

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Jonathan makes FSIN history

Newly elected FSIN Vice Chief Kim Jonathan reacts with emotion as her Chief, Dr. Leo Omani of Wahpeton Dakota Nation holds her arm up in victory.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



PERRY BELLEGARDE

### Bellegarde back at FSIN helm

In an upset that saw the assembled voters and observers gasp then cheer in awe, Kim Jonathan defeated Sheldon Wuttunee for First vice Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations by nine votes.

Jonathan now takes her place in history as one of the few women to serve on the executive of the storied organization, the first since the 1970s.

The 457 votes for Jonathan were well-earned by her team and showed that many believed it was time to elect a woman to the organization. One insider noted that his community has had women involved in council for decades and they noticed that when there were no women on council, decisions

became more difficult and there was less consensus.

“Women have a different way of solving problems,” said the insider whose entire First Nation voted Jonathan.

“The FSIN needs a person like this now as they have tough decisions to make in the future.”

Perry Bellegarde defeated Delbert Wapass and Morley Watson to once again be Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. Bellegarde served as Chief from 1998-2003.

He campaigned on enhancing inherent and Treaty rights, the sharing of natural resources and on restoring the pride and credibility in the Federation.



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Welcome to our Veterans Edition

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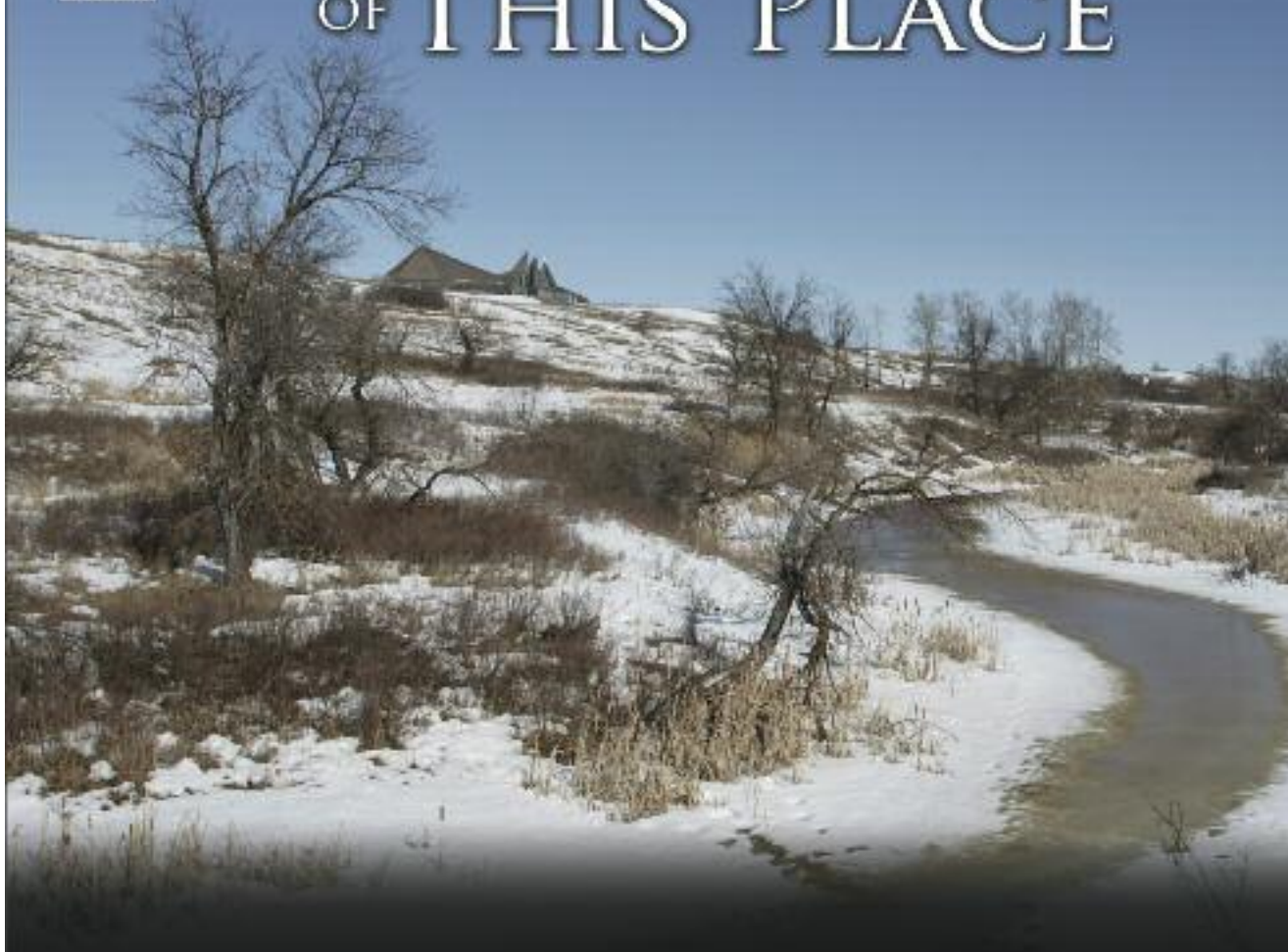
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# Recognition for Métis achievers long overdue

By Meagan Thomas  
For Eagle Feather News

**M**étis people in Saskatchewan are finally getting the recognition they deserve.

The Wiichihwayshinawn (We Are Helpers) Foundation recognized the outstanding achievements of 10 remarkable Métis people at the foundation's first annual awards banquet Oct. 20 in Regina.

"As Canadians and Saskatchewan people, we don't boast about our accomplishments so that, more than anything else, is probably why we don't get the recognition we deserve," said Keon Francis Flamont, the event's MC and inaugural winner of the Foundation's entrepreneurship award.

"I tell my daughter all the time, 'we persevere in all things – in business, with families, in our communities – and move forward. I'm blown away by the talent and successes of our Métis people in Saskatchewan."

This was the first of what will become an annual evening of recognition according to Wiichihwayshinawn Foundation co-founder Jen McGillis.

"The success of the event shows me how much this was so overdue. We need to get over the apathy and start celebrating who we are," McGillis said.

McGillis and colleague Ashley Norton were inspired to launch Wiichihwayshinawn in late 2011 after noticing 'a critical culture gap that needed filling' at First Nations Awards gala celebration in Regina.

"We needed to create awareness of not just the historic figures like Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont but those who are making amazing contributions to society. We want to recognize people who are the future Riels and Dumonts," McGillis said.

To that end, the foundation held community engagement meetings to create and steer the nomination process but the first and overriding principal was that the awards were the community's opportunity to recognize their own. Nominations flooded in from all over Saskatchewan. Many winners, like Senator Nora Cummings, were nominated several times over.

The 2012 Wiichihwayshinawn Award winners were author and educator Jeanne Pelletier (Most Honourable Métis Woman); professor and health policy researcher Dr. Carrie Bourassa (Science and Wellness); distinguished leader, Métis Nation Saskatchewan Senator Nora Cummings (Portrait of Honour and Lifetime Achievement); entrepreneur Keon Francis Flamont (Entrepreneur);

artist Leah Dorion (Arts Award); publisher John Lagimodiere (Journalism); fiddler Dallas Boyer (Youth Award); educator and author Christine Ginter (Education Award); retired Saskatoon Police Service officer, Leo Daigneault (Social Justice/The Louis Riel Award); and community-based non-profit organization, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) (Community and Social Development).

Dr. Bourassa presented the senator with her award.

"It was a huge honour ... she is such an incredible woman who has achieved incredible things and a role model for myself and so many in the community," Dr. Bourassa said.

Bourassa, herself a role model in the community, never expected recognition for her community-based work.

"It made me feel humble and honoured to be recognized for work that's a privilege to do," Bourassa said.

"I was too choked up at the awards to say how my adopted mushem, Clifford La Rocque, would have been so proud but I know he was there and with me. He was huge supporter of community based research and knows the work I do in the community is for the community."

Bourassa was moved by Education Award winner and keynote speaker Ginter's address describing the ambivalence endemic to the Métis identity.

"You can tell from her experience and from other winners and presenters who said 'Well, I'm Métis and it wasn't part of my life' that Métis people are just starting to reclaim their identity and pride."

Because of that, the Métis community is become more self-aware.

"Things are changing for Métis people in Saskatchewan. The organizers saw the First Nations Award and took bull by horns – or the paddle to the canoe – and took action. That's a perfect example," Francis said.

Even before the last of the 150 or so guests left the banquet room at the Regina Inn, plans for next year's event were taking shape.

"Senator Nora said she was pleased that there were both male and female presenters and winners and she was glad we worked with the community for their input," McGillis said.

The only thing noticeably absent from the proceedings was post-awards entertainment.

"As they were heading out, some people said 'Hey, we wanted to jig!' so entertainment is definitely in the works for next year."



Dr. Carrie Bourassa accepts her Métis Award for Science and Wellness as Keon Francis Flamont and May Henderson look on. (Photo by Morgan Beaudry)

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Mark Delorme, Rosarville

# Loss of Randell Morris a tough blow for Saskatchewan

In November we always try to pay homage to warriors. Sadly, in October we lost **Randell Morris**, the President of **SIIT** and a warrior for education and training for First Nation people.

I had the good fortune to have a long relationship with Randell, starting with speaking to the classes he was teaching at the **Edwards School of Business**. He wanted his students to know the chal-



**MORRIS**

lenges and rewards of owning your own business, Aboriginal or not. I also had the opportunity to write about Randell and the progress at SIIT over the past several years. On the other side of the camera, it was hard to get a shot where the guy wasn't smiling. We even used to joke about what kind of smile he had on that day. Some were smiles for the students, others for education and some were just good old s\*\*t-eating smiles because things were going so well.

The growth at SIIT during Randell's tenure was phenomenal. From small partnerships to ventures with international corporations, he brought people together for the common goal of improving lives of First Nation people through education and employment. His easy manner, smile, smarts and ability to deliver results to the partner's and students of SIIT made him an invaluable resource to the province.

Premier Brad Wall was even relying on Randell to help with the Growth Plan for Saskatchewan. Premier Wall and Randell go way back to a time when they were high school buddies in Swift Current. They had become much closer since Randell became President of SIIT and Wall became Premier.

Wall, who spoke so eloquently and emotionally at Randell's memorial

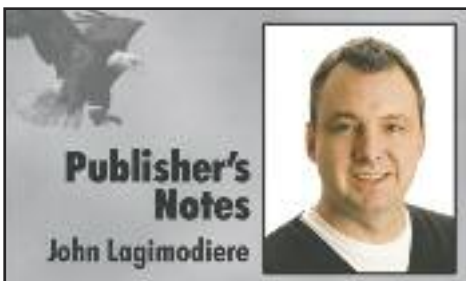
service, said he was devastated upon learning of his passing just moments before he delivered a speech to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce luncheon on his Growth Plan.

He knew that Randell and SIIT were going to play a key role in feeding the labour market with well-trained First Nation employees who could take their place in the Saskatchewan. Losing Randell just made that task much more difficult. We send our deepest condolences to Randell's family and the staff and students at SIIT.

•••  
**Premier Brad Wall** has released his Growth Plan for Saskatchewan and even though it was void of any reference to resource sharing with Aboriginal people, it did set a lofty goal tied to education. He promised to reduce the disparity of First Nation and Métis from non-Aboriginal students graduating high school by 50 per cent by 2020.

To do so they are reducing wait lists for Adult Basic Education programs and will build on the findings of the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Training outcomes for First Nation and Métis People. The Task Force report is due in the spring. Like many say, there is no better social policy than education and training and eventually employment. Aboriginal people should not be missing out on this boom in Saskatchewan.

•••  
In order to have some continuity at SIIT, **Raymond Ahenakew** has been named interim President. A member of the



And **Gabrielle Scrimshaw** is the recipient of the First Nation Youth Award. She graduated from the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan in the top five per cent of her class. Coming from Hatchet Lake, a community of just over 1,000, she has travelled, worked, lived and studied in 20 countries spanning five continents. Scrimshaw also co-founded and is President of the Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada. Nice!



**SCRIMSHAW**

They also have recognized **Theo Fleury** in Sports, but they list him as being from Manitoba, though we do claim the fiery hockey player and sex abuse victim advocate as a Saskatchewanian at heart because he was born in Oxbow. Take that Manitoba.

•••  
And now the long running saga of the 2012 Métis Election is over. The recount for the Secretary position has finally come to a close and the original result will stand. **May Henderson** has officially been named Secretary after a delay of several weeks. There was a recount because she beat Tammy Mah by less than two per cent of the vote. But that two per cent was enough. Congratulations to May on her victory. And in other good Métis Nation news, they have had a PMC meeting that had quorum and work is getting done!

•••  
And lastly, we have to acknowledge **Bernie Shepherd**, the Indian Gaming trailbreaker who has now set his sights on pushing the internet gambling jurisdictional battle. The RCMP are investigating ... and likely not going to raid his house dressed in cammo, waving machine guns and smashing laptops. But ya never know. History often repeats itself. Good luck Bernie.

