

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Survivors share common experiences

Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger and residential school survivor Eugene Arcand gathered for a dialogue to discuss the commonalities of their experiences. (Photo by David Fisher)



By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

Two survivors from different traumatic times in history sat down to have a dialogue called the Courageous Conversation.

Residential school survivor Eugene Arcand and Holocaust Survivor Nate Leipziger shared their stories with one another in front of over a thousand Saskatoon

students to provide the audience with a deeper understanding of the challenges they faced.

“I spoke with Eugene and we had common experiences, common trauma and certain common loss,” Leipziger said after the session in early June.

“We (didn’t) compare our suffering but we talked about the common elements of our past.”

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Coming In July - Graduation Issue

Arcand, Leipziger endured trauma in residential schools, concentration camps

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Leipziger, originally from Poland, survived the Holocaust in German-occupied Poland. He was 10-years old when he and his family spent many harrowing months trying to avoid capture in the ghettos but eventually they were discovered and separated.

He lost his family after being moved around different concentration camps during the German occupation of Poland. Leipziger lost his mother and sister as well as other family members. He emigrated to Canada in 1948 along with his father and has lived in Toronto for the past 70 years. Prior to the Courageous Conversation event, Leipziger said he was familiar with the history of residential schools and had heard of Arcand's residential school story.

Arcand, from the Muskeg Lake First Nation, was apart of Canada's terrible legacy of residential schools that has caused profound suffering and loss for Indigenous people. Arcand was six-years-old when he was taken away from home and placed at the St. Michael Indian Residential school in Duck Lake. He attended that school for 10 years and one year at the Lebret Student Residence.

CeCe Baptiste, SIIT's Associate Director of Finance, helped bring Arcand into the idea of sharing his story in the Courageous Conversation event. She said she truly appreciated the honest way that Arcand and Leipziger shared their commonalities of their two experiences.

"I was quite touched and I felt really honoured to hear their stories," said Baptiste who helped co-moderate the event along with Heather Fenyes.

"I found Eugene and Nate understood the impact that they were having on the students."

Baptiste hoped attendees took away a common understanding of what the two different cultures had endured in the past.

"An opportunity such as this, where you have a survivor from the holocaust as well as a survivor from the residential school, being able to share their stories and talk alongside each other is extremely rare," said Baptiste.

"We are going to lose those opportunities as people grow older."

David Fisher, the Executive Director of Conventus Citizenship Education Foundation, helped organize the Courageous Conversation event. He said the two survivors both endured something horrific; a deliberate and mechanised genocide. He added the event wasn't a comparative exercise but was designed to discover parallels as each situation was unique.

"It was discovering the dark commonalities and also the inspiring commonalities," said Fisher. "They talked about strength and resilience. There was a genuine chemistry as they spoke to each other. It was very emotional at times and they were very generous with what they shared."


Fisher said even with the large number of students that attended the two-survivor dialogue, you could hear a pin drop.

"I was taking a moment to survey the room and the students were glued to their words on what they were saying," he said. "There was a spontaneous standing ovation for them at the conclusion."

Leipziger and Arcand ended the Courageous Conversation by encouraging the students not to be bystanders but to be upstanders and to get involved when they see an injustice. It was a momentous time for the two survivors to treasure.

"Eugene and I had meetings of our spirit and we're two spiritual individuals. Our understanding and interaction of each other, I cherish very much," said Leipziger.

"I hope we can continue this dialogue on many other occasions."




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Flag raising a step towards reconciliation

**By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News**

Reconciliation Saskatoon recently held a reconciliation flag raising ceremony to honour residential school and Sixties Scoop survivors and the lives that were lost.

“Looking back at what happened to us in residential schools – the loss of culture and language, the physical, sexual and mental abuse, the blatant racism we experienced – this ceremony is incredibly important to me and for all the survivors,” said Elder and residential school survivor Frank Badger in a media release.

“By going back to our roots and celebrating our culture, language and traditions, we are making our way back to who we once were as proud First Nation, Inuit and Métis people. We are teaching our ways to the generation today and those yet to be born, and we will show our children that no one will ever experience this dark time again.”

Mayor Charlie Clark said there is a tremendous effort underway in Saskatoon, throughout the , to work towards reconciliation and to create a stronger Treaty relationship.

“By honouring survivors and keeping the next generations top of mind, over 80 non-profits, businesses, institutions, and faith communities have been making a positive change in our community through the work of Reconciliation Saskatoon,” he said.

It is remarkable to see such a strong community-wide support for this important work as we raise the Reconciliation Saskatoon flag this morning and recommit ourselves to a stronger community.”

Reconciliation Saskatoon consists of 88-member organizations such as the City of Saskatoon, Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. along with 84 business and community organization members. Reconciliation Saskatoon and members of the community gathered on May 29 in Civic Square outside City Hall today to raise the Rec-

conciliation flag in honour of Indian residential school and Sixties Scoop survivors.

Don Ewles, the Grants and Communications Manager of Saskatoon Community Foundation, said the reconciliation flag raising was a symbolic moment to bring people together.

“It was a great moment for people to stand shoulder to shoulder ... to say Saskatoon is a community that believes in reconciliation,” said Ewles.

(The flag raising) was a great day and a great opportunity to come out together and hear many different voices and see the beauty of Indigenous culture. (It’s a reminder) that we’re stronger and richer when we recognize each other’s value and we work together to create a better and more inclusive community.”

Shirley Isbister, President, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. said reconciliation is a shared journey which begins with each and every one of us.

“It’s important for us to provide opportunities like the Flag Raising Ceremony and the Rock Your Roots walk to help people explore the meaning of reconciliation and respond to the Truth and Reconciliation’s Calls to Action,” she said.

On June 20, there will be an official unveiling ceremony for a reconciliation art project called the Coming Spring in Victoria Park.

The following day, on National Indigenous Peoples Day, the third annual “Rock Your Roots” Walk for Reconciliation will be celebrated in the City of Bridges.



Elder Frank Badger talked about the impact of the residential schools and the importance of events like the Reconciliation flag raising in moving forward.

(Photos courtesy of Gilles Dorval)



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The best of times

I always say there has never been a better time to be an Indigenous person in Saskatchewan.

All the good news and events in May and June, so far, are evidence of that. Lots of things are lining up.

Thank goodness for the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. People are actually adopting them.

I spent several days in Regina this month. Things were going on. The First Nations University of Canada was hosting the Indian Communication Arts Summer Institute on Journalism. Our Jeanelle Mandes was one of 40 different instructors working with 24 students over a month and a half of intense training in radio, web, newsprint and TV. Many of their stories are in this issue. Most of those stories tie to a Call to Action.

At the same time as the Institute, the University of Regina was hosting Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, a conference for 5,000 academics from around the world to get together and think and share thoughts. This gathering had lots of "Indigenization" and reconciliation presentations available and was a very strong theme. Indigenous academics everywhere.

Many of those academics and writers came together for the official book launch of 'kisiskâciwan' packing the Atrium of FNUUniv with dignitaries, students, family and many of the writers that contributed to the book.

Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber edited 'kisiskâciwan'. The book contains rich, oral narratives from First Nation and Métis cultures from Saskatchewan and contains the voices of dozens of Indigenous leaders and writers.

Maybe some of these names are familiar to you: Big Bear, Thunderchild, Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, Edward Ahenakew, Maria Campbell, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Rita Bouvier, Harold

Johnson, Gregory Scofield, Warren Cariou and Louise Halfe. And there are several more.

It has speeches, poems, lyrics and several different stories from our past and present. I have officially found the first book for my summer reading list.

Also last month we found out that former Tribal Chief and Elder Joe Quewezance and our favourite columnist, renowned writer, Elder and teacher Maria Campbell are both to receive honorary doctorate degrees this year.

Joe from the University of Saskatchewan and Maria from the University of Winnipeg. These fine folks are leading the way for our future graduates.

