

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Theo Fleury was at McNally Robinson Booksellers in Saskatoon for a signing event for his book *Playing with Fire*. Hundreds of people stood in line for hours to meet the NHL legend. He was gifted with a Métis sash from the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. It was presented by Roland Duplessis. Duplessis was joined by his grandson Tyson.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Fleury's book opens new chapter

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

We've heard the story before. An abused kid lives a wild life and ultimately dies of their own hand or at the hands of others in a violent encounter. It happens every month in the Aboriginal community of Saskatchewan when people choose drugs and alcohol to mask the pain of dealing with sexual abuse and the self-loathing and lack of trust that come with it. If he had followed the path that many before him

have taken, Theo Fleury would be dead too. He grew up surrounded by alcohol, was sexually abused at a young age by a hockey coach, a person of trust, and he took all of his pain and buried it deep in his soul. Unlike many though, Theo Fleury is a world class athlete, a Stanley Cup winner, Olympic Gold Medal athlete, a survivor and now an author.

Former NHL star and Calgary Flame captain Theo Fleury has literally seen and done it all in his career.

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Welcome to our
Christmas Issue
Coming In January :
New's Year's Edition
CPMA #40027204

U of S pre-med student from Ile a la Crosse earns Wicihitowin Foundation scholarship

By **Andréa Ledding**
Of Eagle Feather News

Jordyn Burnouf is the 2009 Education Award Scholarship winner for the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards, funded by the Wicihitowin Foundation – the Cree word for “helping each other” – established to honour First Nations Veterans while assisting and honouring youth.

Burnouf was nominated by her Ile a la Crosse high school teachers for this award, sponsored by Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, because of her outstanding academic and community leadership.

“Seeing all the other nominees was amazing,” noted Burnouf, adding she was astounded by the other youth, and certain she didn’t have a chance. “These people are amazing – getting the award was crazy, running against all those incredible people.”

But Burnouf is no slouch. At Rossignol High School she received Northern Academic Achievement awards several times, numerous class awards, and was selected for the Lieutenant-Governor Leadership forum due to academics, athletics, extracurricular, and community involvement.

She also received entrance scholarships from the University of Saskatchewan itself, Cameco, Pledco, Northern Spirit, and the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

“My advice is to apply for scholarships, as many as you can – I applied to 50 and got about five,” she said.

Now in pre-med at the University of Saskatchewan, she’s enjoying her studies – and playing on two campus rec teams, including the College of Medicine hockey team, where other medical students give her valuable advice on and off the ice – but being away from home is tougher than expected.

“I’m getting into things and really like it – I’m in love with biology right now – but it’s different being away from home,” she admitted, adding a strong support system of close friends, and frequent family visits, helps ease homesickness.

“Or I talk to my one-year-old nephew on the phone – that always cheers me up.”

She also returns for occasional visits and volleyball games – and is looking forward to the Christmas break, spending part of it volunteering for the World Juniors Hockey Championship.

Her family has been overwhelmingly supportive – her grandfather was continually cutting out her pictures saying “you’re in the newspaper again.” She has been focused on Medicine for a while.

“I like the whole idea of it – I love what you study to become a doctor,” she said, adding there were many teachers who really made a difference – encouraging, influencing, and challenging her to study hard.

“I don’t want to work a 9 to 5 office job – I want to do something that really makes a difference.”



Jordyn Burnouf has her sights set on a medical career. She recently won the 2009 Education Award at the Aboriginal Youth Awards.



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Worme among NAAA recipients

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The House of Commons recently took time to celebrate the successes of 14 remarkable Aboriginal Canadians selected for the 17th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, taking place on March 26 in Regina.

After being welcomed into the gallery, and acknowledged by members of the House of Commons, recipients attended a reception afterwards, hosted by Speaker of the House Peter Milliken.

Included among the esteemed recipients is Don Worme Q.C. I.P., a Saskatoon-based lawyer who has reached the top of the legal profession. He has achieved the distinction of being named a Queen's and Indigenous People's Counsel and he played a central role at the Stonechild Inquiry probing Saskatoon police conduct. Most recently, Worme was named counsel for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission gathering the stories of Indian residential school survivors.

Worme is originally from Kawacatoose First Nation and attended high school in Regina. Coming home to Regina will hold special meaning for Worme.

"It will be overwhelming, I assume," said Worme, who for once admitted to being at a loss for words.

"Believe me, as a guy who toils in the trenches, we don't expect to be recognized. But it is nice and an absolute honour and privilege to be named along with the current recipients and all the amazing people that have come before us."



"Every year the jury selects an extraordinary group of recipients who reveal such outstanding talent and dedicated service," said Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Held in Regina, the NAAA 2010 focuses on the theme of Potential and, the ability within us all to achieve greatness, despite obstacles.

With hosts Tinsel Korey (Twilight, The Guard) and Raoul Trujillo (True Blood, Apocalypto) the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards continue the mission of celebrating Aboriginal Canadians who have made a profound positive impact in their communities, across Canada, and worldwide. Featuring performers including international music icon Buffy Sainte-Marie, Crystal Shawanda, Elisapie Isaac, Lorne Cardinal, Michael Greyeyes and Leemai Lafontaine, the 17th annual NAAA will recognize the achievements of the following individuals: William Commanda, OC - Lifetime Achievement Award; Skawenniio Barnes - Special Youth Award; Kananginak Pootoogook - Arts; Ellen Melcosky - Business & Commerce; Tom Crane Bear - Culture, Heritage & Spirituality; Dr. Raoul McKay - Education; Danny Beaton - Environment & Natural Resources; Madeleine Kētēskwew Dion Stout, BN, MA, Ph.D (Hon.) - Health; Donald E. Worme, QC, IPC - Law & Justice; Kenneth Atsenhainton Deer - Media and Communications; Hon. Eric William Robinson - Politics; Edith Cloutier - Public Service; Monica Pinette - Sports; Doug Henry - Technology & Trades

SEASONS' GREETINGS

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SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN
GAMING AUTHORITY

Editorial

Newsmakers aplenty

It is always difficult to pick the newsmaker of the year. So much happens every year that it is hard to decide what was most relevant story ... locally, provincially and nationally.

Should we focus on an event or a person? We posed this question to our family of writers and they came back with a wide variety of answers but no consensus number one newsmaker (except the two who picked Barack Obama, but how lazy is that? He is the President of the United States. All he does is make news!). So we guess that there are several newsmakers this year.

The event that has received the most amount of ink of any story has been the H1N1 scare. The government has effectively dropped the ball and handled this 'crisis' very poorly, with issues ranging from poor communication, running out of vaccines and by shipping body bags to remote First Nations.

The federal government has handled this as well as the Three Stooges would have. When it comes to great handling of the H1N1 crisis, one has to look no further than Cowessess First Nation.

They had a pandemic plan in place, people trained and a community that was aware of what was going on.

That was refreshing to see. Even more refreshing was to see the pandemic come and go with little more than a ripple in the community. Thank goodness.

History was made this year at the Assembly of First Nations election assembly in Calgary.

After eight grueling rounds of voting, B.C. Hereditary Chief Sean Atleo edged out former FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde to replace Phil Fontaine as National Chief.

This election will go down in history as the one that forced the AFN to change their voting system so that there would be no more around the clock elections.

Politics was certainly on the mind of one of our writers who said the election of Guy Lonechild as Chief of the FSIN was a historic moment with his promise to focus on children and women and to get a woman as the AFN Regional Chief from Saskatchewan. This writer also had kudos for Métis Nation Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette for turning around a debt-ridden, credibility-crippled Métis Nation. Smart observation.

Chief Lonechild also assigned himself the First Nations University in his portfolio and has given lots of students hope. We just received a press release from the FNUC Students association calling on the current administration for accountability to the students on the way is they are mishandling THEIR University. It is great to see the activism and care from the students of today. They are the ones that can really affect change in our community.

Sticking with youth, three young men from Meadow Lake, Devin Knot, Brett Opikokew and Joshua Lasas were out one night and saw a mini van get swept into a ditch by flood waters. Fearlessly, the young men swam out in the freezing water and saved a woman and her three children from certain drowning. Since then the men have been to the provincial legislature and met Premier Brad Wall and have also been acknowledged nationally. How proud we are of them.

Another group of people have also been getting attention this year. Residential school survivors have been waiting a long time to get an apology, a settlement and a chance to tell their stories.

With two down, now we are waiting for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to come through so people can tell their story and begin the healing process. Once this is completed, we can all start to move forward in a good way.

Here's to all of the residential school survivors and their families. Let 2010 be a year of healing.

An Apology

We messed up a name last month. We incorrectly identified a soldier we interviewed at the FSIN powwow. We apologize to Kale Seesequasis for the error.



YOUNG HEROES

These young gentlemen saved a woman and her three children from drowning in a rain filled ditch outside of Meadow Lake. For their heroics, Devin Knot, Brett Opikokew and Joshua Lasas were honoured at the provincial legislature by Premier Brad Wall. These young men represent many outstanding young people in the Aboriginal community and were also some of the biggest newsmakers of the year in 2009.

(Photo by Cassandra Opikokew)

We're saying goodbye to Faith

Next year will be a big change for Eagle Feather News. Our sales manager and good friend Faith McLean is moving on.

She has realized her calling and has been attending the Indigenous Teachers Education Program at the University of Saskatchewan for the past four months and will be devoting herself full-time to her studies in 2010.

We couldn't be happier for her or for the children she will eventually teach.

We want to thank Faith for her wit, wisdom and leadership over the past six years and all of us here at Eagle Feather News wish her nothing but the best of luck in her studies and career.



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P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K-3M4

Phone: 306.978.8118 Toll Free: 866.323.6397 Fax: 306.978.8117

Publisher/Editor: John Lagimodiere, johnl@eaglefeathernews.com

Associate Editor: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

Sales Manager: Faith McLean, mclean_f@shaw.ca

Publications Mail Agreement No: 40027204

OSSN #1492-7497

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ, P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K-3M4

Eagle Feather News is published monthly by ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services, P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4. No part of this publication may be reproduced either in part or in whole without the express written permission of the publisher.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Annual subscription rate is \$25 per year, \$26.25 with GST.

Bulk subscriptions are also available, call our office for details. Subscription requests can be mailed or faxed to our office. Forms are available on our website.

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

Yet another warm and fuzzy Christmas column

I'm sure I saw some of Santa's Elves at the 7-Eleven on Twenty-Second Street the other day. They were all dressed up in Christmas red and they spoke a language I didn't understand.

Some girls were following them around laughing and cussing. These elves wore matching red bandanas. Someone said they were Bloods. I wondered what Blood Indians, probably from Stand Off Alberta, were doing in Cree country.

Years ago we used to steal their horses and they used to steal our women – both had nice legs.

I sure wish they would have stolen that mouthy girl who was saying the 'F' word every other sentence. I think she was partly pickled from all that alcohol on her breath. Poor thing. Too many liquor chocolates no doubt.

People sure have the Christmas cheer. When I went out to my truck some people came up to me offering to sell me Christmas presents cheap. Some young man offered to sell a new release "GI Joe" DVD for \$10. He said it regularly cost thirty dollars as I could see from the still attached price tag.

What a deal and I could plainly see it would do double duty as an effective hand warmer on cold winter days. It was that hot.

It must be the recession in the States driving prices down. I didn't buy it either way, but I'm sure somebody else did.

The private sector is certainly doing well these days what with all the independent businessmen selling stuff in parking lots.

Every time I go to Shoppers Drug Mart I have to pass an enormous Toberlone Bar on my way to the checkout. It's big enough to choke a moose. I love chocolate but I have diabetes. Tough call.

They recently made it even tougher for me. The shelves are now flooded with Christmas candy. I must admit the little M & M lady sure has nice legs – even better than a Blackfoot horse.

When I was a kid we used to have ribbon hard candy. It came in a tin. This was before plastic, about the time when Diefenbaker was prime minister. Buffalo still wandered freely across the plains.

This candy was mostly sugar and it took some time to suck on it.

The clove flavoured stuff was gross.

Ribbon candy was usually left discarded and partly dissolved. Sticky bits of it stuck to clothes and blankets. I don't miss it much.

I understand there's a new Prime Minister Harper candy but it doesn't sell too well and it's bitter and hard to swallow.

We used to go to church on Christmas Eve. I sure enjoyed the singing. My mom, the devout Christian she is, would get all misty eyed.

The boarding school matrons sang lustily but out of tune.

The Indian section, as always, was in the back, and off to the side.

