

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## FNUUniv a healthy 35-year-old

From left, First Nation University of Canada Board Chair Della Anaquod, University President Doyle Anderson, Chief Mike Starr, former University President Eber Hampton and SICC President Dorothy Myo. (Photo by Mike Dubois)



## FNUUniv came from humble beginnings

By Kerry Benjoe  
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) proved it has staying power when it celebrated its 35th anniversary last month.

It began as a dream by elders to create a First Nation post-secondary institution and with determination the dream became a reality.

FNUUniv had very humble beginnings and Dorothy

Myo was there when it all began. Myo, president of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, began her university career in 1974 before FNUUniv even existed.

"It was definitely lonely," she said about being one of only a handful of First Nation students on campus at the time.

"We didn't feel a sense of community. You really felt isolated and you felt like you were by yourself."

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Welcome to our  
Role Models and Education Edition  
Coming In November:  
Veterans and Youth Issue  
CPMA #40027204



# Gov. General pays visit to Wanuskewin

Canada's Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, made a stop in Saskatoon last month as part of his cross-Canada tour. He visited Wanuskewin Heritage Park, where he was given a tour by CEO Dana Soonias, who explained the significance of the sculptures that greet visitors.

In his remarks, Johnston praised those in charge of creating and maintaining Wanuskewin.

"In your stewardship of this site, you are following in the path of your ancestors. The beauty of this land, the care you have taken to preserve and to learn from it, are part of a long tradition, as is your commitment to working together."

Dancers and a drum group performed for Johnston and his wife, Sharon. Johnston then officially opened a new exhibit at Wanuskewin called Mistatim – I Honour You, which explores the relationship between man and the horse, and how it changed the lives of the Plains First Nations people.

Johnston also visited Regina during his tour of Saskatchewan.



Lloyd Beazley, Board Chair of Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Dana Soonias, Wanuskewin CEO hold the ribbon for the Governor General and his wife to cut and officially open the Mistatim-I Honour You exhibit as FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson looks on.

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# Rope believes time is right to make city council bid

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

A Pasqua First Nation man has a chance to make history in Saskatoon's upcoming civic by-election.



DEREK ROPE

If Derek Rope is elected on October 19, he will be the first First Nations city councillor ever in Saskatoon.

"It would definitely be an historic thing," he says. "With our growing numbers as far as First Nations and Métis people, we make upwards of 15 per cent of the population, and I think an effective city council needs representation from all of those different kinds of perspectives. Same goes for when we had our first female city councillor.

"If you're going to have solutions that represent the city and the dynamics of the city, I think it's very important to have that representation."

Rope attended the University of Saskatchewan and was a member of the Huskie track and field team. He has taught at Tommy Douglas Collegiate, where he still coaches a senior boys volleyball team, and has been involved with the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, United Way, Saskatoon Sport Council as well as the Saskatoon Police Peacekeepers Program and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. He now works at the FSIN in housing.

Rope ran in the last civic election in Ward 3 against Maurice Neault. Though Neault defeated him, Rope won 37 per cent of the vote. A by-election was called for the riding after Neault died of a heart attack this past summer.

Rope says he was approached to consider running back in 2009 and had never considered it up until that point.

"Eventually, I thought it was the right time of my life, and my work experience and involvement in community would be an asset. The more I thought about it, the more I thought I do have something to offer."

Six other people are vying for the position: Tad Cherkewich, Ann Iwanchuk, Eric Olason, Mike San Miguel, Rik Steernberg, and Salad-Ud-Din Tippu.

Rope says it would mean a lot to him if he won and says it wouldn't even be possible if it weren't for past leaders who have paved the way.

He says it would also be important to him because he has spent so much time working with youth.

"It would mean a lot to be a visible and vocal leader in the community for young people."

Rope encourages people to get out and vote, because he says voter turnout in Ward 3 is not as high as others.

"I'm encouraging people that know people who live in the ward to get and exercise their right to vote."

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## Editorial

# We've got the right to vote, let's use it

Over half of all First Nation people in Saskatchewan live off-reserve. Obviously, all Métis people in Saskatchewan live off-reserve, too.

Thereby it makes lots of sense that we as Aboriginal people are very much impacted by decisions made by our municipal and provincial politicians. Let's face it, we use the schools, go to the doctors and hospitals, drive on the roads and frequent provincial parks and galleries in Saskatchewan.

The Métis and First Nations of this territory are as much Saskatchewanians as the rest of the newcomers (First Nation and Métis sovereignists can get mad at me now). We love winter, bleed green, hate the Bombers and are all scared to go to La Loche. These are things we all have in common, except of course, that Aboriginal people don't vote.

That is why it is imperative that we encourage all our family members to get out and vote in the upcoming civic by-election in Saskatoon (think Derek Rope) and more importantly in the provincial election to be held November 7.

We are now past the time where the provincial government is a foreign and scary entity devoid of Aboriginal people who are interested the political process. The NDP have two Métis fellows sitting in the legislature and are running ten Aboriginal candidates this time. The SaskParty is running five candidates. Our voice is starting to be heard and the politicians know they have to reach out to us ... unless, of course, we continue to not vote! Then why would they bother doing something for someone who doesn't vote for them. Just ask the unions about the SaskParty or the Chamber of Commerce about the NDP. I rest my case.

So, if you care about the schools that your children go to and the level of health care that your grandma is getting access to, and the condition of the road that leads back to your home community, get informed and know who your provincial politician is because those are the people that make it happen for you.

Vote for your kids and your parents. Or vote for Chief Tammy Cook Searson who kicked provincial butt to make it easier for on reserve people to vote.

Friends, grab your partner, kokum, cousin and neighbour, grab your ID, preferably something with a picture of you and with your address on it, and go vote. Show the leaders you care and want to be counted, because you matter and your vote counts.

November 7. Remember the date. Vote.



## MARATHON MAN

Brandon Sand is a 'New Messenger' marathon runner and role model in the community. He got into long distance running last year during the Year of the Métis. He joined ultra marathon runner Shannon Louttit and several other youth runners on a run from Saskatoon to Batoche. During that run he logged over 75 kilometres. The experience sparked his interest in running and since then he became one of only five youth from around the world who were chosen to run across the world's largest salt flat in Bolivia – at an elevation of 12,000 feet. He has also run his first marathon. Brandon is from Mistawasis First Nation and resides in Saskatoon. (Photo by Kymber Rae Photography)



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# He was scared straight by Jim Kotter

My cousin and I overheard some kids in a coffee shop the other day talking about meeting at a graveyard on Halloween and “scaring the crap out of the girls.”

“I don’t know why people are so scared of graveyards,” my cousin said. “I have always found them incredibly interesting and actually quite beautiful.”

I’d never really thought much about them although they were once places where we as children, with our families, always spent one day a year visiting and cleaning them. In fact my memory of that day was as exciting an event as a community picnic which I guess in a way it was, a picnic spent visiting each other and family members who had passed on.

“This is Zubut, your nokom’s youngest sister,” mama would point to a grave. “But mama, it has Elizabeth written on the cross,” I corrected her.

“That was her English name,” Mama said as we pulled weeds from around the head stone.

That was the year I realized that I did in fact know all the people buried there but I didn’t understand why we couldn’t use their real names and write them in our own language.

Clean-up day was in late April or early May depending on the kind of spring we were having.

It was always done after we’d finished burning and cleaning our yards and putting a new coat of mud plaster and whitewash on our cabins.

Families would come from all over. They would come by horse and wagon and old trucks loaded down with shovels, rakes, hoes, scythes for cutting grass, old people, kids, mamas and papas and lots of food. The day would be filled with stories, laughter, tears and prayers. When we were finished the graveyard would be clean, the wooden crosses and headstones repaired and repainted, the fence and gate mended.

Later we would gather under the trees and feast on the food we had brought with us. Sounds idyllic doesn’t it? Almost like the old Carter Family folk song, “There’s a church in the valley by the wildwood...”

But it was a beautiful day for all of us, full of love and kindness. Our lives were hard, poor and often violent, so these special days when there was no alcohol involved and families came together are the wonderful bright times that make the often, bad memories of childhood bearable.

Along with the memory of grave cleaning and picnics I also remember scary stories of “some” of the people buried there. The old man who was cranky and reclusive and who in death was buried off in a far corner by himself and, as the story went, could be heard on clear moonlit nights complaining loudly about everything just as he had done when he was alive. His grave was kept clean but no one ever lingered after to recall good things about him.

We often had to run to the store in the evening or run errands for our parents and the foot path out of our yard went along his grave. We would be fine until we reached him, then we’d run as fast as we could or if there was more than one of us we would all cling together and sidle past, positive he was going to grab us.

There were also stories of lights, small round ones that floated above the graves on dark nights.

“Restless chi puyes” our nokoms would say. “They don’t want to leave so stay away from there.” Meaning of course, don’t go hanging around the store at night. Once, one of our visiting boy cousins, to prove there were no Chi

puyes, went through the whole graveyard criss-crossing it on the darkest night whistling as loud as he could and scared us almost into insanity.

We were positive we heard whistling every night for almost a year after and under no circumstances did anyone go to the store without an adult or a gang of kids.

My last graveyard story came from a friend of mine who spent many years of his life in and out of provincial and federal prisons before he changed his life around. He said he was 17 when he entered his first jail and on the wall of his cell was written: “Jim Kotter was here.”

He thought that was pretty cool and did the same thing. He said over the next 25 years or so in nearly every prison across Canada he found Jim Kotter’s name on the cell wall and always signed beside him. Then one day he was sentenced to Prince Albert Pen and, hard as looked, he couldn’t find Jim Kotter’s name anywhere until one day while he was helping other inmates clean graves he saw a cross that read “Jim Kotter” and under it, “Rest in Peace.”

He said he knelt down by the grave and cried. He finished serving his time and never got into trouble again. Of all the graveyard stories I have ever heard that is just about the saddest one of all.

Anyways, have a Happy Halloween.



## Janet Lafond ‘gets’ Peter Gzowski award

PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy happen in every province and territory across the nation. Each PGI is organized by a local committee and every dollar raised stays in the community to support local literacy programs. On September 9, READ Saskatoon hosted its fifth annual tournament at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club

Peter Gzowski, founder and namesake of the tournament, always said that the PGI is a day of fun and friendship on the links. When these tournaments began in 1986 an award was made to the golfer who best represented what Peter referred to as “the person who gets it”! This award is now known as the Gzowski award.

“We can honestly say that in Saskatoon we are building a strong group of supporters who “get it” Said Sheryl Harrow, the Executive Director of READ Saskatoon.

“A gathering that brings together so much that matters: friends, laughter, poetry, music and the game itself. Most of all, somehow signalling underneath it all that everything is about literacy. This award goes to an individual who today represents this spirit. This year’s recipient was Janet Lafond. Janet and her group of golfers could be heard all over the course. Their laughter, and karate chops reminded all of us, that golf is about fun as we strive for low scores.”

The READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy has raised over \$150,000 for literacy in the past five years. This money addresses every Saskatoon family’s wish for economic and social success by reaching out to the one-third of Saskatchewan’s population that experiences daily challenges because of low literacy.

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# Some musings during Indian Summer

It is October. October means the baseball World Series. Reggie Jackson, a player who dominated a series in the 1970s was called 'Mr. October'. October is a good time to reminisce about baseball and sports generally.

I have been following as best I can the exploits of Jacoby Ellsbury of the Boston Red Sox, one of less than a handful of American Indian players in the major leagues of baseball. After a season of injury last year he has had a phenomenal year and is a candidate for the Most Valuable Player award.

The Penobscot man reputed to be the first American Indian to play in the major leagues, Louis Sockalexis, played in the last years of the 19th century. There is a very readable book on his life entitled 'Indian Summer'. October on the prairies is a good time to read a book with that name. It is an excellent read about a great hitter and outfielder who played for Cleveland. I will not spoil your enjoyment of the book by telling you Lou's story.

Baseball used to be hugely popular in the neck of the woods where I grew up along Lake Manitoba. There are legends and stories about St. Laurent baseball teams in the 1940s and I have a treasured photo of a team from that era. What a cast of characters they were! And so were the other players I met in the popular weekend tournaments

that were held in small towns everywhere, and on reserves such as Sandy Bay and Ebb and Flow, featuring teams from Icelandic and Ukrainian villages and reserve communities such as Little Saskatchewan and Dog Creek.

Different cultures have different attitudes and approaches to sports. The American attitude seems to treat sports as a combination of war, soap opera and religion. The soap opera approach is evident in most media

sports coverage where journalists poke into the private lives of players. Remember Tiger Woods?

The concept of 'racism' is also one of the angles used by media types anxious to get a story that sells to people who know little about a particular sport. Nowadays, if a baseball or hockey player gets razzed with racist taunts the tendency is to call for help from the media and bureaucrats who will make rules that surely will put the miscreants in their place. (tongue-in-cheek here...) A more direct approach prevailed in years past. Such incidents were taken care of then and there with or without the "Marquis of Queensberry" rules. You took care of it yourself or with the help of your mates.

Remember the big kerfuffle about John

Rocker the left-handed relief pitcher? Apparently he had expressed some 'racist' ideas about Black people and New Yorkers. John was hounded out of the game.