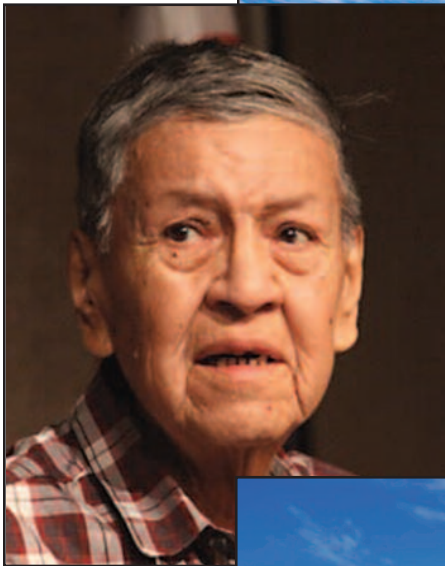
Did you know the Indigenous graduation class has grown every year for the past several years? That's awesome. In 1960 there were 60 'Indians' in university in all of Canada. Now they estimate 35,000.

To support those students, the Provincial Ministry of Education, the folks responsible for K-12 curriculum and outcomes, have had every available employee in their Ministry go through a full day Aboriginal awareness seminar. That would never have happened 20 years ago.

All of the above education initiatives and gatherings answer Call to Action 63.

On the business end we saw SaskPower and the First Nations Power Authority (FNPA) sign a First Nations Opportunity Agreement to source 20 megawatts of flare gas power generation projects with the Flying Dust First Nation. The project is worth an estimated \$300 million of potential revenue over

20 years, which represents significant new economic development and opportunity for power projects led by First Nations communities and businesses. Nice.



Also, I witnessed the Saskatchewan Industrial and Mining Suppliers Association bring over 60 of their members to network with Nutrien employees and the



seven member First Nations of the Saskatoon Tribal Council to learn about jobs, joint ventures and partnership opportunities tied to the Nutrien supply chain. Business and opportunity. Both answer Call to Action 92

And have you heard? Several land claims and specific claims have entered into the compensation and negotiation stages in Saskatchewan. The federal government has recognized the claims of the James Smith, Peter Chapman and Chakastaypasin First Nations after decades of work by those leaders.

They lost approximately 60,000 acres dues to fraud, and there is more. Word is also out that Black Lake has reached a settlement on their "cows and plows" claim with the government and are figuring out what to do with it. Call to Action 47.

How about that? During this month of celebrating National Indigenous History Month and People Day, take the

Leaders like Joe Quewezance and Maria Campbell, literature like kisiskâciwan and educational gains are reason to celebrate during National Indigenous History Month.

time to read those Calls to Action and take note of what is going on around you in your community.

Read 'kisiskâciwan' to understand the impacts and admire the resiliency.

Lots of good things are happening in this province. Celebrate it.

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INCA students about to tackle the exciting world of journalism

By Jaycene Lathlin
For Eagle Feather News

When Jamin Mike listened to Jeanelle Mandes's stories about journalism, when they were both working at their local community radio station, he knew he was meant to be a storyteller.

Since then, Mike has followed in Mandes' footsteps by attending the INCA Summer Institute, a seven-week introduction to journalism at First Nations University of Canada (FNUiv).

They and three other former INCA survivors shared their experiences with the 2018 INCA students on a panel discussion on the opening day of the Institute.

Mike, from Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation, said he always been drawn to broadcasting.

"I always watched Nelson Bird on CTV Indigenous Circle then Creeson Agecutay," said Mike, referring two well-known Indigenous journalists in Saskatchewan.

"Something always drew me to news. I remember as a child I would sit there with my kokum, Doreen, watching news like a grown-up would."

The INCA Summer Institute brings in professional journalists in different media to teach the students their



No INCA Summer Institute would be complete without a class photo with instructors in front of the tipi in the First Nations University of Canada epic atrium. (Photo by Shannon Avison)

area of expertise. The institute is facilitated by Shannon Avison, the INCA program coordinator, runs from May 7 – June 22.

"This year is the largest class we have ever had and plus we added teaching units, added instructors about Twitter, podcasting, and two APTN instructors, producers coming to work with the students, which we never had before," said Avison. "It's really tremendous this year."

Newly recruited INCA student Mary Powder hails from Yellowknife. She came to Regina for this institute specifically. She was encouraged by one of her supervisors and so far, she said the institute is very interesting and makes her want to go further.

"I highly recommend this U of R journalism because that's how you get started, and you have to start somewhere," said Powder.

"Believe in yourself and don't get discouraged. You have a lot of classmates that you can do teamwork."

Another newly recruited student, Robert Merasty from Ile-a-la-Crosse, who has been a journalist for 46 years, said he needed to come back for a refresher. He first heard of INCA in the late 1980s and took INCA in 1991.

"I love the class and I would come back here anytime for another refresher and I would recommend it to any young person who is interested," he said.

Running all about dead bodies and compliments

As soon as our long, emotionally degrading winter ended, I laced up my sneakers and headed outside for a run.

I don't overthink running. I don't follow any routine. I just pick a distance I want to reach and then run in one direction until I'm halfway there and then I turn and run back the other way. It couldn't get much simpler than that.

I measure miles by tracking the movement of the sun through the sky. Totally kidding. I use a running app on my iPhone which is why I'm the old lady running with her wallet.

I don't wear expensive running shoes and I hardly ever replace them. My guide is that I'll replace them when I can feel the pavement through the soles or I can see my feet through the shoes.

I don't get caught up in marketing or brands because Native American runner Jim Thorpe from the Sac and Fox First Nation won Olympic gold wearing shoes he found in the trash.

He went to the Olympics with shoes, they just got stolen the night before the races. Imagine being enough of a jackass to steal someone's shoes just because they're going to beat you. That literally makes you an Olympic-sized dick.

So, ever since I heard that story, I haven't paid too much attention to what I wear on my feet. (Running bras should be top of the line though. If you can breathe normally, it's not tight enough.)

I listen to music which is a new thing for me. I used to run with nothing but street sounds as background because it is safer. You can hear cars and bikes coming.

But it's also boring so I've come around to the ways of the earphones. I also run to comedy (Jon Oliver, Bill Maher, Amy Schumer) which is why you'll sometimes see me hunch over laughing.



I look around a lot when I'm running, admiring the foliage, the infinite shades of green that can be found this time of year. I also look down at the ground because that is the only way to find money. (I have found exactly no money in decades of running but I never give up.)

I also check out the big houses on the side of the streets and imagine myself living in one of them. I know a lawyer who used to run past a certain house every week and would point at the house, "that's my house." And then what do you know? One day it was. Course she is a lawyer; us regular folk might have to resort to a B&E situation.

I've been running since I was 12 years old. I've run all over the place – in New York City, Toronto, Montreal, Regina and on my rez, of course, while being chased by rez dogs.

Yet with all of my diverse locations, I've never ever come across a dead body. Not that I want to – I'm just surprised is all. Because newspapers always

say, "Jogger discovers body." Maybe I'm jogging wrong.

If I really want to happen across one, I should spend more time running under bridges and through thick brush – but that's how you end up getting to be a dead body in the first place.

I get passed by other runners a lot. Because there are some quite fit people out there and I'm more jiggle than not jiggle. A few weeks ago, I was passed by the same woman twice, coming from different directions.

It's like she was time travelling and I just happened to see her on her way back in time. Or, maybe she was twins? Or maybe I'm just really, really slow. That's why a few weeks later when I finally passed someone – two middle aged guys, I felt like yelling, "this is happening, bitches." But I didn't because I couldn't spare the oxygen.

When you run, other runners will nod at you. It's a secret communication that only we share. Basically, we're saying, "Yes we will be ready for the zombie apocalypse unlike these other suckers."

There are a lot of reasons to run – staying fit, stress release, getting weird tan lines. But I'd say my favourite reason was one of the most unexpected.

One day I was out running and I came upon a dad and a little girl about five.

She had long black hair in a ponytail like me and when she saw me running towards her, she started running too.

Her dad pointed at me, "she's copying you!" It was the best compliment I've had in years.



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Principal Bryan McNabb of the George Gordon Educational Center says that the move into their new school from the old residential school 20 years ago was a fresh start and an exciting time and good reason to celebrate 20 years later.

20 years of education celebrated on George Gordon First Nation

By Lynea George
For Eagle Feather News

It's been 20 years since staff and students walked the halls of Canada's last residential school and the occasion was something to celebrate.

Bryan McNabb, the Principal of George Gordon Education Centre (GGEC) reflected on the past, as he looks ahead to the future.

In 1992, he began his teaching career and he later became principal before moving into the new school.