It all came together, though, and I must admit other than getting married, it was the best church services I've been to. The pews smelled of shellac and the English boarding school ladies smelled of lavender. These smells still trigger memories, not all of them good.

I remember the fuss when the T. Eaton Christmas catalogue arrived. It was even more desirable than the Star Weekly funny pages. This was long before the Internet, just after electricity was invented. Most stuff

was mail ordered.

One year I got a scratchy wool Toronto Maple Leafs sweater. English Canada wore the Maple Leaf's jersey while Quebecers proudly wore the Montreal Canadiens jersey. Other than singing how, "Wolfe the dauntless hero came and planted firm Britannia's flag" this was my introduction to Canadian bi-culturalism.

Now-a-days most people are too embarrassed by the Toronto Maple Leafs to buy their jersey. They just sit there unsold beside the Harper Candy.

The extent of electronics in my day consisted of electric train sets. Around and around on metal track they went while a transformer box with a big black dial hummed ominously. The train sets went the way of the dodo when Hot Wheels were introduced.

I sure miss Tinker toys. They were replaced by Lego. Real pine trees were not entirely replaced by metal Christmas trees thank goodness. They now have a metal upside down Christmas tree, which, like the times we live in, doesn't make sense.

I think I'll put up my stocking with care otherwise somebody's gonna rip me off.

If, up on my roof I hear such a clatter and jump from the bed to see what's the



Common Ground
John Cuthand

Remembering some unforgettable characters

"They came ashore here and that is where the Treaty was signed." The speaker in Big Trout Lake in remote northwestern Ontario, an Oji-Cree community now called Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, was referring to the adhesion signing to Treaty Nine in 1929.

She is one of seven women I have met who personally witnessed the signing of historic treaties. All are now deceased. The stories in KI, as the community is now sometimes referred to for obvious reasons, were translated from Oji-Cree, the only language the Elders knew.

It is not only the name change that reflects the growing assertiveness of the people of this small 'fly-in' community. In recent years they have garnered national attention from their attempts to protect their homeland from mining operations, including the jailing by Ontario courts of six of their political leaders.

I was one of a few passengers in the small regular-flight airplane from Sioux Lookout that did not speak Oji-Cree. It was a trip to have a hearing in one of the nearly 100 places that the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples visited in 1993-94. Aside from some RCAP staff members and my fellow commissioner, the late Bertha Wilson, the first woman to sit on the Supreme

Court of Canada, then retired, all the passengers were local folk going to Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug.

The safety announcements came over the sound system in the small plane. First they came in English. Then they came again, this time in the French language. Not a word in Oji-Cree.

Our storytellers, the grannies, were unforgettable bundles of smiling wrinkles wrapped round with head scarves that we used to call 'babooshkas' when I was little. They took every opportunity to greet everyone with a friendly handshake.

The stories were about the signing of the Treaty, and the life that the people lived before that time.

"I remember when I first saw a white man," said one, revealing insights known to extremely few people today. One story was about a friend of the story-teller, an Elder who took sick and was flown to the city for treatment. She spoke only Oji-Cree, the indigenous language spoken in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug since time beyond collective memory. Somehow, the friend did not get to the hospital. It seems there were communications problems at the airport. She knew no English and no one was there who

could understand her. The short version of the story is that the next morning the police found the frozen body of an Oji-Cree Elder on the streets of the town.

"If I get sick" said the grannie telling the story of her friend, "I will not go. I will stay here".

Another told of her grandchildren who now lived in the city. She told of her anguish because the grandchildren do not know Oji-Cree and it is hard to communicate with them.

I know of at least two official government reports on indigenous languages of Canada. Each one concludes that only three languages

have a chance of survival: Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut. I don't know if that means Oji-Cree is in or out. But everywhere our languages are dying.

One of the official reports on indigenous languages was done by Anastasia Shkilnyck for the federal Treasury Board in the mid-1980s. I recall when she was interviewing me, and she had never heard of such a thing as Michif language. Prairie indigenous people speak a variety of languages. It matters not whether linguists characterize them as languages or dialects or patois or creole.

Like all languages, they are our

unique modes of communications, our carriers and transmitters of unique thoughts and cultures.

I have previously stated my view that a true vision of Canada must be built upon its foundations as an indigenous North American country and not a European country. That includes not only language but symbols and official representation. The indigenous peoples must be reflected in the institutions of Canada.

Recognition and protection of languages is one avenue. Another, which costs little but packs a powerful message, is the idea of involving indigenous representatives in official welcoming and other ceremonies, such as welcoming of diplomats and heads of state. This proposal was made by the Royal Commission in 1996. The good news is that according to media reports, local First Nation leaders are to be made special VIP guests and representatives at the Winter Olympics.

That does not quite make up for the failure of governments to accept such a role of recognition for indigenous people, but it is encouraging. It is a bit disappointing though to read the snide language in which the news has been reported in some quarters.

As the year ends, we are lucky when we can remember some truly unforgettable characters, and the things they stand for. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

Nothing as poor as a turkey with no drumsticks

Have you ever wondered about Santa Claus? You know, the fat, red cheeked, red suited capitalist with a ho, ho, ho, who makes you want to spend your hard earned cash as fast as you can or puts you into such a depression at the thought of him that you just want to never get out of bed again.

Without sounding like a complete dinosaur, I must say that in my lifetime I have gone the whole nine yards with the old fart.

My first encounter with him was in 1946. I don't remember him before that so I am assuming he didn't exist on our road allowance. But in 1946 he arrived at our house after everybody had gone to midnight mass and the kokoms and kids had gone to bed, the mommas and aunties to stuff the goose and my dad and his brothers to the barn to do goodness knows what.

Of course, not all of us went to sleep. My brothers and I stayed awake excited by our uncle's stories about the "little fat man who gave children, good ones that is, gifts of candies, apples and oranges. We had never seen an orange, much less tasted one and as if that wasn't enough, "If you were really good, my uncle said, Santa would leave you a store bought gift."

Of course I had been exceptionally good. Fighting with my brothers didn't count, so I knew I would get the red jackknife and perfume I wanted. See, even then I had my priorities straight. A sharp knife first, to skin rabbits and weasels and then the perfume. Anyways, that night my brothers and I lay on our beds and listened for this Santa Claus to land on the roof, which is what we had been told he would do. We had also been told he rode a red cutter pulled by a bunch of reindeer. We had a hard time wrapping our heads around a bunch of deer pulling a cutter across the midnight sky, but uncle said it was 'white magic' and so we believed him.

"Sssh, my brother whispered and we held our breath as something, someone

walked across the roof and stopped just over our heads. We heard, "whoa, whoa."

"It's him! It's him," my brother Ray was almost beside himself.

"Sssh, you'll scare him away." Ben grabbed his arm. We all sat up and strained to hear more. Sure enough someone was up there. We could hear blowing and stamping and again a man's voice saying "Whoa".

Then the language switched to Cree/Michif. "Ah bah mojee!" "haah payatik!"

More grunting and sliding, then a crash! We jumped out of bed and raced to the kitchen where our mother and aunties were all crowded at the door pulling on coats and rubbers and laughing hysterically. We pushed past them in our long johns and bare feet and there on the ground lay our dad and uncles. When they saw us they jumped up and dad pointing at the sky yelled, "there he goes! Look up there see, past the trees."

We all craned our necks to no avail. There was no sign of Santa Claus, the cutter or the reindeer in the clear night sky. Then my brother, Ben, yelled, "look, he left a sack!"

And sure enough there was a flour sack sitting by the chimney, Ben ran to the corner of the house and started to climb up.

"No, wait," Uncle said grabbing him. "You can't touch it, it's magic remember. Go back to bed right now and you'll get your presents in the morning. If you touch the sack now we'll lose everything."

So off to bed we went, falling asleep immediately knowing that yes, indeed, Santa had been to our house. It never once occurred to us to wonder what Dad and our uncles were doing lying in a heap on the ground.

In the morning our stockings were full to overflowing. An apple and an orange, I'd never tasted anything so wonderful in my life. Hard candy in all colors and yes a red jackknife and a bottle of "Lilly of the Valley" perfume. I was ecstatic. If I stopped fighting with my brothers and listened to every single thing my mom said and never talked back, goodness knows what I would get next year.

Well, I fell in love with Santa Claus and was caught hook, line and sinker in the whole glitz and glitter of a capitalist Christmas and life was never the same in my road allowance childhood or my adult urban life.

I spend money like there's no tomorrow. I love to give presents. My house glitters and

twinkles and is as tacky as it can be. For a pagan socialist woman I have every possible glittering and tacky ornament you can buy at antiques stores, Wal-Mart and Dollarama and that's

not counting the stuff I've saved since childhood. You know, the scarred up glass balls with peeling paint. The baby Jesus and Virgin Mary with her broken head that's been glued so much I've lost count of the times. The wise men carved by an old Ukrainian man in Alberta in the 1960s, a glittering angel and yards and yards of tinsel.

There are Christmas cards hanging from string strung across the room, some of them new but most of them go all the way back to 1950s. I never throw anything away. The only thing I don't have is a silver Christmas tree and an inflatable Santa.

Ever since 1946 every Christmas has been either a joyous one full of excited shopping, baking and cooking or a lowdown poor as a church mouse Christmas. I am an artist and money can be pretty scarce at times. I remember one year when there was very

little money but I had managed to scrape enough together to buy small gifts and to pick up a real cheap turkey, cheap because it had no drumsticks. When I put it on the table my son looking really pitiful said, "This is the poorest Christmas we've ever had, right Mom?"

"Not really," I replied. "We've had poorer ones."

"No mom, this is the poorest," he said. "Cause there's nothing as poor as a turkey with no drumsticks."

But this year there will be no glitz or glitter as I have not only weaned myself of Christmas shopping or at least I am trying too, but I have also downsized and I actually threw out a several boxes of shiny things including that poor Virgin Mary. Now back to my question, do you ever wonder where Santa came from?

Well, some call it appropriation but its really theft by Coca-Cola of a people's folk hero. The story is that some time in the fourth century there was a kind and generous man in the country now known as Turkey, who went around giving gifts of food and clothes to underprivileged children. He became known as St. Nicholas and he kept evolving from country to country then sometime in the 1600s he immigrated with the Dutch to North America ... New York to be exact. They called him Sinter Claos.

He was appropriated in the early 1930s by Coca-Cola, who fattened him up, gave him a new red suit, rosy cheeks, twinkling blue eyes and a ho ho ho. With a bottle of Coke in his hand he has smiled and twinkled at us from magazines and billboards throughout the Depression years to today and has entrenched himself and Coca-Cola forever in our psyche, so much so that he has become what Christmas is all about. That's real sad isn't it?

Have a good Christmas and a happy New Year.



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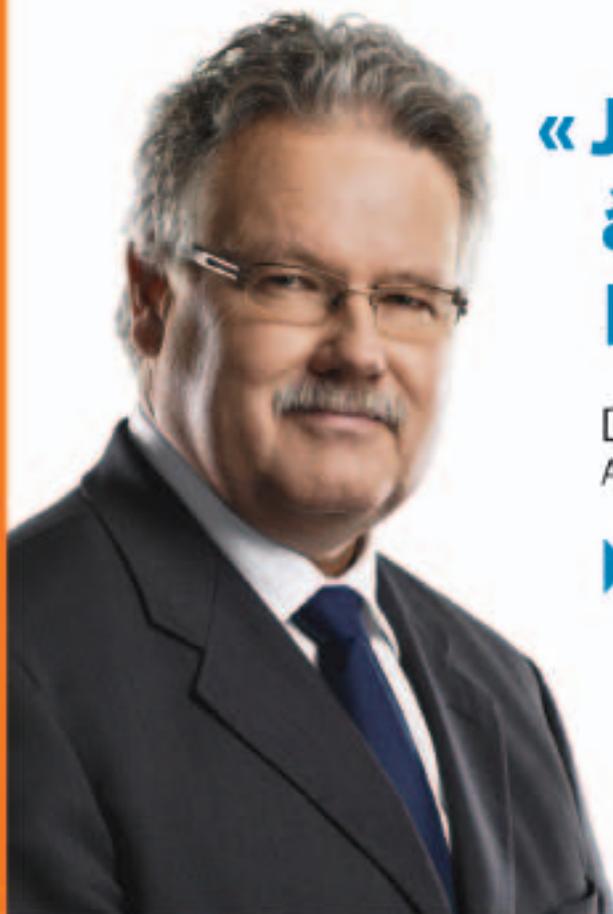


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Dr. David Butler-Jones
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Saskatoon artist captures Métis logo competition

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

After an online competition, voters across the Métis homeland have decided on the logo to represent the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Batoche in 2010.

