

# eaglefeathernews

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## Lori Campbell ... comes home.



PHOTO BY LIAM AVISON

By Betty Ann Adam  
of Eagle Feather News

As a Sixties Scoop kid, Lori Campbell, the University of Regina's new Associate Vice President (Indigenous Engagement), grew up with no knowledge of who she was or of her family.

Apprehended at 14 months and adopted into a rural white family at age two, she learned she was Indigenous but didn't learn positive things about what that meant.

"When I was growing up, I had been led to believe that Indigenous peoples didn't really have much of a future and couldn't really succeed in school and things like that," she said in a recent interview.

After high school she moved to Regina, the

place of her birth.

"When I hit 18, I started searching for my family and spent the better part of 25 years, essentially my whole adult life, doing that. I found my mom when I was 27, then it took me another 15, 16 years to find all my siblings because there were six of us spread out across a few provinces," she said.

Over the years, as she searched for her siblings, Campbell got to know her mother and her kin. She is a member of Montreal Lake Cree Nation and has done her best to make connections with her relations. She is also learning to speak Cree.

As she found her siblings she discovered, "It's not all rainbows and unicorns. That's the impact of colonization," she said.

*continued page 2*



NUTRIEN - BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

## Starting strong

"Families are in dire need of support. We see all different cultures here. It is about doing things to keep people safe. We are spacing out the families."

- page 10

September 2021 is our  
**Back-to-School  
Issue**

October Issue  
**Role Models**



### Oyateki Partnership Laying the Foundation

"They hope to transform post-secondary education from a place where Indigenous youth leave their families, homes and communities and struggle to integrate into a colonial system, she said."

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### Reconciliation Ally: B'yauling Toni Unearthing the Truth

"When I go to these places, I'm greeted by groups of people and the majority are survivors. In a way, they're all survivors, intergenerationally they tell me stories and they share with me."

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## Campbell journeyed from 60s Scoop to top Indigenous university advocate

... continued from page 1

She has met them all but they haven't all met each other and none of the others has met their mother.

She found the last missing brother about six years ago in Ontario.

"He's the one closest in age to me and he'd been adopted twice, name changed twice and moved throughout three different provinces."

Campbell says she feels fortunate to have found her mother when she was young and matured with the benefit of family connections.



**Lori Campbell has returned home to Regina to become the Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Engagement) at the University of Regina. (Photo supplied)**

"To wait another 15 years and go down that road of feeling so lost and disconnected, things could have been very different for me."

Fortunately, Campbell used basketball as incentive to get herself to the University of Regina after high school. There, she discovered the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, now known as First Nations University of Canada.

"That profoundly impacted where I am today... When I walked in there, everything started to change," she said.

After 16 years, she was among Indigenous professors who knew about the children who had been taken.

"We had all grown up, we didn't know there were thousands of us out there that had been taken in the same way."

She took a degree in Indian Studies and came to understand, "that the negative stereotypes, that I'd been taught were cultural traits, were actually the behaviours and traumas coming out from the impact of what had happened in our lives and it was very different from the culture and the language and all the beautiful things that our people are."

She also took a B.A. in psychology and a Masters in Adult Education, in which she focused on the lived experience of her birth mother.

Campbell loves education and is inspired by Indigenous scholars. She is driven to make a positive impact on education for Indigenous students.

Four years ago, she moved to Ontario to be near her brother and his children. When she returned for the new job, she brought her niece, who became the first grandchild her mother got to meet.

While in Ontario, Campbell did her Ph.D, which discusses the rise of Indigenous women into new senior administrative roles in universities.

She recognizes the work done by Indigenous students and academics before her that has advanced Indigenous people at universities.

She also identifies as two-spirit because she remembers what it felt like to feel isolated and wants others to know they're not alone.

Campbell says her new role is about creating, "space and place for Indige-

nous people to be, what I call, unapologetically Indigenous in thought practice and research on campus."

"Moving away from colonial ideas is central... realizing that Indigeneity exists outside of and predates colonial ideas and philosophies in post-secondary. So how do I support that through systems change?"

*"that the negative stereotypes, that I'd been taught were cultural traits, were actually the behaviours and traumas coming out from the impact of what had happened in our lives and it was very different from the culture and the language and all the beautiful things that our people are."*

First, she wants to see Indigenous faculty at all tables where decisions are made that effect all people in the university, not just at the committees addressing what are perceived as Indigenous issues.

Also, she notes that Indigenous faculty responsibility to community looks different from their peers, so if institutions are hiring them to Indigenize the institution, then it must provide merit increases to recognize the different ways Indigenous faculty fulfill their roles.

"If the policy didn't include these sorts of things, we need to go back and change that so it does reflect what we value."

"These institutions are fundamentally born out of a colonial idea and it's about trying to find the cracks where we can have impact and make changes."

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Saskatchewan Health Authority

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# New INJC program welcomes students from across Canada

*By INCA staff  
for Eagle Feather News*

This fall, a new program at First Nations University welcomed students from across Canada. The Indigenous Journalism and Communication (INJC) certificate program is a one-year, mostly remote program that provides academic foundations, hands-on training and networking for students who want a career in storytelling.

“Our goal is to help students learn and work for the benefit of their home communities,” says program coordinator Shannon Avison. After completion, students have the option to continue on to the two-year Indigenous Communication Arts (INCA) diploma and a journalism degree.

Zooming in from across the land, the first week of classes included advice from seasoned professionals and recent grads.

“Keep an open mind, because you’re going to learn so much and you’re going to meet so many people,” advised CTV news assignment editor Nelson Bird.

Kerry Benjoe, CBC’s first Indigenous Storyteller, was also on hand to encourage the students. “One of the things that really keeps me interested in journalism is telling these stories of ordinary people,” she said.

Broadcasting veteran Mervin Brass recalled his very first job as a reporter for the Edmonton Journal. “I thought I had the best job in the world. They were paying me to talk on the phone, write stories and drink coffee. It doesn’t get any better than that,” he joked.

“I’ve done a lot of different things, and you know today I’m head of CBC North based in Yellowknife and I would never have thought of that,” said Brass, who was appointed senior managing director of CBC North last year.

Among the students taking notes was Bee Bird from Montreal Lake. “You guys are really quite prestigious in the broadcasting arena. This is really an honour to be here,” he said.

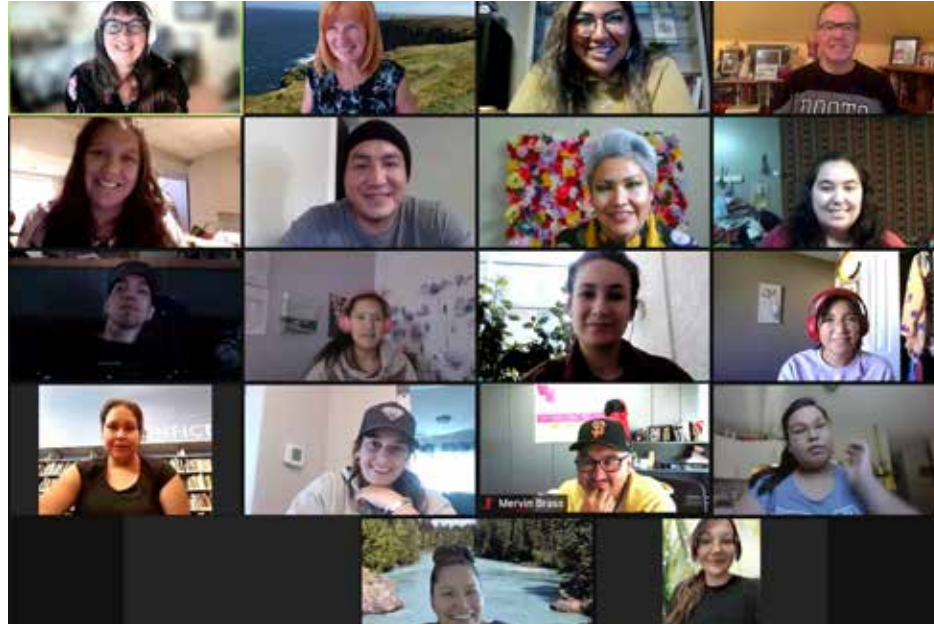
Not long ago, Jaida Beaudin-Herney was attending her first university classes, just like Bee. After finishing her INCA diploma and political science degree last year, she helped break a major national story on Indigenous water issues. “Just believe in yourself and say yes to any opportunity,” she advised.

