

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

After nine years as Vice Chief and another one campaigning, on October 29, Guy Lonechild finally realized his dream of becoming the Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Lonechild new chief of FSIN

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A new chief, a new era. Chief Guy Lonechild spoke those words often throughout his year-long campaign, and it apparently paid off for him. On October 29, he was elected the new chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations at the fall legislative assembly in Saskatoon.

After he won, he told the crowd it was time for a brighter, more loving future.

“Let’s pray together and build this to be a stronger federation of nations. Your nation. Your time. It’s your commitment that you put into these processes to be what they are.”

It was a close battle that pitted the incumbent Chief

Lawrence Joseph against three contenders: Muskowekwan First Nation Chief Reg Bellerose, Red Pheasant First Nation Chief Sheldon Wuttunee, and former vice-chief Lonechild from the Whitebear First Nation.

Unlike most recent municipal elections that had dismal voter turnout, voter turnout for these FSIN elections was 95 per cent on the first ballot, 90 per cent on the second, and 87 per cent on the third.

It was anyone’s game to win after the first round of voting. Bellerose had the lowest number of votes with 175 so he was dropped from the ballot. Ahead of him were Joseph with 213, Lonechild with 234, and Wuttunee with 238. Bellerose never officially said who his camp was backing after he was out of the running.

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YEAR OF METIS

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Eagle Feather News has won a prestigious ABEX Award for Aboriginal Business of the Year.
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Emile Highway of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation is now at the helm of the Native Veterans Association.
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VERSATILE CARDINAL

Perhaps best known for his TV work, Lorne Cardinal is equally at home on the stage.
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OH CANADA

Aileen Searson had the crowd in tears singing Oh Canada in Cree when the Olympic Torch came to La Ronge.
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Welcome to our
Our Warriors Issue
Coming In December :
Christmas - Newsmaker of the Year
CPMA #40027204

Joseph gracious in defeat, throws support behind Lonechild

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After the second round, Joseph garnered the fewest votes with 194. Wuttunee earned 286, and Lonechild had 351.

Immediately after the ballot results were announced, Joseph and Lonechild disappeared into a room before emerging about five minutes later. Together they worked their way through the crowd, shaking hands with people. Then they met reporters outside on the front steps of TCU Place where Joseph surprised many by throwing his support behind Lonechild, first shaking his hand and then hugging him.

"This is the guy I'm going to be endorsing, Vice Chief Guy Lonechild. I've worked with him for nine years, he's got the ability. I think he's got the best interests of our First Nations at hand," the defeated Chief declared.

"I know him, and I think it would be right for the province of Saskatchewan. For a new leader, it's a new era, new challenges, let's give him a test."

In the third and final ballot, Lonechild received 464 votes, giving him a comfortable margin over Wuttunee who earned 328.

Supporters hugged Lonechild as he pumped his fist in the air. Wuttunee wove his way through the crowd to congratulate Lonechild on his victory and gave a



A former Vice Chief, Dutch Lerat is now back on the FSIN executive.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

moving concession speech calling for unity. The crowd jumped to its feet and gave him a standing ovation. He went on to praise Lonechild.

"Guy's been my friend for a very long time. And we talked very early on in the

campaign, to keep things clean, to be friends. We touched base every couple of weeks, and I'm proud to call you my friend, and I'll continue to support you."

During his campaign and in the days following it, Lonechild spoke about

getting more women into leadership roles. He said the two years until the next round of elections for vice chiefs is too long to wait. At the next assembly in February, Lonechild plans on asking chiefs to consider electing a woman as Saskatchewan's Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, which recently happened in British Columbia.

Also elected at the fall assembly were incumbent Morley Watson as First Vice Chief, and Dutch Lerat, who defeated incumbent Glen Pratt to become Third Vice Chief.

Lerat didn't shy away from the controversy he knew was associated with his name from years ago when he was chief executive officer of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority. He was accused of financial shenanigans involving hundreds of thousands of dollars. Lerat was never charged but was forced to leave his position.

"I'm humbled, very humbled by the support I've got. I'm grateful for the support that I've got. The last 10 years have been a challenge for both me and my family, and the confidence that the Assembly places in me to advance their issues and their agenda again, I'm very grateful for that, and I will work hard for them."



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2010 designated Year of the Métis

By Michael Bell
For Eagle Feather News

The year 2010 will be known as the “Year of the Métis” in Saskatchewan. The provincial declaration will acknowledge and celebrate the history and accomplishments of the Métis Nation and to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

Throughout 2010, monthly events will be held across Saskatchewan that will highlight aspects of Métis culture and history. The declaration was recently made official during a public ceremony that was held in the Saskatchewan legislature on Nov. 4, 2009.

The legislature’s 2nd floor rotunda was filled with hundreds of visitors, numerous dignitaries, and Métis dancers. Bill Hutchinson, minister of First Nations and Métis relations, presided over the ceremony and called on Premier Brad Wall to speak before the crowd.

Wall praised the leadership of Métis Nation - Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette, and referred to the legacy and contributions that Métis people have made to Saskatchewan and Canada.

“Sadly these contributions have gone unheralded by the rest of us. Today we’ll take at least a small step in changing that,” Wall said.

“It is my great pleasure to present the official proclamation announcing 2010 as the Year of the Métis.

At this the crowd burst with excited cheers and a lengthy applause.

The declaration is offered in the spirit of friendship, respect and a commitment to advance the priorities of the Métis Nation, Wall said.

“During the coming year, it’s my sincere hope that we can raise awareness of the pivotal role the Métis have played in shaping this province, and the role they are going to play in the future in partnership with government and industry,” Wall said.

Robert Doucette was next to speak. Doucette referred to the Northwest Resistance as a low point for the Métis Nation. He added that the “Year of the Métis” declaration signaled the beginning of an era of reconciliation and interdependence.

“As Métis people, we cannot turn inward, but must move forward with the government and citizens of the province seeking common ground on common problems working together for common solutions,” Doucette said.

The rest of Canada and its provinces can learn from this declaration, and should follow Saskatchewan’s recognition of the Métis, Doucette said.

In an unguarded moment that elicited warm applause from the audience, Doucette said, “I’m shaking right now, because I’m just a man from Buffalo Narrows that was born in a little white hospital and I never thought I’d be here one day.”

The ceremony ended with Métis music, dancing and gifts that Doucette, Wall and Hutchinson exchanged.

Doucette later fielded questions from reporters and was asked what “The Year of the Métis” means in relation to Métis identity and the Northwest Resistance.

There is a fixation on 1885 and the Resistance, Doucette said.

“What about the rest of the story?”

Doucette referred to other Métis leaders like Joseph Dion (Alberta Métis leader from the ‘30s) and Joe Z. LaRocque, a Saskatchewan Métis leader from the ‘30s and other Métis political advancements since 1885.

“God bless Louis Riel, and Gabriel and all of our ancestors for doing what they’ve done, but now, 2010 will ensure that the rest of the story is told, and for me that’s great.”



Métis Nation - Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette, Bill Hutchinson, minister of First Nations and Métis Relations and Premier Brad Wall hold a plaque commemorating the Year of the Métis. (Photo Gaylene Poulin)



The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan along with the
Province of Saskatchewan is proud to
proclaim 2010 as the

Year of the Métis

Have you registered yet? This is a vital step in helping the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan establish a citizen list. If you haven't done so yet, please call 1-888-203-6959 to register.



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Editorial

We've done it!

An ABEX Award for EFN!

Well, it has been a good month for us here at Eagle Feather News. We were fortunate to receive an award for Aboriginal Business at the 26th Annual Achievement in Business Excellence (ABEX) Awards Dinner.

The event is hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and businesses from around the province enter 14 different categories ranging from exports to community involvement.

We thought we had no chance as we were up against a First Nation owned drilling company and a big grocery distributor that serves and supports over 50 band stores in the province. When Justice Minister Don Morgan read our name as the winner of the ABEX, our table let out a big cheer and a sigh of relief.

The cheer was because we won something and were recognized for all of the hard work that everyone associated with Eagle Feather News and Aboriginal Consulting Services does every month – and has done for the past 12 years – to make this province a better place for all people to live in.

And the sigh of relief came as several worried that this table of half breeds and Indians may go and pull a Kanye West on the award sponsor if we did not win. That would have been hard to explain. Thankfully we never had to go 1885 on them.

There are so many people to thank for our success and the strongest support comes from the family support that we have had. From moms lending money, to the unending support of my partner, Deirdra Ness, without the family support we could not have made five years in business, let alone a dozen. Of course, the kids have helped too by giving motivation to their dad to make them proud and to also feed them.

Aboriginal Consulting Services would not be around without the vision of our clients who want to engage and do business with Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. The seminars we deliver with Iron Wolf Consulting and Winston McLean have started to change workplaces and the province when it comes to aboriginal employment and business.

Eagle Feather News would also not be so eagerly anticipated every month without the steady hand, mentoring and vision of Warren Goulding as the paper has evolved in look, feel and readability.

Faith McLean has been an awesome sales manager, community liaison, writer, photographer and friend. And we have gathered one of the best and diverse group of columnists and writers of any paper in Saskatchewan and we count our lucky stars daily for their talent and contributions.

The folks at Transcontinental who put the ink to paper are also fantastic people and even better printers.

And, of course, we would be nothing without the advertisers that keep our paper afloat. Advertising is our sole source of revenue for the paper. The folks who buy ads in Eagle Feather News allow us to continue bringing you the balanced and independent news from the aboriginal community throughout Saskatchewan.

And thanks to our readers who always have a word for us in the community. Either way we enjoy the feedback and being able to stimulate your minds and conversation. Thanks to all for reading and sticking with us. And thanks to the provincial Chamber of Commerce for hosting the ABEX Awards. And for picking us. Megwitch

Final thoughts on the Assembly

Good job Chief Guy Lonechild. The atmosphere has changed already. But we are angry here at Eagle Feather News and we are on the hunt for the scalawag that stole an Eagle Feather News T-shirt off our table at the booth at the Assembly.

We were all inside watching speeches and some rat absconded with our shirt for goodness sake. We are sure it will make you look good but hopefully feel guilty. The lucky person who won the draw for the T-shirt is Roxanne La Vallee from MLCN. Roxanne, expect a call and a nice T-shirt in the mail.



Don Morgan, Minister of Justice presents the Aboriginal Business Award to John Lagimodiere, President of ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services and Publisher of Eagle Feather News. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)



Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour presents the New Venture Award to Robert Fleming, President and General Manager, Team Drilling and Napoleon Mercredi, member of Team Drilling's Board of Directors. (Photo Sask Chamber of Commerce)

Eagle Feather
NEWS

THE
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Aboriginal Business

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THIS ISSUE...LAST ISSUE...PAST ISSUES.

New war is tearing our communities apart

Another Remembrance Day comes along. My recollections of the memories told by my older relatives about their war time experiences are rekindled.

My grandparents and uncles never missed attending Remembrance Day ceremonies. Wherever they were, they tried to find one hosted by Native people. But they were also active in local Legions so if they couldn't find a Native ceremony they'd hang out with their Legion buddies.

We have photos of our grandparents at the Legion in the early 70s – Gramps doing “cheers” with his buddies and our grandmother sitting with the ladies wearing her beaded doe-skin dress. I asked her why she wore her traditional dress to a Legion where all the men were drinking and she told me she never wanted them to forget who we are, that they fought for our Native land, and that our people volunteered.

She said she and gramps were always treated with respect and consideration at the Legion. She figured it was because during the wars the men on the

front lines had to trust each other. So they put aside their prejudices. She wanted to make sure they never forgot all that.

Back in our grandparents days it was easy to identify the enemy. When war breaks out you're on one side or the other, there is no grey area.

When they returned from war they took on enemies on the home front—the federal and provincial governments for the ways they treated our people, the federal government for not living up to its Treaty obligations, the racism that prevented them from sharing in the wealth and opportunities that our lands provided all Canadians.

The home front battles continue as each generation takes on the responsibility for defending our Inherent/Aboriginal and Treat Rights. Our victories include Constitutional recognition, TLE and other claims settlements, delegated administrative authority, economic

development activities, social and cultural programs, better education and employment opportunities, and, some would add, lots of money to support political organizations whose job it is to continue the fight.

Some Old People say that they don't think we've made much progress since our grandparents' time

because we've found ourselves in a different kind of war these days.

It's a war that our ancestors prophesied and it's tearing our communities apart.

It comes from apathy, social breakdown, welfare mentality, drugs, alcohol and gambling addictions, greed, and the old “crabs in a bucket” syndrome to name just a few.

