE DISHES

The White Buffalo Youth Lodge turned ten years old in December. One of their enduring customs is to host a Christmas feast for the community. This year they fed over 700 people. To feed that many, it takes lots of hands, so many groups and individuals come out to volunteer and lend a hand. Here, Lillian Denton, Director of Community Investments at SIGA and Gail Eagle, SIGA's Community Relations Coordinator were scrubbing up a round of dishes. In another room, ten people were busy cutting up over 20 turkeys that were sacrificed for the meal. Each child that attended received a gift from Santa. Leftover gifts were taken by White Buffalo Youth Lodge staff to schools in the neighbourhood and to the paediatric unit at the hospital for kids that are sick over the holidays.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)




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

Happy New Year from my family to yours!

There's lots of talk and media coverage of the end of the Mayan calendar and prophecies about the end of the world as we know it in 2012.

I don't understand how the Mayan calendar works other than it has spiritual significance and is based on historical cycles. It combines linear and cyclical time which means that time spirals, always moving forward but influenced by what has already passed.

The Mayans believe that the world has been created and destroyed a number of times, and each time it is reborn with the hope that human beings will honour the sacred ways they were given to live by.

The historical cycle of the Mayan calendar we are in right now is called the Great Cycle. It began in 3114 BC (before Christ) and ends next year in 2012.

The Mayan people and their calendar are not prophesising the end of the world as we know it. Some sources say they celebrate the end of a whole cycle and the beginning of a new one. The question is what does the new cycle have in store for us all?

It's hard not to take the warning seriously though. Since New Year's Eve there have been many reports of sudden

mass deaths of birds and sea life around the world.

Over 5,000 red-winged blackbirds dropped out of the sky in Arkansas, hundreds of turtle doves in Italy, 40,000 devil crabs washed up on the shores in Britain, 150 tonnes of red tilapia fish in Vietnam, 100 tonnes of sardines and catfish on the beaches of Brazil, penguins in New Zealand and more.

The Internet is flooded with stories about these mass deaths and many discussions about their causes. What is common is the belief that these mass deaths are the result of human actions.

Scientists tell us that thousands of birds die as they fly through cities built in their flight migration paths.

Also, some say birds get confused about their directions and fly into buildings and trees because of all the interference in the air by radio and sonar waves, even more so now that millions of people use cell phones.

All the toxins created by pollution that pour into the air, the land and waters



not only affect humans in negative ways, they sicken and kill the insects, birds, animals, fish, sea life, and plant life.

The BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico last fall spewed out 205.8 million gallons of crude oil before it was capped and it is still causing horrific damage and death to ocean life.

Eighty square miles of ocean immediately around the blown well site is called the "kill zone" because almost all living things including water plants are dead.

The islands, shorelines, marshlands and ocean of the Gulf of Mexico contain thousands of animal, bird, and whale and fish species.

More than 400 species indigenous to the Gulf of Mexico islands and marshlands are at risk including endangered sea turtles.

Toxic chemicals from the oil spill, and from the dispersants poured into the oil spill area to help break up the oil, are entering the food chain and have resulted in fishing bans on many fish species, shrimp, and oyster beds.

We may think this is a long way from home and not really our concern but hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese from our territories up here migrate and winter in the marshes of the Mississippi River delta region which is directly impacted by the oil spill.

I wonder what condition they will be in when they come home next spring.

The law of circular interaction teaches us that what affects one affects us all and what comes around goes around.

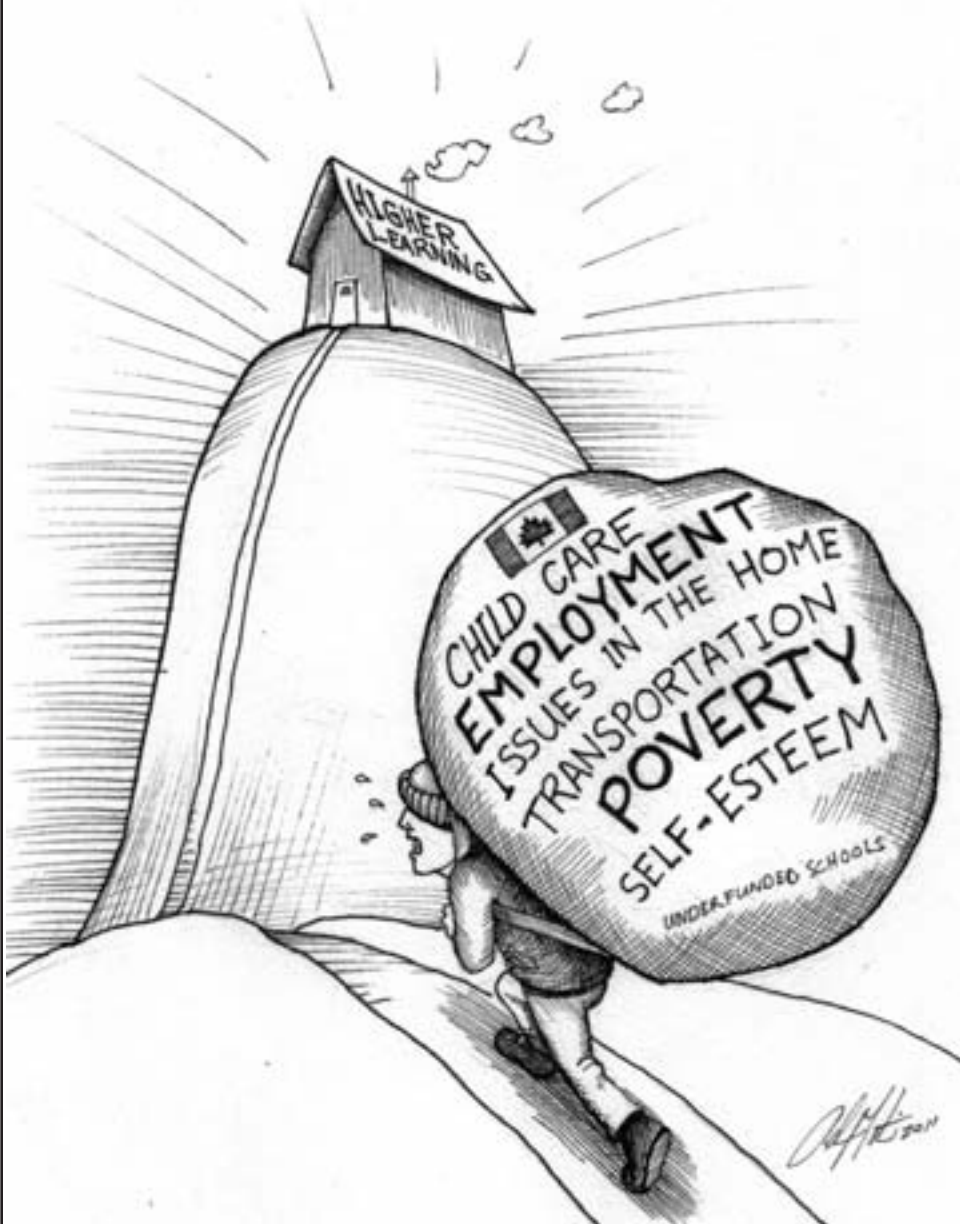
It's not too late to clean up our act to save our world as we know it. We can make a positive impact by reducing our "footprint" on the world—use biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners; use less gasoline; grow, hunt, fish and gather more of our own food and rely less on manufactured fast foods; recycle instead of tossing everything into the garbage.

We have disrupted the natural order because we are not treating the earth, the air, the waters and all living things around us according to the sacred teachings we were given to live by.

We need them to live, they don't need us.

Rank Comix

Adam Martin



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The UN Declaration: Hopes and challenges

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was endorsed in mid-December by the United States of America, the last of the only four hold-out states that initially voted against it when the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007.

