

Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

Master of the Métis fiddle honoured

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

John Arcand is the undisputed 'Master of the Métis Fiddle'. He is an artist with the fiddle. Either creating them by hand, or using them to create a song that will still be tapping toes generations from now, Arcand has been promoting the fiddle and the preservation of the Métis music for decades.

His passion and work with youth have been recognized by his peers and resulted in him being honoured with numerous awards including a National Aboriginal Achievement Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award for his 'Outstanding Contribution to Old Time Fiddling' from the Canadian Grand Masters in 2003. And, on April 11, 2008 he received the Order of Canada – our country's

highest civilian honour.

At a recent Michif conference, Arcand's old friend, Maria Campbell, and a crowd of 200 paid him his due from his community as Campbell honoured him with the presentation of a vest and a sash.

The presentation took place halfway through a cultural gala hosted by Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company that included incredible jiggging, poetry, songs and some fine act-

– it's hard not to be humble. He is the gentlest, kindest human being I have ever known," said Vicki about John's demeanour.

"I am extremely proud to be his life partner and to be able to work with him."

And work he does, as Vicki says.

"Well not always fiddling – but quite a bit. Fiddle tunes or all things associated with them. His preservation and on-



John Arcand was honoured by his Metis community at the recent Michif Language Conference. Arcand was surprised to be honoured with a vest and sash at the evening cultural gala that was written and produced by his old friend Maria Campbell. Here he receives his gifts from Maria Campbell and Donna Heimbecker.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

ing by local Métis who sometimes shouldn't act. Arcand and his wife, Vicki, were the musical accompaniment for the entire event and the honouring was a surprise to John so there was a lot of trickery going on as they all rehearsed as if nothing was up.

Then Maria Campbell came to the stage during the evening show and described a person they were going to honour for their gifts to the community. She went on to describe John. When he figured out it was him, being the ever so humble man that he is, he started to weep.

"If I knew, I probably wouldn't have come," said Arcand after the event when asked about the surprise. "This is too emotional for me. I thought you Métis people are crazy. I had no idea nor was I expecting it. It is overwhelming, and so has the support over the years for what I do."

John and his wife Vicki are well known throughout the nation, playing together for many years and, for the last decade, entertaining thousands of people every year at the John Arcand Fiddle Festival. Their commitment to preserve the Métis sound is whole hearted. He believes that we may lose old time fiddling in the future.

"The thing about fiddling is it evolves. All the young kids don't play dance music like we do. They are all trained so they can play anything they want," said Arcand in a rare candid interview.

"But they don't have the heart or the feel for dance music. Which is unfortunate but that stems from not playing for dance and creating. That is what we lack."

Arcand is a very humble and shy man. He does not like attention and shuns the spotlight. His life is his work.

"The man's mind is incredible, his skill is unsurpassable and the passion for which he approaches all things is so genuine

going research into the music and dance, the Fiddle Fest, his many fiddle students, building fiddles, fixing fiddles, recording, performing – the fiddle really is the major part of his life."

Luckily for us he is really good at it. Arcand obviously loves what he does. He admits to no regrets except for the fact he is getting too old to enjoy the awards. He admits he keeps an open mind so he learns something from every person he hears fiddle and he admits anyone can fiddle.

"It is what you put in it that makes the difference," he says. "You can play all the notes in the world, unless you make them sound like something. Then it is just sound."

And when asked about the best thing about the night honouring him, the humble hero replied in character with a chuckle: "Looking back on tonight. I am just grateful it is over with."

One thing that many people don't know about John and Vicki is that they raise and breed thoroughbred horses. One day he would like to breed the horse that wins the Saskatchewan Derby, but till then, time to prep for the Fiddle Fest, mentor some youth, and oh yeah, go meet the Governor General for tea and an Order of Canada. Not bad for a Métis from Debden.

"John was truly honoured and deeply touched by the surprise from Maria," said Vicki a few days before they were to fly to Ottawa where John was to receive the Order of Canada.

"He made the comment to me, that all of the awards and honours he has received have meant a lot, but this particular one will always be extra special to him, as it came from his people. "He will wear his vest and sash with great pride at the Order of Canada Ceremony, proud to be Métis and proud to have been honoured by them."



INSIDE



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Welcome to our
Arts & Entertainment, Education & Training Issue
Coming In May:
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Canada's Next Great Prime Minister a Métis doctor from Sask.

TORONTO – Alika Lafontaine, a 25-year-old Métis physician from Saskatchewan, was named Canada's Next Great Prime Minister on the annual reality-TV competition Sunday night.

Three former prime ministers – Paul Martin, Kim Campbell and John Turner – and the guest star premier, Danny Williams, made up the panel

that grilled four remaining contestants with questions and fictional scenarios.

A recipient of the national Aboriginal Achievement Foundation's Youth Recipient Award in 1999 and a recipient of several NAAF scholarship and bursaries, Alika was one of 10 finalists out of thousands who joined the contest.

Lafontaine credits his win with 'speaking from the heart' and hopes his victory will inspire other Aboriginal youth.

"You really can have it all if you put the time and effort in," he said.

Alika was raised in Regina with his three brothers and one sister. Alika recently performed with his siblings as The Fifth Generation in the 15th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

"Alika has been involved with the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation for over 10 years.

"He has been supported by our bursary program since he began his

post-secondary studies, performed in some of our annual awards galas and most importantly was awarded the Youth Recipient Award in 1999," says National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation CEO Roberta Jamieson.

"These are the kind of students the foundation is especially proud of and we all congratulate him on this tremendous accomplishment."

Canada's Next Great Prime Minister is the successor to a program established by Magna International Inc. in 1995 to provide a national forum for young Canadians to put forth innovative proposals for a more prosperous country.



The Fifth Generation performed at the last National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Alika, second from left is a multi talented singer and soon to be anesthesiologist who has joked that his win allows him to now buy that nice toaster he has been eyeing up...a four slicer no less.

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News from around the busy province of Saskatchewan

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Wow. What a month of big news coming out of Saskatchewan. Of course there is all the controversy over old video tapes, Wanuskewin being broke, David Ahenakew and process and debt at the FSIN. But not all news was bad.

Saskatoon was host to the Assembly of First Nations national Treaty Conference, which gathered leaders, Chiefs and federal politicians from around Canada to discuss Treaties and the relationship with Canada.

TCU Place was packed to overflowing, blankets were being handed out like it was minus-50 and a good time was had by all.

We are excited about the report from this conference gathering dust on the shelves in Ottawa with all the other reports and recommendations that the Harper government refuses to move forward. Active disengagement they call it.



The Saskatoon Library, the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education hosted a round dance at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. The event had over 500 people attend. Here you get a fish eye view of the action.

(Photo by Black Box Images for Saskatoon Public Library)

In the North there were two elections that people had their eyes on. Federally, Conservative candidate

Rob Clark won the Mississippi Desnethé riding handily. Clark worked hard, putting 36,000 kilome-

ters on his truck during the campaign, and his toil paid off ... it didn't hurt that the Liberals self destructed again after Stéphane Dion appointed former NDP MLA Joan Beatty to the candidacy.

Also, Chief Tammy Cook Searson ran for reelection at the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and won handily. Cook-Searson is a marathon runner, entrepreneur, mother, leader ... etc.

The real deal as they say. Congratulations to Chief Tammy.

Also in Saskatoon in March the Saskatoon Library, the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education hosted a round dance.

This round dance rocked, as at one time there were over 500 people in attendance.

The library folk are seeing a ripple effect across the province from this public event and are elated with the turnout.



Rob Clark was recently elected the Member of Parliament for the vast Mississippi Desnethé Churchill Riding in northern Saskatchewan. Clark, an RCMP officer for the past 20 or so years takes over the riding left behind by former Liberal MP Gary Merasty.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine presents a blanket to Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl at the AFN National Treaty Conference that was held in Saskatoon in March.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Editorial

Reclaiming Wanuskewin

The recent upheaval and ruin of Wanuskewin Heritage Park is an utter tragedy. This institution has served the people of Saskatchewan and the world in a good way for almost 15 years. A place to learn, reflect and connect.

The land that it sits on has served the people of this region for thousands of years.

The land has fed the people with its abundance of food to gather. Its cliffs offered an excellent place to run the bison over. The valley offered excellent shelter in the winter and welcoming running waters for the gatherings and ceremonies in the spring, summer and fall.

And now the land sits sadly, with a half finished building on it that has had its heart torn out. The last few years have been hard on the place. There was a CEO that butted heads with the Elders. There was a Board of Directors made up of many different groups who were allowed to place someone on the board. These people, well intentioned though they may have been, never really took ownership of the Park. They took the word of the CEO on every issue and now find themselves stuck with a \$3.5 million renovation bill and a half finished building, no restaurant and more trouble coming.

There is no money. Surprising when you consider we ran a story last April and a nice photo of the then CEO Sheila Gamble and the Director of Finance Greg Thorembert burning the loan documents brought by their financial institution. They also served wine at the event, a policy that infuriated the Elders board that see the land as sacred and a place for ceremony, not alcohol.

There were also announcements of funding and promises of millions in the bank. But there was really nothing but tension, hard feelings, and smoke ...and lots of ex-employees. All of this got by the board. No one took ownership of the place ... no one really ever has.

The time has come, and I say this with all due respect, to change the entire board composition. Everyone on that board must be replaced and ownership, complete ownership, must be given to the Aboriginal community.

It is unfortunate that the events have happened the way they have ... another "Aboriginal" institution up in smoke ... when in reality, the CEO was non-Aboriginal and so are a vast majority of the board.

The new Wanuskewin Heritage Park Board should be made up of Aboriginal people from across Saskatchewan who are artists, business people, Elders, dancers, speakers of the language and keepers of the traditions. People whose names are put forward by the community, and not a political body, should be in charge of the rebirth of this so very important place.

A blue chip board of directors and a new CEO could be in place within four months with a new mandate and a clean slate.

There has never been a better time to start over. Is there any other choice?

What's next, what's new in Eagle Feather

In May we will have a big feature on the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards as they celebrate their tenth anniversary of honouring Aboriginal youth in this province. We will have features on some past honourees as well.

And the North is rocking because of mining. We will look at the impact of mining on the economy in Saskatchewan and show off some success stories, stories that are becoming more and more common as Aboriginal people take their rightful share in profiting from our vast natural resources.

We would like to welcome Professor Paul Chartrand to the crew. This fella was one of the Commissioners of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and is super smart. Way smarter than the editor. He will write on law and other things that will certainly impress you.

And last month, to celebrate our tenth anniversary, we had a draw for a picture and ten lifetime subscriptions to Eagle Feather News. Louise Oelke of Saskatoon won the picture. The lucky subscription winners are: Chick Morin, Gladys Oates, Elsie Whitecalf, Helen Waditaka, Paul Sanderson, Pat Caron, Dora Durocher, Darrell LaRose, Keith Sanderson and Vince Smith. The paper is, as they say, in the mail.

johnl@eaglefeathernews.com



The reaction to the provincial government's decision to pull \$8 million in funding for the Station 20 West project in inner city Saskatoon has been fast and furious. There have been letters to the editor, so many that the StarPhoenix had to cut them off. There has been a Facebook page created that has over 4,000 friends and there was a big march on a bright crisp Saturday morning that was to demonstrate to the government how many supporters there really are. Over 2,000 people showed up. Astonishing numbers for a protest of anything in Saskatoon. The biggest protest probably ever. "Station 20, keep the money," they chanted as they walked through the 'hood. The government has met with the Station 20 group and still says no to this project.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Letters to Eagle Feather News

Eagle Feather News invites letters from our readers.

We reserve the right to edit for legal, grammatical and space reasons. You can email your views and opinions to us at john@eaglefeathernews.com or mail us at:

P.O. Box 924, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 3M4

Congratulations to Eagle Feather News on successful years

Time is a very valuable commodity for me; running a charitable organization, being part of a number of committees and boards, relied upon by many youth who call on me for continued support, and being involved in numerous community initiatives forces me to really analyze and pick and choose the extra little tasks I entertain.

Well, having said that, one little task that took no analyzing whatsoever was writing this letter.

The moment I read (in the last issue of Eagle Feather News) that it was their 10th Anniversary, I knew immediately that I'd be mak-

ing time to send off a congratulatory letter. No question!

I have watched since my arrival to this province in 2001 Eagle Feather News become a leader not only in First Nation and Métis news, but truly a leader in building a united and healthy community.

Always on top of important issues, giving in many charitable ways often unseen by most, and really taking a business venture and rolling it into a social entity that truly works for community.

Eagle Feather News has become a staple within our province, and quite frankly I'm looking forward to making time in ten years to write another of these letters.

Congratulations Eagle Feather News and thank you for being here.

Sincerely

**Darrell Lechman
Saskatoon**



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Horses have a lot to teach us

Horses are amazing people and one of the greatest springtime joys is seeing new fillies and foals kicking up their heels in the fields.

Our late grandmother was a horsewoman and when the family left the reserve in the mid-1940s she also left 35 brood mares.

She must have missed them a lot because we heard her favourite horse stories over and over again when we were kids.

The family favourite was a big old grey mare who was kept close to the house because she was a good babysitter. During the Second World War when our grandfather was off to war, our grandmother took in laundry from non-Indians to support the family.

