

# Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

## Wall gains power, Riders bring Grey Cup home to Sask.

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Eagle Feather News  
Merry Christmas  
Next Month - Year in Review



Well, we figured the Rider Grey Cup victory and the victory of the SaskParty and Premier Wall were the biggest news stories of the year and luckily enough we happened to take a photo of them together.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

### Wall, Doucette, Riders top stories in 2007

And what a year it has been in Saskatchewan. Looking back over the year shows some bumps and bruises, but the victory of the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Grey Cup in Toronto wipes away all the bad from 2007 and has to be considered the news story of the year.

One could hear a collective whoop of joy across the province when James Johnson, the diminutive defensive back from California made his third interception of the game to seal the victory for the beloved Roughriders. The

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

interception eased three hours of Rider pain and worries for millions across the nation and brought the Grey Cup home for the first time since 1989. And for only the third time ever.

The team captivated the province from day one of the season and the preseason game was even sold out. The Riders sold more paraphernalia this year than all the other teams combined, had many sellouts and earned many accolades with quarterback Kerry Joseph being named league MVP. What a year to be a Riders fan.

• Continued on Page 3

# A Rez Christmas Story VI relieves stress of season

BY MIKE GOSSELIN

Well everyone, the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) is at their festive best once again. Written by Curtis Peeteetuce and Directed by Mark Dieter, 'A Rez Christmas Story VI: Luff Actually' recently began its run at the Ukrainian Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral on 20th Street in Saskatoon.

The play nearly blew the roof off the auditorium with the side-splitting antics of characters Seegoose Sinclair, Zula Merasty and Clare Bear; turning this Christmas play into a night at Just for Laughs.

This year the kokums decide they'll hold a little Christmas party of their own. Well, actually Claire volunteers Seegoose's place for the party, thus setting up relentless bickering and hilarious exchanges between them.

This Christmas season, everyone on Kiweetnook First Nation is looking for love ... er ... 'luff' as they say on the rez. All except Seegoose, who wants nothing more than everyone to leave her alone, especially Chief Richard and band accountant Purdy Parsimonias, whom she considers corrupt, ruthless and greedy.

Claire's love interest is Maynard, an internet hook-up that escalates into hys-

teria when Seegoose and Zula speculate he's a serial killer coming to get them.

In addition, a love triangle ensues when Wilma Paul, a young worker at the band office, thinks she's got Chief Richard hooked but ends up 'luff sick' when she finds out he's interested in Purdy.

These stories and more intersect in Seegoose's living room, setting up the conclusion of the well-written, hilarious play.

The actors for 'Luff Actually' are all members of SNTC's Ensemble Theatre Arts Program (ETAP): Jennifer Bishop, Aaron Naytowhow, Krystle Pederson and Mitchell Poundmaker.

They did an amazing job of portraying two characters each while conducting lightening-fast set changes. Costume changes were also masterful (and unbelievably quick) and their character traits so unique you're convinced they're two different actors.

As always, all the actors did an exceptional job in 'Luff Actually'. What makes them more impressive is their uncanny ability to share the 'show stealer' designation.

This time around, Mitchell Poundmaker shone as Seegoose and supporting character Clem Paul.

• Continued on Page Three



The SNTC Ensemble includes Jen Bishop (front) Aaron Naytowhow whispering, Mitchell Poundmaker in the cap and Krystle Pederson. The play, A Rez Christmas Story VI: Luff Actually drew large crowds during its run in Saskatoon. The tour is expected to be as busy for this popular Christmas show.

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It was a long time coming but Robert Doucette finally has the job he has been seeking for several years.

# Doucette earned the job cleanly

• Continued from Page One

Kent Austin should be named coach of the year in February.

The year 2007 also saw residential school victims finally receive a settlement in the form of common experience payments for having to suffer in the residential school system. The average settlement is expected to be around \$28,000.

Politics was also front and centre this year. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan had their first clean election in a decade. The results saw Robert Doucette re-elected President, after being dethroned by fraud and deceit in the last election. The sad part was that the election had to be run by an outside agency. The running tally is now at 12 people charged with fraud or forgery in relations to the 2004 elections, including then-President-elect,

Dwayne Roth.

Doucette and his executive now have the task of rewriting the Election Act and the Métis Constitution, negotiating a harvesting agreement based on the Powley Decision and being a the table for Duty to Consult issues with the province. There is nothing like hitting the ground running.

Probably the luckiest guy in the province is Premier Brad Wall. Wall and the SaskParty knocked off Lorne Calvert and the NDP in the provincial election in November. This came after 16 years of NDP rule in a province that is traditionally left. Wall is also a huge Rider fan, so besides becoming Premier, which is a cool thing, he also was able to host the Riders and the end of the Grey Cup parade in the Provincial Legislature. Not a bad month for Premier Wall.

## SNTC's Rez Christmas Story VI will tour the South

• Continued from Page 1

He seems a freak of nature as he transforms his 26 year-old fit body into that of a 90-something year-old kokum. Poundmaker's portrayal of Clem is spot-on and reminiscent of someone we all know and 'luff'. Word has it Poundmaker has been cast in an upcoming Persephone show – he deserves it, as do all of ETAP.

This year's edition of 'A Rez Christmas Story' will make you happy SNTC puts in the effort to produce it each year. The audience left feeling happy Christmas was here, forgetting about all the stress it can bring. SNTC heads home for the holidays with another triumph – one that has become a Christmas tradition in Saskatchewan.

'A Rez Christmas Story VI: Luff Actually' will also be on tour in Regina, Moose Jaw, Peepeekisis and other pending locations. Call SNTC @ 306-933-2262 for details.

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Original feather illustration by Gary Natomagan.

# Turpel-Lafond reminds us to stand up for the children

Went to a luncheon and saw former provincial court judge Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond speak about her new career in British Columbia where she is the Representative for Children and Youth. Turpel-Lafond recently released a report on the health and well-being of children in care. Frankly, it was a good review, but it put statistics to some facts that we all know. Kids not growing up in a stable family suffer in school and life and the BC government needed to do more.

Unfortunately her message at the luncheon was that Saskatchewan was worse. We had less investment in early years development but more investment in incarceration. The number of children in care or homeless in Saskatchewan was drastically higher per capita than British Columbia. The list went on.

Turpel-Lafond knows the stories these children tell. She heard them for years while she was a judge in Saskatoon and she knew that these kids did not have the supports in the community that most kids do. They had no 'family' where it was safe to go to live due to substance, sexual or physical abuse or all of these factors combined. Many are in and out of foster care, then in and out of youth custody and then eventually in jail, or worse, dead.

The strain on the system is worsening, as is poverty. The Saskatoon Food Bank has seen a 30 per cent increase in first time users and they now average 12,000 visitors a month. Forty-six per cent of those visits are made by children. In the Throne Speech, Premier Brad Wall mentioned that he wants to address child poverty as 43,000 Saskatchewan children live below the poverty line.

The challenge placed on the good judge by the BC government was to find a way to fix the problems in the system in their province through policy and implementation. That will take time (she was given a five year mandate) and patience and thinking outside of the box,

which is something that Turpel-Lafond is good at. She made SaskJustice squirm when she sentenced a youth with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to an FAS Treatment centre. Funny thing was, there are no such facilities in Saskatchewan when there is such a demand for alternatives to jail for these kids.

Hopefully she presses the British Columbia government to be creative and make a better world for

## Editorial

these children and society. She made the solution seem simple during her speech.

"A little tiny investment down here when we have a new child whose family needs support, can save us a huge amount of money when that child is 18 because they won't be in care, custody or jail."

Turpel-Lafond also mentioned at the end of her speech that the children need champions. She challenged the crowd to be the ones that are standing up and yelling for the children. At this time of year her message really strikes a chord. Christmas is always tough on families that have minimal resources and Christmas is really about the kids.

The numbers are stark and we know many children are in need this season so please hear Turpel-Lafond's words and stand up and scream for the children. Stand up and go to the grocery store and buy some food for the food bank. Or if you are flush, take money to the food bank or a charity that is organizing hampers for families less well off and let them buy a toy for a kid that could use one.

Best of all, don't forget the kids once your Christmas turkey is just a part of the roll around your tummy. These kids and their families need champions every day.

### The Throne Speech

Looking at the Throne Speech highlight card, I was shocked to see no mention of Aboriginal anything.

But in reading the entire speech, it seems as though Premier Wall has a decent vision of inclusion and progress for First Nation and Métis people. First mention comes on page 6 where Wall addresses the labour shortage and mentions increasing First Nation and Métis participation in the workforce. (Then why did they put Richard Gladue out of work? hmm)

Then we got a whole section to ourselves entitled Quality of Life for First Nations and Métis People. Under that, Premier Wall promises to have Treaty education mandatory for K-12, develop a protocol around the duty to consult and to include First Nations and Métis people on Enterprise Saskatchewan.

He covered off business, education, Aboriginal rights and employment. Nice base, but the proof will be in the pudding.

Interesting aside for those political junkies. Richard Gladue, former Meadow Lake Tribal Council Chief and now former Deputy Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations was let go by the Wall government shortly after they came into power.

Former Tribal Chief and FSIN Chief of Staff Ron Crowe is the Assistant Deputy Minister but will be acting Deputy Minister for a bit, we suppose. The fun is guessing who will be the next Deputy Minister of First Nation and Métis Relations. Former Chief? Big time lawyer? Métis consultant? So much fun.

## What's coming up in Eagle Feather News

Well, we kinda lied. Not really lied, just didn't get time to interview the provincial leaders to bring you the state of the union address that we had hoped. So we

promise next month you will get the sit down with Chief Lawrence Joseph, President Robert Doucette and Premier Brad Wall.

January will also bring the year in review and more fearless forecasts and predictions from our panel of psychics and a drunken monkey.

The staff and friends of Eagle Feather News wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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# Native products shop should be on our Wish List

Have you ever had to race around town looking for new pair of traditional hand-tanned moose hide moccasins for those special occasions? Unless you have a few phone numbers and those folks have stock on hand, the odds are you aren't going to find those mocs on a store shelf in Saskatoon.

We need a Native arts and craft shop where we can purchase authentic, local, high quality Native-made stuff. This is Saskatchewan. We have more Native people per capita than any other province and we have some of the best artisans – Cree, Dene, Métis, Dakota, Nakota and Saulteaux – living in the cities and communities doing beautiful work.

So why is it so darn hard to find finely beaded hand-tanned moose, elk or deer hide gloves, gauntlets, mocs, purses, pouches, and vests in the shops around Saskatoon?

Where are all the locally made stick games, quillwork, birch bark bitings and baskets, ribbon shirts, kohkom quilts, sashes and star quilts?

Like most Indigenous folks I truly appreciate all that beautiful stuff made in the USA like Pendelton blankets, fancy dish ware, western wear, and silver and turquoise jewelry.

They make good gifts and are real pretty. But honestly, many others and myself would really appreciate it if our local products got more attention.

What is really repulsive is walking into a store that

is supposed to be selling Indigenous arts and craft, and finding cheap "made in China" souvenirs.

Selling plastic replicas and counterfeits here in Saskatchewan is inexcusable and embarrassing, especially when we have so many talented people needing an outlet to sell their good work.

market prices, that they have a dependable outlet for their work, that they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve, and it will meet the needs of consumers.

