

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Support for Aboriginal gov't workers

Wavell Starr, Manager of the Aboriginal Government Employees Network shares a moment with media star Wab Kinew before Kinew closed the AGEN conference with a key note address. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



### AGEN support helps employees climb the ladder

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Wavell Starr has the ability to motivate people in at least two ways. One interesting method is as a professional wrestler where he motivates people's faces into the mat. The other more productive way is through his work at the Aboriginal Government Employees Network (AGEN).

Employees from a myriad of different government and crown departments are members of AGEN, a unique organization dedicated to partnering, promoting and supporting workplace environments that are committed to the recruitment, retention and advancement of Aboriginal employees throughout the Government of Saskatchewan.

Starr is an Aboriginal Talent Consultant for the Public Service Commission of Saskatchewan and

General Manager of AGEN, which recently hosted its 20th annual conference. To celebrate in a big way, the committee rounded up an amazing and eclectic group of speakers and topics including actress Ashley Callinbull, MNC President Clem Chartier, Treaty Advocates Pamela Palmater, Colby Tootoosis, former Indian Brotherhood Grand Chief Noel Starblanket and motivational speaker, broadcaster and host of CBC's 8th Fire, Wab Kinew.

"Aboriginal people face barriers in employment," said Starr. "At AGEN we like to get together and offer support for our peers. That supports allows us to retain employees and get them moving up the ranks. "We see a clash of the cultures and barriers deter people. AGEN builds camaraderie and support so people can be comfortable."

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Welcome to our  
Role Model Edition

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# Walk honours memory of missing and murdered Aboriginal women

By Andréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

The seventh annual October 4 Sisters In Spirit walk hosted by Saskatoon's Iskewuk E-wichiwitochik (Women Walking Together) had the highest local turnout so far, with several hundred supporters.

After opening with Elder's prayer, Oskayak's Iskotek Drum Group provided the Honour Song and led drumming during the march.

Geraldine Arcand brought greetings from the FSIN Women's Commission, while Tori-Lynn Wanotch and Myrna LaPlante hosted the event on behalf of the eight-person Iskewuk E-Wichiwitochik committee, the driving force behind local events, which were also held in La Loche, La Ronge, Onion Lake, Prince Albert, Regina, Lloydminster, and Yorkton.

Across Turtle Island vigils were held in honour of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women and all people missing or murdered – in Saskatoon there were also hand-posters for Hamza Alsharief, a local male university student who has been missing for months.

Internationally, nationally, and locally, the odds of a missing or murdered person being an Aboriginal woman are staggering, given the relatively small percentage of the national population they now represent.

For that reason, calls are being made by Amnesty International and Aboriginal Senator Lillian Dyck, among others, for a national inquiry.

"It's terrible that we have to be here," noted Dyck, adding that it was heartening to see the turnout and support, but her work on Parliament Hill was very draining because she was just one voice; many people don't understand the issues, while others in charge seem to deliberately turn their backs.

"The federal government has said that NWAC cannot even use the Sisters in Spirit logo," she said, pointing to the Grandmother Moon designed by B.C. Kwakwaka'wakw artist Dick Baker, adding to applause.

"So I take my (NWAC) bag into the Senate every day."

Dyck described federal cutbacks, and how NWAC has been forbidden to compile statistics or collect data on murdered and missing women.

She was threatened with arrest during a peaceful protest on Parliament.



Marchers took to the streets in Saskatoon in early October in a demonstration that gets larger every year. (Photo by Andréa Ledding)

"People need to be pushed on Parliament Hill," she noted, and then gave thanks to the local community, in particular the eight female organizers of the event, AI, and community supporters such as Sask Native Theatre Company and Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle Corporation which had co-sponsored a 10-day run of Keith Barker's play on the issue, "The Hours That Remain" which will run to the 14th, admitting family of missing or murdered women free of charge.

"It's the creative arts that really drive this into people's hearts and help them understand."

FSIN Vice-Chief Simon Bird called for men to do more to protect women.

"As leadership you carry a heavy burden and that walk today, the burden you carry, is nothing compared to the murdered and missing women, the families that are here trying to carry that burden with them."

"If you ever see anyone disrespecting a woman, I challenge you to step in and be that protector."

Karina Wolfe's mother, Carole, spoke movingly to the crowd through a sign-language interpreter about her daughter, who has been missing two years now.

"I miss her every day," she signed, adding not a day goes by that she doesn't think about her or wonder where she is or hope this is the day she turns up.

Greetings came from Saskatoon Police Service Deputy-Chief Bernie Pannell, and Dorothea Swiftwolfe, who is the Missing Person Liaison Officer working for Victim Services, a signalled presence that Saskatoon City Police are putting a priority on missing women and their families.

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## Editorial

### Pinocchio accounting at work

The legislation and funding for on-reserve schooling is a catastrophe. We are stuck with a funding source – the Federal government – that is controlled by the Cons Gang in Ottawa, a group that is so out of touch with reality it is a surprise they can find their way to work in the morning.

Despite numerous studies and sources as credible as the Assembly of First Nations, the Auditor General and former Prime Minister Paul Martin that insist that on reserve education funding falls well short of funding for off-reserve students, Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan continues to toe his party line that the funding is equal and adequate.

No small wonder that FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird has said “The government numbers are in fact fairy tales. Their falsified numbers are really Pinocchio accounting.”

You must also remember that Duncan has told bands that in order to top up their funding shortfalls the bands should go to private industry and solicit sponsorships from industry. This guy must be a great dancer because he can two-step around a treaty fiduciary responsibility better than a dance troupe at Back to Batoche.

This is not just about “money”. This is about opportunity for children, the economy and people’s lives. Watching the Cons Gang cut back investment and attack people that are so historically disadvantaged is like watching Silence of the Lambs all over again, but without the freaky mask.

This is a consistent pattern of disrespect coming from the Cons Gang in Ottawa and it is scary. The attitude has leaders like Vice Chief Bird standing up and calling schmutzy on the games these thugs are playing.

More worrisome is the tension building across Canada in Indian country. Will this winter be the start of a cold war with the government leading to action in spring like protest and civil disobedience?

All signs point to yes when you have a tyrannical government and a citizenship that is just fed up with lies, misdirection and other not so subtle forms of genocide Canadian style.

#### And now for something happier

We would much rather focus on the positives that are happening in the community regardless of the government and that’s why in October we publish our role model edition.

As challenging as the conditions can be in the community some days, when you hear of the dedication of teachers like Maureen Johns it certainly gives you hope for the future and for all the students that come in contact with teachers like her.

We also see police officers like Marc Bellanger of the Saskatoon Police Service returning to Saskatoon after almost a year in Afghanistan helping to improve the lives of people that truly know hardship.

Fiddle star Dallas Boyer and visionary Danis Goulet and countless others are out there just doing their thing and living good lives and supporting their families and that’s what it is all about.

So many role models to acknowledge, so little time. And that’s a good thing.



Dignitaries gathered at Wanuskeewin to acknowledge the 20th anniversary of the signing of the historic Treaty Land Entitlement settlement. From left to right back row: Vice Chief Dutch Lerat, Chief Mike Starr, Vice Chief Bobby Cameron, Deputy Minister Al Hilton, Dwayne Johns AANDC, Chief Cliff Tawpisin. Front: Elder William Stone, Chief Marie-Anne Daywalker-Pelletier, Treaty Commissioner George Lafond, Vice Chief Simon Bird and Chief Ross Allery. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

### Historic TLE signing cherished two decades later

September 22 marked an auspicious day in Saskatchewan’s history with the anniversary of the signing of the TLE agreement that originally saw 25 First Nations sign an agreement with the provincial and federal governments to settle outstanding Treaty land debt.

That original deal of \$445 million has now grown to include 33 bands and over \$500 million that has led to economic development and education opportunities for thousands of people.

These bands were originally shorted on land at the time of survey. Now, these Bands have been able to buy land and have it turned to reserve. This has led to the creation of 34 urban reserves across Saskatchewan with another 41 urban reserves in the system waiting to be created. Chief Marie-Anne Daywalker-Pelletier says her band, Okanese, acquired mostly agriculture land that they currently lease out to farmers in the area. The revenue goes back into their general funds and helps create employment and cover unfunded programs for services for elders, women and youth.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation was one of the first bands to invest in urban reserves and the benefits back to their community

have been reinvested several times.

“The Creator gave us the land. It is what we have as First Nations people. Our land means prosperity,” said Muskeg Lake Chief Cliff Tawpisin.

“The own source revenue from TLE lands has given us sustainability to address social issues in our community like health, labour force development, housing and education. We enhance programs to provide opportunity for success for our young people and to help take care of our old people and improve the quality of life for everyone.”

Treaty Commissioner George Lafond summed it up succinctly.

“Times were interesting leading up to the signing in 1992. Oka was still on peoples’ minds, the Chiefs were upset and not trusting, but there were leaders like Roland Crowe that said ‘No, we don’t take up arms and yes we have grievances and they are long but there is Treaty,’ and they came to the table,” said Commissioner Lafond.

“The leaders at that time agreed that relationships do matter and that by getting together they could make an agreement and make change for the young people in the future.”

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: John Lagimodiere, [JohnL@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:JohnL@eaglefeathernews.com)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Warren Goulding, [warrengoulding@yahoo.ca](mailto:warrengoulding@yahoo.ca)

ADVERTISING & SALES: Peggy Robillard, [peggy.robillard@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy.robillard@yahoo.com)

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# Appreciating education and our role models

The theme for this issue is education and role models so I am going to start with my visit to SIAST in Prince Albert last week where I was hosted by the Basic Education Department.

I cannot think of anything more inspiring than a classroom full of adults who have made the decision to go back to school. It is a decision that is brave and requires not only strength of character and discipline but also a love and commitment to family and community and, most importantly, the need to change what is.

My day started with the drive on River Road from Gabriel's Crossing to Prince Albert, which I am sure is one of the most beautiful on Earth especially in September. Both the river and the season always remind me of our Nokoms and the generations of our people who dreamed and worked for miyo pimatchihiwin, a good life for future generations.

"Kitiyseeneeminahwak" they would have said with pride. "Our people," which means so much more than the literal translation. The students were from all over Saskatchewan and the world for that matter. They were Michif, Cree, Dene, African, Asian, and all shades of "white" reminding me that today, family and community are

all of these and creating miyo pimatchihiwin must include and be respectful of all who are here.

Not always easy for me because I tend to harbor anger and bitterness but I was fortunate as a young woman to know the late Medric MacDougall, one of the Elders who spent his life working for a better world.

We were discussing the anger one feels at the racism and injustice we encountered almost everyday. When I asked him what to do with all the anger he said: "Use it as fuel to do your work, Maria, and you will be surprised at the amount you will get done."

Good advice because sometimes all that ugly can paralyze us and we get nothing done. I was also reminded of my grandmother as I spoke to the class. She told us children that the world was like the landscape around us. It was full of difference and to always remember how important that difference is to our well-being.

"Poplar trees and birch, pine and willow, tiger lilies and yarrow, bluebells and sweetgrass. Every single one of them make

our land rich and beautiful; imagine what it would be like if there was only birch trees."

Well this classroom was a rich and beautiful one and I was honored to be there.

Looking at the students I also remembered my sister and her

decision to get her GED and go to university in the early 1980s. It was a long, hard journey but she finished and she led the way for the rest of our family, my brother and his wife, my son and daughters, nieces and nephews.

It was not easy for any of them. There were, and still are, so many challenges that are unique to adults who decide to go to school.

Never having enough money, raising children, juggling family and school life. Then there is the never-ending job of dealing with family drama and trauma. It is often difficult, I am sure, for teachers to understand aboriginal students and all the responsibilities and obligations that are attached to their large extended families and how that affects life in a classroom.

I am not sure what it is like for non-

aboriginal students but for us it is often both a blessing and a curse, a colliding of cultures for sure. So, to the students at Prince Albert SIAST Basic Education Department you are my heroes and role models and I send my best wishes to you and to your teachers.

My other role models? Our Nokoms of course who taught us the principles of miyo pimatchihiwin, by their actions, deeds, stories, songs and love. My Mom who could turn a flour sack into a pretty dress and a piece of moose meat and a cup of porridge into a feast. My Dad who could not read and write but made sure we had art and books in our lives.

Mrs. Parks, the teacher whose knowledge and kindness are still a part of my life. My Aunty Leada who has given our big extended family unconditional love and support and who at 91 still rushes off to cook us a huge meal when we arrive. She is the essence of wahkotowin, teaching us by her actions the importance of family.

And last but not least, our editor John L., who has kept this small newspaper going and made room for all of us opinionated writers and who does not scream and tear his hair out when we are late and, most importantly, he pays us.

So have a great takqwakan autumn and hiyhiy, marci to all of you.



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# Trying to make sense of Harper's hard cuts

It is hard to understand the recently-announced federal slash and burn of the funding of First Nation political representative organizations and Tribal Councils.

The Harper government is definitely not cut out of the same mould as the Mulroney Conservatives of the 1980s, at least as concerns funding of Aboriginal organizations. Circumstances determine political expediency, so it might be a waste of time to engage in comparisons.

On the one hand, the issue will have been seen by the Harperites as a sure winner with 'Joe Six-Pack' in the corner pub who is an avid supporter and adherent to the myths about First Nations and government funding. Editorial support is also guaranteed from the journalistic world that slavers

*There is something ominous about the proposal to work with 'the willing'*

after the slogan of 'peace at the cheapest price' as the true guide for Aboriginal policy in Canada.

But a closer look complicates things. The costs of financing and thereby exercising a measure of control over the political action of persons or groups who might be disaffected with governments can be expected to be much lower than the costs of

the consequences of political action by the disaffected.

The kinds of actions open to the disaffected have the potential of upsetting budgetary planning and end up costing much more than the funding of political organizations.

Add to that the value of information and advice that the Aboriginal organizations provide the government. One wonders if the Harper tactics are overly impressed by the ideas of policy advisors who believe their ideas are the ones to pave the way for 'peace at the cheapest price.'

And there is something ominous about the proposal to work with 'the willing'. Reward friends and ignore or punish enemies?