While she worked she put our aunt Marji (the youngest) into the corral with the big grey.

When Marji tried crawling outside the fence the big grey would grab her diaper and drag her back in. The big grey was a gentle old horse.

When the kids wanted to ride she lowered her head so they could climb on board and she often carried three or four on her back at a time.

There was a time not too long ago when there were still lots of horses in our communities. We don't rely on horses for transportation anymore but they

still play an important role in our traditional beliefs and practices. Horses are protectors and teachers and they are honoured through ceremony.

All my life I dreamed of horses but did not follow through until a few years back.

Our little herd began with a thoroughbred mare named Thunder Express, a direct granddaughter of Seattle Slew. Thunder was struck by lightning and killed in the summer of 2005. Soon after that a gentle Arabian mare named Jade joined us

and today we have seven and one more on the way.

Every one of our horses is special with its own personality and rank in the herd. Okemawskew (a solid Paint Quarter Horse, own-daughter of Mr. Faceman) is the boss.

A slight turn of her head or movement of her ears brings the rest into line. Jade is her loyal sidekick and last year both were bred to Clayboy, a quarter horse paint owned by Tracey Robinson and Jason Bitsui of Katawasin ranch near Duck Lake. Thunderwin was born last year to Jade, sired by Mr. Faceman, and she is the 'attitude' princess.

Thunderwin and Okemawskew are half sisters. Last year we picked up two weanlings and a yearling. Fez (also known as "Cree Ali") is our Arabian stud colt prospect. As the only boy in the herd he thinks he

should be boss and does his 'king of the herd prance.'

So far the gals keep him in line with well-deserved kicks but he will be getting a private corral soon.

Otansa Roulette is a beautiful pie-bald (white face) paint yearling. She's a bit shy but lets Thunderwin and Fez know when they are pushing it. Gentle Belle is a two-year-old medicine hat filly sired by Clayboy who is just discovering how fun it is to boss yearlings around.

Our latest edition is Belle's half-sister, a two week old medicine hat filly named Echo (out of Okemawskew and Clayboy), and we are looking forward to Jade's new babe due at the end of this month..

What all our horses have in common is their honesty and their hard earned trust.

They let you know what they are thinking/feeling, they can see right through you, and their trust is easily lost.

Horses have a lot to teach people.



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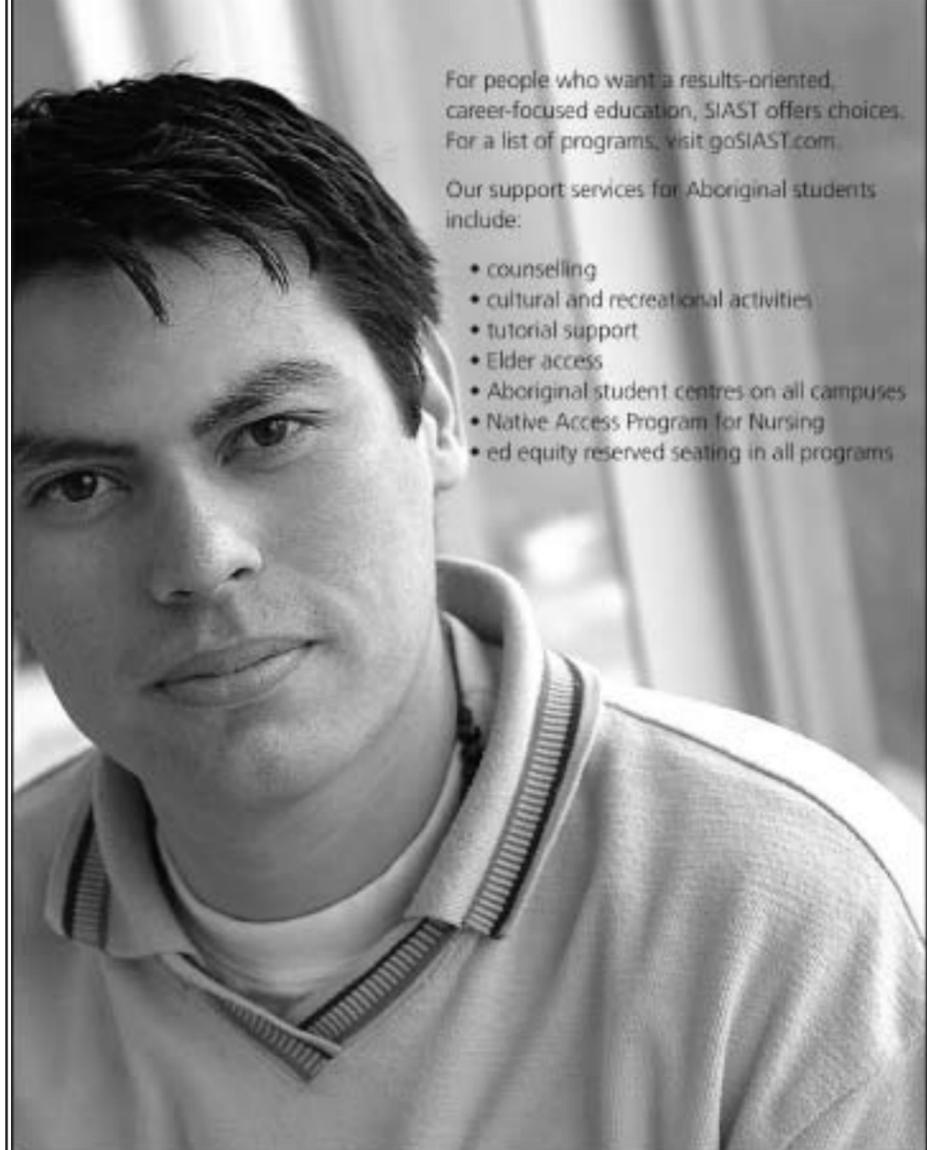
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Laid low by the Hillary Clinton Flu

I've been laid low by a nasty flu these past few weeks. I've never been this sick before. I became very weak at first. My body ached then chills and fever followed. My throat caught fire and streams of snot like the lava flows of Mount Aetna appeared.

The doctor told me my face was infected and he prescribed these yellow pills big enough to choke a horse. An infected face isn't exactly a medical term but I couldn't hear much of what he was saying because, well, I had an infected face and my ears were plugged.



The last time I had an infected face was when I was plagued with zits as a teenager.

Under different circumstances I'd welcome the opportunity to escape work and lie around like Homer Simpson. The flu, however, makes a blissful snooze impossible. I'd wake up with a hacking cough, chills or fever. Any combination of the above still means pure misery.

I tried to go to work but they chased me home. I passed the time sleeping, watching TV and surfing the internet. I got hooked on the American Democratic party election. It's as good a soap opera as any.

I ended up rooting for Barack Obama. It was from this experience I came up with the medical term for my illness. I call it the Hillary Clinton flu because it just won't quit. It's been six weeks and counting.

The doctor says because I'm 55 and diabetic I will be hit that much harder by illness. I can handle the news but does this illness have to have all the impact of a bug splattered on a windshield?

I found out from surfing the net how a fever is really a way our body fights disease. Fever is not a result of disease but the body's response to disease. The body raises its temperature in an attempt to cook the flu virus.

Unfortunately this crude but often effective response can create some not so good side effects. The wisdom of the web taught me a high fever can cause brain damage. Apparently U.S. President Taft, a brilliant man, became rather dulled after a nasty fever.

I hope my sparkling personality has not been so affected.

In the old days they would have wrapped me in a buffalo robe and hung me over a fire in an attempt to break the fever. Actually I just made that up ... a side effect of brain damage no doubt.

The flu or influenza is a much more serious illness than I had thought. Again the wisdom of the web states more people have died from influenza than from smallpox or the Bubonic Plague which killed off one-third of Europe during the middle ages.

The influenza epidemic of 1918 was a world wide pandemic spread by the return of soldiers from the first world war. It was called the Spanish Flu not because it began in Spain but because Spain was the first country to broadcast the news. The other countries were under strict military censorship.

At one time there were more casualties from influenza than from battle wounds. This is a rather strange scenario – a war brought to a lull because people are too sick to fight.

It was said the disease was so nasty a person could be healthy by morning and dead by evening.

There are mass graves on most Saskatchewan First Nations filled with the victims of influenza. They died so quickly and in such numbers that individual graves could not be dug.

The non-Indians suffered as well. There is many a grave in the small towns and cities of Saskatchewan where lie the victims of the 1918 Influenza pandemic.

I received my flu shot and I felt totally protected. There are many strains of flu but the shot only protects against those strains the medical people believe has the greatest chance of infecting us. It's like tossing dice. Maybe they get it right. Maybe they don't.

The only positive garnered from this nasty flu is I've gotten to know the good people at Shoppers Drug Mart on a first name basis.

The people at West Wind Clinic say, "Oh no it's him again" and my man Obama is flying high like a moon rocket.



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Métis at a disadvantage in Manitoba land case

By Paul L.A.H. Chartrand, IPC
For Eagle Feather News

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) was handed a resounding loss in the Manitoba Métis Lands Case in a decision by Justice Alan McInnes of Manitoba Queen's Bench on 07 December, 2007. The case, which has been appealed, is sure to continue the drama and widespread misconceptions it has generated among journalists, the public and Métis people since it was filed in April 1981. This is a short introduction to some of the major issues surrounding this highly politicized case.

You will be familiar with the story behind the case. It takes place in Red River at the birth of the province in 1869-70. Our Métis people led a forceful resistance to Canada's outrageous and undemocratic attempt to take over the West without consulting us or the First Nations people who lived here.

This was contrary to the applicable law at the time. A 'bargain of confederation' was struck which included various oral promises as well as some articles in the Constitution of the new province, called the Manitoba Act 1870. These included articles on protection for the French language and Catholic schools, issues that were successfully litigated by French-Canadian Manitobans who came to inherit the legal legacy of our Métis ancestors.

The only article that provided benefits solely for Métis people, compared to language and education rights that could be enjoyed by all provincial residents, was section 31, which provided for the purchase of the Indian title of our Métis ancestors with 1.4 million acres of lands. These lands were located along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers and along Lake Manitoba, in the Métis community of St. Laurent, the writer's home community.

In brief, and skipping much of the legalese, section 31 provided for the purchase of the Indian title of the Métis living within the borders of the province at the time. The borders at that time centred around the site of present-day Winnipeg and extended north only as far as to take in St Laurent and the other Métis fishing community of Grand Marais on Lake Winnipeg. The border ended just west of Portage la Prairie and east not far from Winnipeg and south to the American border.

Section 31 provided 1.4 million acres of lands for the benefit of the Métis families. The federal government had a duty to make regulations governing the selection of lands by the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, who had more power and authority then than in more recent times like when Yvon Dumont served as Lieutenant Governor from 1993 to 1999. The lands were to be divided among the children of the Métis heads of families with attached conditions including settlement conditions. The conditions were to be determined by the federal government.

In the result, the lands quickly found their way into the hands of land speculators from Ontario who flocked to the province, and by 1879 our people had lost

all political power in Manitoba. Prime Minister John Macdonald, when he was in opposition, said in Parliament that "apparently despairing of ever receiving patents for their lands, the majority of the [Métis] claimants had disposed of their rights for a mere song, to speculative friends of the Government; and it is no doubt for the benefit of cormorants of this class that the hearts of Mr Laird and his colleagues so suddenly expanded..."

Instead of ensuring that the lands were a benefit to the 'families' as required by the Act, the federal government gave lands only to the children of the heads of families, and in the case of infants and minors, the province set up a court approval system for sales of these children's lands. A court official who was from Ontario testified before a provincial inquiry in 1881 about the court approval system; "I never suspected for a moment that a system that turned out to be so vicious could possibly exist in any civilized country."

My view of how the lands should have been set aside is that of a Métis reserve, out of which individual allotments could be made in time, to the second or later generations of Métis residents who would have to settle the land and not be able to sell it until protective conditions had been met. That view reflects the duty of colonial governments to protect indigenous peoples' lands by keeping them for the entire community and to allow individual ownership and sales only when the individual was considered to be able to protect his interests in the public market.

The dispossession of the Métis was aided by the views of influential people like that of Chief Justice Woods of the courts that approved Métis lands sales. He urged that the province "would fill up quickly with an Ontario population and would yield a profitable return for the money expended on it". And, he wrote, "as to the [Métis] reserves, like all other reserves of every kind, they are a curse to the country, and should be distributed without delay."

So the central question in the MMF case is whether the lands ought to have been given without settlement or any other conditions and also been allowed to make their way into the hands of the "cormorants" who made their fortune out of Métis lands.

In a book that I wrote, published in 1991, I argued that section 31, the Métis lands article, should be interpreted in light of the protective duty of the government reflected in the Indian legislation and required of Canada by British colonial law and policy.

It also should be interpreted in light of section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 which, after the work of our late brother Harry W. Daniels, includes 'the Métis people' among the Aboriginal peoples whose rights are guaranteed. I also argued that, as the Supreme Court of Canada itself has stated, s. 35 requires a new interpretation of the Constitution to encourage negotiations on how government should protect and respect the rights of Aboriginal peoples.