We spend just as much, if not more time, fighting each other than we spend fighting collectively to protect our children and get our Inherent and Treaty

Rights implemented. The lost kids in the street gangs reflect what is happening on different scales throughout our communities.

We've learned well the “master's” tools of domination and have turned them on ourselves. It's called internalized colonialism and its doing more damage than anything thrown at us by others.

The leaders we choose to represent us, and their actions, reflect the priorities and goals of the majority of the people. So think about that the next time you cast a vote.

Congratulations to Guy Lonechild for winning the FSIN election. Many are sending their prayers for your good health and that you take on your job with humility, selflessness, gentleness, generosity, integrity, courage, fairness, honesty, prayer and love for your people.

We have great hope that you will clean up our institutions and pull out of program delivery as you promised, and that you will run our political watchdog organization with honest transparency and accountability.



Introspection
Winona Wheeler

Self-determination trumps bureaucratic decision-making

The Aboriginal nations or ‘peoples’ – it does not matter much here what they are called – face big challenges in deciding who we are.

For one thing, political organizations, in the case of the Métis people, and federal legislation, in the case of the ‘Indian’ or ‘First Nation’ people, have set up definitions for their own purposes.

If the idea of self-determination, an idea that informs the right of self-determination of all peoples in international law, is to mean anything, Aboriginal people must decide on self-identity as a core feature of self-determination. In other words, an Aboriginal people must decide who belongs on its own terms.

The first challenge comes from government and the courts. Government politicians and bureaucrats love to tell people what to do for their own good, and the judges will happily undertake to make decisions for people who ask them. This has already started with the Powley decision in the case of the Métis, and the McIvor decision for the Indian people in the Indian Act.

Another challenge comes from the fact Canada is a federal system organized as provinces. The political power of provinces trumps Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Treaties are discussed or negotiated along provincial lines and not along Treaty nation boundaries. Métis political organizations all organize themselves along provincial boundaries for practical

reasons. Some call themselves provincial nations.

Much attention is focused on the role of Métis provincial organizations in trying to sort out who belongs to the Métis nation in Western Canada in part because there is no official way for the federal government to recognize the Métis people as there is for the Indian people. Membership in a provincial political organization is not necessarily the same thing as belonging to a rights-bearing Métis nation.

A strategy to get the federal government to recognize the Métis nation should involve governments because that is necessary, but the decision on who belongs is entirely up to a self-determining people. Self-determination requires self-definition and identification.

Currently, some Métis organizations base their membership codes on the identification of a Métis ancestor. It is not possible to determine that a person is a Métis from the fact there is a Métis ancestor. Some organizations even base Métis identity on an Aboriginal ancestor from any nation. As a matter of science it is not possible to determine that a person is an Aboriginal person based upon ancestry or DNA.

To believe that a person is a Métis because of a Métis ancestor is as reasonable as a belief that a registered Indian is a White person because of a White ancestor.

Another problem is the encouragement or even the requirement that applicants for membership in Métis organizations produce a government document called a ‘long-form’ birth certificate. Whatever merit that might have for identifying folks the organization likes to have in it, a government document is not the most uplifting or inspiring source of authority for identifying those who

belong to an historic Aboriginal nation. This overlooks the ideas of self-sufficiency and self-determination which demand that we determine who belongs. A self-sufficient approach would rely on our Elders and others who know who belongs to our families and communities. Even in English common law customary law was proved based on the word of Elders.

There are practical ways to decide who belongs to each Aboriginal nation in Canada, whether Inuit, Métis or Indian. A workable approach might begin by identifying those communities who belong in agreements with governments,

and move from there to decide who belongs to those communities.

In the case of Indian or First Nations people, the Indian Act already identifies the starting point. The practice of starting by identifying individuals will not work if the goal is to identify communities or nations with recognized legal rights.

An absolute requirement is that federal policy be geared to accord recognition to Indian, Métis and Inuit in one comprehensive process, or at the same time. There must be no government inducements such as medical or educational benefits for people to choose one identity over another.

The historic maladministration of the Indian Act registration and membership code has made it impossible to build a Métis definition at the boundary of Indian definition.

We live in a historic time when Aboriginal people are moving from the sidelines to participate in public life and to explore options for self-sufficiency and self-determination.

Some wrong turns are inevitable. The task of identifying those who belong to rights-bearing nations is the right of each people or nation. It is a task that must be undertaken with a sense of self-sufficiency even in a process of cooperation with governments.

If we do not do it ourselves, the bureaucrats and the judges will only be too happy to do it for us.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

Ego without end, James Ray and the Sedona sweat lodge deaths

In October, three people died in Sedona, Arizona attending a pseudo sweat lodge conducted by multi-millionaire self-help guru James Ray.

Another 19 were hospitalized with ailments ranging from heat exhaustion to organ failure. Two died at the scene while a third died after being in a coma for several days. All had been physically fit prior to joining the retreat.

Each member paid \$10,000 US including tax for a five day "Spiritual Warrior" experience that netted Ray in excess of \$500,000. They spent time alone in the desert fasting without food nor water. When they complained of the cold desert night Ray offered them coats at \$275 a piece. Ray's program was designed to be rigorous, pushing individuals past their perceived limitations.

At the time of the Sedona tragedy Ray was a multi-millionaire and a best selling author demanding and receiving high fees for his speaking engagements. He was featured in the movie, "The Secret" and had been a guest on the Oprah Winfrey show. His self-help philosophy included not only spiritual enlightenment but financial fulfillment based on his personnel experience. His teachings attracted an audience of financially secure all-too-willing followers. He had reached a pinnacle of success that was to crumble with the disturbing events of the death lodge night.

Sixty-four people crowded into a "sweat lodge" 20 feet cross and four feet high. The lodge was constructed of oak trees covered in canvas and plastic sheeting. Ray sat by the door and was the first to receive fresh air when the lodge door opened through six of eight planned rounds.

Survivors' accounts agree Ray kept the lodge going despite their pleas. Participants were passing out, vomiting blood and foaming at the mouth. Some went into convulsions, others had stopped breathing and two had likely died before the New Age sweat was over. When the rear cover of the lodge was lifted to allow cool air in, Ray was reportedly upset and demanded it be closed, calling the opening "a sacrilege". When informed a woman had passed out Ray was also said to have told them to leave her alone and he would deal with her at the next door opening.

The lodge ended abruptly with the participants lying on the ground disoriented, sick, two dying and another in a

coma, her kidneys failing. Ray made no effort to help and it was a participant who eventually called 911. When police and medical help arrived Ray refused to talk with police and instead left the area on a flight out of state.



Common Ground
John Cuthand

Among the dead were James Shore, 40, of Milwaukee, Kirby Brown, 38, of Westtown NY and Liz Neumann, 49, of Prior Lake Minnesota.

Despite these deaths Ray continued to conduct his seminars. His publishers refused to release his new books and an ongoing police investigation will likely indict him. Even so Ray continues to advertise ongoing seminars including the infamous Spiritual Warrior seminar slated for 2010 again in Sedona. He most recently sold his home for a reported \$5.6 million.

Ray's apologies were shallow and self-centered. Nothing in his comments admitted to any legal wrongdoing. He said the ten days following the tragedy were the hardest of his life. This tragedy, however, did not stop him from continuing his most lucrative business. In keeping with the principles of his self-help philosophy, he kept his seminars going.

Attempts to confront him directly at these sessions were deflected and outspoken critics were escorted from the room to the jeers of James Ray's diehard supporters.

The money continued to flow even as the tears of the grieving families flowed. Ray only cancelled his business schedule when a series of lawsuits were filed against him. His legal problems are expected to multiply as police lay charges and a flood of lawsuits follow.

It is unknown who, if anyone, passed on the right to make the bogus sweat lodge now known as the James "Death Ray" Lodge.

As of press time no formal charges have been laid. James Ray's faltering empire is forever tainted by these deaths.

In the words of one disenchanted follower. "We believed in him but did we have to die for him?"



Having Problems?

Are you having a misunderstanding or difference of opinion with a **provincial government ministry (department), agency, board, commission, or Crown corporation?** Do you think they are being unfair to you?

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Step 2

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METIS ENTERTAINERS

The music of guitarist Phil Boyer and fiddlers Donny Parenteau and Dallas Boyer filled the second floor rotunda of the provincial legislative building as the Riel Reelers did the Red River Jig to celebrate 2010 being proclaimed the Year of the Métis. (Photos by Michael Bell)

Where's Cameco?

Cameco
Northern Tour
2009

Cameco
cameco.com

Visiting with you.

Cameco will be visiting 10 northern communities in the coming month.

Come join us for a meal and discussion about our plans for Cameco's northern operations in 2010 and beyond.

We will be talking about how we continue to invest in our current mine operations – McArthur River, Key Lake and Rabbit Lake – while we make progress on Cigar Lake and Millennium, our two major development projects.

We want to hear your thoughts on our northern operations.

CENTRAL REGION			
Date	Time	Community	Location
Tues. Nov. 17	6 - 9 pm	La Ronge/Air Ronge	JRMCC
Wed. Nov. 18	6 - 9 pm	Pinehouse	Minahik Waskahigan School Gym
Thur. Nov. 19	6 - 9 pm	Patuanak	St. Louis School Gym
WEST SIDE			
Date	Time	Community	Location
Tues. Nov. 24	6 - 9 pm	Buffalo Narrows	Twin Lakes School Gym
Wed. Nov. 25	6 - 9 pm	Ile a la Crosse	Rossignol High School Gym
Thur. Nov. 26	6 - 9 pm	Beauval	Valley View School Gym
ATHABASCA BASIN			
Date	Time	Community	Location
Mon. Nov. 30	6 - 9 pm	Fond du Lac	Father Gamache Memorial School Gym
Tues. Dec. 1	noon - 2:30 pm	S.R./J.C./Cam.	Stony Rapids School Gym
Tues. Dec. 1	6 - 9 pm	Black Lake	Father Porte Memorial Dene School Gym
Wed. Dec. 2	6 - 9 pm	Wollaston Lake	Father Megret High School Gym

Office of the Treaty Commissioner celebrates 20th anniversary

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

In order to fulfill treaty land agreements made over 100 years ago, the Province of Saskatchewan created the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in 1989.

Three years later the Province and 24 First Nations in Saskatchewan signed the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement – a document that ensured First Nations would receive the land promised to them in the original Treaty.

Since 1992, Entitlement First Nations

have received roughly \$595 million to purchase up to 2.28 million acres of land to add to their reserve land base.

“Treaty Land Entitlement is the story of a Treaty promise fulfilled, a story filled with benefit for Saskatchewan,” said Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight.

To celebrate 20 years of making things right, The Office of the Treaty Commissioner announced the creation of the Legacy Program, an educational tool intended to explore the history of Treaty Land Entitlement and its impacts on First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

The Legacy Program will publish a

book detailing the history of Treaty Land Entitlement for educational and public use, produce a four-part video accompanied by a teacher’s resource guide and construct a permanent display at The Office of the Treaty Commissioner that

reflects the importance of the Treaty Relationship.

“The Legacy Program is intended to be of lasting public education value for the citizens of Canada and Saskatchewan,” McKnight said.



Former Chiefs, Commissioners and dignitaries attended the banquet.

(Photo by Kevin Hogarth)



Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo attended. (Photo by Kevin Hogarth)



Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight and FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

SaskEnergy Delivery Rate Application Call for Public Comments and Submissions

SaskEnergy is seeking an increase to the Delivery Service rates it charges to deliver natural gas to its customers. The proposed rate increase, if approved, would take effect in January 2010.

The proposed increase would affect three of four customer classes, as follows:

• Residential	\$2.10 per month
• General Service I	\$1.25 per month
• General Service II	\$13.30 per month
• Small Industrial	no change

SaskEnergy’s Delivery Service rates consist of two components shown on customer bills. The **Basic Monthly Charge** is a set dollar amount per month, and relates to the fixed costs (service line, meter reading and account administration) associated with providing gas delivery service to customers. The **Delivery Charge** varies monthly with the volume of natural gas used by each customer, and relates to the cost of transportation, storage, distribution and system maintenance.

SaskEnergy is requesting an increase only to the Basic Monthly Charge. This application does not include any change to the Delivery Charge component. The third portion of the customer bill is the **Commodity Rate**, which reflects the cost of gas sold by SaskEnergy to its customers without mark-up or discount. This application addresses only Delivery Service rates, and not the Commodity Rate.

Through Minister’s Orders, the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel (the Panel) has been asked to:

- review SaskEnergy’s proposed increase in Delivery Service rates; and
- provide its recommendations on the fairness and reasonableness of the proposed rate increase, considering its effect on competitiveness, and the interests of the customer, the Crown corporation and the public.

