

Eagle Feather NEWS

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Sisters in Spirit campaign underway

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Eagle Feather News
Women's Issue
Next Month - The Arts

For two decades Lori Whiteman has been searching for clues about her mother, Delores, a young woman who lost contact with her family many years ago.

For Lori, who was only ten months old when she was placed in a foster home and three when she was adopted into a Regina family, the search has been frustrating and has yet to yield any real information. Delores Whiteman, whose roots are on Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation in southeast Saskatchewan, had a difficult childhood, including a period of time spent at the Indian Residential School in Lebret, Saskatchewan.

"The little stories I've heard have been painful, sad, sorrowful, heart-breaking," says Lori Whiteman. "Violence, neglect, abuse fear, trauma seemed to define her early years.

"Despite all of that, I have heard that she had a smile that would light up a room, that she had a wonderful sense of humour and loved to laugh."

In the early 1980s, Whiteman began to make connections with her birth family and it soon became apparent that no one had heard from or seen Delores in many years. Rumours had her living in California, Edmonton, Toronto, the Northwest Territories and Vancouver.

Thousands of phone calls, internet searches and visits later, Whiteman has met a wall of bureaucracy, red tape and indifference. At times, she says, the police were "harsh and lacking in sensitivity" in their dealings with her.

"Things are convoluted and lead inevitably to the police wanting to dismiss this as a case of a woman who chooses to be missing, who does not wish to make contact and does not want to be found," says Whiteman.

"This doesn't fly with me or with any of my relatives or my friends."

Over the years, Lori Whiteman has discovered that she shares a similar, tragic experience with many other families.

"People have been vanishing from our communities for a long time," she says. "When I talk to people about my mother, I am discovering that hers is not an isolated case."

Indeed, the mysterious disappearance of Delores Whiteman is only one of hundreds, if not thousands, of cases of missing Aboriginal women that have occurred in Canada.

Beverly Jacobs, president of the

Native Women's Association of Canada, is leading an initiative to expose the violence that has targeted Aboriginal women in this country. Her organization launched the Sisters in Spirit campaign early in 2006 with the help of \$5 million in funding from the federal government.

A staff of ten is involved in research and policy development and education and communications. The



Lori Whiteman has been searching for her mother, Delores Whiteman, for more than 20 years. The only photo Lori has is one taken in 1961 when Delores was a student at the residential school in Lebret.

strategy is to gather information to compile a data base with the names of Aboriginal women who are missing as well as document unresolved murder cases and analyze the impact of resolved

murder cases involving Aboriginal women.

"Researchers are doing all of the groundwork and meeting with families," says Jacobs, a Mohawk from Ontario's Six Nations.

"We are going to do policy development from the research."

In an interview from Ottawa, Jacobs hinted the number of cases might be much larger than has been assumed.

The number of 500 missing and murdered Aboriginal women is often banded about.

"That number is low. What we're hearing is that a lot of it is not reported, people aren't coming forward," suggests Jacobs.

"This is what all of us have been saying for hundreds of years. This isn't just a 20-year-old issue, this is hundreds of years old."

For more information on the Sisters in Spirit campaign, visit www.sistersinspirit@nwac-hq.org.

Next month, Eagle Feather News will feature a in-depth story of Lori Whiteman's search for her mother, Delores Whiteman.

BY WARREN GOULDING

International Women's Day honours contribution of women

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

This year, International Women's Day enters its 30th year of being celebrated in Canada but long before there was an official day of recognition, women were at the forefront of social and political change.

On March 14, 1916, women in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba cast ballots for the first time. It would be another 24 years before women in Quebec would have the same privilege. Benchmark victories like the battle for the ballot overshadow the fact that women still fight for equal treatment, access to education, better jobs and, more importantly, a future where the word 'woman' or 'female' isn't attached as a qualifying adjective to their status as successful doctors, CEOs, pilots and chiefs.

That the women's rights movement won legislation to guarantee women wages equal to their male colleagues and to protect them from gender-based discrimination is a proud achievement. That these laws are still needed today, however, demonstrates that we, as a people and a community, haven't adopted the spirit or application of equality as much as we'd like to think.

On the other hand, there is great value in having an official day where we recognize the accomplishments of grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, nieces, cousins and daughters. Their success in endeavours large and small, achieved in the public eye or in the privacy of their homes and communities, are worthy of being noted and celebrated.

Merelda Fiddler, current affairs producer for CBC Radio, once saw a plaque in an Elders office bearing the slogan "Everyone gets better when everyone gets better." That simple statement imparts a profound and penetrating truth.

The women profiled this month for their outstanding achievements gained prominence through diligence, dedication and a single-minded determination to make a better world for themselves and for those who come after them.

Their achievements remind us that what can dreamed of can be achieved and that their achievements today are how we will measure progress tomorrow.

This month Eagle Feather News is profiling some of the women who have achieved success in their chosen careers and personal lives. The first, is Merelda Fiddler, whose story begins on this page. →



Meadow Lake's Merelda Fiddler has been influenced by several strong women.

CBC producer follows in footsteps of role models in journalism world

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

Ask anyone who knows Merelda Fiddler to describe her and you'll hear the word 'driven' time and time again. Even she uses that word to describe herself but she qualifies it as more of desire to do as many different things as possible than a single-mindedness to succeed fueled by ambition alone.

"The only limitation that I've discovered is that I can't do everything, or do every job," said Fiddler, 30.

Nonetheless, in just a few short years this journalist/producer/filmmaker/playwright has achieved more in her career than some broadcasters can hope to

achieve in their lifetimes.

Fiddler was born in Meadow Lake when her mother, Charlotte, was 40 and her older sister, Joyce, was 17.

"It was kind of like having two moms," said Fiddler. Indeed, nearly all of Fiddler's caregivers and role models were women and growing up in an environment where women were the family leaders and key decision makers had a profound impact on her.

"I was always in awe of these women, these incredibly strong, powerful women. They were so good at everything – cooking, sewing, gardening – and they worked and raised their kids mostly by themselves," said Fiddler.

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No secret, just hard work the key for new deputy minister

How does it feel to be the first First Nation person appointed to this very powerful provincial government position? I understand that I may not be the first, that there was another First Nations Deputy Minister before me in the Government of Saskatchewan many years ago.

However, I can tell you, that I am very excited about my new position and am honoured that the Premier has this level of confidence in me. I believe my background and experiences will allow me to bring a unique understanding of issues facing First Nations and Métis communities and people to the Department and to the Government as a whole.

I believe that my appointment is another concrete demonstration that relationships between the provincial government and Aboriginal people in the province are improving.

In 2004, the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations was created as a stand-alone Department and that was a big and positive step, now only two years later the Department has its first Aboriginal Deputy Minister, which is also in my view another positive step.

Do your friends and old political colleagues tease you a bit for going to 'the other side'?

Sure they do, but in a friendly way. They are generally supportive about having a senior level First Nations person within government who they know and have dealt with in the past. They know that we all have to move forward together in this province, and to do that we have to continue to build relationships and work together cooperatively.

How does your past political experience impact on what you do in your new job?

I believe my past experiences, which include political and non-political involvement, will be of great benefit in the position of Deputy Minister of the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations.

As a First Nations political leader, I developed many relationships with First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal people and I bring that first-

hand knowledge to government. I believe strongly in relationship-building and creating partnerships and that's exactly what I will be doing with the government as well.

In my view, the issues I have faced in the past and those that I face today are basically the same, I am just dealing with them from a different angle. I have also had the opportunity to be the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department and the Acting Deputy Minister so I am quite familiar with the issues facing the Department.

ment process. Together with the departmental staff, I look forward to dealing with all challenges and building the type of relationships we need inside and outside government to help build a focused strategy that will deliver real results

What is the biggest difference between living in Regina and Meadow Lake?

One of the main differences is that my close friends and many family members are still in Meadow Lake. I try to get back as often as I can to see



Richard Gladue

My message to all Saskatchewan youth is to work hard, stay in school, dream big and never give up. Becoming a deputy minister was one of my goals and something I had dreamed about for some time. I have always believed in working towards building a better society and I believe this position is one way to continue to do that. Clearly, achieving your dreams is possible. I have a particular message for First Nations and Métis youth. I strongly encourage them to take advantage of any and all opportunities. You are the fastest growing segment of the Saskatchewan population and your success and the success of the province are firmly intertwined.

What is the secret?

There is no secret. It takes hard work, planning, research, perseverance and a team effort. I also receive good advice and support from friends and colleagues which I continue to seek on an ongoing basis.

Former Tribal Council Chief named deputy minister

Premier Lorne Calvert has appointed Richard Gladue as Deputy Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations.

Gladue has more than 20 years of experience as a leader in First Nations governments and organizations. He was Chief of Flying Dust First Nation from 1986 to 1996. He served as Tribal Chief of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council from 1994 to 2005. Gladue has also served on numerous boards and commissions, and most recently was the Assistant Deputy Minister and then Acting Deputy Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations.

"I am pleased to have a person with Mr. Gladue's experience and leadership qualities assume this role with the Saskatchewan public service," Calvert said.

"His knowledge and understanding of issues facing First Nations and Métis communities and individuals will be of great benefit as we work in partnership to make life better for all families and build better futures for all youth."

What challenges lay ahead for you and your department?

There are many challenges that we face and I will just outline a couple. One involves the rapid growth in the numbers of First Nations and Métis people in the province and how we best engage them in the training and employment opportunities, in order to increase Aboriginal involvement in the mainstream economy.

I believe this is not only a challenge but also an opportunity in light of the large number of working age First Nations and Métis youth that we have.

Another challenge is the government's formal process of consulting with First Nations and Métis people and communities.

The Department will also continue to be involved in programs and policies including our First Nations and Métis Economic Development program and the Treaty Land Entitle-

ment process. Together with the departmental staff, I look forward to dealing with all challenges and building the type of relationships we need inside and outside government to help build a focused strategy that will deliver real results

How do youth get to where you are today?

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Is it time to appoint a woman to FSIN executive?

With International Women's Day behind us, now is a good time to look forward to 2007, the year of Ending Violence Against Women: Action for Real Results in Canada.

And not a moment too soon. Aboriginal women are murdered and abused at an astonishing and unacceptable rate and it must stop. Mind you, people have been yelling this for years and we have yet to see change, but I guess if we all yell loud and long enough, maybe something will change.

Despite the abuse, women have made remarkable strides in getting ahead and are now passing Aboriginal men in education levels and career growth and even income. Some men resent this and try to keep women down, but a majority of people are embracing this trend as a positive.