•••  
A tireless leader, he believes in education for Aboriginal people as a powerful tool for advancement and opportunity. He has served as president of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies as well as chair of SIGA, a member of the University of Regina's Board of Governors, the National Advisory Panel on Skill Development and many other career achievements.



**AHENAKEW**

His outstanding service to the community will be recognized in late November when he will be a recipient of the prestigious Saskatchewan Order of Merit. It is a very fitting award for a man who has done much to include First Nation people in the economy of Saskatchewan.

•••  
And we have some good Saskatchewan content for the Indspire awards that will hit Saskatoon on February 15, 2013. **Winston Wuttunee**, is named in Culture, Heritage & Spirituality. He is a renowned Cree entertainer and respected Elder.

**Graham Kotowich**, is named as Métis Youth Award. Graham is professional ballet dancer who began dancing at the age of seven. At the age of twelve, Kotowich auditioned for and was accepted to the National Ballet School summer dance program in Toronto. He has gone on to much fame and fortune in his craft.



**WALL**

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204 OSSN #1492-7497

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

**Eagle Feather NEWS**

Box 924 Saskatoon, Sk S7K 3M4  
306-978-8118, 1-866-323-NEWS (6397)

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**Subscriptions: Annual Canadian subscription rate is \$25 per year, \$26.25 with GST. Bulk subscriptions are also available, call our office for details. Subscription requests can be mailed or faxed to our office. Forms are available on our website.**

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**This issue printed on: November 10, 2012 Next issue to be printed on: December 11, 2012**

# Pow wow ceremony puts stereotypes to rest

**E**ighty students from my NS 107.3 class (Intro to Native Peoples in Canada) volunteered for the FSIN Powwow as part of their community service learning experience.

Most were non-Native students who had never been to a powwow before and there they were, in their yellow T-shirts, working hard in the Elders lounge, children's area, admissions, registration and anywhere else they were needed. We are so proud of them!

They all tried to catch a bit of grand entry and it is pretty clear they were blown away by it all. Seeing hundreds of dancers, thousands of community members, healthy and enjoying themselves, introduced them to a world most never knew existed. It also shattered many stereotypes.

A special thanks to Melody Wood from SICC for helping me prep the students ahead of time and for being on site to guide and support them along. Many thanks also to SICC President Dorothy Myo and the rest of the powwow committee, as well the 200 volunteers for all your hard work, and to the sponsors for investing in something special for the people.

Grand Entry is always spectacular. It epitomizes celebration, honour, pride, joy,

past-present-future, strength and beauty. As the public ceremonial part, it provides the grounding and sets the tone for the powwow, reminds us who we are and where we come from, and is the largest collective prayer around. It's great to visit with old friends and family

members and get in a few inter-tribals. It's also a great opportunity for newcomers to be introduced to social ceremonials, and to learn about the meaning of the flag staffs and flags, the role of the veterans, the drum groups, and the different dance categories.

The new FSIN Executive was there in full force in almost every grand entry all weekend long showing the people they are committed and not "too busy" to participate. Vice Chiefs Bird and Cameron, who have been doing a great job so far, were joined by our returning Chief Perry Bellegarde and a newcomer to office, Vice Chief Kim Jonathan from Wahpeton Dakota Nation.

To finally get a woman on the FSIN Executive is a huge step. It demonstrates that we now have a new generation of leadership taking us forward, and promises to

bring balance and ensure that the priorities of women and children will get a firm place at the table. Many folks expressed a renewed (or new) sense of hope in the future developments at the FSIN.

In the spirit of past First Nation women leaders, like the late MaryAnne Stoney of Little Pine, women can be effective at making accountability and transparency a reality.

I am also energized by Perry's vision to get revenue resource sharing agreements in place, on the basis of treaty implementation, which promises to take us out of the social welfare relationship and back to the Treaty Relationship. I got a jab from an old friend at the powwow Friday night: "maybe now you'll write something positive about Indian leadership."

Every time I watch the veterans in grand entry it reminds me of our late grandfather and uncle who served in the Boer War, WWI and the Second World War and Korea. They never missed a Remembrance Day memorial service, all dressed up in their blazers with their

ribbons and medals.

One time, a very long time ago, Uncle Hector got me to drive him to an out-of-town service and I got lost. Just before noon struck we were racing down the highway and he grumbled at me to pull over. Then he hauled us all out of the car and made us stand at attention at the side of the road. I got a few scowls and the silent treatment on our way back. Then he chuckled and told me I'd get lost trying to find my way out of a paper bag.

After that incident, no matter where we were going he would ask "are you sure you know where we're going?"

There are so few of the old veterans left among us anymore. The old ones who have passed on are dearly missed and those who remain among us are so precious. Many thanks to our relatives and people who continue to stand at attention and are such inspirational role models. I surely hope their younger relatives are recording their stories and experiences so they can continue to remind us of their sacrifices and experiences.

Just a reminder that the SICC Language Keepers Conference is going to be held on December 5 and 6 at the Saskatoon Inn. Happy 40th Anniversary SICC!



## Honouring our veterans.



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# Relying on ourselves

Much gets said and written in Canada about 'dependency' and its relationship to the indigenous peoples. Often the reference is to economic and political dependency upon the various governments that overrule this country.

I prefer to focus on self-sufficiency. If one believes that the Indian and Métis people have innate strengths, then the idea is that these strengths must be marshaled to the full in order to create and carry out a vision of a better society.

It is the case that First Nations and Métis people are still in the early stages of developing a full political consciousness, after a sad history of political and economic subjugation. Saskatchewan, it is well known, has a history that includes military subjugation in the 19th century. An American historian has even opined that had there been political and military cooperation in 1885 we may have seen the establishment of a 'Native State' in this territory. That is history.

Today, one often hears voices who are 'led by law' rather than by our own political action. Two cases in point are debates about 'jurisdiction' and resort to the opinions of unelected judges in legal cases.

It is not surprising that, especially after a long period of political subjugation, our elected leaders would want to assert authority to act. Finding themselves in a federal political and legal system they might be expected to follow the example of the federal and provincial governments, and show themselves willing to roll up their sleeves and have a rollicking debate about 'jurisdiction and authority'.

Is this the best way? For one thing, these unproductive debates about jurisdiction usually end up in agreements based upon compromise. Even if a court decision is a 'kick-start' the practical needs of creating a working agreement on who is to do what with what money necessarily requires negotiation and compromise on the details.

A broader view of working political models might bring the focus upon ideas and arrangements that overlook haggling over jurisdiction. The European Union is a working alliance of powerful states, each of which holds on to its authority and jurisdiction to act for itself. The EU is an operating model of Treaty Relationships.

The central principle of 'subsidiarity' in the Maastrich Treaty focuses not upon jurisdictions but upon sharing tasks. Each participant nation accepts the authority of all the others but agrees to share tasks where task-sharing offers a better way for all. And the guiding principle is that the best government is

that which happens nearest to the governed.

There is a bit of irony in the observation that traditional ways of indigenous peoples in this country, as illustrated by way of example, in the Ontario Grassy Narrows case, resemble the application of the principle of subsidiarity. Local authority and governance, and delegation upwards to aggregated entities: might that not be a model here? There are many advantages to such an approach, as proposed in detail in the 1996 final report of Canada's Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Even with such an assertive approach of course it is possible that outside parties or governments will take the matter to Canada's courts for a hearing. That happened in the case of Quebec and its views on the Constitution of 1982. What

did the Quebec politicians do? They boycotted the court actions.

Court actions always put First Nations in an unfair situation. The law as being

developed for Aboriginal peoples is demonstrably unfair when compared, say, with the linguistic rights of French-Canadians. This should not be too surprising; these are Canada's courts, not the courts of First Nations or impartial tribunals. Furthermore, the kinds of arguments that can be made and accepted in courts are conventional, that is, they are not universal but are specialized arguments based upon the history and values of the English people that developed the Canadian court system.

In other words, arguments that may make sense in the Cree or Ojibwe world may not qualify as a legal argument that a court can accept and apply.

Next time I want to comment on cases where resort to the courts can indeed be useful, but I need some space this month for other topics.

• • •

Congratulations to all the winners in the recent FSIN election and special applause for first-time winner Kim Jonathan who is reported to be the first woman elected to the position of Vice-Chief.

• • •

How about those Giants, eh? As an old has-been baseball player I took the opportunity to watch the World Series final even as I regretted the exit of the St Louis Cardinals whose pitching was led by American Indian Kyle Lohse, of the California Nomlaki people. The only two other Indians in the majors today are Joba Chamberlin of the early-exit Yankess and my favourite outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury of the weakening Boston Red Sox.



Comment  
Paul Chartrand

## PotashCorp and White Buffalo Youth Lodge partner on facility upgrade



The White Buffalo Youth Lodge is a second home for many young people in Saskatoon. In order to strengthen the home, PotashCorp donated \$200,000 for a major upgrade and renovation to the kitchen. PCS President and CEO, Bill Doyle participated in the grand re-opening of a community kitchen that has become a safe haven and source of food and nutrition for hundreds of inner city youth.

"The kitchen is the heart of our facility," explained Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, representing the Saskatoon Tribal Council, one of White Buffalo's founding organizations. "Thanks to our partner, PotashCorp, it will continue to be a place where good food and good people come together."

Above Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas visits with PCS President and CEO Bill Doyle and White Buffalo Youth Lodge Executive Director Heidi Gravelle in the newly refurbished kitchen.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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# Canada recognizes War of 1812 efforts by Métis, First Nation warriors

Métis and First Nation communities that contributed to the Canadian side during the War of 1812 have been acknowledged for their efforts by the Government of Canada.

“Today we commemorate the brave actions of Aboriginal warriors during the War of 1812,” said Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development John Duncan, speaking at a ceremony honouring Aboriginal allies of the War of 1812.

“The War of 1812 represents a defining moment in Canada’s history. Without the contribution of Aboriginal allies, Canada could not have been successfully defended.”

At the National Recognition Ceremony, 48 First Nations and Métis communities with a heritage linked to the War of 1812 were presented with commemorative War of 1812 banners and medals by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, accompanied by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

At the end of the War of 1812, Aboriginal allies who had fought alongside British and Canadian forces received military flags and medals. While the flags were generally awarded by the British Army, ‘King George III medals’ were issued by British authorities as symbolic acts of gratitude and recognition to the Crown’s Aboriginal allies. This long-standing tradition is being continued today with the presentation of the Canadian Forces War of 1812 Commemorative Banner and the Commemorative War of 1812 Medal for Aboriginal Canadians.

Chief Roger Redman of Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation, Former Chief Lorne Waditika of Wahpeton Dakota First Nation, and Chief Darcy Bear of Whitecap Dakota First Nation accepted flags and medals on behalf of their communities while President Robert Doucette accepted on behalf of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

In addition to highlighting Aboriginal Contributions to the War of 1812, this recognition ceremony also helps to mark the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812, an important milestone in the lead-up to the 150th anniversary of Canada’s Confederation in 2017.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper shakes hands with Chief Rodger Redman and Wayne Goodwill as David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presents them with commemorative War of 1812 medals. (PMO photo by Deb Ransom)



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Elder Louise McKinney, a board member of Station 20 West, was joined by dignitaries and community members as she cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the building that will serve Saskatoon's inner city with a grocery store and many other services for families. (Photo by John Perret)

## Station 20 West grocery store will serve Saskatoon's inner core neighbourhood

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

Station 20 West had its grand opening on Oct. 17, after years of hard work and community support.

"We are as a whole board very, very honoured that we've had so many community members from all across Greater Saskatoon to come together to raise the money in order to open up the building — overwhelmed and honoured and very thankful for the support," noted Sheila Pocha, chair of the Station 20 West board.

"We had the support of the churches, Affinity Credit Union, donations from citizens like Joe Remai and his wife, Jim Yuel and his wife, Ev Burnett and Dean Jones — but even the people who gave us five dollars, we were very grateful. The community support — the City sold us the land for \$1, artists and musicians and chefs raised funds, unions came forward.

"We wouldn't have been able to do it without the larger community."

It's the story of the community who could. Pocha explained that when the provincial government changed in 2007, the core funding that had been approved was revoked. But in 2009, a huge rally attracted several thousand people who supported the project.

"So, as a board, we kept going back and finding ways to get a grocery store in the inner core community, because it's very needed," Pocha said. "We were humbled by the support of so many in our community, to know that people care."

Pocha mentioned the construction company — who were pleased to note that this was their only site that was never vandalized or stolen from, despite being open and accessible — did a fantastic job,

as did the architect Mr. Olfert, and of special note were Paul Wilkinson, Christine Smillie, and Ralph Winterhalt — managing the project for very little pay. Above all, the personal donations made the difference because corporate donations were few and far between.

