

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Métis sash at home in the House

Métis artist Pat Adams had a chance to address the Provincial Legislature to explain the significance of the Métis sash he designed. Premier Brad Wall and Opposition Leader Dwain Lingenfelter look on.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Sash takes place alongside other symbols

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A historic moment was shared in the provincial legislature in November as Métis leadership and hundreds of community members from across Saskatchewan looked on during a ceremony to invest a Métis sash in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

The celebration was especially fitting since 2010 had been proclaimed by Premier Brad Wall as Year of the Métis and it is also the 125th Anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

"Today, we continue to honour our strong relationship with the Métis Nation as we gather to pay tribute to the tremendous contributions made by Saskatchewan's Métis people to our social, cultural and economic development," Premier Wall said in the legislature.

Later, in an exclusive interview with Eagle Feather News, Wall said that when they announced the Year of the Métis, he and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President

Robert Doucette chatted about how to take it step further.

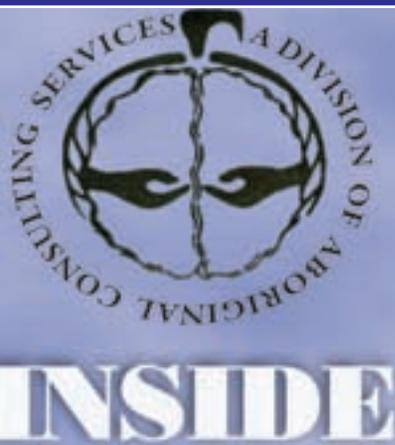
"I leaned over to Robert and said, you know, because of Premier Calvert we have that great mace runner and the beaver pelt for the mace as a symbol for our First Nations, the first ever affectation of First Nations in our house, but we don't have anything for the Métis," said Wall.

"The Métis not only shaped our provincial history, but the history of North America. I said to Robert, maybe we ought to think about doing this and figuring out what the symbol is.

"Of course we didn't have to think too long about it and the Métis Nation and Mr. Adams presented the sash today and it is perfect, absolutely perfect."

The specially designed Métis sash was woven by Métis artist Pat Adams and presented to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Don Toth by Métis Senator Nora Cummings and President Robert Doucette.

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DEFENDING HIS RECORD
It was a wild and wooley Métis Assembly that had Robert Doucette on the defensive.
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Poet Gregory Scofield was one of the participants in Saskatoon's Louis Riel Day celebration.
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UP WITH READING
Elizabeth Conner is doing her part to encourage young people to do more reading.
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NATIONAL CHAMP
Saskatoon Hilltop player Zak Ironstand explains what it takes to be a winner on the football field.
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AT THE GREY CUP
Despite battling cancer, William Merasty made it to Edmonton to watch the Riders do battle with the Alouettes.
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Welcome to our
Christmas Edition
Coming In January:
Year in Review Issue
CPMA #40027204

Elders find home thanks to Urban Aboriginal Strategy

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

“We need our own place where we can all be together,” was the cry from the Elders of Saskatoon. At a community consultation hosted by the Urban Aboriginal Strategy Committee in early 2010, the Elders made it clear that they wanted an Elders Lodge in Saskatoon.

The UAS Committee took it to heart and set aside development funds to pursue the dream of a place for the old people and they formed a committee of the Elders to guide them.

“Those meetings were amazing,” said Shirley Greeyes, a Development Officer with the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and non-status Indians and overseer of the UAS file in Saskatoon.

“They wanted their own place and eventually we hope this will happen, whether it be a standalone lodge or a section within another organization, it will be a home for the Elders.

“For now, the organizations working together have chosen STC Urban First Nations Services as the host organization for the Elders’ project to begin. They have a cultural support person working with them to achieve their goals.”

The Saskatoon Tribal Council is the capacity agreement holder for UAS in Saskatoon and they had plenty of room at their new location at the old Sion High School, so it was a natural fit to host the Elders there for the time being.

“This is a real community initiative, driven by our Elders. Through a community consultation process our elders told us they needed a place in the community to gather and share their knowledge and wisdom,” Saskatoon Tribal



Elders Edward Baldhead and Louise McKinney cut the ribbon to officially open the Old Peoples Program room at the Saskatoon Tribal Council.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Council Vice Chief Geraldine Arcand said.

“We are responding to the needs of our elders in the community. Not only will it improve services and the quality of life for our Elders, it is a gathering place where our people, especially youth, can get counsel, advice and leadership from our Elders. It is long overdue.”

The quality of Elder care has been a growing concern in the community according to Arcand. She says pressure is mounting on Elders in the areas of transportation, food security, health support, affordable housing and advocacy.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council was chosen by the Elders group to host, manage and operate the Elder’s Lodge. The lodge will be open to all First nations, Métis and Inuit Elders.

“The Elders meetings always left me laughing,” added Greeyes-MacDonald. “The energy they brought to this

and the sense of humour was refreshing. Once they toured the building, the ideas for activities were flying. Of course they want a place for traditional crafts, and cards and visiting, but some wanted to take up boxing, or host weddings or even to play strip poker. I am pretty sure they were joking about that one.”

Elder Maggie Pochay is one of the Elders who was involved in the consultation and is now going to enjoy the new place they have.

“It’s nice to be all together and to have the Elders all in one place to share their guidance and their knowledge,” said Maggie. “I’m so happy because it was a revolving door at my house with all these old people coming and going. Now we have a place to gather. I love it. “But I don’t play strip poker. I’m married now I don’t care about that. I’d rather go to the casino!”



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Passionate educator receives Order of Merit

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A lifetime devotion to Aboriginal students and education has earned Myrna Yuzicapi the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour that recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the province and its residents.

Yuzicapi is a Special Advisor to SIAST on Aboriginal Initiatives, her most current stop on an illustrious 40-year career that saw her become the founding Director of the Indian Social Work program at SIFC in the 1970s and the founding Director of the Saskatoon Native Survival School (now known as Oskayak High School) in the '80s.

She has been named Educator of the Year-Aboriginal Education in 1997, received the Centennial Medal and in 2007 received the SIAST Presidents Award of Excellence.

The ever humble educator, she had no idea she had been nominated, let alone even considered for such a prestigious award.

"It came out of the blue with a phone call," said Yuzicapi. "To tell you the truth I was flabbergasted and really, I did not even know what the award was. I just know I do what I do and I don't do it for the awards, I do it for the students."

Yuzicapi was feted along with six other esteemed individuals at a fancy reception



Liz Duret, SIAST Representative Workforce Coordinator, Brian Gallagher, Instructor/Tutor Aboriginal Student Center, SIAST Kelsey Campus, Myrna Yuzicapi, Special Advisor to SIAST: Aboriginal Initiatives, Shelley Belhumeur, Aboriginal Student Achievement Plan (ASAP) Coordinator, Dr. Bob McCulloch, SIAST President and CEO, Rick Daniels, Counsellor, Basic Education, SIAST Kelsey Campus and Alison Pickrell, SIAST Associate Vice President, Student Affairs.

and meal at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina.

"It was kind of overwhelming to me as I am used to being the one who is organizing those things and making sure it is all working," said Yuzicapi of the beautiful event.

"I have never been to such a formal and

fancy event and it was nice to be catered to with no worries. It was wonderful."

Myrna Yuzicapi now joins several other esteemed Aboriginal women in the Order of Saskatchewan including Alpha Lafond, Freda Ahenakew, Maria Campbell, Carole Sanderson, Cora Thomson, Theresa Stevenson and Alma Kytwayhat. There

have been only 175 people appointed to the Order of Saskatchewan since its inception in 1985.

Lt.-Gov. Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart invested seven people into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit at the event.

"The Saskatchewan Order of Merit enables us to celebrate collectively the achievements of our most outstanding citizens," Barnhart said.

"The newest members of the Order join a company of extraordinarily talented and committed individuals. Each has created a lasting legacy that has benefitted the people of our province beyond measure."

This year's recipients were: Maurice (Mo) Bundon, Donald E. Kramer, Janice MacKinnon, Dr. J.D. (Jack) Mollard, O.C., Elizabeth Raum, Dr. Douglas A. Schmeiser, Q.C., and Myrna F. Yuzicapi, Special Advisor to SIAST on Aboriginal Initiatives, Saskatoon.

When asked for a highlight from her career, Yuzicapi was straightforward in her response.

"My highlight is every year at graduation time when I get to see the accomplishments of the students," she said.

"When I see their pride in graduating and the pride of their family and community. I know how hard they had to work to earn the right to walk across the stage and receive their diploma or degree. To me, that is why we do it."

Positive energy
for the holidays

Cameco wishes our employees and northern neighbours a happy and safe holiday season.

This is the time of year to reflect on past achievements and to plan for future successes. Today, Cameco is among the safest mining companies in Canada, thanks to our employees who care about safety and the environment.

We hope their positive energy carries across Northern Saskatchewan, and that everyone has a safe and healthy holiday celebration.

Happy holidays from your friends at Cameco.

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Editorial

FNUC top story of year

As the year 2010 fades away in the rear view mirror, many stories come to mind. It has been an eventful year in Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis politics, sports, communities and the arts.

We have had the censure and recovery of FNUC, a tornado in Kawacatoose, First Nation Winter Games, a potash situation that brought the sharing of natural resources to the forefront again, a wild and woolly Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in the Year of the Métis and lots of personal and professional achievements for many in our communities.

It makes it very difficult to choose the story of the year with so much happening but there is one story that captured the attention of everyone in Saskatchewan and that was the death and rebirth of the First Nation University of Canada. This institution has been making news for the last five years, but 2010 was when it all came to a head. It had an unflinching board that was mired in the past. It had an indifferent administration. It had students that stood up to the establishment and sent their message loud a clear through demonstrations and protest. It had a young Chief in Guy Lonechild who made the biggest political move we have seen out of the Federation in a decade and we had federal and provincial governments draw a line in the sand and stick by it. What drama.

Ultimately, Guy Lonechild stepped down from the Board and asked other Chiefs to follow. The Assembly voted to dissolve the board and start over, but too late as the funding was pulled. The students then took the bull by the horns and petitioned to help save their school. Protests and live-ins were the order of the day ... activism at a level we haven't seen from Aboriginal students for two decades. It was very refreshing to see even though the times were tough.

Eventually, good politicking and public pressure restored funding, an interim President was hired and a new board was just recently announced. What a ride but it was not without its casualties. The Saskatoon campus of FNUC had to be sold, programs were cut or mothballed, staff were laid off or terminated and enrolment is a fraction of what it used to be. But FNUC still survives and has somewhat of a clean slate with which to rebuild.

The First Nations University of Canada saga had every element of a great story, or even movie of the week. Let's hope it has a happy ending.

Next month in Eagle Feather

January will be the Year in Review, but we will also have some features that will certainly catch your interest. Lots of change is coming to Saskatchewan in 2011. There will be a new Children's Advocate, there will be a new way that the province deals with Human Rights complaints, and we will be welcoming the first year that we operate under the International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (whatever that means!?).

We will have our best writers explain what this all means to your day to day existence as an Aboriginal person in Saskatchewan. We will even try to explain the potash situation to you ... we'll try anyway.

We will also remember The Year of the Métis is a photo spread.

All the best this season ...

From the folks that bring you Eagle Feather News every month, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. May it be filled with fun, family, friends, good times and good food.

We appreciate your support in the community and the fact that you take precious time out of your day to read what we have to say.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all.



Lucy Vermette from Biggar, Saskatchewan has been one of the artists that return every year to the art show. (Photo by John Spyglass)

Annual Emerging Artist Art Fair a hit

By John Spyglass
For Eagle Feather News

Aboriginal Artists from all across Saskatchewan recently gathered at the St. John's Cathedral Hall in Saskatoon for the 6th Annual Emerging Artist Christmas Art Fair.

The event was well organized by Daniel Sanderson O'Shea, John Spyglass, Margie Gruber, Klaus Gruber, and of course the many volunteers who contributed their time and effort to help make the show a success.

Debra Desjarlais and her daughters served hot

soup and bannock keeping the crowds well fed, with numerous baked items for dessert.

Throughout the years the show has continued to grow and artists come from all over the province and sell numerous items including moccasins, turquoise jewelry, paintings, clothing and unique items just in time for Christmas shopping.

