

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Young MMA fighter off to U.S

Leah Ann Prosper and her family are raising money so the mighty MMA fighter can attend an international competition in Florida.

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)



### Nine-year-old competing in Florida championship

By Jeanelle Mandes  
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Leah Ann Prosper, nine-year-old from Regina, has been involved in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) going on seven years.

All those years of training are finally paying off with her skills gaining her entry to compete for the first time in the international mixed martial arts championship in Orlando, Florida this summer.

She says she is excited to compete at the U.S Open ISKA World Martial Arts Championship coming up July 3 and 4.

“I feel kind of scared but I know that I can try my hardest,” says Prosper who is hoping to bring home two trophies.

She says when she’s not training at Spirit of the Dragon, her dad Jason Prosper works with her at home.

“We spar, we do my forms and my dad throws a ball at me and I have to dodge it,” Prosper explains her father’s training techniques outside the training centre.

“My dad wanted me to learn how to defend myself just in case,” says Prosper.

The young MMA fighter, who is in Grade 4, says her friends are proud of her reaching this far with a sport she loves doing.

“Lots of them are proud and excited for me to go,” she adds.

Prosper trains three times a week at Spirit of the Dragon and almost two hours at home. Sarah Prosper, mother of the young fighter, says when Leah was born, her husband wanted to get her into this sport.

“As soon as we found out she was a girl, the very first thing he said is to get her into martial arts,” says mother.

The proud parents have been waiting for this time to come for Leah to reach further in her dream.

“I’m very excited, I just can’t wait,” she says.

The Prosper family is currently fundraising to reach their goal of \$10,000 to attend the championship in Florida.

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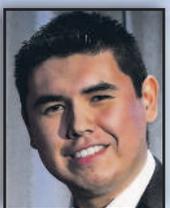
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Welcome to our  
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CPMA #40027204

# Working to get the Aboriginal vote out for federal election

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Two Saskatoon women are doing their part to try and encourage as many Aboriginal people as possible to vote in the 2015 federal election.

Melody Wood and Glenda Abbott are the key organizers in a volunteer group called Indigenous Vote Saskatchewan 2015.

The two say they have been spurred into action by legislative changes brought in by the Harper government which a number of critics believe will make it harder for Indigenous people to participate in the next federal election.

Amongst the changes are stricter requirements on voters to prove their address through proper documentation at polling stations such as presenting a driver's licence.

Gone is the practice of vouching, where one person could vouch for another's location in order for them to vote.

Vouching was a common practice on First Nations reserves where a number of residents often don't have formal street addresses.

Abbott says the new changes have the potential to negatively impact a number of Aboriginal voters.

"If you look at low income populations in general, getting an ID and filling

out forms and having \$25 for your birth certificate and \$10 for your SGI card and all of these things – jumping through all of these hoops in your everyday life – it can be overwhelming," she says.

people the identification requirements they will need to meet in order to participate in the federal election.

Wood says the situation they want to avoid is Aboriginal voters going to the

"The most heartbreaking stories that I hear are the elders who found a ride, go where they needed to go to make a vote and then they get turned away and they don't understand why," she says.

"They're crushed because they made it out and then they get turned away and it's a hard thing to explain to them."

She adds that aside from informing Indigenous voters about the changes, they also want to encourage Aboriginal people to vote strategically for the candidate and party they feel best represents their interests.

"We just want to hopefully encourage people to vote in a block based on the best candidate that they feel, or we feel, will best represent our issues per electoral district," she says.

Abbott says this is why they feel Indigenous Vote is an issues based rather than a partisan organization.

"A true non-partisan would be getting people informed on all of the parties whether it is Conservative, Green, Liberal or NDP," she says.

"We really want people to know – even right now you can say the Conservatives – but do people really know what their policies are?"

Although vouching has been done away with, voters living on reserve can use a letter from their First Nation confirming their location in order to vote.



**Glenda Abbott and Melody Wood would like to see a higher percentage of Aboriginal voters show up at the polls in the next federal election.**

Indigenous Vote 2015 is using a social media campaign and organizing meetings across the province to inform Aboriginal

polls fully expecting to vote and being turned away because they lack the proper identification requirements.

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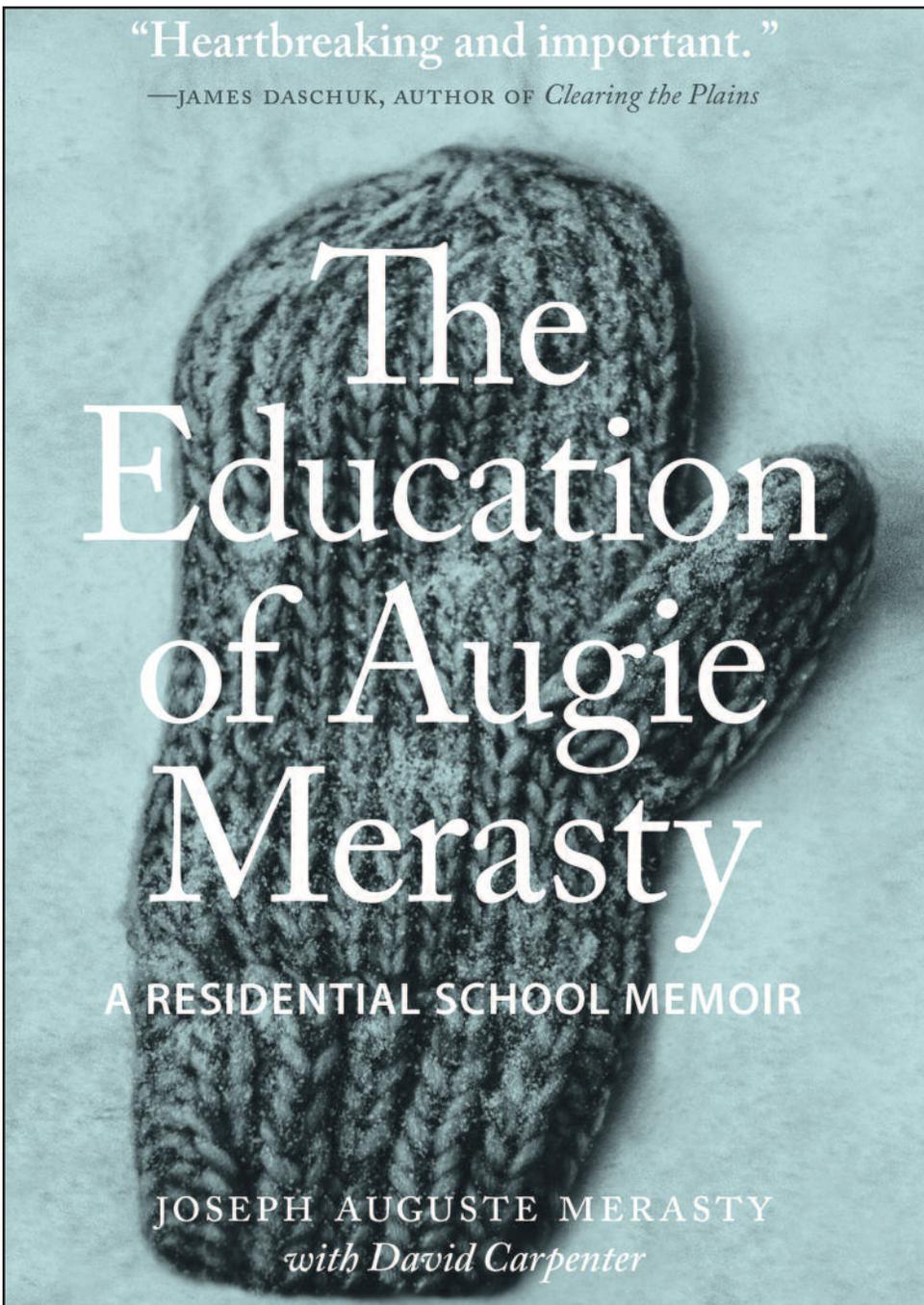
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# Augie's heartbreaking story helping family to understand

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

The residential school policies of the Government of Canada not only decimated the culture of First Nation people, it also left many with poor physical and mental health.

As the community recovers from the trauma, many different ways of healing have emerged. Many people are now finding that telling their story helps them become better.

Augustus Merasty is one of them. And more than tell his story, he wrote a book. *The Education of Augie Merasty* by Joseph Augustus Merasty, with David Carpenter, was just released by University of Regina Press, and is one man's exploration of the Indian Residential School legacy.

Augie Merasty currently lives in Prince Albert, and as David Carpenter shared, "As far as his health goes, Augie had a lot to say. Until about 2008, he was a vigorous man. He continued to hunt, ice-fish and walk many miles up around Birch Portage. In 2006, Augie went on a public tirade against cigarette smoking. He wrote me about it, concluding, 'Last summer I walked 34 miles between rides before getting to Prince Albert, a total of 17-18

hours. But I made it. Would a smoker do that?'"

Augie is now 83. His health has been constantly impacted by the school experience and yet he was determined to share his story.

His daughter Arlene explained he began writing around 2000, adding to it for over a decade. But alcohol was also a part of the Indian Residential School legacy, noted Arlene.

"My dad is like a cat with nine lives. He almost died quite a few times during this period of writing his memoir from being beaten up on the streets of Prince Albert to almost freezing downtown where ... they literally had to saw his cowboy boots off they were so frozen to his feet.

"He is a very tough old fellow and the doctor said anyone else would have died."

In his mid-70s, he fell off the roof of a cabin he was building in Birch Portage, which remained unfinished. He also lost some writing along with his illustrations – he is a talented artist as well – but persevered.

"He wrote this memoir to show people the unbelievable atrocities suffered by so many Indigenous people and in

hope that others would come forward to tell their stories of what happened in the residential schools," noted Arlene, adding that he began his memoir long before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission or anyone else had really come forward, but was relieved when others began the process.

