

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

New school, new energy!

By John Lagimodiere
For Eagle Feather News

Back to school often means new clothes, shoes and duotangs. At St. Mary Community School in Saskatoon, this year also means a new school!

A record enrolment of over 300 students now

enjoy big windows, a great gym, lots of new technology, a walking track and numerous community supports. The new school has transformed the spirit of the teachers, students, staff and community

Jennifer Altenberger is a Grade 2 teacher and she is thrilled with the transformation with the students and with the school.

“It has been incredible to see the kids come in and be proud of the school and seeing the kids laughing and giggling in the hallway. New year means fresh start for everyone now,” said Altenberger as she ushered in her Grade 2 class after recess in the new park.

“We hope the students take this school and really make it theirs.”

Tyra Chief is one of Miss Altenberger’s students and after a summer where she went to Onion Lake and Sandy Lake, she is glad to be in the new St. Mary’s.

“The best thing is the workout room and the walking track,” said Tyra who also added that her favourite class in school is art.

The new school, beyond improving the learning experience for the kids, is expected to help jumpstart a rejuvenation of the immediate area as new housing is opening up nearby and the Good Food Junction recently opened up the street.

“This is a community building so with our wellness centre, walking track, pediatric clinic, and other health services,” added Altenberger.

“We can really partner and work together to make these little guys’ life better.”



Kyra Chief and her classmates in Ms Altenberger’s Grade 2 class are really enjoying the new St. Mary Community School in Saskatoon. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



INSIDE



ROUND TWO

President Robert Doucette knocked off five challengers to retain the top job at the MN-S.

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TLE: 20 YEARS LATER

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METIS ENTREPRENEUR

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GOOD SOLDIERS

Bold Eagle graduates celebrated completion of an innovative program that included Aboriginal culture.

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Welcome to our

Back to School Edition

Coming In October - Role Model Issue

CPMA #40027204

Wanuskewin National Historic Site of Canada received its official designation in 1986.

A year later, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II unveiled a dedication plaque during the Royal Couple's Visit to Wanuskewin on Oct. 17th, 1987.

This non-profit internationally-recognized award winning interpretive centre officially opened its doors in the summer of 1992.

This year, Wanuskewin celebrated its 20 Year Anniversary on June 20th and 21st, with a huge cake followed by a 2 day Competition Pow Wow. It was 27 years ago, in the early spring of 1987 and Wanuskewin's founding Elders and Board had contracted my services in preparation for a Visit by the Royal Couple. My responsibility was to coordinate a Grand Entry Ceremony followed by a dance performance with singers, dancers from Great Plains – our First Nations Dance Company. In addition, I was asked to set up a tipi camp, complete with a series of full size tipis, a dance area, a stage and bleachers for the large audience that was expected to partake in The Royal Visit.

As many who attended on that day will attest, it was cold and windy and due to the strong winds and dry grass, fires were not allowed anywhere in the Park.

As the Royal Couple were arriving at Wanuskewin, the Red Bull and Battle Creek Drums sang the Welcome Song followed by the Treaty # 6 Flag Song, Honor and Victory songs.

As part of the Grand Entry Ceremony, the Royal Couple were escorted onto the stage by Men's Traditional Dancers, Walter Bull and Henry Beaudry. The Master of Ceremonies was Eric Tootosis who spoke eloquently on the meaning of Treaty 6 in both Cree and English.

Once the Royal Couple were seated on the stage, several speeches were made by dignitaries and special guests. Shortly thereafter, Great Plains began their full dance program featuring Men's & Women's Traditional, Men's & Women's Fancy, Men's Grass and Hoop dancers.

After the dance performance, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was escorted by Dr. Ernie Walker to the edge of the valley overlooking the creek.

This was followed by the unveiling of a dedication plaque that was covered by a buffalo robe covering a large white rock that today, sits in front of the building.

Wanuskewin quickly established itself as the 'flagship' of Aboriginal Tourism in Canada.

Two decades later in 2012, this cultural oasis and traditional sanctuary is in the midst of an ambitious renewal plan as it continues its frontier journey and mandate of sharing culturally appropriate teachings, stories, songs and dances of the first peoples of the great northern plains.

- Tyrone Tootosis



Grass and Hoop Dancers.



photo by Branimir Gjetvaj



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Doucette receives mandate for second term at helm of MN-S

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

The polls have spoken, and incumbent President Robert Doucette will lead Métis Nation-Saskatchewan for another four-year term, joined by Vice-President Gerald Morin and Treasurer Louis Gardiner.

At press time, May Henderson led the voting for the position of secretary by 51 votes, and a recount seems likely given the close margin between Henderson and Tammy (Fiddler) Mah.

“It’s always an honour and privilege when given an opportunity to represent the Métis people and act on their interest,” said Doucette.

“Instead of sleeping all day Sunday, I worked a bingo to raise funds for headstones for the deceased relations of some of our Métis people,” explained Doucette of his post-election whereabouts, before getting down to politics.

“We’ve got a very ambitious agenda, moving forward into the next four years and one of the things we’re going to deal with as a main issue is the issue of land.”

Doucette notes some land has recently become available. That land is controlled by Prairie Farm Rehabilitation (PFRA), a federal agency created in the 1930s to prevent soil erosion in that dry period in the West.

“As we talk over the next three or so years, PFRA is divesting a million acres of land back to the Province in southern and central Saskatchewan,” Doucette explains.

“In the North we have, just as an example, the Green Lake townships (which were) set aside for exclusive use of Métis which hasn’t been repealed.

“It’s one of our issues we’re going to be dealing with,” noted Doucette.

The second term president will be sitting down with the Province to discuss these issues vis-a-vis the Métis Act.

“The Province is bound to sit down and talk with the Métis about the issue of land.”

But land isn’t the only thing on the agenda.

“We’re also going to build on and add to the issues we had already started, such as the child and youth agenda. Those issues will now be moving forward,” said Doucette.

“The education task force is in the queue – we have a new health department – there’s a lot of work and lot of issues.”

During the campaign, including during several all-candidate forums across the province, Doucette said much feedback from the Métis people was “bannock and lard issues” such as employment, education, housing, and health.

“So we need to focus our energies by getting out to the locals and the Métis people and rebuilding those relationships and synergies to help our communities out, help the future generations out that are relying on us, and to deal with those issues so our youth coming up don’t have

to when we’re done our terms,” said Doucette.

“It’s a lot of work, but we’ve got a good team. I’m looking forward to working with both the incumbents and the new people coming on. There’s a good balance there, the next four years are going to be very good ones.”

During the Saskatoon all-candidates forum at Oskayak School, organized by the Métis youth, there were fewer than 100 people in the seats, but the discussion was intense as four of the six presidential candidates gave a ten-minute platform overview, then fielded questions. From youth involvement to pipelines, nuclear energy and hydro projects, to education and the future of the Michif language, Métis citizens expressed their concerns, and their hopes.

Murray Hamilton facilitated the discussion and kept things on track.

“We want the same things every Canadian wants,” noted Hamilton. “A decent job, a decent home, education for our children, the bread and butter issues. It’s not done overnight, and it’s not done by one person. We all have a collective responsibility.”

Henderson, the only secretarial candidate to attend the Saskatoon forum, noted she would work hard and her door would always be open, while Gardiner, the only treasurer candidate to attend, noted his work as interim treasurer, and the plan “for the people from the people”, based on a solid vision of where the Metis people want to go.

Doucette noted that the number of candidates to come forward was a vote of confidence in the stability of the organization under his leadership, recalling that when he began there was no phone, no bank account, and no staff. He hitch-hiked to Ile-La-Crosse to meet with citizens.

“It’s my belief I didn’t let you down,” he told the crowd, noting that the debt has been lowered, a balanced budget has been maintained, and relationships with both the federal and provincial governments have been re-established.

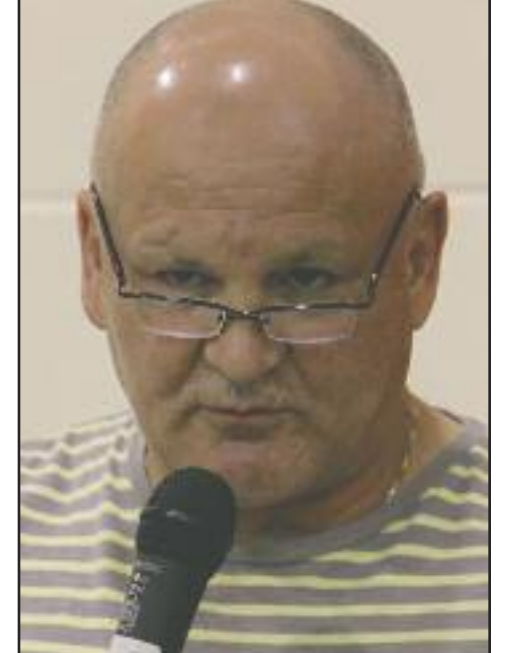
“There is a Métis sash in the legislature, and the Métis flag flying in Regina.”

He noted that Métis harvesting rights are predicted by March of next year, an important advance for the Métis people.

Following the election, Doucette said that a turnout of 3,000 was something to build on, adding that the presence of two female candidates for presidency spoke well for MN-S, and he believed there would be even more Métis women involved — Mavis Taylor and Maureen Belanger finished in second and third place.

“I believe there is still an interest for the MN-S. We are the voice and it’s important for us to sit down and listen, and act on what is said,” said Doucette, adding his thanks to the Métis citizens, and special thanks to his family and his wife.

“They have sacrificed a lot and I couldn’t have done it without them.”



Successful MN-S candidates Robert Doucette (left) and Louis Gardiner spoke at an all-candidates meeting at Oskayak School in Saskatoon.

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Editorial

Doucette's leadership endorsed

They say that in elections, if people are upset and want change, you more often get voted out of political office than new people voted in.

Despite the rhetoric from some factions, Robert Doucette was voted in again as President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, almost doubling the number of votes earned by his nearest competitor Mavis Taylor. This can be seen as an endorsement of the way Doucette has handled the MN-S in the past five years.

President Doucette has tried to build consensus amongst the Area Directors and the Provincial Métis Council and he has most certainly improved relations between the MN-S and the federal and provincial governments. The improved relations and somewhat stable government that Doucette has offered gives some confidence to the other governments that funding dollars are going to be well invested.

The proof of that is in the growth of Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. The fact that the two affiliates of the MN-S are extremely well run certainly helps secure that funding.

But as much as Doucette has received a new mandate, it is not necessarily a ringing endorsement of his tenure since only about 3,000 people voted. This is a couple thousand shy of the vote in 2007 and pretty sad when you consider, depending on who you talk to, that there are anywhere from 50,000 to 80,000 Métis people in Saskatchewan. This means less than five per cent of eligible voters made the effort to vote for the leader and even more alarming when you harken back to the old days of the Association of Métis and Non Status Indians when, according to Presidential candidate Wayne McKenzie, they would have 17,000 voters.

It is obvious that President Doucette has a challenge at hand. He still has to bring into the tent many of the same Area Directors that were protesting his leadership last term. He can do what needs to be done, but really, the Area Directors have to step up to the plate and perform. If they don't, it is guaranteed the funding partners will not be happy and there will be repercussions.

He also has to prove to the many thousands of unengaged Métis citizens out there that the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan really matters.

Speaking of funding, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is also facing the same budget cuts that all Aboriginal groups across Canada are facing. The FSIN was cut almost 60 per cent. The Saskatoon Tribal Council lost 40 per cent of their budget. How much the MN-S will lose is yet to be known, but the cuts certainly won't help Doucette fulfill his mandate.

