

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

CELEBRATING

Kohkums Pat Glover and Eileen MacDonald share a laugh and some cake at the 17th anniversary of the Strengthening the Circle Program at the Saskatoon Community Clinic. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Program celebrates 17 years of supporting kohkums

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

When you entered the Saskatoon Community Clinic on March 10, you were instantly overwhelmed by kohkums, laughter and lots of cake. The cause for celebration was the Clinic's Strengthening the Circle Program seventeenth anniversary of supporting kohkum's.

The program brings together senior Aboriginal women in Saskatoon for health and social support.

Leadership is provided by the Clinic's Aboriginal Seniors Program Coordinator, Louise Dufour, a social worker who is Aboriginal herself.

Traditional values and practices and the Cree language are used in the program. An Aboriginal Elder conducts spiritual ceremonies and provides guidance to

the program and its participants.

The kohkums hold monthly group meetings that include education, outings, socializing and health circles. Volunteers, who are kohkums themselves, assist by developing relationships with the participants and providing valuable practical assistance at the group meetings.

"I never miss a meeting," said Rose Atimoyoo.

Rose has been attending the Circle for over 16 years.

"These people at the Clinic treat us so well. Thanks to them we can come here and laugh a lot. Old people like us can get lonely, especially in the city.

"Every town should have a group like this. I look forward to this every month and we have become a strong family. I hope this circle never dies."

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Ignatieff visits Prairies

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

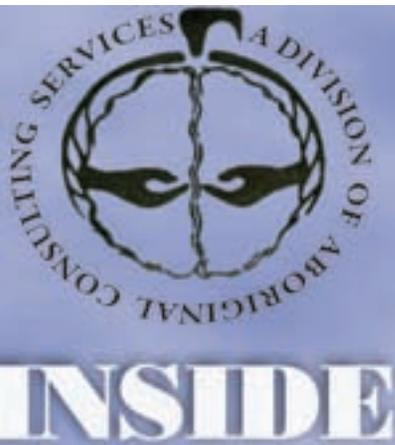
Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff chose Valentine's Day as the day to visit Saskatoon and re-assert his love for the west. Primarily, he loves the votes from the West. He wants to woo them back.

On hand to welcome him was a packed house of people at the Sheraton. The unfortunate thing was that Mr. Ignatieff's plane had mechanical problems in Winnipeg, resulting in quite a wait for the man who has brought some life into the Liberal family.

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Sen. Lillian Dyck welcomes Michael Ignatieff.



HAIL TO THE CHIEF
Shirley Wolfe-Keller made history when she was elected Chief of Fishing Lake First Nation.
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A CUMFI DAY
It was a day to be pampered for Saskatoon women who celebrated International Women's Day.
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A NEW APPROACH
Muskeg Lake First Nation has a new Chief and a new strategy for the community.
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SHE'S THE BEST
Candace Fox has seen her star rise rapidly as a cast member on the popular TV show Moccasin Flats.
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ON THE RUN
Jenn Campeau knows how devastating diabetes can be. She's determined to battle the disease.
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Welcome to our
Women's Issue

Coming In April :

Arts & Entertainment, Education & Training

CPMA #40027204

Leadership knows no boundaries for this Saskatchewan Chief

It's a feat that no one in First Nations politics had managed to accomplish. Shirley Wolfe-Keller, a tough talking, passionate leader, recently became the Chief of Fishing Lake First Nation, and made history in the process.

She is the first person in Saskatchewan to have been elected Chief of two First Nations.

"It takes a lot of hard work. I work with people and am a people person," she offers as way of explanation.

"I have worked with people of all ages and was a director of family support services in Regina. I am a social worker and therapist, but work lots of volunteer hours every year. You build a rapport with people and it builds trust. They got to respect me and I am so honoured they believed in me."

In 2001, Wolfe-Keller was first elected chief of the Muskowekwan First Nation, the community where she was born and raised. Despite not living on Muskowekwan, she was elected Chief and served two consecutive two-year terms. She transferred several years ago to Fishing Lake where her children are members.

"We did a lot of changes. I am accountable and very fair and honest. We brought the deficit down," she explains. "The community morale came up, people were proud to be from Muskowekwan.



Shirley Wolfe-Keller was elected Chief of Fishing Lake First Nation in February.

People now had hope that things can be done."

Proper governance procedure and a shift in attitude were behind the turnaround as well as an improved work ethic, Wolfe-Keller says.

"I don't work nine to five. I work all the time. The phone is always open," she says.

"It builds up trust when things were going well. We would bring Elders to the FSIN assemblies, improved housing and education. I made time to ensure things

were accountable."

With band elections approaching, Wolfe-Keller, who was an instructor at Carlton Trail Regional College, was asked to run for Chief in both Fishing Lake and Muskowekwan. She chose Fishing Lake and wound up as Chief of the Saulteaux First Nation that has a membership of approximately 1,475 people, including between 400 and 500 who live on-reserve. Both Muskowekwan and Fishing Lake are located in southeast Saskatchewan, not far from Wynyard.

She sees challenges that are much like what she faced at Muskowekwan almost a decade ago.

"I am looking at our governance and our attitude," she says firmly. "We need to get out of some financial issues. Not third party, but some outstanding bills. And to bring up morale. And to bring in accountability and transparency."

Wolfe-Keller says her style is to have open meetings and to encourage people to learn more about what the council is doing.

"I reach out to off-reserve members. People are proud to come from a community with accomplishment," she believes.

"We have lots of resources that we are going to examine. We have a housing project that needs to come out of a deficit. We have a resort we can develop," she says.

"First we have to get our financial position in place, but we are always moving forward. We get experts to help and Chief and council make the decisions with the members' input."

Shirley Wolfe-Keller, who has been known to express strong opinions at FSIN assemblies, says there are three secrets to good leadership: accountability, transparency and respect.

"I like to build trust, but I can be stern as well. Sometimes I have to be."

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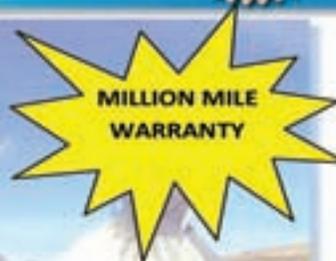


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A CUMFI, comfy day for women

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

International Women's Day is celebrated each year on March 8. Events around the world are held on this day to inspire women and increase awareness on topics that affect the status of women.

This year, Canada's theme for International Women's Day was 'Strong Leadership + Strong Women + Strong World = Equality', a reminder of the importance of supporting both women and men in leadership roles.

Celebrations take on different forms around Saskatchewan. In Saskatoon, International Women's Day events were spread over a few days. Upon entering CUMFI Local on Friday you had to know something was up. The sound of laughter could be heard all the way upstairs. It took a brave man to venture into the basement conference room ... a room filled with women being pampered, by getting facials, new hairstyles or a great manicure.

"This is a celebration of being a woman and enjoying time with all the women here," said Donna Wapass, a facilitator for the Strengthening the Circle

program at CUMFI. She had to speak carefully as she was in the middle of a receiving a makeup application.

"Actually taking care of yourself and doing our hands, the hair, the clothing ... it makes us feel really good."

The event was hosted by CUMFI but made available through a grant from the Province through the Status of Women.

"In Saskatchewan, we are proud to join with countries around the world to honour and celebrate all women," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said.

"International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to join together and affirm our commitment to a world in which women are equal members of society."

CUMFI Wellness, Affinity house, Building Health Equities and the Status of Women all get together to have this day," added Louise Oelke. "For International Women's Day, we come together to talk about social, economic and political issues.

"We talk about equality and we celebrate being women. Share our issues



Donna Wapass receives a makeover from her co-worker Candace Gardiner during International Women's Day celebrations at CUMFI Local in Saskatoon.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

and challenges and how to be stronger and to be leaders in our communities."

The women at CUMFI were certainly enjoying their day. Laughter and plenty of teasing of the male reporter were commonplace.

"I love hearing the laughter," added Oelke. "For some of these women it is pampering day, the day to get your hair done, nails or makeup ... and we have a nice meal and can sit and chat and visit with other women.

"It is a happy time where we can supply childcare and the women can just relax."

Taking care of yourself was the theme of the day. And, it was noted that the women need to do more of that.

"We have to take care of ourselves. We often overlook that. Our lives involve family and taking care of them ... we don't take time to care for ourselves" said Donna Wapass.

"This gives us the opportunity to do that. I am having the time of my life. I am laughing, enjoying myself and really comfortable.

Friendship is so important. Here we have it all ... out of a work zone and into a comfort zone."

Senator Lillian Dyck proud to join Liberal caucus

• Continued from Page One

Finally the man of the hour arrived to a standing ovation. Ignatieff took the stage and gave a barnstorming speech. After the speech, Ignatieff dropped the blazer and rolled up his sleeves to ready himself for the questions from the crowd, then it was off for another meeting.

Before he did, it was nice to see him thanked by the classiest senator in Canada, Dr. Lillian Dyck who recently aligned herself with the Liberal caucus in the Senate.

"I am delighted to welcome Senator Dyck to the Liberal team," said Mr. Ignatieff. "Her wealth of talent and experience in the Canadian scientific field makes her a tremendous asset to our caucus," the leader said.

"I am pleased to join the Liberal caucus today because I believe that Michael Ignatieff is the best man to lead Canada in this period of economic uncertainty," said Senator Dyck.

"I look forward to working with my Liberal colleagues in the Senate to help build a brighter future for Canadians."



MICHAEL
IGNATIEFF

Teamwork meets health needs of kohkums

• Continued from Page One

The kohkums are involved in community projects. They developed a book, Stories from Kohkom, participated in research for assessing Alzheimer's disease in older Aboriginal women and join, yearly, in Aboriginal Day festivities organized by the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre.

The event included presentations from the Clinic that summarized the amazing success of the program and the benefits to the health of the women.

"We have blended the mission statement of the Clinic with the medicine wheel," said Louise Dufour. "And with these ladies, the leaders we have and the teamwork, we have found a way to meet the health needs of these kohkums and we can make a difference."

"I like meeting, and I love this cake," added Atimoyoo as she prepared for her first ever television interview.

"As a circle we have fun, joke and share stories as humans. It makes us feel good."