"He was so ashamed and embarrassed about the things he went through but felt it was time to tell his story because he was already in his seventies and felt he didn't have much time left."

While he did experience some healing in sharing his writing, he has spent a lifetime suppressing the memories with alcohol, so most of all he hopes his memoir helps others heal.

"The healing has begun for me too," notes Arlene, adding that she hopes the memoir reaches her siblings in the same way. For her it explained a lot of the suffering stemming from his residential school experiences.

"I know now why he did the things he

did. I cried and laughed while reading his memoir, and I can see clearly now ... my heart and soul are mending."

She adds that her dad is happy that his story is being told, despite now suffering from cancer and dementia.

"I know he wanted more people to come forward because it really does heal a person to get any burden off your mind. The less stress a person has the healthier you are, it's a real fact," she observed.

"Forgive yourselves and start living a good life. We should never forget the past, but at the same time it's better to look forward to the future and be better parents, grandparents, and guardians to our children.

"They learn and copy everything we do. Eat healthy, think happy thoughts, and thank the universe every day for what you have, no matter how little you think you have. You already have it now if you woke up this morning and are breathing. Amazing things happen to good-hearted and happy people."



Left to right: Steve Compton, Interim Executive Director, Food Banks of Saskatchewan and CEO, Regina Food Bank; Laurie O'Connor, Executive Director, Saskatoon Food Bank; Jochen Tilk, President and Chief Executive Officer, PotashCorp.

## More than three million reasons to say thanks

This holiday season, people from across the province gave generously to support their local food banks. With your help – and a \$1 million contribution from PotashCorp – we raised more than \$3 million that will help feed hungry people in Saskatchewan and provide the fuel to help them reach their potential.

Healthy food is a first step toward building better lives for many people and their families. Your support will help them succeed.

Thanks to you – and PotashCorp – we are feeding our communities today and providing hope for the future.

Thank you, Saskatchewan.



# We had a lot of help getting this unhealthy

There is no arguing that the current state of the health of the Aboriginal community is a national shame.

Unfortunately Aboriginal people have the worst health indicators in Canada. We lead in a variety of statistics including diabetes, suicide, violent death and child mortality.

These tragic circumstances did not arise over night. The Government of Canada has used the Indian Act and racism to subjugate our people since confederation.

As pointed out by University of Regina Professor James Daschuck in his excellently researched book, *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*, the Government of Canada had a starvation policy where they withheld promised Treaty rations as a way to starve the First Nations into settling onto reserves.

A weakened people had no choice but to toe the line, hunker down and just survive during an era where death tolls were high on reserves. Those that survived were then sentenced to over 100 years of the genocidal policy of the Indian Residential schools.

The impact of these schools is still reverberating throughout the community.

The harm done in those schools is vast. Starvation again. Medical experiments. Exposure to diseases and high death rates were the norm. And then there was the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional and, yes, sexual abuse heaped upon thousands of innocent, defenceless children.

Once adults, these survivors buried their fear, shame and self-loathing in drugs, alcohol and self-abuse.

Augie Merasty was no different. In his book *The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir*, Augie bares his soul as a way of healing. Reading excerpts from the book, one wonders how Augie even made it to his 80s.

According to Augie, he sustained a minimum of 500 severe beatings or lashings in his time in these horror chambers. He was also sexually abused by priests and a nun. He buried his pain in alcohol, an addiction that saw his body abused again and again.

And life as a person on the street riddled with addiction is not pretty. Violence is everywhere and peril is around every corner.

The schools are closed now but the experience still impacts people who

This syndrome winds up seeing many Aboriginal people interact with the health care system, of which we are the highest users on a per capita basis.

So you would think that we as a people would find solace and help in this health care system.

Think again. The Wellesley Institute, a Toronto-based health research and policy group has released a damning report on racism within Canada's health-care system.

The report reads, "that racism against Indigenous peoples in the health-care system is so pervasive that people strategize around anticipated racism before visiting the emergency department or, in some cases, avoid care altogether."

Sound familiar? How many people have had to make a plan for someone to

Why don't you? I asked him. "Because you look white," he said. "They will listen to you."

The reality slapped me in my face. My friend knew that my white skin privilege inherited from my mom would make it easier.

It actually didn't that time because damage was done and security guards were swarming. It was ugly. And tragic. And totally unnecessary. But unfortunately that is the situation many of our people find themselves in.

So, without that trust, without the safety net of a health care system that is supposed to pick you up and help make you whole again what is a person to do? The despair deepens.

The good news is that this issue is out in the open now. The problem has been spelled out in black and white and champions are calling for change. As we speak health regions are trying to train their employees in culturally responsive care giving.

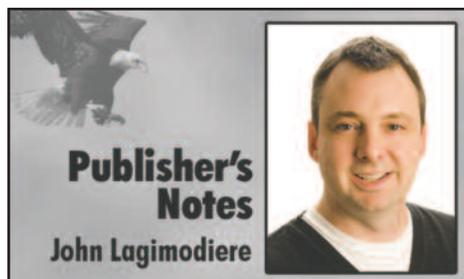
There are First Nation run hospitals and health centres. Innovative and responsive health delivery systems are being created and people are encouraging each other to be better.

Judge David Arnot, the Commissioner of the Saskatchewan

Human Rights Commission has this pressing issue on his radar: "Really, it's a huge problem in Saskatchewan. It can't be denied. It can't be understated," he said.

Expect a full investigation by his commission and hopefully that will bring change.

Unfortunately it can't happen fast enough. Trauma doesn't wait.



## First Peoples, Second Class Treatment

The role of racism in the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples in Canada



attended those schools. After reading the book, you can understand his pain and how he dealt with it. But Augie's pain also affected his children. And their children. But his was not the only family affected.

This has led to mental health issues and poor overall health and lots of trauma in our communities. Just go visit any emergency room in Saskatchewan. The proof is right there.

accompany a relative to visit the doctor or the emergency room? Most Canadians don't have to do that but I know many that do.

During a crisis once at an emergency room, a distraught friend (he was a survivor of the '60's scoop and his wife barely survived Gordon's Indian Residential School) asked me to go speak to the nurse for them.

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# A clean story about my passion for laundry chores

I love doing laundry, but trust me, this does not make me some kind of jolly, apple-cheeked hausfrau.

Of all the household activities that one can attempt, laundry is the only activity I can do competently. Cleaning is beyond me: my apartment looks like the 1930s Dust Bowl just rolled through, and the last time I made bannock my boyfriend actually asked a friend's wife to come to my house and give me cooking lessons.

To add insult to injury, she's Ukrainian.

But laundry has some kind of magical hold on me – I love doing it and I'm kind of good at it.

My earliest laundry memories are of helping my mom carry out colourful plastic baskets of laundry into the backyard. Then she would plug in the white metal washer that sat in the middle of the backyard in a slight puddle from our last laundry session.

In retrospect, this setup was pretty much a recipe for electrocution. Once certain death was evaded and the washer was turned on, it rocked our laundry back and forth while emitting a soothing smell of soap and yeast.

Then, after our clothes were boiled like potatoes and drained, mom would efficiently slide the clothing through the two rollers to get most of the water out. The rollers were ceramic and strong enough to turn coal into diamonds (too bad we were too poor to afford coal.)

About those rollers: if you grew up on a reserve, I'm sure you have at least one cousin who got a finger, wrist or other appendage stuck between them. My cousin, Carla, was the first one to sprain her arm. She



claims she was helping her mom strain out the socks and that the machine just sucked her hand in as if it were possessed.

We figured that Carla was full of shit about having a haunted washer, so our cousin Lorraine put her hand near the rollers and soon we had our proof in the form of Lorraine's sprained wrist. What can I say? My cousins and I were very scientific thinkers.

Then after the laundry was no longer dripping wet but still damp, mom would carry it over to the clothesline. With the help of some very bitey clothespins, our laundry would wave in the Saskatchewan wind soaking up the flavours of fresh cut grass, wildflowers and sewer gas from the nearby septic tank.

When winter came, mom headed down to the valley with black plastic bags of laundry stuffed into our trunk and sometimes in the car competing for space with us five kids, if we'd waited a bit too long between laundry days. At the laundramat, we would claim the majority of the washing machines.

People arriving after would give us dirty looks and we would shrug – what could we do? We were a big family and we got dirty – so sue us.

When we ran out of quarters or soap, we knocked on the door of the laundry owners, a wraith-thin man and his just as bony wife. They never smiled (owning a laundramat is a dirty, cutthroat business, I suspect). They would wordlessly hand us what we needed and then close the door without even listening to our suggestions that they get better candy machines and maybe even an arcade game!

Laundry was a girl's job but I didn't mind because I enjoyed the work. However the feminist in me forced me to protest to my mom that our brother never helped (not sure what he was doing while we were all working, probably staring out the window wishing that he had a brother or that he was deaf.)

My mom decided that wasn't fair and so she made my brother do all the folding on one laundry day. My sisters and I ran around town for half an hour and bought as much stuff as a dollar can buy you (a surprising amount when you add it to the other five dollars that you stole from the laundry money.)

When we returned, we found our brother proudly standing in front of stacks of clothing. He'd folded everything neatly, even our bras, which we normally just stuffed in the laundry bag. There was something so creepifying about seeing our breast cups stuffed inside one another, the straps neatly curled inside of them, that he was never asked to help again.

Now I live inside a condo with ensuite laundry and my love affair with laundry continues. There is nothing like pulling warm fresh-smelling clothing from the dryer – it really covers up the smell of burned food.

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# Picking nits

This month I finish my (tongue-in-cheek) harangue on proper English usage.

I copy the examples that I gave last month and stick in comments within the space available to me. I am not an English language expert but this is the English I learned from French-speaking missionary nuns in school so it has to be correct, right?

1. Here is an offending newspaper headline: Dutch dominance in long track speed skating begs the question, where's Canada?

What the writer meant was 'raises the question'.

