

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Sports key to healthy lifestyle for kids

Lac La Ronge Band teams swept the FSIN Youth Hockey Championships this year. Coach Kevin Roberts and his son, Sage, were key members of the Novice entry in the tourney.



PROUD FATHER

Kevin Roberts, Director of Sport Culture and Recreation for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, poses with his son, Sage, a member of the Novice La Ronge 89er. Roberts coached the team, one of five La Ronge teams to win its division at the FSIN Youth Hockey Championships. Roberts is convinced the band's sports program is helping young people to become better students and live healthier lives. See story on Page 31.



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STUDENT LEADER

Max FineDay is the new president of the U of S Students Union and he'd like to help make some key changes. - Page 7



NEW CHANCELLOR

Blaine Favel is a familiar face in Saskatchewan political and business circles and now he has a new job. - Page 11



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AWARDS AND REWARDS

Fiddler Donny Parenteau has won his share of awards but he's finding some other rewards in his life. - Page 25



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Author Lisa Bird-Wison says books are important and feed our spirt. Read, read, read, she says. - Page 27

Welcome to our

Sports, Youth & Mining Issue

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Stepping Stones to career success

By Chris Tyrone Ross
For Eagle Feather News

For 13 years, the Stepping Stones Career Fair hosted by File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council in Regina, has become one of the most anticipated and largest events for Aboriginal Youth in Saskatchewan.

This year's career fair took place at the Credit Union Eventplex at Evraz Place in May. It attracted over 1,500 Aboriginal youth from Regina and area between the ages of 16-30 who interacted with almost 100 career booths. Adding to the festivities was their 2nd Annual Art Contest, which honoured winners and runners-up at an awards ceremony at First Nations University of Canada (FNUniv) the week before.

"To start at a young age like this, elementary and high school, it gets the students thinking about what they want to do when they're done school," volunteer organizer Jennifer Dubois explained.

"I just ran into a student today who said 'I think I want to get into nursing' and that helps them make their decision about the path they want to take – that stepping stone."

What makes Stepping Stones so unique is its interactive booths, which gives youth the opportunity to do what professionals do for a day. From being a camera person at the Access Cable booth to trying on fire fighter outfits to taking a turn at carpentry or checking out the high tech bus of the Canadian Marines, it's all interactive and also includes many informational booths that give youth a different kind of excitement for any career.

vibrant throughout the career fair. Students were intrigued by the interactive S.I.I.T. bus equipped with Internet, computers and career choices.

Twelve-year old Jordan Pelletier, a Grade 7 student at Judge Bryant, talked about why she came to stepping stones.

"I just wanted to learn the many choices that people have, what I could do (before I grow up and become a teenager) instead of sitting alone in my basement being on the computer," she said.

"I want to become a graphic illustrator, or a graphic designer. I found a ton of what I'm looking for. I just learned a ton of new things here," added Pelletier.

One event newer to Stepping Stones was the 2nd Annual Aboriginal Youth Art Contest. Winners and runner-ups were honoured at a small ceremony at FNUniv.

"It helps with the youths' self esteem," explained Dubois. "A lot of them think they're not going to win and what's the point of entering but it's really good motivation for them. Our winners were very surprised that they won and it just helps boost their self esteem and encourages them to participate in further events such as this," Dubois added.

First place winner, Kay-Lee Rock, was excited to win the prestigious award of \$1,000.

"I was actually pretty shocked, cause looking at the other contestants' work, I was thinking I was going to be a runner up or in second or third place, and I was just surprised and happy."

Other winners included; Ashley Prosper (2nd place, \$500), Ariel Ironeagle (3rd place,



Key-Lee Rook, was the first place winner of the art contest held in conjunction with Stepping Stones Career Fair. (Photo by Chris Tyrone Ross)



Alisha Morton, a Grade 8 student at Judge Bryant School in Regina and Raven Thomson, 15, also in Grade 8 at Judge Bryant Elementary School in Regina check out the brick laying display at Stepping Stones Career Fair.

Fourteen-year old Alisha Morton, a Grade 8 student at Judge Bryant School in Regina and Raven Thomson, 15 checked out the brick-laying booth and found the event exciting and important.

"I think it's important because kids can get an idea of what they want to be when they get older," said Thompson

Morton added, "I get to see new things and experience it."

As for what they would like to be when they finish school, Morten wants to go into the mining industry and Thompson hopes to be a monster truck driver.

Throughout the one-day event, the excitement of other young people was

\$250) and runners up Rayna Ellis, Kolton Raven, Niomi Geddes, Kaitlyn Wesaquate, Aaliyah O'Watch and Christen Gall.

Runner up, Kolton Raven summed up the entire Stepping Stones event the best when he interpreted his art work which was a piece of the Hollywood and LAX signs of Los Angeles, California.

"What this means to me, is this is the place where I want to go in the future, like to live my life, so this is what I came up with in mind, I actually planned it this year, so this is where I want to go, I probably want to become a famous artist"

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StatsCan numbers don't add up in Saskatchewan

The Statistics Canada numbers do not tell the full story of the Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan. First, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Cons gang cut funding to the organization that does the counting and made the census non-mandatory. This led to changing forms and sending out less of them so we saw a low response rate this year because of the new policies.

Second, we Métis and First Nations are sneaky and hard to count and some First Nations refuse access to government head-counters.

Lastly, both the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan provide much different numbers than the Census data. Who are we to believe?

StatsCan says according to the 2011 Census there are 157,740 Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan representing 15.6 per cent of the population. This breaks down to 52,450 Métis 94,160 registered Indians and 9045 non-status Indians and some 'others'.

Now, when President of the MN-S Robert Doucette speaks, he refers to the 100,000 Métis in Saskatchewan. And often speakers from the Federation say they represent 130,000 First Nation people across Saskatchewan. This makes for more than 50,000 people over the StatsCan numbers.

And going back to the holder of the bank, we have Indian and Northern Affairs Canada reserve maps and contact handouts from December 31, 2001 that talk about the total Registered Indian population in Saskatchewan of 108,801. And we are pretty sure that there have been some babies born in the last 12 years.

Obviously there is some conflict there.

What everyone does agree on however is that the First Nation and Métis population is young and growing rapidly. With a median age of 20 compared to 40 for the rest of the province, it is plain to see the future is young and Aboriginal here.

With the young demographic, now is the time for First Nation and Métis people

to get in the game in developing our resources. We are close to having a potash mine on-reserve at Muskowekwan. This will be the first such operation in Canada.

The uranium industry has been involving Aboriginal people for decades and the people of Pinehouse are celebrating a groundbreaking business deal with Cameco.

All of the potash mines in Saskatchewan are looking for workers, and so are all their contractors. Some say it is a boom fueled by expansion and will die down, but Pam Schwann, the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Mining Association tells us that though the numbers will be reduced, however, both as a result of expansions that require additional new staff, and because the existing employees are largely eligible to retire in



SIAST'S Wascana Campus in Regina held a tipi raising in May.

the next decade, there will continue to be a significant number of permanent job opportunities.

These are great jobs. Sure there are



tons of entry level labour jobs but there is nothing stopping young people from being an accountant, human resource person or an engineer. You just have to want it.

Mining Week runs May 26-June 1. Check out the Mine Rescue demonstrations at the Prairieland Park on June 1. Interesting stuff.

...

Bill Mintram is a guy who always knew he wanted to work with youth. A SUNTEP graduate and teacher by trade, Bill has travelled the country with Indian Residential School commission, lived in Ottawa, worked for the Treaty 4 Student Success program, the City of Saskatoon at the METAWETAN program and eventually landed at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre as the program manager.



BILL MINTRAM

Director. This is exciting news for the community as Bill has lots of background with grassroots groups like UAS, he is tied in with the next young leaders in the First Nation and Métis community and he is a proud Métis who knows the importance of culture and its role in creating whole people. The people of Saskatoon who access the Friendship Centre just got real lucky. Congrats on the big job Bill.

...

And finally, there was a Tipi raising at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina this month as part of their 23rd annual Aboriginal Cultural Awareness event. The event has grown from its beginning but the goal has remained the same, to provide cultural awareness and enhance pride in the Aboriginal cultures.

SIAST has close to 3,000 Aboriginal students in its campuses across the province helping to train the next generation of young people for the labour market. As the Joint Task Force has said, culture is important. Good job SIAST.

...

See you next month for our June National Aboriginal History edition that includes our Annual Aboriginal History and Trivia quiz.

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Old lady mining can be fun and lucrative

The topic of the month is 'mining' and the first thing I thought about was old ladies and bargain bins. Some of the best times I had with my grannies and aunties were spent digging for gold in used clothing bags, bins, garage sale tables, and second-hand stores.

When I was a kid, bags of used clothes were dropped off at our local Friendship Centre where our late mom worked as the director. Every second Saturday was rummage sale day. We'd get there early to set up the tables, empty out those bags, and organize the clothes.

You'd think being the first ones there we'd get first dibs ... but nooooo. Mom insisted we could only shop for ourselves after everything was all picked over and the best stuff carried away.

"There are little girls who need these clothes more than you," she'd tell me. Allowance back then was 25¢ a week and everything at the rummage sale sold for 5¢ so a gal could get some good deals if there was anything left at the end of the day.

Part of the thrill was watching outdated and ugly pieces be transformed into high fashion kohkom designer clothes. I had a gold lame (pronounced

'lamb eh') mini skirt made out of an old fashioned ball gown. Mom took apart old coats and made new ones, unravelled old sweaters and knitted new ones with matching mitts, toques, and socks.

As a young apprentice I learned a few mining and recycling skills. Hagging at garage sales requires considerable diplomacy. Knowing when the Sally Ann restocked the shelves is important to get the best pickings. Sale bin surfing is much like house hunting on a budget. You need to look past the wrinkles, stains and missing buttons. Focus on the quality of the fabric and envision how it can be transformed.

Old jeans were transformed into fashionable denim skirts by cutting them open, re-sewing, and adding a few strategic patches, embroidery or beads. They also made excellent patchwork quilts, quite popular among snagging-age men.

We grabbed all the otter fur and long haired sheep skin we found – add some nice beadwork and wrap ties to the otter clean and comb the sheep hair, and you



could make a few bucks selling them to fancy dancers. Old lady mining is not only good fun, it can also be lucrative.

Old lady mining is about recycling and has nothing in common with industrial mining.

For many opposed to mining, it is not so much about extracting resources from the earth, it's more about how much and how they are extracted – how the earth is treated during and after the extraction process and the unquenchable greed that drives the industry.

In open pit mining the pit is expanded until there are no more resources left. All life in immediate area is destroyed and it leaves behind a huge waste land. Hydraulic fracking drills deep into the earth and inject a fluid that fractures rock to release natural gas. That fluid contains dangerous carcinogens and toxins that contaminate local groundwater and drinking water.

Some fracturing fluid is left in the ground forever and the extracted fluid is left in open pits where harmful compounds contaminate air and create

acid rain. None of this is any good for life on this earth but high demand for sources of power, minerals, jewels, and jobs, spurs ever more industrial mining.

Long before Europeans arrived Indigenous people mined minerals and metals for personal use and trade. Red ochre (hematite) was mined and used to make pigment used in rock paintings and for ceremonial body painting. Salt was mined from brine springs along lakes, quartz was mined for arrow heads, and copper was pit mined to make tools.

There was much mining going on way back then but like old lady mining it did not scar and poison the land or create huge amounts of wealth for the 1%. Nor did the use of these substances poison and scar the land. The difference between then and now is in the changing nature of value systems.

A way of life based on a spiritual connection to the land did not condone destroying the land to make a living. Do we really need all the things we want and are we prepared to destroy our world for short-term gain?

Or can we find happiness in a simpler lifestyle that protects our world for future generations? What can we do to reduce the demand that feeds industrial expansion?



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Amending the Indian Act: Bill C428

You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear'. So goes the old saying. Given the political controversy about amending the



The wills and estates provisions may go, but more must be done to recognize and protect First Nation authority over family and reserve lands

the Indian Act, which is universally viewed as outdated and inappropriate, one might picture the making of amendments as the knitting of the silk purse while tiptoeing through a mine field. Yet the current federal government is committed to the task.

That is the clear statement of intention in Bill C428, the private member's bill introduced by Saskatchewan MP Rob Clarke, which is receiving government support. As may be expected, there is a long lineup at the current hearings of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on this controversial bill. What are the basic aims and contents of Bill C428?

The least controversial feature might be the provisions that would do away with some of the worst provisions which were clearly meant to give power to Indian agents to run the everyday lives of folks living on reserves: the Indian residential school provisions, the outlawing of free trade of reserve agricultural products and the administration of wills and estates of reserve residents by Indian Affairs.

Yet both opportunities and potential pitfalls reveal themselves. 'Indian control of Indian Education' has become a catch-cry that makes anything that resembles unilateral federal action as controversial in the extreme, as evidenced by the opposition to the intention to enact new federal education legislation.

Section 32 which prohibited free trade of Indian reserve agricultural products except as dictated by Indian agents has a fascinating history, much of it written by historian Sarah Carter, daughter of the late Roger Carter who founded the University of Saskatchewan Native Law Centre.

Introduced in 1881, s.32 has been viewed as a means of political control and a reaction to the complaints to Ottawa of local non-Indian farmers about being outdone by the agricultural success of Dakota farmers in western Manitoba. Reason compels the conclusion s.32 must have contributed to the decline of the reserve Indian economy.

The repeal of s.32 suggests the creation of innovative means of promoting Indian agriculture today.

matters. The modern Treaties expressly recognize this authority.

