

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Flag raising honours spirit of Treaties

Elders Gladys Wapass-Greyeyes, Maria Linklater, Nora Cummings, Mike Maurice and A.J. Felix pray before the Treaty 6 and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan flags were raised at City Hall. Veteran James Whitehead of the Peter Chapman First Nation raised the Treaty 6 flag. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Building bridges

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A brisk fall day with just the right amount of wind made the perfect setting for the historic raising of the Métis Nation and Treaty 6 flags at Saskatoon's City Hall plaza.

Since its beginnings in 1882, Saskatoon has benefited from a long relationship with both First Nations' and Métis communities. The raising of the Treaty Six Territory and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan flags at City Hall acknowledges the spirit of the Treaties and this historic partnership.

"The raising of these Aboriginal flags has the potential to build a solid bridge between the City, Aboriginal governments, and all residents of Saskatoon," said Mayor Donald Atchison.

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Dawn Dumont poses some not so serious questions to Steven Cree Molison, the star of Blackstone. - Page 7



INDIAN ERNIE RETIRING
He has had an exciting and fulfilling career and now one of Saskatoon's better known cops is calling it a career. - Page 12



YOUNG ACHIEVER
She's only 25 but Nicole Shingoose has already much to be proud of in her life and there's more to come. - Page 15



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The trip from New Mexico to the FSIN Powwow in Saskatoon was well worth it for Kansas Begaye. - Page 16



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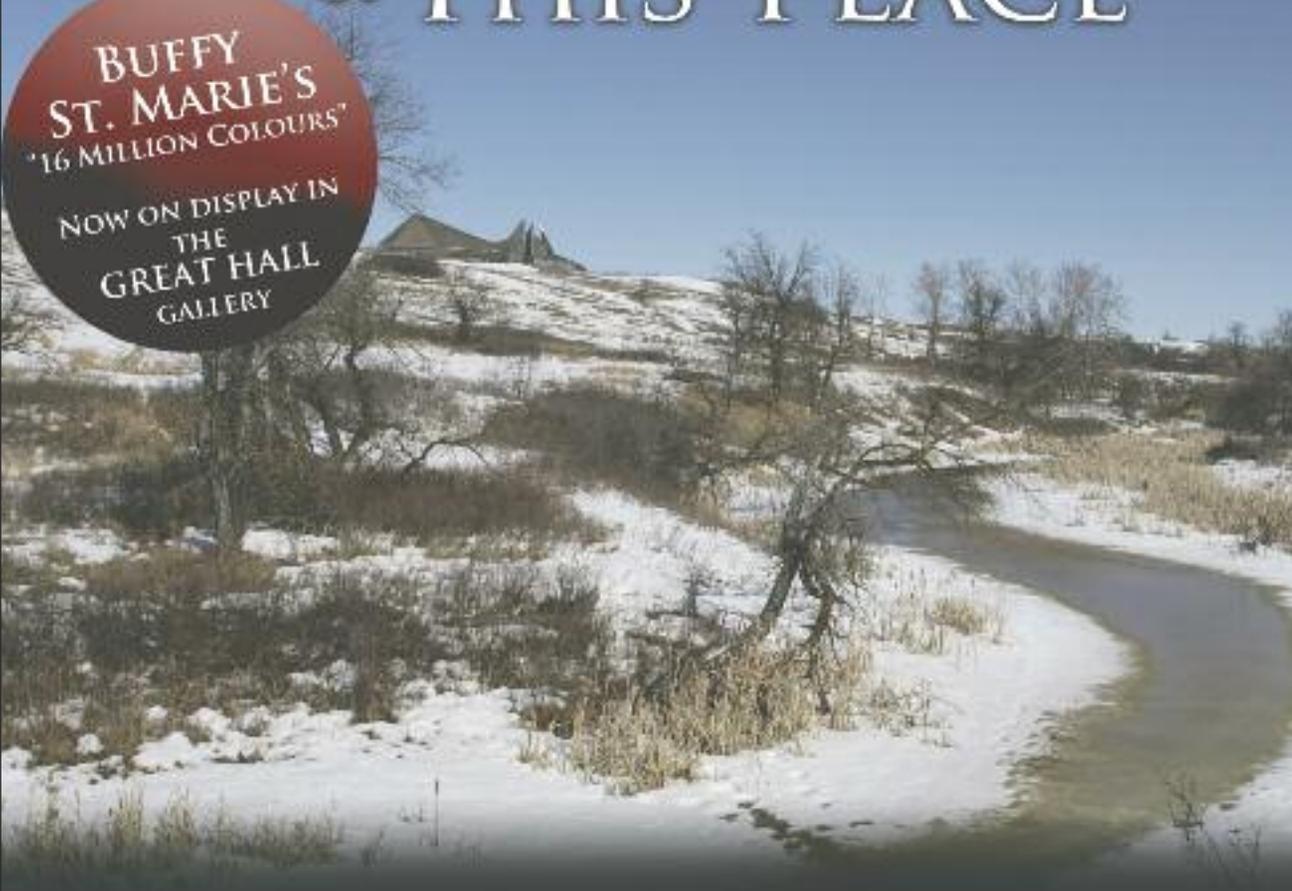
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Proud day for Métis as flag joins Treaty Six flag at City Hall Civic Square

• Continued from Page One

“It is a symbolic act that recognizes Treaty rights for all Canadians while recognizing Aboriginal history in the development of the city, province, and country.”

That tradition of Treaty and cooperation continues more than a century later, and includes the City and First Nations establishing the first urban reserve in Canada on Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Treaty Land Entitlement land. Urban reserves have since provided economic growth and employment opportunities for all citizens of Saskatoon.

“We must acknowledge that treaties are the thread that runs through our everyday lives, First Nations or not,” Tribal Chief Felix Thomas commented. “This flag raising symbolizes the reciprocal relationship that the Treaties intended, and will further improve quality of life by promoting inclusion of all. We are all Treaty people.”

The ceremony, held in Civic Square, hosted dignitaries including Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Saskatchewan’s Lieutenant-Governor, Mayor Atchison, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde, Saskatoon Tribal Council Tribal Chief Felix Thomas, Onion Lake First Nation Chief Wallace Fox and Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond. They were drummed in by the Whitefish juniors and a procession of dancers.

“It is a proud day for Saskatoon’s Métis citizens to see their flag, the oldest flag indigenous to Canada, flying at the City Hall Civic Square along with the Treaty Six Territory flag,” said Doucette.

Esteemed Métis fiddler Johnny Arcand was on hand to play ‘Vimy Ridge’ on his fiddle as the Métis flag was raised.

“This honourable gesture is welcomed as it recognizes the often forgotten history of and role played by Saskatchewan’s Métis,” said Doucette.

As part of the commemoration, Saskatchewan Treaty Commissioners past and present – Cliff Wright, Bill McKnight, Judge David Arnot, current Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and current Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond – all received replica Treaty Six medals and blankets. The gesture is one of gratitude for their work to help create understanding and respectful Treaty relationships.

In the spirit of building a strong and inclusive community, raising the Treaty Six Territory and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan flags will mark the work that has been done to develop positive relationships, and create a climate for social change within the City of Saskatoon.



Former Treaty Commissioners Bill McKnight (pictured) and Judge David Arnot and current Commissioner George Lafond were honoured at the flag raising for their work on creating understanding on Treaties. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison were among the dignitaries taking part in the ceremony held at City Hall Square in downtown Saskatoon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Celebrating winners and our new web page

The Indspire Award recipients have been announced for 2014 and Saskatchewan once again had a couple of outstanding people recognized.

Marion Meadmore of the Peepeekisis First Nation is receiving the Law and Justice Award. According to an Indspire media release, Meadmore was a founder of a number of organizations throughout Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada. Between 1954 and 1968, she founded and helped develop five organizations that continue to evolve and develop today. In 1978, she earned her law degree and became the first Indigenous woman to be called to the bar in Canada. As a lawyer, she helped to establish the Canadian Indian Lawyer Association, now the Indigenous Bar Association and has received the Order of Canada.

Rita Bouvier is the other recipient and she is, fittingly, recognized in the Education category. Rita has served various roles in the education field. She has helped in the development of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre and worked with the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation, as well as with the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

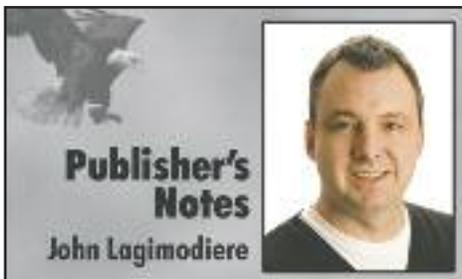
Bouvier is also an established poet

as well as a freelance writer who has published two books, is completing her third and has co-authored a book on education. Her

community involvement includes work with the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writer's Circle, a member of Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik – Women Working together, Education International, among others. Her most recent and influential work has been her part with the Joint Task Force on Improving Educations and Employment Outcomes for the First Nations and Métis People, called Voice, Vision, and Leadership: A Place for All.

When one reads the full biographies of Rita and Marion, one can't help but be humbled by their amazing accomplishments. Both ladies are very deserving. The 21st Annual Indspire Awards national gala will be held on Friday, March 21, 2014 at the Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg.

Speaking of Indspire Award recipients, Don Worme, former Indspire Law and Justice Recipient had some amazing luck a few months ago. Don is a



renowned lawyer and champion of Indigenous law and justice and he also happens to be the lucky duck who won the lottery in September to the

tune of \$14.7 million.



Don Worme is a \$14.7 million winner in the much-deserved category.

Don has had a very successful career and this big win is truly one of those what goes around, comes around kind of things. A great reward for a person who has done much for the community and knowing Don, the community will benefit in one way or another from his generosity.

We would also like Don to know that if he is interested in owning a newspaper, we are one phone call away!

As an FYI, the court case and fight at the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan has been adjourned until February. Has anyone else noticed that it is business as usual and that the turmoil and shenanigans played by the renegade group that was suspended has actually done little or nothing to slow down work at the MN-S?

Does this, perhaps, show that they were doing nothing to begin with and are redundant? Anyhow, make sure you go to the MN-S boundary commission meetings with the tribunal that is traveling the province in November and December. Your say is important. And it is beginning to show that what the Métis Revolution people say isn't.

There was a great ceremony at City Hall in Saskatoon last month. The Treaty 6 and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan flags were raised in front of City Hall and will take their place there permanently. It was a windy and somewhat chilly day in the plaza but a large and hardy crowd stuck it out for almost two hours. Highlights included the opening prayer song by students from Onion Lake, the veterans on hand for the ceremony, Johnny Arcand playing Vimy Ridge as the Métis Nation flag was raised and finally the heaters in the elders tent and the tent that hosted the luncheon ... and of course the soup and bannock was top shelf as usual.

On Nov. 14 we will be launching our new web page. We are often overwhelmed with the amount of news that we have access to and it always causes issues each month when we try and decide what goes in the paper and what doesn't. Fortunately the Internet will allow us to put an almost unlimited amount of news out there for people to consider.

The news of the day and special weekly features will go on our site and we are certain you will find it a refreshing alternative to the mainstream press and a clean and clear website that is easy to navigate. Don't fret about the paper copy of Eagle Feather News though, it'll still show up every month will all your favourite columnists and the good news from around Saskatchewan.