Such is the challenge of leadership but he can't do it all alone. Now it is the responsibility of Métis citizens and more so the elected representatives to rebuild the faith and function of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan or else in four years time, we won't need an election, just a wake.

Coming next month in Eagle Feather

October is our role model edition as well as our education issue. We will examine funding for on reserve schools, how bands deal with it and some innovative models that are creating success in our communities.

We will also have a special FSIN election preview as Chiefs go to the polls in late October to vote for Grand Chief and two Vice Chiefs. Should be an interesting campaign.

Letter to the Editor...

Ordinarily, as a Member of Parliament, I am happy to take constructive criticism in stride. However, I feel it is necessary to respond to the inaccuracies in your August 2012 editorial, which not only misrepresented our government's working partnership with First Nations, but also private citizens and members of the Government.

After hearing from First Nations living on-reserve from across the country, our government introduced Bill C-27 First Nations Financial Transparency Act, in order to provide First Nations citizens with proper accountability and transparency that they demanded from their elected officials. Like all Canadians, First Nations want their governments to be transparent and accountable.

I introduced my Private Member's Bill (PMB) C-428 to generate a much-needed discussion around the Indian Act and repeal some of its unused sections that are out of touch with the modern world. I was born under the Indian Act, and as an RCMP officer who worked on-reserve, was responsible for enforcing this colonialist and archaic Act. As a result, I have developed a deep understanding of the problems the Indian Act creates for First Nations peoples and I am committed to working collaboratively with First Nations to fix these problems.

My PMB includes removing sections of the Act that are unused, removing all references to residential schools, removing ministerial authority for wills and estates and the publication of band

by-laws. But, most importantly, this Bill will create a process, which must happen on an annual basis, to review and make progress toward modernizing and creating a more respectful relationship between First Nations and the Crown. I question why the editor would not want to have this conversation.

With regard to our government's commitment to First Nations housing, here are the facts. Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, we have helped fund over 16,500 social and First Nation housing projects and every year through CMHC we provide funds for the new construction of around 400 homes and the renovation of over 1,000, while providing an ongoing subsidy to almost 30,000 households on reserve.

When it comes to private property ownership on reserve, our government has been clear. As laid out in Economic Action Plan 2012, we will explore the possibility of this opt-in legislation through consultation with First Nations. Private property ownership on reserves originated as an idea from within the First Nations community and will not be imposed upon First Nation communities.

Our Conservative government is committed to ensuring that all Canadians, whether aboriginal or non-aboriginal, are afforded the opportunity to be successful in this great country of ours.

Rob Clarke, MP
Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill
River

Funding cuts without consultation

So Prime Minister Harper meets with First Nation Chiefs in January and wants to start a new relationship. He even promised no more unilateral decisions and an era of cooperation. So then they withhold the promised education funding this month crippling the already challenged on-reserve schools in Canada, then he cuts funding to the organizations that lobby for that funding and do important work for their communities.

And he has done that all without once consulting the First Nation leaders. He must have had a tea with infamous Senator Patrick Brazeau and he told him it was okay. That must count as consultation, we guess. Isn't it great when we can cut resources to the neediest communities in our country and just spin it off as "focused funding".

Sad.

— Editor

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FSIN Fastball Champs



Ochapowace Pretty Boys pitcher Tony Sparvier was named Men's MVP of the FSIN Softball Provincial Championship Tournament. (Photo by Mike Dubois)



The Cowessess Ladies team defended their title at the FSIN Softball Championships. (Photo by Mike Dubois)



Ladies and gentlemen, introducing the 2012 Men's FSIN Softball Champions the Ochapowace Pretty Boys. (Photo by Mike Dubois)

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Task Force studying First Nations, Métis education challenges

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

September in Saskatchewan always calls children back to school so that the business of education can commence.

This year, September also kicks off the fall set of consultations for the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nation and Métis People. Members of the Task Force are heading north in September and October to meet in communities from La Loche to Black Lake to Cumberland House to consult with stakeholders and community members about education issues facing them.

Chaired by former Prince Albert Grand Council Grand Chief Gary Merasty, the Task Force is a partnership between the Province, the FSIN and the MN-S that will offer recommendations on how to enable more Aboriginal people to enjoy success in education and find satisfying careers. So far, the Task Force has

been to several communities and held individual and group meetings as well as meetings with specific industry groups.

"One of the first roadblocks that we always hear about is lack of funding," said Merasty. "The inadequate funding on-reserve and the fact that it is year-to-year and proposal driven makes it very difficult to budget.

"We also heard



Don Hoium (left) is one of the members of the Task Force chaired by Gary Merasty. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

about funding issues off-reserve too, so it is really across the board."

Merasty is joined on the Task Force by Rita Bouvier and Don Hoium, both educators at one time or another in their careers. The members know there are gaps in the system. Their priority is to identify ways that those gaps are being closed so they can be shared.

"We are seeing some best practices already. The system is doing a much better job at getting young people employed," said Merasty.

"Now there is a clear line of sight from education and training through to employment. We also see more groups partnering up to enjoy economies of scale. Due to budget restraints we are seeing different school boards sharing buildings or resources all without giving up their own jurisdiction. They do it for the sake of the kids."

Because every parent out there cares about their child's education, the community consultations hosted by the Task Force have been very well attended.

"I am excited about the fall schedule and the community meetings. We get so much information," added Merasty.

"It is those events where the community heroes come out and the people that are making a difference."

The concern with so many of the studies that have been run on Aboriginal issues is that recommendations hit the shelf and sit there and gather dust. Not so for this one says Merasty.

"People always speculate that nothing will happen. I have seen it happen myself," he added. "But this Task Force and our recommendations will lead to action.

"There is great desire for change and to see action in this area. It is time."



RITA BOUVIER



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AIDS a worldwide health problem

AIDS is caused by the immune deficiency virus (HIV) which attacks the white blood cells, not just a homosexual issue, it is also affects heterosexuals as well. A massive research effort has produced better treatments, resulting in longer survival and improved quality of life for those with access to the treatments. The only defense against HIV is prevention.

Sign and Symptoms

Fever, weight loss, night sweats, skin lesions or rashes, fungus infection in the mouth, shortness of breath, cough or chest pain, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or vomiting, blurred vision, headache, depression, confusion, herpes and malignancies. HIV transmission occurs through sexual contact. Intravenous users transmit HIV by sharing needles. Blood transfusions and blood products caused many infections in the early years of the epidemic, but screening procedures have nearly eliminated this risk.

A blood test should be ordered by your doctor or nurse practitioner to detect the presence of the virus. A stool sample maybe requested. You may be sent for a chest X-ray, since a common complication of AIDS is pneumonia. Strong medicine are used to slow the progression of HIV infections to full blown AIDS, while antibiotics and other therapies are used against complications.

Complementary Therapies

These may be effective at showing the progres-

sion from HIV infection to AIDS and to treat some related infections.

Supplement Suggestions

Avoid large doses of vitamins or herbs unless prescribed otherwise by your provider.

Some suggestions that you might be advised to take:

A good multivitamin – one a day, Vitamin C – 500 mg 1-2 daily, Vitamin B complex 50 mg for stress, Magnesium 250 mg for protein digests ability, Co

Q10 – 10 mg daily – to improve cell ratio, Herbs maybe used as capsules or teas – in a glycerine base or as a tincture, Licorice Root – 1 capsule daily – Do not use if you have high blood pressure.

Dandelion Root or leaves used as a tea or capsule – one a day – used for liver problems. Golden seal – one a day as an anti- inflammatory. Milk thistle- one a day supportive treatment for toxic liver damage.

Acidophilus - 1 three times a day beneficial for gut bacteria that are depleted when you take a lot of antibiotics.

Physical Medicine

Exercise and light weight training may be helpful in maintaining muscle mass. Reflexology, Reiki, massage can help relax and enhance the immune system and decrease anxiety

It is important to keep in contact with your physician as required.



Health Matters
Flo Lavallie

FSIN Chiefs outraged by federal funding cuts

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

According to Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Interim Chief Morley Watson, the federal government is trying to stifle governance and growth of First Nations.

According to John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the recent funding cuts are a part of their “focused funding” plan. Either way you look at it, the FSIN is facing an almost 60 per cent budget cut.

Tribal Councils are facing a 40 per cent cut and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is facing cuts as well.

“The funding cut is an attempt to drastically affect the abilities of the FSIN to represent our people and communities on Inherent Rights and Treaty Implementation, accountability and the quality of life for First Nations,” says FSIN Interim Chief Morley Watson.



MORLEY WATSON

• Continued on Page 12




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Parents need to be involved in child's school life

The new school year is here. Some are overjoyed to see friends and start a new grade level. Some wish that summer would never end. I know most parents have been patiently waiting for school to start since the second week of summer holidays.

Woody Allen said 90 per cent of life is showing up, and we can say the same thing about parenthood. So put parenting on your to do list.

Parental involvement is consistently linked to school success, even in higher grades. Studies have found that parents who visited the school regularly and encouraged education at home had higher social skills and lower rates of problems such as anxiety and depression.

Everyone is busy these days, but make time to make your child's school experience a priority.

Be present in your child's school life. Read the notes that the teacher sends home and attend parent/teacher nights. Find out what your child is learning and ask how you can help them be successful.

My favorite quote is from John F. Kennedy who said "If not us - who? If

not now - when? Education is a team sport so get involved parents! Tapwe!

There are things we can do to ensure that our children have a successful school year. First make sure they get plenty of sleep - sleep is brain fuel. Next get your child's heart pumping. Students who are physically fit get better marks in school.

In fact some schools are experimenting with morning exercises as a way to boost concentration and improve test scores. Find out if your child's school has a good exercise program. Finally, play memory games with your child, research shows that the brain retains information better when it's forced to retrieve it - using flash cards for instance.

Change can be hard on the little tykes. What do you do when your child comes home from school upset with his or her teacher? First of all, listen. It's



so important to listen to your child's feelings. I found that if you let them vent 99 per cent of the problem will disappear. Don't show up at your child's school with the intent of ripping a new one for the teacher. That is not very productive. Remember you and the teacher are on the same team - both of you want your child to succeed.

For you older students the first day of university classes is very much like the first day of elementary school. Feeling overwhelmed by university is normal.

Everything is new and adjusting takes time. Unfortunately the adjustment process is not always smooth and you may find you have missed assignments, forgotten deadline and totally bombed on exams.

Every student is different, and some adjust faster than others. The change between high school and university is huge; be patient.

Yes, some students adapt to univer-

sity like fish to water, but most students adapt to university like dog to water (initially disoriented, but gradually getting used to it and even liking it). You're not the only one, so don't be shy and talk to other students about your questions and concerns.

Ask others how they deal. If possible, find a few friends a couple of years ahead and ask them how they lived through it all (talk to the survivors!).

Ask for advice, guidance, and maybe even mentorship. In fact, some schools offer mentorship programs for new students, so take advantage of them. Use the wisdom of people who have "been there, done that". Hang in there and if you make it through first year, you're pretty much set.

My advice to parents of university students; land the helicopter and let your kids find their own way. You don't need to hover, they will be fine. Ekosi.

Keep your emails and letters and letters coming? You can write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 St Main, Saskatoon SK, S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



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Words have been good to me on life's path

I work with words. As a writer and a storyteller words are my basic equipment. Since I got my first paid job as a writer back in 1979 I have been engaged in the process of learning how to use my tools.

The learning never stops. For me that's a special blessing because I love what I do and to be constantly in the process of being given more tools to work with is amazing.

Words are all around us. It follows that stories are all around us too. Because I have ears I hear them. When my eyes are open I can see them. With my heart receptive I can feel them.