"I hope I didn't miss anybody. There are so many people to thank," noted Pocha.

Not only does Station 20 West provide a grocery store, but also a place for offices that do crucial work with the core communities, and a meeting place for parenting and family support classes, a meeting place and cafe for all the people in the neighbourhood, but also something they are going to try on a monthly basis as they start out: a "pay what you can" supper to build community. The cafe provides reasonably priced nutritious food prepared by Metis and First Nations employees on a daily basis, and will be the site of the "pay what you can" meal.

"It's very important that our community people know that we will go through our aches and pains as we grow — particularly in the store," said Pocha. "We want people to recognize that when we have something new like this we have to work out the difficulties that might come out with it.

"The Good Food Junction is more like a convenience store — not a big box grocery store — but there's always fresh produce and good fresh food served there for people. We have to work our way through it — nobody's trying to make money here but we have to keep up with the others.

"We're a smaller store and it's hard to give deals, but we will be trying to have good sales whenever we can."

### 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.

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# East Hastings tour an eye-opener for Pelican Narrows youth

By Meagan Thomas  
For Eagle Feather News

For 11 Pelican Narrows youth, education about substance abuse went far beyond theoretical in September. The youth and four chaperons saw the effects first hand during a two-day tour of Vancouver infamous skid row – East Hastings Street.

“Some had lived there since they were 13. Some haven’t left area in 10 years. Once guy who talked to us said before coming to our hostel he’d never seen the part of Vancouver where the ocean is,” said 16-year-old Grade 11 student Summer Stevenson.

Stevenson and ten other students are members of the Pelican Narrows Youth Council, a new youth initiative co-created last fall by band councillor Angela Merasty and Peter Ballantyne Cree Health Services youth coordinator Weldon McCallum.

“What Weldon and I and others do at the council meetings each month is bring ideas to the table and then the youth decided which activities they want to do then fundraise for them,” Merasty said.

With drug and alcohol abuse being an all-too common issue for young people in the community, Merasty invited the youth council to consider the Scared Straight Tour in Vancouver.

“None of the youth on the council are particularly at risk. But they are role models to others who are,” Merasty said.

The youth liked the idea and fundraised the \$18,000 needed to cover the van rental, accommodation and tour costs.

They had ample money for meals but even though they were all hungry after two days of driving, no one wanted to eat. From their table in a nice Italian restaurant, they could see a woman who looked Aboriginal sleeping on the pavement.

“We were shocked to see someone sleeping on the street and felt sorry for her so we ordered a pizza and delivered it to her instead,” said 16-year-old Grade 10 student Simoen Dorion.

That was to be the first of many real-life encounters with the street people, addicts, and prostitutes living in the East Hastings area.

It wasn’t just the sights were shocking; it was smell.

“There were feces in the alleys and pee and an awful stench – people used the same spot over and over. They lived there and I couldn’t see how they could,” said Dorion.

More than once on the tour, 16-year-old Grade 11 student Summer Stevenson grabbed Dorion’s arm in fear.

“Some were interested in sharing their stories. We saw some injecting drugs. Others



The Pelican Narrows Youth Group raised funds for a trip to Vancouver for the Scared Straight Tour. (Photo supplied)

would yell and shout and swear,” said Stevenson.

“We were always safe because our guides were there. No one wanted to hurt us; they wanted us to see and never make the mistakes they did,” she added.

“The students were told ‘Never take the first hit’ and ‘Stay in school’ by nearly everyone they met,” said McCallum. As part of the tour, they met with local police who did a presentation on the realities of street life, but also met addicts and heard their stories first-hand. One was an HIV positive addict who got the disease by sharing needles with users he knew were HIV positive.

A sex trade worker cried as she explained how, at 13, she was living on the streets and being pimped by her 30-year-old boyfriend.

“The youth were really moved by what they heard,” said McCallum. “We had two street tours – daytime and night time. The

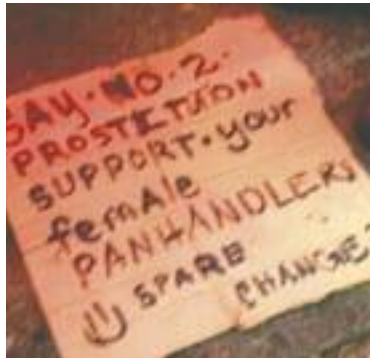
students brought nutrition bars and bananas on one tour, touques and blankets and socks on the next.”

The insight the youth came home with is being shared with the whole community. A presentation featuring photos and passages from post-trip essays about the tour posted on Facebook is a powerful reminder of the realities of substance abuse.

“Young people should focus on school, get an education – not die young or lose their life to drugs. I’ve seen it – women selling themselves, getting beat up. It’s not worth it,” Dorion said.

Merasty is proud of how well students fared in these unfamiliar and stressful situations.

“Even during toughest part of tour, not one student pulled a face or covered their nose. They were so respectful because, really, this was someone’s home,” said Merasty.



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# Come on fellas, time to check 'down there'

October was the month of women. Breast cancer and the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women were front and centre.

Movember (the month formerly known as November) is all about men. Movember is a moustache growing charity event held every November that raises funds and awareness for prostate cancer and men's mental health. All across the world men will be growing facial hair to raise awareness for prostate cancer and male mental health.

I'm not sure what the connection is to facial hair and "down there" but I figure whatever gets our men thinking about their prostate is a good thing.

Prostate cancer is disease that starts in the prostate gland. The prostate is a small, walnut-sized structure that makes up part of a man's reproductive system. It wraps around the urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body. Prostate cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in men over age 75. If there is any good news, it's that prostate cancer is rarely found in men younger than 40.

You are a higher risk for prostate cancer if you're older than 60, have a father or brother with prostate cancer, have been around Agent Orange, use too much

alcohol, are a farmer, eat a diet high in fat, especially animal fat, are a tire plant worker or a painter.

Symptoms of prostate cancer include delayed or slowed start of urinary stream, dribbling or leakage of urine, most often after urinating, slow urinary stream, straining when urinating or not being able to empty out all of the urine, blood in the urine or semen, bone pain or tenderness, most often in the lower back and pelvis bone.

These symptoms do not always mean you have prostate cancer but definitely see your physician if you have one or more of these symptoms. Something to keep in mind is that it is a common problem is almost all men as they grow older to have an enlarged prostate. Don't panic.

Awareness and education changes behaviour and how we think about things. It gradually breaks down barriers, removes stigmas and brings about real change. It took years to have the breast cancer movement where it is today. People around the world recognize pink ribbons as breast cancer awareness ribbons. Soon the November mustache will gain the same recognition.

Movember wants men to take responsibility for their health, prevent illness by leading a healthy lifestyle and understand the symptoms and signs in both themselves and others so they can appreciate when and how to seek help if needed. So fellas ...

grow your mustache and tell your friends to do the same.

The Canadian Male Health Network is a Movember Foundation initiative that was started to address critical male health issues today and in the future. The Network brings together some of the top scientific and medical professionals from across the country to collaborate on identifying and addressing male health issues. The first initiative of this network is male mental health.

Here are some facts for you to consider: one out of five Canadians will experience a mental illness in their lifetime and the remaining four will have a family member or colleague who will. Mental health issues affect over 3.4 million Canadian men and boys each year. Four out of five suicides among young people in Canada are committed by men. One in four cancer patients experience clinical depression. The

risk of suicide in men with prostate cancer is over four times that of a similarly aged man without prostate cancer and mental health issues are one of the largest threats to male health.

Within the Network is a panel of key male health experts that act as an advisory panel to Movember Canada. In consultation with key stakeholders from the mental health field, the panel assists in identifying gaps in Canadian male mental health.

Since its humble beginnings in Melbourne, Australia, Movember has grown to become a truly global movement. No matter the country, city or First Nation, Movember will continue to work to change established habits and attitudes men have about their health, to educate men about the health risks they face, and to act on that knowledge, and hopefully, increase the chances of early detection, diagnosis and effective treatment.

Take care of your 'business' fellas! A quick check-up with your physician can save your life—don't die of embarrassment because you're too shy to have your prostate checked.

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



Sandee Sez

Sandrew Ahenakew

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- One large fast food milkshake often contains about half of what you need each day for calories, fat and sodium? Ask for white milk or chocolate milk instead of a milkshake with your meal. Your waistline and bones will appreciate it.
- Most nutritionists recommend not eating fast food more than once a month.
- If you stock up on fresh fruits and veggies you will eat them more often. If you are short on time, try buying pre-cut veggies (fresh or frozen) or CHEP's Snack Pack of ready-to-eat fruit and veggies. Eating healthy can be fast and fun too!

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# Campus Masinahikanis - News from the University of Saskatchewan Native Studies Department

## Research Notes

Dr. Rob Innes's first major research project focused on the impact Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis war veterans had on their communities when they returned home. His Masters of Arts thesis is titled, *The Socio-Political Influence of the Second World War Saskatchewan Aboriginal Veterans, 1945-1960*. Like many of us in Native Studies, his research interest was sparked by family oral histories. In honour of Remembrance Day, Rob shares with us a few of the stories he was told by veterans:

I interviewed over 20 First Nation and Métis veterans. I was interested because of my grandfather, Samson Pelletier from Cowessess, fought in WWII. I was told that he enlisted at age 29 in 1939, wore moccasins, carried a machete, and fought many battles.

Many of the veterans I interviewed told stories of their war experiences. One veteran from Cumberland House spoke about a Cree code talker who was partnered with a German speaker from Nipawin. The Nipawin man relayed what he heard to the Cree man who then radioed the messages. They were both caught and tortured but the German man from Nipawin was tortured

even more and eventually killed as he was seen as a traitor.

The late Claude Adams, the famous Métis fiddler player, told me how he was involved in a mission that blew up a radio station in Brussels. The explosion sent him flying many feet, left him unconscious, then unable to move. After many hours, perhaps days, two men from the Regina Rifles came along. One was the late Gordon Ahenakew. Both men recognized Adams and carried him for many miles, undoubtedly saving his life.

When the Second World War began, the Air Force had just dropped its race restrictions, while the Navy didn't drop its race restrictions until mid-war. The Army did not have any restrictions but most men "of colour" were diverted to labour divisions or infantry. One veteran told me he had to argue hard to be allowed in the tank divisions. He was able to persuade them and was in a tank when the Canadian military landed in Normandy for D-Day, 1945.

Another veteran told the story of a captured German officer who turned out to be General Kurt Meyer. Many believed Meyer was responsible for executing over 40 Canadian POWs, including at least one Saskatchewan Métis soldier. He would have killed Meyers if not for his superior

officer. Meyer served less than 10 years for his war crimes.

Many of the veterans talked about the horrors they saw and the difficulties in readjusting to civilian life. They were celebrated as liberators in Belgium and Holland, but came home to face the same level of racism they experienced before the war. Some even mentioned the animosity they faced from their own community members who were resentful of the benefits they received. Nonetheless, when they came home First Nations and Métis veterans had a significant influence on the political, social, and economical life of their people in Saskatchewan.

Near the end of the war, my grandfather was severely injured and given six months to live. He lived for another 23 years. Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis have been involved in all the major conflicts of the 20th and 21st Century as members of both the Canadian and American military. At this time, we should take a moment to remember the sacrifices of our veterans.

## Campus Notes:

We have a new President, Dr. Ilene Busch Vishniac, who seems committed to Aboriginal engagement and program initiatives.

The College of Arts & Science launched a new first year transition initiative called Aboriginal Achievement and Success Program (ASAP) where Aboriginal students can take courses together and have tutoring support. There are new programs for faculty and staff to learn more about First Nations and Métis people offered by the Gwenna Moss Learning Centre. In addition to many other programs, the Aboriginal Student Centre provides all kinds of student support and fun activities – soup and bannock November 7 and 14, folks!

While the university as a whole is moving towards more Aboriginal program initiatives, the College of Education has cancelled Native Studies as a teaching area. Native Studies has been assimilated into the Social Sciences/Social Studies teaching area and students are only required to take one or two NS courses.

If teachers still want to specialize in Native Studies they can only get it through ITEP or SUNTEP. Given our population numbers, and the fact that Indigenous peoples are now everywhere in Saskatchewan, you'd think that our teachers need to learn more about us from our perspectives, not less.



community growth voice success

## For children and communities, thanks for voting in local school board elections.

The voices of Aboriginal communities are crucial in eliminating the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in Saskatchewan.

By 2016, it is estimated that 45% of all students entering kindergarten in Saskatchewan will self-identify as Aboriginal.

Thank you for voting. You are helping ensure that Saskatchewan children and youth receive the best education possible.