The phrase 'begs the question' only makes sense if there is a question at issue in the first place.

To 'beg the question' is a problem of formal logic. A statement is made where the reason for the conclusion is not valid. The statement has a premise that is not supported in the argument being presented.

2. What will be the impact of more skating lessons on Canada's chances to win a gold medal?

'Impact' is for car accidents and wisdom teeth.

The term is being used as a general cover-up for people's inability to distinguish between the words 'effects' and 'affects'.

Even the Supreme Court of Canada from which we have a right to expect exemplary language has adopted it willy-nilly.

3. The notorious Bill C 33 or First Nation Education Act 2014.

(4) The director of education, the principal, the council of the First Nation, the First Nation Education Authority, if the school is administered by such an Authority, and their employees must provide all reasonable assistance to enable the school inspector to perform their functions.

This literally means that all these folks will be required to hand over their jobs to the school inspector and then help him do all their work.

I speculate the problem is an 'English-challenged' draftsman trying to avoid using 'his or her'.

If one is so timorous as to fear the gender of words the obvious grammatical solution is to use the plural form for the noun.

Sloppy legal drafting invites chicanery and litigation and sucks up taxpayers' money.

4. We have to be inclusive eh?

What on earth does 'inclusive'

mean unless properly explained? The term appears everywhere, like a fill-in when a speaker's mind goes blank. Few people would wish to be 'inclusive' by spreading their winter colds to family or handing out their private fortunes to strangers.

5. For this recipe you may use apples and/or oranges. Or a worse version of the same problem: When using these ingredients you may mix/mash/cut them into little pieces.

The dreaded forward slash, neither word nor phrase, simply will not go away. Its effect is to bring two or more words bumping uneasily against each other, indicating a confusion of the mind. It is so easy to rewrite

your sentence to explain if you mean this or that or both.

6. Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act which came into force in January 2011.

Bill C-3 (the McIvor amendment to the Indian Act) had 'gender equity' in its title even though there is no such thing as 'gender' or 'equity' in the Constitution.

The Charter contains rights relating to 'sex equality'. The term 'sex' which is for boys and girls, has been abolished in favour of 'gender' which refers to words to describe things masculine or feminine.

Use Cree if you want to avoid gender!

7. And what do you think we should do about the problem going forward?

Is this phrase about time, as 'in the future'? Or about geography, as in 'we will move forward not backward'?

8. Let us grow our business enterprise!

We can grow wheat. We can watch our children grow. But you cannot grow a business. You can make a business grow.

9. It is a Canadian virtue to promote diversity.

What is the argument for the idea that diversity is an absolute and unmitigated good? This is the way it is often used.

When asserted this way it applies to everything, measles and moles as well as good things.

The term should always be used with an explanation, and not used as a cover for vexed policy issues such as multiculturalism.

Oh, one last thing. In hockey there is a 'faceoff': not a 'puck drop'!!

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**Comment**  
**Paul Chartrand**

# Save the Date!

## March 26, 2015

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# St. Frances students learning the legal ropes

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Let’s face it. Lots of Aboriginal kids wind up in court on the wrong side of the banister and are over represented in correctional facilities.

One strategy to divert young people from interacting in a negative way with these institutions is to teach them about the system. About 40 students from grades 6 to 8 at St. Frances School in Saskatoon recently had the opportunity to participate in a mock drug trafficking trial. It’s part of a program to help aboriginal students learn more about law and consider it as a future career.

The students began the Dare to Dream program in November, meeting weekly with University of Saskatchewan law students. After learning the basics of the Canadian legal system they started preparing for the mock trial that was to be presided over by provincial court Judge Gerald Morin, a Cree speaker from the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

“It’s an empowering program for the students,” says Theresa Laroque, vice-principal at St. Frances. “It is inspiring some of them to pursue the field of law.”

During the trial, the elementary school students played various roles, including prosecutor, defence lawyer, juror and witness. Calista, a Grade 6 student at St Frances was one of the defense lawyers.

“The best part was getting to stand up and be the



Defense lawyer Calista presented her case as her colleague Isabelle Sutherland Scott and lawyer Kelsey O’Brien look on.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

defense lawyer for the accused. I was a little bit nervous but got comfortable when I spoke,” said Calista as the jury was out pondering the fate of the accused drug dealer “Jamie Hendry” who was played by her fellow student Isagani.

“I thought a long time ago that I wanted to be a lawyer and I know I need to get a great education. We practiced in the class a lot so I got used to it. It is something to try and do. It was fun.”

This is the first time Saskatchewan students have participated in Dare to Dream, which is organized by Canadian Lawyers Abroad, a group created by lawyers to improve lives in Canada and abroad. It is progress that Judge Morin is more than happy to see.

“I want to commend the organizers of this program. The justice system is for all of us and for these students to have this type of exposure in a positive atmosphere is very valuable,” said Judge Morin. “I am thankful for the opportunity to be involved.”

Kelsey O’Brien is a lawyer with a year of practice under her belt. The law firm she works at, McKercher, allowed her to volunteer her time in the exercise. She had as much fun as the students.

“I loved it. I loved working with the kids and I think

it was fun for everyone. We got to show them something new,” she added.

The long term goals of the program include increasing the number of Aboriginal youth succeeding in school and graduating from high school and increasing the number of Aboriginal youth becoming leaders in their communities and schools.

They also want to increase the number of Aboriginal youth pursuing justice-related careers and decrease the number of Aboriginal youth involved in the justice

system as subjects.

Any progress on those fronts would be good news to Judge Morin. Originally from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Morin always knew he was going to be a lawyer and when he first attained his goal, there were only five First Nation lawyers across Canada. Now, he says, there are over 1,000.

“It is so important to have our people understand this system and for the young students to see it in a positive light,” said Morin. “And the best part of this is how seriously the students were. You could tell they wanted to do a good job.”

And, by the way, the jury found the defendant “Not Guilty.”

**“The best part was getting to stand up and be the defense lawyer for the accused” – Calista**



Judge Gerald Morin with his clerk Madison Pahtayken.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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# Report details racism in health system

## *Topic is priority of Sask. Human Rights Commission*

By Angela Hill  
For Eagle Feather News

The questions were asked quickly and loudly: what drugs are you on, what are you taking at home?

Rob McCallum was in the hospital with chest pain and initially health staff couldn't figure out why. While he was waiting for results from the first set of tests, there was a shift change and another health-care worker came in.

"She kept going and didn't even give me a chance to talk," he said. "I was so angry, but I didn't say anything."

He believes the person was making assumptions because he is aboriginal.

Stories like these are ones that Dr. Janet Smylie has seen and heard throughout her career.

"I would hear people making assumptions about aboriginal people, like a teaching point of a resident was 'these people have a lot of babies and don't know how to care for them,'" she said.

Smylie and Dr. Billie Allan co-authored the recently-released First Peoples, Second Class Treatment report, that details racism within the health-care system in Canada.

It was published by the Wellesley Institute, a Toronto-based health research and policy group.

The report reads, "that racism against Indigenous peoples in the health-care system is so pervasive that people strategize around anticipated racism before visiting the emergency department or, in some cases, avoid care altogether."

A study example was Brian Sinclair, the 45-year-old who died of a treatable bladder infection in an emergency room waiting area of a Winnipeg hospital.

There are more examples Smylie can give, including the man in Iqaluit who was thrown in jail when he was having a stroke because police thought he was drunk.

"Those are the faulty logic things where people have stereotypes in their brain and then they make a wrong diagnosis," Smylie said.

Discrimination is a far-too-common problem in Saskatchewan, according to chief commissioner with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, David Arnot.

"We hear a lot of stories from

people who have experienced discrimination in the health system, we have a lot of anecdotal evidence. We know it is a serious problem. Really, it's a huge problem in Saskatchewan. It can't be denied. It can't be understated," he said.

It is systemic discrimination that needs to be fixed by systemic advocacy, he said, and something the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission is making a priority. Arnot said he has met with Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation's chief Kimberly Jonathan and they share this focus.

The human rights commission is creating a plan, and Arnot said it will move to action during the next fiscal year.

"Everybody in the health-care system does not want to be tarred with the brush of having a system that they work in that's in fact discriminant on a systemic basis. We know that," he said.

"We also know that we need to work with them so that they have the tools and there are policies in place, so that people can make the right decision at the right time and not be seen to be, or perceived to be discriminatory."

He said there are prominent members of the health community that are involved and want to do "social context education," addressing racism, gender discrimination and aboriginal culture values.

Saskatoon family doctor and health-equity advocate, Ryan Meili, said there is increasing training and conversation around these issues, but more needs to happen.

"I've witnessed ... people getting mistreated or spoken badly about because of their background, because of their race, because of the colour of their skin and it's really inappropriate," he said.

There needs to be more research into the area, he said. There needs to be questions asked, why is it happening, when does it happen, do health-care providers have enough time to provide a high quality of care, have they heard stories from people who have been discriminated against?

Smylie also said the research has only just begun.

"Unfortunately in Canada because we are so in denial, we are not asking about racism or tracking it," she said.

Her study does point out that there are some promising responses. Smylie gives the example of an aboriginal-

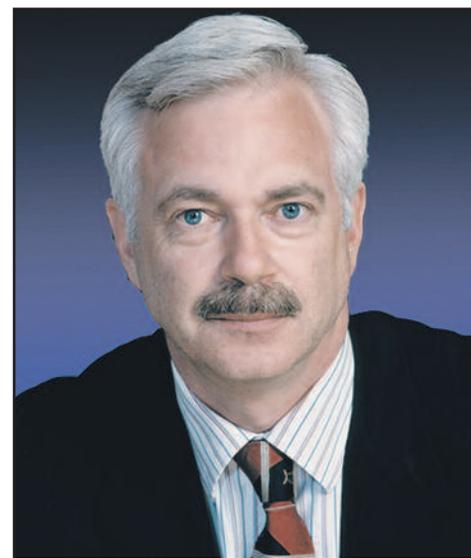
focused birth centre in Toronto.