First of all, the problem is with anyone paying attention to the ideas of a pitcher who throws from the wrong side. But what about the journalist who asked Rocker about his ideas on race relations? Rocker's contribution to

society was throwing 102 mile-an-hour fastballs past hitters.

I think that then-President Bill Clinton's ideas on race relations are important, but Rocker's ideas on the subject should be of as much interest to the public as Clinton's ideas about the best grip to throw a slider. For non-baseball readers, a 'slider' is a type of breaking pitch. Pitchers try to make the ball do things that baffle hitters, including making the ball dance and dive and slip and dip, by techniques both fair and foul.

Culture permeates sports in various ways. In Australia I learned that reading a rule book will not suffice to make you understand how to apply the rules of 'ice hockey'. You can see that every year in the World Junior Hockey championships around

Christmas time. Unless you have a North American referee, the game is nothing but 'man-advantage' play because of the European attitude to officiating.

Back in Australia, I have seen Japanese baseball players go nuts over Australian umpires' calls. One of my favourite recollections about 'cultural difference' is of an 80 year-old official who accompanied a Japanese team playing the Australian national team in Brisbane in the 1970s. After the game we were having dinner and a few ginger beers well into the evening when the old man decided to put on an impromptu dance. He stepped between the tables and shoved a cigarette up each nostril to conjure up a dragon image. I remember wondering if a Canadian or American sports official might do something like that?

Golf is now huge with indigenous players on the prairies. In Australia, the National Aboriginal Golf Championship celebrated its 30th championship two years ago. The organization was founded by two sports legends, my mate Bob Morgan from rugby league and Syd Jackson, the Australian Rules football legend.

I was privileged to play in the event. There were also two American Indians there, and one Maori. I admit only that I came in the top four international players.

Start reminiscing and you run out of space ... fast.



Rob Jones and Chris Sicotte of Affinity Credit Union answer questions of a perspective first time home owner. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## Home ownership advantages explained

Aboriginal people interested in owning their own home showed up in droves to a forum at the Saskatoon Tribal Council to learn how and why they should be buying a house.

"We analysed the uptake on all of our housing programs and Aboriginal people were just not participating," said Gilles Dorval, Aboriginal Relations Advisor for the City of Saskatoon.

"So we thought we would offer the information, and some food, to people who wanted to investigate the process and see what is possible for home ownership in Saskatoon."

Over 65 participants were treated to a presentation on city home ownership programs, the ins and outs of getting a

mortgage by Affinity Credit Union and a pitch by an Aboriginal homebuilder who helps people get their first house. Rob Daniels also shared his personal experience in getting a home and the benefits to his family because of it.

For Duval, it is all about breaking down barriers.

"Some people who move here from reserve, don't have a concept of home ownership," added Dorval. "We have good partnerships with Affinity, the home builders, the Tribal Council and FSIN."

"We teamed up to provide this information that providing that safe place for your family and paying yourself back into the future is a good investment."

## Rank Comix

By Adam Martin

*NEW*

The goals and objectives of the FSIN are:

- The protection of Treaties and Treaty Rights
- The fostering of progress in economic, educational and social endeavours of First Nation people FSIN
- Co-operation with civil and religious authorities
- ~~Constructive criticism and thorough discussion on all matters~~
- The adherence to democratic procedure
- The promotion of respect and tolerance for ~~all~~ *certain* people

*Gettin' PAID !!*

*\$ \$ \$ \$*

*Adam Martin*



# Revered elder Alma Kytwayhat passes

By Miranda Hanus  
For Eagle Feather News

First Nations in Saskatchewan have lost an important teacher, cultural bridge-builder and Kokhum this past month.

Elder Alma Kytwayhat passed away on September 19 at the age of 69.

She was born on the Thunderchild First Nation and later transferred to her late husband Simon's community, the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation.

Elder Kytwayhat was with the Office of the Treaty Commission advising on treaty curriculum that was delivered throughout the province.

She educated 7,000 Saskatchewan teachers on the history and future of treaties promoting "we are all treaty people."

In addition, Elder Kytwayhat was an Elder-in-Residence for the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

In 2007, Elder Kytwayhat was appointed as a member of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Senate and was also on the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission.

However, one of her most influential roles may be for the young Aboriginal men and women who passed

through the Canadian Armed Forces Bold Eagle program.

For 22 years, since the programs beginnings, Elder Kytwayhat was a cultural advisor, Elder and Kokhum to over a thousand graduates.

Major Nolan Kemp is the army coordinator for the Bold Eagle program that runs every summer in Wainwright, Alberta.

Kemp said he worked with Elder Kytwayhat for three years.

"She helped mentor, develop and guide the program since it began," said Kemp.

"Most importantly she's been a grandmother to the young men and women that have taken on the training, who have needed that help, while they've been away from home and been introduced to the military culture.

"As the program Elder, she helped provide the spiritual guidance, the motivation and encouragement to continue on the training, even though they may want to quit," said Kemp.

"The role of the Elder – and particular Alma – was one of strength to help see (the cadets) through from start to finish."

Kemp said those who worked in the program are blessed to have known her.



Alma Kytwayhat was honoured with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in November 2009. The medal was presented by The Honourable John Klebuc, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Wed. Oct. 12, 6-9 pm  
Thur. Oct. 13, 6-9 pm  
Fri. Oct. 14, 6-9 pm

Fond du Lac/U.C./Cam.  
Stony Rapids  
Black Lake  
Wollaston Lake

Father Gamache Memorial School Gymnasium  
Stony Rapids School Gymnasium  
Father Porte Memorial Dene School Gymnasium  
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### Central Region

Tues. Oct. 18, 6-9 pm  
Wed. Oct. 19, 6-9 pm  
Thur. Oct. 20, 6-9 pm  
Fri. Oct. 21, 6-9 pm

Pinehouse  
Patuanak  
Southend  
La Ronge/Air Ronge

Minahik Waskahigan School Gymnasium  
St. Louis School Gymnasium  
Reindeer Lake School  
Senator Myles Venne School

### West Side

Tues. Oct. 25, 6-9 pm  
Wed. Oct. 26, 6-9 pm  
Thur. Oct. 27, 6-9 pm

Buffalo Narrows  
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[cameco.com](http://cameco.com)





# Cameron, Bird elected vice-chiefs of FSIN

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

An impassioned speech that created lots of buzz led Simon Bird to an impressive first ballot victory for the office of Fourth Vice Chief for



**Bobby Cameron of Witchekan Lake was elected to the office of Second Vice Chief. Ahead after the first ballot, Cameron found support from other candidates to put him over the top in round 2.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Bird, a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation felt good about his campaign, but noted there was more to his victory than one speech.

"I am right now actually speechless. But there were a lot of people praying for me out there. Across the province and beyond, even in Nunavut," said Bird after he finally had a quiet moment after the announcement.

"The amount of people that came to me and showed me support, that gave me confidence. That's what we need in our community, that unity."

The speech he gave the night prior had many people calling a first ballot win for him. During his address to the Assembly, Bird became emotional, pausing as he acknowledged his wife of 11 years, Naomi.

"We've been affected by so many things in alcohol," he noted. "For those that know my family, we've directly been impacted, things that break families apart. We feel the hurt ... we've seen it first-hand."

"It's only by the support of our people that really bring us up from when we're down."

Bird added that even as he was campaigning, there was so much negativity surrounding the FSIN, and says the positive things in First Nations country need to be celebrated.

"That speech I delivered last night, it was an accumulation of everything I heard from the 74 First Nations and what they would like to see," added Bird, 32, an



**Simon Bird and his wife Naomi Thunderchild-Bird receive congratulations from a well-wisher after Bird was elected 4th Vice Chief of the Federation.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

educator who was most recently the principal in his own community of South End.

"But we have to back up what we say in speeches with action."

Bobby Cameron needed two ballots to get past four other candidates in the battle for Second Vice Chief. Cameron, from Witchekan Lake, is also an educator and has worked as a Special Education teacher for several years. After his victory, Cameron was effusive at the microphone.

"My heart's just racing, my friends, my family, my people," said Cameron as he let out a big sigh of relief. "The many miles, the many nights slept in my truck, the many friends I made along the way, the many Elders I sat and talked with. The many laughs I shared with them. I'm humbled. I'm at a loss of words, folks. I'm just so happy, elated."

"My kohkom always told me, and she phones me quite often, be respectful and humble, my boy. These are the two principles I live by and I'll die by."

The two gentlemen begin their new jobs immediately.

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# Community feast a success in Prince Albert National Park

By Shannon Bond  
For Eagle Feather News

“Survival and Sustainability” was the theme of the second annual Paspiwin Community Feast in Prince Albert National Park September 10.

Elder Bill Ermine encouraged the more than 100 multi-racial people gathered under a hot sun and blue sky to behave as the woods around them.

“The poplar, jackpine and willow,” began Ermine, who suggested the name, “Paspiwin” meaning “survival,” then motioned to the forest and continued: “They grow together. They are not fighting. Stand side by side and let things happen. Let’s put our ideas together, that we, all of us, can grow together.”

As several children played tag and shadow games around the teepee, adults and teens were introduced to local Aboriginal and Métis traditions. They enjoyed fresh smoked elk meat, learned how to make birch bark baskets and were entertained by musicians, story-tellers and powwow dancers.

The keynote speaker for the day was author, documentary film maker and playwright, Maria Campbell. Campbell was born in Prince Albert National Park and wrote the memoir, *Halfbreed* and *Stories of the Road Allowance People*, among

other books. She told the audience both humorous and emotional stories about the experiences of the Métis, who once lived, hunted and trapped in what is now Prince Albert National Park.

Campbell told of how losing their homeland to the establishment of the national park negatively affected the identity and livelihood of her people.

“I mean no disrespect and it was not your doing,” she said to the Parks Canada

staff that were present, “But it is part of our history – yours and mine.”

Campbell said it was important to acknowledge the past and that she hoped gatherings like the feast at Paspiwin would grow with time and strengthen bonds between all people again. She said she hoped to return next year and bring her children and grandchildren with her.

“To know we can bring our babies here is a good feeling,” she said.

Use of the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site, which sits within Prince Albert National Park, is intended to increase understanding about First Nations and Métis culture and history and their long connection to what is now the national park. Future plans for Paspiwin are taking place between Parks Canada and Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site Inc., a committee representing 15 First Nations, Métis and urban Aboriginal organizations.

Brian Scribe, Paspiwin committee member, talked about the place of bison in local First Nation and Métis culture. The Paspiwin site was once a bison paddock. Wild bison now roam freely on the west side of the national park. He referred to the animal as a “Superstore on hooves.” Telling the stories of how people, bison and grasslands are connected and were connected in the past is an important educational theme for Prince Albert National Park.

The community feast only ended when the battery pack on the microphone ran down on the last performers as the sun began to set. Elder Norman Henderson closed the gathering with a prayer, and everyone pitched in to clean up. Visitors were sent home with leftovers from the feast table. The teepee was left standing, strong and tall, a sentinel and symbol of survival ... paspiwin.



Jeremy Worme, 14, performing the Chicken Dance at the Paspiwin Cultural Heritage Site feast. (Photo supplied)



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October 19	Lloydminster	Lloydminster
October 26	Pinehouse	Pinehouse
October 27	Île-à-la-Crosse/Buffalo Narrows	Île-à-la-Crosse
October 28	Saskatoon	Saskatoon
November 14	La Ronge	La Ronge
November 15	Prince Albert	Prince Albert
November 21	Moose Jaw/Willow Bunch/Swift Current	Moose Jaw
November 22	Weyburn	Weyburn
November 23	Regina	Regina
November 24	Fort Qu'Appelle/Lestock	Lestock
November 25	Yorkton	Yorkton
November 30	Tisdale/Nipawin	Tisdale

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# Doucette says MNS is working to correct problems in organization

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan has been labelled a “high risk” organization following a review by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Last month, MNS President Robert Doucette released two reports from AAND, which say the MNS needs to improve their financial and management controls.

Doucette welcomed the reports, noting that some of the issues identified have already been addressed, such as some internal management policies around accounts payable and invoicing, a credit card policy, and a policy for tenders for service.

One of the recommendations made in a review was to reduce the number of regions across the province.

Doucette says he recognizes there is a problem with some of the boundaries.

“In one region, you’ll have 12 to 20,000 people, and in another region you’ll have 1,000. That’s not representative democracy.”

Travel advances were another issue identified, but Doucette defended the practice, saying if a Métis person is travelling great distances to attend meetings, he or she is entitled to a travel advance.

“The MN-S with the Area Directors and Ministers and all of our employees actually, in fact, do receive travel advances when they go to MNLAs or do business. They all do.”

Area Director Helene Johnson agreed with much of what was in the reviews, such as the observation that “timely information is not provided to PMC members in advance of their meeting.”

“We get stuff that we’re supposed to pass when we get to the table, and it isn’t just at the provincial council table,” she says. “When you go to the MNLA, you’re given a binder that is probably four and a half inches thick, plus the audit, and they want you to make decisions based on that as soon as you sit down.”

Johnson thinks the review could go further but didn’t give examples.

She was one of the area directors who refused to attend an audit committee meeting called for the end of September, saying three hours wasn’t long enough to deal with the matter.