# Veterans recall time in the Service

*oThe SICC Powwow is always a great place to run into dignitaries, dancers and veterans. Trina Kingfisher took the opportunity and sat with three veterans and asked them about themselves and their time in the service.*

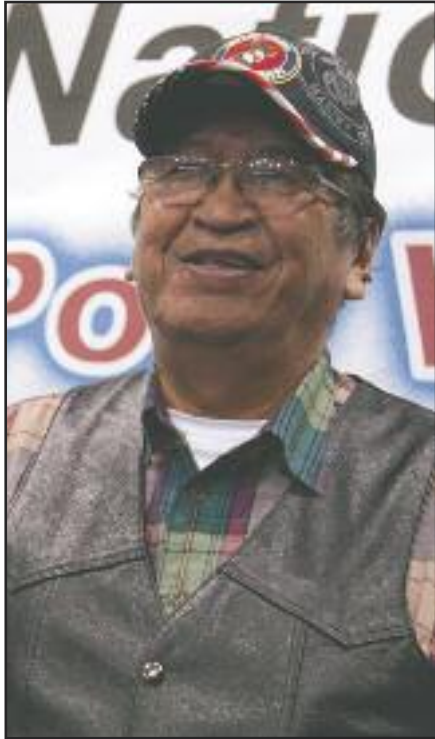
**Roy Alexson** is originally from Kahkewistahaw and served as a trades technician with the Canadian Military in the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers, R.C.E.M.E division. Alexson shares how his Uncle Tom Asham, who served in World Wars I and II, had guided Alexson to his road of sobriety through very wise and powerful advice. Alexson explained that he had developed a serious problem with alcoholism after his service in the military, which was spiralling out of control so badly that he was contemplating suicide.

Alexson's uncle, Asham, took Alexson aside and talked to him about his alcoholism and led him to sobriety through the traditional ways of First Nation culture and teachings. Alexson said the thing that helped him sober up was the responsibility that his Uncle gave him, which was becoming a whistle carrier. It is a spiritual connection that Alexson takes seriously and he has remained sober for many years since that time.

**Ronald 'Rocky' Wayne Redwood** is from Cowessess First Nation. He served in the U.S Army in the Vietnam War as a Specialist Four

which is equivalent to a Corporal. Redwood was part of the 572 Transportation Company C Unit also known as a rat patrol which they called themselves the Gypsy Bandits. This particular military unit would haul ammunition to different outposts situated in different parts of Vietnam. The hauling process was complex and difficult. They had back-up consisting of choppers overhead and the Rat Patrol was in front and back of the transport haul. Every fifth truck had an M 60 'shotgun' which Redwood explained was a big gun with bobtails following in the back of the convey unit.

On one particular day the Gypsy Bandits unit was en



ROY ALEXSON

route for an ammunition haul and unbeknownst to the group they were on a land mine trail and the last bobtail at the end of the convoy unit ran over and set off a land mine and blew off the back duals and the cab landed in a rice paddy along with the driver. The driver of the bobtail grabbed a M16 and 'handalier' (a clip that delivers or consists of 10 rounds of ammunition). The driver had to make his way and run to a main road and jumped on another carrier load later on.

The reason Redwood shares this particular story is because no one died that day and in his books, that is a good day! Today Redwood is the Vice President of the First Nations Veterans Association South Branch II Term and is serving the first year of a three-year term.

**Edward Baldhead** is an 85-year-young war veteran originally from One Arrow First Nation. He served in the Regina Rifle Regiment. He had extensive service and travel throughout Germany, Europe, Holland and England. Mr. Baldhead shared that the highlight of his military career is serving in the present working with youth and education. He is involved with First Nations culture and tradition.

Mr. Baldhead has had the opportunity to travel overseas to Hawaii to study the Hawaiian culture and tradition. Mr. Baldhead also serves on the board of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association. Mr. Baldhead is also the adopted father to the FSIN's new Chief Perry Bellegarde.



RONALD 'ROCKY' WAYNE REDWOOD



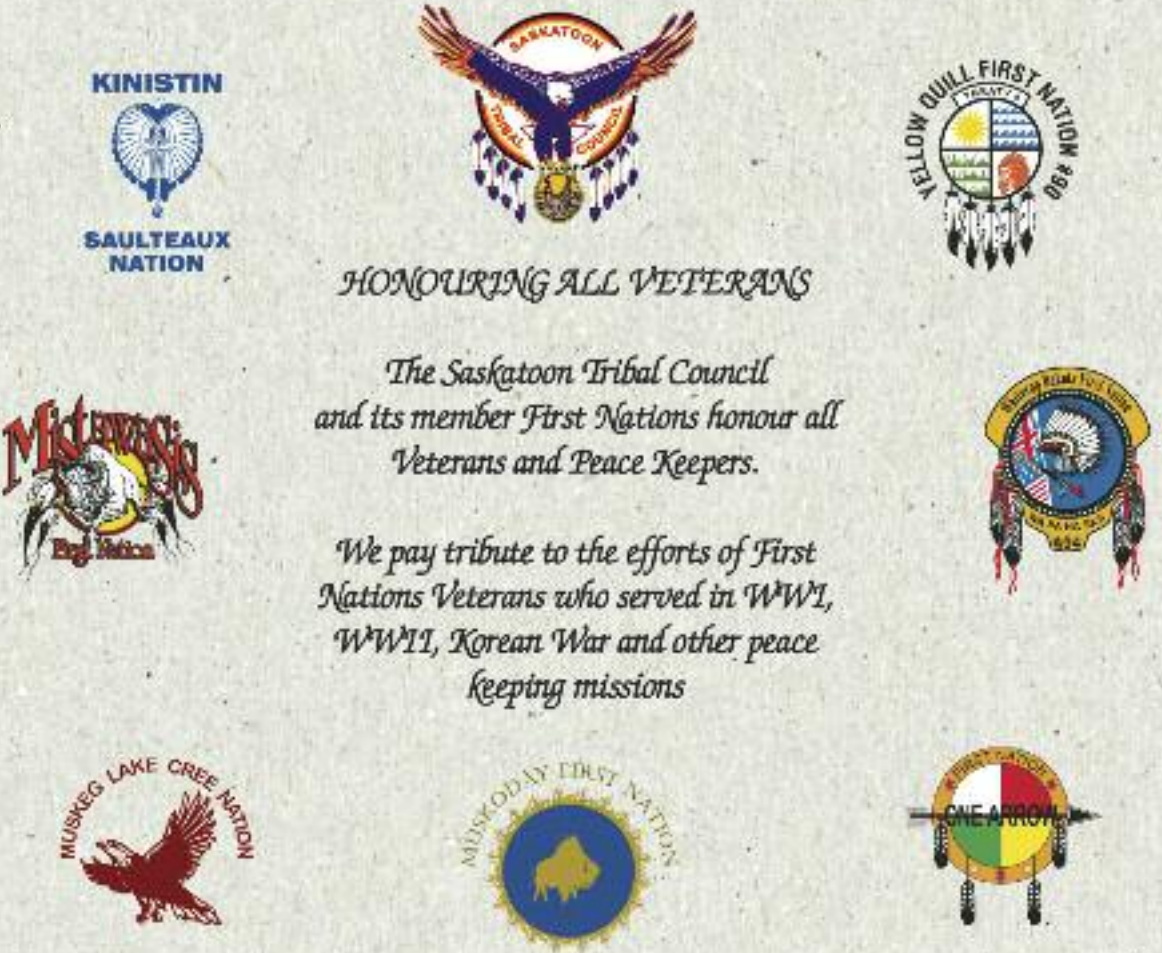
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EDWARD BALDHEAD



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*We pay tribute to the efforts of First Nations Veterans who served in WWI, WWII, Korean War and other peace keeping missions*

# Métis veterans may all pass before memorial completed

By Meagan Thomas  
For Eagle Feather News

Unless a memorial honouring Métis servicemen and women is completed soon, there's a chance that not one single Métis Second World War or Korean War veteran will still be alive to see it.

"There's no set timeframe but I'd say 'the sooner the better' is when we need to get it done for," said Edwin St. Pierre, a Métis veteran who served three years in Korea.

"We want to complete it, we need funds to complete it, and we need it in the next four or five years because our veterans and their widows are disappearing."

With the passing of each Métis veteran, the story of their service and sacrifice is truly being forgotten according to St. Pierre.

To ensure that Métis veterans are honoured and remembered, St. Pierre is a vocal advocate in support of a memorial being planned at Batoche, the site where Métis soldiers fought Canadian forces during the Northwest Resistance of 1885.

"Our Métis veterans are forgotten people and that's something we should never do – they served, gave up their lives, some came back in not very good shape," said St. Pierre.

"I dealt with veterans for 14 years and I know the hardship they had. They were short-changed, that's the truth."

St. Pierre grew up at Crescent Lake, south of Yorkton. His parents, who could neither read nor write, themselves, supported his leaving school at 16 to work in a lumber camp. Right after turning 17, St. Pierre joined the Canadian Forces as an infantryman, the best job he could get with his limited education.

He was deployed to Korea with Special Forces and, after a three-year tour, returned home where he worked in the personnel department before being transferred to Veterans Affairs.

He counts himself fortunate among veterans.

"(Métis) people who served before my time were ignorant of or didn't know how to get any benefits or services from the Forces," St. Pierre said.

Canada's veterans were given



EDWIN ST. PIERRE

financial help to buy houses and land and to upgrade their education, but a report prepared for a Métis veterans association says only eight per cent of Métis soldiers received any benefits and less than one per cent received land.

Status soldiers returning from the Second World War First were told to apply for benefits through the Indian agents rather than directly with Veterans Affairs, adding extra layers of bureaucracy, confusion and delays.

There was no provision for Métis, however, due to them having no status as a distinct Aboriginal people and being unable to self-declare as Métis when enlisting.

Métis veterans were further ignored in the federal government's 2002 'take it or leave it' offer of \$20,000 compensation for benefits denied, but only to living First Nations WWII and Korean War veterans.

Of the 2,000 identified Métis soldiers who fought, fewer than three per cent received either the land, education or re-

establishment grants offered under the Veterans Charter.


"The Métis soldiers got very little or what they got was worth nothing. Most of them, they were just happy to be home, period."

Remembering their service and sacrifice is of paramount importance for the 75-year-old veteran, and he and others are urgently trying to raise funds for the proposed memorial. In 2011, Saskatoon-Humboldt MP Brad Trost announced a \$50,000 commitment from Veterans Affairs toward a memorial that will pay tribute to at least 3,600 Métis veterans by name.


The proposed memorial will consist of eight granite slabs engraved with the names of Métis soldiers who served in the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War and the Boer War. The monument was originally planned by the organizing committee for the Battle of Batoche's 125th anniversary. Fundraising is being handled by the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

"Once the memorial is up we would observe Remembrance Day services in Batoche. If we had our own monument, people would go there," St. Pierre said.

"Veteran's families never organized or pushed for recognition and it's about time we did."

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Jennifer Campeau, MLA  
Saskatoon Fairview  
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**Lest We Forget.**