The winning entry was designed by Saskatoon's Murray Lindsay who has decades of graphics art experience and has done lots of work for Métis organizations in Saskatchewan. He was honoured to have his design chosen.

"It's a great thrill," said Lindsay. "I do graphic design work for Métis organizations like the Clarence Campeau Development Fund and the John Arcand Fiddle Fest. Having my logo represent such a noteworthy date in Métis culture is like an award for 'doing it right'. I'm very happy."

Lindsay is not Métis, but as he says he has inspiration close to home.

"My wonderful wife is (Métis) and through her, my knowledge and appreciation of Métis culture has grown 100 per cent."

Lindsay says that designing logos is always a fun challenge and he says that a logo has to catch the eye and explain itself in about a half second.

"I figured for this logo, I tried to distill

the essential elements of this Northwest Resistance Anniversary. One hundred and twenty-five years had to be featured and something that said "Métis," added Lindsay.

"Of the selection of Métis icons, some have been used pretty extensively, some are shared with other unrelated organizations and some would lose their impact if the logo was shrunk, say, to fit on a business card.

"Finally, I decided the blue and white Métis infinity flag was the way to go. It boldly proclaims 'Métis' without confusion and its own long

Murray Lindsay



Carla Joseph



Sean Hargreves

125th Anniversary
Northwest Resistance

history links well to the period being honoured."

Lindsay is passionate about his craft and the detail and thought that go into his work.

"After that spark hit me, the rest of the procedure was a matter of details. The numeral '1' made a great flagpole. I found a font with an elegant and antique feel. The phrase, Remember with Pride, matches my thoughts on not just remembering the events of Batoche, but all the progress the Métis have made in a century and a quarter."

The logo that Lindsay created will now be used around all events and memorabilia tied to the 125 Anniversary. He will also receive a prize of \$2,000.

Second place went to Carla Joseph of Prince George B.C. and third went to Sean Hargreves. They will receive \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.



MURRAY LINDSAY

May PEACE be your gift this Holiday Season and your blessing all year through...

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Song opens door for hope and respect

From Stilettos to Moccasins sounds anthem of honour

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

Sharing academic research in a participant-created music video isn't standard practice – but it may be a breakthrough finding.

“From Stilettos to Moccasins” – a song and music video available on the YouTube website – came about after a five-year community-based project led by University of Saskatchewan sociologist Colleen Dell, Research Chair in Substance Abuse. Team members included academic researchers, elders, treatment providers, and Aboriginal women healing from drug abuse, addictions and problems with the law.

“Knowing and experiencing gets you to where you are,” said Dell of the women who were the focus of the project.

“And that’s what we tried to do with the song as well – it fits the Indigenous view but not necessarily the Western – you need to “feel” before you get it, and that’s when change is going to happen.

“And with song, that happens.”

During a retreat at Cedar Lodge, about 30 participants were guided in writing the song by award-winning recording artist Violet Naytowhow, who then arranged and performed it.

“Men relate, non-Aboriginals relate – it’s about the spirit and overcoming and finding about who you need to be and where you are,” Dell said, adding feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. “It’s about hope and respect and inspiration.”

The song was important as a healing form of comfort and reciprocity to the participants. Dell, originally from Winnipeg, spoke of the importance of doing research respectfully.

“We’re missing a huge amount of understanding that comes from lived experience,” Dell noted. Their starting point was three women writing out their stories. “That became part of the interview guide, or storytelling guide, really. Acknowledging the voice and experience which is typically silenced – that was the underpinning of the project.”

Although they are only at the beginning of post-project findings, a



Elva Kiep, Sharon Acoose, Anita Narvie, Pauline Young, Colleen Dell and Elder Joyce Paul celebrate the release of From Moccasins to Stilettos.

key was knowing that women feel silenced and disrespected, largely due to racism and discrimination.

“One of the best ways to have the women’s voices heard is through song and music,” Dell said.

The video, debuted at the “Issues of Substance” conference in Halifax during Addictions Awareness Week in November, was mainly Saskatoon-created by videographers Angela Edmunds and Marcel Petit.

The U of S project, which grew from 11 to 30 team members, was funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research, the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation, and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and involved interviewing 138 Aboriginal women from across Canada.

Dell said the restorative cure of culture in protecting and grounding Aboriginal women against externally imposed labels like “drug addict” or “prostitute” was what seemed crucial in the healing journey – identity and stigma.

Cultural identity means no longer being alone or lost, feelings that turn people to drugs in order to cope, and Dell hopes to incorporate this knowledge into treatment centre programming.

“The identity that the Creator gave you that can’t be taken away – once that is understood, once that is known how much Aboriginal women have to be proud of and to understand the history of where they are today on an individual basis – that’s critical.

“We know that but we don’t hear it enough – hopefully hearing it from the women who have been there and experienced it will mean more, and reach a different audience.”

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Making the right decisions even tougher at Christmas

December is a time for reflection for me. I think about the year gone by and then I start thinking of the past and some of the decisions I have made.

My parents told me that life is a series of choices, some good and some bad. Many of us remember making some of the toughest choices before we were old enough to vote. Some quit school – not the smartest choice. Some, like me, eventually went back to school.

As I look back on my life, I see that my friends had more influence on many of those early choices I made, even some of the gifts I bought.

If I could do it over I would make different choices. Everything is clearer when we are looking back. I don't envy the youth of today, for the world has changed.

They have way more information available at their fingertips ... computers, internet, and television. Lots of advice, but should we be getting advice from television? I am not saying that you should make your choices based on television programs, Internet advice and radio programs, but consider using all the information you can get your hands on to make the really important decisions in your life. Chances are if it doesn't feel like the right choice – it probably isn't.

Remember, that some choices will affect the rest of your life, so choose wisely. We have to find a balance between what our mind tells us and what our hearts want us to do. Somewhere in between the two is the right choice.

In our ever-changing world there will always be choices. Spend some time thinking about what you want from your life and find the path to get you there. Be aware and be careful. Make good choices and enjoy the time the Creator has given us.

Your friends and family may not always like the choices you make. You may not like the choices you make. Know that you are not alone. We all are in the same predicament when it comes to choices and at the end of the day we are the ones that will have to live with the choices we made.

In this world of vast choices, I will share what I have found helpful in my life. Laughter! Take time to laugh and enjoy life because it truly is a gift.

There are other parts of your life that are more deserving of your energy and attention, right here, right now. I have found laughter

to be the best medicine. Humour is a universal language. It's a contagious emotion and a natural diversion. Best of all it is free and has no known side effects.

Tune into your favourite sitcom on television. Read a funny book. Call a friend and chuckle for a few minutes. It even helps to force a laugh once in a while. You'll find

your stress melting away almost instantly.

Laughter is one of the easiest ways to free you from the mind's constant thought process and find inner peace. It will make you more

alive, healthier, and more creative. Just relax. You will discover you have a natural talent for loving life. Remember to laugh a lot every day.

Tis the season to be jolly! Tis the season to be grouchy – more like it.

People are out and about shopping for gifts for their friends and family but not too many of them are very jolly.

I think that Christmas shopping has become a full contact sport and a way of venting your past year's frustrations on poor unsuspecting shoppers who have the gall to

be smiling and happy.

You get bumped in the back of the leg with shopping carts, wait in long line-ups, listen to parents telling their children to "put that down" and "no, I'm not buying that", and the classic, "I'm never bringing you shopping again."

This society we live in has created a huge holiday where we feel obligated to buy gifts and in the process we forget about the meaning of the holiday. In my family it's not so much the gifts but it's the food, family, canasta, food, friends and food again. My grandkids still want everything they see on TV commercials.

We can thank the wonderful shopping centres, toy distributors and manufacturers for making sure that our children and grandchildren can start telling us what they want for Christmas the day after Halloween!

Don't get sucked in by the whole marketing campaign. Don't put off paying your utilities and other bills because some big store company wants to make billions of dollars over this holiday season. The greatest gifts we can give each other is our time.

I enjoy reading your emails and letters. Snail mail: Eagle Feather News c/o Sandee Sez, P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4. You can also email me at sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Season's Greeting and Best Wishes for the New Year



**Whitecap Dakota
First Nation
Chief and Council**

**On behalf of the Muscowpetung First Nation,
Chief Liz Pratt & Council, & all staff members
would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year in 2010!**



***"May 2010 give you bigger opportunities &
greater challenges to soar to new heights!"***
God Bless you this season,

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Website: www.muscowpetungfirstnation.ca

Culture on display at The Friendship Centre

A traditionally delicious evening was held on Oct. 29 at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, with the company of almost 40 international researchers from New Zealand, Australia, Africa, the US, Germany and Austria, as well as from across Canada.

Many were Indigenous peoples themselves, some were academics, and others were graduate students. The staff at the Centre prepared a meal that had mouths watering.

Some of the traditional dishes prepared were duck soup, moose meat, bison, prairie chicken, smoked white fish, baked and fried bannock as well as Saskatoon Berry Pie and some wild Blueberries with ice cream. This traditional meal was created by the SIMFC staff, May Henderson and Angela Rancourt and was served by Paul Koo, Chris Passley, Kathie Pruden-Nansel and Larry Okanee.

The group was here for a workshop on Oct. 29, Indigenous Urbanization Internationally, sponsored by Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Rights Commission of the International Geographical

Union. They were also treated to soup and bannock the previous day and learned a lot about the Friendship Centre and the amount of activity going on at the facility.

Later that evening they were entertained by the Calling Bear Dance Troupe, (Strongarms), Lawrence Roy Jr., and his sons Devin and Alex, Faye Maurice demonstrated the Métis jig along with Warren Isbister.

Dallas and Philip Boyer played fiddle music and Mel Vandale and Lenny Dumont accompanied them. The guests joined in on the fun for the Red River Jig and shared plenty of laughs while experiencing parts of our rich and dynamic culture.

SIMFC would like to thank the friends of the Centre for their donations of the traditional meats, Anna and Lauren Corrigan of Ile la Crosse and Davis Santosi for the moose meat, duck, prairie chickens and the wild blueberries.

We would also like to thank Dr. Evelyn Peters for choosing the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for holding such a special event here.



The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre was the venue for a gathering of international guests who enjoyed a taste of local culture.

Library SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY



—file photo

A New Age of Library Experience

All public libraries in Saskatchewan are now part of the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium that is working to create a new age of library experience. The Consortium has purchased, with the help of a \$5.2 million provincial grant, a new state-of-the-art integrated library system which offers patrons a number of exciting new high-tech services and features.

Two-Day Planned Closure

Saskatoon Public Library will be the first public library to go live with the new system on December 15. That means all locations of Saskatoon Public Library will be closing for two days—**Sunday, December 13** and **Monday, December 14**—while we migrate to the new computer system.

During the two-day closure, patrons will not be able to access:

- My Account (online or by telephone);
- our catalogue;
- some online databases.

Patrons will be able to access the rest of our website.

Borrowers will not accumulate late charges during this closure and book slots will remain open.

We apologize for any disruptions to service and thank you for your patience and understanding.

New Late Charges Effective December 15

All public libraries in the province have agreed to a new schedule of late charges. These come into effect as each library agency implements the new agency. In Saskatoon, the new charges come into effect on December 15, 2009.

- Children's material—Exempt from late charges
- Teen material—\$0.20/day (no change)
- Adult material—\$0.30/day (an increase of \$0.10/day)
- Adult DVDs—\$1/day (an increase of \$0.80/day)
- Seniors will now incur late charges at the same rate as other borrowers



For the latest information on these exciting changes, visit

saskatoonlibrary.ca

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Lakewood Civic Centre
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975-7590

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The authors of *Dancing in My Bones*, Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton bringing their remarks. For each of the awards, the illustrator, Sherry Farrell Racette was also acknowledged. The sponsor of each award was also acknowledged for their support as was the team effort of the entire GDI Publishing Department, particularly David Morin, who lead the production of this book.

GDI big winner at Book Awards

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Heading into 2010, Year of the Métis, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and Dr. Jo-Ann Episkenew dominated the 2009 Saskatchewan Book Awards with eight nominations and four wins out of fourteen categories, between them.

“It’s always nice to be shortlisted. About a quarter of the books make the short list, so it’s a big thrill,” noted Karon Shmon of GDI.

Dancing In My Bones won The First Peoples’ Publishing Award and, by acclamation, in a new category, First Nations’ Writing. Episkenew’s book was nominated in First Book, Non-Fiction, and Scholarly Writing – winning in the latter against four scholars.