In Canada, Harper's minority government had endorsed the Declaration a month earlier. Parliament itself had already endorsed the Declaration, so it was the minority federal government and not the representatives of the people of Canada that opposed it. The other two original hold-outs, New Zealand and Australia had signed on earlier.

The United Nations is an organization of roughly 200 'states' (countries) of the world. (You can guess why it is not called the 'United States'.) With the U.S.A. endorsement not one state now formally opposes the Declaration.

Now what? What will the formal adoption of the Declaration by the government of Canada and the other recalcitrant states mean for indigenous people in Canada and around the world? Should First Nation and Métis and Inuit people and communities wait with baited breath for things to happen as a result?

The short answer is that the Declaration represents both hope and challenges. It is a guide for action but does not replace the need for action. As President Obama stated in December: "But I want to be clear: What matters far more than words – what matters far more than any resolution or declaration – are actions to match those words." This month I explain what the Declaration is and is not, and why it is being described as something that promises hopes and challenges.

Few people, including journalists, pay much attention to international legal developments, and the Declaration is generally not well understood. As a 'Declaration' it is not the same as an international Treaty (often called Conventions or Covenants). Declarations are hortatory, not obligatory. They exhort governments to follow the standards that they declare. Conventions or Treaties, on the other hand, have effect mainly upon those who agree to them and the effect is that signatories are legally bound by the terms of the Treaties. Those states that do not sign Conventions are not bound by them.

There are exceptions, of course. International customary law develops from the practices of states. International custom becomes law after it has been generally accepted. To the extent that treaties and declarations contain accurate statements about existing customary law then they contain descriptions of international law. The complex and changing character of international law and its development can create more debate than agreement on exactly what is the law on any particular issue. Experts can be expected to be more cautious about their opinions on international law than politicians, who are prone to being skewered by their critics for being wishy-washy.

All this colours the media coverage and



Comment
Paul Chartrand

publicity surrounding Canada's adoption of the Declaration in November, which emphasized its non-binding character. Having opposed the Declaration at two stages in the UN process, the minority government could not avoid flip-flops in adopting it.

The official government statement attributed the flip-flop to having listened to Aboriginal leaders and learned from other states, while affirming that it still held its original concerns. The story of Canada's official stances in respect to the Declaration is a fascinating story for another day.

At least one book has already been written in Canada about the meaning of the Declaration. A publication of Saskatoon's Purich Publishing, its sub-title is "Triumph, Hope, and Action" and its concluding chapter is entitled "Hopes and Challenges on the Road Ahead".

The hope is that governments might better be persuaded to do the right thing in relations with Aboriginal people and peoples because of the world consensus behind those standards. There are challenges here though. Governments adopt standards, whether international or domestic, mainly where and when they can be useful to back up what they intend to do for other reasons, often political reasons having to do with gaining or retaining political power or influence. The standards in the Declaration may be used by the courts in reaching decisions in Aboriginal cases but they do not bind the courts: they have only persuasive weight that can support other reasons for a decision. Internationally, dictators and brutal human rights abusing states can agree to anything and then ignore it.

There has been rejoicing amongst indigenous organizations, here in Canada and elsewhere, and rightly so. I worked within the process myself for over 20 years and it is easy to congratulate oneself. But that should not lead to self-deception about the practical meaning of international standards upon the everyday lives of indigenous people in Canada.

We cannot see clearly what lies down the road. I do see a likely development where the fundamental right of self-determination of all peoples will now be morphed into a new concept for indigenous peoples, exactly as the U.S. endorsement suggests and which the last-minute drafting of the Chairman of the UN working group leaves open.

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended that the federal government adopt international standards in domestic legislation. The effect would be to make the Declaration legally binding and enforceable in court. Now that would be a real and effective change leading from words to action.

It is also dreaming.



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Justice for Louis Riel requires exoneration

For over 125 years the Métis have suffered the indignity of having their iconic leader Louis Riel denied justice. It is high time that the legal, political and judicial misdeeds surrounding his trial are exposed to all the people of Canada. These truths will prove that the injustices inflicted on Louis Riel led to his conviction and execution on November 16, 1885.

Paul Chartrand deserves to be admired for his fiery devotion to the Métis people and their interests. However, his argument in the last issue of Eagle Feather News against MP Pat Martin's Bill C248 is based on a misinterpretation of the significant difference between "pardon" and "exoneration" with respect to the great Métis hero Louis Riel.

In his article Chartrand refers to exonerate only once and to pardon six times. However dictionary definitions show that these terms are like night and day. "Pardon" means to "forgive" someone who has committed a crime or wrongdoing. "Exoneration" means to declare free from guilt; and it is decidedly not an act of mercy, clemency or forgiveness.

Pardon means the person was guilty of an offence, has paid his dues to society, and is forgiven for the offence. Since a pardon requires that a criminal offence must have been committed, it is provided for in the Criminal Code of Canada or the Criminal Records Act. A discussion of pardon or forgiveness is not relevant to declaring Riel

innocent and exonerating him.

Exoneration means that the person was never guilty of the offence in the first place. It is not provided for in the Criminal Code of Canada or the Criminal Records Act. Exoneration can be effected by an Act of Parliament, by recommendation of a Royal Commission, or by the reversal of a conviction by a Court.

It is our firm conclusion that Louis Riel was incorrectly charged under the 1351 Statute of Treasons of Great Britain. This Statute, with respect to levying war in the "realm", was not applicable in Canada. Consequently Louis Riel was incorrectly charged, and accordingly was incorrectly convicted and incorrectly executed under that Statute. Thus, Louis Riel must be exonerated.

The purpose of MP Pat Martin's Bill is NOT, as Chartrand indicates, to ask "the forgiveness of the parliamentarians" (which would be a pardon). The purpose of this Bill is to reverse the conviction of Louis Riel for High Treason and "to deem him innocent". This reversal of the High Treason conviction would not be a pardon or forgiveness. Instead this Bill would result in the exoneration of Louis Riel.

We would not support a Parliamentary Bill that would only pardon Louis Riel. However we wholeheartedly endorse a Bill that would exonerate Louis Riel.

Many grass roots Métis from Western Canada that we have met support the exoneration of Louis Riel. Riel fought not only for land rights, he fought for democracy and basic human rights of the Métis and other Western Canadians such as responsible government, the right to vote and be elected to Parliament, Provincial status for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and even Alberta.

Louis Riel represents all the people who supported the Métis cause during the North-West Uprising as well as the Red River Resistance. His conviction and execution wrongfully stigmatized and marginalized the Métis who joined with him in the pursuit of their basic human rights. The exoneration of Louis Riel would be the first step towards reconciliation of the wrongs done to the Métis people.

Some writers feel that the execution of Louis Riel is a stain on the honor of Canada and that the stain should remain. We disagree. The Métis people are also Canadians and love their country, notwithstanding its deficiencies and shortcomings. This stain needs to be removed in the interest of justice for Louis Riel and the Métis people, and to set the record straight.

Wrongful convictions have been reversed many times in Canada when the true facts come to light. Examples are the wrongful convictions of Steven Truscott, Donald Marshall, and David Milgaard. In cases such

as these, it was imperative that the judicial error and historical record be corrected by reversing the convictions, not by granting a pardon.

Exoneration of Louis Riel is long overdue. A Private Member's Bill (such as Pat Martin's that is not Government-sponsored) would not be an exercise in political expediency nor would it be mercy or forgiveness. An Article in a 2004 issue of the Saskatchewan Law Review referred to a 1998 statement by the Riel family. It stated in part that the Riel family would not back any Bill that simply pardoned Riel but wished a Bill enacted that proclaimed the innocence of Riel on the charge, and reversed his conviction.