All interested persons or organizations are invited to provide comments or submissions to the Panel no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 27, 2009 in these ways:

- At the following public consultations:
 - **Regina, Monday, November 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**
Delta Hotel, Campania Room
 - **Saskatoon, Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**
Hilton Garden Inn, North Ballroom
- Online at www.saskratereview.ca in the “Voice Your Opinion” section
- Mail: P.O. Box 1301, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3N1
- Email: input@saskratereview.ca
- Telephone Voice Message: 1-877-368-7075 (toll-free) or in Saskatoon 934-1948

For more information:

- Visit www.saskratereview.ca for complete details, including SaskEnergy’s Delivery Service rate application, information about the Panel and its role, relevant links, recent updates and reports on previous applications.
- View and download the Delivery Service rate application at www.saskenergy.com/About_SaskEnergy/News/news_releases/2009/SaskEnergy_Delivery_Service_Rate_Application.pdf

Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel

P.O. Box 1301, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3N1

Toll-Free: 1-877-368-7075 (Saskatoon 934-1948)

www.saskratereview.ca

Alma Kytwayhat tops list of Order of Merit recipients

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

“This year’s recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit have been very well chosen,” said Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart when he announced the 12 recipients in October.

“These remarkable individuals have made astounding contributions in their respective fields, and they are most deserving of our province’s highest honour.”

Elder Alma Kytwayhat of the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation was named to the Order to acknowledge the massive amount of work this woman has done in the community. Alma is currently the Elder-in-Residence for the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, an Elder on the Saskatchewan First Nations Women’s Commission and was appointed as a member of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Senate in 2007.

One of her main accomplishments came when she worked for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. She educated over 7,000 teachers on the history, meaning and future of treaties and the treaty relationship in the province. She



Alma Kytwayhat was honoured with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit at a recent ceremony. The medal was presented by The Honourable John Klebuc, Chief Justice of Saskatchewan.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

also provided input on the Teaching Treaties in the Classroom and is a member of the OTC Speakers Bureau and is a participant of both the Treaty Learning Network and the Exploratory Treaty Table.

Former Treaty Commissioner Judge

David Arnot has praise for Alma and the work she has done.

“Her role was central and she worked at the treaty table and made everyone understand the relationship. Her help with the teachers and the Treaties in the Classroom was invaluable. She is so full of energy.”

“Alma is a small person, but she is so powerful,” said Arnot who is now the Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

“She taught so many people so well and she shared her knowledge with everyone. She always reminded us that there is a sacred blanket that covers every square meter of Saskatchewan, the Treaty blanket. It behooves us all to understand that. I have total respect for Alma and I am so happy she got this award because she is so deserving.”

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Order which is the province’s highest honour and is recognized by the Government of Canada with a place in the national precedence of orders, decorations and medals. It recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the province and its residents.

The other 2009 recipients are: Casimir J. Broda, Sharon A. Butala, Donald Grant Devine, Harold H. MacKay, Jack MacKenzie, David Millar, Arne F. Petersen, Linda K. Rudachyk, Lorne Scott, William Shurniak, and Geoffrey Ursell.

Including the 12 new members, there have been 168 appointments to the Order of Merit since its inception in 1985.



**Chief
Rockthunder,
Council &
Membership of
Piapot First Nation**



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our Warriors who fought and
died in the great wars.**

Piapot First Nation

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Saskatchewan leads the nation in treaty education in schools

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

Education Week kicked off in October with “Tricks and Treaties” at Silverspring School in Saskatoon. Politicians, dignitaries, and community members joined the school assembly to celebrate and release the results of the first survey on Treaty Education.

Elder Walter Linklater addressed the Silverspring School Assembly, explaining he had prayed for them so that everything would go well for them, one of the many roles an Elder has.

“Ojibway and Saulteaux and Cree, we are all united in that one song, spiritually connected to that one Creator,” he explained to the attentive youngsters. He then prayed a blessing for everyone to work together in a good and respectful way to bring help and healing.

Ken Krawetz, minister of education for the Province, spoke about the results of the survey carried out to create a benchmark for how successful Treaty Education has been. Saskatchewan is the first province to mandate treaty education from kindergarten to Grade 12. The survey establishes a baseline which can then provide a goal of improving every year “to create better understanding and reduce racism, especially in light of the growing Aboriginal population in the province.”

Recognizing the traditional lands of Treaty 6, Krawetz thanked Elder Walter Linklater, Lyle Whitefish of the FSIN, Bill McKnight from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and other dignitaries for attending, and spoke of the importance of treaties in building Canada.

“I learned about the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of Ghent, but I was never taught about the Treaties of Canada,” noted Krawetz, adding that respecting and honouring the First Nations and increasing the awareness and understanding of the treaties helped create a positive relationship for all.

“Treaty knowledge is important for our past, our present, and our prosperity.”

Brett Jones, a teacher at Silverspring, said that treaty relationships have not always been respected or honoured – in fact sometimes “assimilate or eliminate” were more descriptive of policies.

“We have a responsibility as First Nations and non-First Nations people,” he noted, adding that he was teaching about a culture not his own and needed to be educated and supported as well.

Teacher Cyndi Lauze echoed the remarks made by Jones.

“Growing up in a northern Manitoba community, the river was not the only barrier between the communities,” she said, adding hopes that “us” and “them” could turn into “we” for all people by increasing awareness of the Treaties.

“A treaty is an agreement between two nations binding to all people in the document ... adhered to with justice and equity.”

A group of students performed an interpretive dance on “1885”, and students Hannah Kocur and Savanna Menke read reports they’d



Elder Walter Linklater with Saskatchewan's education minister, Ken Krawetz.

prepared on the First Nations worldview and way of life pre-contact, and some of the destructive and deceptive policies of colonialism.

“Our history is not something we can be proud of. It's a painful history that we share with First Nations people,” said Menke.

Critical need for Métis and First Nations foster families in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Foster Family Association is a non-profit, community based organization that provides resources, support, advocacy and training for Foster Families in Saskatchewan.

Recruitment of new foster families is ongoing, and with First Nations and Métis children representing 70 per cent of those in care, recruitment of First Nations and Métis homes is critical, and long overdue.

It is recognized by the Saskatchewan Foster Family Association that First Nations and Métis People have endured generations of oppression and cultural assimilation. These insurmountable actions resulted in the initial breakdown of First Nations and Métis families, also creating the loss of tradition, language, values, ceremonies and culture.

Although the journey of recovery and healing for First Nations and Métis families is long, bumpy and has many roads yet to travel, this is a step onto a path in the right direction. The Saskatchewan Foster Family Association embraces the opportunity to engage with First Nations and Métis communities and leaders, to create a more holistic, culturally based approach towards fostering and families.

It is the philosophy of the Saskatchewan Foster Family Association that we are all connected as people, so the organization encourages and supports First Nations and Métis foster families to build a healthy relationship with the birth families.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, or if your organization, Elders or Nation wishes to have a voice in the direction of Fostering, or sharing of culture and teachings, please contact Kathy Mahar at 975-1591. The desire to open your heart, home, and sharing will strengthen The First Nations, and Métis families while providing children a loving home with access to Language, Culture, Tradition and Customs.

Fostering is not a lifetime commitment to a child, but a commitment to provide physical, emotional, spiritual and mental nurturing to a child during times of uncertainty and confusion. *From The P.R.I.D.E Cultural Resource and Training Component-created with the sharing of Elders from all Saskatchewan Nations.*

be a foster parent

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Open your Home.

Families Helping Families

For more information call the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association
1-800-667-7002

www.sffa.ca

FSIN launches H1N1 call centre

F SIN Vice Chief E. Dutch Lerat recently announced the opening of a temporary call centre to help handle the large volume of calls from people searching for information on the H1N1 vaccine.

The call center will provide basic information provided by the Provincial Medical Health Officer on the H1N1 and make referrals to appropriate agencies as necessary. The toll-free number for the call center is 1-866-956-6442.

"The FSIN is receiving numerous calls daily from First Nations individuals, communities and organizations with questions ranging from the availability of the H1N1 vaccine, to the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine," says Vice Chief Lerat.

"Providing information on H1N1 is the right thing to do during this time. When people become educated on a health issue they become empowered." The following FAQ's have been provided by the Provincial Medical Health Officer:

How safe is the H1N1

vaccine?

The vaccine is similar to seasonal influenza vaccine.

The vaccine has gone through a rigorous testing process through the regulatory agency in Canada and has been authorized for use in all people over the age of six months.

The regulatory process in Canada is one of the most rigorous in the world. The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada have recommended that all pregnant women be vaccinated with either ad-

juvanted or non-adjuvanted vaccine.

How effective is the H1N1 vaccine?

The vaccine produces an immune response effective against H1N1 in over 90% of the adult population. Children less than 10 years of age do not get an effective response with the non-adjuvanted vaccine and require two half doses of the adjuvanted vaccine 21 days apart to be effective.

What are the alternatives to the vaccine?

H1N1 can be effectively treated with the antiviral Tamiflu which is



VICE CHIEF DUTCH LERAT

available through your doctor or through a nursing station. Tamiflu has

been placed in most communities for ready access. Most H1N1 infection is mild and having had H1N1 will confer at least partial protection from re-infection.

People who have not been diagnosed with H1N1 are recommended to have the vaccine.

It is important to rest, take plenty of fluids and maintain good nutrition. It is best to stay away from work or school until 24 hours after symptoms have ceased.

More risk groups added to H1N1 vaccination campaign

With an anticipated 60,000 new doses to be received in Saskatchewan next week, the H1N1 flu vaccination campaign will be expanded to other risk groups.

"We will next vaccinate people at risk under the age of 35 with underlying health problems and put a special focus on immune-compromised individuals of all ages," Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Moira McKinnon said.

"A more explicit definition of underlying health problems and immune-compromised will be communicated in the coming days."

The vaccine is expected to arrive Wednesday, November 11, and the expansion will take place late next week or early the week after.

"Until then, we will continue to vaccinate pregnant and immediate post-partum women, people in remote and isolated communities, children from six months to Grade 6 and health care workers who have not yet been vaccinated," McKinnon said.

To date, 194,600 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been received. When the additional 60,000 doses are received and sent to regions, there will be enough to vaccinate 28 per cent of Saskatchewan's population. Regional health authorities will decide based on the traffic in their clinics exactly how it will roll out in each region.

For information on flu clinics in your area, please log onto www.healthlineonline.ca, or call Healthline at 1-877-800-0002.



AWĀSIS Aboriginal Education Conference Call for Presenters

Box 30024 Saskatoon, SK S7L 7M6
Tel: (306) 249-9586 Fax: (306) 249-9585

The Awasis Conference committee invites you to present at our conference on April 28th, 29th, and 30th 2010 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The deadline for applications is December 1, 2009.

Notification date is January 15, 2010. Please complete all parts of the "Call for Presenters" form and mail or fax it to the above address no later than December 1, 2009.

Calling all Prospective Presenters:

Awasis Conference 2010 is encouraging all teachers and support staff to apply to present at the next conference.

Awasis Conference provides a wide variety of support and education strategies to help contribute positive growth and success of all students. This year the Awasis Committee Members are contacting Bands, Band schools and Public schools asking staff members to share their success strategies and programs that they have developed or modified to share with our delegates.

As educators we are all working to better the results and success of our students. Family structure, regular attendance, graduation results, reading writing and math continue to be focal points of concerns for teachers and for Awasis.

If you know someone: a family member, a friend, a colleague or perhaps yourself would be interested or encouraged to share their valuable experiences with us, we would like to hear from you.

Please check our website www.awasis.com for a call for presenters form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Lisette Denis
Awasis President



Native Access Program to Nursing/ Medicine

Sihtoskatowin

* supporting one another *



The *Native Access Program to Nursing/Medicine (NAPN/M)* is a support and retention service for Aboriginal students enrolled in or interested in the following nursing and medicine programs in Saskatchewan:

- *Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS)* is a four-year baccalaureate program offered collaboratively by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAT), Nursing Division, and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), College of Nursing, in Saskatoon and Regina. **NEW DEADLINE: January 15, 2010. Applications available online.**
- *NEPS Second Degree Entry Option* is a baccalaureate program offered in Saskatoon, collaboratively by SIAT and the U of S, College of Nursing, with completion in less than two calendar years. A completed baccalaureate degree or at least 90 credit units from a post-secondary institution recognized by the University of Saskatchewan is prerequisite.
- *Master of Nursing Program*, University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing.
- *Post Registration BSN Program* is a 12-month program offered by the University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing.
- *Practical Nursing Program* is a 65-week certificate program offered by the SIAT Nursing Division in Regina, at Wascana Campus and in Saskatoon, at Kelsey Campus.
- *College of Medicine M.D. Degree Program* is a four-year undergraduate medical education program offered by the University of Saskatchewan.