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Editorial

Women provide leadership

Aboriginal women are taking positions of leadership throughout all sectors of Saskatchewan. We have finally arrived at a place where we have many women chiefs and over 100 councilors involved in the politics of First Nation people across Saskatchewan. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan can boast that over half of the Provincial Métis Council is comprised of women.

Go into the Federation or the Métis Nation offices and you will most likely be dealing with a woman who manages a program or the entire office. Go to our post secondary institutions and count the faculty. A majority will be women. Take the same count of the students and a majority will be women.

This is excellent news and exciting times for our community.

But still, there are annual walks to remember and bring attention to the fact that most of the women missing in North America are from Aboriginal descent. Aboriginal women are victims of violence at a much higher rate than non-Aboriginal people. Aboriginal women are still overrepresented in jails and amongst the poorest people in Saskatchewan. And Aboriginal women are often deserted by their partners and left to raise the children by themselves.

Much of the blame for the plight of Aboriginal women can be laid at the feet of Aboriginal men. Many of us tend to walk away from our responsibilities like wives and children. Or we tend to beat the tar out of our responsibilities. In the past few years I have had to stop three spousal beatings on my block. Two of them were young Aboriginal guys who thought they were teaching their girlfriends lessons about control.

They became much less tough when a guy asked them to stop. The other incident was a white woman beating the tar out of her husband. Sad what a 12 pack of Canadian can do to a relationship.

That being said, it is time for Aboriginal men to really start supporting Aboriginal women and allow them to lead in our communities and our families. Imagine if every single mother out there had either a loving partner to help nourish the kids, or if the relationship can't be healed, at least someone paying child support. Imagine what those women could accomplish.

It is not like they really need us anyways. As you read this issue of Eagle Feather News, you will see women in politics, education, leadership and business. Some have husbands, some don't. Some are single moms, and some are grateful that they haven't had children yet.

These women have pressed on, regardless, because they know what they need to get ahead in life ... and oftentimes, it ain't a man. Be warned. Times are changing.

It is time us Aboriginal men changed as well.

Coming next in Eagle Feather News

"Duty" is hitting the fan

The press releases have been flying as both the FSIN and the MN-S have come out and rejected the Duty to Consult Framework that the provincial government has proposed. The Duty to Consult mandate says that the government has the duty to consult and accommodate the interests of Aboriginal communities whenever there is development in the Aboriginal groups traditional territory.

How the relationship develops and is secured between the government, the FSIN and the MN-S regarding the Duty to Consult legislation is pivotal to the future of Saskatchewan. This is talking about resource development in Saskatchewan, the one thing that is keeping our jurisdiction and economy in the black while the rest of the world wallows in a recession.

To give you a better understanding of the big picture and where each government stands, we have assigned our ace Warren Goulding to get to the bottom of it. Look for the feature article on Duty to Consult in our April edition.

Also in April other features include profiles of people in the arts and entertainment field

Readers Forum

Tobacco issue up in smoke

Last month we asked our readers about their thoughts on raising taxes on tobacco sold on reserve. Turns out people are afraid or uninspired by that topic ... too busy smoking to write, maybe. Anyhow, we did get some great insight to tobacco.

Check out the best of the bunch below. Harry Michael will receive a subscription to Eagle Feather News and a \$25 gift card to the nearest grocery store. Good job Harry.

Today's tobacco use is nothing like days of old

Tobacco is one of the sacred plants in Aboriginal culture that goes back centuries. In the old days (pre-European), nobody walked around with a package of tobacco to smoke several times a day. Today, the way Aboriginal people smoke is one of the great tragedies because smoking is a major cause of poor health and diseases that often result in dying and death. Yet, a majority of Aboriginal people still smoke.

I was told once that in the old days, only

certain people were given the responsibility to plant, grow and harvest tobacco. They considered the plant so sacred that they only provided the tobacco to pipe carriers, medicine men and other spiritual leaders.

They themselves did not smoke it; they were entrusted for spiritual purposes and not for daily use to those they gave the tobacco. Today, there are no keepers of this sacred plant to plant, grow or harvest. That is part of the problem.

The other part of the problem is daily use of the tobacco is not a sacred use of it; it is simply to maintain a very bad habit that results in poor health and even death.

Harry Michael
Saskatoon

Since this is the women's edition, we pose this question for this month's reader's forum.

Even though there has been a rise in First Nation women chiefs and councilors, and the number of Métis women active in politics, should the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Métis-Nation Saskatchewan have seats set aside in the executive that are guaranteed for women?

Your insights are welcomed. Please keep letters to fewer than 300 words and no swearing. The best letter gets a one-year subscription and a \$25 grocery gift card. Fax to (306) 978-8117, mail to PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 or email johnl@eaglefeathernews.com



LIGHTS, ACTION, CAMERA

Kohkums from the Strengthening the Circle Program at the Saskatoon Community Clinic, Rose Atimoyoo and Violet Lavallee face the camera. See story on Page 1 and Page 3.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Traditional thought not well understood

Elders from many Indigenous nations across Canada met at a forum at the University of Winnipeg on February 26-27. The purpose of the 'invitation-only' event was to plumb the minds of the participants on the subject of Traditional Thought as it might apply to Aboriginal Governance.

The event was co-hosted by the National Centre for First Nations Governance (NCFNG) headed by Satsan (Herb George) and the University of Winnipeg's Aboriginal Governance Program. The subject of what is often called 'traditional knowledge' seems to have recently emerged and seems to be a long way from being a well-established or well-understood field of study or idea or concept.

What is 'traditional'? That was one of the questions raised by one of the participants on the second day. My trusty Concise Oxford Dictionary defines the word as "a custom, opinion, or belief handed down to posterity esp. orally or by practice." That definition seems to suggest that something 'traditional' has a special character, perhaps a sacred character, one that invites reverence and unquestioning adherence. On this basis the word 'traditional' seems apposite (look that word up) to describe ceremonies and acceptable ways of behaving.

But one might ask whether it is substantive ideas or values or principles, rather than inherited habit that ought to inform contemporary forms and

processes of governance, including self-government of an Indigenous nation? Might it be better to think of Indigenous Philosophy?

Now my trusty Oxford tells me that 'philosophy' means "the use of reason and argument in seeking truth and knowledge of reality, esp. of the causes and nature of things and of the principles governing existence, the material universe, perception of physical phenomena, and human behaviour."

At first blush that seems to capture more of what we might be looking for. Here is an attempt to make sense of our world in order to guide us to make sensible decisions about matters of governance and self-government.

We may be tempted on this basis to think and write about 'Indigenous Philosophy' if we are interested in applying the world view of Indigenous peoples in designing legitimate and effective governing processes and institutions. I emphasize 'legitimate' and 'effective'. A legitimate government is one that has the confidence and support of those governed by it. An effective government is one that has the capacity to make things happen.

But here is where we must pause and pay attention to those 'traditional' ideas. In this regard I can do no better than

adopt my understanding of Anishinabe thinking as explained by Tobasonakwut Kinew who teaches in the graduate degree program on Aboriginal Governance at U Peg.

He explains that Anishinabe thinking is distinguished from the 'Western' process that uses "reason and argument" in seeking truth and knowledge of

reality. I am not competent to describe this intricate, sophisticated and ancient process. But it is a process that seeks to know truth and reality. And it is a process that has intrigued some of the best scientific minds of the 'Western' tradition, such as the late David Bohm, the renowned theoretical physicist with whom Tobasonakwut and other members of the Native Science Academy opened a dialogue many years ago.

If we look at the meaning of the word "thought" in my trusty Oxford we find "the process of power or power of thinking; the faculty of reason." Here incontestably both traditions are concerned with the process or power of thinking, and the definition then refers to the 'Western' notion identified earlier. But the second meaning of 'thought' is revealing: 'a way of thinking characteristic of or associated with a particular time, people, group, etc..' Therein is the inspiration for writing and thinking about

'Anishinabe Thought'.

I have always been intrigued and puzzled by the many publications that refer to 'Traditional Knowledge' and which assert that there are different 'ways of knowing'. I wonder how we can assert the existence of different ways of "knowing" unless we happen to know what it means to "know". It seems evident, on the other hand, that there are different ways of thinking or engaging in truth-seeking or knowledge-seeking processes and activities.

My limited experience teaches me that the best minds amongst Elders and Western science profess a great uncertainty about our capacity to know. Both the Anishinabe Elders I have listened to and the Western scientists about whose ideas I have read speak about 'the Great Mystery that surrounds us all'.

You can read Albert Einstein's latest biography on that point, or the views of Jacob Bronowski who used the term 'tolerance' to describe the uncertainty of scientific conclusions. Bronowski used the example of Hitler to show what horrors can be committed by those who are certain they are right.

The late Francis Eagleheart Cree always talked about the principle of 'unity' and I think he may have agreed that we can aspire to a more peaceful and harmonious world if we accept that, regardless of what intellectual tradition we subscribe to, we live in a world of uncertainty.

It is a wonderful world.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

Muskeg Lake First Nation's new Chief promises new approach

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

There is a new look around the council table at Muskeg Lake. Clifford Tawpisin Jr. won the recent election over incumbent Gilbert Ledoux.

It's a giant step up for Tawpisin who served as the urban councilor in the previous administration but was one of two councilors suspended by Ledoux before being reinstated.

Tawpisin says there will be a change in how the band is run. He wants the community to not only be aware of any decisions made at the council level but to be involved in the decision-making.

"If you continue working in that fashion, then more and more people will want to become involved in the success of Muskeg," he explains. "So just getting that ball rolling, involving membership, and ensuring that everybody has a part of that whole process (is important)."

Tawpisin says the administration under his leadership will be more transparent and accountable than the previous one. Tawpisin was an outspoken critic of the former chief, and he wasn't alone. At a chief and council meeting in the fall, a group of band members entered the meeting room, demanding to know the state of the reserve's finances. Ledoux immediately adjourned the meeting and left.

"Based on the past, we know what we're missing,"

says Tawpisin. "Do people call it turmoil? No, I don't. I don't call it turmoil. I call it an education process where we have identified basically what we are lacking as far as support services, the mechanisms and controls and processes that are required to ensure we're governing ourselves properly."

