

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Honouring Saskatchewan's youth

Dakota Kematch Speidel was the recipient of the Culture Award at the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence. The night featured 10 categories with twelve outstanding and inspiring recipients. (Photo by Marcel Petit)

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

SaskTel's Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence have come a long way in the last 13 years.

"We started out as a really small organization and committee," says Chair Colleen Cameron who has been involved in the Awards since its inception in 1997.

"We had to work really hard to show how important recognizing our Aboriginal Youth was to the province, explains Cameron.

"As a result, 13 years later, we are well respected and have sponsors coming to us, wanting to be a part of something so positive.

"Being on this committee from day one has made me really proud to see the work that these youth are doing in their communities, their schools and to be the best they can be as individuals."

The Awards were established by the Wicihitowin Foundation to recognize the many achievements of Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan.

A room full of excited nominees filled TCU Place's Grand Salon on May 27 in Saskatoon during the 13th annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence.

Among those in the crowd, was 18 year old Dakota Kematch Speidel. The Grade 12 student from Mount Royal Collegiate in Saskatoon won the Award of Excellence in the category of Culture.

"I felt really honoured that my school nominated me for the award. It was amazing to win and I felt really joyful about my accomplishments. It felt really, really good."

Speidel has powwow danced all over Canada, the US and England for literally thousands of people.

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For 13 years Colleen Cameron has been a key organizer of the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. - Page 3



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Who is this man? The answer and many others can be found in our annual Aboriginal Day Quiz. - Page 16



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FSIN Chief and Premier Brad Wall recently signed an historic document. - Page 26



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SIAS has bestowed a special honour on Doris Greyeyes for her work in many realms. - Page 29



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Brandon Sand faced the biggest challenge of his life in Bolivia and came home a winner. - Page 31

Welcome to our
National Aboriginal Day Edition
Coming In July:
Back to Batoche & Graduation Issue
CPMA #40027204

Manitou Stone carries strong spiritual significance

By Tyrone Tootoosis
For Eagle Feather News

It is unknown exactly when the Manitou Stone - Iron Creek Meteorite, the much revered meteorite fell from the skies and landed on a hill near Iron Creek in what is today's Sedgewick-Killam, vicinity. Iron Creek is a tributary of Nootintoo Sipi - the Battle River.

One side of the Manitou Stone bears a striking resemblance to the profile of a man's face.

The stone is of spiritual significance with a strong historical connection to Northern Plains tribes including the Plains Cree, Blackfoot, Blood, Saulteux, Nakoda and Tsuu T'ina.

As with the thousands of other sacred sites throughout the land, these tribes visited the Manitou Stone, conducted ceremonies, left offerings and credited Manitou Stone with protecting the buffalo herds and with healing powers.

Leaders such as Mistahi Muskwa (Big Bear) prophesied that if the meteorite was ever taken or



moved, war, plague, famine and death would quickly follow.

In 1866, and a decade before the signing of Treaty #6

at Fort Carlton, Methodist missionaries stole Manitou Stone in the belief that it would be easier to convert the First Peoples to Christianity if the Stone was taken away from them.

Soon after the theft of the Stone, the buffalo nation was decimated (at the urging of the Canadian Government) and foreign diseases like smallpox savaged the tribes. With no more buffalo, hunger followed, then death.

For the past two decades and with the blessing of First Nation Elders, Manitou Stone has been on display at the Royal Alberta Museum's Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture in Edmonton, Alberta.

There is also an exact replica of Manitou Stone also on display at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Tyrone Tootoosis is curator and manager of Cultural Resources at Wanuskewin Heritage Park

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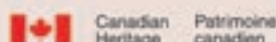
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**Yes!
There's
Still
Time...**
See page 9

The SaskTel Outstanding male was Evan Corrigan an 18 year old Grade 12 student who attends school at Rossignol High in Ile-la Crosse. He is a leader in sports and academics, is drug and alcohol free and loves to hunt and share his catch with his family and grandmother. He received the award from Justice Minister Don Morgan. (Photo by Marcel Petit)

Awards pay tribute to remarkable youth

• Continued from Page One

Giving credit to her Lakota roots, she has danced in many productions including Dare to Dance, National Aboriginal Awards, Stories In Time, Saskatchewan 100th Anniversary Celebration, RCMP Musical Ride and the Grey Cup. As well, she has danced for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles and the Governor Generals of Canada.

“Before I was born I started dancing, in the womb of my mother,” she says.

“The drum is like the mother’s heartbeat and that is what we hear our first nine months, so when you hear the drum it is comforting.”

Twelve awards were given out, 10 categories in total during the evening’s celebrations. Joining Speidel among the youth honoured this year were Lindsay Lepage in the category of Education, Kendra Gamble for Community service, Danielle Delorme for Technology & Science, Evan Corrigan for Outstanding Achievement, Justice Eashappie for Leadership, Amanda Stonechild in the category of Sports and Recreation - Female, Brandon Baldhead for Fine & Performing Arts, Keaven Simes in the category of Sports and Recreation - Male and Tipi Tones Inc. in the category of Enterprise.

All of the winners’ and nominees’ stories were full of inspiration and determination, including that of Cheyenne

Semchyshen in the Spirit category. A courageous 17-year-old young woman with a bright future, Semchyshen’s spirit, determination and fearless character has carried through her personal health issues.

She has survived three open heart surgeries – her first at the tender age of four – and most recently one at the age of 14, another sensitive time in her life, when youth are embarking on an exciting transition to high school.

Through it all, Semchyshen persevered, with the support of her extended family, particularly her sisters. As a result, Semchyshen’s GPA is an outstanding 86 per cent.

For Cameron, she takes great pride in honouring these future leaders.

“Being aboriginal myself and supporting youth in this way makes this not a job, it’s something I love. Our name, Wicihitowin reflects our mission: the Cree word for helping each other, and that’s a big part of what drives me, I’m very proud to be a part of something so wonderful.”

As for Dakota Kematch Speidel, she plans to pursue her dream of becoming a police officer by taking the Criminal Justice program in Lethbridge Alberta.

“I live my life by a tattoo I have that says – Dance to Live & Live to Dance, and as long as there is a drum beat, my feet will follow.”



Colleen Cameron has been an integral part of the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards since its inception in 1997.



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Editorial

June edition always special

Welcome to the June edition of Eagle Feather News. We always enjoy this edition because it is so much fun and packed with content that showcases youth doing great things and examples of how history keeps us grounded.

There are three things you will find in our June issues.

We always cover the uplifting SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards. Eagle Feather News has sponsored the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence for over a decade. Seeing the youth and all they have accomplished inspires us each and every time.

This year we were also inspired when Colleen Cameron, the Chair of the Youth Awards, was given a well deserved honour when her fellow committee members presented her with a star blanket. Cameron has been involved with the Awards since their inception 13 years ago, the last several as Chair. She has done an amazing job of supporting and promoting Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan and deserves the accolades.

Secondly, at the invite of department head Shannon Avison, we always go down to the Regina campus of the First Nation University of Canada and work with the students at the Indian Communication Arts Summer Institute who are taking a crash course in journalism.

With the students, we explain what we do at Eagle Feather News and how we do it. We then hire each student to write an article that they have to pitch to us. It is a fun experience for us and the students. They win because we publish their work and pay them. We win because we get new voices in the paper and hopefully down the road, more Métis and First Nation journalists telling our story.

Lastly, as a tip of the hat to our history in this territory, June is always home to our annual National Aboriginal Day Quiz. This year's quiz was compiled by Jill and Jolie Brewer and they did a bang-on job of teasing your mind and memory.

This year is also the first time that we have Celebrated National Aboriginal History Month. The Regina Aboriginal Professional Association pioneered this month of homage several years ago, but it wasn't until this year that it was proclaimed a national event. Good on them for their tireless work in helping promote positive events in the province for people to better understand the history of Canada and the role of Aboriginal people.

The more you know about where you come from; the better prepared you are to go forward. So remember to study your history and to ask questions of the old people in your family.

Here's what's coming in July

Lots happening between now and our July issue that we will try to bring you the skinny on. Back to Batoche is coming up in July and we will have a good preview of the event. Politically, in the forefront will be the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Assembly that will be held July 6-7. This will be a unique meeting as the Federation is currently taking proposals from First Nations that will be willing to host the assembly in their community and maybe even outside. Lots of logistics, but for sure the assembly will be interesting.

July is also our graduation edition so you can expect stories on ordinary people achieving extraordinary things.

And a big hey to all our friends in jail!

August is always our justice issue. Last year when we asked our friends inside jail to write us some letters and to tell us what it is all about, the response was amazing, both from inside and from our readers. They wanted more ... so here is the assignment for this year's "Letters from Inside".

If you are in a prison or correctional centre in Saskatchewan, we want your thoughts on how to improve things so that people don't wind up in jail, and how to improve things so that when you are in jail, you get some skills or resources so that when you get out, you don't return.

Funny stories are also welcome! Are you up for it? All letters will be published on our website and the best ones will go in the paper. The top three will receive a \$50 honourarium sent to your loved ones. Deal? Send letters to Eagle Feather News, PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.



Dr. Doyle Anderson is a member of the Red Pheasant First Nation in Saskatchewan.

Doyle Anderson named president of First Nations University

Dr. Doyle Anderson has been appointed President of the First Nations University of Canada.

Dr. Anderson currently serves as executive director of the Indigenous Nations Institute and director of the Native American Business Administration Program at Idaho State University.

He completed his doctorate degree in interdisciplinary studies with a dual emphasis in First

Nations business management and organizational analysis at the University of Saskatchewan.

He completed the First Nations MBA Program at the University of Saskatchewan and holds a B.Sc. in environmental engineering Montana Tech of the University of Montana.

Dr. Anderson is a member of the Red Pheasant First Nation.

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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@yahoo.com

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

Currents of Spring

Your humble scribe has returned from an extended trip to the antipodes. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, he was a participant in a conference at the law school at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, where friend and colleague Brad Morse, formerly of the U of Ottawa is now Dean.

In Australia, a short seminar was taught at the U of Wollongong law school, where Luke McNamara, former graduate student at the U of Manitoba is Dean. If you happen not to have been to that neck-of-the-woods, the city of Wollongong is about an hour's drive south of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. If you do not know where Sydney is, then it might be time to invest in a good atlas.

The indigenous folks of Australia, formerly all lumped together as 'Aborigines', are becoming more and more politicized, having joined the worldwide movement of indigenous peoples. In this movement they are increasingly using their own names such as 'Yolgnu', 'Murri', 'Koori' while sorting out their preferences for 'Indigenous' or 'Aboriginal' as a catch-all term.

At the moment, some of the major issues in the country are the establishment of a new national political representation organization and a debate on the idea of adding a preamble that refers to the Indigenous peoples in the Australian Constitution. It is interesting that the new national organization aims to be financially independent of the government once it has established itself on a one-time government grant.

In Canada all the major representative organizations depend upon government funding, and are therefore bound by their purse-strings.

The idea of inserting a preamble into a Constitution that was originally clearly racist and discriminated against the indigenous inhabitants of the world's largest island-continent may make some sense but is nevertheless a highly-contested issue. There is no Constitutional recognition or protection for the basic human or Aboriginal rights of our brothers and sisters in the current Constitution of Australia.

This raises questions of moral and political priorities. Is it a good idea to make solemn preambular declarations that have no legal significance in the Constitution, when the living conditions and political and social state of affairs in indigenous communities continues to be deplorable when measured against international or comparative standards?

Canadians are well-versed in such debates, having gone through the national process of Aboriginal Constitutional

Reform in the 1980s and early 1990s, and having experienced the debate about preambular declarations targeted at Quebec.