Nutana Collegiate Art Students continue to be a part of the show as teacher Renee Dudridge encourages students to create art throughout the year to put on display, and each year the class has expanded their display to include pottery, beadwork and paintings.



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

Remembering the traditions of Christmas

The 30th anniversary of Gabriel Dumont Institute was an amazing half week full of success stories, networking and learning opportunities, celebrations of culture and perseverance and hard work and good relationship, and a demonstration of the strength and vibrancy of the Métis Nation.

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly followed on its heels in the same location (the Saskatoon Inn); sadly all that positivity did not flow smoothly into that event! What I know about politics comes from being a M.O.M. (Mother of Many) – you need to listen to each other, respect each other, understand there are many perspectives to an issue, and sometimes you just gotta agree to disagree while working towards a mutual solution that will make the best outcome for everyone.

Sometimes you have to step back and say, what is our goal, what is our vision? MN-S has the youth, the Elders, the women all in place to help with a fullness of community vision. There are many strong men who are passionate and involved too. May great harmony, and not great dissension, come from having many voices.

As the saying goes, “we all have one mouth to speak and two ears to listen.” (And ten fingers to type. Is that cheating?) If we

listen twice as much as we talk, we can all walk a better walk. That’s all I know about politics.

Sure makes me think of the sacrifices leaders make for their people (in the MN-S or FSIN, for example), just like parents make for their children, and for leaders what a thankless job it can be, considering their opposition. You can’t be a leader and not have opposition: people who think they can do the job better, or people who don’t want the job to be done at all.

I hope our leaders are affirmed in the work they do and the sacrifices they make, even when the exact way they do it doesn’t please every last person. Transparency and accountability are important. So is good leadership. It is easy to be a bad leader, and please the powerful. It is harder to be a good leader, because some days you please nobody but Creator.

In the MN-S, the Métis Nation needs to keep moving forward. One hundred years have gone, and Riel’s prophecy that his sleeping people would awake has come true. Canada needs the Métis people now more than ever. Who better to know both sides of



an argument, understand all perspectives, translate different cultures, and make respectful decisions that take into consideration all peoples? The Métis know what it is like to be related to everyone, and to care for all their relations.

And to take up the vision of leaders who died for a just cause: a vision of a homeland that respected everyone and gave rights back to those who had them taken away unjustly by a bullying government that doesn’t play fair. Let’s not become what we oppose. Let’s do better. Let’s listen to each other, and hold hands even with those we don’t agree with. I used to make my kids do that when they were little. “Go hold hands on the couch until you can agree on something!”

So it was cool to hear that deceased leader Clarence Campeau operated like that – he would hash things out hard in the meetings, but then invite his worthy opponent out for lunch to shake hands and be friends. Good model for all of us.

The same is true of the First Nations, many of whom stood shoulder to shoulder, or suffered alongside their Métis brothers and sisters. As FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild said at the Sasipenita fundraising banquet,

“The Saskatchewan motto, ‘From Many People’s Strength’ includes the First Peoples of this province.”

No matter how much you make, December can be a tight month when people worry about extra presents and big dinners. I just about crashed my car when I heard a lady on the radio talking about \$150 iPods being “stocking stuffers.” I hope she draws my name, whoever she is. Can’t even burn coal to keep warm anymore if I’m naughty.

We have done things like \$5 fun swaps, or dollar store joke gifts, or coupons to each other promising this or that, or handmade gifts. The smallest thing with love is the biggest thing, and it’s not the what, it’s the how. Not to mention the traditions. The kids leave their shoes out on Dec. 6, and St. Nicolas fills them with candy without fail.

On New Year’s, we eat 12 grapes during the stroke of midnight for good fortune next year, and the blessings of the past year. It’s a Spanish tradition from family who has moved away and from adopted family we spend New Year’s with.

Maybe my kids will hate Christmas-time when they grow up, I don’t know, but hopefully they will remember time and tradition and love and laughter together and recreate it anew. At the end, who remembers anything else?

Rank Comix *Adam Martin*
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The bill that will not die

Well they are at it again. The annual memorial services for Louis Riel which are held on Nov. 16 was an occasion for another politician to peddle his view that Parliament should pardon Riel. At great risk of repeating myself I will again be drawn into the debate about the bill that will not die. Let me blame a friend who talked me into doing this and who will remain unnamed.

Bill C-248 was a private member's bill introduced by MP Pat Martin of Winnipeg, who is not a Métis. The bill has the same basic features as the many other such ill-advised bills. Martin was quoted in newspapers as he spoke about his bill on Nov. 16 on the occasion of the memorial ceremonies that are held at Riel's grave in the cemetery of St. Boniface Cathedral every year.

The usual features of such bills include glowing high-minded phrases, followed by one short paragraph that would 'exonerate' or 'pardon' Riel, or, as this one does, "deem to be innocent of the charge of high treason".

Then comes the back-sliding and statements that mean "this bill really means very little." I will spare you the technical legal details except for the little jewel of a paragraph that declares "throughout Canada ... the 15th day of July shall be known as "Louis Riel Day", followed by the quick back-shuffle "for greater certainty Louis Riel Day is not a legal holiday or a non-judicial day."

The bill then moves on to pretend to 'grant' the "Minister of Heritage" the authority to erect plaques or monuments. The only small concession to merit in this bill is the proposal to "establish a scholarship program for Métis students in Louis Riel's name."

This bill scores high marks, as do the others like it, for mangling the facts of history to suit its high-minded purposes. But this one includes an unwitting note of irony in its statement that the Minister of Heritage may "take appropriate steps to respect the historical record". The first and best step the Minister might take is to reject this bill and its revisionist history.

Now, what is really wrong with the idea of legislation that seeks to pardon Riel? After all it is an undeniable fact that a nation's history is sometimes spun out of tales that have their historical foundation in fiction rather than truth. There is nothing wrong with that because the purpose of fables or 'folklore' is to instruct generations about the values that are important to the people and the nation.

My view against such bills is based on the idea that Métis people ought to be confidently and spiritually self-sufficient so that our own belief in our heroes and rascals is what really matters to us.

Is it not evident that Métis people think that Riel is a hero, along with the great military leader and strategist Gabriel

Dumont? In that case what is the reason for going to Ottawa and asking the forgiveness of the parliamentarians whose ancestors unjustly and for political



reasons had Riel hanged in 1885? They hanged him and now you ask them to pardon him. Is it not clear that in such a case you hand over the authority to decide what is right and what is wrong? And if you do that, is it not clear what you are saying about the judgment of the Métis people?

It is not our collective judgment that counts: it is really the views of the parliamentarians that matters, not ours. Why would you say that?

And do you think that it is the interest of the Métis people that is really behind these bills? What is the right way to honour Riel today? Is the best way to honour him to honour the cause for which he was killed? Why do none of these bills propose negotiations with Métis people's representatives on a remedial strategy for the official thievery of Métis lands for a start?

The answer might lie in the observation that Quebec politicians have been behind much of this movement for a pardon for Riel; they have introduced a number of these private members' bills in the past.

What is Riel when you remove the Métis lands cause for which he died? He is a Quebec hero: he symbolized the fight in the 19th century between English-Protestant Ontario and French-Catholic Quebec.

Remember that Ontario Protestant Prime Minister John Macdonald yelled "Riel will hang though every dog in Quebec bark in his favour" and that French-Catholic Honore Mercier railed against Macdonald and his ilk for convicting Riel in his winter speech to thousands gathered in the Champs de Mars in Montreal.

So whenever Quebec makes noises to separate from the rest of Canada, federal politicians look for bromides to appease them and the Riel Pardon says to them: "You do not need to separate: we love you. See, we love your hero, Riel. You can indeed be comfortable and happy in Canada where we forgive and forget."

Forgive Riel and forget the Métis cause. That is what these bills offer.

•••

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers.



Recipients in front of Parliament (Front row, left to right - Cindy Blackstock, Audrey Poitras, Teyotsihstokwath Dakota Brant, Annie Panguit Peterloosie, Corrine Hunt; (Back row - left to right) - Dr. Duncan Cree, Roger Jones, Margo L. Greenwood, Jean LaRose, Joseph F. Dion, Frederick G. Sasakamoose, Ronald Edward Sparrow. (Missing) - Dr. Lillian McGregor, Marcia Anderson DeCoteau

Sasakamoose among Aboriginal Achievement Award winners

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Ahtahkakoop's own Freddie Sasakamoose is the only Saskatchewan recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award this year. Starting out at age six with bob skates strapped on his moccasins, he worked his way through residential school and junior hockey to become the first Cree person to make it into the NHL where he played for the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1950s.

His first game in the NHL happened to be from Toronto and televised on Hockey Night in Canada. Sasakamoose eventually came home to become a legend in Native and provincial hockey circles. He was one hockey player that could not be stopped.

But he was stopped cold the October morning when he received a 6 a.m. phone call from Roberta Jamieson, the CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

"I was up and eating breakfast and I get this phone call from out east and Roberta is telling me I am getting this award," said Freddie in an exclusive interview with Eagle Feather News.

"At first I didn't know what to say and I wasn't really believing it. But when she convinced me, tears were falling down my face. This is one of the best things that has happened to me in my life."

Sasakamoose was told not to tell anyone except close family members because they wanted to announce the recipients at the House of Commons in Ottawa in late November and they had to spend three days filming him at home and at community events.

"It was nice to be introduced at the House," said the humble hockey hero. "You know how if you have a cake, it isn't done until it is iced? Well this whole thing puts the finishing touches on my life."

Sasakamoose has been inducted into four different sporting halls of fame and has been honoured in many Aboriginal

communities across Canada.

"In 1954, before I went to the NHL, my junior team and the Hobbema Indians honoured me. At one time in the game, I was lined up at centre and I looked and all my teammates were on the bench," said Sasakamoose.

"Then a bunch of Indians came pouring out of where the ice machine comes, dressed in regalia and beating drums. They placed a blanket at centre ice, made me kneel on it and placed a bonnet on my head and gave me the name Chief Running Deer because I could run on my skates. I remember things like that."

Sasakamoose was also dubbed Thunderstick by First Nations in British Columbia after he played in Kamloops for five years, and he was called Chief when he played in the bigs. He was a bit of an anomaly as no Indian had ever before played in the NHL. It led to some weird situations.

"I remember being interviewed in New York at Madison Square Garden," said Sasakamoose. "The announcer wanted me to speak 'Indian' so I spoke in Cree for a bit. They gave me some cigars and a transistor radio."

In demand to speak at community and hockey events, Freddie is always eager to share his story.

"I talk about being an Indian and the challenges we faced. I was at an event in Melfort, all white people in the crowd and Darryl Sittler was there too. When I gave my speech he came and stood beside me. When I was done, they gave me a standing ovation ... from the white community. It gave me tears," he said.

Sasakamoose is now looking forward to the event that takes place March 11 in Edmonton.

"It will be the biggest honour of my life and I am looking forward to having my wife and family with me and lots of people from Ahtahkakoop," added Freddie.

"My goal was to be a winner. I never wanted to lose. And now this. I am very humbled."

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Fireworks abound at Métis Legislative Assembly

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

The words “gong show” and “circus” were used to describe this year’s Métis Nation Legislative Assembly and Annual General Assembly after the weekend was marred with accusations of personal attacks, an altercation, heckling from the gallery, as well as rumoured calls for an early election.

It took hours to get down to business when Métis leaders began meeting Saturday afternoon. First there was much discussion on who was chairing the event before it was decided on Michelle Leclair and Ron Lamabe. However, Leclair stepped down Sunday morning after telling the assembly she had been insulted by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan’s Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Laurier Caron.

There was also a great deal of discussion about who was the local president of the Meadow Lake local – a discussion that was deferred to the Annual General Assembly – and who was the deputy clerk and why.

MN-S President Robert Doucette explained that the previous Chief Executive Officer, Brian Kimble, was let go last February, and he is now suing the MN-S. The CEO who would normally be the clerk.

Because Kimble is no longer with the

MN-S, Doucette, who was also acting as CEO for a period of time, appointed Sibyl Frei who he says is an expert in such matters.

“So that’s where we’re sitting right now. And, believe me, if you think I wanted to be the president, CEO, bottle washer, and head shrink, I don’t want that.”