The advisors at NAPN/M work with Aboriginal nursing, medicine, and pre-health science students to achieve success and excellence through academic and personal advisement, tutoring, mentorship and culturally appropriate counseling. NAPN/M is available for support and advocacy with childcare, housing and funding concerns. As well, computers with Internet access are available to students working on papers and assignments. NAPN/M also posts a newsletter and builds community through activities such as luncheons, and meetings with leaders and role models in the Aboriginal community.

For more information please contact any of the following NAPN/M locations:



College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Rd. Saskatoon SK S7N 5E2
Tel (306) 966-1480
Fax (306) 966-6703
SK Toll-Free 1-800-462-2345

Nursing Division, SIAT Wascana Campus
4500 Wascana Parkway
PO Box 256, Regina SK S4P 3A3

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George Gordon First Nation
P.O. Box 248 Punnichy, SK. S0A 3C0



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Community Relations
975-2574

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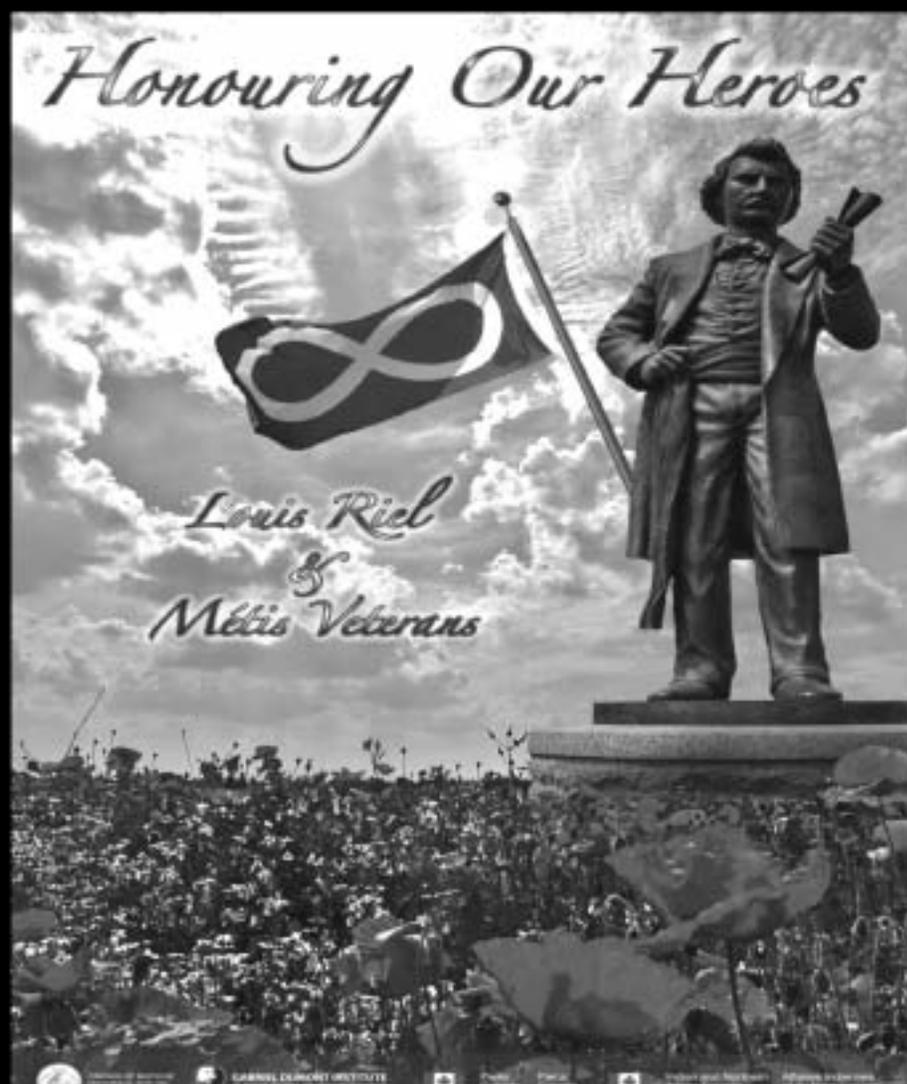
www.commissionaires.ca

North Division: (877) 244-6588

South Division: (877) 757-0998

LOUIS RIEL AND METIS VETERANS HONOUR DAY

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, Parks Canada, and Friends of Batoche are hosting several events to honour our Métis heroes, Louis Riel and all Métis veterans. We celebrate the continued growth and presence of the Métis Nation to which they have brought honour.



Sunday, November 15, 2009

Batoche National Historic Site, Free Admission

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10:00 AM | Dallas Fiddler & Phil Boyer - fiddle music |
| 11:00 | Métis National Anthem and Opening Ceremony Procession to 1885 Memorial to lay Wreath of Remembrance |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch. Ed St. Pierre and Harriet Oaks-St. Pierre - Poem of Remembrance in Michif |
| 1:00 - 1:45 | Margaret Tourond Townson - A Métis Veteran's Personal Journey: Honouring the Service of Arthur Joseph Tourond |
| 1:45 - 2:30 | Lawrie Barkwell, Families of Resistance |
| 2:30 | Mass at St. Antoine de Padoue Church |

- A video presentation by the Gabriel Dumont Institute honouring Louis Riel will be playing in the theatre throughout the day.
- Wagon Rides 11:30 - 3:30
- Gift shop & concession hours are 9:30 - 4:00 PM

Monday, November 16, 2009, LOUIS RIEL DAY

University of Saskatchewan, Neatby Timlin Theatre. Free Admission

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, Parks Canada and Friends of Batoche, in collaboration with SUNTEP Saskatoon are hosting a family day to honour our Métis heroes, Louis Riel and Métis veterans.

1:00 - 3:00 PM Featured Speakers:

- Ed. St. Pierre, Harriet Oaks-St. Pierre - Poem of Remembrance in Michif
- Margaret Tourond Townson - A Métis Veteran's Personal Journey: Honouring the Service of Arthur Joseph Tourond

Young reservists find a new family

Many benefits to be found in Canada's Reserves

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Canada's Reserve Force is an important part of Canada's national heritage. The Reserve Force officially came into being with the passage of the Militia Act of 1855. The Naval and Air Reserves were established in 1914 and 1924 respectively. Aboriginal people have been actively participating in the regular forces and reserves for decades.

The primary role of the Reserve Force is to augment, sustain, and support the Regular Force. In recent years, reservists have made substantial contributions to Canada's international efforts and domestic relief operations.

Several young reservists were asked to carry flags for the Grand Entry of the FSIN Powwow. Members of the North Saskatchewan Regiment participated. Mike Seeseequasis sees opportunities like this as perks for his involvement in the reserves.

"We get to go to these events and participate in them," said Private Seeseequasis. "You get to meet a great new group of friends in the reserves and have a lot of great experiences, a lot of stuff you can't get as a civilian."

The reserves entail lots of training as well, with private Weenie taking training in communications and radio. Britany and Mike Seeseequasis and Private Langen are all students at the University of Saskatchewan and their time in the reserves earns them payments towards their tuition.

"I am taking arts and sciences right now," said Britany Seeseequasis. "And I intend to become a nurse afterward and there are lots of opportunities in the forces for careers."

There are over 9,500 reservists on full-time employment within the Canadian Forces. Since the year 2000, more than 4,600 primary reservists have been deployed for Canadian Forces operations in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Haiti, and other international hot spots.

These young leaders will not be shipping overseas any time soon, but they will contribute at home. At home, reservists have assisted during search and rescue operations and provide aid during natural disasters. In addition, reservists often help at or participate in cultural events, parades, festivals, and other public events in communities across Canada.

They are not obliged to serve overseas, but many choose to do so. Currently 412 primary reserve personnel



From left, Private Weenie, Private Britany Seeseequasis, Private Mike Seeseequasis and Private Langen are all unanimous in recommending the Army Reserves as a summer and part time job to other youth. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

are serving on peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. In the past, up to 40 per cent of all peacekeepers have been reservists.

These reservists all enjoy their positions and the opportunity to shoot machine guns, travel and get

training. They all admitted that basic training is not so fun, but once you get used to it things get better and they were unanimous in recommending it to other youth.

"And you make good friends," said Private Langen. "That's why I'm in here. They are like family."



Play Responsibly.



Some members of the First Nations Veterans Association gathered for this historic photo at the Dakota Dunes Annual Powwow in August. (Photo by Faith McLean)

First Nation vets have positive message

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan First Nation Association represents approximately 200 veterans throughout Saskatchewan. Sadly, that number is shrinking monthly as these veterans are getting up there in age and many are passing. Last month Archie Bird died, one of the few remaining Second World War soldiers left.



EMILE HIGHWAY

Representing the remaining veterans is newly elected Grand Chief of the First Nations Veterans Association, Emile Highway from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Highway had a 20-year career in the army that took him through many different regiments and around the world and back. He achieved the rank of Master Corporal.

"I went overseas for a total of ten years with some time in the Middle East. I was with the Third Canadian Mechanized Command over there and when I came back I was with

the Royal Canadian Engineers as an electrical generating systems technician working in a power plant on Vancouver Island," said Chief Highway.

"The best thing about the military for me was the travel and seeing other parts of the world. Experiencing other cultures and meeting the people was always interesting."

Highway took over as Chief of the Association from Philip Favel in March.

"We are really getting organized," said Chief Highway. "We have an executive that is really committed and we have a work plan that focuses on four items. The main one is the development of the speaker's bureau to go out and speak to schools.

"Give the kids a message to stay away from drugs and alcohol and to live a balanced life."

Helping Highway with the task of running the Association is Ronald Wayne Redwood, from the Cowessess First Nation. He joined the American army and hauled ammunition in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. He is the Vice President for the Regina Fort Qu Appelle branch of the SFNVA.

"The military has given me the confidence to stand

up and fight for our people," said Redwood. "We need equal treatment for our soldiers. When we go over there, we become brothers in the uniform.

"But when we come back we segregate, but we are still brothers in arms, the discrimination has to stop. We have close to 200 members but they are dying regularly. We have to do something for them."

Both Highway and Redwood know one of the drawbacks of their military career was often time away from families, but now they are making up for it in other ways.

"I really regret not getting time with my kids," said Redwood. "But now I spend as much time with my grandchildren as possible."

And Highway thinks what he has learned from his travels is needed out there.

"My wife was the perfect military bride. I do not know how my boys would have turned out if it wasn't for her," said Highway.

"But now we need to get the youth in the high schools and concentrate them on the medicine wheel and

teach them about the mental, emotional and physical parts of life. And we have to set good examples as parents and keep the door open for them to talk.

"You know, what adults do, kids will do. We have to lead by example. Stop the drinking, the drugs, the gambling. Keep those kids busy from sun up to sundown. And enroll them in the military where they join the combat arms or tanks or artillery to get the discipline. Then after that move to a trade that they can use once they leave the military.

They won't go wrong," he says.



RONALD REDWOOD

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the men and women who have made the decision to join our armed forces. Thank you for making this commitment to freedom and our country. We will all take time on November 11th to honour you and remember those that have paid the ultimate price for their valour.

Treaty Commissioner,
the Honourable Bill McKnight PC



The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is working to achieve a common understanding between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Government of Canada on Treaties in Saskatchewan.

Office of the Treaty Commissioner
Bay 215 - 2553 Grasswood Road East, Saskatoon S7T 1C8
Phone: 306-244-2100 Fax: 306-667-5654



First Nations war veteran leaves behind humble legacy

By Desarae Eashappie
For Eagle Feather News

Evelyn Desnomie's voice quivers as she reads from an article printed in the Regina Leader-Post, November 8, 1988: "All Charlie Bird had in his hands was a broken gun barrel. It was the longest day of his life. When he landed at Courseulles-sur-Mer on June 6, 1944, he had to zigzag tripwires and mines to storm the beach where the Germans were waiting to release a murderous hail of machine gun crossfire. His rifle had been shot out of his hands..."

Charles (Charlie) Bird, from the Peepeekisis First Nation, is Desnomie's brother. He died on October 23, 2009 with his family at his side, at the age of 89 years.

He was one of the few remaining First Nation Second World War veterans in Saskatchewan.

Desnomie remembers her brother as a brave man.