Tawpisin says there won't be any major changes within the administration.

Also elected in the election were new council

members Harry J. Lafond, Dolores Greyeyes-Sand, Les Arcand, Josephine Longneck and Orrin Greyeyes in the position of urban councilor.

Incumbent councilor Albert Dean Lafond was re-elected.



The councillors and chief are as follows: Harry Lafond, Orrin Greyeyes, Les Arcand, Chief Cliff Tawpisin, Albert Dean Lafond, Josephine Longneck, Dolores Sand. The Elders who administered the oath of office were Ovide Campbell and Augustine Arcand.

(Photo Muskeg Lake First Nation)

How the Internet may have saved the FNUC

In the Philippines there is a monument to the cell phone. During a recent revolution the government was unable to cut off the insurgents' ability to communicate.

The newspapers were shut down and the radio stations were silenced. These were tactics that worked in the past but could not work in the new information age.

The cell phone allowed the insurgents to share information and coordinate their movements unhindered. The government toppled.

The bulldozing of the First Nations University of Canada has ultimately failed. It has been stopped not only because of external factors such as government pressure and censoring by the Association of University Teachers of Canada. It was also an informed First Nations public who refused to be intimidated or bullied into line who stopped the carnage.

Their tool was the internet.

The attempt to control information and stifle critics does not work in the new information age. Technology and an informed First Nations public does not allow it. Discussion boards, Facebook, blogs, ezine and e-mail mean anyone attempting to bamboozle the Indian public will no longer go unanswered.

It was interesting to see the FNUC debate on the APTN discussion board. The supporters of Morley Watson and the purge wilted before the withering criticism of an informed First Nations public.

They beat a hasty retreat when confronted with well supported opinion. Rumour, half truths and political posturing just doesn't cut it anymore. Their on campus information sessions had all the impact of an over ripe banana. People knew too much and demanded to know more.

There was a time when producing the news was an expensive and laborious task. News copy was typed on a chattering IBM, edited and passed on to the typesetter who then retyped the copy.

This was then fed into a bulky machine that used a bath of chemicals to produce an evenly spaced column of type. This was coated with wax on the underside, trimmed then fitted by hand on a layout sheet.

Our camera was usually the dependable and somewhat boring Pentax K-1000. Photographs were produced the old school way through chemical baths.

The photo was then pmted, which means the photo was screened or

divided into tiny squares so they would appear as a proper photo when printed.

The layout sheets were then shipped off to the printer who did their magic, resulting in a newspaper.

Most of the papers I worked on



were produced monthly. By the time the news happened until the newspaper was in the hands of the reader it was no longer news. It was history. (The word news by the way translates as North, East, West and South. Culturally curious is it not that the four directions are at the heart of it?)

Times have certainly changed. Most anyone with anything to say can produce and share the news instantly with a computer and a digital camera. Written mail which once crawled along through an elaborate system of mail carriers is now shared instantly through e-mail.

It was quite surprising that the FNUC was attacked. After all, it is the home of well educated and critical thinkers. Combine this with the internet and the attack becomes blunted and eventually stops. Politics more suited to a band office just doesn't fly very far in such circumstances.

The FNUC is not a university but has always been a college aligned with the University of Regina. Degrees have been awarded by the U of R for over 30 years.

Perhaps it would be more appropriate to rename the institution, the Saskatchewan First Nations College or even its old title, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. The title, FNUC is inaccurate and confusing.

Good can come out of bad. The FNUC crisis has created change. A more open and democratic form of First Nation governance will likely evolve. It should be remembered the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority experienced similar controversy but has since emerged as a credible award winning institution.

The well run Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies is a model of excellence. The FNUC can be turned around but it will take Aboriginal academics to make it happen.

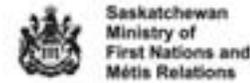
It may never be what it was but it can be much better than it is.



Message from the Minister

Saskatchewan's economy remains strong despite a global slowdown. Our government believes one of the best ways to maintain this strength is to ensure that First Nations, Métis and northerners have access to the training opportunities they need to participate fully in the economy. Our young Aboriginal skilled workers will play a critical role in the continued growth of our province.

Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations



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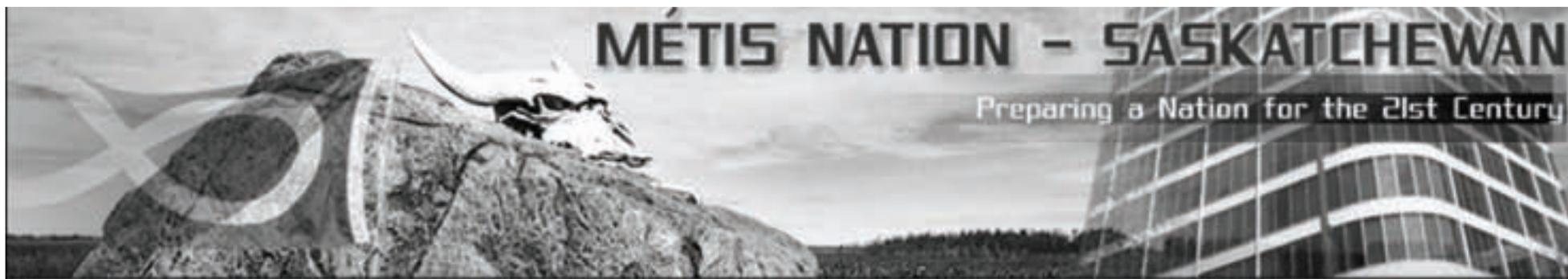
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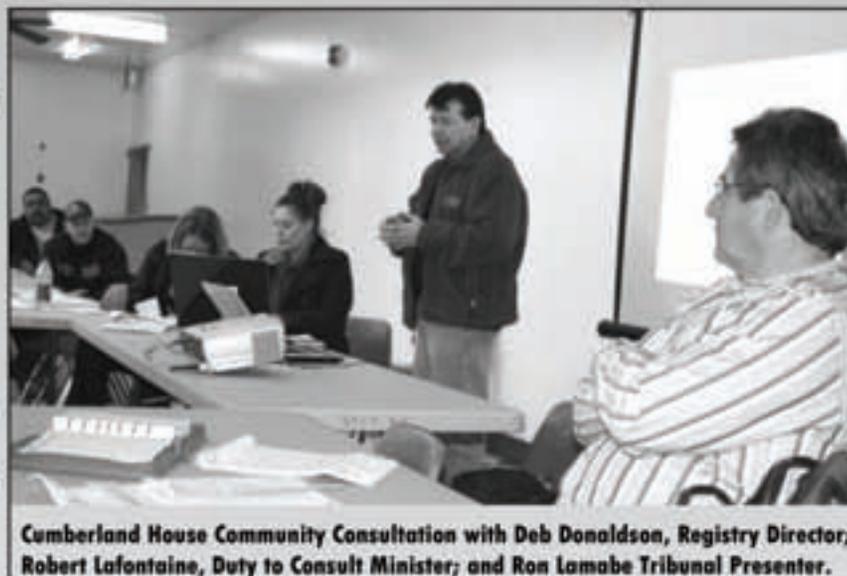
The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) is conducting Community Consultations across the Province for the months of March and April. Each consultation will centre on discussions such as the new and improved Métis Registry Process, Métis Harvesting Rights, the Duty to Consult, and the development of a Métis Tribunal Process. The objective of the MN-S is to provide up-to-date information to the Métis citizenship on each file and to elicit relevant feedback from the grassroots people to ensure that the concerns and needs of the Métis in Saskatchewan are addressed.

The MN-S Registry Department is in the beginning stages of creating a system to register eligible Métis citizens in Saskatchewan through a secure, efficient, standardized, and objectively verifiable process. In doing so, the MN-S will formalize and clarify citizenship requirements which will aid in the accurate return of statistical data such as precise Saskatchewan Métis population figures. It will also serve to simplify partnerships between the MN-S and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment regarding the eventual implementation and exercise of Métis Harvesting Rights. Ultimately, the Métis Registry will provide a basis for improving the quality of life for all Métis people living in Saskatchewan.

Since early 2008, the MN-S has engaged in discussions with the Saskatchewan Government to develop a process regarding Métis harvesting issues as a part of the bilateral process set out in the *Métis Act*. The focus of these discussions has been on arriving at a province-wide Métis Harvesting Agreement which recognizes and accommodates Métis Harvesting Rights throughout the province which in the past has led to charges and costly litigation. In these initial discussions, the MN-S stressed the need for a formal mandate from Métis Leaders to negotiate and to focus of these negotiations on the aforementioned. Based on these preliminary discussions, there were two steps proposed in order to move forward:

1. **MN-S-Saskatchewan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**
This MOU would formally initiate negotiations on Métis Harvesting Rights and set out principles, subject matters and a process to arrive at an agreement. The MOU does not recognize or affect Métis Rights in any way. This will only set out a negotiations process to try to arrive at a province-wide Harvesting Agreement.
2. **MN-S-Saskatchewan Environment Screening Process**
The Screening Process will provide an opportunity for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan to intervene on MN-S harvester's behalf prior to charges being laid. It would only apply to MN-S citizens who have requested to take part in the screening process. It does not affect Métis Rights or Saskatchewan's current approaches to Métis Rights in Saskatchewan. It is only an interim measure until a final agreement is concluded, but would take pressures off individual Métis harvesters.

Through negotiations, the MN-S will have the opportunity to arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement which would provide certainty, comfort and confidence to all Métis harvesters.