For example, the Maa-Nulth Treaty 2007 includes the power to make laws respecting adoption, child custody, child care, social development and solemnization of marriage of Maa-nulth citizens.

The effect of Bill C428 as introduced opened up the prospect of provincial laws intruding upon Treaty and aboriginal rights. Canadian courts established the legal force of Cree law in family matters as far back as 1867 in the famous *Connolly v. Woolrich* case.

My understanding is that the Committee will recommend that the provisions be removed and that the matter be the subject of further study.

A prime object of Bill C428 is the removal of the Minister's discretionary authority over band by-laws. One's confidence about the effectiveness of the current provision is eroded by the remaining authorities that are scattered throughout the Act and the continuing provision that the Minister remains the administrator of Indian affairs on reserves. The current proposal is that by-laws become valid upon publication by prescribed means.

However, the power of the Minister and Cabinet to make regulations continues, and other provisions not in Bill C428, such as the amendments in the notorious omnibus Bill C45, appear to continue the role of the Minister in the administration of local affairs on reserves.

All this leads to increasing complexity in an already overwhelmingly complex statutory scheme of governance from Ottawa. Ambiguities abound. Litigation looms.

There are options to amending the Act. Some were proposed by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in 1996 but they have been largely overlooked by all sides.

One firm conclusion offers itself. In Canada you cannot change the state of affairs under which people have been administered for many generations in accordance with the idea that motivated the Indian Act in the first place: that is, that those Ottawa people know better than Indians how to run their own affairs at home.

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New U of S students' president wants to 'Indigenize' the university

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

The times they are a-changin' and Max FineDay is part of that change. The 22-year-old FineDay is the newly elected president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union and one of a number of Indigenous students who have become politically involved at the university.

Many First Nations and Métis students became active in the Idle No More movement this past winter and spring. However, things appear to have really started to change more than a year ago when Jared Brown was elected as the U of S's first Aboriginal student president. This has been followed by a very active Indigenous Students' Council and now the election of FineDay, who is a member of the Sweet-grass First Nation.

Aboriginal enrolment has been up and down at the university over the past few years. However, overall, Indigenous students make up less than one per cent of the total student population at the U of S – so there is a long way to go in terms of achieving a representative balance.

University President Ilene Busch-Vishniac says one of the top priorities of the institution is better Aboriginal engagement and FineDay wants to hold her to account on this. He says if the U of S wants to attract more Indigenous students, it has to become a more welcoming place to them.

"We still have half of all first year Aboriginal students dropping out," he says. "The educational success rates don't paint a pretty picture. So, one of the things I want to work with the administration on is Indigenousizing the academy, for lack of a better word.

"We need to see language and culture represented here if we want Indigenous students to feel like this is their campus, and not just visitors here, but welcomed and accepted for who they are."



Max FineDay would like to see the University of Saskatchewan become a more welcoming place for Aboriginal students.

FineDay says in terms of making Aboriginal students feel more comfortable, one step in the right direction is

a new Indigenous students' centre on campus. Construction on the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Centre is set to begin this spring and the new building is expected to be completed by late 2014.

While many students view a new Aboriginal students' centre as a positive thing, others have complained the multi-million dollar facility is a luxury the U of S cannot afford during these times of fiscal cutbacks. Things turned nasty over the issue recently in an online open forum Facebook page where some student comments against the centre were deemed racist and had to be removed.

FineDay says he doesn't believe the student body is divided when it comes to Aboriginal issues but he does believe there is some way to go in terms of creating better awareness and understanding.

"There is a lack of knowing, people can go through their whole adolescence without ever talking to an Indigenous person," he says.

"So, they just learn about Indigenous people through the news, or their family who may not be well versed on the issues. And that's where we get stereotypes, that's where we get the sort of racism that we see sometimes."

Nevertheless, he says he sees things changing in a positive way as evidenced by the fact that the last two student presidents – himself and Brown – are Aboriginal and elected by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

In his run for president, FineDay ran a straightforward campaign that focused on pocket book issues and making campus life more affordable for students. And this, not surprisingly, is something all students can clearly relate to.

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Education Task Force presents Province with 25 recommendations

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Within days of receiving the report, the Province of Saskatchewan started to implement recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People. Because of the report, approximately 2,600 more on-reserve students will receive access to driver education.

"We know that one major barrier to employment for many Aboriginal people

is not having a drivers license," said Joint Task Force Chair Gary Merasty at the Legislative Building where the report was released.

"Small things like that can be corrected with smart investments by the provincial government. If we want Aboriginal people engaged in the economy, the report provides solid recommendations that can help."

The Joint Task Force is an integral part of the Saskatchewan Growth Plan as introduced by the Premier on October 16, 2012. The final report will be used to



Task Force Chair Gary Merasty shares a moment with FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird and Education Minister Russ Marchuk. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

A comprehensive protocol for overcoming Candida

(Part 2)

There are a lot of companion diseases, and symptoms that can occur in define stages – bowel and bladder problems, heartburn, chronic indigestion, sinusitis, eczema, acne, chronic headaches, muscle pains, earaches and sensitivity to odors, for example.

The list also includes: allergy reactions – extreme irritability, memory lapses and the inability to concentrate. Central nervous system

reactions – extreme irritability, chronic fatigue often followed by acute depression, gland and organ dysfunction, hypothyroidism, adrenal failure, hypoglycemia, ovarian problems, infertility and lack of sex drive can be associated with Candida.

Protocol for overcoming Candida, which strengthens the afflicted organs and glands, especially the liver, restores normal metabolism and promotes friendly bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract. Rebuild the immune system. Stimulating immune well-being throughout the healing process supports faster results. Candida may affect any part of the body.

A wide range of syndromes can be caused by Candida infection. The most common sites include nails, ear canal, esophagus, intestine, vaginal tract and the urinary tract. The allergy-immune compromised response of Candida, bowel-diseases – breaches in the gut wall and too much gut permeability allows foreign food and toxin molecules into the bloodstream where they are attacked by the immune system.

Nutrient deficiencies occur because

the inflamed gut can't absorb them. Fatigue and bloating set in. New food allergies usually appear.

Vitamin C, omega-3 fatty acids from flax oil inhibits inflammatory chemicals. Probiotics are used to re-establish colonic flora. Ginger tea helps to take down the inflammation. Licorice extract also

reduces inflammation and helps normalize gut mucous membrane. Nail fungus usually begins as painful swelling on the finger or toe tops,

which later develops into pus around the nails.

If the infection occurs under the nails it may cause a loss of the nail. Apply tea tree oil on affected areas several times a day. Seeing a physician for medical advice is also recommended. Skin infections characterized by itch, scaly skin patches. Candida lesions are usually red-looking pustules that appear in moist places like the groin, underarms, navel, anus, buttocks, or webbing of fingers and toes. Crusts that form on the scalp usually cause hair loss.

Food change is the most effective way to rebuild strength and immunity from fungus overgrowth. Test for food sensitivities but keep in mind that sugars and refined foods will allow the yeast to grow again.

A breakfast suggestion would be oatmeal and blueberries; for lunch a homemade soup, humus, protein vegetables (raw), for supper chicken, fish, brown rice, wild rice, cooked carrots, broccoli, salads, coleslaw are some ways of eating healthy. Drink eight glasses of water a day. Green tea also creates a healthy food treatment plan.



reach the target of reducing the difference in graduation rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students by 50 per cent by 2020.

The spirit of the report goes much beyond supplying driver's education on reserve.

"The Joint Task Force represents a unique undertaking, crossing jurisdictional boundaries and the partners need to be commended for this bold step," said Merasty. "We have concluded, as many others have, that a path of reconciliation based on the principles of mutual respect, recognition, and reciprocity holds the greatest promise for a shared and pros-

perous future."

Merasty and his fellow task Force members Rita Bouvier and Don Hoium presented 25 recommendations to the government, but collectively they agreed that the first one was the most important.

"We recommend that the Province proclaim First Nations and Métis languages as the original languages of Saskatchewan. This is key because language is the root of the culture and so very important," added Merasty.

"We travelled this province from end to end and you can see the different challenges geographically," said Merasty.

• Continued on Page 9



An invitation to all Métis citizens

**JOIN US FOR A
State of the Nation
Community/Citizenship
Meeting**

May 24-25, 2013

**Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Travelodge Hotel Saskatoon
106 Circle Drive West**

**Breakfast and lunch will be provided
to all attendees on Saturday.**

To register please contact:
reception@mn-s.ca

Tel: 306-343-8285 Toll-free: 1-888-343-6667

For more information contact Tyler Fetch, Manager,
Intergovernmental Affairs: tfetch@mn-s.ca

MN-S, FSIN laud education report

• Continued on Page 9

“From paying over \$20 for a burger in Stony Rapids to paying \$5 for the same burger in Swift Current, we know each region is unique and each region has their own solutions so there can’t be a cookie cutter process. But we know for sure the importance and benefits of strong language and culture.”

Starting in May 2012, the Joint Task Force travelled to 16 communities holding 83 individual and public consultations with over 1,000 people. The final report identifies themes that emerged from the voices of consultation participants, research and submissions in four target areas – early childhood, prekindergarten to Grade 12, post-secondary and labour-force attachment.

“On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I want to recognize and thank Task Force Chair Gary Merasty and members Rita Bouvier and Don Hoium for their work over the last 12 months,” said Education Minister Russ Marchuk.

“I am pleased to see that several of the recommendations align closely with the work government has committed to already in our Plan for Growth, and we look forward to reviewing the final report

more fully in the months ahead.”

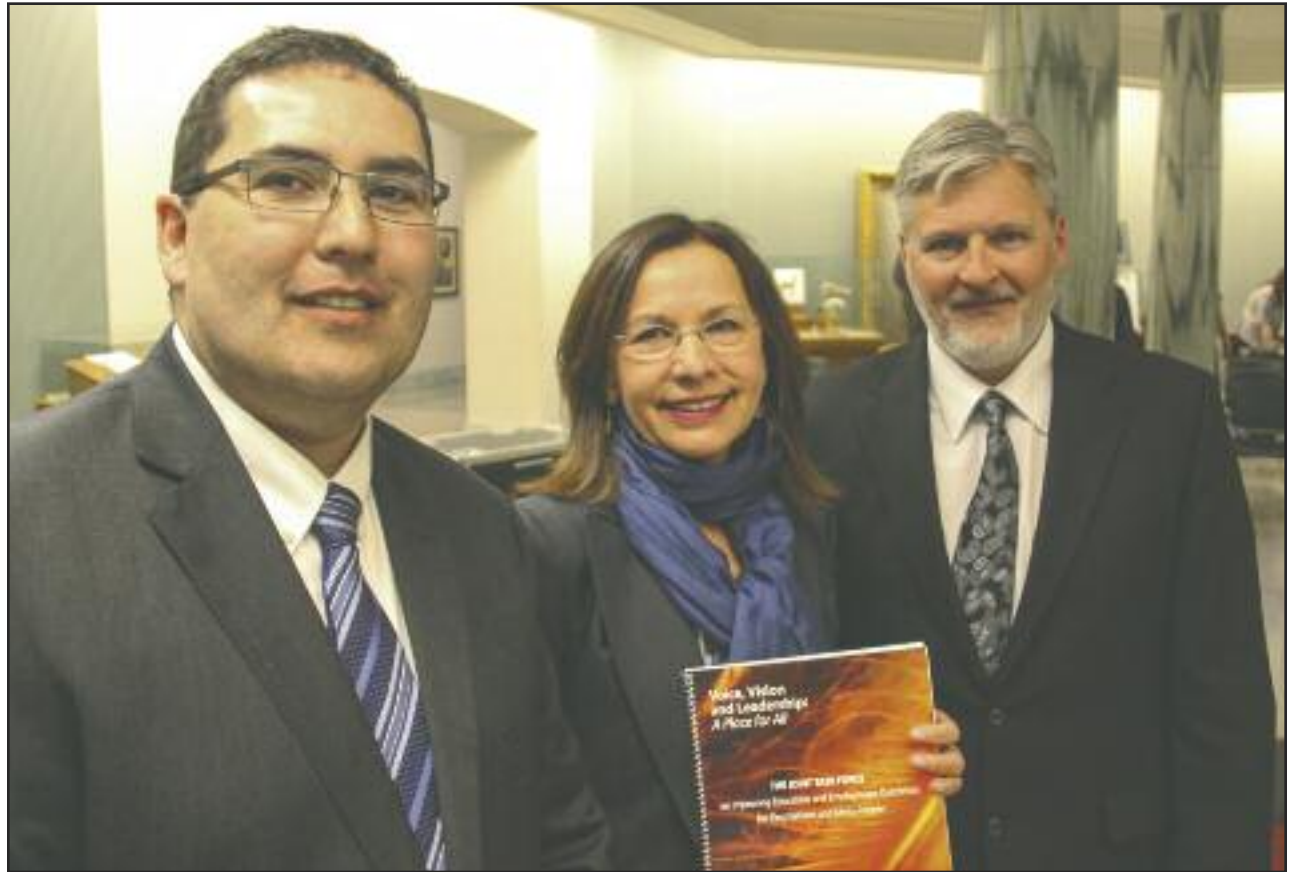
The report was praised by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

“I am glad they recommended proclaiming First Nations and Metis languages as the original languages of Saskatchewan,” said MN-S President Robert Doucette.

“The report also lays out many things that we need to do, but we also need a roadmap or timetable to implement this.”

FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird was on hand for the release.

“On behalf of the 74 First Nations and the executive of the FSIN, I thank the



Task Force members Gary Merasty, Rita Bouvier and Don Hoium in the Legislative building at the release of their final report **Voice, Vision and Leadership: A Place for All.** (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Government of Saskatchewan for making Early Childhood through Post-Secondary education, and employment issues a priority,” Bird said.