"He was a very quiet and modest man. He didn't talk about his experience much," she said.

Bird was among the first wave of Canadian soldiers to land at Juno Beach on D-day, June 6, 1944.

"He talked about it later in life. He didn't talk about it much when I was younger, to anybody really," said Nelson Bird, Charles' son.

"We could only imagine what it was like. We've seen the movie Saving Private Ryan, but for him, it wasn't a movie, it was real. All the people fought around him. The sea was blood-red, the sounds were gunshots and screams, but he just kept on going," said Nelson.

In 1945, Charles returned to his home on Peepeekisis, where he once again became a ward of the Government, said Nelson.

"He wasn't allowed to leave the reserve without a pass. He wasn't to take any formal education or vote. He wasn't considered a Canadian citizen, even though he had fought," Nelson said.

"But the thing about him, he was so kind-hearted, generous and just never complained. He continued farming and lived his life, and that's just the way he was," said Nelson.

One of the ways for the First Nations veteran's legacy to live on is through story telling, said Nelson.

"Every time a First Nations veteran is gone, it's losing a piece of history," Nelson said.

"I encourage people, if they have a veteran in their family, ask them what they did. Soon, we'll just have their memories," said Nelson.

"We have to keep telling their stories, even after they're gone. That's the only way their legacy will live on," he said.

George Benson, from the Red Pheasant First Nation, is a First Nations Korean War veteran. He got to know Charles through traveling together as First Nations veterans.

"It means lots for the First Nations community to lose another veteran," Benson said.

"He's one of the persons that fought for the freedom we have now, for all the people in Canada and for the land. He didn't have to go (to war), but he did and I'm proud of him. Everybody's proud of him," he said.

Benson said being a First Nations veteran builds close relationships between veterans.

"What we went through as veterans, we're all brothers and sisters. If one veteran is gone, we're all affected by it," Benson said.



First Nations Second World War veteran Charles W. Bird. Taken in 1941, at the age of 22. (Photo courtesy of Nelson Bird)



Veterans have always been leaders in the community. Often they are asked to lead the Grand Entry like these veterans at the FSIN Powwow held in October.

(Photo by John Iagimodiere)

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Six veterans participate in first Remembrance Day ceremony in new First Nations University tipi

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

As the years pass, fewer veterans are present on Remembrance Day to be honoured. This year, only six First Nation veterans attended a ceremony at the First Nations University of Canada on Nov. 6. The ceremony was held a week early so veterans could spend Remembrance Day in their home communities.

Inside the signature glass tipi that was built to honour them, the veterans stood in salute for their passed comrades.

With construction taking place over the past year, this was the first Remembrance Day inside the completed tipi.

Veteran Hilliard Gardypie said he is grateful for the tipi and what it means to First Nation people.

"I think it is significant because it is a way to remember the fallen and the forgotten and that (pointing up at the glass tipi) is the purpose of it," he said.

Gardypie looks to the future generations and what the tipi will mean to them.

"The children, to the unborn, it's a remembrance for them, which is something that I am proud of," he said.

Diane Adams, president of the Student Association at First Nations

University of Canada, shared some inspiring words with the veterans and the crowd.

"It is important to students because we are undoubtedly connected to our past. Every day when I walk through this tipi I am reminded what I have to be thankful for," Adams said.

"This tipi is a constant reminder that the lives we live today, came at a cost."

Gardypie recalls how it was like being a soldier home from war.

"When we were gone, we were all soldiers and everything was good, but when we came back home it was different, there was land given to the soldiers, but not for First Nations soldiers, we got nothing" Gardypie said.

He says in the future, children will be able to come to the University and see the names of all First Nation Veterans and have a sense of pride and will never forget the past.

"My children or grandchildren will be able to come to this building and see my name, and say 'that's my grandfather', with pride even after I'm gone," Gardypie said.

He only hopes everyone will appreciate the tipi and look back and remember the contribution of those gone but not forgotten.



Hilliard Gardypie carries a wreath at the First Nation University of Canada Remembrance Day Ceremony. It was the first Remembrance Day ceremony held in the glass tipi built as a memorial to First Nation veterans. (Photo Jennifer Dubois)



First Nations veterans salute their lost comrades. (Photo by Jennifer Dubois)

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Hatchet Lake Dene Nation teen helps others

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Marcella Tsannie from Hatchet Lake Dene Nation tries to pass off her SaskTel Youth Culture Award as somewhat “lucky” – but with a final mark of 99 per cent in her Grade 10 Dene language/culture class, it seems more than luck played a part.

Chatting with Marcella online while she babysits her three-year-old nephew Kenyon, it is evident she easily combines today’s technologies and influences with the family values, teachings and traditions passed on to her by her community – most especially her grandmother, Marguerite St. Pierre, who passed on just two years ago.

November being the month of Remembrance, Marcella recalls her grandmother Marguerite, who helped raise her and teach her from basic tasks – cleaning fish and preparing hunted game – to the truly profound “treating everyone the same, no matter what.”

The best advice she’s ever received is also from her Grandmother: “Always keep your head held high even though people are doubting you.”

Marcella plans to attend University and become a pediatrician on the advice of her grandmother, who foresaw a need for the young people – and perhaps also saw the gifts in her granddaughter to meet those needs.

Marcella’s heart is with the young already – she has helped raise her nephew Kenyon from birth, and is enjoying another extended family member: Amber, a five-month-old baby girl. Asked what she most

wanted to pass along, she focused on spiritual traditions – Kenyon is just learning to pray, a pretty busy little guy to fit that into his schedule.

Marcella attends Father Megret High School in Wollaston Lake. The Grade 6 to 12 school has about 300 students. While she sings and dances traditionally and does beadwork and crafting, Marcella also sings country songs in Dene and English and dances hip hop.

She is quick to minimize her language and culture accomplishments as anything exceptional, saying it’s an isolated community and everyone speaks Dene there.

Parents Jean and Philip, godmother Judy, and younger brother Philip Jr., all came to the June Award Banquet in Saskatoon – a ten or eleven hour car ride from their northern home – where she loved every moment of the well-organized event and the excellent entertainment. And was very pleasantly surprised by being the winner in her category – “so many things were going through my head,” noted Marcella.

The SaskTel Youth Awards are made possible by the Wicihitowin Foundation, established in 1995, 50 years after the end of the Second World War. The name reflects the mission: ‘Wicihitowin’ being the Cree word for helping each other.

While serving as a living legacy to the many First Nations’ veterans from both world wars and international conflicts, including peacekeeping missions, it also honours the veterans by nurturing Aboriginal youth, preparing them to rise to the challenge of responsibility and leadership, and preparing them to excel, physically and spiritually as tomorrow’s leaders.



Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight and Marcella Tsannie shared a laugh at the 2009 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards held in June. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Corey Matthews adds another honour to his resume

For Corey Matthews, receiving accolades and awards for his achievements is nothing new, but his most recent honour of being named University of Regina Outstanding Young Alumnus ranks as one of the highlights of his young career.

Matthews will receive the U of R Alumni Crowning Achievement Award at a ceremony later this month in Regina.

Matthews grew up in North Central Regina, an area that had the misfortune of being named by MacLean's magazine as "Canada's worst neighbourhood," based mainly on its poverty and crime rates. Despite this designation, the loyal Matthews has maintained his connection to the community, and his determination to contribute positively to it is shown by his actions.

Matthews received his bachelor of education degree from Gabriel Dumont Institute's SUNTEP program in 2003 and has been making his mark as a community leader ever since. He is the founder and executive director of the North Central Lakers Club, an organization dedicated to creating highly successful Aboriginal youth.

The club runs elite sports programs, a successful youth group, and is developing a modern day manhood training



Corey Matthews will carry the Olympic Torch as a Métis representative.

program based on traditional Aboriginal teachings. Matthew's achievements have been recognized with two nominations for the Métis National Role Model awards, a 2006 Regina Crime Prevention award, and a Centennial Medal for Service to Saskatchewan in 2006.

In 2008, he was named Aboriginal Apprentice Coach for the 2009 Canada Summer Games Saskatchewan basketball team. Recently, Matthews was selected

as a Métis representative Olympic torch bearer for the 2010 Olympics and will carry the torch on January 12.

During his tenure as a teacher at Scott Collegiate in North Central Regina, Matthews revived a 15-year-dormant basketball team to win the city championships twice in five years. This year, he began working at Winston Knoll Collegiate as a Core Leader in Student Support Services.

As a young student, Matthews did not experience typical success in the classroom. The first time he tried university, he was given the message, loud and clear, that maybe he was in the wrong place. He quit. A few years later he tried again, this time in a Métis-specific school that incorporates culture and holistic student supports.

Still, he entered SUNTEP not really believing that university was for him. Through his four years in the SUNTEP program, Matthews not only succeeded in his studies, he excelled to achieve at a high level.

"To go from thinking that I did not belong there to being recognized by the University shows the power of an expanded world view and a great educational setting," he says.

The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards were established by the U of R to celebrate alumni who have realized extraordinary achievements and made remarkable contributions to the University of Regina and their communities.

"This ranks as one of my highest honours that I have achieved," Matthews says.

With over 50,000 alumni of the U of R, Matthews has good reason to be proud of his achievement.

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Nursing
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We will be accepting applications for the 2010-2011 academic year. Please contact our La Ronge office at (306) 425-6880 for information.

AREVA

Northern school boards forge historic partnership

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association was proud to announce the signing of Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) Partnership Agreements by the three northern boards of education on Oct. 15 in Prince Albert.

Representatives of the Ile-a-la Crosse, Creighton and Northern Lights school boards each signed an agreement with Bill Hutchinson, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association has partnered with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations to initiate the Aboriginal Employment Development Program within public education. Each school board that signs an agreement commits to a Representative Workforce Strategy.

The Representative Workforce Strategy emphasizes that applicants be hired based upon skills and merit, helps to dispel myths and misconceptions about Aboriginal people, and does not support quotas nor designate positions for Aboriginal applicants.

Creighton School Division board member and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation representative Bernadette Hillier said an increase in Aboriginal representation in the education sector workforce will help to promote Aboriginal participation where it will help the most – in northern Saskatchewan.

“This partnership will serve to enhance the educational and economical relations with Aboriginal people,” expressed Hillier.

Ile-a-la Crosse School Board Chair Duane Favel said further educational and employment opportunities for northern Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal children and youth are a continued focus.

“This signing, for us, recognizes our accomplishments and marks our continued commitment to improving the employment of Aboriginal people within our school division,” said Favel.

Frank Durocher, Chair of the Northern Lights School Division Board of Education, said their school division has been active and is proud of their recruitment and retention of Aboriginal employees but said more advances can



Ile-a-la Crosse School Board Chair Duane Favel, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations Bill Hutchinson, Creighton School Board representative Bernadette Hillier, Northern Lights School Board Chair Frank Durocher and SSBA President Roy Challis were all on hand to experience the momentous occasion.

still be made.

“This agreement further establishes the mutual agreement of all parties to ensuring that Aboriginal people are given the opportunity for employment in a dignified and respectful manner,” Durocher said.

Saskatchewan School Boards Association President Roy Challis, who witnessed the signings, said these three additional signings have increased the number of school divisions participating in the Aboriginal Employment Development Program to 12 out of a possible 29

school divisions since the SSBA committed to the AEDP in 2007.

“I commend the boards of education of Ile-a-la Crosse, Creighton and Northern Lights for choosing to take the action to ensure a better future for Saskatchewan’s students and communities,” Challis said.

“There is no question we need more First Nations and Métis people working in our schools whether they be teachers, carpenters, mechanics, clerical staff, accountants, administrators, or facilities and maintenance personnel – school divisions offer a wealth of employment opportunities.”

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Groundbreaking initiative announces nine partnerships

Westcap Mgt. Ltd. recently announced the inclusion of nine successful First Nations and Métis communities into a new initiative that will help establish Aboriginal energy and resource businesses in Saskatchewan.

In April 2009 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) committed to provide \$3.9 million, through the Major Resource and Energy Directorate, towards a three-year pilot project focused on providing capital and training to Aboriginal communities to make them "business-ready". The Business Ready Investment Development Gateway (BRIDG) program is a model designed and delivered by Westcap and monitored by INAC.

Under this innovative approach, communities will receive support to establish an economic development corporation, retain and mentor a business champion, and establish proper governance procedures, readying them to take advantage of key business opportunities in the resource and energy sector.