Seems like a very un-Canadian approach.

## A KIWI PRIMER

Fresh from a short trip to New Zealand to participate in the first world conference of indigenous lawyers, it is a good time to reflect on some truths and myths about Aotearoa, 'the land of the long white cloud', which is so often mistaken for Australia by Canadians.

Australia is a huge continent; Aotearoa consists of two large islands a three-hour flight away to the south-east over 'the ditch', the Tasman Sea that separates the two former British colonies.

Australia is red and dry; New Zealand is green and wet. Australia is a federal system with six states and a central government; Aotearoa is a unitary state. Australia has over 20 million residents; New Zealand about four million, almost half of them near Auckland near the northern tip.

For those of you who are familiar with the term 'Kiwi' from your introduction to the names of a shoe polish and a green fruit, which are actually Chinese gooseberries, it should be known that the original Kiwi



is a flightless bird the size of our partridge or Ruffed Grouse which boasts the world record of laying the largest eggs of any bird.

The green eggs are about six times the size of chicken eggs and can be up to one-quarter of the size of the hen. Some omelet!

The indigenous people of Aotearoa are now known as Maori, a generic name for outsiders (pakeha) that overlooks their traditional family (whanau), village (hapu) and clan (iwi) social structures.

Fans of the New Zealand All-Blacks, the national rugby union team will have seen and heard the haka or traditional song and dance, a unique cultural feature that is only one of the amazing cultural features of these Polynesian people who arrived in Aotearoa about a thousand years ago and from which all modern Maori trace their ancestry.

The personal ancestry by the way is known as whakapapa and you should know that the 'wh' is always pronounced as an 'f' sound.

Canadian indigenous people have developed good relations with the Maori, who have been great innovators in educational and social service-delivery models. Their language retention models have been widely copied, even in Canada.

The Maori language has several dialects but it has the advantage of being a single language where the people make up about 12 per cent or more of the nation's population and accordingly Maori terms have made their way into everyday New Zealand speech, a real challenge to Canada where we have about eleven indigenous linguistic groups.

The Maori, who have guaranteed seats in Parliament, have created the Maori Party, and with the Mixed Member Proportional voting system in New Zealand, are able to lever national political influence.

New Zealand is a great place to visit, a beautiful country with a fascinating history, ecology, geography and the spirit of an amazing indigenous people.

So New Zealand is not in Australia and Australia, an adopted country of mine, is nice too.

The next world indigenous lawyers' conference will be in Australia next year. Not in New Zealand.

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# Diamond Jubilee Medals presented

Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield has been a busy representative of the Queen, lately. She has been travelling the province bestowing residents with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

“The Queen has chosen the theme of service for this milestone year, and so it is most appropriate that Canada created a Diamond Jubilee Medal, which celebrates both Her Majesty’s lifetime of service and the outstanding contributions of deserving citizens,” Solomon Schofield said.

“On behalf of our sovereign, I thank each medal recipient for their commitment to the greater good.”

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee began in February 2012, in celebration of the 60 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The Royal Canadian Mint created 60,000 medals, which will be awarded to outstanding Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life, across the country.

Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear, activist Zoe Roy, musician Johnny Arcand, Vern Bellegarde, Debbie Pelletier, Elders Walter and Maria Linklater and artist Allan Sapp are among several of the recipients from the First Nation and Métis community.

For more information on the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal or more information on Jubilee festivities, the province’s history with the monarchy, and the role of the Crown in Saskatchewan visit [www.jubileesk.ca](http://www.jubileesk.ca).



Allan Sapp receives his Jubilee Medal from Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield.



Johnny Arcand receives his Jubilee Medal from Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield.



Debbie Pelletier accepted her Jubilee Medal from Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield.

## Celebrating Credit Union Day!

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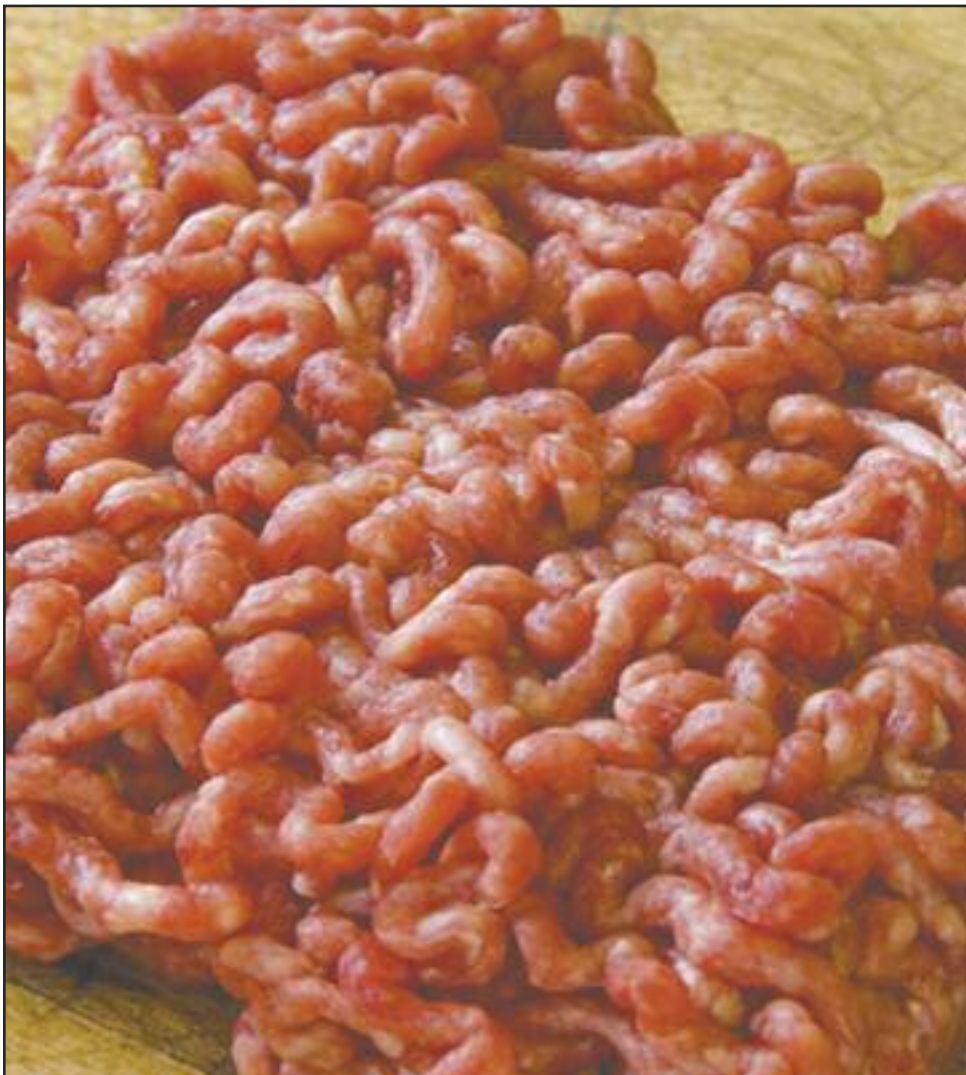
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## Tips to protect yourself from E. coli

By Carmen Buschow  
For Eagle Feather News

As the program coordinator for the Environmental Health and Science Program at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv), I am always monitoring current public health issues arising in the media. FNUUniv is one of the five training institutes in Canada that educate our future public health inspectors and environmental health officers, preparing students to deal with the many public health issues that are encountered on a daily basis.

With the recent outbreak of E. coli, people may feel anxious and concerned about the food that they prepare for their families. There are some simple but important food safe practices that can be easily put in place at home to prevent food borne illness. Here are some helpful tips:

- Cook your meats to the proper internal temperature. Ground beef should be cooked to 71 C (160 F). Poultry should be cooked to 74 C (165 F). You cannot tell the temperature by cutting into the meat. Use a probe thermometer which can be purchased at your local grocery, hardware or department store.
- Reheat leftovers to an internal temperature of 74 C (165 F).
- Use separate cutting boards for raw meats than you would use for vegetables. Make sure that cutting boards are cleaned properly in between uses. Wash with warm soapy water, rinse and then sanitize by immersing them in a water/bleach solution of approximately one ounce of bleach to one gallon of water for one minute. Using a cutting board that isn't cleaned properly is an example of cross-contamination and can lead to food borne illness.
- Wash your hands with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food, using the washroom, changing diapers, smoking, or after any activity that causes your hands to become soiled.
- Wash fresh fruits and vegetables thoroughly before using them to cook or before eating them raw.
- Clean the countertops thoroughly before and after use. It is a good idea to sanitize surfaces using this combination. Mix 5 mL (1 tsp) of household bleach to 750 mL (3 cups) of water in a labeled spray bottle. (Store out of reach of children.)

The tips have been adapted from the Health Canada Website:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/kitchen-cuisine/index-eng.php#a1>

## Heart disease has become a household word

Families of heart patients are learning to accept heart disease as part of their reality. After a heart attack, full recovery depends on a balance between the healing of the body and the emotions.

The crisis is facing the reality of your situation, letting go of what is lost, and developing new ways to live that enhance the quality of your life. Smoking constricts arteries and can cause blood pressure to skyrocket. Heart disease deaths could be prevented if people quit smoking.

Mild regular exercise, deep breathing exercises every morning for body oxygen, and to stimulate brain activity are part of the solution. So, too, is a diet with magnesium and potassium rich foods, fresh greens, almonds, green tea, brown rice, whole grains, garlic and onions. Reduce saturated fats. Pay special attention to caffeine foods, prepared meats, and soft drinks, refined sugars, fatty, salty and fried foods. Add glasses of pure water to your daily intake (eight glasses).

In an emergency – one teaspoon of cayenne pepper or cayenne tincture drops may help bring a person out of a heart attack, til they get to a hospital. Co Q10 helps the vein elasticity. Evening of Primrose Oil regulate muscle tone. To improve blood flow – Gingko biloba

Historically, hawthorn was used as

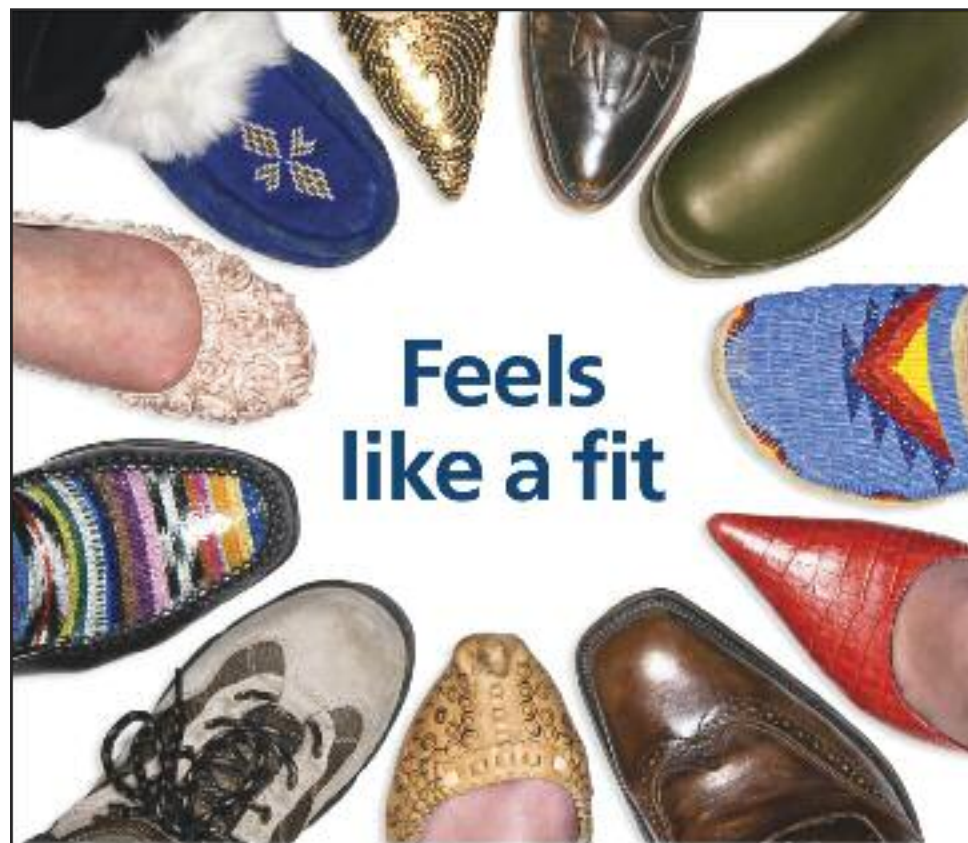


a diuretic and to treat kidney stones. By the late 19th century doctors understood the connection between hawthorn and the heart. An extract of the flower and leaves improves cardiac output and the contraction of the heart muscle itself.

Flavonoids of the hawthorn have been shown to increase blood flow in the heart by dilating blood vessels in coronary arteries. Hawthorn has lowered cholesterol in animal studies. Hawthorn is a tree that can reach 30 feet in height and can also be grown as a shrub. Clusters of white flowers in spring and bright red berries, called haws, form in the fall.

Hawthorne can be purchased or collected as a tea, a tincture, or a capsule at most health food stores. At the first sign of chest pain or pain down the left arm, shortness of breath, it is most important to call 911.

Never try to treat a heart condition on your own, your physician and a visit to the emergency department is the best plan of action.



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Cecile Smith gives the thumbs up as St. Mary's Principal Tony Barros accepts a bike from MLA's Gord Wyant and Christine Tell. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



There was over 20,000 pounds of food donated to the Saskatoon Food Bank and to St. Mary's Community School from the Garden of Hope. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

# Garden offers hope

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

The 2012 Garden of Hope harvest has ended for the inmates from the Saskatoon Correctional Centre's Urban Camp, and approximately 20,000 pounds of produce was donated to the Saskatoon Food Bank and St. Mary's Community School.

Urban Camp inmates and staff grow a wide variety of vegetables over the summer. Gardeners are supplied with seeds, gardening tools and construction material through donations from Early's Farm and Garden Centre, Floral Acres Greenhouses and Garden Centre, and Farm and Garden Centre in Saskatoon.