“Thank you to the grassroots participants, the stakeholders who shared their stories and innovative solutions, and to the members of the task force who thoughtfully brought voices to our people.

This report is a great start in investing in our future, as our First Nations continue to be the largest untapped resource in this territory we call Saskatchewan.

“If this new way of working in collaboration is any indication of what we can do together, then it’s only natural that we as First Nations have a very strong role to play in the future.”

Diversity strengthens our province

Saskatchewan is world renowned for its rich, multicultural heritage. At the University of Saskatchewan, we are making great strides to ensure our classrooms, labs and campuses are welcoming places where people of all cultures can reach their full potential.



Leading by example

Respected First Nations leader Blaine Favel was appointed chancellor of the U of S commencing July 1. A College of Education graduate, Blaine will preside at university convocation ceremonies, confer degrees, chair University Senate and join the U of S Board of Governors.

By working more closely with Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal Peoples and including Aboriginal knowledge and experiences in our curriculum and on our campuses, we are creating a multicultural community that will strengthen our entire province.

Here are just a few of our initiatives:

Native Law Centre of Canada

The Native Law Centre on the U of S campus facilitates access to legal education and promotes the development of the law and the legal system in Canada in ways which better accommodate the advancement of Aboriginal Peoples and communities.

Station 20 West

The University of Saskatchewan Office of Outreach and Engagement at Station 20 West delivers U of S research and teaching for Saskatoon communities.

Aboriginal Students’ Centre

This centre is a welcoming place for students on campus to make friends and access supports. ASC staff members are committed to supporting the holistic well-being of our students.

Office of First Nation and Métis Engagement

This English River office is for prospective students, researchers, employees and members of First Nation and Métis communities to learn about the U of S.

Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre

The Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will house both the Aboriginal Students’ Centre and the Indigenous Students’ Council, with additional space for learning and ceremonies for people of all cultures.

NAPN and ITEP

The Native Access Program to Nursing and the Indian Teacher Education Program are specifically designed for Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal students.

To learn more about Aboriginal initiatives at the U of S, visit aboriginal.usask.ca.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Ambitious

Beware of snagging season just around the corner

Tansi Eagle Feather News readers. The theme this month is Youth and Sports; no better time to talk about relationships because young people think about shacking up or marriage and believe me, sometimes marriage can feel like a contact sport.

Only in fairy tales do couples live happily ever after. The reality is that relationships take work. Whether you are shackled-up or legally married, the truth is if you don't nurture your relationship it will fail. It's like a garden, you plant seeds, water and pick the weeds. If you don't take care of your garden there won't be too many vegetables because they will be overrun by the weeds and bad seeds.

I am not the relationship guru like Dr. Phil, nor do I have the illusion of happily ever after like Cinderella. I am on my second marriage and the thought of throwing in the towel (or anything else I can get my hands on) has crossed my mind a few times over the last 20 or so years.

Many people enter a relationship with rose coloured glasses. Women, in particular, have been fed happily ever after by fairy tales and movies. They dream of their perfect wedding day and put little thought into the marriage. What happens after the wedding day and the parties done and the gifts have been opened?

Reality happens. Couples get into ruts and routines and before they realize it they are upset with their spouse for not helping out with the chores, leaving the toilet seat up, or not replacing the toilet paper. I have heard friends argue about the stupidest crap and end up throwing in the towel on their relationship.

After years of watching Oprah I think I have it figured out: love, respect and

kindness. Who knew it could be so simple? We don't need to have money (like Oprah) to make our relationships work but we do need to have commitment and awareness of our partner's needs and our own needs as well. Intimacy is a crucial part of all relationships so don't forget to hold hands and smooch once in awhile (no hickies).

Pow Wow season is upon us so beware the professional weekend snaggers. They roam from Pow Wow to Round dances leaving a trail of broken hearts along the way. Ever sick!

Don't forget about the ball tournaments and summer games which are also great places to hook up. These folks are the professional players. They catch your eye, and then steal your heart. By the end of the tournament they toss you and your

heart into left field and move onto the next game.

In all seriousness, when you do find that special one, be kind, love and be respectful. Don't take each other for granted. When things get tough, and they will get tough, remember the commitment you made to each other. There really is calm after a storm.

Sometimes things don't always work and couples split. When this happens do it with grace and respect. Don't let violence come into play there is no place for violence in our lives or in our communities. Tapwe.

Thank you for your letters and emails it is always nice to hear from the readers. You can write to me at Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Sez PO Box 924 ST Main, Saskatoon, S7K 3M4 Saskatchewan or send me an email to sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com Until next month, take care and be kind to one another. Ekosi.



Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew

Only in fairy tales do couples live happily ever after. The reality is that relationships take work. Whether you are shackled-up or legally married, the truth is if you don't nurture your relationship it will fail.

GREAT PLAINS - A First Nations Dance Company

Dancing from the 1960s through to 2013

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Following is a brief and select summary of our performance history:

- 1985 Can. First Nations Cultural Centre's Conference: Saskatoon
- 1986 Expo 86 SK. Pavilion and Canada Pavilion: Vancouver
- 1986 Festival of Dance: Montreal
- 1987 Visit of The Royal Couple: Wamuskewin Heritage Park
- 1988 Expo 88 Canada Pavilion: Brisbane, Australia
- 1989 North American Indigenous Games: Edmonton
- 1989 Jeux Canada Games: Saskatoon
- 1990 Grand Opening of the Office of the Treaty Commission: Saskatoon
- 1991 Tourism Intern'l Convention: Saskatoon
- 1992 Grand Opening of Wamuskewin Heritage Park: Saskatoon
- 1992 Canada 125 Celebration: Ottawa
- 2004 Governor General of Canada: Saskatoon
- 2005 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Gala: Saskatoon
- 2005-2006-2007 Broadcast performances on Global TV, APTN and SCN
- 2007 BRAVO! Paskwawiynewak-Dancers from the Great Plains: Wamuskewin
- 2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Gala: Regina
- 2011 Prairie Scene Arts Festival: Ottawa
- 2011 Canada Day Celebrations: London, United Kingdom
- 2011 Governor General Visit: Wamuskewin Heritage Park
- 2012 SK First Nation Winter Games Opening Ceremonies: CHC, Saskatoon
- 2013 INSPIRE Awards & Gala: TCU, Saskatoon

GREAT PLAINS

Attn: Tyrone Tootosis Sr. Box 831, Duck Lake, SK S0K 1J0
Cell #: 306.361.6767 Email: tyrone45@nativeweb.net

June is National Aboriginal History Month

<p>Week 1: Celebrating PAST stories and triumphs of Canada's Aboriginal peoples</p>	<p>"We Were Children" film screening on two stories of residential school survivors. Saturday, June 1 2:00pm - 5:00pm Royal Saskatchewan Museum - 2445 Albert Street, Regina, SK Cultural Activity: Beading</p>
<p>Week 2: Celebrating PRESENT stories and triumphs of Canada's Aboriginal peoples</p>	<p>RAPA & Saskatchewan Anti-Racism Committee proudly present Keynote Speaker, Dr. Alexandria Wilson: "Sakihwawin: Creating Change through our Loving Actions" Saturday, June 8 2:00pm - 5:00pm Albert Scott Community Centre, 1264 Adair Street, Regina, SK Cultural Activity: Bannock Bake-Off Contest, soap provided</p>
<p>Week 3: EMBRACING Our Culture & Traditions</p>	<p>3rd Annual RAPA & Farm Credit Canada's Aboriginal Talent Showcase Friday, June 21 11:30am - 1:30pm Cornwall Centre - 2102 11th Avenue, Regina, SK Cultural Activity: Juggling & Powwow Dance-Off</p>
<p>Week 4: Celebrating FUTURE stories and triumphs of Canada's Aboriginal peoples</p>	<p>RAPA & National Aboriginal Indigenous Games present 1-Day Archery & Lacrosse Youth Camp & Community BBQ Saturday, June 29 10:00am - 4:00pm First Nations University of Canada - 1 First Nations Way, Regina, SK Cultural Activity: Tap! Teachings</p>

National Aboriginal History Month "Photo-A-Day" Challenge

Two prize packs to be won!
From June 1 - June 30, take a description from each day and just take a photo of something you think fits that NAHM weekly theme! Use the hashtag on social media sites #NAHM2013PhotoADay

Celebrating the stories and triumphs of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples

Proud Partners

Blaine Favel appointed Chancellor of the U of S

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Blaine Favel, president and CEO of Calgary-based One Earth Oil and Gas Inc. and an influential First Nations leader in the province and the country, has been appointed chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

Favel, who will be the fourteenth person to hold the position of chancellor, will take up his duties July 1 for a term of three years. He will replace Vera Pezer who was first elected in 2007 and served a full two terms. His appointment was confirmed at a meeting of University Senate April 20 based on the recommendation of a joint nomination committee.

"I am honoured that the senate of the University of Saskatchewan is confident in my ability to fulfill this esteemed position," said Favel. "I very much look forward to sharing the story of the University of Saskatchewan everywhere I go.

"One of my goals as chancellor is to be a champion and advocate for this world-class institution, a university that is making a difference in the world on many fronts."

Favel earned a bachelor of education degree from the U of S in 1987, then went on to receive a law degree from Queen's University in 1990 and a master's of business administration degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 2001. In 2012, the U of S awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

He was Chief of the Poundmaker Cree Nation and served as Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations from 1994-98. During that time, he led the development of the First Nations

Bank of Canada and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. Favel was also a senior diplomat as the Counsellor on International Indigenous Issues with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, served as a special advisor to the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine, and was a panelist on the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As chancellor, Favel will preside at university convocation ceremonies, confer degrees, chair University Senate and take a seat as an ex officio member of the Board of Governors.

"Mr. Favel brings to our university a strong reputation as a positive force for change and his experience aligns closely with our institutional priorities," said President Ilene Busch-Vishniac.

"We look forward to his contributions as an Aboriginal leader, a business leader and a person with an extensive background in governance."

Favel said he believes Saskatchewan's current resource boom and the challenge of educating and employing Aboriginal people are two areas where the University of Saskatchewan can play a positive role in shaping the province's economic and social future.

"I believe, as chancellor, I will have the opportunity to bring together the university and the various communities it serves in the spirit of common interest in order to deliver on the promise of growth and prosperity."



BLAINE FAVEL

Task Force to meet with Sask. First Nations and Métis youth

This spring First Nations and Métis youth will have an opportunity to participate in a dialogue on education and employment challenges, and identify the types of supports they believe would be most helpful to them in achieving their goals.

The Aboriginal Youth Task Force chaired by Saskatoon Fairview MLA Jennifer Campeau and vice-chair Saskatoon Greystone MLA and Legislative Secretary for First Nations Engagement Rob Norris plans to visit 12 communities across Saskatchewan. The task force will hold meetings in Regina, Saskatoon, Stony Rapids, Moose Jaw, Fort Qu'Appelle, Yorkton, La Ronge, La Loche, Ile a la Crosse, Prince Albert, Sandy Bay and Pelican Narrows.

"This is an important step for our government to identify and respond to grass roots issues as experienced by young people who are directly impacted by them," Campeau said. "This information will help the government improve programs that assist to transition youth into education and the workforce as stated in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth Vision 2020 and Beyond."

"We want to hear from First Nations and Métis youth about what works, what does not work, and what they think we need to do to make programs targeted toward young people work better," Norris said.

Young people aged 16-25 are being invited to meet the task force near these communities. Participants will have the opportunity to share their education or skill development plans and activities, and for those already working, a chance to recount their experiences transitioning to the workforce. Feedback will be shared with government decision-makers on an ongoing basis, to inform and guide initiatives that impact First Nation and Métis people.

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I'm very comfortable in this brown skin

I'm brown. It's the second or third thing I notice about myself every morning. The others are that I'm alive and that I have things to get done by the end of the day.

Depending on the state of my bladder, the second thing is sometimes shuffled. In any case, but by the time I make it to the bathroom and walk by the mirror, the fact that I am brown works its way into my consciousness.

Brown. Rich, deep and luxurious. A brown man engaged with the process of living one more time.

I like that. At 56 I've grown comfortable in my own skin. It's taken some work but I am definitely at ease being who I am. I thought about this as I lazed on the deck letting the blazing spring sun fall all over me.

I wasn't tanning. When you're brown a tan is something that's just redundant. I was simply laying there letting the feeling of rest wash over me. My skin was hot to the touch. I loved the feeling.

Skin is the largest organ in our bodies. Most of us never think of it that way. To us, our skin is the thing we work hard at darkening in the summer, soften with moisturizers in the winter and take

care to cover with adequate layers when the cold descends. It's the thing we wash with the most discipline and it's also the thing we recognize when we touch each other.

Strangely, it's also the first thing we recognize when we see each other. I know there are a lot of people around who say, "I never notice the color of his skin."

But the fact that they even have to make that statement is proof that they do. People of color understand perfectly the notion that all of us enter a room skin first.

We can't help it. It is our most obvious attribute.

When I think of skin I think of chasing flyballs on a baseball diamond. I think of how wonderful the sun felt on my arms and face – the skin of them. I think of how alive I felt, and how even in my fifties the sun on my skin energizes me.

I think of the elastic feel of it when I was younger and how elegant the lines and wrinkles make me look nowadays.



I think of love when I think about skin. I think about late nights and rolling over and feeling the warm skin of my wife's body against me in our bed.

I think how grateful I am. I think how nothing else in the world measures up to that feeling.

