

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Campeau part of historic victory

Premier Brad Wall says his government will be more effective with a voice from the Aboriginal community in caucus. Jennifer Campeau (right) won the Saskatoon Fairview seat for the Sask Party in November's provincial election. (Photo by Darla Read)



### First Nations candidate wins Saskatoon seat

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

History was made in more ways than one at this month's provincial election. For only the second time in this province, a First Nations woman was elected to the Legislative Assembly.

It's also the first time a First Nations female MLA has been elected by the Saskatchewan Party.

Jennifer Campeau of the Yellow Quill First Nation won a tight race in Saskatoon Fairview, where she defeated incumbent Andy Iwanchuk in a riding that has traditionally been a New Democratic Party stronghold.

Campeau was on pins and needles as she watched the results from her campaign office.

"I was just hopeful that I was going to be able to say, 'Well, it was a close race.'"

Once she found out she had won, she started to cry. She says this victory means a lot to her and to First Nations people

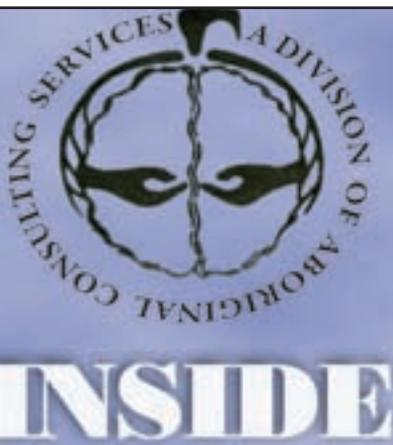
"Saskatchewan is changing, and it's ready for change, I believe. I think this is a testament to it," she said shortly after winning her seat. "The fact that I won an urban riding, I'm First Nations, I'm a student ... I think it's absolutely wonderful."

Former NDP MLA Joan Beatty was the first First Nations woman to be elected to the Legislature when she won the Cumberland riding in 2003.

Campeau says Beatty paved the way for women and Aboriginal people such as herself.

"The fact that I am a First Nations female is significant," says Campeau.

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**PAYING RESPECTS**  
Veteran Tony Cote was among those paying their respects at a Treaty 4 ceremony held in Regina. - Page 3



**NOT SO SECRET SANTA**  
Carlita Gardipy is determined to make sure every family has a happy Christmas this year. . - Page 11



**ENCOURAGEMENT**  
Former Prime Minister Paul Martin was in Saskatoon to help launch a youth entrepreneur program. - Page 16



**NINTH PRESIDENT**  
He's a former student and now he is president of the First Nations University of Canada. - Page 17



**STAR ON SKATES**  
P.A.'s Danny Stone isn't ready to hang up her skates yet but when she does, she'd like to stay in hockey as a coach. - Page 26

Welcome to our  
Veterans and Youth Edition  
Coming In December:  
Christmas Issue  
CPMA #40027204

# Wanuskewin hosts world premier of Rudy Wiebe on Big Bear

“*Kipay-tatinan oma kakitwayin kiyawow ekwa nitotawinan. Moya nitawayitaynan kici okimow eskew omaykiwina. Ispi makaysis ewi tasohayak niswaystanan wiyas, maka makaysis kispin etasosoot nipakamawanan ostikwanihk. Moya micimikacikan nitawayitaynan. Kitokimamowawahk nika-wapamikonanahk tapiskoc napwewahk, ekwa nikakitotananahk.*”

*“We have heard your words, now hear ours. We want none of the Queen’s presents. When we set a fox trap, we scatter pieces of meat all around, but, when the fox gets into the trap, we knock him on the head. We want no bait. Let your Chiefs come like men and talk to us.*

## Mistahi Maskwa - Big Bear

About two years ago, I received a phone call from Kenneth Hirsch, executive producer, PMA Productions, based out of Montreal, Quebec.

Kenneth explained that he was working on a television series called Extraordinary Canadians. After a thorough explanation about the overall series and that it included a biography on Big Bear, he asked me if I would consider assisting with the project.

Without any hesitation I agreed.

Eventually, I was asked to do the Plains Cree voice-over as Big Bear after my aunt Leona Tootoosis translated/transcribed the English quotes attributed to Big Bear into Plains Cree text.

Over the course of the project, I provided PMA full access to Wanuskewin Heritage Park’s Archival Visual Collection and the Wanuskewin Cree Oral History



Tyrone Tootoosis (right) with Big Bear author Rudy Wiebe.

Collection.

Additionally, I lent the production a replica of the Iron Creek Stone currently on display at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Big Bear’s great great grandchildren, the Big Bear Singers, now members of the Thunderchild Cree Nation generously agreed to have their songs used in the sound track of the film.

(Following is information on the project I gleaned

from PMA Production’s Press Release and website)

Extraordinary Canadians is about 12 biographies of eminent Canadians based upon books by Canada’s most brilliant contemporary writers. Extraordinary Canadians is an innovative, 12-part series, presenting a personal take on the lives of eminent Canadians from the perspective of celebrated writers who have shaped contemporary thinking.

The fourth episode is Rudy Wiebe on Big Bear and begins with an introduction by John Ralston Saul and is directed by Adrian Wills and Kenneth Hirsch. A tragedy viewed rather as a triumph of will. Rudy Wiebe tells the story of one of the greatest leaders Canada has ever known. Non-violent, a believer in discussion and diplomacy, Big Bear is the earliest forerunner of the traits Canadians today pride themselves on.

On October 14, Wanuskewin Heritage Park hosted the World Premiere of Rudy Wiebe on Big Bear followed by a reception.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Wiebe, Kenneth Hirsch, Leona Tootoosis and several of Big Bear’s descendants attended the screening including Chief Alex Little Bear and his wife from the Big Bear First Nation, Milt Tootoosis and Dana Soonias, CEO for Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

PMA Productions and I have now agreed the next phase for the Rudy Wiebe on Big Bear film is to do it all in the Plains Cree language.

– Contributed by Tyrone Tootoosis

## Wanuskewin, something for everyone!

### 2011 Aboriginal Artisan Market Show and Sale November 26th and 27th

In an effort to support and showcase Aboriginal Artists, we encourage you to come visit the park and support the amazing artistic talent that our province has to share! There will be free beading workshops, bannock baking over an open fire, live dance performances and much more.

Check out our website for more details.

### Check out our Exhibits

#### “Mistatim” I Honour You

Continues honouring tradition and sets forth examples of this highly held reverence for the horse, through historical and contemporary artistic expression and the Plains First Nation and Métis peoples.

#### “Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin - The Creators Sacrifice”

Featuring the artwork of Ovide Bighetty

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Canada S7K 3J7

T: 306.931.6767  
TF: 1.877.547.6546  
F: 306.931.4522

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# PAYING THEIR RESPECTS

(Top right then clockwise) an unidentified man pays respect to the Treaty 4 flag as it is raised. Elmer Eashappie and Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco look on as the flag is raised. The Treaty 4 flag flies proudly in downtown Regina. Elder and veteran Tony Cote proudly carries in the Treaty 4 flag in the grand entry.

(Photos by Mike Dubois)



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## Aboriginal people our most valuable resource

The people of Saskatchewan have overwhelmingly elected Brad Wall and the SaskParty to lead our lovely province for the next four years. Now many people believe that the NDP is the political party that cares best and does most for the Aboriginal people of Saskatchewan, and according to Facebook rants, many Aboriginal people are lamenting that the big bad SaskParty was re-elected and that it will set back the Aboriginal agenda once again.

But really, other than the Aboriginal Employment Development Program, the years under the NDP were like the federal years under the Liberals ... a whole lot of pleasantries but actually just status quo for Aboriginal people. Remember the PST? Why didn't they offer resource revenue sharing when they were in government instead of as a vote grab during this campaign?

Other than the resource revenue sharing storm, this election campaign was devoid of Aboriginal issues. The focus was on getting people out to vote and the record number of Aboriginal candidates.

A simple explanation is that other than some very specific constitutional type items, Aboriginal issues are the same as issues for everyone else in Saskatchewan. We all want safe and affordable housing and a good education system for our kids and a good economy for us to capitalize on. (Congratulations to Jennifer Campeau, Roger Parent, Gregory Lawrence, Buckley Belanger and Doyle Vermette as the First Nation and Métis MLAs elected).

In the last four years, we have seen a healthy investment by the Brad Wall government in education and training opportunities for Aboriginal people. The Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and their students have benefitted greatly from these investments and we also see the province joining up with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to study how to improve education outcomes for First Nation students in Saskatchewan.

The province is in a severe labour shortage and government and industry are looking to the Aboriginal community as a vital part of that labour force.

A new report commissioned by the Gabriel Dumont Institute and written by economist Eric Howe shows how important this education investment is. Howe says that closing Saskatchewan's Aboriginal education gap would have the direct effect of yielding \$90 billion in benefits to the province.

To put this into context, the potash industry is universally understood to be critical to the economy of our province. Heck, it has been a topic front and centre for the last year around here. However, the total production of potash in Saskatchewan back to the start of the industry is... four-fifths of \$90 billion, he added.

With that knowledge in hand, it will be interesting to see the future investments of the Brad Wall government. Judging by past practices, the SaskParty likes to invest in resource development.

Also noted from past practice, the Aboriginal people of Saskatchewan should not be banking on receiving a direct cut of the provinces natural resources, but they can certainly expect education and training opportunities as the economic boom in mining and oil can't help but draw Aboriginal people into it. According to Eric Howe, the potential in the Aboriginal community is worth more than our dearest natural resource.

Now that is a cause worth investing in.



## MÉTIS VETERANS HONOURED

A Métis veteran receives a handshake in this photo by Kymber Rae Palidwor. The year 2011 has been declared the Year of the Métis Veteran by the Métis National Council. Plans and fundraising are underway for a veterans monument to be erected at the Back to Batoche site.

(Photo Kymber Rae Photography)

**Eagle Feather  
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Box 924 Saskatoon, Sk S7K 3M4 306-978-8118

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ., P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: John Lagimodiere, JohnL@eaglefeathernews.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

ADVERTISING & SALES: Peggy Robillard, peggy.robillard@yahoo.com

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# Native Studies courses filled a void

We're in full swing on campus and everyone is working hard (I hope) in their studies. "So much to do and so little time to get it all done" is the common mantra around here these days, for both students and instructors.

There was a time when universities acted like ivory towers, set apart from everyday life, a place where only the elite and rich could get into, Western knowledge was the boss, and where you might be able to find a few Indigenous students here and there, if any. So much has changed over the last 50 years and I am proud to say that Native Studies (Indigenous Studies) played a huge role in creating a space for Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing in universities.

Native Studies departments emerged in universities across North America in the late 1960s during the civil rights and cultural revival movements. It was an amazing time when grassroots community people came together to assert their rights and demand fair treatment in Canadian society on their own terms. Among the demands was to create a space in universities for programs that reflected Indigenous history and life and provided the unique knowledge and skills training our people needed on our self-determination and decolonization journey.

Native Studies was created by grassroots people and our supporters to help fill this need. The first Native Studies program in Canada was created at Trent University in Ontario in 1969, SIFC created Indian Studies in 1973, and the Native Studies department at University of Saskatchewan was created in 1983.

In those early days there were only a handful of Indigenous people teaching at universities.

Together with community-based organizers, educators and Elders they developed their vision for Native Studies. The overarching goal of the discipline was described eloquently in 1970 by one of our earliest university professors, Rupert Costo, from the Cahuilla tribe down south:

"Among us, traditionally, the scholars are the servants of the people ... And so we say — let the people come for help to their own scholars. And let the scholars spend their lives and energies in the service of their people."