...

This spring we mourn the death of our friend Freda Ahenakew of Muskeg Lake and originally from Ahtakakoop. I recall meeting her for the first time when she was hired as a professor in the department of native studies at the University of Manitoba.

A renowned author and expert in the history, culture and language of the

Nehiyawuk or Cree people, Freda always displayed an inspirational personal calmness and humility. I felt privileged when long ago she asked me to support her by attending her oral defence of her graduate degree in linguistics. In subsequent years I was to be involved in other public events that bestowed various honours upon Freda.

There is much talk nowadays about 'role models'. If anyone is looking for a role model for First Nations women then one would do well to look at Freda Ahenakew. In fact, Freda is a role model for any person.

We mourn also the death of Jerry McLeod of James Smith, whose funeral was held on June 6. The son of the late John and Ida McLeod who are legendary in the field of First Nations education, Jerry McLeod was the father of friend, colleague, artist, humourist, philosopher and professor Neal McLeod now of Trent University.

...

You may have read about the 100-kph winds that whipped up southern Lake Manitoba and extended it almost a mile inland in the first week of June. The lake is being used to deflect waters from the Assiniboine River which is experiencing unprecedented flooding in Manitoba.

The river gets its waters from the Saskatchewan region and dumps it ultimately into the Red River at Winnipeg, so it inundates farmlands along the way. A few decades ago the government built a canal from the Assiniboine near Portage la Prairie to join it to Lake Manitoba. That brought in black carp that ate the eggs of pickerel, the main prize of commercial fishing.

Now the Portage Diversion Canal is bringing in fertilizer-polluted waters from farmlands that are flooding out cottagers and permanent residents along the lake. One new resident who moved into a house that was enjoyed for three days before a compulsory evacuation at St Laurent is now a refugee in Saskatchewan. Now I see why our ancestors who started building houses there in the early 1800s, always built about a mile away from the shore.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

Rank Comix

Adam Martin

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Yellow Quill plans economic development strategy

The Yellow Quill First Nation is preparing to invest millions to enhance economic development, training and job opportunities for its people on and off-reserve as a result of the band's Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement settlement.

"This is an historic day for our First Nation and our membership. It has taken many years to select appropriate lands and develop our economic development strategy," Yellow Quill Chief Larry Cachene said.

"Now that this phase has been completed, we will be moving forward with numerous economic development initiatives."

In 1993 the Yellow Quill First Nation settled its outstanding Treaty land claim through the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement

Framework Agreement. Under the agreement, Yellow Quill First Nation was to receive \$29.5 million in compensation for lands the First Nation was supposed to receive under Treaty more than 130 years ago.

Under the agreement, Yellow Quill First Nation was to select a minimum of 11,801.6 acres of land to be converted to reserve land. The First Nation completed a

land selection of 16,772 acres of land, completing its 1993 TLE Framework Agreement.

Recently, Yellow Quill First Nation completed its land selection, with the remainder of its settlement monies to be used in economic development, investment and job opportunities for its band members.

Chief Cachene says the band will plan to make similar investments to the First Nations Bank Building in Saskatoon. The building, located on 4th Avenue South in Saskatoon is owned and managed by Yellow Quill First Nation.

The building is home to some of Saskatchewan's biggest resource companies and the First Nations Bank of Canada.

"Our real estate holdings are beginning to

pay major dividends and we will be announcing in the coming months, our plans for other major economic development and investment initiatives that will result in not only training and job opportunities, but greatly enhance the quality of life for our people," Chief Cachene said.

Yellow Quill First Nation is currently building part-

"Our real estate holdings are beginning to pay major dividends ... (this will) greatly enhance the quality of life for our people."

- Chief Larry Cachene



Yellow Quill Chief Larry Cachene

nerships with industry and government focused on investment, training and job opportunities.

Details regarding the band's investment strategy and partnerships will be made once negotiations on the agreements have been completed.

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First Nations University celebrates 35 years

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

Inside the teepee shaped window panels of the atrium of the First Nations University of Canada, students, elders, faculty and staff gathered to honour the 35th year of the FNUC's existence.

It was on May 27 in 1976 that the University of Regina senate voted to create the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. That college evolved to become the FNUC.

The hour long program was familiar. An emcee presided over the event. An elder opened the program with a prayer. There were leaders of both First Nation and non-First Nation political organizations. The sound system both amplified and distorted the voices of each speaker. When it was all over, cake was cut and served, and it was delicious.

Dr. Jerry Hammersmith was the main speaker. He is elderly and walks with the tremor of an MS sufferer (he says he's going for Liberation Therapy in California soon). He sat on his walker to deliver his talk. Hammersmith was a "founding member of the FNUniv" according to the yellow pamphlet on my chair. But that's "going too far," he said: the elders, chiefs and First Nations' citizens from across the province were the founders of FNUC.

Ever the educator, Hammersmith delivered a kind of lecture on the "strategic challenges" that faced the formation of First Nation educational institutions in the 1970s. Hammersmith recalled the important work of the FSIN's 1970 Task Force on First Nation education. This group travelled all over the province during the years of 1970 to 1972 to consult with elders and communities.

Its report of recommendations (too numerous to

mention here) included the now famous phrase "Indian control over Indian education," or in other words, First Nation education must not merely be First Nation management of a colonial education system.

Hammersmith also recalled conversations with another important consultant in the years leading up to the establishment of the FNUC: Robert K. Thomas, who died in 1991. Both university professor and member of the Cherokee Nation, Thomas helped develop some of the guiding philosophies that today are part of the FNUC. Thomas warned First Nation educators to not get caught by euro-centrism masquerading as universalism.

"Nice, soft-spoken people will try to gently convince you that this is the way the world works," Thomas once cautioned, according to Hammersmith.

While he denied the characterization of being a "founding member," it was clear that Hammersmith played an important role in the development of First Nation education. He was a consultant in the planning, implementation and development of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, the Saskatchewan Institute of Technologies, and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (now the FNUC). He was also the first principal of the first Indian controlled school at the James Smith First Nation and a teacher at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, to name only a few of his teaching and consultant credentials.

After the formal program ended, a reporter from a radio station asked him to share his thoughts about the FNUC and its 35 years of existence.

"I think it's a dream come true, and not just my dream. I shared in that dream with indigenous leaders of the day," Hammersmith said.



Isadore Pelletier (left) and Velma Goodfeather (right) cut the first slice of a cake that was shared during the 35th anniversary of the founding of the First Nations University of Canada in Regina, Sask. on Friday, May 27, 2011. The two elders opened and closed the event with prayers.

He added that his friend, Robert K. Thomas, is smiling down from heaven.

"Dreams greater than the ones that he dreamed have been fulfilled," Hammersmith said.

Celebrating National Aboriginal Day

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Wilfred Gayleard brought Louis Riel to life in the House of Commons.

Increase in Aboriginal MPs a welcome trend

By Tracy Stevens
For Eagle Feather News

I was pleased by the outcome of the 2011 federal election, specifically the increased number of Aboriginal candidates elected to the House of Commons.

Much attention was given to the new group and based on some reactions you'd think it was the first time Aboriginal people were elected to parliament. Throughout Canada's history, 31 Aboriginal people have been elected to the House of Commons including seven in the most recent federal election.

Since Confederation, Aboriginal people have participated in federal politics. In 1873, less than a decade after Canada's birth as a nation, one of its founding fathers and Manitoba's creator, Louis Riel, was elected a member of Canada's second and third sessions of parliament. Running as an Independent candidate, Riel was elected an MP three times. According to the parliamentary website (www.parl.gc.ca) he was expelled from the House of Commons, unseated and declared outlaw in 1874.

Unfortunately, for the people of Provencher, no matter how many times they elected their popular Métis MP, he was not able to represent their interests in Ottawa due to Prime Minister Macdonald's less-than-sober decision to place a bounty on his head. Fear for his safety prevented Riel from ever taking his seat in the House of Commons and sadly he was not able to do more than sign his

Oath of Allegiance.

Today Riel's signature on this historic document can be seen on display in the House of Commons.

How times have changed. Imagine my surprise when I learned recently that the spirit of Louis Riel was not only welcomed into parliament but also delivered a speech in the proverbial parliamentary seat that had escaped Riel in his day. And just as Riel predicted over a century ago, it was only fitting that a Métis actor perform the historical event.

In Ottawa, days after the federal election, Wilfred Gayleard and the cast from ReilCo Productions performed The Trial of Louis Riel, Canada's second longest running play, for local high school students. Later, during his down-time, while in the nation's capital on a guided tour of the House of Commons, Gayleard made Riel's historic appearance to a few tourists in the empty green Commons chambers.


In an eerie performance, Riel came to life as Gayleard gave his best rendition in so doing, reconciled the past with Canada's future by delivering a compelling speech about Canada being a great nation.

It's my belief this quiet and until now, little-known event, is a small but welcome symbolic gesture indicative of the positive change in Canada's approach to Aboriginal affairs.

Tracy Stevens is a Métis writer and filmmaker living in Regina, Saskatchewan. Photo by John Nolan.

Did you know?

June is
National Aboriginal History Month



Aboriginal history month Join us in celebrating the stories and triumphs of Canada's Aboriginal people.

Week 1: Honouring Our Veterans

Week 2: Youth Empowerment

Thursday, June 9 6pm – 8pm

RAPA & Sask Sport presents:
"We've Got the Power!" Live Pro Renegade Wrestling
The Gathering Place 4001 - 3rd Avenue North

Saturday, June 11

RAPA & A Proud Generation presents:
Youth Rally and BBQ 12pm – 3pm
MuchMusic Dance 6pm – 10pm
Core Ritchie Neighbourhood Centre 445 - 14th Avenue

Week 3: Embracing Our Cultures & Traditions

Thursday, June 16

AGEN Pipe Ceremony and Storytelling
First Nations University of Canada 1 First Nations Way

Tuesday, June 21

RAPA & Farm Credit Canada presents:
Aboriginal Talent Showcase 11:30am – 1:30pm
1800 Scarth Street

National Aboriginal Day
Wascana Park 11am – 5pm

Saturday, June 25 9am – 4pm


RAPA & Sask Lacrosse Association presents:
Iroquois Lacrosse Skills Training Camp
Evrax Place


Week 4: Gathering of Grandmothers

Wednesday, June 29 6pm – 9pm

RAPA & Workers Compensation Board presents:
Gathering of Grandmother's Networking Social
McKenzie Art Gallery 3475 Albert Street

*All events taking place in Regina, SK.
www.rapanetwork.ca





Grab-a-hoe-Indians: Remembering the sugar beet policy

By Sylvia McAdam
For Eagle Feather News

I sat around our kitchen table with my parents the other day when the discussion led to recalling those days when we were forced to leave for Alberta.

Surprising, very little is known about the history of the "grab-a-hoe Indians". Apparently my mother's father travelled to Nebraska to hoe sugar beets many years ago. My father, Francis McAdam, was sent to South Dakota to hoe sugar beets as well. So in hindsight, I'm a third generation "grab-a-hoe" Indian.

It was with humor and trepidation that First Nations people from all over Saskatchewan would refer to themselves as 'grab-a-hoe' Indians as they made their way to Alberta. The Indian agent would inform people that the rations or welfare (depending on the era) would be cut off at the end of April. There was very little choice but to seek employment off-reserve which was very difficult at the best of times.

One of the "opportunities" came in the form of the sugar beet industry. The sugar beet industry, with the assistance of the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Committee and the Department of Indian Affairs began busing First Nations people to hoe the sugar beets, a work no one else would do.