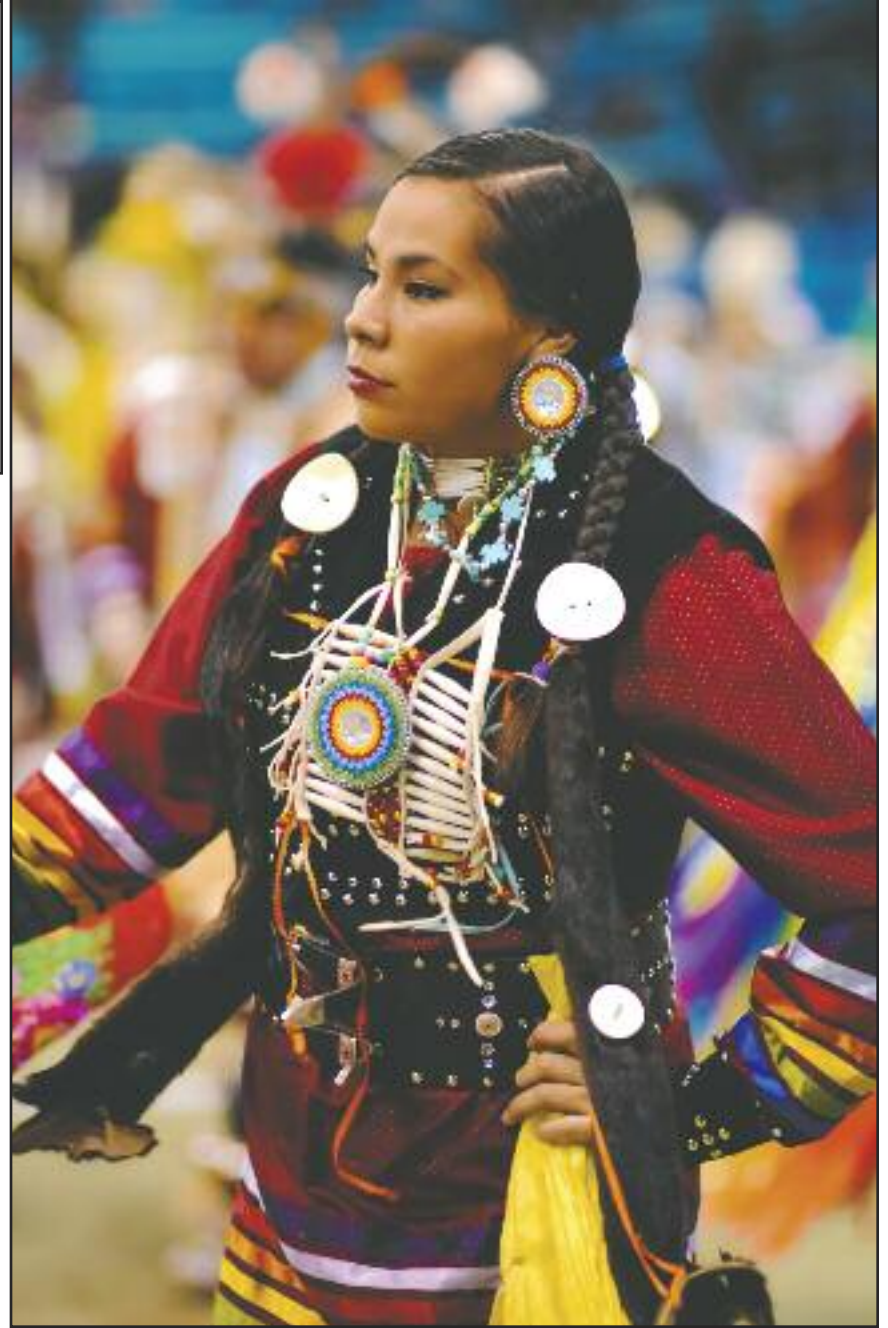


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Play Responsibly

# FSIN Cultural Celebration and Powwow

The FSIN Spirit of Our Nations Cultural Celebration and Powwow was once again a huge success. The committee welcomed dignitaries from across North America and were witness to the head dress ceremony for newly elected FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde and Vice Chief Kim Jonathan. And, of course, there were dancers and drummers and veterans and thousands of visitors from around the territories. (bottom left) Isaiah McNabb was certainly enjoying his time at the powwow. (Centre) Cheyenne Fineday was crowned 2012 Miss FSIN. (Far Right) Women's Fancy Dancer Tala Tootoosis. (Right) This unknown Jr Boys Traditional Dancer danced with intensity. (Photos by Mike Dubois)



## 2012 FSIN Spirit of Our Nations Cultural Celebration & Pow Wow



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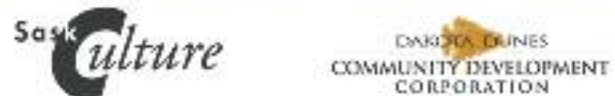


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# GDI meets with Joint Task Force on Aboriginal Education

By Lisa Bird-Wilson  
For Eagle Feather News

On September 28, 2012, Gabriel Dumont Institute representatives met in Saskatoon with the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People. As the education arm of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, GDI was keen to be able to present the JTF with a Métis perspective.

Over the course of two hours, GDI representatives were able to share with the task force our thoughts, concerns, and ideas on education and employment for Métis people in Saskatchewan. The JTF members in attendance, Gary Merasty and Rita Bouvier, took a keen interest in the Métis perspective and asked many probing and insightful questions. The JTF members were clear about their aim to produce work that will provide a basis for change and for practical solutions, rather than simply producing another report that will sit on a shelf. On this objective we could all agree.

In addition to the documented in-person meeting between GDI and the JTF, GDI made a written submission to the task force, covering four main areas related to the Métis: early childhood education, K-12 education, post-secondary education, and employment. The GDI document notes the important link between Métis-directed education and sustaining Métis culture. It is well known at GDI that Métis education must focus on more than simply replicating the status quo, but rather, be firmly grounded in Métis culture to ensure success and instil cultural pride and perpetuity (Métis National Council, 2009). On the aim of connecting education and culture, GDI's founders were clear in their

mission and purpose; today we owe them a debt of gratitude for their vision and foresight.

The Métis are in a unique situation in Saskatchewan—we don't have K-12 schools as the First Nations do, we lack federal supports for post-secondary education funding (particularly for university), early childhood education for the Métis is not targeted as Métis-specific, and therefore, there is no accountability for Métis numbers, and the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) agreement excludes the Métis from federal childcare and early learning resources otherwise provided for First Nations and Inuit. Because of our unique position with respect to education, GDI has endeavoured to ensure that the Métis voice is loud and clear in this provincial consultation.

At times during the consultation the discussion was broad, focusing on policy and jurisdictional issues; at other times, it was down to earth and at the level of significant individual experiences. One administrator offered an example of a Métis student, graduating from a DTI skills training program, and with the student's mother in the audience at grad. The mother started crying during the program when her son's name was read and he was acknowledged as a hard working, contributing member of the graduating class.

When asked what was the matter, the woman indicated that she was crying tears of gratitude—her son, she said, had never been acknowledged in school, in any way, ever. His typical experiences in school had been as if he had no real part in his own education—as if he was irrelevant to the system in which he was participating. Yet

there he was at the DTI grad, not being acknowledged for anything outstanding—he wasn't the best student, he didn't achieve the highest marks—he was simply being acknowledged as a student in our school, as a graduate of our program, and for his attributes as a human being.

This simple recognition was enough to make his mother weep. This moving story offered an example of how significant the small things can be in a person's education journey.

The Joint Task Force was formed by an agreement between the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in May 2011. Since spring 2012, the JTF has been meeting with organizations, holding public consultations, and meeting with individual groups across Saskatchewan to fulfill their purpose to increase First Nations and Métis peoples' participation and success in advanced education and the labour force.

The role of the task force is to be inclusive and talk with Métis and First Nations people and stakeholders throughout the province to help identify practical, grass-roots solutions for eliminating the current gaps in education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

The JTF is focusing on several desired outcomes, including:

- Improved early childhood outcomes and transition to school;
- Improved high school and post-secondary completion rates;
- Improved labour market participation and attachment;
- Improved quality of life and enhanced



LISA BIRD-WILSON

self-sufficiency; and

-Stronger education systems with improved return on investment in PreK-12 and postsecondary education and training.

Joint Task Force members are Gary Merasty, Vice President Corporate Social Responsibility of Cameco; Rita Bouvier, researcher/writer and community-learning facilitator; and Don Hoium, Executive Director, League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents of Saskatchewan.

As for GDI, our mission is to promote the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and distribution of those materials and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services. GDI regularly participates in provincial educational processes and consultations to provide a Métis perspective and voice.

## Two new children's books released by GDI Publishing

Peter Fidler and the Métis is an excellent primer on Métis history and culture for middle years readers.

The book is the personal reflection of Métis artist and author Donna Lee Dumont on her direct ancestors, the Hudson's Bay Company explorer and mapmaker Peter Fidler and his Cree wife, Mary Mackegonne.

Interwoven with this self-reflection is the author's discussion of the formation of Métis culture during the fur trade, the racism that forced many Métis to deny their heritage, and the proud place that the Métis now have as one of Canada's founding peoples.

Writing about her childhood, which consisted of many summers spent picking



and eating berries and learning about Aboriginal medicinal and healing traditions from her grandmother and her elders, Donna Lee Dumont poignantly takes the reader back to a gentler, more environmentally friendly time. She concludes by writing about her pride in being a Métis artist, author, educator, mother, and grandmother.

Lavishly illustrated in bright, vibrant acrylics, Peter Fidler and the Métis is one woman's enchanting journey to document her Métis identity.

Leah Marie Dorion's, The Diamond Willow Walking Stick: A Traditional Métis Story About Generosity, focuses on a Métis Elder's remembrances of traditional teachings about generosity that were taught to him by his grandparents during his childhood.

These lifelong lessons imparted on

him "how to live in a good Métis way," and taught him how to live with respect within the circle of life.

In this charming children's book, the third in an ongoing series on traditional Métis culture, author and illustrator Leah Marie Dorion takes the reader on another

journey while once again honouring the special bond between Métis children and their grandparents.

With breathtaking artwork and an elegant Michif translation by Norman Fleury, this heartfelt, coming of age story will resonate with both young and old.

**Louis Riel Day 2012 Event Listing:**

November 15: Saskatoon, SUNTEP, U of S Education Student Lounge, 5-8 pm

November 16: Saskatoon, SIMFC and CUMFI Local, 168 Wall Street, 9-4 pm

November 16: 4th Annual Regina Louis Riel Vigil, 4:30-8 pm. For more information contact Russell Fayant at rfayant@hotmail.com

For more information on all events, please visit: [www.gdins.org/event](http://www.gdins.org/event)

# Archie's silence allowed me to find my way

I've been around the ceremonial life and the teaching lodges of my people for over 30 years now.

It doesn't seem that long. The very fact of being part of a spiritual community lends time a different quality, one where time passing becomes more like time inhabited, each day, month, year joined in a stream of vital energy.

As I get older I look back and recognize significant moments in that journey that I will always hold as special. There are a lot of them actually and I feel blessed.

But for me, the special moments, the unforgettable ones, aren't the big, huge, splashy production numbers you'd expect. My life hasn't been a Technicolor glitz and the things that carry me forward are the simpler, genuine and touching, moments that are memorable for their humanity. In the end, spirituality introduces us to our humanity. That's its biggest gift.

Sure, I remember my first Vision Quest, pipe ceremony, sweat lodge, Sun Dance and healing ceremony or being danced into the powwow circle by elders for the first time but the big moments are always easy to recall. What really moves me though, what keeps me brown, are the

quiet enriching moments that happen naturally when people come together in a good way.

When I was 30 I went home to Kenora to live with my mother and try to recover from the failure of my first marriage. I'd been living and working in Regina, where I'd transitioned from newspapers to radio. But alcohol had me in its grips even then and my marriage was a merry-go-round of craziness and regret. Eventually, wife asked me to leave and I arrived at my mother's full of pain and hurt and feeling very guilty and ashamed. I didn't think much of myself and it showed in everything I did.

I worked where and when I could but the only place where I felt better was at ceremonial gatherings. Friends from Manitoba took me to a remote traditional camp on an island on a lake far away from any towns or roads. While we were there we learned traditional skills, cultural skills, ceremony and got to sit with elders and hear their stories and ask the questions we needed answers to.

It was a special place.

There was a man there named Clayton Archie. He must have been about 80 then and had a quiet way about him that was regal almost and we all walked softer around him. He seemed to understand the pain I was in and even though I couldn't talk about it, he stayed close to my side all the time I was there.

He asked me to be his helper and showed me how to prepare the articles and things he needed for his ceremonies. It was an honor to be asked and I worked deliberately and conscientiously. Every night we'd go and sit on a log beside the water.

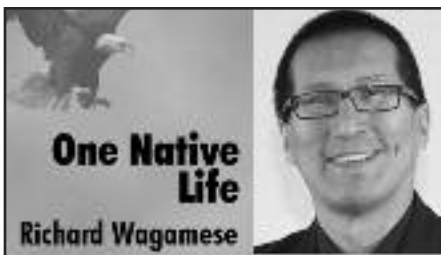
He'd sit and smoke an old cob pipe and I would be content to look at up the stars. I recall those nights as being as pacific a time as I have ever encountered and the loneliness and the hurt seemed to lessen in the presence of all that marvelous space. When I looked at him, the glow from his pipe turned his face into angles and shadow like what you'd expect the face of a shaman to look like. I kept waiting for him to say something,

to offer a deep meaningful teaching or a story but he never did.

What he did was honor my silence. We sat there night after night and he told me just by his presence that he was there for me and that he always would be. He told me in that wordless way that it's feeling that gives birth to right words and he was content to abide and allow me to find my way to them. In that overwhelming quiet I allowed myself to feel my feelings and he was calm and patient until I could find the words for it all. Eventually I did.

I spoke and he listened and in the end there were no grand secrets transferred to me, no elaborate First Nations rituals of redemption. Instead, my own words, allowed to come at their own time and in their own fashion, framed my healing. It was a ceremony of acknowledgement. Once I owned my feelings and held them, I was free to let them go. I hurt for a while after I got back but it wasn't a crippling ache.

He was a wise man. Ceremony sometimes, is just our hearts in motion. And sometimes when life is tough I still gaze up at the stars and I remember Clayton Archie, waiting for my words to fall.



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Colleen Charlette and her daughter Dolce spend a moment with the image of the newly named Saint Kateri "Lilly of the Mohawks." (Photo by Andréa Ledding)

## Faithful celebrate canonization of 1600s First Nations woman

By **André Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

In the new Saskatoon Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family, hundreds of faithful, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, gathered to celebrate the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, a young First Nations woman who has been declared a saint by the Vatican.

Members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish provided much of the hosting, including music, while parishes from across the city helped with refreshments and bannock afterwards. St. Mary's dance troupe held a mini powwow with a variety of dancers, hosted by Jennifer Altenberg. Following this, the Creeland Dancers jiggled up a storm and invited guests to join the fun.