“Those people shortlisted in Scholarly Writing were all senior and well-known – it was a bit of a shock,” admitted Episkenew in a phone interview from Regina, adding she proudly donned her Métis sash but humbly avoided a pre-written acceptance speech.

“It was most important to me that non-academic people could understand my book.”

Her husband ran into some old friends with limited formal education who said they had read, *Taking Back Our Spirits: Indigenous Literature, Public Policy, And Healing*.

“They could read and put into context a lot of the problems in their lives,” said Episkenew, noting the importance of validation.

“There are historical and legal reasons for these experiences – most people know this, but to have it in a book – it’s a powerful thing.”

She added that GDI “really

cleaned up” – something Saskatchewan Book Award’s official press release noted, calling GDI “the big winner of the evening” for their five-time nominated children’s book about a young man discovering his Métis heritage.

Authors Wilfred Burton – a literacy co-ordinator – and Anne Patton – a children’s literature professor – joined illustrator Sherry Farrell Racette and Michif translator Norman Fleury to create the bilingual English-Michif recordings and quality work GDI is known for. Shmon also credited the hard work of Publishing Department’s David Morin, and GDI’s Board of Governors.

“It was deemed the best book for the way it looks and the content – a very high accolade,” noted Shmon, adding GDI’s goal is to preserve and share the Michif language.

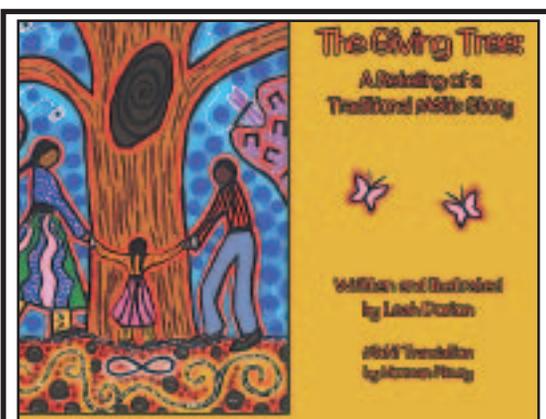
“But when you look at the competition – it’s kind of humbling.”

Reader’s Choice winner was Marlene Millar from Birch Narrows Dené Nation for *Dene Honü – Stories from the People* – stiff competition with eight nominations including GDI – their other nomination was for “Publishing in Education”.

Other nominees included Kakwa Publishing. Shmon said the overall representation of First Nations writers and books demonstrated inclusiveness and growth in the Awards in recognizing subtleties.

“It’s just overall wonderful, to see Aboriginal authors and Aboriginal focused books do so well. The nominations are reflective of not only our demographic in the province, but the quality of what is being produced.”

Episkenew agrees, and advises other writers to “Find a way to be yourself – there is a way to be yourself and to yet be part of this giant conversation.”



“The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story” is GDI’s latest offering, just in time for the Christmas season. Written and illustrated by multi-talented Métis visual artist and instructor Leah Dorian from Prince Albert, this colourfully illustrated picture book shares the childhood memories of a Mooshoom, while conveying the core values and beliefs of Michif culture: positive relationships with others, and a connection with the Creator, and Mother Earth. Following in GDI’s tradition of award-winning children’s books like “Dancing In My Bones”, a Michif-Cree translation is included on each page, and the CD audio component at the back.

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to congratulate its Publishing Department for its achievements at the 2009 Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Dancing in My Bones
Winner for the 2009 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Award for Publishing, First Peoples Publishing, and First Peoples Writing
Nominated for the 2009 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Publishing in Education and the Readers' Choice Award

Past Awards and Nominations

Stories of Our People/Lii zistwyr di la naasyoon di Michif
Nominated for the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Peoples Publishing Award

Better That Way
Nominated for the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Saskatoon Book Award

Medicines to Help Us
Nominated for the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Book Of The Year Award, Publishing Award, and First Peoples Publishing Award

The Story of the Rabbit Dance
Nominated for the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Book Award

Fiddle Dancer
Nominated for the 2007 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Book Award, Young Adult Literature Award, Regina Book Award
Shortlisted for the Shining Willow Award

Metis Legacy II
Nominated for the 2007 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Non-Fiction Award and First Peoples Publishing Award

The Métis Alphabet Book
Winner for the 2006 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Peoples Publishing Award

Howard Adams: OTAPWAY
Nominated for the 2006 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Scholarly Writing Award and First Peoples Publishing Award

The Beavers' Big House
Nominated for the 2004 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Peoples Publishing Award and Publishing in Education Award

Expressing Our Heritage
Winner for the 2003 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Peoples Publishing Award and Publishing in Education Award

Metis Legacy
Winner for the 2002 Saskatchewan Book Awards - Publishing in Education Award

Bulrush Helps the Pond
Winner for the 2002 Saskatchewan Book Awards - First Peoples Publishing Award
Nominated for the Saskatchewan Book Awards - Publishing in Education Award

New Titles

Blackstone features all-star cast

The Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN) recently broadcast *Blackstone* – a TV show pilot about corruption and politics on a fictional First Nation.

Written by Gil Cardinal, *Blackstone* was produced by Prairie Dog Film + Television and recently screened at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco where it received four nominations: Best Live Short, Best Actress (Carmen Moore), Best Supporting Actress (Michele Thrush) and Best Supporting Actor (Eric Schweig). Thrush walked away with the hardware.

Executive producer and director Ron E. Scott thinks *Blackstone* is a TV show many people can relate to.

"The core of the story will resonate with many different people, not just Aboriginal, because if you have the courage to drill down deep enough, every type of community, at one point or another, faces tragedy and internal crisis," he said.

Blackstone's all-star cast is rounded out by Gordon Tootoosis and Nathaniel Arcand and includes newcomer Natalie Supernault. The pilot premiered on APTN in November and a follow-up broadcast is tentatively planned for January.

Blackstone executive is hopeful the show will be made into an hour-long TV drama in the very near future.

Mixed Blessings is another series produced by Prairie Dog Film + Television and broadcast on APTN. The show is

about a Cree/Ukrainian mixed family who live in a culturally dysfunctional household.

The show airs Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. on APTN

Rabbit Fall Wins SMPIA Award

Rabbit Fall: Season 2 recently received some recognition at the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association Showcase Awards. The show won for Best Dramatic Series and actress Andrea Menard won for Best Performance – Female Lead.

Executive producers Bob Crowe and Wally Start thanked all the cast and crew that made the awards possible and say they hope to be in production of Rabbit Fall: Season 3 this spring.

Wapos Bay received eight nominations but, surprisingly, walked away empty handed. Dennis Jackson and Trevor Cameron had episodes of Wapos Bay nominated in the same category: Best Script. But both of them lost to a SaskTel commercial.

"I have to admit it was weird losing to an animated commercial. But at least

Dennis didn't win," Cameron said with a laugh.

The Kohkums are back!

Be sure to get down to see the latest edition of SNTC'S 'A Rez Christmas Carol', December 8-18 at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 919 20th Street in Saskatoon. This year the first play of the series has been re-worked by playwright Curtis Peteetuce, director/dramaturge Rob Roy and dramaturge/lighting designer Kenneth Charlette.

In the play, Kiweetinook First Nation's Christmas bonus cheques are not delivered when a bitter, disgruntled band office manager loses her Christmas spirit. It isn't until she's visited by spirits representing the four directions that things look up for everyone.

'A Rez Christmas Carol' features Krystle Pederson, Lance Laroque, Jennifer Bishop, Aaron Shingoose and Waylon

Machiskinic.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for students and seniors. Call SNTC at 933-2262 for more information.

Some Christmas Cheer

I always enjoy it when writers and columnists give a Christmas shout out to the people that made their year enjoyable, possible and a little easier. Maybe it's lame or a lazy way to fill some column space during an extremely busy time of year but I truly believe it's important. And I've never dedicated any ink to the people who make it possible for me to follow my dreams.

Thank you to my amazing, beautiful and extremely pregnant partner Courtney; my incredibly talkative and uber-cute son Luka; all my family and friends back in R-town; Muskwa my loyal pooch; Johnny and Dee; Wally and Bob and the whole staff at Angel Entertainment; Trevor Cameron; Peter Lauterman; Jordan Wheeler; my granola crunching neighbors; Liz Denny; Dennis and Melanie Jackson of Wapos Bay; the Métis man-about-town (aka Marcel Petit); the



Gordon Tootoosis (far left) is part of a stellar cast of *Blackstone*, a TV pilot about corruption and politics on a fictional First Nation. Other members include (left to right) Nathaniel Arcand, Carmen Moore and Michelle Thrush.

staff at Big Soul Productions; Jean Du Toit and staff at Buffalo Gals Pictures; the readers of Eagle Feather News; Vanessa Loewen of APTN; last and definitely least

my fat, lazy and excessively overweight cat, Vern.

And to all a good night! See ya next year!



Youths find jobs in urban art program

By Blue Pelletier
For Eagle Feather News

This art showcase is not your typical show. It is the ninth installment of the of the Saskatoon Urban Canvas Project.

It's a program that takes youth who have been struggling to find employment

and gives them opportunities through art.

After the first two months of the 39-week course the artists showcase their talents in a real live studio showing. It's a chance to acknowledge sponsors, and show off the talents and exhibits of the youth involved in the program.

The success of the program is usually



This group of SCYAP students and staff hosted an art exhibit to show off their current works. (Photo by Blue Pelletier)

Red Bull receives unexpected honour at Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards

By Gord Petruic
For Eagle Feather News

Manito Ahbee a musical showcase of Aboriginal musical talent recently took place in Winnipeg. Fans and musicians from across North America converged for the week-long event that includes the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards.

The APCMA are an awards show that honours musicians based upon the fans voting leading up to the event. This year's show opened up with a rendition of Rez Rock Star featuring host Lorne Cardinal, most recently of Corner Gas.

During the show Red Bull was awarded the Best Pow Wow CD Traditional Award.

Their album Gold included singers Edmund Bull, Derek Bull, Tony Bull, Coleman Bull, Troy Moosuk, Mathew Thomas, Melvin Eyahpase, Joe Littlewolf, Brian Waskewitch, Delia Waskewitch, Irvin Waskewitch.

Manager and Drum Keeper Edmund Bull feels good about this unexpected honour.

"I didn't even know we were nominated til two or three weeks ago and it feels really good to win this award for the fourth time."

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild was on hand to present the Aboriginal Song Writer of the year award. Chief Lonechild, fresh off his victory in the FSIN election said, "Saskatchewan has world-class talent, showcasing our people with trailblazers of the past such as Buffy St. Marie, who blazed a trail for the up and coming artists, Andrea Menard, Chester Knight and the Wind, and new and contemporary artists such as Joey Stylz.

"Through perseverance these people have expressed themselves proudly, showcasing Aboriginal talent through music displays our history, our passions and experiences," Lonechild said.

Buffy St. Marie, an adoptee to the United States from the Piapot First Nation, was presented the inaugural APCMA Lifetime Achievement Award.

"It was very inspirational, and the Aboriginal people I meet across the country, the Elders, the musicians, and the fans continue to inspire me as a musician, I can't even describe how I feel, just touched."

Congratulations to Joey Stylz for Best Music Video, Andrea Menard for Best International Artist and Yvonne St. Germaine for best Gospel CD, who were all presented awards during First Night the pre-awards show.



The SCYAP students are trained in many different disciplines.

measure by numbers. Fifty per cent of all students who graduate from the program find employment and 39 per cent end up going back to school.

But Darryl Lechman says the benefits go beyond that. The program helps kids with their personal development.

"Sure, kids are nervous, some didn't even show up. The ones that went through it were into it and it was a real eye opener for the kids," Lechman says.

The youth who were there were excited to show off their skills and artwork to all in attendance. There people from the public and there was also a lot of family.

Once the showcase is over Lechman says there is a noticeable increase in attendance.

"The kids start to realize the significance of what they are involved in. How the community comes out to support the arts."

Youth in the program learn to develop strong ties and friendships with others involved.

Graduation for this years group of students is May 28. It will give the youth another chance to showcase their art to the public.

And to speak about their experiences, both good and bad with the program. Also give their thoughts to the audience.

If you would like more information about SCYAP and their programs contact Darryl or Tammy at (306) 652-7760.

Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company proudly presents

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By Curtis Peeteetuce

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For more information please contact SNTC at 306-933-2262 or visit our website at:
www.sntc.ca

New book passes along First Nation protocols

By Sheena Findlay
For Eagle Feather News

A first-of-its-kind book about First Nations traditional protocols is now available. *Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols & Methodologies* was launched by the Saskatchewan Indian Culture Centre (SICC) in Saskatoon in early December.