Jenny Gardipy and Michelle Hogan, two U of S students, will be setting up a small booth around town and doing door-to-door visiting at local reserves, during the next few months. They'll be talking to folks about the "Canadian PASTS" project, a national telephone survey to find out what the past (history, cultural heritage) means to you and how it impacts your daily life.

We often talk about how important the past is to us so here is our chance to put our voices together and tell the rest of Canada.

The end of 2007 is coming hard and fast, and it's a good time to reflect back on the year's highlights. It's a good time to remember all those little and big blessings that came our way, all the accomplishments, the good times with friends and relatives, and our goals and aspirations for the future.

It is also a time to remember those less fortunate than us by extending a hand in friendship.

So many of our people face hardships this time of year so don't forget to share with the food bank and hamper drives.

From our family to yours, may your holiday season be blessed with good health, happiness and good luck.

## Introspection

Winona Wheeler



In the US Native artisans were successful in getting legislation passed to distinguish and protect their work against counterfeits. I think that protective legislation of our own is long overdue.

We also need to put more pressure on shops to buy high quality local stock and stop filling their shelves and cases with "Made in China." As consumers we can make a difference. Boycotting shops that appropriate Native art forms and sell "Made in China" imitations is a good way to let those store owners know what you think of the way they do business.

Another option is to set up arts and crafts collectives to look after our local artisans. A collective or co-op set up specifically for them will ensure they get fair

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# The baffling new language of a new time

The economy is booming and anyone who wants a job can pretty much get a job. Even certain relatives of mine – once regarded as hopeless – have ripped themselves away from their velcroed tattered couches and have entered the workforce.

These are truly amazing times.

There was a time when Indians could not go into a bar nor buy alcohol. In those days Indians hung around outside looking for someone to pull for them. It is really very strange to go into the Fire Creek gas bar and find non Indians hanging around looking for someone to pull cheap smokes for them.

The shoe or moccasin rather is now on the other foot. Can this be justice or just addictions karma sliding back around?

Change is happening very fast. Even the familiar names which once served so well and so long are gone replaced by new if not more confusing titles. Indians became Aborigines and for a time Indigenous peoples.

I prefer the word landlord as it implies rent is due. Then the term First Nation eventually came into use. First Nation resonates with pride. It makes a statement and was used in the actual wording of the Treaties.

The word nation means people. It fits. Alas, First Nation became misdirected. The First Nations should have been the Cree, Salteaux, Mohawk etc. Instead the term was applied to individual reserves also known as

Bands.

The word Band was never a dignified term but it was the only one around for the longest time. Mohawk Mike Mitchell once said, "What is a band? Rock and Roll band or a rubber band. It's not our word. It's somebody else's."

How true.

## Common Ground

John Cuthand



The First Nations Bank of Canada (FNBC) is an interesting case in grandiose thinking. Their sign dominates the southern Fourth Avenue skyline of Saskatoon. At street level a much smaller sign discretely states Toronto Dominion Bank beneath the larger and much bolder FNBC letters.

It becomes apparent FNBC is not really a bank but is rather a branch of the Toronto Dominion Bank. Why not simply say, Toronto Dominion Bank, First Nations Branch. If anyone can realistically call themselves a national First Nations Bank it would be Peace Hills Trust.

The First Nations University of Canada is not really a university nor is it national. FNUC is more appropriately a college affiliated with the University of Regina. It is most familiar for many years as the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC).

Degrees are granted through the U of R. The FNUC board is not composed of First

now called institutions. The unknowing may assume the Gabriel Dumont Institute is the local jail. Perhaps the convicts should now be called clients or guests.

Indian Affairs keep changing its name but they are still seen as the same old skunk with a new stripe.

Affirmative Action became Employment Equity which then became Representative Workforce. In some instances such as Corrections and SaskTel it brought some change but for the rest of the government workforce it had all the impact of an overripe banana.

Every few years under a new title its trotted out as something new and progressive. Don't hold your breath.

Finally there is DCRE which sounds like 'de Cree live on da reserve in muskrat houses, eh.' Not so. DCRE means Department of Community Resources and Employment mercifully shortened to Department of Community Resources. It used to be called Social Services.

Rumour has it the new provincial government will scrap the name and restore the old title. Some civil servant must have got drunk on the dictionary and came up with this DCRE Frankenstein of a phrase.

In keeping with changing times I want my title changed from newspaper columnist to publication commentary communication specialist. It's much more dignified and makes me feel so much better about myself.

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# Miles Venne, former Lac La Ronge chief, passes

The Lac La Ronge Indian Band is in mourning the loss of their long-time former chief and Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Senator James Miles Venne. Venne passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007, after a long illness. He was 89 years old at the time of his passing.

Senator Venne served as chief of the Lac La Ronge band for 15 years (1971-1983 and 1985-87). It was his vision for finding economic opportunities that could create jobs for his people that led to the start-up of the band's first business, Northern Resource Trucking, now one of the flagships of the First Nations economic development arm, Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership. Senator Venne also had a passionate belief in the importance of education, and he lobbied hard to ensure that every one of the band's six communities had its own school. The band's elementary and high school on Far Reserve, Senator Myles Venne School was named



Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Mary Venne and Miles Venne.

in his honour.

Although he eventually passed on the chief's head-dress to Tom McKenzie, Harry Cook, and Tammy

Cook-Searson, Senator Venne never stopped serving his people. He was appointed to the FSIN senate on Oct. 3, 1989, and to the band's council of elders in 1989, and he held both positions until his death. Senator Venne was also a Reverend Canon in the Anglican Church, and he served for many years at All Saints Anglican, most recently under Bishop Charlie Arthurson.

In his private life, Senator Venne was a devoted husband to Mary for 63 years, and a much-beloved father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather and a godfather to many.

He was also a dedicated fan of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team, and just a week before his death, he was delighted to meet Ken Dryden, former Stanley Cup-winning goalie for the Canadiens and now a Member of Parliament.

Senator Miles Venne was laid to rest at All Saints Anglican cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007.

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# 'Nehiyaw' Christmas Gala helps food banks with \$55,000 donation

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

Chief Lawrence Joseph of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations had a bug planted in his ear a short while ago by his advisor Gary Arcand.

"He said we should do an event to raise money for the food bank," said Chief Joseph. "That was about two weeks ago and here we are today after a great event that did some good. The results were very encouraging."

The idea was to host a Christmas gala at the Dakota Dunes Casino that raised money for an organization that helps the needy.

"I know what it is like to be hungry," said Chief Joseph at a press conference before the event. "We had no dad and there was no welfare back then. We lived in a log cabin on the \$7 a month family allowance. I used to get dressed to go to bed in the winter because we had no heat.

"There are people who have to live like that still today, unfortunately. I have been blessed by the Creator and this is my opportunity to give back."

Paul Merriman, the Executive Director of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre says the gala couldn't come at a better time.

"Use of the food bank has grown 30 per cent for first time users lately. And 46 per cent of our clients are children. When the Federation and SIGA approached us, we were thrilled. This event will help us meet our needs into the spring and also allow us to spread some of this to other food banks in the province," said Merriman.

Also on hand was Zane Hansen, President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA). SIGA and the Dakota Dunes Casino presented \$25,000 in

support of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre at the Gala at the Dakota Dunes Casino.

"Witaskêwin is a fundamental value that inspires us to give back to the communities where we live and work," said Hansen. "As a First Nations owned and operated business, we continue to enjoy a tremendous amount of success. This contribution is our way of giving back and sharing success."

"We recognize the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre offers a variety of valuable programs and services," added Gary Daniels, General Manager Dakota Dunes Casino. "We hope a few families may benefit from this donation during the holiday season."

After the Gala, Chief Joseph was relieved.

"It hit me the second they announced 'Welcome to the first annual Nehiyaw Gala'... and I thought, wow, we only started planning this two weeks ago," said Chief Joseph.

"It was nice to see Mayor Atchison there, and several high-ranking Saskatoon Police Service members. We also had the Justice Minister Don Morgan and MLA Joceline Schriemer in attendance and five First Nation Chiefs from around the province. I consider the event a resounding success. We raised approximately \$55,000 and that will feed a lot of needy people."

The crew at the Voices of the North supplied the entertainment for the evening. Chief Joseph was glad to have them on board as many of his children volunteer with the organization.

"You know we had many artists volunteer their time to come perform and some were upset they weren't asked. It shows the depth of talent we have here," said Chief Joseph.



SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen, Dakota Dunes General Manager Gary Daniels and on the far right, FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph presented a cheque to Food Bank Executive Director Paul Merriman. The Chiefs Nehiyaw Gala raised over \$55,000 for the food banks of Saskatchewan. (Photo courtesy of SIGA)

"I did get up and sing, but once I saw all the people leaving, I quit for their sake," he joked.

All in all, the event did what it was supposed to do and that was helping those in need. Next year the event will be on the first Thursday in December.

"Next year we will be ready and hopefully double what we did. The idea

for the 1st Annual Chiefs 'Nehiyaw' Gala came from the realities," said Chief Joseph. "We get lots of calls at the Federation about the need and this is our response.

"We believe that one hungry child is one child too many. During the Christmas season, we should all do something for someone."



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# You don't have to fall into the Christmas trap

**T**is the season to be jolly! Yah right! Tis the season to be grouchy – more like it. People are out and about shopping for gifts for their friends and family but not too many of them are very jolly.

In fact, I think that Christmas shopping has become a full contact sport and a way of venting your past year's frustrations on poor unsuspecting shoppers who have the gall to be smiling and happy. You get bumped in the back of the leg with shopping carts, wait in long line-ups, listen to parents telling their children to "put that down" and "no, I'm not buying that", and the classic, "I'm never bringing you shopping again".

This society we live in has created a huge holiday where we feel obligated to buy gifts and in the process we forget about the meaning of the holiday.

In my family it's not so much the gifts but it's the food, family, canasta, food, friends and food again. My grandkids still want everything they see on TV commercials. We can thank the wonderful shopping centres, toy distributors and manufacturers for making sure that our children and grandchildren can start telling us what they want for Christmas beginning the day after Halloween!

Don't get sucked in by the whole marketing campaign. Don't put off paying your utilities and other bills because some big store company wants to make billions of dollars over this holiday season.

The greatest gifts we can give each other is our time – our children are not going to remember what we bought them for Christmas when they were five and six, but they will remember the time you spend with them.

When my girls were children I used to panic

when December rolled around all I could think about was how am I going to buy gifts and the food for the holiday? I spent a good portion of the holiday season stressed and feeling inadequate because I couldn't buy all the things my girls wanted.

We didn't have too much food in our little apartment and no decorations for our Christmas tree. I did have some wrapping paper and popcorn, so I made these tiny little boxes and wrapped them to look like little presents, and then the girls and I strung popcorn on a string for garland. I made us peanut butter and jam sandwiches and we had a picnic on the

## Sandee Sez



### Sandra Ahenakew

floor.

Do you know that the girls remember that Christmas! They don't remember any of the gifts they got over the years but they remember that Christmas sitting on the floor of our tiny apartment! Amazing!

Well that was a lesson to me, since that Christmas long ago; I realize that the best gift we can give each other is our time.