All able-bodied First Nations people would leave their reserves especially Big River, Onion Lake and Peter Ballantyne First Nations. The reserves would be eerily empty except for the Elders and the disabled. The arrival into Alberta saw hundreds of migrating First Nations people flooding the towns and fields.

It was back-breaking work with deplorable housing conditions. Some of the First Nations workers were made to live in grain bins! Some were fortunate enough to have electricity, a majority of the time the housing had no

plumbing and no electricity. Many of the houses were so decrepit they should have been condemned.

All of the First Nations families would arrive with their children in tow. With my own family, all of us started working as early as six years of age. I often wonder where the Canadian child labour laws were during that era because they certainly did not protect First Nations children. The sugar beet fields consumed lands around Lethbridge, Coaldale, Taber and other neighbouring towns, so it was difficult not to notice all these First Nations children working out in the fields when they should be in school.

For most of my elementary and high school I missed the months of May and June, so it's extraordinary to me that I made it through law school.

Each morning would start at approximately 7 a.m. and would end at 10 p.m. The hours were long and monotonous with lunch and supper breaking each day. We would walk and walk, carrying our sugar beet hoes as we weeded the 100 or so acres of land. Each row of sugar beets was a half mile long and it was the goal of each worker to finish as many as possible in one day. The sooner a field was weeded the sooner we would be paid and when we were paid, we would move on to another field.

During those years when I worked those fields, my mother said it wasn't too bad. When she was forced to work those fields in the early 1960's she had small babies

so she would strap one of us on her back and continue working! I thank my parents for enduring those hardships and providing as much as they could at a time when very few opportunities existed.

These days I ponder my health as I look at my pain



First Nations children as young as six toiled in the sugar beet fields.

filled fingers and hands. I wonder, too, if exposure to all those farming chemicals may be linked to the epidemic of arthritis, cancer and various other illness in many of my people. As well, there were First Nations women who went missing and never came home. Also, there were First Nations men who died over there for various reasons.

For this month of June, as we go about remembering our history, let us remember it with prayer for a better future for our children and for the generations to come. Ekosi.

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Yukon student studies journalism in INCA

By Desirae Desnomie
For Eagle Feather News

Matthew Profeit is a 19-year-old radio announcer from Whitehorse, Yukon who came to Regina to learn about journalism in the Indian Communication Arts (INCA) Summer Institute in Journalism.

Profeit knows the power of media, both personally and professionally.

For Profeit, who is from the Na-cho-nyak-dun First Nation, broadcasting provided an escape from a lifestyle of drugs and alcohol that he fell into when he got involved with the wrong crowd and was placed in a group home for a year.

"It was a wake-up call," he said. "This was not what I wanted for myself."

With the support of a residential care worker, he applied and was accepted into the Yukon College's program – Skills for Employment in Radio Broadcasting. And it was there he started to gain the confidence to pursue his dream.

He volunteered at CHON-FM, the radio station for First Nations people in the territory, where he co-hosts a radio show called "Rock the Decades."

Profeit found out about INCA from Sophie Green, the general manager of CHON-FM. He says when she offered him the opportunity to be one of two

students sent to a "crash course" in journalism, he jumped at the chance.

"I just wanted to learn more skills, gain more confidence and get more life



Matthew Profeit is learning about all aspects of the media at INCA.

experience," he says. "I'm very fortunate to be here at INCA."

The Summer Institute is held at First Nations University of Canada in Regina, almost 3,000 kilometres from Profeit's home in the Yukon.

The INCA Summer Institute offers students hands-on training in print jour-

nalism, radio and television.

"We bring the best journalists and teachers in Canada to Regina to work with our students," says Shannon Avison who coordinates the Institute.

"Students start with little or no idea how the media works, and come out with skills to go into entry-level positions in any newsroom."

In seven weeks, the students write articles, produce news and current affairs items for radio, work together to produce a one-hour radio show (which airs on MBC radio on National Aboriginal Day), produce television stories and produce a television program.

"It is great when we get working journalists like Matthew into the Institute with our university students," says Avison.

"They show the students that there are so many opportunities to work in the media — including the Aboriginal media in Canada. There are Aboriginal radio stations and newspapers in every region. And of course, there is APTN."

APTN is definitely on Profeit's radar.

"I want to be a news anchor for the Aboriginal People Television Network."

"I've always had an interest in news. I grew up watching APTN and I want to focus on my people. What they do (at APTN) is relevant to who I am," he says.

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Ile a la Crosse residents protest threats to health care

By Jordan Nicurity
For Eagle Feather News

As delegates to a critical meeting at the Ile a la Crosse hospital walked from the parking lot to the building, a large contingent of local citizens made sure that their feelings about their community doctors and the future of health care in the region were heard loud and clear.

Carrying colourful placards with slogans such as "Keep our doctors in town!" and "Move Forward not Backwards", the loud but respectful crowd was adamant that the representatives from Sask Health, Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority, Northern Medical Services, local government and the surrounding community who were attending the meeting find a way to ensure that physicians serving the community remain based locally and not be flown in and out on an itinerant basis.

The local hospital has been chronically short staffed and the recent resignation of one of the remaining doctors would put the number of physicians in the region at a critical level as early as July. The doctor shortage has meant that numerous clinic days in the surrounding communities have been canceled, and the remaining physicians had voiced concerns that conditions were becoming unworkable.

According to Tom Iron, a board member of the Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority, the shortage is having a significant impact on local communities.

"We used to have a doctor day up in Canoe Lake but that doesn't happen anymore because of the shortage. It is putting a lot on pressure on our nurses, they are getting stressed," said Iron.

"When their doctor isn't available here most of the elders will wait to come back another time and meanwhile they are getting sicker and sicker. They don't want to see any doctor, they want to see their doctor. People want to build that relationship, that trust."

The local doctors feel the same way and were encouraged by the support at the rally.

"What we were hearing outside certainly pressured the people who had come up from Northern Medical Services and Sask Health to come into alignment with those values being expressed. People want doctors that they know and that are part of the community.

"The doctors here feel the same way; we live here and are directly accountable to the people."



People in Ile a la Crosse would like to see more stability in health care services. (Photo by Jordan Nicurity)

"This is a community that has a strong history of taking control of its own administration. At this meeting we started to hear all of the players speaking with one voice, which was the same one that we were hearing outside," said Dr. Chandler, who has lived and worked in Ile a la Crosse for 15 years.

After some frank exchanges of opinion, the meeting did bear fruit as short-term funding was secured to hire temporary locum doctors and the groundwork was put in place for a committee of local community members to oversee the recruitment efforts of Northern Medical Services.

What does safe sex really mean?

By Flo Lavallee
For Eagle Feather News

What is a Condom? The condom is a penis sheath usually made out of rubber (latex) or a natural membrane from sheep intestine.

The history of the condom was designed by Dr. Condom. King Charles II's physician designed the device to prevent undesired children from the mistresses of his king. High cost limited their use at that time to the upper classes of Europe.

The process of producing rubber allowed the price of condoms to drop considerably during the 1930s. More than 300 million latex condoms were sold annually in the United States. Along came birth control, the intrauterine device and the diaphragm and the condom business suffered.

Along came genital herpes, and the condom business continued to suffer. Along came AIDS and the condom business flourished.

The time has come to consider strongly the use of the condom as a birth control device, which properly used, prevents transmission of most sexually transmitted diseases.

Condoms are recommended for nearly everyone, regardless of whether genital herpes has complicated your relationship. If one partner does have genital herpes, however, the condom, properly used, may add a new and very attractive element to the relationship – peace of mind.

The market is now flooded with condoms of all sizes and shapes colors and flavors. Some are ribbed to enhance pleasure. Some are extra tight at the base to restrict leakage after intercourse, and possibly to prolong ejaculation. They are easy to obtain in drug stores, convenience stores, or even by mail-order. No prescription is required.

The Health Bus can be seen in various parts of Westside of Saskatoon. Condoms can be easily obtained upon request. Nothing replaces common sense.

If you desire to protect yourself and your partner against all sexually transmitted infections, then you would want to avoid unprotected contact all together, whether this is genital, oral, anal or whatever. All sexually transmitted infections other than genital herpes are not periodic. If present, transmission could occur during any sexual contact.

Do not use condoms more than once. A condom is never reusable or washable. Dispose of it safely so that no one has access to it. Safe sex means you are safe from infection if you feel that you are in love.

It's a good start in building a good relationship, but other factors should be kept in mind when trying to prevent infections. If previous partners have been high in numbers, then examination for transmitted infection by a competent health care provider is suggested before having sex, especially after having unprotected sex. Seeing your physician is suggested.

good food bites

LOCAL SUPER FOODS



In April we shared that locally-grown foods are good for your health, good for the local economy and good for the environment. Buying locally also helps build strong communities ... and doesn't have to be expensive. Looking for more bang for your buck? Here are four more nutritious, economical and delicious Saskatchewan foods:

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BARLEY contains hefty amounts of beta-glucans, hunger-busting fibres that have been shown to reduce cholesterol and blood sugar levels. Use it instead of white or brown rice.

CAULIFLOWER has anti-carcinogens which may slow cancer-cell growth. One cup of cooked florets gives over 90 percent of the daily requirement for vitamin C.

PARSLEY is full of beta carotene, known to build immunity and alleviate arthritis. Two tablespoons (fresh) provides 70% of the daily intake for vitamin K, which helps prevent weak bones.

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Buck Naked Neechies revel in bare truths

By Braden Dupuis
For Eagle Feather News

There's an old adage that says laughter is the best medicine. And while a single night of comedy may not be enough to reverse 125 years of hardship and suffering, it certainly never hurts to try.

In February, try it what CBC Producer Merelda Fiddler and comedy troupe The Buck Naked Neechies did, in a special recorded for CBC's coverage of National Aboriginal Day on June 21.

"Recognizing that the past is sad doesn't mean that there aren't things that we can laugh about too," said Fiddler.

"If all you do is just remember the bad, you forget that there is so much good happening now, and the whole focus of the show is where it is going right."

The show, called ê-miywahkamikahk, (a Cree word which translates loosely to "where it is going right") revolves around two men, a Cree senator and a Métis fiddle player, who travel through time in a magical canoe. In doing so, they forever alter the course of history, resulting in a present day "Métopia."

"We were a little worried because the story was barely, if at all, historical, so we thought people might object to it," said Edward Doolittle, who makes up one-third of The Buck Naked Neechies along with Robert Hoek and Neal McLeod.

The show also features a guest appearance from CBC Producer Amanda Marcotte playing the part of Indian Agent 99.



The Buck Naked Neechies are doing their comedic best to help us forget the sadness of the past.

So far, however, feedback from the show has been positive. "People loved it," said Doolittle.

The show also represents somewhat of a reunion for the Neechies, who haven't worked together since their time in the Bionic Bannock Boys, a comedy group they founded almost ten years ago.

As the Bionic Bannock Boys, they did comedy shows around Saskatchewan and Manitoba for almost five years, playing to crowds ranging from 30 to 300 people, as well as the occasional comedy sketch for CBC. These days, the trio spends more time focusing on their careers than on comedy, but the possibility for future comedic endeavours remains open.

"We have a lot of ideas, a lot of material," says Doolittle. "The question is finding the time when we're

all together."

The Internet makes long-distance script writing a possibility, and played a large part in the coming together of this project.

"We spent weeks and weeks and weeks on the phone together, basically doing telephone conferencing," said Fiddler. "We would write the scripts together online. It was about taking three people who I know have really funny things to say and can look at humour in a different way. They are very creative people."

The show, which also features musical performances from Riva Farrell-Racette, Tessa Desnomie, Bill Cook, John Cook and the Local Onlyz, airs June 21 on CBC Radio 1.