It was nearly six o’clock on Saturday evening when the assembly went over the Intergovernmental Affairs submission for Constitutional Reform. That started a firestorm of discussion.

Regional Director of Western Region 3 Karen Larocque raised concerns about the wording of the document, noting there is a difference between words “citizen” and “people” and wondered which was appropriate.

She also wondered why important language like that wasn’t considered when there was an item about the head office being in Saskatoon.

“I thought the process was constitutional reform, and having this article in here is just making a mockery of our constitution. We won’t entrench important stuff but we’ll entrench having the office in Saskatoon.”

Eventually, Helen Johnson, Regional Director of Eastern Region 2, made a motion to scrap the amendments, and Larocque seconded it.

“I just want to caution you that this piece of garbage, and that’s what this is, because it is nothing. It holds no water. This has been made up by individuals who are trying to promote certain things within this nation, and it doesn’t go along with what we’ve been elected to do.”

The motion was passed, meaning the changes were not accepted, which then also excluded discussion on any amendments to the citizenship act, proposed governance structures and MNLA act.

During the state of the nation address on the second day, Doucette told the assembly he believes the Métis Nation is the strongest it has been in a decade.

He says when he became president three years ago, there was no budget and there was \$2 million of deficit – to which Philip Chartier, president of the Buffalo Narrows local, said was “a lie” – one of many comments he made whenever Doucette was speaking.

“No, it’s not a lie,” Doucette replied. “This is what I’ve had to deal with all these three years. But you know what? I’m a big man. Just recently I saw an email on Facebook written by somebody in this assembly...where they wrote President Doucette.

“That’s the attacks that I’ve had to put up with. My wife left crying today. Why? Because she was attacked.”



Robert Doucette

At that point, Michelle Leclair yelled from the gallery, “She attacked me.”

Both were referring to an altercation that took place earlier in the hallway outside the assembly. After Leclair questioned the quality of Doucette’s leadership, there was a nasty verbal exchange between her and Betty Gar, Doucette’s wife, that resulted in security separating the two as Leclair tried twice to reach Betty Gar while swearing at her.

• Continued on Page 9



Doucette defends his record

• Continued from Page 8

Doucette addressed the leadership question in his address, noting he was hearing rumours that some people wanted an early election. He says he welcomes taking it to the people to hear what they want.

The behaviour at the assembly drew the attention of the Senate, which asked to have a representative speak. Senator Nora Cummings admonished the crowd for its behaviour.

“As a Métis person, we have to be respectful to one another, and that hasn’t been happening. We’ve had people up at the mic, making their comments. We’ve had people sitting in the back, heckling them and disrespecting them when they speak.

“If we’re a government ... I think we have to respect our people that are elected.”

Financial concerns surrounding this past summer’s Back to Batoche celebration came up, as some wondered why there was nearly a \$400,000 cost over-run. Doucette says five new pavilions were built as well as a new kitchen and maintains the money spent was an investment that increased the value of the property dramatically.

“Three years ago, when we took over Batoche, it was \$26,000 in the hole. Now there are no tax liens, and that site has gone from being maybe a million bucks to probably now being worth three or four million dollars. And, guess who owns that?

You do.”

He believes the deficit will be paid off by spring.

The last order of business during the Annual General Assembly was to deal with who is the president of the Meadow Lake local. Gwen King gave an impassioned speech as she told the assembly that the Métis in that area called for an election because they weren’t satisfied with how the previous election was run or the representation they were getting.

As a result, there were two local presidents, King and Guy Bouvier. King says Mavis Taylor, Regional Director, wouldn’t work with her.

“And you know what? The fight is not between Guy and Mavis,” said King. “The people want to be heard at the provincial level. We want a voice here, and we’re not getting recognized.

“We’re not wanting to fight with you,” she told Taylor directly as she spoke.

However, Taylor responded she wouldn’t recognize her as president, and even after a motion was passed to recognize the election that made King president, Taylor stormed out of the assembly, saying she still wouldn’t recognize her.

Even with the struggles, the assembly moved ahead on some other items: the MNS’ audit was passed, and the MNS now has a new treasurer, as that position has been vacant for some time. By a close vote, Louis Gardiner was elected treasurer.



Our blessings for a healthy, warm and wonderful holiday.

It has been a great pleasure travelling Saskatchewan’s new road together with the First Nations and Métis communities.

We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a joyful and prosperous New Year, filled with good health and good friends.



Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
 Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
 Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs



Happy Holidays











Outstanding students honoured at FNUC

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

The First Nations University of Canada was filled with businesses eager to meet the next top Aboriginal graduates from the University of Regina, FNUUniv, and Luther College. The dinner, a Tribute to Student Achievement Award, was held on November 25.

"We wanted to recognize those individuals who walk through these doors everyday despite obstacles," said Darlene MacDonald, Coordinator - Aboriginal Career Center at the U of R.

Aboriginal students with an average over 70 per cent were nominated by their instructors and staff members from the universities.

"It is wonderful to see staff take notice and care enough about the students they meet to want to see them honoured," said MacDonald.

Not only did the students receive awards for their achievements, but were able to mingle with the CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Steve McLellan, and FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild.

The Chamber of Commerce partnered with the FNUUniv after last year's misfortune of the University almost closing. McLellan says he was impressed with the student's commitment.

"These students have lived in this building because they believe this institute has much to offer," he says.

A 76-day, "live in", was done by many FNUUniv students in the summer of 2010, a symbolism for what many called their second home.

"I can't begin to comprehend that feeling, but I truly applaud them for their endeavours," said McLellan.



Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, with Dana McNabb and Kim Redlac, students who attended the Tribute to Student Achievement Banquet. (Photo by Jennifer Buboiss)

"They have accomplished so much this past year and they should look to the future," said Chief Lonechild.

The evening brought new prospecting career opportunities for the students.

"If it wasn't for these students stepping up, we wouldn't be where we are now. It's their efforts that have brought them to where they are today."

Students were nominated for efforts they have made such as the "live-in".

"We asked them to nominate students that they felt deserved to be recognized, not for grades, not for involvement, but rather for persistence and dedication to their education," said MacDonald.



DVD examines plight of homeless in Saskatoon

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A Saskatoon group dedicated to fighting homelessness has released a DVD telling the stories of the people who have no homes.

Passion for Action Against Homelessness is showing its film, *Nowhere to Go: Homeless in Saskatoon* in various locations throughout the city this month.

Marjorie Beaucage, a Métis woman who recently moved from Manitoba, is with Passion for Action Against Homelessness and says homelessness is a big problem in the city. She says 400 people eat at soup kitchens daily but believes for each of them, there are 10 more couch-surfing or living in temporary shelter.

She says the high cost of living is definitely part of the problem.

"I just moved back to Saskatchewan, and I couldn't afford to live in the city myself. I'm living out in the country because it's not affordable (in the city).

"I'm almost a pensioner, and I worry that I'm just one breath away from being homeless."

She says when the group made the film, they heard stories from 80-year-olds right down to teenagers. They were also told that homelessness spans beyond Saskatoon's west side.

"I went to Nutana and put out a call, saying 'Anyone who's homeless or has been homeless, could you come to a homeless circle in the portables.' And, there was 22 kids who showed up, seven of whom were actually homeless and going to school, and the teachers and the counsellors there didn't even know."

Beaucage says there are very few options for people seeking shelter.

"The Salvation Army, and the Salvation Army. That's the only show in town, and you have to pay \$30 a night, and you can only stay seven nights, and you have to be sober. There are a lot of people who don't meet those criteria. Where



Marjorie Beaucage holds a collection of photo essays written by homeless people. The publication was released in conjunction with the DVD.

can they go?"

Beaucage and the rest of Passion for Action Against Homelessness are lobbying for the Sturdy Stone

building to be kept open on nights when it gets extremely cold, noting there is already security working there overnight.

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All that texting can cause you physical harm

From smoke signals to Facebook we're not in Kansas anymore Dorothy! Communicating with friends and family is now high-tech and social networking sites are popping up everywhere. People don't talk on the phone anymore, they text and they don't mail you Christmas cards or wedding invitations they send you Ecards and Evites from their computer to yours.

When I was a kid we used to write notes on paper. The first phone I ever used was called a party line which meant that your neighbours were also on the same phone line. Each household had their own ring, but if you were a nosy person you could pick up the phone any time it rang and listen to what your neighbours had to say – shameful!

That was nothing compared to what people are saying to each other on Facebook – ever sick. They talk about each other, spread gossip and even talk about their sex lives – tap we some people are so crazy!

The flavour of the day appears to be a site called Facebook. This site lets you chat with friends, post pictures, send invitations and play games. In addition you can farm, set up your own virtual café and let folks know what you are doing at any moment in time.

One quote from someone's Facebook page says: "Facebook is like jail. You sit around wasting time, write on walls and poke people you don't know."

This one made me laugh. Someone from

the rez should have told the Facebook programmers that "poked" means something else to many folks out there – really! Yet another of my friends posted this on her page: "If I got pokes as much as I do on

Facebook I would be one happy lady." Ever Sick!

Now I am not saying that everything on Facebook is bad and I'm sure that there are some good things on Facebook. In my case, I think I need new Facebook friends cause the majority of my Facebook contacts are . . . well . . . nuts best describe my friends and not a one of them can spell worth a darn. People say stuff like: OMG? WTF? LMAO? Lol? I have to ask my kids what they mean when they post these acronyms.

I am so new to the on-line social network world that I can spend hours reading peoples status and laughing my gluteus maximus off, (Lmao in text lingo).

Facebook is a great place for cowards to hide behind their keyboards and say any rude or inappropriate thing that comes to mind; words that will float around in the cyber world forever – words that you can't take back.

For future wanna be politicians beware of what you post on Facebook because big sister is watching and waiting to stomp on your dreams. Don't forget that some folks are like crabs in a



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

bucket always trying to pull down the ones from the top.

Now there all these fancy cell phones like Blackberries and Iphones and Androids that are just like mini

computers. You can check your email and post updates on your Facebook from your office, car or bathroom. Really! Why do you need to text from the bathroom?

What's up with peoples' Facebook pictures? Some photos look like you entered a dating site trying to score! Check it out I'm not kidding.

Someone out there needs to write Facebook/texting dictionary so the Facebook virgins can understand what the heck they are reading. Even when I try to spell the words correctly my kids are always giving me grief because my text messages are too long – apparently some phones will only allow so many characters.

Believe it or not all that texting and online chatting can cause you physical harm. There is a potential to develop carpal tunnel syndrome. Beware you textaholics.

News from the Mayo Clinic says that Carpal tunnel syndrome typically starts gradually with a vague aching in your wrist that can extend to your hand or forearm. Other common carpal

tunnel syndrome symptoms include:

- Tingling or numbness in your fingers or hand, especially your thumb and index, middle or ring fingers, but not your little finger. This sensation often occurs while holding a steering wheel, phone or newspaper or upon awakening. Many people 'shake out' their hands to try to relieve their symptoms. As the disorder progresses, the numb feeling may become constant.

- Pain radiating or extending from your wrist up your arm to your shoulder or down into your palm or fingers, especially after forceful or repetitive use. This usually occurs on the palm side of your forearm.

- A sense of weakness in your hands and a tendency to drop objects.

See your doctor if you have persistent signs and symptoms that might be due to carpal tunnel syndrome that interfere with your normal activities – including sleep – see your doctor. If you leave the condition untreated, nerve and muscle damage can occur. So see your doctor if the symptoms persist.

Happy Holidays to all of you and blessing for the New Year.

Keep those emails and letters coming its always great hearing from the readers. You can write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon Sask. S7K3M4 or email Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

Healthy Living for Life

Eat well and
be physically
active.

Healthy living for life

The number of Canadians who are obese or overweight has risen dramatically over the past several years. In Saskatchewan, obesity rates are among the highest in Canada.

Poor eating habits and physical inactivity are key contributors to obesity. However, there are many ways that people can reduce this trend and live a healthy life.

Maintaining a healthy weight through good eating habits and regular exercise can reduce your risk of developing certain types of cancer, heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes. In fact, eating healthy foods and being physically active can reduce your risk of getting cancer by 20-25 per cent.

Eating a variety of vegetables, fruits, beans, and whole grains will help you maintain a healthy weight. You might want to try making whole wheat bannock or toast, and eating cereal made from whole grains topped with seasonal fruit for breakfast.