Native Studies was created in the spirit of community-engagement to help fill the needs of our communities and to educate the public at large. It is a place where we have the freedom to question authority; learn new ideas, perspectives and skills; provide a range of

learning experiences; and bring traditional and western knowledge together to gain deeper insights and understandings. Forty years later, universities and colleges across the country are finally recognizing the importance of community-engagement and experiential learning for students.

One of the best parts of teaching is seeing the work of our students go to good use instead of collecting dust on shelves. NS450 is an applied research

class that works with a community or agency to produce research that is useful to them. This year, our class of six fourth year students are working with Wanuskewin Heritage Park to research, document, and develop a historical timelines of significant events for the Wanuskewin region.

Our classes are conducted out on the land at the park, in various archives and libraries, and in the classroom with Elders and others who have insights to share with us. We strive to learn all we can from whatever sources are available to us so we can tell the story of this place from a holistic perspective grounded in the land itself. Partnering with communities and agencies is an important part of "education" that gives students the experience

of doing real work with real value.

We strive to live by the mandates of our discipline. Native Studies is mandated to provide a holistic education in honour and recognition that Indigenous Knowledge is not compartmentalized into little boxes. We are not ethnography, history, sociology, literature, law, philosophy, economics, political science, religious studies etc.

Rather, we strive to be all of these at the same time because in our traditional teachings we cannot separate economics from spirituality, or history from contemporary social conditions, for example. In addition to book learning our professors provide experiential insights based their own teachings and experiences.

There are a lot of interesting and useful activities going on at campus and we will be making more efforts to get that information out to the public. We invite you all to a public talk by Arthur Ray, historian, on his experiences over the past 25 years as an expert witness in First Nations and Métis claims cases. All are welcome! Tuesday, November 22, 7-9 p.m., Room 103 Physics Bldg, at the U of S.

In the spirit of our ancestors, friends, and family who sacrificed so much to protect us and provide us with opportunities, may your commemorations of Veterans Day be filled with loving remembrances and gratitude.

Hiy hiy.



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# November is a time to remember

November is a time to remember. On November 11, we honour the fallen soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

It is now called Remembrance Day. It used to be called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of hostilities between the Allies and Germany on the Western Front at the "11th hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918.

A moment of silence and the haunting sounds of the "Last Post" are iconic parts of ceremonies across the land.

In the first week of November I attended the funeral of a cousin in St. Laurent, Manitoba and saw once more the long list of names of local veterans of the two World Wars which has always hung on a wall in the village church.

Across the land, too, First Nation and Métis war veterans can usually be found as honoured participants in public ceremonies.

In November too, on the 16th, ceremonies in the Prairie region honour the memory of Louis Riel, who was hanged in the police barracks in Regina on that day in 1885.

Riel was convicted of treason for his role in the troubles at Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Batoche in the early spring of 1885. Six Cree and two Nakoda men were also hanged together at Battleford in that year for their role in the troubles in the Western region at the same time. The justice of the swift trials is a story in itself.

When you link the record of service of First Nation and Métis war

veterans with the historical executions by Canada just described, you face squarely one of the great unresolved questions in Canada: the relationship between the indigenous peoples and the government of Canada.

The historical record of government ignorance, crass politics, broken promises, incompetence and duplicity stares you in the face.

How is the relationship to be sorted out today?

Enduring the legacy of government policies and actions based on the idea that 'might is right' the indigenous peoples of Western Canada are in a vulnerable position in any attempts to negotiate a harmonious, just and enduring relationship: what too many people today easily call 'reconciliation'.

A practical view suggests that direct negotiations leading to agreed arrangements is best. In the end it is not lofty principles but what can be agreed that can yield working solutions.

But that is where the imbalance of power gives the government side all the advantage, together with the generally poor appreciation of the public about our history and the meaning of our Constitution.

The irresistible conclusion is that good arguments must still be put up in order to compel meaningful negotia-

tions and agreements.

On the First Nation side, attempts to secure agreement on the interpretation and contemporary meaning of the Treaties have achieved little, even with the establishment of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, which has by default concentrated its efforts on developing materials for elementary school curriculum.

The Métis organization in Manitoba, the Manitoba Métis Federation, will be arguing for a Constitutional win before the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa in mid-December.

That case, built upon the interpretation of the promises in the lands provision of the 1870 Constitution of Manitoba will be an uphill battle to say the least.

If one is looking for good arguments to make the case for justice for indigenous peoples in the relationship with Canada and the provinces, a compelling development which can not be overlooked is the emergence of modern human rights standards.

Human rights standards have deep historical roots but have developed rapidly since the end of the Second World War.

Human rights law emerges from the experience and practices of states and the

work of bodies like the United Nations.

Among the emerging human rights are the collective rights of self-determination, which includes resource rights and land rights as well as Treaty rights. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007 declares the application of these rights to indigenous peoples in particular.

An example of the relevance of the collective human rights is their application to the Saskatchewan political debate about resource and revenue-sharing agreements with First Nations.

Contemporary human rights now include not only Treaty rights, but also land and resource rights which are a part of the fundamental right of self-determination of all peoples, which of course includes indigenous peoples.

Even if the province were to prevail in its assertion of authority to control natural resources, its government could not legitimately legislate in respect to the resources without respecting the human rights of the First Nations.

Whenever the benefits of natural resources are appropriated 'for everyone', human rights law demands negotiations with indigenous peoples for fair and just compensation.

The development of human rights law has emerged from the sacrifices of wars and the realization that injustice gives rise to war.

We can remember and honour these sacrifices by respecting their legacy today and tomorrow.



Comment  
Paul Chartrand

## Premier welcomes Aboriginal voice

### • Continued from Page One

"The fact that I am a First Nations female in the governing party is significant. I think the Leg is going to be changed, and I think it will open up new avenues for others to follow."

After an election where his party took the biggest percentage of the popular vote ever, Premier Brad Wall praised Campeau as a candidate any party would have wanted on its team.

"There's a Master's student, doctoral candidate, who first of all is young, very, very intelligent, but also has a lot of ... experiences in life to draw from, and now wants to bring that voice to the Legislature, to your party. If you're a political leader, I would like that person to be a candidate."

Wall is thrilled his party was able to elect three Aboriginal candidates. Métis businessman Roger Parent was also elected – he defeated incumbent Frank Quennell in Saskatoon-Meewasin, and Métis union leader Greg Lawrence defeated high-profile candidate Deb Higgins in Moose Jaw Wakamow.

"I have said publicly and privately to First Nations leaders, to Métis leaders (that) the Legislature will be more effective, the government will be more effective, if there's a First Nations or Aboriginal or Métis voice in the Legislature," says Wall, "specifically in the government caucus, whoever the government happens to be, and maybe in the cabinet."

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# Sinclair tells MN-S of the importance of constitutional reform

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

**M**étis citizens are once again calling on their leaders to get to work.

Motions were passed at an Annual General Assembly earlier this month that called on Provincial Métis Council members to finally meet in order to ratify the proposed date of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, tentatively set for Dec. 10.

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette says some PMC members who have refused to come to meetings, such as Area Directors Helene Johnson and Mavis Taylor, have agreed to attend, based on the agreement that the only agenda item will be to ratify the MNLA date.

“It shows some progress,” he says. “I’m glad that our leaders are finally getting the message that our people make the decisions, and we follow what they say,” Doucette says.

Métis citizens also proposed a date for the next election, tentatively set for May 30, 2012. This has to be ratified at the next MNLA.

Should PMC members not meet prior to the Dec. 10 MNLA, an AGA will convene the next day where citizens would determine what next steps are needed to deal with any impasse.

Constitutional reform will be a big agenda item at the MNLA. Doucette says some proposed changes would look at giving more power to citizens.

He says an example is creating a

mechanism such as a “recall” where politicians are held accountable if they are not doing their jobs.

Doucette says there would be pros and cons to such a process.

“You can’t be recalling a politician every time you don’t like him or her,” he explains. “But on the other hand, if they’re not doing the job they were elected to do, the people should have an opportunity to tell that person. That person should listen and should remediate their behaviour and work on behalf of people.”

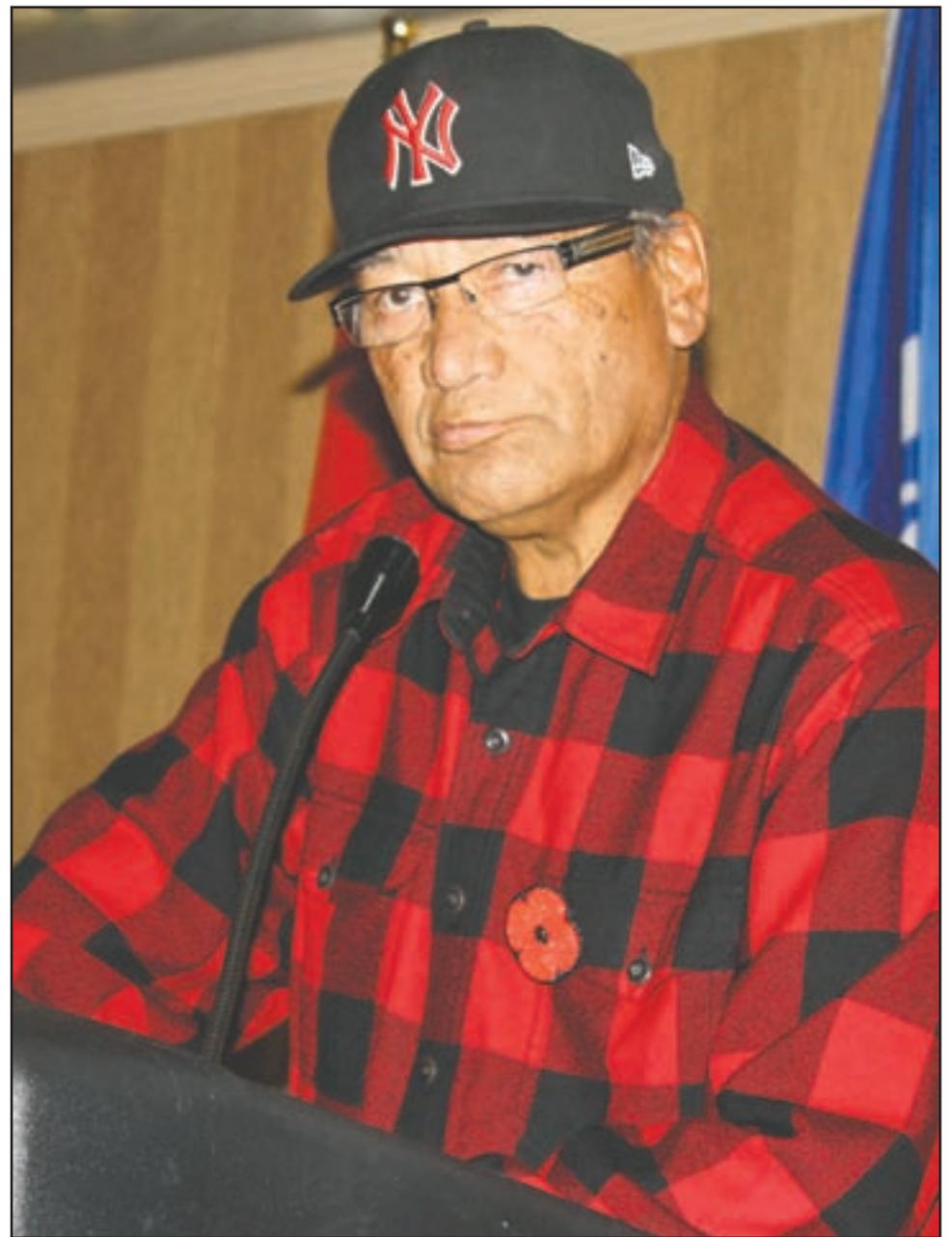
Doucette says this would apply to all leaders, including the executive.