This is why the MMF took legal

action: to lever negotiations with governments for a fair deal for the Métis of Manitoba. Contrary to much publicity, the case was not about getting land or money but simply a court declaration that the governments had not acted as the constitution required. A declaration leads to a political expectation that the government will act appropriately in response, but the remedy is political and is not a legally binding order.

Section 31 provided for a reserve for the Métis to settle upon to protect them from the Ontario cormorants until later generations could receive their individual titles once the lands had been firmly occupied and the owners able to deal freely with them. It was a gradual settlement scheme to protect our ancestors in the occupation of lands, which form the basis of wealth and power in new colonies.

The lawyers hired by the MMF took a different argument to the court. They argued that not only did section 31 provide for a permanent Métis land base, but the Métis 'treaty' also included section 32. That article, which does not mention Métis people, clearly states that its purpose is to give legal title to "the settlers in the province" who were in occupation of lands under the old HBC regime or otherwise in peaceable possession. Faced with this argument, the trial judge was unable to reconcile it with the plain words of the Act, and rejected each argument of the MMF.

The case highlights a range of issues that are important to all Aboriginal peoples of Canada who attempt to use the courts to secure a measure of justice and recognition.

One issue is the way that history-based questions are dealt with. Recent case law has favoured the view that experts are useful to explain the context and relevance of documents. In the MMF case both the provincial and federal governments brought their own experts to interpret the huge number of historical documents describing the issues at stake, including the redoubtable Thomas Flanagan, well-known for his widely publicized opposition to Aboriginal rights. The MMF legal team brought no one for this purpose, relying instead on the idea that the documents speak for themselves. So strongly did the trial judge attach his opinions to the experts' views that he even used a Flanagan publication to quote something out of Hansard, rather than relying directly on the Parliamentary record itself.

The trial judge's findings of fact at trial will be difficult to overcome on appeal. This raises the question of the merits of abandoning an appeal. Is it better to accept a lower court decision that will have little effect or to appeal and risk a higher court decision that might negatively influence the legal development of Métis rights?

A second issue is the capacity of Aboriginal peoples to assert and defend their rights in court. The MMF, which was denied standing in the case, is a representative organization. The Métis as a people have not been recognized as having capacity to take legal action. Canadian

law lags behind Australian and American law where the courts have allowed Aboriginal and Indian groups to fight for their own rights without relying on intermediary organizations.

Events surrounding the Manitoba Métis Lands Case continue to demonstrate the highly politicized nature of Métis rights contests in Manitoba. The federal government, one of the parties to the action, promoted the trial judge to the Court of Appeal after he heard arguments and before he gave his decision. The sad history of politicisation is evident not only in the words of Chief Justice Woods quoted above, but also in the compulsion of a retired Manitoba Court of Appeal judge to write a newspaper commentary in March 2008 in which he offered gratuitous support for the trial judge and criticism for the MMF leadership.

The case might be a good occasion for Métis people to reflect upon the relative merits of taking court action in striving for respect, recognition and protection of our interests and rights. What might be some options?

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington D.C. can assist to resolve disputes between indigenous peoples and governments in the Americas. Petitions on behalf of other Canadian indigenous groups have succeeded there before.

Alternative constitutional arguments can be made to lever political action. In the past generation the courts have been developing new ways to lever political negotiations. Ironically one of the main cases in this area is the Manitoba Language case of 1985 where the court found in favour of French language rights and where the courts explained that constitutional legitimacy depends upon the consent of the governed.

Aligning this with other principles such as the ones in the more recent Quebec Secession case suggests an argument that the Métis people can call on Canada to negotiate a new 'bargain of confederation' to reflect the consent of the Métis of today for the law of the Constitution, which includes the Manitoba Act 1870.

We are very far from agreement on the true meaning of the Manitoba Métis Lands Case. Newspapers often published photos of downtown Winnipeg on their stories about the case, suggesting that our people were claiming the actual lands on which sits the city.

This was aided by popular references to the action for a declaration as a 'Métis Lands Claim case'. There is no claim for lands. And from my biased viewpoint, given that a claim is not as good as a 'right', then the least that we have here is a lands 'dispute', not a 'claim'.

Call me biased. Not only have I written a book on this subject, but I am also a descendant of Manitoba Métis Lands recipients. I am biased... biased in favour of justice.

NEXT issue... How the minority extremist government of Stephen Harper has put mud on the Canadian Boy Scout's face. (about the UN Declaration)

Aboriginal health projects announced

Four innovative Saskatchewan health care projects will receive funding from the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund.

The Northern Health Strategy, the Chronic Disease Network and Access Program, the Saskatoon HIV Aboriginal Reduction of Harm Program (SHARP) and a maternal care program at the All Nations' Healing Hospital (ANHH) in Fort Qu'Appelle will receive a total of \$3.8 million over two years.

The federal government established the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund in 2004. One of the objectives of the initiative is to help provincial and territorial governments adapt existing health services to better meet the needs of First Nations and Métis people.

"Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis population faces serious health care challenges," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said. "It will take innovative thinking and cooperation among all health care partners to address those challenges. These projects are good examples of this approach," said Draude.

"The Government of Canada places a high priority on closing the gap between the health status of Aboriginal peoples and that of other Canadians," said federal Health Minister Tony Clement. "Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund plays an important role in achieving this goal," Clement said.

"I would like to congratulate the successful proponents on taking the initiative to address some of the barriers that First Nations living in Saskatchewan face in accessing health services," Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations vice-chief Guy Lonechild said.

"Adaptation of provincial health services must be done in partnership with First Nations to be successful. These projects are the beginning of what I hope will be long-term partnerships that lead to improved health services and better health outcomes for all First Nations children and families in this province. Meaningful innovation and significant transformation of the health system must be driven by partnerships with First Nations in Saskatchewan."

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette said the project is a great step toward making the health care system more responsive to the needs

of the Métis people.

"We cannot improve the health of



JUNE DRAUDE

the Métis people of Saskatchewan in isolation," Doucette said. "Working in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Authorities makes good sense. Partnerships and inclusion will go a long way to undoing some of the disconnect our people have with the health system. We are committed to working together to improve the health status of Métis people."

Regional Health Authorities worked with First Nations and Métis organizations to develop the proposals, which were then submitted to the Ministry of Health for review. The ministry consulted with an independent panel of experts before deciding which projects should receive support.

- The Northern Health Strategy, which includes 13 partner agencies, will receive \$770,000 to address health challenges in Saskatchewan's north.

- The Chronic Disease Network and Access Program will receive \$998,000 to develop a seamless process for chronic disease management in the Prince Albert area.

- The Saskatoon HIV Aboriginal Reduction of Harm Program will use its \$715,000 contribution from the fund to provide services for people affected by HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases or at risk of contracting those diseases.

- The Transition to a Multidisciplinary Primary Care Maternal Child Health Program will work to strengthen maternal health services at the All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle. It will receive \$1.3 million from the fund.



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Teachers, pros need to know how to awaken the joy

Albert Einstein once said: "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge".

I never thought of school as a place that awakens joy, it was more of a place where I felt stupid, awkward and embarrassed. Perhaps, that is why it took me so long to finish school. I foolishly thought that the system would have changed by now – I can be so naïve.

A couple of months ago I went to pick up my grandson from school where he is attending Grade One. I found his teacher in the hallway sitting with five students who appeared to be having difficulty with math. I was amazed at the way she was speaking to the children. She obviously doesn't awaken joy in her students! She was rude, disrespectful and downright mean to those children.

Unfortunately, many children still face this type of behaviour from their teachers. How are our children expected to learn in an environment like that? It doesn't stop in elementary school either! This negative attitude continues into high school and even filters into university classes.

Would you like to be remembered as the best teacher or the worst teacher?

Do you care? If you don't care, then perhaps you shouldn't be teaching, maybe you should consider a job with the military as a drill sergeant where you're expected to scream the individuality out of folks.

Negative people do not find solutions and they enlarge problems. They prefer lamentation, gossip and pessimism.

Confucius said "It is better to light a match than to regret the darkness". The negative thought generates negative energy that will resurface in society, so take heed teachers and parents.

All is not doom and gloom; there are good teachers out there. I have to thank my teachers for my experience at the First Nations University of Canada because they encouraged me throughout my years of studies, and it is because of them that I successfully completed my degree.

Winnona, Rodolfo, Grace, Wes, Dawn, Tracey, Dave, Joan and Danny thank you for your patience and for sharing your knowledge. I must also thank the Elders for their advice and

encouragement – they were always willing to listen and help in any way they could.

I remember one of the Elders at the First Nations University of Canada, saying that our children are gifts from the Creator and we should treat them special.

"Don't say things or do things that will hurt their spirits for those things will come back to you, and you will hurt as you have hurt."

It's true what goes around, comes around. I am getting to the point in my life where the "comes around" is hitting me and it's no fun. I can see where some of the choices I made as a parent have come back to bite me in the @\$\$. Thank goodness I am a grandmother now because I get a chance to do it better.

I have realized that being a healthy person means being balanced with our physical, spiritual, emotional and mental selves. There are lessons we learn throughout our lives; some good – some not, but all will help to shape the adult that we become.

Wouldn't it be great if we could all

leave the school system with a positive feeling? Ask yourself, what can I do to ensure that my child has a positive experience in school? We can take an active role in our children's education, attend teacher/parent conferences, help our child with their homework and speak to the teacher when our children are having difficulty.

When your child tells you that their teacher is mean – find out what is going on. If your high school teacher is 'picking' on you, ask them why they are doing that and let them know how that makes you feel. When you get to university and your professor gives you grief or makes you feel stupid, awkward or embarrassed – request a meeting with them and put all your cards on the table.

I know that these things are easier said than done, but the alternative is to suck it up, and believe me you don't want to do that. The quickest way to deal with a situation is head on.

Until next month take care and enjoy the last couple of months of school. Thank you for your letters and emails.

If you have a questions or comment send it to Eagle Feather News C/O Sandee Sez P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon S7K 3M4.



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Eekwol thrives as untraditional storyteller

By Chelsea Jones
For Eagle Feather News

“How many of you out there are certified weapons of mass creation?” Glowing on stage, Eekwol posed this question as a primer for her next song. She spoke to a crowd of about 75 people gathered in the auditorium of Scott Collegiate High School in Regina for the 2008 Sakewewak Storytellers Festival.

The hip-hop songstress is one of the most dynamic performers on the Canadian music scene right now, and she’s quick to make her point.

She was asking how many in the crowd were mothers, right before announcing her own pregnancy.

Eekwol was telling her own story.

“I knew it was a storytellers festival so I thought you know, I have a lot of hip hop (and) upbeat songs, so tonight I tried to stick to songs that have a real storytelling to them.”

Eekwol performed spoken word and sang songs about the crisis of Indigenous men who are vulnerable to losing their roots, domestic abuse, and simply keeping it real.

She was part of a line-up of seven performers, from flute players and poets to Meewasin Oman, a group that sings blessings and intertribal healing songs.

Now in its seventh year, the annual festival runs for an entire weekend. It includes scholars, panels of experts, comedians, elders, and other performers with knack for telling stories.

“I think it’s important to open up the idea of the story and to reconsider the state of the world we’re in,” said Robin Brass, Artistic Director for the festival.

“We need to go beneath the superficial understanding of what a story is.”

Brass explained that including a wide range of performers came from the idea that everyone is living a story, and there are many ways to tell these stories.

The festival celebrates stories and gathers people together to hear them. Brass wants people to deeply understand the roots of their own narratives.

“We’re all living stories right now,” she said. “We’re constantly creating stories of our lives and creating history.”

The festival openly interprets what a “story” is, giving different performers a chance to share their knowledge.

For Eekwol, this means she can tell stories untraditionally. Hip hop comes from twentieth century Brooklyn – a far cry from where most traditional Aboriginal stories are born.

“We borrow (hip-hop) by maintaining respect for the culture that exists over there, but we borrow it to talk about our experience in an original way and tell our story so that’s what makes it unique,” she said.

Eekwol thrives on being mixed with other storytellers because she can absorb knowledge. From poets she learns how to hone her spoken word performances, and from musicians she learns how to maintain a steady rhythm.

“With Elders coming and speaking, and poets, that storytelling element is still really strong in my culture. Even in the younger generation there’s hip-hop, and I think a lot of kids really relate to that because there’s that storytelling aspect and it’s that oral tradition.”

Ultimately though, she says it’s all about sharing the story.

“I think story telling is really important. As indigenous people oral tradition was the way we communicated in the past, and it still is the way.”

Like everything else in her life, Eekwol’s story will change in a few months when she can officially call herself a certified weapon of mass creation.



She’s going to be a mother and Eekwol loves telling the story.