These foods are high in fibre and low in fat, salt and sugar, and contain vitamins and minerals that are essential for good health.

Try to avoid pre-packaged processed foods, including processed meats such as

hot dogs, sausage and bacon, which are typically lower in fibre and higher in salt, sugar and fat. Limit the amount of red meat you eat each week to one pound of cooked meat.

When planning meals and snacks, make healthy food choices that give your body the essential nutrients and vitamins it needs.

Regular exercise is also an important part of good health. Just doing 30 minutes of physical activity a day will help you maintain a healthy weight and lower your risk of developing cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

Choose activities that you enjoy and that will fit into your daily routine, such as going for a brisk walk at lunchtime. You can start slowly and build up to a full work out.

As your fitness improves, aim for 60 minutes of physical activity every day. People feel better physically and mentally when they are active - the key is to take that first step and get started.

It is never too late to start living a healthy lifestyle.

Eating well, regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight all contribute to better overall health and an improved quality of life.



The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency operates prevention and early detection programs, provides safe, quality cancer treatment, and conducts innovative research.

www.saskcancer.ca

LOUIS RIEL DAY

(Clockwise)The St. Mary's Oskayak Dancers performed at the Workers Compensation Board offices on Riel Day. They offered jigging lessons to some eager staffers and stayed for a lunch of bannock and meatballs. Gregory Scofield, esteemed Metis poet, read from his collection of works at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. Max LaPlante showed up with his bagpipes at the Gabriel Dumont statue in Saskatoon's Friendship Park where a hearty group of Métis paid their respects at the passing of Louis Riel. John Arcand looks on as his wife Vicki takes a question from one of the school children that attended Louis Riel Day events at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. Arcand answered several questions about the art of fiddling. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



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Métis sash represents statement of identity

• Continued from Page One

Premier Brad Wall and Dwain Lingenfelter, leader of the Opposition, then placed the sash on the table in the Legislative Chamber alongside the First Nations beaded mace runner and beaver pelt pillow that the mace rests on each time the House sits.

Both symbols will serve as physical reminders of the Métis and First Nations ancestry that has played a significant role in the birth of our province.

“This is history in the making and I am honoured to be present on this day – it is a day Métis have long waited for because this Legislative Assembly belongs to all the people of Saskatchewan,” Métis Nation - Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette said.

“Métis are a founding people of this province and we are moved by this sacred symbol being placed in the Chamber forever more. When you come here now, you see that symbol in the House. When I come here in the future, I will feel like I belong. This brings home the Métis, not only in this legislature, but in this province. It is truly a great day for Métis across Saskatchewan and across Canada.”

Métis artist Pat Adams designed the sash after lots of thought and research.

“It took me about 45 hours to make, but I spent time thinking about the design and what it means to people,” said Adams who designs and sells 20-30 sashes a year.

“I incorporated the blue and white colours of the Métis Nation flag and the green and gold of the provincial flag into the sash and I had to make it a special width and length to accommodate the table and how it will sit.”

Adams was also asked to address the Legislative Assembly and tell about the significance of the sash and in an emotional address, he explained it succinctly.

“A sash is something that someone wears as a statement of their identity. When they wear it, they are saying that they are Métis and they are comfortable with that. In the old days, we couldn’t do that.

“Now we do and we say we are proud to be Métis. And that is a positive statement.”



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and Premier Brad Wall have their arms raised by Senator Nora Cummings at the close of the sash ceremony. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



President Robert Doucette looks on as Premier Brad Wall, Speaker of the House Don Toth and Opposition Leader Dwain Lingenfelter examine the weaving of Pat Adams. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Wishlist

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
And a Fabulous New Year!**

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Commissioner Bill McKnight and his staff wish everyone

A Safe and Happy Holiday Season





**Office of the
Treaty Commissioner**



The announcement of \$47 million in funding was attended by many politicians and dignitaries. In the front row from left to right are Karen LaRocque, GDI Board President, the Honourable Ed Komarnicki, member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and to the Minister of Labour, Métis Nation Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette. In the second row is the Honourable Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education Employment and Immigration, member of Parliament Kelly Block, and President Clément Chartier, Métis National Council. In the back row is member of Parliament Rob Clark. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

GDI inks \$47.5 million training deal with Province, feds

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) announced a new \$47.5 million Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy Agreement over five years with the federal and provincial government, along with a new Métis scholarship deal during their three-day cultural conference.

On Nov. 19, a signing ceremony with dignitaries and politicians was followed by a keynote address by Maria Campbell and John and Vicki Arcand, and MC'ed by Lisa Wilson and Karon Shmon of GDI.

The signing included member of parliament and parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and to the Minister of Labour, Ed Komarnicki, who said the governments recognized the importance of the Métis people to the labour force as well as the importance of skill force training for all Aboriginal people.

Provincial MLA and Minister Rob Norris also congratulated GDI, adding 2010 successfully marked the work and partnerships of the Métis people.

"And it is also the anniversary of the Northwest Resistance, an event that has contributed to key and in many ways continuing chapters of the Canadian narrative, a story that includes us all."

He added the government believes 80,000 jobs will be made available in the next several years in the province, and Métis people will be well positioned to occupy many of them.

President of the Métis National Council Clem Chartier fondly recalled the people at the meeting 30 years ago who passed the

resolution to found GDI, and how important GDI is to the entire country.

"If we were going to succeed we had to rebuild ourselves as individual Métis, community, the nation as a whole. In their wisdom the Elders ... they knew the key was education and having a strong cultural base to move forward from," said Chartier, adding, "GDI is a shining light within the Métis Nation."

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette noted that since the days of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Métis have been integral to Canada, and are the fastest growing and youngest population in Saskatchewan.

"A healthy Métis community leads to a healthy province and a healthy country," Doucette observed.

Meanwhile, at Saturday's annual general meeting, it was announced that Cameco has partnered with GDI to co-provide post-secondary education funds: five annual awards of \$1,300 for Métis students enrolled in post-secondary institution programs related to career opportunities with Cameco.

"This is a significant agreement for GDI because it not only provides scholarship funds to Métis people, it provides links to the labour market," said GDI's Board Chair Karen LaRocque.

"Our partnership with Cameco is a proactive step to address labour force demands and recognize the importance of the Métis population in filling shortages in the job market."

During the government agreement signing, LaRocque recognized the leaders and staff of GDI, including executive director Geordie McCaffrey, and GDI's stellar three

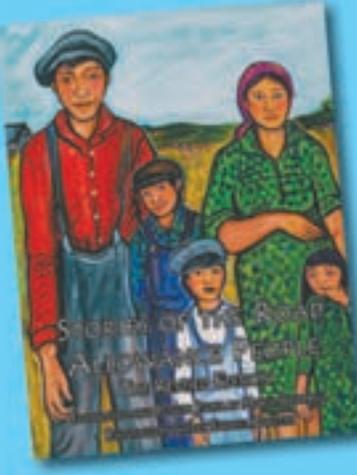
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preservation, and community economic initiatives.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Maria Campbell's
Stories of the Road Allowance People:
The Revised Edition Now Available!



First published in 1995, *Stories of the Road Allowance People* remains the finest anthology of traditional Métis oral stories in print. Acclaimed Métis writer, Maria Campbell has lovingly brought these evocative stories to life once again in this revised edition. Remaining true to the oral history, and written in the melodious Michif-accented English of the original storytellers, this timeless collection of traditional stories reflects the Métis' rich and vibrant storytelling tradition. Ranging from the humorous "La Beau Sha Shoo" in which Ole Arcand drinks a jug of wine with Jesus Christ, to the more serious issue of racial discrimination and colonization in "Big John" and "Joseph's Justice," to a traditional rou garou story, which deals with the efforts of missionary priests to eradicate the old "Indian" religion among their Métis parishioners, these poignant stories leave a lasting, highly-memorable impact on readers. *Stories of the Road Allowance People: The Revised Edition* also contains a new story, "Dah Red-Headed Fur Buyer," new artwork by Sherry Farrell Racette, and an accompanying CD with Roy Poitras and Billyjo DeLaRonde narrating two of these stories.

Please contact us at the address to the right for ordering information or order online at www.gdins.org/catalog.

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2010 - The Year

Gabriel Dumont Institute

marks 30 years



Maria Campbell, an Order of Canada of the Order of Dumont recipient, gave the key note presentation at the Gabriel Dumont 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Gabriel Dumont Institute celebrated 30 years of excellence with a three-day cultural conference at the Saskatoon Inn. The event included cultural workshops, scholarly presentations, book launches, entertainment, exciting partnership announcements, and inductions into the Order of Gabriel Dumont at the bronze, silver, and gold level during three separate celebrations, ending with a gala supper and entertainment by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau, and a Saturday morning annual general meeting.

Between three and four hundred people attended the event, which included a keynote address by Maria Campbell accompanied by John and Vicki Arcand. Arcand and Campbell, already members of the Order of Gabriel Dumont, shared fiddle music and story. Karon Shmon of GDI Publishing, in her introduction, noted that beyond Campbell's many awards and honours, her impact in her own community is the greatest gift.

In telling her story in "Half-Breed" to Canada and the world, in a time when the Métis had few voices in history, to hosting a television series, "Maria went on from beyond telling one of the sad stories of our culture to capture our rich and vibrant culture ... she is one of the truly great Métis of our time."

"When I was a little girl one of the things I learned was you never speak before the fiddle player," said Campbell, after Arcand had played. She recalled being a newly published author and one of GDI's first keynote speakers some 28 or 29 years earlier.

"Just being able to go to grade school was a big deal - to imagine a (Métis) school that would graduate thousands of students was beyond my wildest dreams.

"You have to remember that it wasn't that long ago when speaking out for basic human rights was considered a courageous act - because for our parents' generation, often silence was the safest thing. But in spite of the poverty and fear, some people did stand up and speak out, they worked hard, made lots of sacri-

fices to make change, to make a better life to us, and it is their vision and dream that first gave birth to this Institute."

This gave courage to another generation, noted Campbell.

"Despite battles with government, and yes, even with each other - good things got done," she said, honouring and celebrating the cultural keepers of the past.

"Every generation has the responsibility of taking what has been done for them to another level. And reciprocity, to remember the collective, to remember the community."

Campbell then read the story of George Joseph Bremner, a non-participant Métis of Batoche who was jailed but with the help of an Irish lawyer successfully sued Middleton for the theft of his furs and rifles (in Canada and in England.)

While remaining a community-based initiative, GDI has also developed positive ongoing partnerships with all levels of government. GDI's Board of Governor's Chair Karen LaRocque applauded the past vision of the founders, the present situation, and the future, noting GDI's executive director Geordie McCaffrey and excellent staff deliver "the services and programs that make a difference - programs that partner with business and industry, programs that ensure Métis people have a place in the labour market."

She also made note of the seamless delivery of services through 11 offices across the province and the diverse range of services - from publishing, culture, language, and the Virtual Museum, to small business partnerships in remote communities, and the support of graduates in

highly technical jobs.

"For the past years, GDI has been leading the way in Métis education, often in collaboration with both our federal and provincial partners," noted LaRocque, adding GDI fulfils its mission by building the Métis nation and providing skills and employment.

"Some of the milestones of the institute include: the training of over 1,000 teachers from SUNTEP - the only Métis training program in Canada. Thousands of students graduated from the Dumont Technical Institute, DTI, the only Métis adult basic education, skills training, technical and vocational institute in Canada. Over 175 Métis practical nurses trained for the province by DTI, the second largest provider for practical nurses in Saskatchewan."



Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau sang the Métis National Anthem at the conference and later entertained at the banquet gala. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

LaRocque noted GDI has also provided thousands of scholarships through GDI's foundation, and has the only Métis specific publishing house, library, archival collection, and online depository of Métis history and culture - accessed thousands of times each day.



Year of the Métis

Recalling traditional Métis

Christmas and New Year's celebrations



The Métis have long placed a great emphasis on maintaining strong relationships among families, extended families, and communities, particularly when work was hard and the future uncertain. Nowhere were these bonds of kinship and friendship better renewed than during Christmas (Li Krismas/Li jhoor di nwel) and New Year's (Li jhoor di l'aan) celebrations.