Exoneration of Louis Riel would be an act of justice – one which corrects the injustice of his unlawful conviction and execution in 1885. Thus the innocence of this great Métis icon would be proclaimed not only in Canada but throughout the World.

George and Terry Goulet

(Métis authors and public speakers George and Terry Goulet collaborated on The Trial of Louis Riel: Justice and Mercy Denied and co-authored The Métis: Memorable Events and Memorable Personalities, and The Métis in British Columbia – From Fur Trade Outposts to Colony)

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see page 17



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Saskatoon Youth Development Complex Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Whitecap Dakota First Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation YMCA of Saskatoon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cultural Development</p> <p>Federation of SK Indian Nations Federation des Francophones de Saskatoon George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation India-Canada Cultural Association Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation La Troupe Du Jour Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Muskoday First Nation One Arrow First Nation</p>	<p>Tables for Community Hall Renewing Sports Park Green Space & Beach Development</p> <p>Elder's Lever Door Handles Sports Camp Project Passenger Van Purchase Youth Hockey Initiative Elder Walker Chairs FSIN Youth Championships Ka-newonaskasehtew Judo Club Life Alert Minor Sports and Recreation Meals on Wheels Unity of Nations Youth Conference Youth Sports and Recreation Archery Club Minor Sports Youth Activities Hidden Meadows Youth Golf Soccer Program Meals on Wheels Sport Culture & Recreation Ball and Soccer League Equine Assisted Learning Program Youth Series - Toronto at Dreamers Rock Age Friendly Community Training Inner City Youth Program Sport Sampler Day Camp STC Team Development Summer Camp FSIN Youth Softball Championships 2010 Winter Games Karate Program Summer Day Camps</p>	<p>Outlook & District Heritage Museum & Gallery SK Indian Cultural Centre SK Indian Cultural Centre Saskatoon Fireworks Festival Saskatoon Opera Association Saskatoon Opera Association Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Whitecap Dakota First Nation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community Infrastructure Development & Maintenance</p> <p>Day Star First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation George Gordon First Nation John Arcand Fiddle Fest Kinistin Saukteaux Nation Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Royal Canadian Legion, Outlook Branch #262 St. John Bosco Camp Yellow Quill First Nation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Health Initiatives</p> <p>CNIB Day Star First Nation Fishing Lake First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Muskowekwan Health Services Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Whitecap Dakota First Nation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Charitable Purpose</p> <p>Day Star First Nation Federation des Francophones de Saskatoon Fishing Lake First Nation George Gordon First Nation George Gordon First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kawacatoose First Nation Kinistin Saukteaux Nation Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Muskoday First Nation Muskowekwan First Nation Saskatoon Tribal Council Wake Ride Association Inc. Whitecap Dakota First Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation Whitecap Dakota First Nation</p>	<p>Storage Building First Nations Youth Symposium First Nation Language Keepers Conference Cultural Showcase "La Traviata-The Women Who Strayed" "The Marriage of Figaro-A Zany Marriage" Quarterly Pipe Ceremony Treaty 4 Pipe Ceremonies 2010 Parade Float</p> <p>Admin. Complex Door Replacements Backhoe Tires Project Store Sign Grader Blades Furnace Room Renovation Power Mower Purchase ROOF Fund Band Hall Renovations Spiritual Gathering Centre Roof Repairs Roof for Nurses Station Bison Ranch, Handling Facilities</p>
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Pringle report finds Child Welfare system in crisis

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

Sitting in a rocking chair in the living room of her North Regina home, Marla Anaskan talks about her life. She wears a grey sweater, a light purple shirt and jeans. Tiny white and red beads are stitched into her black moccasins.

Beside her, a TV dinner tray supports a lamp and a book of sudoku puzzles. A small television sits in the corner. The living room is orderly and clean.

As a teenager, Anaskan went to residential school at Gordon's First Nation. She got married young and began to raise a family. But along the way, she began to struggle with substance abuse. Her relationship with her partner became abusive.

Things got worse in 2002. In an attempt to get treatment for her addiction, she voluntarily placed her kids into foster care for the first time. After her treatment ended, she got the kids back a few months later. But the pattern would repeat itself later in 2006, 2008 and 2010. Her three sons currently live with her parents, while her daughter was placed elsewhere in the system.

Last year continued to be a tough one for Anaskan. She kept using drugs and alcohol, her relationship fell to pieces and Marla hit what she called "rock bottom" in December. But like many people who struggle with addiction, she found hope, support and solutions in Alcoholics Anonymous. On the day of our conversation, Anaskan had 22 days of sobriety.

"I realize it now. Back when I was really using and really drinking, I felt so low, I couldn't get nothing done, I couldn't do anything right. That self-pity. It went right to the core, to where I just didn't give a flying eff about anything," said Anaskan.

While Anaskan struggled through 2010 to overcome her addictions and figure out a way to get her kids back from foster care, Bob Pringle was meeting hundreds of people like Marla

Anaskan throughout the province.

Pringle chaired the Child Welfare Review Panel, a group of four individuals tasked by the Wall government to assess the province's foster care system. The work took eight months to complete. Pringle and his panel travelled the province and gathered information from approximately 1,200 people. They met people who were in foster care; parents who put their kids in foster care; other parents whose kids were apprehended by foster care; social workers employed by foster care; academics who study foster care.

The panel then compiled everything they learned into a report, and presented it to the government. The report, titled "For the Good of Our Children and Youth," paints a picture of a foster care system in crisis.

First Nations and Métis people are dramatically over-represented in the system. While Aboriginal people make up 15 per cent of Saskatchewan's population, they account for nearly 80 per cent of the children and youth in out-of-home care, according to the report. Incredibly, there are three times more Aboriginal kids in foster care now than at the height of the residential school system, the report says.

Part of the problem with the foster care system is the nature of the system itself, whose focus is to protect children from abusive parents. The problem is that most parents who come to the attention of Child Protection Services aren't abusing their kids. The majority struggle with "substance abuse or mental health issues, housing problems, inadequate income or some combination of these," says page 16 of the report.

As a result, most kids suffer not from abusive parents, but from neglectful ones. And because the system mainly knows how to respond to abuse situations, only 4,000 of the roughly 24,000 families that need help every year get services, according to the report. Each year, 20,000 families do not get the support they need.

"We're suggesting that we move to a new paradigm," Bob Pringle said in a phone

interview.

Pringle's report recommends that the system should have two "streams." The larger "preventive family support" stream would be for the majority of families that need help for their substance abuse and poverty problems. The second smaller stream would be for abuse situations, where the authority of the courts is required.

The report also recommends that Aboriginal institutions should gradually take control of the child welfare system.

"We heard unequivocally from First Nations and Métis stakeholders that their communities want a greater role in caring for their children," the report said.

On this point, Pringle pointed out that transferring control of the system to Aboriginal authority will require adequate funding from governments so that Aboriginal groups can equally participate in the planning and decision making.

"Unless we provide – I mean we as a province – collectively more additional services, more affordable housing, and address those income-related issues, we'll have a situation where the devolution (to Aboriginal control) occurs but everybody is still poor," Pringle said.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations had no criticisms of the report, and wants the provincial government to act on its recommendations.

"Over the last 20 years, First Nations have tabled report after report identifying the issues impacting our children and families and have presented recommendations similar to those identified in the Saskatchewan Child Welfare Review Panel Report," said FSIN Vice Chief Dutch Lerat.

On the day of the report's public presentation, Social Services Minister June Draude announced "the creation of a Cabinet Committee on Children and Youth as a first step toward developing a new vision for child welfare." The



MARLA ANASKAN

committee is to issue a report on its work by spring of 2011.

Back in Marla Anaskan's home, she describes her relationship with her kids when she's clean and sober.

"Awesome. We did everything, we went swimming, went to the movies, went for walks, went to library, had sleepouts here," she says, and smiles for the first time in the interview.