She was also one of the area directors who didn’t attend a provincial Métis council meeting called that same week; a date that Doucette said was set by citizens who attended a special assembly in August.

Johnson says that assembly was illegal and not binding.

The review noted that there isn’t a mechanism to remove a member from office when they don’t attend meetings without an acceptable reason.

It went on to say that for over a year, a group of nine regional representatives have refused to attend most PMC meetings, resulting in no quorum, which has impeded MN-S business.

It goes on to say that most Métis Nations have a provision where an elected official can be removed from office if they miss three consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason.

Doucette says the MN-S has written a response to AAND and hopes to meet with officials next month.

A government official notes that there is a period to respond before the assessment is finalized, so there is a possibility a rating could change if there is evidence of improvements.



MNS President Robert Doucette defended travel advances for directors and others but agreed there are other issues that need to be addressed. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cuts to First Nations and Métis employment programs</li> <li>Failing to meet its constitutional Duty to Consult</li> <li>Ignoring the state of roads in northern and aboriginal communities</li> <li>Trying to obstruct the aboriginal vote, only backing down in the face of massive protest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More funding for training programs on reserve and in remote and underserved communities</li> <li>A clear mandate on the Duty to Consult</li> <li>Funding for First Nations and Métis communities</li> <li>Funding for rural roads, including to reserves and northern communities</li> </ul>

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# Important to attract Aboriginal voters in prov. election

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Start your engines and get out your ID. The provincial election campaign is going to be kicking into high gear as Premier Brad Wall has announced that on October 11, the campaign for the November 7 provincial election officially starts.

There has been a big push to engage Aboriginal people in the provincial voting process and with the NDP and SaskParty both running several Aboriginal candidates this year, the time is now to become involved. Historically, Aboriginal people have not voted in large numbers so it has been tough to engage the community. Recently, an ill-thought-out identification policy that might have further hindered First Nation people on reserve from voting, has stirred action in the First Nation communities.

There was controversy to start as the SaskParty was not going to allow Chiefs to vouch for their people that they lived on reserve, thereby denying those people a right to vote because they couldn't produce a piece of ID that had their address.

There was uproar from the NDP, provincial Chiefs and grassroots people. Lac la Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson took the bull by the horns and called Attorney General Don Morgan to discuss the issue. Then she followed up consistently with the acting chief electoral officer David Wilke.

"I said, you know, we're just starting to get more and more people, our people,



Chief Tammy Cook-Searson took the province to task.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Premier Brad Wall's governing SaskParty says the political process is important to all people in Saskatchewan.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

First Nations people, getting out to polls. I said, we just got given the right to vote in 1960," Chief Cook-Searson explained at the FSIN Assembly.

"But as I start looking back, I can see why our people didn't want to participate in voting in provincial and federal elections. If you voted, you lost your treaty rights."

She says decisions governments make are felt every day by everyone, including First Nations people.

"I see how the provincial government, how the federal government, impact our everyday lives, whether it's our hunting, our fishing, our trapping or even just staying in a hotel. There are different rules that the federal and provincial governments make, and we need to get our people out there to vote."

Premier Wall also thinks First Nation and Métis people should be involved in the election because what they do as politicians affects First Nation and Métis people like everyone else.

"We are committed to investing in First Nation and Metis education and training and we have a record I am proud of," said Premier Wall at the press conference to announce the election campaign dates.

"For the first time ever when we negotiated our forest management agreement, we made sure it was including the First Nations, Agency Chiefs and Montreal Lake Cree Nation. And we are committed to closing the education gap and increasing graduation rates. Our vision is a vision of growth for everybody. When the province is doing well, we see favourable employment rates. When we talk about our platform, we speak for all people in the province."

The message at the FSIN Assembly was pretty clear that some Chiefs were upset with the province for the ID issue and around the gaming agreement. But


many Chiefs also noted the importance of getting their people out to vote, regardless of whom they were voting for.

"We were successful in getting the attestation form again as chiefs, so I want to encourage you to assign somebody to be at your polling places," added Chief Cook-Searson to the chiefs, noting there will be designates at all polling stations in

communities that are a part of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

"So when they come there, they still need a piece of ID, but at least now we can vouch for them and say yes, this person lives in our reserve. This is a major barrier that has been lifted."

The election is on November 7. Please vote.



## SHOW UP & VOTE

**OUR PROVINCIAL ELECTION IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

**POLLS OPEN FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. C.S.T.**

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- be a Canadian citizen;
- be at least 18 years old; and
- have lived in Saskatchewan for at least six months immediately preceding the day the election was called

This election all voters must show satisfactory proof of their identity and their place of ordinary residence. Acceptable ID can be photo ID issued by a government agency with your name and address (e.g. driver's licence) or two original pieces of valid authorized identification (e.g. health card and utility bill). For a full list of ID, please call or visit our website. If you do not have ID, you can take an oath and have another eligible voter who has acceptable ID vouch for your identity and place of ordinary residence. This person can only vouch for one person.

If you are a qualified voter but your name is not on the Voters' List, on Election Day you will be able to vote by:

- making a declaration; and
- showing satisfactory proof of your identity and place of ordinary residence.

Or you may have another eligible voter who has valid acceptable ID vouch for your identity and place of ordinary residence. This person can only vouch for one person.

**ADVANCE POLLS:**

Eligible electors may vote at an advance poll if they are unable to vote at a regular poll on Election Day. Every person who seeks to vote at an advance poll must make a declaration. Please visit our website for the locations of advance polls in your constituency. The dates and hours of voting at the advance polls are as follows:

- Tuesday, November 1, 2011 - 3:00 PM. to 10:00 PM. C.S.T.
- Wednesday, November 2, 2011 - 3:00 PM. to 10:00 PM. C.S.T.
- Thursday, November 3, 2011 - 3:00 PM. to 10:00 PM. C.S.T.
- Friday, November 4, 2011 - 3:00 PM. to 10:00 PM. C.S.T.
- Saturday, November 5, 2011 - 12:00 NOON to 7:00 PM. C.S.T.

You can also call 1-877-958-8683 – or visit us online at [elections.sk.ca](http://elections.sk.ca) for information such as:


- Identification requirements
- Your voting location
- How to vote if you will be away during the election
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- What to do if you're a first-time voter
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On November 7, show up and vote. Encourage your friends and family to vote too.

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# Tough job being a role model in the arts world

Do you know who I think have the hardest jobs in the world? Self-proclaimed role models.

As a role model, there is little room for mistakes and as humans, we all make mistakes. I think it's wonderful if people strive to become better versions of themselves, but labelling oneself as a 'role model' only invites the curious to search a little harder for your flaws.

The issue becomes more complex when you mix artists and entertainers with the term 'role model'. If you consider one's lifestyle separate from their art, you might judge them.

Vincent Van Gogh was a brilliant painter, but suffered from anxiety and mental illness. He cut off part of his own ear and eventually committed suicide. Tragic, yes. But does it discount his lifework as a painter? No. The *Starry Night* is still one of the most widely recognized paintings in the world.

What about Amy Winehouse? Was she a role model? Not if you think of all her addictions and relationship issues. On the other hand, yes she could be considered a role model if you think of the amazing music she created. She had a powerhouse voice, and she effortlessly blended a retro musical style with her own cutting-edge lyrics, revamping the

old into something modern, raw and unique.

How about the opposite? What if someone lives a relatively normal, stable, and even upstanding life, but creates art that is dark,

unusual or even disturbing? Anthony Burgess and *A Clockwork Orange* immediately come to my mind.

Burgess was a respected teacher, a gifted linguist and a prolific writer. He basically kept his nose clean and honed his craft. Yet his novel, '*A Clockwork Orange*' was so violent it utterly shocked me! I wasn't fond of the morality issues, and I hated the ending, but the novel as a whole was amazing. Even incredible.

Therefore, I believe art is a safe place to explore the thoughts and feelings one might never express in real life. Your art does not have to mimic your life, or even remotely reflect it. But to classify oneself as a role model is not only limiting to one's lifestyle, but I believe it may adversely affect one's art.

Art is the one place you need to feel free of boundaries, free of judgment, free

of labels. Free of genres. Genres themselves are limiting. Let someone else classify your art, because really genres only help stores decide where to put your album, book or movie on the shelves. Don't do their job. Do yours. Create something.

But if I had to pick an artist or entertainer that I considered a role model that would be easy. It is those who create because they must, regardless if others beg them to do otherwise. I find courage very attractive and admirable, especially where art is concerned.

Recently I had a disagreement with a very close friend of mine, who shall remain unnamed, lest she read this and decide to un-friend me. My very passionate friend is practical and intelligent and sees no reason why an artist should not have a Plan B, just in case.

I strongly disagree with this, myself having thrown 'safer' careers to the wayside in pursuit of my artistic dreams. I had to take a chance because that's what I was taught to do. When I was younger I confessed to my father that I wanted to be an artist, but was considering getting a degree or something, as a fallback plan.

It was one of those moments that sear into your brain for the rest of your life. Time stood still, his voice seemed louder, his eyes locked on mine. Very sternly he told me to get rid of the foolish idea of a fallback plan. He said that any energy or time you waste on a fallback plan could be used towards your real dreams, your real goals.

I finally understand what he means, 20 years later. Now I would rather die trying than put my dreams aside for a steady pay cheque and a pension plan. Maybe that's not practical to some. But to me, it's everything. In the end, the only person responsible for your life is you.

If no one else believes in your dreams, it doesn't matter, because they're your dreams. As long as you believe in yourself, you'll always have someone in your corner.

Don't wait for someone else to lead your way. Be your own role model and believe in yourself. If you do that, I'll also be in your corner. So that makes two people who believe in you.

Once again, 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](mailto:snazzyjess@hotmail.com). See you next month!

[jiron@hotmail.com](mailto:jiron@hotmail.com)



Arts & Entertainment  
Jessica Iron

## Word on the street a good one

A hot Sunday in September saw several thousand people mingling in downtown Saskatoon enjoying literature and books as they took in The Word on the Street.

The Word on the Street festival is a national celebration of literacy and the written word. It was held concurrently in Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver, Kitchener, Lethbridge and Halifax and it attracted almost 250,000 visitors nationally. The Saskatoon festival was held in front of the Frances Morrison Library downtown on 23rd Street East. Three thousand people came to hear the authors speak or to browse the marketplace of literacy organizations and peruse through and purchase from the piles of books of all varieties.

Yann Martel was a huge draw for his reading from *What is Stephen Harper Reading?* and there was also had a poetry slam that was a huge hit.

There were plenty of Aboriginal authors to listen to as well.

Harold Johnson led a list of distinguished writers and performers that included Don Freed, Dawn Dumont, Priscilla Settee and Leah Dorion.

The festival's success certainly bodes well for next year.



Author Harold Johnson was one of the readers at the The World on the Street festival in Saskatoon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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# \$2 million for northern education

The Government of Saskatchewan and Cameco Corporation announced over \$2 million in funding for northern education programs and research initiatives at a celebration event held in Saskatoon in September.

The funding is to be delivered by the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development at the University of Saskatchewan, which delivers degree programs for northerners and spearheads community-directed research projects that serve Northern Saskatchewan communities.

The Honourable Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, said the Government of Saskatchewan's \$1 million investment would help northern students study, stay, and succeed in their northern communities.

The funds will help support the expansion of a new Master of Northern Governance and Development program – the first of its kind in North America – that allows Northern Saskatchewan students to remain in their communities while completing their degree.

Some of the funds will also be put toward the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development's research program which explores innovative solutions to governance and development challenges facing Northern Saskatchewan communities.

Gary Merasty, VP of Corporate Social Responsibility at Cameco Corporation, announced that Cameco would match the Government's funding commitment with a \$1 million investment of its own.

These dollars are to be used by the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development for graduate student internships, research support, schol-

arships, and distance-learning support including the establishment of a new state-of-the-art video conference facility.

This new 'Cameco Portal to the North' will enable northern students to connect to the classroom via video conference while remaining in the North. Cameco's funding is to be distributed over a five-year period.

Mitacs-Accelerate, a federal government initiative that connects students with real world partners and builds industry interest in funding research, also announced an investment of just under \$60,000. This investment will be used by the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development to offer industry internships that allow graduate students to participate in primary research in the North.

Cathy Wheaton, a Master's student who's completing the Master of Northern Governance and Development program from her home community of La Ronge, Saskatchewan, said: "Educational opportunities for Northerners have always been limited and the MNGD program is really the first of its kind at this level.

Now I can take a Master's degree without leaving La Ronge, where I plan to live and work after complet-



**Nathan Ray, a student in the first cohort of the new Master of Northern Governance and Development program, discusses his northern research project entitled "Effective Political Engagement in Saskatchewan" with the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Rob Norris.**

ing the program.

"Programs like this will train Northerners like myself to contribute even more to our communities in the future as well as hopefully steer governance and development initiatives in the right direction to the benefit of the North and the Province of Saskatchewan."

For more information on the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development and its programs and capacities, visit [artsand-science.usask.ca/icngd](http://artsand-science.usask.ca/icngd).

*– Submitted by Colleen Cameron on behalf of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development.*

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# Emergence of FNUniv a boon for Aboriginal education

## • Continued from Page One

She said the small group of First Nations students supported one another but yearned for a place to call their own.