Cumberland House Community Consultation with Deb Donaldson, Registry Director; Robert Lafontaine, Duty to Consult Minister; and Ron Lamabe Tribunal Presenter.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Region	Regional Director	Date	Time	Place
Eastern Region I, Cumberland House	Lennard D. Morin	March 4	1:00 PM	Town Hall
Eastern Region II A, Yorkton	Robert Lafontaine	March 7	1:00 PM	26 Betts Avenue
Eastern Region II, Archerwill	Helene Johnson	March 11	1:00 PM	MN - S Regional Building
Northern Region I, La Ronge	Al Rivard	March 18	6:30 PM	Kikimahk Friendship Centre
Northern Region II, Buffalo Narrows	Marlene Hansen	March 21	12:00 PM	Buffalo Narrows Indian & Métis Friendship Centre
Northern Region III, Ile-a-la-Crosse	Louis J. Gardiner	March 21	4:00 PM	Sakitawak Entertainment Centre
Western Region II, Prince Albert	Darlene McKay	March 22	10:00 AM	Little Red River Park, Cosmo Lodge
Western Region I, Meadow Lake	Mavis Taylor	March 23	5:00 PM	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 416 - 2nd Street West
Eastern Region III, Fort Qu'Appelle	Beverly Worsley	April 18	1:30 PM	Kapachee Training Centre, 385 Bay Avenue South
Western Region III, Regina	Karen Larocque	April 19	TBA	TBA
Western Region IA, North Battleford	Billy D. Kennedy	April 25	TBA	TBA
Western Region IIA, Saskatoon	Bob McLeod	April 4	10:00 AM	Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre, 168 Wall Street

Other topics discussed during the community consultations include the process of consultation with Saskatchewan Métis Rights holders, and the development of a Métis Tribunal Process. Ultimately the MN-S is requesting community feedback to provide direction for on these vital departments and files.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan represents more than 100,000 Métis citizens through 133 affiliated Locals across Saskatchewan. As such, the MN-S strives for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantee of the rights of our People, including the right to a land and resource base, self-government and self-government institutions.



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Foster home survivor, Dr. Jaqueline Maurice wants kids placed first

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Dr. Jacqueline Marie Maurice is a survivor and a warrior, a self-made woman in every sense of the word, embodying the resilience, the strength, the inner resources, the outer courage, the spirit of First Nations and Métis peoples across the country.

Gently spoken but pulling no punches, Maurice noted that the Sixties Scoop and the era of residential schools has robbed many generations of parenting skills – and perhaps that is why she was taken from her own young mother in the first month of her life.

“But now it’s 2009 – and another scoop is taking place,” said Maurice. “There are 1,700 children in care – and 1,400 are First Nations and Metis.”

Maurice was sharing her doctoral work – based on her life experiences – with nursing, medical, and social services workers and students at the Royal University Hospital, the same day the Child Advocate Office released their scathing report on current foster care conditions.

Her entire childhood was spent bouncing from foster home to foster home, surviving everything imaginable – many things, less than imaginable. But worst of all, even after all this time, is the hole she still lives with – the disconnect from family, community, culture, language.

“Imagine going home today, expecting to see the two, or three, or five people you consider your family, the people you love best, waiting for you. Now imagine getting there, and seeing that your home has burned to the ground, and they are gone.

“Everything that meant home – loved ones, photographs, pictures, furniture – it’s gone forever,” said Maurice. “Now imagine this happening, over and over, 14 times in 17 years, and you’ll get a small idea of what it is like to be a foster child.”

Compounding the traumas experienced – upheaval, abuse, lack of support – were medical diagnoses focusing on perceived lacks in her, rather than an examination of the systems and factors causing the symptoms.

“The child is listed as the problem, versus examining the social, systemic, and hierarchical issues,” she said, giving a list of all the labels and diagnoses given to an Aboriginal child, and then noting they’d all been applied to her personally.

“Documentation takes priority over child process and development.”

Quite obviously, she was not “mildly retarded” and could not possibly have that many disorders and still be standing, let alone presenting a doctoral dissertation to other professionals.

“Holistically, there was an absence of inquiry into family, environment, societal cultural realities as an Aboriginal foster child,” she observed.

Maurice noted the focus was on documenting problems versus identifying strengths and abilities – blaming the victim.

“Foster care is like child slave labour, and kids are the commodity,” she said, adding in her experience there was little difference between foster care and being homeless.

“Gang activity for youth is that needed sense of belonging.”

Always made to feel “less than, not equal”, she identified a complete severing of body, mind, and spirit and has had to work very hard towards healing – which takes effort, balance, vigilance, and discipline.

The only family that worked on adopting her was one she was experiencing sexual abuse in. The Child Advocate Report addresses many instances of abuse by not only foster parents but other children at very young ages – and heard more than once that a certain amount of sexual abuse was inevitable or expected, as far as some caseworkers were concerned.

But Maurice says rather than blame or finger point, the solution for now is to share her research, PhD, and story with others, and encourage policy which places kids first – kids in the context of family, and community.



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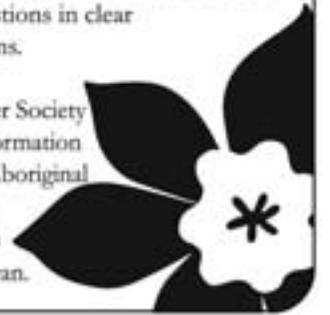
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Menopause may signal the beginning of great sex

Do you remember when the boys and girls were taken into separate classrooms to learn about the changes their bodies would go through when they entered puberty?

Why was there no information on the changes that occur when you enter menopause and andropause? Just like puberty, menopause is a normal part of life. It is really the end of a long, slow process. When you are in your mid-thirties your ovaries begin to change how much estrogens and progesterone – two female hormones – they make.

These are both important for normal menstrual cycles and successful pregnancies. Estrogens help to keep bones healthy, it may also have an effect on cholesterol levels in your blood, help keep your skin and your arteries more elastic, and possibly help with memory.

Although very rare before the age of 40, menopause can happen anytime from your 30s to your mid-50s or even later. Smokers often begin menopause earlier than non-smokers. According to, *Menoapuse Journal*, "If you have both ovaries removed (oophorectomy) during a hysterectomy, you may have the symptoms of menopause right away, no matter your age. Once your uterus is removed, your periods will stop."

Plenty of jokes have been made about hot flashes, power surges, and private summers.

But there's nothing funny about night sweats, irritability or mood swings, memory lapses, hair loss or weight gain. All are symptoms of menopause.

The decision about how to deal with menopause symptoms is best made by talking to your doctor. But what about sex? Does menopause mean that sex is no longer an important part of your life?

No! Countless numbers of people believe that menopause means less sexual desire; however that is not necessarily true. In fact, sex after menopause is often as enjoyable, sometimes even more enjoyable than before menopause. Since you no longer have to worry about pregnancy, and your children have grown up or are close to being grown-ups. So go ahead and enjoy your opportunity to have the best sex of your life.

Women may not be the only ones who suffer the effects of changing hormones. Some doctors are noticing that their male patients are reporting some of the same symptoms that women experience in menopause. Since men do not go through a well defined period called menopause, some

doctors refer to this problem as andropause.

Men do experience a decline in the production of the male hormone testosterone with aging, but this also occurs with some diseases like diabetes. Along with the decline of testosterone, some men experience symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, depression and sexual problems. The relationship of these symptoms to the decreased testosterone levels is still controversial. Unlike menopause in women, which represents a well-defined period in which hormone production stops completely, male hormone decline is a slower process.

The testes, unlike the ovary, do not run out of the substance it needs to make testosterone. A healthy man may be able to make sperm well into his eighties or longer. Less interested in sex lately? Tired? Grumpier than usual? Is this a mid life crisis brewing?

Hormone changes are a normal part of aging for men – don't panic. The time comes in a man's life when performance begins to slow and when physical and mental changes begin to occur. Often these changes begin in a male in his mid forties.

Menopause and andropause are periods

in our lives where we may start to feel incomplete. Good or bad, whatever the drop in our hormone levels creates in our lives we are still the ones who own our minds, bodies and hearts. If the absence or decline in your hormones is causing struggles in your life, then it is time to acknowledge the need for help.

First, we need to recognize that we are undergoing changes and talk about it with our partners. If it becomes unbearable then seek help from your doctor.

I had to have a medical procedure a few years ago and woke up in menopause. Many women will tell you that they can't wait for menopause but they're not in menopause when they say it.

Our bodies are remarkable machines with complicated systems. We all have internal clocks that know when to turn on and off. The better we take care of our bodies the easier some of these transitions will be. If you are currently going through menopause a few things to consider; coffee, red wine and spicy foods can trigger hot flashes. Ladies, I can tell you that your husband won't appreciate you opening the window in the middle of winter because you find it too hot in the bedroom.

Gentlemen, be patient and remember all the reasons you love her – you'll need to, just kidding.

Until next month stay cool. Write to Sandee Sez s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca



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Sandra Ahenakew

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Fox no longer the unsung star

Candace Fox is best known for her role on Moccasin Flats, a half hour drama about Regina's North Central 'ghetto' that ran for three seasons and included two television movies. With actors such as Gordon Tootosis and Andrea Menard as headliners for the series, many might think it bold to say Fox was the unsung star.



CANDACE FOX

It is true Fox was an unknown actress when she landed the role as 'Candy' on Moccasin Flats. But her tenacious emotion and dedication to character shone each and every time she appeared on screen.

Candace Fox, it seemed, had been doing this for awhile.

"I had no training. I was in high

school when I began acting. I was doing theatre with Mark Dieter in a group called Four Directions Youth Theatre Group.

"I think it was just something to do at first. And then it grew into something more important as I realized I was good at it."

Although Moccasin Flats has since been cancelled, the show's swan song television movie 'Redemption' was screened at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco this past November. The film received rave reviews and landed Candy her first major industry award for best actress.

"San Francisco was awesome. It was an extraordinary moment in my life and I am extremely proud and honored. I have gotten so much out of doing Moccasin Flats all these years. So now that the show is over, it (the award) was the icing on the cake!"

The character Fox played had some very rough experiences; including overcoming addiction and prostitution, giving her child up for adoption and abusive relationships.

Fox connected to the character and understood her struggles very well.

"I grew up in a family which struggled with alcohol and drug addiction, so the role did hit home for me.

"I was able to put myself into the character because I think she was someone I knew. I just tried to place myself in her shoes and something connected."

Anyone who works on series television will tell you it's like having a whole new family for two to three months each year.

The work is intense, challenging and requires a great deal of teamwork and dedication.

Once shooting wraps, it can be very difficult for the cast and crew to move on, especially when the show has been cancelled. Fox reflects on dealing with the letting go aspect and what the experience gave her.

"A part of me is sad, but I am content with it being over. Three seasons and two movies is quite an accomplishment. I am proud and humbled by the experiences the show gave me. I've gained wonderful friends, mentors, and life long memories. I've learned a lot about myself and the business from doing the show."