Have a great month and make sure the next time you see a veteran or a military person, go up and shake their hand and thank them for their service.

It is the least you can do. Remember.



Rita Bouvier is a 2014 Indspire Award winner in the education category.

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PUBLISHER/EDITOR: John Lagimodiere, JohnL@eaglefeathernews.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

ADVERTISING & SALES: Peggy Robillard, peggy.robillard@yahoo.com

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Universities shifting the way they deliver education

October was a busy month with conferences and the 2013 Spirit of Our Nations powwow. This year, 62 of our Native Studies 107.3 students from the U of S volunteered throughout the weekend to work in the Elders/veterans Lounge, admissions, registration and the children's area.

Of these students, only three were Aboriginal. The student volunteers were local non-Aboriginal students and a number of international students from as far away as Africa and Taiwan. Many never met an Aboriginal person before coming to our class and the experience at the powwow was eye opening for all of them—their 4-5 hours of volunteer time working with us did more to dispel stereotypes and myths about our people than in class lecturing could ever do.

Universities are shifting the learning environment from the lecture/classroom model to a new model that includes experiential learning. Experiential learning provides students the opportunity to experience rather than just read and listen, to get out of the classroom and actually do some of the things they are training for or studying. Community service learning is one way for students in Native Studies to give back in exchange for learning.

It is much like the old way of learning where those in search of knowledge work

for it. Knowledge is not free, it comes with personal sacrifice and hard work.

The University of Saskatchewan is undergoing some serious reshaping these days in order to address financial constraints. In the process, the new President Ilene Busch-Vishniac developed a new vision for the university called "Vision 2025: From Spirit to Action."

There's been much hoopla over one particular statement that addresses Aboriginal programming on campus. Word for word, this is the offending statement:

We have a special role to play in partnership with Aboriginal communities in the Province. Current approaches to the challenges faced by Aboriginal peoples

often prompt us to create special programs for Aboriginal learners or employees. In the long run, we would strongly prefer to create an atmosphere in which, rather than two programs to achieve each goal—one for non-Aboriginal peoples and one for Aboriginal peoples—we are able to create a single program that allows everyone to flourish.

This statement has resulted in

rumours that the new president will be eradicating Aboriginal programs at the U of S (like ITEP and Native Studies). From the way it is written, it is easy to interpret it to mean that Aboriginal academic programs and student support

services will be assimilated.

The president, however, assures us that this is not what she meant, that there is no intention of wiping out our programs. What she really means, she says, is that she envisions a university in the future where the Aboriginal student population may be the majority and that all students will benefit from all programs. She explained what she meant in more detail and then ardently professed that ITEP and other Aboriginal programs will not be eliminated.

It is unfortunate that President Busch-Vishniac did not consult with Aboriginal staff and faculty before she sent out this draft as we would have made sure that Aboriginal perspectives and priorities were heard, and we would have helped her clarify what she really meant which would have prevented misunderstanding.

It is especially unfortunate that she got rid of Aboriginal Advisor to the President position. This position was held by someone intimately familiar with Indigenous perspectives, priorities and politics on and off campus, who could have worked with her as she drafted this document.

Here is another example of why the duty to consult is so important. In this day and age it should be clear that no one can speak to our needs and priorities without our full input.

...

Warm and fuzzy congratulations to Don Worme and family on their stroke of good fortune. If there ever was a success story turned happily-ever-after in Indian country, this could be it, and much deserved. After a turbulent babyhood, Don was raised by his mosom on Kawakatoose. He worked in a steel yard and other labour jobs in Regina before finding his way to SIFC, then to the Native Law program and law school at U of S. One of his former instructors (who went on to become the President of U of S) tells us that Don was a brilliant law student.

Don faced many challenges in his life and overcame them with faith, hard work, fortitude and the love and support from family. Don and Helen are extraordinary role models who have already contributed much to our communities.



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A First Nation Education Act and a Senate blowup

The proposed federal Bill on the First Nation Education Act (FNEA) was released on October 22 by Bernard Valcourt, the latest Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada (AANDC: formerly INAC, or 'Indian Affairs') who is the holder of the portfolio that is viewed by federal politicians as going to the cabinet member who draws the short straw.



Comment
Paul Chartrand

It has not had a happy reception among Chiefs and other First Nation commentators. The draft of a bill is being released as part of a process of consultations that has itself been criticized and in some cases boycotted.

There is little doubt that at first blush the draft bill appears to perpetuate the rigid control by the Minister of Indian Affairs and his unwieldy bureaucracy over 'Indians and Indian reserves' in Canada. It is a federal statute that delegates both responsibility and authority to 'Indian bands' that are themselves creatures of the federal Indian Act. The bands are renamed 'First Nations' and are required to provide elementary and secondary education to reserve residents 'between' the ages of six and 21.

The draft FNEA goes against the trend of recent First Nation legislation which allows a band to 'opt-in' and adopt the new law, or stay with the Indian Act status quo. First Nations may avoid the application of the new Act by entering into an agreement with the federal government that becomes ratified by federal legislation. The new Act would not apply to First Nations that already have legislated agreements such as the Cree School Board and the Nova Scotia and B.C. First Nations.

The draft FNEA is being criticized for features that go against some key recommendations that were made in two previous reports that were made to the federal government as well as recommendations repeatedly urged by the federal auditor-general.

The first one concerns funding, and the issue is more than 'more money'. What is needed is legislation that sets measurable standards and provides long-term funding that permits long-term planning, stability and accountability. A proper statutory funding provision could make financing an obligation of the government rather than a discretion, and require an external determination of the amounts to be paid, such as for example, in accordance with provincial levels.

The current Indian Act provisions would be repealed, as was proposed in

Rob Clarke's Private Member's Bill C 428 but the authority of the minister is continued in the bill in accordance with its terms, which include wide powers to govern by means of regulations. A federal government department that enjoyed the reputation of always dealing with the utmost good faith with First Nations would have trouble getting agreement on such a blank slate, on the mere

promise to engage in further consultations.

The best bet to oppose this type of change is with the aggregation of political power among First Nations: could this proposed bill be an opportunity to implement the principle of Indian Control of Indian Education by agreement on feasible systemic change?

The Senate debacle

Folks who pay attention to CBC news and read newspapers have been bombarded with the spectacle of a full-fledged mud-slinging contest in what originated in England as a House of Uppity. Judging from public comments many Canadians view the spectacle as a source of mirth, and have trouble deciding who is the bad guy and who is the good guy.

Reform of the Senate of course has been a simmering political issue for some quite some time. The original idea was to create a legislative body that would represent the 'regions' of Canada. That has not happened because senators, like members of the House of Commons, allow themselves to be controlled by the political party to which they belong, so their votes toe the party line, regardless of 'regional interests'. Some call for an elected Senate. Both Australia and the USA have elected Senates. The senators toe the party line regardless of the 'state interests' they are elected to represent. Perhaps more important is whether Canada needs a senate.

The big issue behind the current Senate mess is the continuing erosion of democratic governance in Canada, which is known as the least democratic of the western democracies. The main reason is the centralization of political power in the Prime Minister's Office.

Harpo is only the last of the Prime Ministers to expand its power, a modern trend said to have been initiated by Pierre Trudeau.

In the meantime, Question Period in the House and news coverage of the Senate problems are probably viewed by the average Prairie dweller as a small source of amusement as the chill of winter creeps upon us.



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You just can't help it ... We Day inspires

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

We Day founder Craig Kielburger is one of those people that just gets it. An activist since the age of 12 when he started Free the Children, the humanitarian and social entrepreneur has a knack for knowing what causes are important and need exposure or a conversation.

In Saskatoon for We Day, Kielburger had a few open hours in his busy schedule and he wanted to go to Oskayak High School. They were eager to have him and welcomed him with an honour song by Young Thunder and a gift of a beautiful moose hide jacket created by the late Mrs. Campbell from English River First Nation. Leanne Bellegarde of PotashCorp, a major funding partner of We Day, presented him with the beautiful piece of functional artwork which he wore at events later that night and at We Day.

Kielburger spent two hours with several hundred young people from three or four different schools.

"I did not know one Aboriginal person while I was growing up in Thornhill, Ontario just north of Toronto," he told the crowd. "And over the past few years, I have found the level of knowledge of the Aboriginal community across Canada is low.

"So, to address that issue we have launched We Stand Together to help break down the barriers to starting a dialogue about Aboriginal culture, rights experiences and history. And Oskayak is a big part of that and you students here inspire me."

When Kielburger couldn't stand to see child soldiers and poverty when he was a child, he organized fellow students and did something about it.

At Oskayak he had the youth capti-

meeting young people in Sierra Leone who had lost limbs to rebel soldiers when they refused to take up arms at age 12; of meeting and talking with Mother Theresa or of a tribal chief in South America who taught him about minga.

"This Chief taught me about minga," said Kielburger. "We were building them a school and ran out of time. We told her we had to leave because of flights and logistics and we would come back. She said we would finish right now and she called minga.

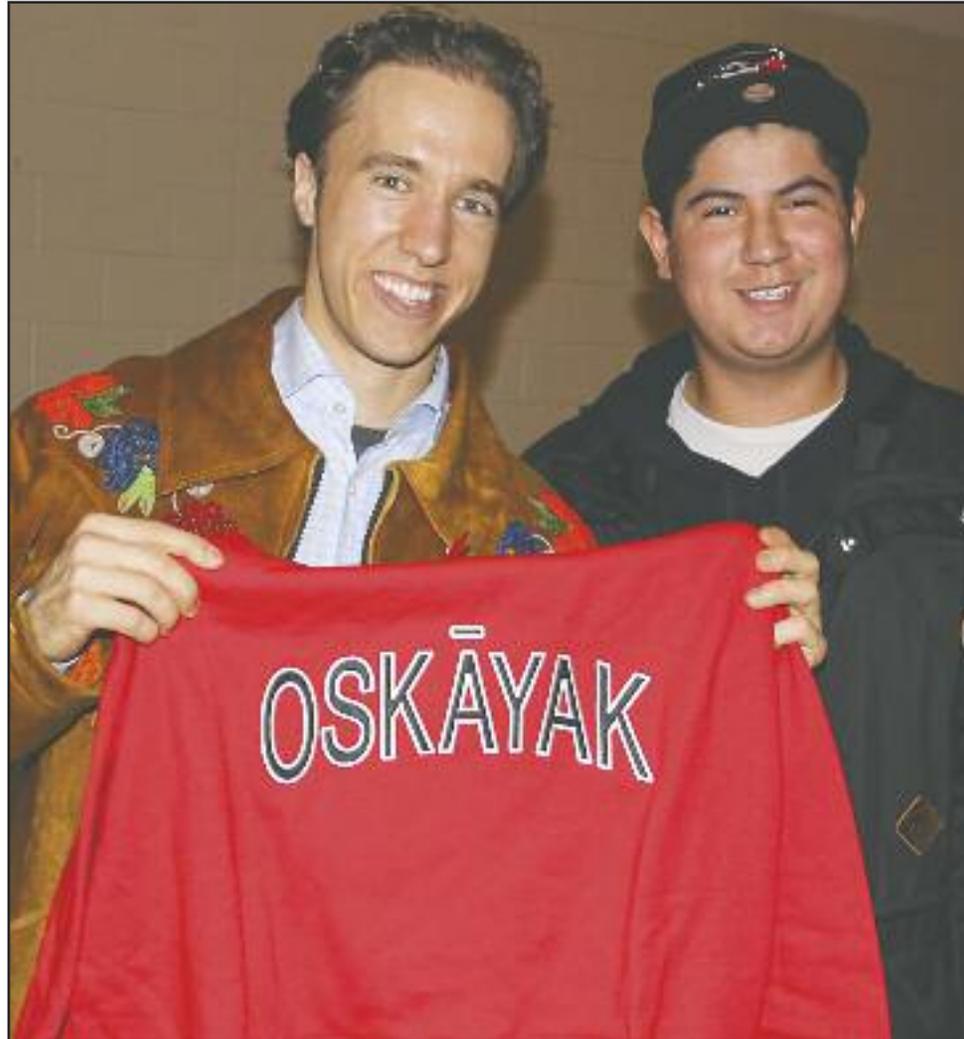
"People dropped what they were doing and several went to neighbouring villages and they rounded up enough people to come and help build and finish that school before we left.