"It was really difficult being the principal in the old building because of so much deficiency and being in separate buildings, because the kids would have to walk across to the gym and library," he said.

The GGEC replaced the Gordon Day School that was part of Gordon Indian Residential School.

The residential school was opened on reserve in 1886 and was used as an education facility until 1996.

McNabb said the old building was immediately demolished once the new school was opened.

He said the reason for that was to move away from the whole stigma the building represented.

The First Nation requested a new school in 1995 and was approved in 1996, but it was not completed until 1998.

"It was a fresh start and new beginning," McNabb said, adding it became something that instilled pride in the community.

The celebration could not have come at a better time. The reserve has been rocked by several tragedies, including the loss of their chief. When teacher Tammy McNabb, suggested hosting a 20th anniversary celebration of G.G.E.C everyone jumped on board. McNabb was an intern at the old school in the fall of 1997 and remembers taking tours of the new school while it was being built.

"It was an exciting time," she said.

Her enthusiasm has not worn off, as she has hope for the future of the school. She would like to see more culture activities to take place for the community.

"I want to initiate to start a smudge walk" McNab said.

The 20th celebration was important to McNab because "education is our buffalo," she said. McNab wanted current students to know there is a whole other world out there.

"I am on my second generation of teaching kids," she said.

Initially, Sheila Kinequon a former teacher had mixed feelings when leaving the old school. But she's now pleased to see how things have changed.

"We will continue to grow and develop our youth to be good strong people who will be successful and live good lives" McNabb said.



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Elder works for change within Regina Qu'Appelle Heath Region

**By Megan Currie
For Eagle Feather News**

Elder Harry Francis recalls the time 60 people gathered in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the Regina General Hospital and paid their final respects to a beloved matriarch.

Speaking in his office, surrounded by gifts from patients and community members, the Native Health Services' Elder recalls when the woman's doctor asked him to come to the unit.

"They had come to consensus that they were going to stop all treatment and let nature take its course by disconnecting all life support," said Francis.

At the unit, he found a throng of people who loved the woman gathered to say their goodbyes. Francis helped coordinate for loved ones to go in four to six people at a time.

His role didn't end there. While leaving the unit Francis overheard a young nurse blurt out 'Why are there so many Indians here?'

Francis took that opportunity to teach her about Indigenous kinship.

"So, I said, 'this woman has touched many of these people. They may not have the same last name but they are all brothers and sisters and they accept each other as brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren. I know that the system says only immediate family, well this is immediate family.

That is why there are so many Indians here."

The role of Elder at NHS has always focused on patient care.

The first Elder was Emile Piapot, grandson of Chief Piapot, who could speak and write in English. He had the teachings of the old people and was one of the ceremonial people.

Piapot's knowledge of English made him especially valuable to his people in the white man's hospital.

The NHS opened in 1982 and focused on patients in the Emergency Department and the Pediatric Unit, said Director Brent Robison in an email.

It is now embraced within the primary care team. Instead of receiving a small honorarium, Elders are now part of a union.

Francis, a certified addiction worker with advanced counseling certificates, is available to help families and also welcomes them to bring their own Elder.

The Elder's office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but he often stays late into evenings helping to conduct ceremony.

One of the most significant changes Francis has overseen is now dying patients are sometimes moved from the medical unit to the spiritual room to have life support disconnected, so family can gather and conduct whatever ceremony needed.



Harry Francis provides Elder services at the Regina General hospital.



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Lafond takes the helm at the MVA

**Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News**

The Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA) has hired a new chief executive officer: none other than Andrea Lafond.

“Andrea Lafond has been in her position of CEO for 30 days but has gleaned an enormous amount through broad consultations with staff, stakeholders and board members,” says MVA board chair Colin Tennant.

“In that short time, I’ve observed a quiet confidence, keen observation skills, an intuitive sense of direction and a natural inquisitiveness.”

Tennant adds that her proposed visioning exercise this fall will only help identify unique opportunities for the MVA’s future.

“From our perspective, hiring Andrea definitely remains the right decision for our board. Meewasin’s future certainly looks very good.”

Meewasin is a conservation agency dedicated to conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley.

Lafond has high praise for the MVA as well.

“The path that led me to Meewasin was truly my passion for the MVA and its tremendous efforts on conservation, providing access and education to the histories and biodiversity of our lands and our river valley.”

Recently, though, funding cuts have been an ongoing challenge for the MVA, but Lafond sees this as a potential to grow.

“The present challenge, which I perceive as the potential, is funding our critical work. This

is really an opportunity to reframe our messaging and conversations to build knowledge and understanding on multiple levels of the successes, purpose, and vision of Meewasin.”

Lafond notes the critical importance of the MVA is creating balance between human use while educating about and conserving the lands and river system for future generations.

Her Métis heritage, combined with her Certified Aboriginal Financial Management designation through the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association, positions her to undertake this crucial position, continuing to preserve the river valley for present and future generations while educating all levels of government and people on environmental stewardship and a shared history, present, and future together.

“My background ties in both professionally and personally. When I look to leadership opportunities it is about truly respecting the purpose and vision and the history of how and why an organization came to be.

“Respecting that history and moving forward on opportunities through strategic positioning and messaging,” explains Lafond, adding that the importance of good stewardship cannot be overstated.

“Personally, I feel strongly that when it relates to our natural lands and water systems we have to be making conscious long-term decisions to conserve these areas.

“These are not resources we can get back once misused.”



Andrea Lafond has taken over the helm of the Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon. The Authority is responsible for the conservation of South Saskatchewan River Valley. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

READ Saskatoon Annual General Meeting

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Perry Bellegarde awarded Saskatchewan Order of Merit

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde was among six recipients who received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit at a ceremony held at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina.

Bellegarde said he was surprised to receive the award.

“I was very honoured and humbled to receive the award,” he said. “I didn’t know that anyone nominated me. It’s a big honour.”

Lt.-Gov. Thomas Molloy placed medal around the recipients’ necks and talked about their work over the years.

“He talked about some of the things I worked on over the years,” said Bellegarde. “Getting the Treaty 4 reserve grounds back to reserve status at Fort Qu’Appelle and uniting the 34 Treaty 4 tribes and they talked about the transfer of the Indian hospital back to First Nations control.”

Molloy also presented the five other recipients with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

“The Order of Merit is the



AFN National Chief was recently awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit – the province’s most prestigious recognition. (Photo submitted by AFN Communications)

province’s highest honour,” Molloy said in a media release.

“Saskatchewan has re-

markable citizens and looking at the accomplishments and contributions of the six individuals

chosen for the Order of Merit this year, I am truly humbled. Their work has made our

province a better place, and I thank them for their tremendous efforts.”

Bellegarde also worked on the 25-year gaming agreement in Saskatchewan which helped solidify the gaming industry to build casinos such as the Whitecap Dakota Dunes and the Living Sky Casino in Swift Current. He also worked on the Veterans Compensation Package for Indigenous veterans. That and many more accomplishments led him to receive the province’s most prestigious award.

“The organizers and the committee must have recognized how we’re trying to work together to improve this province (to) build bridges and relationships,” said Bellegarde.

For 33 years, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit has recognized people who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the province in areas such as the arts, business and industry, agriculture, community leadership and volunteer service. This year’s recipients will join 229 other citizens who have previously been invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

I hope to see you at this year’s

National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations

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Tipi-making a work of art

**By Sheila LaRose
For Eagle Feather News**

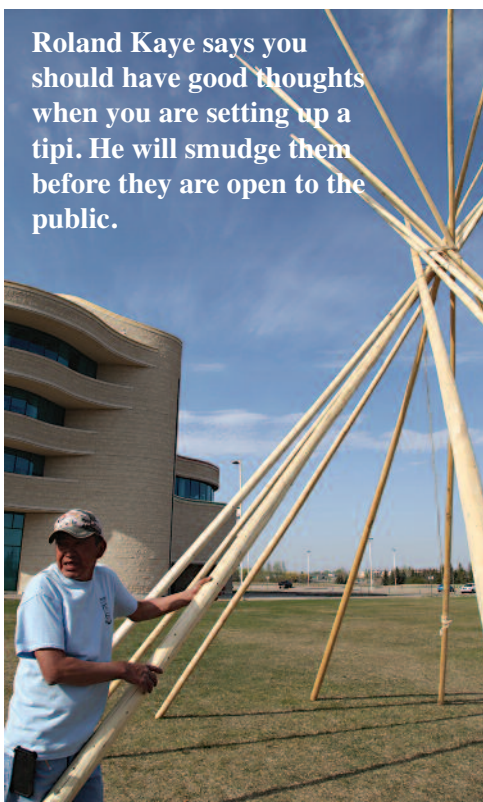
Larissa Kitchemonia sits cross-legged on the floor chatting with other artists as they dip their brushes in Tim Hortons cups filled with water, and paint on canvas tipi liners.