Former Métis Society president Jim Sinclair echoes the need for constitutional reform. He was invited to address the AGA and told citizens they can’t blame the executive because it derives its power from the people.

“If you change the constitution, you’ll be credible,” and then be able to talk about your real enemies, such as the provincial and federal governments, says Sinclair, “instead of making each other the enemies.”

Sinclair didn’t agree with everything that happened at the AGA. He told the crowd he felt badly for the mayor of Pinehouse, whom he’d been sitting beside.

That’s because the assembly passed a motion in support of banning the transportation and storage of nuclear waste. Pinehouse is one of the Saskatchewan communities that asked to be considered as a potential storage site by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.



Former MN-S president Jim Sinclair has strong views on the need for constitutional reform within the organization. (Photo by Darla Read)

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Please download the online 2012-2013 CCAY Application including the Aboriginal Peoples' Program Application

Requirements at:  
[www.afcs.ca](http://www.afcs.ca)

Applications must be received at:

Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan  
Attn: CCAY Regional Desk  
1615 – 29th Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 0N6



**No later than Friday, December 2, 2011 at 4:30 pm CST.**



To receive an application package or for more information, contact:  
Sandra Bellegarde, CCAY Regional Desk at (306) 955-0762 or email: [sandyjoan\\_b@hotmail.com](mailto:sandyjoan_b@hotmail.com)

# Saskatoon volunteers honoured by Diabetes Association

*Florence Highway and Evelyn Linklater reach First Nations communities with unique outreach program*

**SASKATOON** – On the cusp of Diabetes Awareness Month, at the National Annual General Meeting and Professional Conference, the Canadian Diabetes Association has awarded two key Saskatoon-based volunteers the Association's National Volunteer of the Year Award.

A unique powerhouse for the CDA's Public Programs and Services Team in Northern Saskatchewan, Florence Highway and Evelyn Linklater were honoured together at the end of October in Toronto. Both women are extremely influential leaders in the Saskatoon community, within the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities.

In particular, the duo's work with the Association's Travelling Diabetes Resource Program--delivering learning presentations to rural communities--has seen them shine in travelling to and connecting with the remote and Northern communities of Saskatchewan.

Highway and Linklater have shown that they thrive in Saskatchewan's Northern communities, where they are able to speak to the youth in their native Cree language.

As people managing their own diabetes very well themselves, the two women are able to explain to youth how lifestyle choices today can have an impact on their health tomorrow.

Furthermore, these dedicated volunteers work extensively with youth in First Nations communities through the Science Festivals program, put on in conjunction with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. These science fairs are an ideal opportunity to impact



Diabetes volunteers extraordinaire Evelyn Linklater and Florence Highway with the Canadian Diabetes Association's Alan Mark after their award presentation.

young people with the diabetes message.

According to Brie Hnetka, Manager of Public Programs and Services for the CDA in Saskatchewan, Highway and Linklater's contributions as volunteers have been invaluable.

"It is through Florence and Evelyn's combined wisdom, commitment and leadership with the First

Nations culture that the Canadian Diabetes Association in Saskatchewan has been able to expand its reach and message of awareness," Hnetka said.

"Each a mentor of how to live healthy a healthy life with diabetes while overcoming difficult circumstances, these ladies are an example to all, of what can be accomplished when you set your mind to something."

**MBC NETWORK**  
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 NOVEMBER 25, 2011 10AM - 6PM



MISSINIPI BROADCASTING CORPORATION (MBC) AND ITS AFFILIATED RADIO STATIONS, CAMECO, AND THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN (CHFS), ARE HOLDING AN MBC NETWORK WIDE RADIO-A-THON ON NOVEMBER 25, 2011 TO RAISE MONEY FOR A NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF SASKATCHEWAN TO BE BUILT IN SASKATOON.

A NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MATTERS TO SASKATCHEWAN, NORTHERN, MÉTIS AND FIRST NATIONS RESIDENTS.

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On November 25th call this number to give: 1-888-808-KIDS (5437)

# Dealing with kids health challenges can be daunting

All children can get ill from time to time, and it can be difficult to know when to seek help. Unfortunately our children don't come with an instructional manual.

Thank goodness for the Internet and information provided by doctors and pharmacists. As parents we have to be teacher, counsellor, nurse and doctor all in one. What do we do when are children our feeling crappy or throwing tantrums? I go to the computer, whereas my mother read Dr. Spock books.

Your child's health includes physical, mental and social well-being. Most parents know the basics of keeping their children healthy, like preparing healthy meals and making sure that the child gets plenty of rest and exercise.

It is very important that children have regular check ups with their doctor. The doctor will check on your child's development. Regular checkups help to catch and, in some cases, prevent problems. Doctors' visits should be a regular part of your family's routine.

Other than regular check-ups, children should be seen by a health care professional when they have lost weight, have trouble sleeping or a have a change in their behaviour, a fever over 102, breathing problems, frequent sore throats or rashes and skin infections.

It's easy to know when your child has a fever. A child's mental health problem may be harder to identify but you can learn to recognize the symptoms. Pay attention to excessive anger, sadness or anxiety. Sudden

changes in your child's behaviour can tip you off to a problem. Watch for things like exercising too much, or hurting or destroying things. These could be symptoms of a larger health issue or mental health problem.

Some common mental health problems in children include depression, anxiety, behaviour disorders and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Mental health problems can disrupt daily life at home, school or in the community. Without help mental health problems can lead to problems in school, alcohol or other drug abuse, family violence, or suicide. Help is available, so talk to your health care professional if you have concerns about your child's behaviour.

All kids misbehave sometimes, but behaviour disorders go beyond mischief and rebellion. With behaviour disorders your child or teen has a pattern of hostile, aggressive or disruptive behaviour for six months or more. Warning signs may include harming or threatening themselves or pets, damaging or destroying property, lying or stealing, not doing well in school or skipping classes, early smoking, drinking or drug use, early sexual activity, frequent tantrums or arguments or consistent hostility towards authority figures.



**Sandee Sez**  
Sandra Ahenakew

If you see signs of trouble, ask for help. Poor choices can become habits. Kids who have behaviour problems are at higher risk for school failure, mental health problems even

suicide. Classes or family therapy may help parents to set and enforce limits.

If there are no therapists close to your home consider talking with Elders in your community they have a great deal of experience and often willing and eager to share their experiences. There are many common childhood illnesses including Chicken pox, Impetigo, whooping cough, pink eye and scabies to name a few.

Schools and child care facilities are ripe with all kinds of germs so ensure that your children wash their hands frequently. Here are some signs and symptoms of some of the more common illness:

- Chicken Pox: slight fever before a rash develops the rash begins as small red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid filled blisters. Usually lasts about ten days.

- Impetigo: forms clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness, sores usually appear around the mouth and nose. Impetigo often affects school children who live in crowded conditions, play sports or have skin conditions. The child should not attend

school or child care until 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.

- Influenza (flu): symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat, nausea, and vomiting and is serious for children under two years old.

- Whooping cough: displays as cough, runny nose, and a low grade fever. After one to two weeks the cough worsens the child will cough violently and rapidly and sometime vomit after coughing. This cough can last several weeks. A child who is started on antibiotics is not infectious after 5 days of antibiotic therapy.

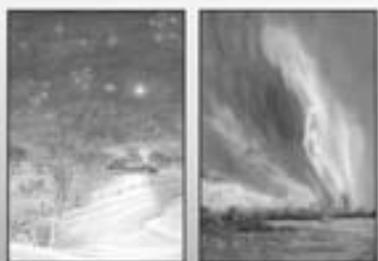
- Pink Eye: another common disease you will notice teary, red, itchy painful eyes; eyelid may appear swollen and may be sensitive to light. The child should not attend school or child care until 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.

- Scabies: cause intense itching especially at night the most common sites are between fingers, wrists, elbows and armpits. Keep your child away from school and child care until after the child complete one treatment.

There are many other illness out there always check with you health care professional for the best treatments options for your child.

It is always good to hear from the readers you can write to me C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon Sask., S7M 3M4 or email Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com. Stay healthy.

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## Rank Comix

By Adam Martin



# You're broke cuz your punk ass wants to be

**D**irk Dashing's incredible brain is on assignment. But Eagle Feather News has a back-up in the form of the gifted and shy Mr. Answer Guy. He answers questions. Apparently. Kind of ...

Dorlinda Folds Like the Wind of Regina writes: "My boyfriend says saving money is like being greedy, like I'm hoarding money, and that's like bad. He like wants me to like party, buy DVDs, and then like pay the rent, then like the groceries, in like that order. I want like a new boyfriend."

Given your propensity for the word "like" I must assume you are a gorgeous First Nation woman from the Treaty Four area. As I am from the awesome Treaty Six territory I shall contort my normal thinking processes and say, Dorlinda, I feel your pain.

One of the most daft and destructive beliefs operating in the back of some Indian minds is the notion Indians can't have nice things. Or be rich. It's as though having money in the bank is wrong, like licking the hard candy and putting it back in the bowl or having a favourite Willie Nelson song. There is a reason for this.

There is the idea that only the meek shall inherit the Earth, but somehow that noble ideal got confused with the brainwave that to be meek we got to be perpetually broke, have problems paying

bills or always be on the edge of running out of minutes for our phones.

This is closely related to the baffling concept that Indians cannot have nice things, like a decent car with fenders that all match, curtains and not flags in the windows of our homes, or pants that flatter our fronts and show off our bottoms. Or a savings account.

No, to have any of these things must mean you are a greedy SOB and are to be shunned and ridiculed like mouth breathing, slobbering Philadelphia Flyers fans or those sad silly souls, the Maple Leafs fans.

Which is odd because long before the buffalo disappeared our people celebrated the prosperous. And we did things that would lead to our own personal prosperity, as long as we did them in a good way.

Today that might mean a savings account where 10 per cent of all income is stashed away for emergencies, or that awesome big screen TV, or, if you are from Prince Albert, that shiny new 8-track player.

Typically, I am never wrong about such things. On the other hand, you will find a completely different set of fingers.

Dorlinda, it sounds like you hooked up with a moron, whose punk ass is broke because he wants to be broke. Get a new man. There are plenty of rich or handsome men in the Treaty Four area. Up here in the Treaty Six area we have men who are both. I wish you good hunting.

Ricardo Montalban from Smeaton wants to know, "Yo, what is up with that Yorkton MLA, Gary Ottenbreit, saying an Indian pal told him easy handouts from resource revenues can be used for alcohol and drugs?"

I am glad Mr. Notoftenbright staged the resource revenue sharing issue this way, and we should be thankful. Sure, we could say, Dude, we already have alcohol and drugs issues so we might as well have the easy cashola too! But I'm inclined to go another way.

Someone clever could pounce on this obvious slip of the hillbilly tongue and heart, and argue, Mr. Spreadtheblight, we forgive you for being blissfully oblivious to the fact your government has enjoyed easy money from our resources since 1930.

We understand the addict, who can conjure bizarre takes on reality, sophisticated theories where he is blameless and

hide under glossy excuses to evade responsibility for his addiction. The phrase, "everyone benefits from resources" leaps to mind because his glazed eyes cannot see the decades and decades of Indian poverty on reserves all the while his happy world churned madly onwards.

Someone clever could point out no one is fooled by his half-assed claim an "Indian friend" told him Indians would use easy money for destructive purposes. Why not spread a steaming pile of horse poop over a stinking block of manure and pray it smells of legitimacy and rainbows?