CBC journalist Jennifer Francis described how she began working as a journalist at CBC even before she graduated, via two internships that turned into employment.


Under the program, students will learn online from their home communities through the fall and winter. They will meet each other in person during an intensive summer institute in May and June, followed by a community-based internship.

Students have plenty to look forward to. “When I look back at my career, what stands out the most is the laughter -- the people I laugh with and the people I made laugh,” said Nelson Bird.

For information about the INJC, visit [www.incaonline.ca](http://www.incaonline.ca).



**Indigenous Journalism and Communication students at FNUC had an opening virtual meeting with established Indigenous journalists who shared the story of their careers. (Photo by Trish Elliot)**





**We are committed to improving education opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and seeing happy back-to-school faces. In collaboration with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, we work with our suppliers each year to give kids backpacks full of supplies to help them start the school year.**

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And for those students graduating this year or taking post-secondary education, check out our Indigenous Internship Program for valuable work experience, personal and professional development and community engagement opportunities. Sign up to receive job postings from Nutrien and our suppliers at: [careers.nutrien.com/aboriginal](http://careers.nutrien.com/aboriginal)

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## The time has come for some change

There comes a time in everyone's career when you are done. You need change. You run out of steam. Maybe it becomes too stressful. Perhaps you are out of ideas. Could be all the previous. Like me.

After 24 years of publishing a monthly paper and seven years of feeding a daily news website, Dee and I have made the decision to leave the media industry at the end of December and hand off Eagle Feather News to the next generation.

This is a difficult decision. It has been a discussion for the past five years, but it never seemed to be the right time. And what if no one wanted to take it over and continue telling the stories of Indigenous people in a good way, while being committed to building community and the next generation of Indigenous journalists?

As we started sharing the news, great people began contacting me to ask questions and express their interest in the future operation of EFN. And while I don't know exactly what EFN 2022 will look like, we are pretty sure it will look like something, just without us!

The opportunity to publish this paper has been a blessing. We have met and worked with so many incredible people and many of them are friends to this day. And the experiences and events we have witnessed through the paper have blown our minds.

But it really is time. My passion is pooped. Our consulting work is growing and needs more attention. We just had to make the decision and believe that EFN will continue. Evolve.

We would like Eagle Feather News to be with the right group of people who can keep it going in their own image. Maybe you are interested? Serious inquiries are welcome. We look forward to the process of mentoring and supporting the next generation. Email me thoughts [john@eaglefeathernews.com](mailto:john@eaglefeathernews.com)

Well, now that that little piece of business is over, coming out of summer and getting back to school is welcome, but I fear this fall will be worse than last year for COVID disruptions. This Delta variant is wicked mean and contagious, and we have a large swatch of unvaccinated people, that anti-vax crew, those vaccine hesitant and the poor kids under 12, that are vulnerable. Throw in back-to-school, people being less vigilant at the

many community events now happening and we are heading for a storm. The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation has already closed its school because of a COVID surge in its community.

To encourage vaccinations, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), Indigenous Services Canada, Northern InterTribal Health Authority and First Nations Partners came together to launch the first phase of a vaccine auto-notification system in Northern Saskatchewan. They are phoning everyone in the north to remind them of vaccines and where they can get them.

In a very innovative way to stimulate vaccination, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan has launched a contest giving away prizes worth over two million dollars to any Métis citizen that is vaccinated or gets vaccinated two days before the multiple draw dates. Weekly prizes are up for grabs and, importantly, lots of prizes for young people. Excellent leadership from the Métis-Nation Saskatchewan executive and health department. Well worth the investment.

Over at the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, they recently erected a Ceremonial Teepee in front of the FSIN Building that is currently under construction in Saskatoon at Kahkewistahaw Landing, a soon-to-be urban reserve near the airport in Saskatoon. The giant logs are 400 years old and came all the way from BC. The building will be the permanent home of the FSIN. It will also be home to the five candidates who win executive spots in the FSIN election at the end of October. COVID delayed last years election so now we see all five positions up for grabs in one election. The excitement! Glad we get to cover one more FSIN election.

Speaking of elections, the federal vote is Monday the 20th of September. We need to get out and vote as Indigenous people. Support candidates that have your morals and values and have a good policy plan for Indigenous issues. Seeing as how we are leaving the news media soon, for the first time in 20 years, we have a lawn sign for a candidate. How could I not support Dawn Walker-Dumont? Indigenous. Educated. Author. Playwright. Mom. Comedian. But our sign is one little blip of red in a neighbourhood full of blue signs. Still going to vote though. You should vote too.

And get vaccinated please.



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SEPTEMBER 30



# Full-day kindergarten a boost to students learning readiness

By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

A new program in Saskatoon is aiming to give youngsters a better start in school, and life.

This fall, Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) will offer full-day kindergarten at 14 schools and pre-kindergarten at 13 schools, both running Monday through Thursday.

The school division recognized the need for expanded kindergarten and pre-K programs after learning that, in Saskatoon, 30 percent of kids do not reach a Grade 3 reading level by Grade 3. In some neighbourhoods, that number is as high as 60 per cent of kids.

“We know this is a critical milestone for future success, for graduation, health, social services, justice, confidence, mental health. So we started asking teachers, staff, and the division, ‘What can we do to help change that?’ That’s where this early learning (program) came in,” said Zeba Ahmad, SPS Foundation Executive Director.

“The earlier we can support kids in literacy, the better it is for those kids moving forward in school.”

Last school year, five schools tested the full-day kindergarten program and were encouraged with the results.



**Full-day kindergarten has proven to increase reading grade levels of students and also alleviate financial burdens on parents. (Photo by Saskatoon Public Schools)**

“It’s really the eye-test. When you see your students be more engaged, building relationships, building stamina to get through their entire day. They’re tired at the end of the day, but after the first few months they’re ready to be there every day. So if we can do that earlier, then that’s another piece of readiness, so by the time they get to Grade 1, they’re ready for a full day and will be able to get to that academic piece

a little sooner,” said Derrick Morin, Principal at Sutherland School, where full-day kindergarten was tested last year.

The SPS assesses all kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students early in the year in areas such as language and communication, fine motor and cognitive skills, and awareness of self. Across the province, 56 per cent of children at the beginning of kindergarten are deemed ready to learn. By the end of the full-day tests last year, 76 per cent were ready to learn.

“We did see quite a bit of growth in those five schools, whether it was social, emotional, print awareness, ability to manipulate sounds, precursor to reading... and in a sense of self, a growth in social and emotional wellbeing,” said Trish Reeve, SPS superintendent of education.

Reeve said the children will receive a rich learning experience through play-based learning, including as much outdoor time as possible. The program creates a sense of community, which can have long lasting impacts, she said.

“The full day program really creates that community. Families become part of that community. The children create opportunities that they don’t want to miss. We see it in the growth they make over the years,” said Reeve.

The program is also intended to alleviate financial pressures on families who might require some support, Ahmad said. Children will receive meals and snacks throughout the day.

“It’s about supporting our youngest learners in very vulnerable situations. There’s lots of challenges, most of these (kindergarteners) would be Indigenous, new Canadians, or (from families) in poverty. And most of these students and their parents don’t have a voice in our community,” Ahmad said.

“We need to support these families. Saskatoon and Saskatchewan needs to say, ‘education is vital to everybody, and some of these kids need more.’ But if we invest in these kids, they can go anywhere they want to.”

The need is evidenced by parents’ reaction to the program, Morin said.

“They are absolutely ecstatic. When I’m able to tell a parent they have a spot, it’s like giving them the best news they’ve ever heard. It’s knowing they will be able to count on them being there every day. It lights the parents up.”



**Saskatoon Public Schools will offer full day kindergarten this fall in 14 schools and full day pre-kindergarten in 13 schools. (Photo: Saskatoon Public Schools)**

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# Four Indigenous candidates eye federal seats

By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

Canadians will head to the polls on September 20, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals seek a third term. Eagle Feather News spoke with four Indigenous candidates on their bids to represent their regions in Parliament.