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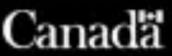
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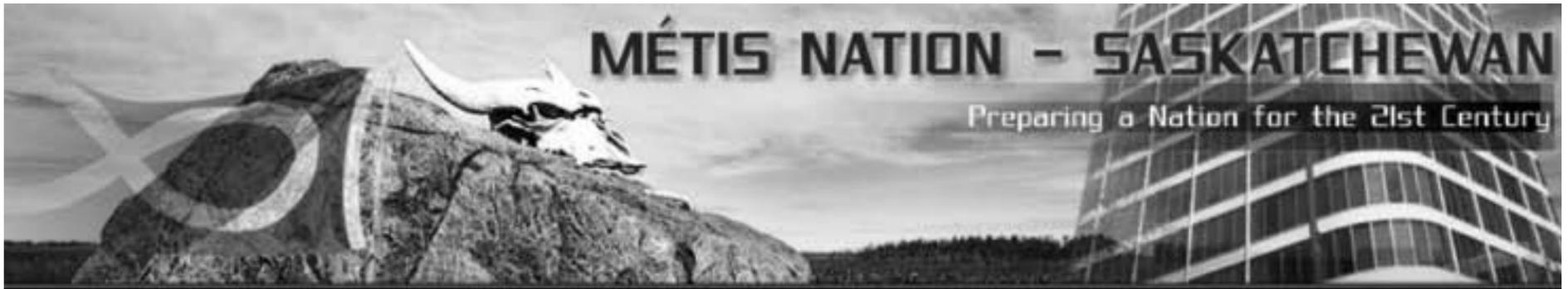
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DUTY TO CONSULT

The Duty to Consult requires the crown to consult with, and where appropriate, accommodate Métis rights and interests when it considers conduct that might adversely affect Métis and First Nations rights, interests, and way of life with the lands they rely on.

The Province currently has an interim policy in place that was developed without the inclusion of the Métis or First Nations rights bearing people of Saskatchewan. It is the promise of Premier Wall that we are given the platform to influence future policy and/or legislation regarding the Duty to Consult. This promise has resulted in the Premier's Roundtable Conference scheduled for May 12 and 13, 2008 in Saskatoon. The Premier has invited First Nations, Métis, and industry leaders to work together and find common ground which will provide the framework of the new policy.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is entering this process without having traditional land use mapping. This mapping is a high priority for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, but it will take time to ensure accuracy.

Premier's Roundtable

The Premier's Roundtable Planning Committee will develop an agenda that allows Métis and First Nations to express their concerns and recommendations for the new Duty to Consult policy. The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan has been actively involved in this Committee.

The suggestion at this time is that the conference be formatted such that day one is open to all who wish to come and listen to opening remarks from Premier Brad Wall, MN-S President Robert Doucette, FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph, and Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve McLellan. Day two will be open to registered delegates only and consist of small breakout groups to dialogue about the goals and objectives to elicit interests, information, and ideas.

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, the FSIN, and industry are being given rooms for sixty (60) delegates to attend this Roundtable meeting. It has been suggested that each region bring four delegates (1 Regional Director + 3 Local Presidents) along with the four Executive members, leaving eight spots open for additional delegates from highly impacted regions.

The Duty to Consult Committee has been updated by conference call on Monday March 31, 2008. During this call it was recommended and unanimously agreed that Robert Lafontaine take the lead on the Duty to Consult file. It was also decided that Marlene Hansen be involved in the Roundtable planning committee from this point on.

Community Consultations

Throughout the month of February 2008 the MN-S Executive travelled the province meeting with the Regions to begin the process of educating and gathering feedback regarding the Duty to Consult. Presentations have been made to ten (10) regions and have reached over three hundred (300) local representatives and citizens. There are currently two (2) regions left to present to, which are Eastern Region II and Western Region I.

Overall the first round of Duty to Consult hearings were very well received. The meeting attendees provided invaluable feedback and together we are rebuilding unity and trust within our Nation.

Beginning mid-April a second round of Duty to Consult hearings will be held in each region to engage community members and start developing the framework agreement from a grassroots perspective. These next meetings will develop the draft framework including the MN-S statement of principles and rights to ensure that the our voice is being accurately reflected. Meeting dates and times will be advertised in your community or contact your Local President or Area Directors for more information.

We must approach this opportunity with one clear, strong voice to ensure that Métis interests, rights and way of life are respected and protected in a time of great movement within our province. The MN-S strongly believes in obtaining direction and continuing to follow the wishes of Métis citizens. This process will ensure the future of Saskatchewan's industry will leave a proud legacy for future generations.

For more information, contact Robert LaFontaine by email rlafontaine@sasktel.net or phone the numbers below.

YOUTH ROUND TABLE



The 2008 Métis Youth Round Table was a success according to attendees. The youth movement is back in order and ready to move forward with their agenda. There were a total of 84 people in attendance including 72 youth from throughout the province. Topics discussed included education, addictions, racism, Métis history and culture, and the support they need from the MN-S.

The youth created a strategic plan, set timelines for regional elections, and

recommended the youth council be 15 - 26 years of age. They also identified leadership training and mentoring and more involvement from the adult leadership as important support for the youth movement.

POWLEY INITIATIVES

On October 22, 1993, Steve and Roddy Powley killed a bull moose outside Sault Ste Marie, Ontario and were charged with hunting moose without a license and unlawful possession of moose. The case was eventually appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada and a unanimous judgment, said that the Powleys, as members of the Sault Ste Marie Métis community, could exercise a Métis right to hunt that is protected by s.35 of the constitution.

Following the Powley decision, the Federal Government announced it would provide funding through the Office of the Federal Interlocutor to assist provincial Métis governments to create systems for identifying their citizenship and conduct research to identify Métis Harvesters and Métis communities that hold harvesting rights.

MN-S Progress to Date

The MN-S Executive is moving forward on securing Powley funding through the preparation of a Business Plan for Office of the Federal Interlocutor. Stantec Consulting Ltd, a consulting company whose employees have experience in public consultation, traditional land studies, and proposal writing, has been contracted to assist in preparing this Plan. Business Plan initiatives include:

- Improve and update the Métis citizenship documentation to make it fair, reliable, secure, and above question by anyone.
- Create a communications officer position and develop person-to-person, media, web, and print communications including a harvesting guide.
- Research into traditional land use.
- Harvesting - develop a Captains Assembly composed of 12 Regional Captains of the Hunt for public consultation and developing harvesting policy.

For more information, contact Max Morin by email mmorin@mnsask.ca or phone the numbers below.

GOVERNANCE

The Constitution of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is currently under review by the Provincial Métis Council. The Council has held two governance training retreats to better understand the Constitution's current wording and the legislative implications. Suggested changes to the Constitution will be presented to the Métis citizens for discussion.

The MN-S is steadily moving forward. As we rebuild our organization, we are looking for people with a variety of qualifications. If you are interested in working for the MN-S, please contact our office.



Provincial Métis Council

Back row left to right: Bob McLeod, Max Morin, Lennard Morin, Louis Gardiner, Helene Johnson, Allan Morin, Robert LaFontaine, Billy Kennedy, and President Robert Doucette.

Front row left to right: Karen LaRocque, Beverly Worsley, Marlene Hansen, Gabe Lafond, Mavis Taylor, Pat Knudsen, and Darlene McKay.



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Website...we're working on it....did we mention we have lots on the go?

Making their mark in music and words

Stephen Newcomb, *Author*

Cofounder of the Indigenous Law Institute and author of the book, Pagans in the Promise Land: Decoding the Doctrines of Christian discovery

As a budding, pre-Law student, Steven Newcomb took a law class that introduced him to a case about land titles. He quickly noticed a distinction between Christian people and non-Christian people. He became curious.

"When I found this case I was so offended by the idea that the U.S legal system was based on Christianity ... I decided against going to law school."

He spent the next 20 years traveling around the U.S. to understand the origins of non-Aboriginal law.

"I want to enable people to have a deeper understanding of the English language system and the ways it can be used to manipulate our people, our nations."

But that's only his day job – on the side, he petitions the Pope to revoke a papal document from the Vatican that authorizes the subjugation of "barbarous" nations by other nations.



Marilyn Dumont *Poet*

Marilyn Dumont fell into writing. She never thought she'd do it until she heard a friend read from her journal.

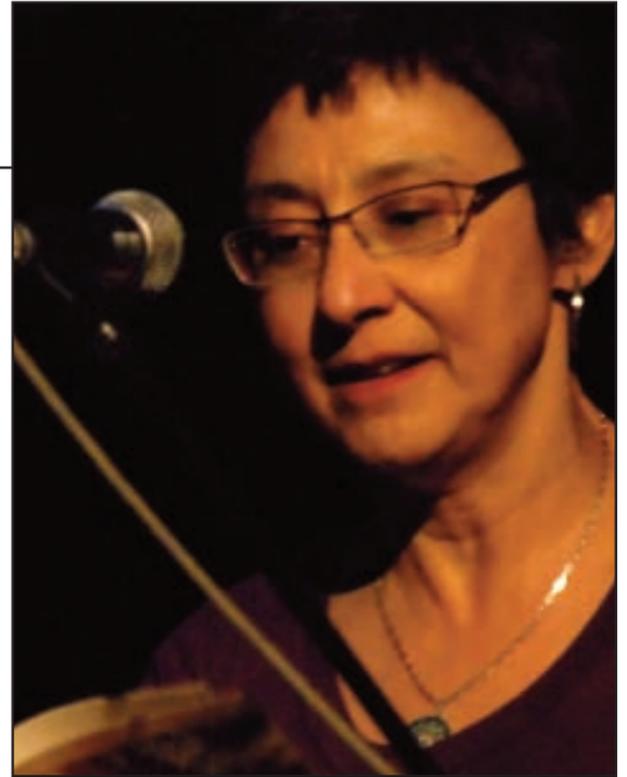
"I was just transfixed by that ...there was something that happened between her writing it down and reading it out that transformed it into something bigger," she said.

Dumont has become a common name in the pages of anthologies and among poetry buffs alike. She's famous for her first award-winning collection, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, now in its eleventh printing.

She writes as a way of surviving colonization. To her, it is a continual process that runs from generation to generation.

"(Writing is) meaning for me in the world. I really don't know at this point in my life where I would be if I didn't have it."

Several projects later, Dumont is buried in research for poetry about her family connection to the Riel Resistance period.



STORIES AND PHOTOS BY CHELSEA JONES

Annie Brass, *Comedian* *Poet*

An addictions counselor for about 15 years, and still doing it, Annie Brass always wanted to make people laugh.

During a life skills session she once mentioned to her colleagues that she wanted to be a comedian someday. Somebody asked what she was waiting for – so she stopped waiting and went for it.

"It freaked me out because I didn't know if I could do it," she said. "It was really scary to get up on the stage, but once I was up there with the microphone in my hands I didn't even need the cue cards."

Brass said growing up with six brothers and one sister made her funny.

"In that kind of a family you either need to be able to run fast ... or you need another way to defend yourself, and mine was my wit."



Jason Chamakese *Flute Player*

It's hard to tell that Jason Chamakese holds a nervous tension in his back when he plays his long, drawn-out, melancholy flute music.

But after three or four verses, the slow sound of his flute calms his nerves.

"If you listen closely it can take you to another place. It transcends time," he said.

Chamakese first heard the flute as a University student in Saskatoon. His roommate had some recordings.

"I've always been aware of Indian flute music, and as far as I know it's not indigenous to Cree people, but I heard the music and ... it was like a fish biting a hook. Once I heard it, I was gone."

He makes a point to play Cree melodies – unless they're meant to be sung. When he's offstage, Chamakese makes a living as a youth care worker and substitute teacher.

Building *Healthy* Communities...

Saskatoon Health Region supports groups that are helping to build healthy communities within our Region. Three types of community grants are available:

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Maximum grant is \$10,000

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For an initiative, program development or service enhancement with at least one factor that affects health.

Maximum grant is \$15,000 with option for reapplication in year 2 (\$10,000)

**APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE:
May 15, October 15 and January 15**

For application forms, guidelines, or more information, please call Public Health Services at 655-4627



MBC's contest showcases hip hop artists

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Talk about getting in touch with today's youth. Not only is Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) the most representative, culturally sound and interesting radio station in Saskatchewan (if not Canada); they have recently developed a contest that reaches out to our youth in a unique and effective way.

Write A Rap on Aboriginal Potential (W.R.A.P) is a Saskatchewan-wide contest for Aboriginal youth aged 11-19 and involves some pretty impressive prizes. Not only will the winner take a home an electronics package worth \$2,000, the winning rap will also be produced and recorded by Aboriginal hip hop artist Blu, appear on Blu's next CD, be performed via concert at the winner's school and played on MBC.

"MBC has long wanted to offer a significant new promotion for Aboriginal youth," says MBC Promotions Director Colin Perret. "This particular contest was inspired by 'Northern Spirits', a youth talent development program and talent showcase that took place in the fall of 2007. Northern Spirits is living proof that our youth could benefit from more public forums of expression through the arts."

MBC began an aggressive promotional drive four months ago, including on-air ads, contest website, e-mail campaign, newspaper ads, press releases and posters distributed to schools, friendship centres and youth centres, among others. All the hard work paid off and MBC received entries from Gordon's First Nation to Wollaston Lake.

"The W.R.A.P. Contest gave our young people an outstanding opportunity for positive self-expression. The entries quickly became an exercise in encouragement," continues Perret. "Anything an adult can do to help a youth is tremendous and should be commended. But it is youth communicating to others within their demographic that is most impacting."

"The W.R.A.P. Contest also conveyed a message of hope in the young Aboriginal community. Sure there are challenges. There will always be. But it's not all doom and gloom with our future leaders. It's very important to convey that message of success."