Mentorship Program

CALL FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

CARFAC SASK operates a mentorship program that pairs qualified and experienced professionals one-on-one with emerging or mid-career artists. We are seeking visual artists as trainees and mentors for this year's program that runs from September 2011 to June 2012. The program develops professional practices and support mechanisms for evolving artists and includes professional development workshops and group meetings. The time commitment for mentor and trainee consultations is a minimum of seven hours per month plus group meetings. Trainees are expected to commit additional time to the production and development of their art practice.

Mentors must be experienced, professional artists. Trainees must be adults and not registered as students. Mentors and trainees must be Saskatchewan residents. Payment for mentors is \$2750; trainees receive \$300 for material expenses. Some travel is required.

Deadline for applications is July 15 2011

For info call Wendy at (306)522-9788

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This program is supported by The Sask Arts Board





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Woman who loves history is making history

By Jill Brewer
For Eagle Feather News

Dr. Evelyn Siegfried, from the Bigstone Cree Nation in Alberta, is the first Aboriginal person to hold the position of Head Curator of Aboriginal History at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

She says being a status Indian gives her a close link to her work.

"I think it does make a difference," she said. "I feel a tremendous responsibility for the collections, knowing that it is a part of my heritage."

Siegfried started working at the Museum in 2006, assisting Dr. Margaret Hannah, the former Head of the Aboriginal History department. Together, they developed a repatriation policy for sacred or spiritual objects. The policy is a guide for the Royal Saskatchewan Museum on how to care for and return objects to aboriginal people. Siegfried was chosen to replace her mentor, Hannah, when she retired in 2008.

Siegfried says previous curators at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum certainly cared about the collections, but an aboriginal curator approaches the job from an emotional, not just intellectual, mindset.

"I think it's special to have an Aboriginal connection," said Siegfried. "(That deeper understanding) hasn't been here prior to myself, so I hope I bring something different to the table."

In the past, there was little understanding about the significance of Aboriginal objects, or artifacts as they are called in museums. Europeans, private collectors and other governments didn't appreciate or respect that these objects have deep cultural resonance.

Things changed after a joint task force established by the Canadian Museums Association and the Assembly of First Nations released a report in 1992. This was

followed by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People's report in 1996. Both reports identified recommendations for change, including repatriating objects and developing cultural protocols for museums and galleries.

"There is a real need for museums policy for Aboriginal people," Dr. Blair Stonechild from Muscowpetung First Nation, a professor at the First Nations University of Canada and a leading authority on museums and Aboriginal people, said.

Stonechild added that there is currently no federal policy that exists in this area. He sees having an Aboriginal person in the head curator position at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum as a positive, both symbolically and in practical terms.

"If you have a sense of belonging to a group, that you have a stake in it, there's more of a feeling that there's something there that has to be valued," he said.

Siegfried has had positive experiences within her job and interacting with the Aboriginal community of Saskatchewan so far.

"Even though I'm a Status Indian, I am of mixed ancestry. I have my feet in both realms."

Being of mixed ancestry has prepared Dr. Siegfried for this role, in which she is the middle person between European-style government and the Aboriginal community.

"I find that in a lot of ways I can bring understanding to both sides, better handle misunderstandings, bridge some gaps."

Both Stonechild and Siegfried agree that there is still much to be done, such as exploring Aboriginal peoples' right to be in control of their own cultural objects. But for now, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum can function as a role model and advisor to Aboriginal museums such



Dr. Evelyn Siegfried has assumed the post of Head Curator of Aboriginal History at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina.

as the Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon.

"We all have to be patient with one another," Siegfried says.

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Artist Ray Keighley and Horizon School Division students learned about the treaty process through art.

Treaties in the classroom embraces artistic aspect

By Michelle Jones
For Eagle Feather News

Kids in Horizon School Division got a combined lesson in treaties and art this spring. Over 300 students worked with Cree/Metis artist Ray Keighley on a project called Communities Through Art, which is funded by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

The artist and students worked together to bring to life the phrase: "For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow."

Keighley and the students developed 11 interconnected images. Each of the images was then divided into 30 segments and the students from the nine Horizon School Division schools in Grades 2 to 11 each painted a segment onto a small canvas. Each student was then asked to add a personal symbol to their painting, giving their own vision of the phrase, "We are all treaty people."

"A lot of them put their own ideas in the painting, like they have their own thing," said Haley Sunshine from Wadena Composite School.

The segments were put together to form a collaborative art piece, which was showcased at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon.

"(The paintings) demonstrate the diverse perspectives that the students bring to the project," said Joanne Cunningham, First Nations and Métis Education Coordinator for Horizon School Division.

One of the most important aspects of this project is it made the students more comfortable with taking risks and expressing ideas through art. It helped their confidence grow and develop throughout the project.

"They were so artistically inclined. But without tapping into that you don't know that," said Rhonda Kayseas, principal of George Gordon Education Centre.

"Giving them different ways to learn, different opportunities to learn, you get a chance to see that, and a chance to see their creativity, their thought processes, because they can bring it out in a different way instead of just the straight academics with a pencil and paper."

Kayseas says Keighley was a great choice to work with the students.

"He was a very open person and very comfortable in the classroom, so with that it makes the students feel at ease. He showed techniques, talked about his different types of work, and the students were able to respond and were interested in what he was doing.

"Being so knowledgeable in his own field made the students feel comfortable with working with him."

Keighley also helped the students understand the purpose of the project. In his lesson to them, he said: "So the promise was that they were going to share the land. This is like Saskatchewan right across here. So we could share things together and get along. That happened many years ago and we're still doing that today."

Saskatchewan students have been learning about the treaties during the school year and this program has given them the opportunity to express their understanding of the treaties.

"We have been learning about treaties in the classroom all year and we've been taking part in different activities, so this was a nice kind of accumulative or an extending activity where they got to explore what being a treaty person meant to them," said Punnichy Elementary School teacher Carla Hordos.

The paintings will become a traveling exhibit with individual panels on display throughout the school division.

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Eagle Feather News National Aboriginal Day Quiz 2011

So, you think you know your Aboriginal history? Here's your chance to impress your family and friends and test yourself. Good luck!

1. How many numbered treaties were signed in Saskatchewan?

- a) 7
- b) 5
- c) 6
- d) 4

2. What was the name of the steamer that General Middleton brought to fight the Métis in the Battle of Batoche?

- a) The Black Pearl
- b) The Titanic
- c) The Northcote
- d) The Good Ship Lollipop



3. Ocean Man First Nation, White Bear First Nation, and Pheasant Rump First Nation all signed Treaty 4, but are located in which treaty area?

- a) Treaty 10
- b) Treaty 6
- c) Treaty 2
- d) Treaty 5

4. When were First Nation people given the right to vote in federal elections?

- a) 1959
- b) 1923
- c) 1960
- d) 1974

5. What year was the last Residential School closed?

- a) 1986
- b) 1959
- c) 1971
- d) 1996

6. Who was the first Treaty Indian appointed to the Canadian Senate?

- a) Elijah Harper
- b) James Gladstone
- c) Ovide Mercredi
- d) Lillian Dyck

7. What are the symbols on the Métis battle standard?

- a) Moccasins, a bison, and scrolls
- b) Crossed muskets
- c) The infinity symbol
- d) A hand, a wolf's head, and scrolls

8. When was the Red Paper written in response to the Federal Government's White Paper?

- a) 1973
- b) 1981
- c) 1970
- d) 1969

9. When was the first Aboriginal newspaper, *The Native Voice*, established in Canada?

- a) 1952
- b) 1946
- c) 1906
- d) 1937

10. How many Aboriginal languages did Gabriel Dumont speak?

- a) 2
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 8

11. What does the word Saskatchewan (an adaptation of a Cree word) mean?

- a) Land of living skies
- b) Swiftly flowing river
- c) Blessed land
- d) Big River

12. What chief fought for better treaty terms and the right to choose the location of his reserve?

- a) Chief Big Bear
- b) Chief Poundmaker
- c) Chief Piapot
- d) Chief Pasqua

13. Which chief told Treaty 6 negotiators "This is our land. It isn't a piece of pemmican to be cut up and given back to us in little pieces. It is ours and we will take what we want."

- a) Chief Big Bear
- b) Chief Poundmaker
- c) Chief Piapot
- d) Chief Pasqua

14. Who was one of the lead negotiators of Treaty 4?

- a) Chief Big Bear
- b) Chief Poundmaker
- c) Chief Piapot
- d) Chief Pasqua

15. This chief held out signing Treaty 6 for six years because he was not happy with the terms.

- a) Chief Big Bear
- b) Chief Poundmaker
- c) Chief Piapot
- d) Chief Pasqua

16. The battle of Seven Oaks was led by which Métis leader?

- a) Jean-Louis Riel
- b) Gabriel Dumont
- c) Pierre Falcon
- d) Cuthbert Grant

17. How many treaties and land surrenders had been negotiated in British North America with Aboriginal people by the time of Confederation?

- a) 47
- b) 123
- c) 18
- d) 96

18. How many treaties were signed between 1860 and 1923, covering more than half of Canada's Aboriginal people?

- a) 66
- b) 32
- c) 11
- d) 4

19. What is the name of the first Urban Reserve in Canada?

- a) Sioux Lookout urban reserve
- b) Long Plain First Nation urban reserve
- c) Wellington Street Ottawa urban reserve
- d) Urban Reserve simākanisihkān askiy (Muskeg Lake Soldier's Land)

20. How many self-government agreements has Canada completed as of February 2010?

- a) 3 involving 4 communities
- b) 17 involving 27 communities
- c) 6 involving 8 communities
- d) 14 involving 21 communities



21. Who were the hosts of the 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards?

- a) Andrea Menard and Raoul Trujillo
- b) Evan Adams and Adam Beach
- c) Eekwol and Shane Yellowbird
- d) Graham Greene and Susan Aglukark

22. Who is the new president of First Nations University of Canada?

- a) John Lagimodiere
- b) Gordon Tootoosis
- c) Nelson Bird
- d) Doyle Anderson

23. What is the new name of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada?

- a) Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
- b) Indian, Metis and Inuit Affairs Canada
- c) Confusion Canada
- d) Red man, Halfbreed and Eskimo Affairs

24. How many times has National Aboriginal History Month been celebrated?

- a) 3 times
- b) Twice
- c) This is the first time!!!!
- d) 5 times

25. Which music legend was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in May 2011?

- a) Tom Jackson from One Arrow First Nation
- b) Robbie Robertson from Six Nations of the Grand River
- c) Buffy Sainte-Marie from Piapot First Nation
- d) John Arcand from the Debden-Big River area

26. Which Aboriginal artist is the only 'living' person to have an art gallery named after them in Canada?

- a) Allen Sapp
- b) David Garneau
- c) Lionel Peyachew
- d) Bob Boyer

27. How large was Canada's Aboriginal population in the 2006 census?

- a) 1,172,790
- b) 651,392
- c) 836,165
- d) 207,544

28. The City of Regina will be the first Canadian city to display what in front of its city hall building?

- a) The Saskatchewan Roughriders flag
- b) A Red River cart
- c) The Métis flag and the Treaty Four flag
- d) A tipi

29. What category was Fred Sasakamoose from Ahtahkakoop First Nation honoured in at the 2011 National Aboriginal Awards?

- a) Technology and Trades
- b) Lifetime Achievement Award
- c) Culture, Heritage and Spirituality
- d) Sports

30. Participants in the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Survey were asked what they most want to achieve in their lifetime. What was the top answer?