"There were no supports for First Nation students," she said, adding classes back then had no First Nations content.

According to the FNUniv website, in May 1976, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) entered into a federation agreement with the University of Regina, creating the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC). The agreement provided for an independently administered university-college, the mission of which is to serve the academic, cultural and spiritual needs of First Nations' students.

In 1976, SIFC set up shop in the Classroom Building at the University of Regina (U of R).

"I remember walking by there to get to class a few times and wondering, 'What's going on here?'" said Myo.

When she found out a First Nation college was opening up, she was very excited.

"It felt so good to have a presence and to have others I could feel a kinship with," said Myo.

When SIFC opened its doors in the fall of 1976, it had nine students and offered programs such as Indian Studies, Indian Languages, Indian Teacher Education, Social Work, Social Science and Fine Arts including Indian Art, Indian Art History.

After graduating in 1978, Myo went on to work at the Federated College because she believed in

the institution.

"That was our dream to have a standalone university that would grant certificates, degrees, graduate degrees and doctorates. That was what the vision was that's what we promoted," said Myo.

SIFC would eventually move into its own \$30-million building and be renamed FNUniv.

After more than three decades, it offers an array of professional programs and interdisciplinary programs. More than 3,000 individuals have graduated from the institution and that number continues to grow.

It hasn't always been smooth sailing for the fledgling university. In 2009, it was in serious danger of closing its doors after the federal and provincial governments pulled funding. However, students, staff, faculty alumni and leaders pulled together and were successful in keeping the dream of the elders alive by keeping the university open.

The institution is moving forward and on its anniversary it hosted a traditional powwow on its grounds.

"Because we are a First Nation institution we felt we needed to celebrate in a (First Nation) way," said Roland Kaye, cultural liaison worker at FNUniv.

The event began with a pipe ceremony and a formal ceremony with guest speakers including former staff and alumni. The purpose of the celebration was for everyone to remember.

"We're going to be around for our children and our grandchildren," said Kaye. "I think that's what we need to celebrate because we're not going anywhere."



Reflecting on 35 years, people close to FNUniv believe the future is bright. (Photo by Mike Dubois)

## RUN WITH ROPE



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Jacob Pratt is seeing the inside of a lot of airports around the world.

## Pratt flying high these days

By Diane Adams  
For Eagle Feather News

Jacob Pratt says he's getting used to spending time in airports. The 28-year old model, hoop dancer, musician and motivational speaker is in high demand here in Saskatchewan and around the world.

Pratt is from Cote First Nation, and a full-time student at the First Nations University.

Recently, Pratt was on his way from Edmonton to be trained to work with kids by the National Arts Centre.

Groups across Canada and the U.S. are clamouring to work with Pratt and he spent most of the summer dancing in Europe.

Pratt says he's in demand because he's "just another kid that grew up on the rez," and he leads a healthy lifestyle.

"You don't need drugs, you don't need alcohol to have a good time," Pratt said. "I travel all over the world having a good time, and I never touch a drop of alcohol," he said.

Pratt's down-to-earth personality might not be the only reason for his popularity. In July, New Mexico-based Native Entertainment Magazine called him "The Sexiest Native Male in North America." Pratt says he wasn't expecting to be on the cover.

"That's a title I never thought I would have," Pratt said. "I'm pretty sure there's sexier people out there than me, but it's flattering," he said.

Pratt is also in the spotlight for his musical talents. A traditional Dakota flute player, Pratt's first album, *Eagle Calls*, is nominated for an Aboriginal People's Choice Award. He says just being nominated is an honour.

"I was screaming around and jumping around in my house," Pratt said.

"To win, I wouldn't know how to hold back the tears, that's how important it would be to me!" he added.

When asked how he balances it all with school, he said, "Very carefully!"

That isn't the only balancing act he's managing. Pratt says it's his identity as a Dakota person that guides him when the demands of show business collide with the demands of being a healthy role model.

"I wouldn't do anything I couldn't show my mom, my sister or my aunties," he said.

Pratt says staying true to yourself is a message he takes on the road when speaking with First Nations youth. He says he's inspired when he meets them.

"When I look at all these kids that have so many talents and have such good hearts, imagining the potential that they have and the places they're gonna go, it's exciting," Pratt said.

He also urges kids to push through the tough times.

"(I tell them) there's always hard times in life, you're going to crash and burn," Pratt said.

"I've crashed and burned along the way, but you learn from it. You're going to go through tough times in your life but I guarantee that won't last," he said.

Voting for the APCMA's closed on October 6. Winners will be announced November 4.

## Building upgrade for SIIT

A \$2.1 million renovation to the Saskatoon campus building of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) was officially opened recently.

The project was cost-shared by the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada as part of the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

"This represents another important investment in quality post-secondary education and skills training for First Nations people," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said.

"First Nations youth play an increasingly important role building Saskatchewan communities, while contributing to our economy now and into the future," Norris added.

"Our government is investing in research and training facilities on campuses across the country to create jobs, help our

economy recover quickly and improve the quality of life of Canadians," noted Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt.

"This investment created local jobs and helped improve SIIT's research infrastructure, providing benefits now and for years to come."

The construction project at the 4th Avenue campus will enhance SIIT's capacity to deliver distance learning programs and allow the relocation of the Academics department.

"I would like to thank both governments for their support of this project which has been well-received by students and our staff," SIIT President Randell Morris said.

"This improvement in our learning spaces and the development of a video conference lab will enable us to reach more students in outlying destinations."



SIIT President Randell Morris shows off some technology to Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

### NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

## CELEBRATING Saskatchewan First Nations Students



On Behalf of  
First Vice Chief Morley Watson  
FSIN JUSTICE COMMISSION & SPORT, CULTURE, RECREATION & YOUTH





## Message from the president

**Community** *n.* 1. all the people living in a specific locality; fellowship of interests, etc.

What do you know about **us**?

When people ask me to describe the University of Saskatchewan, I invariably do so in terms of community, make that communities, plural. We are first and foremost a community of scholars—faculty and students committed to the pursuit of knowledge in the classroom, in the laboratory, in the wider world. We are also a community of alumni, the people who carry that knowledge around the globe in the quest for solutions to the pressing issues of the day.

We are a community of prairie people whose lives are informed by space and by our place in Saskatchewan. We are a community of people contributing to all aspects of life—economic, cultural, artistic, literary, recreational, intellectual—wherever we live. And we are a community of partners working together to create a better world.

This is our report to every community we serve, and your opportunity to rediscover what makes **us** the University of Saskatchewan.

Peter MacKinnon, President

## Studious

**Studious** *adj.* 1. devoted to or assiduous in study or reading

Andrea Cessna knows what it means to be studious. She is in her final year of an honours program in anthropology and looking toward grad school. But she also knows that being studious is only one part of the student experience at the University of Saskatchewan.

For Cessna, like so many students, the opportunities that university life offers are plentiful and meaningful. She recently spent four months in a small village outside Delhi, India, documenting with her camera Professor Satya Sharma's long-term research project into the effects of urbanization. Moving from the field of academics to the field of play, Cessna gave it her all for four years on the Huskies women's soccer team and will soon represent Saskatchewan at a national competition with a Saskatoon women's team. For her, the student experience at the U of S is the experience of a lifetime.



## Adventurous

**Adventurous** *adj.* 1. venturesome; enterprising



It's a bit of trek to get there but Philip McLoughlin has discovered a real treasure on remote Sable Island off the coast of Nova Scotia: a unique population of feral horses that have lived their lives free of human management or influence.

From a new U of S research station set up on the island, McLoughlin, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, observes the horses to understand how a naturally regulated population functions. Best of all, he gets to study the whole herd, not just a population

sample. His Sable Island research is a long-term venture, and adventure, and what he learns from the horses about population ecology, evolution, genetics and habitat selection will have implications for mammal conservation efforts at home and around the world.

## Ambitious

**Ambitious** *adj.* 1. showing ambition; strongly determined



Rendering of the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre

The University of Saskatchewan has seen a lot of growth over its 100+ year history but nothing compares to the ambitious list of construction projects just completed or in the works.

On the north edge of campus, the university has opened the International Vaccine Centre, Canada's latest weapon in the battle against infectious diseases in both humans and animals. To the south, College Quarter is taking shape with the addition of new residences for our undergraduate and graduate students. The reopening of the Place Riel Student Centre this fall after extensive renovation and expansion is a milestone in improving the student experience, as will be the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre when it is opens at the heart of campus. And construction continues on the Health Sciences project that will bring together our health students, teachers and researchers. It all adds up to better student services, better learning and better research space—a better University of Saskatchewan.

The U of S is a place where people, disciplines, facilities and discoveries intersect, and it is those intersections that change our world and our lives. Rediscover us in person or online and witness the change for yourself.



# rediscover us

■ Report to the Community 2011

## U of S by the numbers

• Established **1907** • First graduating class May 1, 1912 – **7 students** • Students who graduated in spring 2011 – **over 3,000** • 2011 undergraduate and graduate student enrolment – **20,000 (est.)** • Over **7,800** faculty and staff • **135,000** alumni worldwide; **64,000** in Saskatchewan • **13** colleges • **3** graduate schools • **7** libraries • More than **70** degrees, diplomas and certificates in over 100 areas of study • **6** affiliated and federated colleges • 2011-12 operating budget – just over **\$420 million** • Provincial operating grant for 2011-12 – **\$283 million** • Library acquisitions in 2011-10 – **\$9.1 million** • Research revenue in 2010-11 – **\$206.6 million** • Utility expenses – about **\$21.5 million** per year • Donations in 2010-11 – **\$31.7 million** • **\$6.3 million** for student-related enhancements • **\$9.2 million** in scholarships and bursaries • **15** Huskie athletic teams • Land occupied by the U of S within the city – **1,865 acres** • Estimated replacement costs of U of S buildings and assets – **\$5 billion**



## Ingenious

**Ingenious** *adj.* 1. clever at inventing, constructing, organizing, etc.; skillful; resourceful

There is an age-old problem in pharmaceutical research—how to deliver drugs to particular cells without causing damage to surrounding tissue. But now there could be a modern-day answer—use nanotechnology to treat diseases like cancer at the cellular level.

Azita Haddadi in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the U of S is working with a polymer that can deliver chemotherapy and immunotherapy agents directly to affected cells while limiting exposure to healthy parts of the body. It's an ingenious approach that the assistant professor of pharmacy believes holds great promise to improve the delivery of treatment for the people of Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

## Curious

**Curious** *adj.* 1. eager to learn; inquisitive



Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture staff

Research is driven by curiosity and a passion to make a difference. The university's Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture has spent 25 years using what it has learned about the life and work of agricultural producers to make a dangerous profession much safer.

Through a network of more than 200 rural municipalities in Saskatchewan, the centre has studied the realities of farming—everything from work with livestock and machinery to how chemicals are handled and what producers eat and breathe. The result

is solutions that are bringing down accident and illness rates. The best part is the centre is offering homegrown answers that are applicable across the country, building a national culture of health and safety in a vital industry.

## Prestigious

**Prestigious** *adj.* 1. inspiring respect and admiration; having high status



The work of a University of Saskatchewan PhD student to help address the growing obesity epidemic has earned her one of this country's most prestigious student awards—a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

Rita Orji, who was born in Nigeria and came to the U of S from Turkey last year, is focusing her research on a novel computer application for smart phones and Facebook that promotes healthy eating. The interest of the computer science student is in extending the reach of technology into the realm of improving health for everyone, young

and old, and she will do it with the help of a Vanier scholarship worth \$50,000 per year for three years.



# Dennis and Jean Fisher donate large collection of Métis-related artefacts to Gabriel Dumont Institute

**O**n September 19, Dennis and Jean Fisher and the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) formally signed a “Deed of Gift,” which formally transferred their large collection of 1885-related and Métis artifacts to the Institute.

The Dennis and Jean Fisher Collection which contains several hundred Métis-specific artefacts, documents, photographs, ephemera, and books is housed in GDI’s Publishing Department office in Saskatoon. This gracious donation will form an integral component of GDI’s proposed Métis Centre of Excellence.

In the fall of 2010, Dennis and Jean, residents of Saskatoon, approached Karon Shmon, GDI’s Publishing Director, about the possibility of donating their substantial Métis-related collection to the Institute. Negotiations continued over the next few months with most of the artefacts coming to the Institute in March 2011.

Dennis and Jean have spent a lifetime collecting Métis and First Nations artefacts and memorabilia. Dennis is originally from Hague, Saskatchewan, which is near the 1885 Resistance battlefields at Duck Lake, Tourond’s Coulee (Fish Creek), and Batoche. From an early age, he acquired not only a great love of history relating to the 1885 Resistance, but also a great affection for Métis and First Nations people.

Throughout the late 1960s and early ‘70s, the Fishers, assisted by their three sons—Dennis Jr., Darwin, and David—found 1885 Resistance-related artefacts at Gabriel’s Crossing, Tourond’s Coulee (Fish Creek), Batoche, and Clark’s Crossing. This was done before Parks Canada bought the farmlands on which the battles of Batoche and Tourond’s Coulee were fought in the mid-1970s.

After obtaining permission from area farmers to search for artefacts, the items were diligently analysed, photographed, and sketched by Dennis (who is a trained draftsman).