I think about the way I want to remember that connection – skin first, all of me wrapped around her. I think about how her skin leaves a lingering presence on my own. Skin, I suppose, has a memory.

I think about elders when I think about skin. I think about the wonderful roadmap of experience and story and teaching that resides in each wrinkle and line on their faces.

I think about things like pride and spirituality and cultural strength. I think about their wisdom. I think about the tremendous resource that they are, the free and open university of their experience with a tuition based on the cost of a question.

I think about babies when I think

about skin. I think about the smell of them, all soapy and clean and how warmth has a smell too when you concentrate.

I think about innocence and immense possibility. When you hold a baby close to you, that's the promise its skin holds.

They bless you when you feel their skin. They are the closest beings to Creator and they give you that proximity when you hold them.

I think about touching when I think about skin. I think about the fact that our first physical act when we're born is reaching out – the desire to touch someone.

I think how powerful that is. I think about what Creator gave us with that first instinct. Our primal instinct is to reach out, to belong, to be accepted, to be where love exists.

So I think about unity when I think about skin. I think how important it is that we all share that first deliberate act of reaching out.

We reach out in innocence, without fear or judgement, to touch another because it's our strongest desire.

How great it would be if we could remember that everyday.



Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Urban Aboriginal Strategy Saskatchewan

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Community Investment Fund

DEADLINE Wednesday, May 22, 2013

AANDC invites proposals that promote self-reliance and increased life choices for Aboriginal people in Urban centres and focus on one or more priorities:

- Advancing life skills
- Promoting economic participation through job skills development, education, entrepreneurship, and/or removing/reducing barriers to employment
- Supporting Aboriginal women, children and families

Proposal applications can be submitted either via mail or email. Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, May 22, 2013. Emailed applications must be signed, scanned and saved as a PDF and emailed no later than 9pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2013.

Urban Programs Proposals
Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships Directorate
Saskatchewan Region
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Room 200, 1 First Nations Way, Regina SK S4S 7K5
OR SKUrbanPrograms@aandc.gc.ca

To obtain an application form, please contact the applicable UAS Officer:

North: Prudence McKenzie, Development Officer at (306) 953-8418 or Prudence.Mckenzie@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

Central: Shirley Greyeyes, Development Officer at (306) 373-0528 or Shirley.Greyeyes@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

South: Tamara Young, Program Officer at (306) 975-5810 or Tamara.Young@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

Proposals received after the May 22, 2013 deadline may be considered for funding dependent on budget availability.

Canada



Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada

Stratégie pour les Autochtones vivant en milieu urbain, Saskatchewan

APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS

Fonds d'investissement communautaire

DATE LIMITE : le mercredi 22 mai 2013

AANDC sollicite des propositions qui visent à promouvoir l'autonomie des Autochtones vivant en milieu urbain et à accroître les choix de vie qui s'offrent à eux. Les propositions doivent s'articuler autour d'au moins une des thèmes prioritaires suivants :

- Améliorer les aptitudes à la vie quotidienne
- Favoriser la participation à l'économie au moyen du perfectionnement des compétences professionnelles, de l'éducation, de l'entrepreneuriat et/ou de l'élimination/la réduction des obstacles à l'emploi
- Appuyer les femmes autochtones et leurs enfants et famille

Les propositions peuvent être soumises soit par courrier soit par courriel. Les propositions postées doivent porter le cachet de la poste au plus tard le mercredi 22 mai 2013. Les propositions électroniques doivent, quant à elles, être signées, numérisées et sauvegardées comme fichier PDF et transmises par courriel au plus tard le mercredi 22 mai 2013 à 9 h.

Propositions relatives aux programmes urbains
Direction des Initiatives stratégiques et des partenariats
Bureau régional de la Saskatchewan
Affaires autochtones et Développement du Nord Canada
Salle 200, 1 First Nations Way
Regina (Saskatchewan) S4S 7K5

OU SKUrbanPrograms@aandc.gc.ca

Si vous désirez obtenir un formulaire de demande, veuillez communiquer avec l'agente responsable de la SAMU compétente :

Région du Nord : Prudence McKenzie, Agente de développement, par téléphone au (306) 953-8418 ou par courriel à Prudence.McKenzie@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

Région du Centre : Shirley Greyeyes, Agente de développement, par téléphone au (306) 373-0528 ou par courriel à Shirley.Greyeyes@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

Région du Sud : Tamara Young, Agente de programmes, par téléphone au (306) 975-5810 ou par courriel à Tamara.Young@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

Les propositions reçues après la date limite du 22 mai 2013 pourront être retenues à des fins de financement, sous réserve de la disponibilité des fonds budgétaires.

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Honouring graduating Aboriginal students from the
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Graduation Powwow

May 29, 2013 U of S campus in Saskatoon

First grand entry—11 am
 (honouring Grade 12 graduates)

Second grand entry—5 pm
 (honouring U of S graduates)

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For more information, visit

students.usask.ca/powwow

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Conference introduces Indigenous grads to prospective employers

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

The Inclusion Works Aboriginal jobs conference brings together new graduates with prospective employers in the hopes of combating high Indigenous unemployment and setting young people on the right path with a job.



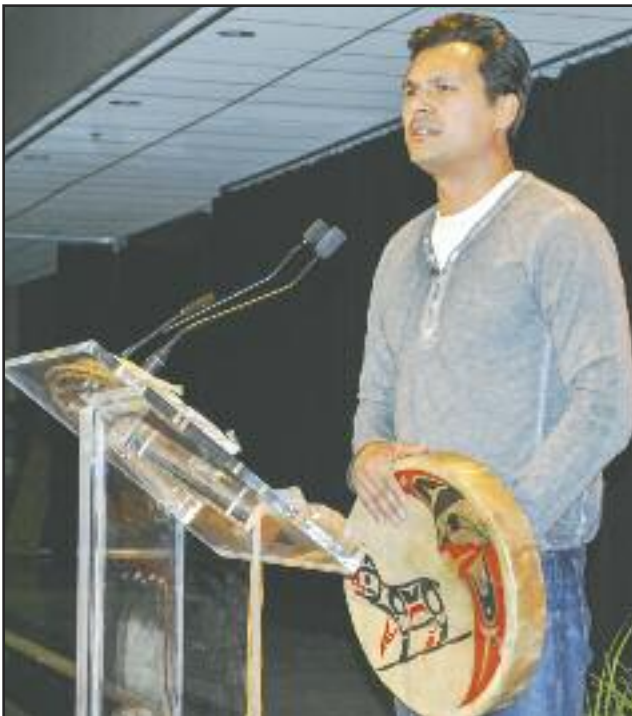
Shawn Atleo stressed the importance of education.

Inclusion Works 13 took place in Saskatoon from April 29 to May 1.

This conference is about more than introducing new graduates to employers.

It is also about changing negative attitudes that continue to persist in the wider workplace.

Kelly Lendsay, president of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council, says changing the mindset of some non-Aboriginal employers can take time but it is achievable. He tells the story of one employer he ran across many years ago, who suffered from a number of negative stereo-



Peter Mansbridge challenged business leaders to do something about youth unemployment.

types when it came to Aboriginal people. However, through education, he eventually overcame these negative attitudes and became a big promoter and employer of Indigenous people in his workplace.

"And a year and a half later, this gentleman was putting Aboriginal people to work," he says.

"But it took him over a year and a half, to internalize for himself a lot of the stereotypes, the negative attitudes he had built up. But he became a champion, a change agent. I've seen this work across this country and it's about overcoming this great disconnect."

CBC National News anchor Peter Mansbridge was one of the keynote speakers at the conference. In his address, he challenged all non-Aboriginal business leaders to take some responsibility for high Indigenous unemployment rates by changing persisting attitudes and hiring young Aboriginal

people in their workplaces.

"Here's what continues to bother me," he says. "Most Canadians have known about that unemployment gap all their lives. Yet, the problem persists. The pity of it is we don't know what we are missing by not finding work for all those young people."

Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo was also one of the featured speakers at Inclusion Works. He says the path to successful employment starts with a positive, healthy and culturally supportive environment for Aboriginal children to be educated within.



Kelly Lendsay says non-Aboriginal employers need to learn more about the positive qualities Aboriginal workers bring to the workplace.

"Events like today are about employment but it's about something bigger," he says. "It's about asking the specific questions but also asking bigger questions as well. Employment, for sure, starts with a nurturing, culturally supportive environment for every child to learn."

The conference closed out with a speech from First Nations television and

movie star Adam Beach. Beach says acting saved him from a life of gang violence and he has never looked back. He says it is important for young Aboriginal people to dream big and never lose sight of their goals.

"If you look at my story today, I could say I am a victim, I could say I am a survivor," he says.



Building a Future Through Investment

We started ten years ago, working together so that all seven communities in the Athabasca could participate in the opportunities generated by the local mining industry.

Today, we have ownership in ten companies that provide services for the mining industry, employ over 1,400 people and generate millions in consolidated revenues.

We're a proud aboriginal success story, creating opportunities for Saskatchewan's communities and as we look forward, we'll continue to grow and create a bright future.

Just imagine where we'll be tomorrow.

athabascabasin.ca

ATHABASCA
BASIN
DEVELOPMENT

Mining benefits from a CEO's perspective

By Roberta Cross
For Eagle Feather News

“When everyone's got the same perspective, conversation doesn't change,” says Julie Ann Wriston about her contribution to the mining sector in Saskatchewan.

“Different viewpoints promise the best solutions.”

Wriston is the Chief Executive Officer of Pinehouse Business North, a mining services company owned by the Northern Village of Pinehouse.

“I am almost the complete opposite of a typical mining engineer,” observes Wriston. “I'm Aboriginal, I represent a northern community, and I'm a woman.”

With a ready laugh and a clear voice, Wriston is confident in her own value and the strength of Pinehouse Business North.

Pinehouse has a collaboration agreement with uranium companies Cameco and Areva Resources, which includes work with Pinehouse Business North. According to Wriston, this relationship agreement gives the community equality with these global businesses, and creates an “implicit obligation to work together.”

Wriston compares the relationship between the Pinehouse community and industry to a dance.

“Without the community, industry wouldn't be as prosperous,” she says. “And industry contributes value back into the community.”

Pinehouse Business North provides general contracting service and renovations to the mining sector. Through their partners, they can also provide earth moving, electrical equipment, instrumentation, electrical and welding services. The company's focus for the next year is waste management.

“This is really appropriate for us,” says Wriston. “We can put our values to work, stewarding the environment in the North.”

“The people who work for us are passionate about being Pinehouse Business North employees. We respect them, support them and empower them to be the leaders in the company. This strengthens us as a company, and increases the quality and level of service we can give.”

Wriston acknowledges the small wins and successes that are getting Pinehouse Business North to be a big player in the mining industry.

“Feedback from our industry clients and partners is that PBN does excellent work.”

Wriston's business skills developed when she worked with communities in the Business Ready Investment Development

Gateway program.

“I was like a sponge,” says Wriston. “Willing to learn from every experience and every person in every way I could.”

Working with communities meant producing practical results quickly.

Wriston is currently completing a Masters in Business Administration in Economic Development. It is providing her tools and strategies to grow Pinehouse Business North as a community-owned business.

Wriston has a new and fresh perspective on mining. She probes and questions issues that people with more experience in the sector take for granted. This approach allows Pinehouse Business North and its partners to reach practical solutions based on common interests.

“The sector needs more women for that reason,” says Wriston.

While profit is important, it's not everything. Wriston includes “the value of prosperity, and hope, and well-being in our youth in the workforce, and the health and vitality of the community” in her business calculations.

Wriston holds herself to a high standard, believing that this encourages colleagues and business partners to do the same. She also knows what supports her.

“As a woman, I keep culture close to my heart, part of my driving force.”

“The mining sector is 30 years behind



JULIE ANN WRISTON

in terms of male-female balance in leadership,” says Wriston.

Except for leading companies like Pinehouse Business North. She acknowledges that the mining sector is rough-and-tumble, and that she does not have longstanding personal networks that more experienced people might have.

“Fortunately, I'm not afraid. You've got to argue it out and focus the conversation on common interests. I came to the table,” says Wriston of being a female CEO in the mining sector. “And my job is to stay there.”

Working Together to Improve the Northern Landscape



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Sports rituals for young athletes

John L: Statistics Canada released the results of its 2011 National Household Survey concerning Aboriginal People in Canada. It found that 28 per cent of Aboriginal people are children under the age of 14 years old. Here to comment on these findings is Dirk Dashing.

Dirk: John, what these results prove is what many non-Aboriginal people have long suspected, and Aboriginal people have known – we are fantasticular in bed.

John L: I'm sorry. Fantasticular?

Dirk: It refers to something or someone that is both fantastic and ballsy. And what the survey suggests is that not only are we great at the carnal arts but we are becoming more important to, and potent in, society.

John L: Surely the growing young aboriginal population is cause for concern for policy makers. I mean, if we don't improve results in education and training we are looking at a social and economic catastrophe.

Dirk: That's right. A healthy home and a good job are critical to raising healthy, successful children. Healing from the residential school system, a great education, knowledge of traditional identity – these are all important strategies. Sports are vital too.

John L: Fair enough. We all know that children and youth in athletic programs are more likely to stay in school, avoid teenage pregnancy, and lead healthier lives. They also tend to avoid the criminal justice system.

Dirk: Exactly. And I have advice all the youth of Canadistan can use to help them

succeed, even if you are red, white, black, magenta or plaid. This is advice that comes from my extensive and almost mythic

athletic history plus 20 minutes on the Internet getting this column ready. Did you know, John, that most elite athletes are superstitious?