**Robert Doucette, executive director Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre and former MN-S President, running for the NDP in Saskatoon-West (photo: Stacey Dyck-Jiricka)**

## **Robert Doucette – NDP, Saskatoon-West**

A former President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (2007 - 2016), executive director of the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre on leave, is turning his attention to the riding of Saskatoon-West to provide voice to the marginalized and suffering members of the community.

"I care about people. I've always cared about people. The people of Saskatoon-West have a lot of issues and they need an MP that will go to Ottawa and open doors for them, who will actually act on their concerns," he said.

Doucette's priorities include the opioid epidemic, mental health, homelessness, seniors with inadequate supports and those suffering the mental, financial or physical results of COVID-19. Many families are having to choose between rent, food, and medication, Doucette said.

"I'm also concerned with some of the broken promises made by the Liberals to Indigenous people. For example, the Métis Sixties Scoop, they promised to sign a deal with the Métis people... with the Île-à-la-Crosse and Green Lake day schools, and they haven't done that."

Doucette said NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and the party reflect his values of compassion and caring for other people.

"I think we can send MPs to Ottawa that actually listen to people and care about them and act on what they want done. I do believe Saskatoon-West is going to change colour. It's going back to orange, but more importantly, its going back to the people."

## **Harmonie King – NDP, Desnethé-Missinipi-Churchill River**



**Harmonie King, clinical support worker, running for NDP in Desnethé-Missinipi-Churchill River (photo: Harmonie King)**

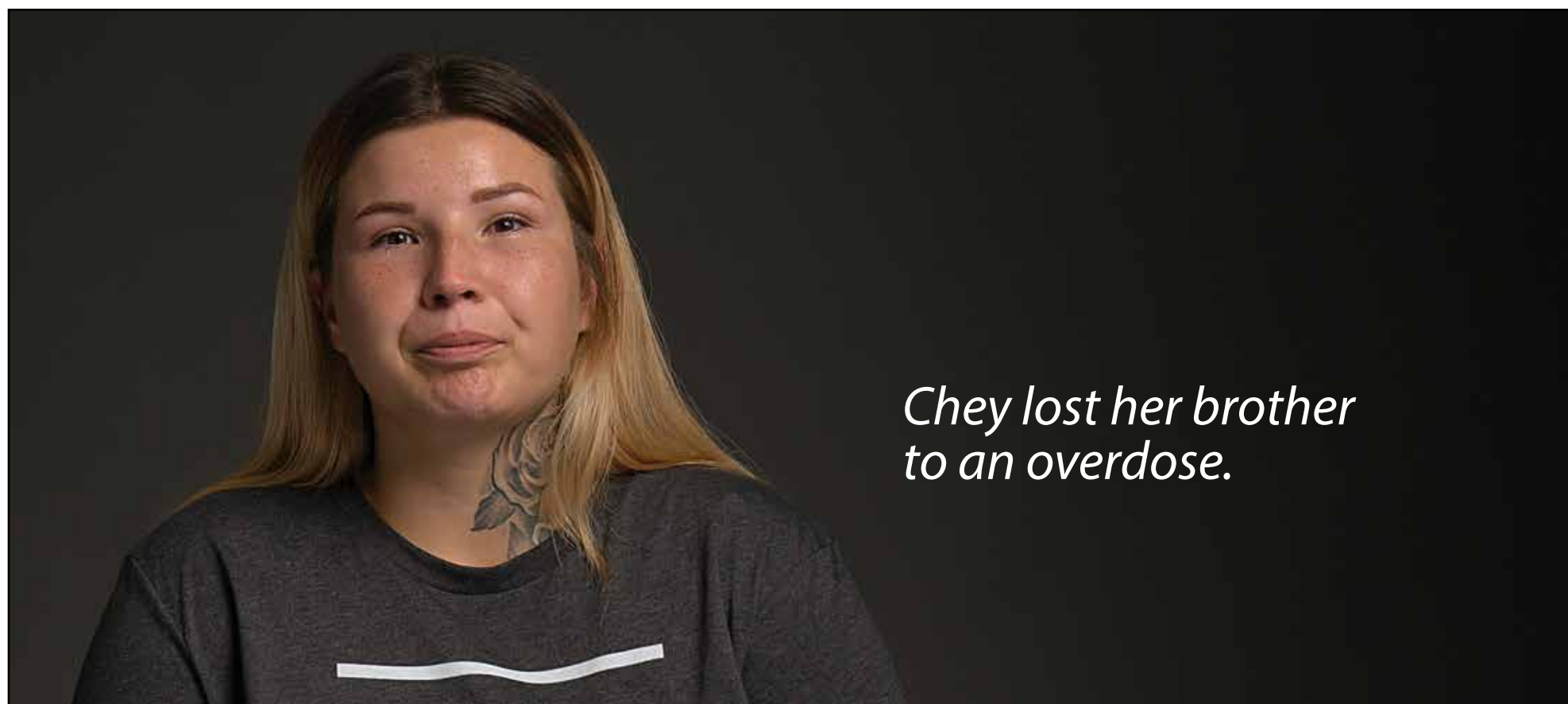
As a clinical support worker who has provided aid to children, families, schools and those in the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, King said she wants to help create a system where no one gets left behind.

"I'm running because I genuinely care about people," she said.

"I've helped provide support to our most marginalized, vulnerable, and oppressed populations, and this type of work experience gives me an insight, a deep understanding, that our most vulnerable are in survival mode and sometimes struggle to advocate for themselves... I want to be part of that change that helps our current system where no one gets left behind, and I truly believe the NDP holds that value."

King wants to see increased mental health supports and addiction treatments on and off reserve. She said communication services like wifi and broadband internet need to be improved in the north, as dead-zones make it difficult to stay in touch when traveling there.

Healthcare supports, including universal dental, hearing, and eye care are needed, she said. Many northerners face difficult decisions on which necessities to spend their money on, she said.



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MOMS STOP THE HARM

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... continued from page 6

"There are 1.6 million people in Canada who are spending 30 per cent of their income on housing. When you have people doing that, when they're spending more than they can afford on housing, they start having to choose whether they're going to buy healthy food for their families, or fix something that (needs repair)."



**Buckley Belanger, long-time NDP MLA, running for the Liberals in Desnethé-Missinipi-Churchill River (photo: Nikki Hipkin)**

**Buckley Belanger – Liberal, Desnethé-Missinipi-Churchill River**

Saskatchewan's longest serving MLA, Buckley Belanger (Athabasca) made a surprise decision this August when he announced he would be stepping down from his position and moving from the NDP to Liberal Party to run in the federal riding of Desnethé-Missinipi-Churchill River.

He hopes to better represent the region at the federal level.

"This federal riding has always had 37, 38, 40 per cent maximum in terms of percentage of support. It's a riding that is two-thirds Indigenous people. We've always been sending a Conservative to Ottawa, that doesn't really represent our area at all. I'm tired of us not having a voice in Ottawa," said Belanger.

Highways are a big issue in the north, and Belanger wants a multi-million dollar commitment to improving them.

The list of frustrations in the north is long.

"COVID-19 was one of the problems. Then we talk about the forest fires really displacing people as well as burning valuable land and cabins down. Then you throw in some of the challenges around addictive drugs that some of our people are caught up in. And some of the revelations around the Roman Catholic church... You put these problems one on top of another, and you see how frustrated the north is. We don't have a voice in Ottawa. And we know the current member in opposition really isn't effective at all."

Belanger said he'd like to take a page out of long-time Liberal MP Ralph Goodale's playbook, who Belanger said did wonderful things for his riding and the province.

The NDP were gracious and understanding when he decided to leave, Belanger said.

"We can't keep splitting the votes between the NDP and Liberals. Let's send someone to the government who has experience, who is willing to make the sacrifices to get there, but more so, someone who will do the hard work to get results."



**Dawn Dumont Walker, FSIN Executive Operating Officer and writer, running for the Liberals in Saskatoon-University (photo: Adam Leclair)**

**Dawn Dumont Walker – Liberal, Saskatoon-University**

Dawn Dumont Walker, who has served as the Executive Operating Officer for the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations for the last nine years, is also an author, journalist, and comedian.