Meili points to SWITCH and Westside community clinic in Saskatoon, where he said there is intentional attention to local cultures.

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region has developed a half-day aboriginal awareness training workshop, which all employees attend. It teaches treaty understanding, myths and misconceptions, representative workforce information and employer relations, said Michele Vogt, executive director of human resources.

The best care possible needs to include the recognition of cultural and spiritual needs, said Cecile Hunt, the CEO of the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region. She said they have done a few things to support quality care, including working to support the use of sweet grass.

"(There) is a collaboration between First Nations health-system providers and our own staff especially at the community level trying to provide care as close to home as possible."



DAVID ARNOT

But it appears there is still some way to go – when Arnot read the Wellesley report, he said he found it to confirm their Saskatchewan evidence.

"It appears that ... Aboriginal people do not access the health care system to the extent that they should, or could, or need to, based on feeling that they won't be treated fairly," he said.

"That is an element that is very worthy of noting," because it is a consequent that hasn't been discussed much.



City of  
Saskatoon

GROWINGforward!  
Shaping Saskatoon

## Is Saskatoon ready for half a million people?

Join us in person or online at [www.growingfwd.ca](http://www.growingfwd.ca) from February 25 to March 18 to provide your input on the proposed **Growth Plan to Half a Million** including long-term plans and implementation priorities for:

- a new transit system with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT);
- a new river crossing at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and BRT lanes on the University Bridge; and,
- changes to how we live, work and play along our major corridors.

### Have your say!

#### Main Event | Growth Plan Focused Discussions

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

TCU Place, 35 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East

Daytime Session: Noon to 2 p.m.

Evening Session: 6 to 8 p.m.

Mark your  
calendars!

#### Growth Plan Campus Consultation

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

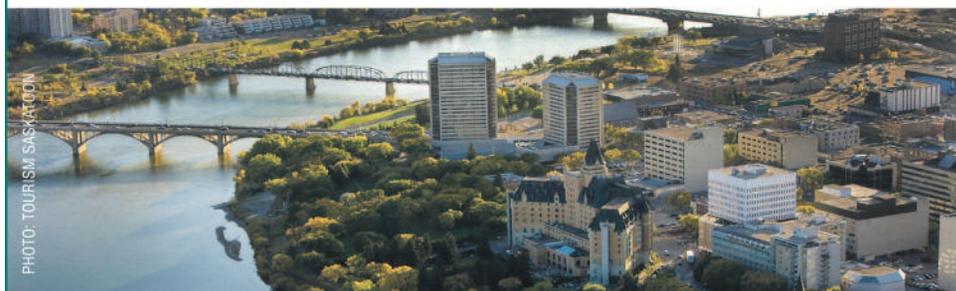
Louis' Loft, 93 Campus Drive

3 to 5 p.m.

#### Online Survey

February 25 to March 18, 2015

[www.growingfwd.ca](http://www.growingfwd.ca)



Learn more and get involved at [www.growingfwd.ca](http://www.growingfwd.ca)



# High food costs eating into family budget in the North

By Jeanelle Mandes  
For Eagle Feather News

High food costs in northern communities inspired the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce to study the issue. Recently, the Chamber released the Northern Business Task Force with a number of recommendations.

Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, says the food costs in the North are expensive depending on the product.

"It can be crazy expensive, for example, a jug of milk can be as much as \$16-18 dollars," says McLellan.

"Food is more expensive and it's harder to get in terms of fresh produce simply because it's an extra day to get it that far north," he adds.

McLellan says Nutrition North, a federal government program subsidizes the kilogram costs of food being shipped north. Depending on the community, the program ships primary foods such as milk, dairy and cheeses to name a few.

There's a per kilogram discount which varies depending on the community. McLellan says this is a program that should be implemented across Canada. Saskatchewan has the lowest subsidy rates and he thinks the North should be eligible for higher rates.

"(The Northern Food subsidy) is not working very well for Saskatchewan and

the reason its eligibility for a community is based on that community or suppliers use of what they call Food Mail Program a previous federal government program," says McLellan.

Many Saskatchewan community stores did not use it because the products were not being shipped properly. McLellan says the Northern



(CTV News graphic)

Saskatchewan communities are being unfairly treated because the criteria to use the previous program should have no merit on the need to have food subsidy, it should be on the remoteness of the community.

"Food is a critical element of life, good food means healthy children, healthy adults, and children will be able to focus on their education and adults will be able to focus better by focusing on their families," says McLellan.

"The cost of food up north means there is less available on a family budget and it often means the food is not as good

products. Most northern grocery stores put a low profit markup because they know that families need it.

Scott Hales, owner of Scott's General Store in Stony Rapids in northern Saskatchewan, says the extra costs comes from freight because it costs money to ship food to his store.

"The quality of goods when (the food) gets here, a lot of times produce gets thrown away because there's damage and people don't like to buy it. All those costs are still incurred in the goods when it's here," says Hales.

Hales will have owned his store for 30 years in August and says there was a food mail program in the past but it didn't work because the post offices didn't have freezers and coolers to handle the food that were supposed to be shipped through a food mill system.

Hales says because of that, they don't sell a lot of the fresh produce in his store since it is so expensive. He says he would like to see some improvement with the freight subsidy.

"I would like to see freight subsidy program revised so it will work and whoever is setting up the food subsidy program should ask a few questions to the retailers that do sell groceries in the North and find out a system that will work," says Hales.

as others. Without good quality foods, families suffer. It makes no sense that we're seeing this happen in Northern Saskatchewan," he adds.

He says the retailers up north do a good job recognizing the value of some

art  
is for  
everyone

## Arts Board Deadlines

The Saskatchewan Arts Board announces the following deadlines for applications to programs that support the work of Saskatchewan artists and arts organizations:

**Independent Artists**  
March 15, 2015

**Indigenous Pathways Initiative – Grants to Artists**  
April 15, 2015

**Creative Partnerships – Artist in Residence\***  
May 15, 2015

**Premier's Centennial Arts Scholarship**  
May 15, 2015

For applications, visit: [www.artsboard.sk.ca/grants](http://www.artsboard.sk.ca/grants)

**APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL  
MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE  
DEADLINE DATE UNLESS OTHERWISE  
INDICATED.**

(306) 787-4056 (Regina)  
(306) 964-1155 (Saskatoon)  
(800) 667-7526 (Toll-free)  
[grants@artsboard.sk.ca](mailto:grants@artsboard.sk.ca)  
[www.artsboard.sk.ca](http://www.artsboard.sk.ca)

\*Funded in part through  
the financial assistance of  
SaskCulture Inc., with  
funding from  
Saskatchewan Lotteries  
Trust Fund for Sport,  
Culture and Recreation.

**SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD:  
CULTIVATING AN ENVIRONMENT  
IN WHICH THE ARTS THRIVE FOR  
THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE IN  
SASKATCHEWAN**



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) has granted Provincial Métis Housing Corporation to be the Community Entity who will administer the Saskatchewan Non-Designated Aboriginal Funding Stream. This Request for Proposals will solicit applications specific to HPS to meet the needs of homeless and people at imminent risk of homelessness in the province of Saskatchewan.

The total amount of funding available is \$987,515 under the HPS Non-Designated Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream, to fund projects between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

**The closing date for receiving applications is February 27th, 2015, by 4:00 PM at the following address:**  
Provincial Métis Housing Corp.  
231 Robin Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8

For an application package or more information, contact:  
Tenille Thomson  
Email: [tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net](mailto:tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net)  
Phone: (306) 343-8240 or  
toll free 1-844-396-7933

## APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS

Le gouvernement du Canada Stratégie des partenariats de lutte contre l'itinérance (SPLI) a accordé le Provincial Métis Housing à être l'entité communautaire qui sera chargé d'administrer le mécanisme de Saskatchewan Le volet de financement Itinérance chez les Autochtones. Cette demande de propositions sera solliciter des demandes spécifiques de HPS pour répondre aux besoins des sans-abri et les personnes à risque imminent de l'itinérance dans la province de la Saskatchewan.

Le montant total du financement disponible est \$987,515 dans le cadre du (SPLI) non désigné Le Volet de Financement Itinérance chez les Autochtones, pour financer des projets entre le 1 avril, 2015 et le 31 mars 2016.

**La date de clôture pour la réception des demandes est le 27 février 2015 par 16h00 à l'adresse suivante:**  
Provincial Métis Housing Corp  
231 Croissant-Robin  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8

Pour un dossier de candidature ou plus d'informations, veuillez contacter:  
Tenille Thomson  
Courriel: [tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net](mailto:tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net)  
Téléphone: (306) 343-8240 ou  
toll free 1-844-396-7933

# U of S honours aboriginal achievement

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

**SASKATOON**—Aboriginal Achievement Week kicked off at the University of Saskatchewan with a Pipe Ceremony at the Native Law Centre, led by Donnie Speidel and ended with a Round Dance hosted by ITEP in the Education Building.

In between, there were brunches, lunches, crafting, beading, song, dance, language, and a focus on Aboriginal success and leadership in many faculties and disciplines.

Darwin Derocher from Flying Dust First Nation examined sustainable community development and a two-decade overview of different land management regimes in his First Nation. Films were screened, including a Harry Daniels and Roger Cardinal Full Circle episode on “Métis High Cooking” while the literary arts were celebrated with an event called “Bring On The Heat.”

The literary stylings of Tenille Campbell, Zoey “Pricelys” Roy, Dakota Hebert, Jennifer Dawn Bishop and Taxis Walkem were hosted by playwright and Indigenous Arts Fellow Kenneth T. Williams, and adjudicated by Rosanna Deerchild and renowned poet Louise Halfe.

An Aboriginal Arts Festival also took place at Louis’, further celebrating the many talents of Indigenous students and artists, including music, art, poetry, dance, and fashion.