The Urban Camp program has been in existence for 31 years, and provides inmates who are nearing release with work experience geared to supporting the community.

Giles Saulnier, Deputy Director Urban Camp explained in an emotional speech how the garden became the "Garden of Hope."

"We have dedicated our garden to the memory of a former staff member who passed away tragically last year. Kathy Bailey loved her job here," said Saulnier. "She loved working for the residents and she was a great person on our team. We are honouring her because she always had hope for everyone."

The Urban Camp also presented ten bikes and helmets to St. Mary's Community School. Zellers donated slightly damaged bikes and the inmates repaired them. Many children will have the opportunity to enjoy these bikes through St. Mary's Bikes for Kids program.

"This year marks the third year of the partnership between the Saskatoon Correctional Centre's Urban Camp, the

Food Bank and St. Mary's Community School," Minister responsible for Corrections and Policing Christine Tell said.

"Through the Garden of Hope, Urban Camp inmates learn how to grow their own food and feel a sense of community and accomplishment with a successful harvest," Tell added.

Tony Barros, Principal of St. Mary's Community School appreciates the efforts of the inmates on their giving back to the community.

"We can't say enough about the help we receive from the people in urban camp. Even this summer they were helping us move desks and equipment across the street into our new school," said Barros.

"So, on behalf of the staff and students at St. Mary's I gratefully accept this donation of food for our school nutrition program."

Fabian Frenchman helped work on the garden and he describes that labour as giving him a great feeling.


"I learned to build the garden with love and to have courage to learn new ways. It is remarkable what comes out of the garden and how much love you put into it," said Frenchman.

"It brings life and unconditional love. I am honoured to work on part of it. Very rewarding. I learned how to look after the garden. How to pull roots. How to mend things. It is something you have to do for yourself. It takes a lot of courage, understanding and love. That's all I can say about it."

Calvin McArthur, Elder in residence at the Correctional Centre summed it up succinctly.

"These inmates do the work and help to give back to their own community," he said. "And in that work they find peace within themselves and find hope at the end of that tunnel."

GRAND OPENING




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*Program followed by tours and lunch*

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**Station 20 West**  
Community Enterprise Centre

Station 20 West is a partnership project to bring amenities and services to the core neighbourhoods. One of the co-locators is the Good Food Junction cooperative food store, now open.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who made this project possible.

# Blazing trails and bridging the gaps

By Brady Lang  
For Eagle Feather News

Nelson Bird is a First Nations pioneer in journalism. Not only is he the host for Indigenous Circle, he is also a journalist.

"In my role as a First Nations person who is a journalist, I always strive to make sure that people get to realize who we really are," said Bird.

When talking to Bird, you realize how dedicated and committed he is to his job.

"There are a lot of misconceptions and stereotypes of First Nations and Métis (people) and I think it is my purpose and my mission in life to open people's eyes and let them know, this is who we are," he says.

Surprisingly, Bird didn't always want to be a journalist. Growing up he had aspirations of being a fireman. One day he stumbled upon an ad in the paper for "fireman's college". He applied and was accepted only to find out that fireman's college was really training for duct work.

After many years Bird decided he wanted to become a journalist.

"I was the shyest, quietest person ... but I always knew there was something in me that was going to get out there."

Bird's goal as a journalist is to shed light on the good side of Aboriginal people, rather than the negative statements we see in the news and in the media. He really showcases this on his show, Indigenous Circle.

"A better understanding of people is so important, and truthfully it opens doors and bridges gaps," he says.

Being an aspiring journalist myself, it was really inspiring to see how dedicated Nelson is towards his job. Our school was very honoured when Bird showcased us on Indigenous Circle. It really displayed the diversity of our school and portrayed us in a positive light.

*Brady Lang is a student at Balcarres Community School*

## FCC launches ninth annual Drive Away Hunger program

With the generous support of more than 100 enthusiastic partners throughout the country, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) launched its ninth annual Drive Away Hunger program. This year's goal is to collect one million pounds of food and \$500,000 for food banks across the country.

"All across Canada our customers, schools, businesses, community groups and the public are joining us in the fight against hunger," said FCC President and CEO Greg Stewart in launching this year's program.

"Hunger is a real and pressing issue facing nearly a million Canadians, and all of us involved in Drive Away Hunger are coming together to address this need and help feed less fortunate people."

FCC's Drive Away Hunger program involves driving a tractor and trailer through various communities to collect food and cash donations for food banks across the country. One hundred per cent of donations go to Canadian food banks.

At the launch, FCC donated \$50,000 to Food Banks Canada. Half of this

amount will be dedicated to the Rural Support Program, which provides additional support and resources to food banks based in rural communities. The remaining \$25,000 will be used by Food Banks Canada to support individuals and families who use food bank services.

This year, FCC Drive Away Hunger program tours will take place the week of October 15 in Alberta, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan, including FCC's corporate office in Regina.

FCC is also collecting food and cash donations in every field office across Canada from September 24 to October 19.

"Canadian producers and agribusiness operators provide the world's safest and highest quality food, and they have a tradition of giving back to their communities," Stewart said.

"They understand and appreciate the need to share food with those who need it most, which is the main reason behind Drive Away Hunger's success year after year."

Anyone can visit [www.fccdrive-awayhunger.ca](http://www.fccdrive-awayhunger.ca) to make a cash donation.



Nelson Bird is the host of CTV's long-running Indigenous Circle.



## goodfoodbites

### GET MORE MILK!

Milk is a good source of a lot of different nutrients including calcium and vitamin D. Calcium and vitamin D play a very important role in making our bones and teeth strong. When we don't eat enough calcium from our foods, our bones can weaken.

**What foods contain calcium?**  
Milk, Yogurt, Cheese, Chickpeas, Kidney beans, Pinto beans, Romano beans, Almonds, Broccoli, Black beans, Lima beans and Lentils

**What foods contain vitamin D?**  
Salmon, Tuna, Sardines, Egg Yolks, Milk, Margarine, Orange Juice and Cereal may have vitamin D added - check the label! Our bodies make vitamin D from the sun in the spring and summer.

Here are two quick and easy calcium-rich treats for the summer to share with friends!

<p><b>Chocolate Banana Milkshake:</b> 2 frozen bananas, broken into chunks 2 cups chocolate Milk 1/4 tsp vanilla 2 scoops chocolate ice cream</p>	<p><b>Strawberry Milkshake:</b> 2 cups frozen strawberries 2 cups Milk 2 tsp liquid honey 1/4 tsp vanilla 2 scoops vanilla ice cream</p>
---	--

1. In a blender, combine fruit, Milk, vanilla, honey - blend until smooth.
2. Add ice cream and blend well.
3. Pour into glasses and serve with a thick straw or a spoon!

**For more information and recipes, go to: [www.dairygoodness.ca](http://www.dairygoodness.ca)**

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# Senate hearings studying Métis experience in Canada

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

As part of its ongoing study of Métis identity in Canada, the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples held public hearings and conducted fact-finding activities in western and northern Canada in September and October.



SENATOR LILLIAN DYCK

This is the first study of its kind of Métis identity in Canada. In addition, senators will be visiting Métis settlements,

rural and urban communities and meeting with elders and leaders of Métis organizations. With the Powley Decision establishing Métis hunting rights, it has never been more important for Métis organizations to identify their citizens in a consistent manner.

“As Chair of the Senate Aboriginal Peoples Committee and as a Canadian of Métis heritage, I am pleased the committee is exploring issues related to Métis identity,” said Senator Gerry St. Germain.

“Building on knowledge we acquired from witnesses in Ottawa, our western and northern hearings and fact-finding activities will enhance and expand our understanding of the regional issues and concerns facing Métis today.”

In Saskatoon the Committee heard from the executive of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Lynn Larose, Senator Nora Cummings, Lisa Wilson of GDI and from Val Arnault Pelletier of the U of S College of Medicine and Marilyn Poitras.

“The Métis registry is vital to the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan,” said President Robert Doucette who presented with his fellow executives Gerald Morin and Louis Gardiner.

“We need to know who our people are. We are currently negotiating hunting rights for Métis in Saskatchewan and we will rely on the registry for that. The Powley decision from the Supreme Court can be a win/win for all of us.”



Marilyn Poitras and Val Arnault Pelletier presented on Métis identity to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal People. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Val Arnault Pelletier says consistent Métis identity processes will help in situations where schools set aside spots for Métis students.

“We have seen some students exercise some rather sketchy ties to the Métis community,” said Pelletier.

She even noted one organization out of Ontario that gives out “Aboriginal” cards.

“These people would take seats away from deserving Métis candidates so we need to have a consistent way to identify Métis people,” Pelletier added.

“Earlier this summer, we heard from several Métis elders and regional organizations which helped shape our knowledge of the complexities of Métis identity in this country,” said Senator Lillian Dyck, deputy chair of the committee.

“Like most Canadians, I don’t know about Métis history. But going to the community and hearing what is

happening in the community is fascinating. To see the differences, to meet the people gives us a good picture of what is happening. Many people don’t know who the Métis people are.

“We need to educate people and make sure that the Métis people can access benefits that they deserve.”

In the spring of 2012, the committee began its study on issues respecting the legal and political recognition of Métis identity in Canada, including legal, political and cultural definitions of the Métis and processes for enumeration and registration of the Métis.

Other areas, which relate more broadly to the question of identity and which may be touched upon during the study, include the eligibility of the Métis for existing federal programs and services and the exercise of Métis Aboriginal rights, including those that may be related to lands and harvesting.

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# Experienced trio vying for FSIN's top job

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

The race is on for Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. Three former executives who have served at the Federation at various times and in different capacities have thrown their hats in the ring to be the Chief of a beleaguered organization.

## Candidates bring two decades of service to the race

Former FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde, former FSIN Vice Chief Delbert Wapass and current FSIN First Vice Chief Morley Watson are gunning for the big chair and

Sheldon Wuttunee faces off against Kim Jonathan in a battle for First Vice Chief. Dutch Lerat has been acclaimed at Third Vice Chief.

Many people wonder why there would be interest in leading an organization that has had unity issues, controversy and a massive funding cut coming down the pipe but the three candidates all speak about restoring the pride and unity to one of the most storied First Nation institutions in Canada.

It's not like they don't know what they are getting into, at rough count these gentlemen have served at the Federation for approximately 20 years combined.

Perry Bellegarde of the Little Black Bear Band wants to get back credibility regarding inherent and treaty rights.

"We have taken some negative hits lately," said Bellegarde. "The FSIN is the most unified organization across Canada and we have to dust it off and shiny it up and take it back to where it can be. And that is exerting jurisdiction and participating in revenue sharing and promoting economic independence.

"Jurisdiction is inherently linked to treaty rights and you can't talk about them separately. We have a huge opportunity now in the province and industry and government are starting to get it. We need them as allies and to bring people to the

table."

Delbert Wapass from Thunderchild First Nation says that the role of the FSIN is to lobby and advocate for healthy people and prosperous communities.

"I think the biggest issue is the grinding poverty our children, families and communities experience on a daily basis," suggests Wapass.

"It is apparent to us the need for better educational outcomes for our youth and creating hope for our communities, youth and our families. Housing, healthcare and early childhood amongst others need to be addressed."

"Secondly we need to ensure we are active participants and are reaping the benefits of resource development from our lands. The positive impacts on our communities would be huge as we take our rightful place in this province and when we prosper, so does the Province of Saskatchewan."

Morley Watson hails from the Ochapowace First Nation and he thinks unity at the FSIN leads to other important growth.

"To have success at the Federation, we have to be together," said Watson. "We have so many issues to address like housing, health, education and taxation. We need to bring together the best Treaty minds and talk Treaty implementation.



DELBERT WAPASS

When we stray from our core focus, we have issues."

• Continued on Page 14



On October 25th  
**ELECT** ✓  
**PERRY**  
**BELLEGARDE**  
as Chief of the FSIN

Dear Chiefs, Councillors & Delegates:

In August 2012, I formally declared my intention to seek the position of Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations on October 25, 2012 in Saskatoon.

The many Chiefs and Elders who I have known, instilled in me a strong belief in our Inherent and Treaty rights.

Standing together to implement our rights is essential. I believe that we will do so only by coming together in cooperation and partnership and, from there, developing processes that unite rather than divide.

I remain firmly committed to implementing our rights. This is why I am humbly asking for your support. I am eager to meet with you to discuss not only your issues but to learn of the solutions you see. Through our dialogue, I hope to gain your trust and to prove myself worthy of your support.

*Perry Bellegarde*



COMMUNITY | VISION | LEADERSHIP

# FSIN candidates stress need for unity in dealing with government

•Continued from Page 13

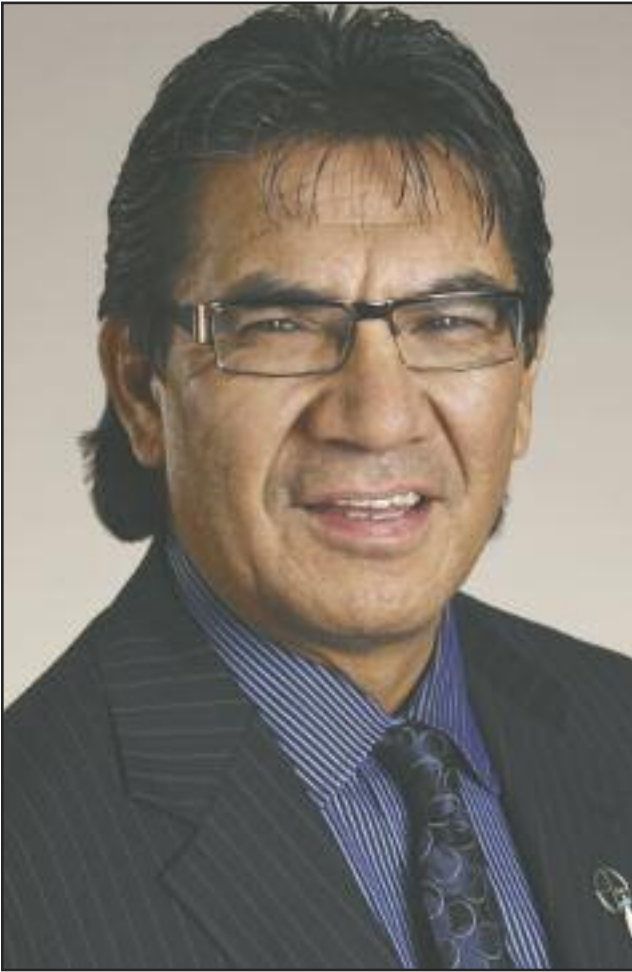
The three candidates all have the same view of the troubles plaguing the FSIN and there are similarities in how they want to approach the solutions. Bellegarde believes his 20 years of political experience is his biggest asset and he has learned what it takes to move an agenda forward.