While Christmas Day was largely a religious event for most Métis communities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it still remained festive. For instance, at Batoche, in the 1880s and 1890s, from Christmas to Epiphany/All Kings' Day (Li jhoor dii Roi) (January 6th), Métis families held ballroom dances by "oil light" (bals à l'huile).

A Prince Albert newspaper reported in 1889 "at Batoche, during the holidays, balls are the order of the day. Two were held last night, one at Pilon's and the other at D(aniel) Charette's and youngsters had all the chances they wanted of shaking themselves up."

Métis Elders have recounted that families spent Christmas Eve by attending Midnight Mass, occasionally singing hymns in Cree or French, and then having a large supper and party known as réveillon. However, most celebrating during the holiday season was reserved for New Year's Day. As one Batoche Elder told historian Diane Payment: "On Christmas Eve, we went to Midnight Mass, and when we got home, we ate a little, drank some tea, and went to bed. The presents were for New Year's Day."

Early on the morning of Christmas Day, families travelled by horse and sleigh to loved ones' homes, and stayed until late in the evening. Prior to this gathering, mothers and daughters prepared food for days to ensure everyone would be well fed.

Christmas and New Year's fare included beignes (fried bannock), boulettes (meat balls), rababou (stew), chokecherries or Saskatoon berries served with cream and sugar, puddings, pemmican, wild game, as well as tea, homemade beer, or wine. Unlike the commercialism, which permeates our holiday season, traditional Métis Christmas celebrations were modest. One Elder

recounts that "we did not have Christmas gifts, only candies, apples, and pastry."

While Christmas was a religious event for the Métis, New Year's was a grand social celebration. It was not uncommon for several households in a community to hold a feast and dance on different nights so that people could visit and celebrate for many evenings in succession around New Year's Day.

In the 1860s, at Prairie Rond, in what is now the area around Dundurn, Saskatchewan, a New Year's celebration lasted ten days! Manitoba Métis Elder Joe Venne had this to say about the Métis' festive spirit during the Christmas/New Year's holiday season: "When it came to the holidays, Christmas and New Year's, we used to go for two, three weeks at a time, dancing every night, partying every night. Other people didn't have that style."

Children were an integral part of New Year's celebrations. On New Year's Eve, children received presents from their parents, usually small gifts of food. One Elder related that "On New Year's Eve children hung stockings at the foot of their bed and would wake up to find all



"Midnight Mass at Batoche by Armand Paquette. Image Courtesy: Parks Canada / Batoche National Historic Site."

sorts of treats."

After receiving their presents, on the morning of New Year's Day, children thanked and blessed their parents, and families hugged and kissed one another. Fathers also blessed their children on this day as well.

New Year's Day was usually held at the grandparents' home, and was a special time for families as cousins, aunts, and uncles attended. It was an occasion for social drinking, and the eating of all sorts of food with people traveling from house to house, dining, dancing, and visiting. While visiting house-to-house, everybody would shake hands and kiss.

As a result, some Métis called New Year's Day "Ochetookeskaw," or "kissing day," or Shaking Hands Day "Shakishchenoisi."

Merry Christmas (Marii Krismas/Jwyeu Nwel) from the Gabriel Dumont Institute!

- Article by the Gabriel Dumont Institute



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Order of Dumont recipients honoured

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

The Order of Gabriel Dumont, last awarded in 2005, is for persons of any race who have provided service with distinction to the Métis of Canada. Past recipients of the medallion, official certificate and seal, include Maria Campbell, Ethel Blondin, Harry Daniels, and Elijah Harper.

The 2010 recipients at GDI's cultural conference gala banquet, in the Gold category, were Clarence Campeau (posthumously), and Guy Bouvier.



Eli Fleury

Campeau was born in 1947, raised along the road allowance, and sent by government box car to Green Lake (which his family immediately left again). He had a long career in Métis politics, supporting economic development and initiatives, and social and educational development, before passing away unexpectedly at age 50.

"He believed in the youth. If they were in trouble, if they had addictions, if they didn't finish school, they always, always had potential. He always took them in. He always had that belief in the youth," said Helen Johnson, who was accepting on behalf of his family.

the Batoche National Historic Site. She represented the community of Duck Lake during the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

"To carry the torch for all the Métis that's lost ... they are lost, they don't know their heritage," said Fleury, encouraging everyone to give their kids their heritage.

"Be proud of what you are and make the best day of every day."

She accepted the medal on behalf of her grandmother, who encouraged her to never let her hands be idle – she just finished knitting a bedspread – and her great-grandmother, who always said look where you came from and don't forget where it is.

Fleury also acknowledged her siblings, and many offspring, down to great-great-grandchildren, urging everyone to live proudly Métis.

"Because if you haven't passed it on, you haven't done a thing. And always be a good neighbour, and always to have an ear for the youth because sometimes they need it," Fleury said.

"Always live the day the best you can 'til the night, cause you never know if you going to have the next day."

Eli Fleury, a distant Manitoba relative of Rose, was honoured in the silver category for his career in education creating transformative change in many Métis people's lives and families - especially in the NORTEP program. Although retired, he's still doing educational contracts and projects.

"One of the reasons why I went into education, I was not able to start when I was



Rose Fleury was presented her Order of Dumont by GDI Board Chair Karen LaRocque and GDI's Executive Director Geordy McCaffery. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

ductions.

Pocha thanked her mother, Dorothy Aubichon, the Elder who provided prayers during the conference, and who raised her ten children alone in Delmas.

"When we were young we grew up extremely poor like many people in oppressed families do, especially minorities," said Pocha, sharing memories of her struggles, and accepting the award on behalf of everyone working to make a difference.

This year, the bronze award was introduced in honour of GDI's 30th anniversary,

honouring students for perseverance, community involvement, and overall performance during a Thursday night banquet and entertainment by Métis hypnotist Scott Ward.

The bronze recipients were: Jennifer Altenburg, Tracy Arcand, Jennifer Brown, Kaitlen Fendelet, Arrick Forsythe, Helena Goulet, Bruce Janvier, Josh Lafontaine, Candice Janvier, Jacqueline Lavalée, Theresa Malbouef, Genel Markwart, Mike Palmer, Jason Phillips, Martine Smith, Teresa Thrun, Holly Wiberg, and Gerald Nabess.



Sheila Pocha spoke about growing up admiring her mom who raised 10 kids all alone in Delmas, Saskatchewan. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Bouvier has worked since 1973 promoting the Métis people and culture.

"There's been a lot of hard times, a lot of high times, and a lot of low times, but that's the Métis way, we've known them all," he said in his acceptance speech.

To laughter, he thanked those who helped him in days gone by.

"Who never gave up on a fight with any government – or each other for that matter."

At the Friday lunch, three Silver recipients were honoured. Batoche National Park Interpreter Rosemarie Carey spoke briefly on Rose Fleury's many accomplishments and contributions: as a genealogist, she helped thousands trace their roots and their identity, sharing both traditional and contemporary knowledge, as a full-time resource worker as she approached her 84th birthday this year at

of age simply because my family we didn't have a land base, a home base. My father worked as a seasonal employee working for farmers here and there," Eli said.

Because they lived on the road allowance, the school bus wouldn't pick him up.

"So I wasn't able to start school until I was eight years old when my dad bought a quarter section."

Sheila Pocha was the third Silver nominee, and was described as a committed educator, volunteer, advocate, communicator, and administrator.

"She continues to make informed decisions based on her education, training, and her life experience as a Métis woman all too familiar with racism and childhood poverty," said Verna St. Denis in her intro-



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Corporate giants help Friendship Inn in its fundraising drive

In the past six months, mining giants Cameco and PotashCorp have both contributed \$500,000 to the Friendship Inn's Friends in Deed Capital campaign. A donation of \$500,000 by Cameco Corporation has provided a timely boost to the Saskatoon Friendship Inn's Friends in Deed fundraising campaign, which is aimed at giving the organization substantially more working space for its programs.

Cameco CEO Jerry Grandey recently announced the donation at the Saskatoon Friendship Inn, where footings have already been poured for a building expansion that will increase the inner city social agency's space by 75 per cent.

PotashCorp matched \$500,000 in donations, dollar-for-dollar, given to the Friends In Deed campaign before Sept. 30. In this way, PotashCorp helped the



Keith Martell, campaign co chair, Jerry Grandey - Cameco CEO, Geselle Doell - Friendship Inn Executive Director, Don Atchison - Saskatoon Mayor, Peter Zakreski - Saskatoon Friendship Inn Board of Directors Chair.

Friendship Inn raise \$1 million of its \$3 million campaign goal. "Cameco's donation puts us into the homestretch of our goal to raise \$3 million," said Keith Martell, co-chair of the 'Friends in Deed' fundraising campaign for the Saskatoon Friendship Inn. "Cameco has a history of supporting families and children in need within Saskatoon's core communities and we are most grateful for this generous support."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Yogi Huyghebaert
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Batoche
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Don Morgan
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Bob Norris
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Swift Current
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Laura Ross
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Your Saskatchewan Party MLAs

Partnership opens business doors to FN youth

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather

First Nations youth will be getting the opportunity to learn about setting up and running their own businesses, thanks to a partnership between the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business, Junior Achievement Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

The partnership will deliver programming to First Nations schools within the Saskatoon Tribal Council as well as two core-area schools in Saskatoon. A total of 74 Junior Achievement classes will be delivered to nine schools, which will reach more than 1,850 Aboriginal students.

A former MBA graduate of Edwards School of Business, and currently a Ph.D. student, Jennifer Campeau is now the

Junior Achievement Coordinator for the Tribal Council. She believes this new program will be meaningful for Aboriginal communities and will open doors.

"There are more development opportunities available to Aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan than ever before, and an impending labour shortage resulting in industry sectors exploring ways to expand the number of Aboriginal people they employ," she said.

Chief of the Yellow Quill First Nation, Larry Cachene, calls this partnership unprecedented, and says it illustrates how people want to work together to ensure First Nations people are a part of the economy.

"For us to truly be a part of the economy, we need to make sure our education systems are supported with new ideas, new thinking, bringing more to our schools, and Edwards School of Business and the partnership we have here is one of them."

Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas agrees, noting Aboriginal youth have an entrepre-



From left, Lloyd Martell, Director Aboriginal Relations for Nexen, Edwards School of Business Dean Daphne Taras, Junior Achievement President and CEO Darren Hill and Yellow Quill First Nation Chief Larry Cachene participated in the signing ceremony.

(Photo courtesy Edwards School of Business)

neurial spirit that just needs to be tapped into.

"With the rate of unemployment and the need to create new jobs and economies in our communities, we need to provide as much opportunity for our youth to be successful, especially in business."

Under the partnership, students from grades 3 to 6 will be introduced to the basic concepts of financial literacy while grades 7 to 9 will be taught an introduction to entrepreneurship.

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Inroads to Agriculture Institute's Call for Proposals 2010-2011

Proposal Deadlines for 2011
January 21 April 22 July 22 October 21

With funding from the Government of Canada (HRSDC), the Government of Saskatchewan (AEEI) and One Earth Farms Corp, the Inroads to Agriculture Institute is mandated to provide the training and support to Aboriginal people living in Saskatchewan and Alberta to assist them in securing **long term sustainable employment** in the Agriculture Sector.

A proposal driven process will be utilized by Inroads to Agriculture.

Individual companies, training institutes, communities, regional development associations or First Nations can send in proposals to Inroads to Agriculture for funding for training if they can provide a commitment of **long term sustainable employment** in the Agriculture Sector. These proposals must also include **partnership dollars**; cash or in kind, from other sources.

The Board will review these proposals and proponents will receive feedback within a week of the decision making process.

Proposals should be simple, but must include the following:

- Identification of the proposed training agency;
- Information about the course; including a detailed budget breakdown;
- A letter(s) of support from an Agriculture Sector employer showing a commitment to hire at least 50% of the trainees.

Please submit proposals to the Executive Director Donna Kurtz by mail or email at dkurtz@inroadstoagriculture.com.

United Way of Saskatoon & Area

The Board of the United Way of Saskatoon and Area is pleased to announce the appointment of

Ashley Kayseas
Director,
Aboriginal Relations

Ashley brings to United Way the commitment and passion to building a community inclusive of Aboriginal Peoples.