The exposure is an excellent opportunity for aspiring Hip Hop artists to make their mark in Saskatchewan and beyond. The winner will have a chance to perform the song at the aforementioned school concert alongside Blu, an experience that may further encourage the winner to pursue a career in Hip Hop.

With today's technology, you don't need a producer, manager or agent to become a successful Hip Hop artist. Eekwol, Info and Def3 are prime examples do-it-yourselfers can be successful if the drive and dedication is there.

"The W.R.A.P. Contest gives exposure to entrants with aspirations of a music career," adds Perret. "It will certainly create opportunity for the winner. The



Mykal Gambull finds the right note in the acoustically sound washroom at the Delta Bessborough Hotel before a gig. Gambull is rocking and rolling in his career with an Indigenous Circle taping coming up and another performance at the Dakota Dunes Casino April 24 & 25. Make sure to check out this rising star.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

single will become a legacy that will last forever."

The fact MBC has created a contest of this nature allowing our youth to express themselves in a way that is hip, meaningful and effective is impressive. Even more impressive is the talent all over our province, including the most remote nooks and crannies, that submitted lyrics. I encourage one and all to check out entries posted on the contest website: www.wrapcontest.ca

The winner will be announced in early April and will be featured in this space in May. For MBC and Perret, the future of W.R.A.P. is simple.

"Hopefully the W.R.A.P. Contest will encourage and inspire Aboriginal youth to continue their creativity and lead by example."

Inspirational words spoken on behalf of an organization in tune with our youth that is willing go the extra mile to encourage positive artistic expression.

...

Up until last year, I felt the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) missed the mark with their awards show. Although I felt the creative aspect of this year's show was stellar (as always), the involvement of the recipients was, oh how do I say this, lame. Not to mention the return of the countless dignitary speeches that made the show seem like government and corporate infomercials rather than an important awards show. Is it too much to ask for the recipients to be given some stage time to speak?

Again, it is not my intention to take away from the purpose and intention of the NAAA, but come on folks, at least get some hosts who aren't awkward, boring and cheesy. This is supposed to be a celebration of our people's achievements and viewers shouldn't be forced to listen to a bunch of mucky mucks who use valuable air time to plug their respective organizations. There, I said it ... again.

This 'n' That: It was a pleasant surprise to see The Mykal Gambull Band performing at the Bessborough for the re-

ception of the Workforce Connex conference a couple weeks ago. Although the audience comprised of mostly government and industry types, Mykal did an amazing job of engaging the audience while playing covers and even a few originals in a classy setting. Gambull, as most of you know, is a do-it-yourselfer whose song 'Forget About You' rose the charts and reached number one on MBC's Aboriginal countdown ... I have recently confirmed the rumours - hard rocking band Indifference, fronted by Bill Cook, has gotten back together. For their comeback gig they opened for State of Shock in Regina. Word is they're working on a new CD set for release in May. I also hear they may just be opening for Default this month in the QC. Keep your ears peeled ... Also, Andrea Menard, star of stage and screen just won 13 Saskatchewan Motion Picture Awards for her Velvet Devil CBC movie ... yes, 13 awards ... Not bad.

Got A&E info, contact Mike at crazymoonbymike@yahoo.com

ception of the Workforce Connex confer-

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Métis Program
Rene Durocher brings you this weekly Métis show featuring news and music Saturdays on CFRC Community Radio.

The Sask Party Government's budget cuts Aboriginal economic development funding and slashes support to Aboriginal organizations.

In response, FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph said that the budget "really amounts to zero" for First Nations people. MNS President Robert Doucette also expressed disappointment and said that Métis people "deserve to be treated with respect and share in the benefits of this province."

Your NDP MLAs believe all Saskatchewan people should share in the benefits of our booming economy.

* CBC The Morning Edition, March 20, 2008.

Your Saskatoon NDP MLAs

Pat Atkinson, MLA
Saskatoon Nutana
664-6101
621A Main Street

Cam Broten, MLA
Saskatoon Massey Place
384-7200
511F-33rd Street West

Lorne Calvert, MLA
Saskatoon Riversdale
651-1211
904D - 22nd Street West

David Forbes, MLA
Saskatoon Centre
244-3555
904D - 22nd Street West

Andy Iwanchuk, MLA
Saskatoon Fairview
651-3801
16-15 Worobetz Place

Judy Junor, MLA
Saskatoon Eastview
477-4233
1-3012 Louise Street

Frank Quennell, MLA
Saskatoon Meewasin
651-3581
610 Duchess Street



WAYES 2008

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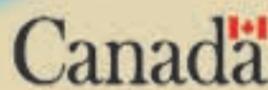
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First Nations and
Métis Relations

Gowan rock solid as artist carving stone

Darren Gowan is a well known artist in the Saskatchewan community. Born in Winnipeg, he grew up in the Caribbean and in Ottawa with his adopted family. He left home at 15, stumbled around for a bit and finally went to Carleton University. He arrived in Saskatchewan in the early nineties and has been here ever since. He is a member of Day Star First Nation. Working mainly with stone, Gowan's work is sought after as corporate gifts and prize pieces for personal collections. He also supports the community and donates his work annually to the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's Expressions Art Auction fundraiser. We caught up to Gowan at his studio on the outskirts of Saskatoon down by the river.

Are you an artist? A carver?

I called myself a carver for a few years, then a sculptor ...but now I just call myself an artist. To call myself either one of the forementioned limits you.

When did you start carving?

After university. I went to film school, and then I dropped out and moved to the bush in northern Alberta. There were all these kill sites from bears and wolves and there were all these bones and antlers. Seeing that every day inspired me to try carving.

One day I bought a used Dremel and a hacksaw at a pawn shop and that was the start of it. The first thing I carved was a Thunderbird pendant. I made a bit of a living carving those things.

What kind of material do you work with?

I work in stone, bronze, glass, antler, mixed media, paper and metal. They are all my favourite. Each one behaves differently. Some stones you can get away with doing some things, others you can't. With the



Darren Gowan credits a number of mentors for helping him find his way in the art world.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

harder stones you get the chance to push yourself.

Do you see a sculpture, or does the rock dictate the final image?

You know, half the time yes. It is almost a battle of wills. But old man stone has been around a lot longer than me ... sometimes the shape will hint at a particular subject. Sometimes I draw on the stone.

Who were your mentors?

First off, I shared a studio with Wayne Natoway and he encouraged me to start carving stone.

Eventually I met Dwight Pinay, who is a brilliant subtractive sculptor and he helped me lots. Taught me the basics and encouraged me.

And of course, Lloyd Pinay. I had the opportunity to work with him on the national Aboriginal Veterans

monument. The learning curve was straight up. It was like being paid to learn from a master.

Any tips for people who want to become artists?

We have lots of artists because that is who we are. We do things artistically and we have been able to retain the idea of freedom. I encourage anyone who is considering exploring a career in the arts, look at it from more than one way.

There are granting organizations like the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Achievement Foundation. But you have to get to a point in your career and show a certain amount of commitment before people start to take you seriously. It seems some days ... God, how am I going to pay the rent there is no easy road to being an artist.



*Martin Chicilo
Community Development Manager*

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Saskatchewan Native Theatre sets graduates on career path

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company is close to celebrating its tenth year of youth arts based programming. In that time it has run the Circle of Voices program for youth with potential who are interested in the arts.

Once the youth leave that program, they can enter the Ensemble Theatre Arts Program (ETAP) where they learn more advanced theatre techniques and perform plays across the province at First Nation and city schools.

In mid April, the first ETAP group graduated, sending four young but accomplished actors out into the real world to become the stars that they have trained so hard to be.

Mitchell Poundmaker, Jennifer Bishop, Arron Naytowhow and Krystle Pederson are the graduates. Between them they have experienced between nine and five years with SNTC and all of them would like to enter into the film industry upon the start of their career.

"I will certainly stay in the arts and theatre for sure, which I love," said Poundmaker. "But I want to break into film."

He also added that SNTC was the place where he found himself.

"I had to walk through fire to get to heaven I guess and I was glad it was here. I also learned some kick ass skills along the way."

The youth all took away something other than the skill to act.

"This place gave me so much confidence," said Jennifer Bishop. "I am not afraid to express myself any place at any time."

Arron Naytowhow took something else.

"I am leaving with lots of writing experience. I worked as assistant writer and also wrote as lead. I like to write plays and develop that skill. There have been many great mentors here," said Naytowhow.

"I have an agent now and want to look at getting into film and I am working on my first novel and will be in a couple shows in spring and summer."

Krystle Pederson, a talented singer to begin with, is also taking some practical arts skills away.

"I have learned about lighting, how to stage-manage and lots of strong acting skills," said Pederson.

"But I also received lots of life skills and I have grown a lot since I came here."

Look for Pederson to eventually release an album that will blow you away.

So after thousands of miles touring reserves in Saskatchewan and beyond, hundreds of hours in training and rehearsal and many hours of self discovery, these four young talented actors are now entering the professional world of theatre and film with a pocketful of skills and confidence.

Watch for them, because they will succeed.



Krystle Pederson (front) and Mitchell Poundmaker, Jennifer Bishop and Arron Naytowhow are the first graduates from the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company Ensemble Theatre Arts Program.

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Good times at First Nations University of Canada, finally

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

After a few years of having a cloud of doom hang over their head, the staff, students and management of the First Nations University of Canada can see clearly now that the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has fully reinstated them into their organization, ending speculation that they may lose their affiliation, and credibility.

A statement issued by the AUCC summed up the reasons for dropping the probationary status.

"AUCC is satisfied that First Nations University of Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations have made sufficient advances in resolving governance issues at the university since the institution was placed on probationary status by the AUCC board in April 2007.

"The AUCC Board believes it is possible for First Nations University of Canada to protect its uniqueness while, at the same time, sharing the attributes and values fundamental to Canadian universities," they stated.

The administration of FNUC was clearly elated with the decision.

"Without compromising our uniqueness and values, we sought middle ground with AUCC," said

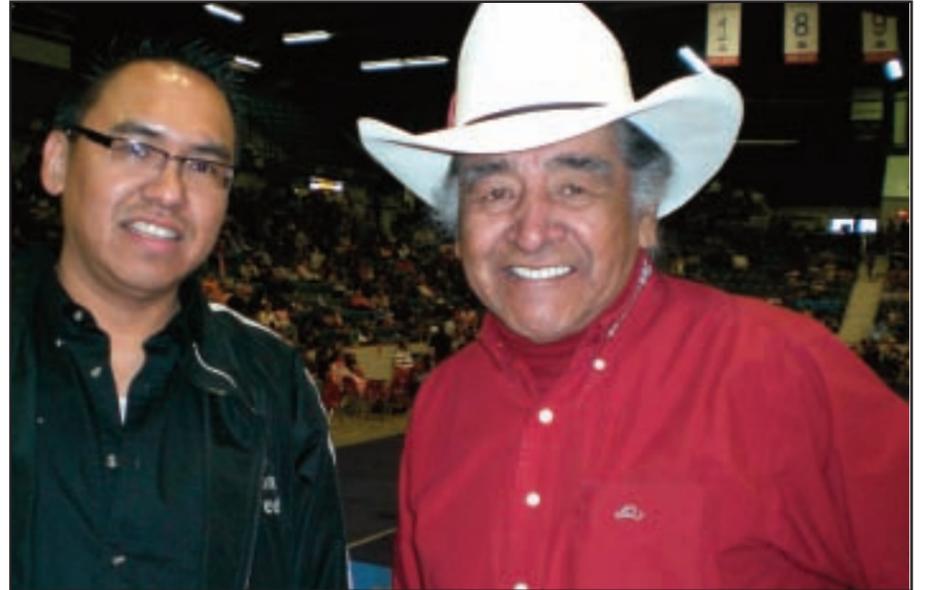
Charles Pratt, President of FNUC.

"We feel a sense of achievement and accomplishment that we addressed all of their concerns, specifically over the issues of governance and institutional autonomy."

The announcement by the AUCC came in the same week as the annual FNUC powwow.

This year was the 30th Annual and the energy was electric and the dancers and spectators seemed to have a bounce in their step. Organizers estimated 6,000 visitors attended the event where they honoured our Missing Family Members.

There was a special presentation made by Gwenda Yuzicappi, and by the Saskatchewan Sisters in Spirit, Amnesty International, the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Spirits Rising Memorial Society.



Jeff Cappel from the Muscowpetung First Nation was the student MC at the FNUC 30th Annual Powwow. This was his first big event as an MC. He is joined here by his mentor for the event, Howard Walker from Muskeg Lake.

(Photo by Shannon Avison)

City of Saskatoon honours recipients of Living in Harmony Awards

Every March 21, the world recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of racism. For the past several years, the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations committee from the City of Saskatoon gives out the annual Living in Harmony Awards. These awards are given to citizens who go above and beyond self in making the city a better place for all people.

This year, several people were recipients, but two of them are very close to Eagle Feather News. The Badger family nominated our associate editor Warren Goulding for this award. Warren wrote the book "Just Another Indian" where he discussed the case of serial killer John Crawford. More importantly, Warren profiled the victims of the crimes, humanizing and paying respect to these women who fell at the hand of Crawford.