John L: Why, yes, of course. Almost all athletes have a ritual of some sort. For some it's the order they put their gear on, or a prayer, believing it will improve their performance.

Dirk: John, some rituals are simply bizarre. Did you know that before taking a swing at a pitch Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees always steps into the batter's box.

Even more strange? He firmly digs in his feet in that box, placing most of his weight on his back leg. And he never takes his eye off the pitcher!

John L: Um, well, that is the very definition of batting, Dirk.

Dirk: Maybe, John. But I think all children should adopt voodoo

practices like these if they want to excel. I mean, this Rodriguez guy is mega-rich and has dated fabulous looking babes like Madonna and Cloris Leachman.

John L: I can't wait to hear what you have to say about hockey.

Dirk: John, did you know that there was a Wayne Gretzky fella who had a peculiar habit of using a bladed stick to manoeuvre a blackened disc of rubber around a sheet of ice. I am told this sheet of ice could be slippery under certain conditions. To avoid injury he tended to glide across the ice – in a "skating" fashion – with his head up! Lately, hockey performers have begun growing Obi Wan Kenobi-like beards during playoff competitions.

John L: Riiiiight. Please. Continue.

Dirk: These are not your run-of-the-mill obsessive-compulsive disorders. These acts of phylactery – or juju if you will – work to conjure up mysterious powers. Other magical customs include not washing equipment for an entire season, or only wearing red on Sundays like Tiger Woods, or only wearing your cup on the inside of your hockey pants if you can believe that.

John L: Phylactery? Really?

Dirk: I've been reading the dictionary. Tough read. Near as I can figure, the aardvark is toast, and the zebra may have done the crime at the zoo. It's not written very well – it reads like a catalogue of words and their meanings randomly put together in some kind of alphabetical order or something.

John L: That's all the time and space we have for you this month, Dirk. Once again, you've proven that you only appear to have all the answers.

Dirk: I don't have all the answers John, because I haven't been asked all the questions yet.

Dirk says, So we have lots of youth. How about a fountain of smart?



The Dashing Chronicles
Winston McLean



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Athabasca Catering has been serving Sask's mining industry since 1992

By Darcy McKenzie
For Eagle Feather News

Not just another Saskatchewan business success story, the Athabasca Catering Company is a catering service phenomenon for the province's burgeoning mining sector.

Established in 1992, the company's beginning was a humble one with only 50 or 60 employees and one client, Cameco, to prove it had what it takes to be a food, housing and janitorial service provider in Saskatchewan's mining industry.

Chief Operating Officer Ray Edwards has witnessed it all. Edwards, a proud Montreal Lake band member who was raised in La Ronge, is a career employee who started when the company began in 1992 as a camp cook at the Rabbit Lake mine.

"It was a challenging time for me personally, and the company. We were both new to the industry which had such a high demand for quality service," Edwards states.

A 20-year employee, Edwards worked in virtually every camp Athabasca Catering services, moving up the corporate ladder from camp cook to ultimately the Chief Operating Officer.



Ray Edwards started out with Athabasca Catering as a cook. His 20 year career path has now led him to be their Chief Operating Officer.

ment in the mining industry, including catering, will need to have a Grade 12 diploma.

"Our business has more than tripled in the last five to ten years and that is putting a lot of demand on companies like Athabasca. Education and training will be key to keeping pace with our clients if we are going to continue to grow and prosper," Edwards said.

In fact, Athabasca's business and client portfolio is poised to continue on its path of growth and success.

In 1992, Cameco was the company's only client. Today, Athabasca services Cameco, Areva and Golden Band Resources in the mining sector, and SaskPower and Valard Construction LP in the construction sector.

Because safety is one of the highest priorities in the mining and construction industries, Athabasca recently added an entire safety division to its operations to keep pace with companies like Cameco, where safety is its highest priority.

"From the President of Cameco to the employees in their mines, safety is priority one and we need to ensure our company and staff are committed to the same standard," Edwards concluded.

Athabasca Catering's head office is located in Saskatoon, however 90 per cent of the company's employees work in its northern camps and construction sites.

Edwards says the key to the company's success is quite simply, the people.

"Our employees really make the difference. It's the different and interesting people you meet and work with that has made my journey with Athabasca very satisfying," Edwards said.

One hundred per cent First Nation owned and operated, the company is a partnership between Kitaski Management Limited Partnership, Hatchet Lake, English River, Fond du Lac and Black Lake First Nations. Kitaski is the managing partner and is owned by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

Seventy per cent of the more than 600 employees at Athabasca are First Nation or Aboriginal. For the company, one of the biggest challenges is recruiting and retaining qualified employees.

"The demand for higher education is just the reality of our growing and changing industry. There is a major focus on safety and that requires training and education, which unfortunately is a challenge for many people living in isolated northern communities," Edwards said.

Although it is not a prerequisite to employment with Athabasca, industry observers believe it won't be long before anyone seeking employ-



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SRC strives to maximize benefits for northern residents during Athabasca abandoned mine cleanups

Eagle Feather News caught up with Mark Calette, who recently joined the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) team. Mark was previously with Parks Canada and is now the Community and Aboriginal Liaison for the Cleanup of Abandoned Northern Sites Project (Project CLEANS). Mark is very happy to be a part of the SRC team and is looking forward to continuing his work in developing relationships with communities and Aboriginal peoples.

How many properties up North is SRC in charge of cleaning up?

SRC is managing the repair and improvement of 38 sites in Northern Saskatchewan. Of these sites, there are two that are larger in scope and complexity. These sites are the Gunnar mine and mill, and the Lorado mill. The other 36 satellite sites were primarily feeder mines for Gunnar and Lorado and, are much smaller in scope to remediate.

How long is a 'typical' mine site cleanup and what does it involve?

There is not a 'typical' time frame for mine site cleanup. The time required to repair and improve an abandoned mine would be a function of size, location, previous site information, type of production and how the mine was left during abandonment. As a general reference, the Lorado mill site may take 10 years, where as a smaller satellite mine may take one to two years.

Similar to length of time, each site involves a level of effort related specifically to the characteristics of the site itself. What is similar between sites is the basic framework which is followed. This framework is typically: site assessment, development of a remedial action plan, implementation of the plan, post remedial monitoring and entrance into institutional control.



Mark Calette is the Community and Aboriginal Liaison for the Cleanup of Abandoned Northern Sites Project for the Saskatchewan Research Council.

(Photo provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Research Council)

Has there been much environmental damage from these sites?

When the mines were abandoned, there was little decommissioning. Because of this, the sites may pose a risk to the surrounding environment. The risk would be dependent on the size of the site, how the site was left, what contaminants were onsite and if the site is in proximity to something that may spread contaminants (i.e. water).

How does a regular citizen report environmental issues or mine site issues?

The best way a citizen can report environmental issues would be through contacting the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment. As part of SRC's management of the mine sites, it meets regularly with members and leaders of the communities in proximity to the sites. Through these meetings, citizens and leaders are able to provide feedback to SRC regarding local environmental and mine issues. SRC would pass on any of this information to the appropriate authorities.

Do the mining companies bear the cost of this? If not, who?



View of the Gunnar Mine site during summer 2011. The buildings and headframe have since been removed due to safety concerns. (Photo provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC))

Because the mine sites that SRC is managing were abandoned in the 1950s and 1960s, the funding for the remediation is coming from the provincial and federal governments. In more recent times, mining companies are required to set aside money to facilitate any decommissioning or remediation that may be required after a mine ceases production.

Do you have a policy of hiring First Nation and Métis people for these projects?

SRC has a strategy to maximize the return benefits to the residents of the Athabasca Basin during the remediation of these sites. Although our environmental remediation group has aboriginal employees, SRC does not directly hire for site work. Through an open and transparent procurement process, SRC retains the services of consultants and contractors to complete the work. However, during the procurement process, SRC includes specific provisions that the consultants or contractors must follow to maximize local benefit. SRC then makes sure the consultants or contractors fulfill these provisions during site work. As an example, during the recent asbestos removal and demolition work at the Gunnar site, half of the work force came from the surrounding communities. The majority of this local work force consisted of First Nation and Métis.

What are the long term benefits of the remediation projects for northern residents and Aboriginal people's living in the Athabasca region?

A long term benefit through remediation of these sites would be the environmental and safety risk reduction for residents visiting or living in proximity to these sites. A secondary benefit would be possible increased utilization of the sites for hunting, fishing, trapping and food gathering activities.

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Canada-India nuclear agreement good news for northern Saskatchewan

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

Canada and India have signed a major nuclear agreement that is sure to increase both jobs and investment in northern Saskatchewan.

The Canada-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was announced in Saskatoon last month. When the agreement comes fully into effect, it will allow Canadian companies to export controlled nuclear materials, equipment and technology to India for peaceful purposes in accordance with the nuclear non-proliferation agreement.

India is the fourth largest energy consumer in the world and its electrical demand is expected to triple in the next 25 years.

As one of the world's major uranium suppliers, the agreement has major implications for mining companies such as Cameco and Areva that operate in northern Saskatchewan.

Premier Brad Wall says along with a previous nuclear agreement the country signed with China, the Canada-India agreement is great news for Saskatchewan's uranium industry for both the investment and job opportunities for northern Aboriginal

people it will create.

"It will mean literally billions of dollars worth of sales of Saskatchewan uranium into these two markets, it will mean new jobs," he says.

"And that's important for a number of reasons I referenced earlier. In the case of Cameco, they have one of the best records of employing Aboriginal people in our province. In terms of front line, good quality mining jobs, over 40 per cent of their workforce is First Nations and Métis northerners working in the industry.

"This is a solid record that we hope is replicated in other industries."

Cameco Vice-President Gary Merasty cautions the full benefits of the agreement for his company are likely some time away but it is still a tremendous opportunity.

"What the government has done is facilitated by opening the door and now it's for us to go in and get the business," he says. "It doesn't mean we are selling \$3 billion of uranium tomorrow. It means we have the opportunity to get in there, get the business and that will have an impact on Saskatchewan."

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What Is Canada's Plan?

Q. What is Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel?

A. Canada's plan involves the construction of a national repository for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel, which is a solid waste product from the generation of electricity in nuclear power plants. It also involves the development of a used fuel transportation system and construction of a centre of expertise that will be a hub for national and international collaboration. Canada's plan is called Adaptive Phased Management.

The plan requires that used nuclear fuel be contained and isolated in a deep geological repository in a suitable rock formation. Used fuel will be safely and securely contained and isolated from people and the environment in the repository using a multiple-barrier system. This approach is the culmination of more than 30 years of research, development and demonstration of technologies and techniques in Canada, the United States, Switzerland, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

A fundamental tenet of Canada's plan is the incorporation of learning and knowledge at each step, to guide a process of phased decision-making. The plan builds in flexibility to adjust the plan if needed.

The plan will be implemented over several decades. Over this period of time, we may experience changes in the values and preferences of Canadian society, and advancements in knowledge and technologies. Adaptive Phased Management is designed to be flexible to ensure new learning and social priorities are incorporated in Canada's plan and to allow this plan to adapt to other changes we may encounter along the way.

The site selection process that is currently underway is designed to ensure that any community that is selected to host this high-technology, national infrastructure facility is both informed about the project and willing to host it. The siting process is also designed to ensure that surrounding communities, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit who will potentially be affected by the implementation of this project, are involved in learning, assessment and planning of the project.

Q. How was this plan developed?

A. The design of Adaptive Phased Management emerged through a three-year study and dialogue with Canadians about a range of management options (2002-2005). The study engaged thousands of citizens, specialists and Aboriginal peoples in every province and territory. The plan was selected as Canada's plan by the Government of Canada in 2007.

Q. Why is this plan needed?

A. For decades Canadians have been using electricity generated by nuclear power reactors in Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec. When used nuclear fuel is removed from a reactor, it remains a potential health risk for many hundreds of thousands of years and must be safely isolated from people and the environment, essentially indefinitely.

Today Canada's used nuclear fuel is safely stored on an interim basis at licensed facilities located where it is produced. Like many other countries with nuclear power programs, Canada is planning for the future. Ensuring the long-term, safe and secure management of used nuclear fuel is an important responsibility we, as Canadians, share.



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

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



www.nwmo.ca

Miyo-Pimatsowin means healthy living for Thunderchild students

By Jessica Iron Joseph
For Eagle Feather News

Thunderchild First Nation has taken a daring and innovative approach to their education system. For the past year they have funded a Grade 7 and Grade 8 program called ‘Miyo-Pimatsowin’ which means “healthy living” in Cree.

Simply put, students are offered hands-on, experiential education outdoors, while also learning Cree teachings and traditions.

Two teachers deliver the program. Charlie Conner teaches the students outdoor skills while his female counterpart, Christine Thomas, focuses more on the cultural aspect.

“It was the idea of Chief Delbert Wapass,” said Conner. “It was based on programs like Saskatoon’s EcoQuest, Nakânêâtân and EcoJustice. We are one of the only types of programs like this on any First Nation in Canada.

“These projects involve outdoor, hands-on and project-based learning. All of these programs have a focus on environmental responsibility. The unique thing about Miyo-Pimatsowin is that it does all these things, but also focuses on Thunderchild history and culture.

“Each student should have a real grasp on their personal identity as a Thunderchild Cree, a Sask resident and a Canadian citizen. We do this through sessions with Elders, cultural ceremonies, unique trips and imparting responsibility,” said Conner.



Morgan Kahpeyewat and Sheridan Sunchild on Waterhen Lake during a class excursion.

But we have two classrooms – the other has round tables and chairs.”

Naturally the students have grown to love spending time outside learning valuable skills.