Staying conscious and connected to the world means that stories come to me by taste and smell and wonderfully, magically sometimes, on the pure wings of my imagination when I keep all my other senses open.

What it asks of me is to continue harvesting words. I need to do that so I can describe what I encounter and imagine. I need to do that so other people can inhabit the same space that I do, feel the magic of my stories. So I need the flexibility of an elastic and spontaneous facility with words and language in order to make that possible.

It means that I read books. A lot of them. I can't remember a time in my life when a book was not a companion. When I open a new one I am flooded with the presence of more and more tools. Essentially the words in books have been my

education. When I left school at 16 it marked the end of my formal education. Everything I have accomplished in this life I taught myself from the pages of books. I've been a lifelong student in the University of Books.

There is a lot to be gained from this. For one, you get so you're really comfortable with expression. Years ago if you'd have told me I would stand in front of thousands of people and speak for an hour without the benefit of notes I would have said you were crazy.

Now, I'm teaching writing at the University of Victoria. Words empower you. Words make magic possible when you let them.

That's what I've discovered after all these years. You can have all the tools in the world but they only work for you if you allow them to. Allowing is the key to everything. As a writer words just sometimes fall out of the sky – the right ones, the perfect ones.

If I allow them to fall. But I have to be active in the process of gathering them, of reading, of

harnessing the horses of words to the wagon of my dreams.

My people say that allowing is the power that follows choice in Creator's plan. Two great gifts we are given to empower us in this life. You choose and then you allow. Walking the Red Road, or living a principled, spiritually centered life, is the ongoing process of that.

The choice puts you on the path and the allowing keeps that path rolling forward in front of you. Your duty is to continue walking it.

So I choose words to be the pathway of my life and then I allow them to guide me in the work that I do.

So far so good.

Without education beyond Grade 9, I will publish my eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh books this year. I will publish four titles in four separate genres in the same publishing year – all because I allowed it to happen.

But when I say the learning never stops I mean that. Sure, I've done some great things with the power of words but there is always something more; something unrelated to the worlds that words can offer you.

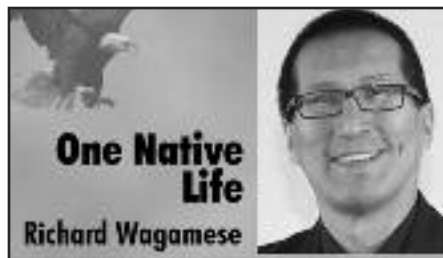
For instance, it's taken me this long to learn the rules of grammar. Like, when you say 'I love you', there's a full colon stop. Then a dash and then the other person says 'I love you too.' Period.

The punctuation of our lives happens in the heart not on paper. I'm learning that these days. The words I use with the people in my life are the tools I use to build that life.

So I choose wisely and allow them to work – and the book of my life is becoming an incredible tale, well told and punctuated by feeling and the images of belonging, community and empowerment.

When we speak of literacy these days, it's important to recognize that we speak beyond the ability to understand words.

We speak of the ability to comprehend feeling. A true and vibrant literacy of the soul and spirit. That, in the end, is the biggest gift that words can bring us.



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FNUniv host to many happy campers over the summer

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada was filled with budding writers, scientists and entrepreneurs over the summer.

The university hosted a number of summer camps its annual Health and Science Camp has been running for years while other camps like the Bringing Back the Buffalo Youth Retreat was new this year.

Savanna Smythe-McArthur, 14, is one of 13 participants in the Bringing Back the Buffalo aboriginal youth writer's retreat hosted by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.

The talented young writer said it has always been a dream to have her work published and at the end of the retreat that's exactly what will happen.

Her interest in writing began in Grade 6 after taking a writing test.

Initially, Smythe-McArthur thought it would be boring and that everything would take place in a classroom. That was not the case.

"It's different," she said. "It's good that everyone here is aboriginal so I don't feel different and I get to write about anything I want."

Carol Morin, Bringing Back the Buffalo facilitator, said it has been great to see the students open up and be able to express themselves.

"It's about helping them find their voice," she said. "I'm hoping it will become a lifelong pursuit that they have developing their creative spirit whether it is through the written word, visual art, or whether they go into music or public speaking – as long as they speak up."

Smythe-McArthur said she has learned a lot of great writing techniques, but in a fun way.



This group shot is of facilitators and youth that participated in writing, science and entrepreneur summer camps at the First Nations University of Canada. (Photo by Mike Dubois)

Jennifer Dubois, camp co-ordinator for the FNUniv Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Camp, said having Grade 11 and 12 students participate in the weeklong camp is a great way to highlight not only the university but the programs in the School of Business. It is the fourth year the camp has been held at the university.

New this year is that recruitment for the camp went national with participants from as far away as Labrador and B.C.

"It was great," Dubois said about the camp. "We showed them what it was like to be a university student."


The campers attended classes taught by FNUniv business professors and had the opportunity to meet School of Business alumni as well

as business supporters.


Dubois, a recent business student graduate, said it was a great opportunity not only for the students but also for her.

"I learned that I enjoy working with youth," she said. Dubois encourages other business students to get involved because it's a great learning experience. She said it's also a good way for high-school students to explore the world of business.

The university hosted two health and science day camps this summer. The camps were geared towards students in Grades 5 to 12. The camps included presentations and activities centred on health and science through fun activities.



Cameco



AREVA

NORTHERN TOUR 2012

OPEN HOUSE

1pm-4pm

COMMUNITY SUPPER
AND EVENING
INFORMATION
SESSION

6pm-9pm

Athabasca Basin		
Tues. Oct. 2	Fond du Lac/U.C./Cam.	Father Gamache Memorial School Gymnasium
Wed. Oct. 3	Stony Rapids	Stony Rapids School Gymnasium
Thur. Oct. 4	Black Lake	Father Porte Memorial Dene School Gymnasium
Fri. Oct. 5	Wollaston Lake	Father Megret High School Gymnasium
Central Region		
Tues. Oct. 16	Pinehouse	Minahik Waskahigan School Gymnasium
Wed. Oct. 17	Patuanak	St. Louis School Gymnasium
Thur. Oct. 18	Southend	Reindeer Lake School
Fri. Oct. 19	La Ronge/Air Ronge	Senator Myles Venne School
West Side		
Tues. Oct. 23	Buffalo Narrows	Twin Lakes School Gymnasium
Wed. Oct. 24	Ile a la Crosse	Rossignol High School Gymnasium
Thur. Oct. 25	Beauval	Valley View School Gymnasium



Cameco
Darwin Roy (306) 425-4144
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www.cameco.com



AREVA
Glenn Lafleur (306) 425-6880
glenn.lafleur@areva.ca
www.arevaresources.ca

Schools key to rebuilding Treaty 4 communities

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

It has been a successful four years so far and the work is not over for the Treaty 4 Student Success Program (T4SSP).

Lori Whiteman, T4SSP program director, said her organization's goal is to rebuild First Nations in Treaty 4 territory ... one child at a time.

Once again, teachers and principals from 12 participating schools located in Treaty 4 territory gathered at the third annual school kickoff.

Whiteman said T4SSP is separate from any of the tribal councils and it provides educational supports for participating schools. It is funded by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development First Nation Student Success that was established in 2009. There are five other similar programs throughout the province.

"Our goal is to develop Treaty 4 nation builders," said Whiteman. "Part of that is determining with our communities, with the elders, with the language keepers, with old people and the leadership out there in the communities what should developmentally a young boy and young girl in each of the communities know, what should they be able to do and what should they be like from a na-



From left, Alma Poitras, Chief Ross Allary, Robert Bellegarde, and Allan Asapass help kick off the school year in Treaty 4 territory. (Photo supplied).

tion perspective."

She said it's about defining success for ourselves.

Whiteman said helping schools focus on literacy, numeracy and retention is the easy part of the job.

"The hard part of our job is to begin

to restore health and well-being and balance within our communities," she said.

Whiteman said building self-esteem is also key.

"I think kids who know who they are and where they come from are very strong and confident in their identity

and aren't confused and aren't ashamed of it are more likely to go forward with the curiosity of learning," she said.

She said it's a task that takes an entire community and not just the teachers in the schools.

This year, Evelyn Poitras, a filmmaker, is a community member who has chosen to get involved in the education system. She screened Buffalo: A Memorial, which is part of a larger video project she is working on.

It focused on the treaties and she interviewed elders and other leaders about the treaties.

She hopes that eventually her video can be used as a teaching tool in schools. The larger video project addresses both the positive and negative impacts residential schools had on First Nations people by using her own family history to tell the story.

Whiteman said it's not only important to connect the schools with their own communities but with one another. She said the yearly gathering helps schools not only connect but network and support one another.

Whiteman is looking forward to continue growing and providing support services for the schools she works with.

Cuts threaten tribal councils, governance, education, economic development, housing

• Continued from Page 8

"It is also an attempt to restrict the Federation's ability to work with First Nations in areas that include education, health, economic development, justice, women's commission, housing, lands and resources."

The Government says the new approach includes a simplified application and reporting process for Tribal Councils which will reduce the reporting burden on organizations. These changes will be introduced over the next two years, allowing organizations time to adapt their operations and, should they desire to, seek out new sources of funding.

"The Government of Canada is taking concrete steps to create the conditions for healthier, more self-sufficient Aboriginal communities," said Duncan.

"To sustain that progress we are changing the funding model for aboriginal organizations and tribal councils, to make funding more equitable among organizations across the country, and ensure funding is focused on our shared priorities: education, economic development, on-reserve infrastructure, land management and governance programs."

The FSIN remains optimistic about the future despite learning there will be a reduction in federal core funding from \$1.6 million to \$500,000 in the 2014-15 fiscal year. The core funding supports the

FSIN Finance Department, Legislative Assemblies, Communications, Treasury Board, and the political offices of the Chief and Vice Chiefs. "We have a lack of voice to bring attention to our issues," said FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird who also raised the issue of AAND's not sending promised education funding.



SIMON BIRD

"These new funding cuts will further muzzle these voices. If this is the result of Prime Minister Harper's apology for the Indian Residential schools, we don't want any more apologies."

joint task force

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Improve Early Child Outcomes
Increase Graduation Rates
Labour Force
Quality of Life

THE JOINT TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS PEOPLE

The Joint Task Force is a partnership between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan. The Joint Task Force is travelling throughout Saskatchewan and meeting with First Nations and Métis communities and organizations to discuss education and employment successes and ways to build on these successes. Following these meetings, policy changes, programs and practical approaches will be recommended to improve education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis People.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

- Stony Rapids - Sept 24th at 7:00 pm, Stony Rapids School
- Black Lake - Sept 25th at 3:00 pm, Location TBD
- Wollaston Lake - Sept 26th at 2:30 pm, Location TBD

EVERYONE WELCOME! Refreshments provided.

FOLLOW WEBSITE FACEBOOK or TWITTER FOR UPDATES

Gary Merasty
Vice President
Corporate Social Responsibility
Carrasco

Rita Bouvier
Researcher/Writer
and Community-learning
Facilitator

Don Hoium
Educator and
former Director of
Education

www.jointtaskforce.ca

Treaty Land Entitlement

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
SIGNED SEPTEMBER 22, 1992
WANUSKEWIN, SASKATCHEWAN**

20 Years Later



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHIEF

Twenty years ago the FSIN helped 25 First Nations make history. On September 22, 1992, at Wanuskewin, a place sacred to our people, we signed an agreement to settle a long outstanding land debt owed to our nations.

We did this with the eyes of our ancestors looking upon us, and our own fixed on the brighter future our Treaty ancestors envisioned for healthy, prosperous families.