- a) Good health/longevity
- b) Complete education/degree
- c) Start/raise/provide for family
- d) Win at blackout bingo

31. What country did not sign the UN bill on Aboriginal rights?

- a) United States
- b) Australia
- c) Canada
- d) All of the above

32. What Aboriginal actress was a member of the House of Commons?

- a) Irene Bedard
- b) Tantoo Cardinal
- c) Tina Keeper
- d) Angelina Jolie

33. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is celebrating which anniversary?

- a) 65th
- b) 50th
- c) 35th
- d) 60th

Answers

1.C, 2.C, 3.C, 4.C, 5.D, 6.B, 7.D, 8.C, 9.B, 10.C, 11.B, 12.C, 13.B, 14.B, 15.A, 16.D, 17.B, 18.A, 19.D, 20.B, 21.B, 22.D, 23.A, 24.C, 25.B, 26.A, 27.A, 28.C, 29.D, 30.B, 31.D, 32.C, 33.A

How did that go for you? If you got all 33 correct you must be an Elder or a professor! Between 28 and 32, well, you are just about as smart as John Lagimodiere. More than 20 right? Well done, you know your history. Less than 20? Perhaps you should join Dirk Dashing for a refresher course. Hope you had fun and enjoy National Aboriginal Day on June 21.



Cameco's Northern Scholarship Program provides annual scholarships for residents of Saskatchewan's north who are attending or planning to attend university or technical institutes. The total value of the program is \$100,000 per year, supporting between 20-30 students.

Application Process

Application forms are available online at cameco.com/scholarships

Completed applications should be mailed directly to:

Cameco Corporation
Northern Affairs Office
P.O. Box 1049
La Ronge, Saskatchewan
S0J 1L0

Ph: 306-425-4144
Fx: 306-425-2153

Deadline for applications is June 30



Nekaneet determined to revive powwow culture

Community's last powwow was held three years ago

By Leisha Grebinski
For Eagle Feather News

A new program on the Nekaneet First Nation is hoping to revive powwow culture in the community.

The program, which has been organized by Kristi Yarshenko and Elouise Mosquito, has provided approximately 20 people with materials needed to make dancing and ceremonial outfits.

"Powwow is important because it promotes a healthy lifestyle, a greater circle of friends, and there is the cultural aspect as well," says Yarshenko, who is a basic education instructor at the Great Plains College on Nekaneet.

"It's a real good way to get kids doing something," says Mosquito who works with Child and Family Services at Nekaneet.

"You're so busy, you don't have time to be out there getting into trouble, drinking, drugs, or gangs, because powwow is a different type of lifestyle."

People from Nekaneet have been coming together twice a week at the Orr

Building in Maple Creek to work on outfits.

Yarshenko says it is mostly mothers and grandmothers, but sometimes children tag along to help out as well.

Yarshenko says about half of the participants had never sewn or beaded before.

Community members have dropped by the program to share their skills and some elders have talked about how outfits were made years ago.

The program, which has been funded by Sask Culture has partnered with the Old Timers Museum in Maple Creek.

Both Yarshenko and Mosquito say without this grant, many young people wouldn't have been able to dance powwow.

"It's expensive to get the outfits made," says Mosquito. "Having this grant



SaskCulture is helping to restore the powwow culture on Nekaneet First Nation.

means that children who may not have been able to can participate now."

The museum will be hosting a special dance and exhibit on July 22 for the young people can show off their new regalia.

"I think the kids will just love to be able to show off what was made," says Mosquito.

Most of the dancers are between four and 14 years old.

Mosquito hopes that with these new outfits, Nekaneet will be able to form a dance troupe that can travel to neighbouring communities to promote Aboriginal culture.

Mosquito and Yarshenko also hope the outfits will inspire the community to host their annual powwow again.

Nekaneet's last powwow was three years ago.

Métis youth in La Loche learn about their history

By Leisha Grebinski
For Eagle Feather News

Métis youth in La Loche are going to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors.

"I want these young people to go out there and see for themselves what history there is in the surrounding community," says Leonard Montgrand, one of the organizers who works at the Friendship Centre.

Youth will start by building a skiff, a traditional boat used by Métis and First Nations people and fur traders in the late 1800s.

"These skiffs are more sturdy and dependable," says Montgrand. "You can take them out in large storms and they are quite capable of handling the wind and can carry a large load."

Students will build the skiffs in the Industrial Arts lab at the high school.

Then, in either July or August, the students will embark on a four-day

journey along northern waterways with stops in Dillon, Ile La Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, Whitefish, and McCusker Lake.

"It will be a history lesson for these folks to show them fur trade routes by their ancestors," says Montgrand.

Montgrand will share stories of how Métis people used to live and travel in these areas.

"It gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment to show these youth from La Loche, my ancestors, and their ancestors."

Approximately 20 Métis youth from the La Loche High School will be chosen to take part in the project.

The project received money from SaskCulture and the Metis Development Fund. The Friendship Centre has also contributed funds as well.

Montgrand says the experience for youth will be unforgettable.

"To live their past through their elders is something they definitely need."

National Aboriginal Day

Recognize and support the ongoing contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada.

Funding support to plan and hold cultural activities taking place anywhere in Saskatchewan, available through the:
Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Leadership Program
Métis Cultural Development Fund
Multicultural Initiatives Fund

For these and other funding opportunities, visit www.saskculture.sk.ca or call Damon Badger-Heit at (306) 780-9251 or toll-free at 1-866-476-6830.

Cultural Activity

Storytelling
Choral Archaeology Diversity
Playwrighting Craftmaking Band
First Nations culture Anti-racism Awareness Sound Recording Languages
Elocution Built heritage Filmmaking Métis heritage Debating Book Publishi



Beading offers women chance to change lives

By Leisha Grebinski
For Eagle Feather News

A group at a Nipawin community centre is helping women out of poverty and violence one bead at a time. The Nipawin Oasis Community Centre Co-operative started a traditional beading group for women who need some extra support.

“Every hour they are not drinking or not in an abusive situation is one more hour,” says Chris Hudyma, CEO of the centre. “That’s why we call it One Bead at a Time – this is one step.”

Once a week approximately 20 women of all backgrounds gather to learn how to make moccasins and traditional beaded patterns.

“For a lot of these women this is important. They are dealing with family violence and alcoholism,” he says. “This is a place they can feel safe.”

Coming together for the program, which is funded by SaskCulture, is not only a safe retreat for these women, but a chance to connect with Aboriginal culture.

“In town, there are not really a lot of options for women to come together unless they belong to a church group. This is something that’s fun that brings culture, memories, and positive conversation,” says Hudyma.

Hudyma says the women have made some beautiful items and the centre is looking at ways for them to be sold that won’t affect their social assistance payments.

“If they sell \$500 worth of moccasins one month then they get penalized heavily by Social Services. They are not ready for that full transition into employment but this could be a start for them.”

Hudyma says that children started joining the women for the One Bead at a Time program so the centre decided to start a youth group.

Hudyma says there are now approximately 27 girls between eight and 16 who get together to meet and now the boys are asking for a youth group as well.

Hudyma says he has watched the program transform lives.

“There is one woman in particular who is trying to get her children back. She is going into detox here, we got her a job, we got her working, so she is making some major progress,” he says. “But there is a lot of work that still needs to be done.”

One Bead at a Time is helping women out one at a time. SaskCulture has made it possible for 20 women of all backgrounds to get together and learn how to make moccasins and traditional beaded patterns.

Share your Culture!

SaskCulture provides funding to support the development and implementation of cultural activities in communities throughout Saskatchewan. Non-profit groups, on reserve or off, interested in engaging First Nations and/or Métis peoples in a particular cultural activity are encouraged to check out the following funding programs:

Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Fund

Aims to increase capacity in Aboriginal communities through the development of arts and cultural leadership opportunities involving youth and mentors. Deadlines: October 15, April 15

Capacity Building Grant Program

Supports capacity-building opportunities in existing, new and emerging cultural organizations. Deadlines: October 15, May 7

Métis Cultural Development Fund

Offered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, this program supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve and pass on the Métis culture and traditions. Deadlines: October 31, April 30

Multicultural Initiatives Fund

Supports multicultural, ethno-cultural, and Aboriginal cultural initiatives activities and initiatives that contribute to the advancement of cultural understanding in Saskatchewan. Deadlines: September 30, January 31, March 15

For more information on these programs, call Damon Badger Heit at 787-9251 or email: d.badgerheit@saskculture.sk.ca. For applications and more details visit: www.saskculture.sk.ca.

Funding available thanks to proceeds from Saskatchewan Lotteries.

Cultural Activity

Storytelling, Choral Archaeology, Diversity, Playwrighting, Craftmaking, Band, Festivals, Languages, Folklore, Songwriting, Elocution, Heritage Conservation, Museums, Dance, Orchestra, Book Publishing, Sound Recording, First Nations Culture, French Heritage, Writing, Music, Art Galleries, Craftmaking, Diversity, Genealogy, Sound Recording, Debate, Film, Music, Art, Writing, Diversity

SaskCulture

LOTTERIES

CULTURE BUILDS COMMUNITY



Ambitious mother of six building new life for her family in the construction industry



Worm works alongside the men.

By Penny Smoke
For Eagle Feather News

Melissa Worm is a 28-year-old single mother of six young children, ages three to 11. Worm dropped out of high school in Grade 8 to have her first child.

“When my oldest daughter came to me and asked me how come I don’t work like other parents work, that kind of made me realize, you know, that I could probably go out and work and do something I enjoy.”

Worm never envisioned herself in the construction field. It was when she lived on Kawacatoose First Nation that she found her interest in construction.

“I started off on the reserve building a horse stable. I saw what my little, small woman hands could build,” Worm said. From there, Melissa found her direction and then began to take the steps to get training to advance her career.

She moved to Regina where she began training at the Trades and Skills Center. Her training helped her become certified in steel stud drywall. Unable to find employment, however she struggled to make ends meet.

“I was renting a home and I got evicted and ended up homeless with my six children,” Worm said. “It was kind of hard. I didn’t know where me and my children were going to spend the night (or) if we were going to ever have a home again.”

Worm wanted to stabilize her life so she decided to further her construction career. She enrolled in the Transi-

tions to Trades program in North Central Regina. It is a program designed to help people overcome barriers to employment. Initially with 140 applicants, this year’s class was whittled down to 10 – nine men and Worm.

Worm attributes her success in getting into the program to her background in dry walling and her commitment to moving her life forward.

“We had four days of orientation and during those four days the instructors choose the people that wanted to come back.”

Students in the Transitions to Trades program have to be drug and alcohol free for the six months that they are in this program.”

“Before this program I had struggled a lot with drugs and alcohol. Coming here made me realize that there is more to life than drugs and alcohol,” says Worm.

The program also introduced her to Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds homes for families. Worm decided to volunteer for Habitat and applied to get a house built for her family.

“I know if I build a home with them, that me and my children will each have our own bedroom and live comfortably and it will be our home because I will be paying for it.”

One of Melissa’s main goals in life is to show her children that women can overcome barriers.

“I’m trying to show them that us women, we can do anything a man can do!”

EXPRESS THE CREATIVE YOU!

Interested in holding a Culture Days activity in your community?

Culture Days is an opportunity to open doors to creativity and cultural activity by offering free, interactive cultural experiences to the public.

Learn more at sk.culturedays.ca

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SIGA officials recently handed over a gigantic cheque for \$500,000 to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan. The funds will help women in the ante partum unit of the new Children's Hospital. (Photo SIGA)

SIGA makes major contribution to Children's Hospital Foundation

Women with complications in their pregnancies will soon receive state-of-the-art medical assistance thanks in part to a generous donation by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan.

The \$500,000 donation was presented at a ceremony at Wanuskewin and has been designated toward the needs of women in the ante partum unit of the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan.