Also, our friend Mike Tanton was honoured. Mike runs many

programs at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and is instrumental in getting many young people engaged in sports, primarily basketball. Mike also was one of the founders of the Kevin Moccasin



Mike Tanton receives his award from City Councillor Charlie Clark.

memorial Basketball Tournament. Everyone who received an award that day were deserving of the honour. One young person read a poem and the final line was incredibly interesting. As she spoke to diversity, she ended with this. "What if every one of the 88 keys on a piano played the same note."

WAYES 2008
Women and Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium

"First Nation Women represent the strength of the community and youth represent the future; together we will realize and share in the wealth of a true global economy"

Call for Delegates, Tradeshow participants and Sponsors

On behalf of the FSIN Economic and Community Development Secretariat and the WAYES Planning Committee, I am pleased to announce the first annual Women And Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium. ("WAYES" for short).

With Canada's booming economy and the changing demographics of provinces like Saskatchewan, including a graying non-Aboriginal population along with a fast growing young Aboriginal population, make it the perfect time for First Nation women and youth to shine. They will be able to step up, fill the gaps, address the need for skilled workers, address high aboriginal unemployment rates and explore the opportunities available to entrepreneurs. To help promote these opportunities, the FSIN envisions an annual event where women and youth gather to showcase their businesses and gain valuable knowledge from experienced and dynamic trainers / presenters who have jumped the hurdles and built success.

There will be three main workshops, Economic Development, Market Housing and the Green Economy - each focusing on business, finance and creating wealth for our First Nations and exploring a variety of business options available for the estimated 1,000 delegates. Workshops and Tradeshow are multi faceted and will take on a variety of approaches including the "In-office approach" and will be a one-stop shop in terms of where an individual and/or Community can talk with an organization(s) on business plan development, pre-qualify for business loans, develop a marketing strategy and have opportunity to network and gain awareness on what is available in terms of the who, what, where, when & why's of starting a business.

The conference will be of interest to women, youth; Chiefs; Councilors; federal, provincial and municipal governments, public and private business and all individuals or organizations involved in business and improving the quality of life for communities.

Sincerely,

Morley Watson, First Vice Chief
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Economic & Community Development Secretariat

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CLASSIC program serving the community well

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City, (CLASSIC, Inc.), only opened its doors last January and has already been recognized with its first award. But there's special significance to this award, explained Shirley Greyeyes McDonald, director of White Buffalo Youth Lodge and board co-chair of the CLASSIC program.

"The award is named for my adopted mother – Willy Hodgson is my mom's sister, and she adopted us after my mom passed away," said McDonald.

Hodgson was a Cree elder, and sat on the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission and the Moose Jaw Police Commission, as well as having worked as a nurse and social worker. The award, established after Hodgson's death in 2003, is given by the Law Society of Saskatchewan to individuals or organizations exemplifying integrity, leadership and character, and making outstanding contributions to advancing equity and diversity in areas of law and justice.

"I knew she was involved in the Law Society but when I first got the email (about the award), I couldn't really believe my eyes."

The program provides free legal services to low-income, historically disadvantaged Saskatchewan residents (with particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal peoples), using mainly volunteering law students, with two full-time staff including Sarah Buhler, the practicing lawyer supervising the files.

"We've probably had well over 300 files, and the word isn't fully out," said Buhler. "There's a huge need, a huge access to justice issue which the whole Legal Aid system misses."

In order to avoid duplication of services, CLASSIC doesn't do family or criminal law cases unless they've been

rejected by Legal Aid. As well as the approximately 20 law students who do casework, another 10 or so work on phone, clerical and office tasks. This provides students with invaluable clinical experience, new insights into the social reality of law, and fosters ethics of social

employment issues, social assistance, or correctional services, currently she estimates over 50 per cent of the caseload is related to residential and tenancy issues.

"With the housing crisis, we're seeing a lot of improper evictions and illegal rent increases," she explained, adding a

Buhler. "We're different from a law firm in that we're responding to the issues of the community and reaching out to provide preventative measures. The emphasis is on meeting the needs of Aboriginal people in the core neighbourhoods."

Beyond their relationship with White Buffalo Youth Lodge, they have been working with the Central Urban Métis Federation, and Saskatoon Tribal Council Urban office. CLASSIC has also received support from the Ministry of Justice, the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the University of Saskatchewan and College of Law, and the Saskatchewan Law Foundation, and is currently conducting a private campaign soliciting funding from private law firms.

Buhler notes that obtaining core funding is the underlying issue for any non-profit, but with a track record of hundreds of referrals and clients, and now an award, CLASSIC is hoping to continue their work for a long time to come.

"We always send our clients away with something, even if it's phone numbers to other community resources or agencies that can better help them."

And Shirley Greyeyes McDonald, who is attending the June award ceremonies since she has ties to both the award and CLASSIC itself, couldn't agree more.

"Something like this has been needed in the community for a long time, for people who need the help and for one reason or another don't get it," she says.

"CLASSIC is one of the first big projects I was involved in here, and this is a neat little twist to the way things have been going. That they would win an award named after my adopted mother, well, I'm still kind of blown away."

More information can be found at the webpage classiclaws.ca, or by phoning (306) 653-7676.



Sarah Buhler is the director of the CLASSIC program.

justice and cultural understanding while providing services to marginalized clients. Volunteer lawyers also offer consultations by appointment one day a week. To qualify for any of these services, clients must meet low-income criteria.

"We're not taking business away from the private bar," explains Buhler. "If (the clients) didn't have us, they wouldn't have representation at all."

Although there is a wide variety of law covered, including labour and em-

ployment issues, social assistance, or correctional services, currently she estimates over 50 per cent of the caseload is related to residential and tenancy issues.

"If tenants don't know their rights they can be taken advantage of."

To help educate the community of their rights and obligations, they have started doing presentations at locations like the Food Bank and a mothers group at Nutana Collegiate.

"Just dealing with individual cases isn't as proactive as education," notes

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The Indigenous Peoples Resource Management Program, through the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, would like to congratulate the following participants in the 2007-2008 Indigenous Peoples Resource Management Program.

We would also like to extend best wishes and success in all their careers and future educational endeavors.

EUGENE ALTIMAN – Walpole Island
ANDREW BAK – Tsouwassen
ANNA BATTEN – Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point
CATHERINE BOURASSA – Nipissing
CHERYL BRYCE – Songbees
KENNETH COSSEY – Turcotte
ANGIE DERRICKSON – Westbank
SHELLEY FELIX – Sliammon
DENNIS GREYEVES – Moxie Lake
JUNE HARRIS – Seabird Island
STEPHEN JIMMIE – Squiala
GORDON KERN – Brokenhead Ojibway
ESTHER OSCHÉ – Whitefish River
DENISE PELLETIER – Cowessess
CLAUDINE RESTOULE – Dokis
KIRK ROOTE – Saugeen
LISE STEELE – W&W&KA
LORAINÉ YOUNG – Cheyenne River



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April 30, May 1, May 2

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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Big ups to some great entertainers

Well first of all I'd like to thank everyone who sent me emails; your words are very appreciated!

Second of all I'd like to congratulate John Arcand on receiving the Order of Canada. He definitely deserves it! Congratulations Mr. Arcand, great job!

So this month is arts and entertainment, eh? Well of course I have to give big ups to my great friend and good bro, Jaired Henderson.

He is part of the hip-hop scene here in Saskatoon, and he is probably the best free stylist I know! He can rhyme and make sense!

I like how he stays away from rapping about money, jewelry and unnecessary comments towards women. Instead, he rhymes about the struggle and strengths of our people, real issues that relate to society, and my favourite, himself.

Not only is he trying to live the dream of becoming pro, but he's living the dream some father's lack, being an awesome dad.

With that said I'd like to congratulate him and his wife Kendra on their new addition to the family. Their

children, Lyric and Melody, were joined by their little sister, Harmony. She was born on March 29 and I'm sure she's a cutie! Love you guys!

My other good friend, Daniel Knight, is a very respectable guy who just happens to be single, ladies!

He, too is part of the music scene and his band Nightswitch is very talented and awesome to listen

to and will be playing at Walkers on the 13th of April.

Hope to see you there, and trust me, my boys will not disappoint!

As some of you may know, I'm from the Mistawasis First Nation and I would like to say good job to a couple of my friends. Myles Ermine has been singing for as long as I can remember. I can remember him sitting on his mom's front steps with a stick and an ice cream pail, belting out some pow wow tunes.

He later moved on to country music and he's very fun to watch, especially when he sings Clint Black's, Killing Time. A real performer and a good guy.

When I listen to my buddy Cherish Bear's rendition of Amazing Grace, I wonder what she's doing here and why she doesn't have a career. Yes, Indian Country, she is that good!

When she sang in the gym at various events, the crowd was always quiet with admiration.

It's always good to see little children doing their thing on stage or in front of an

audience. My little cousin, Evert, is often asked to perform his jigging skills when it comes to events. He's got skills and is actually pretty good!

Me? I couldn't jig if my feet were on fire! He was taught at an early age by my beautiful kokum, who happens to be his biggest fan.

Today there are many Native bands out there who are well known, but the band that I feel opened the doors for many bands today is Out of the Blue. The band's first recording was in 1994 with the song, Lost in Your Eyes, a song written by Jay Ross and Elvis Ballantyne.

They disbanded in 1997 to pursue

other interests but later reformed in February 2008 in memory of their manager, Bernice (Mama Bear) Sayese. Today the band is made up of three members.

Founding member Elvis Ballantyne sings lead vocals and also plays bass and is from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Jay Ross, an original band member, plays guitar and is from Molanosa.

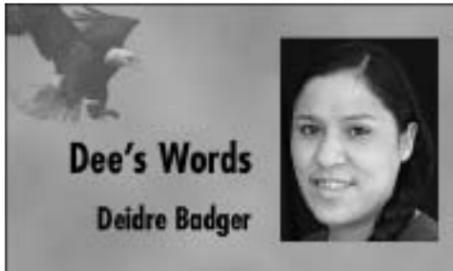
Keith Peekeekoot is from Ahtakakoop First Nation and plays the drums.

All three members filtered through the C-Weed Band and are grateful to have had the experience. Today they are eager to get back into the music scene and finish writing songs that are not yet finished.

I look forward to hearing these guys perform again, they were missed and I'm glad to say that we're friends.

With all that said, I would just like to say that although I didn't write about the issues that I could have, but will, I am happy to have given recognition to these great and wonderful artists.

You can email me at: dbadger17@hotmail.com



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Twelve Aboriginal apprentices recognized

The small Saskatchewan community of Spiritwood is celebrating 12 level-four carpenter apprentices for their dedication and achievement to trades training and certification and who are using their newly acquired skills to build ready-to-move homes.

They are the first group to complete their formal training and work experience under the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiatives (AAI), a program that brings training and First Nations partners together to meet the skills training and labour market needs of Aboriginal people in their communities across the province.

"The AAI program is designed to increase Aboriginal access, participation and success in apprenticeship trades by delivering training and work experience close to First Nations communities where they feel more comfortable with their training and can learn from each other," Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Commission board chair Paul McLellan said.

"AAI projects are working to create long-term employment and economic development opportunities for the communities. It's a win-win program for the Aboriginal workers and for their communities."

Partnerships in each AAI project are unique. The partners in the Spiritwood project include the SATCC, Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, AC Realty, Ahtahkakoop First Nations, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

"We are very proud of our guys for successfully completing their level-four carpentry apprenticeship program," AC Realty Ltd.



Left to right front row: Bruce Jack, Hubert Sakebow, Sheldon Bowman, Mark Tipewan
Left to right back row: Vince Morrisette (SIIT), Merle Morin, Garret Morin, Bob Sluchinski (Saskatchewan Apprenticeship), Daniel Chamakese, Horst Schultz (instructor), Darius Hyman, Gary Lachance (and very proud son in front of him!), Jared Ahenakew, Tracy Schira-Parker (AC Realty), Jeff Chow (SIAST), Chief Lyle Whitefish. Absent from the photo were apprentices Brent Harris and Darryl Thomas.

Partnership Finance Manager Tracy Schira-Parker said.

"For the past four years, they studied hard and were able to keep their long-term goals in sight. This program required a lot of hard work, patience, and persistence, and this has attributed to where the apprentices are today. We congratulate them and hope they can appreciate their great accomplishments."

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SIAST offers programming through four urban campuses supplemented by outreach, continuing education, contract training with business and industry, distance education and international ventures. The Dean of Basic Education is based at SIAST Wascana Campus in Regina, a vibrant community in booming Saskatchewan. The Basic Education Division provides students with academic and job readiness skills and the ability to gain academic prerequisites for further education and training.

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Chief John Rockthunder, with Elder Ray Lavallee at his side, speaks at the Treaty Land Entitlement shortfall celebration in February.

Piapot begins work on Regina urban reserve

After months of waiting, the Piapot First Nation has received reserve designation for land purchased in north central Regina, creating the city's first urban reserve.

The land was originally purchased about eight years ago with the reserve's Treaty Land Entitlement money. After signing a service and compatibility agreement with the city of Regina in January 2007, the chief and council lobbied all levels of government.