"We have to have constant communication and teamwork. The Chief has to work with your vice chiefs and the tribal chiefs as a team," said Bellegarde.

"We have to empower ourselves together and not work in isolation. We have to put our collective thoughts and energy together to unite against government policies and legislation that harm inherent and treaty rights."

Wapass, on the other hand, thinks his best asset is his traditional upbringing that formed his world view and taught him to build consensus. Using those skills he would work with leadership across Saskatchewan to establish priorities and action plans.

"Clearly, engaging both levels of government on this endeavor is key," said Wapass. "We must also proactively engage industry and businesses directly in establishing partnerships and finally we cannot be passive in these efforts we must take responsibility for ourselves and make sure that we get the results we need for people and communities."



MORLEY WATSON

"To do this we need to come together collectively as First Nations to ensure we have the strength, wisdom and guidance to move forward."

Watson believes his ability to recruit a good team and create good games plans is his best asset and that the first step forward is rebuilding the organization.

"We need to become relevant again and you do that with good leadership that instills confidence and a game plan that can move issues forward," added Watson.

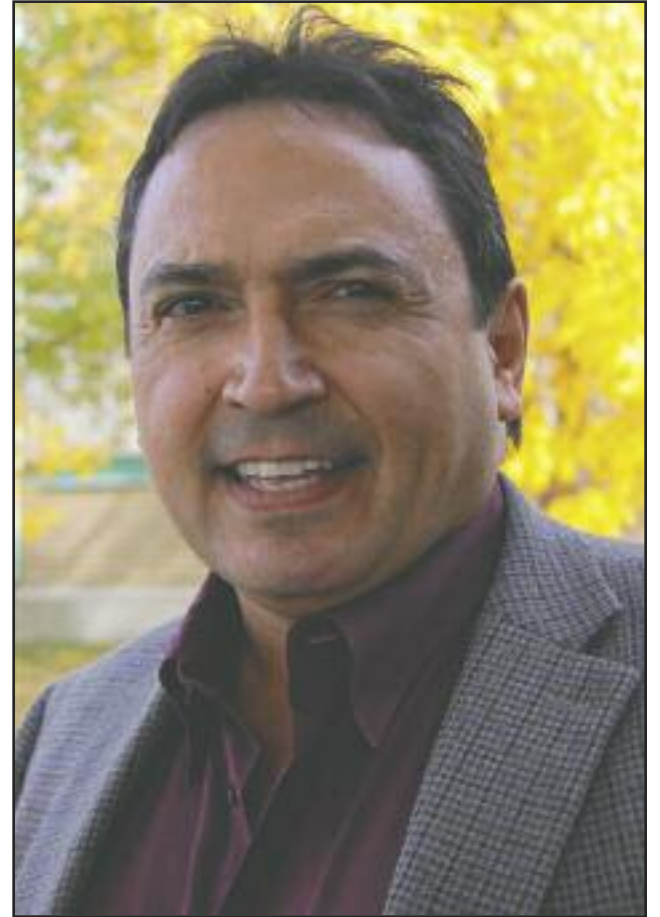
"The Harper government is business oriented so

we have to put treaty into a business perspective and make the business case and return on investment. When we invest in our youth, they don't go to jail, they get a job."

In the race for First Vice Chief both Sheldon Wuttunee and Kim Jonathan were unavailable for comment at deadline time.

Wuttunee was Chief of Red Pheasant in the past and came second to Guy Lonechild in a campaign for FSIN Chief three years ago. Kim Jonathan is trying to become the only woman ever elected to the FSIN executive and is a member of Wahpeton First Nation and an employee of the Prince Albert Grand Council.

Dutch Lerat was acclaimed and he said that he was very humbled to continue his work for his people at the Federation. Over 800 Chiefs and delegates will vote at the Assembly in Saskatoon on October 24 and 25.



PERRY BELLEGARDE

**"STRENGTHENING OUR FEDERATION  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS"**

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**MORLEY  
WATSON**

*For Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*

**October 24 & 25, 2012**

**Morley Watson Campaign Platform 2012**

- Strengthening the FSIN to Effectively Represent Treaty 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10
- Working Towards "A FSIN Resource Revenue Sharing Model" In Partnership with the Corporate Sector
- FSIN Economic Development Growth Plan
- First Nation Employment, Education, Training & Skills Strategy
- FSIN Fiscal Action Plan: Moving Forward
- Saskatchewan First Nations Sports, Youth & Recreation Institute Inc.
- 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)
- Language and Culture

*"We are Stronger as a Federation,  
when we are United..."*

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Photo by Courtesy of Del Morley Watson for FSIN CHIEF

## FSIN elections and rumour control with Dirk (Dreamtime) Dashing

John L.: Scandals have rocked the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations causing many to wonder whether the Federation is relevant or even useful. So all eyes will be on the Federation in October when the Chiefs and delegates of 74 First Nations assemble to elect a new Chief. Here to comment is our very own Dirk the Dreamtime Dashing.



**Dirk:** It's sad but true, John, there are scads of people who question the very existence of the Federation, and they have compelling reasons. Yet, there are others who see this time of crisis as an opportunity for the organization to restore its soul and reclaim its former glory. All it needs is leadership.

John L.: There are three candidates up for the big chair – Chief Delbert Wapass of the Thunderchild First Nation, Chief Perry Bellegarde of Little Black Bears Band, and FSIN Acting Chief, Mr. Morley Watson. What can you tell us about the candidates?

**Dirk:** Indian politics is not an easy game and, sadly, each of our candidates are the victims of viscous rumours. So, if you don't mind John, I would like to use my time – and space – to engage in some rumour control on behalf of our fine contestants.

John L.: I think you mean "vicious" as in mean spirited and not "viscous" which describes the quality of a liquid, right?

**Dirk:** Say what, Mr. Lackamojo, eh?

John L.: My 'bad. Please continue Dirk.  
**Dirk:** First up is Chief Wapass. Even though Chief Wapass has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire he is pretty cool. I still see no reason for people to question his bareback buffalo bronc riding championship status. The dude has earned it. Now, of all the people on earth Chief Bellegarde is certainly one of them. Plus he is smart. So I happen to know that is absolutely not true that he mistook that old show Hee Haw for Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. Finally we have Mr. Watson, he of the awesome hair. Sure, men want to be him, women want to be with him, and small rodents want to learn to speak so they can hang with him. I also know that it is not true that he thought Hee Haw was a documentary.

John L.: Um,...ok. What can you tell us about their qualifications for the job? Are they smart enough?

**Dirk:** Since health is a major issue for our people I held an interview in my head with the candidates to test their medical knowledge. The results? They

all knew that a pubic hair is not a type of wild rabbit, that asphalt does not describe a rectal problem, and that a menstrual cycle has nothing to do with three wheels. We're in good hands if one of them gets elected, John.

John L.: Speaking of the issues, what challenges will the candidates be expected to address if elected to office?

**Dirk:** For starters

Ottawa's Cons gang has cut funding to Indians, scientists and other drains on society, like food inspectors. Why? Crippling them will learn 'em from raising facts that can be used to prove just about anything. Meanwhile the "saved" money goes to community based organizations, also known as CBO's.

John L.: What's wrong with that? Why not give the money to grass roots organizations focused on social or health issues?

**Dirk:** Many CBO's are run by non-First Nation people. Now most are of the nice, middle class variety, filled with great intentions and hearts to match. But how many of them have any acquaintance with real Indians, our history or our Treaties? And all it takes is one redneck to bully colleagues into finally dealing with the Indian problem his way.

Another issue is the shift to a results-based regulatory system for the environment. Governments can evade consulting Indians on Treaty rights because permits will be a thing of the past. Also industry gets to monitor itself, and to see how well that is working just ask the folks in Alberta chowing down on their beef ridden e coli. That mess took a whole week to be caught.

But the biggest challenge will be restoring the FSIN's former glory. Without the FSIN some First Nations won't stand a chance protecting their people or the Treaties. Funding cuts and environmental changes are only the tip of the ice cream.

The next Chief needs to meet with leaders like former FSIN Chief Roland Crowe and Vice-Chief Danny Bellegarde, two leaders who brought home Canada's largest Treaty based land claim 20 years ago. What did that take? Can it be done again?

John L.: Really? Ice cream? Dirk, we are out of space but this has been...insightful. We'll see you in a month.

*Dirk says, Walking, after the show, I took her by the hand, looked deep into her eyes, and said "I shoulda took a leak back there." Did I say something wrong?*

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The foundation for my platform stems from our Treaty and Inherent rights. There is an incredible opportunity for the FSIN in the areas of:

- Land & Natural Resources
- Social & Economic Rights
- Political Advocacy

*I have a renewed enthusiasm and optimism for the times ahead and for the direction that you all know we need to move. I am aware that your expectations of leadership are high, as they should be, and that is also a major motivation for me seeking the position of Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.*

Vote for

# DELBERT WAPASS

for Chief of the FSIN





Mona Dieter learned the importance of respect and kindness as a youngster on Okanese First Nation.

## My Kokum,. my role model

By Domonique Bellegarde  
For Eagle Feather News

In this day and age of cell phones and fashion, it's hard to notice who chooses to be humble and who doesn't. That's why, for Mona Dieter, it is important to teach the youth about humility.

"Talk to them, the most important thing is talking," says Dieter. "Our attitudes have to change. That's what has to change, our thinking, our behavior."

Mona Dieter grew up on the Okanese First Nation and at a young age learned that respect and kindness is the most important thing. As a little girl her grandparents instilled the belief of being a humble person. She is a strong believer of values and following her belief system.

"Put your belief system first, your belief system works for you ... if you believe from the Bible or the Indian way, then that's what will help you," she says.

Dieter says her family guidance was not limited to her grandparents and parents, it was more so the entire family would pitch in and help, unlike most of today's families.

"How my grandmothers, aunts, my mom and my dad used to say ... you have to respect yourself at all times especially if you're in a crowd don't show off," she says.

Dieter wants the world to be a better place, so she is trying to teach the youth how to be humble and how to show respect.

Mona Dieter is an Elder originally from the Okanese First Nation and is now a member of Peepeekisis First Nation in the Treaty 4 territory. She has a large family that she has taught the values of humility and respect to.

As well as being a grandmother and great grandmother, Dieter was also a band Councilor and worked in the band office for 25 years before retirement.

*Domonique Bellegarde is a student at  
Balcarres Community School.*

## SHELDON WUTTUNEE

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Building Unity**

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Pamela Palmater, OTC Manager Harry Lafond, and former Indian Brotherhood Grand Chief Noel Starblanket listen as role model and Poundmaker Councilor Colby Tootoosis speaks about the sacredness of Treaty. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## AGEN makes sure you stay

### • Continued from Page One

When AGEN was first created, it held only one conference per year but since then it has evolved into a valuable tool for the Province and for all the Aboriginal employees employed by the government. Whether they work for SaskTel or as a social worker, the Network offers them something.

"It was just a once a year conference that was a big thing," added Starr. "From there we wanted to expand to where now we have personal and professional developmental workshops throughout the year across the province in places like Estevan, or up north to Buffalo Narrows. AGEN is much more than a conference."

They have also started a speakers bureau, Píkiskwêwak, where a group of First Nation and Métis volunteers from Saskatchewan's provincial public service and Crown corporations are dedicated to being role models for their communities and providing information and inspiration to the province's youth. They go talk to youth about staying in school and understand the variety of career opportunities available to them in the public service by getting an education.

There was a lot to be motivated and proud about at the recent conference. At the banquet they honoured Miranda Pelletier for Community Enrichment, Jennifer Matts for Leadership and Management, Donna Dumont for Long Service, SaskTel for Community Involvement and Ron Crowe received a special tribute for his work as Deputy Minister of First Nation and Métis Relations.

And the speakers, from Ashley Callingbull receiving multiple ovations, to the hit powwow Zumba sessions to the inspiring message left by Wab Kinew to close the event, the attendees from a mixture of backgrounds left the conference motivated.

"Ashley Callingbull, she was very dynamic of a speaker. She spoke with no notes and people were very much engaged," said Starr. "You could tell she had a gift. It was nice to see Noel Starblanket speak on Treaties, and Pam Palmater, after her campaign for national Chief, and, of course,

Wab Kinew as our keynote. People really like him."

Kinew is riding a national high after hosting the highly successful CBC series The 8th Fire. His message was succinct.

"The 8th Fire legend, in brief, means that now, in this 8th Generation we are moving toward peace, harmony and mutual understanding. But the key in our community is education," said Kinew who is set to start a new career as Director of Indigenous Inclusion and Partnerships at the University of Winnipeg.

"We know that our children do better in school if they know their traditional language and we know that we as Aboriginal people have been held back from contributing the gifts that we have. Now we say that education is the new buffalo. But we also have to remember that the Sundance is still the Sundance.

"So now employers need to see hiring Aboriginal people not as a duty or obligation, but as an opportunity. There is a solution to the myriad of problems we face. It is investing in our young people."

After a successful conference Wavell Starr is heading back to his job bringing in Aboriginal people and supporting AGEN so the group in turn can support the individual employees and we can all benefit.

"You know, once you get into permanent jobs with the province it changes your perspective," said Starr. "Before I started here I had no pension plan. I had no defined health benefits except what was afforded to me from Treaty.