Dancers in their regalia also danced in the procession and recessional with the statue of Kateri, and the collection was taken on a starblanket, in the tradition of Our Lady of Guadalupe's weekly celebrations. Hymns were sung in both English and Cree, and greetings came from Elders and Parish Life Directors, while prayer intentions were read in English, French, Dene, Cree, and Michif.

The statue of Kateri, and a relic, were also presented for veneration, and the multitudes lined up to honour the memory and continued sanctity of this woman, expressing their special connection with Kateri, "Lily of the Mohawks." Afterwards, her blessed statue was placed in the gathering hall, where many had their pictures "taken" with her.

Kateri was a young Mohawk and Algonquin woman who lived in the 1600s in the eastern part of Turtle Island. Scarred terribly and almost blinded by smallpox

at a young age, it is said that her face cleared at death in her early twenties, the first proof of her saintliness. She lived a life of holiness and sacrifice, and many see her as a bridge between Christianity and traditional lifestyles, both leading to Creator, and to asking the deceased ancestors for strength and prayers in times of need, and blessings in good times.

Many faithful have continued to ask her for prayer and intercession, and many miracles have been attributed to her prayers, which is why the Vatican proceeded with her canonization. One young boy, a member of Lummi First Nation, had necrotizing faciitis which reversed itself after the priest suggested his family ask for the intercession of Kateri. He and his family, along with many people from across North America, were present in Rome at the actual canonization celebration, while many parishes held local and diocesan celebrations.

Many people in the Saskatoon diocese and further afield celebrated the canonization, but it was especially meaningful for those of First Nations descent because she is the first Indigenous woman from this continent to be canonized. The first Indigenous male was Juan Diego, a 16th century man who was visited by Mary, "Our Lady of Guadalupe," and given a cape full of roses to present to the leaders of the day as a sign that they should listen to Diego's message.

"This is a special day," was heard many times from many people, including Bishop Donald Bolen of the Saskatoon diocese, who gave a homily not only about Kateri herself, and her life, but about the many gifts and generosity of First Nations people in general.

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### The Regulatory Framework

Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive regulatory review process that includes an environmental assessment and a licensing review to ensure that it is implemented in a manner that protects people and the environment, now and in the future. The selected site, and the design, construction, operation and decommissioning (closure) of the facility, will need to meet or exceed all regulatory requirements.

**Q. How will the project be regulated at the federal level?**

**A.** Canada has a robust legislative and regulatory framework that will oversee the implementation of this important national infrastructure project. The project will be subject to thorough and comprehensive review processes covering the entire life cycle of the repository and associated facilities. The regulatory review by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) during different phases of the project will ensure that the project will be implemented in a manner that protects people and the environment. Security of the repository and activities such as transportation, handling and storage of used fuel will also be part of this review process.

The management of used nuclear fuel in Canada is governed by the Government of Canada's policy on nuclear waste, as reflected in the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA)* that gives the NWMO the mandate to implement Adaptive Phased Management. The Government of Canada, through Natural Resources Canada, oversees the NWMO to ensure compliance with the *NFWA*, including that the project is fully funded and that socio-economic effects are properly managed.

**Q. What is the role of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission?**

**A.** The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is mandated, under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* to protect the health, safety and security of Canadians, to protect the environment, and to implement Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The CNSC regulates all nuclear facilities and nuclear-related activities in Canada, including a deep geological repository facility for used nuclear fuel. In conjunction with the CNSC, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors Canada's used nuclear fuel facilities to verify that they comply with Canada's obligations under the Canada/IAEA Safeguards Agreements.

**Q. What about the environmental assessment?**

**A.** A deep geological repository will require a comprehensive environmental assessment that will cover the entire life cycle of the repository, including post-closure. It will be completed under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to predict, evaluate and manage the environmental impacts, and to determine whether these impacts can be mitigated. Various aspects of transportation will also need to be assessed.

**Q. When will the formal regulatory review process begin?**

**A.** The formal regulatory review process will be initiated once a licence application is submitted to the CNSC. Before this, an agreement between a community and the NWMO to host the facility will be developed. Over the eight-year period (or more) of site assessments, learning may increase, and expectations and best practices may evolve. The NWMO will seek regulatory guidance throughout the siting process to ensure that regulatory requirements, expectations and best practices inform the site assessment activities.



Lisa Lang is a Senior Advisor for Regulatory Affairs at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. She has over 12 years of experience in the nuclear industry working with industry, and as a regulator and consultant. Ms. Lang has a Bachelor and a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Brunswick.

"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 U of S president striving to earn trust of Aboriginal community

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**I**lene Busch-Vishniac is the new president of the University of Saskatchewan. An engineer by training, this academic and inventor has too many patents and academic achievements and awards to mention. When asked about career highlights though, she often mentions the partnerships she helped enhance at her last post at McMaster University.

"We worked closely with the Six Nations Polytechnic when I was at McMaster," said Busch-Vishniac. "They had an indigenous knowledge centre there that was a great partnership with us and we also worked closely with them on a language initiative that was very important.

"They were down to only 2,300 language speakers and we helped as they worked on a dictionary that was ultimately published. Watching the people work on the translations for the dictionary and to pull it together was an amazing feat."

In that process she realized that when partnering with Aboriginal communities it was important to ask how they can help and be of service to the community, a concept she wants to use here as she tries to coordinate what is happening at the U of S in the Aboriginal portfolio. The University currently has highest percentage of aboriginal students among universities in Canada and she understands the importance of engaging that community and promoting success within it.

"At first glance I realized we have a huge amount going on, both internally on campus and part of the campus community with Aboriginal people and projects," said President Busch-Vishniac.

"And externally we have lots of outreach to First Nation and Métis communities throughout Saskatchewan. What there hasn't been is a lot of coordination, so what I haven't quite figured out is if we have determined what the top priorities are going to be and how we might go about achieving those goals.

"We have to pick the best direction to go ahead and best has to be seen in response to the needs as perceived in the communities. All of our departments are doing things and that's great. We don't want that to stop."

Top of the list for the new president is the College of

Arts and Sciences, a college that represents 45 per cent of the student body. It is also a good place to gauge Aboriginal academic success since most Aboriginal students are in that college.

"The numbers in arts and science, if we look ahead six years, and the number that have graduated with a degree is about 62 per cent. If you look just at self identified Aboriginal students, it is only about 42 per cent. There is a significant gap," she said.

"At first look I thought we have to do better but frankly that 42 per cent is hugely improved over what it was 10-15 years ago. What we need to do is try to understand what the cause of that gap is. Why are they not graduating at the same rate? It probably has little to do with academic preparation and has a lot to do with cultural dissonance."

She added that when students are first generation learners and their parents did not go to university, those students graduate at a much lower rate than students whose parents have university experience. It is the top predictor, regardless of race, culture, background.

"So how do we address it?" she said. "We know that Aboriginal students at university are more likely than others to have family with them. One of the things in early stages of thinking is whether or not on college quarter we are able to put up a residence for family housing, and if so would that be attractive to some students. We think so but we don't want to make assumptions for them."

Busch-Viasnic acknowledges she has great staff around to advise her including Joan Greyeyes and Winona Wheeler and she often bends the ear of Jared Brown, the Students Union president. But she also wants to hear from the community and that has prompted a several city provincial tour to talk to citizens and First Nation and Métis communities about what they need from the University of Saskatchewan.

"I am trying to make sure I go on some reserves and listen to the people and hear what they say are the issues at the university."

The new president has also made a bold statement when it comes to the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Aboriginal Students Centre.

"I know this is a project that has been on the books for

a very long time and there are people who have been very skeptical," she said as she added that the tender process has begun and she offers good news.

"We will have shovel in the ground before the end of this academic year. It will be a defining place, beautiful sculptural building and in a prime location. It will sit at the crossroads and I think it is symbolic of what we are trying to accomplish. We are trying to make sure that people from all kinds of beliefs and cultures have the ability to feel comfortable on this campus and learn."

Busch-Viasnic was welcomed to the territory at the Wanuskewin Powwow this summer, and it turns out it was her first ever powwow and a very moving experience for her.

"I did not know I would be asked to speak. And frankly it was so emotional that I had difficulty getting the words out. I have been welcomed all over Saskatchewan and a warm welcome to a terrific community, but to have been invited and treated with such respect and honour was just moving," she said as she affirmed her commitment to Aboriginal education and people.

"My aim is to prove to the First Nation and Métis communities that I can be a trusted partner. I'm not here to dictate what they can do for the university, nor to decide for them what the university can do for them. I am very interested in engaging in conversation with them so that I can better understand their goals and help them understand what the university can then do in meeting those goals.

"I know it takes time to learn that I am a trusted partner, but I'm doing what I can to make sure people understand that."



ILENE BUSCH-VIASNIC

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# Safety, culture good mix for crew

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**D**urwin Herrington is in charge of the hardest working and safest work crew at the BHP Billiton Jansen Mine Site. What makes his crew unique is that 21 of his 22 crew members are First Nation and he is from just up the road at the George Gordon First Nation.

Herrington has been in the scaffolding industry for 25 years, the last seven as a superintendant and now also as a partner with Power Chief Scaffolding. He received most of his experience in Alberta but moved home to work a year and a half ago. He attended a community meeting at his First Nation where BHP Billiton presented about business opportunities for First Nation members.

"I went to that presentation and heard their intent and commitment to Aboriginal people and I drew up a plan for Power Chief and brought it to my employer," said Herrington who is in a joint venture with Steeplejack Scaffolding.

"We started really small, but now we have the best crew on site and 21 of the men and women are from First Nations around here. We champion safety and we encourage them to be proud of their culture."

Herrington and his crew are part of the 400 people developing potentially what will be the world's largest potash mine.

Eventually the site will have up to 2,000 employees and a world-class mine camp. It is hoped that many of those employees will come from Aboriginal communities in the trading area of the mine site, injecting wealth and opportunity to areas that have been historically excluded.

"Projects such as ours have the potential to bring significant benefits to local businesses that can earn contracts, as well as to local communities which see additional development and support because we are there," said Tim Cutt President, BHP Billiton Diamonds & Specialty Products.

"As we aim to make a positive impact in Saskatchewan, we will also engage Aboriginal communities to ensure community, skills and business developments. As Saskatchewan and the surrounding provinces experience something of a mining boom, more skills are needed. All that construction and mining needs people to put it together.

"We believe a lot of those people can come from local and Aboriginal communities if we start developing skills now and fully leverage the expertise that already exists today."

Herrington's new hires have been an even mix of ten years experience down to brand new guys who all become members of the union.

"These guys start at \$20 per hour and



**Durwin Herrington is the Superintendent of power Chief Scaffolding working at the BHP Billiton Jansen Mine.**

(Photo with Permission of BHP Billiton)

once you get journeyman it's \$38 per hour so they are high paying positions," said Herrington. "And we stress culture. It makes you safer. We often finish safety meetings with a smudge.

"We have had Elders come out to the site and have four pipe ceremonies a year. We are breaking all kinds of stereotypes here."

Three years ago, Herrington had a dream of making his own company and

employing all Aboriginal people. Now that he has his chance he is capitalizing best he can and trying hard to bring people with him because there is lots to go around.

"BHP really promotes working with Aboriginal groups and there is lots of respect. They walk the walk," he said. "There is lots of buzz in the community about the job opportunities and in the last five years I've seen so many guys get jobs. I'm excited to come to work every day."



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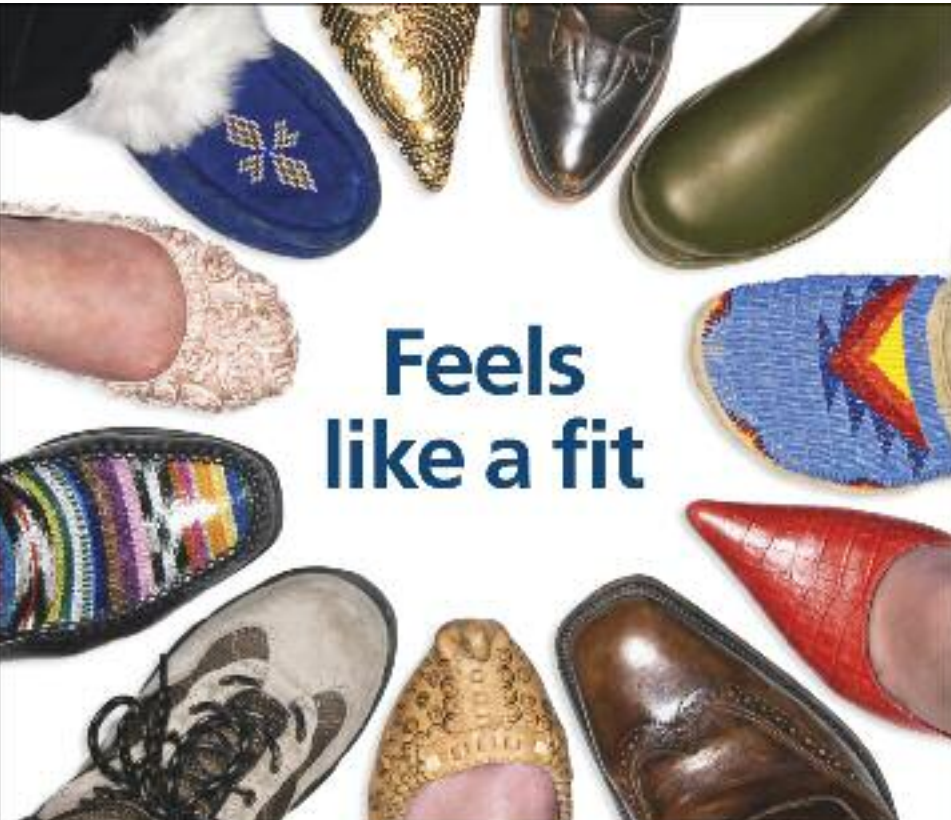


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Attendance at a career presentation is now the mandatory first step in the application process. / Assister à une séance d'information sur les carrières est maintenant la première étape obligatoire du processus de recrutement.