As an MP for the Liberal Party in Saskatoon-University, she said she would take a "family first" approach.

"I'm a single mom and I really appreciate the investment (the federal government) made into daycare and supporting families, and making sure women can continue working," said Dumont Walker.

"I think it's really important that all of the COVID benefits that we put in place are going to be kept in place. When you invest in families, you invest in the economy."

As a Liberal MP Dumont Walker said she would effect meaningful change, as government needs greater Indigenous influence.

She is passionate about climate change.

"It's very important to me. We've gone through a summer of plus 34 degrees – the hottest summer on record. I think it needs to be addressed in a serious way, and I think the Liberals have the ability to do that," she said. The carbon tax is a good step, but Canada needs to start investing in and transitioning to more green jobs, she said.

She also believes the Liberals are in a good position based on how they navigated the constant challenges of the pandemic.

"Most people are really happy with how Trudeau handled the pandemic, with daily news briefings, keeping us informed every day. And people like the way Dr. Theresa Tam was forthright and direct. She made things simple. And they kept children in the loop, who were scared during the pandemic. That's what I've been hearing from people I've been talking to."

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# Île-à-la-Crosse solar panels fuel community greenhouses

By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

A new project in Île-à-la-Crosse is providing green power to the community school while powering young minds.

Before leaping into summer holidays, students at Rossignol High School in Île-à-la-Crosse spent the end of their school year installing 120 state of the art, two-sided solar panels, adjacent to the school. The panels, provided by W Dusk Energy, a First Nations energy company from British Columbia, will offset the energy load to the school's greenhouse, which previously ran on propane.

"As Indigenous people, the wind and solar are natural, green sources, so it connects nicely with Indigenous ways of knowing and being. It's honouring a source of power that's been here forever, and we're able to have our students not only participate in learning about it, but being actively involved," said Brenda Green, Director of Education at Île-à-la-Crosse School Division.

According to W Dusk Energy, the panels will produce 80 megawatt hours annually – about seven to eight times the amount a typical home requires.

The school division received \$120,000 in funding for the project from the provincial government, said Île-à-la-Crosse Mayor Duane Favel.

"Running a greenhouse in the winter months is very expensive. Those costs were skyrocketing, so we had to find alternative ways to produce energy," Favel.

"When we talk about climate change and these type of things, we're trying to explore different ways of producing energy. Introducing students to solar and alternative energy is important... We hope the students get to the level where they want to start exploring careers in this field," he said.

The high school students in math and physics classes participated daily

in the installation of the panels, and science teachers at the school incorporated related lessons about solar and renewable energy, Green said.

The entire project took about two weeks to complete, which was longer than expected because of power outages in the neighbourhood, which underscored the value of reliable and renewable energy.

"It's a beautiful technology, and one that really resonates with the values of our communities and Indigenous worldview. It's in harmony with those principles – mainly, non-extractive, not harming our local land, earth, and resources. I like to say, it's something our ancestors would have chosen," said David Isaac, President of W Dusk Energy.

Saskatchewan has the highest rated solar potential in Canada, making the province the gem of solar resources in the country, Isaac said. He hopes the project sparks something in the young minds in the community.

"Having the solar panels at the school is symbolic, and important as well, because it's this next generation. I've seen a huge change in

the youth, in terms of how aware they are of environmental issues and renewables. It creates this inspiration factor that's amazing to see," said Isaac.

Students will also be able to see real-time, tangible evidence of the solar energy at work. A large screen at the school, as well as a free app offered to the students, displays data on things like how much CO2 emissions have been offset, how many cars are off the road or trees planted, as an environmental impact of the solar panels.

The community is already looking at ways to expand, with conversations started about a solar farm that could power 250 to 350 homes in Île-à-la-Crosse. It's the way of the future, but also ingrained in the past, said Isaac.

"Projects like these, the more we get up, the more it pushes policy towards localized, Indigenous, clean, renewable energy. That's really what the future looks like," he said. "Each community that does a project like this opens up the possibilities and helps create this next wave of change."



David Isaac, Brenda Green, and Clay Whitney at the solar panels used to power the adjacent greenhouse. (Photo from Brenda Green)

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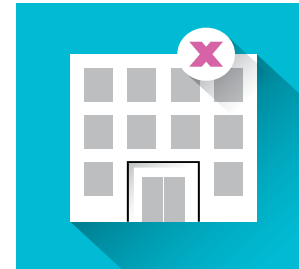
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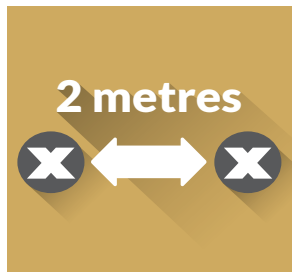
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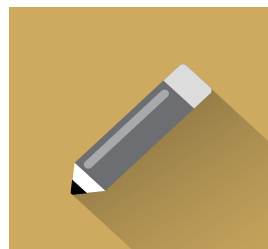


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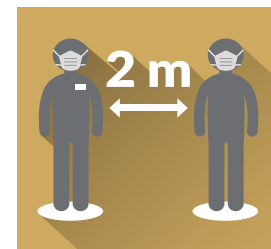
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## Families get boost from backpack giveaway

By John Lagimodiere  
of Eagle Feather News

Amanda Sanderson and four of her children emerged from the White Buffalo Youth Lodge laden with backpacks and school supplies for the year.

That heavy load erased the financial burden of her five kids' return to school.

"This will help me out a lot," said Amanda as she adjusted the extra backpack on her shoulder for her youngest, who'd stayed at home because they are too young to be vaccinated yet. "I don't receive school supply allowance so it will help me a tremendous amount. With five children this is saving me hundreds. It is good this program. The Tribal Council helps a lot of people all the time."

The backpacks are from a partnership between Nutrien and the Saskatoon Tribal Council. For the past seven years, Nutrien, their suppliers, the Tribal Council and countless volunteers assemble backpacks with the year's worth of school supplies. In late August they gave out more than 2,000 of them to anyone who showed up.

"We set a target. Two years ago, it was 2,500 packs and a full-fledged carnival," said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand. "This year because of Covid we had to scale back. But you can see from the line ups here that people want that help. Families are in dire need of support. We see all different cultures here. It is about doing things to keep people safe. We are spacing out the families. We clean after every group of twenty go through, we are all wearing masks."



**Anna, Mandi, Freedom and Honouraya with their mom Amanda Sanderson after receiving their backpack and school supplies for the year from Nutrien and the Saskatoon Tribal Council. (Photo by John Lagimodiere).**

The need in the community is real. Lisa Mooney, Potash Lead, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Nutrien, says that is why Nutrien pulls together their partners to do this. "Back to school can be very expensive for families with supplies and clothes. If we can lessen the burden, it's what we do," she said. "We also know the legacy of the residential schools. Back to school can bring up bad memories. We want to build a generation where young people are excited to get back to school. For me, seeing the kids excited and talking about what grade and school they are going to, that's why we do it."

The event wouldn't happen without many partners. Tribal Chief Arcand thinks that by being here, the sponsors and volunteers see reconciliation in action. "This type of investment at the start of the school year means something for the businesses as well. They are at the tables right now giving the supplies to the kids. They see where the investment is going and who they are helping," said Arcand. "It is humbling for them to see this. The Tribal Council is bringing people together, we are uniting so that everyone can

have a quality of life. The White Buffalo Youth Lodge is here for everyone, and it is really making a difference."

Even though the back packs ease some stress, the parents and kids have mixed emotions and still must deal with a Covid school year. "My kids are going to Mount Royal and St Mary's," said Amanda Sanderson. "I'm worried of my young one going to school because she can't get the COVID shot yet. But other than that, they will be happy to get back with their friends."

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# Wanuskewin and U of S renew education agreement

By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

A resounding message at Wanuskewin Heritage Park on Wednesday: in order for the world to recognize the historical and cultural importance of the park as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it first needs to be recognized, and fully embraced, locally.