Someone clever might add that honourable members of his constituency may be offended at being associated with the half-wits, racists, and morons Mr. Stinkybrought has now greasily invited into the SaskParty tent.

I think this is the definition of odious.

Editors Note: Eagle Feather News apologizes for any offense taken by the proud and prosperous people of the Treaty Four area, who are not only fabulous looking already but are wealthy in all the ways that count. Please direct your complaints to Mr. Answer Guy at Dirk-Dashing@shaw.ca

*Dirk says, Remember, half the people you know are below average ... Except our beloved veterans.*



 National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

## Fall 2011 Bursary & Scholarship Application Deadlines

### November 1

- Post Secondary Education Bursary Award
- Aboriginal Health Careers Bursary & Scholarship Award

### November 30

- Health Canada Dental Bursaries & Scholarship Award

Applicants who received a bursary award from the June 1st 2011 deadline are not eligible to apply.



For more information:  
**1.800.329.9780 x020**  
naaf.ca

## Aboriginal Agriculture and Land Management

### Post-Graduate Diploma

Food security and land resource management are two of the major issues facing Aboriginal people in Canada today. There is a growing need for professionally trained people with the necessary skills to handle these challenging and complex problems.

The Aboriginal agriculture and land management diploma is specifically designed to prepare students for employment in the agriculture and agribusiness sector as well as to develop the skills necessary to become effective land and resource managers. The program blends applied training in agribusiness management and agricultural production systems with training in land and resource management issues specific to Aboriginal communities. This program will be of interest to Aboriginal students with a wide range of academic backgrounds.

Financial assistance is available to eligible students through the generous support of the Sprott Family Foundation.



 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of Agriculture and Bioresources

#### For additional information and applications:

Wayne Robinson  
Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics  
College of Agriculture and Bioresources  
University of Saskatchewan  
51 Campus Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8

Tel: (306) 966-4537  
Email: wayne.robinson@usask.ca  
Web: pbe.usask.ca



ITEP student Carlita Gardipy is raising money for Christmas gifts in hopes of making the season happier for poorer families.

## Gardipy making no secret of her desire to make Christmas happier

By Darla Read

For Eagle Feather News

Christmas has always been Carlita Gardipy's favourite time of year, and she tries to make the holiday special for her family, especially for her nearly two-year-old daughter.

When the 25-year-old second-year Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) student attended a poverty workshop through an All Nations learning program, she was struck by the thought that some people might dread the holiday when they are struggling to make ends meet.

"Some people may have broken hearts because they may be unable to provide their children with Christmas gifts," thought Gardipy, who says she would be heartbroken if she couldn't afford gifts for her daughter.

Gardipy decided she had to do something, even if it was small. Now she is spearheading a Secret Santa campaign for children's gifts, money to buy gifts or gift wrap, which she is then giving to the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. Staff there will wrap the gifts and give them to kids at Friendship Centre's children's Christmas party on Dec. 8.

"I know I'm not going to be able to help everyone who needs it, but I feel very content knowing that what I'm doing is going to help a family smile and have a memorable Christmas."

Gardipy has a donation jar, which is starting to fill up, on the counter at ITEP at the University of Saskatchewan. She will take donations until Dec. 6.

She says lots of her friends want to help, and she is getting emails from other people wanting to help as well. She says people just don't always know where to give.

Gardipy says her daughter is her motivation in everything she does, including this latest endeavour.

"I want to be the best role model I can for my daughter," she says. "I want her to know that we are put on this earth to help one other, that one person can make a difference and no act of kindness is ever too small."

Gardipy liked the idea of the Salvation Army collective school supplies this past summer for families in need, and she hopes to do something similar next summer.

Anyone wanting to donate to Secret Santa can contact Gardipy at [crg706@mail.usask.ca](mailto:crg706@mail.usask.ca)

# INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

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# Modern day veterans continue to make the sacrifices

By Kerry Benjoe  
For Eagle Feather News

Recent and current conflicts in the world have created a new generation of war veterans and although the times have changed the experience has remained the same.

In the past, First Nations, who by Treaty right were exempt from serving, voluntarily enlisted to protect Canada and the freedoms we enjoy today. First Nation men and women continue to volunteer for various reasons.

"I joined because I lost my father, Corky Rosebluff, when I was 5 years old," said Sgt. Gregory Rosebluff of the United States Army, currently stationed in Germany.

"He was a powwow announcer and I love powwow. I saw how all the Veterans were older and getting older. I thought that I would someday serve and come into Grand Entry to honor my father, my family, and all the veterans."

From the Muscowpetung First Nation, he began his service in May of 2007 and graduated from the Fort Benning Infantry School. After graduation, Rosebluff was stationed in Fort Bragg North Carolina with the 82nd Airborne.

For Tyrone Roper from the Yellow Quill/Muskowekwan First Nations, it was childhood dream to enlist.

"I used to always play with G.I. Joes growing up," he recalled. "I always wanted to be in the army."

In 2001, his dream became a reality when he became part of the 3rd of the 327 Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In March 2003, Roper left to Iraq where he spent the next 10 months.

"The first two months were the hardest. There was a lot of fighting," he said.

After his return he went through some counseling and eventually left the army.

"I loved the army," said Roper. "I just wish I was better prepared for some of the aftermath when I got home. It was hard to adjust once I got back."

He credits older war veterans like George Benson for helping him adjust to life after combat.

"He helped me with my feelings," said Roper. "He knew what I went through because he was a combat veteran also. He knew what I was feeling. What it was like to come back and not know what to do."

Looking back, Roper has no regrets because not only did he fulfill a childhood dream but he had the opportunity to see different parts of the world.

"Regardless of the feelings I had when I got back it was still one of the best experiences of my life," he said. "Particularly the brotherhood, (being) willing to lay your life on the line for someone else and not thinking twice about it and knowing they would do the exact same thing for you."

Rosebluff has yet to return to civilian life. He served in Iraq in 2008 and in Afghanistan in 2009 to 2010.

"Iraq was my first experience with actual war, and dealing with what comes with it prepared me for my next deployment to Afghanistan," he said. "The U.S. Army has been both rewarding and difficult. It has been filled with new friends, losses, the most beautiful sights and the most horrible. In the end I would not trade it for



RCMP Const. Robert Pambrum, Muskowekwan First Nation Chief Reg Bellerose and Tyrone Roper pose this summer at the Touchwood Agency Cadet graduation. (Photo supplied)

anything. I am extremely proud of what I do and what I am serving for."

His only regret is having to be so far away from his

son in Canada. Rosebluff has a simple explanation for why he decided to fight for the U.S. and not Canada.

• Continued on Page 13





Sgt. Gregory Rosebluff of the United States Army, currently stationed in Germany, is from the Muscowpetung First Nation, he began his service in May of 2007. (Photo supplied)

# Nov. 11 takes on new meaning

• Continued from Page 12

“I am not serving for them, but for me, and for my family,” said Rosebluff. “That’s what counts first ... The war on terror is everyone’s war.”

Next year, he’s returning to Fort Bragg to work with the State department’s Special Operations Civil Affairs community.

“When my contract is done in 2015 I would like to move home and drink tea and play horse shoes all day, maybe teach kindergarten,” said Rosebluff.

Both Roper and Rosebluff encourage others to never be afraid to try something new.

“Dream. I mean really dream,” said Rosebluff. “It may sound corny but I think dreams are our Creator’s blueprints for us.”

Since serving, Remembrance Day has taken on a special meaning for Roper and Rosebluff.

“November 11 is a day that people should remember not just our past but our present and future soldiers,” said Rosebluff. “Realizing the sacrifice soldiers make, being away at war. I would say a prayer on November 11 for all service members (and) their families.”

For Roper it means remembering his fallen brothers.

“The ones I lost in war, and the ones I lost after we came home,” he said. “(Those) who couldn’t find peace or didn’t have the strong family support I had and still have to this day. Thanks to my wife and kids.”

## Thomas re-elected STC Chief



FELIX THOMAS

Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas was recently re-elected by acclamation to his second term as Chief.

Thomas has been a big proponent of employment and training opportunities for his people and has spoken often that, “It is okay to be a successful Indian.”

On behalf of the Tribal Council he has signed agreements with Potash-Corp to improve employment and with the provincial and federal government regarding active measures to reduce welfare reliance on reserve. He also is a strong supporter of Junior Achievement and creating more entrepreneurial opportunities for youth.

After his re-election, he told the Saskatoon StarPhoenix that he was interested in extending Tribal Council voting to all STC members to try and get more people involved in politics and governance.

Thomas was Chief of Kinistin Saulteaux Nation for 10 years prior to becoming Tribal Chief.

## Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight, Elders and staff would like to acknowledge our First Nations veterans and the First Nations veterans who have fallen before us.

The sacrifices they have made in the world have made it possible for our people to live in a world free of oppression. We continue to acknowledge our First Nations veterans in a way that will preserve their sacrifices and preserve Treaties 4,5,6,8, and 10.

We are all Treaty People. The treaties bestow rights and responsibilities on both First Nations and Euro-Canadian Settlers.





Amanda Verishine wades in the waters at Juno Beach as she pays tribute to fallen soldiers that sacrificed for their country.

# Métis youth visit memo

The Navy League Abroad Group from Saskatoon had a memorable trip to visit First World War and Second World War memorial sites in Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, recently. The Group was comprised of cadets from 18 H.M. Weir Navy League Cadet Corps, 45 Jervis Bay, Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps, one Cadet from 702 Lynx Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets, and supportive family and friends.

The entire trip was not solely a Cadet activity, which meant it was planned and funded by the participating families who spent a lot of time and effort fundraising in order to participate.

Tracey Verishine, the mother of two cadets, came up with the idea for the trip while watching Remembrance Day ceremonies last year. She is also vice president of the Navy League and Sea Cadets Parents Group.

"As I watched the ceremonies," she says, "I realized that our children are very disconnected from (the world wars). We may say to them, Can you imagine this? but they really can't. Our generation still has the awareness because we heard stories from our grandparents. I thought there needed to be some way for our children to get a closer connection to this part of our history. We want them to learn respect and know about the past in order to be good citizens in the future."

Below, three youth participants share their reflections about the trip. It is obvious the trip made an impact. More about their journey can be found at:

[http://www.xperience.gc.ca/publications/04october2011-eng/XPV1\\_Issue4\\_lores-eng.pdf](http://www.xperience.gc.ca/publications/04october2011-eng/XPV1_Issue4_lores-eng.pdf)

The water was freezing cold as I stepped in with my bare feet. Colder than I ever imagined, it was numbing and my mom said I was only in for about a couple of minutes. I waded in a bit farther as the numbness settled in and I could actually stand it. The waves hit my legs and my rolled-up pants were now wet but it really didn't matter. I was standing in the waters at Juno Beach.

The day was cloudy and it felt like rain and my jacket just couldn't keep out the wind. I could hardly wait to get back in the warm bus but I just couldn't tear myself away from the beach where I knew thousands of men landed.

I tried to imagine how some of those brave Métis soldiers never made it farther than the beach as they took their last breath to save their country on a foreign land far away from everyone they knew and loved.

We brought our small Métis flag with us and threw it in the water. We thought it would go out with the waves and would symbolize to us how our present memories

would be carried out to sea with all the memories the waters held. To our surprise it came back and rested on the sandy beach centimetres from our feet. So we did it again, and again it came back. Now our whole group gathered along watching the little flag slowly go out then come back and rest at our feet time and time again.

Alex then went out in the water up to his knees determined to have



The Vimy Ridge memorial on Preston Flory.



Alex Verishine and his cohorts stayed bus

# rials to fallen soldiers



It made a lasting impression

it leave us and it would not go.