Ashley's experience of front line service delivery combined with his most recent work building effective community based organizations will ensure our United Way continues to improve lives and create a great community for everyone.

To congratulate Ashley or for more information about United Way, please call 975-7700 or visit our website www.unitedwaysaskatoon.ca



The new FNUC Board of Governors is comprised of Della Anaquod, Peter D. Carlton, Gladys Christiansen, Claudette Commanda, Peter Homenuck, George E. Lafond, John G. Paul, David Sharpe and (Missing) Jocelyne Wasacase-Merasty. (Photo supplied)

New FNUC board in place

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Guy Lonechild announced the new board of governors for the First Nations University of Canada on October 20, 2010. This new Board has replaced the Interim Board and will provide stable governance for the long-term sustainability of this post-secondary institution.

"I am confident this new board has the vision and experience needed to guide the First Nations University towards becoming a world class institution for higher learning," said Chief Lonechild.

"I thank the Chiefs of Saskatchewan for contributing to the renewed energy, growth and leadership of this highly valued institution, in line with the needs and aspirations of First Nations people, learners and communities."

Following are the new board of governors and their biographies.

Della Anaquod is of Saulteaux, Cree and Dakota ancestry and is a member of the Muscowpetung Saulteaux First Nation. Her academic credentials include a Bachelor of Administration from the University of Regina, a Bachelor of Arts in Indian Studies and Economics from the First Nations University of Canada a Juris Doctor from the University of Saskatchewan, a Masters of Business Administration in Executive Education Administration from Royal Roads University and Mediation, Government of Saskatchewan - Justice.

Peter Carlton resides in Regina and recently retired from a career spanning 30 years with the Royal Bank of Canada. His background includes all areas of retail, commercial and Aboriginal banking.

Gladys Christiansen is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and has spent most of her life in the La Ronge area. She is fluent in her Cree language and is proud of the rich cultural heritage handed down by her grandparents. She has over 30 years experience working in the area of First Nations education, as an educator, administrator and leader.

Claudette Commanda is a grassroots member of the Algonquin Nation, born and raised in the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community in Quebec. She is an alumni of the

University of Ottawa Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Law, and is a professor for the Faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Common Law and Education.

Dr. Peter Homenuck, RPP, is a professional planner and has over 30 years of university teaching experience, as well as over 30 years experience consulting with First Nations on a range of strategic, economic and environmental projects. Dr. Homenuck is currently Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, where he started the Native Canadian Relations Program.

George Lafond is a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and has been involved in First Nations education, community development and leadership for over 30 years and serves on several Boards, community organizations and sporting initiatives. His professional experience has included positions as President of the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business, Policy Advisor to three federal ministers of Indian and Northern Affairs, Senior Bank Manager with the Bank of Montreal, and High School Teacher.

John Paul is the Executive Director of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Mr. Paul has a Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies and received a Master of Public Administration in Financial Management from Halifax's Dalhousie University in 1982.

David Sharpe is currently the Chief Compliance Officer and Vice-President, Legal with one of Canada's largest investment fund/wealth management companies. He was previously the Head of Investigations at a national investment Self-Regulatory Organization. He attended the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan and obtained his law degree at Queen's University, both on a Department of Justice Legal Scholarship for Non-status Aboriginals.

Jocelyne Wasacase-Merasty is an innovative communications leader with 14 years experience in communications, public relations, marketing and First Nations governance. She is currently the Prairie Regional Manager for the National Centre for First Nations Governance. Mrs. Wasacase-Merasty is also a former Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) student and a niece of the late Ida Wasacase, the first president of SIFC.



For complete employment details, go to www.saskatoon.ca, visit us at Human Resources - City Hall (222 Third Avenue N), or call 975-3261.



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



One Earth Farms (OEF) is a dynamic, newly established large scale, fully-integrated corporate farming entity that has commenced operations on cultivated First Nations farmland in the Prairie Provinces. Operating the latest equipment available, and positioned to be among the largest farming operators in Canada the opportunity is working in a fast paced rapidly expanding company.

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FARM FOREMAN:

Working with the Farms Manager, the Farm Foreman will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the farm and the seasonal workers assigned to the site. Computer skills are mandatory, able to diagnose and trouble shoot mechanical and onboard computer issues on a daily basis. Knowledgeable and experienced in Pro 600 and or GS 2 and or top con monitors. Assist with training, planning and scheduling may include operating equipment on an as required basis (120 foot sprayers, swathers, and Class 9 combines). A minimum of 4 to 6 years experience in the field as well as management of people and equipment.

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Practical skills in areas of mechanics, agronomics, and welding are preferred assets.

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If you are a self-motivated and energetic individual with proven farming experience on the newer state-of-the-art equipment you are encouraged to submit your resume to:

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GrowWithUs@oneearthfarms.com

Province invests in education opportunities for Northern residents

By Colleen Cameron
For Eagle Feather News

New education opportunities for northern Saskatchewan residents were recently announced at the University of Saskatchewan. Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment, and Immigration announced that the Government of Saskatchewan was investing \$250,000 to make available a new Masters in Northern Governance and Development program.

The program is the first of its kind in North America and allows residents of northern Saskatchewan to remain in their communities while earning their degree.

The program is to be delivered by the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development located at the University of Saskatchewan. The Centre, which also delivers a B.A. in Northern Studies as well as conducting community-based research in the province's North, has been focused on northern governance and development issues since 2008.

The Centre's director, Dr. Greg Poelzer, is excited about the introduction of the MNGD and the overall support the

Centre is receiving.

"This funding allows us to carry out a number of initiatives that would have remained only ideas if not for the Government of Saskatchewan" said Poelzer.

"We're thrilled to receive this support for our initiatives at this critical time in the development of Saskatchewan's North."

Norris remarked that the North is home to diverse and dynamic communities and plays a key role in sustaining our province's economic growth. He also recognized the importance of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development as a growing and vital part of the U of S in its efforts to "enhance our knowledge of northern communities".

Following the announcement by Norris, attendees of the event heard from Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Guy Lonechild, who applauded the strategic and forward-thinking approach of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development in developing Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis leaders of tomorrow.



Nathan Ray (Sandy Bay), a student of the new Masters in Northern Governance and Development program and the Honourable Rob Norris, Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration with the Government of Saskatchewan.

"A dedicated investment in research and education for the North is long overdue," Lonechild said and he expressed his support for educational opportunities like the new Masters in Northern Governance and Development program.

"I'm certain that educational opportunities like the Masters program will build upon the knowledge and expertise of northerners and lead to innovative solutions to the issues that confront them

every day," added Lonechild.

Nathan Ray is a student who is taking the Masters in Northern Governance and Development program from his hometown of Sandy Bay.

"I value the program because it provides distance education to northern communities which will open so many doors—especially for individuals with families who cannot move to the city to further their education," said Ray.



IANE GATHERING

With drummers, traditional dancers and jiggers, the Saskatoon IANE committee kicked off preparations for the national IANE conference they are hosting March 8-11, 2011. Wanuskewin Heritage Park was awash in colour and with dignitaries who were on hand to welcome the nation to an Aboriginal employment conference that aims to share best practices in hiring and retaining First Nation, Métis and Inuit people. Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas, Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison, MN-S president Robert Doucette, FSIN Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish, SIIT President Randell Morris and representing the primary sponsor Cameco, Sean Willy, all spoke about how important it is to engage and hire people from the Aboriginal community. Milton Tootoosis, speaking on behalf of the committee said with the corporate and political support of the conference, this year's event will certainly be the most effective ever. "In this territory, the leaders know what we have to do," said Tootoosis. "The turnout to this event is testament to that. It will be a good three days in March."



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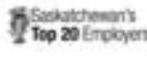
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Edwards School of Business and Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada sign articulation agreement

(November 2, 2010)

The articulation agreement gives students with an Aboriginal Financial Management (AFM) diploma from the AFOA the option of entering the BComm program at the U of S with advanced standing, meaning it will take them less time to finish their BComm degree.

L-R: Dana Soonias, AFOA SK; Nola Buhr, Edwards School of Business; Daphne Taras, Dean, Edwards School of Business; Honourable Rob Norris, Provincial Minister; Jody Warrens, AFOA Canada

Edwards School of Business, SK Junior Achievement, and Saskatoon Tribal Council sign partnership

(November 16, 2010)

This agreement will provide Aboriginal youth the opportunity to learn more about Financial Literacy and entrepreneurship. Nexen Energy provided the core funding for the launch of this program.

L-R: Lloyd Martell, Nexen; Daphne Taras, Dean, Edwards School of Business; Darren Hill, SK Junior Achievement; Chief Larry Cachene, Chief - Yellow Quill First Nation representing the Saskatoon Tribal Council



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**Aboriginal
Initiatives**

Barefoot Books encourage kids to embrace reading

Once upon a time at a town called Anywhere, Saskatchewan, clusters of children were hypnotized by a flood of electronic toys and online social networks. They stayed awake all night, were lethargic in school, and maintained their low-levels of energy with copious amounts of junk food.

The Elders, they wailed, "How do we teach them our culture? How do we prepare them as leaders?"

The parents cried out, "How do we connect with our kids? How do we nourish their spirits and raise them to be independent, responsible and caring people?"

Then a trumpet sounded and it was as though a fog had lifted. The children broke free of their spell, and the Elders and parents looked on in astonishment. A beautiful young lady came skipping through the community, towing boxes and bins behind her. She smiled at their curious faces.

"Have no fear! Barefoot Books are here!" she shouted.

They circled round her as she opened the boxes, producing heaps of colorful, interesting books and matching toys. Again, the children were mesmerized. But this time, so were the parents and Elders. They sat together as families and the children read their books aloud. A flood of communication and pride washed over the community.

Elizabeth Conner, the Barefoot Books Ambassador, sat on an empty bin and watched them all with a contented grin on her face. She knew it was a start. She delighted in sharing her joy of books and education with other people, and that's why she did it.

There are simple things we can do as parents and grandparents, and reading with our kids is just one way, but it's always positive. Cultivate a passion for learning and inspire communication by reading with them. They will not only love books, they will also look forward to sharing their newfound knowledge with people they love – their parents and grandparents.

Elizabeth Conner was one of the first Barefoot Books ambassadors in Saskatchewan and she loves the

books because they promote multi-culturalism, world and environmental issues, all in a fun, interesting way.

"The books are non-commercial. They are story-driven rather than character-driven and the artwork in the books is excellent," says Conner.

"Barefoot Books also believes in giving back. They partner with organizations like Books for Africa. For as little as \$3 we can send a new book to a child in Africa and help end the book famine. During the month of November, for every book order placed, a book was donated to FirstBook, a Canadian and US organization that provides new books to children in need."



Elizabeth Conner is a Barefoot Books ambassador.

Conner, a former teacher who now works in a library, says she never grew out of her love for picture books, music

and learning, so selling Barefoot Books was a great excuse to surround herself with something she loves – books. She says it's also been a great way for her to share her love of stories and song with parents, teachers and of course, children.

"People have responded very enthusiastically to the books and puppets. They love the vivid artwork, the multicultural stories and everyone is happy to find good quality for a reasonable price. For teachers, the free online activities and videos have been a hit. For kids, the puppets and dress up clothes help them to play and retell stories in their own way."

Conner does Barefoot Book parties and can often be found selling Barefoot Books at tradeshows and conferences.

"I'm having a contest for the month of December. Until January 1, enter to win a \$25 gift card by visiting my website:

www.elizabeth-conner.barefootbooks.com and email me the titles of two Barefoot Books, along with your contact information or enter in person at EduServ Learning Centres, 1922 100th Street North Battleford."

Contact her at her website if you are interested in hosting a Barefoot Book party, or if you would like to order some books.

They make great Christmas gifts! Conner also recommends Barefoot Books to schools and community groups for fundraising.

See you next month! Feel free to email me at: snazyjess@hotmail.com if there's an artist or entertainer you think I should know about.



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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Building friendships

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

The hard work of a group of students from Cumberland House has hit the big screen.

For more than two years, Saskatoon filmmakers Marcel Petit and Angela Edmunds followed a group of Grade 9 students from Charlebois Community High School on an energy-efficient house-building journey.