"I'm proud that in signing this memorandum of understanding, we can contribute to that effort," said University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff at the signing. "(The UNESCO organization) said it would take the University to step up and be part of that, be part of a partnership, to show that there's a broad network of understanding and community engagement that Wanuskewin is at the centre of. I am very proud that we've been able to play that role and this signing is another indication of that strong commitment," he said.

The University of Saskatchewan and Wanuskewin signed a renewed, three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support Indigenous education. The agreement will solidify the relationship between the two organizations, where they will collaborate in areas such as cultural resources, outreach programming, and facility use at both sites.

This is the second MOU signed between the two organizations, the first of which was signed in 2002.

"By continuing our relationship with the University of Saskatchewan, we affirm our commitment to growth and reconciliation," said Darlene Brander, CEO of Wanuskewin. "By building partnerships in connection to cultural and educational resources, we in turn are strengthening our community."

According to a release, the MOU confirmed the intent to work on land and place-based education initiatives, and cultural awareness programs with science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics colleges and departments.

"Wanuskewin is active in many different pursuits: archeology, science, history, environment conservation, stewardship, tourism, hospitality, the ag(riculture) and bio(logy) sectors, and more importantly, celebrating First Nations culture and history, and their aspirations for the future," said Dr.

Ernie Walker, Wanuskewin co-founder.

"Obviously, the University of Saskatchewan has significant academic expertise in all these areas, and that is why the signing of the MOU is so important. I hope this is the beginning of a long, fruitful collaboration together," he said.

Walker spoke on the unlikely trajectory that Wanuskewin has taken, from a small ranch near Saskatoon to a potential UNESCO World Heritage Site. He called it an "epic Canadian story".

Wanuskewin started their venture towards being designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016. Expansion and elaboration of cultural and scientific programming is a requirement of all site candidates.

"As we move toward UNESCO designation, we are proud to have such strong support from our university peers," said Brander.

The signing was capped with a reading from Louise Bernice Half – Sky Dancer, Canada's Poet Laureate, who wrote a poem specially for the occasion.

Dr. Walker even shared his reflections on the spirit of Wanuskewin.

"If you can't see it, focus more intently, and it will reveal its mysteries to you. If you can't hear it, listen carefully and it will call to you. And if you can't understand it, open your hearts and it will embrace you, and you will fall in love with it."



Wanuskewin CEO Darlene Brander describes the Parks relationship with the University of Saskatchewan as their commitment to growth and reconciliation. (Photo by NC Raine)

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**Friday, Sept 10: 4 pm to 10 pm:**

Jigging/Two-Step Competition & Family Dance, Métis Market opens

**Saturday, Sept 11: 11 am to 8 pm:**

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**Sunday, Sept 12: 8 am to 3 pm:**

Free pancake breakfast (8 am to 10 am) followed by our Interfaith Service, Intercultural Performances, and an open stage (open mic).












## Darryl Bazylak takes over as Director of Education for Prairie Spirit School Division

By Sophia Lagimodiere  
for Eagle Feather News

The new Director of Education for Prairie Spirit School Division is Darryl Bazylak, a Métis-Polish educator. The long-time administrator with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, made the switch in August.

"I've got about a year and a half, and I could retire and look to do something else. But I love kids, and I love working with communities and parents," he said.

He isn't finished working in education, or what he calls "the most valuable resource that we possess in this world."

The Prairie Spirit division is like a doughnut around Saskatoon, encompassing 47 schools, approximately 11, 500 students, with an office in Warman. The director focuses on school operations and works with the political arm.



**Darryl Bazylak is the new Director of Education for Prairie Spirit School Division. (Photo supplied by Darryl Bazylak)**

Bazylak doesn't overlook students who don't fit the cookie-cutter mould of the school system, but focuses on addressing the challenges of students in need, which he says is often related to poverty and which many self-declared Indigenous students experience.

"I've always been drawn, as a proud Métis-Polish person, to try to close that gap," he said. "If there is something that made me feel as though I've personally failed at, it's to make enough ground with that. Although, it's a big mountain to climb."

He encourages students to reach out for help, pointing to

companies that offer support, such as hiring self-declared Indigenous students, people in poverty, women, and people with disabilities.

"It's such a journey, and there's lots of help. There are lots of support (and there are lots of role models. There needs to be more, but there is more and more every day," he said. "If you look around, there are supports."

"Reach out and work hard and things will come together," he said.

Bazylak is optimistic despite the challenges the pandemic has put on schools, recognizing that the silver lining has been the opportunity for positive change.

Prairie Spirit has been creative during the pandemic, offering options for homebound students to use technology or to go technology-less, by dropping off some materials to them.

"We're trying to cover all the bases, but that's all relatively new due to COVID. But we always had students who needed something a little bit different, and why not try to provide that?" he said.

Bazylak followed in the footsteps of his mother and other family members when he chose a career in education. He especially enjoyed working with primary-aged students.

"They're so innocent, they're so mouldable, and they can teach you so much if you're open to that," he said.

"I like to say I was like their grandparent too. I would go into the classroom and rile them up a little bit and then leave."

When he's not working, Bazylak spends time with family: wife, Tracy, daughter Alora and stepson Brandon. His father passed away 13 years ago and his mother lives in Saskatoon. His parents grew up in Duck Lake and he visits family or the shrine there. He loves to golf and fish. Since Alora was eight, they have kept a tradition of taking a father-daughter fishing trip with friends.

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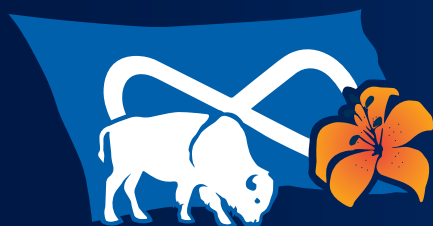


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*Métis Nation*  
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## Foundation to spend \$23 million to improve post-secondary education for Indigenous students

By NC Raine  
for Eagle Feather News

The Mastercard Foundation will provide \$23 million over five years to improve the post-secondary education experience of Indigenous students in Saskatchewan.

It has created the Ojateki Partnership to transform the educational experience of 32,000 Indigenous youth, who have talked about how challenging it is to navigate educational opportunities, access scholarships and supports and, “put together a program that makes sense for a young person,” said Jennifer Brennan, Head of Canada Programs for the Mastercard Foundation.

“They’ve really challenged us to be bold and put out that really high tar-



**The Ojateki Partnership aims to transform the education experience of 32,000 Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan. (Photo by UofS)**

get,” she said.

The Ojateki Partnership, which means “all people together and leave no people behind,” brings together the University of Saskatchewan (Usask), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) and Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

The Foundation’s desire to impact the lives of Indigenous young people is a response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Brennan said.

They hope to transform post-secondary education from a place where Indigenous youth leave their families, homes and communities and struggle to integrate into a colonial system, she said.

Instead, it will support transitions to post-secondary education, increase positive academic outcomes and support transitions from post-secondary to careers.

“Gone are the days when you just check into a university for four years and you have to figure out the rest on your own. We really see the three institutions becoming a lot more responsive for what the Indigenous youth expect and need,” said Brennan.

“Through the discussions and through the partnership, we know there will be Indigenous youth’s voices helping to steer what those projects are,” said Tavia Laliberte, Vice-President of Academics at SIIT. “Communities need to be very involved in ensuring the projects supported under this initiative meet the needs and make sense and have buy-in from the communities,”

Some of the first developments from the partnership will be new mentorship and transition programs, new mental health and cultural supports

and new co-created programs at the community level, driven by Indigenous youth, Brennan said.

“It’s not about there being a singular answer, it’s about how we support the journeys of Indigenous youth, and how do we support these institutions to strengthen the work they are doing,” she said.

According to Statistics Canada, Indigenous people make up 16 percent of the Saskatchewan population but have 10 per cent higher unemployment than non-Indigenous people, and are less likely to pursue post-secondary education.

The project is looking for a managing director who shares a vision of what the Partnership could be, Laliberte said.

*The Foundation’s desire to impact the lives of Indigenous young people is a response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,*

She believes the scope of the partnership and the strengths each institution brings can lead to significant changes in the Saskatchewan educational system.

“This unique opportunity gives us the chance to think big... about those systems, challenge the systems... and ask why we do processes that way,” said Laliberte.