This accomplishment could only be because of the proud tradition of leadership that began five hundred years ago with the Iron Nations Alliance,

the foresight of our Treaty ancestors over a hundred years ago, and revitalized by our veterans only a few decades ago.

The settlement of Treaty Land Entitlement in this province is evidence that great leaders can create great opportunities. But our work is not done, and there remain serious issues before us. But I am confident to create the space we need for our people to thrive, prosper and build better lives for our families, our communities and our nations.

I invite all of Saskatchewan to join us in celebrating the achievements of the First Nations as we create a healthy, wealthy future for us all.

Vice-Chief Bobby Cameron

MESSAGE FROM THE TREATY COMMISSIONER

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner for Saskatchewan takes great honor in being part of the history of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE). September 2012 brings to us 20 years of successful stories, long roads and the development of positive relationships throughout Saskatchewan.

“Liberty, freedom, independence, and economic self-sufficiency were the goals they sought to achieve for those were values that were central and integral to their way of life... First Nations learned early in their existence that, without pimâchisowin (the ability to make one’s living), tipêyimisowin (freedom, or liberty), and tipiyawâtisowin (independence), they and their peoples could not survive.”

– Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan

We congratulate the TLE signatories on their commitments to the TLE agreement and also on the successes that have culminated from that historic day in September 1992. We look forward to witnessing the future successes that TLE has yet to bring to this province.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner proudly supports and celebrates the 20 year anniversary of TLE in Saskatchewan.

Treaty Commissioner George Lafond



Economic benefits evident throughout Saskatchewan

The original TLE Framework Agreement was historic for many reasons. Not only is it the largest Treaty-based land claim settlement in Canada, it represented a significant chance to reposition and capture opportunities for several First Nations to prosper.

When it was signed 20 years ago the Framework would provide 25 of Saskatchewan's 74 First Nations with \$445 million over 12 years to acquire land in fulfillment of a Treaty promise made but not fulfilled for over 100 years.

Since then another 8 First Nations signed agreements, bringing the value of the settlement to over \$595 million.

Clearly one of the most obvious benefits to the First Nations is land.

It is estimated the First Nations reserved for themselves 1% of the what would later become Saskatchewan's 234,000,000 square acre land base "so the Indian way of life could continue." The Framework would enable the First Nations to double that.

First Nations also get to right an historical wrong. When their reserves were first being surveyed the First Nations were encouraged to select land away from established villages, towns and cities. This left them isolated from the markets, jobs and a higher standard of living.

Under the Framework the First Nations could now buy land in or around urban centres and have those properties converted to reserves.

Prior to the Framework Agreement there were only three urban reserves in Saskatchewan – one in Kylemore for the Fishing Lake First Nation in 1981, and another in 1982 when the Peter Ballantyne First Nation was given control of the old residential school in Prince Albert, and in 1988 the property in the Sutehrland neighborhood of Saskatoon became an urban reserve for the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.



Since 1992 over 30 new urban reserves have been established in villages, towns and cities across Saskatchewan. An additional 40 - 45 are in the government system awaiting reserve designation.

These urban reserves are proving to be economic powerhouses for the First Nations.

Muskeg Lake's property in Saskatoon is one example. One of the most renowned and acclaimed success stories, the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation acquired 35 acres from the City of Saskatoon and turned it into an enterprise hub where dozens of businesses and organizations employ hundreds of people, both First Nation and non-First Nation.

Prior to reserve designation the Sutherland property in Saskatoon was raw land with no infrastructure. Once developed by the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation the asset value of the land, infrastructure and buildings sky rocketed to about \$18 million.

The establishment of casinos has had a number of positive effects on the Saskatchewan economy. In June, 2012, the Saskatchewan Indian

Gaming Authority, proudly announced, "As one of the largest First Nations organizations in the country, with over 1900 people SIGA provides employment for over 1300 First Nations people.

Since opening its doors 16 years ago, SIGA has generated over \$600 million dollars in revenue for our beneficiaries."

Who are those beneficiaries? The First Nations get 50% of the profits, while the Provincial Government gets 25%. The other 25% goes to Community Development Corporations which is responsible for supporting local community organizations and events.

That's over \$100 million since 1996 going to charitable organizations devoted to supporting First Nation and non-First Nation families and communities. SIGA itself recently donated \$500,000 to the planned Saskatchewan Children's Hospital.

Four of SIGA's six casino's are located on urban reserves in cities like Prince Albert, North Battleford, Yorkton and Swift Current, all acquired by First Nations using their TLE

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The eagle staff led in the flags, Chiefs and dignitaries at the historic Treaty Land Entitlement Signing in 1992. (Photo Courtesy OTC and Cindy Moleski)



George Lafond, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, FSIN Chief Roland Gosnell and an unidentified man partake in the ceremony. (Photo Courtesy OTC)



Treaty Land Entitlement

20

Years Later

ments to create opportunity. The Gold Casino in North Battleford employs 300 whose combined salaries are an ed \$8.5 million.

se the establishment of casinos has er impacts on the local economies. IGA began operations in 1996 millions sts have passed through casino doors oying the accommodations and ional facilities in the host community.

enefits from the Framework Agreement limited to urban reserves. Most of the 0 acres of new reserve land are in the side. Many of the 33 First Nations are ng rural lands with high resource pment capacity, such as oil and gas, y and even potash.

st Nation agricultural economy has ed as well.

blem many First Nations were having ir home reserve and new TLE lands eing leased at below market value and nds were not well cared for by the , often neighboring farmers, and very

few Band members were being employed. One Earth Farms (OEF) offered a solution. OEF is the brainchild of Kevin Bambrough, President of Sprott Inc., and former Grand Chief of the FSIN, Blaine Favel.

It leases farm land of 11 First Nations at fair market value and employs First Nation people.

From a small operation in 2008 of 4 employees to 110 in its second year of operations, in 2010 the OEF was working 60,000 acres of cropland and 23,000 of pastureland and its goal is to achieve 150,000 cultivated land and 100,000 pasture acres in the very near future.

Hard figures are difficult to come by but it is reasonable to assume that hundreds if not thousands of First Nation and non-First Nation people have found employment directly attributed to the rising fortunes of the TLE First Nations.

Everyone benefits, all because twenty years ago the leaders of three governments had the vision and courage to fulfill a Treaty promise in a way that all could prosper.

Treaty Land Entitlement: The Facts

History

- Almost half of the 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan secured their full entitlement to land under the terms of Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10.
- The formula to determine how much land First Nations were to reserve for themselves in Treaties 4 and 6, for example, was 1 square mile for each family of five, or 128 acres for each Band member. That land would be held in common for the entire community.
- At least 33 First Nations did not receive their full entitlement to land. These First Nations went without the economic benefit of almost 550,000 acres, in some cases for over 130 years.
- In 1990, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, under the leadership of former Saskatoon Mayor Cliff Wright, released a report with recommendations to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan on how to settle the land debt.
- In 1991, the Assembly of Entitlement Chiefs, supported by the FSIN, and the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan sign a protocol agreement to begin negotiations on a settlement of TLE based on the Treaty Commissioners report.
- On September 22, 1992, the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement is signed by Prime Minister Mulroney, Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow, and 25 Chiefs of Saskatchewan whose Bands have Treaty Land Entitlements. That agreement is signed at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park, outside Saskatoon.

Highlights

- The original Framework Agreement dealt with 25 TLE First Nations.
- \$445 million would be provided them over a 12 year pay-out period
- The Bands must acquire and have converted to reserve status their original shortfall of land
- In consideration of the lost use of those lands Bands could acquire equity acres
- Bands have up to 18 years to acquire land and have those properties converted to reserve, although there are provisions to extend that

Since 1992 an additional 8 First Nations signed agreements based on the principles of the Framework Agreement. Though there are variations between agreements, these new entitlement Bands are provided cash to acquire at least their shortfall acres but up to their equity.



Winston McLean stands by as Chief Marie Anne Daywalker-Pelletier of Okanese First Nation signs onto the Treaty Land Entitlement agreement. (Photo Courtesy OTC and Cindy Moleski)

and Crowe and an C and Cindy Moleski)

Frequently Asked Questions

The price tag for settling these land claims seems high.

It has been estimated that under the terms of Treaties the First Nations agreed to share with the newcomers over 234 million acres in what would become Saskatchewan. Using the average price of \$262.19 per acre (in 1991) multiplied by 234 million acres and the value for Saskatchewan land is in excess of \$61 billion. And that does not value account for buildings, infrastructure, natural resource development, inflation, and so on. So a TLE settlement of \$595 million to acquire up to 2 million acres is not that bad of a deal.

Are land claims over in Saskatchewan?

The settlement of Treaty Land Entitlements in Saskatchewan will continue as more First Nations complete their research. In addition to TLE, First Nations are also negotiating compensation for Specific Land Claims – lands that were lost after their reserves were created. The FSIN estimates the value of TLE and Specific Claims agreements to exceed \$1 billion – with more to come as individual claims are negotiated. That means more economic development for everyone in Saskatchewan.

How does the reserve creation process work?

First, Bands acquire land on a willing buyer, willing seller basis – no one is forced off their land. In some cases the Band leases the land back to the farmer until the farmer decides to retire

Then the Band submits the land selection to the federal government to begin the reserve creation process. Research is done to determine what terms and conditions the land must meet before it is converted to reserve. The provincial government plays an active role in this sometimes lengthy process.

It is not an overnight process, and it can take years for some parcels to achieve reserve status.

In addition to the regular process First Nations with urban land selections must also negotiate with the municipality an agreement to pay for services that often matches what anyone else must pay in property taxes.

How does the settlement of land claims benefit Saskatchewan?

The various land claim agreements benefit Saskatchewan in a number of ways.

First, in the last 20 years over \$1 billion in federal money is coming back into Saskatchewan. That money is being spent on land and invested in businesses, partnerships and training in this province.

Second, many Bands have bought out mainstream farmers whose children are not interested in agriculture. Interestingly, many of these same Bands keep those farmers on the land until they decide to retire.

Third, some Bands have been buying up marginally developed lands in urban centers, and then converting them not only to reserve status but enterprise hubs with tremendous spin-off benefits to the surrounding economy.

And of course, as these Bands develop their economic base they train and employ people, First Nation and non-First Nation alike. Not only does this mean fewer people on welfare, but they are having a positive impact on the local and provincial economy.

Where can I go for more information?