Dr. Robert-Falcon Ouellette of Red Pheasant First Nation, who recently ran in the Winnipeg mayoral race, facilitated a

conversation on university and Aboriginal worldviews, before lecturing on the importance of Community Leadership.

Métis Elder Norman Fleury spoke about identity and the Michif language, giving a basic language lesson, while the Aboriginal Library Intern, Jessica Generoux, shared on her experiences. The Aboriginal Achievement Week Student Awards Ceremony was a highlight where many campus leaders were recognized for excelling in studies, research, leadership, or other community contributions.

Dr. Alika Lafontaine and Vanessa Schellenberg spoke about Indigenous Leadership in Medicine and Nursing. Schellenberg hails from Beardy’s Okemasis First Nation, a Registered Nurse graduating from the U of S Nursing Education Program in 2011. A wife and mother to three children, she is currently a Transformational Life Strategist in her business Red Dress Transformations where she is inspired to show women how to live authentic, fearless and confident lives.

Schellenberg is working on a program to help empower Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan through coaching. She shared messages about the importance of being positive, and how she changed her life and took a risk starting her own business.

Lafontaine is the youngest recipient of the Indspire Award, among other accolades, awards, and honours, including the title “Canada’s Next Great Prime Minister” after winning CBC’s coast to coast competition with the platform of creating a third seat of



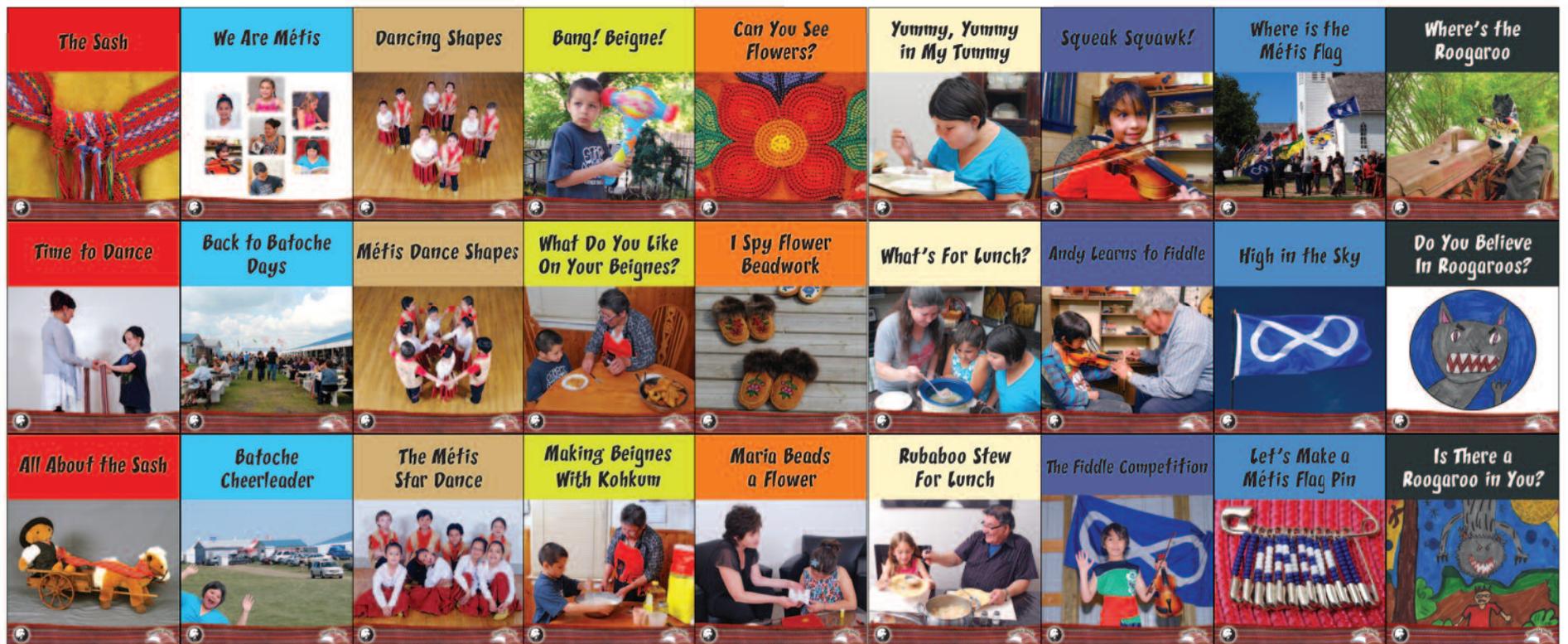
**Dr. Alika Lafontaine and Dr. Veronica McKinney, Director of Northern Medical Services share a laugh after Alika spoke at Aboriginal Achievement Week. Both are graduates of the U of S Medical School.** (Photo Val Arnault Pelletier)

parliament for Aboriginal Peoples, and the final debate televised nationally before four former Canadian Prime Ministers.

Along with his medical and anesthesia practice in northern Alberta, he serves as Vice-President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, is a member of the Representative Forum of the Alberta

Medical Association and remains an active advocate for Aboriginal Health.

He spoke about his journey through Medicine, including words of encouragement to youth from Kawacatoose about pursuing post secondary education. He also addressed racism in healthcare and the need for culturally safe care.



### Taanishi Books – Emergent Reader Series Now Available!

This leveled reader set contains 27 books under 9 different themes, all relating to Métis culture. Each book has a level from A to I, word counts, cultural connections, and a lesson plan.

Various Pricing Available:

Complete 27-Book Set: \$175

9-Book Theme Sets (1 book per theme, chosen from one of the three options below): \$63.00

8-page Stories (Levels A-C), 12-page Stories (Levels D-G), 16-page Stories (Levels F-I)

6-pack of one title: \$42.00

Individual titles: \$7.00



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[www.shopmetis.ca](http://www.shopmetis.ca)



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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors has called for an Annual General Meeting of the membership.

**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2015

**Location:** Saskatoon Inn, 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, SK

**Time:** Registration – 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

AGM – 10:00 a.m. - Noon

For further information, please call Rhonda Pilon at (306) 242-6070

## Aboriginal Storytelling Month

### Saskatoon

**When:** February 24 at 7 pm **Where:** Gabriel Dumont Institute Publishing, 2 - 604 – 22nd Street West  
**Storytellers:** Norman Fleury, Ernie Loutitt, Rhonda Donais

### Prince Albert

**When:** February 24 at 2:30 pm **Where:** St. Mary's High School, 380 – 14th Street West  
**Storytellers:** Rhonda Donais

**When:** February 24, at 7 pm **Where:** Bison Café, 1210 Central Avenue  
**Storytellers:** Solomon Ratt, John MacDonald, Leah Dorion

### Regina

**When:** February 25 at 2 - 4:30 pm **Where:** U of R Aboriginal Student Centre, 3737 Wascana  
**Who:** Storytelling Workshop with Ryan McMahon

**When:** February 26 at 7 pm **Where:** Artful Dodger, 1651 – 11th Avenue  
**Storytellers:** Kevin Mckenzie, Dr. Shauneen Pete



### Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation

If you are Métis and a resident of Saskatchewan pursuing post-secondary education, you may be eligible for a scholarship. Apply online at:

[www.gdins.org/student-services/scholarships-bursaries](http://www.gdins.org/student-services/scholarships-bursaries)

### Presented by



Saskatoon event in partnership with:



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[www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org)



# SNTC taking to the river with Shakespearians

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company will be spending plenty of time in a tent down by the river this summer.

No, they're not homeless, they are partnering in the production of The Tragedy of Othello at this year's Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan.

According to Will Brooks, Artistic Producer of Shakespeare, on the Saskatchewan it was a no-brainer who he wanted to work with when it came to the play Othello.

"It's a play about race and some of those heavy issues. It only made sense to do that in a First Nations context in Saskatchewan because it is a conversation that we need to have," Brooks explains.

"I really love partnerships and hooking up with other communities. And the obvious choice was SNTC. They are a fantastic community partner and a great part of Saskatoon," he added.

Relaying themes of race, jealousy, love, and hatred in a modern context, the innovative writers have changed Army General Moor of Venice into the ultra-modern Cree Business Executive of Venice Inc.



**Daniel Knight, publicity director for SNTC and Will Brooks, Artistic Producer of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan show off the poster for the summer season.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Othello is played by Michael Lawrenchuk an experienced and versatile Cree actor coming from Manitoba.

And there is more.

"To continue our pledge as First Nation's language keepers, SNTC is pleased to bring the Cree translations to the table in our partnership with Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan," said Daniel Knight, SNTC's publicity and community relations director.

"Patrons will be in for a treat as they hear Shakespeare's poetic words intertwined into the natural rhythms and music of the Cree language."

Parts of the play will be subtitled. The festival is also presenting Much Ado About Nothing this season.

There is a new seating and stage that will have clearer sightlines to see the action, shorter entrances, and put the audience up close and personal with Shakespeare's greatest heroes and villains.

Behind the scenes, the Shakespeare festival is also taking on several interns from SNTC.

"Along with artistic consultation and Cree language integration, an exciting aspect of this new partnership is a mentorship opportunity for three of SNTC's brightest emerging artists: Aaron Shingoose (production design assistant), Ingrid Gomez (assistant director) and Chris Mason (costume design assistant)," added Brooks.



*Moving Forward, Never Forgetting* creates a space for intercultural dialogue and storytelling. The exhibition and related events encourage sharing, empathy, and deeper understanding of what it means for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to co-reside in these territories. Newly commissioned works and performances, as well as significant pieces from the MacKenzie's permanent collection, are accompanied by living speakers—Story Keepers—a new initiative at the Gallery.