This turn of ability and education came to a discussion point at the FSIN assembly in February. Chief Marcel Head from Shoal Lake First Nation brought forward a suggestion that the Federation have a seat set aside for a woman Vice-Chief. The Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission originally presented the idea and it was passed unanimously at that level. Chief Head figured the time has come.

Chief Joseph said the suggestion had come forward to the Indian Government Commission and had not yet reached the decision point and said a motion like that would take time and have financial implications. Chief Daywalker-Pelletier, Chair of the Federation's Women's Commission commented that women don't need a set aside in this day and age and that they can and should get elected the usual way. Daywalker-Pelletier added that if there was unity, they could get a woman elected next election.

There will certainly be more debate over setting aside a seat for a woman because it raises some questions. Will that woman be treated as a lesser Vice-Chief because she received a set aside? Should gender equality be

forced on the Federation or should it evolve naturally.

With over a dozen women Chiefs out there and over 100 women councilors, the critical mass is there for a solid candidate to get lots of backing and men can back them as well; it is not just a woman's thing. The debate will continue because both the set aside and get yourself elected options have merit.

Stay tuned, cause this debate isn't over. If you have comments on this important issue email: johnl@eaglefeathernews.com

Editorial

Racism

In Saskatoon, it seems as though the policing issues have been repaired and there is no outcry of racism or bad cops. Also, with Jim Pankiw, the raving racist ex-Member of Parliament gone back to his career cracking backs, there is little or no controversy around race hitting the news in Saskatoon. It also helps that Member of Parliament Maurice Vellacott refuses to come out in public or speak so we are spared his usually inane babble.

But now the ugly light of racism has turned onto Regina where the North Central area has been dubbed the worst neighbourhood in Canada, much to the chagrin of many in that government town.

It is not a surprise to many who live in the hood, it is just a reality, but it really hurts those who had turned a blind eye to the misery there.

Now Regina is in an uproar over getting an urban

reserve in the hood. God forbid that a First Nation gets ahead in business, or offers jobs to Aboriginal people in the inner city. In Saskatoon, the ones who cried the most over the inner city reserve gas bar were the businesses that gouged poor Aboriginal people, sold Lysol from under the counter, or smokes for fifty cents each and never once hired an Indian, or contributed to the community or even painted their building.

Looks like Regina is getting a bit of a wake up ... and a reality check. Urban reserves do not mean overturned cars and rabid dogs running around. It means economic development, jobs and hope. Let us hope that the citizens of Regina realize that before their city goes even more sideways. Maybe on March 21, everyone should gather at the Wascana slough and have a group hug.

Anniversary

Last month we officially started our tenth year of publishing this humble little paper. Our first cover story was on Clem Chartier knocking off Jimmy Durocher for the Presidency of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

Our second cover story was on the swearing in of Judge Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond and cover number three was on the election of Perry Bellegarde as Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations after Blaine Favel took a flight to Ottawa and never came back.

Now Chartier is President of the Métis National Council, Judge Turpel Lafond is in British Columbia establishing a children's advocate office and Perry Bellegarde is a Vice-President at Crown Investment Corporation and we are still trucking along, minding everyone's business and telling stories.

Oh the fun we have had, and intend to continue having fun for a very long time. Thanks for reading us and making us relevant.

What's next in Eagle Feather News

In April's edition of Eagle Feather News we will have an exit interview with Judge David Arnot, the soon to be former Treaty Commissioner and we will also look ahead to the rumoured replacements and their potential mandate.

We do know for sure that the current staff has been told the OTC doors are shutting on March 30. The main theme for April will be arts and entertainment, and we are not sure if you heard, but the Junos are coming to Saskatoon and there will be an Aboriginal Showcase in both P.A and Saskatoon.

The best Aboriginal musicians in Canada will be here ... and we will, cover the heck out of it for you. Finally, with lots of court cases closing with guilty pleas, we will give a complete update on the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan election saga and show who has pled out, who is yet to come before a judge and what we can expect for an election, allegedly in the very near future.

Until then, play safe and enjoy the weather.

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Traditions, culture survived because of women

Donna is not a very big woman, maybe five foot four and certainly not more than 110 lbs. She wears a lot of black because, "I don't have time to make decisions about color co-ordination." She laughs. Donna moves fast, wasting no time.

This morning at the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, there are two proposals to be finished, an emergency board meeting to organize and attend. Two different committee meetings on the upcoming Aboriginal initiatives as part of the Juno Awards, which she chairs. A staff meeting and a quick consultation with the project coordinator and a few minutes with the cultural worker to discuss a crisis in the life of one of the students.

In the middle of all this, Sophia, her two-year-old granddaughter, drops by to have a conversation with her kokom before going home, and then later this evening, there will be another meeting. Donna Hiembecker works very hard.

But then Aboriginal women have always worked hard. During historic times they raised families, most often as single moms, and worked full time in the fur trade as interpreters, guides, packers, hunters, trappers, (yes, women did all those things) housekeepers, laundry workers and rock and root pickers.

Today the mode of work has

changed but women still work hard, multi-tasking as moms, grandmas and as doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, chiefs, councilors, entrepreneurs, office workers and waitresses or, like Donna, running a theatre company.

And through it all in old times and new, Aboriginal women have always shared and continue to share a profound

women and in particular old women talk about their brutalization at the hands of partners and husbands, both Native and White, with no help or support from families or communities. And certainly the amount of media coverage that has been allotted to the murdered women in Vancouver and the five hundred or more that are missing tell us how important we

The Indian Act stated that if an Indian woman married a non-Indian, meaning a White man or a Metis or Non-Status Indian, she was stripped of her Indian status. She was no longer deemed an Indian and her children were Half-breeds. If, on the other hand, an Indian man married a non-Indian, meaning a white woman, a Metis or non-status Indian, that woman became an Indian and her Halfbreed children also became Indian.

Thus the birth of an insidious form of racism cultivated and nurtured by governments and their policies of assimilation, divide and conquer.

"The many ways in which Native women were rendered marginal by patriarchal colonial laws not only made it more difficult for them to challenge the tremendous disempowerment that the loss of status represented, it made the theft of land easier."

So what has this to do with Donna and all those good women, you're asking.

Well what I am trying to say is that despite the entire ugly patriarchal system, culture, language and traditions continue to exist because of the commitment and love of Aboriginal women. Donna and her work through the theatre is a representation of that enduring legacy.

Reflections

María Campbell



love and commitment to family and community and thank goodness for that, because without their love and commitment there would be very little left of our cultures, traditions and languages.

But women have had a bad rap both in traditional and western history. They have been maligned, brutalized, silenced, disempowered and murdered with very little notice from anyone except their families and even that was often not forthcoming.

How many times have we heard

are in society. More attention is given to mad cow disease than there is for a murdered or missing Aboriginal woman.

A more balanced history has been documented more recently by Aboriginal women scholars, poets, writers and filmmakers One of them, historian Bonita Lawrence, writes how "gender discrimination in the Indian Act has created an ongoing conflict within native organizations and reserve communities around the notion of individual and collective rights, organized along gender lines."

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It wasn't a meeting until Jim Sinclair spoke

I always admired Aboriginal leaders who could stand their ground with anyone in a debate and come out on top speaking for the good of their people. On the flip side I never had much use for people sucking up to the oppressor.

Jim Sinclair was an outstanding leader who led the Métis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS) for 14 tumultuous years beginning in the early 1970s. These days, Jim is the Saskatchewan representative for the Congress of Aboriginal People, a national organization that claims to represent First Nations and Métis people who live off-reserve.

People used to say it wasn't a meeting until Jim Sinclair spoke.

He could stand up to anyone in a debate and his heart was always with his people. In those days, a lot of us young people looked to him as a role model and a mentor. There are many stories about Sinclair. Some are even true.

Among my favourites is the time the MSS leadership was in a meeting with then Saskatchewan Premier Alan Blakeney and his cabinet. Sinclair was talking about how desperate things had become for Métis people in Saskatchewan. He said there was a rising militancy among the people.

Sinclair always had his share of political enemies and among the MSS delegation was a heavy set individual whose name will go unmentioned who always had it in for him. Sinclair said: "Things are so bad it may lead to guerilla warfare!"

The room fell silent. Sinclair then

turned, pointed at his old adversary and said: "And we're going to use real gorillas!" Everyone roared with laughter.

A meeting had been arranged between the old Native Council of Canada and then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Sinclair represented Saskatchewan. The

broke with the NCC. No one would ever muzzle the MSS.

Sinclair often said: "Quitters never win and winners never quit."

It was an adage he certainly lived by. There were always opponents within the MSS that kept Sinclair's exceptional wit

Common Ground

John Cuthand



eastern Métis organizations lacked the militancy of the western delegates. Much ado was made of how the prime minister had made time from his busy schedule just to meet with the NCC.

During the discussion Sinclair spoke bluntly and very much to the point. The prime minister responded in kind and appeared to appreciate the frankness of the exchange. Sinclair was cut off by the NCC executive who thanked the prime minister and brought the meeting to a close.

The NCC executive later chastised Sinclair for how he spoke to the prime minister. They said it took a lot of effort and goodwill to arrange this meeting and they didn't need the Saskatchewan leadership ruining the process. Shortly after the MSS

and debating skills honed to a fine edge.

The raucous annual meetings at Back To Batoche provided many a memorable moment. One year, Rose Boyer literally ripped his shirt off. Sinclair had a debating technique that served him well. He would let his adversary talk at length and then he would demolish their argument point by point at length.

There were times he would wait until his adversary would say something dumb and then Sinclair would bring his wit to bare. People of course, thoroughly enjoyed these moments.

There was a time when Back To Batoche drew over ten thousand people making it the largest annual Native gathering in Canada. The MSS of those

years must be remembered for providing decent housing for their people. Many of the MSS leadership can remember living on the old road allowances or even tents by garbage dumps.

Métis families lived across from Onion Lake reserve in shacks and even old grain bins some farmers rented out. Housing was truly desperate. The biggest, most positive changes came in the North where Métis communities, some as old as three hundred years, began to take back control of their own communities.

Those were heady days.

It is said in Jim Sinclair's younger days he was haunted by prophetic dreams where he saw himself speaking before large crowds. Such dreams are common to Cree people destined to serve their people.

Sinclair was always forthright in speaking of his recovery from alcoholism. The story is told that his last drunk was on Gordon's Reserve. He awoke in the morning and began hitchhiking to the bar in Punnichy. No one picked him up and as he walked he thought about his drinking. The grain elevators of Punnichy were in sight when he turned back and never drank again.