The students worked with the University of Saskatchewan's Office of Outreach and Transition Programs in the College of Engineering, which brought in numerous experts to help them build the house – and now it's been made into a film: The Pism Project, Pism being the Cree word for "sun."

Petit hopes youth everywhere will watch it and realize their potential.

"Showing how hard it is, because you can't just wake up one day and say 'Hey, let's build a house.' Even if you have all these partners, there's going to be a lot of ups and downs. That's basically what the films about: it's showing that we can do anything we want in the end, as long as we put our mind to it," says Petit.

The film was premiered in Cumberland House, and one of the students in it, Rayne Bo Favel, says she felt an immense sense of pride watching the film with community members.

"I felt really proud of all of us. I know that the people who were watching felt proud of us, because they told us at the end of the movie that they felt really proud.

"I felt like a star! Just kidding. I felt



Left to Right, Bianca Carriere, Rayne Bo Favel, Iris McKenzie, Lionel McKenzie, Kurt Bloomfield, Tyler Dorion and Gerald Lambert participated in the pism project. They are all busy finishing school. missing: Valdene Chaboyer and Gerald Carriere.

(Photo by Marcel Petit)

really great, like a role model to everyone, from the younger people to the older people: even older than us. It was just a great feeling," says Favel.

Not only did the students learn valuable skills in building a house – which they say was often the hardest part – they became friends.

"I know from the start we weren't as close as we are now. Right now we're best friends and can tell each other anything," explains Favel.

"Before we were kind of distant, and now that we had those two years together and the whole afternoons, we just got closer and grew closer together."

Petit hopes those who watch the film see a message of what can happen when people work together.

"It's so easy to work together and get everything done," he says. "It's a community. I want people to understand community, friendship, and that you can do anything you



BY THE RAPIDS

The mayhem rolls on in season three of *By The Rapids*, a prime time animated comedy on APTN that takes a satirical look at what happens when a thoroughly urban and pampered family relocates from Toronto to the rural Aboriginal community where the successful lawyer parents were born and raised. Despite the parents' roots, the family still finds it tough to integrate themselves into the community without sticking out like sore thumbs. This season, the Littlehorns and the gang get into lots of mischief from Grandma Hazel's 'medicinal' herbal tea to Wayne's new pastime as a cross-dressing slot jockey at the Half Casino. *By The Rapids* season three premieres Thursday, January 6 at 7:30 p.m.



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Admission Requirements:	Grade 11 Aboriginal Ancestry

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Location:	Melfort
Program Dates:	TBA
Program Length:	20 weeks
Admission Requirements:	Grade 10 Aboriginal Ancestry

For more information, please call Debbie at 752-8242.

These projects are funded in part by the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Program 



www.cumberlandcollege.sk.ca

Innovative strategies encourage language skills

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Encouraging youth to retain and revitalize their First Nations languages was the focus of this year's First Nations Language Keepers conference in Saskatoon.

More than 500 people attended the conference, which, for the first time, was recognized as a national conference by the First Nations National Cultural Centres' board.

Conference chair, Sylvia McAdam, says adults have a responsibility and obligation to pass on their languages.

"That's part of our task as communities and as parents and as leaders and as Elders: that we must strongly support and enforce our First Nations youth to speak these languages," McAdam explains.

She says the reason that is important is because language is one of the elements needed to be a nation – the other two being land and culture.

"If we don't have these three elements, we diminish as a nation, our sovereignty diminishes. And, how critical is that if we are going to be putting forward our stand as sovereign people?"

True to the theme, two youth addressed conference delegates, including Jacob Pratt from the Cote First Nation. He says he is nowhere near fluent in his Dakota language, but managed to teach it to himself.

"I never had anyone speaking to me as a child. Where I started was singing. I was raised in the Dakota culture around ceremonies, sun dances, sweat lodges, and that's why I speak the Dakota language today."

Pratt studied English-Dakota and Dakota-English dictionaries.

"Then I walked around for about

rather than if it's in a work book.

"There's a lot of technology out there that we haven't tapped into that I think is

all kinds of testing as well as a variety of activities or lesson plans.

"Multiple choice, fill in the blank, it's pretty self-explanatory. Pronunciation practice would probably be about 60 to 90 per cent of participation or usage of this program."

An Indigenous word appears on the screen, and a recording of it is played. The student repeats the word, and then the program evaluates the pronunciation.

However, sometimes good old storytelling is still the best way to teach First Nations languages.

Paul Daigneault and Kurtis McAdam had a high-energy workshop where they told the stories of Wisahkechahk and made young and old get out of their chairs.

"Let's say we'll use Cree and naming the animals," explains Daigneault. "If I'm stuck, I get the audience to help me, and then repeat it many times so the kids hear it, get the whole audience to repeat it."

McAdam says the technique works because it's interactive.

"Getting them involved in the storytelling and them laughing and having fun with it. The best way to learn is to laugh and have fun with it."

Daigneault says the stories of Wisahkechahk have a lot of lessons in them, which is why they need to be kept alive for younger generations.

The duo had their first performance at the conference, and is hoping to do performances at schools or other events, asking only their expenses be covered and perhaps a small honorarium, as they'd like to give back to the community.



Kurtis McAdam, Francis McAdam, Paul Daigneault, and William, an Elder from Manitoba.

(Photo by Darla Read)

three months, and every time I saw a number, I'd say the number," he explains. "That's how I taught myself to count. That's how I taught myself colours."

Pratt helped develop Dakota curriculum for the First Nations University of Canada, and while there, was in touch with a media company that develops hand-held video games that could include Indigenous languages.

He says if you send a student home with a video game, they're likely going to complete that homework assignment

necessary for surrounding our kids with the language."

Some new technology was touted at the conference. Kelly Fontaine from the Aboriginal Languages Unit of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre had his laptop connected to a projection screen to show software used to guide educators and teach students in three First Nations languages: Dakota, Cree and Ojibway.

Fontaine says the program called BYKI, or Before You Know It, includes

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Seasons Greetings



Prince Albert Grand Council Womens Commission

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Elder Danny Musqua.

traditions, knowledge and teachings with the Story Telling program. Story Telling features an Elder from the Aboriginal community who shares his/her knowledge of traditional teachings.

Recently, Elder Dr. Danny Musqua shared his knowledge of the teachings and practices of the Anishinabe people. He also shared lively personal recollections of his childhood and the wisdom of his grandparents.

Dr. Musqua is an Instructor and Elder-in-Residence at the First Nations University of Canada as well as an Elder-in-Residence for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Storytelling begins with a smudge and a prayer. Dr. Musqua began by outlining the Anishinabe clan system of governance. The clan system consists of seven autonomous clans, each with their own set of teachings and their own animal emblem symbolizing the clan's responsibilities.

The role of Anishinabe women in the society is very powerful. Women ruled communities and made all laws pertaining to civilized behaviour in the community.

They also had jurisdiction over herbology, and gathering medicines. Grandmothers were also formidable teachers and psychologists and experts on behaviour.

The seven stages of life is also an important part of the teachings. Dr. Musqua described each stage including the first stage in the womb to the final one of Old Age. In the culture, it is very important for a child to know where it belongs, that he or she "is a somebody."

Each child learns through the role modeling of their older siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, other extended family members and the community.

"If you behave properly in front of your children, they will behave"

– Danny Musqua

Dr. Musqua stresses that parents should show their children that they care, that their movements are important to parents.

"If you behave properly in front of your children, they will behave," he explains.

Their world is very different from the parents' world, more exacting and difficult. To prepare for the future, children have to know how to listen and how to hear.

Traditional Story Telling takes place Monday evenings at Tamara's House starting on Dec. 6, on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This program is open to the public.

For more information, contact Kelly at (306) 683-8667 or see their website www.tamarashouse.sk.ca

*Gayayr nwel
Manitou Kesi 'kaw*

*Mochiyitaw manito o kisikaw
Mitho Makosi Kesikansi*

*Wanikiya tonpi wowiyuskin
Omaka teca oiya kipi*

Piyahtakêyimowin mîna miyo-isâyâwin Kamîkawisin

*Minwanegonwenmuk
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Peace and Goodwill this Holiday Season to Everyone!

Shēē hōḷa chóthē nēzō húti ha



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Nettie Wiebe is a strong voice for the people of Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggan and all of Saskatchewan.





National Energy Board
Office national de l'énergie

Public Notice

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEB'S REGULATORY PROCESS REGARDING THE BAKKEN PIPELINE PROJECT

The National Energy Board (NEB) is making available \$75,000 under its Participant Funding Program to assist landowners, Aboriginal groups, incorporated non-industry not-for profit organizations, and other interested persons to participate in the regulatory process of the proposed Bakken Pipeline Project (the Project).

Enbridge Bakken Pipeline Company Inc. (Enbridge Bakken) is proposing to construct and operate the Bakken Pipeline Project. The Project consists of reactivating an existing crude oil pipeline, Line EX-02, and transferring its ownership from its current owner, Enbridge Westspur, to Enbridge Bakken. The project would also include the construction of 123.4 kilometres of new pipeline of which 77.3 kilometres would be alongside and contiguous to existing rights-of-way and utility corridors. The Bakken crude oil pipeline and its associated facilities would be located between Steelman, Saskatchewan and Cromer, Manitoba. The associated facilities would also include the construction of a new pump station near Steelman. If approved, the construction is expected to start in the first half of 2012 and be completed in late 2012.

This funding is being made available to help interested parties review and comment on a project application to be submitted by the proponent, Enbridge Bakken. Funding must be used to prepare for and participate in the hearing process which will be announced at a later date.

If approved for funding, recipients must register as an intervenor in the NEB's regulatory process for this project. A funding review committee, independent of the regulatory process, will consider all applications for funding and make recommendations on the allocation of funds.

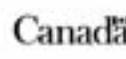
If there is sufficient interest demonstrated by interested persons, the NEB will hold a public information session to explain the Participant Funding Program. Please contact Mona Butler, Regulatory Officer, to register your interest in a public information session by calling 403-292-4800 or by using the toll free number at 1-800-899-1265, no later than 22 December 2010.

The deadline to submit a funding application is 28 January 2012. Funding applications received by the Board after this date will not be considered.

Interested parties are encouraged to review information on the proposed project, as well as the NEB's Draft List of Issues and the Draft Scope of the Environmental Assessment before submitting an application. This information, as well as the *Participant Funding Program Guide*, the *Application for Funding Form* and the *Standard Contribution Agreement* can be found on the Board's website (www.neb-one.gc.ca) under Public Registries / Anticipated Applications.

For more information about the Participant Funding Program, please contact:

Patty Cooper
Participant Funding Program Administrator
Tel: 1-800-899-1265 ext. 3659
E-mail: PFPPA@neb-one.gc.ca



Highlights of the Year of the Métis

2010 A Year To Remember



Clem Chartier

President, Métis National Council

I call it the Year of the Métis Nation. For me the highlight was at the Olympics. When the Métis youth walked in and there was fiddle music and they were doing the jig. The announcer said "The Métis Nation." That was a great moment knowing our youth were engaged, knowing we were on the international stage. It was a great way to start the Year of the Métis Nation with our youth, our music, and with our traditional dress.



Jennifer Altenberg

Duck Lake

Lots of highlights this year, but I was very fortunate to be a part of the Back to Batoche planning committee where I worked with some remarkable people. The experience of the people on the committee and the history they have is amazing. They told me stories of old time Back to Batoche around the fire. As a teacher, I have used those stories in the classroom which has been so beneficial to keep the culture about the people and the community.



Billyjo DeLaRonde

Look me in the eyes. I did not take the Bell of Batoche and I have no idea where the Bell of Batoche is.

Randy Gaudry

Willow Bunch

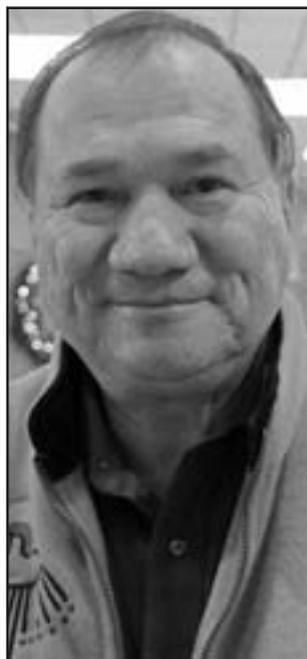
The press conference at the Legislative Assembly in Regina when they announced the Year of the Métis. When they had the event, I was so proud. When I remember it, I beam ... all year long.