When we leave this world what our family and friends have left of us are the memories we created over the years.

Give your family memories for Christmas, buy a scrap book, draw pictures, write stories, string popcorn, make peanut butter and jam sandwiches, but

don't get too caught up in the holiday madness of gift giving.

When I was young, I remember people used to go visiting during the holidays. You would go to your families' or neighbour's house and eat, visit, and sometimes play cards – it didn't cost any money but the memories are priceless.

Our family has this hideous bird, motion detector thingy that makes horrible noises. I think my Mom bought it at a garage sale. Anyhow, what we do is wrap it up and give it to a different family member every year. I received that bird as a gift last year and I am looking forward to replacing the batteries and passing it along to one of my unsuspecting siblings. It's a family tradition that didn't cost a whole lot of money but continues to bring laughter every year.

One last thing that my girls and I do is name our turkey every holiday. There are hundreds of names that never get used so we pick from those – like Broomhilda, Gunner, and Ruldolph then we write them in our scrapbook – it's a weird exercise but it's one of our holiday traditions.

Take time to go for a complete physical with your family doctor and get an annual check-up with your dentist. Give thanks for your health and enjoy the time with family and friends over the holiday season.

I hope we can bring back the old tradition of visiting and sharing our food and kick the new tradition of spending money we don't have to the curb. A very happy holiday season to you and your family.

I have enjoyed reading your letters and email over the past year – keep them coming.

Send your letters to Eagle Feather News, Attn: Sandee Sez PO Box 942 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 or you can email me [s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca](mailto:s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca)

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**Call for Proposals 2008-2009**  
Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres

The Department of Canadian Heritage is currently soliciting project proposals under its Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres (UMAYC) component of the Aboriginal Peoples' Program for April 2008 to March 2009.

To be eligible, the project must deliver services to Saskatchewan Métis youth who are:

- between 15 and 24 years of age
- living in urban centres with a population of over 1,000, not including Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert

**Applicants must be Métis-controlled, Métis-managed, or Métis operated organizations.**

For more information on this program or to receive a Proposal package, please visit or contact:

**Canadian Heritage**  
101-22nd Street East, Suite 310  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0E1  
Telephone: (306) 780-7685

Applications must be submitted to the Department no later than **Friday, December 28, 2007.**

**Canada**

# 2007 Saskatchewan Book Awards winners announced

The 2007 winners of the Saskatchewan Book Awards were announced on Saturday, Nov. 24 at the 15th Annual Awards Gala in Regina.

Dave Margoshes' fiction collection Bix's Trumpet and other stories took the Book of the Year Award as well as the Regina Book Award. Another double winner was Sheri Benning, whose Thin Moon Psalm won both Poetry and Saskatoon Book Awards.

Saskatchewan novelist Sandra Birdsell, herself a former double winner, addressed a crowd of over 400 enthusiastic book lovers, writers and publishers who gathered at the Conexus Arts Centre for the annual celebration of excellence in Saskatchewan writing and publishing.

"For the fourth year in a row we received more than 200 entries, with 210 in 13 categories, and a record-breaking number in the Publishing in Education category," reported Glenda James, the Book Awards' Executive Director. "And this year's event celebrated 15 years of honouring Saskatchewan's authors and publishers."

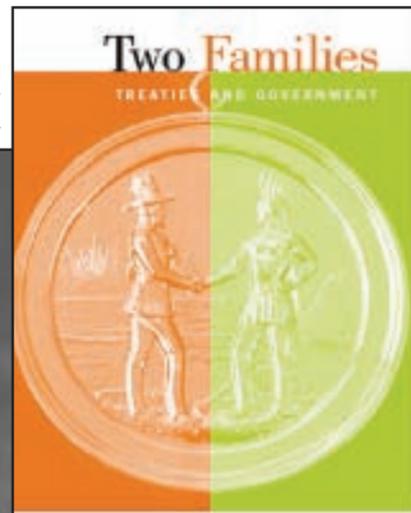
The First Peoples' Publishing winner, *Two Families: Treaties and Government* by Harold Johnson, addresses treaty relationships in a book produced by Purich Publishing. Harold Johnson practices law in La Ronge, northern Saskatchewan, and balances this with operating his family's traditional trap line using a dog team. He holds a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan and

a master's degree in law from Harvard. He is also the author of two novels, *Billy Tinker* and *Backtrack*, both set in northern Saskatchewan against a background of traditional Cree mythology.

This Saskatchewan Book award is the second



Harold Johnson's *Two Families: Treaties and Government* was The First Peoples' Publishing winner at the Saskatchewan Book Awards.



for Purich Publishing.

"Needless to say, we are thrilled to be recognized," said Karen Bolstad, a partner in Purich Publishing. "This is a very important book for people to read and try to understand the First Nation world view. This

award will hopefully expand the reach of the book. We need to bring the Aboriginal voices to the broader community."

Saskatchewan novelists also made a strong showing. Alice Kuipers carried off the First Book Award with her unique young adult novel *Life on the Refrigerator Door*, detailing a mother-daughter relationship through a series of hastily scribbled notes. R.P. MacIntyre of LaRonge won the Children's Literature Award with his latest work, *Feeding at Nine*. The first Readers' Choice Award, chosen by readers in libraries throughout Saskatchewan, went to Amanda Deitz for her fast paced, dialogue-driven novel *Longer than Life, Volume 2*. Saskatoon author Bernice Friesen captured the Fiction Award itself with her acclaimed work *The Book of Beasts*, from Coteau Books.

**Lac La Ronge Indian Band**

Chief Cook - Searson,  
Council Members & Staff

Send Season's Greetings & Happy New Year to everyone

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**Best wishes for a peaceful and happy holiday season.**

**Season's Greetings!**

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and AFN Regional Chiefs, I hope you enjoy a happy and festive holiday season.

May the Creator keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy throughout the New Year.

Phil Fontaine  
National Chief

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

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Donny Parenteau was a double award winner at the CAMA held in Toronto.

## Saskatchewan artists prominent at Music Awards

The 9th annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards (CAMAs) gala was a star-studded November night with Canada's Native celebrities and performances by top Aboriginal musicians at the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

Twenty-eight CAMAs were handed out in honor of the musical artistry and achievements of outstanding Aboriginal musicians and industry members across Canada.

The evening's top winners were Shane Yellowbird whose three-CAMAs win included Best Male Artist, Best Country Album and Best Album of the Year (Life is Calling My Name). Double honors went to Donny Parenteau who was awarded the Best Song Single CAMA for "Father Time", and the Best Producer/Engineer award (Father Time). Northern Cree took home two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, for two different CDs; Best Hand Drum Album (Long Winter Nights) and Best PowWow Album Contemporary (Stay Red).

Saskatchewan connections also included Andrea Menard for Best TV Show or Special (Velvet Devil) and Whitefish Jrs (best Powwow album Traditional).

The 2007 Canadian Aboriginal Music Award winners included:  
Best Female Artist:

- Tracy Bone
- Best Female Traditional/Cultural Roots Album:
- Nikawiy Askiy - Sandy Scofield
- Best Male Artist:
- Shane Yellowbird
- Best Group or Duo:
- M'Girl
- Best Rock Album:
- The Dirty Looks - Derek Miller
- Best Song Single:
- Father Time - Donny Parenteau
- Best Producer/Engineer:
- Producers: Donny Parenteau & Steve Fox
- Engineers: Matt Anderson & Glen Enns
- For the album: Father Time (Donny Parenteau)
- Best Fiddle Album:
- Best Television Program or Special:
- The Velvet Devil - Andrea Menard
- Stay Red - Northern Cree
- Best Music Video:
- Round Round Round - Donna Kay
- Long Winter Nights - Northern Cree & Friends
- Best Album of the Year:
- Life is Calling My Name - Shane Yellowbird
- Lifetime Contribution to Aboriginal Music:
- Andrea Hansen
- Galaxie Rising Stars Award of the CBC:
- Josh Hill

## SIIT, SIAST sign partnership agreement

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and SIAST recently signed an academic partnership agreement that will enhance their capacity to meet technical education and skills training needs. The agreement will guide the two organizations on planning and implementation of joint initiatives.

"Skilled training opportunities for our First Nation people and the ability to enhance access to high-demand trade areas is crucial," says Ray Ahenakew, president, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

"The partnership agreement signed today continues our two respective institutions' desire to be part of the answer for the future of the economy and in developing Saskatchewan's human potential."

"Today's agreement formalizes and builds on the excellent relationship that exists between our two organizations," says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAST.

"It will guide us as we collaborate on current and future initiatives that support social and economic development, and that expand workforce participation."

SIIT and SIAST, both credential-granting organizations, are presently involved in mobile training and trades and skills centre partnerships. The agreement covers such topics as curriculum availability for those initiatives and future ventures. It also respects the jurisdiction of each party with respect to issuing credentials and transcripts. It does not preclude the involvement of other parties; in fact, several other organizations are key participants in the inner city and mobile initiatives.



SIIT President Ray Ahenakew and SIAST President and CEO Robert McCulloch.

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# Premier Brad Wall delivers Christmas message to people of Sask.

This has been a memorable year in Saskatchewan.

- The Grey Cup victory by our Saskatchewan Roughriders;
- Other significant changes;
- New jobs and new challenges



for many people in our province, including me.

However, now it's time to slow down for a few short days and take stock of what's important.

Our families, our friends and our good fortune – to live and prosper in a land of abundance and a province where life is safe, and life is sweet.

So, in this my first Christmas Message as Premier of Saskatchewan, I'd like to invite you to take that time and take

- stock.
- Renew old acquaintances.
- Hug your kids.
- Go visit your neighbour. Share some fellowship at work.
- Phone your mother.

Do all of those things that you've had to put off because we are living our lives in this fast paced, hectic world – full of cell phones and computers, family activities and work, and lately Christmas concerts – demanding our constant attention.

If you do one thing this year, do this: make Christmas a special time for your family and friends.

And better still .... make it special for a stranger; someone who is not so fortunate, someone who is hungry, or sick, or lonely or worried about the future. This is the Saskatchewan that made national news when an entire province came together to send kids battling cancer to the Grey Cup.

And I also ask you to spare a thought for the many people working extra hours during the holiday season – people who may not be able to spend this special day with loved ones.

Whether they're working in health care, on the highways and streets or in fire halls or police

cruisers, they are giving up their special times and special moments to make life safer and more secure for you and I.

On behalf of a grateful province, I would like to express my sincere thanks for their service.

There are also men and women from Saskatchewan around the world who are putting themselves in harm's way so that others may enjoy the freedom and prosperity we celebrate this holiday season.

My special message to you is simple and heartfelt.

God bless you. Come home safe.

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

*From Tami, Megan, Colter, Faith and I, Merry Christmas Saskatchewan, and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you.*

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# Winona's first Christmas wish list

It is hard to resist a photo of an adorable kid with jolly old Santa Claus. Shown here is the newest staff member of Eagle Feather News, Winona. When she can walk, she will be on our delivery team. Until then, she just has to be cute and deliver the Eagle Feather News Christmas wish list to Santa. We think (hope) we have been good enough to get Santa's ear and to have him deliver to us on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa:

We wish that the Federal government would fund Non government organizations properly. From the FSIN to grass roots organizations, everyone is running behind and important work is jeopardized. Come on Santa, get Ice Man Stephen to loosen up a bit.