The last I saw of Jim Sinclair was on the Aboriginal Achievement Awards. He was honoured for his service to his people. Jim Sinclair never wore a suit in his life and this night was no different.

He has always been a loner who walked his talk and his talk was always for his people.



Keri Fox & Grant Pierce

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Eekwol has no intention of leaving the hip hop genre

BY DARLA READ

If you're an Eekwol fan who has been anxiously awaiting her next release, you have just a couple more months to wait.

In May, Eekwol, whose real name is Lindsay Knight, and her producer/brother, Mils, will be releasing *The List*.

"In my brother's words, we're dismantling and recreating hip hop as people know it," she says with a laugh.

She says the album incorporates their own original prairie sound, and in ways "it almost doesn't sound hip hop."

You may recall Eekwol's full-length debut, *Apprentice to the Mystery*, that was released in 2004. That album earned her the award for Best Hip Hop Album at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, and it was nominated at the Aboriginal Peoples' Choice Music Awards and the Indian Summer Music Festival.

Apprentice to the Mystery was just Eekwol and Mils, she says, whereas *The List* features a lot of outside artists collaborating on lyrics or playing live guitar. Eekwol says the coolest thing about the new album is that her brother got a hold of *stic.man* from *Dead Prez*, a New York hip hop group. She says they really admire his work.

"We share the same concepts: revolutionary, turning the tide."

So *stic.man* has a verse on the album in exchange for a beat from Mils to put in a *Dead Prez* song.

Even with her success, Eekwol says it can be challenging being a hip hop artist in Saskatchewan.

"It's definitely a smaller scene, but it's a strong one," she says. "And a lot of times it's not recognized as equivalent to other genres," something that doesn't impress her.

She says she's been in interviews before where



Lindsay Knight, or Eekwol as she is becoming better known as, is about to begin experimenting with Cree music in an attempt to blend her Indigenous roots with hip hop.

someone will ask her when she's going to move on to another genre.

"It bothers me because it's our bread and butter," and she has no intention of stopping any time soon.

While Eekwol doesn't see herself as a role model, she says she's been told that's what she is.

"To me I'm just doing what I love to do and following the path that I'm meant to follow."

She says sticking to a path and reaching your goals could be considered role model material, and that's what she's doing.

Eekwol's been so successful that she's now able to just focus on her music rather than work another job like so many artists have to do.

Even though her new album with Mils hasn't been released yet (release party in May!), Eekwol already has her next project in mind.

"My goal is to do some research with Cree music," such as the roots of drumming and singing.


Then she would like to blend her Indigenous roots with her more modern hip hop music.

"With respect to the protocols ... I'd like to have more traditional mixed with contemporary."

She thinks there are a lot of people who would help her with this latest project, such as her fiance, Randy Morin, whose first language is Cree, and renowned and award-winning singer, storyteller, and drummer, Joseph Naytowhow.



We got in wrong last month – and on the cover, to boot – so here's the straight goods. Eekwol and her fiance, Randy Morin. Sorry 'bout that.



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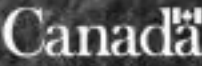

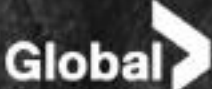
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A big thanks to all the women in our lives

Welcome to the Women's Issue of Eagle Feather News. March 5-9 is International Women's Week around the globe so let's take time to honour the accomplishments of the women in our lives.

I come from a family of strong women and thank goodness – who knows where I would be today if not for my Kohkum, Mom and Aunties. I feel a level of responsibility to be a good example as I am also Aunt, Mom and Kohkum.

I had hoped that the younger generation would learn from our mistakes and

bad choices. Are we all doomed to make the same mistakes? Apparently. When I was a teenager I recall staying out past curfew a couple of times.

My Mom would have a cow because I didn't phone home and let her know that I was going to be late, she used to threaten to sew a pocket in my bra for a dime (that's how much the pay phone cost back in my day) so I could always phone home.

I eventually got the message, but not before many more sleepless nights for my Mom.

She did say that one day I would have children and then I would know – I have four daughters and, boy, do I know what it's like to sit waiting for your children to phone or come home. I am happy to say that I am almost finished, as the last little bird is getting ready to fly the coop.

My younger sister is just beginning to enter this phase of her life. When I arrived at her home on Friday night I found her sitting waiting for her son to come home – that was at 8:00 p.m. So, while she drove around the neighbourhood (many times) I sat by the phone in case he called.

Eventually, we called the police and reported him missing – the little bugger eventually got home at 11:00. I told him perhaps we needed to sew a pocket in his clothing so he always has the money to call his Mom – he got the message.

To all you mothers who wait up for your children

to come home – be patient and when they do get home give them a hug and tell them how worried they made you (this scares them more than anything because they are expecting to get their butts kicked).

To you young folks – always let your parents or guardians know where you are because it's the responsible thing to do.

Now back to the amazing women in my family. This past Saturday, some of my extended family and friends gathered to raise money for one our own, my nephew, who is currently battling a rare form of cancer.

Man! I'm amazed with how some of the ladies in our family can make things happen. A big shout out to Selma, Dolores and Brenda for making the event on Saturday a huge success – we managed to raise over \$1,400 to help my nephew and his Mom.

To the communities of Marcellin, Muskeg Lake, and Ahtahkakoop thank you for your gracious donations and time.

Another date to remember is March 21, the

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Many of us know (all to well) how horrible it feels to be the victim of racial discrimination. Use this day to celebrate all of our differences.

Mahatma Gandhi said: "we must be the change we wish to see in the world". Until next month, play safe and have fun. Don't forget to say a big thanks to all the women in your lives for all the things they do for you.

Thank you to all the people who continue to read EFN and thanks for the emails and letters. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please send your

emails to sandee2says@yahoo.com or you can write to Eagle Feather News, Attn: Sandee Sez. P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4.

Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew



I have four daughters and, boy, do I know what it's like to sit waiting for your children to phone or come home. I am happy to say that I am almost finished, as the last little bird is getting ready to fly the coop.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

STC launches program to address health disparity in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods

The Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) recently launched an Urban Immunization Program. The new immunization program was designed and is being launched in direct response to the Saskatoon Neighborhood Health Disparity Study released in November 2006. The study, the first of its kind in Canada, shows that the level of health disparity between people living in the core neighbourhoods and the rest of the Saskatoon population has an unacceptable gap.

Specific to child immunization, the study found that inner city immunization rates for children is lower than 50 per cent as compared with a 90 per cent immunization rate for STC children living on-reserve.

Providing timely vaccines to protect children from the most common diseases is an important first step to

improving the overall health status of First Nations children and their communities.

"The Program has been designed to remove some of the most common barriers preventing parents from keeping their children's immunization schedules up to date," explains Ceal Tournier, General Manager of STC's Health and Family Services.

"The program will deliver unique supports to families seeking immunization services in the form of transportation, incentives, snacks and health information. Capitalizing on the STC social infrastructure is a key strategy in the objective of increasing immunization coverage to an acceptable public health standard," Tournier said.

"We are working in collaboration with the Saska-

toon Health Region to assess, track and evaluate these efforts. There are many points of intersection between STC and the health district and in order to be the most effective it is incumbent upon us to respect each other's strengths and make that work in the best interest of those living in the core neighbourhoods."



Ceal Tournier announces the program.

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FSIN Legal Counsel Bev Lafond swears in new Senators Melvin Littlecrow who was appointed by the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Norman Pat Dillon, appointed by the Independent First Nations, and Albert Pinacie who was appointed by Touchwood Agency Tribal Council.

Chiefs receive a scolding from Elder at FSIN Assembly

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Assembly held at the end of February will go down as one of the weirdest of these times. From a suggestion to reinstate David Ahenakew to the Senate, to an Elder giving the Chiefs heck for being late and lazy and to a televised address by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, this assembly had it all.

Day one started late as they waited for the Chiefs to arrive and form quorum. On the slate were the usual greetings. For this assembly, though, they tried not to have the usual Elders, veteran, Senate and women's address for the sake of time. But tradition won out and everyone got to speak.

After that, everyone turned his or her attention to the big screen for a teleconference with Minister Jim Prentice. Chief Lawrence Joseph was very apologetic for the Minister who insisted he couldn't leave Ottawa in case there was a vote. It was an interesting excuse as Liberal MP Gary Merasty was in the crowd, meeting and greeting the delegates. The Prentice speech was nine minutes of absolutely nothing. No reference to policy, or plans, just a bunch of blather. After he spoke, they lobbed him three softball questions that Prentice answered without really saying anything. It was truly a waste of technology and time.

The highlights of day one were the swearing in of three new Senators and an honouring of Freddie Sasakamoose and past La Ronge Chief, Harry Cook.

Day two got off to a slow start. They were having trouble getting quorum an hour after they were supposed to start. Chief Joseph

approached the microphone and said he wasn't allowed to give you guys (The Chiefs) heck, but here was someone who could. With that, Elder Alan Longjohn of Sturgeon Lake First Nation came to the podium. Here is what he said, in his words direct from a Missinippi Broadcasting recording.

"I come with a heavy heart to see all the empty seats here. There are supposed to be 72 Chiefs here this morning. Same with yesterday morning, same with every assembly I went to.

"Come on Chiefs, let's wake up to this day here. You are the people to talk to the government. When that person on the reserve puts an X by your name, they expect you to be here in the meeting and to bring stuff home, what you have learned. I would make a suggestion to the FSI to give you guys cheques daily.

"If you are not here, you don't get it.

"Let's wake up to our people. The feds and provincial governments are happy. You are not fighting them.

"What we are doing is putting that cheque in our pockets. That's it.

"Come on you Chiefs. Take heart. Are you going to see your great grandchildren start paying taxes in 20 years?

After the Elder spoke, many people were thrilled at his speech, and many Chiefs were shrinking in their chairs.

Eventually quorum formed and the assembly continued. During an open forum, Chief Irvin Starblanket suggested reinstating David Ahenakew to the Senate.

At that suggestion, you could hear a pin drop. The talk did not go far.

The assembly ended with the usual pre-

ABORIGINAL WOMEN ARE BEING TARGETED!



Canada is in an *urgent state of affairs* concerning the safety of Aboriginal women in Canada.

Increasingly, Aboriginal women are the targets of *racialized, sexualized* violence; that is, targeted because they of their Aboriginal identity and gender.

To raise awareness of the growing violence, the Native Women's Association of Canada has undertaken the Sisters In Spirit Initiative (SIS).

What is SIS?