SIIT will take something of a stewardship role in the partnership, recording the activities and doing financial reporting to the Mastercard Foundation, Laliberte said.

Laliberte says she hopes the ambitious partnership will positively impact the way post-secondary education is delivered in the future all over Canada.

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# Memorial fund helps youth fiddler pursue musical aspirations

*By Fraser Needham  
for Eagle Feather News*

An eight-year-old Indigenous fiddler got a big boost to his musical dreams recently thanks to a \$500 donation.

Sebastian MacGregor of Prince Albert is the recipient of the donation courtesy of the Robert Anderson Memorial Fund.

Local musician Donny Parenteau has been teaching MacGregor how to play fiddle for about the past six months.

Parenteau said when Brian Sklar of the memorial fund approached him looking for a student who might be able to benefit from a financial contribution, he couldn't think of a better recipient.

"So, when Brian came to me and said, 'Do you have a student who you think is deserving of \$500?' I said absolutely I do and I picked Seby right away."

Parenteau said cost is often the biggest obstacle preventing any young fiddle player from honing their craft.

He speaks from experience.

"I thought about when I first started. What it was like when I started at 14 years old and I went with my dad and the fiddle we had was a used one and it was broken. It cost \$55 to fix the fiddle. My dad gave me the money and I was the youngest of four kids but I took that and just pursued that dream."

Sklar, who oversees the Robert Anderson Memorial Fund, is also a well-known Saskatchewan musician who played with Anderson.

He currently hosts a country music show on MBC Radio each week.

Sklar said if given the opportunity, young people will fall in love with fiddle music as he once did.

"Lots of people are interested in fiddle music and, particularly in the First Nations and Métis community, the fiddle is king," he said. "I can't say enough about it. I'm really sad that Rob is gone and we miss him every day because he was a great musician. But his legacy means that we are going to be able to help some of these kids out and that's important."

MacGregor's parents say he plans to put the money towards a new fiddle.



*Donny Parenteau, left, helps eight-year-old Sebastian MacGregor with his fiddle technique. (Photo by Fraser Needham)*

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## PAGC back to school event helps students ease back into school year

*By Fraser Needham  
for Eagle Feather News*

Students lined up around the block the Margo Fournier Centre September 1 for the Prince Albert Grand Council's Back to School Community Initiative.

The annual event offers free supplies to students starting the school year. Geoff Despins is PAGC's director of urban services.

"We have crayons, books and pencil boxes for the elementary kids," he said. "For high school, we have binders, Duotangs, paper and pens. We also have backpacks."

Free haircuts were also available to students who wanted them.

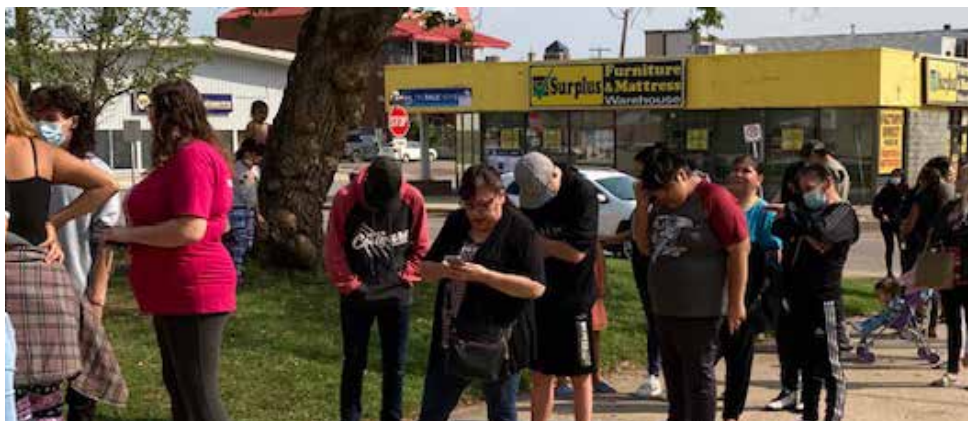
Despins said the whole idea behind the initiative is to ensure students start the school year off on the right foot.

"So, what we do this for is you don't want to start the school year without anything. You don't want to go in saying, 'I don't have a pencil, a backpack...' Even a simple pencil box. So, we're here just to support and help everybody out so they can go to school with a great self-esteem."

The PAGC director of urban services said the event typically sees as many as 500 students and has been running for the past five years.



Ten-year-old Gabriel Villeneuve gets his hair cut at the Prince Albert Grand Council's Back to School Community Initiative. (Photo by Fraser Needham)



People were lined up around the block at the Margo Fournier Centre in Prince Albert Sept. 1 for PAGC's annual back to school event. (Photo by Fraser Needham)

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# BECAUSE EVERY CHILD MATTERS





# Get vaccinated and win a truck? MN-S citizens just might

By John Lagimodiere  
of Eagle Feather News

If you are a Métis-Nation Saskatchewan citizen and are vaccinated or get vaccinated soon, you could win a prize, maybe even a new truck. Or a pontoon boat or scholarship for that matter as hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of prizes are available.

With the Delta Variant swirling around, infections going up and anti-vaxers getting more vocal, the stress on the health system has almost reached the breaking point. The best way to win against COVID and to protect yourself and family is through vaccination.

To encourage their citizens to get vaccinated, the Métis-Nation Saskatchewan has launched "This is your shot," a vaccination incentive program encouraging Métis citizens to get fully vaccinated for a chance to win prizes. The draw is open to all fully vaccinated MN-S citizens.

"As the government of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan, we will continue to do whatever we can for the health and wellbeing of our citizens and our communities," says MN-S President Glen McCallum. "Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is our shot at getting back to the moments that matter most, like time spent with loved ones, attending live events, and holding social gatherings. Our Métis government is offering these vaccination incentives and supports to our citizens to do our part in encouraging everyone to get their vaccine."

"We need to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are widely available. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan government continues to partner with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to host vaccination clinics throughout the province during our This is YourShot incentive program," says MN-S Health Minister Marg Friesen. "We encourage citizens to get vaccinated and to protect each other to keep our families and communities safe."

The contest is open to fully vaccinated Saskatchewan Métis citizens and citizens with applications in process. There will be an early bird draw on September 4th, weekly draws for educational scholarships and other prizes, as well as a final grand prize draw at the end of November. Prizes include a



MN-S Minister of Health Marg Friesen hopes the contest helps motivate people to get vaccinated. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

truck, a pontoon boat, snowmobile, laptops, cell phones, and a variety of gift cards. There are 80 educational scholarships of \$25,000 for citizens aged 12-30 years old available.

Fully vaccinated citizens can enter online at [www.mnsvaccinedraw.com](http://www.mnsvaccinedraw.com).

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Location: READ Saskatoon, #2-706 Duchess St, Saskatoon, SK  
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**Thank you, Saskatchewan.**



**BHP**





# Reconciliation Ally: B'yauling Toni



By Betty Ann Adam  
of Eagle Feather News

A terrifying dream propelled B'yauling Toni to learn about Indian Residential Schools and help other non-Indigenous people learn too.

Toni, whose Cantonese first name was given by his Taiwanese mother, drew a large TikTok following and media attention by cycling to all 21 former residential school sites in Saskatchewan between August 2 to 25.

"It's so important that non-Indigenous people give recognition to the genocide that happened in Canada. I find, with non-Indigenous people, it's hard to open that conversation," Toni said in a recent interview.

Toni, 20, was aware of the news about unmarked graves at former school sites when he went camping in July with his brother and sister-in-law, Trinity Morin of James Smith Cree Nation, on an embankment beside Diefenbaker Lake.

"We didn't have tents or anything, we were just sleeping basically on the grass. And in the middle of the night, I wake up because there's someone drowning, a little boy in the water and he was drowning. So I get out of my sleeping bag and I scramble down the side of this embankment to the water and when I reached the water, I realized there's not just one child in the water, there's hundreds and hundreds of children in the water. When I reached the water, they all turned towards me and started moving towards me. I just remember their heads looked like torches. They had a light emanating from their head and they're all rhythmically moving toward me in the water and I started screaming out, trying to get my brother and sister-in-law, who were up on top of the ridge and I'm crying out so loud that I waked myself and I'm in my sleeping bag at the top of the ridge (not) down at the water, but in the exact same place where I was in my dream."