We all looked at each other silent but amazed and decided that this was even more symbolic and that we would bring the flag back home with the sand that now clung to the infinity symbol and glistened on the blue cloth. My mom carefully packed our symbolic gift in a plastic bag, for its long journey home.

We thought it would be fitting to present it to GDI on Remembrance Day as a symbol of our Métis soldier's courage. They never gave up no matter the odds or what they were faced with on that cold dreary beach

I believe their thoughts were always about home, Canada and the people they loved – just like the flag that couldn't leave us and had to come home.

**Amanda Verishine**

Got up and left early for Vimy Ridge. It took a while to get there. While there we were able to get a tour which I think was great.

It explained a lot about the ridge, like how they used the underground tunnels to set up their plans and maps. The monument was breathtaking and very large.

We looked for names of Métis soldiers but it was so hard there were so many and they went on for kilometres. We just didn't have enough time to pick out any family members. We needed more time and could have spent the whole day there just looking.

**Preston Forry**

It's day five and its 4:38 p.m. (16:38)



here and 8:38 a.m. (08:38) in Saskatoon and it's been a great day. So far today we have gotten great grave rubbing of our Métis soldiers, left flags at all the Métis graves at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery and went to visit Het Loo Palace. The grave rubbings were hard to do but they look great. Alex Berthelot and I helped others who just couldn't quite get the hang of it. We wanted to bring back as many as we could so we could share them with others back in Saskatoon who didn't get to come or just don't get it.

The cemetery was really quiet and we actually had to cut our time short because it started to rain as we were trying to do just

one more rubbing. There were so many graves, and they were all perfectly lined up in a row.

No matter where you stood the rows were straight and you could see every grave from any point in the graveyard. The sad part was this was one of many graveyards where our soldiers lay.

Too many people died and some of them were barely older than me. I wonder what they thought about when coming here. We have seen so much in the last five days and have five more to go. It's sad to see they didn't get to see the beauty of this country as we are.

**Alex Verishine**



They are doing grave rubbings where they get impressions of fallen Métis soldiers' headstones.

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 of Native Studies and Applied Research

Parks Canada

Canada

# Former PM offers encouragement for young entrepreneurs

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

“How can we expect these young people to take part in the economy if they know nothing about it?” said former Prime Minister Paul Martin on a recent visit to Oskayak High School in Saskatoon. Martin was in town to help announce the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Program for Grade 11 and 12 students at Oskayak.

The goal of the Youth Entrepreneurship Program is to encourage Aboriginal youth to stay in school where they can develop the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary to achieve success in secondary school, postsecondary education or training, the workplace and daily life. Students are given entrepreneurial experience and the opportunity for business ownership. RBC Royal Bank and the Martin Aboriginal Initiative are partners in the project.

“When we first started, it was an established course,” Martin said following the announcement.

“We took a young Oji-Cree teacher from Northern Ontario and she adapted the program for us. We then had two teachers take over a year to customize the curriculum so we now have aboriginal role models. The examples are all Aboriginal and they are the first set of high school business books ever designed specifically for Indigenous people in the world.”

Using innovative hands-on activities, guest speakers, and business mentors, Aboriginal students learn how to create a product or service-based business. Funding is provided for students who wish to start each micro-business and using the services of local banks, students open and maintain accounts, and must comply with all required record keeping and other accountability measures. Students are mentored by established business people, including Aboriginal business owners, throughout the planning and



Former Prime Minister Paul Martin was in Saskatoon to unveil the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Program.

implementation process.

“This is an exceptional opportunity for our students to discover and develop skills that will serve them well in high school and beyond,” said Leanne Bellegarde, co-chair of the Oskayak parent council.

“We appreciate that, like us, Mr. Martin and RBC want to see our students reach their full potential.”

Students like Farron Chamakese who sang an honour song for former Prime Minister Martin will benefit from the program.

“I was a bit nervous singing for him as that’s the former prime minister up there and there are all these cameras on me. I was just going red,” laughed Farron as he talked about his experience.

“But I just thought of it as being at a regular powwow or round dance. You know there are a lot of people watching you too so I just went with it. I am looking forward to taking part in the program though. I want to go to NAIT in Alberta and get into being a recording engineering. I want to have my own music label.”

The program is designed to improve students’ proficiency in Business Mathematics, English, Accounting, Marketing, and Information and Communications Technology, while supporting the acquisition of leadership skills.

Oskayak joins Scott Collegiate in Regina as the only schools in Saskatchewan with the program.

“Oskayak is a very special school that was started by parents who wanted to make it happen. It is a great example for the rest of the country,” said Martin.

“We have only been doing this for three or four years so it is a little soon to look at results, but we have found that graduation rates have gone up and the kids have developed an understanding of business with this program. One of our students even won a national prize for best project in the country.

“It is a very practical course and the students can relate in terms of their future. What we want them to do is to use this course as background and to pursue post secondary education.”

# Mike Dubois finds focus to overcome life’s challenges

By Kerry Benjoe  
For Eagle Feather News

Mike Dubois doesn’t let life get in the way of his goals. The entrepreneur, artist, social activist, scholar and father has proven that no obstacle is too big to overcome as long as you remain focused.

This past spring, not only did he convocate from the First Nations University with a bachelor’s degree in business,

he was class valedictorian.

It’s a far cry from Dubois’ high school graduation.

He entered university in 2006 as a mature student because his high school grades weren’t good enough for him to qualify to enter university.

“It was because I had no focus in high school I was too all over the place,” said Dubois. “I didn’t put enough investment into my studies. I was trying to be every-

thing and I spread myself too thin.”

So when he had the opportunity to pursue his degree he set two goals – one was to finish in five years and the other was to do redeem himself academically.

Dubois always had a passion for Aboriginal politics and believed his future would be in politics.

“So I started training myself and I ran for the (FNU) Student Association and I got in as the vice-president of finance,” said Dubois. “Our president resigned, so I ran for that position and won. I held that position for a year and a half.”

In the fall of 2008, he resigned his post after receiving a Thyroid cancer diagnosis.

“It was crazy because you have so much to lose,” said Dubois. “Not only that, I had a son who was a year and a half at the time and I just got married the year prior too. It was such a scary thing to go through.”

However, Dubois refused to dwell on his disease. Soon after resigning his post as FNU-SA president, the university’s future was put into question. Dubois felt compelled to do something to help his fellow students. So with money he received from a scholarship, he bought a mid-level professional camera and in his spare time

he learned all he could about photography. He captured the students’ fight to keep the school open through thousands of images.

After the controversy concluded, Dubois entrepreneurial instincts took over. “There’s a niche market here for Aboriginal photography that hasn’t been tapped yet,” he explained.

He turned his hobby into a second full-time job and business – Dub Photography.

Since battling cancer, he’s added a new daughter to his family and hosted his first art exhibit titled, Renewed.Culture.Generation. at the FNU gallery. It was well received and drew the attention of Gov. Gen. David Johnston.

Dubois, refuses to let life’s obstacles bring him down.

“I see cancer as a gift because it opened me up to sharing with people,” he said. “I was such a private person before cancer. It allowed me to artistically share my gift with people, let me show people how I was feeling and opened me up to my emotions.”

He said every moment on earth is special and one must live life to the fullest. “If you utilize your gifts, life will find a way to make your life better,” said Dubois.



Gov. Gen. David Johnston congratulates Mike Dubois on his successes.

# From student to president, Alexander takes helm at FNU

By Kerry Benjoe  
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada (FNU) is on a new path, say the university's new leaders. Last month, the University welcomed home one of its own when it installed Doyle Anderson as its ninth president.

He believes his connection with the university will help him lead the institution into the future.

"In the 1990s, I learned about indigenous higher education here at this institution," said Anderson. "I took what I learned to the United States and the ripple effect of this institution is spread around the world. This is a national treasure for this country.

"What I bring is just a dedication and a commitment to continue and build on the legacy of this great institution."

The first thing on Anderson's agenda is strategic planning.

"I'm excited to chart the course for the future of the institution," he said. "Most of all I pay tribute to the students who gave so much to carry this institution forward; for the leadership that has provided so much. We're going to move forward and make them proud of this institution."

Anderson is from the Red Pheasant First Nation. Not only is he a FNU alumni member but he's also a former faculty member. He is already working on building strong relationships with industry and with the community as a way to help grow the university.

Anderson believes FNU is on the threshold of a new future and is proud to be part of it.

Lynn Wells also accepted a term position as the new Vice President of Academics for the University. She, too, is equally excited about the future of the university. Wells was appointed the acting Vice-President of Academics on June 1 and four months later she became the "real deal."

"This is a wonderful time for (FNU)," said Wells. "There's a lot of stability. We've got a great new president and a strong relationship with the University of Regina. All the stars are aligned to get things moving in a really good direction."

Wells was formerly the associate vice-president of academics at the University of Regina and was the academic liaison between the U of R and FNU.

"It wasn't a hard transition at all because I knew the programs and the people," said Wells. "It was kind of a natural fit."

The major project is FNU's strategic plan being led by Richard Missens, special advisor to the president on planning.

"He's doing a massive consultation around the province," said Wells. "He's meeting with elders, meeting with community members meeting with employers and meeting with all sorts of people"

The goal is to have a report available to the FNU board by February.

"Once that's approved it will set the institutional priorities for the next five years," said Wells. "The next stage of that process would be to create an academic plan."

She's happy to be part of the team that's charting a new course for the university.

"What we need is for everyone to realize that the institution has turned the corner," said Wells. "This will be a very strong institution in the future and will always be here."

Both Wells and Anderson believe that, in time, the "reputational cloud" will clear and the true potential of the institute will be revealed, which is to become the First Nations University of Canada – the centre of indigenous knowledge in the country.



Doyle Alexander is the ninth president of the First Nations University of Canada.

 UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

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ABORIGINAL ACCESS



## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Ten percent of the first year class is reserved each year in the College of Medicine for persons of Canadian Aboriginal descent.

To assist students enrolled in pre-medical studies, the College of Medicine offers scholarships annually of \$1000 and \$2500 for entering and continuing Aboriginal students registered within the College of Arts and Science in pre-medical studies.

The College of Medicine Mentorship Program provides Aboriginal students an opportunity to meet medical students, doctors and other health care professionals, and to experience first-hand the kinds of work they perform.

The Aboriginal Coordinator, along with colleagues in Admissions, provides a warm and welcoming space for Aboriginal applicants, students and graduates.

### For pre-med scholarships and admissions information, please contact:

Sherrill Bueckert, Email: sherrill.bueckert@usask.ca  
Admissions Coordinator Website: www.medicine.usask.ca/admissions/  
College of Medicine Phone: (306) 966-6143  
A217 Health Sciences  
107 Wiggins Rd  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5

## SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Each year, five positions for admission to the Master of Physical Therapy Degree program are designated for applicants of Aboriginal ancestry who meet admission requirements. The Aboriginal Coordinator, along with colleagues in the School of Physical Therapy, provides a warm and welcoming space for Aboriginal applicants, students and graduates.

### For more information about Aboriginal access for Medicine or Physical Therapy, please contact:

Val Arnault-Pelletier, Email: valerie.arnault@usask.ca  
Aboriginal Coordinator Phone: (306) 966-5901  
College of Medicine  
B103 Health Sciences Bldg  
107 Wiggins Rd  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5



**INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS (IAP)**  
**APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**  
Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City  
(CLASSIC) can help!