Federation of Saskatchewan
Indian Nations

Suite 100 - 103A Packham Avenue

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

(306) 665-1215

Additions to Reserves/Claims Support
Saskatchewan Region

Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Dev

(306) 780-8230

1992 Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement

First Nation	Shortfall Acres (Minimum)	Maximum Acres	Settlement Value
1. Beardy's and Okemasis *	11,648.00	71,137.51	\$19,175,704.22
2. Canoe Lake *	6,885.00	49,973.33	13,412,333.43
3. English River *	13,040.70	37,646.66	10,457,408.21
4. Flying Dust *	6,788.00	33,910.08	9,196,342.56
5. Keeseekoosie *	7,552.00	83,200.00	17,998,139.46
6. Little Pine *	30,720.00	92,870.31	25,732,066.54
7. Moosomin *	24,960.00	75,355.43	20,880,639.82
8. Mosquito	20,096.00	33,153.33	9,596,792.38
9. Muskeg Lake *	3,072.00	48,064.67	8,642,228.85
10. Muskowekwan *	18,121.26	51,555.52	14,332,798.27
11. Ochapowace	44,928.00	54,160.59	16,222,124.14
12. Okanese *	6,905.60	14,337.58	4,069,921.10
13. One Arrow *	10,752.00	58,615.79	15,852,313.21
14. Onion Lake *	25,984.00	108,550.57	29,630,152.01
15. Pelican Lake *	5,961.60	35,714.68	9,632,302.71
16. Peter Ballantyne *	22,465.56	234,248.85	62,428,657.03
17. Piapot *	39,073.02	81,081.41	23,017,020.47
18. Poundmaker *	13,824.00	47,687.44	13,125,250.38
19. Red Pheasant *	20,118.00	72,331.77	19,869,976.46
20. Saulteaux *	16,845.13	56,144.17	15,478,470.77
21. Star Blanket *	4,672.00	11,235.58	3,156,095.85
22. Sweetgrass *	8,192.00	23,914.02	6,638,656.96
23. Thunderchild *	38,464.00	120,816.41	33,407,734.61
24. Witchehan Lake *	7,923.00	32,442.60	8,862,660.29
25. Yellow Quill	11,801.60	117,274.00	29,376,731.13
Total	420,792.47	1,645,962.30	\$440,192,520.86

Subsequent Agreements

First Nation	Shortfall Acres (Minimum)	Maximum Acres	Settlement Value
26. Nekaneet (1992) *	16,160.00	27,327.00	7,963,993.00
27. Cowessess (1996) *	53,312.00	189,367.00	46,662,314.00
28. Carry The Kettle (1996)	24,320.00	86,491.00	21,393,564.00
29. Kawacatoose (2000) *	7,872.00	102,976.00	23,191,969.00
30. Sturgeon Lake(2007)	3,430.00	38,971.10	10,372,182.70
31. Muskoday (2007)	6,144.00	38,014.31	10,243,452.00
32. George Gordon (2008)	8,960.00	111,872.00	26,662,416.42
33. Pasqua (2008)	6,686.55	32,504.59	8,823,272.85
Total	126,884.55	631,363.00	\$155,313,163.97

TOTAL Settlements 547,677.02 2,277,325.30 \$595,505,684.83



Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Harry Lafond and Treaty Commissioner Cliff Wright share a handshake after all the hard work on the TLE agreement.

(Photo Courtesy OTC and Cindy Moleski)

Strengthening the Old Ties! Celebrating the New Nation!

... an historic journey deepening Scottish Highlander and Métis Relations

By Mechtild Morin
For Eagle Feather News

Some time ago, the Board of Grant's Old Mill in Winnipeg invited the Chief of the Clan Grant to come to Canada and meet the descendants of Cuthbert Grant Sr., North West Company Partner and explorer.

Cuthbert Grant Sr. originated in the Scottish Highlands (Cromdale), and he was not the only member of the Clan Grant to be involved in the early Canadian Fur Trade. Cuthbert's brother, Robert Grant, founded Fort Esperance, near Rocanville, Sask., and there were others.

Cuthbert Grant Sr. had at least two wives. Unfortunately, their names were not recorded. His first wife was a First Nations woman, and it is said that the descendants of this union are members of the present day Red Pheasant First Nation. His second wife was most likely Métis. It is confirmed that this couple had at least four daughters and two sons.

It is interesting to note, that one daughter, Marie, married Pierre Falcon, the Métis Rhymester. Another daughter, Marguerite, married into the Belhumeur/Monet family, the same family that Louis Riel's wife, Marguerite, came from.

The older son, James, was sent to Scotland for his education and he most likely remained there, since there are no further records of his life to be found in Canada.

However, the younger son, Cuthbert Grant Jr., became the most well known of the family.

Young Cuthbert was born in Fort Tremblante, near the current town of Kamsack, Sask. After his father's death in 1799, he was placed under the guardianship of William McGillivray of the North West Company.

According to family lore and some researchers, Cuthbert spent a number of years with relatives in Scotland, where he received his formal education.

There is no doubt about the fact that the Qu'Appelle Valley was an important place for young Cuthbert. His first position with the North West Company was in this beautiful valley, at Fort Esperance. As mentioned previously, this fort had been established by Robert Grant, young Cuthbert's uncle.

He had relatives and friends in the Qu'Appelle Valley, and one can assume that he travelled the length of the valley frequently, and got to know its river, lakes, creeks and coulees very well. It was also in this valley that the Métis Flag was first seen flying.

Cuthbert Grant Jr. had a large family and his descendants are spread across North America. Two of his daughters, Marie Rose (Grant) Gariepy and Marguerite (Grant) Ross, and their husbands lived in the Batoche area and were involved in the Northwest Resistance. Many of their descendants still live in Saskatchewan. Cuthbert's son, James, had a ranch at Katepwa, near Lebret, and the youngest daughter, Julie (Grant) Desjarlais lived in Lebret. Both are buried in Lebret, and have many descendants who still live in the area.

The Historic Event – Old Clan meets New Nation

Last year, Sir James Grant of Grant, Lord Strathspey, Baronet of Nova Scotia 33rd Chief of Grant, responded to the invitation to come to Canada with these words:

"I very much look forward to meeting with many Métis descendants of Cuthbert Grant and others at Grant's Mill, Winnipeg, Canada in July 2012 ..."

The initial welcoming celebration took place at Grant's Old Mill in Winnipeg on July 14 in conjunction with the annual "Cuthbert Grant Day". Sir James Grant and Lady Judy Lewis arrived at the Mill by Red River Cart. The day was filled with entertainment from



Final photo by the "Grant" pole, left to right: Lady Judy, Stewart Martin, Cameron Murray, Vern Henry, Sandra Horyzki, Joanna Blondeau (Potyondi), Mechtild Morin, Michael Morin, Sir James, Margarete Peterson, Lawrence Spetz and Rose Miller

bagpipes to Métis fiddlers, dancers and singers.

Grant Family Members from all across Canada and from some parts of the US were present. They included a group of Grants who were the descendants of Johnny Grant, who had established a big ranch (Grant/Khors Ranch) in Montana, and later returned to Canada.

During a banquet on July 16, Sir James Grant proclaimed that all the descendants of Cuthbert Grant are now an official Sept of the Clan Grant, and the name given to the Sept is SIOL CUDBRIGHT, a Gaelic term for the "Descendants of Cuthbert".

Sandra Horyski, herself a descendant of Cuthbert Jr.'s sister, Josephite, was appointed Stewart of the Sept Siol Cudbright for a five year term. Michael Morin, a Great-Great-Great Grandson of Cuthbert Grant Jr. was named her Assistant Stewart.

On July 17, Sir James, Lady Judy and a group of people from Winnipeg made their way to the Qu'Appelle Valley. They visited the site of Fort Esperance near Rocanville, and proceeded to Fort Qu'Appelle.

On July 18, they toured the sites of Fort Qu'Appelle, such as the old Hudson Bay Store, the remnants of the old fort and the Treaty Park. Cuthbert Jr.'s eldest daughter, Maria, was the spouse of Pascal Breland, who was an early Métis politician in the Red River area. He was also a witness at the signing of Treaty Four in Fort Qu'Appelle. His name is etched on the monument together with the names of the First Nations Chiefs and the Government officials.

Later, Sir James and Lady Judy traveled to Lebret to have lunch and mingle with several descendants of Cuthbert Grant. Some of the folks present were descendants of Julie Grant Desjarlais, Marie Rose Grant Gariepy, James Grant and Charles Cuthbert Grant, and Cuthbert's sisters Marie Grant Falcon and Jopsephte Grant Wells. They came from as far as B.C. and Alberta, and, of course, from southeastern Saskatchewan.

A Métis/Scottish style lunch complete with bannock, bullets and beignes and beef stew was prepared by 3 D's Café and enjoyed by everyone.

The hot afternoon was spent among the shady trees on the shore of Mission Lake, sharing family stories, historical fact and lots of laughs. It was amazing to discover so many ties and common experiences, and to realize how much the family of Cuthbert Grant has contributed to the Métis Nation and the history of Western Canada and the Northwestern United States. To this day, many of Cuthbert Grant's descendants are

involved in areas education, health care, the arts and a few of them are even involved in Politics.

Groups of people visited the Lebret Village Museum, the Sacred Heart Church and Museum and the graveyard. A number of Cuthbert Grant descendants were involved in the construction of the fieldstone church, which was completed in 1925. More than 50 Grant family members found their final resting place in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Following a good supper and more fellowship, the group proceeded to the 'Circle of Poles', next to the museum for a final group photo. The poles bear the names of prominent Métis families, settler families, First Nation's Chiefs, and places and events that are important to Lebret.

The strong ties between the Clan Grant in the Scottish homeland and the Sept Siol Cudbright are now firmly established. When the Clan Grant celebrated the Abernethy Highland Games later in August, the Métis Flag could be seen flying among the regular traditional flags.

A proud moment!



Jana Ross saw a niche for Métis clothing in the Saskatchewan market.

Métis entrepreneur learning on the fly in retail clothing business

Jana Ross was born and raised in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. She graduated from Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in April 2011 and now teaches Grade 4 in Meadow Lake. She is the brains behind Bannock Republic Clothing, a clothing company that is just over a year old, but has been a sell-out hit at Back to Batoche for the last two years. Eagle Feather News caught up to her to get some tips on how she turned an idea into Bannock Republic Clothing.

Why did you start Bannock Republic Clothing?

I started Bannock Republic Clothing because I am proud of my Aboriginal roots and like to show my culture through my clothing. It was so hard for me to find any clothing items depicting Métis culture, and when I did, there wasn't a whole lot to choose from. I went to St. Boniface Museum in Winnipeg twice with SUNTEP and would stock up on Métis stuff when I was there. I even had a friend give me \$100 and tell me to surprise her with a bunch of Métis items for herself. After that I started to think that maybe I should step up and start making some clothes. We sold out at Batoche in July 2011 in one day. Of course, I don't just sell clothing for Métis people, I also have items for First Nations people or anybody else that wants to wear my clothes.

What was the most challenging part?

There have been many challenges along the way and I know there are more to come, but I guess if it was easy to run a business, then everybody would do it. Staying organized is definitely a challenge – I have to do my taxes every three months now! Another huge challenge is just trying to develop a business while I have a full-time job. Teaching is very demanding, especially because I'm so new at it, and I

want to be a good teacher so I put in a lot of evening and weekend hours at the school. I'm hoping that in a couple years, when I am more experienced, I will have more time for my business.

What, so far, has been most rewarding?

The most rewarding thing has been seeing how excited people are to find clothing that shows their culture. I remember how excited I was a few years ago at Batoche to see a booth that was selling sweatpants and pants with sashes on them, I think it was a Métis Local that set it up. I just HAD to buy something from them, and I think that's how some people feel when they see my booth.

Any plans to expand the business? Or is this the perfect side job for a teacher?

I don't know what the future holds, but right now the plan is to keep teaching and go to cultural events in the summer.

Any words of wisdom for future entrepreneurs?

I would encourage people in university to take a class on entrepreneurship or marketing if they can. I would also say to contact companies that help entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan. I am being mentored through Raj Manek Business Mentorship and it's so motivational to talk to someone who has business experience and wants to help you. The last piece of advice I would give is to enter some business plan competitions, these competitions provide you with some cash if you win, and they generally provide some sort of tutorials or workshops to teach all contestants how to run a business. This is our time and the opportunities are definitely out there.

If you have any questions or would like to contact Jana, please email jana@bannockrepublic.com www.bannockrepublic.com will be active by Christmas.

Ask the
nwmo



nwmo

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Community Well-Being

Q. Why "community well-being"?

A. Ensuring safety is always the number one priority. Any community and site that is selected to host this facility must be demonstrated to be able to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel for a very long period of time. Beyond ensuring safety, Canada's plan will be implemented in a way that contributes to the long-term well-being or quality of life of the community and region.