"At first I was just terrified. And then it got me thinking and wondering about the things I don't know about, the place I live, the things that aren't spoken about," Toni said.

As a cyclist who has circumnavigated the globe, Toni decided, "as a settler, as a non-Indigenous person, to use what I'm good at, use my platform to be actively involved in reconciliation."

He connected with the Orange Shirt Society, which helped him access information about the schools that were in Saskatchewan; contacted the First Nations nearest to each site and sought permission to visit.

Another Indigenous non-profit, Chokecherry Studios, accessed a small feder-

al grant for a workshop in which he, Morin and 19 Indigenous youth made pairs of infant moccasins.

Upon arriving at the communities, Toni offered tobacco and presented a pair of the moccasins. He was often moved by the generous welcomes he received. Elders, Chiefs or other Knowledge Keepers toured him around the sites. They often fed and housed him or invited him to sit in a pipe ceremony.

He learned that the school sites often exist within communities and cannot be forgotten.

At Sturgeon Landing, near Flin Flon, "they had a residential school that burned to the ground in the 1940s and 41 students perished in the fire. The Church just left the building. They left the remains and built a new school in Manitoba, but there was never anything done to the site, so if you go there today there's still old artefacts: there's the foundation, the bunk beds are still there, anything metal, the washing machines, the boiler room, everything is just there. It's just been left to decay.

"The remains of the children were never removed from the building after the fire so they're also still there. And that just sits right in the middle of the community," Toni said.

As he pedaled 3,000 kilometres from White-wood to Ile-a-la-Crosse and 19 sites between, he felt and thought.

"A lot of sadness. Very, very heavy feeling. It was difficult mentally to travel to all these sites and

to feel the weight of the things that happened there and you can see the suffering right in front of you in the community.

"When I go to these places, I'm greeted by groups of people and the majority are survivors. In a way, they're all survivors, intergenerationally they tell me stories and they share with me.

"It's weird to think about because it's nothing to the suffering and trauma that survivors deal with on a daily basis."

Toni says it's important that non-Indigenous settlers take the first step toward reconciliation.

"It's really on us. We need to be out there learning and giving recognition (of) genocide in Canada... It's hard to open that conversation. No one wants to hear that they may have done something wrong or their ancestors did something wrong.

"We need to facilitate that healing journey and that's something we can do only if we have education. There's no way to build empathy and understanding for the issues that Indigenous people face on a daily basis if we don't have an understanding of what happened."



**B'yauling Toni offers tobacco to Chief Micheal Starr of Starblanket First Nation, which should be referred to by its real name, "The One Who Has a Star For a Blanket," on the site of the former Lebreton Indian Residential School. (B'yauling Toni photo)**



## Sign Up for Your Clubroot Soil Test

Clubroot testing can detect low levels of the clubroot pathogen in your fields. Early detection and proactive clubroot management strategies help keep spore levels low and minimize yield losses.

You can pick up a soil testing bag by visiting your Ministry of Agriculture regional office, or sign up to receive your test by:

- Following the QR code at right;
- Calling SaskCanola at 306-975-0262;
- Contacting your local Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Plant Health Officer or RM office; or
- Calling the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



Soil testing is easy. Once you have the bag, collect soil from your field and submit it for testing. SaskCanola will cover the \$100 cost of this test.

[saskatchewan.ca/crops](http://saskatchewan.ca/crops)



## Annual General Meeting 2021



### SASKATOON INDIAN AND MÉTIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

**Date:** Wednesday, September 29th, 2021

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, 168 Wall Street, Saskatoon

### CALL FOR DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Board position applications, amended bylaw recommendations, audited financial statements for year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 are available during business hours.

Only SIMFC members who have registered, and are in good standing, by August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will have voting rights and or their application considered for Board positions.

Nominations to fill our twelve seats on the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre Board of Directors will close midnight September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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# About those statues coming down: Iconoclasm in the age of “Reconciliation”

By Audrey Dreaver  
for Eagle Feather News

Language politics is an interesting area of study. I’ve heard many stories about how the old people were careful with words. As powerful as words were for nurturing and supporting each other, our ancestors knew they could also be very damaging. Language could simultaneously raise and lower, place and displace, empower and oppress. Language politics direct us on how to look at history and ourselves. Language politics are vital in the development of a country’s narratives – its stories about itself.

Iconoclasm, loosely defined is the deliberate destruction of icons and other representations of beliefs. For some, iconoclasm is only connected to religious persecution because we associate “icon” with representations of religious figures. Most often though, it has been used to mean a political and social justice reaction to oppression that is government sanctioned and controlled.

The earliest examples of iconoclasm are found in the ancient Assyrian cultures of Mesopotamia. The Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and others have histories of iconoclasm. Here in North America, iconoclasm has resulted in the removal of statues that glorify Canadian and American “founding fathers.” These statues placed across each country’s landscapes is a mnemonic reminder of settler achievement. It promotes settler culture and their versions of history as being the only version of history.

Iconoclasm is often referred to as vandalism which is understandable because the object of iconoclastic action is damage, destruction or removal of the religious or political representations. The difference lies in iconoclasm’s purpose and intent – to remove the representation of oppression.

Toppling statues is a symbolic removal of oppression. It brings attention to the hidden, buried, and ignored true histories of what those revered icons did in their quest to achieve their goals. In this regard, the defacing and toppling of statues like MacDonald, Ryerson and others is a reaction to events and policies that Canadian history has implemented, ignored and buried.

What is not iconoclasm is vandalizing Indigenous artworks in retaliation for statues being toppled. Remember in this case, the small innocent victims of those oppressive Canadian policies that the statues represent.

The assumption that the iconoclasm is one-sided, and that it is only being done by Indigenous peoples is exactly that – an assumption. The indisputable evidence of the thousands of unmarked children’s graves at government and church-run residential schools has shaken and destroyed the faith of many settler Canadians. It has caused a crisis of faith in their belief of their country’s history, religious leadership, and their own education.

We live in a world of many generations of inherited knowledge – knowledge we received from our parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors, religious leaders and political authorities. We have been systematically indoctrinated by a long line of people in authority with underlying agendas and biases including: 53 Popes who have ruled over the Vatican and maintained Christian/Catholic faith and obedience to the ten commandments (which includes ‘thou shalt not kill’); at least 32 monarchs (between French and English claims to the land); 23 Canadian Prime Ministers; a myriad of representatives sent from Europe to oversee the new lands; and generations of settler descendants who work for national and provincial governments that continue the legacy of colonization into today.

Remember again, the small innocent children. Understanding the true history of our country’s systemic oppressive policies helps to understand the significance of iconoclasm in this current time of Canadian reconciliation.



Audrey Dreaver says the act of tearing down statues, like those of John A. MacDonald, is a symbolic removal of oppression.

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EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



# Indigenous broadcasters gather to share and learn

By Jamin Mike  
for Eagle Feather News

Indigenous broadcasters are coping with a decline in fluent Indigenous language speakers and funding cuts, the Saskatchewan Association of Aboriginal Broadcasters (SAAB) heard at an August gathering in Prince Albert.

"Part of our mission and mandate is to share programming and ideas, especially for the new radio stations that are really growing rapidly in the south," said Deborah Charles, CEO of Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC).

"Our goal is to continue evolving, moving forward, but having a financial position where we can continue without federal government funding," Charles said.

In 1996, MBC partnered with various non-profit communications organizations that operate northern local radio stations to found SAAB. About 29 stations came together with a mandate to ensure the growth of Indigenous communications, including creating a safe environment.

"I think (radio) is expanding quite well," said Pauline Clarke, a radio broadcaster from South-end.

"We have two new radio stations in the far north, Black Lake and Wollaston Lake, that just joined our team."

Clarke takes satisfaction in managing South-end's radio station where she does everything from producing programs to taking out the garbage. She says radio can impact a community by bringing people together and telling them what's happening within their communities.

"I'm hoping that the other communities from further (north) such as Fond du Lac and Uranium City will join because they really need it there," she said.

"This networking that we are doing with SAAB is the perfect place to come if you have a radio station."