A 5-year research, education, and policy initiative.

Aim?

To work with families of murdered and missing Aboriginal woman and to increase public understanding of the impacts of racialized, sexualized violence.

Goal?

To force governments, the judiciary and police forces to change their racist attitudes towards Canada's Aboriginal women and their families.

For further information about the Sisters In Spirit Initiative, call NWAC toll free at 1.800.461.4043, or visit our website at www.nwac-hq.org.

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Joely BigEagle-Pasapa, 37 Civil Engineer – Stantec Consulting Inc.

How conscious is Joely BigEagle-Pasapa about being a woman in a professional field traditionally dominated by men?

“I was talking with a colleague about being a woman in a non-traditional field and working primarily with men,” explains BigEagle-Pasapa. “I am sensitive to how sometimes what I say may be perceived or presumed differently, like, assertiveness versus controlling.”

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

“However, when you realize the power that comes with knowledge and how it is necessary to ‘rock the boat’ versus ‘keeping the status quo’ and it’s about growing up and knowing the difference on when to make a stand that you realize what being a responsible adult means.”

While doing her first year of engineering studies, BigEagle-Pasapa was one of four women studying with 50 male students.

“We supported and helped each other that year – we were interdependent on one another,” said BigEagle-Pasapa.

The following year she switched her major to mathematics, earning a degree, but engineering eventually drew her back. When she resumed her studies eight years later, there was a one to three ratio of women to men in engineering. During each of the next five years, she saw the gap between men and women close a little more.

For BigEagle-Pasapa, the gender shift in academia mirrors a gender shift for Aboriginal people in general, and Aboriginal women in particular.

“Woman are having to take on the role of breadwinner as well as that of mother and educator,” she said.

Women, too, are taking on increasingly important roles in ceremonies and ceremonies rooted in matriarchal tradition are reemerging and gaining prominence.

Early in her life, the single parent of three – Rebecca 17, Wade 14, and Waokiya 8 – realized that having a man in her life was not synonymous with support and stability.

“Sadly, I’ve made choices in my life where I haven’t always made the right decisions and have had to raise my children without their fathers,” said BigEagle-Pasapa.

At the same time, however, BigEagle-Pasapa is



Joely BigEagle-Pasapa and her daughter Rebecca.

thankful for care and nurturing she received from her two fathers.

“From my biological father Vincent BigEagle, I get my confidence, my sense of humour and a lot of my natural personality. From my dad, John Watson, I learned to speak in public and be opinionated, a storyteller and he gave me a good work ethic such as always working hard, helping the Elders and not forgetting the youth.”

Witnessing her own mother’s personal and professional triumphs fostered BigEagle-Pasapa’s indomitable spirit. After giving up alcohol and freeing herself from cumbersome relationships, the mother of seven began a steady professional climb with a highlight of her running in (and very nearly winning) the election for chief of White Bear First Nations.

She now works in community development as the community additions program coordinator/manager.

“I admire her for getting her education, getting better jobs, healing her spirit, re-learning our culture and ceremonies and doing well, always taking steps up,” said BigEagle-Pasapa.

“I admire her for challenging herself and that’s why I always challenge myself.”

Delephine Gall, 34 Aboriginal Diversity Consultant for the University of Regina

“**B**efore I did my practicum as an employment equity officer at the city of Regina, I didn’t know that such a job existed,” said Delephine Gall, the University of Regina’s Aboriginal diversity consultant.

Since she started working at the U of R in 2005, she’s helped the university revamp their diversity identification processes, revised the employment equity commitment statement that appears on all job postings and spearheaded the introduction of awareness training for the 2,600 people employed by the university.

“I don’t just do this for myself. I have four daughters of my own,” said Gall. “I think of my work as something I’m doing for them, for when they’re ready for their careers.”

Gall was born in Edmonton but grew



Delephine Gall

up in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario. Her family later moved to Lebret, then Qu’Appelle before settling in Regina when she was 18.

Gall dropped out of high school but returned to earn her Grade 12 at the age of 26, becoming the first of her four siblings to earn a high school diploma.

• Continued on Page 14

Fiddler believes its her role to document recent history

• Continued from Page Two

She wanted to emulate them but at the same time, her natural curiosity, precociousness and gifts as a storyteller led her down a different path. According to Fiddler, she strived to manifest the best qualities that she admired in them into her chosen career as a journalist.

Journalism today isn’t the male dominated professional field it used to be, Fiddler says. Today, she notes that there are more women in management positions at the CBC than there were a decade ago.

“The women who came before me – Tantoo Cardinal, Maria Campbell, Joan Beatty – who I’ve met and talked to and spent time with did all the heavy lifting, went through the hard stuff making it easier for those of us who came afterward,” said Fiddler.

“Now I have the great privilege of carrying on that work, and I do consider that a privilege.”

Those role models, Fiddler says, not only made history but also documented it for generations to come. In her role as a member of the media, Fiddler believes that it’s now part of her job to document recent history for the generations that will follow.

“The big problem with history is that it skipped certain people’s histories,” said Fiddler. In grade school, Fiddler recalls how discussion of the Métis, her own ancestors, was limited to fur trade. Not until after she got her journalism degree did she learn more about her heritage and her people.

Currently, Fiddler is doing masters studies at the Canadian Plains Research Institute at First Nations University of Canada and also works as an instructor at the university as well as being a current affairs producer at CBC Radio in Regina.

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International Day for the Elimination of Racism

Helping people understand motivates Métis awareness instructor

BY DARLA READ

Passion is what drives Marjorie Huard. For 24 years, she has worked with what is now Firstsask Credit Union, and if you ask her clients, she's one of the best when it comes to financial advising.

When she's not working, her time is devoted to teaching people about Aboriginal culture and history.

Huard teaches Aboriginal awareness courses to unions throughout Saskatchewan. She is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1400, which also happens to be the first local of UFCW in Canada to have an Aboriginal committee. Huard is also an active member of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's (SFL) Aboriginal committee.

Huard wanted to teach the course, entitled Unionism on Turtle Island, because of her Métis background. She is originally from Lestock, Saskatchewan and is of Cree and Scottish descent. With the International Day for the Elimination of Racism coming this month (March 21), she reflects on the racism she's faced in the past.

"I could always feel underlying discrimination," she says. "I don't look Aboriginal, and when people would find out, it

changed the way they looked at me. I feel I always have to be better because I'm Métis because people expect me to fail."

Huard says her job is to help people understand why things are the way they are today.

"When they understand, they can work to dispel myths."

She says her course has a huge impact on people. She recalls one she taught at the University of Saskatchewan last year where there were six men and six women. Huard took the group through a timeline from 400 A.D. to the present, illustrating that no matter what, history kept repeating itself.

"Half the class was so angry at the injustices to Aboriginal people, and the other half was crying."

However, Huard is quick to point out she doesn't do the course to make non-Aboriginal people feel guilty.

"I want them to feel informed," she explains.

Huard always includes an Aboriginal Elder to do an opening prayer and to talk about traditional teachings.

Darwin Delorme says Huard's work and creating more awareness in general are extremely important. He is chair of the SFL's Aboriginal committee.

"Racism and ignorance are hand in hand," and he says this training will help people understand, rather than saying "you will not do this or that."

Delorme is a Métis man from North Battleford. He has first-hand experience from the residential school system, as his parent is a victim of it, as was his adopted grandfather.

"I see the effects because my father was never able to properly father because he didn't know how to."

Delorme says people just need to understand that and understand the history.

And he says he'd rather call March 21 the day for the elimination of "ignorance." He doesn't like to use the word racism.

"I believe only one or two per cent of people are truly racist.

"Most people, once knowledgeable and understanding of the other side, tend to change their attitude," he explains. "I try to believe that people aren't bad, just ignorant of each other."

Huard says she sees the good in people when they take the course, and says it profoundly affects her.

"It's such an amazing experience for me. When we start, people don't know, they have some preconceived notions.

"To come out completely changed, that has a huge impact when you can change."

Huard has taught the course, which is



MARJORIE HUARD

three to five days in length, for four years now, and has taught at least 150 people. Because the course resurrects some of the racism she has felt in the past, it can be very emotionally draining for her.

"But it's a good feeling because I've reached more people. And hopefully they start sharing with their own members."

Huard says that's key, because the Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan is growing continuously, and relationships that have been developed along mostly negative lines need to be rebuilt into positive ones and then nurtured.

She says that's necessary if employers' hiring practices are going to reflect the province's rapidly changing demographic.

Gall promotes diversity at University of Regina

• Continued from Page 11

The motivation to return to school arose from being denied a job on the twin basis of being female and being pregnant. She launched but later dropped a formal Human Rights complaint, electing instead to pursue a professional career that would empower her while at the same time, help her help those similarly discriminated against.

She earned a business administration degree from Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and did her first professional placement in the human resources department of the City of Regina. After working for various organizations and agencies, she landed at the U of R in October of 2005 where she now effects tremendous change and growth for the university's diversity programming and policies.

Gall's proudest achievement is helping organize the teepee village at the 2005 Canada Summer Games.

Two women who had a huge impact on her life were Paula Doyle at the City of Regina and Lydia Cyr, a manager at SGI. As Gall's mentors, they showed Gall the meaning of inclusion and being valued in the workplace.

Closer to home, her family has always been Gall's bedrock support. Her mom, Joyce Meyerhoffer, taught her that she could achieve whatever she could imagine.

"My aunt, Virginia Musqua, and grandmother, Margaret Musqua, taught me about my First Nation culture."

She has been married to Chris Gall, her high-school sweetheart, since 1989, and lives in Regina.

STAMP OUT Racism

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21st


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STOP RACISM

MAKE A DIFFERENCE


"Sharing Success"

of Racial Discrimination - March 21

City adopts month to fight racism

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21. On that March day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws".

Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

In Saskatoon, they have turned it into a Cultural Diversity and Race Relations month with a myriad of activities to include the community. The month starts off at City Hall where Mayor Atchison and the race relations committee host a lunch for school children and invited guests.

Then it is on to the city hall chambers for speeches and an address by a local citizen who leads by example in our diverse community.

This year the speaker was Donna Heimbecker, the General Manager of the Saskatchewan Native Theater Company and also an honouree, from 2003, of the City's Living in Harmony Award.

The Living in Harmony Award is presented every March 21 to individuals or groups for their efforts in promoting intercultural harmony in Saskatoon.

"Our organization does more than just theatre," said Heimbecker. "We strive to provide a safe and mutually respectful environment for all who work and live within our community. We use theatre as a vehicle to develop strong, healthy and vibrant youth and communities."