The book provides information about protocols for First Nations ceremonies and traditional gatherings – like how one should approach an Elder, and the importance of offering tobacco to an Elder.

Sylvia McAdam is the primary author and researcher of the book. She stresses that the book attempts to answer questions surrounding proper protocol in a general matter, taking into account all First Nations in Saskatchewan.

“All First Nations share a lot of the general protocol, like tobacco – which is almost a universal protocol. That is what this book will speak to . . . it tells the reader the proper protocols of how to go into a ceremony or a feast,” said McAdam who specialized in Indigenous Law at the University of Saskatchewan.

McAdam says Elders have requested that this information be passed down to younger generations. She said the book will preserve their teachings and knowledge.

“This is a hope and dream of many of the Elders that are in this book. They hope that this knowledge will carry on to the future,” she said.

Dorothy Myo, president of SICC, is the driving force behind the book. She said the idea came after she noticed the lack of resources available on the subject.

“This book has risen out of a need to have a resource for First Nations youth to learn about their culture. It will help them have a pathway to access this knowledge about their culture; about things relating to their identity as First Nations people.”

Myo thinks the book addresses this need and leaves people wanting to know more.

“I hope it piques their knowledge to learn more. To really get into learning more about their heritage, backgrounds, the significance of these ceremonies. When they learn about their ceremonies, they have to learn their language in order to access some of this knowledge. That is the key behind all this,” said Myo.

The book will be making its way into the hands of students this winter.

Shannon Avison is the department head of the Indian Communications Arts (INCA) Program at the First Nations University in Regina. She said the book will be a useful tool for her Intercultural Leadership Course – Cultural and Leadership Camp – offered this winter.

“It’s what our students need so they’re not afraid to go to ceremonies and so they can feel they can access Elders, and know how to bring tobacco and what that really means. The book will help them feel they can participate in the traditional aspects of their culture,” she said.

Avison said the book is a resource unlike any that’s been available to students before.

“The whole idea is that people will receive a formal instruction that will allow them to pursue traditional instruction. Before when we taught this class we didn’t have that. Before, we never had a proper selection,” said Avison.

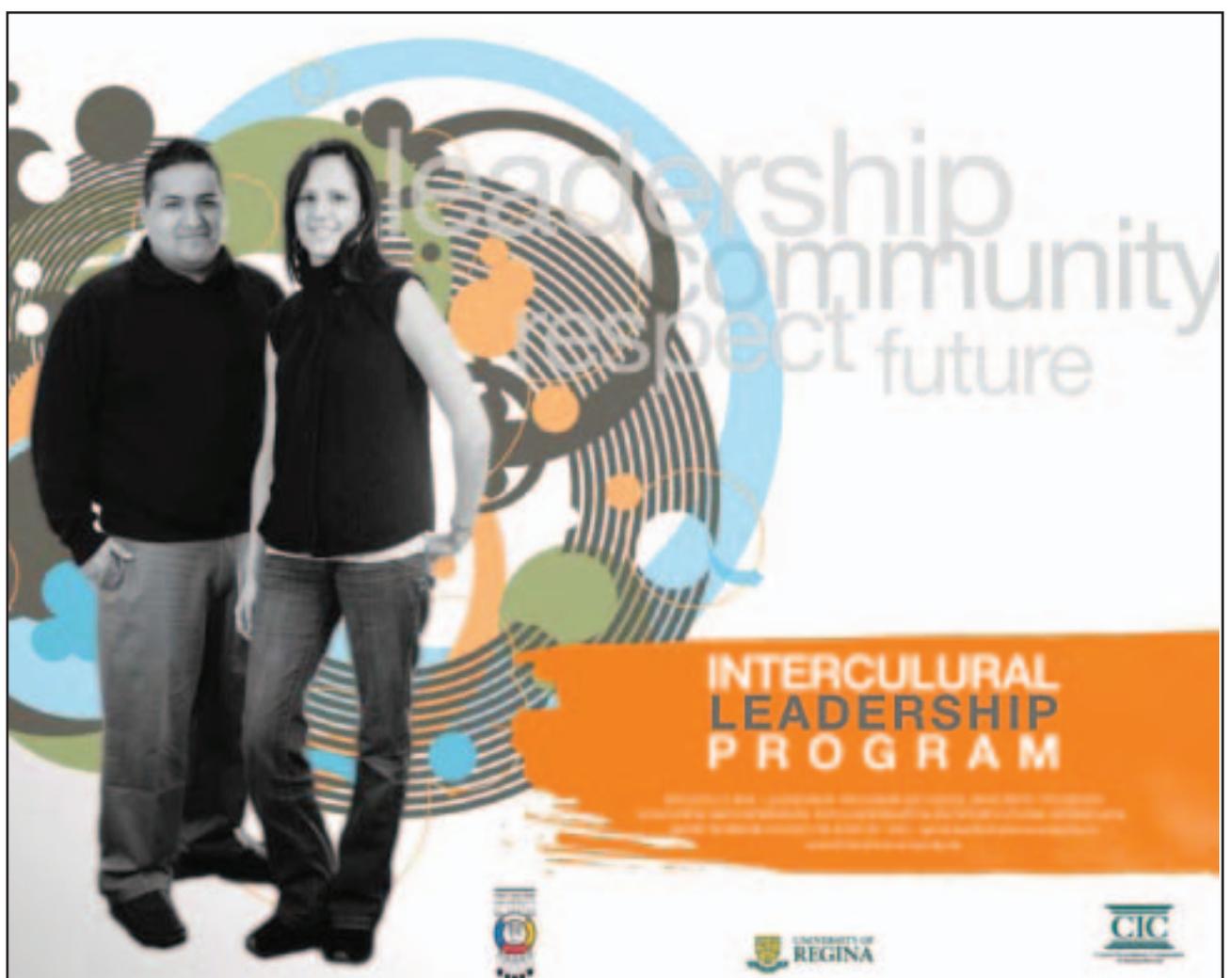
And getting students and young people to read the book is what McAdam is hoping for.

“Colonization and residential schools have impacted how we transmit and transfer our knowledge. This book will recognize this knowledge. I hope that the youth and the generations to come will benefit from this knowledge on paper form,” said McAdam.

The book is available at the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and will soon be available online at www.sicc.sk.ca.



Sylvia McAdam played a key role in the research and writing of *Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols & Methodologies*. (Photo by Peter Brass)





Royan Stewart, president of Breck Scaffold Solutions, Diane Boyko, chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board and Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear are partners in a project that gives high school students trades skills that they are applying in building a house for the Whitecap community. (Photos by Blue Pelletier)

New project helps build home for Whitecap family

By Blue Pelletier
For Eagle Feather News

Students who are part of the Construction Technology Pathway at E.D. Feehan High School in Saskatoon have built a ready-to-move home for the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The official unveiling of the home was Dec. 4.

Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear was on hand to help sign the agreement between his First Nation as well as the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board and Breck Scaffold Solutions.

Royan Stewart from Breck Scaffold

Solutions was quite nervous up in front of the crowd and said he "is much more comfortable 60 feet up in the air" which drew laughs from the crowd who were packed into a garage type space where the signing ceremony and unveiling took place.

Once the home was shown, those in attendance, as well as the horde of media members all shuffled outside to get a glimpse of what the students had accomplished.

It is a single level home with no basement. The work the kids did was quite impressive and the home looked just like any other you may see built in

your own neighbourhood.

Students who are enrolled in the Pathway program gain valuable skills that will assist them in finding a career in the construction trade.

It is partners like Whitecap, Breck Scaffold, and the Greater Saskatoon School board that make these types of opportunities possible. They have provided materials and space that allow projects like this to succeed.

Students will gain 300 apprenticeship hours through this program. Hopefully, by doing so it encourages more of the graduates to consider a career in one of the many construction trades.

The program is open to all students who are part of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School system. This last fall students came from three different high schools to be a part of this project.

It was the recognition from Breck Scaffold that got the ball rolling. They recognized the need for all the students involved that they needed their own project to work on. So once they met with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner they found a willing partner in Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

And now someone on Whitecap will benefit and have a brand new home to live in.

Happy Holidays!

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SIGA presents \$25,000 in scholarships to First Nations students

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatchewan Indian and Gaming Authority (SIGA) recently handed out \$25,000 to deserving students as part of their First Nations Scholarship Awards.

SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen feels the program goes a long way in helping First Nations students with their educational pursuits.

"The SIGA First Nations Scholarship Awards program provides opportunities to encourage education and continued learning. It also helps students success-

for the help.

"This just alleviates so much stress," said Desmonie after being honored at a press conference in Saskatoon.

"It (the scholarship) enables me to concentrate on my studies and not worry about money."

Peigan agrees.

"I am so thankful for winning a SIGA scholarship. I think there should be more scholarships to encourage

Applications for the 2010 SIGA First Nations Scholarship Awards will be available in April on SIGA's website: www.siga.sk.ca



Shariday Desnomie, a student at the U of R, receives her scholarship cheque from SIGA CEO Zane Hansen. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)

fully achieve career goals within SIGA and the broader community."

Hansen added there's no obligation from the student to work for SIGA once they're finished their studies but admits they wouldn't be turned away.

"Whether SIGA can be a jumping off point or a place students want to develop a successful career, we would be delighted if the scholarship winners chose us as their place of employment once they complete their programs," Hansen said.

Scholarships are open to First Nations entering or continuing their education. Two scholarships of \$5,000 are awarded to students enrolled in IT, Commerce or Hospitality and Tourism Management. There are two \$2,500 scholarships to students in Communications or Electronics and ten \$1,000 scholarships to students in any other field.

Sharidy Desnomie and Vanessa Peigan were both awarded the \$5,000 scholarships and are very grateful

education. (I'm) happy this avenue has been made available, especially with the cost of living being so high."

Scholarship winners are chosen by a selection committee who base their decision on the student's commitment to their field of choice, their level of community participation and their need for financial assistance.

Congratulations!
2009 SIGA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS!

\$5,000 WINNERS

- Shariday Desnomie, Starblanket First Nation, Business Admin Acad, University of Regina
- Vanessa Peigan, Pasqua First Nation, Business Management, SIIT

\$2,500 WINNERS

- Niswaria Pigeot, Pigeot First Nation, INCA S, I.P, FMJC
- Refineta Nelson, Atamanowap First Nation, New Media Communications, SIIST

\$1,000 WINNERS

- Jafal Alawea, Yellowknife First Nation, Biology, University of Sask
- Jarvis Apasia, English River First Nation, ITEP, University of Sask
- Stevie Bird, Fisking Lake First Nation, Bachel of Applied Science, University of Regina
- Claira Danson, Pigeot First Nation, Cert. Care Assist, SIIST
- Jenica Felix, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, ITEP, FMJC
- Shane Kogness, Muskegwaning, Sasquon First Nation, Pro-Dev/IT, FMJC
- Amy Lafreniere-Wassenaar, Kikhouistohon, Food & Nutrition Mgmt, SIIST
- Cara Morarty, Peter Ballantyne, College of Law, University of Sask
- Cassandra Smallchild, Beavly's & Okewasie, Correctional Studies, SIIST
- Jessica Wassenaar, Pigeot First Nation, SIISTEP, University of Regina

In carrying out our mandate to create employment and support local communities, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) established the SIGA Scholarship Awards Program. This program develops young professionals by assisting with the post-secondary education of outstanding students in selected fields.

Application forms for the 2010 year will be available April 2010 www.siga.sk.ca



Vanessa Peigan, a student at SIIT, was the other \$5,000 recipient. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)

Season's Greetings

From
Office of the
Treaty Commissioner

OFFICE OF THE TREATY COMMISSIONER
#215, 2553 Grasswood Road East,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Phone: 306-244-2100
Fax: 306-667-5654

Sakawew partnership encourages Aboriginal employment in Sask.

First Nation and Métis employment development took centre stage recently at North Battleford's Sakawew High School.

A large and diverse group of community, business, and First Nation and government officials met to sign a formal commitment to the economic prosperity of Aboriginal people.

"This chance to gather at Sakawew High School in the name of increased Aboriginal employment is encouraging," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson said.

"Partnerships with First Nations, schools, the community and employers are precisely how we will meet Saskatchewan's growing labour demands."

Sakawew High School signed the agreement with the province and a range of community partners. The school is

governed under a joint partnership between the public and separate school systems and the Battlefords Tribal Council.

"Battlefords First Nations Joint Board of Education is pleased to sign the agreement," Chairman Bud Bohun said.