**What is the IAP?** This is one element of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

*If you, or someone you know, experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, or other wrongful acts on the premises of an Indian Residential School, you may qualify for the IAP!*

**How can CLASSIC help?**

<p><b>INFORMATION SESSIONS</b> CLASSIC will be hosting information sessions about how to complete the IAP application form. Call CLASSIC at (306) 657-6100 for session dates and times.</p>	<p><b>FILLING OUT IAP APPLICATIONS</b> Attend the <i>Walk-In Advocacy Clinic</i> at CLASSIC (123 20<sup>th</sup> St. W., Saskatoon) Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-4:30pm to become a client for assistance in filling out IAP Application forms.</p>
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# Transactions conference outlines benefits of economic development for communities



Chief Gilbert Panipekeesick of the Yorkton Tribal Council knows the value of the potash industry.

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Potash and tourism were on as display as economic drivers of the future in eastern Saskatchewan at the Transactions Conference in Yorkton in October. Speakers from across Canada came to share with 200 participants about potash and Aboriginal opportunities in that industry and tourism.

Presenters included Aboriginal business specialists, Aboriginal Affairs employees, the head of Tourism Saskatchewan and astronaut Roberta Bodnar.

Yorkton Tribal Council Chief Gilbert Panipekeesick, one of the sponsors of the event, wanted potash to be a topic at the

conference because of the huge interest and amount of business that has been happening in his territories in recent years.

"We want to take full advantage of the opportunities in potash exploration within this region. We need to create inspiration for our member communities and look at other ventures," said Chief Panipekeesick.

"Our six communities have established a partnership and now all own the Painted Hand casino building together. We have demonstrated through that initiative that we can succeed," Panipekeesick said.

"We can build on that. Having conferences like Transactions can fuel the inspiration so we can get on to more opportunities like potash, or hotels."

Bernd Christmas was the keynote speaker on day one and he explained the history and the success of his home community Membertou First Nation in Nova Scotia.

"In the 1990s we hit rock bottom," said Christmas of a band that had a \$1 million deficit, a meagre \$4.2 million budget and only one convenience store.

"We had a meeting of all the band staff and we agreed that we had nowhere to go but up and that we should be positive about it. We decided to communicate with our members, the municipality, province and our neighbours. We opened up to the media and told everyone we were basically open for business."

That business started out small, but the folks at Membertou stuck to their plan to get rid of their deficit and to meet

weekly. They also mailed the weekly minutes to every member of the band to keep them informed. They also hit on INAC for more money in the budget to get things done.

"When we went to INAC for more money, we went there with a detailed plan," added Christmas. "It showed increased human resources and capacity and they agreed to help. Then we educated our members about business and how we strived to make profit in everything we do.

"Eventually we became very successful in business through partnerships and our profits have helped build an RCMP detachment on reserve and now we are building our own high school strictly from

our profits," he told the conference.

"The Membertou experience is valuable to hear," said Chief Panipekeesick.

"Partnerships with industry are the way to go. We have to grow capacity so we can fully participate and also capture entrepreneur spin offs that come with the opportunity.

"It is unfortunate that our First Nations have been limited in involvement in the potash industry, but now potash companies are recognizing that there is a role for First Nations to play in this industry in Saskatchewan," he added.

"It was good for our potash industry friends to hear what was said at this conference."



Bernd Christmas and Elder Myles Musqua pose for picture during lunch break.

**Transactions**  
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Our Business is Business

# PotashCorp, STC sign employment agreement

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatoon Tribal Council and PotashCorp recently signed a formal agreement aimed at greatly enhancing employment, training and procurement opportunities for First Nations in the potash industry.

“This new agreement clears a path for greater inclusion and participation by First Nations in every sector of the potash industry. The agreement creates opportunity for First Nations to be educated, trained and compete for jobs and procurement in PotashCorp,” STC Tribal Chief Felix Thomas said.

The partnership agreement between STC and PotashCorp is collaborative in nature and does not have specified targets in the area of employment or procurement. Each partner agrees to work together to create opportunities for First Nations within specific areas of potash industry business, such as education, training, recruitment and employment, procurement/suppliers and program and service support.

The Tribal Council and PotashCorp have been building a relationship for quite some time to help bridge the previous gap that had existed between the industry and First Nation people. People from the Tribal Council have gone on tours of the mines underground and in the mill.

Conversely, the folks at PotashCorp have been taking Aboriginal Awareness education and participating in ceremony.

According to Garth Moore, president of Potash operations for PCS, the process has been an interesting experience.

“We had a pipe ceremony and it was a real learning experience for me. It is part of our trying to understand the First Nation culture and the ways of the people,” said Moore.

“As we integrate more Aboriginal people into the work place, if we don’t understand where they are coming from then we won’t understand where we are all going. We both have to understand the needs of our employees and sometimes the needs of First Nation employees are a little bit different than the folks we are used to working with. It is an education process on both sides I think.”

Chief Thomas agrees that the process has been educational, but also respectful and productive.

“The biggest thing is the respect that we have shown each other and being able to go outside their comfort zone. We want to do things respectfully and in a balanced way. We can sit down and create a partnership that is respectful on both sides,” said Chief Thomas.

“There are a number of things we are doing to prepare our people for this opportunity. We are orientating then to what exactly potash mining is and what they do there. And also training our kids and showing them that there are more opportunities than working in the band office, or as a Chief, teacher or social worker.

“There are engineering jobs out there. Geologists. These are careers we want to expose our youth to whether through Super Saturday or Junior Achievement or other training programs that we run.”

Moore has been impressed with the impact of the relationship already in the amount of applications they are getting.

“One thing we have really seen is that we now have 300 qualified applicants that we can work with,” said Moore.

“We have a great start, but we have a long way to go. This is a long term process. In the past we didn’t have need to go out and recruit and our doors weren’t open that wide. Now we see the need going forward because of the changing demographics and the long term outlook of the province.”



Garth Moore, President of PCS Potash, received a gift of a canoe from Saskatoon Tribal Council Vice Chief Geraldine Arcand and Tribal Chief Felix Thomas. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## RCMP-GRC

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CAREER PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES
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# Record breaking year for Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority is on track to have its best year ever.

SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen believes the company is poised to exceed revenues of \$250 million with a net profit close to \$70 million.



ZANE HANSEN

The first half of the 2011-2012 fiscal year seems to be a good indication. So far, revenues sit at \$131.1 million and a profit of \$41.3 million, which is a five per cent improvement from this time last year.

"We look at running the organization as efficiently as we can and then turning over our resources," explains Hansen, who notes last year SIGA, which is ranked in Saskatchewan's top 25 companies, spent \$1.3 million in sponsorship of over 500 organizations.

"There aren't many companies in the province's top 25 that can state 100 per cent of their bottom line goes to beneficiaries every year."

Since SIGA opened, it has generated \$534 million for its beneficiaries, and this past May, SIGA donated \$500,000 to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan.

Hansen says SIGA went through its biggest growth between 2006 and 2009 when three new casinos were built.

During that time, SIGA made an on-reserve investment of \$125 million that created 800 new jobs, something Hansen says is probably "unprecedented" in Saskatchewan.

Hansen says there won't be growth like that within SIGA in the near future. However, he says the Painted Hand, Living Sky and Dakota Dunes casinos are looking at developing hotels nearby, and says by next year, there could be hotels adjacent to five SIGA properties.

He says in the future, online gaming and single event sports betting may be possible expansion areas, but Hansen says time will be needed to sort out the structures and legalities surrounding them.

He says SIGA weathered the global economic recession; while costs needed to be reduced, he is proud that no direct layoffs were issued because of it.

SIGA continues to focus on reducing expenses when it comes to its board. Hansen says in fairness to the board of directors, the plans they have in place to reduce costs were in place months before the negative media coverage two months ago.

Hansen says the board size did increase over the past couple of years, but says that's very consistent with First Nations structure, and says there has been investment in board training.

"They have a very good policy-based governance structure," and he says testament to that was winning the 2009 Conference Board of Canada/Spencer Stuart National Award in Governance for all not-for-profits across the country.

But for Hansen, the biggest accomplishment of SIGA is the fact it is a first-rate, First Nations-run business that

significantly contributes to economic development.

With slightly fewer than 2,000 employees, 64 per cent of which are First Nations, Hansen is proud of the positive

impact that's had on the people who have developed long-term, stable careers and what that means for their families. "We haven't outsourced. We've done it on our own."

## Saskatoon Public Schools

*Saskatoon Public Schools inspire and sustain learning. We are open to all children and youth so they may discover, develop and act upon their potential, thereby enriching their lives and our community.*

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As Chief Executive Officer, you will be a student-centered leader capable of inspiring staff and community members to exceptional performance. In order to meet the ever-changing needs of our diverse student population you will be an excellent communicator and have demonstrated the ability to understand and optimize a complex system driven by a Board's strategic priorities.

**The closing date for applications is December 7, 2011.** Qualified individuals are invited to address applications, accompanied by a detailed resume, to:

Director's Search Committee  
c/o Superintendent of Human Resources  
E-mail: valentinej@spsd.sk.ca

Please check our website at  
[www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca](http://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca)  
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Senior Consultant  
MNP Consulting  
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Regina, SK S4P 0J3  
E-mail: [daniel.kasun@mnp.ca](mailto:daniel.kasun@mnp.ca)  
Fax: (306) 790-7990

For more information about this opportunity go to:  
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K+S Potash Canada is part of the K+S Group, one of the world's leading suppliers of standard and speciality fertilizers and the world's leading salt producer. With more than one hundred years of mining experience K+S offers a comprehensive range of goods and services for agriculture and industry and employs more than 15,000 people globally. K+S is in the initial stages of developing a new potash mine near Bethune, Saskatchewan, and is building its workforce to support its development and ongoing operations expected in 2015.

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This opportunity will be of interest to individuals with:

- University degree in Business or Human Resources
- Five or more years of progressive related experience in a business environment
- Knowledge of First Nations and Métis trends and issues within Saskatchewan
- Knowledge of the First Nations and Métis culture, language, institutions and leadership
- Ability to speak Cree or another Aboriginal language is considered an asset

If you are interested in taking your career to the next level with an organization that treats its economic, ecological and social goals with equal importance, we encourage you to apply.



URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY  
SASKATOON

**Urban Aboriginal Strategy Saskatoon  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
Community Investment Fund  
DEADLINE December 12, 2011 @ 4:00PM  
(Delivered or postmarked)**

The UAS Steering Committee invites interested applicants to submit a project proposal that supports urban Aboriginal communities by promoting self reliance and increasing life choices for Aboriginal people living in Saskatoon.

**Submission formats:**

Hardcopy - Must be on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper with a minimum size 12 font.  
Please provide one signed original and six copies.

**Fax/email - will not be accepted.**

The above formats can be mailed and postmarked no later than deadline submission, to:

UAS Steering Committee  
315 Ave. M South  
Saskatoon Saskatchewan  
S7M 0Y9

To obtain an Application form contact UAS Coordinator at:  
Email: [uascoordinator@sasktel.net](mailto:uascoordinator@sasktel.net) or  
Call (306) 975-2091 to leave a message.

**Please Note:** Proposal Writing information sessions on November 23 and 24, 2010. Registration is required. Contact UAS Coordinator at above numbers.



**Saskatchewan Indian  
Institute of Technologies**

**Student Recruitment  
Ironworker – Applied Certificate  
January 30<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Saskatoon**

**Program Overview**

As the construction industry continues to expand, the opportunities for First Nation people to be gainfully employed in the trades continue to increase. There is a strong demand in the trade of Ironwork. Ironworkers field fabricate, weld, cut, erect and dismantle structural and metal work. They also erect and place pre-cast concrete, and rig and place machinery and equipment. SIIT will deliver the SIAT Ironworker Applied Certificate in Saskatoon with an intake of 15 students.