“We’ve worked on fire-building, fishing with a net, filleting and deboning fish and cooking on a fire. With dog-mushing, they’ve been learning how to ride the sled, unharness the dogs, working with the dogs, learning about the lines – which is the lead dog.

“There’s so much to learn. Camping is the same thing. You’ve got to look after yourself, and how to tent with people. They have to learn how to set up a tent, and take down a tent, too,” said Conner.

was because they saw the Grade 7s and 8s struggling, and the teachers struggling. They needed change, so why not do something like this?” said Conner.

He has witnessed great changes in the students since the beginning of the year. They’ve grown more confident, cooperative, adventurous and responsible as a result of Miyo-Pimatsowin.

“I just can’t believe it, honestly, that I get paid to do this. I was so worried about coming in to teach and just hating being inside all day and struggling with the students, but it’s totally been the opposite. These grades are awesome to teach and they have so much energy.”

Miyo-Pimatsowin will continue next year. Christine Thomas will not be returning, so Thunderchild will be looking for a culturally knowledgeable female teacher who loves being outdoors.



Teacher Charlie Conner & students at the Trappers Festival in The Pas.

They also learn standard subjects in the classroom, but even that atmosphere is much more relaxed than most students are accustomed to.

“I didn’t know if it was going to work because it was so different,” said Conner. “In our classroom we have couches in a circle and that’s where we do our work.

They’ve gone canoeing and kayaking and learned how to tan hides. In the winter they’ve gone snowshoeing, and built dog houses. On one of their trips they attended the Trapper’s Festival in The Pas where students were able to participate in dog-sled races.

“One of the reasons Chief and Council wanted to bring in the program

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“Not mentioned in the local history books”: The Road Allowance People of Saskatchewan

After the Métis at Batoche were defeated ... [they], became landless wanderers, exiled in their own land and cheated of their birthright. In the Qu'Appelle they gathered at Lebret, Katepwa, St. Marthe de Rocanville, St. Joseph's, and St. Lazarre. They are the families not mentioned in the Jubilee Year history books, those dark-skinned people who lived on the road allowance or by the river, hunted grouse and deer year round, sold cordwood, fence pickets, and half-wild ponies, and sent their children to school with gopher-meat sandwiches in their lunch-pails.

—Trevor Herriot, *Qu'Appelle Past Present Future: Tales of Two Valleys*.

<http://quappelle.mendel.ca/en/tales/whoscalling/downto/index.html>.

Historical amnesia is insidious. For too long, the Métis—who were only mentioned during the fur trade and the 1869-70 and 1885 Resistances—disappeared from our national and regional historical narratives.

Of course, the Métis were here all along. However, as the quote above indicates, you won't find many Métis families mentioned in the province's local history books, which focus on “Pioneer” history. In them, no mention was made of Métis midwives like Tillie Rose Trotter (née Whiteford) who helped countless newcomers birth their children or to Métis men like Willow Bunch's Alexandre “Cathou” McGillis who guided French Canadians to the site of La Veille (Gravelbourg) in 1906.

Very few know that in Lipton, Saskatchewan, the local Métis and First Nations taught Jewish immigrants how to chink and construct log cabins. These little known vignettes speak to the Métis' marginalization in our collective memory.

The 1885 Resistance had a deleterious impact upon the Prairie's Métis, which contributed to a fractured historical narrative. Although only a few hundred Métis took up arms, the region's Métis were stigmatized as “rebels.” As a result, the Métis were socially, economically, and politically marginalized—although some “bourgeois” Métis were successful in business and politics. Most Métis, however, lost out in the new social and economic landscape in the Prairie West as newcomers flooded the region.

The Métis lost their tenure to their land through the fraudulent Scrip system. Further still, restrictive game laws in the three prairie provinces meant that many Métis went to prison or had to pay steep fines because they hunted out of season and without mandatory licences. Unable to pay taxes on the land or having clear legal title to it, ensured that most Métis were squatters.

Most Métis squatted on Crown Land on the approaches to rural roads commonly known as “road allowances.” Since they paid no taxes, most Métis were unable to send their children to school as universal school attendance in the province didn't become mandatory until the mid-1940s.

Others lived in the northern bush, or near First Nations reserves, provincial and federal parks and forests, garbage dumps, or along the fringes of cities. The Métis became known as the “Road Allowance People.”

The Road Allowance period (roughly 1900-1960) is a key but little known component of Métis history and corporate identity. However, very few have a sense of how widespread these communities were. In fact, hundreds of Road Allowance communities existed in the Prairies from 1900 to 1960. They include Maria Campbell's Spring Valley, along the fringes of Prince Albert National Park, “Little Chicago” in the Qu'Appelle Valley, “Tokyo” near Yorkton, and Ste. Madeleine, Manitoba near the Saskatchewan border. These are four communities that have been written about; unfortunately, we don't have stories for hundreds more.

The dissolution of these Road Allowance communities began during the Depression. Through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, community or “Co-op” pastures were created, forcing many Métis out of their shanty communities. In places like “Little Chicago,” Métis families were loaded on rail cars, watched their homes burned, and were sent to parkland destinations like Green Lake. Such ethnic cleansing was actively encouraged by local RM officials, but was not written about and discussed in the larger society until recently.

At this time, many Métis began moving to the province's cities to make a living while others went to Métis farms in Lebret, Baljennie, Crescent Lake, Crooked Lake, Duck Lake, Glen Mary, Lestock, and Willow Bunch. As late as the 1970s, homelessness, housing, and property ownership were still matters of grave concern for the province's Métis.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is working on a Saskatchewan-based Métis Road Allowance project that will document this little-known period of our shared history.

It will include an atlas and oral histories.

If you would like to contribute – by way of information, photographs – or if you would like to be interviewed for this project, please contact Darren Prefontaine at 306.657.5711 or at darren.prefontaine@gdi.gdins.org.

Article by Darren Prefontaine

Images courtesy of Edwin St. Pierre and the late Gilbert Pelletier



Many Métis families were left landless following the Resistance at Batoche and the loss of land through fraud and government malfeasance. This led to the sad chapter of Métis existence known as living on the Road Side Allowance.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Maria Campbell's *Stories of the Road Allowance People:* The Revised Edition



First published in 1995, *Stories of the Road Allowance People* remains the finest anthology of traditional Métis oral stories in print. Acclaimed Métis writer, Maria Campbell has lovingly brought these evocative stories to life once again in this revised edition. Remaining true to the oral history, and written in the melodious Michif-accented English of the original storytellers, this timeless collection of traditional stories reflects the Métis' rich and vibrant storytelling tradition. Included in this volume are humorous stories such as “La Beau Sha Shoo” in which Ole Arcand drinks a jug of wine with Jesus Christ. In stark contrast are

the more serious stories, “Big John” and “Joseph's Justice,” which deal with issues of racial discrimination and colonization. There is also a rou garou story which deals with the efforts of missionary priests to eradicate the old “Indian” religion among their Métis parishioners. These poignant stories leave a lasting, highly-memorable impact on readers. *Stories of the Road Allowance People: The Revised Edition* also contains a new story, “Dah Red-Headed Fur Buyer,” new artwork by Sherry Farrell Racette, and an accompanying CD with Roy Poitras and Billyjo DeLaRonde narrating two of these stories.

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Left to Right: Awasis President Lisette Denis, Cort Dogniez, Maria Campbell and Saskatchewan Treaty Commissioner George Lafond at the Awasis Aboriginal Education Conference on April 25.

Campbell, Dogniez honoured at AWASIS conference

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

Cort Dogniez says Aboriginal education has come a long way in the last few years but it still has a long way to go.

Dogniez works for the Office of The Treaty Commissioner promoting treaty education in Saskatchewan classrooms and he was honoured for his work at the Awasis Aboriginal Education Conference in Saskatoon last month.

Dogniez says Indigenous education has made major strides in the province in recent years and especially since some treaty education became mandatory in the classroom in 2007. However, he adds many teachers still don't feel comfortable incorporating treaty education into their curriculum and his office is working hard to help them overcome this obstacle.

"The challenge there is that so many teachers don't feel equipped," he says. "They don't feel they can do this in a safe, respectful manner. And, at the same time, they are challenged because they don't have the content.

"So, they didn't receive this stuff when they went through the education system and they didn't get it when they went to university."

However, Dogniez says as teachers become more acclimatized with teaching treaties in the classroom and the education level on them increases in the general public, treaty education in the province should become a smoother process.

Métis author, broadcaster, playwright and filmmaker Maria Campbell was also honoured for her contributions to Aboriginal education at the conference. Campbell is the author of the 1973 groundbreaking memoir *Halfbreed* as well as several other renowned works. She is currently working on an extensive historical research project that looks at the roots of violence against Indigenous women.

In a presentation to educators, Campbell stressed the tools to incorporate Aboriginal education in the classroom are often right within one's own community. She says female Indigenous elders can be a great source of knowledge but teachers need to go out into the community and talk to them.

"The most important thing I was trying to say today, is to remind people, the most valued resource we have in our communities is the old women and the knowledge that they carry," she says.

"And the way they taught, and shared, and passed

on that knowledge years ago. And to remind people that when they're gone, we don't have that anymore. It's like losing a whole library."

Cameco Vice-President Gary Merasty was the keynote speaker at the conference. Merasty was once a teacher and he says educators really need to focus on some of the achievements they have had in Aboriginal education in a short period of time as they tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

"There are a lot of successes out there and there's a lot to be proud about in a very short period of time that's been achieved in the First Nations and Métis educational community and we really need to shout this out from the hill," he says.

"We really need to use them as assets in beginning to address some of the gaps we see out there and some of the challenges."

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Students honour residential school survivors

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

The use of residential schools to educate Aboriginal children is a dark chapter in Canada's history and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations wants to ensure this chapter is never forgotten.

As part of this effort, the FSIN has commissioned First Nations students from all over the province to create

a book that honours residential school survivors. Journey To Truth is a compilation of short stories, poems and drawings. The book was released on April 23 in Saskatoon.

As part of the research for the project, students talked to their parents, grandparents and other relatives in their communities to find out what it was like to attend residential schools.

Tyra Stonechild is a Grade 10 student at Eagleview Comprehensive High School in Onion Lake First Nation. Her drawing placed second in the picture category and made the back cover of the book.

She says she did not know much about the hardships students attending residential schools went through before researching the project. However, through talking to various relatives, it opened her eyes on a number of levels and Stonechild says it will take more than an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper to undo all the pain.

"Those people must be really heartbroken," she says. "That apology, I don't think could do anything and we can never forget. It's going to be here forever and we are going to remember it. It's just really sad."

Mimi Stanley is also a Grade 10 student at Eagleview School in Onion Lake. Her article placed first in the short story category.

She says many people within her community are still resistive to talk about their experiences in residential schools but those who did speak told stories of some of the terrible things that went on.

"I found out most of the people I talked to were beat and abused when they were in residential schools and they're still hurting today," she says.



Kristy Sutherland, a Grade 11 student at Bishop James Mahoney High School, with her drawing that placed first in the picture category and also made the front cover of the book.



Tyra Stonechild, a Grade 10 student at Eagleview Comprehensive High School in Onion Lake First Nation whose drawing placed second in the picture category, with FSIN Vice-Chief Dutch Lerat.

"The focus of the project is to have our youth honour all those who experienced life in the residential schools. The era of silence is now over," FSIN Vice-Chief Edward "Dutch" Lerat says in a release.

"It is our hope that this publication will be a part of the healing process."



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Hard work pays off for award-winning Donny Parenteau

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

Prince Albert's Donny Parenteau is going to have to clear some room on the trophy shelf.

Northern Saskatchewan's fiddling and country music sensation spent April capping off a whirlwind year with four wins at the Saskatchewan Country Music

Awards and a trip to the Juno Awards in his home province.

"In life, you're only going to get out of it what you put into it," Parenteau said. "(The award nominations) are your peers saying 'good job.'"

Parenteau was nominated for a Juno Award for Aboriginal Recording of the Year. At the SCMA's, he was nominated

for eight awards, and took home four for Album of the Year, Aboriginal Artist of the Year, and All Star Band in the Fiddle and Specialty Categories.

He was also nominated for a Canadian Country Music Award in September.

Parenteau is quick to credit more than a year of non-stop work putting together and promoting his new album, *Bring it On*.

The album features appearances by Streetheart's Kenny Shields and Canadian R&B star, Jully Black.

Parenteau says he made many sacrifices to get the album ready – working non-stop days, and taking his work all over Canada, and as far as Paris, France.

"Last summer, there was five days physically that I could take off to spend with my family," he said.

Despite the shower of nominations and four wins from Saskatchewan's country music industry, Parenteau says he was disappointed not to win at the Juno Awards. It was his third Juno nomination.

"I'm always happy to be nominated. Would I like to win? Yes. Was I disappointed I didn't win? Extremely," he said.

Held in Regina this year, Parenteau was a hometown favourite for a Juno Award – Canada's national music awards. In the end, it was Crystal

Shawanda who would win the Juno Award for Aboriginal Recording of the Year.

Parenteau says it's his other job – motivational speaking – that soothes his Juno disappointment.

Parenteau is a staunch anti-bullying activist, and this summer he will travel to Alberta, B.C. and Nova Scotia speaking to students about getting along.

He says he's looking forward to one trip, in particular.

"The day after the Junos, I got home and I opened up this email and I was still a bit upset and still a bit down for not winning," he said.

The email was from a school in Nova Scotia. The email invited Parenteau to go work with students there in the wake of the Rehtaeh Parsons tragedy.

Parenteau says that email put things into perspective.