"We appreciate the support of the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations and its continued work to promote strong community relations."

Battlefords Tribal Council also signed on to the agreement as a key partner.

"With the economic growth happening in the Battlefords, it is essential that a structured network is in place to address issues around training, employment and economic opportunities," Battlefords Tribal Council Chief Executive Officer John Wallace said.

"This partnership agreement is a great opportunity to see this come to fruition."



Patrick Bugler, representative workforce coordinator at Sakawew High School, presents Assistant Deputy Minister James Froh with an Allen Sapp painting on behalf of the school. (Photo supplied)

North Battleford's newly appointed Mayor Ian Hamilton, voiced enthusiasm for renewing the city's commitment to a representative workforce.

"The City of North Battleford continues to work toward reducing and eliminating barriers in the workplace," Hamilton said. "We are pleased to partner with other community organizations who are dedicated to the same goals."

In 2005, The City of North Battleford was Saskatchewan's first urban municipality to sign an Aboriginal Employment Development Partnership with the province.

The federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs also signed this

agreement.

Through Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative agreements, the Government of Canada is working to promote employment partnerships as part of its commitment to helping Aboriginal people build strong, healthy and self-reliant communities.

All partners to this agreement will work to identify and address barriers to training, hiring and retaining First Nations and Métis people.

Saskatchewan's Aboriginal Employment Development initiative is focused on bringing the largely untapped First Nations and Métis workforce into the province's growing economy.

Happy
Holidays



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Educating & Training for Over Thirty Years

Aboriginal arts and craft sale just in time for Christmas shoppers and artisans

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada campus in Regina was filled with tables showcasing Aboriginal arts and crafts. And it was for a good cause.

Vanea Cyr has been beading for 20 years. She and a few other crafters put together their first Winter Solstice craft sale, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5.

“There are three of us who are local crafters. We saw a void in the craft market that there wasn’t a whole lot of First Nations and Métis venues to display our work. We wanted to provide other crafters and artisans a place to showcase their work and to offer a venue at low cost,” said Cyr.

Cyr was grateful to get the space for free and have other Aboriginal artists come out for the event.

The money and donations raised at the craft sale will be assisting students in need. Cyr said she is happy to help students over the holidays.

“Being a student myself, I know how hard it is to live on a fixed income and stuff like that. Our admission is a non-perishable food item for food hampers. A small donation will go to support the food hampers for Christmas,” she said.

Grace Stevenson, one of the event organizers, has been sewing and makes tipis

for more than 16 years. She’s hoping the craft sale will support local Aboriginal artists.

“We want to do this every year if we can and we want to see more crafters come out and do their stuff and show their best and extend their talents. We’d like to see people reach back and resurrect some old talents, like basket weaving and sweet grass weaving and lots of beading” She said.

Stevenson says it was a great turnout – as there were more than 15 tables for the event.

“For a first time, I think we did alright considering we didn’t have a budget for our advertising and everything was word of mouth and our own inkjet printer,”

Vanea Cyr (standing) and Grace Stevenson were participants in the recent Aboriginal arts and craft sale.

Stevenson said.

Like Stevenson, Cyr hopes the event will be successful to carry on each year. She said it is something that is needed.

“There are no local shops really, that focus on First Nations and Métis arts and crafts so we are hoping for great things to come out of it,” said Cyr.



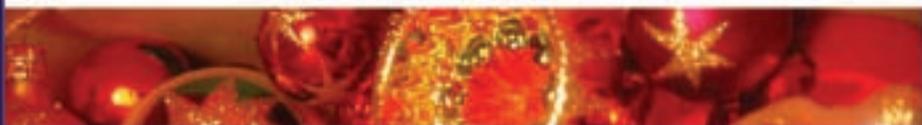
**Chief John Rockthunder,
Council & Staff of the
Piapot First Nation**



Wish everyone

Seasons Greetings

**and May the Creator bless you
throughout the New Year!**

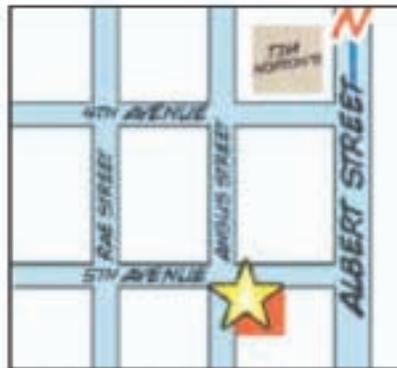


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Legislature grapples with Métis citizenship

By Darla Read
Of Eagle Feather News

Citizenship was a major issue at this year's Métis Nation Legislative and Annual General Assembly held in Saskatoon in November.

The two-day assembly kicked off on, Nov. 15, with opening comments from dignitaries such as the newly elected chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Guy Lonechild, who pointed to the McIvor case, noting First Nations and Métis people have the right to determine who is a citizen. Lonechild also spoke about the benefit of being a united front.

"If we work together, good things happen."

Métis National Council President Clem Chartier echoed Lonechild's sentiments.

"We determine who is a citizen ... the government needs to leave it up to us."

Rounding out opening remarks was an address by Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) President Robert Doucette who applauded Lonechild's presence, saying last year the previous chief addressed the banquet but did not attend the MNLA. He was pleased that for the first time ever, the FSIN chief attended and addressed the assembly.

Near the end of his comments, Doucette spoke directly to Chartier, with whom he has publicly sparred.

"I've treated you badly in the past. For that, I am sorry. I will stand beside you."

Much discussion was generated when a resolution was presented that said citizenship applications could be signed by local area directors or presidents, something Robert Lafontaine from Eastern Region 2A spoke out against. He said there had been previous instances where area directors or presidents had axes to grind.

"There have been abuses in the past where Métis citizens have not been recognized by their local presidents or their area directors.

"And I know the direction that we're trying to go in is citizenship is an objective process where people can apply for Métis citizenship without having to deal with the political process."

Lafontaine also said allowing area directors or presidents decide who was a Métis citizen defeated the purpose of



Monelle Bailey was officially sworn in as the Métis Women's representative. Presiding over the ceremony was Métis Senator Nora Cummings and looking on was Senator John Woodward. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

having a supposedly objective registry.

However, Buffalo Narrows Métis Local President Philip Chartier strongly disagreed and was very vocal in his support for the motion. He argued if you can't trust your own people to determine who is a Métis citizen, who can you trust?

"Somebody we hire for a couple days? I'm not prepared to put our identification of our members for our region in our local in Buffalo Narrows into the strange hands that don't even know our people in Northern Saskatchewan."

Meanwhile, Greg Lawrence, Southern Plains Métis local president, wondered how he would have the time or capability to determine who is a Métis citizen.

"I have the ability to accept them as part of my local, as a member, but not as a Métis citizen. I do not have that right,

I think, if somebody declares themselves as a Métis citizen, or the ability to trace their ancestry."

Lawrence also pointed out he had neither the time nor the resources to trace people's ancestry.

After a lot of discussion, the motion was defeated with 43 voting against and 38 in favour.

Jason Madden, legal counsel for the MN-S, also spoke about citizenship, noting when it comes to duty to consult

or harvesting cases, the Métis Nation should try to negotiate as much as possible, but must have some key elements in place first.

"I think it's really important that the MN-S continue to move forward on setting up its registry and its Wildlife Act. I can tell you this: that's going to be key to any negotiations we have. The fact that we have an objectively verifiable registry is going to be necessary and needed."



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To learn more, visit sgi.sk.ca



Educator uses holistic method to train staff

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Former Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) director of education, Ida Iron, began a vision for First Nations youth two years ago when she hired Dr. Paul Baker to train her educators using the Circle of Courage model. The Circle of Courage consists of four quadrants that aim to teach youth strength and purpose in a bid to enrich their lives and empower them.



IDA IRON

"Our entire initiative at MLTC began with the communities asking for help on how to deal and interact with the high number of behavior problems in each of the communities," explains Iron.

"This is what I proposed and we received approval from the MLTC Board of Education to go ahead with a three-year cycle where we are training all teaching staff from the nine (MLTC) bands. So far it has been very well received."

She first came across the model six

years ago and was immediately interested in it, at once linking the teachings to education. Developed by Dr. Larry Brendtro, Dr. Martin Brokenleg and Dr. Steve Van Bockern, the Circle of Courage uses the medicine wheel to blend Western thought and Indigenous knowledge.

"It's based on First Nations' philosophy," she says. "Each of the four components works really well within the framework of education."

"The first area is belonging. For us in education, it means creating a welcoming and safe place for students to go to and be treated with respect by staff who have been trained on how to interact with all people in a manner that is caring and respectful of all," says Iron.

"The second phase is mastery. This means training a student on a certain skill or skills to the point of mastery, and having them apply the skills they have learned to everyday life.

"This mastery can encompass all teachings and subject areas to the point that when they leave the school they have the confidence and self-esteem to apply all that they have learned to a profession or trade," Iron says.

"The third phase is independence. Once the student masters the skills, (she or he) has been taught then they become independent learners who can then go out into the workforce and apply their skill and knowledge in whatever profession or trade they are interested in," she says.

"The last or fourth phase is that of generosity," says Iron. "Once the student has gone through all three phases then they are in a situation where they are often willing to be involved in giving back to the community in a variety of ways."

Though no longer the director of education at MLTC, Ida is now the director/principal at Birch Narrows Dene Nation. However, she has been asked by MLTC to continue leading the training sessions for the Circle of Courage, along with Dr. Paul Baker, as

it has been met with much success.

Geraldine Rediron, a teacher at Canoe Lake Miksiw School, is a huge fan of the training.

"The Circle of Courage has helped me to understand the whole student and where they are coming from," she says. "It helps me take into consideration the student's need for belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.

"These are crucial for their academic success. I understand that no learning can occur unless those four items are being addressed and the student's needs are being met. This knowledge allows me to facilitate learning at an internal, student-centered level," says Rediron.

"It makes a huge difference from the student's perspective that teachers are willing to look past their behavior and take the time to help them develop skills that will make them more successful in school."

Rediron recommends the Circle of Courage model for new teachers.

"Take (the) training and your classroom management skills will be more effective," she says.

"You will develop a warm, caring and supportive climate for your students to learn and be responsible learners."

Jocelyn Morin, a special education teacher at Birch Ridge Community School in Birch Narrows, believes that this is a very healthy and positive approach to dealing with students.

"The Circle of Courage model reshapes the child's thinking from negative to positive. Utilizing this model enables educators to focus on the holistic child, using their strengths and talents to empower them to have positive life-long learning experiences."

When asked how teachers can incorporate the strategies, Morin says, "Model appropriate behaviors. Build trusting relationship with students.

"Take an interest in each student and display empathy and compassion for them. Recognize their talents and instill purpose by having them engage in opportunities that allow them to help others."

Birch Narrows Dene Nation is planning to be one of the first pilot communities to train their interagency staff using the Circle of Courage.

This means that all professionals that work in partnership with the schools will be trained alongside the educators.

That includes nurses, justice workers, social workers and dental staff.

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New or Used Vehicles

Piapot enters into partnership with SaskTel

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

With the advent of Treaty Land Entitlement, many First Nations were finally able to secure Treaty land where they wanted to. Many took the opportunity to buy land in urban settings and establish enterprise zones to create economic development to benefit their members.

One such urban reserve in Regina is exceeding expectations and growing by leaps and bounds. The Cree Land Mini Mart located at 1101 Angus Street, opened its doors in December 2008, on land owned by the Piapot First Nation. As such, the business is deemed to be on a reserve and is able to offer tax-free products to First Nations people.

And the people came. Known as one of the busiest gas stations in town, the Mini Mart has provided employment and profit for the people of Piapot and has become a go-to-place for everyone in the community.

The success of the Mini Mart drew the attention of the province's biggest Crown Corporation, SaskTel. Both this large customer base and First Nations presence were among the deciding factors in selecting the Mini-Mart as a kiosk location, says Tracey Lang, Manager - Consumer Sales for SaskTel.



Melanie Mcallister, SaskTel Service representative, with Sharrity Lavallee and Natannis Fox

"Our SaskTel Store customers have asked us to offer more commercial locations in Regina and, at the same time, we are always looking for ways for all our customer segments to have better access to SaskTel services," said Lang. "This

location allows us to accomplish both of these goals."

The kiosk is set up in the store selling cell phones, calling cards and accessories. It has enjoyed success right from the start.

"They approached us about a part-

nership and we agreed right away," said Piapot Chief Johnnie Rockthunder. "They wanted to see what kind of clientele we would draw. Now it has really taken off. We sell all kinds of cellular phones and Blackberries. If SaskTel is happy, we are happy."