Heimbecker stressed that here in Saskatoon, we have to look beyond an 'us and them' mentality.

"In fact, over 60 per cent of our play audiences are non-Aboriginal. All citizens of Saskatoon no matter what their cultural background is are welcome.



Donna Heimbecker is presented with a gift by Paul Gauthier, City of Saskatoon Community Services General Manager during the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Month kickoff celebrations.

"We can all use the arts to bridge our differences and to unite as citizens," said Heimbecker. "When we speak about cultural diversity and race relations, we are talking about a way of life ... creating cultural understandings that strengthen the spirit of our community as we strive to live in harmony as human beings today and everyday." After the speeches, Mayor Atchison and the school children raised the flag that will fly during Cultural Diversity and Race Relations month in Saskatoon.



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Policing a natural fit for Aboriginal RCMP officer

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

Part of being an RCMP constable is making school presentations, a part of the job that Const. Monique Cooper really enjoys.

During one classroom presentation to Grade 5 students in Moose Jaw, she decided to start by asking if they knew what RCMP stood for. Most did, so she raised the stakes, asking if they knew what GRC, the French acronym for the force, stood for.

"No one put up their hand at first, then one little guy inched his up and said 'Girls Rule Canada?'" said Cooper.

"Women are protectors, the givers of life and that goes hand in hand with ensuring fairness"

in policing started with work as an auxiliary constable in Moose Jaw. She joined the RCMP in 1998 and was selected to serve with the force's flagship Musical Ride troop, touring throughout Canada and North America between 2002 and 2005.

"My chosen career is certainly not one that is at the top of the list for women to choose. I wear three hats – not only do I represent the organization, but women and Aboriginal people, too," said Cooper.

For Cooper, policing is a natural fit for her because of both her sex and her Aborigi-

made it possible for her to have the job she loves so much today.

To honour their achievements, Cooper hopes that her own success will encourage more women to consider policing as job that they can not only do, but do very, very well.

"Women are protectors, the givers of life and that goes hand in hand with ensuring a sense of fairness and right," said Cooper.

"A woman's role in formal law enforcement is just an extension of what we do naturally."



Monique Cooper enjoys the fun at the Inuit Games. (Photo by Tim Vanhorn)

Like many professions, police forces are working hard to recruit women to their ranks and each year, the number of woman serving in Canadian police forces grows.

Far from a Girls Ruling Canada scenario, women officers certainly are commanding much respect in formal policing and enjoying success in a field once exclusively the domain of men.

"Sometimes when we're wearing the uniform we look a little genderless.

"I'm glad when we're recognized as being women but I also hope that, in the future, that it's not so much of a surprise and that it's something that can be expected more and more."

Born in Dawson Creek, B.C., Cooper was raised in Yellowknife, NWT. Her career

nal heritage. The role of a matriarch in First Nation culture is one imbued with power and respect. Women are protectors, nurturers and advocates for justice in Cooper's view, and, as such, a career in formal policing was a dual match for her beliefs and professional ambitions.

"You don't get things handed to you because you are female or Aboriginal. I've certainly worked hard and stayed focused and celebrated the differences between myself, my colleagues and the people I meet," Cooper said.

Cooper is always conscious of the women who pioneered policing as a career choice and how their brave work

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"On behalf of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus, I'd like to recognize the many contributions and accomplishments Aboriginal people have made in the province, and thank them for all they've done to make Saskatchewan great."

-Brad Wall

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The signatories on the AEDP Partnership Agreement were Andrew Bemister, A/Associate Regional Director General, INAC, Chief Dennis Dustyhorn - Kawacatoose First Nation and Minister Maynard Sonntag - First Nations and Métis Relations.

Kawacatoose First Nation signs employment agreement with Government of Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan recently signed partnership agreements to increase job opportunities for First Nations and Métis people in the province.

The Department of First Nations and Métis Relations and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada signed an Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) partnership agreement with the Kawacatoose First Nation.

Days later, the department of First Nations and Métis relations signed with the Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority, the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO), the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses and the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan.

"All program partners are working together with the Saskatchewan Government to promote full participation of all people in the economy of our province," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Maynard Sonntag said.

"In Saskatchewan, we share a vision, where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and realize their dreams of building a better future right here in the province."

"This partnership is an opportunity to provide training and employment opportunities," Kawacatoose First Nation Band councillor Bill Strongarm said.

"This capacity building will eventually lead to a better quality of life for our members."

The Government of Saskatchewan also signed a partnership agreement to increase job opportunities for First Nations and Métis people in the north.

"SAHO is pleased to sign this agreement in the hopes it solidly establishes a welcoming place for Aboriginal people to work in all levels of the health care system," SAHO board chair Alex Taylor said.

"The Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority believes in supporting a representative workforce and has developed a strategy to reach this goal," Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority board chair David Seright said.

"With approximately 80 per cent of the current staff compliment identified as Aboriginal, we are pleased to be able to say that we truly have a representative workforce in our health authority."

Through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program, the Saskatchewan Government is striving to build a representative workforce that has First Nations and Métis people represented at all occupational levels in proportion to their population numbers in the province.

Saskatoon Tribal Council celebrates 25 years

The Saskatoon Tribal Council celebrated 25 years of "partnering for success" as the tribal council marked its silver anniversary on Friday February 23, 2007.

"Vision, hard work and partnerships are the foundation of success for the Saskatoon Tribal Council as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

"The Saskatoon Tribal Council is a model of success for not only First Nations but the entire province of Saskatchewan," Tribal Chief Joe Quewezance said.

Established on February 23, 1982 the Saskatoon Tribal Council consists of seven First Nations: Yellowquill First Nation, Kinstin Saulteaux Nation, White Cap Dakota First Nation, Mistawasis First Nation, One Arrow First Nation, Muskoday First Nation and the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

The seven First Nations are located within a 250-kilometer radius of Saskatoon within the Treaty Four and Treaty Six regions. STC represents approximately 15,000 First Nations people within the seven member reserve communities.

As Tribal Chief for 12 of the tribal

council's 25 years, Chief Quewezance says the tribal council can proudly claim a number of innovative and first achievements in Saskatchewan.

For example, the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation developed Saskatchewan's first urban reserve located in Saskatoon in what was once the Town of Sutherland.

The urban reserve is now a hub of First Nations government and business in Saskatchewan.

STC was the first tribal council to create an Urban First Nation Office to provide family and health services to First Nations in Saskatoon and area and the development of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon is another major milestone for the tribal council.

The most recent achievement and one of STC's largest is the new Dakota Dunes Casino located on the White Cap Dakota First Nation near Saskatoon.

There are plans for a big party on National Aboriginal Day to properly celebrate the 25 years of accomplishment.

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Gil Ledoux cuts the anniversary cake while Muskoday First Nation Chief Austin Bear and Yellowquill First Nation Chief Robert Whitehead look on.



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Rights to traditional knowledge often fall into the wrong hands

BY DARLA READ

An international expert in traditional knowledge rights made the case that copyright, trademark, and patents don't adequately protect Indigenous knowledge.

Dr. Greg Young-Ing was speaking at the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company to a crowd of about 25 people on March 1.

A publisher for 15 years, Young-Ing wrote an Aboriginal style guide. He says he thought it was the best way to outline when to get approval and how to incorporate traditional and customary laws when writing, editing, and publishing.

Young-Ing is now Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus for the Creator's Rights Alliance and works on national projects and meets with people at the United Nations to discuss traditional knowledge rights.

Under customary law and cultural protocols, certain songs, dances, stories, and dramatic performances can only be performed or recited by certain people and only in certain settings.

Certain crests, motifs, designs, and symbols are owned by certain clans or families.

Young-Ing gave examples where people did not respect such laws and protocols, but Aboriginal people could do nothing about it. He cited the Anne Cameron case.

Cameron is a non-Indigenous author in Canada. She heard some Indigenous stories told, and then proceeded to put those stories

into a series of books. She changed some of the stories in the process.

However, those stories are now copyrighted to her. She is the sole royalty beneficiary of those stories, even though some of those stories, under customary law and cultural protocol, were not meant for the public and were meant to be told only by certain people.

However, "if you tried to sue her, you wouldn't get anywhere," says Young-Ing, and in fact, she could sue if the Indigenous group who originally told the story tried to tell it or tell it correctly.

And remember that song, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"? It was originally recorded in 1939 by South African singer Solomon Linda. It incorporated lyrics from the original Mbube Song, traditionally sung in Zulu.

That song became famous in the United States and was copyrighted there. However, the American singer is now reaching out to Linda and his family in terms of trying to share royalties.

Young-Ing says the exploitation continues if you look at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics symbol. Inuit people objected to the use of the inukshuk, but the symbol has been trademarked.

"I look at this, this is really an example of what's wrong," says Young-Ing. "There's an inequity going on there."

Young-Ing says at the United Nations, people are saying there needs to be a new system that is based on some aspects of customary law and some aspects of intellectual property rights.

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Meadow Green proud of its new W.P. Bate Community School

Sheila Pocha is a Métis woman who is the Principal of W.P. Bate Community School in Saskatoon's inner city. She has been heavily involved in the community for many years and is also on the Board of Directors of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. We asked for her thoughts on running a new school and being a Métis educator and administrator. These are her words.

How did it come to be that they built a new school in "the hood" just two blocks from its original home?

The old W.P. Bate Community School, originally located on Ottawa Avenue, was a building that was built in the early 1960s for an enrolment of approximately 200 students. As time moved along, the Meadow Green neighborhood grew and portables were set up on the three acre footprint. The list of needs and/or great facility upgrades began to materialize in the past 20 years and within the past ten years, the school became a 'Community School'. The needs of the community became more apparent for some families. School staff and community members responded to those needs.

I began my administrative work at the school five years ago when we were in the midst and hype of actualizing values, knowledge and skills within the 'communities of hope' framework. At that time, it seemed a dream to be able to administer and work within the

community school framework in a brand new school building, particularly a building that is a shared integrative unit open to all community and civic members. However, the new building has materialized with great support

the old footprint. After a great amount of public consultation and research we realized we needed to move to a bigger and more improved land site. Our parent representatives spoke passionately and adamantly about the need for



Sheila Pocha, Principal of W.P. Bate with artist Kevin Pee-ace in front of a mural he did with the students of the school. The mural reflects the cultural diversity of the student population.

from our parent council, city officials, public school board trustees, SK Learning, and our facilities department within Saskatoon Public Schools.