In mid-March their persistence paid off when 11 lots of land received reserve status. The first stage will see the construction of a gas station and the next will be a grocery store to be located on the 1100 block of Angus Street.

The band recently celebrated the completion of acquiring their shortfall acres under the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement on February 21, 2008. Piapot added 39,087.77 acres to their original reserve under Treaty Land Entitlement.

Chief John Rockthunder viewed the urban reserve as an opportunity to reap long term economic benefits for his people. William Lavallee, land manager for Piapot predicts the reserve will be pumping gas by mid May. An urban reserve receives designation through a ministerial order approved by the minister of Indian affairs and Northern Development.

There are three other proposed urban reserves in Regina awaiting this approval. The first urban reserve in the province was established 20 years ago in Saskatoon.

Celebrating Aboriginal Business Education Achievement at the Edwards School of Business

The Edwards School of Business is very proud to announce the recipient of the Scotiabank Aboriginal Business Education Award, Robert Daniels. The \$10,000 entrance award is part of the demonstrated generosity and support of Scotiabank in support of Aboriginal graduate business education. In February 2006 Scotiabank provided a \$250,000 gift to the University of Saskatchewan's "Thinking the World of Our Future" campaign. These funds were earmarked for the Edwards School of Business Aboriginal graduate programming.

Daniels is the second recipient of the award and was also a participant in the first Scotiabank MBA Bridging Initiatives. The Scotiabank MBA Bridging Initiatives is a pre-MBA offering for potential Aboriginal MBA candidates that introduces them to the Edwards School of Business MBA courses and faculty, provides enhanced Graduate Management Admission Test preparation, and professional networking opportunities designed to encourage the next generation of Aboriginal business leaders to upgrade their management skills.

This year's recipient of the Scotiabank Aboriginal Business Education Award, Robert Daniels, was born and raised in Saskatoon, and he maintains close ties to both the Okanese First Nations, his

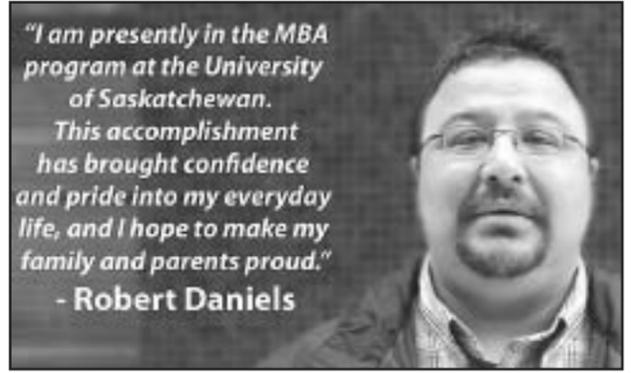
mother's reserve, and his father's reserve, the Mistawasis First Nation where he is a registered member.

Daniels attained a Bachelor of Social Work and after nine years of employment with the provincial government working with family and youth, he decided to pursue a business education and enhance his ability to find a career that truly challenges and inspires him. Daniels' wife, Natalie and children, Jordan, Marisa, and Evan, are extremely supportive of his career change.

Daniels is currently enrolled in the Edwards MBA program at the Edwards School of Business and will complete his program this August.

For more information on the Scotiabank MBA Bridging Initiative and the MBA program at the Edwards School of Business, please contact:

Leanne M. Bellegarde
 Director of Aboriginal Initiatives
 p: 306.966.1307
 e: bellegarde@edwards.usask.ca



2008 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Saskatoon in partnership with the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatoon Tribal Council has developed the following 2008 Summer Employment Opportunities for First Nations and Metis applicants. Please declare yourself on your application.

SUMMER CULTURAL PROGRAM LEADERS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan, organize, and direct sport and recreational activities for children and youth at the playgrounds, youth centre's and Aboriginal organizations city wide. This includes specialization in the Aboriginal cultural programs in, sports, games, arts & crafts, Tipi Teachings & Tipi Raising, Hoop Dance and other cultural activities. Traditional knowledge is required in program planning and implementation. Training is provided. Must have experience working with Aboriginal children, youth and adults.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference is given to applicants with one year's post-secondary education in the Recreation/Leisure, Physical Education, Early Childhood Development, Education, or a related field. Experience working with children and possession of a valid first aid certificate and a Criminal Record Check is required. A valid CPR Level C certificate is preferred, and have a valid driver's licence.

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: June 25 to August 15, 2008.

HOURS OF WORK: Hours of work vary depending on work assignment; evening work is required.

SALARY: \$13.15 per hour.

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for a cultural program leader is Friday, May 2, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:
For further information, please contact Mary Johnson at 651-5178.

ACTIVITY LEADER - WEEKEND PADDLING POOL ATTENDANTS

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

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

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: From July 5 to August 17, 2008.

HOURS OF WORK: Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SALARY: \$11.41 per hour.

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for a weekend paddling pool attendant is Friday, May 2, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:
All successful candidates will require a positive Criminal Record Check prior to offer of employment.

Please forward, in confidence, a detailed resume for the above listed positions to Human Resources, City of Saskatoon, 222 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5; Fax (306) 975-3073; Email: careers@saskatoon.ca

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Northern Career Quest Inc. partnership invests in future

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Industry and political leaders recently announced an innovative partnership that will provide training and skills development opportunities for 1,500 Aboriginal people in northern Saskatchewan, leading to long-term jobs in the resource sector, including mining, oil sands recovery, mineral exploration and oil and gas exploration.

"The co-operation of communities, industry and government has made uranium mining an engine of social and economic progress in northern Saskatchewan," said Gary Merasty, Chair of Northern Career Quest Inc. and Vice-President of Corporate Social Responsibility for Cameco.

"This agreement will help provide First Nations and Métis people with the skills and knowledge needed to benefit fully from opportunities in the North, and ensure progress continues."

Under the Northern Career Quest Partnership, the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan and other stakeholders, including Aboriginal and industry partners, will provide \$15 million, \$6.3 million, and \$11.8 million respectively, for a total of \$33.1 million, to help approximately 1,500 Aboriginal people gain the skills and experience they need.

"This is a good news story about co-operation between government, First Nations and Métis people, the training sector and industry," said Rob Norris, Saskatchewan Minister of

Labour and Advanced Education.

"It will enable First Nations and Métis people to participate in greater numbers and at higher skill levels in northern Saskatchewan's resource industries."

The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership is a nationally managed program that provides Aboriginal people with the skills they need to participate in economic opportunities such as northern mining, oil and gas, and hydro development projects across Canada.

"We have to invest and partner in the North," said Merasty. "We in the North have to work together. We all drive the same roads and go to the same hospitals. In the North, First Nations and Métis are relatives, often in the same community. We are one big happy family up there and we have to remind ourselves of that."

Partnerships between different Aboriginal groups and provincial and federal governments in the north have been tried before. Some have been successful, other have not.

"You have to remember that northern Saskatchewan has the most unique jurisdictional patchwork in the country.

"Provincially they don't talk ... federally there are many departments like fisheries and oceans, INAC, HRSD that don't talk.

"Then you have First Nations on and off-reserve, the Métis jurisdictions and a northern administration district. This has stopped the partnerships in the past," said Merasty.

"I think the writing is on the wall



Cameco executive Gary Merasty stresses the importance of employment in Northern Saskatchewan as a means of combatting poverty and despair for the region's young people.

and we have to work hard and do it right this time. If we lose this generation of kids to the ravages of poverty that we have seen, if we think we have high rates of incarceration and high mortality rates, give it ten years. We have to get this generation of kids involved."

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Aboriginal tourism represents huge opportunity

There will be more people from across the globe stopping in to learn about Aboriginal culture in the coming years and we need to be prepared for them, according to The Aboriginal Tourism Association of Saskatchewan.

The Association is a one-man show run by Lorne Carrier. He helps people start their own tourism businesses and promotes Aboriginal tourism in the province.

"There's a thriving Aboriginal culture here and there is interest from international tourists," Carrier said. "We're very far behind other provinces in Canada because in the past there's been no money going into tourism in Saskatchewan."

Carrier had a private company survey international tourists. The findings suggest that people want to come here – once they learn that Aboriginal tourism exists.

The biggest market, though, is non-Aboriginals – from Canada and abroad – who want to experience the culture by hunting or sleeping in a tepee for a few nights.

Because the province's Aboriginal tourism scene isn't heavily promoted right now, Carrier says international tourists won't plan to take in Aboriginal tourism until they arrive. Then they'll find interactive learning experiences at a culture camp, a pow wow or a park.

"Visitors are looking for a hands-on experience, they don't want to stand back and look at a museum," Carrier said.

Carrier's theory is that First Nations governments need to get involved to get tourism dollars to communities. For communities to feel real economic gain, Carrier says governments need to invest in international marketing.

Right now private, grassroots tourism is the most popular. People are running their own culture camps and events rather than promoting community attractions.

However, Wanuskewin Heritage Park does both. Even though the park makes money on its own, it is outside of city limits. Visitors have to rent a car and stay in Saskatoon, adding to the city's economy. It also promotes nearby tourist attractions, like Batoche National Historic Site and the tours and galleries in Duck Lake.

"We try to find ways to make people stay, which means more money in the business's pockets," said Barb Selsky, Director of Marketing at Wanuskewin.

"It's a great opportunity to use the tourism hook to educate people."

Wanuskewin markets its interactive attractions to people all over the world – from every continent, according to Selsky.

"You name it – they've probably been here at some point and time."

Photographers, naturalists, and international tourists flock to the province to learn about First Nations Culture in a place that dates back over 6,000 years. They want to experience the way things were for Aboriginal people – from sleeping in tepees and cooking over a fire to making dream catchers and pottery.

"When people come here they always leave learning something," Selsky said. "They wonder how (people) would have done this thousands of years ago."

Selsky predicts that the Aboriginal tourism will only grow in the next few years.

Meanwhile, Carrier is creating the first-ever Aboriginal tourism guide to promote tourism hot spots in the province.

He says an increase in tourism will depend on what kind of marketing is done and support from Aboriginal governments.



LORNE CARRIER

Symposium tackles challenges of handling of artifacts and knowledge

About 60 people gathered for the first-ever Canadian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Symposium last month.

Museum workers, Elders, performers, and people with an interest in Aboriginal representation in museums came together – all trying to figure out responsible ways to share Aboriginal artifacts and knowledge.

During the symposium attendees were broken into three talking circles. They discussed repatriation and the complexities behind representing Aboriginal objects and oral history. They also talked about the importance of protocol, and how

Saskatchewan museums can properly reflect cultural diversity.

Organizers say the symposium is the first step to figuring out where people came from, and where they're going to be in the future.

It was organized by the First People's and Museum Workers Committee.

With Elders dying and concern that sacred objects may not be looked after properly, the committee's goal is to responsibly preserve knowledge for the next generations. It also wants to increase access for Elders to smudge certain objects to repatriate them.

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Ahenakew rejects offer to return to Senate



DAVID AHENAKEW

(EFN file photo)

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A storm of controversy is brewing around the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations over a controversial decision that was made and then reversed.

It began at a closed-door meeting held at the Dakota Dunes Casino that was supposed to be about the organization's dire financial situation – sitting on a debt of more than one million dollars. However, a motion was put forward to the Chiefs-in-Assembly to reinstate David Ahenakew into the FSIN's Senate. The motion passed by a vote of 43-3.

Ahenakew was removed from the Senate in 2002 after he made disparaging remarks about Jews. He told a reporter that Jews were a disease and responsible for starting the Second World War.

Ahenakew was stripped of his Order of Canada and charged and convicted of willfully promoting hatred. That conviction was later overturned, and he has since been ordered to stand trial again this fall.

The story about Ahenakew's reinstatement was first reported in The StarPhoenix. The following day, Chief Lawrence Joseph held a news conference to talk about the reinstatement. The newspaper was not invited to the news conference, and when a reporter and photographer tried to attend, they were turned away from the FSIN.

Joseph told reporters he supported the chiefs' decision to reinstate Ahenakew, saying the disgraced senator deserved a second chance.

"We are not saying that Senator Ahenakew should not have to answer for his comments. He should, and he has. He has publicly apologized, and what greater emotion can a man display when he apologized, he cried in front of people."

Joseph went on to explain that The StarPhoenix was not allowed to attend because the reporter who wrote the story was disrespectful when she was at Dakota Dunes, saying she harassed Elders, veterans, and casino patrons.

Joseph also alleged that she pushed him, saying it was clear from the surveillance tape, and that he was considering all of his options, including laying criminal charges.

While Joseph supported Ahenakew and the deci-

sion to reinstate him, it did not sit well with everyone in the First Nations community. Former FSIN Chief Alphonse Bird questioned the process that led to the vote, and former FSIN Chief and Senator Roland Crowe resigned from his position of Senator chairperson over the issue.

"I think there's so many issues, that's where I disagree maybe with some people," explained Crowe. "I don't want to get into the Dave Ahenakew situation as a personal thing. I just think there's so many important issues we need to deal with. Simple and straight-forward as that."

The provincial and federal governments both took a hard stand, saying they were reviewing their relationship with the FSIN and strongly urged that the decision be reversed.

That's what happened. Two days after the first media gathering, Joseph called another news conference, this time allowing The StarPhoenix to attend. Joseph distributed a letter signed by Ahenakew, who wrote that he was declining the offer of reinstatement and slammed the governments for using him to punish the poorest segment of the population.