"Reaching the agreement with Cree Land Mini-Mart was a group effort, which included not only SaskTel Sales personnel," said Lang.

She points to SaskTel's Terry Bird, Human Resources Manager - Aboriginal Affairs and Mark Thomas, Manager - Consumer Sales as being "instrumental in helping develop the partnership with Cree Land."

The agreement is in a trial stage for three months, but Chief Rockthunder expects it to continue. The success of the urban reserve location has led to plans for further expansion. They are currently undergoing a feasibility study regarding the parcel of land they own beside the Mini Mart.

"We fully expect to build a four-storey building there with retail, offices, a walk in clinic and hopefully a grocery store," said Chief Rockthunder.

"I believe in economic development and participating in the economy. Our partnership with SaskTel to sell their goods is one part of the big picture of growth we have for this area."

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Your Saskatchewan Party MLAs

Proud Generation calendar features 13 youth

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

It has been seven years since A Proud Generation Calendar began showcasing Aboriginal Youth and their accomplishments. This year the calendar launch was held at the Mackenzie Art Gallery in November.

Thirteen students from across Saskatchewan will be featured in the 2010 calendar.

Tracey George-Heese has been running the program since 2003. This year, she decided to give her job to the youth.

"They've just done a completely totally amazing job," she said.

She figured handing the reins over to youth would be beneficial for them.

"It became something for them to learn more about business, more about networking and also to encourage the next generation as well using their youth's voice," she said.

George's passion began after her employment at Scott Collegiate, North Central Regina. After hearing the negative stories about drugs, gangs and violence, George wanted to change that.

She says the calendar showcases aboriginal youth that are making a positive difference.

"It's a powerful acknowledgment for the Aboriginal youth that are making positive healthy choices and living responsible lifestyles", she said.

Jacob Pratt is one of the students chosen for the 2010 calendar. He is currently a student at the First Nations University in Regina.

"I never really considered myself a role model. Traditionally it's something that you're placed in and not something you choose. One day people started considering me that and it's something that I've never aimed to get, so I feel pretty good, it's very flattering," Pratt said.

He thinks the calendar is a great motivator for aboriginal youth.

"I think it's a really good idea, it's encouraging to the people that are out there doing good things, it's good for other young people to see positive role models, and something to look forward to and see that it's possible to get out there and go do big things and great things" said Pratt.

George-Heese said she hopes the calendar will help erase part of the negative stereotype about aboriginal youth often depicted in the media.

"I think youth in general have this stereotype that they drink and they don't do well, right. But aboriginal

youth have even a harder time dealing with those stereotypes. So I wanted to showcase aboriginal youth that are making positive choices," she said.



Tom Benjoe and Jada Yee make a presentation to Kari Wuttunee. The two men are board members. Below, a group shot of A Proud Generation.



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Isadore Pelletier spends much of his time passing on his knowledge of Métis spirituality to young children like this attentive group. (Photo by Adam Martin)

Isadore has enjoyed the journey

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

Isadore Pelletier has been an Elder at the First Nations University for over 17 years. It may have not been something he expected to do, but he feels he was drawn to it.

"I always want to talk to young people to tell them about our past life, our history as First Nation people. I like working here and the job that I do, it's working with young people, and I've been doing it for quite a while," he said.

Pelletier is Métis and grew up in the Lestock area of Saskatchewan. After his grandfather died, his family moved into the Road Allowance in 1948.

"We lived there for about nine years, Lestock area. There were about 28 families averaging about four children and no one was allowed to go to school," he said.

Recalling his days as a youth, he speaks with a smile on his face when he tells the story about his kokum.

"My kokum would come with a little scarf tied over her head, you know. I remember her change was tied in one corner and she would open that little thing there and give me 25 cents, you know, and I was, Oh god, I was rich! But those days I remember very well because those were the best times of my life. And it was so good", he said.

Pelletier talks a lot about the past but likes to teach youth about the importance of spirituality.

"You know there is so much history that we have a real rich culture and our spiritual ways, and we have to try and tell all of these things that we know to these young people although there are not many

young people that are interested in hearing about our old ways. But they have to know those old ways to know where they are coming from," Pelletier said.

Pelletier genuinely cares for the students. Sometimes, he finds it emotionally difficult helping them with their problems.

"Some of these young people are hurting in the worst way and it saddens me to see them come in here crying and I feel for them and I tell them how I feel about that," he said.

Elders are needed in urban communities, which is the reason why Pelletier has a hard time taking his holidays.

"They keep calling me back but I don't mind coming and helping them cause that what Elders do, that's what they are there for," said Pelletier.

Apart of what keeps Pelletier so busy is his office is right in the Atrium at the FNUniv. He welcomes everyone and anyone to come and talk with him.

"I had four people who came and seen me this morning. All that I require, doesn't matter even just a cigarette is good enough for me, as long as I have something to give back to the Creator, to the spirit world," Pelletier said.

His inspiration comes from the students he meets every day, and the smile on students faces when teaches them something.

"I've always been interested in young people the way some of them have little niches and it makes me feel good to see them doing well. You know, so many good things have happened to me in my life. I'm satisfied. You know if I went tomorrow I would have no regrets," Pelletier said.



The gang at SNTC is up to their Christmas antics again. The cast this year includes Jennifer Bishop, Aaron Shingoose, Lance Laroque, Waylon Machiskinic and Krystle Pederson.

(Photo by Blue Pelletier)

A REZ CHRISTMAS CAROL

Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) is celebrating its tenth anniversary by bringing back the show that started its long-standing tradition of A Christmas Story Series, A Rez Christmas Carol. Follow Zula, Seegoose and Clare as they teach the real meaning of the Holiday Season to the stone-hearted Ms. Purdy Parsimonias. A Rez Christmas Carol is loosely based on Dicken's Scrooge story with this new version written by Curtis Peeteetuce, which was the original show that kicked off the series in 2001. This year also marks the eighth year of the SNTC HOLIDAY HAMPERS FOR TEEN PARENTS. Each year SNTC collects donations and distributes Holiday Hampers to Aboriginal teen parents that are members of SNTC's family. Audience members are invited to bring a donation in the form of a non-perishable food item or cash donation until December 18. Cash donations over \$20 are also eligible to receive a charitable tax receipt! Donations can also be dropped at the SNTC Box Office at 220-20th Street West, Saskatoon or at the show venue.

Funds help build economic centre in Buffalo Narrows

Buffalo Narrows is ready to help stimulate the northern economy in Saskatchewan. The Buffalo Narrows Economic Development Corporation (BNEDC) is building a 30,000 square-foot Town Centre with 20,000 square feet devoted to commercial rental space and 10,000 square feet for retail space. The facility will fill the need for floor space in the area's crowded commercial rental market. Administrative, retail and construction jobs will be created through this project. The Clarence Campeau Development Fund is providing \$1 million in funding, Gabriel Dumont Institute is providing \$66,465 and Federal funding of \$750,000 is also being provided. (left to right) Steve Danners, Business Development Specialist, Clarence Campeau Development Fund; Gabe Lafond, Chairperson, Gabriel Dumont Technical Institute, and Minister of Education Métis Nation of Saskatchewan; Bobby Woods, Mayor of Buffalo Narrows; Harley Hudson, Chairman, Buffalo Narrows Economic Development Corporation; and Desnethe-Missinippi-Churchill River MP Rob Clarke.




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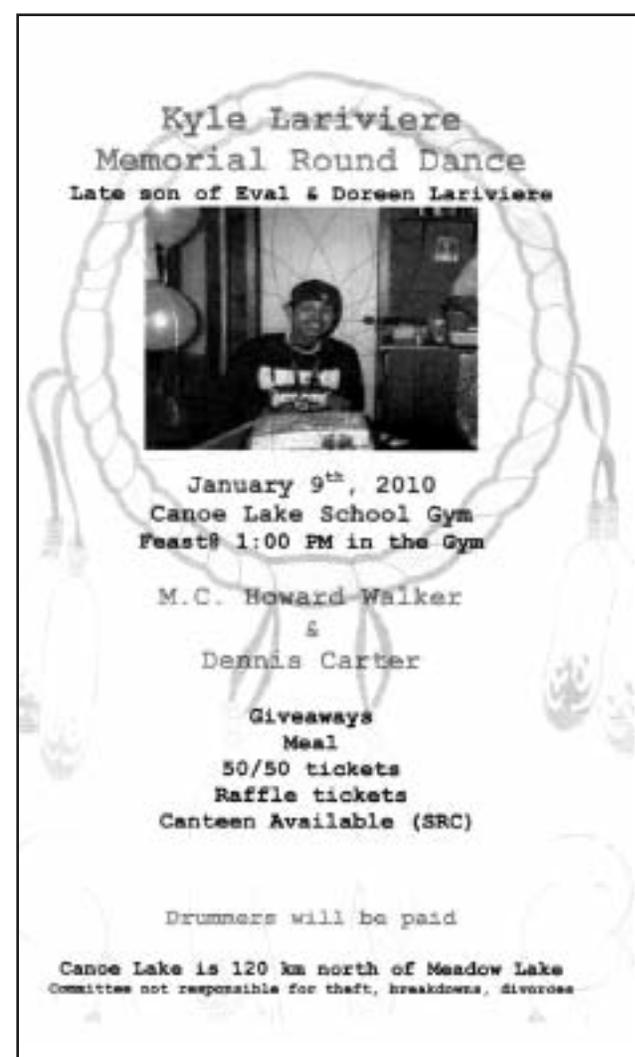
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EXCELLENCE THROUGH PEOPLE



Chief Guy Lonechild says the staff at the FSIN will be doing their part to help Saskatchewan food banks at this time of the year. Every Christmas season pressure is put on food banks to meet the needs of hungry families. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



FSIN staffers chip in to help food bank

Christmas is known as the season for giving, but it is often most difficult on those that can't afford to give. Christmas is always the most stressful time of the year for those in need and organizations like food banks are relied on heavily to ease the burden.

The thing is the food bank needs people to give to them so they can feed others. Thankfully, many groups organize food bank donations at this time of year. CBC Radio has a Jam The Van to gather food for the banks.

The Loblaws stores, including Superstore and Extra Foods have the Extra Helping Food Drive running for two weeks across Saskatchewan. One hundred per cent of food donations and 70 per cent of cash donations go to each store's local food bank, while 30 per cent of donated cash will support provincial programs benefiting food banks.

According to Food Banks Canada member, Food Banks of Saskatchewan, an estimated 18,875 Saskatchewan residents, with 44 per cent of them children, rely on a food bank in an average month. Sadly, almost 87 per cent of all

food bank users are of Aboriginal ancestry.

And the staff at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations will be chipping in as well. Some of the proceeds from the sale of tables at their annual Christmas party will be earmarked for Saskatchewan food banks.

"I want to thank the FSIN staff for their generosity as they help those in need this holiday season," said FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild at a press conference at the Saskatoon Food Bank.

"During this era of new leadership, the FSIN is focused on helping women, youth, children, seniors and urban First Nation people. Our vision is that someday no one will need to rely on a food bank to help their family," Chief Lonechild said.

"The timing of the support could not have been better for all food banks in Saskatchewan," said Paul Merriman CEO of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre.

"For the FSIN to be able to open up their Christmas to an outside organization and donate some of the proceeds to charity is very heart warming."

Law Society of Saskatchewan Public Representatives

The Law Society of Saskatchewan is seeking applications from members of the public who are not lawyers to serve as Benchers for a three year term.

The Law Society regulates the legal profession in the public interest, including setting standards for admission, education, ethics and the conduct of lawyers. This duty is entrusted to the Benchers who are the governing body of the Law Society. The Benchers are comprised of the Dean of the College of Law, 17 elected lawyers and 4 public representatives appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Public representative Benchers participate fully in the deliberations and policy decisions of the Benchers and they are an integral part of the discipline process. No particular area of expertise is required. These Benchers are called upon to use their practical experience and to express opinions and views of the public. Experience with non-profit organizations and professional regulation would be an asset. Successful applicants will be required to obtain a criminal record check.

There is a significant time commitment involved in serving as a Bencher. Meetings are approximately 5 times each year for up to 2 days and may be located at various locations across the province. Travel will be required. In addition, there is preparation, committee work and Hearings. Successful applicants may expect to spend a minimum of 15 days per year as a Bencher. An honorarium is paid and expenses are reimbursed.

For further information, please contact Tom Schonhoffer, Q.C. at tom@lawsociety.sk.ca.