"If that is what it comes down to – keep your award," he said. "I'd rather do that. I don't need an award to do good (things). I don't need something on my wall to say 'You're doing the right thing.'"

He says he's fighting to end bullying so his four-year-old daughter has a better world to grow up in.

"It's more important to me," he said. "Spreading the good by taking care of this bullying issue, trying to stomp that to the ground."



Donny Parenteau's role as a motivational speaker gives him satisfaction beyond his success as an award-winning fiddler.

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P.A.'s Fine Arts Festival inspires participants

During the Prince Albert Grand Council's annual Fine Arts Festival in April, I had the very fortunate opportunity to judge jigging and square-dancing.

The energy in the gymnasium was electric as people filled the stands to watch the highly anticipated dance routines.

I had no idea how involved judging could be, but it was intense! I must admit I was blown away by the talented dancers. I wish I could have awarded them all first place.

I was also able to catch up with one of the organizers, Shona Stapleton, who has undoubtedly been a significant contributor to the growing success of the PAGC Fine Arts Festival.

dancing, and we do oratory. We do things for drama, first Nations' language and many, many categories of art."

While the gym features student artwork around the periphery, it is often the center of gym that receives the most attention.

"My favorite aspect is watching the dancing because every year they get better and better," said Stapleton.

"When I first started working the festival there were kids dancing in their regular clothes, just dancing in whatever, and there were only one or



same and eventually we could have a province-wide arts festival. That would be the ultimate goal, but coming up with the funding and coming up with the people who would have the time to do it would be huge," said Stapleton.

"But, it's been a great run," said Stapleton. "We've gone 22 years now and we look forward to seeing a lot more years."

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, give me a shout at: snazyjess@hotmail.com.

See you next month!



SHONA STAPLETON



Square dancers were a big hit at the PA Fine Arts Festival and according to organizer Shona Stapleton, they get better and better each year.

She explained that the festival first began 22 years ago when an education consultant thought there weren't enough events around that showcased First Nations talent. He got a committee together and enlisted 200 students. Stapleton joined the committee 19 years ago and has witnessed the festival gain in popularity ever since.

"This year we registered over 1,700 students and chaperones," said Stapleton. "That's not including observers and the families of the kids."

The PAGC brings thousands of people from all over northern Saskatchewan into Prince Albert for its four-day festival every year. Costs for participants are high, but Prince Albert's economy benefits from those staying, eating and shopping in the city.

Considering the festival's growth, Stapleton maintains that they continue to hold many of the same events every year.

"We still have jigging, square-dancing, country-line dancing, and creative dancing. We do singing, we do

two groups that had costumes. Now they've all got costumes and they're all handmade and they're all gorgeous outfits. And they have so much fun doing it, just watching their energy is like giving yourself an energy boost."


A festival of this magnitude doesn't get far without help.

"I've got a really great team. It takes a lot of work and a lot of loyalty and commitment to the festival. And the committee as a whole are very important. If I didn't have the committee, it would be very hard," said Stapleton.

She also acknowledged many sponsors of the festival, including: PAGC, Northern Lights Community Development Corporation, Areva, Cameco, PotashCorp, Norstar Screen Printing, Prince Albert Inn, Pronto Airways and Westwind Aviation.

Stapleton hopes PAGC's success inspires other groups, too.

"You know what would be awesome, is that there was talk once about other tribal councils doing the



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Cause really, it's all about the cake

I think it's safe to say (unless my sisters and sister-in-law are reading this, in which case I'm screwed) that children's birthday parties are out of control – like a giraffe on a slip'n'slide.

Birthdays used to be a cake, candles, one present and chubby brown faces crowded around the kitchen table. The cake was homemade and the icing was dotted with coloured sprinkles and tasted like melted candles.

Only two birthdays stand out: on my eighth birthday, my parents accidentally rented the erotic cartoon, Fritz the Cat, and us kids watched a good portion before anyone noticed. (I still need someone to explain parts of that movie to me.) And on another birthday, I got a bike and I pranced around the living room in a celebratory manner until I tripped over my bike and fell down. (I now understand why the other kids bullied me.)

Birthdays have evolved from that slug-like state. Birthdays today have themes like Princess Party, Hogwarts School of Magic or John Hughes' Breakfast Club (not a real theme but if you do use it, please invite me).

There are decorations on the ceiling, which as a short person, I always find

impressive. The birthday kid wears a badge on his/her puffed up chest making them the sheriff of SugarMelt-town. There are

fancy venues with teenaged party leaders, sometimes dressed up in smelly giant mouse suits. There are gift bags for all the guests (yes, kids get gifts for attending a birthday party. I was born in the wrong damn decade.)

There are giant ice cream cakes in any shape you want. Cakes in my day came in only one shape – a lumpy rectangle.

I'm cool with all these newfangled ideas, particularly the ice cream cake, but what's scary is the mommy and daddy meltdowns that go something like this:

"Why is the food not done?"

"I can't control the physics of food combustion."

"You had one thing to do! You're so useless!"

"Why are you such a total b— birthday boy! Oh hey Mikey, mommy and daddy are having a talk. Go play."



Stress, balloons and 15-odd kids do not mix well together. I'm always the person in the corner (nearest to the chips)

asking the important questions: "Why is this party so big? Who are all these kids? Does anyone mind if I mainline this guacamole?"

Then I figured it out. Children's birthday parties are a massive quid pro quo dealie. You put on a kickass party for a bunch of kids and then in return those kids invite your kid to their parties. And then you don't have to watch your kid for those two hours...times ten. That's like 20—oh-so-sweet — childfree hours.

It is in the best interests of every parent to knock it out of the park every time a birthday rolls around. So, as a person with no kids and therefore lots of time to think about pointless things (such as how come X-men's Mystique doesn't wear clothes? Just because you're blue doesn't mean you're not naked), here are some ways to improve your kids' parties:

1. The theme should always be – "how dirty can I get?" I'm no expert on children but their favourite colour appears to be dust;

2. Lots of candles because kids love fire, especially boys and I know this because my brother's nickname grown up was Smokey the Fire-starting Bear;

3. If the action is slowing down, throw in some puppies and run;

4. Award prizes to the kids for every goddamn thing they do – like walking upstairs without falling. Kids like feeling like winners even though statistically, most of them are not.

And the piece de la resistance:

5. Serve a gluten, peanut-free, sugar free, low fat, ice cream cake – which isn't possible but just claim that it is.

Now some of you may be saying, "but wait, Dawn, I like spending time with my kids. They don't suck the life out of me like tiny energy-vampires."

In which case, maybe you don't need to have such an impressive party. Maybe the theme of your party is enjoying one another's company in which case expensive decorations and toys aren't necessary. Because let's face it – the cake is where that money belongs.

Bird-Wilson 'knee-deep' in new projects

Lisa Bird-Wilson's first collection of short fiction, *Just Pretending*, has just been published by Coteau Books and is in stores now. Meanwhile, Lisa has just returned from the 2013 Saskatchewan Book Awards, where her first book, *An Institute of Our Own: A History of Gabriel Dumont Institute* was nominated and short-listed for the Aboriginal Peoples' Publishing Award. Lisa, current President of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, a Director at Gabriel Dumont Institute, and a mother of seven (who runs marathons and plays soccer in her spare time) managed to fit in a few minutes to tell us a bit about her latest book.

EFN: Lisa, tell us what we can look forward to in *Just Pretending*? Some of your fiction has been previously nominated for the Journey Prize, or published in literary magazines and anthologies.

LISA: Yes. A few of the stories in the book are re-workings of previously published stories, but many are new and/or newly edited. There's a real theme running through them about belonging, identity, and kinship – important issues for Aboriginal people, but when you're adopted, these themes are somewhat magnified. At least that's my experience. I hope readers will like the new stories and find something in the themes that they can relate to.

EFN: Can you describe some of the process that goes into publishing a book?

LISA: Everyone's talking about how book publishing is a dying industry. I hope that's not true but when you hear about large publishers going under it's a big concern. It's already really difficult to get a book published – a long, long process, full of rejection. Writers need fortitude – you've got to take a lot of kicks in the teeth. But when you finally do get a book accepted – it's like Christmas. And then the real work begins – I



LISA BIRD-WILSON

spent almost a year working on revisions, back and forth with the editor, but it is totally worth it in the end.

EFN: Where can we hear you read?

LISA: I will be launching in Saskatoon on May 21 at 7 p.m. at McNally Robinson, Regina on May 30 at 7 p.m. at the Artful Dodger, Winnipeg on May 31 at McNally Robinson, and Prince Albert at the PA Arts Centre on June 2 at 2 p.m. My book can be ordered online from Coteau, or picked up at readings, or bookstores like McNally. It's also available as an e-book.

EFN: And this is also part of the FictionKnitstas Tour –

you were matched with a knitter who read your book and then created a knitted article?

LISA: My knitter, Bonnie Zink, made me a knitted Métis sash. I haven't seen it yet but I'm looking forward to wearing it at my book launches. When I was asked if I wanted to do *Fictionistas* with the knitting theme I was like – that's so weird ... and awesome.

EFN: Tell us a bit about the cover, because it's very striking.

LISA: Thank you, I absolutely love the cover and design. It incorporates photography by KC Adams, a really talented Winnipeg Indigenous artist.

EFN: What are some of your thoughts on the importance of Aboriginal storytelling in contemporary culture?

LISA: Our stories are important – we need to keep telling traditional stories and also keep pushing the boundaries with the contemporary ones. I am constantly impressed by the creativity and range Aboriginal writers and artists display. There are just so many talented people out there.

EFN: Other upcoming projects?

LISA: The instant I was finished working with the editor on this book, I jumped into another project so I could avoid re-working the stories any further in my head. I needed to mark them as 'done.' I'm knee-deep now in two new projects: a poetry collection based on archival photos and documents from the George Gordon First Nation and a biography about Jim Sinclair. I'm really excited to be researching and writing for these projects. They feel really fresh.

EFN: Congratulations on this latest book, we look forward to it. Any closing thoughts?

LISA: Books are important. They feed our spirit. Read, read, read all you can.



DANIEL OLVER

Coach passing on words of memorable mentor

By Diane Adams
For Eagle Feather News

For a young athlete, a great coach can be unforgettable. Daniel Olver remembers the best coach he ever had – and can tell you what made him so memorable.

“In the practice he ran us hard, he worked us incredibly hard,” Olver said. “He would stop the practice, sit us in a circle, then he would begin to tell a story.”

That coach would then tell his athletes a story – a story with a message about perseverance, teamwork or sportsmanship.

“I know for myself and my teammates, we really latched on to this event in practice, it built an incredible respect for that coach,” Olver said.

That coach, in part, laid the groundwork for Olver to dedicate his life to sport. A wrestler since Grade 4, Olver, a Métis, is now the Aboriginal Sports Coordinator with the Remai Centre in Saskatoon. He also runs the Aboriginal Coaching and Officials program with the Coaches Association in Saskatoon.

Olver says First Nations and Métis coaches have barriers to accessing coaching training. He says existing training sometimes isn't culturally sensitive, is too expensive or is in an inconvenient place.

Now, he's working directly with communities to bring coaching training to them. With the First Nations Summer Games just two months away, he says he's anxious to get as many young coaches trained up in time for the big event in Muskoday in July.

At the centre of the program is the Aboriginal Coaching Module. The module is a way of teaching coaches to look at coaching culturally, and how to

tackle the issues Aboriginal coaches and athletes face.

“It deals with racism in sport, a holistic view of coaching, and the unique situations that a coach might find themselves in,” Olver said.

Olver says the module also teaches coaches that it's okay to incorporate cultural practices into their coaching. He says that could mean anything from smudging to storytelling.

He says the module also looks at the right ways to handle racism on the ice, in the field or on the court.

“(It teaches) dealing with racism when it occurs, and giving the right response,” he said. “When we see racism in sport, and ... we see the coach acknowledges the racism right away and helps deal with it in a positive way”

Olver says it's those teaching techniques that will keep athletes engaged.

“I saw how (coaches) adapted the practice to engage the athletes and they keep coming back,” Olver said.

In Saskatchewan, that's a lot of Aboriginal athletes to engage. While Olver says his main focus is training Aboriginal coaches, he's also adamant the Aboriginal Coaching Module is a great tool for all coaches in Saskatchewan.

“With the growing demographic of the Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan, and more Aboriginal people becoming involved in sport, people will find they are coaching Aboriginal athletes,” he said.

Olver says the module helped him to understand why that memorable coach in his past, who wasn't Aboriginal, has stuck with him. He says it was the storytelling that hooked him – and he hopes more non-Aboriginal coaches will learn from that.

“It just made sense,” he said.

Scoles shares love of golf through Dunes Golf League

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Ernie Scoles is a golf nut. The renowned artist and entrepreneur can always be found out at the golf course. Dakota Dunes Golf Links to be more precise.

“I love golfing,” says Scoles. “Golf challenges you both mentally and physically. It is a great sport and everyone should have the chance to play it.”

Ernie is President of the Dakota Dunes Casino Men's and Ladies Golf League at the Dunes. And now that this dastardly winter has finally released us from her grasp, the golf course has dried out and they are ready to hit the links.

“There are a couple new things this year for the League. First we have taken on a major sponsor with the Dakota Dunes Casino coming on board,” said Scoles of the League that is now in its seventh year.

“And we have also moved our regular tee time. Now we golf on Sunday afternoons, a real prime tee time.”

Part of what the League does is to help promote and support junior golfing. It all starts with the 3rd annual Dakota Dunes Casino Men's & Ladies Golf League Golf

for Youth Tournament, a four person scramble being held Wednesday, May 22. This tournament includes entertainment and a steak dinner, and represents a great way to get back on the links while giving back to the community.