And what kind of day has it been today, her 22nd day of sobriety?

"I want to cry 'cause this is a big step for me. We had a landline put in today."

Anaskan hasn't had a phone since June of last year. Today, besides getting the phone, she went with her oldest daughter (who still lives with her) for lunch downtown. They also went to CanSask, an employment services agency, to look for work. She also bought groceries, rented a couple of movies, paid off her Blockbuster bill and got some bus tickets.

"It's from being sober and acknowledging that I need help," she says.

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Now's the time for some healthy resolutions

Happy New Year you neck bone lovers. I hope this year brings you good health.

No doubt many of you made resolutions to live healthier; get some exercise, eat a better diet, quit smoking. I have been making those same three resolutions for many years and every year I think this will be the year I succeed.

Throughout the year I make lists of things I hear people say as possible topics for the column. Here's what you said in 2010. Now take a deep breath and go ...

Take care of your body. Have regular checkups with doctors and dentists. Go for cancer screening procedures like mammograms and colonoscopies.

Diabetes, obesity, heart disease and cancer are prevalent in our communities. So be aware and take care. Step away from the bannock.

Get some exercise. Walking is the easiest and doesn't cost anything. Just 30 minutes of walking three times a week will lower blood pressure and make you feel energized.

Don't take your spouse for granted. Make this the year that you focus on keeping your snag in the blanket, so to speak. Make date nights and Bingo is not a date! We sometimes forget to show our partners how much we appreciate having them in our lives, so think of something creative and have fun.

Spend time with friends. In our hectic lives we often forget to keep in



Spend time with Elders. They hold memories of our past so listen when they speak.

I listened to an Elder speak of the importance of visiting because it

provides an opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

Visit with sick family and friends. Don't stay away because you don't know what to say.

Don't be a bully. Tell someone if

about it. Remember that hickies are gross! Not cool! Really, really, really not cool!

Do not drink and drive or ride with anyone who has been drinking.

Pay your child support payments. Don't be a deadbeat parent.

Stay in school. Education is the key to end poverty – tapwe.

Participate in team sports if you get the opportunity. Team sports can teach valuable life lessons.

Listen to music. It helps soothe any mood. Try listening to classical music for something different.

Laugh everyday – you'll live longer. Rent a Don Burnstick video.

Don't procrastinate – your boss won't like it.

Keep reading Eagle Feather News.

Let 2011 be the year that we succeed in making healthy choices for our future wellbeing.

Thank you for your letters and emails.

You can write to me at Sandee Sez
C/O Eagle Feather News P.O. Box
924 Saskatoon SK S7M 3M4 or you
can email me at
sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

Don't have unprotected sex. If you're old enough to have sex then you're old enough to be responsible about it.

touch with friends. Friends help keep us sane and are the keepers of our secrets. Facebook doesn't count here. Real interaction we are talking about here people!

you are being bullied.

Don't have unprotected sex. If you're old enough to have sex then you're old enough to be responsible

Eagle Feather's health page to grow in February

Good health equals good times and we at Eagle Feather News are all about good times. To help promote good health in our community, we have had Sandra Ahenakew deliver her wit and wisdom in her monthly column Sandee Sez and we always dedicate our February edition to health and wellness.

To help Sandra out and to provide more information on a monthly basis, we are expanding our health coverage to a full page. Joining Sandra on the health page will be Flo Lavallie and the CHEP Good Food Bites.



FLO LAVALLIE

Flo is a Master Herbalist, a Certified Reflexologist, Iridologist and Kinisiologist. She has been in private practice for 28 years and has a wealth of knowledge on holistic healing.

Flo has also been involved in the Canadian Association of Herbal Practitioners, Companion Health Oasis Inc., College of Medicine (Complementary Therapy), SWITCH and Freedom of Choice Health Care to name a few organizations. She was also one of the founders of Tamara's House in Saskatoon.

Flo has also written two books: Sharing Health and Wellness: Creating Your Own Road to Recovery and Good Health is Cooking in the Pot.

Flo has consulted with women Elders on and off-reserve about health topics of concern in our communities. With these topics in hand, Flo will give us insight and potential

treatment plans from a non traditional perspective that we are sure you will appreciate.

Child Hunger and Education Program (CHEP) in Saskatoon works with children, families and communities to improve access to good food and promote Food Security. CHEP believes that food is a basic right and that inadequate nutrition adversely affects health, physical, mental, and emotional development, learning ability, and participation in community. CHEP believes that a community development approach is necessary to fulfil its mission. CHEP will join us monthly with tips on good diets, healthy eating, stretching your food budget and recipes. Their Good Food Bites will be something you will want to cut out and put on the fridge for easy access.

So see ya next month when we talk about health.

2010 - Unforgettable Year



(Above) Shannon Louttit is followed by her honour runners shortly after presenting Métis sashes to veterans at the Opening ceremonies of the veterans garden at the Back to Batoche site. Louttit ran from Saskatoon to Batoche in the course of a full day, in moccasins no less. The honour runners also ran with her, with one young man, Brandon Sand running over 70 kilometres. They arrived at the Back to Batoche site the night before the opening ceremonies to a welcoming group of supporters who witnessed a very emotional celebration. (photo by John Lagimodiere) Kymber Palidwar (right) poses atop Whistler Mountain while she was in Vancouver as a Métis youth representative for the Olympics. She was joined by several other Métis youth who worked at the pavilion and participated in the Opening Ceremonies. (Photo supplied by Kymber Palidwar) Andrea Menard's voice carried over the valley of the Batoche National Historic site as she sang a few songs at the reconciliation ceremony that kicked off the Back to Batoche celebrations during the Year of the Métis. The emotional event was attended by over a thousand people from across North America. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



If you want your neck bones done right, call this lady. Local president Pat Letendre and her crew were kept busy during Back to Batoche Days satisfying everyone's cravings for good old neck bones, a Back to Batoche staple. Letendre was strategic this year and had their booth do by the rodeo area. "They are neck bone people so we go to them," said Letendre about the rodeo folks and their demand for good old fashioned food. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Year of the Métis



(Above) These young people are members of the St Mary's dance troupe and they perform throughout Saskatchewan teaching people about traditional Métis dances. This photo was taken shortly after a performance at the Workers Compensation Board in Saskatoon on Louis Riel Day. (Photo by John Lagimodiere) (Left) Métis jigger par excellence Scott Duffee performed for the crowd when the Olympic torch passed through Saskatoon. (Photo by GDI) Saskatoon teacher and elite athlete Jacqueline Lavallee (right) was the final torchbearer and cauldron lighter for the Olympic ceremonies in Saskatoon. (Photo by GDI) Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall exchange greetings after the reconciliation ceremony at the Batoche National Historic Site. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Tiga Talk returns

Millions of Canadian children learned their 1-2-3s and ABCs from watching the best children's TV show ever, Sesame Street. Those early learning days are important in teaching language skills and with many children stapled to the TV set, why not use it as a teaching tool.

That's why Tiga Talk! entertains kids while teaching both Aboriginal and English language skills during the preschool years – an integral stage in development. By watching the series, children can learn how to make language sounds more easily, and have fun doing it!

This year, the popular APTN children's show has added an interactive website and iPhone application to provide even greater learning opportunities, offering games, crafts and videos that give children and their families the chance to explore and learn together.

With Aboriginal languages being lost across Canada, Tiga Talk! was created to help teach language skills to preschoolers, while building confidence and instilling imagination in young minds. Targeted at all children (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) aged three to six, Tiga Talk! is a gentle, entertaining series that has fun exploring languages and culture. It combines live action with a magic puppet world, and features music and imaginary play.