Some of the more interesting items collected by the Fisher family, and now in GDI’s possession include: a piece of Gabriel Dumont’s cast-iron stove and various other artefacts found at Gabriel’s Crossing, including a partial white porcelain doorknob; items from Xavier Letendre’s home at Batoche; various used gun cartridges from Batoche and Tourond’s Coulee; and a nine pounder cannon shell, which was used by the North West Field



**Dennis and Jean Fisher have donated an amazing collection of artefacts that they have amassed over several decades to the Gabriel Dumont Institute. The artefacts were found during excursions around the Batoche area and vigilantly chronicled and stored. The artefacts will find a home at the GDI Métis Centre of Excellence.**



Force during the 1885 Resistance.

Other artefacts in this collection include: two pieces of the steamer Northcote (which Gabriel Dumont’s forces disabled during the 1885 Resistance) obtained from an excavation in Cumberland House in 1971; fur trade items such as trade beads and clay pipe stems from Fort Carleton and Fort Pitt; and artefacts collected at St. Peter’s Mission, Montana—where Louis Riel taught school. In 1884, Gabriel Dumont, Michel Dumas, and James Isbister went to

St. Peter’s Mission in order to bring Louis Riel back to Batoche.

Dennis has also led an active life in terms of commemorating Métis history and the 1885 Resistance. As president of CFQC Radio in Saskatoon, he ensured that the radio station sponsored the closing of Gabriel’s Ferry at Gabriel’s Crossing as well as the opening of Gabriel’s Bridge in 1968. In 1984-85, he chaired Commemorate ’85 events in Saskatoon which celebrated the centenary of the 1885 Resistance. Some of the Commemorate ’85 events and projects that he worked on include commissioning Bill Epp’s Gabriel Dumont statue, which now sits in Friendship Park in Saskatoon (he convinced Epp to make a statue of Dumont rather than one of Louis Riel); working with the Saskatoon Métis Society to re-enact Dumont, Dumas, and Isbister’s trip to Montana to get Louis Riel to come back to Batoche to fight for Métis rights; and finding a “lost” image of Gabriel Dumont at the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming and sharing it with various archives in Canada and with the public.



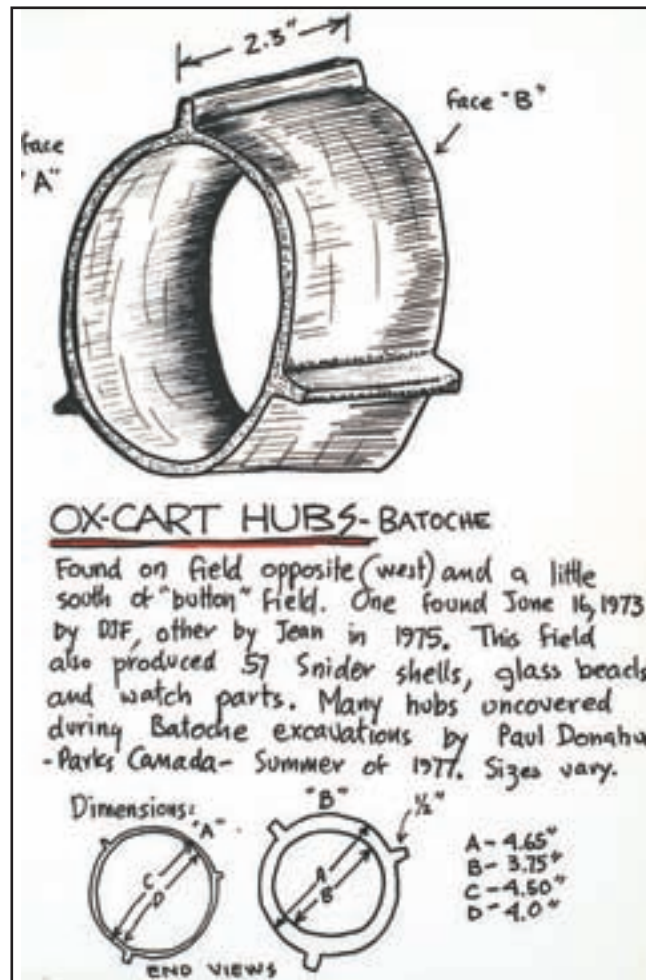


John Diefenbaker, and was one of his pallbearers. Diefenbaker had a great affinity for Canada's Aboriginal peoples, and Gabriel Dumont was one of his heroes. Dennis donated a wonderful series of photographs to the Institute of Mr. Diefenbaker and others at a Batoche archaeological dig in the 1970s. As with the artefact collection, Jean has been Dennis' keenest supporter, contributing a great deal of time and work to their shared interests.

In late September 2011, Dennis and Jean were contacted by Gordon Bowman who read about the Fishers' donation in a local community newspaper. Mr. Bowman, via Dennis and Jean, graciously donated a 7 pounder artillery shell to the Institute. The shell was likely used in the Battle of Cutknife Hill during the 1885 Resistance. GDI would like to thank Mr. Bowman for his generous donation.

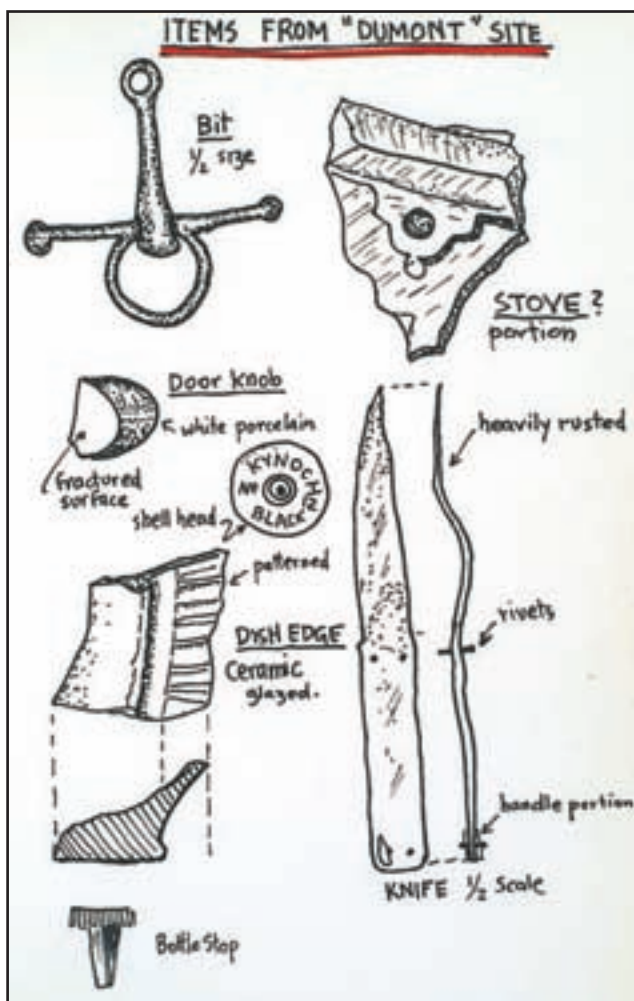
The Institute would like to once again thank Dennis and Jean Fisher and their family for this gracious donation. GDI's artefact collection, thanks largely to a special partnership with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, has grown considerably over the past few years. This substantial donation has ensured that the Institute continues to have the largest Métis-specific artefact held by any Métis cultural institution.


– Article by Darren R. Prefontaine and Photographs by Peter Beszterda



Dennis has also played a key role relating to other aspects of Métis history. For instance, in 1971, he travelled to Montréal with former Conservative MP Eugène Rhéaume to buy Louis Riel's diary at an auction. Rhéaume purchased it for \$26,500 in order to keep it in Canada. Dennis later had the diary in his home for a brief period in the 1970s, and had a photocopy of it made. This original photocopy is part of Dennis and Jean's gracious donation to the Institute.

He was also a close friend of former Prime Minister





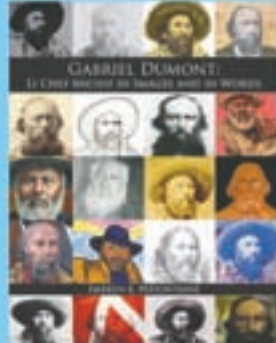
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# Flying Dust garden co-op thriving

By Diane Adams  
For Eagle Feather News

It's a garden that's growing more than just produce. On the Flying Dust First Nation, the Riverside Cree-8-Tive garden is also growing people – giving them the chance to get off welfare and into the workforce.

About 600 people live on Flying Dust, and more than 60 per cent are out of work. So when community members wanted to create jobs, and help people live a healthier lifestyle, they decided an organic vegetable garden would be the perfect fit.

"They start to eat differently, they start to think of life in a different light and they start to change their lifestyle accordingly," said Susan Merasty, the garden's co-manager.

"I have seen a lot of people go from substance abuse to nothing because we keep them busy out here. They don't need that dependency anymore," she said.

Sixteen people tend the 14 acres of organic potatoes, peas, strawberries and fruit bushes.

Most were on social assistance before coming to work at the garden. Merasty says the key to success is perseverance.

"When we first roto-tilled it up, you should have seen the roots in the ground!" Merasty said. "It took about a week just to prepare the land for seeding, to rake everything off the field and just get it soft and manageable enough to seed," she added.

Getting the ground ready isn't the only challenge the garden has faced. Last year, the Province cancelled a subsidy that helped pay the workers. Employees worked without a wage that summer, while collecting EI benefits.

Despite the setback, the garden expanded last year.

The extra harvest fed every family on Flying Dust, and went to charities in nearby Meadow Lake. Merasty says that

impressed the band members.

"We won their respect. Now this year they're really looking at us with a different light," Merasty said.

This year, Merasty convinced her son, Joshua, to try gardening. He was on welfare before coming out to the field.



Susan Merasty, the coop garden manager convinced her son Joshua (hoeing) to come and help work the field. He now wants gardening to become a family business.

potatoes – more than twice the yield last year.

Next year, garden managers hope the garden will more than double and grow 30 acres. They also hope to grow their workforce, employing some staff year round.

This story is part of a 10-part series

on CBC Saskatchewan called "Work Around"

The series looks at the successes and challenges aboriginal people face when trying to enter the job market.

It airs on CBC TV and radio starting October 3, or on the web at [cbc.ca/sask](http://cbc.ca/sask).

"Don't expect it to be easy work that's for sure, it's quite backbreaking picking up all the weeds," Joshua said.

Joshua says he's happy to be able to buy new clothes for himself, and his son. He hopes gardening becomes a family business.

Gardening is a perfect stepping stone for those wanting to get back into the workforce," says Betty Matchee, an elder at the garden.

"You have time to think, you know ... where have I been? Where do I wanna be, where do I wanna go? If they succeed here they'll succeed anywhere," she said.

This fall, the garden is expected to harvest more than 220,000 pounds of

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# Casinos paying off in jobs, higher self-esteem

By Diane Adams  
For Eagle Feather News

It was a risky gamble that paid off—in jobs. In the CEO's office of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, is a lone slot machine.

Bernard Shepherd, opening the front, says this is one of three surviving "one-armed bandits" from the first Indian casino in Saskatchewan.

In 1992, Shepherd was the chief of White Bear First Nation. Armed with a business education from the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, he was determined to create good jobs for people on the reserve. The answer—build a casino.

"We had VLTs all over the place, they were in towns, there were eventually going to be casinos there I imagined," Shepherd said.

Shepherd says he looked to gaming after building the White Bear golf course.

"One of the things I learned from building the golf course is that you could spend millions of dollars and only create a certain amount of jobs. And in our case it was seasonal jobs," Shepherd said.

"I had to look at alternatives. I guess one of those alternatives that I looked at was casinos," he added.

Inspired after touring tribal casinos in the U.S., Shepherd set out to build the first Indian casino in Saskatchewan. He and his council members arranged for 110 slot machines to cross the border from Montana.

In February of 1993, the Bear Claw casino opened its doors. Around 40 people worked there.

(The employees) were all dressed up, they were happy," Shepherd said.

"When you walked in there and you seen them as dealers, tending the bar and all those kinds of things, it was really satisfying to see them working for sure," he said.

The satisfaction was short-lived. On March 22, 1993, the RCMP SWAT teams raided the Bear Claw Casino. Shepherd was awakened at home at 4:00 a.m. and had to dodge police roadblocks using old dirt bike trails.

"I hit the ditch, and went through that high spot, and I went through this field, and there was snow flying over the hood of my truck! I looked in my rearview mirror and I could see all these RCMP cars chasing me," he recalled.

Shepherd says when he arrived at Bear Claw, RCMP officers laughed as they smashed the slot machines and dragged them outside. Three machines were out for repairs that day, including the one still housed at SIGA's head office.

After the raid, Shepherd says calls flooded in from nearby businesses, all in support of the casino. He says they were shocked at the changes they'd seen.

"Instead of walking in with a welfare cheque, they came in with their heads held high with a payroll cheque," he said.

Shepherd also says the RCMP testified they didn't receive a single call to White Bear in the month the casino was open.

"It was astonishing," he said.

Fast-forward nearly 20 years, and the White Bear Casino now boasts a hotel, and employs nearly 200 people. Five more Indian casinos employ nearly 1,000 more First Nations people in the province.