"Afterwards, the chief asked me what we had similar to this in Canada ... the best I could do was describe it as a riot, but for good!"

The minga is now what Kielburger calls their We Day events. We Day draws 15,000 young people to arena events where they hear inspirational speeches and see musicians perform. The students have earned their passage by volunteering or raising money for charity.

We Day in Saskatoon included speakers like Martin Luther King III, basketball great Magic Johnson, musicians Shawn Desman, Tyler Shaw, Neverest and Kay to name a few.

Anyone who attends a We Day event is changed and inspired, you just can't help it.



Kodey Whitehead, an Oskayak student, welcomed We Day founder Craig Kielburger to "Oskayak First Nation" and presented him with an Oskayak hoody.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

He has now brought that same passion, and if you see this young man

vated with stories of working in Kenyan villages and building schools;

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Cara-Faye A. Merasty, BISW, JD

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According to my mom, I was born giving the side-eye. She said that I wouldn't hug anyone until I had checked them out from afar, done a perimeter and a background check.

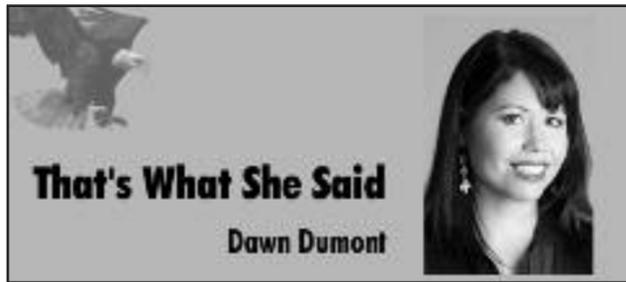
If my siblings and I were a bunch of Carebears, I'd be "Distrustful Bear." You know that cliché that nobody on the rez locks their doors? Not in my house, punk. When people came to our door, there was none of that walking in helping themselves to a bowl of soup and bannock nonsense; people had to knock. (Also there was no bannock because I'd already eaten it.)

Only after they had identified themselves, would I unlock the door aka take out the butter knife. And after dark, I used the deadbolt aka the butcher knife.

My distrust in people worsened when I lived in Edmonton. In one year, I had my car broken into 15 times – once on my birthday! It kept happening until one of the thieves broke the locks on my car doors. It just takes one clumsy thief to ruin it for everyone. Lots of stuff was stolen but not my Buffy Ste. Marie cd, which goes to show you that thieves have terrible taste in music.

I learned from these thefts that you cannot leave anything in your car. To this day, I treat my car like the city bus, I leave nothing of value in it and sometimes I charge people \$2.50 to ride in it.

I believe my innate distrust in other human beings makes me an excellent roommate. Sure I'm messy, inarticulate and uncivil before coffee, and a diligent thief of grapes, but my security skills really elevate me beyond the average roommate. I am at all times watching out for bad people and finding ways to stop



them from doing bad things – to my house at least. The rest of the street – have att'em.

My current roommate doesn't understand the finer points of security. She loses her keys and then wanders around the house testing all the doors and windows. I've explained to her that doing this will make our neighbours think that casing the house is a normal occurrence.

My roommate is also lax in the invites she extends. She's obsessed with renovating her house and as we know as much about home repair as we do about the Grey Cup, she hires people to do the work. She calls them handymen, I call them murderers with safety tickets.

I've suggested a series of safety policies when handymen come in, like wearing a fake wedding ring and saying things like, "my husband would have been here but he's teaching an advanced karate class – it really helps him cope with his insane rage issues."

I also know that my roommate needs my help because one day I came home after work, and I found the following tools left on the front steps of the house: a rake, a hammer, and two hatchets. As I stared at the implements that could have been used in our murder

(such a variety!), I realized that I had failed in my efforts to destroy my roommate's trust in humanity.

But I was wrong. One night while we were watching movies, we heard a sound at the back of the house. "It's just the dogs," my roommate said. But then I looked down and saw both of the tiny dogs nestled on their respective pillows in the corner, dreaming of dropped food.

We rose from the couch in unison. I went to the front door to select my ass-kicking weapon – I had a choice of a golf club or a bike chain with the lock on the end. I decided that my goal was to punish so I chose the bike chain.

My roommate came out of the other room with a hatchet. While I silently wondered how many of those she had, we headed to the back of the house, the dogs jogging beside us. Were any criminal outside, we would deliver a severe beating and then the dogs would lick the body clean of the evidence.

We looked outside the window into the pitch black night but saw nothing. But that could have been because we are humans, not bats. I held up one of the dogs to the window – dogs can see in the dark, right? But the dog only licked my hand – which I took as a good, albeit gross, sign.

My roommate turned on the outside light and we searched the backyard for bad people, aliens or Jason in a hockey mask. The light revealed no enemies and so we went back inside.

But the moment taught me that my roommate is ready to deliver a beat down when necessary and, strangely enough, that helps me to sleep easier at night.

Order of Merit for May Henderson

May Henderson has joined some esteemed company. Henderson is fresh off being named to the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Established in 1985, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit is a prestigious recognition of excellence, achievement and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well being of the province and its residents.

On Nov. 4 in a ceremony full of pomp and pageantry, Henderson, a long time grass roots activist and service provider and currently the Provincial Secretary of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, joined Dr. Richard B. Baltzan, O.C., Physician, Mr. John V. Cross, Biosciences Entrepreneur, Mr. Grant J. Kook, Private Equity Manager, Entrepreneur, Dr. Jim Miller, Professor, Dr. George R. Reed, C.M., LL.D., Community Leader and Mr. Arthur Wakabayashi, C.M., Chancellor Emeritus as the most recent recipients of Saskatchewan's highest honour.

"I was pretty impressed with the people who also received the award," said Henderson. "It is hard to believe I was with them. But really it was quite humbling and truly a great honour to be there."

Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield had the honour of investing the seven people into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit during a ceremony in Regina.

"It's truly wonderful to have the privilege of honouring such outstanding people," Solomon Schofield said. "These individuals have made lasting and positive contributions that make Saskatchewan an even better place."



Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon-Schofield presented May Henderson with her Saskatchewan Order of Merit.



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In this newly created role you will report to the V.P. Strategy and Advancement and build on the Aboriginal Student Achievement Plan by involving all members of the SIAST community. As Director, you will work closely with SIAST deans, associate vice-presidents, directors and administrators to advance awareness, development and implementation of ASAP initiatives. Your mandate is to develop and maintain relationships with Aboriginal educators and political leaders to ensure that SIAST responds to Aboriginal community issues, trends, developments and anticipates them with relevant and engaging programs.

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November is a good time for men to check out 'down there'

In October we remember women; breast cancer and missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Movember (the month formerly known as November) is about men. Movember is a moustache growing charity event held during November each year that raises funds and awareness for prostate cancer and men's mental health.

All across the world men will be growing facial hair to raise awareness for prostate cancer and male mental health.

I'm not sure what the connection is to facial hair and "down there" but I figure whatever gets our men thinking about their prostate is a good thing.

Prostate cancer is cancer that starts in the prostate gland. The prostate is a small (sorry to use the word "small") walnut-sized structure that makes up part of a man's reproductive system. It wraps around the urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body. Prostate cancer is the most common cause of death from cancer in men over age 75. If there is any good news it's that prostate cancer is rarely found in men younger than 40.

You are a higher risk for prostate cancer if you're older than 60; have a father or brother with prostate cancer; have been around Agent Orange; use too

much alcohol; farmers; eat a diet high in fat, especially animal fat; tire plant workers and painters. There are definitely a few risk factors there that Aboriginal men should pay attention to.

Symptoms of prostate cancer include: delayed or slowed start of urinary stream; dribbling or leakage of urine, most often after urinating; slow urinary stream; straining when urinating or not being able to empty out all of the urine; blood in the urine or semen; bone pain or tenderness, most often in the lower back and pelvis bone. These symptoms do not always mean you have prostate cancer but definitely see your doctor if you have one or more of these symptoms.

Something to keep in mind is that it is a common problem is almost all men as they grow older do have an enlarged prostate. Don't panic.

Movember wants men to take responsibility for their health, prevent illness by leading a healthy lifestyle and understand the symptoms and signs in both themselves and others so they can appreciate when and how to seek help if needed. So fellas?

Grow your mustache and tell your

friends to do the same.

I know that not too many First Nations men can even grow a mustache at least not a full mustache; Metis men on the other hand ... now those fellas can grow a mustache.

Since its humble beginnings in Melbourne Australia, Movember has grown to

become a truly global movement. No matter the country, city or First Nation, Movember will continue to work to change established habits and attitudes men have about their health, to educate men about the health risks they face, and to act on that knowledge, and hopefully increasing the chances of early detection, diagnosis and effective treatment.

Awareness and education changes behaviour and how we think about things; it gradually breaks down barriers, removes stigmas and brings about real change. It took years to have the breast cancer movement where it is today. People around the world recognize pink ribbons as breast cancer awareness ribbons.

Soon the November mustache will gain the same recognition.

Take care of your "business" fellas! A quick check-up with your doctor can save your life – don't die of embarrassment because you're too shy to have your prostate checked. Ladies here is something to watch for and think about; the risk of suicide in men with prostate cancer is over four times that of a similarly aged man. If your man has prostate cancer make sure you pay attention to the signs of depression.

Lest we forget; On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, commemorating a moment 93 years ago when troops laid down their arms to end World War 1, we join all Canadians in paying tribute to the courage of those who served and those who serve today.

It is estimated that between 7,000 and 12,000 First Nation peoples fought in the Korean War and in World Wars I and II. Today First Nations participation in the armed forces continues with First Nations making up about 1.4 per cent or almost 1,300 of the members.

Shake the veterans hands when you see them. Until next time be good to one another.

Keep your emails and letters and letters coming?

You can write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 St Main, Saskatoon SK, S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

"Heading to school at any stage means taking steps that will better your life." – Amanda Lynn Petit, Addictions Counselling diploma



Encouragement from instructors motivates SIAST student

Amanda Lynn Petit went back to school to enable what she recognized as her true calling in life: being a helper.