**Employment Opportunities**

Graduates will find employment with heavy construction firms, metal fabricating businesses and commercial construction builders. Ironworkers usually work full time, often outdoors in all kinds of weather, and at great heights. The working environment tends to be fast paced and ironworkers are often required to travel from one project to another.

**Sponsorship**

This program is sponsored by SITAG and persons that meet the entrance requirements can build an Action Plan to obtain support. Call 1-888-934-7777 to confirm the appropriate employment development worker for your area.

**Entrance Requirements**

You must have completed Grade 10, possess a valid driver's license and have access to a reliable vehicle. You must have the ability to work at heights and have some construction or industrial experience. Employers typically require pre-employment substance abuse (drug) testing.

**Registration package must include:**

- A completed SIIT Application Form,
- Resume with three work related references,
- Your high school, basic education or GED XII transcript,
- Copies of other certificates you have.

**Application Deadline – January 6, 2011**

Submit your complete application to:  
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies  
Office of Admissions  
Suite 118 – 335 Packham Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4S1

For more information contact:  
SIIT  
Trades and Industrial Department  
229 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S – Saskatoon, SK  
Ph: (306) 244-4460



**Saskatchewan Indian  
Institute of Technologies**

**Student Recruitment  
Women in Trades  
January 9<sup>th</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Saskatoon**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Women in Trades (WIT) program is specifically designed to assist women who want to develop the basic skills necessary for entry-level work in construction. The main focus of the program is hands-on skill development. Courses include construction academics, site safety, use of hand tools, and construction basics. Participants also have an opportunity to develop an understanding of the work involved in trades such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, painting, framing, drywall application, and roofing.

**Entrance Requirements**

Minimum Grade Ten is preferred, but mature admission may be considered. Preferred candidates will possess a valid driver's license, good communication and interpersonal skills, an interest in working outdoors, and be physically fit.

**Career Opportunities**

Graduates will find employment with residential, commercial or industrial construction companies. Industry requirements typically include good eyesight, hearing, manual dexterity, and physical agility.

**Graduation Document:**

SIIT Applied Certificate with 300 education hours towards your Apprenticeship when indentured as an Apprentice.

**Delivery Information**

The program runs January 9 – March 30, 2012, which includes a 2 week job placement. Short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews.

**Registration package must include:**

- A completed Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Application Form
- Resume with three work related references

**Application Deadline is December 16, 2011**

Construction Careers Saskatoon  
229 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7K4K3

Phone: (306) 373-3694  
Fax: (306) 244-5717  
Email: [murfin@siit.sk.ca](mailto:murfin@siit.sk.ca)

This program has been supported with a grant from the Canadian Women's Foundation and its partners.



**Saskatchewan Indian  
Institute of Technologies**

**Student Recruitment  
2012 Welding Applied Certificate  
Locations: Saskatoon – Regina – North Battleford  
Hurry! Seats are Limited Deadline – November 25, 2011**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

As the construction industry continues to expand, the opportunities for First Nation people to be gainfully employed in the trades continue to increase. There is a very strong demand in the trade of Welding. Welding is a way of heating pieces of metal using electricity or a flame so that they melt and stick together. Welders cut, weld and fabricate steel. This program prepares students for entry level work in the welding trade and gives them 650 hours towards their level 1 apprenticeship.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Graduates will find employment in welding shops, oil and gas sector, metal fabricating businesses and in the manufacturing sector. Welders usually work full time, often outdoors in all kinds of weather, and shift work is common. Students will work with SIIT Careers Centres job coaches to find employment.

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

You must have completed Grade 10, possess a valid driver's license and have access to a reliable vehicle. Industry requirements include good eyesight, hearing, manual dexterity, and physical agility. You may have to work at heights and in confined spaces. Employers typically require pre-employment substance abuse (drug) testing.

**FUNDING**

Funding can be obtained from your band or the appropriate employment development worker for your area, persons that meet the entrance requirements must build an Action Plan with funder to obtain support.

**START DATES:** Saskatoon & North Battleford, January 30 to June 29 2012 – Regina, Feb. 7 to July 6 2012

Curriculum, welding equipment and PPE supplied

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM:** 22 weeks, includes 1 week safety-1 week life skills

**GRADUATION DOCUMENT:** SIIT Applied Welding Certificate

**COST:** Tuition \$4050.00

**REGISTRATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:**

- A completed SIIT Application Form
- Resume with three work related references
- Your high school, basic education or GED XII transcript
- Copies of other certificates you have

**Application Deadline – November 25, 2011**

Submit your complete application to:  
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies  
Office of Admissions  
2nd Floor Suite 201, 229 4th Avenue South  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4K3  
Website: [www.siit.ca](http://www.siit.ca)

For more information contact:  
Willene Stevenson @ 306.477.9204  
Trades and Industrial Department  
7<sup>th</sup> Fl, 229 4th Ave. S, Saskatoon, SK  
Phone: 306.244.4460  
Email: [stevensonw@siit.sk.ca](mailto:stevensonw@siit.sk.ca)

# Young hunter happy learning from responsible mentor

By Kerry Benjoe  
For Eagle Feather News

Ty Cappo may only be 12, but he knows the importance of caring for others.

Already a seasoned hunter, he uses his skills to help feed the people in his community.

Cappo's father, Terrance, explained that he and his son are traditional hunters and don't believe in hunting for sport. The family lives on the Muscowpetung First Nation, located about 65 kilometres northeast of Regina. The pair hunt specifically for meat, which they share with the community.

"We call out the animals, we locate them and we go walking after them," Cappo explained about their hunting style.

If the animal is of an adequate size, that's the one they select.

"We give the meat out to everyone," Ty said. "It makes me feel good (to feed others)."

Terrance said people are always grateful when he and his son stop by with meat.

"I was taught to share," he said.

Terrance also learned to hunt at an early age by his great grandfather.

"So I taught Ty how to hunt the way he taught me," he said. "He taught me not to abuse any animals and (that) you feed the community."

The elder Cappo explained there are certain hunting protocols that must be followed for the different animals in order to show that respect. It's that traditional knowledge he's shared with his son.

He said Ty always had an interest in hunting and always wanted to tag along on hunting trips.



Ty Cappo is learning to be a traditional hunter from his father.

Terrance recalled the many hunting trips he took with his own dad, so when Ty showed an interest he was happy to teach him.

"I've taught him how to skin an animal and how to be safe with a gun," explained the proud father. "(Ty) knows basically everything I know, but he's still learning. He's still young."

He's happy Ty is carrying on the traditional ways of hunting, because it's knowledge he can pass on to the next generation.

Ty shot his first deer when he was only eight and last year he shot a large bull elk.

His hunting skills have earned him a spot on the

cover of the latest edition of the American Indian Hunting Magazine.

"I'm happy," Ty said about being on the cover. "I'm proud of myself."

When Ty made the cover, it was a happy surprise for the whole family.

"He's my son. I'm proud of him no matter what," said Terrance.

The pair insist that hunting is never about trying to get the biggest trophy to mount on the wall. It's about how much people they can feed.

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# Anskohk Festival celebrates success of Aboriginal writers

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

After being absent for three years, the Anskohk Aboriginal Writers' Festival returned to Saskatoon as a small but intimate affair.

The last festival was in 2008 when it was hosted by the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company. This year, the four-day festival was hosted by the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network and featured improv, author readings, workshops, and seminars.

The highlight of this year's Anskohk was an "intimate evening" with Tomson Highway. He took to the stage at The Roxy Theatre and used humour to talk about growing up isolated in the far North of Manitoba in the village of Brochet.

Highway recalled how by the time he was 10 years old, he was fluent in Cree, Dene, and English. He says his closest neighbour was 100 miles away and the closest school was 500.

Highway says he'd be illiterate if he hadn't gone to those schools, noting "I have a thriving international career as an artist," where he has criss-crossed North America, Europe, and the world with his readings, lectures, piano performances

and teaching engagements at universities, colleges, schools, theatres, nightclubs, concert halls, bookstores, art galleries and other institutions. Not bad for someone who was born in a tent pitched in a snowbank on the border of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

"To get to Grade 7 was an accomplishment beyond an accomplishment," he told the crowd.

Highway was the first person from his reserve to earn a university degree.

He also reflected on how many Aboriginal authors there are today versus a few decades ago.

"Thirty years ago, Native literature did not exist as a body of literature," he noted. "Now we are here to celebrate that that body of literature exists."

Highway entertained the crowd by playing original scores of music on a grand piano. He moved the crowd as he played a piece he composed for his brother who died years ago. Then Highway played music from cabaret-style plays he performs around the world. He was accompanied by local Métis singer, Krystle Pederson, as well as local saxophonist Robert Klassen.



Multi-talented Tomson Highway entertained at the Anskohk Festival.

To wrap up the festival, the last day was comprised of workshops. Festival committee member Lisa Bird-Wilson says about 20 people discussed how to create an Anskohk Aboriginal Writers Circle to ensure the future of the festival.

"There were some really good ideas about how we can work with writers' organizations that already exist and how we might look for support from them," she explains. "Someone made a good point about the fact that these other

writers' organizations are our organizations, too, and we have ownership there and belonging there."

Wilson says it's too soon to say if the festival will become an annual event, as the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network committed to running the festival this year only. The Aboriginal Writers' Circle, while keen on the idea of the festival, is too new to support it, she says, because it still has to set up funding and structure.

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# Individuality putting Becky Thomas above the crowd

Once again I am convinced that the key elements for creative success are passion, technical proficiency and a whole lot of luck. I think if you have a strong, clear vision, and you master all the little intricacies of your craft, you will undoubtedly find recognition follows closely behind you.

Some may be surprised to know that a gospel singer beat out all other contenders in a variety of genres for Best Female Artist at the 2011 Native American Music Awards on Oct. 7 in Niagara Falls, NY.

I think it's a great surprise. Becky Thomas, from Saskatoon, not only has a soft, soothing and venerable sound which lends itself well to gospel music, but she positively exudes joy while she performs. It is her inner light that adds depth to her music. You really believe that she is invested and that by listening to her music you are somehow communing with divine energy.

Thomas has only been making gospel albums for a few years, although she's been creating music her whole life.

"I spent my teenage years with my piano and guitar, even doing a few concerts," says Thomas. "It wasn't until 2006 that I got tuned into my native heritage and discovered a whole new expression of worship and sound that became very healing to me."

Her three albums to date include: "I Delight in You", "Sacred Ground", and "Miracles of the North". She has also been featured on several compilations CDs.

Sacred Ground was the CD that won her Best Female Artist.

"It was so exciting to go to Niagara and meet other artists and see a new place. But it was also very nerve-racking as my friends and family were so hopeful for a win, and quite frankly, I was nervous about disappointing them. When they called my name for Best Female Artist all I could do was cry – I'm not sure if it was from relief or gratefulness, probably both."

For Thomas, it's about owning our individuality.

"We each have a unique sound that we were born with, both as individuals and as people groups. It's so important that we each find and release our song – for it was birthed out of Creator's heart as a means of blessing Him, blessing the land, and blessing one another," explains Thomas.

"The song that won the NAMAs for me is entitled, 'I Was Made for Love', and this is the theme that is heavy on my heart for our people. In these modern times we are still being assaulted with messages that we need to look like, smell like, or sound like someone else, whether it comes from our peers, churches, education system or from modern Barbie doll media advertisements. Accepting these messages robs us of our joy and dignity, and robs the Creator of His original purpose in creating us.

"I am deeply committed to seeing our people rise above these messages and come fully into our destiny as First Peoples for I believe we have songs and gifts to



offer the world that no other people group can."

You can hear the influences of her idols, such as Amy Grant and Alison Krauss in her music. But she's also a fan of Walela, Cheryl Bear, Shane Yellowbird, Union Station and John Denver, though she admits that she likes new and old music from all genres and prefers to keep

her iPod on shuffle. Listening to a variation of music seems to help her creative style.