So what's next for the award-winning actress from Piapot First Nation with no formal training? A move to Toronto? Vancouver? Los Angeles?

"I'm attending Film and Video Production at the U of R. I want to create my own films after I get my degree. I want to be able to create all genres of film whether its drama or horror, whatever.

"I just want to be an all around great filmmaker. Someone who can do anything."

Fox still attends the odd audition and plans to compete for "some juicy roles on Rabbit Fall" this summer. She's also involved in theatre to keep those acting juices flowing.

"I will be doing the Vagina Monologues in April for the V-Day celebrations to prevent violence against women."

From a small theatre group to series television to the big screen, Candy Fox has achieved unimaginable success.

When asked what she would say to



any youth who may be struggling, Fox says no matter what your situation, you have to be willing to take a chance.

"I remember being about 15 and thinking that I wanted to be an actress. I wanted to be like the women I saw in movies.

"When the audition for Moccasin Flats came around, I thought I couldn't do it. I had little confidence and was shy and introverted. But I took the chance and auditioned. I often think where I would be if I hadn't taken that chance."

Jeanne Corrigan doc premieres at Broadway

Mark your calendars for March 15 at 2 p.m. and head on down to the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon for the free screening of Jean Corrigan's latest documentary "Jim Settee: The Way Home."

As a spiritual mentor, oral historian, and renowned tracker, Cree Elder Jim Settee touched many lives in central Saskatchewan throughout 94 years of caring.

This is the story of a remarkable life, and also a story of transformation for the filmmaker and many others who 'came home' through Jim's kindness.

Jim's life, and his final message, leaves a gentle legacy for all people.

• Continued on Page 11



The Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP)

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Artist finds purpose in her life

Lynda Flett is a recent graduate of the Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Project, (SCYAP) Urban Canvas VIII experience. The program is for students who face barriers to employment, but have an interest in art. Lynda is a member of the Kawacatoose First Nation but was born and raised in Saskatoon. The recent graduate has earned praise from her instructors and has already landed a commissioned art gig to help pay for some future schooling. We caught up to Lynda at the SCYAP Studios in downtown Saskatoon to see what's up.

How did you find out about SCYAP?

I was in Bishop Murray High School and I was interested in art. One of my teachers there saw my interest, and she taught me some art, but she had worked at SCYAP at one time and thought I would be great for the program. She brought me for an interview and here I am.

What has SCYAP done for you?

Here, I developed as an artist. I am still not fully developed; I still have to learn a lot.

They helped you artistically, but how about in your life?

SCYAP got me more confidence in everything. Before SCYAP, I felt like everything was pointless. I did not know where I was going to go, now I know where I am going. Before it was just a circle. I did not know what I wanted to do. Maybe university, but I had no idea how. I had bad habits. I would stay home, I had low confidence. I want to do a lot of things. But now I can see myself going to Point B, and then Point C and D.

You received a commission for some work already?

Yeah, I am making 12 paintings, one for each month, for the SIIT, NAADAP program fundraising calendar. The pictures show what they do as an organization. It is kind of abstract. It is cool to be paid to do my art. It is hard right now because I have to do the work, but after, I can look back and say, yeah I did that.

What do you figure about the role of Aboriginal women in today's society?

In some areas it is good. There are lots of good role models, Aboriginal women that are coming forward.

What do you use to face challenges?

Talk to people. Communicate with people. Without



Lynda Flett is seen with her piece "Understated". This piece of art was on display at the Saskatoon Mendel Art Gallery.

communicating I would be stuck in a rut. Asking someone for help is the most adult thing to do.

What's next?

I have a show coming up in June. I am also going to try an apprenticeship program.

Tips for any other youth out there?

SCYAP gave me confidence to do whatever I think I want to do. Other youth that feel like they have no where to go, or feel pointless ... if you want to get to point a,b,c,d,e,f and beyond in your life, come to SCYAP.

Keeper, Beach to host NAAA

• A & E Continued from Page 10

Don't forget to tune in to the broadcast of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards on APTN and Global on March 21 at 8 p.m. EST (6 p.m. CST).

The show features hosts Adam Beach and Tina Keeper with performances by Eagle and Hawk with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, George Leach, Janet Panic and the Métis Fiddler Quartet featuring the jiggling sensation Asham Stompers.

Saskatchewan recipients include: Rev. Stan Cuthand of Little Pine First Nation (Lifetime), Dennis Jackson of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and Melanie Jackson of Sakimay First Nation (Arts), and Delia Opekokew of Canoe Lake Cree Nation (Law and Justice).

Cashin' In's debut not well received by television critics

APTN's new comedy/drama series Cashin' In about life around a fictitious First Nations casino premiered earlier this month. It received some pretty unflattering reviews from assorted journalists and critics. The biggest criticisms were the humor was predictable, the premise unrealistic and stories choppy and hard to follow.

Eagle Feather News wants to know what you think. Send us your feedback about Cashin' In to: mgscreenwriter@gmail.com

Cashin' In airs Tuesdays on APTN (9:30 p.m. CST) and Wednesdays on Showcase (10:00 p.m. CST)

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Sandy Bay



Dennis Jackson
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation



Melanie Jackson
Sakimay First Nation

**The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
extends congratulations to the
2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Award winners.**

Wranglers keep National Aboriginal Achievement Awards show on time



Myk Gambull with Adam Beach backstage at the 2009 NAA Awards

By Dawn Gamble and Michael K. Gamble
For Eagle Feather News

Long days and late nights are required for the success of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards production.

Executive producer Jennifer Podemski works with a crew of almost 300 ensuring the creative design reflects the spirit of excellence.

Wranglers or talent associates are chosen to assist production of the Awards by ensuring that the artists and special guests are comfortable, informed, and equipped with their schedules.

They are the timekeepers. They provide the talent with their scheduled times to be at any given place as required for the show.

As well, they are in charge of giving them advanced notice, and then to escort them to their destination. Staying on time is the essence of their position.

The Awards show has taken us across the nation for five consecutive years. Responding to a "Call for Wranglers" we were hired on the spot.

With Mykal's musical background,

and Dawn's management skills and our outgoing personalities we felt we were bound for success in the television production world.

"I was forced to choose between my current employment and an opportunity to celebrate my culture. As 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award winner Stan Cuthand said "Barriers to achievement can be overcome if you have the will to succeed," said Dawn.

Mykal began as an audio wrangler, providing audio production crew with charts that tracked the use of all microphones for specific times and places throughout the evening.

While working closely with Dawn and a larger team, the communication between stage managers and performers ensures a seamless show year after year.

Dawn has earned her new position as lead talent associate as a result of her past performance in wrangling the hosts each year and her dedication to the show.

"Myk and I believe in recognizing true role models of our communities."

Watch for this outstanding production March 21 on APTN and Global.

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TENNILLE BEAR

Tell us a bit about your background and how you arrived at SIIT?

After graduating from high school I took the leap to attend U of S in the College of Arts and Science, and eventually completed three years in Indian Teaching Education Program (ITEP). Over the years my path in life changed and so did my career plans. Then I worked for Battlefords Chamber of Commerce and later I worked for SIGA. As an employee I met several individuals who either started their own business or they were a manager of a business or department. The one thing that stood out for me was how happy and successful they were all because they were accomplishing a dream that they've always had. It took me eight years to find what I really wanted to do, career wise.

What is the best thing about attending SIIT?

I consider myself very blessed to be attending college here at SIIT because going to school has steered towards a lifestyle where I see a world of opportunities and I've also met so many wonderful people who have same goals and ambitions. I am also an active supporter in SIIT's Leadership Council (Student Representative Council)

Students assume leadership roles at SIIT

as well as Youth Initiative Committee.

What do you intend to do once you graduate?

Some of my future goals include finishing my Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Lethbridge while starting a small business and eventually complete the MBA, all very achievable!

Any tips for other students out there?

The most important lessons that helped me in a positive way, when I felt that I couldn't achieve my goals, are to be thankful, count my blessings, the power of prayers, and the only thing keeping me from my dreams/goals is my own thoughts.

Charmaine Pinacie is

following in their footsteps

Tell us a bit about your background and how you arrived at SIIT?

I am a graduate of the first year Management Studies I program offered through the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT). I am from the Muskowekwan First Nation and currently reside in Saskatoon. I moved to Saskatoon seven years ago with the intention of continuing my education. While attending SIIT I have discovered they truly honour their role of being one of the original First Nation post-secondary institutes in Canada.

Why did you choose SIIT?

I have family and friends that are graduates of SIIT and they've shared their stories, which encouraged me to register. Their stories of success have lead them to professional positions within government, corporations, and other various organizations.

What is the best thing about attending this school?

With any journey you choose in life there will always be challenges in some aspects. While attending the Management program, the support from friends, family, and administration has been very encouraging. I was given the opportunity to sit with a group in students that repre-

sented the Leadership Council (SRC), who gave all their efforts to provide a leadership role that was above and beyond their own studies. This type of leadership displays the qualities and ambition each student can obtain while attending SIIT. The highlights of my studies are too numerous to mention and will remain with me for a lifetime.

What do you intend to do once you graduate?

Currently, I am enrolled in the Management Studies II program where I will receive a Management Diploma upon completion. My goal is to attend the University of Lethbridge, where I will continue my education and complete a two year program in the area of Human Resources and Labour Relations.

Any tips for other students out there?

I get excited just thinking about the unlimited opportunities that life will have once I complete my education. "Be your own success story".



CHARMAINE PINACIE

Course Opportunities

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More Saskatchewan women taking their place at the leadership table

Women in Leadership and Management in Higher Education – Great Missenden, United Kingdom is an international event put on by The Association of Commonwealth Universities.

Twenty-five women were selected worldwide to take part in a six-day train-the-trainer course designed to, “equip women, key women with the training to empower their academic and administrative colleagues with the confidence and competence to bid for, assume or sustain positions of leadership and management in their universities.”

Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, human resource consultant, has been selected to represent the University of Saskatchewan. Wasacase-Lafferty is a member of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, now lives in Saskatoon and is the mother of two sons. She was formerly the registrar with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and has been working in human resources with the University of Saskatchewan for the past eight years.