Keith Goulet

Prince Albert

It was at Back to Batoche. I have been part of that event for many years as a former director of Gabriel Dumon Institute. A long time ago, we used to use old army tents to camp in. Then the event went down a bit. It ebbed and flowed. This year, seeing the gathering of people for the tremendous historic event was indeed a pleasure to behold.



Pat Adams

Fish Creek

My memory was of hearing Connie Kaldor singing 'Maria's Song' that she wrote about 25 years ago. It has to do with the Métis and the South Saskatchewan River valley and some of the events that have happened over the years. She sang it at Gabriel's Crossing one day in August during the Chokeycherry Festival. We were around the campfire and she was moved to sing it for us. It was very emotional ... even to this day the memory makes me emotional.



Brad Wall

Premier of Saskatchewan

The Reconciliation Ceremony at Batoche. I have never seen anything like it. You know, when they read the names of the dead from the battle from the Métis, the Canadians and the First Nations. And to see people come up from the United States who were relatives and from across Canada. This is a terrible admission, but I freely make it. I had never been to the cemetery and read the names of the deceased. It was a very compelling day.

Hilltop player from Sweetgrass stresses dedication, healthy lifestyle

Zak Ironstand is a national champion football player with the legendary franchise, the Saskatoon Hilltops. A member of the Sweetgrass First Nation, Ironstand was raised in North Battleford where he played football at the Comprehensive High School. The 6-4, 225 pounder is in his first year with the Hilltops and plays defensive end. Besides spending lots of time in the gym, Zak also hunts and coaches junior boys basketball. We tracked him down through email to find out what it is like to be a member of the 2010 Canadian Bowl champions.

What was it like when the gun went off and you were a PJFC National Champion?

It was amazing. I remember running onto the field jumping on everybody and hugging everyone and getting pushed into a big doggy pile of people and then lining up and getting the cup and taking turns holding it up. It was an amazing feeling.

What kind of dedication does it take to play at that level of football? Lots of sacrifices?

It definitely takes a lot of dedication to play at this level. It is so much faster than high school football and coming fresh out of high school, I had to quickly adjust to the speed of the game because the players here are so much bigger, faster, and a lot stronger. There are some sacrifices you have to make if you wanna play at this level and excel at it. I would be in the weight room while my friends would be out having a good time and hanging out and also being from North Battleford I would have to be away from family and friends for periods of time.

Who inspired you to be a football player?

Well, going into high school I wasn't interested in sports at all, but my buddies were going out to play football and my dad always wanted me to play. I remember walking into the team room with my dad and talking to the coach and I was so scared, ha ha, but during that first practice I started to excel at it and I was having a lot of fun. My dad definitely inspired

me to be a football player. He was the one who dragged me into that team room even though I was almost crying I was so scared and to this day he is behind me 100 per cent. All of the games, him and my mother came and watched and all the summer football camps he paid for. I owe a lot to him.

What's the best thing about playing for the Hilltops?

I think the best thing about being a part of the Hilltops is my teammates. They are all a great group of guys and I love going out every night and practicing with them and smacking each other around. I've made a lot of good and close friends.

Has spit from one of coach Sergeants speeches ever hit you?

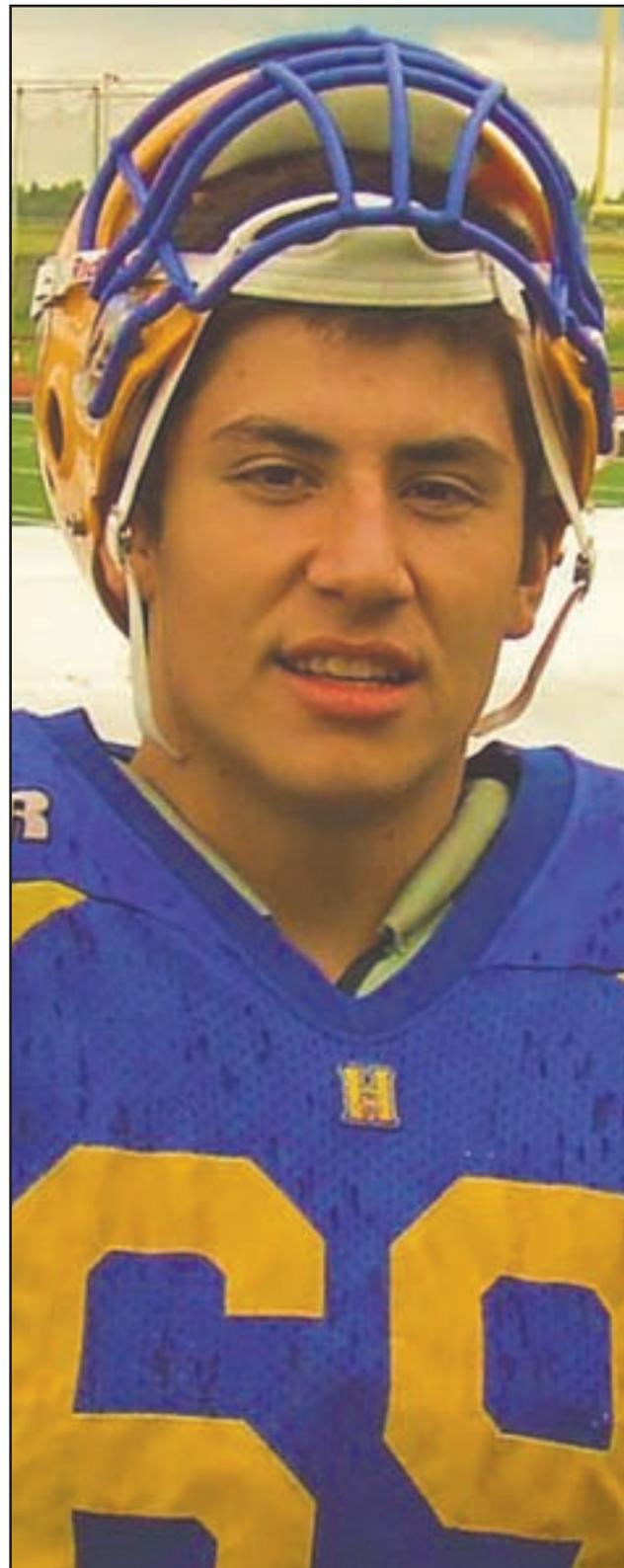
I'm not too sure what you mean by spit, if you're talking about saliva. No, it has never hit me ha ha. If you're meaning the words in his speech, then yes. Coach Sarge really knows how to motivate the team and get everybody excited. He is so good with words and his speeches give you chills down your spine. He definitely gets you pumped up and ready to play.

How do we get more young First Nation kids into football?

Well, I do know that there is an aboriginal youth football camp held in Saskatoon every year. Also, just going out and talking to the kids about joining football is a great way to get them involved. That's how my high school coach got a lot of kids out on the team. They come check it out and find out how much fun it is to go out and catch a pass or hit someone really hard.

Any tips for youth wanting to follow in your footsteps?

For anyone wanting to play football or move onto higher levels of football you must be in the weight room lots, stay away from drugs and alcohol, and be committed. I live by "impossible is nothing." If you want something, go and get it.



Saskatoon Hilltop defensive end Zak Ironstad.

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One man's journey

The Grey Cup, the annual cold November spectacle, meant even more this year for one family from Pelican Narrows. William Merasty is gravely ill with terminal cancer.

However, that didn't stop him and his wife from going to the 98th Grey Cup game in Edmonton. You see, William was too ill to attend and was told he couldn't by his doctor in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Being a lifelong Roughrider fan, who had never been to a game in person, his wish was to go but he knew that the odds were slim. First of all, the tickets were sold out, all the hotels were booked solid and costs of going to hospitals many hours away from home drained their meager resources. Just days before the game, a surreptitious plan was afoot to try and raise funds to send William to the Grey Cup.

Emails went out, as did calls, and people pledged a little and some pledged more. The Internet was swarmed with people trying to secure tickets and four were found but at a huge mark-up cost.

However, when the seller found out it was for a terminally ill man, the prices came down drastically and humanity took the place of greed. The River Cree Resort was booked for months but they managed to find room for William and his family.

Gas, food, lodging and Grey Cup tickets were all found, and then came the sad news. William took ill and was in hospital on the Thursday before the game. People who were involved were saddened by this turn of events and were resigned to tell everyone thanks for their efforts but it wasn't going to happen.

However, someone forgot to mention William's fighting spirit and he was not to be denied. He declared at the Flin Flon hospital that he was, indeed, going.

The plan was back in place; the family took off from the hospital that Friday morning and refueled in P.A. They picked up their tickets, itinerary, sponsored Roughrider gear, money and memorabilia and were on their way.

William's wife Verna says they managed to watch the game until half-time when the cold was too much for her husband but all agreed that it was an experience to be cherished and William had a great time. Two nights in Edmonton and they were back in Saskatchewan on Monday.

Unfortunately, days after coming home William finds himself at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. The best doctors will do all they can for him, they will manage his pain as best they can, but William and his family knows what the future holds and are preparing, however one does for the inevitable.

One thing is absolutely certain though, William saw the 98th Grey Cup and the photos of his trip with his wife and family by his side are priceless indeed.

The family wishes to acknowledge any and all who helped make this happen and are forever grateful for their time and effort.



William Merasty made the trip to Edmonton for the Grey Cup despite huge challenges.



From the Board & Staff

Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc

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*From the Board of Directors, Management
and Staff of the Dakota Dunes Community
Development Corporation.*

*For more info, please visit:
www.dakotadunescdc.com*

Thanks from Riders' biggest fan

Dear Eagle Feather News

It was a beautiful day when we went to the Rider game! My mom, brother and a friend of my brother went. We parked on the wrong side and had to walk all the way around. That was a long walk. Then we walked and

walked up the ramps till our legs almost died it was so far up.

When we sat down, we sat in the wrong seats and had to walk around and around till we found our right seats.

There was fireworks every time we got a touchdown. It was loud and exciting. Too bad the Riders lost

but it was great to go and cheer them on! We all wore green.

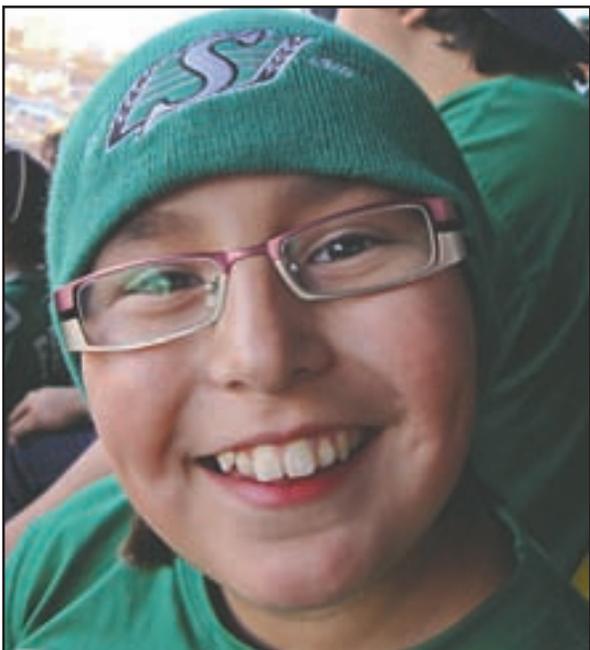
The cheerleaders did cheers three times and the mascot was riding a lawnmower across the field.

There was a person shooting out footballs to the crowd using a shooting cannon. That was fun!

I had a blast and I am still a number one fan!!

Thank you Eagle Feather News!

From MacKenzie



MacKenzie proudly wears Rider green.

Ed. Thanks for the letter MacKenzie. Even though we lost in the big game again, it is young fans like you that will keep the Riders a strong community owned team for years to come.

Thanks for

entering our Number 1 Riders fan contest. Stay tuned for another contest next year when the Riders look to shake the jinx and bring home the Grey Cup ... like in 2007!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Randell Morris - President



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*On behalf of the Board, Management & Staff
of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund,
we wish you a Merry Christmas as well as
health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.*

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