Q. How is "community well-being" defined?

A. Only the community can decide what is in its long-term interest and whether this project will help the community both protect what is important and help achieve the community's long-term goals and objectives. Each community may define "well-being" differently. A broad approach will help highlight the resources (social, economic, environmental) of the community and pave the way for thinking about how the project may affect the community in a variety of ways. Depending on the community's vision for itself, this may include a broad range of elements, such as:

- Safety and security
- Economic health
- The environment
- Cultural dimensions
- Spiritual dimensions
- Social conditions
- Enhancing opportunities for people and communities.

The project offers significant employment and income to the host community, region and province. However, with a project of this size and nature, there is the potential to contribute to social and economic pressures that must be carefully managed. The NWMO will work with the community to identify the processes and supports the NWMO will need to put in place to ensure the project helps foster well-being.

Q. What are some of the key factors to be considered?

A. The NWMO will work with the community to consider the effects of the project on factors such as:

- Health and safety of residents and the community
- Sustainable built and natural environments
- Local and regional economy and employment
- Community administration and decision making processes
- Balanced growth and a healthy, livable community
- Ability to avoid ecologically sensitive areas and locally significant features
- Availability of physical infrastructure required to implement the project
- Ability of the community, and the social infrastructure it has in place, to adapt to changes resulting from the project
- Availability of routes and associated infrastructure to transport used fuel from existing storage facilities to the repository site, or the potential to put these routes in place
- The NWMO resources required to put in place physical and social infrastructure needed to support the project
- Other factors identified by the community.

The ability of the community to benefit from the project, and the resources that would be required from the NWMO to support the community in achieving this benefit, would be a consideration in the selection of a site after all safety considerations have been satisfied.

Q. How is the NWMO supporting communities?

A. The NWMO encourages communities, early in the site selection process, to consider this project in the context of their long-term interests. The NWMO provides resources to communities in the site selection process to develop a community sustainability vision or plan. This is designed to help the community in thinking about whether or not this project does or does not align with the long-term objectives, goals and interests of the community.



Jo-Ann Facella is the Director of Social Research and Dialogue at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. She has worked for prominent public opinion firms (Gallup Canada and Goldfarb Consultants) and as Senior Advisor at Ontario Power Generation before joining the NWMO in 2002. Over the past 20 years, her work has focused on public involvement in policy making, and in particular, societal needs and expectations concerning the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Ms. Facella has a master's degree in Political Science.

"Ask the NWMO" is an advertising feature published regularly in this and other community newspapers to respond to readers' questions about Canada's plan for managing used nuclear fuel over the long term and its implementation. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization welcomes your questions. Please forward your questions to askthenwmo@nwmo.ca.

For more on community well-being, please visit:
www.nwmo.ca/community_wellbeing



www.nwmo.ca

Silver Sage provides affordable housing for Regina families



(Left to right) Regina Coun. Wade Murray FHQTC Tribal Chairman Edmund Bellegarde, Elder Murray Ironchild and Regina Walsh Acres MLA Warren Steinley cut the ribbon at Silver Sage.

By Kerry Benjoe
For Eagle Feather News

The Silver Sage Housing Corp. is breaking new ground in the housing business.

Less than a year since the sod was turned, 24 affordable rental units in north Regina are now complete.

A grand opening was held at the site, located on the 300 block of Wascana Street. The \$5.5-million project was made possible with \$2.3 million from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, \$240,000 from the City of Regina and the remainder provided by the Silver Sage Housing Corp.

Silver Sage is a non-profit housing organization that provides housing for First Nations people, but the new rental housing development is open to any Regina resident who is interested. Rent for the two and three bedroom units ranges from \$850 to \$940 a month.

Edmund Bellegarde, tribal chairman of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, said it's great to finally see the units complete. Silver Sage is one of the entities overseen by the Tribal Council.

"It's a very proud day for us," he said. "It's something that brings dreams to reality in terms of our young First Nations families who are finding it difficult to find affordable housing. With the economy the way it is, housing prices, the rental market,

these (type of) houses you would never find them for less than \$1,000 in this housing market. It's brand-new, affordable housing for 24 families."

Warren Steinley, MLA for Regina Walsh Acres, said the opening of the rental units is good news for Regina.

"Obviously when you create housing anywhere in Regina there is a trickle-down effect," he said. "The more people that (move) into these housing units, it means more spaces available for other people. But housing is still an issue in Regina and we're still working hard (on it)."


Although it took only a little over two years from concept to completion, Bellegarde said, it wasn't an easy task to accomplish.

"Public opposition was very prominent by those few residents, who didn't have the information on the project," he said.

Bellegarde said those who opposed the development thought it was going to be a social housing or an income-assisted housing project.

"It's not that at all," he said. "It's affordable housing for working people. All of the people that are going to be living here are working families and it's something that we are very proud of."

He believes the housing will help to increase the value of other homes in the area.



Arts Board Deadlines

The Saskatchewan Arts Board announces the following deadlines for applications to programs that support the work of Saskatchewan artists and arts organizations:

- Independent Artists**
Deadline: October 1, 2012
- Culture on the Go***
Deadline: October 15, 2012
- SaskFestivals - Project****
Deadline: October 15, 2012
- ArtsSmarts/TreatySmarts****
Deadline: November 1, 2012
- Professional Arts Organizations - Annual****
Deadline: November 1, 2012
- Indigenous Pathways Initiative - Grants to Artists**
Deadline: November 15, 2012
- Creative Partnerships - Explorations****
Deadline: November 15, 2012

For grant descriptions and applications, visit:
www.artsboard.sk.ca/grants

APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE.

**This program is funded in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**These programs are funded in part through the financial assistance of SaskCulture Inc. with funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD
 Phone: (306) 787-4056 (Regina) Email: grants@artsboard.sk.ca
 (306) 984-1155 (Saskatoon) Website: www.artsboard.sk.ca
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Our mission is to cultivate an environment in which the arts thrive for the benefit of everyone in Saskatchewan.




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CAREER PRESENTATION	PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES
October 2 at 6 PM SIAST, Wascana Campus 4500 Wascana Parkway Regina, SK	2 octobre à 18 h SIAST, campus de Wascana 4500 Wascana Parkway Regina (SK)
JOIN THE RCMP	DEVENEZ MEMBRE DE LA GRC
CAREER PRESENTATION	PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES
October 2 at 6 PM SIAST, Kelsey Campus Idylwyld & 33rd Street, Main Bldg. Saskatoon, SK	2 octobre à 18 h SIAST, campus de Kelsey Immeuble principal, Idylwyld et 33rd St Saskatoon (SK)
Attendance at a career presentation is now the mandatory first step in the application process. / Assister à une séance d'information sur les carrières est maintenant la première étape obligatoire du processus de recrutement.	
1-877-RCMP-GRC (1-877-726-7472)	




Kennedy speaking at The Trading Place

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is coming back to Saskatoon to share his vision of the environment.

Kennedy, an environmental law expert and activist, will be the keynote speaker at "The Trading Place", Saskatchewan's premier economic development conference in September.



ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.

"The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is pleased that once again Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will share with us his thoughts on the environment and a sustainable economy," says FSIN Interim Chief Morley Watson.

"As stewards of the land, First Nations understand the importance of a healthy environment. A healthy environment means healthy people

and a healthy economy."

Kennedy spoke at the FSIN's "Only a Matter of Time" conference in October 2005.

The impressive list of speakers participating at "The Trading Place" conference continues to grow and includes: Wab Kinew, host of CBC's 8th Fire, Dan Caldwell, founder of the TapouT clothing line, Calvin Helin, author of the 2006 book *Dances with Dependency: Indigenous Success through Self-Reliance* and Kiowa Gordon, actor from the *Twilight Saga* who plays the role of Embry Call. A list of industry speakers will be released in the coming days.

The conference – to be held September 24-25 in Saskatoon – will bring together leaders from the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as the 74 First Nation Chiefs, Councillors, Economic Development Corporations, CEOs, Presidents, to address one of the most critical issues affecting growth and development today – working with First Nations.

Together, in a collaborative and learning environment, all stakeholders will share ideas and combine forces to bring a better understanding which will facilitate growth and development and ultimately foster a win-win situation for all to benefit.

The conference includes workshops, panels, plenary sessions, Indian Market and Exhibits.

Aboriginal entrepreneurs key to economic future



Aboriginal people, communities and businesses will have to play a key role in the future economic development of Canada. The 2012 Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference and Trade Show (AECTS 2012) October 15-16 will deliver an important opportunity for economic development players in the Aboriginal community to connect with major developers from the private sector and learn how to fully participate in the many lucrative projects currently being initiated in Canada.

"Aboriginal entrepreneurs are key players in the formation of strong, self-sufficient communities and are poised to participate in the more than 500 projects in the energy, mining and forestry pipeline with a combined worth of \$500 Billion, for example Plan Nord in Quebec, the Ring of Fire in Ontario, potash in Saskatchewan, biofuels in Alberta, mining in BC and North of 60," says John Beaucage, Chairman, Indigenous.net

This year the Aboriginal Human Resource Council (AHRC) was selected to host the two-day event, which will involve 400 participants and over 40 exhibitors.

"Companies that build business partnerships with the Aboriginal community and position themselves as employers-of-choice for Aboriginal talent will have an advantage as

Canada's Aboriginal labour market continues to grow six times faster than our non-Aboriginal market," says Kelly J. Lendsay, President and CEO, AHRC.

"We are honoured to be host to this conference, as it fits with our mandate to help employers advance Aboriginal inclusion through the workplace."

Supporting Federal departments include Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

In a unique twist, in the weeks following the conference, Indigenous.net will provide a site allowing participants to maintain connections with Aboriginal businesses and deliver valuable tools and resources. This site will also develop a free interactive online textbook featuring the material covered at the conference, with the support of academic sponsors, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology and Negahneewin College, for a social entrepreneurship credit course planned for 2013.

To top it off, there will also be a number of successful Aboriginal Entrepreneurship stories from the conference and this year again indigenous.net will be providing a complete video capture of the conference and daily 'live' update at www.indigenous.net

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Netmaker snags three more ABEX nominations

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Kendall Netmaker and his brand, Neechie Gear, just keep on rolling along. Not long after he opened his own retail store in the Centre Mall in Saskatoon, Netmaker and Neechie Gear are finalists for three ABEX Awards, the highest honour in business in Saskatchewan.

“We do it for the exposure and publicity,” said Netmaker of the awards he gets nominated for.

“Last year we got lots of exposure (from an ABEX nomination) and this year with three nominations, we hope to win one. The award is bonus, but realistically I do it for the brand and marketing.”

Netmaker and Neechie Gear are up for Young Entrepreneur, Aboriginal Partnership and Community Involvement.

Netmaker is business savvy beyond his 25 years of age. He has been managing himself with a plan since he was a youngster in sports being raised by a single mother. He has earned thousands of dollars in business plan competitions and has

received numerous awards. His ABEX nominations are proof that this rising star has officially risen.

In total, 46 nominations from outstanding Saskatchewan businesses

were selected as finalists within the 10 ABEX categories.

“The quality and diversity of these finalists really showcases the way in which Saskatchewan’s economy is taking

a leadership role within Canada, and across the global stage,” said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

“This year’s slate of nominees is an interesting combination of established businesses with proven achievement records and more recent enterprises that truly show the innovative nature of the latest generation of Saskatchewan entrepreneurs.”

Imagine That Media, McNair Business Development, Neechie Gear and Breck Scaffold Solutions are battling it out in the Aboriginal Partnership category. Of note, the Aboriginal owned ABDLP Limited Partnership is up for Growth and Expansion.

Next for Neechie Gear is expansion into Prince Albert and, hopefully, some ABEX awards in October. And Netmaker is taking it all in stride.