We are seeing more women in leadership now. Why is that do you figure?

I think we are seeing more women in leadership roles because it's a natural place for Aboriginal women to be. We are often the leaders in our families and we have a great capacity for caring and commitment. Demographically, we have seen a steady increase of Aboriginal people entering the University of

Saskatchewan and of that the majority are women. So it seems natural for Aboriginal women to be taking their place at the leadership table.

What helped you get ahead in your career?

I have found a supportive work environment that is committed to my learning and development. Within my workplace I have access to many role models and both Aboriginal and non. I was thrilled to be selected to represent the University of Saskatchewan at this event and I am mostly looking forward to meeting and learning from the other participants. This conference represents the globe and many other indigenous women will be in attendance. I believe that time will show that Aboriginal people will play an increasing leadership role within all Saskatchewan workplaces because of the unique set of skills and competencies that we bring to the table.

Any words of warning for us?

Trust people until they give you a reason not to. In the beginning I found it difficult to read the workplace 'cultural signs'. Learning and adapting my culture into the dominant one takes commitment and trust. Finding a good mentor is critical. Most people are looking to share their experience with you in an honest way.

What tips do you have for young women entering the workforce?

Be courageous. Share your ideas. As Aboriginal women we have a lot to teach the mainstream workforce.



CANDACE WASACASE-LAFFERTY



EDUCATION SUMMIT

Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Rob Norris is surrounded by Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and Native Women's Association of Canada President Bev Jacobs at the opening plenary of the Ministers of Education conference held in Saskatoon in February.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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For a full calendar of events visit:
students.usask.ca/aboriginal/week

“I’m going to do a cartwheel” says soon-to-be graduate

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Tanya Kaye Wapass sounded harried. I was on my way over to photograph her and her sons for a newspaper story and she was worried the house wasn't clean enough. I tried to calm her on the phone and told her to just clean the part by the couch cause that was where we would take the photo. Save her some work.

One could see why Tanya was harried. Besides the visitor, she has to juggle seven children of a blended family while both her and her husband attend SCORE as they work towards their GEDs.

Tanya expects to hear back in a week or so if she passed her fifth and final exam.

“It is very cool,” says son Gabriel when he's asked what it's like to have mom

going to school and then graduating.

Tanya initially struggled through school.

“I always felt bad because the school work would take me so long. I struggled through school but kept on. Eventually, I learned I was dyslexic. I have learned we all learn at our own pace.”

Tanya took a very wise path down the education trail

as well. Having seven children to juggle is a two person, full-time job, but she made accommodations to ensure the kids were still number one.

“I made sure that I just took a half day course and I would not take homework home. That was kid time. But the kids are very independent and my husband really helped out,” said Kaye Wapass.

“I am excited about the future because education is the key to success. Each of our kids went to Head Start and it really helped them. My mom always believed in lifelong learning.”

In the meantime, after grad Tanya intends to go to a Bible school or to take a youth worker certificate program. Eventually she wants to work for CUMFI.

“They have so many great programs there and were really helpful to me and my family,” said Kaye

Wapass. But first, grad.

“I am excited about that. You know when I got my Grade 10 at SCORE, they really encouraged me and made me understand that on my Grade 10 diploma it said “completed”... it did not say 50 per cent in math or 63 per cent in English. It said completed. I finished it.

“I accomplished it. After that last test, I felt great.

And I am grateful that SCORE is having a grad and I get to wear that cap and that gown. This is sweet. I said I am going to do a cartwheel when I get it. I can still do those!”



Tanya keeps a good balance between her studies and the demands of a blended family of seven including four boys who are very proud of their mom. From left Keenan, Gabriel, Jeremy and Monty surround mom Tanya. Missing from the photo is husband Gabriel Sr., Jade, Anthony and Kain. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program

Free Transportation is Provided

The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program at Confederation Park Community School is accepting Pre-Kindergarten to Grade Three registrations for the 2009-2010 school year.

This unique oral fluency language and culture program is for any student wishing to learn the Cree language. The Kindergarten program is morning only and the Pre-Kindergarten program is afternoon only.

Registration forms are available at any Saskatoon Public Elementary School.

For further information call
Confederation Park Community School
3555 J.A. MacDonald Road S7L 4R9
683-7180



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Big River launches marketing co-op

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Big River is working on making Big Money – for their many community artisans. Ohpahow Wawesecikiwak Arts Marketing Co-operative Ltd. (Big River First Nations Artisan Co-op) has been founded to better serve traditional artisans, increase their profiles, and provide incomes from their abilities.

Margaret Rabbitskin has been crafting moccasins, mitts, mukluks, gloves – “whatever anyone orders” – for about 40 years.

“I just started sewing moccasins and I’d go sell them in places like Edmonton, Calgary,” Rabbitskin said in a phone interview. “I get orders from Calgary all the time – I just mailed some tobacco pouches to the Micah Gallery there.”

Rabbitskin is one of many artisan members bringing her expertise and experience to the board. According to the website, www.fnartmarket.com, there are over 60 members – ranging in age from early twenties to 92. Last spring they attended an entrepreneurship symposium, selling over \$1,400 worth of goods. They want to develop new markets, strategies for self-reliance and skill sharing, and even co-operatives in other areas, while also preserving Cree artistic culture and language. Small businesses are also being encouraged. For example, last year a market garden was planted.

Rabbitskin has worked hard at her own sales, bookkeeping, purchasing – even subcontracting out some of her work.

“I pay the daughter-in-laws to do beadwork,” she said, adding she has a very creative family. Her daughter makes outfits, another daughter-in-law sews and makes moccasins, and there are many good beadworkers among them. The co-operative could potentially offer advantages to artisans such as bulk buying to save on materials cost. Rabbitskin

notes beads, leather and hides, and other materials can get expensive.

“Fleece for lining the moccasins is \$15 a metre, even beads are expensive – with a co-operative we can maybe order and get discounts for bulk buying,” she said.

While the co-operative is still in the early stages, there is nothing small about Big River talent and skills.

“There are lots of artisans here, a lot of ladies that are doing real good beadwork – purses or other things that are fully beaded, even moccasins fully beaded.”

The website includes goals of a structured environment for transmission of traditional indigenous arts and crafts, and bringing the elders and young people of the community closer together while developing skills and stimulating economic development.

“This project is providing participants with the opportunity to learn the legal and administrative components of running a business, as we are presenting the elements of all kinds of businesses, not only the business elements of a co-operative,” said Marie Prebushewski, executive director of Thickwood Hills Business & Learning Centres.

Through the Aboriginal Business Services Network, Prebushewski provided services including workshops, training the board, and getting the co-op up and running. The requirements for a co-operative were met in June of last year, with the expected date of this March for business incorporation.

“This will greatly enhance the potential for sustainability. We are molding the model so that it will be easily transferable and adaptable in other First Nation communities as well as non-native communities,” said Prebushewski. Ideally their co-op will support local entrepreneurship, and spin-off or value-added businesses such as a small tannery, or a sewing and quilting group.



Artisan Board is (left to right) Rebecca Morin (Secretary), Hubert Whitefish, Sheila Bear, Melissa Bradfield, Margaret Rabbitskin, Celine Bear (President), Absent Curtis Bear, Treasurer. They are holding their Certificates of Recognition as founding board members. Celine is also holding the Corporations Branch Certificate which gives entity to the Ohpahow Wawesecikiwak Arts Marketing Co-operative Ltd.

Another goal is to build a relationship with hunters and outfitters to prevent the misuse of the remains of wild animals, setting up a system which salvages unused meat and hides, while providing reasonably priced material sources for the artisans.

“Right now, I’m working on little baby moccasins for the Fort McMurray Airport – they’re starting to know me and the kind of work I do,” said Rabbitskin, who sews everything by hand but the lining and the sole. “But I’m running out of leather.”

She has a back-up supplier in Alberta, but it increases her overhead – she has always wanted to run her own business but start-up costs and purchasing make it difficult. The co-operative will hopefully help these talented artisans with supply of raw materials and customers, and demand for their beautiful work.

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Government of Canada’s Rural and Co-operatives Secretariats, and the Aboriginal Business Service Network.



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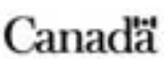
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or

Marieval Enterprise Center
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cherylynn@marieval.com





Call for Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the
Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Steering Committee.

Serving on this Steering Committee is an opportunity for you to:

- Be connected with community needs and priorities
- Ensure the community voice guides the Urban Aboriginal Strategy and echoes throughout community programs, services and policies
- Have a say in policies and programs that impact your community
- Make recommendations to government for funding in Saskatoon
- Work with community-based organizations including not-for-profits
- Contribute towards the work of the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy
- Take part in activities or training opportunities to develop personal and professional skills
- Champion the Urban Aboriginal Strategy and make a difference in the community

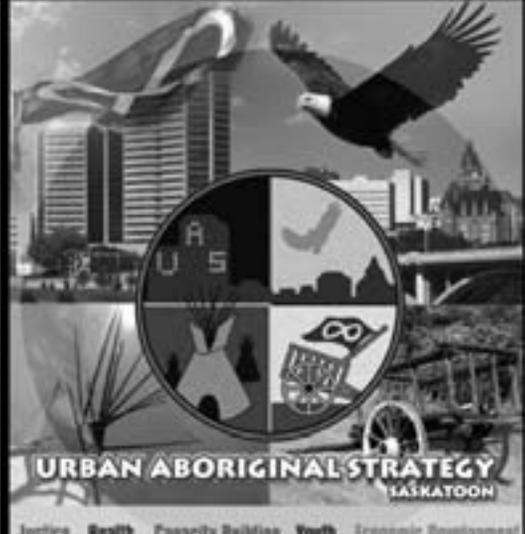
Application deadline is March 25, 2009

All Aboriginal people with a community interest, 18 years of age or older, and living in Saskatoon for at least one year are able to apply. Applications are available from Saskatoon Tribal Council, CUMFI, Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, by emailing uassaskatoon@sasktel.net or mailing Urban Aboriginal Strategy Box 9200 Saskatoon, S7K 3X5.

Selection of Committee Members and a Free Meal - Don't Miss Out!