Attendees shared recruiting strategies to cope with their common concern about who will fill positions as seasoned broadcasters retire.

They also applauded MBC on its release of a company history book, Recognizing Our Roots: Way Beyond Just Broadcasting, which surveys the company's involvement in Saskatchewan and its founders.

Attendees also had socially distanced, but lively and informative discussions about what the next generation of Indigenous broadcasters should learn.

"The advice we heard is absolutely key to designing courses that are directly beneficial to local communities," said Shannon Avison, coordinator of the Indigenous Communication Arts (INCA) program at First Nations University of Canada.

Avison is leading a research study into the training and recruitment needs of Indigenous language broadcasters.

In the past year, research assistants conducted more than 30 interviews by Zoom and telephone. The interviews, conducted in Cree, Dene, Michif and English, provide insights into the challenges of recruiting and preparing young language speakers for community broadcasting.

The research, which is supported by a grant from the InSpirit Foundation, is already helping shape INCA classes by increasing focus on station management, fundraising and best practices for teaching languages on the air.

"Our goal is to help build curricula that will support the growth of Indigenous language broadcasting and can be adapted to any location or language," said Avison.



From left Carol Daniels, Community Rep from Wollaston Lake, Pauline Clarke, Broadcaster from South End and Richie Eddibar, Broadcaster from Black Lake during the gathering in Prince Albert. (Photo by Jamin Mike)

sk  
arts

## Deadlines

SK Arts announces the following deadlines for applications to programs that support the work of Saskatchewan artists, organizations, schools and communities wanting to engage in arts activities:

**INDEPENDENT ARTISTS**  
October 1

**EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FUND**  
October 6

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ART AND ARTISTS**  
October 15

**SASKFESTIVALS\* – PROJECT**  
October 15

**MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM**  
October 1  
November 1  
December 1

**ARTISTS IN COMMUNITIES\* – PROJECTS**  
November 1

**ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS\* – PROJECTS**  
November 1

**ARTISTS IN COMMUNITIES\* – DEVELOPMENT**  
December 10

**ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS\* – DEVELOPMENT**  
December 10

For applications, visit: [sk-arts.ca](http://sk-arts.ca)

(306) 787-4056 (Regina)  
(306) 964-1155 (Saskatoon)  
(800) 667-7526 (Toll-free)  
[grants@sk-arts.ca](mailto:grants@sk-arts.ca)  
[sk-arts.ca](http://sk-arts.ca)

\*Supported by funding from  
Sask Lotteries through the  
partnership between SK Arts  
and SaskCulture Inc.

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

Prince Albert Vaccination Site



Let's  
**Protect  
our Community**

Vaccination site hours:  
For September, every Wednesday 9am-5pm

Senator Allen Bird Memorial Centre,  
Chief Joseph Custer Reserve #201

How to  
Book an  
**APPOINTMENT**

PAGC Health & Social Department  
306-953-7283

Rides are available if needed

Walk-ins are welcome.





# Small sticks falling from the sky

It was well over 140 years ago when a Cree war party in late winter moved west into the territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy. It was a time of war between the two nations. The once allies now fought with one another over the last of the great buffalo herds. Their battles began in early spring and extended into the snows of late November when the Cree left the open prairie to their winter camps in the north.

My great grandfather Mas-tatimwas was a war chief. He chose to lead his warriors during the late winter in a surprise attack. It was during the time when brown patches of grass appear among the dying snow. When they left their territory, they traveled by night and hid by day. As they traveled, they noticed they were being followed by a coyote. This continued over nights and each time the coyote came closer. Finally, it ran at

them, leapt into the air and vanished. Then small sticks fell from the sky and vanished when they touched the ground.

Many among them said this was a bad omen and they should turn back. My great grandfather was stubborn and refused. The story does not say

whether a few or any turned back. A war party was not a democracy but was controlled solely by the war chief.

On they went until they found a Blackfoot camp. They heard no sound and saw no one, not

my great grandfather was the last left alive then he too succumbed. He was found by his people laying on a trail unable to walk. He gradually recovered but he had brought back small pox to his people. It became apparent the small sticks falling from the sky were the many who would die.

It is estimated over half the population of the northern First Nations died during the epidemic. It was a tragic time of disease and starvation seldom spoken of. The small pox epidemic was followed by the Spanish Flu and tuberculosis. In our time many are stricken with diabetes and a new disease.

Covid 19 and its variant have brought suffering and tragedy, especially among those who refuse to be vaccinated. Saskatchewan First Nations, tribal councils and Health Canada have worked together to make a difference. Hundreds of band members were saved who would

have otherwise died. Unlike the epidemics of old, Covid can be fought and lives saved. When Treaty number six was signed it included a medicine chest clause promising help during a time of pestilence. In this time of crisis the promise has been fulfilled.



## Breaking Trail

John Cuthand

even a camp dog. As they entered they found the Blackfoot had died, their bodies covered in sores. An entire camp had died. They gathered a few items then hurried back to Cree country. As they traveled, they became violently sick and, one by one, died, their bodies covered in sores. Finally,



Reaching out and sharing knowledge is how we find **belonging**.

Acceptance is seeing the best in others when they cannot see it in themselves. When you look at others with acceptance, you can see that they're just hurting and caught in their fears. Through acceptance, we find belonging. Feeling that sense of belonging in our communities makes a difference.



SoarAboveStigma.ca



# Thank you

*to everyone for helping us keep our communities safe. You did your part.*



The Central Saskatchewan Indigenous Vaccinations Sites opened their doors at the beginning of April 2021 and since this time, we have given over 55,000 vaccinations.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to:

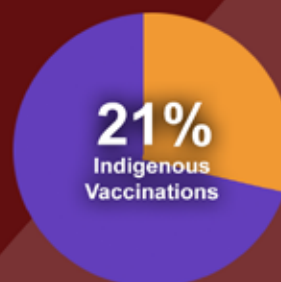
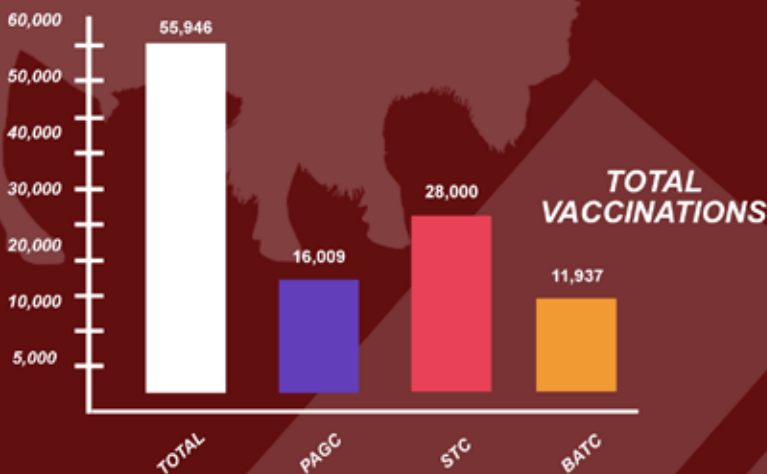
- Vaccination Clinic Co-ordinators
- Nurses and Staff
- Volunteers
- Dekker Centre, SaskTel Centre, Senator Allan Bird Memorial Centre

You have truly made a long lasting impact!

## Central Saskatchewan Indigenous Vaccination Sites Committee Members:

BATC Executive Director Neil Sasakamoose  
 PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte  
 STC Tribal Chief Mark Arcand  
 MN-S Director of Health Adel Panahi  
 CSIVS Project Co-ordinator Paul Ledoux  
 Administrative Assistant Colette Eagle  
 BATC Site Manager Alexis Christensen

BATC Head Nurse Leslie Ann Smith  
 PAGC Site Manager Shirley Woods  
 STC Site Manager Dalyn Bear  
 ISC Regional Executive Officer Jocelyn Andrews  
 ISC SK, EOC Section Chief, Vaccine Planning & Deployment Andrea Reynoldson  
 ISC SK, Regional Director, Primary Care and Population Health Cindy Roache  
 SHA Executive Director First Nations and Métis Relations Thona Longneck



NOTE: Vaccination percentage is a weighted average of the sites and an estimate based on completed surveys, preregistrations and onsite experience.