"Our children deserve the best, and a children's hospital will make a huge difference in the lives of our provinces children and families," said Zane Hanson, SIGA President and CEO.

"Through our sponsorship program, we have a specific focus on improving the quality of life for children. This unit in the new Children's Hospital will help pregnant women in Saskatchewan and is a significant investment in our future, we are proud to be part of that."

Kirk Goodtrack, SIGA Board Chair sees the donation as a perfect fit for SIGA's philanthropy.

"The Children's Hospital will benefit families across our province. This donation will allow families to take part in patient care and have access to the latest information on treatment and procedures," said Goodtrack.

"It is history in the making and I am proud that SIGA's sponsorship will benefit so many Saskatchewan families."

For complete employment details, go to www.saskatoon.ca, visit us at Human Resources - City Hall (222 Third Avenue N), or call 975-3261.



While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

CAMECO CHAIR IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Located on one of Canada's most beautiful campuses, the University of Saskatchewan is internationally recognized for its contributions to teaching, scholarship, research and innovation. An institution on the move, with a growing reputation and high aspirations, the U of S is poised to become one of the country's pre-eminent research-intensive universities. The University's pioneering spirit inspires faculty and students to advance knowledge through research, to seek innovation in teaching and learning, and to find new ways to serve the people of Saskatchewan and the world.

Made possible through a generous endowment by the Cameco Corporation, the Cameco Chair in Aboriginal Health will build and develop expertise within the broad areas of research, education and/or clinical skills pertaining to the health of Aboriginal peoples.

The ideal candidate will have recently completed his/her training and have an established relationship with Aboriginal communities as well as a unique understanding of Aboriginal health issues. Preference will be given to those of Aboriginal heritage and with training in internal medicine, but candidates from other clinical disciplines are encouraged to apply. The ability to encourage innovation and collaboration are essential to develop and implement the exciting vision for this role. Must be eligible for registration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply with priority consideration being given to Canadians and permanent residents. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to Employment Equity. Members of designated groups (women, Aboriginal peoples, people with disabilities and visible minorities) are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about this opportunity, call Natasha Knight or Maureen Geldart at (604) 926-0005 or forward your application package (current CV, letter of application and reference list) in confidence to natasha@thegeldartgroup.com.

THE GELDART GROUP
Executive Search & Leadership Consulting

Cory Generoux makes personal sacrifice for the arts

Would you sacrifice your own art to promote another's? That's essentially what Cory Generoux did, when he accepted a job as a producer with the National Film Board of Canada.

In an incredibly selfless act, he agreed to promote and encourage emerging and established documentary, animation and digital media makers of Saskatchewan, at the cost of stepping aside from any and all creative projects of his own.

I recall interviewing Generoux late last summer, to promote and celebrate *The Bionic Bannock Boys*, which was set to be aired on APTN in a new six-part series. After all of the trio's hard work,



COREY GENEROUX *The Bionic Boys* will be returning for a second season this fall.

But this time, they'll have to do it without Generoux, because he must remain unbiased in his position as a producer for the NFB. He also had to close and sign over his production companies as a condition of employment.

"This was perhaps the hardest

decision to make. Perhaps one of the hardest decisions in my life! I had spoken with my Elders about it, with my colleagues, and with the boys, as well as with my family. I had received a tremendous amount of encouragement to move forward with the position.

"The filmmaking community is like my tiospace – the Lakota term for extended family as it relates to the community you come from. As such, I needed to consult because I didn't want to just leave without a plan. People and steps needed to be in place to help in my leaving and accepting the position," said Generoux.

"The Board of the NFB has been incredibly helpful, patient and understanding of my situation because many producers and executive producers came in the same way, from an independent world. We all had to start somewhere. So the transition has actually been very positive, welcoming and somewhat easy.

"On an emotional level it has been tough, but I trust the team and the people who are taking over my positions," added Generoux.

Based on Generoux's knowledge and experience, he has a good idea of what is needed in the film-making community of Saskatchewan.

"Cory comes from a filmmaking background. He's been a writer, a director

and a producer for a number of years, now. Those skills, and the perspective he's brought to all of his productions mean that the NFB is hiring a unique and talented individual," said David Christensen, executive producer for NFB North West Centre.

"The addition of Cory Generoux as our new producer in Saskatchewan will help us to increase film and new media production from the province and focus on the stories and issues of concern to Saskatchewan's communities," said Cindy Witten, director general of NFB English Program.

"This is an important step forward for the NFB in the Prairies and part of a broader vision for bringing the NFB closer to the lives of Canadians everywhere."

Generoux will have an office in Regina for the duration of his one-year contract that began on May 31. He is certain he'll be travelling throughout the province during that time, in search of great stories and filmmakers.

"The NFB is taking serious steps to increase production from Saskatchewan," explained Generoux.

"My mandate is to find talent and expand the boundaries of creation, and to work with the film community in all its diversities across the region, providing a voice for the people of Saskatchewan."

What strikes me is how Generoux understands the importance of

community, and has subsequently grown into a natural leader. A true leader inspires, connects with others and encourages their talents and strengths, for the benefit of the community. It is the very act of putting others before oneself – a necessary, if not crucial quality, that determines how successful a leader will become.

Ultimately, this is not only a new job for Generoux, it is a shift from artist to leader. Filmmakers in Saskatchewan will definitely benefit from the support they can now access through Generoux and the NFB.

"I am deeply honoured to join and be a part of the NFB. For a documentary filmmaker, it is like being drafted to the NHL," said Generoux.

"The NFB has a long, proud history of telling the story of Canada through Canadians. Saskatchewan is ni'mikiwam, my homeland, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue to live and pursue my passion in my homeland in a meaningful way.

I look forward to serving the people and the many great things that have yet to come."

To contact Cory Generoux about how the NFB can help you with your documentary, animation or digital media project, email him at: c.generoux@nfb.ca or call him at the NFB North West Centre: 1-780-495-3013.

If you have an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in *Eagle Feather News*, drop me a line at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com. See you next month!



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SASIPENITA PROJECT COORDINATOR



The Sasipenita Project Coordinator will coordinate and oversee the delivery of the Sasipenita Educational Exhibit Inc. ("SEEI").

DUTIES, SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Oversee the care of the Sasipenita collection including, ensuring the development, maintenance and ongoing cataloguing of the collections care maintenance projects. Coordinates and administers the processing of Sasipenita information. Monitors and maintains all Sasipenita related information. Research the collections for cataloguing and exhibit purposes. Assessment and adjudication of grant applications for Sasipenita initiatives and general arts operational funding. Actively pursues avenues for funding and completes the application forms. Develops and administers a project budget for Sasipenita. Prepares and organizes the Sasipenita exhibition through all phases of planning, organization, research, installation, publication production, etc.

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

Degree in Art History from a recognized university. Five years' experience in a curatorial position in a public, collecting art institution. Thorough knowledge of current practices in visual art and educational and interpretive methodologies. Thorough knowledge of administrative practices in art museums, including project management. Demonstrated ability to develop and facilitate processes and partnerships for program delivery. Demonstrated ability to research, analyze and summarize reliable information to determine action required.

Demonstrated skill in planning, scheduling, budgeting, management reporting and time management. Demonstrated ability to organize exhibitions of artworks, including the ability to research, select, critically analyze, publish and display. Ability to considerately and effectively with the general public. Demonstrated skill in the use of word-processing, database and spreadsheet software.

Closing date for applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2011.

For a complete job description and to apply, please send updated cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

monica.goulet@police.saskatoon.sk.ca

While SEEI appreciates the interest of all the applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



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eaglefeathernews.com



"Celebrating 25 Years of Success"

SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION

This year marks 25 years that the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. (SIEF) has been providing financial products and services to the First Nations of Saskatchewan. To commemorate this milestone, SIEF has planned celebration events throughout the year for our stakeholders to partake in.

SIEF Conference: "Growing Together, Community..." will focus on First Nation Economic Development & Entrepreneurship and will consist of breakout sessions and a keynote address.

The SIEF Commemorative Calendar for 2012 will be unveiled at the conference showcasing our client business successes.

SIEF Customer/Client and Partner Appreciation Day will feature an outdoor picnic with various dignitaries and will offer entertainment and prizes.

SIEF Anniversary Golf Classic will be held at the new Legends Golf Club in Warman, SK.

We hope you will help to celebrate our success. We look forward to welcoming you at one or all of our events.

For more information, please contact:

Charlene Keewatin, Administrative Assistant
Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc.
202A Joseph Okemasis Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1B1
Phone: (306) 955-4550
Fax: (306) 373-4969
Email: ckeewatin@sief.sk.ca

SCHEDULED EVENTS

SIEF Customer/Client and Partner Appreciation Day
Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Noon – 4PM
202A Joseph Okemasis Drive
Saskatoon, SK

SIEF Anniversary Golf Classic
Thursday, September 8, 2011
Legends Golf Club
Warman, SK

Conference: "Growing Together, Community..."
First Nations Economic Development & Entrepreneurship
November 22-24, 2011
Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre
Saskatoon, SK.

25th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Evening
Featuring Recording Artist "Shane Yellowbird"
Wednesday, November 23, 2011
Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre
Saskatoon, SK.

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Contact Information:

Telephone: (306) 657-4881

Email: info@metiseconomicdevelopment.com

www.metiseconomicdevelopment.com

...business is good



The Good Medicine Show honours Métis artists

The Good Medicine Show just completed a six-week run at the Affinity Gallery in Saskatoon. The exhibition of artefacts and contemporary works from the Gabriel Dumont Institute's collection was a collaborative effort between the Institute and the Saskatchewan Craft Council to honour the culture and history of the Métis.

The work of 26 artists as well as that of many unknown artists comprised the items on display. As the show's catalogue states, "Many beautiful pieces of handwork, particularly older pieces, are often of unknown origin. We are left with the mystery of who made the piece and why. What was the inspiration? How did the artist learn the craft? Was it made for a special reason or person? These questions will likely never be answered. In spite of this, the work is truly valued and inspiring, leaving a legacy to which we pay homage. We are grateful to the "Artist Unknown."

The show's reception on May 27 was highlighted by speakers Maria Campbell and Christi Belcourt. Maria Campbell shared her view that the passing on of traditional arts not only maintained Métis culture, but was political in nature because it enabled artists to share stories about our own heroes, families, and experiences, passing these oral histories on to the next generation of artists.

Belcourt's work was a major feature of the exhibition showcasing just a portion of her paintings owned by the Institute. She explained that her inspiration for her work comes from nature and her

ancestors' connection and knowledge to nature. She is also inspired by Métis leaders, both past and present. Her portraits of Gabriel Dumont and Maria Campbell honour their contributions to the Métis.

The guest book indicates that visitors from nearly a dozen countries viewed the exhibit. Comments left by these and other visitors indicate a widespread appreciation for the work of Métis artisans. The Institute envisions the day when these items will be displayed in a Métis Centre of Excellence which would enable the collection to be viewed on an ongoing and permanent basis.

The catalogue is available for purchase at the Saskatchewan Craft Council.