The artists are students and alumni of the First Nations University of Canada. While most of the artists are from Saskatchewan, Adam Martin is from Six Nations and Bruno Hernani is from Peru.

The students are painting a series of 50-foot wide canvas liners that will be installed in each tipi.

“They’re huge,” said artist Jori Cachene. “There’s three of those in the big tipi, so it’s a gigantic job.”

Roland Kaye says you should have good thoughts when you are setting up a tipi. He will smudge them before they are open to the public.



“Collaborative painting comes with its challenges,” said Kitchemonia. “This project turned out to be a good mix of different areas of interest. There’s always things to learn from each other,” he noted.

“What we decided to do was amalgamate all seven artists (and) work on the largest tipi together,” said Cachene.

“We came up with the themes together and incorporated everybody’s

ideas into one design.”

The theme of the main tipi is “those who have gone before,” said Peter Brass, Art Collection Manager at FNUC.

“It could be veterans, it could be missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, it could be residential schools and children that passed away there, it could be Sixties Scoop.”

The liners will be installed inside 14 tipis on the lawn of the First Nations University campus in Regina.

Finding 14 tipis wasn’t easy, according to Brass.

“Tipi-makers are in high demand. The people that could provide Cree tipis could only commit to making three. The other ones we ordered from the States, and they exclusively make Sioux (tipis).”

Roland Kaye, Elders’ Helper at FNUC, was responsible for setting up the tipis of different sizes and styles – some had 13 poles, some had 15.

In the 1980s, a group of Saskatchewan Elders developed teachings to go with each pole, according to Kaye.

“Those values, I tell people, are instilled in each and every one of us. It’s not just a First Nations value or teaching – like love, or trust, or respect.

“Each and every one of us has that within us, to live like that. So, these teachings, to me, are a tool to live a better life.”

Using tipi poles as a way to teach values is a new development.

“I’m sure 100 years ago, when they were putting up their tipi, they weren’t saying, ‘Here’s the love pole,’” said Kaye.

“It was more or less survival – let’s get our camp together and survive.”

Still, said Kaye, “They’re good teachings. Everybody utilizes them at some point in their life. Schools use them, lots of institutions use them.”

Cachene envisions the tipis being a gathering place over the summer months, a place for students and visitors to learn.

“We’ll be here all summer,” she said. “Come visit! Pull us out of our little paint world and come talk to us.”



Jori Cachene is happy for the opportunity to paint all summer.

CCDF brings Saskatoon Salsa to life

By Naomi Zurevinski



Photo credit: Jon Miller

When Kimberly Parent began teaching salsa dance lessons out of her sister’s garage in 2005, she had no idea that one day she would wind up owning a dance studio.

Parent grew up learning to social dance within the Métis community and always dreamed of being a dancer. After attending the University of Saskatchewan, she moved to Prince Albert and was working in a hospital laundry facility. It was one day in the break room that she saw a tiny little flyer that read ‘Salsa Lessons at the Margo Fournier Centre.’

“I went, and from the first moment that I heard Cuban music, it was like my entire life changed,” Parent said. “I was so crazy about salsa that after a couple weeks of lessons the teacher had me assisting her.”

Thirteen years later, Parent is the proud owner of Saskatoon Salsa Dance Company. Getting to this point has involved a lot of hard work and a little bit of help too - from the Clarence Campeau Development

Fund.

The CCDF was established in 1997 by the Government of Saskatchewan to assist economic development activities of Métis people in the province. Parent went through their program twice - both times to gain her own studio space.

“[When] I started, I was renting studio space, but I couldn’t rent enough space for the classes that were in demand. In 2013 I went through CCDF’s Women’s Program and got a tiny little space, but I outgrew it in less than two years, which was amazing. Then in 2015 they helped me get into my [current] space.”

Parent said that opening her first studio space was her “proudest moment,” because it was such a big accomplishment. The support, encouragement and information provided by the CCDF were huge for her.

“[CCDF understands] their demographic - they’re working with Métis people. A lot of Métis in the community

are living in different socioeconomic conditions,” she said. “At one point in my life I was a single mom working three jobs. Someone like me doesn’t have any money, so they help you jump through those hoops.”

One of the main goals of the CCDF is to increase the socioeconomic standing of those who go through the program, by giving people ownership over their own lives and livelihood. Parent has noticed this in her own life.

“My quality of life now... you can’t put that into a measurement. I have control over my entire life, my entire day, the way I can parent my daughter. My life feels so much more full and meaningful because of CCDF, because of what they did for me.”

For more information on Saskatoon Salsa and to buy tickets for their year-end show on June 16, visit www.saskatoonsalsa.com.

For more information on the CCDF, visit www.clarencecampeau.com.

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National Indigenous Peoples Day A

1. How many First Nations were deemed "Rebellion Bands" after the 1885 Resistance at Batoche?

- a. 10
- b. 20
- c. 26
- d. 3

2. Which First Nation received a settlement of \$4.5 million in 2015 for Treaty annuities that were withheld after the Resistance.

- a. Beardy's and Okemasis
- b. Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
- c. Lac La Ronge Indian Band
- d. One Arrow First Nation

3. What jerk face said the following in 1887. "The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change."

- a. Duncan Campbell Scott
- b. John A. Macdonald
- c. Laura Secord
- d. John G Diefenbaker

4. This person is credited with starting the Association of Indians of Saskatchewan in 1944

- a. David Fieldhouse
- b. Alex Smith
- c. Frank Bellegarde
- d. Joseph Dreaver

5. This man was the Premier of Saskatchewan when the CCF introduced the Green Lake Experiment for Métis road allowance families.

- a. Tommy Douglas
- b. Alan Blakeney
- c. Russ Thatcher
- d. Thomas Walter Scott

6. This Prime Minister was famously quoted as saying the following after the hanging of Louis Riel in November of 1885. "He shall die though every dog in Quebec bark in his favour."

- a. Wilfred Laurier
- b. John A Macdonald
- c. Alexander McKenzie
- d. Charles Tupper

7. Legendary WWII soldier David Greyeyes received the Greek Military Cross for his heroics. Where is he from?

- a. Fond du Lac First Nation
- b. Little Black Bear First Nation
- c. Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
- d. Mistawasis First Nation

8. Métis trapper Joseph McGillivray of Cumberland House helped capture what notorious German leader near the end of WWII?

- a. Hertgut Schlimhiener
- b. Adolph Hitler
- c. Max Goering
- d. Kurt Meyer

9. What was the name of the First Nations man who served as a television news anchor? Jesse Jim on the Canadian television network.