Tiga Talk! is centered around three stuffed toys – Tiga the wolf cub, Gertie the gopher, and Gavin the goose – who live with human friends Jodie and Jason, their father, and Kokum ("grandmother" in Cree). Jodie and Jason have a secret. When there aren't any adults around, their stuffed toys come alive as talking puppets. Through their interactions and adventures, the puppets and kids learn about traditional practices and languages of various Aboriginal cultures in imaginative ways.

Tiga Talk! not only captivates and entertains its preschool audience, but also creates an ear for Aboriginal language, and encourages an excitement for learning about traditions and culture during those very important early years.

Tiga Talk! was developed by an award-winning children's television producer, an early childhood educator and a speech pathologist. Irene Green is producer and writer for the series, and also plays the role of 'Kokum'. Singer/songwriter/actor Art Napoleon plays 'Dad', eight-year-old Kate-La Faith Hanuse returns as 'Jodie', and seven-year-old Gabriel Paul once again takes on the role of 'Jason'.

Tiga Talk! Runs Thursday mornings so check your local listings. You can also go to www.tigatalk.com and play some games or get an iPhone app!



Gloria Okeynan, Lacey Eninew, Aaron Shingoose and Curtis Peeteetuce starred in the SNTC Christmas production. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

SNTC's Christmas tradition continued

An old Christmas tradition again sent people belly laughing up and down 20th Street in Saskatoon. The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company produced their popular Christmas play featuring old cranky ladies who make you laugh. This year, the play was written by Curtis Peeteetuce.

Luff Actually was a story of friendship, family and romance. The kohkoms of Kitweenook decided to have a Christmas party at dear old Seegoose

Sinclair's. Unexpected guests complicated matters and the evening resulted in frazzles and festivity involving danger, obsessive romance, scandal and the internet? We guess you had to be there.

Look for new things in 2011 for SNTC as they ramp up under new general manager Alan Long. Expected in March is a play written by Ken Williams starring the one and only Tantoo Cardinal.

Look here in February for further details.



Irene Green plays 'Kokum' and is also the co-creator of Tiga Talk! Kate-La Faith Hanuse plays 'Jodie' in Tiga Talk! (Photo courtesy of Tiga Talk!)



National Energy Board

Office national de l'énergie

Public Notice- Correction

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEB'S REGULATORY PROCESS REGARDING THE BAKKEN PIPELINE PROJECT

The National Energy Board (NEB) is making available \$75,000 under its Participant Funding Program to assist landowners, Aboriginal groups, incorporated non-industry not-for profit organizations, and other interested persons to participate in the regulatory process of the proposed Bakken Pipeline Project (the Project).

Please note that the project summary as published in a previous notice should not have included the Enbridge Westspur Line EX-02 reversal and reactivation. The correct description follows.

Enbridge Bakken Pipeline Company Inc. (Enbridge Bakken) is proposing to construct and operate the Bakken Pipeline. The Project consists of the construction of 123.4 kilometres of new pipeline of which 77.3 kilometres would be alongside and contiguous to existing rights-of-way and utility corridors. The Bakken crude oil pipeline and its associated facilities would be located between Steelman, Saskatchewan and Cromer, Manitoba. The associated facilities would also include the construction of a new pump station near Steelman.

If approved, the construction is expected to start in the first half of 2012 and be completed in late 2012.

This funding is being made available to help interested parties review and comment on the Bakken Project facilities application to be submitted by, Enbridge Bakken. Funding must be used to prepare for and participate in the hearing process which will be announced at a later date.

If approved for funding, recipients must register as an intervenor in the NEB's regulatory process for this project. A funding review committee, independent of the regulatory process, will consider all applications for funding and make recommendations on the allocation of funds.

If there is sufficient interest the NEB will hold a public information session to explain the Participant Funding Program. Please contact Mona Butler, Regulatory Officer, to register your interest in a public information session by calling 403-292-4800 or by using the toll free number at 1-800-899-1265.

The deadline to submit a funding application is 28 January 2011. Funding applications received by the Board after this date will not be considered.

Interested parties are encouraged to review information on the proposed project, as well as the NEB's Draft List of Issues and the Draft Scope of the Environmental Assessment before submitting an application. This information, as well as the Participant Funding Program Guide, the Application for Funding Form and the Standard Contribution Agreement can be found on the Board's website (www.neb-one.gc.ca) under Public Registries / Anticipated Applications.

For more information about the Participant Funding Program, please contact:

Patty Cooper
Participant Funding Program Administrator
Tel: 1-800-899-1265 ext. 3659
E-mail: PFPPAPP@neb-one.gc.ca

Canada

Free entertainment perfect for beating boredom

January is a tight month for most, due to holiday and travelling expenses. People are often stuck at home, inside, until finances stabilize. It doesn't mean you have to be bored. If you're not artistic or musical, you're tired of TV and you'd rather not read books, check out these suggestions to keep you entertained – or at least busy for January and beyond; all free or super cheap!

Go to a Gallery or Museum

Most museums and galleries in Saskatchewan are free to attend. Check before you go, just to be sure. Or ask about free admission days so you can plan a fun trip viewing art and artifacts! Go with a friend and have him or her guess your three favourite items on each wall. Then take your turn. You might be surprised how much you learn about each other!

Have a Movie/Wii/PS3/Board Game Night

There's always more fun in groups. Gather with some friends and even have a potluck first. Then you can all watch movies, play board games, or have mini-tournaments with Wii or PS3 games.

Make Dinner for an Elder!

Fun and entertaining! Most of us would like to know more Elders and spend more time learning our culture and history. This way you can combine both! Impress an Elder with your cooking, and he or she will probably be thankful, and spend most of the evening entertaining you with great stories. Everyone wins!

Learn a New Language

Maybe you've always wanted to speak Cree, Dene, Saulteaux or Sioux ... or even French, Spanish or German! Well, now you have time, and it doesn't have to cost much! I love learning languages and have found



that libraries carry tons of audio books and resources to help.

Learn while you're driving, cooking or cleaning. You might be surprised how quickly you'll catch on!

Clean Out Your Basement and/or Garage

Most of us have some clutter-zone that we prefer to ignore. Tackle it with zeal! Figure out what you absolutely must keep, what can be sold or donated, what can be recycled and what can be thrown away. It may be gruelling, but you'll be so pleased with yourself when you're finished.

Make a Bucket/Good Karma List

I just watched The Bucket List and fell in love with it. What a great idea. Don't put it off until you're older, get started today on your list of things-to-do-before-you-kick-the-bucket.

Or try a list like Earl's on the TV show "My Name is Earl" and restore the good karma in your life by correcting all your wrongdoings!

Write a Will

Kind of grim I know, but think of the peace of mind your family will have if you outline all of your last wishes. They won't have to struggle with guesswork and quarrel at an extremely difficult time for everyone.

Make Memories of Eagle Feather News Articles!

Maybe you or someone you know was featured in Eagle Feather News in 2010 or there were articles that really inspired you. If you have any paper copies lying around, this is a great opportunity to salvage those memories and turn them into keepsakes. Make a scrapbook, frame an article or place it with other cool items in a shadow box. Get creative and decorate it. These make great gifts too!

Host a Swap Sale

A very smart and frugal friend of mine told me of this idea. She went to a few parties where everyone brought items they no longer wanted or used but were in fine condition, and they put them all in the middle of the living room – items like clothing, artwork, housewares, old DVDs, CDs and games. People traded or took what they wanted and who can resist anything free?

Organize Your Finances and Make a Financial Plan

Maybe you want to pay off some debt, save up some cash or invest in something? This is the time to do it!

Make a month-by-month plan and stick to it. You'll be so proud of yourself when 2012 rolls around and you've reached your financial goals.

There are always outdoor winter sports too! Email me if you'd like more suggestions at snazzy-jess@hotmail.com. Or see: "100 things to do during a money free weekend" @ www.thesimpledollar.com.