You can have the opportunity to decide who will be members of the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy Steering Committee... and enjoy a free meal. Join us at 5:30 p.m. on April 8, 2009 at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge (602-20th St. West).

Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy is a community-based initiative developed by the Government of Canada to improve social and economic opportunities of Aboriginal people living in Saskatoon. Through the Strategy, the Government of Canada partners with the Aboriginal community, the private sector, and provincial and municipal governments to support projects that improve life skills, promote job training, skills and entrepreneurship, and support Aboriginal women, children and families.



Justice Health Capacity Building Youth Economic Development

Thunderchild put on a b-ball clinic

I feel like I've seen this before. The 2009 FSIN men's and women's basketball championships took place out in Leask, Saskatchewan.

Teams are compromised of individuals from their respective First Nations.

And the best of them all was Thunderchild. Led by the MVP performance of Michael Linklater, the boys from Thunderchild put on a basketball clinic.

They defeated the team from Mitsawasis in the final, and it was never really close. Finishing third was Muskeg Lake.

All-star Nelson Wolfe from the Muskeg team said "the tournament was awesome and the talent was crazy out there."

Other all-stars included Brad Duquette from Mistawasis, Dexter Thunder from Thunderchild, and Bevin Redman from Standing Buffalo.

The ladies from Onion Lake were named champions after defeating the Saulteaux squad.

It's been a long run for Onion Lake and it seems time that someone steps up and takes them down.

Teams from the south need to step up and host this event and put in some better teams. I know the talent is there, someone needs to organize it.

Mistawasis doesn't miss at youth championships

The FSIN youth championships took place in Saskatoon at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

Mistawasis took home top honors after beating down the White Buffalo All-Stars.

Kyle Brabant was the MVP for the team from Misty. His stellar play all weekend led his team to the title.

White Buffalo could have fielded one strong squad but instead chose to have the talent dispersed among four youth teams.

Top defender and three-point champ was Justin Daniels of Mistawasis.

See y'all at the Player's Ball

The 4th Annual Player's Ball is just around the corner. It is Saskatoon's only basketball showcase for high school players.

Tournament organizer Mike Tanton says "it's the only place for Saskatoon's premier high school players to showcase their skills for college coaches."

This year's event will take place at Bedford Road Collegiate on March 26. Game time is set for 6 p.m. for the girls

and 8:15 p.m. for the boys' game.

Leading up to the games the players from all the teams will be helping local kids with their games at the Lil' Ballers camps. It's a nice way for the participants to give back to the game they love.

Spectators will be given a chance to see some exciting things besides the camps and actual games. This year's event will include a three-point and dunk contest.

Making its debut at this year's Players Ball will be the past, present and future stars shootout. Teams in this will be asked to hit a series of shots in an allotted time. Teams will consist of past, present and future (10-12 year old youths) all-stars.

Also part of this year's Player's Ball is the social event. It takes place on March 25 and is hosted by the White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

All the girls and boys teams are invited to attend as well as this year's Huskies men's and women's basketball teams.

For more information on any of these events contact The White Buffalo Youth Lodge at (306) 653-7676.

Cougars roar, Huskie meow

The host Regina Cougars did their city proud by taking the eventual



champions from Simon Fraser all the way to the end. But it was not enough as the powerful squad from B.C. was too much for the Cougars and they went on to win a hard fought 68-62 ball game.

It was Simon Fraser's fourth C.I.S National Women's championship since 2002.

There was well over 2,000 screaming fans doing their best to cheer on the hometown Cougars who did their best and definitely left it all on the floor.

It was however a disappointing trip to Nationals yet again for the Huskies. Despite being down over 16 points, the Windsor Lady Lancers were able to come back and beat the Huskies. Handing the Huskies their second consecutive quarter-final loss at Nationals in as many years.

Random thoughts ...

I know it's been all basketball, but I still can't wait for March Madness (the absolute best month of sports all year) ... Hey Vince Lavallee, go to bed already! Best NHL trade deadline moves goes to the New York Rangers ... best new sports nickname ... wait for it ... Alex ROIDríguez ... RIPPECO!!!

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\$400.00 Entry Fee

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3rd & 4th: \$1,000.00 each
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19 & Under
16 Team Limit
\$200.00 Entry Fee

1st: \$2,000.00 Plus Jackets
2nd: \$1,000.00
3rd: \$500.00
4th: \$500.00
5th-7th: \$200.00 each

Mixed
(2 Male, 2 Female)
28 Team Limit
\$400.00 Entry Fee

1st: \$4,000.00 Plus Jackets
2nd: \$2,000.00
3rd & 4th: \$1,000.00 each
5th-8th: \$600.00 each

DEADLINE TO ENTER: APRIL 2, 2009 5:00 P.M.

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Proceeds from this event to Metis Youth & Sports Fund.

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- Self-Governance

How to Register (Early bird registration deadline is March 28th)

Registration fees include course materials and conference meals. Please fill out one registration form per participant. Fax or mail a completed form and payment to any of the following:

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies 118-335 Packham Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 4S1	Phone: (306) 244-4444 Fax: (306) 244-1381 Toll free: (800) 667-9704	Name: Sherry Krentz Email: krentzs@sit.sk.ca Web: www.sit.sk.ca
Gabriel Dumont Institute # 2 - 504 22nd Street West Saskatoon, SK S7M 5W1	Phone: (306) 657-5719 Fax: (306) 244-0252	Name: Amy Gallagher Email: amy.gallagher@gdi.gdins.org Web: www.gdins.org
First Nations University of Canada 1 First Nations Way Regina, SK S4S 7K2	Phone: (306) 790-5950 ext3357 Fax: (306) 790-5992	Name: Richard Missens Email: rmissens@firstnationsuniversity.ca Web: www.firstnationsuniversity.ca

Registration Form — Nation Building Seminar — April 29-30, 2009

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 City or Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
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Registration Fees

Before March 28 th \$150 (GST included)	After March 28 th \$200 (GST included)	Student (Sponsorships Available) School _____
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Cancellation Policy: Seminar cancellations received in writing no later than April 13th, 2009 will receive a full refund less a \$30.00 administration fee. Cancellations after this date will forfeit the full registration fee. Program and speakers are subject to change.



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we gain enthusiastic employees who may eventually consider a career in the public service."

There are a wide range of jobs available at Crowns including SGI, SaskTel, SaskEnergy, SaskPower, SaskWater, Information Services Corporation, STC and Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation.

The majority of the jobs run from May through August. Students are encouraged to apply on-line at the various Crowns as the hiring process begins very soon.

Gradworks offers recent post-secondary graduates a 12-month internship within the network of the province's Crowns. More information on these programs is available at www.cicorp.sk.ca.

For more information on Crown summer jobs, visit <http://www.sasktel.com/>; <http://www.saskenergy.com/>; <http://www.sgi.sk.ca/>; <http://www.saskpower.com/>; <http://www.stcbus.com/>; <http://www.innovationplace.com/> or <http://www.isc.ca/>.

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Venice House Pizza Prince Albert & Melfort Food Counter Attendants/ Kitchen Helpers (NOC 6641)	
Email resume to: gy@sasktel.net No phone calls please.	

HELP WANTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10.80 per hour • Grade 12 or equivalent and some post secondary • One year plus training and/or experience in the hospitality sector preferred • Various shifts
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Arts Grants

Application Deadlines

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS INITIATIVE — CONTEMPORARY ARTS GRANT

Supports Indigenous artists to work on new contemporary and/or traditional projects that may include one or more art forms. The maximum grant available is \$6,000. Applications will also be considered for Emerging Aboriginal Artists awards provided by the 2005 Canada Games Building Dreams and Champions Legacy Program.

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 15, 2009

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS INITIATIVE — TRADITIONAL ARTS GRANT

Supports practicing Indigenous artists to work in traditional cultural mediums such as beading, birch bark biting, dancing, storytelling and drumming. The maximum grant available is \$6,000.

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 15, 2009

APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:30 P.M. ON THE DEADLINE DATE.

Complete application forms and guidelines are available on our website: www.artsboard.sk.ca.

For more information or to discuss applications, contact:


SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD
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Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 1Y6
Phone: (306) 787-4056 (Regina)
(306) 964-1155 (Saskatoon)
(800) 667-7526 (Saskatchewan)
Fax: (306) 787-4199
Email: grants@artsboard.sk.ca
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Métis Nation-Saskatchewan registry on track

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Deb Donaldson, newly hired Director of Registry for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is working to carry out the mandate of the organization to once and for all implement a registry process which is tamper proof and unquestionable by anyone, but still serves the membership from the roots up and reflects the reality of the community.

"The development of an objectively verifiable MN-S Citizenship Registry is vital to the credibility of the MN-S," said Donaldson, who is currently initiating community consultation in rural areas – to relay information and gain input as to how the process will unfold.

She added it will formalize and clarify citizenship requirements, aid in the accurate return of statistical data on Métis citizenship, and provide a basis for improving quality of life for all Métis people in Saskatchewan.

Donaldson noted official numbers from sources such as Statistics Canada are often misleading.

"The Statistics Canada 2006 Census reports there are 48,120 Métis in Saskatchewan," said Donaldson.

Colleague Julie Wriston, MN-S communications director, said their office estimates this number is likely closer to 100,000 or more, and very little accurate data is gathered on Métis peoples.

Using an objectively verifiable process based on a national definition adopted in 2002 as "a person who self-identifies, is distinct from other Aboriginal groups, has historic Métis ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis nation", this new registry process will clearly identify rights holders beyond question.

Adapted from a successful Alberta model, it will feature a state-of-the-art database, but Wriston adds MN-S is "literally – governed from the ground up and we need input to see how they want to see the process shaped."

It is being set up in such a way that it will never have to be done again, and she added they are proceeding carefully so no members are disenfranchised through the definitions.

"There will be no questions about who they are and what it means to be Métis," noted Wriston. Other benefits include a strengthened electoral process. "Out of the database we can get information to voting members immediately, nobody is missed, and there'll be no question that the ballots aren't right."

The registry process will strengthen the Métis Nation provincially and nationally – all governing provinces are using the same format, ideally leading to a national membership and registry to represent a unified rights-bearing Aboriginal group at the highest levels.