"I love working with people," says the outgoing Métis woman from Buffalo Narrows. "I chose the Addictions program at SIAST Woodland Campus because I wanted to help others."

"I also wanted to become a more effective communicator and a stronger role model, and learn to be a better person overall."

Petit acknowledges that although her Métis background carries a sense of support and help no matter where she is, she sometimes gets lonely so far from

home. She misses the immediate closeness of family, who "always want to hear about my accomplishments and how school is going."

However, she points out that "Strong support and encouragement come from my instructors. They not only guide me along the way but also help me find a way to be me. The motto I have found that works best for me is 'Just do it and take the risk.'

"The instructors are very motivational, inspiring and real. I appreciate their consistency, dedication and overall passion."

"With these supports, I find I do keep going and never give up."

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Indian Ernie calls it a career

By Warren Goulding
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Within the nickname lies the incongruity that is Ernie Louttit. Dubbed ‘Indian Ernie’ soon after hitting the streets as a Saskatoon Police Service constable, Louttit writes in his soon-to-be released book, *Indian Ernie: Perspectives on Policing and Leadership*, that he has struggled with his identity.

“Because I came from an isolated community and was raised without the influence of television and daily papers, I somehow formed my own opinion about what I thought was a Good Indian,” explains Louttit, now retired after a 26-year career with the Saskatoon Police Service.

“I went out of my way to show I could work, and to show I could take whatever anyone threw my way. Somehow though, I always had the feeling it was not quite good enough.”

As a youngster growing up in a small Ontario community, Louttit experienced racism in the schoolyard and at home. His own stepfather referred to him as “the little black bastard” and he fought older, bigger and stronger kids who taunted him with war whoops and racial slurs.

“All the same, even when I got beat up at school, it didn’t come close to the intensity of what was happening in our home,” Louttit says.

“So you just endured. In an offbeat way, I thank these people for making me who I am today. My stepfather’s cruelty and the mean-spirited treatment of the other kids thickened my skin.”

Louttit joined the Army as a 17-year-old, fulfilling a childhood dream of being a soldier. He wound up with the Princess Pats Canadian Light Infantry and had tours in Cyprus and Germany.

“I had a great time,” Louttit says. “It was great for a kid from Northern Ontario.”

As a member of the Military Police, he was posted to Wainwright, Alberta, the site of a large Canadian Forces Base. The young soldiers loved to fight and as an MP, Louttit discovered he liked policing and wanted to make it his career.

A friend suggested he consider Saskatoon where the police department “has a good reputation” and in 1987 Louttit joined the force.

“I remember how intimidating it was,” Louttit recalls. “I didn’t know where anything was and it was overwhelming.”

With Keith Atkinson as his training officer, the 26-year-old rookie became an enthusiastic member of C Platoon, known throughout the city’s justice community as a hard-working collection of crime-fighters. Louttit was assigned to the city’s notorious west side, home to a large Native population and a hotbed of violent crime.

Looking back, Louttit believes he arrived when the Saskatoon police department was in a period of transition. He was one of only two or three Aboriginal officers of that era and there were only a handful of women on the force.

“Some of the senior guys weren’t happy with change,” he theorizes. “There was a bit of resentment to women.”

Louttit spent virtually all of his 26 years with the Saskatoon Police Service working the west side. He had a well-deserved reputation for being an energetic cop

with an insatiable desire to see justice prevail. His was an attitude that was not always respected within his peer group.

“A lot of guys said I wouldn’t make it ten years; you’ll burn out, they said.”

Clearly Louttit loved his work. He had little interest in promotions, preferring the action of the mean streets. He loved the community he served and came to believe that there were very few people that were fundamentally bad human beings. Most criminals were motivated by survival instincts as a result of poverty, addictions or other factors life had thrown their way.

“I got it that people where I worked were in tough circumstances. I treated everybody like I would want to be treated,” Louttit explains.

Along the way Indian Ernie took his share of abuse from the Native population.

“Some resented the fact that I was a cop. They called me a White Man’s Indian that was doing it for the dominant society.

“A lot of people would say my name and then spit.”

But along with the frustrations of the job – the revolving door of the justice system and the horror of sudden deaths – came an immense pride in the work he was doing.

“I had some good moments,” he says, reflecting on some of the

highlights. “There was a serial rapist that we had declared a dangerous offender. When one of the victims called to say thank you it was like, wow, how good is that.”

He also takes pride in his efforts to curb the rampant solvent abuse that was playing havoc with people on the west side.

It wasn’t until his 17th year with the force that Louttit decided he would go for a promotion. His wife, Christine,

put it in perspective when she compared his career to the band, April Wine.

“After awhile, everyone has seen your show,” she told Ernie who moved up to the rank of sergeant.

At first burdened by administrative duties, Louttit soon made it back to the street patrol and shared his experience with the eager young cops under his watch.

“The biggest thing I learned is that I didn’t want my guys taking the chances I took,” he says.

But in the process he set out to make them the best cops they could be.

“I took pride in teaching them to embrace the community where they work. To have empathy and to understand the community.”

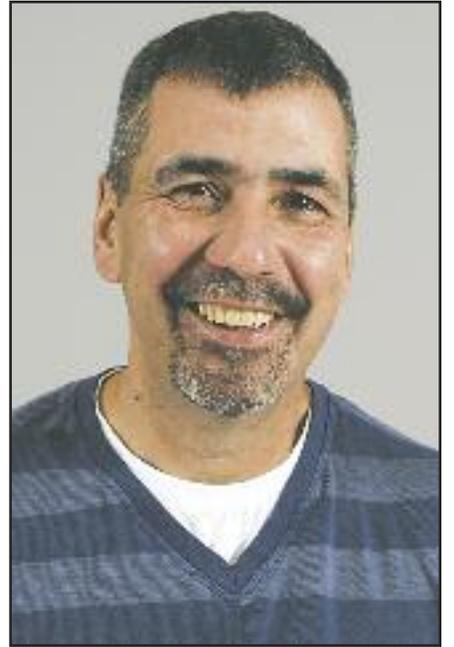
Almost three decades after arriving in the city with one of the nation’s highest crime rates, Louttit says without hesitation that Saskatoon is a safer place today than it was in 1987.

“It’s absolutely safer. There were nights when we were constantly at assaults, stabbings b & es, and it was horrific. Now, the frequency isn’t there any more. The economy is good; we have a new (police) chief. It’s a lot better.”

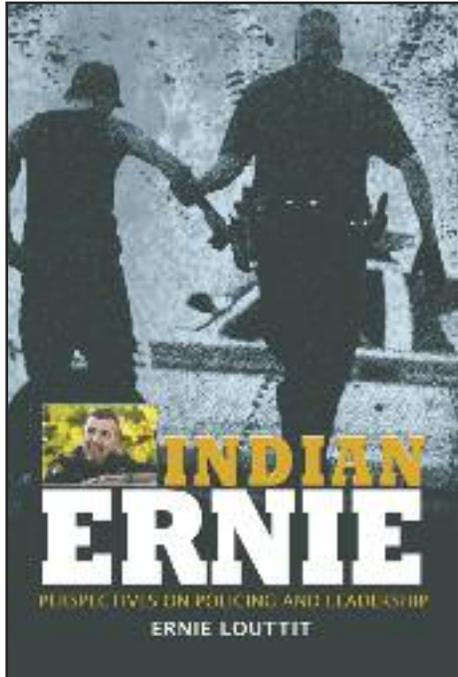
Louttit worked his last shift in late October and with his first book due in the stores in late November, the 52-year-old retiree is looking forward to new challenges.

“I can’t believe my good fortune to this point and I’ll just see where this book takes me.

“I’m not exactly riding off into the sunset. I’m very, very thankful for everything I have.”



ERNIE LOUTTIT



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HILLIARD GARDIPY

Private Hilliard Gardipy (Beardy's) – started out in his boarding school cadet program – served for three years and there is nothing he didn't love about being in the service, from taking care of the uniform to wearing it, which is something he really cherished. It's in his family to serve, his grandfather was in the First World War and his dad was in the Second World War, so it's tradition. He took basic training in Edmonton and went on to Chilliwack, B.C. He was stationed at the Work Point Barracks as part of the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt in Victoria. A highlight for him was in winter when he played hockey for the army team.

Azarie Bird (Little Red River) – was a paratrooper for six years and there is nothing he didn't love about it. He was part of the PPCL Infantry (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry). He is 81 years old now, but in those days he was young and daring (21 years old) and not afraid of heights. They went to jump school, which was about six weeks of training and had to do at least five day jumps and one night jump to get his wings. Over the course of his career he has jumped too many times to count and has been stationed in Germany for two years, Victoria, Edmonton (1962), and Alaska (Nome, Anchorage and Tanaka). He also did numerous jumps out of Wainwright and Cold Lake Alberta.



Azarie and Eliza Bird.

Sgt. George Trottier (Onion Lake) – in the U.S. Army (Airborne School) loves jumping out of planes and has travelled to a lot of places already including Afghanistan, Kuwait, Germany, Iraq. Sgt. Trottier was stationed in Alaska but is now stationed in Fort Bragg, California.



Eagle Feather News photographer Jackie Gabriel was at the FSIN Powwow and she took some time to photograph and talk to some veterans. These are their stories.



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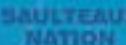
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(Left to right) Brendan McDonald, Jerome McDonald, DJ Mercredi, Lonnie Augier, Georgie McDonald. (Missing: Bradley Mercredi, Therman Mercredi)

FSIN honours distinguished citizens at Legislative Assembly

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

More than a dozen people were honoured at the fall session of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Legislative Assembly.

Captain Nolan Kemp has more than 26 years of service with the Canadian Forces.

Born in Prince Albert, he first joined the Armed Forces as a Radio Teletype Operator with a summer youth program in Red Deer, Alberta. The following year, he became responsible for tactical telecommunications requirements with the Army Reserve. From there, he was employed as a Troop Commander, Operations Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer, and then promoted to Major in 1997.

Kemp worked at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre from 1997 to 2008 as a Military Career Counselor and Attraction Officer. He was then assigned to the Bold

Eagle Program, which provides Aboriginal youth with summer employment that offers a combination of military training and First Nations cultural awareness, as Coordinator from 2008 until 2013. In 2012, he was recognized with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his involvement with Bold Eagle.

Kemp is currently employed as a G1 Services with the 41 Brigade group in Calgary, looking after Human Resources.

The Fond du Lac firefighters not only fight fires in and around their community, they also regularly compete, and win, at Aboriginal Firefighting Championships. Fire Chief Georgie McDonald, who has been in the position for 10 years, says the team trains daily in June until the competitions in August: how to get into a house fire, how to get out, and other scenarios.

Two members of the fire department have 10 years experience, two have five years, while three have only been with the department for one year – meaning they have literally been fighting fires for one year.

“But Fire Chief George McDonald has been training firefighters from a very young age, and I think that shows,” says Richard Kent, Commissioner of Emergency & Protective Services for the

Prince Albert Grand Council. With one year with the fire department, they've won the nationals,” adds Kent who has worked closely with the team.

• Continued on Page 15



Lest We Forget.








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• Continued from Page 14

Fond du Lac's fire department has won the provincial Aboriginal firefighting competitions eight out of the past 10 years. They've won the national competitions five of the past 10 years, and placed in the top three the other years.