SIGA estimates they're the largest single employer of First Nations people in North America, employing more than 3,300 First Nations people since 1993.

Shepherd says he's pleased to see the opportunities gaming creates. But, he says, he doesn't believe gaming will last forever.

"I think the legacy of gaming has to be how we distribute those funds to create other things," he added.

This story is from a 10-part series on CBC Saskatchewan called "Work Around" a glimpse of the



Bernie Shepherd with one of the original slot machines from the groundbreaking White Bear casino.

successes and challenges aboriginal people face when trying to enter the job market.

It airs on CBC TV and radio starting October 3, or on the web at [cbc.ca/sask](http://cbc.ca/sask).

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# Ahenakew's rise typifies career opportunities at SIGA casinos

By Diane Adams  
For Eagle Feather News

At the Northern Lights Casino, aboriginal people are hitting the career jackpot.

Richard Ahenakew was brought in 20 years ago as a janitor. Today he's the general manager.

"In those days, I wasn't sure where I was gonna end up or what I was gonna do. I really didn't think that I'd be building a career here," he said.

But he did build a career – and fast. Within two years, Ahenakew was a manager. He took over the casino's top post five years ago.

Before Northern Lights, Ahenakew had patchy work experience.

"Selling shoes, cleaning bathrooms, security, bouncing in bars, delivery person in Regina, (I did) everything you could think of!" he said.

Ahenakew says he's not alone. Fourteen of the 15 managers at Northern Lights started off on the front lines. He says that's why First Nations got into the gaming business.

"A lot of people don't realize that when the company was set up by the chiefs, it was set up to create employment first and revenue second," he said.

Northern Lights has 425 employees, and almost 90 per cent are First Nations or Métis.

Ahenakew says they often have to teach people the basics of having a job. They also help with issues like addictions and childcare.

"Instead of having one strike and you're out, or two strikes and you're out, sometimes they have up to three, four strikes before they move on," Ahenakew said.

"We try to get them to realize that it's their actions are the ones putting them into the situation," he added.

Ahenakew says he doesn't see himself as a role model. Staff members disagree.

Shondelle Munroe started off serving food and drinks in 1996. Now she's a security supervisor. She says she looks up to Ahenakew.

"Richard is a perfect example that anything is possible. You just have to have the incentive, and showing up is half the battle," she said.

Munroe says evidence of the casino's impacts are right out in the parking lot.

"There was a lot of staff here that didn't have a car, (or) who would drive vehicles that would break down, or like mine would stall at the lights!" she laughed.

But Munroe says good jobs translate into much more than a good vehicle.



Richard Ahenakew, General Manager of the Northern Lights Casino, visits with one of the employees who is starting at the same job he did over a decade ago.

"Their family gets better, the children are raised better, they understand a little bit more, so it is making a huge impact, slowly," she said.

Cynthia Ross got her start making change. Now she's in senior management and says she wouldn't be as far in her career anywhere else.

"I probably would have had to work for years to be where I am today, like over 15 years for sure," she said.

Darcy Bear, an officer with the Prince Albert police, credits Northern Lights for teaching him important skills like record-keeping and using radios. He says his stint at the casino was short but vital.

"On the last day of training (at Northern

Lights), I got the call that (the police) want you to report to us Monday morning," he said.

Bear says the casino encouraged him to take new the job, though it just paid for weeks of training.

Richard Ahenakew says that's not uncommon, because success stories don't stop at the front doors.

"Our successes aren't just who we employ here," Ahenakew said. "When they go elsewhere, or get scooped up by some company, to us that's still a win," he said.

This story is part of a series on CBC Saskatchewan called "Work Around" a look at aboriginal employment in Saskatchewan. It airs on CBC TV and radio starting October 3, or on the web at [cbc.ca/sask](http://cbc.ca/sask).

# Province questions second firing of SIGA chair

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

The recent removal of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Board Chair, for the second time, has drawn tough words from the province.

Near the end of September, FSIN Vice-Chief Morley Watson announced Kirk Goodtrack had been removed from SIGA's board again. Watson cited real and perceived conflicts of interest as well as questions about Goodtrack's conduct. However, Watson refused to elaborate on what those questions were.

After this announcement, the province released a letter from Minister responsible for SIGA, Tim McMillan, which expressed "grave concerns" over recent developments that were causing "significant loss of confidence" in the board's ability to manage SIGA's affairs as well as in the FSIN's ability to manage its gaming relationship with the province.

The letter, which was sent a week before the most recent removal of Goodtrack, outlined a number of issues the government wants to see addressed in advance of December, when the Gaming Framework Agreement is renegotiated. McMillan says there need to be changes around the increased size and cost of the board, the continued involvement of Vice-Chief Dutch Lerat with SIGA, which he calls "inexplicable and simply unacceptable" as well as the board taking the "unusual and unlawful" steps to remove Goodtrack the first time it occurred.

McMillan also points to a questionable insurance payout as well as the administrative costs of the CDCs.

McMillan wouldn't outline what options the Province was considering if changes weren't made.

"I think if you look back in history when there were some serious problems in 2000, some changes

happened," says McMillan. "The board structure was changed at that time. So, I won't speculate now, but I think if people look at what's happened in the history, there are tools available."

McMillan told reporters that he had spoken to Vice-Chief Morley Watson and was assured he would receive a letter addressing those concerns.

This time, it was the FSIN's Economic and Community Development Commission that removed Goodtrack. He was removed earlier this year by the SIGA board, until a Court of Queen's Bench judge ruled that removal invalid and Goodtrack be reinstated, ruling the SIGA board did not have the authority to remove Goodtrack, but the Commission did.

Watson maintains that Goodtrack was not removed because he was trying to reduce board expenditures.

"Business practices of reducing board costs, they were in place long before Mr. Goodtrack was the board chair," says Watson.

The board is made up primarily of chiefs. Board remuneration and travel went up from more than \$645,000 in 2010 to more than \$900,000 in 2011.

Watson says the decision of the Economic and Community Development Commission is "set in stone" and cannot be overturned by another FSIN body or by the Chiefs in Assembly.

However, Goodtrack, who is taking this latest move to get rid of him in stride, says that's not true.

"The decisions of the Economic and Community Development Commission aren't final. I know that because that's the affidavit I filed in my earlier proceeding," he explains.

"Those decisions must go to IGC (Indian Government Commission), and IGC decisions must go to the Legislative Assembly for final approval.



TERRY GOODTRACK

"Each one of those entities does not have the authority, and that's according to FSIN legislation, the Convention Act."

Goodtrack was terminated by a unanimous vote of the chiefs at the FSIN fall assembly in October.

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# Campeau Fund helped make dream come true

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

**M**ike Grundmann and his partner Erin have hunted up a successful business, Saskatchewan Adrenaline Outfitters, with the help and support of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund.

"I've been working at bear camp for eight years," said Grundmann, explaining he started that operation with his parents, then in 2006 Erin purchased the deer camp.

"With the deer camp we have 40 deer permits, and 20 bear permits."

The camps are made up of 110 square miles of wilderness northeast of Green Lake, and most of the clientele are made up of Americans, many from the Eastern seaboard.

"We're 100 per cent on our deer and bear," Grundmann said, explaining that the clients are always satisfied and tend to be repeat customers, bringing friends back.

"But we try to really manage the property and take a limited amount. We only take about 16 deer because we try to take quality animals rather than quantity."

They also have built up a solid bear reputation, and are already booked up until 2013, due to repeat customers, a bit of trade show work, but mostly because of word-of-mouth and a reputation they've worked hard at developing.

A typical camp is six days long, during which they provide all the essen-



**Mike Grundmann on the right and his partner Erin, middle, welcome hunters from across North America to their Adrenaline Hunting Camp in Northwest Saskatchewan.**

tials for the hunters.

"We provide meals, lodging, transport to and from the sites, and six days of hunting, plus skinning, camping, and guide service," he said. "We are able to serve some of the meat they hunt, but deer is more popular to eat than bear."

Because it's too hard to cross the border with meat, most of it is donated to the locals, Grundmann explained.

The involvement of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund came about because they'd purchased a pre-existing outfitter and it was financed in 2006 when

the economy was good, but eventually they needed some assistance to keep the business going.

"As the American economy went downhill and the dollar changed so dramatically we couldn't keep up the payments as well so we needed help with financing." When they went to the Royal Bank of Canada for a loan, they were surprised when the loan officer asked if they had any Aboriginal ancestry.

"I said yes I'm Métis, and they told us about the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. I never even knew about

it," Grundmann said. "We were really surprised with how friendly and hands-on they were, and a great resource."

Grundmann says the people and Clarence Campeau helped with the business plan, and Brett Gerich and Tristan Zachow of SMEDCO came up to visit and do their business projection.

Since then they have also started managing a neighbouring camp that is owned by investors from the US, and business is good. They have been running about 40 men annually through their own camps the last few years.

"Saskatchewan has a lot of potential and if someone is really ambitious and looking for a career or business to start up, Saskatchewan is a good place to do it," Grundmann notes, adding they have really worked hard and seized every opportunity they could to be successful.

"The key is drive and ambition. With me and Erin, if something came up we didn't procrastinate we jumped in with both feet and never looked back and it worked out for us."

He says the lifestyle is ideal. And the newest addition to their outfitting partnership is Troy Michael, who is just about two months old.

"I look forward to raising this little guy on the shores of Sled Lake, hunting and trapping up in the bush."



*The Clarence Campeau Development Fund has been assisting Métis Entrepreneurs for the past 14 years.*

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- ∞ Swift Current, Friendship Centre 830 North Railway St E, October 13th, 7 - 9 pm
- ∞ Assiniboia, Club 55 103 - 3rd Ave W, October 15th, 12 - 2 pm
- ∞ Estavan, Days Inn Hotel 1305 - 9th St, November 2nd, 7 - 9 pm
- ∞ Prince Albert TBA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE CLARENCE CAMPEAU DEVELOPMENT FUND:**

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the Métis Business Directory





MLTC Tribal Chief Eric Sylvestre presented Minister of Enterprise and Meadow Lake MLA Jeremy Harrison with a gift at the business announcement. (Photo supplied)

## Northern project gaining energy

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

The Government of Saskatchewan, SaskPower and the First Nations Power Authority (FNPA) are working with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) to develop a renewable power generation project in northern Saskatchewan.

The biomass project, known as the Meadow Lake Bioenergy Centre, will use wood byproducts from the NorSask Forest Products mill near Meadow Lake to generate up to 36 megawatts of renewable, low-emissions power for the province of Saskatchewan. Biomass is an industry term for using renewable organic material to generate energy.

"This is really exciting for the community and to date, our biggest venture we have ever done," said Ben Voss the COE of MLTC Resource Developments Inc. "This is a stable investment that will provide returns for our communities for over 25 years and will also offer stability in forestry and for our mill."

The mill only uses 65-70 per cent of the tree. The rest of that lumber will now be used to generate energy.

"Now we are using the full value of our wood products," added Voss.

Established this spring, FNPA is a non-profit, membership-based corporation, which sets out a partnership framework for a more streamlined process to help First Nations move their generation projects forward. Each of the 74 Saskatchewan First Nations is eligible to hold membership.

"The Meadow Lake Bioenergy Center is a very significant milestone for the business development vision of Meadow Lake Tribal Council," said Tribal Chief Eric Sylvestre.

"We are excited about the economic opportunities this project will provide for our partnerships and our communities, and it builds upon more than 20 years of successful business management. We are proud to be leading a major project in partnership with FNPA and SaskPower."

MLTC owns over 10 businesses, employs upwards of 2,500 people and has estimated gross revenues of over \$100 million.

"This is the first project to come about through the

support of FNPA, which reflects the vision of the Government of Saskatchewan to actively engage First Nations in the province's growing economy," said Rob Norris, Minister responsible for SaskPower.

"The project will have a direct and positive impact on the local community and surrounding area, while adding greener and cleaner energy to Saskatchewan's power grid."

SaskPower and MLTC have signed a letter of intent and are now working on mutually agreeable terms for a 25-year power purchase agreement, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The project is scheduled to be in service in early 2014.

In addition to adding more renewable electricity to the province's power system, the baseload generation project will create about 300 new jobs in the Meadow Lake region, including 25 permanent jobs at the facility.

"SaskPower is making a significant investment into renewing the province's electricity system," said Robert Watson, SaskPower President and Chief Executive Officer. "New generation projects like this will help us meet the province's growing need for power, and open the door for First Nations to benefit from economic development opportunities that may emerge as a result."

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# Regina teen promoting healthy sexual lifestyle message for her peers

By Diane Adams  
For Eagle Feather News

It might be uncomfortable but Tara Willett wants aboriginal teens to learn about sex.

Sexual health, that is.

The 16-year-old Regina teen, originally from Little Pine First Nation, is passionate about learning and educating her peers about sexual health.

"It's very important youth today learn about sexual health. It prepares you for the future, and it's empowering knowing you can be in charge of these things yourself," she said.

Willett's part of "Y.E.A.H.," a Regina-based youth group run through Planned Parenthood. She also represents Saskatchewan on a national board run by the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.

She's been involved in health activism and education since she was 14.

Willett says sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancies could be prevented if young people knew more.