We hope you deliver a year of harmony in the Métis Nation ... both federally and provincially. We want the residen-



tial school survivors to enjoy their money and to one day find peace.

Lego, socks, underwear and a new toothbrush. And of course world peace and feed the poor etc.

Most of all, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year.

All the best from the staff and friends of Eagle Feather News

## Seasons Greetings from your Saskatoon NDP MLA's



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**Cam Broten, MLA**  
Saskatoon Massey Place  
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### MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and the Provincial Métis Council would like to wish everyone the best during this holiday season and success and good health in 2008. May the Creator look over you.

# Louis Riel Day event brings community together

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

The Government of Canada executed Louis Riel on Nov. 16, 1885. Afterward, his body was transported to his home in St. Boniface, Manitoba where he laid in state as thousands came to pay their respects to the leader of the Métis.



Alan Morin, Vice President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, shared his talents with the crowd at the Louis Riel Day event at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre

Now, 122 years later, the ceremony of paying respect to Riel still lives. Now the day has manifested into a day of community gatherings and sharing of food and culture in the name of our leaders.

"This is a day of reflection for our community," said MN-S President Robert Doucette. "People come together as a big Métis family with lots of care and compassion and it really reflects what our ancestors stood for."

In Saskatoon, people gathered at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for a feast of neck bones and a night of entertainment hosted by CUMFI Local 165. The grand entry was packed with dignitaries including Area Director Bob McLeod, Mayor Don Atchison and newly elected SaskParty MLA Rob Norris.

Entertainment included Dallas Boyer on fiddle, MN-S Vice President Alan Morin on guitar, a comedy skit and all-star entertainer Donny Parenteau to end the evening.

The food was the big draw and it was quite the feast.

"We went through 160 pounds neck bone, 160 pounds potatoes and 500 pieces of bannock, fried and baked," said Friendship Centre Director May Henderson.

"We also went through ten big jars of pickles."

Henderson and a crew of six were cooking from eight in the morning to



The Oskayak Dancers from left, Shaylyn Bear, Chasity Sinclair, Jasmine McDonald, Kaytana Laliberte and Aurora Arnesen-Coutts, were on hand at the Louis Riel Day events to add some culture to the mix. The popular dance troupe is from St. Marys community school in Saskatoon. St Mary's has 90 dancers and drummers in their dance troupe from kindergarten to Grade 8, said Marlene Brisebois who works with the dancers. The dance troupe began in the spring of 1989 as an extra curricular activity run by St Mary staff who teach the students the values and traditions of their ancestry and culture."

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

bring it all together. The hard work doesn't deter Henderson.

"It is a lot of work but in the end it is always worth it because we are doing it for our people. I am always proud to host the Louis Riel Day. It is important to share our culture and show others how important this day is."

As the evening wound down, President Doucette captured the essence of the event.

"This is important that we have this day of reflection. We have to remember

other leaders like Harry Daniels, Malcolm Norris and Victoria Polsfut. All these people played a role and we need to remember them.

"Now with the leadership we have, we have many bright days ahead of the Métis Nation.

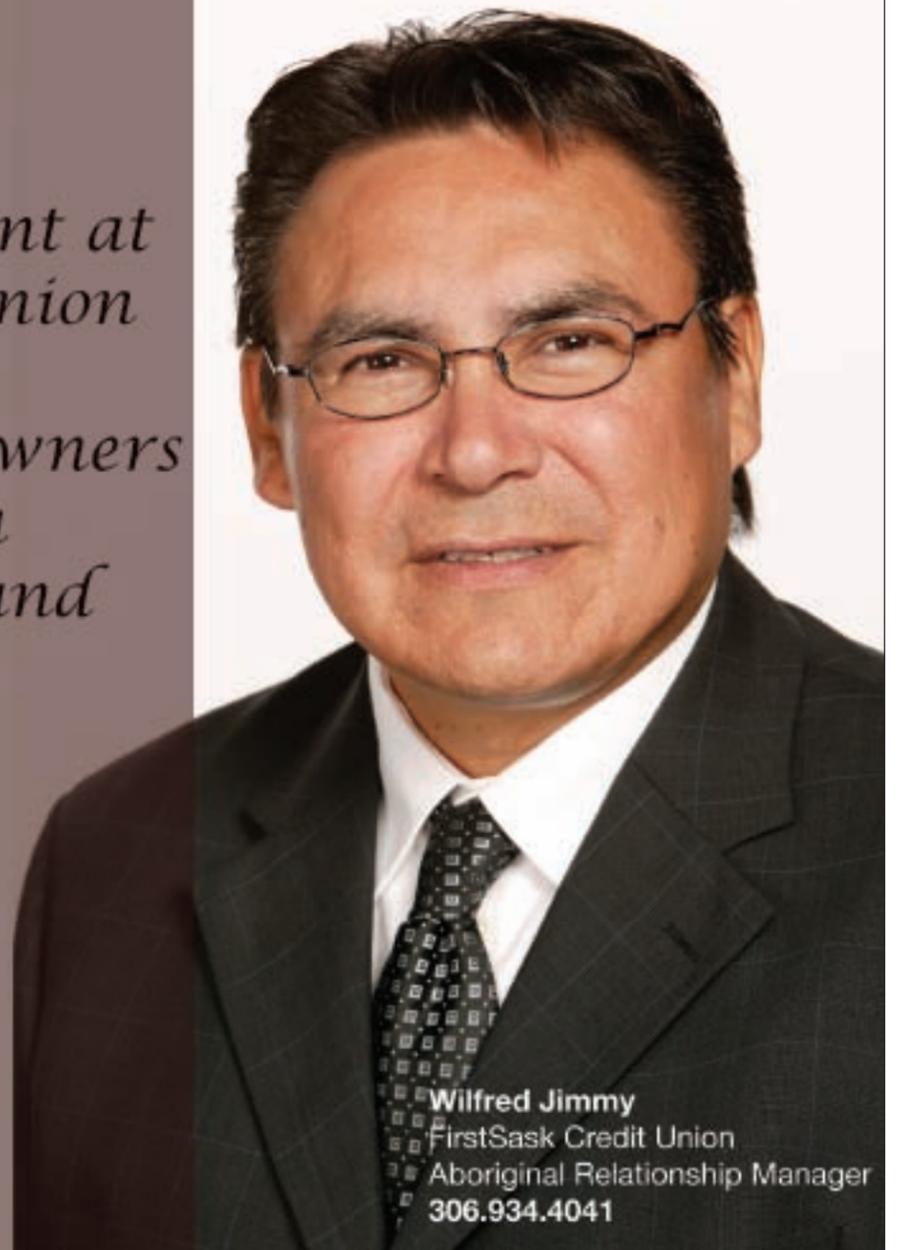
"The Métis values are still alive but our Métis rights struggles continue. So I appreciate to be able to go to a gathering where there is more love than finger pointing. It is a good day."

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# Agreement extends SUNTEP program

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) signed a new agreement December 1, 2007 with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina for the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP).

Under the new agreement, GDI will continue to operate three SUNTEP delivery sites in the province – Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert – to provide teacher education programs to Métis people in Saskatchewan. The new agreement replaces a 27-year-old agreement, and renews a partnership between the universities and GDI for the delivery of the four-year Bachelor of Education degree program.

“This is a significant agreement for the Gabriel Dumont Institute because it not only renews our commitment to Métis people in Saskatchewan to provide quality educational programming, it reaffirms the basis for GDI—Métis control and responsibility for Métis education and training,” said Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN-S) Minister of Education, Robert Doucette.

GDI was incorporated in 1980 to serve the educational and cultural needs of Saskatchewan’s Métis community. GDI offers university-accredited programming, including SUNTEP, in cooperation with Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Regina. Adult Basic Education and Skills Training are offered in communities across the province through GDI’s adult upgrading and technical training program, the Dumont Technical Institute, which is federated with the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

“This agreement confirms and extends our connection with SUNTEP programs in Saskatoon and Prince Albert,” said Cecilia Reynolds, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan. “The College of Education proudly supports Métis control and responsibility for Métis education and human resource development and welcomes the new research component spelled out in this agreement.”

“The Faculty of Education at the University of



The Board of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and their University partners pose with Métis Elders and leaders for an historic picture after the SUNTEP Agreement was renewed and refreshed for another five years.

Regina is very pleased to support the important partnership objectives that are identified in this new agreement. SUNTEP has been a major success story for GDI and the Métis people of Saskatchewan for several decades,” said University of Regina’s Dean of Education, Michael Tymchak. “This new agreement will serve to enhance the programs even further, with potential to develop a much needed research capacity. Our Faculty takes great pride in its association with this outstanding program and looks forward to many more years of productive collaboration.”

The new five-year agreement recognizes the Institute’s successful twenty-seven year history in delivering its teacher education program, and the language of the new agreement reflects a more equal partnership. Highlights of the agreement include a less complicated administrative structure than in the past, greater cost predictability for the Institute, and renewable research funding for each SUNTEP centre. Funding for this agreement is provided through Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment as part of a contract between the department and the Institute.

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# Oskayak academies offer students a good reason to stay in school

Drop out rates for First Nation and Métis students have always been an issue. They have been way too high. Some would argue that it was the schools driving them out by making the youth fit into their system and not offering proper curriculum to fit the youth's needs.

Oskayak High School in Saskatoon understood that message and decided to change the way they do things.

In 2007, they introduced four new academies to their school. Now students can enter a stream and focus on hockey, drama, cultural arts or language arts. The re-

sults of the new classes have been encouraging.

Jeanne Auramenko teaches cultural arts.

"We are following the calendar. In fall we went for a cultural camp and now we are in winter and doing crafts," said Auramenko. "The students are working on moss bags and cross stitching right now. When they do these activities, we visit and talk about our families. It is very rewarding."

Trent Gamble is a student benefiting from the academies. In Grade 12, he is learning the Cree language.

"I knew some words before, but now I am really learning it. It is easier to understand because when I grew up people talked to me in Cree, but I couldn't talk to them" said Gamble.

"It helps me feel more comfortable who I am. Where my roots are from. Lots of people stereotype us like gangsters or drug dealers. With the language the culture comes. It is great to learn."

Administrators are starting to see the results of the change as well.

"We are seeing youth actively involved in learning new skills, but we are seeing the youth engage with others about what is happening in the other academies," said Jeff Pete, Vice Principal of Oskayak.

"We get more calls now because of the academies. As the youth talk about their individual successes, their friends want to do the same. If we had to measure drop outs, we are on the right track. Parents are more involved because the children are telling them about the interesting things they do."

The school anticipates more enrollments in the future now that they have this hook of the academies that are unique to the school. They are seeing the benefits already.

"In the hockey program, we had four or five students that were basically not attending our school on a regular basis last year," said Pete.

"We pushed them into the hockey academy as a hook. Now they have regular attendance. They are here every day doing dry land training, and working on ice.

We had some very shy girls who entered the program and are now laughing with each other and hanging out with the boys. We have a real neat group of kids brought together by sport. It is impressive and we hope to continue with that."