**ARTIST RESIDENCIES**

- Peter Morin: February 23 - February 27
- Cheryl L'Hirondelle: March 11 - March 25
- Adrian Stimson: March 16 - March 20



## MOVING FORWARD NEVER FORGETTING

FEBRUARY 28 - APRIL 19, 2015

Opening Reception: February 27, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Free Admission  
Performance by Peter Morin: February 27, 2015 from 4 - 8 pm

MACKENZIEARTGALLERY.CA | 3475 ALBERT STREET, REGINA, SK

ORGANIZED BY THE MACKENZIE ART GALLERY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, THE SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD, SASKCULTURE, THE CITY OF REGINA, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA. FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM SASKCULTURE INC., THANKS TO THE SASKATCHEWAN LOTTERIES TRUST FUND FOR SPORT, CULTURE AND RECREATION. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, WHICH LAST YEAR INVESTED \$157 MILLION TO BRING THE ARTS TO CANADIANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. NOUS REMERCIONS LE CONSEIL DES ARTS DU CANADA DE SON SOUTIEN. L'AN DERNIER, LE CONSEIL A INVESTI 157 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS POUR METTRE DE L'ART DANS LA VIE DES CANADIENNES ET DES CANADIENS DE TOUT LE PAYS. THIS PROJECT RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL INSIGHT GRANT: "CREATIVE CONCILIATION," KEAVY MARTIN PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER.

Michael Belmore, Smoulder, 2010-2011 (detail), carved stone, gilded copper, MacKenzie Art Gallery, University of Regina Collection, 2013. Image: Courtesy of the Artist.

# On the loss of language and culture

By Tyrone Tootoosis  
For Eagle Feather News

A few years ago, I worked in what is called "Aboriginal Tourism" at this place they call Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

One day, I was setting up this gig when a security guard walked up and said, "Tyrone, is that you?" I said, "Why? Are you a bill collector?" We chuckled. But, of course I recognized him as an old city police officer from three decades ago.

He started talking about how he had gone to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission event held in the City of Saskatoon a few weeks previous. Then he said it was a shame that not very many people spoke their language anymore, that they didn't even know much about their culture. He went on and on. Finally, he paused and, then I waded in.

I told him about the post-Treaty era, the sweet promises that had been made by the Treaty Commissioners at the signing of the numbered Treaties, our people had retained the right to hunt, to trap, to fish, the right to continue to be the people as before us, I told him about the many promises made by the Treaty Commissioners while holding and/or in the presence of the Holy Bible, the intentional extermination of the Bison Nation, the right to education ostensibly to learn the "cunning of the whiteman."

Then I talked about the onset of the

Industrial School era, barely a decade after the signing of the Treaties: institutions that played havoc with our youth. Many of them went in knowing who they were as nêhiyawak: Plains Cree with long hair worn in braids because our people believe that hair is not only a style, it is identity.

These same children came out of these places with short hair, hating themselves, barely speaking any Cree because they were punished by the priests and nuns for doing so, yet, barely speaking any English either because they spent so much time working on labour jobs to keep the schools running. They were also brainwashed into thinking they were savages and their Cree parents and all Cree people prayed to the devil.

Sadly, Cree Elders called this first generation, "môhcwak kiskinahamawâkanak," which literally meant 'crazy educated students.' They had no respect for themselves, they had no respect for their parents nor for Elders. They were badly damaged youth.

I told the officer that I didn't expect him to know this because Canada had done a remarkable job at keeping this dark and lamentable saga from being included in the curriculum of this country's classrooms. I told him when Cree children were taken from their parents, our Elders foretold it would affect our people for generations.

One of the horrific prices paid was the oral history transmission process was disrupted. The passing on of family relationships and history, tribal history, customs, songs, dances, societies, hunting, medicinal plants, all that: halted. The parents were left childless and heartbroken. Many parents couldn't get over this previously unknown, painful empty void in their lives and turned to whatever was available including alcohol.

As well, the Department of Indian Affairs under Prime Minister Sir John A. McDonald (whose portfolio also included Indian Affairs) implemented the Pass System. Our people couldn't leave our respective reserves without a pass from the Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs implemented the Permit System whereby our people couldn't buy or sell anything without getting a permit from the Indian Agent. The Pass System was designed to weaken the Cree (and other tribes) by way of the blood and the mind. Cree Laws on Relationship and Marriage were strict, but when the Pass System was implemented, young men couldn't leave the reserves to find wives.

What happened? Exactly what the government wanted. Intermarriage. Our Elders saw this and understood the implications, that when people who are related by blood end up in a relationship, the minds of the children are weak, their health

is not good, their blood is not strong. Ultimately, the whole nation is affected, and, this is why wâhkôh-

towin (or 'kinship') was strictly enforced prior to contact. I shared some other stuff with him but, concluded my rant by saying, "And, today, non-First Nation people make comments about what a shame it is that many of our people don't even speak the language, that they don't know their culture."

The officer sat there for a few minutes not saying anything and neither did I. Then he slowly got up and started walking away, stopped and looked back at me at which point I intentionally looked away.

But, I did hear him say in somewhat of a whisper, "I'm sorry."

I just shrugged. What more could I say to avoid getting angry. But, that's the hell of it: I was angry. Damn! I'm not talking about strangers. I had been talking about my people, my family, my father, my mother, aunts and uncles.

I was talking about myself.



TYRONE TOOTOOSIS

CALL FOR ARTISTS:  
Request for Qualifications

MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL  
WOMEN'S COMMEMORATIVE ART INSTALLATION

**Deadline for Submissions: February 28th 2015 3:00 pm CST local time**

**Budget: \$120,000.00 (all-inclusive)**

**Location of the Monument:** Front of the new Saskatoon Police headquarters, 76 25th Street East, City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Saskatoon Police Service and the Provincial Government partnered to commission a commemorative art installation, to be located in the new Saskatoon Police headquarters. The objective of this public art project is to commemorate and bring awareness to missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women Partnership seek Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) from an artist and/or team to work with the community in the creation and implementation of the project.

The complete RFQ document can be found at [sktc.sk.ca](http://sktc.sk.ca) and [saskatoonpoliceservice.ca](http://saskatoonpoliceservice.ca). Artists are reminded to check the websites regularly for any updates regarding this RFQ prior to submitting their application.

All inquiries about the project and the call for artists should be to Marylou Mintram by email to [mmawcai@gmail.com](mailto:mmawcai@gmail.com)



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Back Row: Chad Solomon, Howard Walker, Leah Dorion, MLA Victoria Jurgens Front row: Rabbit, Bear Paws

# Listen up ... it's storytelling month in Saskatchewan

By Jeanelle Mandes  
For Eagle Feather News

**ROSTHERN** – February is not only known for its cold winters in Saskatchewan, but it's also become known for the past 13 years as Aboriginal Storytelling month throughout the province.

Sean Brooks, Branch Manager for Wheatland Region Library, recently hosted a launch event in Rosthern last week.

"Each year, the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal People (LSSAP) have hosted a launch and asked Wheatland to do it this year. We decided to go with Rosthern and they jumped at the chance," says Brooks.

He says The Wheatland Region library was able to partner with the Station Arts Centre in Rosthern as their venue and they had three storytellers that attended the event.

Chad Solomon, who does the Rabbit and Bear Paws series of graphic novels and tells his stories with the use of puppets.

Leah Dorion from the Prince Albert area, is an interdisciplinary artist and she had also written some well-received children stories.

The Master of Ceremonies was Howard Walker, who is well-known for MC'ing traditional events such as powwows and round dances in Saskatchewan.

Brooks says they had about 135 people of all ages that attended the event at the Station Arts including Victoria Jurgens, MLA for Prince Albert-Northcote, who brought greetings from

the Province and Jeremy Morgan who brought greetings from the Saskatchewan Arts Board. The Province and the Arts Board are sponsors of the month for the event.

Wendy Sinclair, former chair of LSSAP, and now a committee member, says back in 2001 the provincial government created a task force to look at why First Nations and Métis People were not using public libraries. After hearing what people had to say after visiting six sites throughout the province, they came up with 46 recommendations. One of them was to create an annual event for storytelling so the LSSAP took on that initiative to host such an event throughout the province.

Sinclair says it's their 13th year of hosting it and it just gets bigger and bigger and they wanted to celebrate First Nations and Métis oral traditions.

"We picked the month of February because when certain stories are passed on in the First Nations culture, snow must be on the ground. So in Saskatchewan, you're almost guaranteed to have snow on the ground in February," says Sinclair.

The LSSAP committee goes out to seek grants and then they give money to libraries, organizations, and to people who want to be involved in Aboriginal Storytelling.

"It's wonderful. Last year we had close to 18,000 people involved at 35 sites throughout the province," says Sinclair.

Sinclair says the event creates partnerships between libraries, schools, and different organizations and every community is different with their storytelling.

A list of all the Aboriginal storytelling events in Saskatchewan can be found on the LSAP website. <https://lssap.wordpress.com/>



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# First Nations Bank CEO says education key to infrastructure development on reserves

*On-reserve education funding should be federal priority*

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

The head of the First Nations Bank of Canada says if the Harper government is serious about addressing the infrastructure gap on reserves, it will ensure K-12 education is properly funded in these communities.

First Nations Bank of Canada CEO Keith Martell was testifying before the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples on Feb. 4.

He says in reality recent federal government policy changes have not increased the access to private capital for First Nations communities.

Martell says the only way to build economies of scale is through education.

"The biggest impact the federal government could have on the future economic health of First Nations is to concentrate on K-12 education," he says. "Because frankly the largest correlation between economic well being and any other factors is achievement of education."

He also says education is key in terms of creating an economic environment on First Nations reserves that banks will feel comfortable lending in.

"The federal government still has a huge role to play in education on-reserve and the more we can get that accomplishment completed and get those people

educated and effective, the more likely we're going to have real economies in these communities that are going to be effective that we can lend in to. And that's really the biggest impact you could have on that outcome."

Martell adds recent policy changes made by the federal government have also not really increased the capacity of First Nations to finance on-reserve capital projects.

In June of last year, the First Nations Finance Authority issued its very first bond of \$90 million. The bond is a mixture of First Nations and government revenues.