Below is a list of the artists who were featured in the exhibition:

Pat Adams
John Arcand
Christi Belcourt
Peter Beszterda
Dennis Bruce
Irene Campbell
Leah Marie Dorion
Scott Duffee
Donna Lee Dumont
George Fayant
Dennis and Jean Fisher
Hilary Harper
Margaret Harrison
Bonnie Hryciuk
Pélagie Janvier
Bill Kalyn
Simone McLeod
Gary Natomagan

Armand Paquette
Adeline Pelletier
Jane Ash Poitras
Sherry Farrell Racette
Gregory Scofield


Lisa Shepherd
Laurie Smith
Dennis Joseph Weber

— Article by Karon Shmon




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Relatives With Roots: A Story About Métis Women's Connection to the Land is a heartfelt story about a Métis grandmother who takes her granddaughter out into the bush to teach her how to pick traditional medicines. As the granddaughter learns the traditional beliefs and stories about how the Métis people use the plants for food and medicine, she feels happy to be a Métis child with access to such wonderful cultural knowledge. This charming and vibrant book introduces young readers to key concepts in the traditional Métis worldview while focusing on the special relationship between a young Métis girl and her grandmother. *Relatives With Roots* is the second in a series of children's books relating to traditional Métis values by Leah Marie Dorion. The first book, *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story*, was nominated in 2010 for a Willow Award in the Shining Willow category.

Please contact us at the address to the right for ordering information.



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Little Church of Round Prairie evokes special family memories

The following is an interview of Shirley Isbister conducted by Karon Shmon of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Karon: Hello, Shirley. I am delighted that you are willing to tell us about the grand opening of the Little Church of Round Prairie on Sunday, June 5, 2011. Please tell us about the event.

Shirley: The Little Church of Round Prairie is our legacy to 2010 “Year of the Métis” and is dedicated to all the families that lived, struggled, and laughed in this once thriving Métis community. Round Prairie was brought to life again on Sunday June 5, 2011 as the fiddles played and a large group gathered to celebrate the opening of the Little Church. President Robert Doucette, Vice-President Allan Morin, and I brought greetings and welcomed everyone to what I consider God’s country.

As the bell of Round Prairie rang out, people who were born at Round Prairie (Bertha Caron, Ken Caron and Victoria Giesbrecht) descendants of Round Prairie families and elders gathered in the Little Church as Senator Nora Cummings and Senator Mike Maurice blessed the church and the cemetery. Of course there was food, storytelling, and laughter and fiddle music. We closed the event with everyone in the circle singing Daddy Sang Bass (Senator Cummings, did a great job of “Mama sang tenor”)

Karon: Round Prairie is historically and culturally significant to the Métis. I understand your ancestors lived there, making the community even more important to you on a personal level. How does it make you feel to see the community honoured in this way?

Shirley: Round Prairie – the birthplace of my dad holds a special place in the hearts of my family. Our great grandfather, Charles “Wapass” Trottier, is known as the founder of Round Prairie. He fought in the Battle of Batoche with Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. Both sides of my family held scrip at Round Prairie. Our grandparents, Joe and



Florence (Trotchie) Caron, and uncles, Arthur (Micky) and Louis (Lougar) Caron, were the last to be buried in the cemetery. My great grandmother, Ursula (Lafromboise) Trottier, was the first to be buried in the cemetery in 1906 on a plot of land donated for a cemetery by her husband, Charles Trottier.

Karon: Any closing thoughts about Round Prairie?

Shirley: Round Prairie overlooks the South Saskatchewan River and is the most peaceful place to sit, relax, and listen to the sounds of the past.

We would like to thank our sponsors SaskCulture and the City of Saskatoon, and all the volunteers.

Karon: Thank you, Shirley. I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me today.

Shirley: You’re welcome, Karon.

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 21

National Aboriginal Day - Batoche

Batoche National Historic Site of Canada,
11-3
Entertainment, exhibits, demonstrations
P: 306-423-6227
W: www.pc.gc.ca/batoche

June 21

National Aboriginal Day - Saskatoon

Friendship Park, 11-4:30
Everyone Welcome!
Grand Entry 11 a.m.

Featured Performers:

Krystal Pederson, Donny Parenteau
P: 306-244-0174

June 21 to Sept 15

Métis Art Exhibit, BNHS

Friday July 1

Canada Day

July 1 – 3

Fête Fransaskoise

at Back to Batoche Grounds

Saturday July 16

Parks Canada Day

Thursday July 21

Mass at Historic Church

July 21-24

Back to Batoche





Premier Brad Wall and FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild sign the agreement.

Province, FSIN searching for grassroots solutions

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations have signed an historic agreement to establish a joint task force on education and employment.

The task force will consult widely on and off-reserve throughout the province to help identify practical, grass-roots solutions for eliminating the current gaps in education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan.

“It is essential that all people in Saskatchewan reach their potential and benefit from our province’s prosperity,” Premier Brad Wall said.

“If we can effectively meet these challenges, we have the opportunity through this unique partnership for our First Nations and Métis learners to lead our province’s success for generations to come,” the premier added.

“True reconciliation will occur when the foundations of traditional First Nations education is restored, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” Federation of Saskatchewan Indians Nations Chief Guy Lonechild said.

“This joint task force will provide recommendations that will inform collaborative actions towards improving the gap in education and employment outcomes for First Nations people. This will mean success for all.”

The joint task force will focus on several key goals including:

- Improved early childhood outcomes and transition to school;
- Increased high school and post-secondary completion rates;
- Improved participation in the labour force and employment; and
- Greater quality of life and enhanced self-sufficiency.

“This agreement reflects a shared vision of our prosperous province where everyone has access to a high quality of life on and off reserve, Wall said.

The three-member task force will be appointed by the end of summer with public consultations expected to begin in the fall of 2011.

A final report is expected in August of 2012.

The cost of the task force is \$2 million.



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Students get inside view of health field at health and science camp

By Kristen McEwen
For Eagle Feather News

Monica Iron, a second-year arts and science student at the University of Saskatchewan, is on her way to becoming a health professional because of her experience at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) Health and Science Camp last summer.

The camp is held every year at the Regina campus of FNUUniv. It is mainly funded by Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health, Actua, the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations and the Department of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration.

At the Science Camp, students went on a medicine walk with an elder.

"We went to visit an elder in a nearby community. It was the medicine part of health and science," Iron said. "I felt it was an important thing to learn from an elder."

Iron always had an interest in health professions, which is why she decided to attend the FNUUniv Health and Science Camp.

"I like to help people," Iron said. "(To become a doctor) was a bit of a childhood dream."

This summer, the Health and Science Day Camp runs on weekdays for two weeks, from July 11 – 22. It will give Aboriginal students in Grades 5 to 12 the

chance to discover career possibilities in health care and science.

"(We) learn about health and science in a way that is respectful," said Dr. Fidji Gendron, student supervisor of the camp. "We have lots of elders during the week."

The camp is important for the future of the province, said Dr. Edward Doolittle, Associate Professor of Mathematics at the university.

"The province needs Aboriginal people who are engineers, doctors, veterinarians, and so on," said Dr. Doolittle.

Plus, science is a lot of fun, adds Dr. Doolittle.

"(When) I first became involved with the camp I figured out that it was a great excuse to play with a lot of cool gadgets. We have robotics kits, music equipment, and math manipulatives for the camp."

During the camp, students will also meet with health professionals including nurses, who show them how to check vital signs, proper hand washing and how to help people get up from wheelchairs, according to Danielle Lisa Cyr, a FNUUniv student hired to help organize camp events.

The Health and Science Camp has allowed Iron to explore her interest in health professions.

"I learned that there's a lot of opportunities for anyone," Iron said.

Iron plans to finish a degree in



A student presents Elder Walter Lavallee with tobacco before Medicine Walk during Health and Science Camp 2010.

(Photo provided by 2011 Health and Science Day Camp)

English before entering either medical school or graduate studies in psychology. Iron says the camp gave her a great oppor-

tunity to find out firsthand what it's like to work in the field from actual health professionals.

La Loche students confirm evidence of acid rain

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A group of La Loche students made history at the University of Saskatchewan last month. Six Chemistry 30 students from the La Loche Community School were performing an experiment at the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron on tree core samples to see what, if any, impact acid rain is having on the area.

"What we are doing in this experiment is really exciting because no one at the Canadian Light Source has ever taken an x-ray of a tree core sample," says student Jontae DesRoches enthusiastically.

Fellow student, Shaedan Klein, says there is a concern in the community about neighbouring oil sands in Alberta.

"We don't want our trees to be ruined, and that's what can happen. It's corrosive."

DesRoches says Elders have noticed that where trees once grew, they are no longer growing, and they also say wildlife is disappearing.

Klein says there is also a concern about what would happen to fish in the lakes, and how that would affect people's livelihoods.

"Fish is a big part of culture, because everyone fishes."

The students' teacher, Bryan Chappell, says it's no secret that acid rain is falling in and around La Loche.

"That's been pretty well established. We don't know where it's coming from."

The students were looking for elements like sulphur,



Standing, left to right: Jontae DesRoches, Jenessa Herman, Nicholas Herman, Dene Cheecham-Uhrich
Seated, left to right: Shaeden Klein, Tara Janvier-Lemaigre.

(Photo by Darla Read)

titanium and aluminum ions.

After analyzing the data, students discovered what they thought they might find: significant amounts of sulphur in

tree core samples as well as in the lichen, particularly in the younger parts – the parts most exposed to the environment. Atmospheric sulphur, or acid rain, is a probable source.

Finally, the return of Dirk Dashing!

John L.: Long time readers of Eagle Feather News will remember the name Dirk Dashing. It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that Dirk has come out of retirement to resume his title as Eagle Feather's greatest columnist. This month's sponsor is Bachelor Chow – a hefty meal replacement complete with meat and 13 ingredients, now with flavour. Dirk, my man, what up? We missed you.

Dirk: It is so great to be back, John. For the last few years I've been terribly responsible. While that was rewarding I found I needed some excitement, some intrigue, and buckets of adoration. Instead I decided to come back and write for you.

John L.: Um ... Ok. Well it's good to have you back. When last we heard from you, you were off to find work as your wife was expecting a baby.

Dirk: That's right John. Mrs. Dashing gave birth to a healthy baby girl and she is the absolute center of my universe. She's now almost four, is clever, witty and quite a little entertainer. All the excellent qualities she got from me ... the other bits she got from her mom, so she's going to do awesome.

John L.: That is great news and congratulations.

Dirk: Thank you John. While I did all the hard work making baby Dashing, her mother deserves some credit, too. And I was there for the birth, John.

Reminded me of my own birth.

John L.: You remember your own birth?

Dirk: Of course, John. There I was dangling by my ankles when the Doctor turns to mum and says, "Congratulations, Mrs. Dashing. It's ... yours."

John L.: I got to know, Dirk. What brought you back to the glamorous world of column writing? Was it the glamour? The writing? The glamour writing? Say it was the glamour, Dirk.

Dirk: Well John, it started one morning. I was combing my hair wondering if I should go for the wind-swept and interesting or really go for it and try the suave and careless look when I accidentally put on my favourite writing trousers. Hours later I found myself crafting brilliant sentences of commas, periods, exclamation marks and vowels. The consonants came later.

John L.: Of course. So, now that you're back can we expect penetrating insights and wonderful advice like before?

Dirk: I have given the column a great deal of brain-thingys, with pictures, hurty things...

John: ...thinking?...

Dirk: Yes, thinking. I've been given the column a great deal of thinking and Dirk will be doing his usual commentary on

all things current. For the most part I'll be writing about random acts of lunacy and heroism. Sometimes the topic will be political. As usual I will often just make stuff up.

John L.: Speaking of politics, what do you make of the Department of Indian Affairs being changed to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Develop-

ment? Just about everyone welcomes the change except First Nation leaders.

Dirk: John, First Nation leaders got their knickers all bunched-up because they were not consulted or even given a heads-up. Set aside the potential for Treaty rights being watered down for a moment. The Chiefs worry that Harper may have other pleasant surprises in store. This is supposed to be the era of consultation and accommodation, John.

John L.: I don't get how Treaty rights get watered down just because a government department has its name changed.