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# Language conference tackles important work

BY DARLA READ

While some of Saskatchewan's First Nations language are in danger of disappearing, they could be heard loud and clear last month at the First Nations Language Keepers Conference in Saskatoon.

Hosted by the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, the conference ran for three days and was attended by more than 300 people, twice as many as is usually there. There were people from every First Nation in Saskatchewan, and therefore people who spoke all of the different First Nations languages: Plains Cree, Swampy/Woodlands Cree, Nakawe, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota. Translators were on hand so people could hear what was being said on stage in their language through headphones.

Darren Okemaysim, SICC's Cree Language Developer, was one of the conference organizers. He says some of the languages are facing a stark reality.

"The Nakota, Dakota, Lakota are in decline. The number of speakers are only limited to the Elders right now."

He says Nakawe is in some trouble also. He points out that while the Cree community is quite vibrant, many in the younger generation do not speak it.

Okemaysim doesn't have exact numbers, though, because the last survey was done 16 years ago. How-

ever, he says all of the Indigenous languages need attention not only in the schools but in the homes as well.

"We need to actually offer a variety of programs. Not only just language programs in the school, but other contexts in the school environment and in the community," explains Okemaysim.

"We also need to foster parents' use and knowledge of language so that they can implement that in the home. We believe that the only primary process for acquiring and learning language is through the home."

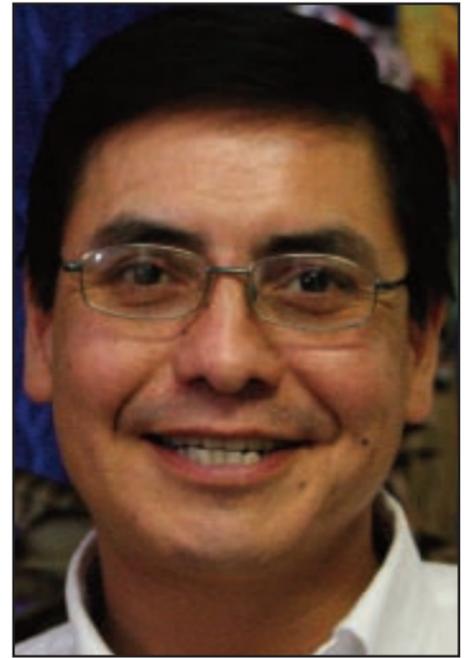
Belinda Daniels-Fiss is trying to help with that process. She was one of the presenters at the conference because she was behind the Cree Language Academy at Oskayak High School and also holds her own Cree Immersion camps. She says it's easier

"You're outside with nature. You're intimate with everything all around you. With the grass, with the trees, with the sun, with the wind. It seems like your whole entire being just opens right up," she explains.

"And that's what I love about it. And when you're so relaxed like that, and when you're hearing the language, and doing this language activity methodologies, it seems to, for me, soak in way better."

In her workshop, Daniels-Fiss talked about the activities she does at her all ages camps, which includes sweetgrass, mint, berry, and sage picking; making birch bark baskets and paddles; cooking; putting up and taking down tepees; and she says everyone sleeps outside in tents or tepees.

Returning to traditions was a common theme at the conference, and may be some-



DARREN OKEMAYSIM

conference, Okemaysim handed out surveys to everyone there, so they can gather current information on the status of First Nations languages in the province.

Soon SICC members will visit communities to speak with people about language status as well as get their thoughts on how to revitalize the languages and get young people speaking them..

Once SICC members have gathered that information, they will develop strategies to further protect and promote First Nations languages so hopefully none will be in danger of disappearing.

## Taking language to the TV

Belinda Daniels-Fiss didn't speak her Cree language seven years ago, so she decided to do something about it. She immersed herself in the culture and surrounded herself with Cree speakers.

Now she is a teacher of the language, not only through the Cree Academy at Oskayak High School and her Cree Immersion camps, but also through a 24-hour television show broadcast on Channel 48 on SaskTel Digital Max.

Daniels-Fiss says so far she is focusing on words and phrases for regular conversations.

"Some phrases and words I wanted to know and learn. OK, well how do you say 'Hi, how are you?' How do you say 'thank you'? How do you talk about

your own feelings? How do you say I'm grateful in a variety of different ways? I kind of used what I wanted to know, and that's what I put on TV."

Next Daniels-Fiss says she will focus on Christmas terminology.

The show features Daniels-Fiss in a classroom teaching words and phrases directly to the camera. She would like to eventually change the setting.



BELINDA DANIELS-FISS

to learn the language while outdoors, rather in a sterile classroom.

thing Okemaysim hears when the SICC begins its community consultations. At the

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# Sovereignty begins at home: Simon

What is Up North and what exactly is considered up North and what do we think about up North? Up North includes NWT, Yukon, Nunuvut and northern parts of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Labrador. There are lots of stereotypes about the North, like its untamed beauty, vastness, lakes, tundra and polar bears but what about the people?



ITK PRESIDENT MARY SIMON.

The Inuit are the people that live in the North and have called it home for many generations over centuries and have established a connection between themselves and the land.

The topic of Arctic sovereignty has been discussed lately in the media, but what lacks is an understanding of what that means and entails

for the Inuit. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) President Mary Simon has embarked on a cross Canada speaking tour entitled "Inuit and the Canadian Arctic: Sovereignty Begins at Home". Simon was in Saskatoon in November through a joint collaboration of the University of the Arctic and the University of Saskatchewan, and spoke at the University of Saskatchewan.

Simon delivered a powerful speech with messages about the Arctic focusing on the Arctic is a region of Canada whose time has come, that sovereignty begins at home and finally the key to sustainable policies and development is constructive partnerships.

Canada's Arctic is a vital part of Canada and while there is a place for military and legal measures for sovereignty it is essential to ensure that the Inuit people that call the North home are included and are part of any sovereignty process. However, in order to achieve that goal, a balanced approach to addressing all issues, including environment, social and economic issues, Northerners face is required.

By simply concentrating on military and legal measures contributes to the stereotype that the North is barren and a collaborative and consultative process with its Indigenous residents must be undertaken.

Simon is an Inuit woman from Nunavik (Northern Quebec). She has spent much of her life gaining further recognition of Aboriginal rights and promoting the study of Northern affairs. Simon was the Chancellor of Trent University (1995 to 1999), the first Aboriginal person to hold such a position in Canada.

She was elected President of ITK in July 2006 and serves on the Board of Directors for the University of the Arctic.

# Letter to the Editor

Re Editorial November 2007

I read this article carefully. I was really surprised Eagle Feather News endorsed Brad Wall's SaskParty based on Hope.

Perhaps it's not my business, being neither First Nations or Métis but I found this endorsement very disturbing.

By your own [Editorial] admission the NDP has done a commendable job.

"Eagle Feather says the SaskParty have made considerable changes to its policies."

How do you know SP will deliver? Talk is cheap. This is an inexperienced bunch and they want to deliver on HOPE ... whatever that means? Remember SaskParty conceived in secret are former Liberals and Grant Devine's Conservatives, flavoured with Alberta Reform/Alliance. They will answer to their federal cousins in Ottawa who really, as you know better than I, have federal jurisdiction in many First Nations areas.

The track record of the Conservatives has not produced good things for First Nation, Métis people. eg. Federal trashing of Kelowna Accord, delayed cheques to residential school students, no National childcare, broken Equalization promises. [Mostly Federal but the Province can show Leadership.] Tax cuts to big business and war funding take money away from peoples needs.

So, Brad Wall can make all the promises he wants but delivery will be arbitrary.

As a friend of Métis and First Nations ... I want to see better health care, elimination of poverty, better education, environmental protection.

An inexperienced social conservative SaskParty government with marketplace values could prove very costly to Saskatchewan.

With First Nations/Métis poor health, high poverty, lack of educational opportunities, areas not being addressed I see a bleak future under a SaskParty government.

How important will First Nations and Métis be with this new government??

More funding loss and cutbacks will have catastrophic consequences. We cannot allow this to happen.

So, keep the SaskParty accountable! But with gag orders on MLAs, controlled media information that is going to prove difficult.

Sincerely,  
Jacquie Christenson



## Native Access Program to Nursing/Medicine

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\* supporting one another \*



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# U of S Prof named National Aboriginal Achievement Award winner

OTTAWA – Fourteen exceptional achievers, coming from diverse backgrounds, both culturally and geographically have been named recipients of the 2008 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

They include a 14-year veteran of the National Hockey League, an activist fighting to protect the Innu way of life, an internationally acclaimed artist who made Woodland art an icon and 11 other esteemed individuals of accomplishment coming from across Canada's Indigenous landscape.

"The 2008 award recipients have transformed their knowledge and experience into outstanding achievement" said Roberta Jamieson, CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

"We invite all Canadians and the world to join us in recognizing these extraordinary individuals who have contributed so much to the greater society around them."

The recipients and their categories for the 15th annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards are:

- Norval Morrisseau (Ojibway, Red Rock Band, Nipigon, Ontario) – Lifetime Achievement Award -- Unfortunately Morrisseau passed in early December
- Boyd Wesley Benjamin (Vuntut, Gwitchin First

regions of Canada and areas of economy.

Hosting this year's show in March in Toronto is 22-year old Cree actress Larissa Tobacco, well-known to Much Music's VJ Search fans who enjoyed her energy, beauty and magnetic personality. For the second year, Jennifer Podemski is creative producer for the gala evening's events.

Dr. Marie Ann Battiste was born to Mi'kmaw parents

## Battiste recognized as world class scholar

who did not finish primary school. She attained a doctorate in education from Stanford University in 1984. She is one of the acknowledged leaders of the renaissance in Indigenous education, both nationally and internationally.

As a unique world-class scholar, her influential books,



PROFESSOR MARIE ANN BATTISTE

essays and collective works have created a new legacy in educational thought and practice. Her achievements and commitments to Aboriginal knowledge, learning, anti-racism, and decolonization in mainstream education have created significant pathways for others to share and develop.

She is a senior tenured professor at the College of Education of the University of Saskatchewan, and Director of the Aboriginal Educational Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, and co-director of Aboriginal Learning and Knowledge Centre, a national centre of Canadian Council on Learning.



The 2008 National Aboriginal Achievement Award winners are a diverse group of exceptional people.

Nation)-Special Youth Award --

- Chief Jim Boucher – (Dene, Fort McKay First Nation) -- Business and Commerce
- Hubert Skye -- (Cayuga, Six Nations of the Grand River) -- Culture, Heritage and Spirituality --
- Dr. Marie Ann Battiste (Mi'kmaw) -- Education --
- Dr. Jeff Reading (Mohawk, Tyendinaga) -- Health
- Paul Andrew (Shuhtaotine 'Mountain Dene', Tulita, Northwest Territories)-- Media & Communications --
- Joseph Leon Handley (Métis, Saskatchewan) -- Politics --
- Sylvia B. Maracle (Mohawk, Tyendinaga First Nation)-- Public Service --
- Reggie Leach (Beren's River First Nation, Ojibway) -- Sports --
- Shirley Cheechoo (James Bay Cree First Nation – Michigeeng First Nation) -- Arts --
- Elizabeth (Tshaukuesh) Penashue, (Innu)-- Environment & Natural Resources --
- David C. Nahwegahbow, I.P.C. – (Whitefish River F.N., Ojibway) -- Law & Justice --
- Bernard McCue, (Chippewa, Beausoleil First Nation)-- Technology and Trades --

After a national call for nominations, the Achievement Award recipients are selected by a jury comprised of past award recipients and individuals representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from diverse geographic

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# More on One Arrow, the Métis and Canadian history

Anyone who believes that history is irrelevant or meaningless need only read the September and October issues of this newspaper. The issue was raised whether First Nations people participated in the battles in the Batoche area in 1885, either because they supported the Métis or had their own, separate political agenda, were coerced through armed force to participate by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont or purposefully withheld their support because they valued the treaties more.