"Now I have amazing things like flex benefits that cover my gym membership. I can help people get their foot in the door. Nowadays, there are only so many jobs on-reserve or tied to the band council. People have to start looking for different areas and I think we as Aboriginal people have to look everywhere.

"Once you start with the province, once you are in permanent, then you have security and can put your career in a whole different view and you can think longevity and work life balance. AGEN makes sure you stay."



IS THE

path

TO ECONOMIC

SUCCESS

OVERWHELMING?

**"The evolution of economic development over the last thirty years has been amazing. Where it was once viewed as a "soft" program in a community, it is now seen as a "must have" for long term sustainability.**

**Economic development practitioners are an essential resource, to ensure we capitalize on the incredible opportunities for business and employment growth in northern Saskatchewan."**

**- Doug Eddy, CEO of Buffalo Narrows Economic Development Corporation**

**Economic Development Practitioners can help your community find the path to economic success.**

Work together to create:

- A proactive economic development plan
- Trend analysis
- Succession planning
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Contact SEDA for more information on how an Economic Development Practitioner can help your community reach its potential.



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[verona.thibault@seda.sk.ca](mailto:verona.thibault@seda.sk.ca)

[www.seda.sk.ca](http://www.seda.sk.ca)



Roland Duplessis and Monica Brunet are finding ways to expand the services provided by the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## Clarence Campeau Development Fund offering innovative programs for entrepreneurs throughout Sask.

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund keeps finding innovative ways to provide services to Métis entrepreneurs. To celebrate their fifteenth year of providing funding support to Métis businesses, CCDF has launched two new programs targeting Métis women and Métis youth.

“Through research done by the Economic Development Sector and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, the need was established for programs that provided assistance to women and youth for smaller home based business and micro sized business outside the home,” said Fund CEO Roland Duplessis.

“Some aspects of the programs haven’t been done before like no interest payments for example, the forgiveness component and no security. These programs give us another tool in our kit to meet the needs of Métis business people across Saskatchewan.”

Monica Brunet, Director of the Métis Economic Development Sector for CCDF knows the programs will enhance the opportunity for groups that are already using their services. “Currently 36 per cent of our existing client base is women and 31 per cent of our client base is under the age of 35. The new programs should significantly increase these already impressive numbers,” said Brunet.

“And it offers support outside of just money. When you have a small business you are often alone, so we have partnered with Women Entrepreneurs who also offer support like networking, mentors, online training, marketing and a great conference every year. Sometimes you just need someone to share with or bounce ideas off of. It is the relationships we create that help make the businesses successful.”

These programs are unique in that they act as equity, leveraging conventional funding to the business with an incentive for early repayment through a forgiveness component based on early retirement of the contribution. The funding maximum is \$10,000 with no interest being charged, improving profitability.

Now the job is to promote it to the community and watch the investment grow.

“We know through our contacts and up North that there are lots of home based businesses,” added Duplessis. “Moms with children have a tough time starting businesses. We can help them supply a better home life and can provide that kick start to financing and that’s what this program does.

“Once they can access capital and become successful, we create jobs and better lifestyles for Aboriginal people.

“And what’s good for Métis economic development is good for the province of Saskatchewan.”

## ABD continues growth trend

In its tenth year of operations, Athabasca Basin Development has reached another significant milestone for the company. They have been nominated for an ABEX award, they have created a new logo and the aboriginal-owned investment company recently announced ownership in its tenth company, Double Diamond Industrial Structures.

“We are excited to be investing in Double Diamond Industrial Structures,” says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development.

“This investment is a good fit with our overall portfolio of investments into companies servicing the mining and exploration sector. Double Diamond is a significant supplier to the industry, known for providing high quality modular structures for the mining, oil and gas, and other resource-based industries.

“With this investment, we have also reached a significant milestone in our company,” says Gay.

“In our tenth year of operations, we now have complete or partial ownership in ten companies that are poised for

continued growth in Saskatchewan. Our recent consolidated revenues have surpassed \$110 million annually, and our companies employ nearly 1,300 people across the province. We are proud of our history and our track record for growth, and we look forward to a bright and exciting future in the next ten years.”

Athabasca Basin Development purchased 66 per cent of the company with



Prince Albert First Nations Business Development LP, Sturgeon Lake First Nation Developments LP, and Double Diamond senior management owning the remainder. Double Diamond Industrial Structures will continue to manufacture modular structures suitable for all types of industrial camps, remote offices, sleeper units, and dorms.

Curtis Martin, the former owner of the company, plans to retire from his position as CEO. Barrie Bergsma, formerly from Rosten Bergsma Business Solutions, has been appointed as the new CEO of the company. There will be no additional changes to current operations as a result of this transaction.

### COORDINATOR OPPORTUNITY



#### CENTRAL OFFICE – FIRST NATIONS & MÉTIS (FNM) ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATOR

This is a full time temporary position, commencing as soon as possible to June 28, 2013, with the possibility of extending. The successful candidate will coordinate the development of a Living Sky School Division FNM Educational Plan, which includes the following:

- Gather information and make meaning from data to guide best practices around FNM students and families
- Facilitate the self-identification of FNM students
- Strengthen the working relationships and partnerships with FNM community and educational organizations
- Distil research about FNM student achievement to provide an authentic perspective on Living Sky's programs and initiatives
- Work with schools serving FNM students, as well as teacher groups supporting FNM education, to close the existing achievement gap

The successful candidate must have successful experience as an educator. Possession of a post graduate degree is preferred. He/she will have background and experience with First Nation and/or Métis culture and traditions and have the ability to translate vision to action and practice. Familiarity with the grant funding structure would be an asset.

The successful candidate must possess the skills and the ability to work collaboratively with a diverse group of individuals and organizations.

For a complete job description or further information, please contact Brian Quinn, Superintendent of School Operations, Curriculum & Instruction at 937-7925 or email at [brian.quinn@lskysd.ca](mailto:brian.quinn@lskysd.ca).

We appreciate all interested applicants; however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

**Please submit complete information including training and experience, university transcripts, copy of teaching certificate, professional references, current Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector search by noon, Thursday, October 18, 2012:**

Human Resources, Living Sky School Division No. 202  
509 Pioneer Avenue, North Battleford, SK, S9A 4A5  
Fax: (306) 937-7721, Email: [hr@lskysd.ca](mailto:hr@lskysd.ca)

# Saskatoon police officer making the adjustment in war-torn Afghanistan

*Marc Belanger, a member of the Saskatoon Police Service from Red Pheasant First Nation, has been in Kabul, Afghanistan for almost eight months. He is an advisor and considered a subject matter expert currently involved with the training curriculums as it pertains to the areas of Community Policing as well as Intelligence Led Policing. He is also involved with the Scouts program, Non-Governmental Organizations, Women's Issues, School Outreach, recruiting (in particular the recruitment of women into the ANP) and he has also been assigned to the traffic unit.*

*He has been assigned the tasks of reviewing and making changes to the training curriculums of the Basic Patrolman's Course, the NCO Course, the Senior Officer's Course, the District Commanders Course as well as the Counterinsurgency Training Program. It should also be noted that most Afghan recruits currently being trained are functioning at an Afghan Grade 3 level which essentially is considered a kindergarten level in Canada.*

*We emailed him some questions about his experience and he was kind enough to reply.*

What was it like to have the Chief Weighill visit?

For me personally it was an honour to have the Chief take time out of his schedule to visit Afghanistan and get the bird's eye view of what the Canadian Police Officer's contributions are here, what we deal with on a daily basis and in the type of conditions we deal with it. To top it off, though, during the Chief's visit we had our medals parade ceremony on September 11 and I must say to have the Chief here and see me get presented with a medal was pretty special as well.

What skills have you picked up in Afghanistan that will help you as a police officer in Saskatoon?

I would say that that the skills I already maintain have been taken to a higher level. Everything from reading and writing to communication, listening and leadership. If I were to say that I have gained an extra skill I would have to say that my creative thinking has evolved a great deal because in this environment it pays to really think outside the box.

What is the hardest adjustment to living in Afghanistan?

Well, with a couple of weeks left, believe it or not, I am still trying to adjust to living here in Kabul. With the bombs exploding, the gunfire, some days, I don't care who you are that stuff will always set the adrenalin flowing. The last attack here was a day or two before the Chief arrived and that explosion was so close I actually thought it was on camp. I live in close quarters on a military base here in Kabul a camp that was originally built for approximately 900-1,000 soldiers. When we arrived here on camp back in November of 2011 there were approximately 3,400 people on camp. Since then the numbers have dwindled but from what I see we are still over populated. Now, for me, I am a person who loves his space. I live in a shipping container that was converted to living quarters. These containers are seven feet wide by 19 feet in length. So small that some days I had to leave my room just to change my mind. I am lucky, though, I only have one roommate. Some of these rooms have three or four guys crammed into them. There was an adjustment period, when I first arrived here, getting used to the pollution. The Afghans, to survive the cold weather months, have to burn just about everything to stay warm. The air quality was and is very poor most days. During the summer the heat was unbearable at times so that was a bit of an adjustment as well.

How do you deal with being away from your family?

It was a bit of an adjustment at first given the 10 and a half hour time difference but with Skype and email I keep in pretty close contact with family I am able get all the latest news from back home. I am sure they would prefer it if I Skyped with them every day but that is just not feasible at this end.

How do you get Rider scores? Can you see any games?

It was pretty good here up until about two months ago we were able to get one Canadian channel here on camp so I was able to keep up with the Riders. I was even lucky enough to watch two games but sadly the Riders lost both games. I just saw that they beat the Argos so that should help their chances at a playoff berth.

Besides your family, what do you miss the most about Saskatoon?

I miss the cleanliness, traffic lights, a 40-hour work week. I miss being able to jump into my truck and go anywhere I want to whether it's on a road trip or just to the corner store. I miss the freedom to do what I want when I want. To not have to worry about putting on fragmentation protective, load bearing vests and carry a long gun just to travel from one point to another. To not have to worry about IEDs, bombs and gunfire. We as Saskatonians, we as Canadians, I think, take this thing called freedom for granted.



Marc Belanger and his friend "Amena". This bright young girl really is the future of Afghanistan.



## Métis Women's Equity Program

This program is to assist Saskatchewan Métis Women who wish to become entrepreneurs, overcome barriers and enhance their ability to leverage financing and support services from financial institutions and business support agencies.

Under this program CCDF can provide equity assistance of up to 65% of project costs to a maximum of \$10,000. Total project costs cannot exceed \$25,000 (excluding working capital).

### Purpose:

- To purchase an existing business
- To start a new business
- To expand or renovate an existing business

### Method of Investment:

- Maximum \$10,000
- Repayable contribution for a term not to exceed five years
- The contribution will be interest free
- Security will consist of a promissory note

### Repayment:

- After 24 months of satisfactory repayment of principal, the client will have the option to repay 75% of the remaining contribution with 25% being forgiven

### General Guidelines:

- Businesses funded under this program must be for-profit and demonstrated viability through a sound business plan
- Applicants must contribute a minimum of 5% equity to the project
- No administrative fees
- The business must be 100% owned by a Saskatchewan Métis Woman





Ocean Man recently opened its new commuiplex that offers a wide range of amenities for adults and youth of the community. (Photo by Colleen Stinson)

## Ocean Man First Nation determined to eliminate the welfare mentality

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Ocean Man First Nation Chief, Gloria Shepherd, is a woman on a mission to engage the people in her community. She recently announced the grand opening of the community's multi-purpose commuiplex that will house a rec centre, gymnasium, library, adult learning centre, exercise and weight room, dance studio and a convenience store with a gas station.

"We are a community that is steadily growing with a very young population. We need to offer our youth these types of activities, services and the programs that will eventually be made available.

"We did our homework and prepared a good strategic plan for a healthier community," says Chief Shepherd. "This will pay off with improved education results, training opportunities and better physical fitness for all of our members young and old. Our main goal is to get all of the on-reserve members off welfare.

"In 2010 we had over 100 people on welfare and now there is less than 20. It is unacceptable to have people on welfare especially when we're in the heart of the Bakken Oil Formation."

As important as buildings are for the community to host events and provide education and training, Chief Shepherd says you also have to change mindsets.

"We had difficult times with lots of people on welfare," said Chief Shepherd. "But now that we are offering proper training and getting people their safety and trade tickets, we are seeing the numbers drop. I want no people on welfare. People used to just come for the cheque, but we have changed the mindset and it feels better. We know our goals."

**CHIEF GLORIA SHEPHERD** Ocean Man has been ranked in the top 65 reserves in Canada and at one time had the only all women Chief and Council in Canada. They opened up the community centre in a good way with a celebration that concluded with a concert by Canadian country music performer, Charlie Major.



Ask the  
nwmo



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NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

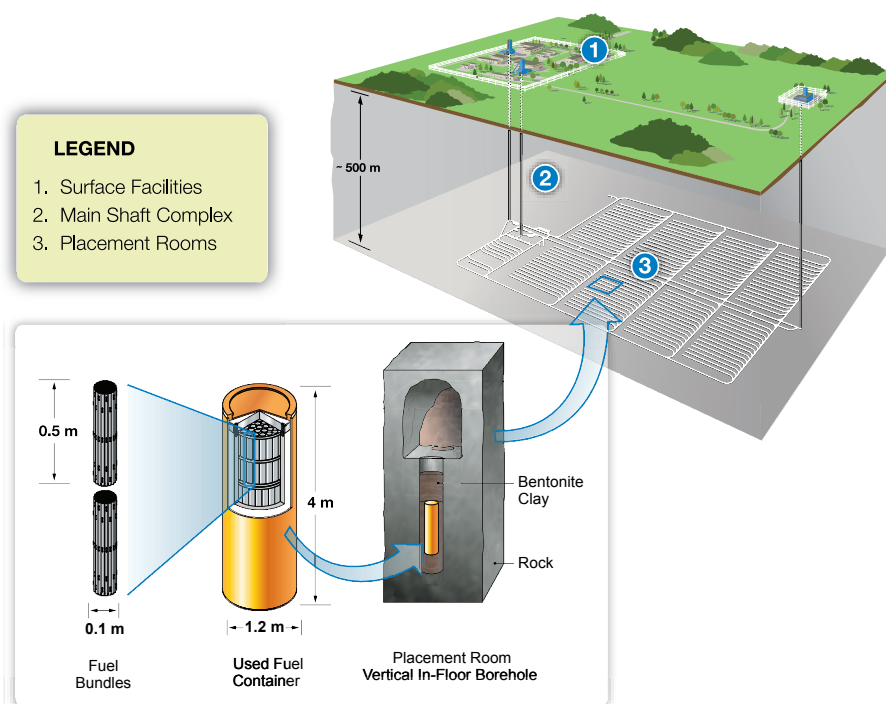
### Repository Design

**Q What is the design of the deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel?**

**A.** The deep geological repository for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel is a multiple-barrier system designed to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel from people and the environment. It is the culmination of more than 30 years of research, development and demonstration of repository concepts in Canada and other countries such as Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and France. The repository will be constructed at a depth of approximately 500 metres, depending on the geology of the site, and will consist of a network of placement rooms for the used fuel.