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## Business Briefs

A First Nation gaming legend and a First Nation have announced different intentions to break new ground in business in Saskatchewan.

**Yellow Quill First Nation** has announced a new 75,000 square foot building to be built on the corner of 4th Avenue South and 20th Street in Saskatoon.

Yellow Quill **Chief Larry Cachene** says the band is expanding its holdings in Saskatoon.

"The new office tower will be a complement to our current property and will increase our credibility as First Nation commercial property owners, solidify our relationship with the business community and City of Saskatoon as well as provide additional prosperity to our First Nation in employment opportunities for Band members and increased investments to our community," Cachene says.

**Kindrachuk Agrey Architects** has been commissioned to design the new building with construction to commence in early 2013.

Currently, 25 per cent of the building is pre-leased to **First Nations Bank of Canada** for their new head office. Additional high profile tenants will be announced shortly.

Down in White Bear, Indian Gaming legend **Bernard Shepherd** has launched the **Northern Bear Casino**, the first tribal nation to offer online gambling. The site [www.northernbearcasino.com](http://www.northernbearcasino.com) went live on November 6 on the **GEObet Tribal Gambling Network** with the Wapi-Maskwa iGaming Act being the site's governing body.

"After almost 20 years of successful First Nations owned and operated Casinos in Saskatchewan, I decided to become an owner/operator because I believe First Nations need to 'Occupy the Field' of online gambling," said Shepherd who was the Chief of White Bear when they set up their casino.



"I'll be operating under the same Inherent, Treaty, and Constitutional and Sovereign rights as when I opened the first Indian Casino in Canada on February 26, 1993. Our Forefathers traded globally 100 plus years ago and entrepreneurship has been in our DNA for 10,000 plus years.

"This is what November 6, 2012 is going to stand for."

The online casino has elicited some concern from the Government of Saskatchewan so stay tuned as the jurisdictional battle will surely be waged over this business venture.

## Northern Economic Summit celebrates Economic Development Month in Sask.

**LA RONGE** – Minister of the Economy, the Honourable Bill Boyd has proclaimed November as Economic Development Month in Saskatchewan. To help celebrate the month, industry and economic development leaders are coming together in La Ronge to host the second Northern Economic Summit on November 22 and 23.

Participants at last year's inaugural summit acknowledged the success of this unique and inclusive event when northern stakeholders came together with a common purpose, prioritizing and launching of 17 action initiatives.

Northern economies must embrace multiple strategies including natural resource development, small business retention and expansion, tourism, infrastructure, education and health. Community economic development encourages communities and regions to take ownership of their own economic futures and chart the course they will follow to get there. It occurs in an environment where the forces of change and preservation of a traditional way of life often compete with each other.

At the Summit, northerners will be asked to discuss a new potential northern economic development entity that would work to support and implement initiatives beneficial to all northerners.

The summit will encourage development of northern economic capacity and a strategic plan for the region. By being developed by the region for the region, this plan will ideally build on the common needs of northerners.

The Summit will feature keynote speaker Jerome Slavik who has acted for over 30 First Nations in Western Canada and the Northwest Territories and has proven expertise in advising resource based communities with respect to impact benefit agreements.

A team of four facilitators provided by Nuguru Consultants will guide discussions with summit attendees over the two-day event. Overcoming barriers to northern development will be a focus of the first day on November 22. Development of a strategic direction and means of achieving that direction will be the outcome of day two.

All northern economic development leaders, including First Nations and Métis, will be represented at the Summit. Invitations have been issued and potential participants are asked to respond promptly due to the limited availability of accommodations in La Ronge. For further information, please contact: Les Ostryk Phone 306.688.6572 email: [karles@sasktel.net](mailto:karles@sasktel.net)



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Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada



# Lerat-Yew aiming high after high school sports days

**Name: Chandre Lerat-Yew**

**Sports: Basketball and Volleyball**

**Team: FW Johnson Wildcats**

**(High School)**

**Favorite Number: 11**

Goz: You play both basketball and volleyball for your high school team. If forced to choose one over the other, which would it be?

**Chandre: This is a very difficult question to answer because I love both sports!**

**Each sport is physically demanding in its own way, bringing its own challenge, which is what keeps it interesting and fun. However, if I had to choose one, it would have to be basketball because I love the intensity, the fast pace and the pressure of the game.**

Goz: Do you hope to continue playing sports after high school?

**Chandre: Playing University ball would be amazing, but at the very least I will stay active by playing club volleyball/basketball.**

Goz: What are your plans after high school?

**Chandre: I plan on studying at the U of R or the First Nations University of Canada. Right now I am contemplating going into psychology or law.**

Goz: Where do you see yourself in five years?

**Chandre: I'm hoping I will be finished an undergrad degree and continuing on with my education.**

Goz: Who is the best basketball player, male or female, ever to grace the hardwood?

**Chandre: I think that Kobe Bryant is the best player because he can score from anywhere and when the game is on the line he will make the clutch shot. He's a very fierce competitor and will play through injuries.**

Goz: Here's the scenario: you're down by two in the championship basketball game with seven seconds to go. It's your ball on the side. The coach leaves it up to you to either go for the three or drive for the tie

and send the game into overtime. What do you do?

**Chandre: In this case I would drive the lane for the tie, forcing us into overtime. I know my team well, and we are really good at grinding out a win in the last few seconds of the game.**

Goz: How do you balance school, work and being really involved in sports?

**Chandre: I really have to prioritize. Sometimes this means sacrificing a little sleep, socializing and down time but I don't mind because it's worth it in the long run. My parents are very supportive and sometimes tell me I take on too**

**much, however, I feel that keeping myself busy gives me purpose. I love it!**

Goz: Who is your hero?

**Chandre: That's easy! My hero is my Kokum, Darlene Lerat. She means a lot to me, and is probably one of my biggest supporters.**

**She is a residential school survivor and despite that she is one of the most loving, generous, and caring people I know. She tells me stories from the past and has taught me a lot.**

Goz: What are your thoughts on bullying and the victims who deal with it each day at school?

**Chandre: I, as well as many others have experienced bullying. There's no excuse for anyone to have to endure bullying, it's senseless and hurtful. Often times, the support of just one person can make a difference. I would tell them to hang in there, because it really does get better.**

Goz: November is the month we pay homage and respect to our Aboriginal veterans in Eagle Feather News. Anything to say to the people who sacrifice their lives so we can strive for a better one?

**Chandre: I am humbled by their bravery and sacrifice. I'm extremely proud of the Aboriginal men and women who volunteer their lives to serve their country so that future generations can prosper. My respect goes out to our fallen heroes, their families and those who continue to serve.**



**Sports Chat**

**Mike Gosselin**



CHANDRE LERAT-YEW



**Aboriginal Literature Festival**

Thank you to the sponsors of the 2012 Ānskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival: Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Eagle Feather News, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

If you are a writer, consider joining the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers' Circle Inc (SAWCI) for only \$20, and receive a free reciprocal membership to the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, a \$75 value. SAWCI exists to continue the Ānskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival tradition, and advocate for Aboriginal writers at all levels of development. Visit [www.anskohk.com](http://www.anskohk.com) for more information and membership application, or send your questions to [sawciboard@gmail.com](mailto:sawciboard@gmail.com).



**Assistant/Associate Professor  
Department of Native Studies  
University of Saskatchewan**



The Department of Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan invites applications for two tenure-stream positions at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. Applicants will have a Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies or related interdisciplinary program or discipline, and have a demonstrated ability for excellence in research, teaching, publication, and Indigenous community engagement.

We are seeking scholars with specializations in (1) Indigenous Histories, Societies, and Cultures (position #3114), and (2) Indigenous Rights, Governance and Practices (position #1008). Priority will be given to those candidates who incorporate Indigenous Knowledge (worldviews, translation, creation, experiential and other innovative learning and research practices) into their research and teaching, that have a demonstrated commitment to Aboriginal Engagement and community-based research, and who have a solid background of the Canadian Indigenous context.

**For complete position descriptions and application details please visit:**

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[http://jobs.usask.ca/job\\_postings/jobs/usfa\\_nativestudies\\_aprof-.php](http://jobs.usask.ca/job_postings/jobs/usfa_nativestudies_aprof-.php)

**Or contact Dr. Winona Wheeler, Department Head: [winona.wheeler@usask.ca](mailto:winona.wheeler@usask.ca)**

Review of applications will begin after December 1, 2012 and will continue until the position is filled, with the position commencing July 1, 2013.

# Random thoughts from The Dirk

There's no rhyme nor reason to this month's column. Just an unrelated series of errant thoughts from the impending mind of Darius The Dirk Dashing and the huge members of the First Nation Man Club. This is your final warning: none of these paragraphs are connected.

The difference between Saskatoon and Regina? In Saskatoon our fairy tales begin, "Once upon a time..." In Regina, they start, "Ya'll not gonna believe this \$#!+, but I tell you wut,..."

So I am watching Canada AM on Halloween and the lady suggests giving out pencils instead of candy. Like that's what children want – a carpenter's pencil instead of a Mars bar. Explains why, on Halloween, adults would see me coming, all duded up in my Luke Skywalker get-up and they would whisper, "Quick, find a writing stick. It's the Dashing boy."

If I am in Superstore or the local Co-op should I protest the shampoo and demand real poo?

Last year a bet was made. Whoever won the 2011 NFL Fantasy Football league would get to see their name in this column so that the dozen of fans who read this thing would know who to ogle, worship from afar, and want to hang with. I forgot to follow thru. Kyle The Terminator Pret-

tyshield, you da man!

So the police-woman pulls me over and asks, "You got any ID?" I said, "Bout what?"

So I'm delivering a workshop with my buddy, John, and he's making this point about Indians and taxation. "Does Dirk have to pay the duty tax if he gets his Star Wars dolls mailed to him from the U.S.?" I mean really! They're called action figures.

Am not sure if this really happened, so I need your help: This past summer did a tornado pass through Regina and do \$100,000 worth of improvements?

Steven Harper's Bill C-45 will give the Minister the power call a meeting of, say, ten irate Band members to surrender reserve land for, say, a pipeline. Only six need to vote in favour. These irates, are they the simpler, dafter cousins of pirates?

I have this friend. He runs a newspaper. This one time he insisted there were 28 letters in the alphabet. I asked how he came to that conclusion, and he sang the song and counted the word "and". He still got 28 letters.

In case you were wondering I am



getting my buttocks handed to me in this year's NFL Fantasy Football league. Check us out on the web at Yahoo! Fantasy Football. Our league's name? The 2012 Rugged

Long Backs. Yeah, I don't get it either.

She was my first girlfriend. We were kissing passionately in the front seat. My game was tight, I was smooth and doing alright when she suddenly grabbed the back of my hair and whispered breathily in my ear, "You wanna go in the back seat?" Puzzled I said, "Naw, I wanna stay here in the front with you."

The difference between Saskatoon and Regina? In Saskatoon, we call it a computer mouse. In Regina, they call it a desk critter.

Insert your boss's name: "He loves nature despite what it did to him." Or, "He is useless on top of the ground. He ought to be under it, inspiring the cabbages." Or, "He may look like an idiot and talk like an idiot but don't let that fool you. He really is an idiot."

Ok, so officer James Snookie pulls me over and says, "Anything you say can and

will be used in a court of law." So I said, "I, officer James Snookie find you, your honour, very attractive and I long for the day when we can spend more time together." Think about it.

The Minister doesn't know much about Indian issues, but leads parliament in nostril hair. So we got that going for us.

After you get the laser eye surgery you will not be able to shoot lasers from your eyes. I know. Sucks.