Recently, Aboriginal scholars have begun to reinterpret historical events in an attempt to write ourselves back into Canada's historical meta-narrative, an effort that has led us down a difficult path.

Historians often present historical interpretations as a definitive truth, but writing history in an 'accurate manner' can be problematic when there are multiple versions of an event. As scholars and teachers of Native Studies, we assess the validity of the sources related to each version of events, and, when the sources are rich with detail, we have the luxury of working through the often contradictory nature of those sources to tease out the complexities of events and people's responses to them.

In his interview, Richard John, a descendant of Chief One Arrow, summarized his family's and his community's involvement in 1885 by stating, "We ... all struggled over land and the government. Riel and One Arrow had the same agenda. Protect their people and their rights."

John's statement, while relatively straightforward, is rich with research possibilities that encourage us to analyze the meaning of his people's actions in 1885. Regrettably, Dr. Blair Stonechild did not have access to this particular oral tradition while conducting his research on the events of 1885.

Stonechild put forth his argument that First Nation's people did not willingly participate in 1885 in his master's thesis and then in *Loyal Till Death: Indians and the North-West Rebellion* (Fifth House 1997), which he co-authored with Dr. Bill Waiser. In both instances the purpose was to utilize oral traditions to reinterpret the North-West Rebellion from a First Nations perspective.

*Loyal Till Death* concluded that First Nations involvement in 1885 was isolated

to a few willing "sympathizers" or those coerced at gunpoint by the Métis, and that, as a whole, the First Nations remained loyal to the Crown because their treaties were sacred.

Stonechild more recently claimed, "the only circumstance under which they [First Nations] would take up arms would be if they were attacked first." This final point begs further evaluation of Aboriginal political protocols and a long history of establishing alliances with one another prior to signing the numbered treaties in the late nineteenth century.

The "loyal till death" thesis decontextualizes not only 1885 but the complex historical tradition of treaty making by the Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota, Saulteaux, and Métis people.

These nations had long established sacred covenants with one another that either reaffirmed friendships or ended violent and destructive warfare with enemies. Contextualizing the events of 1885 within an Aboriginal worldview that valued a form of diplomacy rooted in alliance building permits us to evaluate the relationship between the Métis and First Nations in a more historically honest and culturally relevant manner.

Simply because treaties were sacred covenants created through spiritual ceremonies and affirmed through gift giving, adoption, and marriage ceremonies does not necessarily mean that nations would never take up arms against one another. Indeed, sometimes it was because treaties were sacred that chiefs advocated warfare in their defense. During the early 1800s, for example, the Blackfoot and the "Iron Alliance" (a group comprised of the Plains Cree, Assiniboine, Saulteaux, and, incidentally, Métis) entered into several peace treaties that were later broken, resulting in continued warfare between the two groups throughout the century.

It is inconceivable that the Iron Alliance leadership would have considered the treaties with Canada to be more sacred than those made with the Blackfoot, a people who operated from a similar worldview.

Rather than reflect on this well known historical process, Stonechild dismisses John's family's oral tradition, stating that it is "no surprise" that the people of One Arrow would not know their own history. He refers to an interview conducted with elder Florence Paul, who said

that the Resistance was "talked about in parts only - not the whole story. And they [the people of One Arrow] got nervous telling it. They were afraid of another uprising and more trouble. And they were also afraid of getting the young people into trouble."

Unfortunately, Stonechild does not contextualize this statement within the entire collective narrative of 1885 and its aftermath in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, as experienced by the One Arrow community. Instead, he declares that the people of One Arrow were never taught their history and so questions the veracity of John's oral tradition. In doing so, he demonstrates that he is committed more to the archival sources of One Arrow's trial rather than the oral tradition of the community.

As Aboriginal scholars, we have a responsibility to ensure that the oral accounts of our people are not used just to refute the (Euro)-Canadian meta-narrative, but to actually write our own historical experiences as grounded in our cultural understandings.

We are, in fact, beginning to see this truly new form of Aboriginal history emerge. For instance, Neal McLeod's recent book, *Cree Narrative Memory: From Treaties to Contemporary Times*, accesses the collective narrative memories about 1885, which, he reminds us, is actually called ê-mâyahkamikahk—"where it went wrong."

Reframing the event through the concept of "where it went wrong" requires us

to reflect on what went wrong, which, in turn, demands understanding the experiential context endured by communities before, during, and after, rather than simply assessing one isolated, single point in time.

Collectively, where it went wrong was when we lost sight of our historical, familial, and social relationships with each other as Aboriginal people, and have permitted ourselves to be divided by a historical narrative that has focused on proving that Métis and Indians were either traitorous or simply not involved - an interpretation little different from the new focus on First Nations loyalty from a First Nations perspective.

ê-mâyahkamikahk, where it went wrong, allows Aboriginal scholars to begin to reframe questions that better contextualize our experiences within our worldview. It requires us to write our own history based on our cultural values, not to simply rewrite Canadian history.

As Aboriginal scholars, this is our responsibility. Mr. John revealed to us that a complex and rich oral tradition continues to exist in his family and community, which should give us all hope for a new era of historical research.

Submitted by:

**Brenda Macdougall, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Native Studies, University of Saskatchewan**

**Robert Alexander Innes, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Native Studies, University of Saskatchewan**

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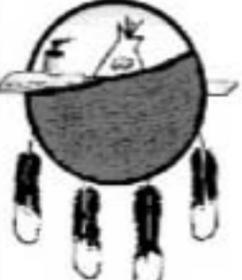
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Wish everyone a  
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
**May the Great Spirit Bless you throughout the year!**



Visitors to the now tranquil prairie are anxious to learn more about the history of this region.

## Famous 1885 Saskatchewan battle site gains new name

BATOCHÉ, SASKATCHEWAN— On behalf of Canada's Environment Minister John Baird, Mr. Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon–Humboldt, recently announced the new designation name of Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada formally named the Battle of Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada. This change better reflects the complete history of the site. The announcement was made as part of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's "Louis Riel Day and Tribute to Métis Veterans" activities and celebration held at Batoche National Historic Site.

"Now a tranquil and peaceful prairie landscape, this national historic site was the location of one of the many famous battles of the 1885 armed conflict that shaped the development of the west," said Trost.

"The site, however, was much more than simply a battle site. This cultural landmark was also the home to the Tourond family, a Métis family that settled there before the outbreak of the 1885 conflict. The story of the site is as much about the contribution of the Métis community to the development of Canada as it is about the battle."

Designated a national historic site in 1923 on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, the site was formerly named Battle of Fish Creek National Historic Site and has now been renamed the Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site. The site comprises thirty-six hectares of the battle site and the Tourond homestead. An additional seventeen hectares to the northwest, which include Middleton's camp and several militia burials, also form part of this nationally significant place.

On April 24, 1885, Métis led by Gabriel Dumont, and Cree and Dakota First Nations, held back the advancing North West Field Force led by Major-General Frederick Middleton. It was the first time the Métis encountered the Canadian military. Greatly outnumbered, and despite losing the element of surprise, the Métis, Cree and Dakota stopped Middleton's progress on Batoche. Exhausted from the day's battle, both forces withdrew. Middleton's advance on Batoche would be delayed for two weeks while they reorganized and tended to the wounded. For Dumont and the Métis people, the battle was a victory that gave them time to prepare for the defense of Batoche.

"History is complex and complicated. To tell the entire story, we must recognize and tell all facets," continued Trost. "The stage was being set for the final battle at Batoche and at this site, lives were lost and military tactics rethought. Today, visitors can discover the reasons and outcomes of the battle and why this place is important for all Canadians."

The Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada is part of a system of national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas that is recognized as one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected areas in the world. Parks Canada works to ensure Canada's cultural and natural heritage are presented and protected for the enjoyment, education and appreciation of all Canadians, today and in the future.



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# Painful memories of residential school won't die

BY DEIDRE MAXINE BADGER

As I walk down Saskatoon's infamous 20th Street to come to work, I sometimes see her in her usual state of mind: drunk. Other times I see her trying to get back into that state of mind. One day I was curious as to why she is the way she is. I walked towards the small-framed lady with a smile on her face as she greets people on the street. I get to her and she smiles at me.

"Nosim, how are you doing?"

I reply knowing what her next question is going to be.

"I'm fine, and what about you?"

She looks at me with painfilled eyes and hair that should be washed.

"I'm sick and I'm trying to get some change for a drink. Do you think you could help me, nosim?"

I think for a moment and tell her what she wants to hear.

"Yes, but you have to do something for me. You must sit with me and talk."

She looks uncomfortable but her thirst is uppermost in her mind, so she agrees.

We walk down the street, quiet for a moment as I observe this lady. We get closer to the liquor store and she's getting more anxious. We get there and I ask her what she wants. She knows already that she yearns for the half a gallon of wine that sits in the cooler, Royal White, a wine cheap but very effective.

We leave and walk to the park. She

can't wait. Her shaking hands twist off the cap as she puts it to her lips. Her arms are exposed and I see the six slash marks that overlap in some places.

We get to the park and I study her as she complains about the hot weather. She wears jogging pants, a t-shirt and a nylon jacket all needing repairs in a few places. She guzzles some more. Her eyes are no longer painful but satisfied. Her nose has evidence of being broken and her face tells many stories that I want to hear. She drinks again.

Finally, I ask her what her name is. "Margaret," she says. "Margaret Johnson."

She grows silent for a bit.

"But it's not my real name you know."

I don't understand but before I can ask her she tells me the nuns gave it to her when she was six and she no longer knows her real name.

"How old are you kokum?"

She looks at me and tells me she is seventy-nine. She tells me she attended school in Burtle, Manitoba with her brother who she never got to see.

"The last time I saw him was when he was sick."

Her eyes begin to water, so she takes another drink. Anger fills her eyes faster than the tears did.

"Those assholes took my brother. They killed him and I know it."

The wine is kicking in so I ease her by asking her who her favorite singer is. She smiles.

"Hands down, Loretta Lynn!"

She starts singing, "it wasn't God who made honky tonk angels."

She laughs and takes another drink.

Out of nowhere she looks like she saw a ghost. I look where her eyes had gone, and I see him, a priest walking quite fast. She looks scared and I hug her. She cries out loud and tells me her nightmares won't go away. She drinks, she says, because the alcohol knocks her out and she's too drunk to even dream. She is getting wobbly in her movements, so I ask her if she's all right.

small boy with short pants that are being held up by suspenders stands on the steps. He is not smiling and looks like he does not want to be there. At the bottom of the picture it reads, 'Burtle, Manitoba'. It is her brother.