He also wrote that he hoped the offer to be back in the Senate would still stand once he was finished with the courts.

Joseph says he did not mishandle the Ahenakew affair when he asked if he'd resign over the whole debacle.

"Let the chiefs determine that, because I haven't received one call for my resignation because this was handled basically at the direction of the senators. The senators basically told me, 'Take this to the Assembly,' and that's what happened.

"If I handled it wrong, well, let the chips fall where they may."

At least one chief, Marcel Head of the Shoal Lake First Nation, is calling for Joseph's resignation. He and the rest of the Prince Albert Grand Council held an emergency meeting to decide if they should call for Joseph's resignation and whether they should pull out of the FSIN.

The PAGC decided that the resolution to reinstate Ahenakew should never have been considered by the FSIN Chiefs in Assembly. They are now asking the FSIN Executive and Indian Government Commission to investigate the matter.

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2008 Oskana Cup a thriller for players, fans

Regina, SK – Reggie Leach was once again present over the three day tournament that featured 26 teams in five divisions.

The third annual Oskana Cup Reggie Leach Hockey Challenge once again featured some very exciting hockey action in Regina on the weekend of April 4, 5 & 6. Leach was also honoured on Saturday at the 30th Annual First Nations University of Canada pow wow in recognition for accomplishments on and off the ice. Leach's latest accomplishment was being recognized by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation as one of the 2008 recipients of an individual award in the sport category.

In the women's division, it was Team Saskatchewan over the Regina Flames to defend their title. FNUC Timberwolves placed third overall. In the men's recreational division, it was the Regina Rage defeating Team Buffalo to claim the championship. Cote finished in third place. In the masters 40+ division, it was the legendary Winnipeg Tobans over the reigning champions the Regina Rifles by a score of 10 to 9 in a thriller. Reggie Leach notched four points in the final but it was not enough. The Tobans consist of individuals that played senior hockey together back in the 1970s. The Saskatchewan Indians placed third overall in the 40+ masters division.

In the masters 35+ division, the final proved to be the most exciting final game with the FNUC Alumni defeating the de-

fending champs OCN from The Pas, Manitoba. With just a few minutes remaining, the Alumni clawed back from a

chair, managed to stop all three shooters and Thomas Baptiste got the game winner to outscore the OCN Golden Bullets



The ceremonial faceoff for the Oskana Cup included Reggie 'The Rifle' Leach.

deficit to tie up the game 3-3. The five minute three on three sudden death overtime was scoreless, which led to a shootout. The Alumni goalie, Milton Tootoosis, who was also the tournament

4-3.

"Winning in an OT sudden death shootout meant a lot to the Alumni after losing badly in our tournament opener" said Tootoosis.

"We give OCN a lot of credit because they could have won, too, with the numerous great chances they had to clinch the win" added Tootoosis.

The Gamblers finished third overall in the masters 35+ division.

The Senior Contact division was a classic battle between archrivals Standing Buffalo and Gordon's Golden Hawks. The Hawks had lost to Standing Buffalo in preliminary round action but battled hard to earn the birth to the final by defeating Onion Lake in a thriller by a score of 4-3. Standing Buffalo prevailed in the evenly matched final by clutch goals by veteran sniper Eddie Tawiyaka.

"Reggie was very pleased with this year's turnout of teams and the quality of competition that was quite fair" said Tootoosis.

"The semi-final games and final matches were all very close which made for a loud and exciting arena. The fans were treated to some classic Indian hockey" he added.

The Oskana Cup Reggie Leach Hockey Challenge planning committee has started planning already for 2009 which will feature a few changes and format changes to continue making the tournament unique, challenging and fun. The ultimate goal is to raise much needed funds for Aboriginal youth playing elite level of hockey in the Hockey Regina system.

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Aboriginal curlers rock Saskatoon for National championships

The 2008 National Aboriginal Curling Championships were held in Saskatoon at the Granite Curling Club in March.

The new host of this year's event was the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

In the Men's Final Beau Val Co-Management defeated the Rod Wuttunee Rink, and claimed the \$4,000 first prize and team jackets. The team was made up of Mervin Morin, Fred Roy, Travis Laliberte, and Rosaire Alcrow.

Both teams took the long road to the final, having to come all the back from the C side of the draw to reach the championship.

The Woman's Champion was the Karen McGillvary rink from Manitoba. The rest of her team consisted of Marie Jibb, Annie Ballantyne, and Charlotte Campbell.

The Kirsten Gardiner Rink took second in the Women's Event losing a 10-7 nail-biter.

The following teams are the winners of the two Youth Divisions:

Youth Junior Female - Danielle Corrigan, Jordyn Bumoff, CarrieAnne Morin, Larissa Morin, and Marsha Morin.

Youth Male - Dylan Arcand, Dewayne Ledoux, Rory Longneck, Colby Nikolyuk, and Gavin Arcand.

Organizers were quite pleased with the turnout. Louis Gardiner, Minister of Sports and Youth for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan said "he was really happy with the amount of interest that has been shown for this event" and that "all in all it was a good event ... next year we are hoping to be bigger and better".

Player's Ball showcases city's best on courts

The third annual Player's Ball took place on Thursday, April 10. This year the venue was changed to the new Centennial Collegiate.

The Player's Ball has become an event we all look forward to each year. All coaches are current or former Huskie Basketball players.

This year on the boys side Team Fire, which was coached by Andrew Spagrud and Rob Lovelace, squared off against Team Water, coached by Kyle Grant and Jordan Harbridge.

Jillian Humbert and Kara Lackie coached Team Earth, while Meagan Koroll and Amy Prokop coached for Team Air on the girls side.

Besides the actual games this year the Players Ball included a social night at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and basketball camps at various inner city schools.

Dixon will run with Bisons

Nathan Dixon, who starred at ED Feehan High School before moving on to a short but glorious career

at Lakeland College, has committed to play for the Manitoba Bisons for the upcoming 2008-09 Men's Basketball season.



Last year at Lakeland, Dixon averaged 20.1 points per game to go along with 4.3 assists and 2.8 steals. He was named an Alberta Colleges Athletics conference all-star and took his team to Nationals this past year where he was named a tournament all-star. He will be the Bison's starting point guard for the next two years according to their head coach Rick Suffield.

Super Six League ready for new season

Super Six League is Saskatoon's new local Spring basketball league. The league is in its second year of

operations and is held at Nutana Collegiate. The Super Six League features Saskatoon premier local players as well as Western Canada pro league prospects.

On April 11, 2008 at the 612 Lounge in the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel downtown the league held its annual draft.

If you are looking to watch some quality basketball or participate in the league in any fashion go to <http://supersixleague.com/1index.php> for all of the details.

Random Thoughts ...

NHL Playoffs have started, and just a reminder, I did pick the Sharks to win at all at the start of the year! In the NBA I said a Detroit - Phoenix Final was probable at the start of the year and I'm stickin' to my guns.

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Funding for Ag-West Bio is provided by Saskatchewan Agriculture

Congratulations to the host File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and athletes, coaches, organizers and volunteers of the 2008 Saskatchewan First Nations Winter Games held recently in Regina.

The Games provided young competitors with the opportunity to demonstrate their athletic skills, dedication to their sports, and pride in their communities.

Good luck to all when you travel to Cowichan, British Columbia to compete in the 2008 North American Indigenous Games.

Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Saskatchewan Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations



Young curlers took to the ice at the Caledonian Curling Club during the 2008 Saskatchewan First Nations Winter Games. The Saskatoon Tribal Council team won this year's Games.



Badminton was one of the sports enjoyed by young athletes from around Saskatchewan at this year's Winter Games. The action took place at O'Neill High School in Regina.

Young athletes shine at First Nation Winter Games

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

There is a quiet stillness in the cool air of the Caledonian Curling Club, like the hushed calm of a windless day in the forest. Quiet not from inactivity, but from the concentrating minds of a young rink planning a shot.

The skip for File Hills Qu'Appelle puts her broom on the ice, and holds her other arm away from her body, briefly frozen like a statue. The lead prepares himself, inhales and then releases the stone down the long sheet of pebbled ice. A moment later, the quiet breaks with the familiar explosion: "Hurry hard!"

Over at the Al Ritchie arena, Dakota Bear of the Agency Chiefs

took a second period interference penalty. During the resulting power play, Tyrell Kenny of South East Treaty Four beat the AC's goalie to open the scoreless game. But the ACs came back and tied it not long after with a sweet top shelf goal by Marcus Tipawan. High-fives greeted Tipawan back at his bench, while the hockey parents screamed like only hockey par-

ents can. At the start of the third period, SET4 had the lead, 5-2. Meanwhile, at O'Neill High School, 14-year-old badminton player Alexandra Ledoux faced a tough defeat by Meriah Sheppard.

"She made me run a lot," Ledoux said when asked how Sheppard beat her.

But Ledoux didn't seem too shaken-up. She won her match the day before and still has a shot at winning the tournament. The sport, it seems, has given her determination to succeed.

"(Badminton is) just kind of fun, because you know that you won the medal and not your team. It's like, what you did, not anyone else," she said.

These and many other scenes unfolded during the 2008 Saskatchewan First Nation Winter Games, held in Regina from March 23 - 27. Over 4,000 First Nation youth participated this year. The event is intended to showcase Saskatchewan's First Nation youth and their athletic abilities, while fostering teamwork and community strength.

Alexandra Ledoux's coach says that the games are an opportunity to develop sport among youth at the grass roots. Mark Arcand,

who is the youth sport and recreation coordinator for the Saskatoon Tribal Council, helped more than 250 youth from seven First Nations, and three cultures - Cree, Saulteaux and Dakota - to train for the Regina meet-up.

The games are a chance for the youth to compete against their own people, he said. From here, they can have other opportunities like sports

scholarships or the possibility of competing in mainstream sport.

When asked if he has a certain highlight from the competition, Arcand doesn't point to the specific win of any one player or team.

"If you take a look out there right now," he said, indicating the badminton courts, "you see all the kids smiling."

2008 Saskatchewan First Nations Winter Games Results TEAM Total Points

1. Saskatoon Tribal Council 246
2. Agency Chiefs Tribal Council 198.82
3. Meadow Lake Tribal Council 194.83
4. Prince Albert Grand Council 174.99
5. Onion Lake Cree Nation 151.33 2
6. Southeast Treaty 4 Tribal Council 141.75
7. Touchwood Agency Tribal Council 137.25
8. Yorkton Tribal Council 133.08
9. Battlefords Tribal Council 113.08
10. Team Woodland 111.5
11. File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council 102.75
12. Battleford Agency Tribal Council 100.66
13. Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation 55.91

TONY COTE AWARD
Meadow Lake Tribal Council



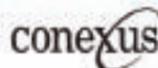
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TANSI, EDLANATE, ānīn Šikwa HELLO!

MBC Radio Program Schedule Monday to Friday

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6:00 A.M.	The MBC Morning Mess with Patti Adams. Kelly Provost has News and Dallas Hicks with Sports. Music, Birthdays, Contests, Horoscopes, and fun!				
7:00 A.M.					
8:00 A.M.					
9:00 A.M.	Country Music Morning Modern & traditional Country & Aboriginal music with Larissa Burnouf				
10:00 A.M.	Keewatin Negumowin Songs of the North! Requests by phone, fax, mail and e-mail with Larissa Burnouf				
11:00 A.M.	The North At Noon In-depth News, Sports & Features of interest to First Nations and Métis people				
12:00 P.M.	Missinipi Achimowin Current Affairs and News in Cree with Harry Opikokew				
1:00 P.M.	Missinipi Dene Heni Current Affairs and News in Dene with Roy Campbell and Kevin Fontaine				
2:00 P.M.					
3:00 P.M.					
4:00 P.M.	The Haul Home Rock, Pop & Top 40 music with Larissa Burnouf				
5:00 P.M.	Sask Aboriginal Top 5 Countdown		Real People Playoff vote in the winner!		Wayback Wednesday Hits of 70's & 80's
6:00 P.M.					Canadian Country Countdown
7:00 P.M.					High 5 at 5 Rock & Pop Countdown
8:00 P.M.	MBC Request Show You Pick the Music				
9:00 P.M.					
10:00 P.M.					
11:00 P.M.	MBC Overnight Country & Aboriginal music for the night owls				
12:00 A.M.	MBC Friday Night kick-start the Weekend!				

Additional Programming

1am-3am Friday Overnight
4am-Noon Saturday
1pm-2pm Saturday & Sunday
4pm-6pm Saturday

MBC Youth Foundation House Party
Old Time Country Show
Weekend Request Show with Mike Leys
National Aboriginal Top 30 Countdowns

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MBC Network Radio Fast Facts

- MBC Radio's audience is primarily First Nations, Saskatchewan's fastest growing demographic.
- Programming is in English with featured shows in Cree and Dene languages.
- Music format is a blend of Country/Aboriginal
- The MBC Broadcast Centre is in La Ronge
- Our sales office is located in Prince Albert
- MBC is heard in La Ronge at 89.9 FM
- Prince Albert at 88.1 FM
- Saskatoon at 104.1 FM
- Regina at 90.3 FM
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