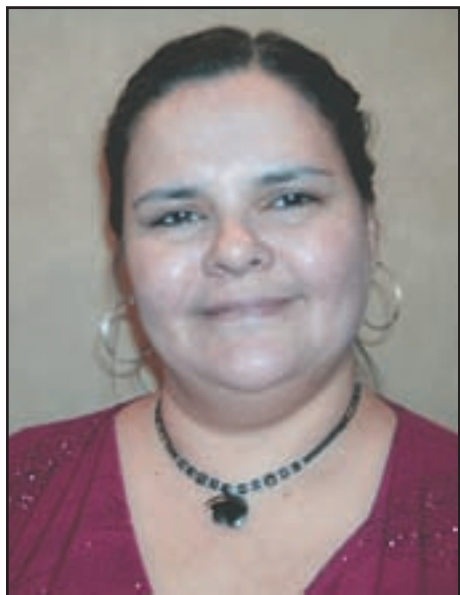
Drop me a line if there's an artist, entertainer or event coming up that you'd like to see featured in Eagle Feather News.

Arts Board offers support for struggling artists

By Jessica Iron
For Eagle Feather News

The difference between starving artists and successful ones usually has a little to do with money and a lot to do with support.

Michelle Rae McKay, an Indigenous and Community Arts Consultant with the Saskatchewan Arts Board, insists that it need not be such a struggle.



MICHELLE RAE MCKAY

"We fund probably somewhere near \$9 million plus in Arts in Saskatchewan per year. We support all kinds of genres, any kind of art you can think of, we support it."

The variety of grants and programs are incredibly diverse for both individu-

als and groups. Scholarships are also available.

"The thing about the grants is that you are given a T4A, and they are taxable," she says.

There are also certain things that look favourable to the selection committee.

"We have an adjudication committee that decides who gets the funding and who does not get the funding. It basically goes through a jury process and they rate the applicants," says McKay.

"Applicants should think of how to sell themselves.

"Putting in your own money is often good because it shows you have initiative, as well as fundraising."

The Saskatchewan Arts Board also offers grant-writing sessions to help potential applicants. Once a grant is approved, a cheque is given to the artist the day the project begins.

Following the completion of the project, a report must be submitted to the Saskatchewan Arts Board in order to successfully close the file. As soon as the file is closed, the artist will be eligible for more funding.

"Anything can be funded. You just have to apply... and believe in it. Keep applying and talking to your consultants. If it's meant to be, it will be."

Find a consultant by calling the Saskatchewan Arts Board at: 1-800-667-7526 or visit them online at: www.artsboard.sk.ca.

Miller says education is vital step to improving relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A University of Saskatchewan professor has won a top award for his work in Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations.

Last month, Dr. Jim Miller was awarded the Gold Medal for Achievement in Research by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the federal research funding agency's highest honour.

Miller, who is Canada's leading expert on historical and contemporary issues related to native-newcomer relations, has taught at the U of S for 40 years and written numerous books on treaties and residential schools. Media often seek his expertise. He provided commentary for the live coverage of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's 2008 apology on behalf of the federal government for its role in Indian residential schools.

Miller believes the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people could improve through a greater knowledge of history.

"I think, particularly among the non-native population, more awareness of the background and the reasons why there are problems. I think it would make people more understanding of the difficulties Aboriginal families and communities face."

Miller says there also needs to be a greater investment in education.

"Over the past 14 years, funding for on-reserve education has fallen very, very badly because of capping ... and the rapid growth in population in the First Nations population. Education is probably the single best and most important key to helping Aboriginal communities and families improve their lot."

When Miller accepted his gold medal, he thanked many, including his wife of more than 38 years, who passed away six years ago.

"Whether it was how to organize a chapter or conference paper ... or how to work out the details in an interpretation so the analysis would be as comprehensive and persuasive as possible, she was simply indispensable to everything I did in research, as she was indeed to my entire existence."

Miller also thanked Maynard Quewezance, who walked into his office as a young Saulteaux student in 1990, saying Miller could interview him because he had attended a residential school.

"Maynard not only provided me with a wonderful interview, which I use frequently in Shingwauk's Vision, but he helped me secure a number of other very important interviews for that project."

"I think of Maynard of symbolizing all the many informants, native and non-native, whose contributions to my research have been absolutely vital to my work on residential school, reconciliation, treaties and government policy."



Dr. Jim Miller of the U of S has received a prestigious national award.

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First Nations ink important gold deal with Province

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Three First Nations have signed a first-of-its-kind agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan.

Last month, the chiefs of the James Smith Cree Nation, Peter Chapman First Nation and Chakastaypasin First Nation signed an agreement with the province's Environment Minister, Dustin Duncan, who applauded the "leadership and commitment" of the chiefs, as he says it was their idea. The agreement outlines how the parties will work together on understanding the impacts of Shore Gold's proposed diamond mine in the Fort a la Corne area on the communities and their treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Chief Robert Head from Peter Chapman says this consultation agreement helps protect treaties because First Nations are involved in the environmental process.

"So we're informed, and we're able to provide consent, and we're able to be participating in the development of the environment in the province," he explained at a news conference.

"I think it's really important for First Nations people to be there on these developments, because if things are going to work good in Saskatchewan, we're going to have to have involvement with First

Nations and ... non-First Nations. We're going to have to work together on all our projects."

James Smith Chief Wally Burns agrees and calls the agreement a further step towards being a "healthy, wealthy and prosperous community."

"This is a proud day for the people of the James Smith Cree Nation."

The agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the province, the three bands and Shore Gold during the consultation and environmental assessment processes.

It does not bind the parties to support the mine.

Previously, Shore Gold had signed agreements with First Nations and Métis groups regarding information gathering, training and employment, but this is the first agreement that involves the provincial government.

"This agreement is a first for the province and supports more efficient and effective consultations," Environment Minister Dustin Duncan said.

"It was the Chiefs' idea and I applaud their leadership and commitment to working together with the province in developing this agreement."

Chief Calvin Sanderson from Chakastaypasin calls the agreement

historic.

"We're here to protect the interests of our First Nations people back at home and our traditional territories are a big issue

in the province. I'm hoping this consultation agreement will open doors for other First Nations in Saskatchewan and maybe possibly across Canada."



DUSTIN DUNCAN



CHIEF WALLY BURNS



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Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth

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Please download the online 2011-2012 CCAY Application and Guidelines at:

www.afcs.ca

*All 2011-2012 CCAY Applications are due by January 28, 2011 at 4:30 pm CST

For more information, contact the CCAY Regional Desk at (306) 955-0762 or email: sandyjoan_b@hotmail.com

Send proposal submissions to:
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Active Measures works

By Delaney Windigo
For Eagle Feather News

A new pilot project aimed at taking young people off social assistance and into the workforce is taking place on the One Arrow First Nation. The band chose to take part in the new pilot project that makes those on social assistance finish their high school diploma.

The Active Measures program is an initiative by Indian and Northern Canada (INAC) and the province, Chief Dwayne Paul said.

There was initial resistance to the program.

"At first there was resistance because we are kind of forcing them to go to school but now we're going into our fourth month of upgrading. Our students are positive," said Paul.

Some of the adult learners upgrade their high school education at the Almighty Voice Education Centre on One Arrow, the rest go to Carlton Trail in nearby Wakaw.

Student Ian Corrigan said he didn't like the program at first but now sees the benefit.

"It's good. It's helped me a lot. Back then when I used to go to school I was barely there. I had bad grades but I was still a good student when I was there. So now that I'm here every day and I see my grades it makes me feel better," said Corrigan.

Corrigan said completing his high school education was something he always planned on doing but the Active

Measures program gave him that extra push.

"I am a good worker and stuff and it's only because I was forced to come and I had to get up in the morning and go to work," said Corrigan.