I look at her as she starts to nod off at a kitchen table that looks like it won't even hold her. I leave her there knowing she must have done it a 100 times.

I gradually start to clean up. I think of her life and what she must have been through... the positive family life she didn't go through but should have. I finish cleaning her house an

*"They hurt me. Every night, my nosim, they hurt me."*

"Yeah, my nosim, let's go to my house but I need help walking."

I pick up her tiny hand and help her to her feet. She lives a block away and we enter what seems to be a broken down house that should be condemned. We get inside and I realize I haven't seen the worst of it yet. Her curtains are stained sheets that should be washed, her kitchen looks like it has seen ten parties and never once cleaned. Her living room is so dirty there is nowhere for me to sit.

On the wall is a picture so old you would think it was worth something. A

hour later and sit on the couch regretting not asking her the questions I wanted to. I look at her as she abruptly sits up and speaks to me.

"Nosim," she says before taking another drink.

"What?"

She looks at me with bloodshot eyes and whispers.

"They hurt me. Every night, my nosim, they hurt me."

I look at her confused and I ask who. She stares at me and hesitantly replies, "God and his angels."

• Continued on Page 23

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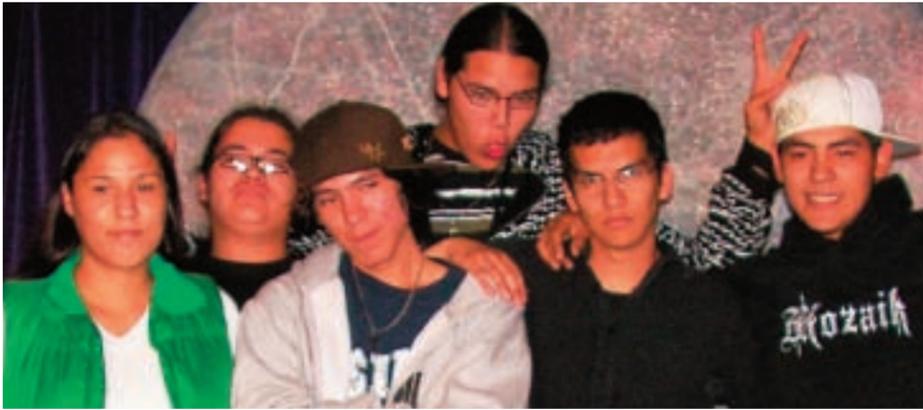
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Deirdre Badger, far left, was one of the SNTC Circle of Voices participants this year. They did a play on the residential schools and Badger's role was of a residential school victim who is wondering about applying for the common experience payment. Part of her journey was interviewing the old woman in the story that begins on Page 22.

### Old woman has many nightmares but few dreams left in her life

• Continued from Page 22

I stand there speechless. She tells me about the abuse she endured. I cry with her.

"Did you see him, nosim, when we were sitting in the park? He was coming for me but you saved me."

She tells me about the pictures she keeps under her bed. She slowly gets up and comes back with a box. Inside I see what seems to be a class picture that was taken in front of what I know now is a residential school.

"That's me," she says, pointing to a little girl who looks afraid. I notice a nun's arm around her shoulder.

"She's an angel." She points to four more "angels."

"That's God," referring to a man who resembles the one we saw in the park.

"And this is my arm."

She reveals the six slash marks on her arm. I look at her crying eyes and I try not to cry.

"I have many nightmares but only few dreams," she whispers.

"What are your dreams?" I ask.

"I dream to know that tomorrow has something positive and different to offer. I dream to see my brother and hug him till I am with him."

"And your nightmare kokum?"

She cries and looks at me.

"My nightmare, nosim, is that I'll wake up just to walk the same day over and over again."

I watch her quietly as she takes her last drink.

I then ask her what residential school meant to her. She looks at me then looks at her empty bottle.

"Nothing, my nosim, absolutely nothing."

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## Saskatchewan Credit Unions and You

### Saskatchewan Credit Unions and You

There are many similarities between cooperatives and the aboriginal community. We share many of the same values about the importance of community and working together. Saskatchewan credit unions are member driven...locally owned and governed, where each member has a voice.

Saskatchewan credit unions are an integral part of the fabric of this province. As community based organizations, they are keenly interested in the people and communities they serve.

### Credit Unions – Looking after your Trust and Investment needs!

Saskatchewan credit unions are full-service financial institutions that offer experienced wealth management and trust services. Credit unions have a network of strategic partners across Canada that ensures reliable access to a full range of financial products and services. These relationships expand the scope of what individual credit unions can offer.

Credit unions can provide specialized trustee services to businesses and individuals. We can deliver innovative trust products and services that are competitively positioned to meet our customers' unique needs.

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Saskatchewan credit unions provide a full range of investment services, including index linked products, term deposits, portfolio management services and personal and corporate deposit services. We have the ability and flexibility to customize deposit products to meet the unique needs of our clients.

### What credit unions can do for you!

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- Index linked products
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### Whatever your dream is, make it real

Saskatchewan can boast that more than half our population belongs to a credit union. As locally-owned financial institutions, you can also say that credit unions belong to their members and communities. And they are here to stay.

Whether it is starting your own business, investing in education, buying a car or starting a new career, your credit union can help make that dream a reality.

Watch future issues of Eagle Feather News for more information on Saskatchewan credit unions or visit [www.saskcu.com](http://www.saskcu.com). If you have questions about the credit union system or their products and services, you can contact us at [communications@saskcentral.com](mailto:communications@saskcentral.com).



## BUSINESS

## Historic deal brings First Nations into credit union partnership

BY ANDREA LEDDING

In a groundbreaking deal, FirstSask and Affinity Credit Union merged - creating a First Nations District in the process.

"There are nine districts within the merger, and one of those is the First Nations District, with eight founding bands," explained George Keter, FirstSask CEO.

He added that he hopes other bands will join, and it is also available for First Nations on an individual basis regardless of band affiliation.

Keter said one of the top priorities, come January when the merger takes effect, will be deciding where to put at least one on-reserve branch, which is important for tax implications and investment purposes.

"Anyone can use any existing branch," noted Keter, so there's not a need to develop extensive branches, with 45 branches already located in 34 communities across the province.

Keter added that the First Nations District has been in the works for close to two years. He sees the importance of making a unique connection to First Nations in Saskatchewan, in order to be a truly provincial institution. He believes the deal is so groundbreaking because of the difference in the structure of Credit Unions as opposed to most other banks and financial institutions.

Credit Unions have a unique governance structure, run by board members. With an additional focus on community building, money is invested back into communities. Generally three or four per cent of pretax profit funds initiatives such as affordable housing, opportunities for young people - what Keter calls "basic community building". The biggest advantage Keter sees is that the First Nations District will be personally making those decisions in allocations and projects.

First Nations are the fastest growing demographic in Saskatchewan, and new small and medium sized enterprises in the First Nations sector outweigh any other in the market. Aboriginal people represent 13.5 per cent of Saskatchewan's population and are pro-

jected to represent 20 per cent by 2015. The median age of the Aboriginal population is 20.1 years of age compared to over 38 for the non-Aboriginal population.

"The increasing importance of First Nations communities in the provincial economy, and the young and growing Aboriginal population, make it a priority for our credit union to connect growth meaningfully," said Keter.

One of the first pilot projects is an alternative to cheque cashing, says Keter. Currently this is done every few weeks by individuals in many locations, including venues where transaction fees and percentages can be significant. By offering this service through the Credit Union branches, First Nations individuals and bands will save money while doing business within their own District and directing any transaction fees back into their own pockets and communities.

"This is an exciting opportunity for First Nations people," said Chief Dale Awasis, Thunderchild First Nation. "Our partnership with FirstSask Credit Union will encourage the involvement and advancement of First Nations people in creating a more prosperous future for ourselves and for Saskatchewan."

The eight First Nations Bands that have entered into the partnership are:

Wahpeton Dakota Nation (458 Members)

Cowessess First Nation (3,500 Members)

Thunderchild First Nation (3,000 Members)

Beardys Okemasis Nation (2881 Members)

Little Pine First Nation (1674 Members)

Lucky Man First Nation (102 Members)

Mosquito First Nation (1199 Members)

Poundmaker First Nation (1409 Members)

Assets under administration in the new merger of Affinity and FirstSask will exceed \$2 billion.

Awasis, one of the new board members, said he was approached a few months ago with the intent of establishing the First Nations District. Since then,

the November vote from the members of Nokomis, FirstSask, and Affinity have come through heavily supporting both the merger and the creation of the First Nations District.

Awasis sees this as a momentous opportunity to enter into the banking industry in a more inclusive way.

"We'll have our own board, make decisions, vote together ... it holds a good prospect for other First Nations to get involved and give us more bargaining power for our dollars, and profit on major investments."

Awasis foresees bands moving over their banking operations to the new District, and entering the banking world "in a more serious way than in the past."

One of the press releases states: "The First Nations District will work towards creating a better future for bands and their membership by creating wealth, offering financial expertise, and delivering a full range of financial services in a manner that respects First Nations people and their practices."

It goes on to state that the First Nations District will have the same powers and responsibilities as all other districts in the Credit Union, and as one of nine districts in the new governance structure, two members will be appointed to the Affinity Board.

The Credit Union expects to see profits in the First Nations District within the first or second year of operation, and



GEORGE KETER

is confident that the minimum \$30 to \$40 million of assets needed to turn a profit is easily achievable.

"We are very excited to be a part of this historic venture," said Awasis. "Future generations will realize that the business sector extended their hand, reached out to the First Nations, and with the strong support of credit union members, made Saskatchewan a more inclusive province. This is a positive example of what can be achieved when First Nations people and non-First Nations people work together."





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## AMI Memorial Counsellor

AMI Memorials is pleased to announce that Dan Pelletier has joined the company as a Memorial Counsellor. Mr. Pelletier has built his reputation for exceptional customer service and relationship-building during his career in automotive and insurance sales.

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## BUSINESS

# Organic beauty and the entrepreneur

BY DEIRDRA NESS

“Develop something you can do and market it,” is Terry Wasylow’s advice to new and potential entrepreneurs.

Wasylow, a Métis woman from Saskatoon, has been an entrepreneur most of her life. Although being an entrepreneur is not normally a career path chosen by single parents, “self employment provided the money and flexibility I needed to raise my family,” explains Wasylow.

“I was able to support my family while self-employed doing book keeping, accounting work, and cosmetics sales.”

Wasylow’s success as an entrepreneur was validated when she became the first Saskatoon representative to earn a pink Mary Kay Cadillac.

Then everything changed when she became so ill that it was a struggle just to get dressed. The normally vibrant, healthy woman suffered for three and a half years before she learned her illness was the result of toxin overload caused by the chemicals in her personal care products. While researching alternatives to toxic cosmetics, Terry learned there are also dangerous chemicals in body lotions, shampoos, and toothpastes ... whatever you put on your skin, nails, or hair.

Although Wasylow initially assumed that natural cosmetics and personal care products would not be the same quality as the non-natural alternatives, she was surprised to learn the natural products were actually superior. The problem was the availability of natural products was limited in the consumer market.