To apply, please submit your resume by December 21, 2009 to:

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Lavallee Saskatoon's Olympic Torch bearer

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Even though friends, family, peers and students were surprised Oskayak High School teacher Jacqueline Lavallee would be Saskatoon's Official Olympic Torch Bearer, it definitely didn't come as a shock. She's a well-respected teacher, dedicated coach and proud role model who tirelessly gives back to the community.

"It's important for kids to have someone to look up to," she said from Oskayak High School recently.

"I had countless teachers and coaches who were very influential and I'm so grateful for the time and effort they dedicated to me."

A Métis born and raised in Saskatoon, Lavallee has traveled Canada and the world playing basketball for the University of Saskatchewan, Team Canada and the Marburg Marlins - a professional team in Germany.

Today she coaches numerous basketball teams ranging from the high school to national level and has a mile-long list of academic and athletic awards to her credit.

"I have been given some pretty amazing opportunities throughout my life. But this (being named Torch Bearer) came as quite a surprise to me. I didn't apply or have to go through a process. I was nominated and a committee chose me."

As an athlete, playing in the Olympic Games was something Lavallee always aspired to do. Even though it never materialized, Lavallee says her dream of representing Canada in the Olympics was simply realized by a different means.

"I didn't make it to the Olympics as a participant ... but now I have this unbelievable opportunity to be involved in a very special way."

Although she was elated with being chosen, Lavallee admits to not fully understanding the importance of her job as Torch Bearer until an Olympic Gold Medalist stopped by Oskayak to talk to the students.

"Joan McCusker came to the school and talked about how the Olympic flame ignites the hopes and dreams of people



Jacqueline Lavallee didn't make it to the Olympics as an athlete but now her Olympic dream is being realized.

around the world. Her words were very powerful and I was deeply honored and overwhelmed at the same time."

It must not be easy having the hopes and dreams of the world resting on one's shoulders but come January 11, 2010 in Kiwanis Park, Jacqueline Lavallee will keep the flame burning.

"I'm running the final leg of the relay (in Saskatoon). The last 300 meters. Then I will light the caldron."

And it seems only fitting it should be someone who ignites the hopes and dreams of our youth on a daily basis.

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No joy in Riderville as season comes to disappointing conclusion

All across Saskatchewan on Grey Cup Sunday people started celebrating. With the Riders comfortably ahead in the third quarter it looked like we had it in the bag.

Someone forgot to tell the CFL's best offense and its 2009 MVP Anthony Calvillo. He carved up the Saskatchewan secondary with pass after pass.

And a defense that held the Alouettes to 3 first half points looked lost and bewildered at times in the second half. Montreal outscored Saskatchewan 25-10 in the second half and won what was surely a Grey Cup Classic.

But the game will always be remembered around Saskatchewan as the one that got away. On what was to be the last play of the game, Montreal missed what would have been the game winning field goal. And as all of Saskatchewan celebrated our Grey Cup victory, a %^*&#\$ too many men on the field penalty was assessed to the Riders and Montreal got another chance at victory. Yes we all know what happened next.

And victory, which was surely ours, is ripped from all of us and we are forced to play second fiddle again.

The Riders staff and players handled the loss gracefully. Nothing less could be expected from a Ken Millar coached club. And as we say around these parts far too often, "don't worry guys, we will get them next year!"



The brothers say they love to spar each other and test their skills on each other. Little brother Matt says "I am a better technical fighter because of experience, but Clay is getting better very quickly. He is a natural."

Random Thoughts

The Toronto Maple Leafs are the worst franchise in hockey, no doubt about it. From management to the product on the ice ... Iverson goes back to Philly and cries. It did nothing but hurt his credibility. He can't act and perpetuate a certain type of person his whole career and then cry at the mic, lost respect for you man ... Fight of the year, maybe decade is coming in March. Pacquiao vs. Mayweather will undoubtedly decide who the best pound for pound fighter of our time is ... Roy Halladay to the Yankees or Red Sox has gotta be the worst idea J.P. Ricciardi has ever had. You want to win more games, you don't trade the best

pitcher in baseball over the last five years to a team you have to face more than any other team each year. Give your head a shake buddy!

Dumais brothers fight their battles in ring

Matt and Clay Dumais are just like any other set of brothers. Competitive to a fault and always pushing each other to be better.

So it comes as no surprise that when Matt decided to give up fighting after years in the ring that it was his older brother Clay who convinced him to get back at it.

Matt had taken a few years off to try and spend more time with his daughter and be a better dad. But his competitive juices never stopped flowing.

"Clay knew the only way to get me back in the ring was to start fighting himself, and sure enough it worked," explains Matt.

Clay has had only two fights. But in what was just his second fight he ended up winning the provincial championship for 181 lbs.

He has dropped from 237 lbs to his fighting weight of 181 lbs. Quite a significant weight loss and damn good way to keep himself healthy.

He does all this despite holding down a job and trying to be the best father possible to his child and the one on the way.

Matt will be looking to get into the ring in the New Year, no longer as an amateur but as a pro.

Over the years Matt has fought and won gold gloves in Alberta and Saskatchewan and even gone down to Wyoming and Oklahoma and conquered all on his journey.

He is also a former Western Canadian Champ and Indigenous Games Champion.

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Fleury found peace with sobriety

• Continued from Page One

From world champion to down in the dumps crack addict, Fleury has taken his life experience and exposed himself for all to see in his new biography, *Playing With Fire*.

In an exclusive interview with Eagle Feather News, Fleury bared his all, as he does on almost every stop on his national book tour.

The book was therapy for Fleury, and also an explanation for what when wrong in his life.

"I wanted people to understand why my hockey career tailed off at the end. I wanted to inspire people to get sober and deal with their issues and I think more for me to give to people," said Fleury.

"The book is a gift that tells them you can always achieve your dreams no matter what happens in your life. In my life, drugs and alcohol took a lot away from me. Through the process of recovery, I was able to get that back. And to put your life on paper and look at it is quite therapeutic. Now my past stands in the past and allows me to move forward."

And forward he has come. Prior to Sept. 18, 2005, Fleury's life was a train wreck. Even though he was one of the best hockey players in the world and a multimillionaire, Fleury was on a one-way bus ride to death as his life spiraled out of control with cocaine fueled alcohol binges laced with expensive hookers and high stakes gambling.

Fleury, seemingly with the world in the palm of his hand, was being eaten up by his past, a past that included three years with the monster Graham James, a hockey coach with a predilection for young boys. Fleury was sexually abused by Graham James for three years while he played for James in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

"Being abused destroys your trust," said Fleury. "And the abusers, they know they have the power and they know you won't tell anyone so you become helpless. In the past if I had a flashback I would immediately go to food, drugs, sex, gambling. I did not want to feel bad but I had my coping medicines ... my therapy. Booze is a depressant. I was self-medicating in a hard way."

Fleury medicated his way right out of the NHL, at one time failing nine consecutive drug tests and using his infant son's urine on others. At one time he bought a gun from a pawn shop, took it home, loaded it and stuck in his mouth. He just couldn't pull the trigger. On Sept. 18, 2005, Theo Fleury made the decision to become sober and to stop the pain.

"Fortunately I never lost hope. I always had that. And then I was so fortunate that my family forgave me," said Fleury.

"I put them through hell. The greatest gift you can give someone is forgiveness. When you have hope, you have the opportunity to get forgiveness. You need those relationships in your life and then as long as you live one day at a time you will be all right. Now my life is about respect and accountability all the time."

Fleury admits to attending almost every type of therapy one can imagine and he sees some drawbacks to the models out there.

"Through my own process, I think we need more qualified people in the helping aspect. The psychologists, psychotherapists ... they need more education and training than they already have about the dynamics of abuse," said Fleury.

"I think they are lacking in that knowledge. Once they are trained, we need the people in power ... lawyers,



Fleury signed jerseys, photos, hockey cards and books at McNally's and stayed until everyone was finished. And he posed for many photos. Here in the back row is Theo Fleury, Ethan Constant, Chris Halcrow, Eric Thakurdeen, Andrea Constant and in front we have Fleury fans Chavez Constant and Desirae Constant.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

police ... they need to be on board. I don't think that someone who is not in recovery can tell their story to the police and feel safe that they are going to get justice coming out. It holds people back from filing complaints."

Sadly, most victims don't file complaints about sexual abuse.

"Did you know that one in six boys and one in three girls will be sexually abused before they turn 16 years old?" asks Fleury.

He has now found the passion to speak out for the abused and to help them on their healing journey. For once, this super pest of the NHL, is finally at peace.

"Sobriety has allowed me to find peace. The best part of my life is now I have figured out my purpose. That is to be in service to help people recover from things that have happened to them," said Fleury who almost takes on an evangeli-

cal fervor when he gets going on the topic.

"We are setting up the Theo Fleury Foundation to help get more people educated. The more we educate those in authority the better. People should not have to live with abuse, or the effects. It is not their fault that they were abused. I found that the truth set me free."

Theo Fleury will always be remembered for his firebrand hockey, his drive to achieve at all costs and his take no prisoners attitude. Those traits allowed this Métis kid from Oxbow, Sask. to conquer the world. His demons almost took it all away. Now, as he ventures into a new career with a new cause, the future looks bright for Theo Fleury. With the number one book in the country with over 80,000 copies sold, a foundation to create, a movie offer and a potential country album in the works, it looks like Theo is going to be all right.

Eagle Feather Q & A with Theo Fleury

Theo Fleury took time to chat with Eagle Feather News about his playing career as well. He and his brother run hockey schools that come into First Nation communities and do three day camps and Theo wants to see more Aboriginal players in the NHL. If you want more info go to www.theofleury14.com

What is worse, a book tour or doing bus time in Junior?

(Laughing)...they are both a lot of fun. My time on the bus was a phenomenal time in my life. I wish everyone could experience that. It was the best time of my life and you make good friends and memories.

Who was the best hockey player you ever played with?

Doug Gilmour

Who was the best you ever played against?

Wayne Gretzky and he is the best ever too.

Who is the best player in the NHL today?

Has to be Crosby ... but if Ovechkin wins a Stanley Cup then he jumps over Crosby.

What was your most ridiculous waste of money?

(Chuckles) Oh man, where do I start? (Read his book ... he gambled \$3 million away one year!)

Who was the best person who beaked on the ice?

Esa Tikkanen. I had no idea what that guy was saying. It was like he spoke Tikanese! But you know what, him

and I had some really good battles. He played hard and made me a better player.

What is your hobby?

I like to read. Now that I am an author, I like to read a lot of non-fiction books like biographies. I left the fantasy life behind in 2005. I like to know what makes people tick.

What was it like being a Métis kid in the NHL?

Well, I have been on a spiritual journey in the last four years and I am reconnecting to my Métis heritage. I was in Winnipeg and stopped at the Manitoba Métis Federation and sat with President Chartrand for about four hours and had a pretty cool chat about who we are as a people and our culture and he sent me home with four big text books and I am reading through them when I have time. It has been great. I got a couple sashes you know. My grandfather was a great fiddle player, which is a big part of our culture. We are a big family of talented musicians who work hard and don't take shit from anybody ... which is a Métis trait. It has been a cool experience.

If you could pick your all time Aboriginal forward line, who would it be?

(We suggested Reggie Leach, Bryan Trottier and Theo?) Wow, that would be a pretty good line. But who is on the back end? I love this topic. I am going to use



my Facebook page to find out the all-time all-Aboriginal hockey team.

What was your ultimate sporting moment?

You know ... for my first 35 years, every day I got to wake up and do what I love to do and that was just play hockey.

The old deserted island question ... one book, one movie, one music album what do you take?

Can I say the Bible? Forest Gump and Buck Owens Greatest Hits!

Clarence Campeau Development Fund

*Season's
Greetings!*

On behalf of the Board,
management and staff
of the
Clarence Campeau
Development Fund,
we wish you
a Merry Christmas
as well as health,
happiness and prosperity
in the new-year.



Serving Saskatchewan's Métis
www.clarencecampeau.com

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

Loan/Equity Contribution Program

Community Business
Development Program

Support for Aftercare Program

Development of Management
& Marketing Skills Program

Business Plan Assistance Program

Large Scale or Joint Venture
Project Program

Please contact us at:
www.clarencecampeau.com
email: info@clarencecampeau.com
2158 Airport Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6
(306) 657-4870
Fax (306) 657-4890
Toll Free: 1-888-657-4870

New Location

2380 2nd Ave
Regina, SK S4R 1A6
Phone: 306-790-CCDF (2233)
Toll Free: 877-359-CCDF (2233)
Fax: 306-790-2220
Email:
regina.info@clarencecampeau.com