Chief Paul said he believes INAC and the Province will implement the program in the near future. The band was not forced to take part in the project but decided that it would benefit the community.

"We decided to start early. We've been trying to get our young people into the workforce," said Paul.

"I believe it's going to be policy, they're (INAC) going to implement it, they are going to force it and ... to my understanding the provincial government is really pushing it because of the number of people moving to cities to try better their lives. It's hard to find jobs or anything without education," said Paul.

So far the program is viewed as a success. Carlton Trail Instructor, Lynn Eaton said, "What I saw was a bunch of students who came to work. There's been a few that have dropped off. I'm not saying that it's all rosy coloured glasses because it's not, but the successes far outweigh any of the challenges."

Chief Paul said he believes the program will benefit his community in the long run. However, once the students complete the program they may have to leave their home community or commute to nearby Prince Albert or Saskatoon to find employment or to further their education.



Ian Corrigan sees the benefits of the Active Measures program being provided on One Arrow First Nation. The program gives students a chance to complete their high school education and prepare for the workforce.

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February 12 at 10 AM SIAS, Wascana Campus 4500 Wascana Parkway Regina, SK	12 février à 10h SIAS, campus Wascana 4500, Wascana Parkway Regina (SK)

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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Edwards Career Fair building on last year

The new mantra in Saskatchewan is that the future is young and it is Aboriginal. Nowhere could that be more applicable than in our labour market. With the average age of an Aboriginal person being around 21 years old, we will be relying on Aboriginal people to fill our future labour pool.

To address this issue and to introduce young Aboriginal people to careers, the

Edwards School of Business and INAC, through the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative, have created an excellent career fair to introduce future employees to potential employers in fields ranging from mining, to banking, to telecommunications and policing.

The Future is Yours Opportunity Fair was extremely successful last year with hundreds of students being exposed to



RCMP officer Constable Gladue shares career information with interested students at the 2010 The Future is Here career fair. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Eric Gardiner, Coordinator Northern Community Relations for Cameco reaches out to some potential employees at last year's The Future is Here career fair. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

careers, and to great door prizes. Josephine McKay, acting director of Aboriginal Initiatives at the Edwards School of Business is looking forward to this year's event.

"Building on last year's success, we are anticipating between 600 – 800 First Nation and Métis students to engage with 70 to 80 exhibitors about present and future opportunities," said McKay.

"The Edwards School of Business is very excited about co-chairing this event with the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada along with the steering committee that provides guidance and support that

makes this event a huge success for the employers and most importantly the future employees."

The opportunity fair is targeted to Aboriginal high school and post-secondary students. New this year they are also hosting an evening networking gala for Aboriginal post-secondary students where post-secondary students will be matched and seated with potential employers for a formal evening gala.

This is an opportunity fair that job seekers will not want to miss.

The fair takes place Wednesday, February 9 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

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Please take the opportunity to review the profiles of each role models seen here. Representing First Nations and Métis people, male and female, B.Comm. and MBA graduates, each role model shares their own fascinating story.



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SaskTel Award winner speaks against drugs and alcohol

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

Collin Starblanket was 2010's Culture Award recipient for the SaskTel Aboriginal Achievement Awards, and one of the youngest award-winners at only 14. But Collin is used to being an early starter. He began dancing when he was two years old, and singing by age four.

last four years, he's also been the display board youth role model for the White Raven Healing Centre, to promote a healthy and cultural lifestyle.

"It's up to the older ones to tell the younger ones not to do drugs and alcohol," says Starblanket.

"Do something else with your life, you only got one life. You have a better time without drugs and alcohol."

support, acknowledge, and encourage Métis and First Nations youth achievements.

"The blanket is hanging on our wall, it's beautiful, what an honour. When we got the brochure, we found references, there were so many people willing to offer him a reference, and it was a great experience," said Fred.

Collin agrees.

"It was a good night, my parents enjoyed it too – a really good experience," Collin said, adding it was exciting just to be there let alone to be selected out of the many youth.

He credits not only his family but especially the strong influence of his older cousin by about 10 years, Tresdon Littlelent, who got him into dancing.

"He was a big influence with lodge and culture – he got me started dancing and singing, and I just look up to him."

Collin is an all-round athlete involved in hockey and basketball, and hopes for an athletic post-secondary scholarship to add to the \$1,000 SaskTel award he received in June 2010.

He advises other youth to keep going, no matter what.

"Culture is important – you need to have faith – in your culture, your life, your faith.

I'm glad I did this and lived this way, if you depend on your traditions one day you'll look back and see you didn't have a bad life."

Not bad advice at all – good luck to Mr. Starblanket!



Collin Starblanket has had several positive role models in his life.

"Culture is important. I dance powwow and sing all year round," said Collin via phone interview from LeBret. He attends Grade 9 at Balcarres School, and is from Starblanket First Nation. His performances have taken him from Vancouver to Timmins, Ontario, and as far away as Minneapolis - he's even danced for Prince Charles.

Chosen as File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Youth Representative the

He adds that people who have already gone down that path can come back, especially with the grounding that comes from practicing cultural traditions and teachings.

"People can make that change but they have to decide for themselves, nobody else can do it for them."


His father, Fred Starblanket, says they were given a brochure and encouraged to apply to the Awards program, designed to

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Sask Sport program provides Dream Brokers for three Saskatoon Schools

Students at Fairhaven and Howard Coad Public Schools, and St. Frances Catholic School now have access to their own Dream Broker, thanks to a partnership between Sask Sport Inc., Saskatoon Public Schools and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

The goal of the Dream Broker Program is to ensure children and youth, who traditionally have not had access, get the chance to participate in sport, culture and recreational opportunities. The Dream Brokers match the child with appropriate funding for the programs they are interested in.

The partners believe that having children involved in such activities and programs helps improve their life skills, enhances their sense of belonging and encourages them to foster pride in their

accomplishments.

"Every child deserves an opportunity to participate," says Ray Morrison, Chair of the Saskatoon Board of Education.

"We know that if children and youth have access to these types of opportunities, they become more successful in school," adds Morrison.

"The Dream Brokers program is another way to reach out to children, to help them become healthy, active and successful members of our community," says Diane Boyko, Chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education.

The Dream Brokers have been busy since the beginning of the school year setting up the program in the three participating schools, and helping to fulfill the dreams of students.



Braydon and William from Howard Coad School pose with basketball star and Dream Broker Michael Linklater at the launch of the Dream Broker program.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Aboriginal Champions Program looking for nominees

If you are involved in Aboriginal sport in Saskatchewan, then Sask Sport Inc. wants to hear from you.

The Aboriginal Champions Program, a new initiative meant to encourage Aboriginal participation in sport in Saskatchewan, will showcase the accomplishments of Aboriginal athletes, coaches and supporters.

The Aboriginal Champions selected to participate in the program will be profiled through a variety of media, including posters, advertisements, news articles, website profiles and more. Their success stories will highlight the benefit sport brings to the individual as well as the community. While children and young people will be directed to sport programs, their parents and other adults will be encouraged to volunteer so these programs continue to flourish.

"Sports are a way for children to have fun, but they're also much more than that," said Daniel Longman, Aboriginal Sport Development Coordinator.

"By promoting hard work, leadership, cooperation, sacrifice and a sense of purpose, sport demonstrates the skills required for success in life."

Longman added that sport benefits the entire community.

"Sports are a focal point for communities. They bring communities together by highlighting all the things we have in common," he said.

Participants in the Aboriginal Champions Program will be selected based on their personal biography, past and current involvement in sport, past accomplishments in sport, academic history if

applicable, and community involvement.

Those individuals selected as Champions will be expected to make public appearances such as media interviews, speaking engagements, sporting events and Aboriginal events. The Champions will speak about topics that include why participation in sport is important, how to be a good teammate and leader, how their experiences have shaped them, and the different ways to be active in sport, whether it be as an athlete, coach, supporter or official. An honorarium will be provided to participants in the program.