- a. Chief Dan George
- b. Graham Greene
- c. Thompson Highway
- d. Pat John

10. Name the oldest living First Nations person in Saskatchewan.

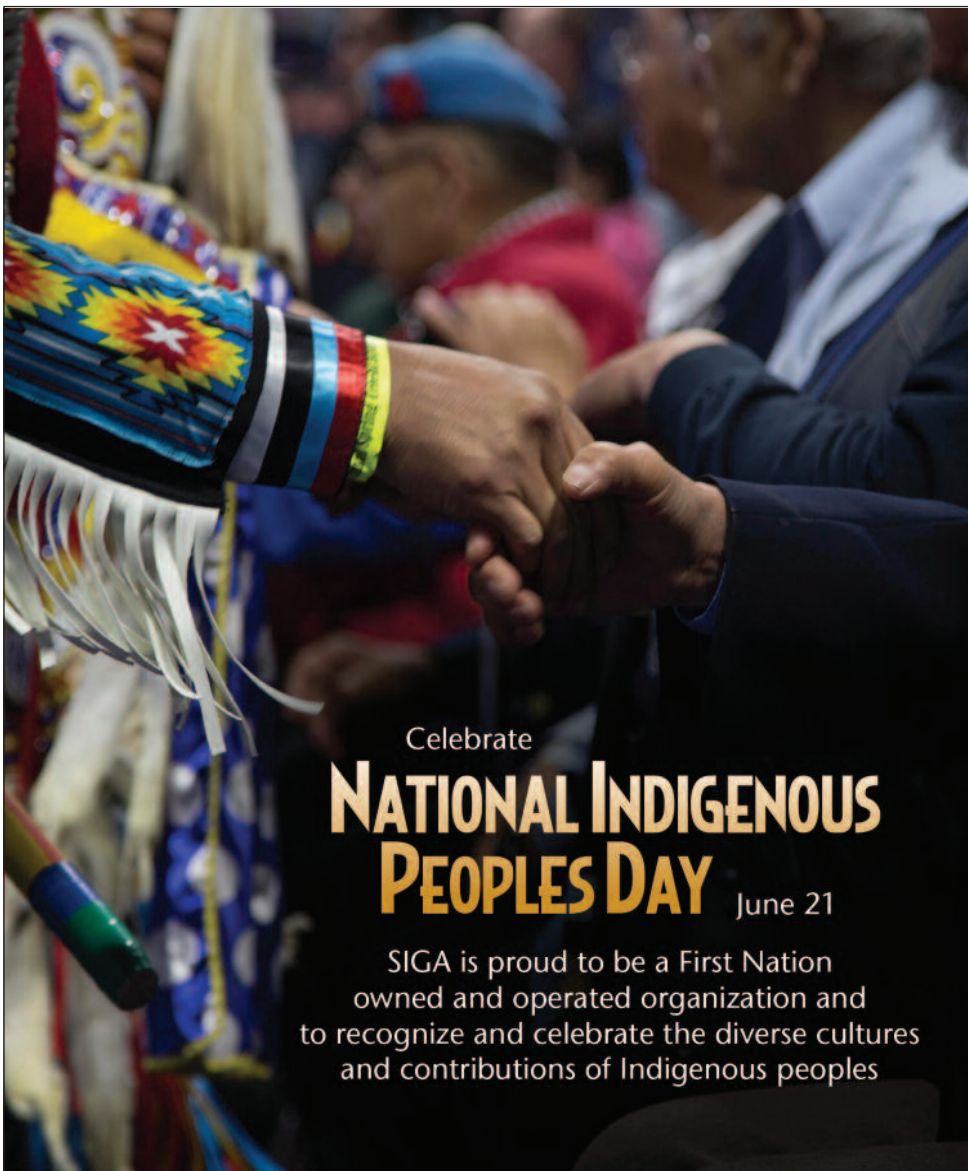
11. This gentleman just received the Order of Canada and has served at almost every level of leadership. Hint. He's from Littleton.

12. When the Treaty Land Entitlement Act was passed in 1992, how much of Saskatchewan's land was set aside?

- a. 10%
- b. 1.5%
- c. 5%
- d. 27%

13. Now that Treaty Land Entitlement has been bought back, how much of Saskatchewan's land is now in Crown ownership?

- a. 3.5%
- b. 15%
- c. 33%
- d. 9%



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Annual history and trivia quiz 2018

First Nation actor who played
television classic, the Beac-

Nation female war veteran in

and the Saskatchewan Order of
every level of First Nation
the Black Bear.

tlement Agreement was signed
Saskatchewan was covered by reserve

tlement has seen lots of land
Saskatchewan is covered by re-

14. What year did the Métis Society of Saskatchewan become
the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan?

- a. 1982
- b. 2007
- c. 1993
- d. 2000

15. After contact was made with European settlers, epidemics
were the single largest killer of First Nations. The most lethal
was smallpox. In 1780, 1819, 1838 and 1876, sickness killed
over what per cent of the population each time.

- a. 20%
- b. 30%
- c. 5%
- d. 50%

16. What Federal minister of the interior said the following,
the year before Treaty 10 was introduced in the House of
Commons in 1907?

“If it becomes a question between the Indians and the whites,
the interests of the whites will have to be provided for.”

- a. John A Macdonald
- b. Edgar Dewdney
- c. Frank Oliver
- d. Hayter Reed

17. Because of starvation and disease, the Indigenous popula-
tion of Saskatchewan dropped how much between 1881 and
1916?

- a. 500 people
- b. 4000 people

- c. 1000 people
- d. 6000 people

18. This Métis activist wrote Tortured People.

- a. Howard Adams
- b. Harry Daniels
- c. Jim Sinclair
- d. Malcolm Norris

19. This doctor was a whistleblower on the federal govern-
ments appalling lack of investment in Indian Residential
schools from 1903-1910. What is this unsung hero's name?

- a. Dr Seuss
- b. Dr. Zhivago
- c. Dr P.H. Bryce
- d. Dr Phil

20. In 1897, five Indians from Thunderchild were arrested for
doing what?

- a. Drinking
- b. Selling their crops without a permit
- c. Dancing
- d. Holding a 'give away dance'

Answers: 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d, 5-a, 6-b, 7-c, 8-d, 9-d, 10-
Virginia Pechawis, 11 Perry Bellegarde, 12-b, 13-a,
14-c, 15-d, 16-c, 17-b, 18-a, 19-c, 20-d

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SaskTel Awards honour 12 outstanding youth achievers

**By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News**

The sense of success and perseverance was in the air as hundreds of parents, teachers and community supporters gathered for the 20th Annual SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence.

One hundred and nineteen



ALAN SPOONHUNTER

young people were nominated in one of 12 awards categories, honouring them for their leadership in sports, culture, perseverance and education.

Buffalo Boy Productions brought the drum and several dancers and some past nominees and recipients of the awards were on hand to share their talents.

The Strong Sisters nailed their harmonies over a few songs, Dallas Boyer and his dad, Phil, played some toe tapping fiddle tunes and 2015 Outstanding Achievement recipient Darian Lonechild gave an emotional speech about the impact the award has had on her journey and how good it was to see all the outstanding youth.

“When I arrived at grand entry, I went to stand with the young people and I just saw happy faces and was honoured and happy to be in the room and back for this experience. It brought back a lot of memories,” said Lonechild who has gone on to be the FSIN Female Youth Representative.

The amount of new young leaders that are up and coming is really inspiring for me and instills hope in me as a young leader. It was quite an emotional experience for me.”

Colleen Cameron is chair of the Awards and she noted that the most difficult category for the judges each year is the Spirit Award.

“This award is given when young people fight through some

of the real tragedies that can happen in our communities, and this year’s recipient showed just that,” said an emotional Cameron of the Spirit recipient Nautia Crier.

“She lost her mom to a murder when she was only 13 and she has stayed in there and become a leader on this issue.”

Crier, a Grade 11 student at Saskatoon’s Centennial Collegiate was humbled by the award.

“I feel like such an honour and I am looked at as a strong person and a role model. For my mom, I think it is important to make her proud and myself proud and know in my heart that somewhere she is listening and watching over me.”

Crier credits her perseverance



RONIN IRON



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to the supports of two teachers in particular.

“Jamie Kelly, a teacher at Centennial, and Chelsea Davis, a former teacher at Centennial and is now at EGADZ. They are my super moms and a big part of my life. If it wasn’t for them I would have dropped out of school in Grade 9,” said Crier who wants to become a lawyer.

“I am very hopeful for the future. I hope I set a good example for all the people having struggles and stuff like that. Drugs and alcohol never help the situation and you need to recognize the weaknesses that you have to you can strengthen them.”

Ronin Iron also echoes the sentiment of Nautia. Ronin, the recipient of the male Outstanding

Achievement award is an exceptional athlete and student at Bedford Road in Saskatoon and he wants to be an engineer.

“I like to try for this award. It

- Alan Spoonhunter - Sports
- Asia Huynh Whitebear - Technology and Science
- Chante Speidel - Leadership
- Darren Bird - Culture
- Dylayna Thomas - Education
- Honeah Sanderson - Innovation
- Jewel Charles - Fine or Performing Arts
- Julia Stonechild - Outstanding Achievement
- Kyra Ledoux - Sports
- Logan Dieter - Community Service
- Nautia Crier - Spirit
- Ronin Iron - Outstanding Achievement

is hard work. I push myself, dedicate myself and go up against those barriers and stay drug and alcohol free. I try to keep my family and friends around me to keep my goals in sight. I want to go into engineering so I push myself as hard as I can in my school work,” said Iron.