“I’m nervous but it is a good nervous,” added Netmaker. “I like to use it to my advantage. I saw a quote the other day that hit home. ‘Be happy. Be Proud, but never satisfied.’ That’s how I live my life.”



It has become a bit of a Facebook sensation. People who shop at Neechie Gear, want their picture taken out front with Kendall, then put on his facebook. We got our Neechie Gear and photo. Have you?
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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A CHANCE TO

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LEARN MORE at:
www.Indigenous.Net/sendme

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Bold Eagle program included Aboriginal teachings, support

The Land Force Western Area Training Centre in Wainwright, Alberta was the place to be on August 16. There you would be witness as 81 Bold Eagle graduates stood proudly on parade in front of 300 people who came to celebrate their graduation.



These Army Reserve recruits had just completed an intensive six-week program designed around a proven concept – a basic military qualification (BMQ) course that incorporates Aboriginal cultural teachings and support.

The graduation acknowledged their commitment to having completed the challenges of the program and the related BMQ.

Over 300 spectators comprised of military and Aboriginal dignitaries, family, friends, community leaders, elders and veterans watched the graduates as they were inspected by the two reviewing officers and as the award winners accepted their well deserved trophies.

The graduates join over 1,200 other soldiers who have completed the training over the last 23 years.

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Atoske program opens career doors for Aboriginal job seekers

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Kiesha Martin spent two weeks this summer being paid to improve her employment skills and she couldn't be happier about it.

"I earned my First Aid/CPR, WHMIS, Play Leadership, and Introduction to Coaching and Canoeing Certification during this program and all of the certificates will help me as I enter into nursing at the University of Saskatchewan in the fall," said Keisha moments before she and



KIESHA MARTIN

her fellow students were set to participate in a graduation ceremony at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. "On top of it all, I got to make new friends and meet new people." Martin was in the Atoske Summer Training Program which is an opportunity for Aboriginal youth to enhance their life and employment skills while exploring various career options offered through the City of Saskatoon and other program partners. The word "atoske" comes from the Cree word, which means "work".

The program began in 2008, and consists of an intensive two-week training camp for youth ages 16-19.

The Atoske students were joined with graduates from another City of Saskatoon program. The Aboriginal Heavy

Equipment Operator and 1A License Pre employment Training Program is designed to train men and women to prepare for employment opportunities in the Saskatoon and Saskatchewan labour market.

Ramona Balzer, moved to Saskatoon from Hamilton, Ontario over a year ago because Saskatchewan is booming and her birth dad is from out here.

"I came to start a new life," said Balzer and she credits the heavy equipment program with providing just that.

"We had two months for heavy duty training. For the 1A license it was two weeks. Now I have four tickets to drive heavy machinery including the loader, dozer, excavator and grader, and we also received WHMIS, safety, first aid and a construction site ticket.

"(I) Highly recommend this to others because it is better than working Tim Horton's. This opens so many doors where I can get a career."

The City of Saskatoon, in various partnerships with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Saskatoon Tribal Council Urban First Nations Services, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT), and PotashCorp, all contribute to the Aboriginal Heavy Equipment Operator and 1A License Pre employment Training Program, and the Atoske Summer Training Program.

In 2011, all of the graduates of the heavy equipment program got jobs in and around Saskatoon. As a matter of fact all graduates are guaranteed a job with the City of Saskatoon.

"I got a job working at the landfill driving a dozer," said Balzer. "It is hard to explain what it is like to drive those things, but it is really comfortable, like playing Nintendo. Two joy sticks and you have to watch everything around you. That's the thing I learned the most.



Ramona Balzer moved to Saskatoon from Hamilton in order to get in on the boom. Thanks to a program partnership between Gabriel Dumont Institute, the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Balzer is now a heavy equipment operator for the City. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"You can't daydream." Kiesha Martin took away many memories, skills and friendships and was very grateful for the opportunity.

"I can't believe we got paid for this," exclaimed Kiesha. "It really improved my employability skills and going into nursing

the first aid I learned will help and is transferable and I learned I want to work with people.

"I recommend this program because you make great friendships, the training is amazing and helps you in future employment and education."

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Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

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Equality? You can't handle equality!

Maurice Jones-Drew of Swift Current writes: "There's this guy at work, Bruce Hamster-naughts. He's giving me a hard time about Treaty rights, Indians get free stuff, and 'you're only here 'cause of affirmative action'. He ends all his pompous I'm your daddy lectures with, 'when are we all going to be equal?' What do you say to a guy like this?"

For starters, you gotta see this from his perspective.

First, he may be whining about the good ol' days when trailer trash like he and his cheezies eatin' mama would look down on Indians. He probably suspects he only got his job by the skin of his hairy, snuff stained teeth.

Now Indians are competing in the job market? With our reading abilities, washed clothes, jet black hair wafting in the wind, and firm buttocks showing through our overalls like two puppies wrestling? And skills, fresh out of one of them there learnin' buildings, where they teach stuff and the like?

Hamsterballs must be feeling mighty threatened by yer fancy book smarts and what not. So he deflects responsibility for his failed, miserable life by blaming a group of people he knows nothing about. It's lazy. It's easy.

Second, my guess is Gerbilnuts must

have had a classical education courtesy of the Saskatchewan gummint because he appears to labour under certain delusions created by this notion of equality.

So let's talk about equality. Everyone is supposed to love it. It's one of those closely held truths that is quietly injected into our collective minds since we set foot in kindergarten.

For example, to be nice we must give everyone the same share of the pie. To be fair everyone must get a turn at bat. To be just we must treat everyone the same. No one should be treated differently.

But what our teachers did not and could not tell us in social studies is that we don't all start out from equal places. It's an advantage to be born in some places and not in others.

For instance, to be born an Indian means ...

... your chances of kicking the bucket as a baby are three times higher than other rug rats.

... your risk of suicide is six times higher than other desperate people in need of help.

... there's a 94 per cent chance you will not go to university. In fact, there is a 66 per cent chance you will not finish high school.

... your chances of unemployment and poverty are five times higher than other

yahoos that want to work.

... if Mom and/or Dad is working they bring home 25,000 simoleans while other parents snag 46,600.

And if you are blessed by the Creator to be a fabulous creature gifted with ability to bring life into the world being an Indian woman means ...

... by the time you are 18 years old there is a 75 per cent chance you will be sexually assaulted.

... your chances of being murdered are almost seven times higher than other women.

Incarceration rates are just too fantastic to comprehend. Let's just say your chances of staying at the Iron Bar Hotel are greater if your parents are residential school survivors, if you are a foster kid, or if you are a woman.

To change these ridiculous realities for the better, on-reserve Indian schools get \$6,400 per whippersnapper, while the town kids get \$10,000, and French immersion papooses get \$18,000.

Now you and I know things were done in the past that set in motion an unrelenting chain of events. Stopping that momentum, or changing its direction takes courage and brains and honour.



Taking a stand against courage, brains and honour is the Cons gang, based in Ottawa – thank you John Lagimodiere for identifying this delightful bunch of thugs.

In 2011, the Cons killed the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, setting its demise for September, 2012. Earlier this year, the Cons decimated the NAHO crew in an evening raid on April 12, 2012.

Who is NAHO? The National Aboriginal Health Organization was a band of healers dedicated not only to identifying problems but solving them.

But it was inconvenient for the Cons. Perhaps the NAHO's brought to light too many embarrassing statistics or workable solutions ... solutions that may have defied the ideal of equality.

The ideal of equality obscures problems, their origins and solutions from view so we don't have to look at them and take action. Equality doesn't work. We need better standards to make judgements about our conditions and destinies.

So next time Bruce Dingleballs gets in your face, throw him a couple of these wonder filled facts and tell him, "yeah, we should all be equal. All Canadians should be treated like us. Then we will be equal!"

Between you and me, I think Head Con Steve is working on that. It's lazy. It's easy.

Dirk says, There is always one more moron than you counted on.

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers' Circle Inc. Presents

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Special Guest: Daniel David Moses

Playwright, poet, and teacher, Daniel David Moses is a Delaware from the Six Nations Reserve. He teaches playwriting in the Drama Department, Queen's University as an Associate Professor.

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Annual Fall Conference Joint Session with Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival. Go to www.sawci.com for registration and more information.

Friday, Oct. 26, 2012 - Saturday October 27, 2012

Events include the following: Panel discussion, poetry, fiction and drama workshops, author lectures and readings, and the SAWCI AGM

Panelists: Marilyn Dumont, Daniel David Moses, Paul Sewagepak, Curtis Pomeroy, Sylvia Tyson and others

Aboriginal Writers' Pitch Session with Publishing Consultant, Anita Lange. Must pre-register by Oct. 15, 2012.

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Province consulting with arts community

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

The provincial government is trying to consult with creative industries in all areas and sectors to gather and create ideas and strategies, including adoption of new and emerging digital technology.

“Through the consultations, we want to engage people and businesses in creative industries such as commercial music and sound recording, writing and publishing, craft and visual arts, film and multi-media including animators and game developers, and theatre and dance businesses,” says Parks, Culture, and Sport Minister Kevin Doherty.

The first step in consultation is a discussion paper and key questions online, launched in July at www.pcs.gov.sk.ca/culture, where feedback can be submitted electronically until the middle of September. The next step will be a series of focus groups.

“If people want to participate in the focus groups, they should contact us as soon as possible – before September 21, ideally – since those launch in October,” noted Susan Hetu of the Parks, Culture and Sport office.

“We know there are lots of entrepreneurial First Nations and Métis people out there so we’re hoping they will help us engage.”

The government is particularly interested in advancing the objectives of the entrepreneurs who already exist to “increase the quality of life in the province and build an even stronger Saskatchewan,” noted Hetu.

“We wanted to talk to creative industries about how can we create a critical mass, how can we maybe use some of the existing resources to advance the commerce of creative industries – what are some of the challenges around adopting digital technology? How can we leverage investments and partnership opportunities?”

“How do we facilitate a comprehensive approach to industry growth? How might we repurpose the production studio? What kinds of supports and services do entrepreneurs need to grow their businesses?”

With over 1,000 hits to their site since it went up, they’re hoping there will be a number of submissions made, but they’re particularly hoping the First Nations

and Metis sector will also engage.

“The idea is working with and through the industry to develop a strategy. We want to have some sort of plan to present the government with later this fall,” Hetu explained.

“The idea is, we’re having consultations so we can create a favourable market, so these businesses can really innovate and thrive.”

One of the four provincial government MLAs asked to participate on a Cabinet Committee on Creative Industries, to assist with consultations, input, and the focus groups, is MLA Jennifer Campeau.

“Whenever I visit in the schools, I always ask who has a kohkum or relative that makes moccasins or star-blankets and sells them, and there are always a few hands that go up,” noted Campeau.

“I know a lot of entrepreneurs – whether it’s moccasins or crafting or traditional artisans, and we want to get those people involved as well – or the youth. A lot of youth are involved in entrepreneurial activities, too. We have such a rich community and a diversity of arts in the Aboriginal community, so we’re tapping into that and letting them know that there is money available; there is an entrepreneurial spirit in our communities anyway.”

Campeau has been reaching out to her networks within the Aboriginal communities, via contacts and word-of-mouth – and encourages others she may not yet know or have thought of, to contact her or the office to get involved with this process of consultation, or even grant applications. She referred to the widely-quoted prophecy that is attributed to Louis Riel: “My people will sleep for 100 years but when they awaken it will be the artists who will bring their spirit back.”

Campeau believes that interpreting these words and this spirit of artistry into commercial ventures and businesses that can continue to develop self-sufficiency while marketing unique wares and products is something Riel would have approved of: a cultural means of retaining independence and a connection to traditional values and norms.