Used nuclear fuel will be transported to the repository site where it will be repackaged into corrosion-resistant containers for placement in the repository and sealed with bentonite clay.

A centre of expertise for technical, environmental and community studies will be created at or near the site. It will build on the extensive research conducted at Canadian universities and with international partners to become a hub for scientific collaboration.



#### Legend

- 1. Surface facilities** – The surface facilities will receive and repackage used fuel into corrosion-resistant containers for placement in the repository. The project requires a dedicated surface area of about 600 metres by 550 metres for the surface buildings and about 100 metres by 100 metres for the ventilation shaft area.
- 2. Main shaft complex** – The main shaft and service shaft will be used to convey used fuel containers, equipment, personnel and sealing materials to the deep repository.
- 3. Placement rooms** – The underground repository consists of a network of access tunnels and placement rooms covering an area of about 2.7 kilometres by 2.2 kilometres at a depth of about 500 metres.

Safety of people and the environment is always the number one priority. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will review and assess the project and site locations, and ultimately, it will be responsible for issuing licences authorizing the project to proceed through different phases of development.

The design of the deep geological repository includes a period of extended monitoring following placement operations to confirm the long-term safety and performance of the repository. The used fuel containers will also be retrievable at all times. The NWMO, the host community and the regulator will determine when it is appropriate to backfill and close the repository, and will determine the nature and duration of postclosure monitoring.



Sean Russell is the Director of Adaptive Phased Management Repository Research and Development at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. He has worked more than 30 years in Canadian programs for managing used nuclear fuel and low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste. He provided key technical support to the NWMO for the development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for various approaches to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, and was one of the principal authors of the NWMO's 2005 Final Study and recommendations to the Government of Canada, *Choosing a Way Forward: the Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel*.

"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](mailto:askthenwmo@nwmo.ca).



[www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca)

# New education facility opened in Big River

Residents of Northern Saskatchewan have a new opportunity for skills, jobs and business development training following the opening of the Centre of Excellence for Education and Business Development by the Big River First Nation.

The Government of Saskatchewan, through the Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) provided more than \$2.1 million toward the construction of this centre.

"This facility will assist local people in developing and improving their skills and training to contribute to the local economy and help them seize the opportunities available in our province today," Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Nadine Wilson said on behalf of Economy Minister Bill Boyd.

"Big River First Nation is leading the



The Centre of Excellence for Education and Business Development is located on the Big River First Nation.

way in diversifying economic growth in the region and the Government of Saskatchewan is happy to support this project."

The Centre of Excellence will offer skill development, job training and counseling for job opportunities under the direction of the Big River Labour Force Development as well as post-secondary opportunities such as the ITEP B. Ed.

Program, the ITEP M. Ed program and Access to Nursing-two year pre-health Science classes.

A fully operational computer lab will provide opportunities for E-learning, job searches and research. The 6,500 square feet of space will also incubate a number of businesses including a restaurant and catering business, a laundry and sewing centre. There are also display areas for

handicrafts and art contributed by community artisans.

"Education is a window to opportunity and a sound approach to helping youth find their way in life, getting work experience and acquiring good jobs," Big River First Nation Chief Bruce Morin said. "The centre is going to be great for the community and great for the province of Saskatchewan."

# SIAST opens Mining Building

In response to industry demand for more qualified workers for the growing mining industry, SIAST has officially opened the Kelsey Campus Mining Engineering Technology Building. The repurposed building includes geology and computer labs, traditional and technology-enhanced classrooms and student study areas.

"The Mining Engineering Technology program



LARRY ROSIA

was created with industry input, in response to industry need," says Dr. Larry Rosia, president and CEO of SIAST.

"It's one of several

SIAST programs that prepares students to contribute to this particularly vibrant sector of Saskatchewan's economy."

SIAST's Mining Engineering Technology program has proven immediately popular with students. The first intake of the 25-seat program drew 56 qualified applicants within a matter of months.

Renovations to the 18,000-square-foot building used innovative partnering and contracting approaches to meet aggressive cost and schedule targets. The overall schedule from concept design to occupancy was 10 months at a cost of \$150 per square foot, less than half the estimated cost.

The Government of Saskatchewan contributed \$378,000 toward equipment for the program as well as ongoing operational funding support.

"The Government of Saskatchewan understands the importance of post-secondary education to maintain Saskatchewan's strong and steady economy," Jennifer Campeau, MLA for Saskatoon Fairview said, on behalf of the Honourable Don Morgan, Minister of Advanced Education.

"The new Mining Engineering Technology program will provide students with the training and skills required for a career in our growing mining sector."

Students in the Mining Engineering Technology program will receive real-world learning opportunities – the hallmark of a SIAST education. Through a survey camp, field work and labs, they will apply what they learn in the classroom. SIAST's Mining Engineering Technology program applies scientific principles to basic mining engineering problems in both hard and soft rock mining environments.

SIAST's role in supplying the human capital required by the mining industry is clearly critical. More than half the workers needed by the sector in the decade ahead will require a technical or trades education.

Two-thirds of the space in the SIAST Kelsey Campus Mining Engineering Technology Building is devoted to the mining program and the rest will house SIAST's Business Development and Advancement Division and other administrative offices.

## Public Safety Message for residents of northern Saskatchewan

Crews are now at work clearing trees and brush along the major power line from **Lindsay Lake to Key Lake** to prepare for construction of a new 230 kilovolt transmission line.

This work involves the use of dangerous equipment and the falling of large trees. For the safety of our crews, and the general public, **please stay away from this area while the clearing is taking place.**

The project will continue from October to December, as long as it is safe to do so (weather permitting).

Here's what you can expect while the work is going on:

- Crews and equipment will arrive in the area by helicopter. You'll see and hear more helicopter traffic.
- The workers operate out of camps set up along the power line. This helps them get the work done safely and efficiently.
- There will be more highway and road traffic in and around the Key Lake and Lindsay Lake areas as workers arrive and equipment and supplies are delivered.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve electricity service to our customers in northern Saskatchewan.

To our crews and everyone involved in this project, thank you and stay safe.

# Young, aboriginal voters avoid the polling stations in droves

With municipal and school board elections happening across the province on October 24, there is concern that, as usual, Métis and First Nation people will choose to ignore the vote and go about their merry way of not being engaged in local politics. This is concerning to many, including youth activist Zoe Roy, who in 2011, during the federal election started a Rock the Vote campaign that went national. We sat down with Zoe and asked her a few questions on why Aboriginal people don't vote, and why we should. Here are her young but very wise words of wisdom.

Why don't young Aboriginal people vote?

Young aboriginal people don't vote because there is a historical disconnect in the relationship between First Nations, Metis and Inuit people that has not been fully addressed or resolved. The strong need to emancipate from the Canadian government has been on the platform of indigenous leadership for many generations. The government has never honored their word from an aboriginal youth perspective, so for one to be optimistic that things will suddenly change is fundamentally unrealistic.

What does your organization do to promote them voting? The position that I take on civic politics is mobiliza-

tion of the greater community. It is difficult to approach because of the laws in place that one has to live at one address for three months before election date; this hinders the ability for university students to vote. The interesting aspect of the civic election is that it is non-partisan so a voter could decide what individual they believe would best represent their constituents. This is the most engaging way to approach the election – it is not about choosing a party, it's about getting the representation you believe is needed for your community and someone who will speak out when serving their term.

What are the top reasons why is it important for youth to be engaged in the electoral process?

1. You can vote for the individual who is the 'mover and shaker' of your community.
2. You have the ability to hold council accountable and actually create change in your community.
3. Accessibility to decision makers.
4. They will directly affect you in your day to day life. You have the choice.
5. You can't complain what's happening in your community if you didn't vote – voting gives you a voice, even if you are one person.
6. You have a voice in the larger community.



Zoe Roy

## 2012 SASKATOON CIVIC ELECTIONS YOUR CITY. YOUR SAY. VOTE!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012

This Wednesday, Saskatoon citizens who are eligible to vote will elect a Mayor and City Councillors for the City's ten wards. Elections for Trustees of the Saskatoon Public School Board's ten wards, and seven Trustees elected at large for the Saskatoon Catholic School Board will also be held. Find the full list of candidates in your Saskatoon Voters' Guide and online at [www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote](http://www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote).

**ELECTION DAY VOTING HOURS ARE 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.**



### SASKATOON VOTERS' GUIDE

The Saskatoon Voters' Guide was delivered on Sunday, October 7 with the Sunday Phoenix, and includes information on who can vote, where to vote, and when to vote. Ward listings and candidate profiles are also included. The Voters' Guide is also available online at [www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote](http://www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote), and at Public Libraries, Leisure Centres and City Hall.

### WHERE TO VOTE

Consult the Voters' Guide, or visit [www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote](http://www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote) and use the online form to find your Polling Station.

### FREE RIDE TO VOTE WITH SASKATOON TRANSIT

Clip this coupon and take a free bus ride to the Polling Station. Coupons are also included in the Voters' Guide and online at [www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote](http://www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote). A return ticket will be provided to you at the Polling Station.

For more information visit [www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote](http://www.saskatoon.ca/go/vote) or call 975-3240.

YOUR CITY. YOUR SAY. VOTE!

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2012 SASKATOON CIVIC ELECTIONS

This Civic Election

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OCTOBER 24, 2012



**Randell Morris**  
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

# My Saskatoon means growth.

A growing and prosperous Saskatoon means more opportunities.



**Vote for Growth  
and Prosperity on  
October 24!**

Saskatoon is a great place to call home. Our friendly people, safe communities, proactive business environment and central location means people are noticing and business is booming.

Over the past 5 years we've experienced significant growth, which can mean more opportunity, greater amenities and an increased tax base. It can also mean changes and an opportunity to make things better. Well managed growth with careful planning can mean we all benefit.

"Along with Saskatoon, we've seen tremendous growth over the past six years. Our enrolment is up 29% and revenue 60%. We've expanded and improved our campuses throughout the province adding the new Aviation Learning Centre in Saskatoon."

This message brought to you by Prosperity Saskatoon.

# Zine will feature emerging writers and artists

Too often, talent goes unnoticed or unexplored. It is usually due to lack of confidence or encouragement and sometimes it is simply because there was no outlet for creative energies. Joi Arcand and Mika Greyeyes may have a solution for this.

They have joined forces to create a zine, which they've named *Kimiwan* to highlight and feature writers and artists in all stages of their career.

If you've never before heard of a zine, you aren't alone. I hadn't either!

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines zine as: "Magazine; especially: a non-commercial often homemade or online publication usually devoted to specialized and often unconventional subject matter."

Arcand was inspired by a zine she worked on in British Columbia.

"I was living in Vancouver for a few years. I got involved with a zine collective out there called Rain Zine (Rain is an acronym for Radical Art in Nature). They do a similar project.

"It's a lot of local Vancouver writers, artists and activists that contribute to the zine. That's where I got the idea from. I actually worked on the last issue with the collective and it was a really rewarding experience. When I moved back to Saskatoon, I wanted to start up my own zine, inspired by that experience," says Arcand.

Arcand wants to focus on the design and layout while her cousin, Greyeyes, will focus on editing. They are aiming at producing a quarterly zine, each about 64 pages. They are hoping to start with about 250 to 300 copies.

"We'll be selling the zine to cover printing costs," says Arcand. "Because

we have no funding, we're just doing it as a project. It's just something that I really felt passionate about.

"I love sharing and promoting Indigenous artists, so there'll be a small fee to cover printing costs."

The first few issues will likely be black and white to keep costs low but eventually they may aim to secure funding for *Kimiwan*.

They are open to mailing issues to people and will likely approach book stores and anyone interested in carrying or promoting the zine. Subscriptions will also be a possibility.

Most of the submissions received so far are poetry. They have one submission from New Zealand. They really hope to encourage more submissions, particularly from people who have never been published or those who might otherwise need an extra push.

"*Kimiwan* is also for those who think they aren't artists, or who wouldn't think of themselves as creative," says Arcand.

having to go through the traditional route of going through a publishing house.

"Making a zine is just creating your own media and

you don't have to filter it or censor it. You can just say whatever you want. You can hand it out to

whoever you want. Hopefully somebody will take something from it. That's really the entire goal of this project is to get the word out there – to create our own media," says Arcand.

"I just want people to know that you can go to your local copy shop and photocopy maybe a four-page or an eight-page zine and it will only cost you a couple of bucks. All of a sudden you will have a piece of work that's totally your own. It's totally accessible to whoever wants to try it," says Arcand.

If you're interested in submitting to *Kimiwan*, they are looking for drawings, photographs, paintings, collage, typography, scribbles, thoughts, ideas, words, poetry, songs, short stories, recipes, interviews, essays, or whatever media you use to express yourself.

They don't have a theme for the first issue, but there are specific topics they are interested in, such as decolonization, identity, family, land, laughter, love, rage, youth voice, healing, nostalgia, surviving, technology, music, graffiti, tradition, your story.

The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2012 and the first issue will, hopefully, be out by December, 2012. The best way to submit is through email: [kimiwan.zine@gmail.com](mailto:kimiwan.zine@gmail.com).