“This year we are going to outfit a couple of First Nations with golf kits. Some of these kids in the North or isolated areas have never had a chance to even swing a club,” said Scoles.

“I love the game and these young people can learn a lot about patience and themselves from the game.”

The entertainer this year is none other than the irascible Don Burnstick. He is in town for two shows May 21, and then he will host the golf tournament the next day. Between visiting on the course and emceeding the meal and prize bonanza, folks will get a good dose of Burnstick humour.

“People love Don, he makes them laugh,” added Scoles. “Plus he has a great and positive message and lessons about addictions. He makes you laugh and think, that guy.”

So, if you want a good time and to support junior golfers call Mike Jacobs at Dakota Links Golf Club (306) 664-4653 or Ernie at (306) 280-2876.



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Sports gave Daniels a purpose in his life

Name: Joe Daniels
Position: Operations Manager for the Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)
Sports Played: hockey, football, track and field, cross country running, basketball, volleyball, golf, wrestling
Favourite Sport: Hockey
Favourite Team: Edmonton Oilers

GOZ: You've been involved in Aboriginal Sport as a player, coach and builder for many years. What does it mean to be working on 2014 NAIG in Regina?

JD: It is a dream come true for me. I was on all three bid committees for Regina and it was an emotional announcement when we won the bid to host the Regina 2014 NAIG.

GOZ: Why is sport so important for our youth?

JD: From my own experience, if it was not for sport, I should be dead or in jail. It gives young people purpose and belonging that is needed in their lives.

GOZ: How far has Aboriginal Sport come in the last ten years?

JD: The First Nation Games has seen increased numbers of participants, there are new coaches and officials that have joined the sport system. Kidsport numbers in Saskatchewan are at all time highs. However there is still room for increased participation and room for growth with

coaches and officials.

GOZ: Your sons are kicking some major butt in judo. Why did you put them in martial arts?

JD: When my two young sons were four and five they seemed to be getting into disagreements with each other. I figured that a contact sport would help them identify different ways to vent their frustration with each other. I have cousins that have been national champions from George Gordon First Nation. My boys are finishing up their fourth year in Judo and the instructors (are) fabulous. Judo has a rich history in the teaching of the 7 Judo Virtues. My kids have been exposed to these virtues through judo and I see them using these virtues in their everyday life.

GOZ: I'm so sorry your favourite hockey team is the Oilers. It must be hard. As a loyal fan I'm sure you have the solution to fix their playoff drought.

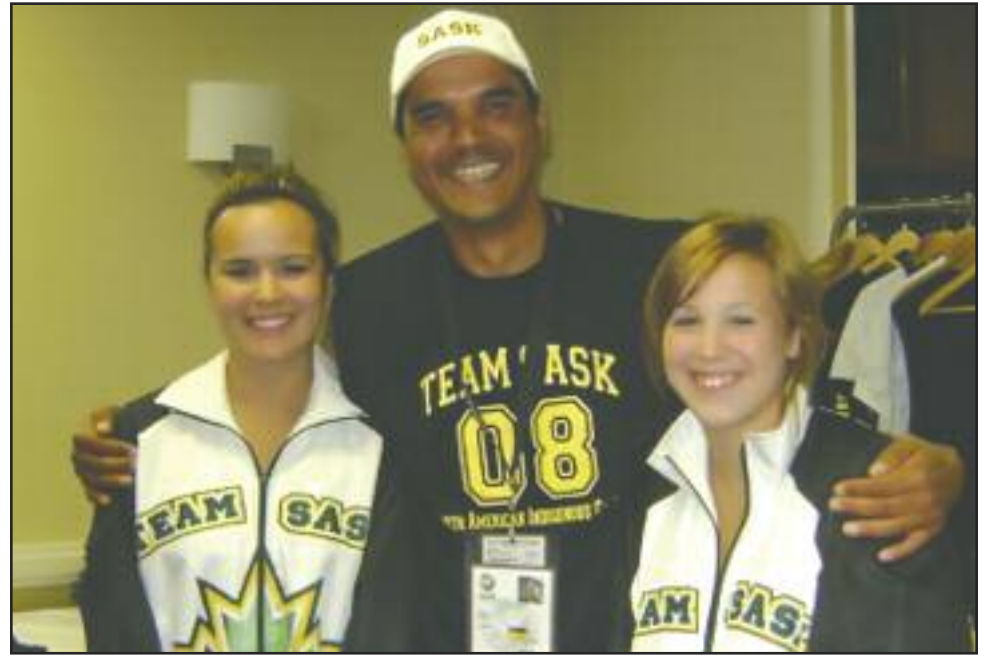
JD: I think the big thing with the Oilers is that they are a young team and they will need some more experience to be able to make to the playoffs and win the Stanley Cup!

GOZ: Name your all-time starting Oilers line-up, excluding Gretzky because we all know he'd be in there.

JD: Mark Messier, Jari Kurri, Jordan Eberle up front. Grant Fuhr in net. And on D, Paul Coffey and the new kid on the block Justin Schultz.

GOZ: What was your best hockey memory as a player?

JD: I remember my first game playing Jr. B. hockey with Piapot Eagles as a 19 year



Joe Daniels is seen here with a couple athletes at the 2008 North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan.

old ... three goals, two fights and a puke in between the first and second periods.

GOZ: Do you agree with the latest idea to remove body-checking from peewee?

JD: I think with the proper coaching that this really should be a non-issue.

GOZ: Who is the best Aboriginal hockey player of all-time (excluding our publisher John Lagimodiere of course)?

JD: I'm a huge fan for Fred Saskamoose

from Saskatchewan. He was truly a trail-blazer when he was playing and I believe he opened the door for many other Aboriginal Hockey player as well. Honorable mention goes out to Jordin Tootoo!

GOZ: If you could play in the NHL during any time period, when would it be?

JD: I think today would be great, the game has come a long way!

GOZ: If you had to choose a most-feared goon of all time, who would it be? Pro or not.

JD: Brent Wahpoosyan. He was a goon but also a scorer. Brent never played in the NHL, he played in the Native Hockey League!



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Kelly Bitternose was the Men's Club Champ and Chrissie Quwezance was the Women's Club Champ last year in the Men's and Ladies League at the Dakota Dunes Golf Links.

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NAIG an event for the entire community

By Darcy McKenzie
For Eagle Feather News

The countdown is approaching for more than 6,000 indigenous athletes as organizers prepare for the 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) being hosted in Regina, Saskatchewan July 20 – 27.

With a little more than a year to prepare the City of Regina for the indigenous sports and culture showcase, organizers say the world-class event is for the entire community.

“The Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games are not just for Indige-

nous Peoples, this event is for everyone. It’s inclusive and we are looking for the participation of the whole community,” 2014 NAIG CEO Glenn Pratt said.

Established in 1992, the North American Indigenous Games feature 16 different sport competitions. Some of the events include archery, baseball, boxing, lacrosse, rifle shooting and golf just to mention a few.

For a complete list of events and schedules visit: www.regina2014naig.com.

In similar fashion to any major athletic games style competition, the Regina, Saskatchewan host society committee had

to compete with other cities in North America to win the hosting rights. Regina fended off Halifax, Nova Scotia and London, Ontario to host the 2014 NAIG.

The Regina bid committee was inclusive to the community with representatives from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, City of Regina, Province of Saskatchewan, Metis Nation Saskatchewan, University of Regina and several cultural and community representatives.

The games committee and 2014 NAIG Board of Directors work to ensure the event is representative of the entire host community.

“While the Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games is about sport and achievement, it’s also a celebration of North American Indigenous culture. Our Mission is to host an Indigenous, multi-sport and cultural event that celebrates Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada and the cultural diversity of North America,” Pratt said.

Pratt says organizing efforts are going well, however there are still plenty of volunteer opportunities for anyone who wants to help and experience this world-class sporting and cultural event.

“There is still a lot of work ahead of us, but with our partners and community involvement I know this is an event that will be remembered as one of the best and



GLENN PRATT

something we can all be proud of,” Pratt said.

Anyone wanting to be a volunteer of the 2014 NAIG can visit the games website or call the NAIG Head Office in Regina, Saskatchewan at 1-800-453-7239 or email organizers at info@naigcouncil.com.

Organizers and the City of Regina are also anticipating large crowds of spectators from all over North America, and especially people from the host city and area. Pratt says the committee and games sponsors say that will produce a welcomed economic shot in the arm for the City of Regina and area.

“The economic impact on the City of Regina and surrounding communities can’t be overstated. It’s estimated there will be up to \$30 million dollars brought into the city and businesses leading up to and during the games,” Pratt stated.

Eagle Feather News will keep readers continually updated as the Games approach.



Team Sask members at the 2008 Games in Cowichan, British Columbia.

(Photo by Warren Goulding)

Making a difference



Cameco



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Winning just the icing on the cake: Roberts

Kevin Roberts is the Director of Sport Culture and Recreation for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (Conflict alert! And a former Eagle Feather News staffer!). He was the coordinator of the recent FSIN Youth Hockey Championships which were dominated by his home Reserve which swept the five titles available ...not bad. We tracked down Kevin for his thoughts on the event.

La Ronge 89ers swept the FSIN Youth Hockey Championships. What exactly is an 89er?

The 89ers team name came about in 2005 when we started our minor hockey program upon the completion of construction of the JRMCC Arena on our reserve. In honoring our history, the team name 89ers is used to commemorate the year 1889, the year Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) signed the Adhesion to Treaty Six under the Chief James Roberts Band.

What was your personal highlight of the weekend?

Above all, my personal highlight was getting back on the bench again and coaching the Novice 89er team that my son Sage played on. As his biggest fan, it was a great, rewarding experience for me personally to share and celebrate in his first major achievement in hockey, memories we can cherish for a lifetime.

What was the biggest challenge coordinating this massive event?

The biggest challenge coordinating this event was explaining to team managers and coaches that there were deadlines to meet in terms of submitting SHA rosters, band verification forms and entry fees. I hired a referee coordinator, Remi Mike, he organized their game schedules. Courage Bear was the off-ice officials coordinator and his crew handed all game sheets and running the score clocks. Tanya Toporowski from Jemini 4 Arenas did up the scheduling for the 6 divisional tournament draws. All three people definitely made my job much easier.

How many young people are in the hockey program in La Ronge?

In La Ronge we have two minor hockey systems, JRMCC Minor Hockey, on-reserve, and La Ronge Minor Hockey, in town. This season our JRMCC Minor Hockey program had IP (Pre-novice), Novice, Atom and Bantam teams, so about 60 kids. Because of numbers, La Ronge hosted the Peewee team and we hosted the Bantam team. There was no midget team this year, as seven boys from last year's midget team all played in Beardy's AA program this year.

What has been the benefit to the youth from your sport program?



The La Ronge Indian Band 89er's Atom team was one of five teams from La Ronge that swept the titles at the FSIN Youth Hockey Championships.

I always look at our sports program through a prevention-model angle. Kids who are active tend to do better in school and cause less mischief. Health wise, hockey is one of best cardiovascular games you can play. Here a kid can also improve coordination, strength, flexibility and agility. Hockey is also a team sport, so youth who play learn the value of working as a team towards a common goal, developing communication skills and listening skills and respect for authority and rules. Individually, I would expect our players to develop self-confidence, patience, self-esteem and sportsmanship. I firmly believe, by putting a child in a hockey program, you are creating a lifelong enthusiast and health-oriented individual which are great starting points that can lead to life success. Winning championships is just icing on the cake, creating good young people is our most important goal!






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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT:

Daniel Olver, Aboriginal Coaches and Officials Coordinator
 510 Cynthia Street, Saskatoon, SK S7L 7K7
 Phone: 1-888-319-2267 • Fax: (306) 242-8007
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www.saskcoach.ca/aboutACOP.php

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PAINTED HAND CASINO 13TH ANNUAL

Pow Wow

JUNE 1ST & 2ND, 2013
YORKTON EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION
YORKTON, SK

MCs: Ruben Little Head & Howie Thomson

Arena Director: Tim Eashappie | **Singing Judge:** Harvey Thunderchild

Grand Entry: Saturday - 12PM & 7PM | Sunday - 12PM

Dance Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Junior (7-12)	200	100	75	50	50	20
Teen (13-17)	500	250	100	75	50	50
Junior Adult (18-34)	800	600	400	300	200	
Senior Adult (35-54)	800	600	400	300	200	
Golden Age (55+)	800	600	400	300	200	

Competition Drum Singing Contest Over \$20,000 in Prize Payouts

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
8000	5000	3000	2000	1000	900	800

SPECIALS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Men's Team Dance	2000	1200	1000	600	
Women's Team Dance	2000	1200	1000	600	
Men's Grass Dance - Black Chip	15 chips	10 chips	8 chips	5 chips	3 chips
Men's Traditional - Black Chip	15 chips	10 chips	8 chips	5 chips	3 chips
Ladies Traditional - PHCDC Black Chip	15 chips	10 chips	8 chips	5 chips	3 chips

Pow Wow Committee

Jonathan Pasap, Rob Bear, Memory Antoine, Loressa McLeod,
Toby Desnomie, Ed Lanartowych, Jason Leclerc, Dion Roussin, Laura Pelletier

Booths

Food Booth: \$1000 weekend | Craft Booth: \$400 weekend

Contact: Loressa McLeod - 1.306.786.6777

For More Pow-wow Information Contact:

Rob Bear | rob.bear@siga.sk.ca

306.786.6777

Painted Hand Casino and the Pow Wow committee are not responsible for any injury to persons, damage to or theft of property and destitution. Absolutely no drugs or alcohol allowed.