Dirk: That is a topic for another day, John. What matters is that First Nation leaders have nothing to worry about. Consider the word "aboriginal". It consists of two words: "ab" and "original". The first part, "ab", is an old Latin phrase that means "away from", just like "abnormal" means "away from the normal". Harper is just teaching

peasants like you and me, John, that we are not original.

John L.: What?

Dirk: Apparently it's true, John. Besides, consultation is tedious for government. The colonial I-know-what's-best-for-Indians attitude is back in fashion, just like bell-bottom jeans, Buddy Holly eyeglasses and your haircut. It's all there in Harper's forthcoming epic, "Making Relationships Work: How Anal Retention and Blissful Ignorance Will Save The World."

John L.: Umm, OK. So we'll save how Treaty rights get watered down for another day. Now, last time you wrote for us you had an alter ego, Mr. Answer Guy. Is he coming back too?

Dirk: Of course, John. Mr. Answer Guy will be returning, too, every two or three months. But for Mr. Answer Guy to do his thing he needs fans to send in their questions. Nothing is off limits. Of course, he will change readers names to protect the guilty. The advice will be direct and often pointless. It will be a blast, John.

John L.: Well, it's good to have you back Dirk.

Dirk: Thanks Mr. Littlehouseontheprairie. It's good to be back.

Dirk says, "Take everything in moderation. Including moderation."

Send Dirk the love at dirkdashing@shaw.ca



Network helps grandmothers deal with child care

By Alina Perrault
For Eagle Feather News

Roselena Laferte takes four grandchildren with her when she makes her twice-weekly trips to the Regina Food Bank. Sometimes she finds a ride; sometimes she walks.

"Something has to be done because the one's who (are) suffering are the children," she says.

Laferte's love for her grandchildren and desire to do everything she can to support them led her to join the Aboriginal Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren Support Network. There she gets support from other grandmothers and information about programs that might be available to her family.

Aboriginal Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren is a group that began in Regina as a research project. The network holds monthly meetings where grandmothers contribute in talking circles led by Elders, including Elder Betty McKenna, and talk about challenges they face caring for their grandchildren.

"One of the real advantages of the grandmother's support network is that the grandmothers will come and they'll talk about the kinds of support or the access to programs they've got," says Kerrie Strathy,

Division Head of Lifelong Learning Centre, the facilitator of the meetings.

There are a variety of programs offered by different agencies and departments but many grandmothers are confused about which programs apply to them and what they have to do to qualify for support. At the Grandmothers Caring meetings, they can help each other navigate through the maze of programs.

The grandmothers say the biggest challenge they face is that they may not be considered to be foster parents. So they may not be eligible for the same programs or funding that support other foster families, which receive funding for each child in their care.

Grandmothers caring for their grandchildren receive funding based on their income.

"A foster care family could have two working parents and they would still get that same amount of funding," explained Kerrie Strathie.

"Whereas if an Aboriginal grandmother was looking after grandchildren and she had a source of funding then she would have that deducted essential from the funding that social services would make available for caring for that child."

According to the Ministry of Social

Services, in 2007-2008, Aboriginal children made up 80 per cent of the Saskatchewan children in care and in 2008-2009, 26.5 per cent of the Saskatchewan children in care were living in an extended-family placement or kinship care arrangement.

One grandmother (who prefers not to be named) who attends Grandmothers meetings is a retired teacher who had saved up and made plans to travel in her golden years. She is now raising four children, because her daughter is not able to care for them due to illness. She has been caring for her grandchildren for four years and says when she got the phone call from Social Services to come pick up her grandchildren the file was closed.

"Once a grandmother or a relative takes them, the file is closed and there is no assistance," she said.

She says she is overwhelmed by the effort it takes to get support for her and her grandchildren. She is depleting her retirement savings and says she may have to sell her home in order to keep meeting her grandchildren's basic needs. Her worries are compounded by the fact that she believes that if she cannot manage, and her children are placed in foster care with strangers or in facilities, they will not receive proper care.

When her teenaged grand-daughter ran

away from her father's house, she was placed in an overcrowded group home.

"She was in a place (with) two bedrooms and seven girls, and there was one more coming," she said. "There are not enough spaces for the children that are in care."

The Grandmother Support Network provided input into a study of foster care that was completed in December 2010 and released this month.

Holly McKenzie co-researcher and volunteer with Aboriginal Grandmother's Support Network says the report reflects some of the things they recommended.

"A lot of our concerns were reflected in the child welfare review report including (our recommendation) that grandparents and other extended family caregivers should receive the same level of support as foster families.

"But as we all know things can go in a report can go into a policy, but (not) actually be practiced," she says.

Laferte is adamant that things have to change.

"The children are always suffering, one way or another just like residential schools, convents, boarding school ... the children suffered then and the children are still suffering to this day."

Kakisiwew students finish in top 20 at E-Spirit competition

By Amanada Patchett
For Eagle Feather News

Students representing Kakisiwew School on the Ochapowace First Nation at a national E-Spirit business plan competition finished in the top 20, their highest ranking ever.

"It's a real honor," said teacher and team advisor, Robert Cote.

"It's a real learning experience for both me and my students."

The Business Development Bank of Canada-sponsored event is open to Aboriginal and Métis students across Canada. Nearly 40 teams entered this year's business plan competition, which challenges students in Grades 10 – 12 to develop comprehensive business plans and then present them to a panel of banking and business professionals.

The five Kakisiwew students on the team – Dennis Peepeetch, Shinay Prosper, Wyatt George, Kirk Bear and Dakota Smoker – tackled a weighty issue that is of concern for students: fitness. The band

had already acquired top-quality fitness equipment, including a Bow-Flex, elliptical machines and treadmills but the real challenge was to get students fired up about physical exercise.

The business plan team hit the ground running and created Ochapowace Fun Fitness, a student gym on the school premises packed with fitness programs that were engaging, fun and would make students want to stick with a fitness program.

"After you work out for a while, you'll get tired of it, so might as well have fun working out," Cote said.

"One idea was to get a partner to work out with to make exercise seem like a game," said Cote. The value of making fitness fun was also inspired by Cote's own challenges with keeping fit.

"I'm diabetic and have to exercise and I told them it's lonely when I have to go for a walk alone outside when it's minus 30 out."

Cote, who teaches computer science



Left to right: Shinay Prosper, Heather Bear, Wyatt George, Kirk Bear, Justin Bear, Dennis Peepeetch, Dakota Smoker. (missing Robert Cote)

and photography, has been involved with the school's E-Spirit teams for five years. After earning his Indigenous Education degree from First Nations University of Canada, Cote, who is originally from Cote First Nation, interned at the Kakisiwew School. He acted as the team's chaperon at the 2006 E-Spirit competition in Quebec City, Quebec.

This year's E-Spirit competition was held at the University of Moncton in Moncton, New Brunswick. As part of the three-day event in May, students not only had to prepare complex business plans but

create eye-catching presentations and man a tradeshow booth.

Only teams that wow'd the crowds at the trade show would advance to the Top 20 from which the Gold, Silver and Bronze teams would be chosen. The Ochapowace Fun Fitness team advanced to the final and most challenging judging round, beating out nearly half of all the other teams.

"I'm very proud of the students," said Cote. "This is the best finish yet. Hopefully next year when we go we'll come back with a big cheque and an award."



Doris Greyeyes and David Walls Senior Vice-President Academic on the left and President and CEO Dr. R. G. (Bob) McCulloch, who is on the right posed for this photo during the SIAST Kelsey graduation ceremonies. (Photo SIAST)

SIAST honour's FSIN's Greyeyes

SIAST Kelsey Campus honoured students and special award recipients during its two annual graduation ceremonies.

The honorary diploma recipient was Doris Greyeyes who addressed graduates during the afternoon ceremony.

"I humbly accept this honorary diploma with gratitude from an institution that is nationally recognized for its skills and technical training," said Greyeyes at the convocation.

"I would like to thank SIAST and in particular the Community Services Division for your kind consideration and for this honour that you have bestowed upon me. I share this honour with my employer, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and as well, the First Nations University of Canada."

Greyeyes is the executive director of the justice secretariat for the Federation. She

worked with SIAST staff to develop the Indigenous Peacekeeping program. Greyeyes has a long history of contributing to the community in various capacities, including adult education.

"In June 2009, when our Chiefs directed our organization to develop a province-wide Peacekeeping Service, they had a clear vision of peacekeeping that would enable our Peoples to become more responsible, in our own way, for our own actions. It was the important partnership between SIAST and our institutions, and the working relationship we developed that made the Indigenous Peacekeeping Program a reality.

"On behalf of the Chiefs of Saskatchewan, I thank you for your open and willing spirit to assist us in our work that will re-create viable, safer communities for us all."



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Partnerships key to successful Regina bid says NAIG president

The North American Indigenous Games are coming to Regina in 2014! The NAIG Council made the announcement last month, much to the delight of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the City of Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan who all partnered together on the bid.

NAIG attracts close to 10,000 Indigenous athletes, coaches, parents and fans and is a huge economic boost for the host community. The 2014 Games will be unique because of Team Saskatchewan's dominance at NAIG, winning every time except for a second place finish in Manitoba.

"We are extremely proud and honoured to be selected to host the 2014 North American Indigenous Games," says FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson. "The real winners will be our young Indigenous athletes from across North America," he added.

"The 2014 North American Indigenous Games will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan based on the determined and dedicated efforts from the Regina host candidate city," said Harold Joseph, NAIG Council President.

"The partnership between the Aboriginal



The Saskatchewan bid committee worked hard to put together the winning bid. Team Saskatchewan won with 1742 points compared to Halifax at 1512 and London at 1247. Saskatchewan last hosted the games in 1993 in the city of Prince Albert.

(Photo by Stephanie Whitecloud)

community, municipal and provincial governments and the successful completion of three bid stages were keys to their winning bid," Joseph revealed.

"Congratulations to FSIN, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and the bid committee for putting together

the successful bid," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. "We can't wait to welcome Indigenous athletes from around North America to Saskatchewan, and look forward to showing them what our great province has to offer."

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Brandon Sand of Mistawasis (second from right), just returned from running across a salt flat in Bolivia.

Sand conquers Bolivian altitude

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A Mistawasis teen is home after accomplishing a major feat in another continent.

Last month, 17-year-old Brandon Sand was one of only five youth from around the world who were chosen to run across the world's largest salt flat in Bolivia – all at an elevation of 12,000 feet.

He was one of two Canadians chosen for the arduous trek, and the first and only Aboriginal youth chosen for the program.

The youth were sponsored and chosen by impossible2Possible, known as i2P, a non-profit group that encourages youth to reach beyond what they think

their limits are.

Sand ran the equivalent of a marathon every day for six days. He says the first few days were the toughest.

“I think the first day, I almost quit, because my knee was all kinked up, and it hurt like hell. Ray and Bob ... pulled me aside, gave me a pep talk and all that, and I was good from then.”

Sand says he has a huge sense of pride with what he's accomplished.

“It felt really great. It's one of the hardest things I've ever done, so it felt way more rewarding than anything I've ever done before.”

Later this month, Sand will run his first ever full marathon.

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(Left) Riders are welcoming Richie Hall back as their defensive coordinator this season. (Above) Riders running back Neal Hughes takes a hand-off from QB Durant during Day 4 of Rider training camp. (Above right). Quarterback Darian Durant and assistant head coach Doug Berry seem to be enjoying themselves at a recent practice. (Right) Rider hopefuls huddle around new head coach Greg Marshall for drill instructions. (Photos by Mike Dubois)



 A person in a green and white costume with a mohawk is shown in profile. The background is a metallic, hexagonal pattern.

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