"That should show the dedication and training that they have," says Kent.

McDonald says the firefighters, particularly the younger ones, are seen as role models in the community.

"When we do the training in the community, lots of young guys are watching."

Sub-Lieutenant Nicole Shingoose has accomplished more in her 25 years than many people do in a lifetime.

From the Cote First Nation, Shingoose grew up on her father's reserve of the Moosomin First Nation.



NICOLE SHINGOOSE

After she finished high school, she enrolled in the Raven Aboriginal Youth Initiative, a seven-week program run by the Royal Canadian Navy that is similar to the Bold Eagle program. Shingoose received a top certificate award upon completing the program and was introduced to another: the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY), which operates out of Kingston's prestigious Royal Military College (RMC).

Shingoose applied and was accepted into ALOY, and after a few months, decided she wanted to be RMC cadet. When she graduated from ALOY, she was the first graduate from Saskatchewan. From there, she was accepted into the college as a Navy Logistics Reserve Officer.

During her university years at RMC, she also made the varsity volleyball team, and has since attended volleyball training camps with the Conseil International du Sport Militaire, which is one of the largest multi-disciplinary organizations in the world that organizes events for the armed forces of its 133 member countries.

After four years, she graduated with a degree in math and a minor in life sciences.

She has since joined HMCS Saskatoon and works full-time as a health coach and part-time as a Navy Officer.

Shingoose plans to go back to school this winter where she will take classes at the University of Saskatchewan so she can apply to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

University of Saskatchewan Chancellor and former Chief Blaine Favel and retired RCMP Commissioner Russ Mirasty were also honoured at the FSIN Legislative Assembly.



NOLAN KEMP

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FSIN POWWOW

(Right) Grizzly bear dancer (St'at'imc Bear Dance) Laura Grizzlypaws (Indian Name: Stalhamacn) is from the B.C. Interior. Her traditional dance captivated the crowd as she won her category. Her performance was one of the most talked about events from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations 2013 Powwow. This dance is of St'at'imc ancestry and is a traditional dance, it is her clan. (Photo by Jackie Gabriel)



Miss Indian World Kansas Begaye travelled to Saskatoon all the way from Waterflow New Mexico for the FSIN Powwow. (Photo by Jackie Gabriel)



The future of powwow in Saskatchewan is healthy with a strong turnout in the Tiny Tot category. Here a couple of young dancers spend some time visiting while one their buddies in the background has a bit of a tumble. (Photo by Jackie Gabriel)

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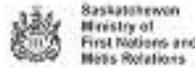
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Keenan Durocher and Chelsey Bouvier helped organize a youth conference at the Canoe Lake Miksiw School.

Canoe Lake conference improves life for youth

By Jessica Joseph Iron
For Eagle Feather News

Canoe Lake Miksiw School just celebrated another successful youth conference. For the past seven years, their day-long conference has grown in numbers of students and schools attending.

This year's event saw 16 different presenters, two separate keynote addresses and seven participating schools. The first keynote address by Tala Tootoosis and Mike Scott, was called "Change Begins with You," and the closing keynote address was a group effort delivered by Leroy Laliberte, Muggy Sinclair and Curt Cameron.

Chelsey Bouvier, the Grade 12 SRC Chief, and one of the youth organizers, has noted a difference in her school since the first conference in 2007.

"I like how it helps the youth. I've helped with the conference for seven years and you can see a big difference in the youth," Bouvier suggests.

"There's less bullying and suicide. It helps the kids and you can hear them talking about the conference days after and weeks after," said Bouvier.

"It has helped me too – in opening up more," confessed Bouvier. "Most of these speakers are opening up and you can just see a change in a lot of the youth. Last year, we had Lindsay Sutherland here for makeup and she photographs kids. It really brought up their confidence and self-esteem."

Hosting an annual conference has also inspired the youth to rise to the occasion.

"When other kids come here, they always say that Canoe Lake people are very respectful.

"That's true because a lot of these kids just help out without being asked. They

behave really well," said Bouvier.

Bouvier recalled how the very first year many different schools attended, but there weren't nearly as many students as there were this year. Also, by attending other youth conferences, they were able to see which presenters they wanted to bring to their own community.

SRC Vice-Chief, and Grade 11 student, Keenan Durocher, was proud of the conference results.

"This year's youth conference was a good learning experience," said Durocher. "I introduced myself to people and not once did I get disappointed from all our positive feedback. It was a complete success. We might have changed 100 people or no one at all. It's still a step closer from where we were yesterday," Durocher said.

"Some of life's best lessons are learned at the worst times. I hope the conference helped someone through those moments, pushed them further into the future and extended our circle of compassion to include all living things. I highly recommend events like this should occur nationally."

Both Bouvier and Durocher were thankful for the help and guidance they received from Vice-Principal Geraldine Rediron.

"Geraldine is a puzzle piece to the school. It's barely complete without her. I can tell she cares for every single one of us," said Durocher.

"Geraldine does whatever she can for people, and especially at the youth conference, she did whatever she could to make the youth happy," Bouvier agreed.

"And I really recommend that other schools should have youth conferences too because it would have a really positive impact on everyone in the community," said Bouvier.

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The NWMO involved a broad cross-section of Canadians in discussions about these approaches. The approach that was identified by Canadians as the one that best meets their values and objectives was an approach which draws elements from several approaches. This approach was named Adaptive Phased Management. It was adopted as Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel by the Government of Canada in June 2007. The ultimate goal of Adaptive Phased Management is the centralized containment and isolation of the used fuel in a deep geological repository.

Canadians also identified other necessary components that are included in the plan: flexibility in the pace and manner of implementation; ongoing robust research program; potential for retrievability of the used fuel for an extended period; continuous monitoring of the used fuel; ongoing public involvement; and the need to seek an informed and willing community to host the deep geological repository.

The Deep Geological Repository best addresses our responsibility to future generations

Canadians involved in the study told the NWMO that we should not rely on the existence of strong institutions, long-term funding and active management capacity over many, many thousands of years into the future in order to manage the waste we have created today.

A deep geological repository uses a combination of engineered and natural barriers to contain and isolate the used fuel from people and the environment over the very long term. A deep geological repository can be actively managed and monitored for as long as society wishes to do so. A deep geological repository can also be sealed at a future date, when the community, the NWMO and regulators agree that it is appropriate to do so. A deep geological repository would be passively safe and would not rely upon human institutions and active management in order to contain and isolate used fuel from people and the environment over the long term.

The Deep Geological Repository is a high-technology facility

A deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel is a high-technology national infrastructure project. It involves the development of a multiple-barrier system designed to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel over the long term. It will be constructed at a depth of approximately 500 metres, depending upon the geology of the site, and will consist of a network of placement rooms for the used fuel.

Used fuel will be loaded into specially designed and certified containers at the reactor sites and transported to the repository site where it will be repackaged in long-lived, corrosion-resistant containers for placement in the repository. The containers will be lowered through a shaft and transported underground to one of many placement rooms. The containers will be placed in vertical or horizontal boreholes drilled into the rock. They will then be sealed using bentonite clay, a natural, proven effective sealing material.

The used fuel will be monitored throughout all phases of implementation. It will also be retrievable at all times. The access tunnels and shafts will be backfilled and sealed only when the community, the NWMO and regulators agree that it is appropriate, and postclosure monitoring can then be implemented.



Sean Russell is the Director of Adaptive Phased Management Repository Research and Development at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. He has worked more than 30 years in Canadian programs for managing used nuclear fuel and low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste. He provided key technical support to the NWMO for the development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for various approaches to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, and was one of the principal authors of the NWMO's 2005 Final Study and recommendations to the Government of Canada, *Choosing a Way Forward: the Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel*.

"Ask the NWMO" is an advertising feature published regularly in this and other community newspapers to respond to readers' questions about Canada's plan for managing used nuclear fuel over the long term and its implementation. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization welcomes your questions. Please forward your questions to askthenwmo@nwmo.ca.



www.nwmo.ca

Former residential school employee guilty of multiple sex crimes

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

By many accounts, Paul Leroux was a popular fixture at the Beauval Indian Residential School. From 1960-67, he coached the hockey and softball teams and led the choir.

His official job was the boys' dormitory supervisor.

Leroux was in position of trust and served as a father figure to a number of students who came from remote northern Saskatchewan Indigenous communities and began boarding at the school at ages as young as six-years-old.

However, there is a darker side.

At some point, Paul Leroux abused his position of trust and power and turned close relationships with a number of students into incidents of sexual abuse.

On Nov. 5 in a Battlefords courtroom, Leroux, now 73, was convicted of eight counts of indecent assault and two counts of gross indecency. A total of 14 former students brought charges against him in the three-week trial.



PAUL LEROUX

One of the complainants, who cannot be named because of a publication ban, says he is happy that justice is finally being served after all these years.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome. This is after 50 years of living in

denial and I believe what today brings will be fairness to us as victims," he says.

Waterhen Lake First Nation Chief Carol Bernard adds the decision allows a healing process to begin.

"I know that this is just the first step to our own healing in our community because of the generational impacts that have impacted all of our community in one form or another," she says.

Leroux opted to represent himself at the trial which meant he was often face-to-face with his accusers and



The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations organized a march through the Battlefords in support of witnesses in the Paul Leroux trial on Oct. 29.

(Photo by Fraser Needham)

allowed to cross-examine them on the witness stand. Nevertheless, Crown prosecutor Mitch Piché says this ended up having little effect in the trial.

"At the end of the day, I don't think it had any effect at all," he says. "In fact, in some ways the complainants were able to just stand down their accuser who was right there in front of them."

Throughout the trial, the former dorm supervisor tried to attack the credibility of his accusers by questioning places, dates and times of events. However, in his decision, Judge Murray Acton noted that it is not surprising that there are some inconsistencies in testimony due to the length of time that has elapsed and the age of the witnesses. At the same time, Judge Acton said there are significant commonalities in testimony such as complainants were either members of the choir or hockey team, assaults occurred at night and in the dorm, there was an escalation and further assaults occurred in Leroux's office.

On hearing the verdict, as he had done throughout the trial, Leroux stated his complete innocence as he was taken into custody. He is due back in court on Dec. 5 for sentencing.

In 1998, Paul Leroux was convicted of a number of sex crimes that dated back to his time as a dormitory supervisor at a residential school in Inuvik in the 1970s.

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The demise of the Chocolate Hotness

For this month's installment I thought we would try something completely different.

I could have written about how people of a certain quality are drawn to Harper's vision of Canada – think Duffy, Brazeau, Wallin, Flannigan, Oda, Carson, the list is almost without fathom. People of that moral character will be willing and even eager to afflict those of less value to the great Harper dream.

Speaking of the unworthy, I could have written about how Harper is not a racist. His vision demands a merciless commitment to marginalizing any inconvenient elements standing in the way. Scientists, environmentalists, unions and, yes, Indians qualify.

I could have written about how the new First Nation education legislation will mean higher taxes for Saskatchewan taxpayers. I mean once provincial legislation creeps into reserves that jurisdiction has a price.

I could have written about how funding cuts to First Nations is creating chaos and confusion. Without dedicated organizations to defend Treaties, individual First Nations will fall prey to a new form of extortion: play ball or starve. Those who cave Harper will baptize "willing partners."