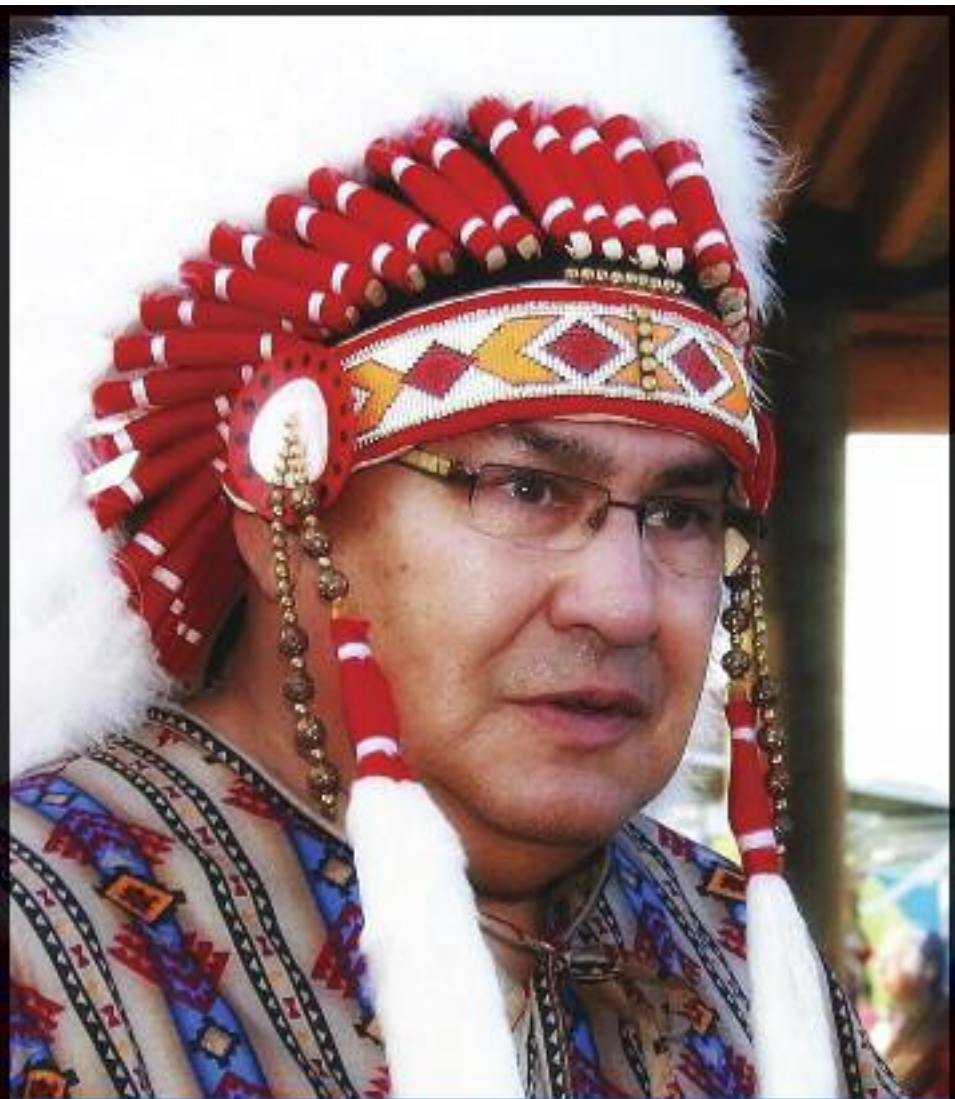
I made my way downstairs. The stairs lead the way down onto the street. They lead all the way up too, of course ... saves me having two stairways.

Am wondering how many of you counted the words as you sang the alphabet song in your head.

To our veterans ... thanks is not enough.

In next month's column you will see The Ultimate Man Guide to Christmas. In it you will learn what he wants, what he doesn't, plus tips on how to keep him on this side of the ground longer, fitter and stronger ... if you're into longer and stronger that is.

*Dirk says, Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.*



**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT**  
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# Supportive family key to young actor's success

How do you get from Pheasant Rump, Saskatchewan onto the small screen with Adam Beach? Lots of hard work and even more support!

Sera-Lys McArthur stars in Arctic Air, Season 1 and soon-to-be airing Season 2, as Hailey Martin. Presently she's been working on Where the Blood Mixes, a play by Kevin Loring, which also features her Arctic Air co-star, Lorne Cardinal.

"I was working on Arctic Air last year," says McArthur, "and Lorne and I had

mix it up."

She has had a very busy schedule lately. She filmed a pilot for APTN this summer, called Skye and Chang, before reprising her role as Hailey Martin for Season 2 of Arctic Air. Then she jumped right into the BC run of Where the Blood Mixes.

"I play a character named Christine, who is an Aboriginal woman in her early twenties coming back to find her birth father, she was adopted away. Her birth dad

to get me sent to the classes that I wanted to go to for singing and dancing and acting. My dad's always been excited about my career and the possibilities. When I did modeling when I was younger, my dad helped get me into my first Toronto fashion show – when I was 14.

"And also, when I was in The Englishman's Boy, a miniseries for CBC, I had to speak Nakota, and so my dad was really helpful in helping me find an Elder, to make sure I did it properly. Not too many people have parents that are supportive like that."

Stay tuned for the Skye & Chang premiere on APTN, coming soon. The Arctic Air Season 2 premiere airs in

January. Also, if you are around Edmonton in February, make an effort to see Where the Blood Mixes.

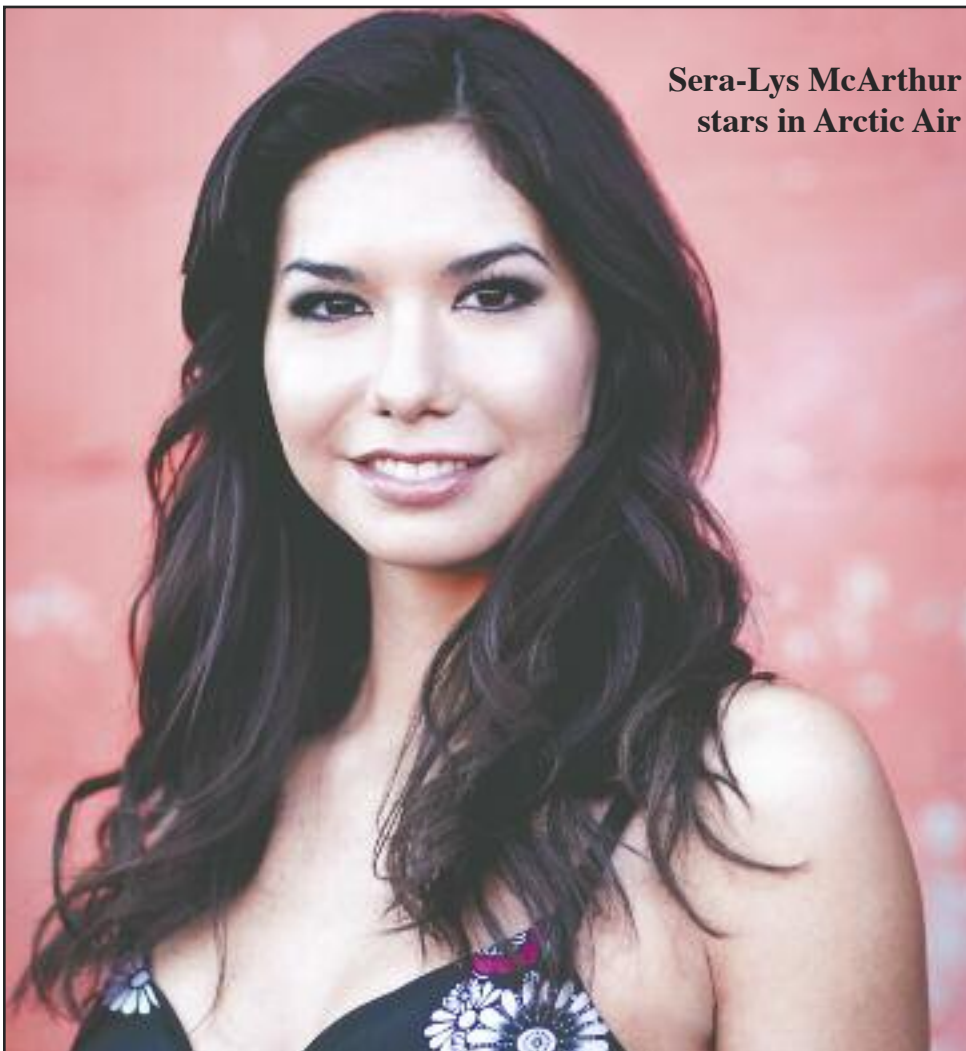
• • •

Last month there was a communication error and Mika Lafond was accidentally named as Mika Greyeyes in my column about the zine, Kimiwan. I am deeply sorry for the confusion and I apologize to Ms. Lafond, as well as to readers who noticed the error

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



Sera-Lys McArthur stars in Arctic Air



a scene together and he said, 'You know there's a play coming out next year and there's a role in it that you would suit'. So when the casting people contacted me, I said yes, and it's been a really awesome experience so far."

Crossing over from television to theatre and back again could be very daunting on an actor, but McArthur relishes the opportunity.

"I really think it's important to do both. When I do television and film, it's just a lot more natural to me. At the same time, it's very constricting because basically you hit your mark, say your line and then move on," says McArthur. "In theatre you have so much more time to do character research and maybe go through different layers of the performance. It's like a full experience every time, which is exhausting on some levels, but really gratifying on other levels."

McArthur believes it is best to be well-rounded, and to have experience in both theatre and television, as both bring out different aspects of an actor.

"I like to do both, but for different reasons. I feel like the stage teaches a person a lot, but if you do too much of one, you're going to get too used to acting in that style. So I feel like it's really good to

played is played by Lorne Cardinal. The play touches on residential school issues. It's very heavy play at times, but it's also very comedic. It's just a really great piece to work on."

She always looks forward to returning to Arctic Air though.

"The whole cast is pretty awesome to work with. My favorite scene was with Tim Webber. I grew up watching him on North of 60 ... Carmen Moore and I go way back. She played my mom in the first production that I was in and I really like working with the guy that plays my husband, Adam DiMarco. He's really hilarious. And, of course, Adam Beach and Michelle Thrush. It's just so amazing when I get to work with both of them in the same scene."

McArthur recognizes that she couldn't have gotten where she is without the support of her family.

"Both my parents, that's something I have to say is that I'm so very grateful for. My parents just wanted to be supportive of me and what I wanted to do. I definitely know people who wouldn't have encouraged their kids the ways that I was encouraged. I wasn't raised with a lot of financial wealth at all.

"My mom applied for charity-funding

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# STC Gala celebrates 30 years

The Saskatoon Tribal Council 30th Anniversary Gala was an amazing bash. Dignitaries of all stripes were on hand for a special evening of fine dining and great entertainment. George Leach (below) opened and got the crowd rocking and then bluesman Derrick Miller brought down the house with his set. A great time was had by all. (Photo Marcel Petit)

Since 1982, we have committed to working alongside our membership in meeting the needs and aspirations of individuals and families in their pursuit of a good quality of life.

This Gala not only celebrated our successes, but marked the beginning of another era for the members of Saskatoon Tribal Council; an era of inspiration where quality health, education, safety and sustainable economics will continue to grow over the next 30 years.

As the Chiefs of STC, it is our sincere hope that the next 30 years will be filled with opportunity and success for our people. At the Saskatoon Tribal Council, we strive every day to provide these opportunities, as well as the opportunity for growth ourselves.

Our organization has transcended from a two-person operation into a flourishing tribal region constituency located within the Treaty Six territory. We have expanded to five corporations, numerous business entities and partnerships with leading corporations, both inside and outside of Saskatchewan. We take pride in being a major employment contributor within Saskatoon and surrounding area.

This is also a time to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our employees. Over the years driven by our vision, they have continually worked above and beyond expectations.

We continue to celebrate the generosity of industry partners and the business community of Saskatoon, especially the Gala event title sponsor, PotashCorp.

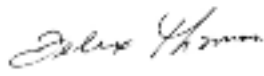
Last, the funds raised from the gala will have a great impact on achieving our vision of prosperity, from which we can all benefit. These contributions have laid the footing for the upcoming STC Foundation and will support worthy initiatives in the years to come.

Thank you

nanaskumlin (Cree)

mee'gwich (Saulteaux)

pldameya (Dakota)



Tribal Chief Felix Thomas



Vice Chief Geraldine Arcand



Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas





**30<sup>th</sup>**  
SASKATOON TRIBAL COUNCIL  
ANNIVERSARY GALA  
PRESENTED BY POTASHCORP

Saskatoon Tribal Council has proudly reached a milestone: 30 years of helping Saskatchewan families transform their lives through education, training, employment, affordable housing and a diversity of family support programs and services.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the event sponsors for their support in making the STC 30th Anniversary Gala presented by PotashCorp a great success. We are honoured to have such widespread community support, and look forward to future endeavors!

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