Healthy once again, Wasylow felt it was important to educate people about the dangers associated with using toxic personal care products and let them know there are quality natural alternatives. With a passion to share her newfound knowledge, her past work experience, and an entrepreneurial spirit, it seemed a natural decision to start her own organic beauty business.

Boutique BeYouTeFul began as a department in Saskatoon’s Dad’s Nutrition Centre. From there the business grew to an independent store in the city’s warehouse district and recently Boutique BeYouTeFul has moved to a new location downtown with an expanded product line that includes an oxygen bar, an ion cleanse, organic clothing, and a variety of other natural products and services.

As her business grew, Wasylow welcomed a business partner. Kona Hyggen, a First Nations woman from LaRonge, left her teaching career to join the Boutique. Hyggen had endured years of painful cystic acne and harsh pharmaceutical treatments, but after making a few simple lifestyle changes including switching to organic products, her skin began healing. Like Wasylow, Hyggen believes it’s important to educate people about natural, organic personal and beauty care alternatives.

Boutique BeYouTeFul also provides novice entrepreneurs with the opportunity to further develop their profession and entrepreneurial spirit. Currently, Wasylow is mentoring two Métis cosmetologists working in the Boutique.

Being a successful entrepreneur usually requires funding and Wasylow needed financial support to build her business. While the mainstream financial institutions offered little assistance, her experiences with the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, Aboriginal Business Canada, and the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan were supportive and helpful.

“It was such a relief to talk to real people who had an understanding of what it’s like to be in business,” says Wasylow, “They were encouraging rather than discouraging.”



“Develop something you can do and market it,” is Terry Wasylow’s advice to new and potential entrepreneurs.



The naturally happy staff at Boutique BeYouTeFul are Lil Holst, Kona Hyggen and Terry Wasylow.

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**Connect with your Future**

The Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) is pleased to welcome Bernadine Ness to the position of Labour Market Coordinator.

A member of the Moosomin First Nation, Bernie is a graduate of the Bachelor of Commerce program at the University of Saskatchewan. Bernie's role with SREDA is to work directly with Saskatoon and region employers on developing strategies for employee recruitment and retention in the following key sectors: Information Technology, Life Sciences, Logistics, Manufacturing and Mining.



Bernie's focus is to connect SREDA's private and public employers to potential employee pools by working with existing agencies and organizations that provide career and employment services. These agencies include educational institutions, First Nation Bands and community organizations.

As a part of connecting with the community, SREDA is very happy to be working with the Eagle Feather News in promoting Bernie's employer connections and providing opportunities for potential career and education seekers. Stay tuned to our monthly Eagle Feather News column highlighting the latest information on Saskatoon's job market.

SREDA is a non-profit organization that promotes the attraction, retention, growth, and expansion of economic opportunities in the Saskatoon region.

Bernie Ness [bness@sreda.com](mailto:bness@sreda.com) 1.800.706.1977  
345 Third Avenue S | Saskatoon, SK | S7K 1M6 [www.sreda.com](http://www.sreda.com)

# The Grey Cup has turned Green ... finally

The Grey Cup has finally come back home to Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Roughriders defeated the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 23-19 at Rogers Center in Toronto in a game that lacked the excitement of the 1989 classic when the Riders won their last Grey Cup 19 years earlier.

But to any of the diehard Rider fans who have stayed by their team through thick and thin, a win was a win, and this one was sweet.

And on that particular Sunday the great people of Saskatchewan knew it was going to be their day.

Let's be honest, the game itself wasn't pretty. Saskatchewan struggled early and often, with many of the receivers dropping catchable balls. And even when we did have chances, the Riders often settled for field goals instead of punching it into the end zone.

A week earlier the Riders received some favourable news when Kevin Glenn, the Eastern Division's Outstanding Player Nominee, went down with a broken arm in the late stages of the Eastern Final. First time starter Ryan Dinwiddie would have to have a great game for the Bombers to have a shot. To his credit, I wouldn't say he lost the game, and did a good job moving the chains and keeping Winnipeg close all game.

There were some definite bright spots during the game. Andy Fantuz, who was named the Outstanding Canadian in the game, showed he is a warrior and that he will be a major contributor to the Riders for years to come. His run after the catch and making tacklers look foolish in the second half helped spark the Riders and were huge momentum swings.

James Johnson had three interceptions to tie a

them to a Grey Cup victory. Last time the Riders won the Grey Cup, Austin was their starting quarterback.

It is now time for all of Saskatchewan to sit back and ponder how the Rider braintrust can figure out a way to keep all the core players on this year's team together. So that in 2008 when the Grey Cup will be played in Montreal, our Riders will not only be playing in the game, but returning to Saskatchewan as back-to-back Grey Cup champs.

But please, let's try and get some talent for the

## Sports

### Blue Pelletier



halftime show next year, maybe someone that has had one hit in the last 10 years ... who decided on Lenny Kravitz ... like really, who?

And not all is great in the Queen City. Apparently the North American Indigenous Games Committee didn't think highly enough of Regina to award them the 2011 Games. Despite the efforts of Mayor Pat Fiaco and all those who showcased the city during the committee's visit.

What a shame, Regina has the facilities, people, and corporate backing that would've made the city an ideal spot for NAIG 2011. Better luck next time I guess.

And if you happen to be in Saskatoon in the New



The Grey Cup champions make their way through downtown Regina.

Grey Cup record. The last one came with just over a minute to play and helped seal the win for the Riders, and the title Grey Cup MVP for himself.

Kerry Joseph, despite all the dropped passes and his own inconsistent play always seemed to make the play Saskatchewan needed to keep key drives alive. He didn't do anything that was spectacular but didn't make a big mistake that could've cost them the game.

Watching the game on TV, it was obvious that Saskatchewan was well represented in Toronto. The crowd was almost totally green and any favourable call or play for the Riders was met with thunderous noise and cheering.

It was great to see Kent Austin, who was fired last year as offensive coordinator of the Toronto Argonauts, come back to Saskatchewan and coach

Year, don't forget to come by BRIT, Western Canada's premier high school basketball tournament.

The experience is phenomenal and to all who have never been there, I highly recommend stopping by Saturday night, if you can find a seat!

### GDI Evaluation

#### Gabriel Dumont Institute Program Evaluation Underway

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment have hired EKOS Research Associates Inc. to conduct an evaluation of Institute programs – Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) and the Publishing Department. The purpose of the study is to examine how well GDI programs are working, what its graduates are doing now, and suggestions for changes. Part of the study includes surveys and interviews with former students, GDI staff and partners. Your cooperation and participation would be greatly appreciated.

GDI has provided names of students, staff and partners to EKOS to be used only for this evaluation. A representative from the EKOS Research team may be contacting you within the next few weeks to ask you to participate in the study. The decision to participate is entirely up to you. All your responses will be kept confidential by EKOS and your name and your views will never be provided to GDI or reported individually.

If you were a student at GDI between Sept. 2004 and June 2007 and your telephone number has changed since you attended GDI, please phone EKOS Research at 1-866-755-3567 to update your information.

If you have any questions or concerns about the evaluation, please do not hesitate to contact GDI Program Coordinator Lisa Wilson by telephone at 306-657-2249 or by email at: [lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:lisa.wilson@gdi.gdins.org). Thank you,  
The GDI Evaluation Team



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**3030 Diefenbaker Dr.**  
**384-6633**     *Season's Greetings & Happy New Year*



Wishing you a good Christmas and a peace filled New Year!

**Nettie Wiebe,**  
NDP Candidate



**Season's Greeting and Best Wishes for the New Year**



**Whitecap Dakota First Nation**  
Chief and Council

## Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Increase

Effective January 1, 2008, Saskatchewan's minimum wage will be **\$8.25 per hour**. The minimum call out pay will also increase accordingly.

For more information regarding the minimum wage or labour standards in Saskatchewan call toll free: **1-800-667-1783** or visit [www.labour.gov.sk.ca](http://www.labour.gov.sk.ca).



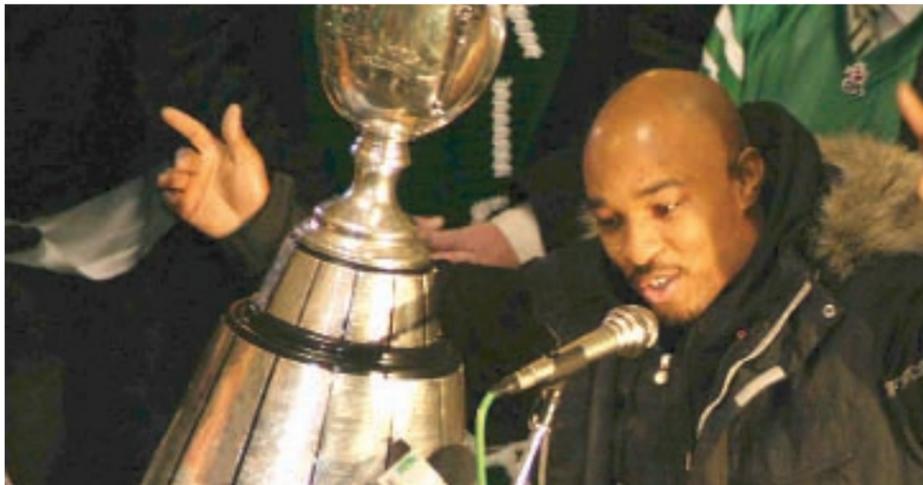
Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Advanced Education,  
Employment and  
Labour



Cold but happy, Corey Holmes and Luca Congi grab the Grey Cup for heat during the Grey Cup parade. It was a bitterly cold day so Premier Brad Wall allowed the festivities to move into the legislative building.



Moose Jaw native Scott Shultz yells in triumph as he holds the Grey Cup overhead in front of the legislative building in Regina. Schultz told the crowd that fans in Saskatchewan "get" what it means to win the Grey Cup. And also, that his teammates now 'get it' as well. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



James Johnson was the Grey Cup MVP. Johnson earned the Award with his three interceptions. He returned one for a touchdown and also made the last pick that turned the ball over so that Kerry Joseph could kneel down and run out the clock for the first Grey Cup victory for Saskatchewan since 1989.



Kent Austin returned to Saskatchewan and brought his ethics and intensity with him. He poured his heart into his team and they responded with a season for the ages. Many pundits say Austin is a lock for Coach of the Year. We agree.



Gainer the Gopher is now the envy of all other provincial rodents and CFL mascots as defending Grey Cup Champion mascot. Here he is pointing at all the fans in a gesture of thanks for the support. Go Gainer Go!

Merry Christmas to all!

**SIEF Business Services Office**  
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 F: (306) 373-4969

**Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation**



# Clarence Campeau Development Fund

*Season's  
Greetings!*



Serving Saskatchewan's Métis  
[www.clarencecampeau.com](http://www.clarencecampeau.com)

The mission of the CCDF is to improve the economic circumstances of Saskatchewan's Métis by providing funding for business development, community economic development and development of management skills and assistance to new and existing Métis owned businesses.

Loan/Equity Contribution Program

Community Business  
Development Program

Support for Aftercare Program

Development of Management  
& Marketing Skills Program

Business Plan Assistance Program

Large Scale or Joint Venture  
Project Program

Please contact us at:

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*Celebrating 10 Years!*