There was some initial concern that a new public school building built within a core neighborhood was not a good idea as some community members believed the building should remain on

the new building to appear in a newly renovated city park closer to our families.


What has been the response from the community so far?

As we envisioned, the school has brought a great amount of joy and jubilation in the community. The new W.P. Bate

Community School sits proudly in Meadow Green Park and is situated in a place where our families have closer access to the school. Many of our student population are those students residing in the apartment dwellings and along the southeast side of our park. We, the students, parents, community members and staff are feeling a sense of proud ownership and a renewed excitement in our learning process and community development. Since our grand opening in October of 2006 we have heard numerous comments about the rejuvenation our new building has brought into the community.

A new school or new building isn't often found in older core neighborhoods. Instead they are developed in newer areas of the city. This building has revitalized an older community and has brought a great sense of belonging and self-worth to our families. On a daily basis there are many more parents and/or community members visiting our building either for parent coffee time, the book empowerment club, volunteering to help in the Nutrition Room and supervision of students, or simply to say hello and pick their children up from school. Our pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms are often viewed with joy and elation as these classroom settings set a precedent for the kind of early learning centers in which all parents would want their children to be learning. Our City

• Continued on Page 22



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Montreal Lake Chief Lionel Bird shares a laugh with Great West Diamond President and CEO Brent Jellicoe during the signing of their Memorandum of Understanding.

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

Montreal Lake Cree Nation has signed an exploration agreement with Great West Diamonds Corporation that will facilitate progress at the Candle Lake Diamond Project.

"This agreement gives Great West Diamonds the right to proceed with exploration within our traditional territory," explains Montreal Lake Cree Nation Chief Lionel Bird.

"For Montreal Lake, it means future jobs, future training, and future business opportunities."

Great West Diamonds will conduct exploration activities on three target sites within Montreal Lake's traditional territory covering 12,196 hectares in the Candle Lake-Whiteswan Lake area, located approximately 90 kilometres northeast of Prince Albert.

"We have developed a positive relationship with the Montreal Lake Cree Nation and look forward to working with them in a mutually beneficial, co-operative relationship," stated GWDC President and CEO, Brent Jellicoe.

"As a long time resident of Saskatchewan with plans to stay here, I want to ensure, to the extent of my power, that the proper and right things are done. And the only way to be here for a long time is to make sure everyone is involved in the decisions, involved in the economic benefits and first and foremost, the proper stewardship of

the land."

The agreement provides community members with accessibility to employment and training as well as opportunities to participate in new business ventures related to the exploration activities including provision of camp and catering, drilling, environmental services, and other contracts for works, goods, and services.

Although there are limited jobs in the exploration field, Chief Bird is anticipating the finds will be sufficient enough to look at a mine down the road where the major job and training opportunities will come.

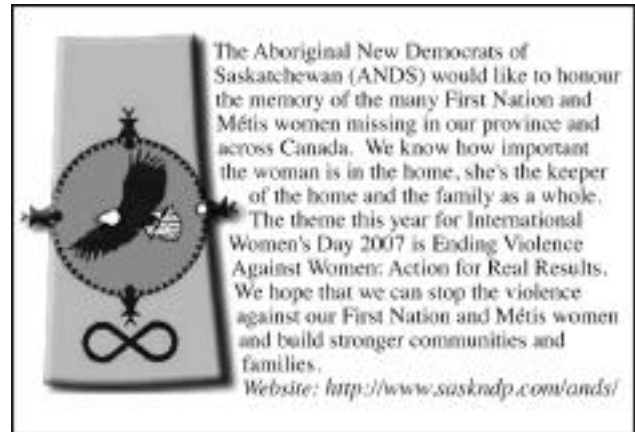
"Our people tend to stay within the community. Whether they get university training or other opportunities within the mainstream society, a lot of people come back, so we need to build within the boundaries of our traditional territory."

Montreal Lake has interviewed their Elders over the last ten years in order to map their traditional lands and over 55 per cent of the Prince Albert forest is in their territory.

"We know that the land in question here is where Archie Halkett's trap line is," said Chief Bird. "He has fed his family from that territory."

"The land is very important to us and this agreement is special and significant because it acknowledges our Treaty rights, a Treaty we signed in Malinosa many years ago."

"But now is also the time for us to start training our people for industry."



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Former Playgirl model, Dirk Dashing on Deadbeat Dads

John L.: Ladies and gentlemen, put your mitts together for Eagle Feather News' senior social commentator and former Playgirl model, Dirk Dashing. Dirk, I didn't know you were a model. I have to be quite honest with you, buddy, I don't see it.

Dirk: It's not a chapter in my life I'm proud of, John. It was the recession. I was a wide-eyed lad of 18 fresh off the reserve. First year of university. Scared. Alone. Broke. My only assets were this face and a butt like butter-scotch ice cream on a tread-mill. The lady comes up to me with a camera and two hours later I've got funds for bus fare and Kraft Dinner to last three years.

John L.: So what happened?

Dirk: The December, 1983, issue was on the stands for two days when the unsolicited butt-pinching began. Then I was booted out of the political science department, only to be drafted by a gang of philosophy students because, 'they wanted me for my mind!' That was a lie, John.

John L.: I'm trying not to laugh, Dirk, but they lied to you about loving your mind. Have I got that right?

Dirk: Obviously, Mr. Little nipples, you've never been used for your body before. OK, sure, the free drinks were nice at first, and some of the attention was nifty. In fact, women would talk about me in front of my back and say, "He's a tall drink of seduction wrapped up in sweet tastiness, dripping with inside-out marshmallows, covered in 'Ouch, oh yeah, baby' across the skin." But the morning

after I would be tossed aside like a stale and empty bag of delicious.

John L.: Dirk, do you ever listen to yourself talk?

Dirk: I drift in and out.

John L.: Why don't we get down to

dudes, John. Obviously, they got to the meeting where we learned how to be men and give a damn. However, no one knows just how often First Nation guys tuck their tails and run. But if you look at the population of university students a lot of

making in our communities, assuming only men had the God given right to rationality and authority. 'You da man!' they said, and we bought it and liked it.

John L.: Yeah, I can't see too many communities embracing those principles, Dirk. The power men enjoy is far too attractive.

Dirk: But you know the old saying, John, 'If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman.'

John L.: Oooo, clever.

Dirk: I got more. 'Behind every successful man is a surprised woman.' Or how's this one, 'What would men be without women? Pretty damn scarce!' Or try this one on for size, 'Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.'...

John L.: ...OK, that's enough Dirk...

Dirk: ...Yep, gone are the days when 'Women should be obscene and not heard!' Or get this, 'Show me a woman who doesn't feel guilt and I'll show you a man!'...

John L.: That's all the space we have for Dirk Dashing, folks. Join us next month when Mr. Answer Guy makes an appearance to advise you on life, the universe and everything.

Dirk:...Or get this one, 'What do you call...'

Dirk says, "Even a strong willed woman needs a man, especially if there's a spider involved."

dirkdashing@shaw.ca

5th Generation

Winston McLean



business? I understand you're going to report on deadbeat dads. What piercing insights do you have for us on this disturbing issue?

Dirk: John, we're talking about the true deadbeat parents. The scumbags who had no problem spawning yard monkeys, but who refuse to step up like real men to make sure their offspring have all the necessities of a good life – crazy, bizarre and wacky stuff like food, clothing, books, sports equipment and a regular visit from Daddy dearest.

John L.: You're right, this is a serious social problem. But did you know that between 85 and 90 per cent of kids receive court ordered payments, most of them on a regular basis. And most of those children get regular visits from their fathers.

Dirk: I gots no problems with those

them are single mothers trying to do better for their little 'uns. And where's daddy? He's in a pub somewhere crying how his ex is a b*&%#.

John L.: So how do we deal with this problem and get the kids what they deserve?

Dirk: I have a plan, John. A plan so insane that my head would explode if I even knew what I was thinking about. We resurrect the traditional principles that women hold property for the family, that the mother has the final word in the home and that the guy is only the most honoured guest in the household.

John L.: Dirk, That's a major cultural change. Do you think First Nation communities will go this?

Dirk: Probably not, John. The residential schools and Indian Agents did a fantastic job of isolating moms from the decision



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**Wanuskewin
Heritage Park**

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a world renowned heritage park that brings to life the history and culture of the Northern and Plains First Peoples. The Park is located on the northern outskirts of Saskatoon, and is now accepting applications for the following summer positions (May to August):

- 1. Interpretive/Visitor Services Guides (4)**
Guides greet and provide visitors with an orientation to the Park, including the Main Exhibit Hall, Gallery, Theatre, Activity Circle, Trail System, Archaeology Lab and Sites. They introduce and explain interpretive displays, conduct flora and fauna tours, and provide information and conduct demonstrations on a variety of traditional lifestyle activities. Interpretive Guides also conduct workshops in traditional crafts, and monitor the condition of park trails, exhibits and visitor areas, to ensure the public's safety and that all interactive exhibits are operational.
- 2. Maintenance/Custodial Staff (2)**
Under the direction of the Maintenance Supervisor, this position is responsible for the general overall maintenance of the facility and park grounds, and will work closely with our full time staff in the following areas:
 - Building, fixtures and furnishings
 - Barn and out buildings,
 - Mechanical systems
 - Food Services equipment
 - Vehicles
 - Grounds, sidewalks and trails
- 3. Restaurant Staff (3)**
Under the direction of our Executive Chef/Food Services Manager, this position is responsible for the following:
 - Food preparation
 - Assisting Chef and cooks
 - Meal Service
 - Inventory Control
 - General Kitchen Maintenance
 - POS cash register operation

Please submit your resume, complete with references, by no later than March 23, 2007, to:

Wanuskewin Heritage Park
RR#4, Penner Road
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3J7
Attention: Human Resources

Email: gthorimbert@wanuskewin.com
Fax: 306-931-4522 NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

We thank all applicants for their interest. However, only those that are selected for an interview will be contacted.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level II

Note: This position has been designated for qualified candidates who self-declare in writing that they are persons of Aboriginal Ancestry. It is important to speak the predominant aboriginal language for the area. Other candidates will be considered if no qualified designated group members are found.

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Broadview

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of provincial statutes, bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants for Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons in custody and charges under provincial statutes.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace;
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

Training is mandatory for all Justices of the Peace and is provided by the province.

Appointment is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

For an application form or further information please contact:

Don Webster
Supervising Justice of the Peace
3rd Floor 1815 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Closing date: March 30, 2007



Saskatchewan
Justice

1815 Smith Street
Regina, Canada
S4P 3V7

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level II

Note: This position has been designated for qualified candidates who self-declare in writing that they are persons of Aboriginal Ancestry. It is important to speak the predominant aboriginal language for the area. Other candidates will be considered if no qualified designated group members are found.