Darian Lonechild and Nautia Creir shared a good hug after the awards. They came from the same school and same Spirit of Youth Group.

“I jumped for joy when she won. We have that connection. This award will give them all a boost,” said Lonechild.

“It was one evening that I was empowered as a young person to reflect on all the hard work and what I have done. To be nominated is a huge honour and to win is amazing.”



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Aboriginal curling staging a comeback

By Robert Merasty
For Eagle Feather News

Hurry hard! Hurry hard!

Seventeen-year-old Joseph Desjarlais, lead curler for the Morin team in this year's Canadian Aboriginal Curling Championship (CACC), is an example of youth who are turning to curling as a winter sport.

His team swept their way to victory at the CACC and Desjarlais says he was "elated."

The Ile-a-la-Crosse youth has grown to love the sport and although this season is over he intends to continue participating in the sport for years to come.

"As soon as the T-line Curling club has ice, I'm on it until it melts," he said.

That enthusiasm is music to Duane Favel's ears.

Not only is he the mayor of Ile-a-la-Crosse, he also helped organize the CACC bonspiel because he believes strongly in the sport.

This year's event attracted 26 men's teams and six women's teams from across the province.

Keith Goulet, 72, has been curling for decades and remembers when curling was in its heyday.

In the mid-1970s, teams travelled from Manitoba, Alberta and even from the Northwest Territories to participate.

Goulet said the tournament was special because it was the final big event of the season.

Although the Bonspiel has seen a decline in attendance over the past five years the atmosphere of this prestigious event was uplifting and positive.

Goulet remembers, as many as 65 men's rinks competing in the bonspiel.

In the mid-1970s, teams from The Pas, Manitoba; Yellowknife, Alberta and Saskatchewan came to play in the various venues held in Melfort, Regina, North Battleford and Prince Albert, says Goulet.

In an attempt to revive interest in the game of curling, Mayor Duane Favel and spouse Elaine Favel teach curling to young students like Joseph through their physical education program at Rossignol High School.

"We push curling in this community," said Favel. "In high school every student from Grade 7 to 12 participates in curling for two weeks as part of the physical education curriculum."

Mayor Duane Favel of the Northern Village of Ile-a-la-Crosse and Lawrence Corrigan president of the T-line Curling Club teamed up to fund raise \$30,000 to fund the event.

Of that \$22,300 went to guaranteed prizes establishing a precedent for next year's curling Bonspiel.



The Morin team swept to victory in the long running Canadian Aboriginal Curling Championships this spring. They took home a good chunk of the \$22,300 purse.

Favel organizer and participant says the competition is always held during the Easter long weekend to make it a family outing.



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CN is required to clear its rights-of-way from any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway rights-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

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This program will take place from June 18, 2018 to August 31, 2018.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation to see the list of cities affected.

For more information, you may contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at 1-888-888-5909.

June 13, 2018

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Award winning northern nurse committed to her community

**By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News**

A northern Indigenous nurse was recognized with the Award for Excellence in Nursing during National Nursing Week at the beginning of May.

Bodeine Dussion was happy and shocked when she heard that she was honoured for her services as a community health nurse.

“It was quite surprising! It felt like I was young to receive such a prestigious award,” she said. “I was very overwhelmed that I won it.”

Every year, Indigenous Services Canada celebrates the contributions of nurses during May 7-13 – which is known as Nursing Week. Three recipients were chosen through nominations across Canada: Lyrith Villeneuve, a long-time nurse at the Ungava Tulattavik Health Centre, Cheryl Yost, a First Nations and Inuit Health Branch employed nurse at Sandy Lake Nursing Station in remote northern Ontario and Dussion, a nurse for 10 years, who works alongside the provincial health system to improve services in the community.

“Being First Nations, I’ve always wanted to work for First Nations communities. I always liked taking care of (people),” she said. “I want to help people and nursing just comes naturally. To win an award shows I’m doing a great job. It just makes me want to continue doing better.”

Dussion is originally from the Cumberland House First Nation but has been a community health nurse in the Sauleaux First Nation for the past three years. She’s been in her career for 10 years and acquired her nursing education at the University of Manitoba. In her spare time, Dussion studies at home doing an online course so she can nurse in northern isolated communities.

“That’s my plan, to go even further in the northern communities to help my people,” said Dussion. “I feel there needs to be more (Indigenous) people up in the northern communities helping our people.”

On May 7, Don Rusnak, parliamentary secretary, on behalf of Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services, recognized Dussion and the other two recipients with the Award of Excellence in Nursing at an award ceremony held in Ottawa.

“This year’s recipients of the Award of Excellence in Nursing have shown tremendous dedication to the nursing profession and to delivering quality healthcare to First Nations and Inuit communities,” said Minister Philpott in a media release.

Congratulations and thank you to Lyrith Villeneuve, Bodeine Dussion, and Cheryl Yost for your exceptional commitment and contributions to improving Indigenous healthcare in Canada.”

Saulteaux community health nurse Bodeine Dussion’s contributions to various communities led her to receive the Award for Excellence in Nursing. (Photo submitted by Bodeine Dussion)

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Surviving in a world not built for us

This past week I had the honour to attend the first Dakota Language Conference hosted by Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

The conference was a success and people were able to meet new relations from other communities. The speakers inspired the crowd and those of us who are Dakota and do not know our language. Our language is actually endangered and it this is a scary sad thought to think of.

Let me speak from my heart.

The anxiety is bad today. White Privilege is even more prevalent today. Having a hard time catching my breath. My eyes keep welling up with tears, I keep trying to push them back. I am angry and sad. Things aren't good in Indian Country. Our reserves are taking hit after hit.

There are some things people choose not to see because it allows them to safely live in denial. I know this world can truly be an ugly place. There are things we do not want our kids to see.

There are also things we need to understand and need to come to terms with if there is any future left for any children on this land.

This land is not yours, this land is not mine, this land does not belong to anyone but the Creator and Mother Earth. It is her laws, that need to be followed.

Natural Disasters are on the rise, cli-

mate change is happening before our eyes, changing the ecosystems, and the biodiversity is dwindling.

Whales are washing up in the tides with their bodies full of plastic. More and more of our beautiful four-legged and winged relatives are falling endangered, and extinct.

Our language is endangered and you know what they say about language, "Language is the gateway to your culture."

They came for the land, they came for the children, they came for our people and targeted our languages through Residential Schools, forced assimilation to forget our native tongue so we would speak, think and act in ways foreign to our native ways.

Indigenous peoples around the world, are rising up. The Mother Earth cries for us to take care of her, as we should be taking care of ourselves, our young, and our old.

I am tired of people pointing the finger and blaming our people for what was a premediated plan to "get rid of the Indian."

The genocidal acts imposed on our

people has far reaching consequences. When I talk genocidal I mean 99 per cent of Indigenous peoples from this continent gone. When I talk genocidal acts, I talk about forced sterilization on our people that is still happening in our hospitals today.

When I say genocidal acts, I talk about ripping children from their mothers, families, communities and

there are now more First Nation children in the child welfare system today then there were in residential school. This is ongoing in different times ... same story....

History classes will highlight genocides that took place in other countries but will not recognize or teach about the ongoing genocide in their own home. Everything is not rainbows and butterflies and things will only get worse for all the children here if we continue down the path we are on.

I also cannot blame anyone for their addictions. It's understandable once you become aware, enlightened of the truth, learn and educate yourself on the truth of why you live where you live and why we live where we live.

Reserves were made to keep the First Peoples of this nation out of sight, out of mind. It was illegal to practice ceremony to remember who you are, have a sense of identity, any hope in connecting to the land and your people.

Our ceremonies are loaded with spirit, values, laws, and rules, that once governed our peoples to live in harmony with all living things. Now all living things seem to be dying.