For more information, visit: [www.kimiwan-zine.tumblr.com](http://www.kimiwan-zine.tumblr.com).

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in *Eagle Feather News*, give me a shout at: [snazyjess@hotmail.com](mailto:snazyjess@hotmail.com). See you next month!



Joi Arcand and Mika Greyeyes are creating a zine to highlight arts and culture. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"I really want to show that anybody can put together a zine because that's the entire spirit and intent of zines, self-publishing and getting your story out there without

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# Huk and the lost kid

You meet a lot of people on your way through this life. By the time you get to 55, like me, you've met a ton of folks. Some of them are fringe dwellers and never really get a foothold in your story and others become fixtures in your tale.

The trick is that you have to learn to meet everyone openly because you never know when someone special will walk in unannounced. Age gives you that grace. But when you're young it's easy to miss their influence.

When I was 17 I met one of those unforgettable characters. I was working under age in the tavern of a dilapidated old hotel called The Embassy in St. Catharines, Ontario.

The owner liked me and gave me the job because he could see that I needed it. The tavern at The Embassy was a seaway bar and sailors from ships on the St. Lawrence Seaway came into drink and relax. The place could be tough and hard but I could make people laugh and the clientele took to me right away.

## A port in the fog is still a port, regardless

I hadn't been there long before I met Huk. His full name was Fred Huculak and he'd been around a long time. He was fully inked with tattoos and carried a thousand stories. I lived in the room directly beneath his on the third floor. He liked me for some strange reason, found me easy to talk to and we became friends.

When I wasn't working we'd cook together, share a few beers and Huk would tell me stories. He'd been to jail a few times, lived on the street in various cities, wandered the country, worked various times as a lumberjack, a welder, a camp cook and had spent many years on the boats on the Seaway.

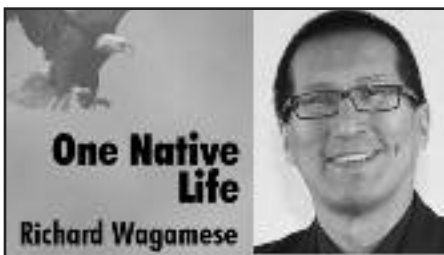
He was tough, a coarse talker and he had the respect of a lot of rough people. Freddie was the first real rounder I ever met.

He looked out for me. He made sure no one ever messed with me in the tavern and he watched my back whenever things got wild in there like they tended to do a lot of times.

Having Huk behind you was definitely a good thing when the bar fell into mayhem and the fists would fly. I'd

been on the carnival and had seen a few good tilts by that time but nothing like a room full of drunken seamen could create.

He cared about me but Huk had issues of his own. He was a speed addict and prone to two week methamphetamine benders that eventually saw him crippled by wild paranoia and I would



have to talk him down sometimes or make sure he ate or nurse him through the withdrawals when he went cold turkey. It was a hard way to get to know a person but it brought us closer.

I was pretty much a lost kid back then. I'd left home after only finishing Grade 9 and confronted the street, welfare, unemployment and the hard life of the disenfranchised.

I was searching for meaning, for identity, for a place to hang my hat and a peg to hang my life upon. It wasn't an easy search. I was lonely and scared and prone to the typical craziness of youth.

Once after a wild party that ended badly, I sat with Huk and told him about it. We sat there having lunch and a drink and I tried to make him laugh about the episode.

He just sat silently for a long time. Then he said, "You got more in you. You're bigger than this."

He looked at me with clear, hard blue eyes and I nodded even though I was young and naïve and didn't really understand what he meant.

But his words had weight. I left shortly after that in a \$100 car to explore Canada. He walked out with me and stood in the parking lot and waved until I disappeared.

No one ever waved goodbye to me before. I had to clench the wheel until the bruised feeling eased into something gray and manageable.

Almost 40 years later I think I understand. Bards sometimes sit in crummy rooms scoffing a six pack and a hoogie, smoking roll-your-owns and drowning in old mariner tales.

What makes this country tick for kids like I was then are guys like Huk, tough as hell and 'givin' 'er the best they can and letting young guys know they got better in them because they learned somehow to see contrast through the gloom.

Pass it on the best you can because what you know is what you know.

You're a richer man for seeing what you've seen and a port in the fog is still a port, regardless.

Thanks Huk.

# Sylvia Tyson to speak at Anskohk Festival

By Andréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

Building on last year when esteemed author Tomson Highway was in the spotlight, Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival is planning another stellar event.

Dr. Louise Halfe, who received an honorary doctorate from Wilfrid Laurier University earlier this year, will be hosting a special evening with Daniel David Moses, playwright, poet, and teacher, as well as three local authors, including Eagle Feather News publisher John Lagimodière, on Thursday October 25 with doors opening at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Other readers include Julianna McLean and Darren Prefontaine.

The festival continues Friday and Saturday when Anskohk and the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild will sponsor several workshops with notable Aboriginal writers and artists including Marilyn Dumont, Curtis Peeteetuce, Paul Seesequasis, Aboriginal Literary Agent Anita Large, Daniel David Moses.

On the Saturday night, the legendary Sylvia Tyson, who will deliver the annual Caroline Heath Memorial Lecture for the Writer's Guild. Limited tickets are available for all events and it is suggested that attendees buy advance tickets although rush tickets can be purchased, subject to availability.

Tickets, schedules, and information can be found at [anskohk.com](http://anskohk.com), or purchased in-person at the Thursday gala event, which will begin with a reception and fiddling by Saskatoon's Dallas Boyer, who was nominated for Best Fiddle CD and Male Entertainer of the Year for the Aboriginal People's Music Choice Awards and is headed to Winnipeg in November.

The five person Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writer's Circle Inc. board and its supporters and advisors, which grew out of last year's event, is striving to keep Anskohk going as well as advocate for Aboriginal writers at the local and provincial level, and hopes for widespread community support and new members.

Any writer who is interested in joining can do so for only \$20 (downloadable form and details are available on the website or in-person during Oct. 25 to 27) and will receive discounted admission to all events, plus one year's free membership to the Writer's Guild.



**SYLVIA TYSON**  
(Photo by Silvia Pecota)

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers' Circle Inc. Presents

# Ânskohk

Aboriginal Literature Festival  
October 25-27, 2012

Thursday, October 25, 2012  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Saskatoon, SK  
Reception/Program: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Individual Tickets: \$15.00 Advance  
\$20.00 At the Door

Master of Ceremonies: Louise Halfe  
Guests: John Lagimodière, Darren R. Prefontaine, Julianna McLean  
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 and is an Associate Professor.

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Annual Fall Conference Joint Session with Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival. Go to [www.sawci.com](http://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 workshop, author lectures and readings, and the SAWCI AGM

Featuring: Marilyn Dumont, Daniel David Moses, Paul Seesequasis, Curtis Peeteetuce, Sylvia Tyson and others

Aboriginal Writers' Pitch Session with Publishing Consultant, Anita Large. Must pre-register by Oct. 19, 2012.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.anskohk.com](http://www.anskohk.com)

# Rose Boyer bakes bannock at Batoche for 45th time

By Dennis Fisher  
For Eagle Feather News

On Sunday, July 22, my wife, Jeannie and I went to the Back to Batoche celebrations. Little did we know we were in for a pleasant surprise.

A good friend, Senator Nora Cummings took us to meet an old friend, and that old friend would be Rose Boyer – a lady we well remember from the 1980s. How delightful to see her smiling face! Rose is battling cancer and weighs a mere 87 pounds ... a feisty 87 pounds!

A “Road Allowance” Métis, Rose lived in the Glen Mary district, north of Kinistino where Canon Edward Ahenakew served the Métis people for many years. It was there that an eight-year-old Rose started making bannock. She has baked a lot of bannock over the years, and she told us that she has done this at Batoche for 45 of the last 47 years. She’s good at it, and I guess practice makes perfect.

Over the years, Jeannie and I have photographed Rose baking bannock. I went through some photograph albums and selected some images for the Gabriel Dumont Institute’s records. Interesting to note is Rose’s jet-black hair in the early photos. Later came the grey hair, and in August this year came the silver.

I took over 70 photos of Rose making bannock during the Sunday competition. Over 25 of the photos were of Rose kneading the bannock with her knuckles. One could see she loved what she was doing, and she loved her trip to Batoche. A happy lady, she watched as her son Phil and his wife Gail, were honoured as Mr. and Mrs. Batoche, and was given the added pleasure of enjoying the fiddling prowess of her grandson, Dallas on the Batoche stage.

What a proud Métis family! You can tap your feet to the fiddle as you imagine how good that bannock is in this panel of photos.



Senator Nora Cummings and Dennis Fisher congratulate Rose Boyer on a milestone. For 45 years, Boyer has been baking bannock at the annual Back to Batoche celebration.



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# Film tackles issue of teen pregnancy in Northern Sask.

By Jessica Iron Joseph  
For Eagle Feather News

**B**arefoot, the latest short film by writer/director Danis Goulet, examines attitudes towards teen pregnancy in northern Saskatchewan. Goulet was interested in exploring the pressures and desires of young women in the North, which are often contrary to those of young women in mainstream Canada.

Undeniably, young Aboriginal girls in the North face a different reality than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. But this trend seems to be widespread across the province, affecting many Aboriginal communities, and therefore seems to represent most of Saskatchewan. Goulet wanted to approach it from a non-judgmental stance and Barefoot reflects this curiosity, emphasizing the cultural differences.

"I think many Aboriginal teen girls grow up fast and become independent at a younger age," says Goulet. "I wanted to create a little window into this world that doesn't shy away from the complexity and nuance of their experiences."

Using Aboriginal actors was an obvious choice for Goulet.

"Aboriginal people, perspectives and Northern settings are under-represented in Canadian cinema," says Goulet. "I am passionate about bringing stories to the screen that are told from the perspectives of Aboriginal



Danis Goulet explains a shot to the cast and crew on the set of Barefoot. (Photo supplied)

characters – in this case, teen girls."

Goulet auditioned over 200 youth from five communities in Northern Saskatchewan. It was important to her to find non-actors from the North, as they would all possess the subtle characteristics of their communities. After selecting ten youth, they spent a week in training and rehearsal before the three lead actors became apparent. They are Emily Roberts, Cole Ballantyne and Kassie Svendsen.

"The young people we worked with were a huge inspiration. I was floored by some of the challenges they face. But in spite of these challenges, there is spirit, tenacity, beauty and vulnerability. And Emily, Cole and Kassie brought that to the screen."

Goulet, a Cree/Metis filmmaker, shot the film in her hometown of La Ronge. Barefoot was filmed during November with the cold, winter landscape staging a perfect backdrop for the

film's disquieting mood.

Barefoot was recently premiered at Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). It was Goulet's second time there. Her 2010 film, Wapawekka, received rave reviews at TIFF and was also screened at the Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival. Barefoot was selected for the Canada: Not Short on Talent Showcase at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival.

Barefoot will also be shown at imagineNATIVE in late October. All three lead actors will be in attendance for the imagineNATIVE premiere.

It will be their first time in Toronto. For more information on Barefoot, visit: [www.barefoot-film.com](http://www.barefoot-film.com).



## Learning Success Today... Leading Success Tomorrow

Education Week, October 15 - 21



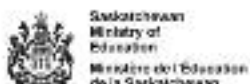
This year's Education Week theme looks to the future. It was carefully chosen to reflect not only the work that we have been undertaking in the ministry, but also the direction that has been taken by our school divisions and schools to improve the outcomes for Saskatchewan students. The theme *Learning Success Today...Leading Success Tomorrow* demonstrates that when we as leaders, parents, guardians, teachers and students put the effort into education, we are supporting our students to reach their highest potential.

Education plays a vital role in the growth and success of Saskatchewan and its students. We believe that the learning success and achievement of our young people is paramount for the future prosperity of our province. That is why the Government of Saskatchewan is embarking on a multi-year Student Achievement Initiative. For more information visit [education.gov.sk.ca/student-achievement](http://education.gov.sk.ca/student-achievement)

We invite you to join in the celebration, and to highlight the theme during Education Week from October 15 to October 21, 2012.

*R. Marchuk*

Honourable Russ Marchuk  
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# Vice-Chief slams feds for chronic education under-funding

By Kerry Benjoe  
For Eagle Feather News

The ongoing lack of funding by the federal government doesn't add up say First Nation leaders.

Earlier this year, the federal government included an investment of \$275 million over three years for First Nation Schools in its annual budget. The money is earmarked to build and renovate First Nations schools and improve educational programming, an amount provincial First Nations leaders have called inadequate.

However, since that announcement was made, First Nation leaders, like Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-Chief Simon Bird, have questioned the federal government's lack of action when it comes to investing in on-reserve schools.

"I have spoken to various leaders, parents, students, teachers and staff who work in First Nations schools and the number one concern they express is the quality of education their children are receiving," said Bird.

"Parents, students and teachers are concerned with the lack of resources in the schools and the state of the facilities."

He said statistics have shown that the education gap that exists between First Nation and non-First Nation students is a reality.

"As you investigate further you begin to see a clear picture of the chronic underfunding of First Nations schools in Saskatchewan and across Canada and this is a national and international embarrassment," said Bird.

"The lack of comparable, sustainable and predictable funding is the most

obvious evidence of government reneging on its fiduciary responsibilities. If First Nations schools had comparable funding we could continue to build the proper capacity, strengthen our languages and prepare for the future."

Bird is not alone in his stance on funding for First Nations schools.

First Nation leaders across Canada have voiced their concerns about the state of education on reserves.

The Assembly of First Nations hosted a national conference on education in late September.

Bird said the meeting confirmed that the federal government is "being unresponsive to Saskatchewan's concerns as well as most of the country."

"A resolution passed by more than 90 per cent of the leadership that attended," he said. "The majority of attendees unanimously rejected any national legislation on education. The Chiefs in assembly demanded the federal government uphold the honour of the Crown and its full obligations to First Nations by providing needs based, sustainable education funding that supports First Nations lifelong learning."

He questions the federal government's reasoning when it comes to investing in the future.