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Buffalo Narrows

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of provincial statutes, bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants for Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons in custody and charges under provincial statutes.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace;
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

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Saskatchewan
Justice

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Regina, Canada
S4P 3V7

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level II

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Pierceland

As a Justice of the Peace, you will consider charges against individuals for a violation of provincial statutes, bylaws, or the Criminal Code and issue Summons, Warrants for Arrest and Search Warrants. Justices of the Peace may also deal with the release or remanding of accused persons in custody and charges under provincial statutes.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- grade twelve education or combination of training and experience to carry out the duties;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace;
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

Training is mandatory for all Justices of the Peace and is provided by the province.

Appointment is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

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Don Webster
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3rd Floor 1815 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Closing date: March 30, 2007



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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - Level I

Provincial Court of Saskatchewan is seeking a responsible person to serve as Justice of the Peace for the following community:

Kyle

As a Justice of the Peace, you will administer oaths or affirmations on affidavits and Informations, confirm or cancel police issued process, sign court issued process, review and sign subpoenas, and review and sign Warrants for Arrest.

Remuneration is on a fee-for-service basis.

To qualify for appointment, you must:

- be an adult Saskatchewan resident under 65 years of age;
- grade twelve education or combination of training and experience to carry out the duties;
- possess good oral and written communication skills;
- live in the area of the community served by the Justice of the Peace;
- have knowledge of the community you will serve.

Persons whose activities conflict with the duties of a Justice of the Peace, or employees of the Provincial Government or Crown Corporations, employees or members of a police force or Corps of Commissionaires cannot be appointed. Federal employees or elected officials will not be considered for appointment.

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3rd Floor 1815 Smith Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7
Phone: (306) 787-8006

Closing date: March 30, 2007



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The Boreal Woodland Caribou - A Species at Risk

The Boreal Woodland Caribou is a Species at Risk Protected By the Species at Risk Act. (SARA)

COSEWIC & SARA Status: THREATENED (in danger of disappearing from the wild if threats continue)

How do I know a Woodland Caribou when I see one?

Caribou are ancient members of the deer family. Caribou are unique among the deer family in that both males and females have antlers.

The Woodland Caribou's coat is mostly brown, but the neck and underbelly are creamy white. The caribou is 1.0 to 1.2 m high at the shoulder, and mature individuals weigh 110 to 210 kg.

Boreal Woodland Caribou Distribution and Habitat

The Boreal Population of Woodland Caribou are found in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Woodland Caribou use mature and old growth conifer (such as spruce and pine) forests that contain large quantities of terrestrial and arboreal (tree-inhabiting) lichens.

Why are Woodland Caribou considered to be a species at risk (threatened)?

Habitat destruction, hunting, disturbance by humans (including construction of roads and pipelines), and predation (by wolves, coyotes, and bears) have all contributed to the decline of Woodland Caribou. Forestry practices and the spread of agriculture and mining have resulted in the loss and alteration of important caribou habitat.

Factors beyond our control, such as climate change, are also influential.

Woodland Caribou Protection and Recovery

Manitoba's Boreal Woodland Caribou are protected under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

First Nation Communities, because of their unique knowledge and experiences with Woodland Caribou, are an integral component of protection and recovery actions.

In Manitoba, First Nations have played a major role by participating on local Woodland Caribou committees in both the northwest and eastern regions and these include the First Nations of Opaskwayak, Mosakahikan, Chemawawin Cree Nations, Brokenhead Objibway, Grand Rapids, Hollow Water, Black River and Sagkeeng, and the Cormorant Resource Management Board.

First Nations have participated in Saskatchewan on the Boreal Woodland Caribou Management Team to develop a recovery strategy for Woodland Caribou. First Nations represented on the team were from the Prince Albert Grand Council, Agency Chief's Tribal Council, and the Meadow Lake Tribal Council.

Opportunities exist for First Nations to become involved in Species at Risk protection and recovery. For example, Prince Albert Grand Council in Saskatchewan collaborated with biologists to gain funding from the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) to create awareness about Woodland Caribou.

In 2002-2003, supported by the HSP, a First Nation community researcher travelled to First Nation communities to share information about Woodland Caribou protection and recovery needs.



Learn more about the Species at Risk Act (SARA) Process by reading the accompanying article or by contacting the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) at (204) 956-0660.

Provide feedback to the Government of Canada regarding listing and recovery of species at risk in your area ww.sararegistry.gc.ca.

Get involved in stewardship initiatives for recovery and protection of species at risk in your area by contacting species at risk Recovery Team Chairs

www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/recovery/team_ch_e.cfm).

Peculiar Woodland Caribou Facts

- The name caribou is probably a corruption of the Micmac name "xalibu" — which means "the one who paws."
- Caribou antlers grow so rapidly that an adult male may show velvety lumps on his head in March and have a rack more than a metre in length by August!
- The caribou's coat consists of a fine crimped under-fur with a thick layer of guard hairs on top. The guard hairs are hollow (like straws), and the air trapped inside acts as insulation to keep in the caribou's body heat. Caribou are excellent swimmers, and the hollow hairs help them float in the water.

2007 Summer Employment

Notice No. N-010

Recreation Technician I - SUMMER PROGRAM COORDINATORS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise, coordinate and administer the summer playground, youth centre and weekend paddling pool programs in a designated area of the City. Supervision includes evaluating the performance of Playground and Youth Centre Leaders, as well as the Weekend Paddling Pool Attendants in a designated area.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from a recognized two-year post-secondary Recreation Diploma Program or a Degree in Recreational Administration, Kinesiology, Physical Education or Leisure Studies. One year's experience related to playground or youth centre programs is preferred. Possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate is required. A valid CPR Level C certificate is preferred.

SALARY: \$2,482.10 per month (2006 Rates). **DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** June 1 to August 31, 2007. **HOURS OF WORK:** Hours of work vary; evening and weekend work is required.

Summer Program Leaders - PLAYGROUND LEADERS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan, organize and direct social and recreational activities for children. This includes sports, games, arts, crafts, drama, music and special events.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference is given to applicants with a minimum of one year's post-secondary education in the field of Recreation/Leisure, Physical Education, Early Childhood Development or Education. Experience working with children and possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate and CPR Level C certificate is required.

SALARY: \$11.10 per hour (2006 Rates) **DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** June 26 to August 23, 2007. **HOURS OF WORK:** Hours of work vary depending on work assignment; evening work is required.

Summer Program Leaders - YOUTH CENTRE LEADERS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan, organize and direct social and recreational activities for youth. This includes sports, games, arts, crafts, drama, music and special events.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference is given to applicants with a minimum of one year's post secondary education in the field of Recreation/Leisure, Physical Education, Early Childhood Development or Education. Experience working with youth and possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate is required. A valid CPR Level C certificate is preferred.

SALARY: \$11.10 per hour (2006 Rates) **DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** July 3 to August 17, 2007. **HOURS OF WORK:** Hours of work vary depending on work assignment; evening work is required.

Summer Program Leaders - METAWETAN YOUTH CENTRE LEADERS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan, organize and direct social and recreational activities for youth. This includes sports, games, arts, crafts, drama, music and special events with an emphasis on Aboriginal culture.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference is given to applicants with a minimum of one year's post secondary education in the field of Recreation/Leisure, Physical Education, Early Childhood Development or Education. Experience working with Aboriginal children and youth and possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate is required. A valid CPR Level C certificate is preferred.

SALARY: \$11.10 per hour (2006 Rates) **DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** July 3 to August 17, 2007. **HOURS OF WORK:** Hours of work vary depending on work assignment; evening work is required.

Summer Program Leader - SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTOR

RESPONSIBILITIES: Coordinates the purchasing and distribution of supplies and equipment to the summer playground and youth centre programs.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference is given to applicants with a minimum of one year's post-secondary education in the field of Recreation/Leisure, Physical Education, Early Childhood Development or Education. One year's work experience demonstrating strong organizational or administrative skills is required. Possession of a valid Saskatchewan Class 5 Driver's Licence and an acceptable SGI Driver's Abstract (safe driving record) is required.

SALARY: \$11.10 per hour (2006 Rates) **DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** May 30 to August 31, 2007. **HOURS OF WORK:** Hours of work vary; some evening work is required.

Activity Leaders - WEEKEND PADDLING POOL ATTENDANTS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise children attending the paddling pool site and maintain a safe, hazard-free and clean activity area at the paddling pool. Provide excellent customer service to the public.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have completed Grade 10. One year's related experience (volunteer or work) monitoring or leading recreational activities is required. Possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate and CPR Level C certificate is required.

SALARY: \$10.02 per hour (2006 Rates) **DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** July 4 to August 19, 2007. **HOURS OF WORK:** Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for the above positions is Friday, March 16, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Please contact the Community Development Branch at 975-3378, or Human Resources at 975-3261, City Hall, 222 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon SK, S7K 0J5, or our website at www.saskatoon.ca for further information regarding application to this position.

NOTE: Only those candidates receiving an interview will be notified. All successful candidates will require completion of a Criminal Record Check prior to offer of employment.

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Soccer star headed to Louisiana State University

Taryne Boudreau, one of the most sought after athletes to come out of Canada in some time, has signed a letter of intent to attend the Louisiana State University.

The member of the Under 20 National soccer team has been pursued for some time now by numerous schools. In the end, it was head coach Brian Lee and his upstart LSU program that won the services of what some call the best International recruit of 2007.

Lee is very excited to have added such a vital piece to such a talented team.

"She's a difference maker on the field, and we're excited that she'll be a part of this program for the next four years."

While she is set to join the Lady Tigers on the field she is also taking on a new challenge and will pursue a degree in Business marketing during her four years at LSU.

Dixon has time to contemplate future

You would think that a loss to eventual Alberta CCAA Basketball Champs would be easy to swallow. Not for Nathan Dixon, the second year guard and local Saskatoon product who plays for Red

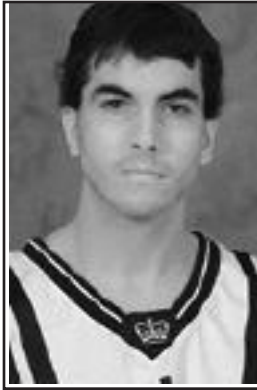
Sports Roundup

By Blue Pelletier

Deer College wanted to make it to Nationals so bad.