Suicidal youth continues to rise. Children losing hope, not sure who they are or their place in this world. Trying to fit in on the reserve, trying to leave the reserve to look for opportunity, getting sucked into the temptations of a capitalistic world. Trying to end dysfunctional cycles, trying to end the intergenerational trauma, but it is harder than it looks to face reality, to face your demons.

"From the smallest life form to the furthest star, we are all related in the vast web of life."

If we lose our language, we lose our culture, and we lose who we are as Dakota people. The time is now for us to act on revitalizing our languages.

The only problem is it takes a lot of time, and work and effort it is hard enough just trying to survive in this world that was not built for us.



Traditional talking circle reveals challenges of Indigenous students

By Annette Ermine
For Eagle Feather News

Working with Indigenous students left an impression on André Magnan that remains even today.

Magnan is a Sociology professor at the University of Regina who was asked to deliver a seminar to the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences conference about the nî-tôncipâmin omâ Student Success Program (The OMA Program). OMA is a support network offered to first-year Indigenous students organized by the Aboriginal Students Centre.

Magnan acquired a deeper understanding of Indigenous students and their struggle to transition to university life after participating in a traditional talking circle with students.

"I got exposure to ... the challenges (Indigenous students) faced," he said, and realized first-hand the importance of programs like OMA and the enormous benefits to students "that helps (them) cope and adapt... to university life."

Programs like this and the Office of Indigenization are vital to the university's vision to indigenize the campus.

"Reconciliation is important to the university," Magnan said, and this work is reflected in their strategic plan called Peyak Aski Kikawinaw-Together we are Stronger.

"We are leaders, nationally, in Indigenization," said Magnan. "We are unique that First Nations University of Canada is a federated College of the University and partners in Congress 2018."

Magnan was the designated lead for Congress 2018 "Gathering diversities" conference which is the largest gathering of world class scholars in Canada hosted by the University of Regina in late May.

Planning for a conference of this magnitude is an enormous undertaking and "from the beginning (the planning committee) wanted to emphasize Indigenization, Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing and how these contribute to the humanities of social sciences."

The Community Connections is one of many Congress 2018 events that explored how universities can incorporate the Truth and Reconciliation Commission-Calls to Action to reflect a diverse student body.

"Indigenous knowledge and other ways of knowing can complement one another. If you are a non-Indigenous re-

searcher, scholar, professor, its important and we have a responsibility as non-Indigenous people to learn more about Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing," said Magnan.

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Mirasty's book on single parent families finds an audience

**By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News**

With her newly self-published book, *52 Weeks of A Single Mother's Love*, Wendy Mirasty filled a gap she found when she was preparing to become a mother.

Mirasty recalled how she tried to find single parent self-help books on how to raise a child in a single parent home but found it very challenging.

Instead, she found an article on social media that was very disturbing to her. The article claimed that children who were raised in single parent homes would become unhealthy adults and turn to criminal involvement.

"Right away, I thought about myself and my son and thought, that's not going to happen! That's not going to happen in my home and I highly doubt that it happens in other single-family homes," she said.

She decided it was time to write her book to help other single parent families look at the positives even on their most challenging days. Mirasty had her first book launch in Lac La Ronge in May.

Mirasty got most of her inspiration from single mothers who have come into her life and how they've kept their family together despite overwhelming obstacles such as financial strains.

Steven Swan, who helped edit her



Wendy Mirasty couldn't find any self help books for single parents so she set out and wrote her own and self published it. Now people are snapping it up and she has to print more.

book, said, "it's a valuable resource for a mother to use to reflect on how her life is right now and how her life will be."

The book's 52 topics for each week are her reflections on her life values and experiences and each topic has a quote in the end and a question for the reader to

reflect on, she said.

Mirasty would like the book to reach out to parents in hopes it would help them to reflect on their families and to build on the love and strengths they already have.

Life in the family home gets busy

and everyone is always on the go. There's dental appointments, school-teacher conferences, sports practices or games, cooking, clean and laundry. The list goes on and on.

"We have all those overwhelming mother moments where we do not even have time to cry, even though that is all we want to do sometimes," she said.

Mirasty added there are a lot of self-care topics in the book for parents who need to remember that they need to take time for themselves in a positive way.

She dedicates her book to her son and, "To the wonderful single mothers that continue to move forward regardless of what life brings."

Her book cover is a picture of two stick figures of a child and a mother with a heart in between.


She said that her son drew the picture and told her it was a picture of her and him and the heart in the middle is the love that connects them.


Mirasty said she has not marketed the book and did not think of making a profit but hopes, as she continues to do book readings and signing with various agencies and communities, that it reaches a lot of families.

She said the book has been out for a week and she has had to order more books to be printed. She had not anticipated such an overwhelming response.

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Indigenous Governance a topic well worth discussing

By Lucy Musqua
For Eagle Feather News

When File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) Chairman Edmund Bellegarde first got into politics, he never envisioned an Indigenous Governance Symposium. But he sure saw a need for one.

After attending The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, he was inspired.

"It spoke to a lot of the challenges that were in front of us at the tribal council, a lot of the challenges that faced First Nations," said Bellegarde.

In May, the two-day 2018 Indigenous Governance Symposium was held at the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) in Regina. It was a joint effort by FHQTC, FNUUniv and the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

Keynote speaker Manley Begay was invited to share his expertise in good governance. He is passionate about sharing the knowledge he acquired while working with Indigenous people globally. Begay believes it's his role to share his knowledge to create a brighter future for Indigenous people.

"We really can't waste time," said Begay. "We have to be able to create good governing institutions because our grandchildren and great-grandchildren demand that."

He says good governance is critical and everyone should begin to think more clearly about what that means.

"The concept of Indigenous governance is making sure that our natural laws, our traditions, our culture, our languages, (are) reflected in public policy,"



File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Chairman Edmund Bellegarde was inspired by the Harvard Project and welcome noted Harvard scholar Manley Begay at the Indigenous Governance Symposium.

Bellegarde said.

He added that concept needs to be reflected in areas such as health, education, economic development and the infrastructure in child welfare.

"We are reawakening that spirit amongst our people", said Bellegarde. "It's OK we understand the public system (but) the public has to get to understand our way of life, our ideologies, our

natural laws, and how those need to be reflected in that relationship in public policies, laws and regulations".

Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation attended the event and also believes in the importance of good governance. He suggests it's time to start looking at our traditional governance system.

"Prior to the Indian Act there was a

system in place for all the nations here," said Delorme.

"There was structure, there was foundations, we did have our schools, we did have our societies, our clan systems."

Although there are currently no plans to continue the symposium into an annual event, Bellegarde believes the need exists.

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Annual powwow celebrates accomplishments of U of S grads

**By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News**

Thousands of students, dancers, drummers, and community members gathered to attend the annual graduation powwow at the University of Saskatchewan.

The celebration, on May 30, honoured the academic achievements of Métis, First Nations and Inuit students from both the University of Saskatchewan and high schools across the province.

This year's celebration, which takes over half a year of preparation, was forced to move from the campus bowl to the Education gym due to rainy weather. Nevertheless, the packed gym was a testament to the University's commitment to strengthening Indigenous culture.

"The University of Saskatchewan has dedicated itself to becoming a much more welcoming and supportive place for Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students," Graeme Joseph, graduation powwow committee chair said.

"This is something that everybody should be celebrating," he said. "These students aren't just going to go back to their communities to take up leadership positions, they're going to take up leadership positions right across the province.

"So, we encourage everyone to stand with us in celebrating these graduates."

A total of 384 Indigenous students

graduated from the U of S this summer, with 115 of those students participating in this year's graduation powwow. In addition to the university graduates, almost



Graduates Kierra FineDay (left) and Dakota Sinclair. (Photo by NC Raine)

300 Grade 12 grads from 18 different high schools across Saskatchewan took part in the celebration.

"It draws the University community together, as well as the external community, to celebrate and honour the accomplishments of these Indigenous graduates," said Jacqueline Ottmann, vice-provost of Indigenous Engagement.

"We know their accomplishments are ultimately accomplishments for all of us."

The powwow also drew more than 2,100 children from 40 schools in Saskatchewan. The event is an important learning tool, and this year the powwow

were Dakota Sinclair and Kierra FineDay. Sinclair, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, from Poundmaker Cree Nation, is the first person in her family to receive a degree. She has used the graduation powwow as a motivator even before starting her university career.