Designed as a highly competitive process, BRIDG

received 30 applications from across Saskatchewan representing 78 First Nations and Métis communities. Applications were received from First Nations communities, Tribal Councils, Métis Regions, Locals and Northern Municipalities, along with a mixture of Economic Development Partnerships and Organizations, each expressing interest and recognized need for the pilot project.

"Aboriginal people are ready to participate in the business opportunities available in Saskatchewan, as is evidenced by the overwhelming interest in the BRIDG program," said Wanda Hunchak, Vice President of Westcap.

"Westcap is excited to work with the First Nations and Métis communities to focus on developing and implementing the business infrastructure necessary to capitalize on these opportunities."

Westcap President and CEO, Grant Kook announced the nine selected applicants which include: Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Birch Narrows Dene Nation, Carry the Kettle First Nation, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Flying Dust First Nation, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Thunderchild First Nation, Western Region III Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Whitebear First Nation.



Grant Kook heads Westcap Mgt. Ltd. and is looking forward to working with nine First Nations communities in the energy and resource sector.

"These nine BRIDG communities are a sampling of the future of business in Saskatchewan where Aboriginal people fully participate in and contribute to the provincial economy. Working with our strategic partners, the BRIDG program will be a facilitator of wealth creation and sustainable jobs for Aboriginal people," said Kook.



Nora Patt, treasurer of Shell Lake Métis Local #81, displays her cheque from the Garantie Compeau Development Fund. The funds will be put to good use replacing siding, installing new doors and upgrading washrooms.

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While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



BRIDG is a pilot project designed to build business infrastructure in select First Nation and Métis communities and to facilitate the completion of investment transactions to generate community wealth. BRIDG brings First Nations and Métis communities together with industry, capital partners, and professional service providers. BRIDG is currently working with 9 communities that competed to get into the program. The purpose of the program is to establish strong governance and effective business investment entities. The BRIDG communities are located in northwest, north central, and southern Saskatchewan.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS/GENERAL MANAGERS

We are building a general pool of candidates for the position of CEO/General Manager for the 9 BRIDG community business investment corporations. We are seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified business professionals with a proven track record of wealth creation and investment management. Work arrangements may vary from short term contractual to full-time employment. Work locations are flexible.

Qualified applicants must possess a degree in commerce or business administration; five years business experience, (or an equivalent combination of experience and education); and knowledge or experience working with First Nations/Métis communities or organizations. Business and strategic planning experience at the community level is an asset.

DUTIES

The Chief Executive Officer/General Manager reports to the Board of Directors of the business investment corporation and performs the following duties:

Strategic Management

- Participate in the preparation and implementation of a strategic community investment plan and in completing due diligence on potential investment opportunities;
- Provide leadership to the Board of Directors in the preparation of plans and actions for accomplishing the above including financial plans, operational plans, and corporate governance issues;
- Provide feedback and reports to the Board on the progress of the strategic investment plan.

Operations Management

- Ensure management oversight for the business investment corporation, and oversee its interests;
- Ensure the Board is kept informed of planned activities, operational issues and concerns related to businesses the community invests in.

If you are looking for a challenging position and are interested in applying, please submit your resume before December 1st, 2009 via email to info@westcapmgt.ca or send to 830 - 410 - 22nd St. E. Saskatoon, SK S7K 5T6, Attention: Human Resources. For more information on the BRIDG Program please visit www.westcapmgt.ca or call (306) 665-0200

Solar Freedom sharing knowledge

By Fabian Ratt
For Eagle Feather News

Solar Freedom International presented a workshop designed to teach students, teachers, business owners, and anyone interested, about solar panels and wind generators, choosing the correct system for your needs, installation, and maintenance.

The workshop, held in Prince Albert from October 2 to 4, was well attended and the participants were impressed with the information presented, and the way it was presented. Facilitator Craig Shearer has had many years experience with solar and other renewable resources and has had experience with presenting information in a way that promotes retention, and enthusiasm for learning.

Randy Wells, a Biology 30 Teacher from Churchill High School in La Ronge, brought some of his students to the workshop.

"We want to build a wind generator, and solar panels for the school, and we hope to be the first school in the North to do this," Wells said.

"It's very important for people to learn about this type of energy source and it's important for all people to take a workshop like this. Because then they would learn to use less energy. The future of our planet depends on that."

Gabe Cook, a student from Wells' class, was impressed with the presentation, and was glad that he came.

"I was interested in solar energy, and wanted to learn more. I thought the course would be just a bunch of stats and stuff, but it turned out to be really good," Cook said.

"It's worth the money to come to a workshop like this." He says he will definitely use and share the information he has learned.

Craig Shearer's enthusiasm is catching, and all participants appeared to be having a lot of fun, and apparently retaining the information learned. At the end of the workshop there is a demonstration that the participants must do. This puts into practice all they learned, and gives them some confidence in themselves, and their ability to install a solar panel system.



Craig Shearer of Solar Freedom International speaks to a workshop held in Prince Albert in October.

Shearer's confidence has developed over time, with experience. Solar Freedom International started with solar ovens, and after some success, they expanded into solar panels.

After some time they realized that what they knew about solar energy, and what the general public knew, were two totally different things. So there was a need to educate the public.

After discussing this with Sally Meadows at the University of Saskatchewan they came up with the idea for the workshops.

"If there are communities out there that want to learn, and are willing to organize a workshop, we can work with the community organizers and maybe even share in the proceeds," Shearer said.

"We can be reached at www.solarfreedominternational.com." Solar energy is free energy, it's everywhere, and it's renewable.

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Council president sees bright future for Aboriginal business

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

The Canada Council for Aboriginal Business held a well-attended luncheon October 20 at the Saskatoon Sheraton Cavalier, focusing on Saskatchewan Aboriginal economic development opportunities.

CCAB's President and CEO Clint Davis, who is originally from Labrador but did some native law studies at the University of Saskatchewan before completing his degree in Eastern Canada, said the Council is working hard to engage Aboriginal businesses and communities across the country.

"Our mandate is basically to try and enhance the participation of Aboriginal people in Canada's economy," Davis said, explaining the Canada Council for Aboriginal Business works at local and national levels to pair corporate Canada with Aboriginal businesses and communities, and create further opportunities for networking – to increase efficiency and decrease the isolation of entrepreneurs.

"The duty to consult has played a huge role in strategically positioning Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities, and the Canada Council for Aboriginal Business works to support that basic framework."

The Canada Council for Aboriginal Business was founded in 1984 and since Aboriginal rights were recognized in the Constitutional Act of 1982, any development which takes place in traditional territories requires the engagement of Aboriginal communities in developing and building the economy, Davis noted.

While the Council is a network and a resource rather than an employment agency, it not only provides partnerships but offers valuable initiatives to the community

which focus on long-term development strategies. The Canada Council for Aboriginal Business Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth provides scholarships and bursaries for students working towards post-secondary goals and training.

Keynote speaker Don Drummond, senior vice-president and chief economist with TD Bank Financial Group, says as economic disparity is eliminated from Aboriginal communities, everyone's standard of living and Canada's overall economic health improves. He also focused on the importance of education, after giving an overview of international, national, and local economic trends.

Noting that in economic booms high school completion on reserves declined because many well-paying jobs didn't require a high school diploma, but when the economy is in a recession these young people have nothing to fall back on.

"Education isn't the answer to everything, but it does help some things," he added in a phone interview, explaining that comparing Aboriginal to non-Aboriginal employment rates and earnings, "the gap narrows as education goes up, to basically zero difference if there is some form of university degree."

Describing the process of training, educating, and drawing in an Aboriginal labour market as "a virtuous circle" rather than the familiar "vicious cycles", Drummond emphasized the importance of a highly skilled labour force, particularly with the average Aboriginal community being younger than the general populace. He described Saskatchewan as an exciting place to be, predicting continuing economic growth.

"There are incredible business opportunities right now," Davis agreed, adding the Canada Council for



CLINT DAVIS

Aboriginal Business is hoping to do more in Saskatchewan – unique both in the strength and concentration of Aboriginal communities, and the proximity of large corporations in major industries such as potash and mining.

"With a vibrant economy and such a high percentage of Aboriginal people, the opportunities are unbelievable."



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Woodland housing complex complete

By Kelly-Anne Riess
MySIAS editor
For Eagle Feather News

Jason Bobb, a first-year student enrolled in the Correctional Studies program, was one of the first tenants in the SIAST Woodland housing complex, which was recently completed.

Before moving in with his family in October, Bobb drove 10 hours every weekend to visit his daughter, Macy, and partner Lisa Bear, at the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

"It was tough," says Bobb, who had had difficulty finding a place for his family to stay in Prince Albert. "It got lonesome."

While he talks, his daughter plays with blocks at his feet.

During the first month, he was paying room and board to live in the basement of someone's house away from his family.

"I was even staying in a hotel on the first day of school before I found my room and board. It was very stressful," says Bobb about the housing situation in Prince Albert before SIAST's housing units were complete.

The new housing, which an instructor told Bobb about, allowed him to move his family up to Prince Albert.

"It's very reasonable," he says of the \$560 he pays in rent for his furnished townhouse that has a washer and dryer.

He says having his family with him allows him to focus on his studies better. It also helps that he now lives close to the library.

His home is already decorated for Halloween. A jack-o-lantern sits on the steps and a skeleton is hanging on the door.

Melanie Pennington, a Practical Nursing student and her family from Lucky Lake, have also moved into one of the units.

Pennington is a first-year student with a 17-month-old son.

She had been travelling 40 minutes twice daily to school while staying with family friends until she was selected for tenancy in the units.

Applications for student family housing at SIAST Woodland Campus are still being accepted.

The housing units were officially unveiled at a ribbon cutting ceremony at SIAST Woodland Campus on Oct. 16.

The complex includes 34 single-family two-bedroom townhouse-style units and two wheelchair-accessible suites.

"We are excited to be at this stage of the housing project," says Larry Fladager, campus director at SIAST Woodland Campus.

"Access to quality housing on campus will remove a barrier to success for SIAST students with family responsibilities."

The project is intended for full-time SIAST Woodland Campus students with children, and it will provide them with quality, safe and affordable rental accommodation while they attend their program of choice.

The student family housing project is expected to draw a number of families from central and northern Saskatchewan. As a result, the project should further increase the participation and success of Aboriginal students in post-secondary education.

SIAST received \$3.3 million from the provincial government for the project.

"Housing affordability and availability is a top



Lisa Bear, Jason Bobb and daughter, Macy Bobb. Jason is taking the Correctional Studies program.

priority for our government, and we are pleased to help SIAST support the students who will soon call these units home," says Donna Harpauer, Social Services Minister and Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

"This is an important investment in our students and their families, and in the future of Saskatchewan," agrees Rob Norris, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister.

The \$6.8-million complex also included funding from the Northern Lights Community Development Corporation with \$250,000, Cameco with \$200,000 and the City of Prince Albert with \$180,000.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, provided an additional

\$180,000 earlier this year to help furnish the units and provide appliances.

The Prince Albert Housing Authority will manage the rental of the units.

Qualified applicants started taking occupancy as early as October 15.

Students and potential students who are interested and would like more information on rental qualifications should call the Prince Albert Housing Authority at 953-7420.

Information brochures and rental application forms are available at the SIAST Woodland Campus Technical Centre kiosk, the SIAST Woodland Academic Centre reception counter and at Prince Albert Housing Authority on 230 8th Street East.

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Doris Bellegarde and Anita McLeod played integral roles in the production of *It Had To Be Done*. (Photo by Look Matters GJ)

It Had To Be Done is finally coming home

After premiering at the Native American Film & Video Festival in San Francisco and broadcast on CBC this past June, Tessa Desnomie's short documentary, *It Had To Be Done*, is finally being screened in Saskatchewan.



The film, which was produced as part of the National Film Board's Second Stories project, will hold its Saskatchewan premiere in Fort Qu'Appelle at the Treaty Four Grounds in the big tipi. Although it's been nearly a year since the film screened in San Francisco, Desnomie is elated the film is finally coming home.

"I've had some really good feedback on the project, including a nomination for Best Short Documentary in San Francisco," said Desnomie from her home in Regina. "But I always hoped I'd get to watch it with Anita and Doris."

Anita McLeod and Doris Bellegarde are Desnomie's subjects in the film and tell the story of their time at Residential School in Lebreton where they experienced all-too-common atrocities and horrors often associated with church run schools.

But instead of delving into a life of addiction to numb the pain of their childhood, both Anita and Doris did the unthinkable.

"Both women returned to the school to work," said Desnomie. "And over time they were able to make small changes that made the student experience there much

better than they had it."

In the film both women say they felt compelled to return in order to do whatever they could to improve conditions for the students. Enhanced nutrition, speaking out against the strap and showing love and affection to the students were just a few actions both ladies were known for.