To be nominated to the Aboriginal Champions Program, the individual must be of Aboriginal ancestry, and a resident of Saskatchewan. Nominations must be made on the official Aboriginal Champions Program nomination form, with signatures from both the nominee and nominator. For nominees under 18 years of age, the signature of a parent or guardian must also appear. A photo of the nominee should also accompany the nomination package.

To be considered for the Aboriginal Champions Program, nomination forms must be postmarked on or before Jan. 30, 2011.

Nominations will be considered by a subcommittee with members drawn from the Aboriginal Sport Leadership Council of Sask Sport Inc., and suitable nominees may be interviewed as part of the selection process.

The Aboriginal Champions Program is supported by Sask Sport Inc., through the Building Communities Through Sport initiative.

For more information, or to nominate

someone for the Program visit www.sasksport.sk.ca/aboriginalSport.php or contact Daniel Longman at (306)-780-9425.

We're looking for a few ABORIGINAL CHAMPIONS to serve as role models

Sask Sport Inc., through the Building Communities Through Sport Initiative, is accepting nominations for its Aboriginal Champions program, a new initiative to celebrate the accomplishments of Aboriginal athletes, coaches and supporters. Those chosen for this program will promote the benefits of sport, and act as role models to encourage others to participate in sport.

Aboriginal Champions will be profiled through a variety of means including posters, advertisements, news articles, website profiles and more. These Champions will encourage youth to become more actively engaged in sport programs, and support adults and leaders to promote sport and encourage them to become volunteers and assist in program development.

We're looking for successful Aboriginal athletes, coaches, officials and others who donate their time and skills to help others participate in sport.

Nomination forms are available online at www.sasksport.sk.ca/aboriginalsport.php OR

by contacting Carla Seesequasis at 975-0865 or email cseesequasis@sasksport.sk.ca.

THE DEADLINE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR THIS PROGRAM IS JANUARY 30, 2011.

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Former NHL coach Nolan to speak at Saskatoon event

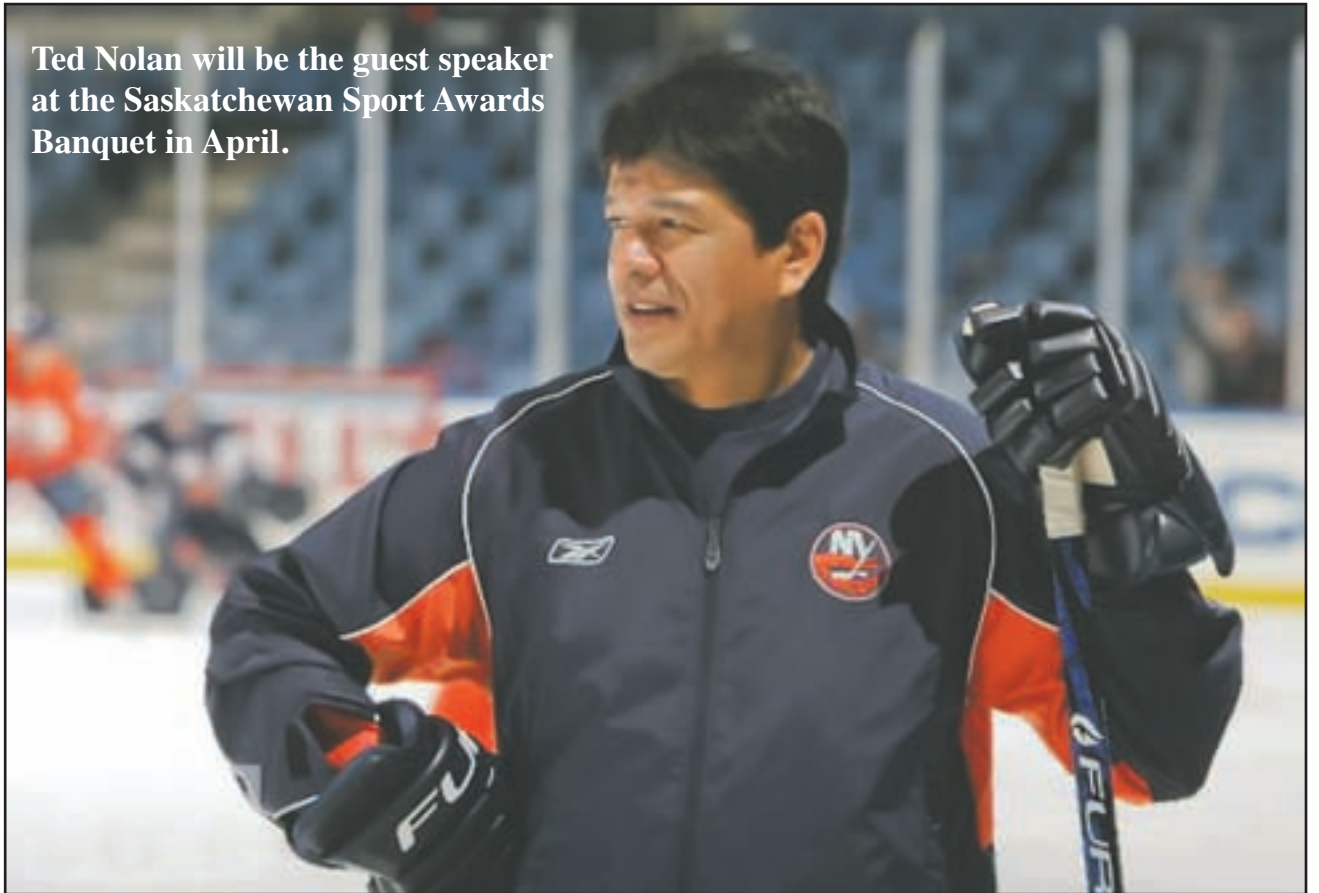
By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Philanthropist, motivator and former NHL coach Ted Nolan will be the guest speaker at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 7 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. Nolan is the only First Nation person to have been a head coach in the NHL. He is a member of the Garden River Ojibwa First Nation in Ontario and is currently the Vice President of Hockey Operations for the AHL's Rochester Americans.

At the helm of teams like the Buffalo Sabres, Moncton Wildcats and New York Islanders, Nolan has earned acclaim for the teams he has coached. Nolan received the Jack Adams Trophy, recognizing him as the National Hockey League's Coach of the Year during the 1996-97 season with the Buffalo Sabres. He is also the first coach to ever lead teams in two of the three major junior leagues to the Memorial Cup finals. Nolan was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in the fifth round of the 1978 draft and played parts of three seasons for the Red Wings and Penguins.

His work off the ice has been equally impressive. With the Ted Nolan Foundation, he is helping to promote healthy lifestyle choices to Aboriginal youth. Nolan and

Ted Nolan will be the guest speaker at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards Banquet in April.



his wife Sandra are the parents of Brandon Nolan, a Vancouver Canucks draft pick who last played for the AHL's Albany River Rats, and Jordan Nolan, a draft pick of the Los Angeles Kings who currently plays with the AHL's Manchester Monarchs.

The Saskatchewan Sport Awards recognize the best amateur athletes and teams for their performances in 2010, and coaches, officials and volunteers for their outstanding achievements and dedication to sport. New to this year's awards ceremony is the officials' recognition category. It is these people who ensure sports are

played according to the rules, and their excellence leads to a higher standard of play. They are foundational to sport in the province, and their contribution deserves to be recognized.

Tickets to the Saskatchewan Sport Awards are on sale now. For more information, go to www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards or call 975-0800 in Saskatoon or 780-9300 in Regina.

Finalists for the Athlete of the Year Award categories will be announced on January 18 as will the recipients of the Coaching, Officiating and Volunteer Awards.

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