"I had come to the grad powwow before I came to the university and seeing all the grads and pride for them made me excited to attend the university," said Sinclair.

"Once accepted and starting university, this is one of the things I've looked forward to most."

FineDay, from the Sweetgrass First Nation, is a Bachelor of Science student in Pharmacy. She said sharing and celebrating her culture is what makes the powwow such an important event.

"We're a minority, even though we're growing at the university. It's always good to be proud of one another. There's a lot of lateral violence and jealousy within the Indigenous community, so I think it's important to celebrate each other's achievements and hard work," said FineDay.

"I went to the Aboriginal student centre my first year and that's where I made a lot of my closest friends. Being able to share this experience, in a professional setting, with some of my dear friends is really special to me."



CONGRATULATIONS 2018 INDIGENOUS GRADUATES!

On May 30 we hosted our annual Graduation Powwow to honour the hundreds of Indigenous students graduating from the U of S and high schools across the province.

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate.

Head Dancer Laryn Oakes, left, and College of Education graduate Brooklyn Neveu at the 2018 Graduation Powwow in Saskatoon.



In partnership with



Crooked Lake Agencies First Nations are working together fighting wild fires.



Recent grass and bush fires spark increased co-operation by neighbouring bands

By Sheila Stevenson
For Eagle Feather News

Fire chief Stan Bobb will not forget May 6, 2018 anytime soon.

On that day, a grass-and bush-fire swept towards 17 homes on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

The smoke from the fires was seen from three reserves and as far away as Yorkton, some 86 km north.

Bobb and his fire crew spurred into action. They were joined by the RCMP, the Whitewood Fire Department and community members through a 9-1-1 text system.

The firefighters lost one house that day but they were able to save 16. No human life was lost during the fire ban, prolonged drought and extreme fire hazard conditions.

“Safety of persons, personnel and lands are our number one priority,” and the house that was destroyed has been “more than an event,” said Bobb. “It has impacted the (entire) community.”

Two days later, Kahkewistahaw Chief and Council held an appreciation supper with the community to honour the Cowessess Fire Department.

In the past 12 months, several fires have hit Kahkewistahaw, Cowessess and Ochapawace – each could have been far worse.

Cowessess Chief Cadmus Delorme spoke of a positive relationship between the bands, and quarterly meetings of the Crooked Lake Agency which consists of Saki-may, Cowessess, Kahkewistahaw and Ochapawace. Cowessess hosts an Elders’ Forum for reserves scheduled in the first half of June where fire issues will be discussed.

A pilot project in the Cowessess community, Delorme said members can sign out one of four lawn mowers available and take responsibility to reduce the danger posed by long grass. The project is to be evaluated October 2018.

“In our upcoming Elders’ Gathering we hope to bring up fire concerns and get feedback on how we can work together in ensuring the safety of members of the four reserves,” said Shelley Bear, Headwoman on Ochapawace whose team also assisted during the crisis.

Bear said their community is training their firefighting team through TGD Training Consultant Tobey Desnomie, CEO of Saskatchewan First Nation Safety Association. Training consists of using heavy equipment, a 500-gallon pumper truck, breathing apparatus and leaf-like blowers to drive back grass fires.

Kahkewistahaw held a workshop with Elders, RCMP and people who experienced the fires. Attended by youth aged 14-18, it was an opportunity for them to think about firefighting training as a career choice.



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Cross Child inspires Battleford students

**By Tara Campbell
For Eagle Feather News**

Tarrant's Cross Child's message of hope and restoration has ignited students in North Battleford to run towards a promising future.

After witnessing the toll the Colten Boushie case took on students earlier this year, Living Sky School Division Superintendent, Nancy Schultz reached out to Cross Child to request he bring his Child of the Cross Running Clinic to North Battleford, as part of a larger effort to bring as much support to the community as possible.

"We have lost four high school students to suicide since January, along with a young First Nations woman who had previously attended one of our high schools, as well as two adults in the community," said Schultz. "We are a community in crisis."

After receiving the request, Cross Child and his team immediately went into action to plan an event in May in North Battleford.

"I had heard about the suicides that were going on at the schools and knew I wanted to get into the schools," said Cross Child. "So, it was like an answer to a prayer."

The Child of the Cross Running Clinic team, which includes – among others – Cross Child's wife and four children, went all-out to create an unforget-

table experience for the students, tapping the North Battleford Legion Track and Field Club as a partner in making it happen.

First up was Cross Child's presentations at John Paul II Collegiate High School and North Battleford Composite High School, where he spoke about his experience with alcohol and drug addiction, as well as his attempt to commit suicide.

This is what Cross Child does; he reaches students by being what he says is "real" with them. He doesn't hold back the details of his own harrowing experience. In the three years since coming out of rehabilitation, Cross Child has reached thousands of children with his message.

"The biggest thing for them is to know they can ask for help," said Cross Child. "It goes right back to our mission statement: To bring the message of hope and restoration through an active and healthy lifestyle. If I can spark that hope in them, they're more likely to ask for help."

A major part of that "spark" comes from the race day experience Cross Child's team delivers to the communities they go in to.

After the school presentations in North Battleford more than 80 students gathered at Centennial Park Track. Each participant received a brand-new pair of New Balance running shoes, a Child of



Tarrant Cross Child greets students at a high school gathering in North Battleford.

the Cross Running Clinic T-shirt complete with the race-day-like sponsorship logos of New Balance and Brainsport, and a race bib and number.

Using the town's trail systems, a two kilometre route was mapped out for the students, ending with a lap around the track and crossing under the finish line arch.

The impact the experience had on students could be seen by the smiles on their faces, but it went even further than that. This wasn't a fleeting happiness.

"Students made a connection with Tarrant and understood his message of

hope. Tarrant's impact will have far reaching effects for many of our students and their families," said Schultz.

"Hope is what we need to inject back into our student population and Tarrant provided that."

In the weeks following Cross Child's visit, that "connection" and "far-reaching impact" became increasingly evident. North Battleford Comprehensive High School started a running group at lunch and Schultz says the students look forward to sharing "their gains" with Tarrant when he returns to visit in the fall.

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Morris hoping for a NAIG doubleheader

**By Brittany Boschman
For Eagle Feather News**

Takoda Morris is pitching her way to compete at the next North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) that will be hosted for the first time in the Maritimes.

Morris is training for the softball tryouts that will take place within the year leading up to NAIG 2020 to be held in Halifax and Millbrook, Nova Scotia.

The 13-year-old from the George Gordon First Nation wants to feel the adrenaline of competing at a national level again. Although she did not bring home a medal, Morris proudly represented Team Saskatchewan last summer as the pitcher for the U16 age category.

“It was pretty cool to go (to NAIG) at such a young age because I was only 12,” she said. “I met a lot of good people, older than me, and I played (with) a lot of older people. I had fun.”

Morris has played softball since 2014 with the Southey Eagles in the Regina Minor Softball League. Her parents, Brad and Arlene, train Morris at home and take her to practices and tournaments.

“(She) makes me proud to have a daughter who competes with the best players in North America,” Brad said.



Takoda Morris has her sights firmly set on NAIG 2020 in the Maritimes.



“We hear all the negatives with our young people. It’s nice to hear about the youth excelling in sports.”

Morris will be amongst over 500 Saskatchewan athletes who will be competing for a spot to represent their community in the upcoming NAIG – or as Mike Tanton says the ‘Aboriginal Olympics’.

“I believe NAIG is an opportunity for any young Aboriginal person involved in sports,” said Tanton who will be the assistant chef de mission of NAIG 2020.

“It’s easy to get excited when you

have such great athletes.”

Halifax Mayor Mike Savage said he is proud that NAIG will be held in his city as it will create an economic boom.

“Every time you bring people to the city it’s a wonderful thing because you introduce them to Halifax and maybe they’ll come back and reconnect,” said Savage.

“The second piece for us is the journey of truth and reconciliation and working together with the Mi’kmaq Sport Council and with the First Nations people of Nova Scotia.”

NAIG will bring over 5,000 In-

digenous athletes which may include Morris.

“I think it’s a big experience for anyone who goes, especially because you’re representing where you’re from,” she said. “My expectations for NAIG 2020 would be to place this time and to do better than we did last time.”

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