"My creative process is different every time," confesses Thomas. "Sometimes while I'm playing my drum or guitar, songs will just start coming. Sometimes I sit down with the intent to write about a subject or a family member or friend. Sometimes things just land on paper. I've learned how to write out melodies using the Solfege method (do re mi fa so ...) and I always keep paper, an MP3 player or my Garage Band handy so I don't forget anything."

Thomas is not only a songwriter/musician, but she also keeps busy with speaking/storytelling, teaching music and selling Fifth Avenue jewelry. She's also a pastor and is in the process of launching a First Nations

Worship Circle in her neighborhood.

She is also considering branching out, musically.

"I have about three balls up in the air as far as future projects. One is to finish up an album of story songs, especially for kids. Kelly Parker, from Turtle Island Music, and I are talking about a country album, and my friends are encouraging me to do an indigenous worship album."

Good luck with all your future projects, Becky!

Do you know of 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!



Saskatoon singer Becky Thomas was a winner at the Native American Music Awards.



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Regina Homelessness Committee (RHC), is currently accepting applications from organizations interested in becoming the Community Entity to achieve the priorities established by the RHC specific to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Designated Communities and Aboriginal funding streams to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Regina, Saskatchewan.

### Regina Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity Call for Proposals

**Deadline for Applications:**  
Applications must be received at:  
Service Canada Centre  
1783 Hamilton Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2B6  
no later than **December 16, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.**

To receive an application package or for more information, contact:  
Robyn Edwards-Bentz at 306-564-5409 or  
[robyn.edwardsbentz@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:robyn.edwardsbentz@servicecanada.gc.ca).

Canada

# Kohkoms preparing for Saskatoon stage, Christmas tour of province

By Deirdra Ness  
Of Eagle Feather News

The Christmas kohkoms are back for another festive adventure this holiday season. Kohkoms in Toyland is Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's eighth play in its popular Rez Christmas series.

This year's play has the kohkoms organizing a community dinner and wanting Santa and his wife to be there. As always, hilarity ensues. Kohkoms in Toyland is written and directed by SNTC's Artistic Director, Curtis Peeteetuce and includes a talented cast and crew both new and old to the Company.

The creative and hardworking Peeteetuce has been with SNTC in a variety of roles since 2001 and he has been involved in writing all the Rez Christmas plays. For this play, Peeteetuce, "wrote it to be silly and fun and share my Cree culture, history and language with the audience."

Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company is partnering with a variety of community organizations for this production. The Kohkoms in Toyland premiere will be performed in Saskatoon at La Troupe du Jour's Production Centre on 20th Street West. The same place SNTC now shares office space.

As well, long time SNTC set designer Mark Eriksson has returned for this performance and he is partnering with the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op to build the set. The Three Sisters Bakery, a youth training program operating out of Nestor's Bakery, has created a custom cookie made with wild rice and saskatoon berries and called Khokom's Kookies. These cookies will be sold at performances to raise additional money for SNTC.

Following the Saskatoon run, the play will tour 14 communities around the province.

"It's the biggest tour we have ever done and it sold out quickly," says Peeteetuce. "Making the tour simple

and fun made the play more affordable and allowed us to perform in more communities."

With the popularity and eager anticipation of the Rez Christmas plays, tickets are already selling quickly. Peeteetuce encourages people to buy tickets ahead of time.

"The season can be cold and we hate to turn people away because the performance is sold out.

"And of course, miyo-manitou kisikaw ... Merry Christmas," says the playwright.

Kohkoms in Toyland features Arron Naytowhow, Aaron Shingoose, Gloria Okeynan and Darren Zimmer.

For tickets to the Saskatoon Kohkoms in Toyland performance Dec. 1 through Dec. 10, contact the Persephone Box Office at 384-7727.



CURTIS PEETEETUCE



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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The Government of Canada, in partnership with the Saskatoon Community Advisory Board (CAB), is currently accepting applications from organizations interested in becoming the Community Entity to achieve the priorities established by the Saskatoon CAB specific to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Designated Communities funding stream to meet the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

**Saskatoon Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity Call for Proposals**

**Deadline for Applications:**  
Applications must be received at:  
Service Canada Centre  
101 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0E2  
no later than **January 9, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.**

An information session will be held on  
November 24, 2011  
10:00 a.m.  
Service Canada Centre  
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To register for the information session, to receive an application package or for more information, contact:  
Genevieve Binette at 306-953-8403 or [genevieve.binette@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:genevieve.binette@servicecanada.gc.ca).

Canada

## Sports Chat with Mike



### Proud Prince Albertan hopes to stay in hockey after playing days at U of S end

**Danny Stone**

**Team: U of S Women's Hockey**

**Year with Huskies: 4th**

**Nickname: Stoner**

**Shoot: Left**

**Major: Sociology**

**Position: Left Wing**

**Hometown: Prince Albert**

Mike: What sport has always interested you but never played?

**Stoner: Every sport I was interested in I tried out. I played basketball and volleyball in high school. Track and field nationally for a few years. I played ball and soccer this past summer. Now I'm back in the rink for the winter.**



Mike: If you woke up tomorrow and by some strange 'twilight zone' occurrence were named Premier of Saskatchewan, what would your first order of business be?

**Stoner: I would probably just sit in the office for awhile, play games on the computer and feel like a big shot.**

Mike: If someone gave you an unlimited budget, a jet and the chance to hang out with a famous person for the day, what

would you do?

**Stoner: I would swing by P.A. and pick up my mom. We would go to hot resorts and buy what we wanted. To get away and go on a trip like that would be a dream come true. She is a famous person in my life because I owe everything to her.**

Mike: Besides being a hockey player, what did you dream of being when you grew up?

**Stoner: I dreamed of pursuing track and field. I often wonder what could have become of me if I took a scholarship for track.**

Mike: Who would you say is the best player EVER to play hockey in P.A.?

**Stoner: I would probably have to go with Mike Modano. He had a long amazing career in the NHL and played three seasons with the Raiders.**

Mike: Female hockey is super exciting to watch – highly skilled, loads of finesse and more space to operate. Agree?

**Stoner: Women's hockey is full of skill and finesse because there is no hitting. There is that split second more to either make the move or make that pass. There is still contact allowed on the boards to make it rough, just no open ice hits.**

Mike: I don't think I've ever witnessed a fight in women's hockey. Have you seen and/or been in one?

**Stoner: There are no fights in women's hockey except at Native tournaments that are (mostly) just for fun. At the end of one game we decided to have a line brawl where everyone squared off with each other. I matched up with a girl who was about 5 inches taller than me and definitely had a few pounds on me too. We weren't trying to knock each other out just a friendly match to see who could out muscle the other person.**

Mike: Now for controversial question ... is fighting a part of the game?

**Stoner: Fighting is a part of the game. It gets both the players and fans more into the game. If guys don't want to fight then don't fight. You can't take it out, fighting is emotion and there will always be emotions in the game of hockey.**

Mike: Any plans to continue playing hockey once your university days are over?

**Stoner: I coached Team Sask female hockey at NAHC and will again next April. I definitely want to keep coaching for as long as I can.**

Mike: Favorite hockey movie all time?

**Stoner: That would have to be the Mighty Ducks movies. They never get old.**

## Writers share experiences during Buffalo Chips sessions in Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Writer's Guild and Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op hosted writing workshops in a one-week program called Buffalo Chips.

The sessions were facilitated by Curtis Peeteetuce and Andréa Ledding, two local writers in the Saskatoon community. Peeteetuce shared excerpts from his work as a playwright, including the latest installment in the rez Christmas story series, "Kohkoms In Toyland", which opens in December, and some of his work as a songwriter.

Ledding shared activities and exercises from the genres of poetry and journalism, and poet Louise Halfe also contributed to an evening of discussion, sharing some of her thoughts and experiences in writing.

"Writing hasn't always been the most important thing in my life, but reading was always the thing for me," wrote Sarah Wilson, a Grade 10 student from Mount Royal who was one of the regular participants.

"From when my mom started to read to me, and then on. But growing up with Harry Potter as a best friend, and Gandalf as a mentor, I realized that I not only loved living in these fantasy worlds, but I could create these worlds as well. I didn't have to live in the strict confines of someone else's imagination anymore. I could fight dragons as a child, fall in love with Prince Charming as a pre-teen, and now as I'm growing up, it's helped me do just that ... grow up.

"Writing has been a friend when I had none, and still is. Writing has always helped me ground myself."

Peeteetuce described writing as an act of courage, "especially when the time comes for others to read your work" but also as a tool for personal enlightenment, and an

opportunity to share that with others.

"It's empowering because it's creating and not only creating, but sharing ideas, thoughts, opinions," said Peeteetuce, who is currently artistic director for Sask Native Theatre Company.

"Writing helps express what's within you and around you," agreed Ledding. "It's like having a conversation with yourself that you may, or may not, share with

others. But it helps writers discover what's inside themselves, and also what is taking place outside."

"Writing is fun, it takes you places," said

Wilson of her experience.

"That's the best thing about writing – it's an adventure."

Wilson added that the program exceeded her expectations. She particularly enjoyed the honest words of Louise Halfe, the hands-on activities, and being exposed to many genres of writing.

Buffalo Chips is a pilot program designed to reach youth, particularly in the core neighbourhood.

The location at CNYC on 20th Street provided a safe but stimulating environment. The program has potential to continue to inspire up-and-coming youth and Aboriginal writers. Both Peeteetuce and Ledding enjoyed their time at CNYC and are exploring ways to continue to work with youth in writing, on an on-going basis.

– Contributed by Andréa Ledding, Sarah Wilson and Curtis Peeteetuce.



SARAH WILSON

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# Sports champions serve as inspiring role models

In order to help young people see success in their future, it is often necessary to show them people who have been successful so that the youth can aspire to be like them.

SaskSport has decided that the time has come for an Aboriginal sport role model program and they have chosen six outstanding Aboriginal athletes to be their champions to serve as outstanding role models for the Aboriginal community. The athletes' inspiring messages, will encourage others to participate in sport to the extent of their interest and abilities. The program consists of posters, advertisements, website articles, and other resources.

Those selected for the Aboriginal Champions Program include: Colette Bourgonje, Métis, who has won 10 medals at nine Paralympic Games; Bill Cameron Sr. from Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation, who won the 2005 and 2008 Saskatchewan Senior Men's Golf Championships; Delvin Cappel, Carry the Kettle First Nation, provincial team member, Saskatchewan Table Tennis Association; Jacqueline

Lavallee, Métis, former Canada West soccer all-star and All-Canadian basketball, and national basketball coach;

Michael Linklater, Thunderchild First Nation, 2009-10 CIS basketball champion and University of Huskies captain and

Teagan Marion, James Smith First Nation, silver medalist at the 2010-11 Saskatchewan Ringette Championships.

"These champions serve as role models for others and they will be sharing their messages about the benefits of sport with current and future generations of sport enthusiasts," said Eric Honetschlager, President of Sask Sport Inc.

Delvin Cappel is one of the youngest role models and he is thrilled to be included.

Still at a young age, already sport has done great things for Cappel.

"Sport has opened a lot of doors for me. I've been able to go to a lot of different places," he said.

"Table tennis has got me known in Saskatchewan. I've been called a role model at some places, and I have to admit it feels pretty good."

Make sure to stay tuned in to Eagle Feather News as we will be profiling the Aboriginal Champions in future issues.



From left, the Aboriginal champions include Michael Linklater, Teagan Marion, Colette Bourgonje, Delvin Cappel, Jacqueline Lavallee and Bill Cameron Sr.

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