And by all accounts, their commitment to positive change worked.

"I went to Residential School in Lebreton while Anita and Doris worked there," continues Desnomie. "But it wasn't anywhere near like what Anita and Doris went through. It was more like Notre Dame in Wilcox – a boarding school. I enjoyed my three years there and Anita and Doris' presence had a lot to do with it."

And little did Desnomie know over a decade later she would be the one to tell their powerful, heartfelt story.

"I never really thought about film as a way to make a living. It just seemed so impossible."

It was during her time at university as an Indigenous Studies major that Desnomie realized the power of telling stories through film. She was taking Indian Communication Art (INCA) classes at Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, where film/video equipment is made available to its students.

"I was immersed in the history of First Nations people – my people – in the Indigenous Studies classes I was taking. I was shocked to learn about many things our people have gone through.

"Then I started getting nervous for my kids. I didn't want to depend on the public school system to educate them on their own culture and identity. I wanted to educate myself so I could pass that learning onto them. And I always knew I

wanted to tell stories, I just didn't know how."

After a few years of freelancing and landing some gigs with CBC and a few independent production companies,

Desnomie got her big break when she applied to the NFB's First Stories project and was accepted. The result was her film 'ati-wicahsin' - a five minute short that managed to impress the right people.

"Given the success of her First Stories film, we approached Tessa to submit for Second Stories," said Derek Mazur, Executive Producer at the NFB. "Once again, we were taken by her proposal and the significance of the story. (It's) an important story that should be told for generations to come."

Desnomie says most Canadians today know the term Residential School but is unsure whether or not they know what it actually means, aside from First Nations people getting money because they went there.

"My fear was once the settlement was paid out, unless something was said, history was going to be lost."

What resulted from her Second Stories project is a heartfelt, inspirational film about two ladies who confronted the source of their pain in order to heal themselves and do what they could to make change for future generations.

"It's important for everyone to know that Anita and Doris don't want credit for what they did, they just want people to learn from their experiences – what they went through and what they did as a result."

But whether they like it or not, Anita and Doris are real-life heroes whose super powers are inner-strength, determination and integrity.

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Versatile Cardinal moves from TV to stage

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Lorne Cardinal didn't plan to be an actor – he started out in education at the University of Alberta.

“But it turned out you couldn't just teach phys-ed and drama,” he laughs, adding his practicums – one with a teacher nearing retirement who “told the kids to draw a picture of a metaphor for 40 minutes while he flipped through boat catalogues” helped him realize a few things: “I didn't care for the current educational system, and couldn't perpetuate that model.”

A prof kept hassling him to audition for the Fine Arts performing program – community theatre had introduced the acting bug. Four years later he became the U of A's first Aboriginal graduate in the performing arts.

“It was one of the best programs in the country at that time – but I rebelled a bit,” he admits, voting with his feet when classes were dry theory combined with a European/colonial mindset. But he persevered – after hassling administration to bring in Pochinko, clowning to round out the classical ballet, they let him organize a weekend workshop.

“And the eight or nine students that came, the pros saw a dramatic difference in their acting right away.”

His wide range of training and experience – from clowning to classic Shake-



Craig Lauzon and Lorne Cardinal swap roles in Kenneth T. Williams Thunderstick.

spearean – has prepared him for any role, but six years on the hit television series “Corner Gas” as goofy but adorable Davis Quinton means he can pass over stereo-typical roles, or use his influence to re-write the one-dimensional, inappropriate typecasting that still abounds.

“My hope is it will get easier for the next generation of actors, that the door will keep opening wider,” he said, crediting leaders like Tantoo Cardinal and Gordon Tootoosis for first opening the door.

“We all experience emotions – comedy

– tragedy – there's no reason we couldn't mount an all-Native production of King Lear.”

Which is one of his next goals. Many think Corner Gas was his first big break but he'd already been in eight TV series, and almost two decades of movies, live theatre, cartoon voicing, and a BBC series. While he wants to continue television, international work, and the big-screen, he loves the continuity, immediacy, and intimacy of live theatre.

“It's storytelling, start to finish,” he

explained. And he's as happy directing as acting. Right now he's starring in Kenneth T. Williams' “Thunderstick”, his directorial debut ten years ago with Sask Native Theatre Company. It was so familiar to him he added a challenge – he and actor Craig Lauzon have learned both roles and are switching every performance, no small feat.

“How it started was we both wanted the role of Jacob,” Cardinal explains.

From there the two directors came on-board – Del Surjik at Saskatoon's Persephone, where it runs until mid-November, and Brad Moss from Edmonton's Theatre Network where it opens January.

The foursome rehearsed scene by scene, with each actor taking turns.

“We'd steal from each other when we added something good to each role, and it's just been win/win.”

What's next for everyone's favourite Nehiyo? APTN is pitching a pilot for “Wolf Canyon”, starring Cardinal as a confused stuntman in a bad American TV series filming in Canada – and he'll be able to commute to work from his home in Squamish.

A favourite at galas, he also takes two days off “Thunderstick” to host the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards in Winnipeg.



Nathan Chasing Horse is best known for his acting role in Dances With Wolves as Smiles A Lot. He has been in many television films including DreamKeeper, the Broken Chain, Gift of Choice, and Peace and Dignity. Nathan Chasing Horse has performed at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C. and also with the Joffrey ballet. Apart from his acting career, he was a Native American consultant on the film Thunderheart, narrated several documentaries and helped develop a Lakota astronomy curriculum for NASA/JPL. He has spent much of the last ten years working for the U.S. government and Native organizations to improve life for Native Americans. He has also been touring reserves and reservations raising awareness about positive and healthy lifestyle choices. He visited the Leask Community School on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and, in the evening, the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Young and old enjoyed his two-hour presentation. Here he is joined by James Christian and Grant Johnstone. He is Lakota from the Rosebud Nation, Lakota Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

(Photo by Carol Lafond)



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Two Story Cafe showcases arts

By Fabian Ratt
For Eagle Feather News

Three nights of informative and emotional entertainment by Aboriginal artists made for a wonderful performance in Prince Albert.

The Indigenous Peoples Artist Collective presented the Two Story Café on Oct. 7, 9, and 10.

Featuring performers from the local scene as well as nationally known artists, the nights all started with some information sharing by master of ceremonies, organizer and nationally known artist himself, Michel Boutin.

He started the first night by welcoming everyone.

"Art is ideas ... paintings and sculptures are a way, a means of displaying that idea to the world, and hopefully it causes the viewer to have their own ideas too," Boutin said.

"There are many styles of Art, and media to use, especially with Performance Art."

Host Simon Moccasin, a playwright, and performer as well, warmed the crowd up, then brought up the first of the act, performance artist, Warren Arcan who talked about his relationship with a book by an Aboriginal author, and the thoughts and feelings that he got from it, using cut-outs.

He was followed by John and Vicky Arcand, on fiddle and guitar respectively. After the Arcands, came John J. Cook who mentioned that he is putting together a new single to be released shortly, and possibly a tour. Finishing the night was

Mitch Daigneault, with his collection of award winning music, and original songs.

Day two of the Two Story Cafe was at the Rawlinson Centre for the Arts Gallery. Boutin welcomed the crowd then introduced Elwood Jimmy, from the McKenzie Art Gallery in Regina. He curates a collection of short films, by Aboriginal videographers from across Canada.

The night also included a Cini-poem by Gabriel Yahyahkeekoot A poignant video story, set to a poem, about three generations of a family surviving through foster care.

"It stops here" Yahyahkeekoot says, as a proud new father himself.

The third and last day for the Two Story Cafe, was back in the Arts Centre, with performances by Errol Kinistino, Violet Naytowhow, and Angus Jourdain Jr. The night also featured a play written and performed by Simon Moccasin. Titled "APPLE", the play has been performed at many events, and has brought Moccasin much praise, and respect.

The Two Story Cafe is part of a much bigger Aboriginal Arts and Music Festival that occurs annually. But the Two Story Cafe is also an integral part that showcases other forms of art, besides mainstream Aboriginal music.

These gifts that our brothers and sisters have been blessed with are gifts that are meant to be shared. And, the understanding and ideas created from seeing the truth, and beauty, that this art is, are truly gifts as well.



John J. Cook and Mitch Daigneault were happy following their performances.



Buffy Sainte-Marie (middle) was a performer and award winner this past weekend at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards in Winnipeg.

(Photo courtesy of APCMA)

Library
SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

sils
Saskatchewan Information & Library Services Consortium

Attention Public Library Patrons Important Changes Coming Soon

Public Libraries in Saskatchewan are moving to a "one province, one library card" system and a number of exciting changes are in the works.

New Provincial Consortium

Saskatoon Public Library is now part of a provincial consortium, Saskatchewan Information & Library Services Consortium (SILS). The Consortium has purchased a new, elite, technologically advanced, integrated computer library system. A provincial grant of \$5.2 million, to be spread over 4 years, made this possible. The new system will connect all public libraries throughout the province and eventually may include school and academic libraries. As part of the initiative, all public libraries in the province have agreed on a new set of borrowing rules and late charges. In Canada, an agreement on this scale involving over 300 libraries is unprecedented and testimony to our co-operative prairie spirit!

Saskatoon Public Library First to Migrate

Saskatoon Public Library will be the first of 11 public library systems in the province to migrate to the new integrated library system. The remaining 10 library systems will follow in clustered phases, with all systems on board over the next year. At that time, we truly will be a "one province, one library card" system with more equitable access to library service and library material.

New Features

As part of your library experience, you'll enjoy:

- a new state-of-the-art computer system which will eventually include a number of amazing features for the library catalogue, including a separate colourful catalogue for children;
- a customized library card account and improved security measures;
- improved access to our website and online resources;
- a centralized notification system for holds and late charges, including e-mail;
- an increase to your borrowing limit to 100 items at one time;
- the same borrowing periods and renewals, however magazines will no longer be renewable.

Changes to Late Charges

Every library system had a different schedule of late charges, so with a lot of give and take, the Consortium has agreed to one schedule of late charges for the province. This new schedule comes into effect for each system as it migrates. In Saskatoon, the new rate charges will come into effect immediately after we migrate:

- an **end** to late charges on all children's material;
- **no change** to late charges on teen material (\$0.20/day);
- an **increase** of late charges on adult material from \$0.20/day to \$0.30/day;
- an **increase** in late charges on adult DVDs from \$0.20/day to \$1/day.

Unfortunately, you may experience disruptions to library service while Saskatoon Public Library migrates to the new system. We ask for your understanding and patience as we move forward with this exciting change. We'll do our best to minimize disruptions and to keep you informed. Visit us online for the latest information.



saskatoonlibrary.ca

Readers Forum

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Please try to keep your letter to 300 words and include your name and contact information. And no lies either, or slander, or bad baking recipes. Just insight and opinion. Thanks, keep them coming to johnl@eaglefeathernews.com snail mail is PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4

Dear editor

I agree with Dave Clinton's letter that appeared on the last Eagle Feather News Volume 12-Number 10. If everybody was charged for uttering discriminatory comments about our visibly indigenous relatives, the courts would be tied up right across our country for the next thousand years and even then, there would still be thousands upon thousands of cases left to deal with.

But, of course, we're not rated as high on the scale for protecting us from this kind of discriminatory comments. We have lived through a lot and we are very strong people to keep trekking on even if there is a roadblock with every step we take throughout our lives and it continues on down the line to our children, grandchildren, etc. We are true survivors for having come this far. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

I worked for David Ahenakew back in the early '70s and I found him to be fair in all his decisions and was never afraid to stand up for his people.

Congratulations to you, Dave, and your family for caring so much and for being willing to put yourself on a chopping block, even then you stick to your guns. You are a true leader and those who think otherwise are afraid to stand up for their beliefs and their people.

This is my own viewpoint and not that of the English River First Nation leaders. I have heard many comments

from my people about how they were mistreated and wish they could do something about it, but for one reason or another they are afraid to open the doors because they know they would be just ignored and someone would make their lives a living hell.

MJ John
Member of ERFN

Dear Editor;

Why would you publish Dave Clinton's letter to the editor in such bold print. I remember being 'black listed', and I am sure it was not because of the Jew, as your writer would have us believe.

Israel worships the same G*D as the Indian, the Great Spirit. Maybe Kokum was stealing candy? How do we know the store was owned by a someone from Israel? Think before you publish anti-Semitic heresy. Allah loves you.

Respectfully,

Thomas Asham

Thanks for the great article on my book launch. There is one mistake though. My mother-in-law, not my mom, was from Pasqua. People are wondering why I'm not treaty, and Pasqua people are just wondering.