"Métis are a distinct group, with distinct governance and a distinct way of doing things," noted Wriston, adding this



Deb Donaldson and Julie Wriston Nolin have taken the challenge to build a registry and improve communications for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

ensures they will be recognized properly within Canada and share in the prosperity of the country.

"Once implemented, it will have a trickle down effect - the duty to consult, harvesting, and allowed rights."

Although the idea to create database systems which are objectively verifiable was based on the Supreme Court-Powley ruling, which focused on harvesting, it opens the doors for other rights such as educational and economic funding and the duty to consult, and ensures representation from a crucial group of stakeholders across the country.

"Objectively verifiable means the integrity of the process, and resulting identification, is recognized by all stakeholders," said Wriston.

March and April will see the final implementation of the system ratified through Métis Nation Legislative Assembly internal governance process once community consultation has been completed.

"In order to make the registry reliable and above question by anyone, all Métis citizens in the registry must be proven to have gone through the same reliable tamper proof process that confirms they meet the MN-S definition of Métis."

Applicants must collect their family tree from sources such as Métis land or money scrips, birth records, church records, provincial genealogical societies, and most importantly – long birth forms wherever possible.

MN-S is working at partnering with vital statistics, hoping to expedite the process through covering costs and reduced waits to reduce burdens on applicants. The central office is just starting up in Saskatoon, and will be staffed by intake officers with a 1-800 number to deal with applications and harvesting inquiries, followed by establishing regional offices.

There will also be an appeals process in place, just in case it is needed.

"Our objective is to have the citizenship add to this so their concerns and needs are met and they're comfortable with the process," said Wriston, adding this will add value to the entire province by addressing past contributions, and a

continued willingness to partner, from the Métis community.

"We have indigenous and cultural knowledge to give to the general public ... right now there's this feeling of separation – if we can identify the commonalities it will help everyone heal and come together in a better way."

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Excellent turnout for FSIN's March wellness conference

By Faith McLean
Of Eagle Feather News

More than 1,100 people braved the extreme cold to attend a health conference in early March.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations held their "When Families Heal Children Thrive" Family Wellness Health Conference at the Saskatoon Inn. Despite the cold temperatures the conference was well attended.

"We planned for 500 participants and received 1,100," said Vice-Chief Glen Pratt.

"It shows the demand for wellness and healing is there. Now if we could just convince government to give us the capacity and resources to begin reconciliation.

What made this conference unique

was that it brought together all members of the family to attend various workshops throughout the weekend.

"This conference is amazing, interesting. I got to meet new friends. This is like a home away from home. It's almost as good as a round dance," said Tyler Bear, 17, of the Witchekan Lake First Nation.

The youth were taught activities that focused on cultural activities. Hands on healers featured alternative therapy for pain and energy.

The focus of the workshops was on wellness and healing and included such topics as mental health consultation, residential schools, non-insured health benefits, learning to have fun, gang awareness, treaty perspective and health transfer. A total of 19 workshops offered throughout the weekend.



(Top Right) Participants enjoyed a round dance as one of the many activities during the March health conference. (Bottom right) Sharon Yuzicappi, social worker and Beverly Yuzicappi, teacher, Standing Buffalo First Nation participated in the FSIN health conference held in Saskatoon.

(Photos by Faith McLean)

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Campeau puts the run on diabetes

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

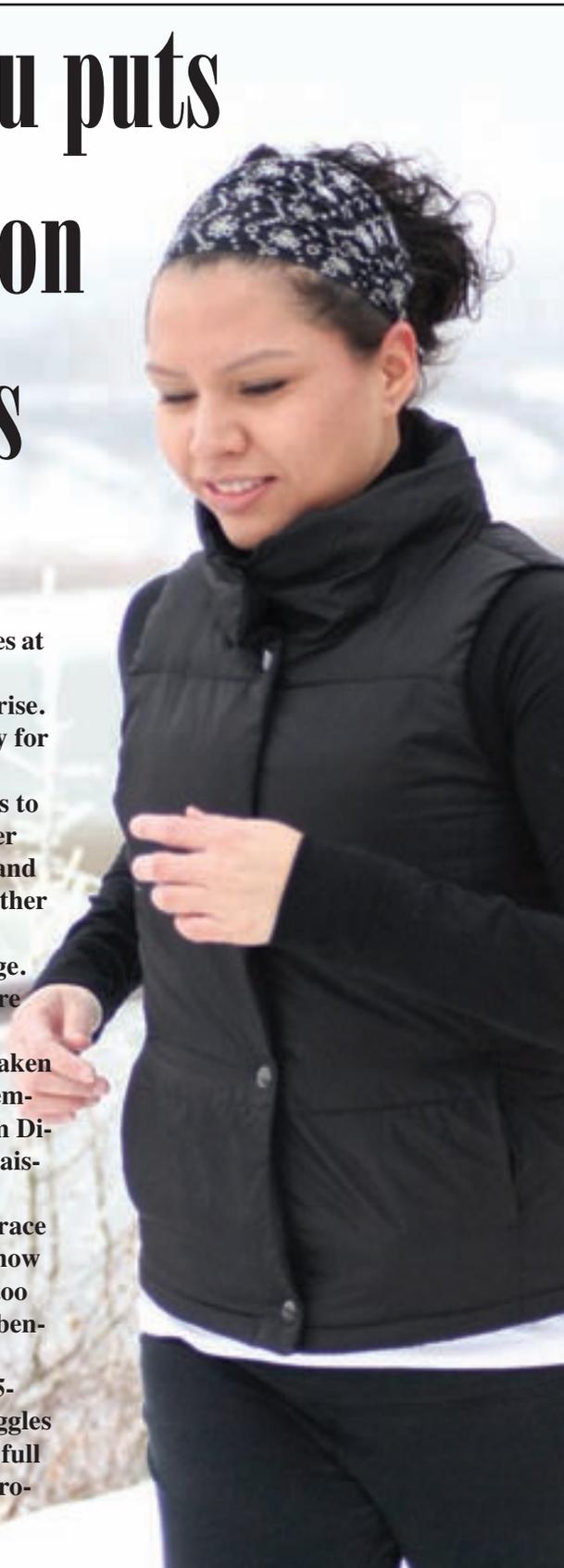
Jennifer Campeau was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 30.

It wasn't really a surprise. Diabetes runs in the family for Campeau whose maternal grandparents both lost legs to the ravages of diabetes. Her cousin went blind from it and was on dialysis, and her father died from diabetes related heart disease at a young age.

"My mom and sister are affected by it too," adds Campeau who has really taken the cause to heart. In December, she will run with Team Diabetes in the annual fundraising marathon in Hawaii.

"I decided to join this race and fundraise because I know the impact of diabetes all too well. Plus I also know the benefits of an active lifestyle."

A single mother of a 15-year-old girl, Campeau juggles motherhood, training and full time studies in the MBA Program at the University of Saskatchewan.



"Time management is the key. There is not enough time during the day. There are a lot of sacrifices in my personal life and I usually sacrifice sleep. I miss it," she added.

Her choice three years ago to take control of her health included running.

"When I was diagnosed I was not active and overweight. I had to take a huge amount of pills a day to control it.

"I started to run and really watch my diet. I did a 10K in the summer, a half marathon this September and my goal now is the marathon in December. If I eat right and run, I don't get any symptoms and I don't take pills anymore."

With a diploma in Business Administration from SIIT and a bachelor of management degree from the University of Lethbridge, Campeau wanted to come home to get her MBA and the University was a natural landing place. And she wants to fill a niche that really need filling.

"I want to work with Aboriginal communities in economic development. Many people have taken advantage of our communities over the years," said Campeau.

"I want to stop that. There is a big need for our people in business and there are more of us coming."

Campeau has found running has kept her focused on achieving goals.

"It feels great to feel healthy. I can wear clothes I couldn't wear before. I look younger. I feel better and my moods have leveled off. My blood sugar has leveled off and I was able to get off the medication ... everything.

"That is what I am doing in my education as well I guess. Keep trying to hit higher levels. That's why I am running that marathon in December."

Campeau sticks to her regular running, studies and breaking in the new dog, all the while keeping her eye on the prize, personal achievement and good health and the benefits of that.

"You know, I want to see my grandchildren graduate university. My grandparents aren't here to see me."

Jennifer Campeau goes to Hawaii in December, but is fundraising already. You can email Jennifer at jec346@mail.usask.ca or go to the Team Diabetes website www.teamdiabetes.ca

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Shared Management Board to move Batoche plan forward

Partnership talks between the federal government and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan have led to the re-establishment of the Batoche Shared Management Board. This confirms a role for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan in ensuring the commemorative integrity of Batoche National Historic Site.

"The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan remains committed to building a society where all Canadians and Métis alike can thrive in the knowledge they have contributed to this great country called Canada," said Robert Doucette, President, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.

"We are pleased to sign this Shared Management Agreement and would like to thank the Honourable Minister Jim Prentice for looking at an innovative relationship where all parties benefit."

The Board will participate in the development and implementation of the site management plan and business plan including the planning and development of the heritage presentation program.

The Board will also play an active role in the development of Métis employment, training and volunteer programs at the site.

"The Government of Canada is committed to working in partnership for the conservation and commemoration

of nationally significant heritage areas and Batoche is no exception. Batoche played a pivotal role in defining our nation during its formative years and remains an icon of Métis culture and history," said member of Parliament Mr. Brad Trost, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Canada's environment minister and minister responsible for Parks Canada.

"This agreement ensures the Métis community, through the Shared Management Board, plays a vital and active role in the preservation of this cultural and historic legacy for both the Métis and all Canadians, present and future."

The site of a once thriving Métis community, Batoche was designated as a national historic site of Canada in 1923.

Batoche was also the site of the armed conflict between the Métis provisional government and the Canadian government in 1885, a turning point for the development of Western Canada and one whose effects still resonate today.

Batoche National Historic Site of Canada is part of a system of national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas that is recognized as one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected areas in the world.



MN-S President Robert Doucette signs the agreement as Senator Roy Fosseneuve shakes hands with MP Brad Trost. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



JIGGING TIME

Two participants in the Saskatoon Friendship Centre annual jigging competition kick up their heels. It was the eighth annual contest and is hosted by the Friendship Centre youth group.

(Photo by Marcel Petit)

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