Instead, I will share a chilling story of how a perfectly innocent First Nation child was forever changed on a calm spring day almost 50, no 40 years ago, when he was only six months old.

Armed with a full tank of gas, a limited education, enough food for a week, a First Nation father and his new Métis bride embark on a journey to Saskatoon with their newborn in search of a better life.

It is key to the story that the baby was born with a sweet coco with cream like skin, earning him the name 'The Chocolate Hotness' from his aunts.

Upon arriving they park their 1958 Ford POS next to a phone booth. During the day, dad walks the streets, looking for work while mom waits by the phone in case employers call.

After days of searching one business after another, putting his best foot forward, there are no calls. Supplies are running low.

On the mid-afternoon of day five mom and dad assess the situation. They cannot afford another night of running

the car off and on during the night, for there is just enough fuel for the two-hour drive back home.

On the way home, they talk. They conclude Dad's dark skin, rippling muscles, Grade 10 education, and his thick Indian accent make him unemployable.

They vow never to teach their kids Cree, that every one of them will be educated, and pray the rest will have 'good' skin.

When they return to the reserve they head for Grandpa's where, as luck would have it, one of the uncles has killed a deer.

A family reunion of sorts unfolds. Wobbly-pops may have been consumed by the adults. There is conflicting testimony on this point.

What is known is that The Chocolate Hotness was strapped into a plastic reclining seat, wearing only a cloth diaper – these being the days before Pampers.

At some point during the festivities someone ventures into Grandpa's house. Someone else follows that person. In no

time at all, everyone has piled into Grandpa's place, leaving The Chocolate Hotness exposed to the gaudiness of nature.

Grandpa had a huge German shepherd. A daft, moron of a dog, Cookie had all the discipline of a three-week-old pup. All brawn. No brains. And ridiculously happy.

With no one around, Cookie spies The Chocolate Hotness alone, on the lawn, and lunges for the unprotected innocent baby.

The story, as it was reported to me, has it that Cookie then licked all the brown stuff off The Chocolate Hotness. Gone was the creamy, dark caramel coating. All that was left was a faint vanilla-brown sugar-like sheen.

I was that baby.

As a youth I often wondered why I was so white when everyone around me had that golden mocha covering. When I finally mustered up the courage to ask Dad, that was the story he chose to give me.

I believed that story for decades. Last week, mom told me to stop telling that story as it was a load of poo – that's how she talks.

Dirk says, I don't have birthdays. I level up.



UN rapporteur finds First Nations people in Canada still suffering from colonization

By Larissa Burnouf
For Eagle Feather News

The UN special rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples made two stops in Saskatchewan on his nine-day tour through Canada.

James Anaya began his journey in British Columbia before finding his way into northern Saskatchewan. Buffalo River Dene Nation Chief Lance Bayette, along with Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde, welcomed Anaya and brought him up to speed on the challenges that the northern community has been facing for decades.

The reserve and a few other surrounding communities were displaced when the federal government created the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, which is still active today. Chief Bayette says his people have faced starvation, poverty and other hardships since being removed from their traditional territory.

Hunters and other traditional land users have been forcibly removed from the range on several occasions resulting in ongoing court cases and legal battles over the land and the right to use it.

Anaya heard from First Nations, Inuit

and Métis people about the issues they face including poverty, educational and housing differences and missing and murdered aboriginal women. He also visited reserves and communities in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, all with similar stories and issues. During a press conference in Ottawa at the end of his journey, Anaya said Canada and its Indigenous peoples are facing a crisis.

He stated Canada and the Harper Government must reverse course to avoid a "rocky" relationship with the country's Indigenous peoples. Anaya also touched on the growing gap between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Canada, finding that First Nations people are still suffering from "multiple legacies of the history of colonization, treaty infringements, assault on their cultures and land dispossession."

Anaya said through his dealings with First Nations people, he witnessed an alarming distrust in the federal and provincial governments by Aboriginal people. His visits did not only include the country's Indigenous communities, he also met with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard

Valcourt and the RCMP. He stated in Ottawa that the Harper government needs to start repairing the relationship with the Indigenous population, more specifically the gap in on-reserve education funding, the repeated calls for an inquiry into increasing number of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada and their stance in dealings with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"In order for the trust that needs to be built, these kinds of steps need to be taken," said Anaya.

He warned that the path forward must incorporate the participation of the Indigenous peoples and address their concerns.

"These matters need to be reconsidered."

During his time in Canada, Anaya spoke at length about the issues still facing the surviving generations of residential school students, stating that Ottawa needs to allow the TRC's mandate to finish its work completely, as it is set to expire in July 2014. He said the dark history and legacy of the residential schools still haunts and "continues to cast a long shadow of despair" on the aboriginal community in Canada.



JAMES ANAYA

"Many of the dire social and economic problems faced by Aboriginal peoples are directly linked to that experience," he suggested.

Anaya contacted the federal government in early 2012, requesting to visit Canada's reserves three times before officially receiving permission this summer.

"I am not going to accept the premise they are not going to move on these issues and, yes, I have discussed these matters with the government officials I spoke with. There was no expression of negativity toward me in my making these recommendations," said Anaya.

BUSINESS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

Affinity Credit Union earns ABEX Award



Chris Sicotte First Nation Business Development Manager for Affinity received the ABEX from Saskatoon Fairview MLA Jennifer Campeau.

The recent ABEX Awards hosted by the provincial Chamber of Commerce to celebrate excellence in business had a strong Aboriginal presence.

Taking the coveted award for Aboriginal Business partnership was Affinity Credit Union. Affinity is one of the 15 largest credit unions in Canada and recognizes that Saskatchewan leads all provinces in the number of Aboriginal people per capita residing in its boundaries.

To better serve this community, Affinity created a First Nations District within its governance structure. That District is chaired by Paul Ledoux of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Today, nine First Nations actively participate in the management and development of the business. This innovative model has also led to the first

credit union in Saskatchewan opening on reserve at the Cowessess First Nation. Two members of the Council are also on the Board of Directors of the credit union and are able to influence their financial institution through the democratic process.

“Receiving this award on behalf of Affinity Credit Union is both a great honour and extremely humbling. This is an acknowledgement of the work we have done with First Nations in Saskatchewan as well as motivation to continue improving on our service to our First Nations members,” said Chris Sicotte First Nation Business Development Manager for Affinity.

“As we continue to grow as a Credit Union we see continued opportunity to partner with First Nations and Métis groups across the Province.”

SaskTel expanding northern cell service

There is some great news for northerners who rely on their cell phones. Athabasca Basin Development has committed \$249,000 to help bring cellular service for the first time to the Athabasca communities of Fond Du Lac, Black Lake, Stony Rapids, and Wollaston Lake.

Athabasca Basin Development will be joining SaskTel and Huawei Canada for the northern cell tower initiative. This partnership is based on SaskTel’s Community Participation Model, which allows communities to raise funds to cover the shortfall when it is not economically feasible for SaskTel to finance a new cellular site alone.

“This \$249,000 represents the single largest corporate donation we have made in our eleven year history,” says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin

Development.

“Our commitment today gives us an opportunity to do something that will make a real and lasting impact on the Athabasca communities, and we are very pleased to be a partner in this exciting initiative for Saskatchewan’s North.”

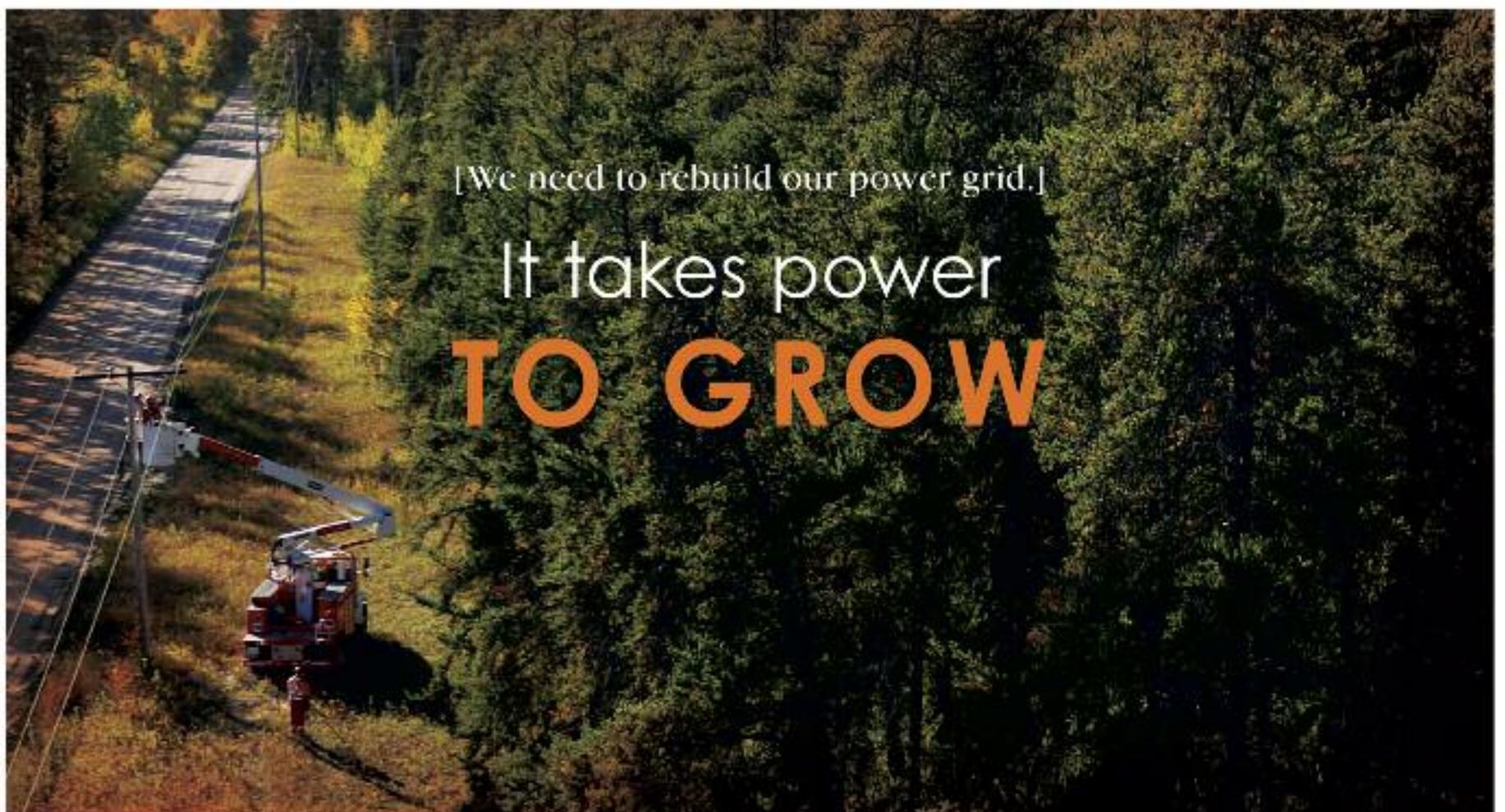
These towers will give the northern Saskatchewan communities connectivity to the rest of the world and province, better access to emergency services and further develop the economic opportunities for the residents of these communities. SaskTel anticipates that the cellular service will be in place by 2015.