"When First Nations have adequate resources we see the results of our investments in the form of increasing positive student outcomes," said Bird.

"Investing in our students today will result in a lower number of social income recipients and a higher number in tomorrow's workforce. Investing in First Nations education is investing in everyone's future in this province and in

this country."

He said the government's lack of action leaves one with more questions than answers.

"The state of First Nations education is increasingly under attack by a federal government that has not listened to the Auditor General of Canada who stated the education system for Aboriginal Peoples is severely underfunded," said Bird.

"The federal government's answer is federal legislation as opposed to proper adequate investment today and for the future."

According to AFN, funding for First Nations schools is determined by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) using an outdated national funding formula that was developed in 1987 and last updated in 1996 for appropriate population and living costs.

Since it was developed the education funding formula has been capped at two per cent per year that hasn't taken into account inflation and an increased First Nation population. AFN estimates that the underfunding of First Nations schools has created a First Nations education funding shortfall of \$747 million in the last school year and a cumulative funding shortfall of over \$3 billion since 1996.

"(AANDC) is trying to undermine First Nations by cutting support funding, delaying the release of budgeted funds and ignoring its responsibilities," said Bird.

"The federal government ignores the Auditor General's reports, battles with its own Parliamentary Budget Officer

and is clearly dishonoring the Crown First Nation Gathering held in January and not acting in good faith as promised through the Residential School Truth and Reconciliation process.

"To add insult to injury, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Canada officials are not even qualified in the field of education yet they are making decisions on the lives of thousands of First Nation children and families."

FSIN has extended an invitation to AANDC Minister John Duncan to come to Saskatchewan to observe for himself the real situation of First Nations elementary and secondary education.

Bird said did not agree with the numbers AANDC provided at the AFN education meeting, which say that reserve schools are not underfunded.

"Premiers and Ministers of Education have clearly stated that First Nations education funding needs to be comparable. If our funding is higher than provincial rates, why does AANDC immediately increase funding when the provinces take over one of our schools?"

"So can we be expected to trust this federal government with our Treaty Rights by giving them control over how our Treaty and Inherent Rights are implemented in Federal Legislation?" questioned Bird. "The answer from Saskatchewan is no!"

He is concerned at what the future may bring if action is not taken.

"If First Nations voices across the country are going unheard now, who will speak on behalf of our people after the federal government cuts funding to First Nations organizations by 2014?" asked Bird.

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Regina educator Maureen Johns has received a prestigious honour from the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

By Morgan Beaudry  
For Eagle Feather News

Maureen Johns isn't a surgeon or a pilot or a firefighter but she was recognized nationally this year for excellence in a day day-to-day job that has life and death consequences.

This summer, Johns, an educator based in Regina, was named the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) Outstanding Aboriginal Educator for 2012.

"Maureen Johns epitomizes the essence of this award with her achievements throughout her career as a classroom teacher, school principal and as a senior level administrator," said CTF President Paul Taillefer at the Federation's annual general meeting in July.

Nominated by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federa-

# Teaching is truly a matter of life and death for passionate Regina educator

tion (STF), Johns was honoured in part for being a passionate champion for the inclusion of First Nations and Métis voices in education.

As far back as she can remember, Johns wanted to be a teacher.

"When my brothers and sisters would play school I was always the teacher. Even when pretending I loved that moment when the light went on and a student clicked with something," Johns said.

Her first attempts at changing how Indigenous people were viewed came when she wrote a short story in Grade 12 about a Brown Cinderella who went to her graduation in a Traditional Ladies Dance outfit.

Johns started teaching for real after graduated in 1984 from Saskatchewan Indian Federated College with Bachelor of Elementary Indian Education. In 1995, she became Scott Collegiate's first female First Nations principal.

Education is literally a matter of life and death to Johns. "If someone doesn't feel welcome at school they'll never want to come back. Every day was high stakes; you could make a difference with a good or a harsh look," Johns said.

To her, the students were as close as blood family members and their futures were dependent on the quality of caring, not just education, she invested in them.

"I told one boy, a street kid with knife scars and gang colours in his pocket that he was welcome but weapons and drugs weren't. The next day, he was there in black pants and shirt. He dropped out but two years later when I ran

into him he knew me, respected me and called me 'Miss' ," said Johns.

"Another student registered and dropped out eight times. It doesn't matter if it's 10 times so long as they come back. When someone has hope in their life they have a light in their eye. If that light is on make it shine brighter. If not, find the switch and turn it on. Help them discover it."

In her career, Johns also worked with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations providing leadership for First Nations education development and was Saskatchewan's provincial representative for the Assembly of First Nations' national education system development.

Currently, she is Executive Lead of Indigenization working out of the President's office at the University of Regina. In effect, she's still doing what she does brilliantly – making education a safe environment for First Nations students.

"The nicest thing about award is that it shows people clearly value the public education system. Recognition is credibility," said Johns.

"The payoff is how people are picking up on the need for care and concerns toward First Nations education. Indigenous voices are needed in education because to leave us out results in bias by omission. We only get a part of the story if we don't hear Indigenous voices."

Johns is the second Saskatchewan educator to win the award in the award's five-year history. Beverley Cheechoo of Cumberland House won the award in 2010 in recognition of three decades of teaching and her development of Cree language learning resources.



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**SESSION**

**6pm-9pm**

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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 Megral 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



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# 'Frontrunners' took snub in stride

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

**W**illiam Merasty was one of nine Niigaanibatowaad, "FrontRunners" enlisted to distance-run the torch for the Pan American games in 1967. But things didn't go quite like planned when they arrived, although Merasty, like the champion he is, took it all in stride.

"I was from Saskatchewan, they were all from Manitoba. The other guys were Ojibwe, I spoke Cree. I was a banana in an apple bin," he joked, of his selection process.

He is still in touch with the other runners, all these years later, because they went back for an official apology in 1999, again in Winnipeg. This time, unlike 1967, they were allowed into the stadium. This time, they were honoured for their Aboriginal heritage, instead of being discriminated against.

From the Sandy Bay and Pelican Narrows area, Merasty was in Residential School at the time, and the organizers of the Pan American games thought having these talented Indigenous cross-country runners and provincial champions carry the torch from Minnesota to Winnipeg, where the games were being hosted, would be especially fitting.

But after relay-running the torch 500 miles in about five days, the nine boys were stopped at the gates of the Winnipeg stadium, and a Caucasian youth carried the torch in to the cheering crowd, as someone "more representative of a true Canadian". It is hard not to respond emotionally to this story. It must have been heartbreaking. But Merasty focuses on the positive.

*The nine boys were stopped at the gates of the Winnipeg stadium, and a Caucasian youth carried the torch in to the cheering crowd ...*

Laura Robinson, who came upon the story as a journalist at the 1999 event, interviewed all the men and wrote the story for Aboriginal Voices, then wrote the play, and later the screenplay, during a writing residency in Calgary.

Oskayak School hosted a special screening of it, with students from their law class hosting, attending, drumming, and filming. Rachel Snow, from the College of Law, was on hand to share her perspective, while Shannon Loutitt, a local honour-runner, brought William Merasty a piece of the grandmother cloth from her Tom Longboat Boston Marathon run.

"When our stories don't get heard, the gift and the magic and the treasures don't get passed on," noted Loutitt, before also thanking Robinson with one of her triathlon medals, white ribboned for courage.

"Thank you William – your story was one of huge sacrifice but also a huge lesson. It will never be forgotten."



**Shannon Loutitt, Rachel Snow, William Merasty and Laura Robinson were on hand for a showing of Frontrunners at Oskayak High School.** (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

It is hard not to respond emotionally to this story. It must have been heartbreaking. But Merasty focuses on the positive.

"It was a real eye-opener for us, travelling like that, we were treated like royalty along the way. I guess there was a reason they called it boarding school. We were 'boarded up', hadn't seen a lot of the world," Merasty laughed.

Asked to compare the 1967 trip, which he described as a lot of fun, to the 1999 trip which actually ended with being brought into the Pan Am stadium this time, he said, "I broke into a big smile. I knew my son was in the crowd there, and I was trying to wave to where I thought he was."



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# Sniper a legend in his own mind

**Name:** John Lagimodiere  
**Sport:** Hockey  
**Shoots:** Right  
**Position:** Right Wing  
**Nickname:** Sniper  
**Signature Move:** Not falling down  
**Other Sports Played:** Basketball and horrible golf

**GOZ:** Okay... Sniper? Here we go. Congrats on getting signed with the Friday afternoon teachers game at the ACT Arena in Saskatoon. Was there a healthy signing bonus?  
**SNIPER:** Actually, I had to pay to play this year AND carry the pucks.  
**GOZ:** With the NHL lockout in full effect, do you feel any jeopardy being scouted by the big show this year?

**SNIPER:** I would be a scab NHLer if they asked ... but they aren't gonna ask. Pretty sure of that.

**GOZ:** C'mon now, dreams can come true. SCAB! Anyway, I know you're a big Flyers fan but I heard rumblings those hated Maple Leafs were in the hunt for a big right winger who can score and isn't afraid of the rough stuff. What if they offer you a lucrative contract and a bag of hockey sticks?

**SNIPER:** I would never, ever associate myself with the Leafs organization ever. They were my dad's team, and that is as close as it comes to any association with them. Not a lot of good things to say about the Leafs except it is nice to see them mired in years of less than mediocrity.

**GOZ:** Let's pretend Gino Odjick and Jon (Nasty) Merasty play on the other team during your Friday afternoon game. Both of them challenge you to a scrap and you can't back down. Who do you pick?

**SNIPER:** I pick Gino because he is older and maybe his hands are really sore and arthritic from beating people up so he would punch me softly. And, even if he punched me softly, I would likely cry quite a bit.

**GOZ:** There's no crying in hockey. So you're playing for the Flyers. It's game seven of the Finals and it's in overtime. Claude Giroux springs you on a breakaway. It's just you and Jonathon Quick.

**SNIPER:** I put the puck top shelf glove side where they keep the cheese.

**GOZ:** Cheese is right. What's your pick for best Aboriginal hockey player of all time (excluding yourself of course)?

**SNIPER:** I have to go with Bryan Trottier. He was even better all around than Gretzky in the early '80s. Not bad for Métis kid from Val Marie, Saskatchewan.

**GOZ:** You're an up and coming coach in



Saskatoon minor hockey. What's on the horizon for Coach Sniper?

**SNIPER:** I am actually coaching my son's team (Aces) as well as my daughter's team (Comet Rebels). I can't get enough of the rink and coaching your children is very rewarding and a great way to stay in shape and stay young.

**GOZ:** What happens when one day your son or daughter tells you they want to be a hockey fighter when they grow up. What do tell him or her?

**SNIPER:** I pity the fool that drops the gloves with my daughter Willow. It will be ugly. In reality though, I would try to dissuade them. I had the privilege of interviewing since deceased tough guy Derek Boogaard. Nice guy, a real gentle giant off the ice. With all the concussions and degenerative brain damage to some of these guys, I would tell my kids to hit the other guy first, then turtle.

**GOZ:** What's your prediction for the Saskatchewan Roughriders this year?

**SNIPER:** I can see us making it to the West final in B.C. and that is as far as the grandfathers have allowed my vision to go...

**GOZ:** Being that every Rider fan is more than capable of coaching the team to a Grey Cup win, you sign a one-day contract to coach the Riders for the big game. It's the fourth quarter, one minute left and you're down by five. You got three plays. What do you do?

**SNIPER:** Dressler on a post pattern. Touchdown! Don't need three downs with that guy.



Like one of his idols, Don (Big Bird) Saleski, this Eastview Islander was a lanky and shaggy right winger in his younger days. Saleski went on to play nine seasons in the NHL, while Eastview's John Lagimodiere became a media maven.

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# Boyer's life in tune heading to APMCA awards show in Winnipeg

Dallas Boyer is having a good few months. He recently welcomed a daughter into his family and his album, *Metis Fiddle Music*, is nominated for the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award for album of the year. As well, he was nominated for the 2012 APCMA entertainer of the year award. We grabbed him to talk role models and raising funds to go to the awards in Winnipeg.

How does it feel to be a finalist in Best Fiddler and Entertainer of the Year? Are you nervous?

It feels great. Unbelievable. I never thought I would be at this point in my music as I am today. There has been a lot of ups and downs in the 'music world'. I'm very thankful to be at this point in my life. And I am very nervous, look at the people, the artists, and musicians who are in the same awards show as I am: Donny Parenteau, Terri Clarke, etc. I'd have to say it is one of the most nerve-wracking, yet most exciting things I have experienced. How long have you been fiddling? And how much do you have to practice to stay on top of things?

I started fiddling at the age of seven, and it used to be hours and hours a week – hard work and frustration trying to memorize, learn, hit the exact notes, get the right tempo – especially when you are teaching yourself from a CD! Nowadays it is just whenever I have an urge to play, sometimes an hour straight – sometimes maybe just a tune to get the Métis blood calmed down.

Who are your role models? Why?

My role models – first of all – my parents, Gail Fiddler and Phil Boyer. Thinking back in the day when learning how to play – no matter how awful I was at whatever I was trying to learn – they still gave me courage and confidence to keep on learning. that takes serious patience. Also my Dad has been playing music/song-writing since he was a kid and I always influenced on that. Another role model of mine would be Darren Lavallee – that is one wicked fiddle player – can never sit still when he is sawing at the thing.

How goes the fundraising?






Dallas Boyer considers his dad, Phil, to be one of his most important role models.

Fundraising is good. We're getting up there in the funds to get us to the big award show on November 1 and 2. Although we didn't have much time to fundraise and get organized, everything went amazing. The steak night was a full house! Thanks again to all the supporters. I couldn't believe how many people showed up! And a big thanks to the band that came out to volunteer their time to play music for the event! It was wonderful!


What is the most important thing in the world to you?

This question is easy! My daughter Mya. She is two months old, born on August 22. Best thing that has ever happened to me. Biggest blessing in my life. With her I have even more confidence and courage than I ever did in making it to the next step in my music, making it that much further, that much experienced, and pass that on to her to have hope in the future for my Métis peoples.

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