The theory is the FNFA bonds will increase the capacity of First Nations reserves to finance infrastructure projects by increasing their access to private capital. First Nations will be able to get private loans at good rates by issuing what is seen as a secure government-like bond.

However, the First Nations Bank of Canada CEO says in reality this is not the case. This is because the FNFA bonds contain government revenues mixed in with private revenues from First Nations companies that vary from year to year and will be seen as risky by private investors.

Martell says for this reason, the bonds will not be



KEITH MARTELL

able to generate the private capital at the low rates of interest some government officials are touting.

"What First Nations Finance Authority is proposing by lumping government revenues in to commercial revenues for borrowing purposes is like a for-profit commercial business teaming up with a province or city to jointly issue a 30-year bond to finance capital spending. This is simply not done."

The Senate committee was examining the challenges of meeting infrastructure needs on-reserve.

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# Police Service hopes to attract Aboriginal recruits

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – The Saskatoon Police Service is looking to get more Aboriginal people involved in the force.

In January, SPS held a special recruitment session with the goal of increasing the number of Indigenous officers in the police force.

Police Chief Clive Weighill says currently about 11 per cent of the police force self-identifies as Aboriginal and there is always room for improvement.

“You know our population in Saskatoon’s around 20 per cent First Nations or Métis and that’s pretty well what the police service should be at a bare minimum,” he says.

“I would like to see an even higher number. I think it’s important that people see that we understand the culture, we understand the history and we have members that understand that.”

Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas says with a high number of Indigenous people living within the inner city, it is important to have Aboriginal officers out on the beat.

“It’s important that they’re there when they go to White Buffalo (Youth Lodge) and the programming with our kids that those kids can now say that there’s now a different perception of the police when they come



**Retired Sgt. Ernie Louttit and fellow police officers Const. Marc Belanger and Const Mike Mclean listen as new recruit Const. Brandon Roberts shares his story.** (Photo by Monica Goulet)

knocking on their doors,” he says.

“Not always bad but it could be good news or they just want to say hi.”

Weighill admits police relations with the Aboriginal community have been strained from time to time but the force is always looking to improve on these relations.

“I think the Saskatoon Police Service has come a long way. We’re not perfect, we haven’t hit Utopia yet but I think we’ve come a long way and I think we’re a service that really demonstrates we’re trying to and to build the trust and heal old wounds.”

Thomas also says Aboriginal relations with police have come a long way from where they were a decade ago.

“If it hadn’t improved substantially, we wouldn’t be here (recruitment session) and the regular discussions, and the frank discussions, that I personally have with Chief Weighill on different issues and different events. It’s one of those things where we have a relationship where we can pick up the phone and call each other and have our calls returned if they’re not there.”

The recruitment session featured a question and answer period and information on the selection and training process to become a police officer.

About 60 people attended the session at SPS headquarters on 25th Street East.



## Bad Credit?

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# The future is yours ... if you want it bad enough

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Prairieland Park in Saskatoon was packed for the annual Saskatoon Tribal Council The Future is Yours career fair presented by PotashCorp.

Over 900 job seekers came from schools in Saskatoon and surrounding First Nations to explore career options with over 60 employers who want to hire Aboriginal people.

Thomas Sanderson came to the event from the James Smith Cree Nation and the Grade 12 student says that the future can certainly be bright for young people in Saskatchewan.

“Coming here, I have learned that there is more to life than just being on the reserve. There are lots of good choices out there to step up for and to make something of yourself,” said Sanderson who wants to be a welder or carpenter.

Leanne Bellegarde, Director of Aboriginal Strategy for PotashCorp was impressed with how sharp the students were.

“As a presenting sponsor it is really heartening to see so many young people looking for educational and job opportunities in this province,” said Bellegarde. “These young people know what they want to do. They are no dummies about where they want to be so we have to pull up our socks to attract them to our workforce.”

Saskatoon Tribal Council Vice Chief Mark Arcand sees the investment in big events like the career fair as providing a valuable experience for young people.

“When you see 63 booths filled with employers informing these students about career opportunities ranging from the Army to Wal-Mart, it will give the kids the chance to improve their quality of life and become better citizens,” said Vice Chief Arcand.

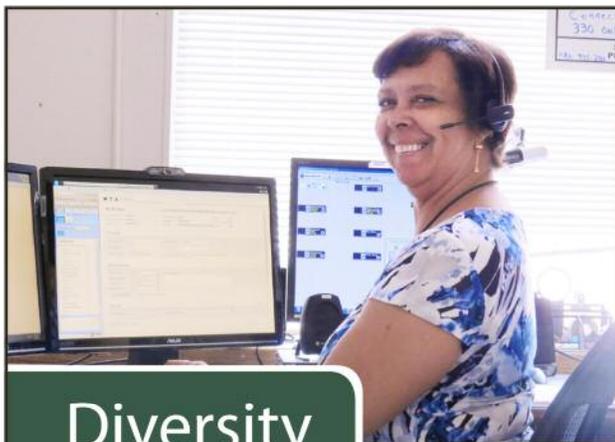
There are still challenges for youth today, but Thomas Sanderson sees a way out.

“Well, lots of our youth today are lost into the drugs and alcohol,” said Sanderson. “The key to success is education.

“My grandfather taught me that. If a lot of our youth my age would step up and realize that you do need education to survive in this world, if we all got into education and quit the substance abuse and forgot the past, we could move on to the future because you can’t live in the past, you gotta keep moving forward.”

**Thomas Sanderson tests out and RCMP vehicle and Danika Dreaver and Layne Pambrun check out the nursing booth at The Future is Yours career fair.**

(Photos by John Lagimodiere)



## Diversity

“My experiences over the last 7 years have proven that no matter what your age, gender or culture, if you are willing to work hard and be committed, the City will train you in attaining your career dreams.”

Jessica Ertell, Customer Service Representative, Public Works Division



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Mail: 1600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 8C8

**BUSINESS NEWS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE**

**Birch Narrows First Nation** recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the purchase of a controlling interest in **Saskatoon Fastprint**, a large and well established printing company located in Saskatoon's north end. This was the first investment for the economic development arm of the First Nation.

**Dene Development.** "This is a healthy business and we see it as a long term wealth generator for the 700 band members."

Saskatoon Fastprint has been a major player in the print business in Saskatoon for over 30 years. It has 26 full time employees and provides services to companies ranging from ad agencies to car dealerships providing marketing material as well as annual reports and mail out services.

The investment is also strategic for the band as many big businesses are looking for Aboriginal ownership in their procurement policies. "The days of rent a feather businesses are over," added Felix. "We hope the First Nation ownership opens doors to some new business but first and foremost the service has to be there. You can't expect business just to be given to you."

Prince-Albert based investment firm, **Athabasca Basin Development (ABD)**, recently announced ownership in **Tru-North RV, Auto & Marine**. ABD has ownership of 50 per cent of the business, with management retaining the remaining 50 per cent. There will be no changes to current operations as a result of this transaction, and existing management and employees will continue to operate the business as usual.

"We are pleased to be making this in-

vestment in Tru-North," said **Geoff Gay**, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development.

"This investment is a good fit with our overall portfolio of investments into successful, well-run companies that have a lot of growth potential. Tru-North is a significant supplier in the Prince Albert market, known for providing exceptional customer service and quality products for its customers. With its latest expansion into manufactured homes, there is a lot of potential for this company to continue

the level of growth it has experienced, and we are excited to have ownership in this excellent company."

"Athabasca Basin Development has a history of supporting strong companies, and we are very excited about this deal," says **Rick Bueckert**, general manager for Tru-North.

Athabasca Basin Development, who was recently named as **SaskBusiness Magazine's** 2014 Business of the Year and looks for investments that are sustainable, well-managed and generate value for its shareholders. "We are actively seeking investment opportunities for the upcoming year, and this investment is the first of others to come," says Geoff Gay. "I would encourage business owners who are looking for an investment company to consider us as a potential fit and to contact us to discuss opportunities."



**GEOFF GAY**



**Al Felix and Mark Wilson of Saskatoon Fastprint.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Their portfolio also includes the community store.

"This is an investment about wealth generation, not necessarily jobs," said **Al Felix**, the CEO of **Birch Narrows**



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**PROGRAM DATES**

- April 7, 2015 - June 29, 2015

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- Grade 12 (or entrance testing)
- Unemployed (or working less than 20 hrs/wk)
- English Language Requirement

**COSTS**

- Tuition and fees: \$1710

You may be eligible for a Provincial Training Allowance or Skills Training Benefit funding. Tuition and other fees are waived for those who are eligible for Provincial Training Allowance.

**TO APPLY, ATTEND THE INFORMATION SESSION ON:**

- Thursday, March 12, 2015 OR
- Thursday, March 19, 2015

1:00 p.m., Room 721  
Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Regina campus  
Please note that student parking at Regina campus is \$4/day.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Sandra Kush at 306-775-7468 or [sandra.kush@saskpolytech.ca](mailto:sandra.kush@saskpolytech.ca)

Saskatchewan Polytechnic encourages applications from people of Aboriginal ancestry, people with disabilities, visible minorities and women interested in non-traditional occupations.

Visit [saskpolytech.ca/CE](http://saskpolytech.ca/CE) for information about employment training programs offered by Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

**1-866-467-4278 [saskpolytech.ca/CE](http://saskpolytech.ca/CE)**



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<p><b>JOIN THE RCMP</b></p> <p><b>CAREER PRESENTATION</b></p> <p><b>March 7 at 10 a.m.</b></p> <p>RCMP Heritage Centre, SGI Canada Theatre 5907 Dewdney Avenue Regina, SK</p>	<p><b>DEVENEZ MEMBRE DE LA GRC</b></p> <p><b>PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES*</b></p> <p><b>le 7 mars à 10 h</b></p> <p>Centre du patrimoine de la GRC 5907, avenue Dewdney, SGI Canada Theatre Regina (SK)</p>
<p><b>CAREER PRESENTATION</b></p> <p><b>March 7 at 10 a.m.</b></p> <p>Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatoon Campus Idylwyld &amp; 33rd Street, Main Building, Room 317 Saskatoon, SK</p>	<p><b>PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES*</b></p> <p><b>le 7 mars à 10 h</b></p> <p>Saskatchewan Polytechnique, campus de Saskatoon Idylwyld et 33e rue, Immeuble principal, salle 317 Saskatoon (SK)</p>

\* Veuillez noter que ces séances seront présentées en anglais.