Maybe it was because he knew that this chapter in his life is probably over now. His stellar play has led to several opportunities to make it to the next level.

The next level for him will probably be a CIS School somewhere in Western Canada. Through hard work Dixon has improved steadily and has the potential to be an impact player somewhere.



NATHAN DIXON

The Player's Ball is back in Saskatoon

The 2nd Annual Player's Ball will

take place on March 29 at Saskatoon's Bedford Road Collegiate. Game time is 6 p.m. for the girls, while the boys tip off at 8:00.

The games feature the top boys and girls basketball players from our community. Following the first game there will be a skills competition, and then a three point shootout. What everyone comes to see is the dunk contest that will precede the boy's game.

During the week teams will partake in practices at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. There will also be a Mentor Event, where teams enjoy an evening of Glow Bowling and Pizza while rubbing shoulders with current Men's and Ladies Basketball Teams.

Former Peepeekisis Chief is honoured

The 1st Annual George Poitras Memorial Hockey Tournament will take place March 30 - April 1. The event will be hosted by the Poitras family and the

Peepeekisis First Nation.

Games will take place in Fort Qu'appelle, Balcarres, and Lebret.

In 1957 Poitras became the first Saskatchewan Indian to be given the prestigious Tom Loangboat Award, which at the time recognized the top Indian Athlete in Canada. The family wanted to bestow an honour worthy of the former Chief of Peepeekisis. This year will be the 50th anniversary of the award. Keeping with cultural traditions the family will hold this tournament annually over the next four years.

On Friday March 30 there will be a Banquet held to kickstart the event. The honorary guest speaker will be Fred Sasakamoose.



The boys from Saskatoon took their traveling basketball road show to Beauval. This time they faced some stiff competition, but were able to hold off the best that Saskatchewan's northwest had to offer. The Ile-a-La-Crosse team had a good run on the final day, winning three tough games to make it to the final. Unfortunately they ran out of gas and the Warriors were able to squeak out a big win.

Métis principal relates well to First Nations, Métis parents

• Continued from Page 17
sponsored Community Room, the LRC and Computer Lab are great spaces that have been resourcefully used in many productive ways with our students and the wider community.

What is it like being a Métis woman, running a school and being so visible and active in the community?

To be a Métis principal within our greater public school division is an honor. I am very proud to work with the W.P. Bate students, staff and community. In addition to the regular administrative duties and educational leadership a school principal is expected to provide I find that being a Métis principal enables me to speak more openly with First Nations and Métis parents and children and to advocate for their needs

from an informed perspective.

Secondly, I feel I am showing both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities that a Métis person can do this work in a way that relates well to the people within the community it serves.

I am very proud of my Métis roots and hope students of all ancestries will be inspired to show pride in their culture, heritage and feel they belong at W.P. Bate.

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saskatchewaninmotion.ca >>> JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Conference designed to empower youth

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE



Picture people walking around in fluorescent green t-shirts with a big arrow on it saying: "You need to know me."

Imagine how easy it would be to get around town, or to find a new job if people, who you needed to know, wore those same shirts and you could just walk up to them and get help. Life would be much easier.

The organizers of the Indigenous Youth Empowerment Conference had that thought in mind and brought in role models that youth should know, and had them present, or just be present for the two-day affair.

"The purpose of the conference is to create a celebration for Native youth, to gather together and to be proud of who they are, where they come from," said Lana Johnstone-LeDoux, the conference coordinator and a Youth Outreach Support Worker with the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

"We want the youth to understand the connection between each other and with the older youth presenters and the presenters made available to create role models for themselves and to connect with them."

Kendy Pechawis said the conference had a "real positive feel" to it.

Presenters ranged from treaty talks, to actor Sam Badger, youth worker Mike Tanton, hip hop artist Eekwol, a cultural presentation from Marc Longjohn and speeches by role models like lawyer Lori Johnstone-Clarke.

"We were so happy with the role models and presenters we had," added Johnstone-LeDoux. "They all have that connection still with the youth, still involved with them, still can talk to them, are willing to sit down and listen to them and the youth can still understand them."

Kendy Pechawis, a Grade 11 student at Leask School and from Mistawasis First Nation appreciated the presenters.

"They were awesome," said Kendy. "These people are doing good things in the community and still take time to talk to us, and give back."

Pechawis couldn't name a particular aspect of the conference that was better than any other because she liked it all.

"I have learned about my own culture, and I have learned respect and I am still in school and feel good about myself. There is a real positive feel here."

The conference was formed around the concepts of respect, courtesy and genuine pride, feelings that Johnstone-LeDoux found lacking in the past.

"When I was growing up, it was hard for me to connect to others. I went to school in a white school and got bused in. It was fine, I am not cutting that down in anyway, but it was also really hard to be proud of where you came from and everything else because you were always trying to get in with everybody else.

"You just leave things at home; you don't go out and talk about. For example I didn't take bannock sandwiches to school," said Johnstone-LeDoux.

She acknowledges that the challenges in the city for today's youth are tougher than ever, and many youth tend to shrug off their cultural heritage in order to fit in, or because they have never really had a connection to it.

"I want cultural pride to be something that is a norm, something that's comfortable, something that you shouldn't be ashamed of for today's youth," she added.

"Because one of the things I found working with youth in Saskatoon is you ask them where they come from and they will say 'Saskatoon'.

"No, where do you come from ... like where are you from, because you have a reserve, where is your reserve, because I am from Mistawasis.

"I want everyone to connect in that way. They have to make a connection, otherwise, who are you if you don't know where you came from?"



Tala Tootoosis, left and Gabrielle Felix, Youth Community Development Team members with Communities for Children, helped Conference coordinator Lana Johnstone-LeDoux, middle, bring together an excellent array of presenters to connect with the youth.

The 9th Annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence

Deadline for nominations April 13th, 2007
Gala Evening May 11th, 2007 at TCU Place

Award Categories

Outstanding Achievement	Sports
Leadership	Recreation
Education	Fine Arts/Performing Arts
Community Service	Technology/Science
Culture	Spirit

Nomination forms can be found on www.sasktel.com and have also been mailed out to your school.

For further information:
 aboriginal.youthawards@sasktel.sk.ca
 1-866-931-6205

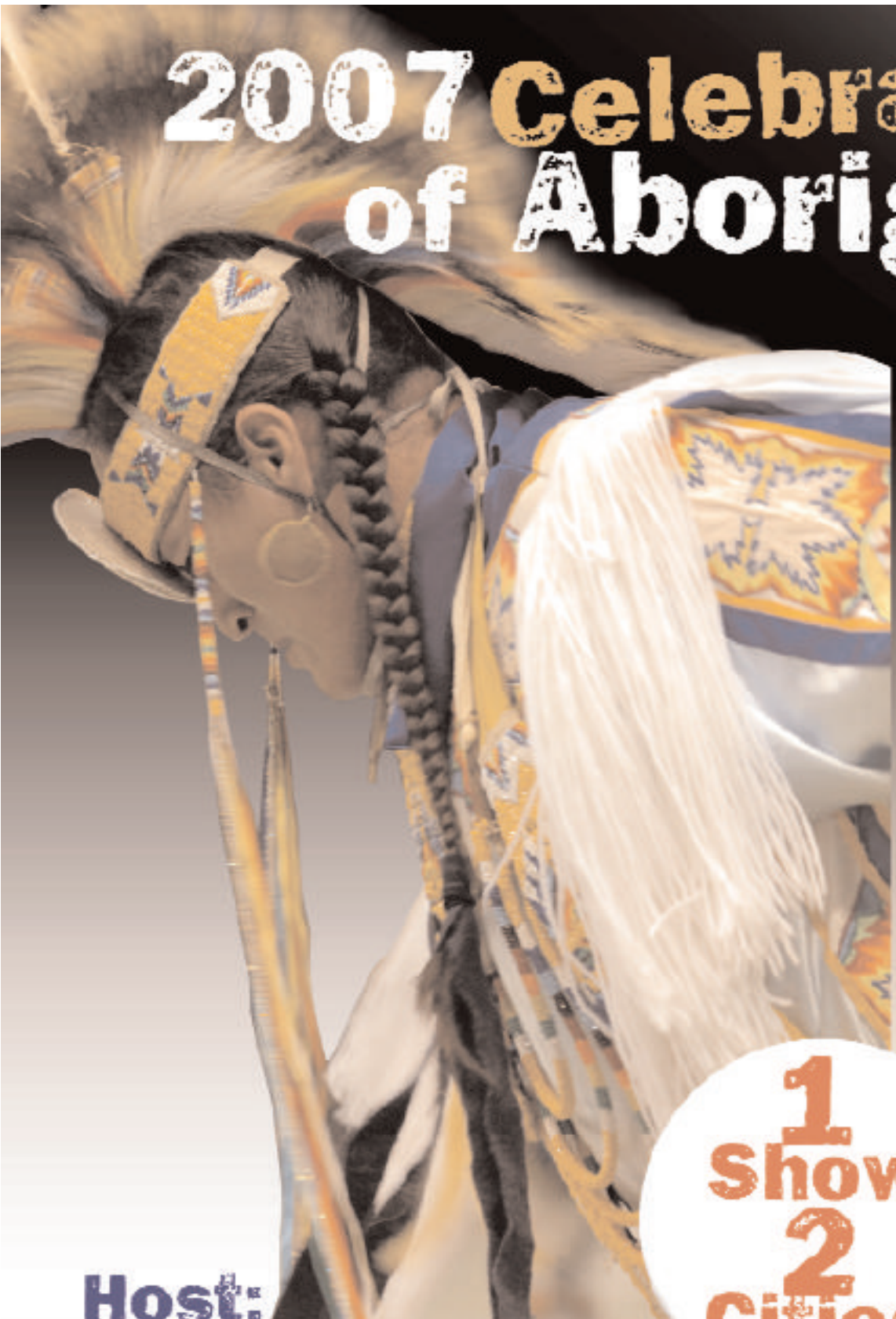
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Thursday, March 29, 2007

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E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts
142 - 12th Street West, Prince Albert, SK

8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Showcase

Tickets: \$50.00 - plus applicable taxes

Available at Saskatchewan Native Theatre Box Office 933-2262
E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts 765-1270 or 1-866-700-ARTS

Saskatoon

Friday, March 30, 2007

*Aboriginal Showcase - Saskatoon
Lakeview United Church Auditorium
Hwy 16 & Boychuk Drive, Saskatoon, SK

7:00 p.m. Red Carpet Event
8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Showcase

an associated
JunoFest event

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