Kininaskomin

Jo-Ann Episkenew

Refusal to hear McIvor case will not slow FSIN citizenship battle

Sharon McIvor, a British Columbia First Nations citizen, challenged Section 6 of the Indian Act, which governs Indian Status, as discriminatory. McIvor argued Section 6 treats the descendents of Indian women who married non-Indian men differently from the descendents of Indian men who married non-Indian women.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled it will not hear Sharon McIvor's case regarding the continued gender discrimination in the 'status' provisions of the Indian Act.

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild says the Federation has a strong mandate from Saskatchewan Chiefs to pursue all avenues to resolve this outstanding issue of citizenship.

"The federal government is not doing a good job when it comes to fulfilling its duty to consult with First Nations on the action that they are proposing. Without proper consultation the federal government will make the same mistakes that created the inequality identified in the McIvor case," says Chief Lonechild.

"What Canada is proposing is far too narrow. It's First Nations that decide who is a citizen not the federal government. When Ottawa dictates who is a citizen it clearly illustrates the racism and paternalism inherent in the Indian Act," he says.

"Citizenship is an issue that falls under Section 35 of the Constitution that recognizes our Aboriginal Right to Self-Government and our Treaty Rights," says Chief Lonechild.

"Canada needs to come up with a remedy for the mothers and children who lost status since 1985."

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is pursuing an amendment to the Indian Act to respond to direction from the BC Court of Appeal, to be in place by April 9, 2010. On July 15, 2009 Chiefs of Saskatchewan rejected any amendments to status provisions. The Federation instead is seeking alternatives to the Indian Act.

"It is our belief that the FSIN Citizenship Framework is a viable long term alternative to the Indian Act status provisions. We will continue to pursue joint work with the federal government on a broader approach to citizenship," says Chief Lonechild.

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Elijah Harper encourages grads to take leadership roles

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

Elijah Harper is remembered as the man who changed history as he stood in the Manitoba Legislature holding an eagle feather and said “no” to the Meech Lake Accord.

After an introduction and a list of some of the honours and accomplishments Elijah Harper has received, the following speech was made to the 60 First Nations University of Canada Graduates at a ceremony in Saskatoon. Harper spoke of the importance of this day as a milestone accomplishment.

“I’ve never been asked to speak to convocation. The last time I made a speech it was in Manitoba – in the legislature. It was one word – NO – and it lasted for ten days,” he said to laughter and applause.

“We have a future ahead of us that will be guided by the vision of our forefathers. I say that because this is how I was brought up, how I was raised.

“This foundation has provided me with guidance and wisdom throughout my career. It wasn’t done in the academic setting – it was done at home, in the family, in the community. All of us should focus on that. And the goals and vision of the university should follow that.

“The visions I talked about, these were etched into the treaties of the Government of Canada. These treaties were sacred – they guaranteed our future in this country. Our forefathers did this.

“We are told that a nation without a vision has no hope, a nation without a vision has no future.

“Treaties are the most basic fundamental relationship we have with Canada. They were made to last forever – the words say, as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

“Canada is now one of the wealthiest countries in the world. But somehow our people have not benefited from this wealth.

“But our time is coming. Our time is here. We need to take opportunities to move forward. I am extremely proud to see these graduates.”

He spoke of his own experience at the University of Manitoba, where only a handful of First Nations people were attending in 1968, on to the early ‘70s. Some of these people were Ovide Mercredi, Thompson Highway, and Phil Fontaine.

“I didn’t complete my degree – I got called home to be Chief. I was busy advancing the interests of our people, and I never stopped.”

Thanking the guidance of his parents and Elders, he said his people were what gave him the strength to stand up alone against an entire country.

“I was able to say no to a constitutional amendment in Canada that did not recognize the contributions of First Nations in this country.

“The Meech Lake Accord stated that Canada was founded by two founding nations, the French and English, with no recognition or regard for the First Nations people. I had to stand up for our people.

“As First Nations people, we are a special people. We are the First Nations, the host to many other people that have come to this country. We have a greater responsibility than any other people ... to maintain the peace, harmony, and unity

of this country we call Canada.

Even when Quebec was threatening to separate, he noted that it was a tiny minority that kept the country together – the Cree in Quebec.

“Federal and provincial governments have never acknowledged the strength and unity that we have provided for this nation. We need to challenge mainstream Canadians.

worldview that has never been explained, and never been understood by Canadians.

“The wisdom, traditions, and knowledge are there. It’s a matter of teaching it. It’s so important that we have our own professors to challenge them. We have to be at the same level, even higher – that’s the challenge. I hope some of you will carry on. Research, education, and academic studies are



First Nation University of Canada Elders Danny Musqua and Isadore Pelletier were on hand to greet Elijah Harper.

(Photo by Andrea Ledding)

We need to educate our people and the general public. Many immigrants don’t even know Aboriginal people live here, let alone about the treaties.

“The treaties are a special relationship we have with the government – they become obligated to the treaties as well. Everyone inherits that legacy even though there are many broken promises from the treaties. Just as all Canadians inherit the national debt, treaty obligations are inherited as well.”

Harper noted the importance of developing the minds and taking charge of the teaching of the teaching of First Nations young people.

“We must have our own universities, our own Ph.Ds and doctorates. We need to challenge the thinking of Western philosophy. I believe we have a particular perspective and

needed to validate us.

Describing the First Nations as “a sleeping elephant”, he said, “When the First Nations begin to awaken, Canada will change. People will awaken and be more spiritually attuned to what is happening.

“Continue that good fight. I’m sort of enthused and happy and glad that I’m here. Sometimes seeing is believing. Seeing a group of graduates sitting here, the world at their feet.”

He added that he hoped they would go on to not only continue their educations but take part in leadership, or run for the legislature.

“Politics is something that I went to and I’ve never regretted.”



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Ten percent of the first year class (9/84 for 2010 entry) are reserved each year in the College of Medicine for persons of Canadian Aboriginal descent. To assist students enrolled in pre-medical studies, the College of Medicine offers scholarships annually of \$1000 and \$2500 for entering and continuing Aboriginal students registered within the College of Arts and Science in pre-medical studies.

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Bright future for SIGA and the Saskatchewan bands it supports

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

It seems things just keep getting better for the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA). Not only did SIGA report an increase in visitation to their six casinos with 3.6 million guests coming through the doors in 2008, they also welcomed an increase in finances and surpassed \$240 million in total revenues.

And the success doesn't stop there.

"We completed our \$125 million capital reinvestment program, which resulted in the construction of three new modern facilities including a rebuild in Yorkton of the Painted Hand Casino, the Living Sky Casino to serve southwest Saskatchewan and our largest property, the Dakota Dunes Casino," said SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen.

SIGA also continues its commitment to recruitment, training and development programs.

"The company has been growing rapidly as we have almost doubled our employment levels to over 2,100 employees in the last three years, including over 1,300 First Nations employees," said Hansen.

In addition, SIGA also provides funding to Saskatchewan First Nations bands through the Casino Operating Agreement. The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority determines a percentage of funds to be distributed to First Nations Bands based on SIGA profits. These funds are in turn dispersed through First Nations Trust to be used by the bands for community initiatives on reserve.

Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook says the money they receive from SIGA is a blessing.

"We are extremely grateful for the SIGA dollars we receive. The community programs, events and infrastructure we are able to help with because of these funds greatly impacts the lives of our members in a very positive way," Cook said.

Cook says the amount of community initiatives they are able to be involved with is nothing short of amazing.

"We have been able to contribute to the Jonas Roberts Community Center in La Ronge, indoor skating rinks in Stanley Mission, Pinehouse and Grandmothers Bay. Brabant Lake was able to get a community van. We have built Elder's homes. We were even able to get involved in the Olympic Torch Run."

And having her Band involved in an event of this magnitude is something Cook feels will impact her community long after the Torch makes its stop in La Ronge.

"It is our dream to one day have our own people compete in the Olympic Games. And if even one of our youth is inspired to chase this dream after seeing the Torch come here, then it's more than worth it."

And when this dream is realized, it's almost certain SIGA will be there to help.

"Since 1995, SIGA has shown dramatic growth into what is now a multi-million dollar First Nation's gaming and entertainment business, moving SIGA into the top 30 companies in Saskatchewan," added Hansen.

You can check out SIGA's annual report at www.siga.sk.ca



Assisted by Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Lac La Ronge Elder Catherine Charles prays a blessing over the Olympic torch. Torchbearer Tanner Cook, a Lac La Ronge Indian Band member from Stanley Mission, looks out over the crowd (Photo by Carmen Pauls Orthner)

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EXCELLENCE THROUGH PEOPLE

Torch receives emotional welcome in Lac La Ronge

By Carmen Pauls Orthner
For Eagle Feather News

From tanning hides and drying fish, to cooking wild meat and telling stories from long ago, fire has always played a key role in Woodland Cree culture.

But it's unlikely that any flame has ever been greeted with as much pomp and ceremony as the one that touched down in the Lac La Ronge Indian Band's traditional territory on Nov. 7.

After being unbuckled from its front row seat on the jumbo jet that arrived at the La Ronge Airport mid-morning, the "everlasting flame" that symbolizes the Olympic spirit was transported to the home of Lac La Ronge elder Demar Mirasty, on Kitsaki reserve.

Mirasty's home was chosen as the torch relay's starting point in La Ronge in part because of its proximity to the band office – as each torchbearer runs just 300 metres – and in part because of her son, Russ Mirasty, who is RCMP's director general for National Aboriginal Policing Services, and as such is the top-ranked Aboriginal officer in Canada. Chief Superintendent Mirasty flew in from Ottawa for the occasion.

At Mirasty's home, the flame was used to light the torch carried by Lac La Ronge band member Emma Charles, who ran it to Kitsaki Hall.

Tanner Cook, who like Charles is from Stanley Mission and won a gold medal for volleyball at the 2008 North American Indigenous Games, then carried his torch from the hall to the band's central office.

Upon Cook's arrival, the cheering crowd turned quiet as Elder Catherine Charles – her gloved hand wrapped firmly around the base of Cook's torch – prayed a blessing over the Olympic flame.

After the prayer, Aileen Searson, 12, wearing a beaded buckskin dress and sporting a pair of homemade Olympic medals around her neck, sang a clear, sweet-voiced rendition of "O Canada" in Cree – leaving a number of spectators wiping their eyes clear of tears.

Searson then handed off the microphone to her mother, Lac La Ronge Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, who welcomed the Vancouver Olympic Committee and visiting media to her band's traditional territory – which includes both the reserves and the nearby municipalities of La Ronge and Air Ronge – and spoke of the gratitude she feels that, after much lobbying, Lac La Ronge was chosen as a host community for the Olympic torch relay.

Chief Cook-Searson, who is a competitive marathon runner herself, encouraged young athletes to believe in the possibilities that lie ahead.

"I do hope that one day we will see someone from the Lac La Ronge Indian Band competing in the Olympics as an athlete," she told the crowd, who responded with enthusiastic applause.

In recognition of Veterans Week, the chief also singled out Woodland Cree military veterans, many of whom were gathered – in full uniform – in front of the large tipi set up at the band office for the event.

Band councillor Irwin Hennie, a Canadian Forces veteran whose son, Eric, is currently serving a second tour of duty in Afghanistan, also spoke briefly, as did Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-chief Morley Watson.

With the ceremony concluded, the flame continued on its run through La Ronge, passing through the hands of several torchbearers, including another Lac La Ronge member, Electra Charles.

It finally arrived in the parking lot of the Mel Hegland Uniplex arena, where torchbearer Natasha Boyes lit the ceremonial cauldron at La Ronge's "celebration community" event.

Band members also participated in the La Ronge celebration, both as performers – including the New Dawn drum group and the Grandmother's Bay square dancers – and doing demonstrations, such as elder Ida Tremblay's moccasin-making in a tipi near the arena.



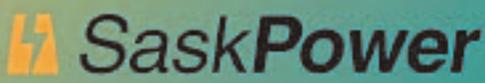
Veteran Steven Ross of Montreal Lake salutes as Aileen Searson sings Oh Canada in Cree.

(Photo by Carmen Pauls Orthner)

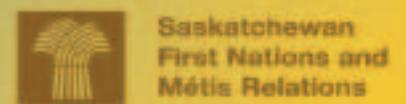
"The Spirit of Our Nations"



The 2009 FSIN Pow Wow Committee thanks all the participants, spectators and sponsors for making this year's FSIN SIGA "Spirit of our Nations" Pow Wow a spectacular success.



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