“I just really want to encourage people basically to kind of grow our community that way, using the entrepreneurial spirit to diversify it,” Campeau noted, adding



JENNIFER CAMPEAU

that she wants to ensure all arts and aspects of culture are represented.

“We don’t just want to have it all go into one discipline – there are so many different artists and business people in our community at all levels.”

While the film tax credit has been abolished, the Province is hoping that a non-refundable tax credit, along with new digital technology, might make a difference to existing sectors of the arts community in all disciplines. Hetu explained that while the film tax credit meant that a cheque would be issued for the difference between taxes owed and the credit paid, a non-refundable tax credit could be applied to all taxes owed over a 14 year span (ten years in the past and four into the future.)

Hetu can be contacted via the website, or at susan.hetu@gov.sk.ca; Campeau, the Saskatoon Fairview MLA, can be contacted at Jennifer.Campeau@Saskparty.com.

CULTURE

Moving Saskatchewan's Creative Industries Forward

Building a Long-term Strategy

Are you a First Nation or Métis person or business working in the production of music, sound, writing, publishing, craft, visual arts, film, multi-media, theatre or dance?

If so, the Government of Saskatchewan would like to hear from you.

A consultation is underway that will inform the development of a comprehensive strategy to help creative people and businesses increase their sales, revenue and attract investment. This is how you can get involved.

Go to www.pcs.gov.sk.ca/Culture for more information and to find the discussion paper **Moving Saskatchewan's Creative Industries Forward - Building a Long-term Strategy**.

You have until September 15th to contribute through the on-line survey. If you would like to be part of a discussion group contact:

Susan.Hetu@gov.sk.ca

Parks, Culture and Sport
4th Floor - 1919 Saskatchewan Drive
Regina, S4P 4H2

(306) 787-0730

Bill Cook incorporates Cree language into his music

The best art truly reflects its artist. That is because it is born from somewhere deep down inside, and life manages to align situations and events in a way which can only be interpreted by the artist.

I've been fortunate enough to witness another instance of this: in a type of new music created by Bill Cook, from Southend, in Northern Saskatchewan. He sings alternative/pop/rock, allowing his Cree language to meld effortlessly into his music by way of phrases and verses, and sometimes entire songs, depending on the music's needs.

is not only brilliant, but also makes learning fun. "I use music as a teaching tool. I teach Cree at the University of Regina and also the University of Saskatchewan,"

says Cook. "There are different learning styles. Some people like games, some people like to talk. Some people like to write. There are different ways to learn and different ways to teach as well. It's that awareness of language – music being an



only a handful.

"I have no dreams of becoming famous. I like to have fun and just wish someone would come listen to me. Everybody knows when

on youtube. Hopefully he'll have an EP or two out in November. I look forward to rocking out to my Rock Cree CD and I think you should get one too!

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think could be featured in Eagle Feather News, give me a shout at: snazzy-jess@hotmail.com. See you next month!

you're not enjoying it. I learned that teaching. If I'm bored, they're bored. For now I'm having fun, and it's never too late or too early to start something."

Catch Bill Cook's music on reverbNation, where he has two songs posted. I also found a full Cree song of his



Bill Cook is proud to include Cree lyrics in his music.

He doesn't follow a formula, or decide on how much Cree to use, but allows the song to form itself.

He was part of the rock band, Indifference, for years, but wanted to explore more of his own style of music and began writing Cree lyrics, something that came naturally to him as a Cree speaker and a Cree teacher. Cook knew that the innovative direction he hoped to follow would likely be a solo venture. He describes it with a suitable analogy: "It's like having three musicians in a canoe. If we're not paddling together, we'll never get anywhere."

The shift in his musical focus began in 2000.

Since then he's been working on getting some EPs done so that he can use these recordings to apply for grants with the goal of eventually funding an entire album. He has enough material to span at least two albums.

I'm eagerly anticipating what he comes up with for a multitude of reasons:

1) I love Cree, but I love music in many different languages, period. Great music doesn't require words, and sometimes they can be a superfluous hindrance, but when used correctly, as Cook does in many of his songs, it highlights the simple beauty of the Cree language.

2) Using Cree songs as teaching tools

everyday thing, it really helps to try and spread the use of language through music. I'm just trying to teach Cree, and it's kind of catchy music as well."

3) His Cree pride is so inspiring, it's almost palpable. In a time where fewer and fewer people are learning and speaking their Native languages, it is refreshing to see someone embracing their roots and sharing their gift of language with others, and at the same time entertaining them too.

While working with some Elders, Cook learned the traditional name of his people, in Northern Saskatchewan: "Asiniy Nēhithiwak" translates to "Rock Cree" in English, using a 'th' dialect. He thought this definition was an apt double entendre, describing both his people, as well as his music – being a Cree singer in a rock genre.

The stories he tells through his music are often relatable to the audience, garnering him positive feedback. Two years ago, at a time in his life when he wasn't sure of whether or not to pursue Rock Cree music he entered the MBC talent search, and won. With the support of his listeners, he has carved a new and original niche, at a very fortuitous time - when Aboriginal musicians are burgeoning onto Canada's musical scene.

However, he's always grateful to anyone who shows up to listen to him play, whether it's a crowd of hundreds, or

the hours that remain

by Keith Barker
directed by David Storch

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SNTC – NWAC partner to promote awareness for missing and murdered sisters

By Larissa Burnouf
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) has signed a partnership with the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation (SAWCC) to further create awareness about the growing epidemic of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada.

The two groups wish to promote advocacy through the arts while remembering and honoring those who have disappeared and were taken. In Canada, more than 620 Aboriginal women have gone missing or were murdered.

SAWCC president Judy Hughes personally knows the feeling of having a loved one vanish.

"I have a friend who's been missing since she was 16," remembers Hughes. "About 40 years ago, and we still don't know whether she's alive or not."

She feels the partnership between the two groups was a natural progression

SAWCC and SNTC will co-produce a play called 'The Hours That Remain' which was written by Ontario Métis playwright Keith Barker.

Barker began penning the play after learning about the growing number of Aboriginal women who have gone missing or were found murdered on northern British Columbia's infamous Highway of Tears.

"I can't imagine what the families of missing women must go through from day-to-day not knowing what has happened to their loved ones," explains Barker. "I hope this play stands as a starting point, a conversation that needs to begin."

The Hours That Remain centers on Denise, who is haunted by the disappearance of her sister Michelle, who vanished on the Highway of Tears. Struggling with the devastating loss of a loved one, Denise desperately seeks answers as she is visited by Michelle through a series of visions.

"The play itself is very strong, very emotional and very powerful," describes SNTC's creative director Colin Peeteetuce.

Hughes feels the seemingly taboo topic of missing and murdered Aboriginal women needs to be explored further and by more groups, creating more partnerships so that more can be done for the families.

"Looking at how do they report properly, how do they work with the RCMP, how do they deal with the situation," says Hughes.

She also feels SAWCC needs to be welcomed more and invited to the table when larger groups meet to discuss sensitive and important issues involving First Nations and Metis people, like the FSIN, MN-S and Governments, "so that Aboriginal women have a voice too."

SNTC plans to dedicate each performance of the play to a family and memory of a missing and murdered Aboriginal woman.

Toronto's New Harlem Productions was involved in the early stages of the play which will have its world premiere in Saskatoon.

A preview of the play will be held on October 4, the same day the Sisters in Spirit vigils are set to be staged across the country in remembrance of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.



Artistic director Curtis Peeteetuce is proud of the team at SNTC.

SNTC staging an exciting season

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company is starting to roll again. The Company has moved into new digs that they share with the Troupe de Jour Theatre Company and to much fanfare they just recently launched their new season.

They also have reason to celebrate the fact that their last offering Where The Blood Mixes has been nominated for eight Saskatoon and Area Theatre Awards.

This news makes SNTC Artistic Director Curtis Peeteetuce very happy.

"This is exciting news for us," said Peeteetuce at the launch of the new season.

Peeteetuce, Robert Benz and Carol Greyeyes all were nominated for Achievement in Performance and they also got the nod for set design, sound design by Lindsay 'Eekwol' Knight, Achievement in Direction and Design as well as Production.

"We are extremely proud of our artists and administration team for this."

The SNTC season opens with The Hours That Remain, followed by the seasonal classic How the Chief Stole Christmas produced entirely in Cree with English subtitles. They then host Agokwe and close the season with the much anticipated Cafe Daughter by local playwright Ken Williams. Cafe Daughter is about the life of Canadian Senator Lillian Dyck.

"Cafe Daughter will be amazing," said Peeteetuce. "It is a play about a woman from George Gordon First Nation, written by a playwright from George Gordon First Nation and the lead will be Kristin Rose Friday, an actress from George Gordon First Nation. I don't think that has ever happened before."

SNTC also plans to begin their groundbreaking youth training program Circle of Voices this fall.

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Jenna Tanner

Sport: Fastball

Position: Pitcher

First Nation: Cowessess

Number: 22

Nickname: Two's, Deuces

Job: Teacher at Payepot

School

GOZ: You won the national fastball title. What is it like to play in a game of that magnitude?

DEUCES: Our team slowly worked our way up to Canadians. We are a young club that tries very hard. In 2008 we got fourth, 2009 we got third, 2010 we got second and in 2011 we got first. I felt as though this was our game, so I guess you could say I was cool as a cucumber!

GOZ: Name the player (pro or not, male or female) you'd most like to pitch against. Do you strike him or her out? Sacrifice fly?

DEUCES: I would love the opportunity to pitch against Jenny Finch, she is a good hitter/pitcher and she could teach me a few things about location when facing batters. I would love to say I would strike her out lol, but in the heat of the game things happen that go beyond your control, however I would do my best!

GOZ: Favorite baseball movie of all time? Why?

DEUCES: Definitely A League of Their Own. I liked the show because the woman could play ball and it was in a time where woman ball players were viewed as being fragile and weak and the men made fun of them. But then there was Marla Hooch who could crush dingers!

GOZ: If you weren't an all-star pitcher, you'd be a star in what other sport?

DEUCES: I would have loved to play basketball professionally, but I am too short lol

GOZ: Besides baseball, what do you do for fun?

DEUCES: I enjoy shooting hoops and working out. I also enjoy hanging out with

my family and friends and laughing until we are so sore that it feels like we did 100 sit-ups. lol



GOZ: Who are your heroes?

DEUCES: My hero is my dad. We still pitch for hours at home, and practice my old pitches and new ones as well. Catching for him still freaks me out, sometimes. He has some deadly junk that I would like to learn and master some day!

GOZ: So, let's pretend you're at the new Yankee Stadium and the home team has exhausted their rotation. They ask for a brave fan to come pitch for them for a one-day contract. Do you volunteer and let your heat fly? Or do you stay comfortable in your seat?

DEUCES: I would play! That would be an awesome experience, wouldn't give that up for the world!

GOZ: What else are you up to these days? School? Work?

DEUCES: I recently convocated in 2011 with my Bachelor of Education Degree and currently teach at Payepot School teaching Grade 4.

GOZ: Place in the world you'd most like to visit. Why? Who would you go with?

DEUCES: I would love to go to Cuba. I hear they play ball all year round I wish that we could do that here. It would be an amazing experience as a lot of their players get picked up to play in MLB.

GOZ: Any superstitions or rituals before pitching? Is it any different if you're not scheduled to pitch?

DEUCES: I do have to warm up pitching with the catcher that is catching for me in the game, and when I am out going out there I like my coach to pass me the ball, nobody else.



Jenna Tanner was recently named MVP at the FSIN Softball Provincial Championships in Regina.

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