From left Scott Bradley, Vice President Corporate and Government Affairs Huawei Technologies Canada, Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development and SaskTel Director of Customer Services Jeff McKeand all made investments in bringing cell service to the North.

“SaskTel customers experience a level of connectivity that is rare in other sparsely populated parts of the world. We are committed to connecting our rural and northern communities,” said SaskTel President and CEO Ron Styles.

“Our Community Participation Model makes it possible for smaller communities to have access to our world class wireless network.”



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Young Yorkton entrepreneurs to learn from the best

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

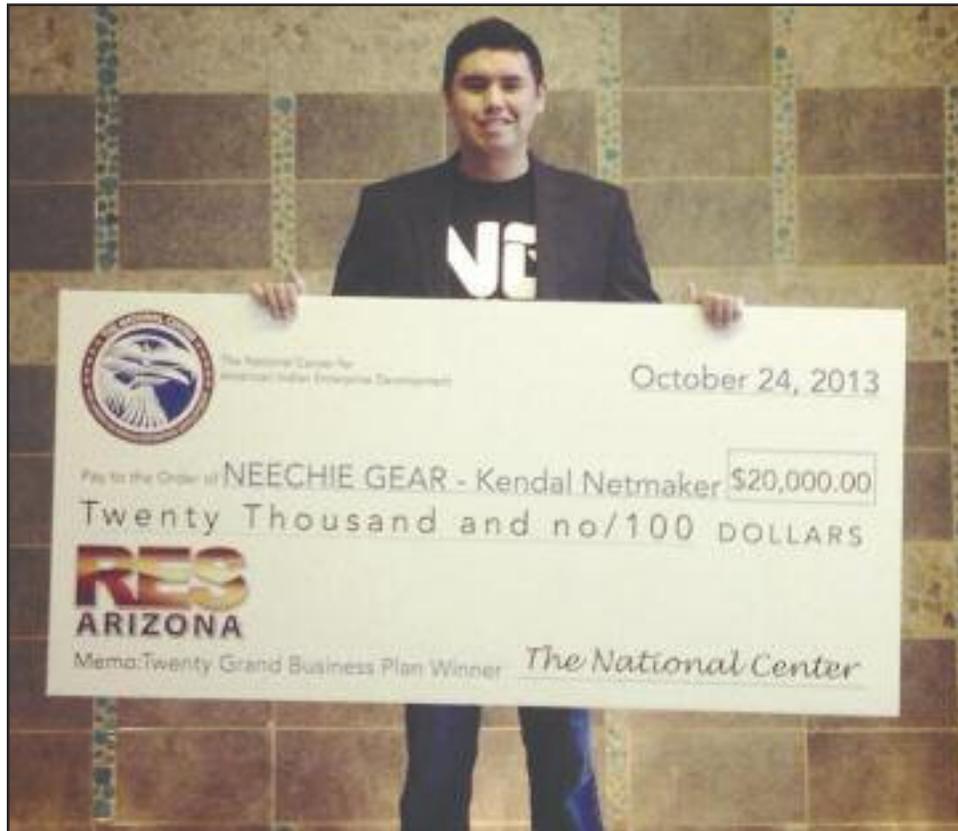
Some of the most exciting young Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan are gathering on Nov. 22 to share their passion for business with young people in the Yorkton area.

The Yorkton Tribal Council, DREAMbuilders Learning Centre and Yorkton Chamber of Commerce will host TransACTIONS conference for youth, at the Gallagher Centre. Targeting high school students who are interested in learning about owning a business and being entrepreneurs, the theme of the conference is "It's About Mo' Money!"

Dale Domres, Yorkton Tribal Council Director of Economic Development, is pleased that young entrepreneurs have been engaged to speak to the students.

"These young entrepreneurs will share with the students their experiences as entrepreneurs and owning businesses," he said. "The students will learn about their successes and stresses as business owners."

The students will also learn about using social media effectively and how social media can be used to market their business. As well, the students will have some fun as they observe a theatre piece



Neechi Gear founder Kendal Netmaker recently won \$20,000 in a business plan competition.
(Photo by Whitney Patterson Photography)

that illustrates common perceptions about teenagers at job interviews and a hip hop artist will perform at noon.

Presenting to the students will be Leanne Bellegarde, Director Aboriginal Strategy for PotashCorp as well as the amazingly successful Kendal

Netmaker of Neechi Gear.

Netmaker, besides running two retail clothing stores he created, just won a \$20,000 business plan competition and was named a University of Saskatchewan Alumni of Influence. Not bad for someone under age 25. Also

joining Netmaker will be Steph Cappo of Steph's Cakes in Regina and Brandi Lee Maxi of Ab Original Health and Fitness. Both ladies finished in the top three of the CBC Boombox competition with Brett Wilson.

Invitations to the conference have been sent to all the First Nations, Catholic and Public High Schools within a 100 km radius of Yorkton. As the students will do business with each other as adults, the organizing committee felt it is important to share some First Nations culture with the students.

"We will have a Grand Entry, complete with a drum group to open the conference and we have invited an Elder to say a prayer," said Juanita Polegi, Executive Director of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

"The committee believes it is important for all students to understand how the First Nations community begins its conferences and business meetings."

At the conclusion of the program, the students will be invited to participate in a project that will encourage them to develop a business idea when they return home.

Some of the best ideas will be showcased at a forum in March.

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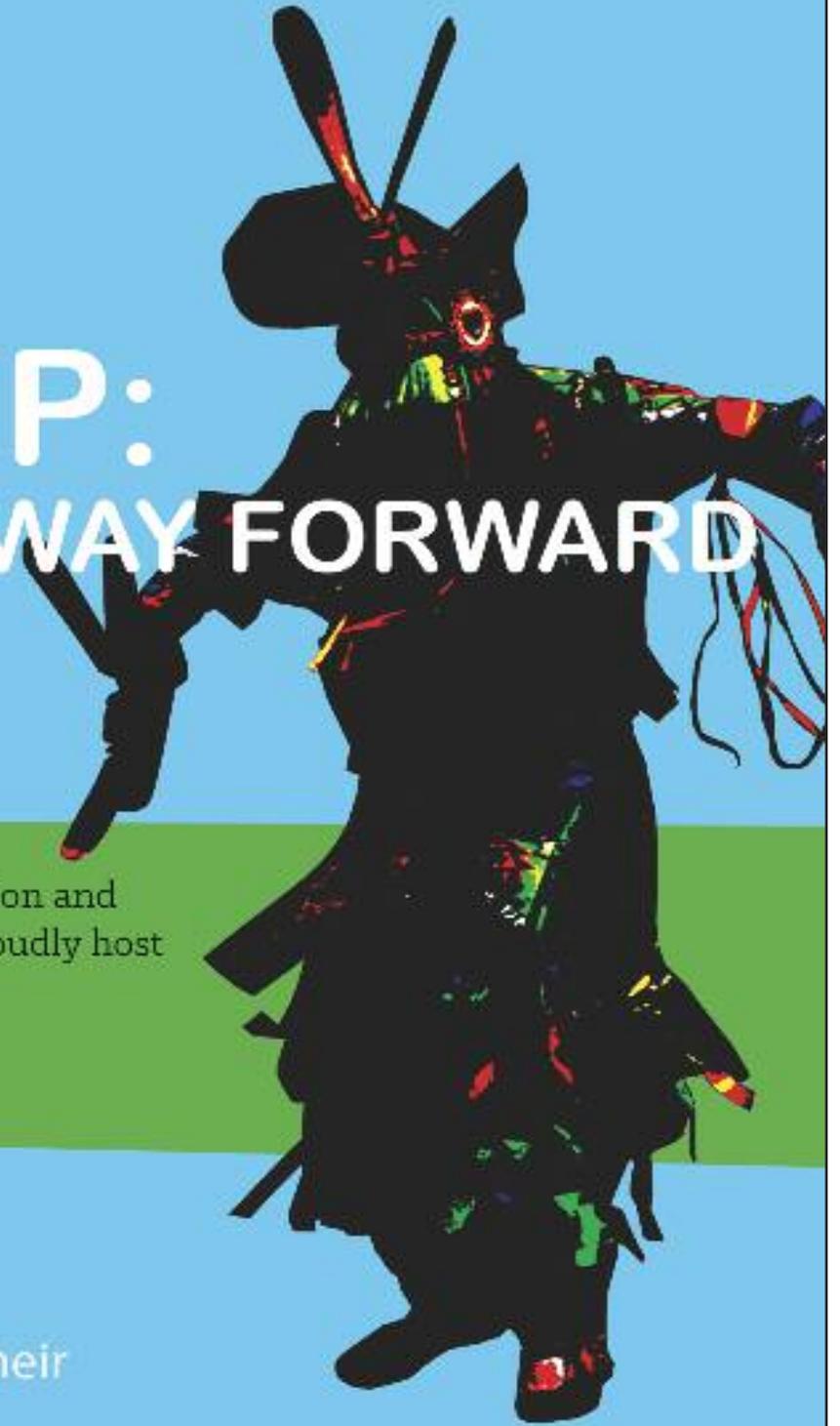
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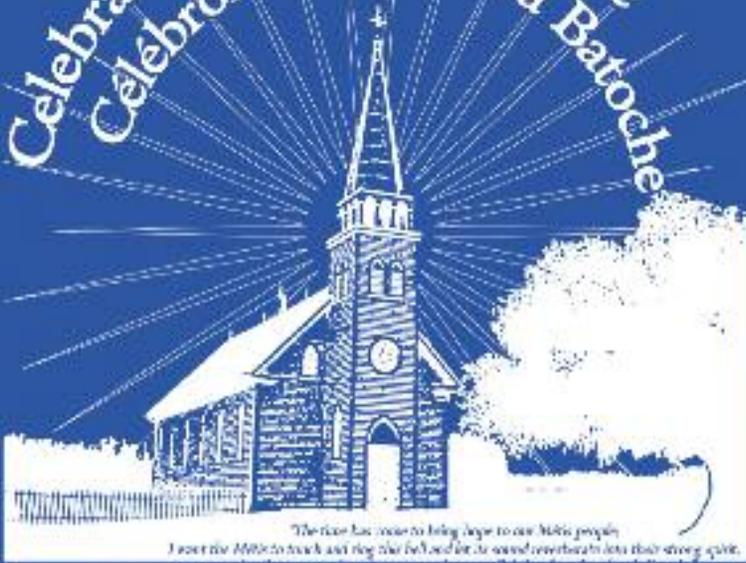
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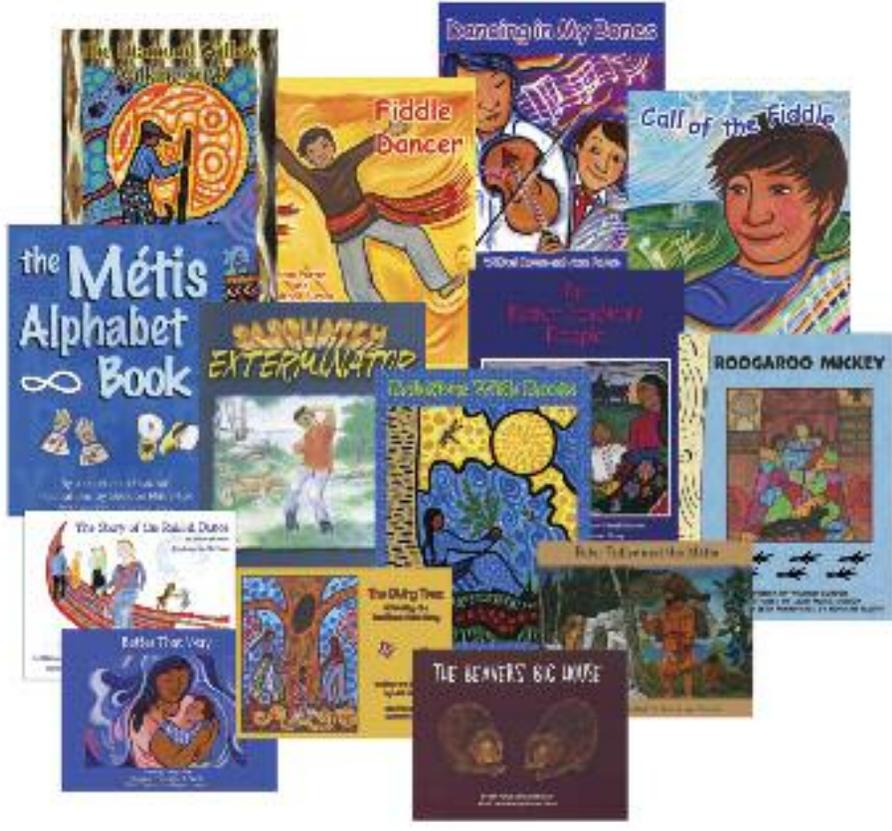
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Teacher Guidebook for GDI Publications
Compiled by Wilfred Burton