"On reserves, people get bored, people have sex. Young people especially," she said.

"And s\*\*\* happens. So sexual health is important for everyone to learn, especially First Nations," she added.

Educating about sexual health isn't Willett's only achievement. At 16, she's also attending university classes. This summer she completed Bold Eagle training, making her a private in the Canadian Forces.

Willett says she knows first-hand how education can help teens make better choices. During Bold Eagle, she met her current boyfriend. Dating was strictly prohibited, and Willett says her knowledge helped her respect the rules.

"We never even talked about (being in a relationship) until after training was over. I'm so proud of us for making good choices," she said.

Willett hopes she can show the world a new picture of First Nations people.

"I want to contradict the stereotypes around First Nations people," Willett said.

"When people look at me and see, 'Oh look she's an honour student, she's in university, she's awesome and she's First Nations,' then that will contradict a lot of stereotypes," she added.



Tara Willett has been involved in promoting safe sex practices since she was 14.

## There is hope for arthritis sufferers

**A**rthritis affects more than 4.5 million Canadians of every age, physical condition, and ethnic background. The prevalence of arthritis in the Aboriginal population is even higher.

First Nations and Métis populations have a prevalence of arthritis up to 1.6 times higher than the national estimate for the total Canadian population. Approximately two-thirds of First Nations people diagnosed with arthritis are between 30 and 59 years of age. In the 45 to 54 age group, 32 per cent of Métis reported arthritis compared to 17 per cent for the total population of Canada. Rheumatoid arthritis in Aboriginal populations tends to be more severe when compared to non-Aboriginal population with a higher frequency.

At least 1 in 1,000 children has arthritis. Onset of rheumatoid arthritis tends to be at a younger age in Aboriginal populations than non-Aboriginal populations. In particular, Cree First Nations people tend to have onset of rheumatoid arthritis 10 to 12 years earlier than the surrounding non-Aboriginal population.

What causes arthritis? There are several risk factors

that come into play.

**Women:** Women are more commonly diagnosed than men in all age groups.

**Genetics:** Family history in individuals diagnosed with arthritis is common for both inflammatory and non-inflammatory types of arthritis.

**Older age:** Arthritis prevalence tends to increase with age. In the senior Métis age group about 52 per cent have been diagnosed with arthritis.

**Obesity:** Obesity is associated with an increased risk of arthritis in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations.

**Smoking:** Smoking is associated with the development of arthritis, especially inflammatory types such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

So what can be done to improve the quality of life for people living with arthritis?

The first thing is to dispel a common myth. Many people believe there is nothing to be done about arthritis – you just have to learn to live with it. At The Arthritis Society, we know that ignoring your joint aches and pains will only make it

worse. Establishing an early, accurate diagnosis is important, since therapies work best when started as soon as possible.

Addressing some of the risk factors is important as well. Losing weight is the single most effective way you can reduce your joint pain. The percentage of weight you lose will directly correspond to the reduction in pain you experience. Losing 10 pounds reduces the pressure on each sore knee by 40 pounds. Being overweight puts an extra burden on your weight-bearing joints, such as the hips, knees, ankles, and feet.

Although there is no cure for arthritis, with the right treatment, you can take control of your disease and keep your joints as healthy as possible, for as long as possible.

The Arthritis Society offers many useful resources for Canadians looking to manage their arthritis. The Society offers a variety of programs that inform participants on how to handle pain and stress, eat healthy, and exercise with arthritis.

For more information about arthritis, please contact The Arthritis Society at 1.800.321.1433 or check out our website ([www.arthritis.ca](http://www.arthritis.ca)) for useful resources.



# People in poorer countries at greater cancer risk

Will we ever have a world without breast cancer? Probably not according to some American breast cancer researchers, but we may get to a point where fewer people will die as a result of the disease.

Sandra Palmaro, Ontario CEO of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation says breast cancer is very complex.

"It's not just one disease, with one cause and one potential treatment. There are approximately 30 different genetic mutations present in every single breast cancer."

The ongoing study of the disease is seeing that research is helping us better understand the complexity of the disease leading to better treatment options and less side-effects. Hmmm.

On the flip side, studies in the United States are showing a rise in the number of people being diagnosed and an increase in the number of deaths especially in poorer countries where more women are dying at younger ages. The study from the

University of Washington found that breast cancer cases more than doubled around the world in just three decades, from 641,000 cases in 1980 to 1.6 million cases in 2010, a pace that exceeds global population growth. Yikes!

Saskatchewan Aboriginal people continue to be the fastest growing segment of the population. It is only logical to think that we are going to see more of our people diagnosed with this disease.

There are things we can do such as eating properly, exercising and lowering our stress. Obviously the people that came up these ideas have never lived on First Nation reservations. All is not doom and gloom. Some First Nations communities are beginning to create their own support systems for their members dealing with



breast cancer, but we still have a long way to go.

Accessibility to health care providers and screening programs are not options for many First Nations

especially for those First Nations north of 60.

Individuals need to pay attention to changes in their bodies, talk to the nurse in your clinic or next time you're in a major city centre seek medical advice.

October has been designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month across Canada perhaps our communities can organize events to raise awareness in our communities. The problem I see is that not too many of our folks are into volunteerism (for various reasons).

Until a cure for all types of cancer is found our best defence is going to have to

be education.

There are many communities around the world where poverty and breast cancer are issues. Take Jamaica for example, they also see a high number of their people dying from this disease. My parents always told me that there was always someone out there who had it worse off than me. I will get to see this first hand in a couple of days when me and a couple of friends fly there for the Jamaican Relay for Life.

I am looking forward to seeing what kind of things this community is doing to educate their people and share some of the things that we are doing. Until next month, be kind to one another – it's the right way. Let's stop violence in our communities.

It is always good to hear from the readers so please keep those emails and letters coming. Write to Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 or you can email to Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

## Hope for alcohol addiction

By Flo Lavallie  
For Eagle Feather News

As with other addictive practices, alcohol abuse is brought on by marked stress, depression, no self-confidence, and nutritional deficiency. It also runs in families over

Seventy-six per cent of families of alcoholics have a genetic disorder metabolizing alcohol. Many communities have Alcoholic Anonymous meetings and treatment centers to help the alcoholic regain control of their lives and relationships with their families, friends and their communities.

Alanon and Alateen meetings are also available for their family members. This disease affects everyone in their family and relatives, workplace and their community.

Health wise, drinking too much alcohol dehydrates the body, which is why people suffering from a hangover have a dry mouth and are thirsty. Too much alcohol brings up the blood sugar levels leading and then drops the blood sugar levels resulting in headaches, anger, and lack of emotional control, aggressive behavior, shakiness, dizziness or fatigue.

Alcohol dependence, using alcohol for daily calories instead of food, can cause short term memory loss, poor concentration, high cholesterol and liver degeneration. Alcohol robs the body of nutrients and can cause a fat build up in the liver. It also causes the stomach to produce too much acid, which can lead to heartburn, and people become sick to their stomach.

The liver controls hormone balance. Lots of drinking affects men and their estrogen levels through liver damage, diabetes, behavior, abuse often means enlarged breasts, reduced sex drive and beard growth, and shrunken testicles.

Women experience liver damage also from drinking too much – difficult or no periods, early menopause, diabetes, low blood sugar, lack of sex drive. In many communities a woman who abuses alcohol is judged differently than men who abuse alcohol.

Caffeine in coffee aggravates alcohol cravings. Soda pop speeds up alcohol release in the blood. A good nutrition plan with protein, fish, turkey, wild game, wild rice, brown rice, green vegetables, beans yogurt would assist the body from nervous depletion. Dandelion tea, peppermint tea helps the liver and the stomach. Feverfew helps headaches. Vitamin B Complex helps stress. A good multi vitamin helps to rebuild the body. Going for daily walks reduces stress.

It is important to remember alcoholism is a disease and seeing a physician or a health care provider, also visit the health bus in your community where available. Lifestyle support seeking out Elders, AA members, Westside Clinic and SWITCH in Saskatoon. An alcohol treatment center is suggested to the person who suffers from alcoholism.

Also, you may have to change to friends who do not drink. And commit yourself to quit drinking with the help as suggested.

Check us out at:  
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# Consulting with prime minister's dead pets vital

John L: Now and then issues arise that will confuse mainstream society, that will make Indian Country shake its head in disbelief. Explanation is elusive and non-graspable. But here at Eagle Feather News we have Dirk Dashing to shed light on the unlighted, to illumine the non-lumined, to lay the truth on us. Dirk, it's good to have you here.

**Dirk: Thank you John. It's a pleasure to be here.**

John L: Tell me something, it's got to be tough reading all the controversy in First Nation politics. First it was the turmoil at the First Nations University of Canada. Next it was the downfall of Chief Guy Lonechild. Now the SIGA Chair has been dismissed. What is going on?

**Dirk: It is a burden to be sure, John. But let's remember that in its early days Canada had some spectacular episodes of conflicts of interest, booziness and séances – you know, where people commune with dead relatives for advice.**

John L: Now I am sure you have examples, right? Educate me.

**Dirk: Of course. Many already know that Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald, would turn up snockered for parliamentary debates, but did you know that he took bribes in the construction of Canada's railway? When support for his railway building schemes dwindled he engi-**

**neered a war with the Métis in 1885 to rekindle voter sympathy.**

John L: As a Métis I am painfully aware of this.

**Dirk: Ok, then there is Prime Minister MacKenzie King who sought the advice of his dead wife and, get this, his dead pets on matters of the nation. His ex-dogs must have**

**provided awesome advice because this nut-job got Canada through the Second World War.**

John L: So what is the point of this history lesson, Dirk? That corruption, lunacy and controversy is everywhere, and not just limited to First Nation politics?

**Dirk: Well, I hadn't really thought about that angle. I was cruising the intertubes, intersplicing the web, and scouring the email when I discovered these nuggets of information pieces. But now that you bring it up, yes, that is exactly my point – the stuff is everywhere!**

John L: I take it then that you are not worried about the future of politics in Indian Country?

**Dirk: Of course I worry. At times I wonder. I ponder, fuss and fidget. Sometimes I get itchy. But the work of improving First Nation lives will carry**

**on despite the spectacular distractions and legitimate excuses we provide federal and provincial authorities.**

John L: Speaking of legitimate excuses, what do you make of the provincial government's stance on the firing of SIGA Chair, Kirk Goodtrack. It sounds like the province is going to use this as leverage for not acting on other pressing First Nation

issues.

**Dirk: It may sound strange at first, but the Province has every right to throw its weight around and protect its considerable vested interests in First Nation casinos where it invested absolutely no dollars.**

John L: Wait, I don't understand. The provincial government should step in?

**Dirk: Remember, John, even though the province did not exist when the reserves were created it has always had jurisdiction on First Nation land. And as for Indian gaming, the province enhanced its authority by not sinking a single tax dollar into building First Nation casinos.**

John L: That's a little bizarre.

**Dirk: But the system works. We provide government the excuses to flounce into our jurisdiction so that it has legitimate pretexts for not helping**

**us solve health care issues or education or child care problems.**

John L: Flounce into our jurisdiction? I don't think that is how it is supposed to work, Dirk.

**Dirk: We have options, Mr. Lippy-monkey. The FSIN could conduct an audit of its business practices like Fortune 500 companies do whether they are in crisis or not – y'know, to rid itself of dead weight or backwards business practices. Or, we could consult the dead pets of MacKenzie King on how to rise above self-inflicted lunacy and get on with creating healthy, wealthy First Nation families.**

John L: That's all the time and space we have for this month. As always, Dirk, it has been interesting. Pointless, but interesting.

**Dirk: Time and space? Did you know that Einstein said time and space are the same. Makes you wonder if it's possible to be ten miles late.**

John L: Um,... What's up for next month?

**Dirk: John, making smart making with my brain has made me sleepy and alluring so I will be taking time off. Next month Mr. Answer Guy will be here to answer readers' questions. As a bonus he'll be revealing more tips on awesomeness for the male mind. It's good times, so go hard, baby!**

*Dirk says, "A day without sunshine is like night."*



## He started to cry and no one would help him

By Creeson Agecutay  
For Eagle Feather News

Lani Elliot always knew racism was alive in Saskatchewan but it was never more evident than when she witnessed it first-hand in Regina's Wascana Park.

She was taking pictures near the Legislative building on Sept. 10 when a dishevelled looking aboriginal man approached her and begged her to call 911.

"He said that his friend had died over there and he pointed towards the water but I wasn't sure what he meant, so I asked for some clarification but he was really distraught," Elliott said.

The man said it took 30 minutes to find help, Elliot recalled. Hundreds were in the park that day, she said, holding back tears.

"That stunned me. I couldn't understand why it would take him that long to phone 911. He started to cry and said no one would help him. I didn't understand why people wouldn't help him."

Elliott immediately called 911 on her cell phone.

Adding to Elliott's shock, a woman approached her and said, "Do you trust him?" To which she replied, "What do you mean?"

Elliott said the woman told her the man wanted to use her phone and she thought he was trying to steal the

phone. "I was disgusted," Elliot said. "What if he isn't lying?" to which the woman did not reply.

It took police and EMS two minutes to arrive on scene.

"There was an immediate search of the area, both surface rescue teams began looking for a swimmer," said Elizabeth Popowich, spokesperson for the Regina Police Service.

"It wasn't likely we were looking for someone in distress but rather a deceased person," she added.

Swimming in Wascana Lake is illegal, according to Bernadette McIntyre, executive officer of the Wascana Centre Authority. She also says swimming in the lake is a health risk because the lake serves as a run-off for city storm sewers and chemicals from agricultural land.

"The bylaw in place is that no person shall swim in the lake except for purposes of rescue or grave emergencies. There (are) areas in Wascana Park designated for swimming such as our many pool facilities in the park," McIntyre says.

Meanwhile, Elliot and a friend returned to Wascana Lake and gave their respects by saying a prayer and



Lani Elliot revisits Wascana Lake in Regina after the drowning of Darlyn Boyd Johns.

putting down tobacco.

"My heart goes out to his family. I'm really sorry that happened," she said. Elliot also plans to openly share and talk about her experiences in the future.

"I don't know why (people) made the choice to not help him and it's tough to speculate on that but I really hope that they look deep within themselves and make some changes with the way that they think."

According to the coroner's office, Darlyn Boyd Johns, 47, is believed to be the one who drowned that day. He is a member of the Pasqua First Nation and had been living in Regina.



# They're taking Newo steps

“It’s the people (that keep me coming to Newo Steps)” says Hermaline Maurice who has been participating in the weekly program for over a year.

“I also enjoy learning about healthy food choices, the exercise and love the healthy snacks!”

The Nēwo Steps program is a partnership between the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, CHEP Good Food Inc. and LiveWell Diabetes program - Aim 4 Health, a diabetes outreach program with the Saskatoon Health Region. The program was launched at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre in February 2010 and has been running full steam ever since.

Its focus on encouraging physical activity and healthy eating in a fun and relaxed atmosphere resonates well with community members. Incorporating traditional teachings into the programming also keeps it relevant.

Annette Ponace says that attending Nēwo Steps has changed her life.

“My eating habits have changed,” she explains. “I didn’t used to care about what I ate, now I’m not so in to junk food anymore.”

Annette’s involvement with the program has led her to become a community peer leader and says that she now “has opportunity for additional

training to further myself.” Most Thursday mornings, Annette can be found in the Friendship Centre gym exercising and “meet(ing) a diverse group of people” while her granddaughter plays in the child minding room.

Nēwo Steps is facilitated by staff from each of the partners and includes a health educator, exercise therapist, a dietitian as well as community outreach staff. Each Thursday morning the group exercises, learns about a topic in health education and eats a healthy snack. Everyone is welcome.

Irene Sharp says that the free exercise is important to her.

“Not everyone can afford to go to the gym – this is great for low income people.”

She also appreciates getting “a lot of great health information on diabetes, heart disease, blood pressure, etc.” and that with the information she learns at the program that she “can pass the information on to others.”

The Nēwo Steps program is free for people of all ages and is held every Thursday morning at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre at 168 Wall Street from 10:00 a.m. - noon. No registration required and childcare is provided on site. Transportation assistance is available.

For more information, contact 655-LIVE (655-5483).



Della Kinequon is a Peer Leader for the Newo Steps program. After three years as a participant, she recently stepped into a leadership role. “I like that it was free and I like what it has done for the health of the participants,” said Della. “We have had people lose weight and control their blood sugar. They look so good!” (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



St. Mary’s dancers entertained Urban Camp inmates and guests. (Photo by Darla Read)

## Urban Camp makes healthy donation

Two community groups in Saskatoon benefited from a healthy harvest at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre’s urban camp garden for a second year.

More than 3,200 hamper bags of produce have been donated to the Saskatoon Food Bank and St. Mary’s Community School.

“Our school lunch program is aimed to provide nutritious food to help our students perform better in school,” says St. Mary’s Principal Tony Bairos. “This donation helps us honour that commitment.”

As food bank CEO Paul Merriman notes, the inmates at the Correctional Centre also benefit from the garden.

He says a lot of time, energy and care

went into tending it.

“This isn’t just a garden that was just planted haphazardly. There’s some care. There’s lots of love that’s going into it,” says Merriman.

He says the men tending the garden have taken an interest in the community and where the food is going.

“We’ve actually come out a couple of times and visited some of the offenders out here and I’ve seen them at the food bank, and a couple of them have asked, ‘Can I have a quick tour of the food bank?’”

The urban camp program has been around for 29 years and is meant to provide work experience for offenders about to be released.



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SASKATOON

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## Sports Chat with Mike



**Name:** Jon Mirasty **Job:** Pro hockey enforcer **Position:** Left wing **Team:** Vityaz Chekov of the KHL (Russia's NHL) **Shoots:** Left **Home:** Flying Dust First Nation **Nickname:** Nasty

**North American "Indians" - LOL - so I try to give them a little history.**

**Mike:** With such a language barrier, how is the Russian coming?

**Jon:** I try to communicate with the



**Mike:** First and foremost I gotta know, how are the hands doing?

**Jon:** My hands have been quite strong over the years. I've been very fortunate to not have many fractures. I had surgery on my right hand where they strengthened the bone with steel plates. I guess an easy way to say it is "I don't have the prettiest hands around!"

**Mike:** How are you dealing with culture shock since arriving in Russia?

**Jon:** The culture here is so much different than North America. It has been a slow progress but I am slowly adapting to their lifestyle. We are treated like celebrities here so things

locals and I get laughed at a lot. The waitresses in the restaurants are a big help. I don't have to point at the pictures anymore on the menu.

**Mike:** The tragedy in Yaroslavl is a terrible loss. Any words?

**Jon:** The loss of the Locomotive team was a huge tragedy in the hockey world. My condolences go out to the families who have lost loved ones. It makes you realize that you have to appreciate every day because accidents like this can happen.

**Mike:** Has it affected your comfort with traveling over there?

**Jon:** You still have negative thoughts in

# 'Nasty' Mirasty takes his act to Russia

come pretty easy. The Russians have lots of questions regarding the

your mind but it is part of our job to fly and you just have to work through it.

**Mike:** Damn shame about Derek Boogaard, who you had legendary battles with in the WHL. Anything to share?

**Jon:** Derek was a very tough man. One of the toughest that I have ever fought. We had quite a few fights throughout junior and the one thing that stuck out was his size. He was a very big man, but more importantly, he had a big heart.

**Mike:** Is it true what they say, being an enforcer is the hardest job in pro sports?

**Jon:** We go through a lot but at the end of the day it's just a sport and we are out there protecting our teammates. Many of the enforcers are the most characteristic guys and are very involved within the communities.

**Mike:** If you could toss knuckles with a legend, living or dead, who would it be? Why?

**Jon:** I would love to fight them all. Win, lose, or draw.

**Mike:** Is fighting viewed as much a part of hockey in Russia as it is in North America?

**Jon:** There is a lot more skill and a lot less physical play. I really miss playing in North America where you have the rush of going up against the toughest guys in the game. The money paid here is so much greater so it is worth the travels.



**Mike:** Heard you're gonna be a daddy soon. Will baby be a dual citizen?

**Jon:** My wife Janessa is expecting to give birth on October 31 to our little girl in New York. I am going there at the end of October. My wife is from California so I am sure we will be applying for (American) Dual Citizenship. I also have an 8-year-old son named Triston. He lives with his mother in Meadow Lake. He is going to be quite the hockey player.

## Creeway shares the wealth with community

Creeway Gas and Confectionary has reached the milestone of ten years in business. CreeWay has turned into an outstanding revenue and employment source for the people of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

Standing tall on the corner of Saskatoon's first urban reserve, the Sutherland location has been a good one for Muskeg Lake as CreeWay anchors an urban reserve that hosts several businesses and offices.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Saskatoon Tribal Council, SIGA and SIIT all have their head offices on the urban reserve meaning over 500 people work in that territory.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary, CreeWay hosted a big old barbeque for the people in the area complete with cake, giveaways and a 50/50 draw. All of the money raised, plus an extra \$1,000 from Muskeg Lake, was donated to the Kinsmen Inner City Hockey League.



Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Cliff Tawpisin presented a cheque to Bob Fawcett of the Kinsmen Inner City Hockey league to help support disadvantaged youth in sport. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



# Oakes student centre under construction

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

It was an emotional day for Irene Oakes as the University of Saskatchewan announced a potential spring start date for the construction of the much anticipated Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre.

"It was emotional because now, after all of the prayers and ceremony, it will be a reality," said Oakes in an interview from the University.

"We started this process many years ago with a sweat, and the night before the announcement we had a family sweat where George Lafond joined us. We knew this day would be a reality because of the strong spiritual process. He is still here amongst us."

The new student centre will provide a central location for support services geared toward Aboriginal students, including the Aboriginal Students' Centre. It will also serve as a central space where all U of S students, staff and faculty can gather and learn from one another.

"Our students are central to the university's goals, and we are committed to both enhancing their experience as students and supporting their academic success,"



To commemorate the agreement to name the Aboriginal Students Centre building after Gordon Oakes, the family and University representatives posed for this historic photo in December of 1997. In the front row (left to right) Gordon Francis, John Oakes, Margaret Oakes, and Jean Oakes, Gordon's widow. In the back are David Hannah, VP Student and Enrollment Service U of S, Larry Oakes, Irene Oakes, Colin Oakes, University President Peter MacKinnon, and Lisa Rainville Oakes. The scale model in front shows the unique design of renowned architect Douglas Cardinal.

said U of S President Peter MacKinnon.

"The Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will welcome Aboriginal students to feel at home at the U of S and will help us better serve our students as our

enrolment continues to grow."

Gordon Oakes was born in 1932 in Cypress Hills on what is now the Nekaneet First Nation. Throughout his life, he was a spiritual leader within his community and across the province. Oakes died in February 2002 and arrangements to name the centre after Oakes began early in the project's life.

"When President MacKinnon asked the family for permission to use his name three years ago, he presented us with a portrait by Allan Sapp showing a team of horses. My dad always compared getting ahead in life to driving a team of horses," said Oakes who spoke on behalf of her family at the announcement.

"As you hold the reins, they go back and forth. Those two reins are your culture and education. You need both of them together if you want to succeed. My father stressed it was all about balance. That's what the students need."

Design of the building was done by Douglas Cardinal, whose signature buildings include the

Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

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Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



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# 2011 "Spirit of Our Nations" FSIN-SIGA-BHP Billiton Cultural Celebration & Pow Wow



Artwork by: Garry Meeches

## November 11, 12 & 13, 2011

### Credit Union Centre - Saskatoon, Sk. Canada

#### ADMISSION

\$10 per day (7+)  
\$20 weekend pass  
Children 5 & Under Free!

#### GRAND ENTRY

Friday, Nov. 11 - 7pm  
Saturday, Nov. 12 - 12pm & 7pm  
Sunday, Nov. 13 - 12pm

#### TRADEFAIR

For more info contact:  
Harriet Chamakese at  
(306) 244-1146  
harriet.chamakese@sicc.sk.ca

#### HEAD STAFF

Emcee's: Ruben Littlehead, Howard Thompson, Howard Walker  
Arena Directors: Alvin Nicotine, Moses Carriere  
Drum Judge: Harvey Dreaver Pow Wow Coordinator: Harvey Thunderchild

#### DANCE CATEGORIES

Golden Age Men & Women (55+)	Senior Men (40-54) Junior Men (20-39)	Senior Women (40-54) Junior Women (20-39)	Teen Boys (13-19)	Teen Girls (13-19)	Junior Boys (5-12)	Junior Girls (5-12)	Tiny Tots (5 & Under) <small>No contest Must be registered and dancing in pow wow regalia.</small>	Specials: <small>FSIN 50th Anniversary Special More Specials To Be Announced</small>
1st - \$1000 2nd - \$800 3rd - \$600 4th - \$400	1st - \$1000 2nd - \$800 3rd - \$600 4th - \$400	1st - \$1000 2nd - \$800 3rd - \$600 4th - \$400	1st - \$500 2nd - \$400 3rd - \$300 4th - \$200	1st - \$500 2nd - \$400 3rd - \$300 4th - \$200	1st - \$250 2nd - \$200 3rd - \$150 4th - \$100	1st - \$250 2nd - \$200 3rd - \$150 4th - \$100		<b>Veterans:</b> <small>Veterans in uniform only and who are full members of SFN will receive honours for each grand entry.</small>

#### SINGING

1st - \$8000
2nd - \$6000
3rd - \$5000
4th - \$4000
5th - \$3000
6th - \$2000
7th - \$2000

## Cultural & Education Symposium

Students in Grades 9-12

Guest Speakers - Presentations - Entertainment

Date and Location to be announced

For more info contact Gladys Christiansen: phone: (306) 244-1146; email: gladys.christiansen@sicc.sk.ca

## Miss FSIN Princess Pageant

For more info contact:  
Gladys Christiansen  
gladys.christiansen@sicc.sk.ca

The FSIN, SIGA, BHP Billiton and Pow Wow committee are not responsible for any injuries, loss or damages of any kind to participants or spectators resulting directly or indirectly in the participation of this event.

No drugs and alcohol or the use of will be allowed on premises!



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre  
Phone: (306) 244-1146, E-mail: powwow@sicc.sk.ca  
or visit www.sicc.sk.ca