Bringing Métis Children's Literature to Life is a guidebook for teachers to support the children's literature published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). The guidebook supports teaching about the Métis and utilize strategies that foster and promote literacy development (listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and representing).

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

Young storyteller overcame his shyness

I get to speak at a lot of schools. Over the years I've given addresses and conducted workshops at elementary schools, high schools, colleges and universities.

It's one of the things I like most about my life as a writer. I mean, readings and other speaking gigs are okay and I like the opportunity to interact with my readers but schools are really special.

I think it's because of all the infectious youthful energy.

But whatever it is, I always come away feeling as though the students gave me a whole lot more than I gave them. It's fascinating because it's not in the rapport we share during the presentation or workshop – it's what's shared in private after.

Once the class is over there are always a handful of students who stick around.

Sometimes they want books signed or they have a question they may have been too shy to ask in class. But sometimes, they have a story they can't wait to tell me.

Just recently a young man came up to me after a presentation I gave on the

power of story to empower us, connect us to the process of our own lives and teach us more than we sometimes

expect. I'd shared a lot of personal stuff. Not only because they make the best stories in the end, but because students really like to hear adults speak openly about themselves.

The kids that day really appreciated my honesty. This kid walked up shyly and shook my hand.

"I liked the story you shared about your grandfather," he said. "It reminded me a lot of my own grandfather and I'd like to share one of my stories with you."

He started to talk and I could see how much this story mattered to him, how much he treasured it and how much he really wanted to tell it.

He was shy at first but gradually opened up to the story and it was fascinating to watch it happen.

His grandfather was his best friend. His father had died when he was very young and his grandfather stepped in to

fill that void in his life. They did everything together. This young man could

not look back at any significant moment in his life and not see his grandfather there. He'd always told him stories. Those stories were about his own life, the

places he'd traveled to, the people he'd met and all of the lessons that he had learned. It was clear they had loved each other very much.

The young man learned a lot from him. He'd learned to fish and hunt, to carve wood and how to take care of his home and the people in it. When his grandfather passed away the young man was as lonely as he'd ever felt. But he chose to hang on to his grandfather's last words to him. "I will always be looking out for you." That's what he had said.

One day while walking home from school a car swerved out of control and came up over the sidewalk. He was only yards from his house. He'd looked up to see the car careening toward him and thought he was done for. He couldn't

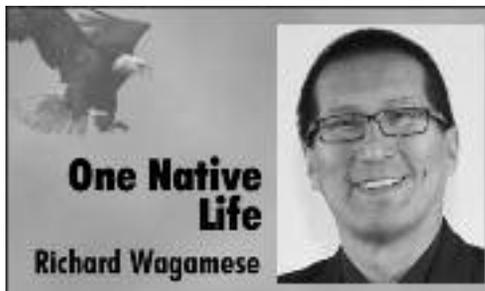
move. It hit him and he flew for about ten yards. But he landed on the grass of a neighbor's yard and suffered only scratches. The car came to a stop against a hydro pole and there was a lot of frenzied activity.

But his stepfather knelt down in front of him and looked deep into his eyes. "I saw a flash of light just when that car hit you," he said. "It was brilliant like an explosion."

That young man believes that flash of light was his grandfather keeping his promise and so do I. The look in his eyes, the tears at their corners, told me how much this story meant to him and it touched me greatly. It took a lot of courage to share a private and personal tale like that. When we shook hands and hugged I could feel his energy and I know that he could feel mine. He walked away, shy once again and I smiled.

The most amazing thing about that story was his total lack of embarrassment at sharing it with me. In those moments he was the adult and I was the child.

We should all share personal stories like that. It would be a better world if we could. That's what I learned from him.



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Moccasin basketball tourney making a comeback

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Ten years ago Kevin Moccasin was stabbed in a fight and died. His friends Mike Tanton and Mike Linklater wanted to do something to honour the avid basketballer and thought there was no better way than a basketball tournament.



The Kevin Moccasin Memorial Tournament ran for four years but has been on hiatus since. Now with the tenth anniversary of his passing coming up, his friends figured it was time to do it again.

“There is a real strong basketball community in Saskatchewan and lots of guys know each other and there are some healthy rivalries out there,” said Mike Tanton, one of the organizers.

“So we figured we would do the tourney again to honour Kevin and just to showcase the great talent around the province.”

Tanton has not gone out and recruited some of the best around for a stacked team, but he did talk to Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson at We Day and he got some inside tips and maybe even some special things for the tournament.

NBA and Los Angeles Lakers legend Earvin Magic Johnson was recently in Saskatoon to speak at We Day. Mike Tanton presented Magic with a classic Neechi Gear T-shirt for his wardrobe. Magic was duly impressed. So was Tanton.

“I gave Magic one of Kendall Netmaker’s Neechi Gear shirts and he was duly impressed. He turned down the offer to come play, but I am going to hit him for some signed memorabilia so maybe some lucky folks at the tourney will get some cool swag.”

The Kevin Moccasin Memorial Tournament runs Nov. 30-Dec. 1 at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon.

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Elder Tony Cote and Regina 2014 North American Indigenous games CEO Glenn Pratt put the call out for volunteers to help run the games. 3,500 people are needed to welcome athletes from across North America to Regina. (Photos by Judy Bird)

Call going out across Saskatchewan for 2014 NAIG volunteers

By Judy Bird
For Eagle Feather News

The 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) is looking for a few good people – 3,500 to be exact – to volunteer at the games and help make them a success. The games are being held in Regina July 20-27.

“The Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games will be the largest indigenous gathering in North America, with more than 5,000 athletes, coaches and support staff coming to the city,” said Glen Pratt, CEO of Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games.

“That doesn’t include the thousands of friends, family members and fans that will be also be coming

along,” Pratt said at a press conference at the First Nations University of Canada.

The games are for athletes aged 13-19. Volunteers can choose their areas of interest and hours of availability. Pratt said it is anticipated that volunteers will work a minimum four hours to an average of 12, and that volunteers will require a criminal record check.

People from all communities and backgrounds are encouraged to sign up.

“It’s not just the First Nations. It’s the farming community, the towns, the hamlets, the Métis locals,” said Pratt.

They are confident that Saskatchewan’s reputation for volunteerism will help them to reach their goal. There are some unique opportunities for volunteers,

and volunteers needed with special skills. Organizers hope to enlist 150 young children as volunteers to take part in the opening ceremonies. They also have a goal of enlisting at least 500 French-speaking volunteers, as well as volunteers who speak Indigenous languages.

“We encourage regions to bring their own elders so they can counsel their own athletes and speak the language. Indigenous languages are going to be a big part of our cultural village,” he said, noting that the Cultural Village will be set up right outside FNUC.

Eight hundred people have already signed up to volunteer for the games. As of October 30, the NAIG website has a form that people can use to sign up.

Visit www.regina2014naig.com for more information and to register as a volunteer.

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Province-wide Boundaries Commission Community Meetings

MN-S is seeking the voice of its citizens on proposed changes to its regional boundaries at a series of community meetings across the province.

Métis citizens are invited to attend a community meeting in their region during November to discuss changes to the governance model and structure options, and how new boundaries need to be defined (e.g., size, location, cost, Métis population). All meetings are from 7 to 10 p.m.

Week 1

Tuesday, Nov. 12	La Ronge	La Ronge Hotel & Suites
Wednesday, Nov. 13	Prince Albert	Parkland Hall, 1510–9 th Avenue
Thursday, Nov. 14	Nipawin	Nipawin Oasis, 504 Railway Avenue West
Friday, Nov. 15	Saskatoon	Travelodge Hotel Saskatoon, 106 Circle Dr. W.

Week 2

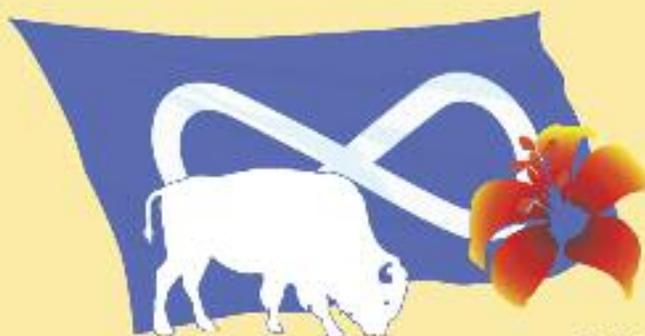
Monday, Nov. 18	Swift Current	Holiday Inn Express, 1301 North Service Rd. E.
Tuesday, Nov. 19	Regina	Wingate by Wyndham, 1700 S Broad Street
Wednesday, Nov. 20	Fort Qu'Appelle	Country Squire Inn, 503 Hudson Avenue
Thursday, Nov. 21	Yorkton	Ramada Yorkton, 100 Broadway St. East

Week 3

Monday, Nov. 25	La Loche	La Loche Friendship Centre
Tuesday, Nov. 26	Buffalo Narrows	B.N. Curling Club, Tom Street
Wednesday, Nov. 27	Île-à-la-Crosse	Entertainment Centre
Thursday, Nov. 28	Meadow Lake	Meadow Lake Legion, 109–1 st Street W
Friday, Nov. 29	North Battleford	Indian & Métis Friendship Centre, 960–103 St.

For more information, contact Tyler Fetch, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs:

Toll-free — 1-888-203-6959



Métis Nation
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231 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8
Tel: 306-343-8285 Fax: 306-343-0170 www.mn-s.ca