KEN COATES

# Coates makes share the wealth case

winning the necessary support from Aboriginals that makes possible continued natural resource development.

“Resource revenue sharing is a concept that is timely, relevant and inevitable,” Coates writes.

“While jurisdictions will vary in their approach, the clarity and strength of Aboriginal land and resource rights ensures that there is an inexorable movement toward the establishment of royalty sharing arrangements with Indigenous peoples and governments.”

Resource revenue sharing calls for provincial and territorial governments to give a portion of the money they take in from development projects with Aboriginal groups. This is in addition to any deals private companies negotiate with them.

Coates acknowledges that it’s a controversial topic. One province, Saskatchewan, has clearly ruled out implementing resource revenue sharing on the grounds that government money should benefit everyone in the province.

However Coates argues that some early adopters of the system show it’s something that more jurisdictions should be planning to use.

“There is an excellent foundation for improving resource revenue sharing in Canada,” Coates writes. “In the current environment, proceeding without due recognition of Aboriginal rights and

interests is untenable, for a variety of moral, legal, political and economic reasons.”

It’s not just a fanciful concept that won’t work in practice, he says.

Several provinces and territories – Labrador, Northern Quebec and the Yukon – have revenue sharing based on modern treaties while British Columbia has it on a project-by-project basis.

But the vast majority, including Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, have no fixed policy on revenue sharing.

These jurisdictions have taken a number of different approaches to accomplishing the goal of giving First Nations a greater share of the wealth stemming from natural resource development.

This includes everything from

collecting royalties from each project then distributing them to all Aboriginal groups in the province or territory, rather than just those that have development taking place on their lands. Others see governments spending money directly on initiatives, such as education, health or infrastructure that are specific to Aboriginal development.

Whatever its form, Coates says provincial and territorial governments shouldn’t hesitate to adopt resource revenue sharing proposals.

“As Canada’s resource sector continues to expand, and as more communities are affected by regional resource development, revenue sharing demonstrates that the past is not a constraint when it comes to creating new partnerships with Aboriginal peoples,” Coates writes.

OTTAWA – Provincial and territorial governments should give a portion of the revenues they earn from natural resources to Aboriginal people, as a means of gaining legitimacy for new developments, a new paper from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute finds.

Such agreements, which were a radical notion two decades ago, are increasingly seen as the cost of doing business with Aboriginal communities.

Ken Coates, an MLI Senior Fellow and Canada Research Chair, is the author of “Sharing The Wealth: How resource revenue agreements can honour treaties, improve communities, and facilitate Canadian development”.

He makes the case that so-called resource revenue sharing agreements are an ideal way to compensate First Nations groups for the use of their lands while also



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#### PROGRAM DATES

- April 8, 2015 – June 30, 2015
- Mandatory employability skills training March 23 – April 7, 2015

#### LOCATION

- Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Moose Jaw Campus

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- English Language Requirement
- Unemployed (or working less than 20 hours/week)
- Successful completion of the employability skills training prior to the Food Service Cook specific training

#### COSTS

- Tuition and fees: \$1,687
- You may be eligible for a Provincial Training Allowance or skills training benefit funding.

#### TO APPLY, ATTEND THE INFORMATION SESSION ON:

- Wednesday, March 4, 2015 OR
- Wednesday, March 11, 2015

2:00 p.m., Macoun Meeting Lounge 3.213.05 (inside the cafeteria), Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Moose Jaw Campus

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Sandra Kush at 306-775-7468 or [sandra.kush@saskpolytech.ca](mailto:sandra.kush@saskpolytech.ca)

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<p><b>JOIN THE RCMP</b></p> <p><b>RCMP ENTRANCE EXAM (RPAB)</b></p> <p><b>February 17 at 6 p.m.</b></p> <p>Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatoon Campus Idylwyld and 33rd Street, Main Bldg., Room 312 Saskatoon, SK</p>	<p><b>DEVENEZ MEMBRE DE LA GRC</b></p> <p><b>EXAMEN D'ENTRÉE DE LA GRC (BTATPG)*</b></p> <p><b>le 17 février à 18 h</b></p> <p>Saskatchewan Polytechnique, campus de Saskatoon Idylwyld et 33e rue, Immeuble principal, salle 312 Saskatoon (SK)</p>
<p><b>RCMP ENTRANCE EXAM (RPAB)</b></p> <p><b>February 21 at 9 a.m.</b></p> <p>RCMP "F" Division Headquarters 6101 Dewdney Avenue, Training Classroom Regina, SK</p>	<p><b>EXAMEN D'ENTRÉE DE LA GRC (BTATPG)*</b></p> <p><b>le 21 février à 9 h</b></p> <p>GRC Quartier général 6101, avenue Dewdney, Salle de formation Regina (SK)</p>

\* Veuillez noter que ces séances seront présentées en anglais.




# National Youth Entrepreneur Award for Netmaker



As we informed you a couple months ago, Kendal Netmaker has been honoured with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) 2015 National Youth Aboriginal Entrepreneur Award.

The award, presented by CCAB and ESS Support Services, recognizes an up-and-coming Aboriginal entrepreneur under the age of 35.

Netmaker, founder and CEO of Neechie Gear, grew the lifestyle apparel brand from a university project to a national name brand that empowers youth through sports.

He grew up in a single-parented home on the Sweetgrass First Nation and had little opportunity to be involved in extra-curricular activities. As a result, he felt compelled to give back by donating a portion of Neechie Gear's profits to help underprivileged youth to play in sports.

"Kendal Netmaker is an inspiration born of hard work and the commitment to live and build his dream," says Erin Meehan, president of ESS.

This is the second year for the National Youth Aboriginal Entrepreneur Award.

"Kendal is the new face of Aboriginal business," says JP Gladu, CCAB president and CEO.

"It's a young face reflecting our people and the optimism that his success represents to all Aboriginal Canadians, young and old."

**ESS President Erin Meehan presents Kendal Netmaker with the 2015 National Youth Aboriginal Entrepreneur Award.**



## JOB OPPORTUNITY: Community Engagement Animateur

### What is an Community Engagement Animateur?

Ani\*ma\*teur is a French word meaning to animate, to bring to life, to enliven, to spark, to create, and/ or to produce. In the past, SaskCulture has hired Animateurs, who are artists or cultural workers, to use their skills and creativity to help bring Culture Days to life in Saskatchewan! This year, the Community Engagement Animateur will continue to engage communities through interactive cultural experiences, but they will also work closer with SaskCulture to build and strengthen community cultural linkages for Culture Days and beyond.

SaskCulture is seeking up to three individuals, from any area of culture or cultural discipline, interested in working on an 8-month contract leading up to, and following, Culture Days this year. Based on an agreed upon work plan, these Community Engagement Animateurs will receive a contract fee paid in installments, as well as reimbursement for expenses.

### Objectives for Community Engagement Animateurs in 2015

In its sixth year, Culture Days continues to be a success in Saskatchewan thanks to innovative ideas, such as the Animateur Program. This year, the program expands the engagement role to include Community Engagement and a role in working more closely with SaskCulture staff on an Outreach strategy. The successful candidates will:

- Work to stimulate the interest of Culture Days taking place September 25-27, 2015. Culture Days activities are interactive cultural experiences or demonstrations that are open at no charge to the public;
- Work with SaskCulture staff to reach out to key target groups (First Nations and Métis communities, schools, libraries, municipalities and newcomer groups) to build linkages to the cultural community and SaskCulture programs and services;
- Offer their own unique, interactive, creative activity, which can be shared with groups either at public events, or through community workshops, that inspires groups to build on ideas such as Culture Days;
- Build community collaborations between business, schools and artists for Culture Days and other ??; and
- Work to promote cultural success stories to the general public throughout Saskatchewan via media and social media (Facebook, twitter, blog updates).

### Ideal candidates will have:

- A solid understanding of Saskatchewan's cultural community, including the role of SaskCulture;
- Several years of experience in a particular artistic discipline or disciplines, as well as demonstrated experience in engaging the public in their discipline;
- A solid understanding of how arts and culture can increase community engagement;
- The ability to facilitate community gatherings and discussions in creative ways;
- A demonstrated ability to organize work over a course of eight months to achieve stated goals;
- Strong communication skills; both verbal and written, as well as social media skills; and
- A home office or business base, with computer, internet access and cell phone service.

For more information on the national Culture Days initiative, visit [www.culturedays.ca](http://www.culturedays.ca), or for more information on SaskCulture and these positions, visit [www.saskculture.sk.ca](http://www.saskculture.sk.ca).

**To apply: Send a resume, along with a letter of interest outlining how you would approach the role of Community Engagement Animateurs and meet objectives (listed above). Deadline for applications is February 20, 2015.**



## BELLEROSE NEW SIGA CHAIR

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) recently announced the election of Chief Reginald Bellerose to the position of Chair of the Board of Directors effective February 4, 2015. Chief Bellerose joined SIGA's Board of Directors in 2008, serving on the board for the past seven years. During this term he has also been Chair of SIGA's Governance Committee. Chief Bellerose is in his tenth year as Chief of Muskowekan First Nation, re-elected in April of 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia University College in Edmonton and has completed a Master's program in Project Management at the University of Saskatchewan. Chief Reginald Bellerose replaces Tribal Chief Felix Thomas of the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Kinistin First Nation, who was elected in 2012 to his position as Chairman. SIGA recognized Tribal Chief Felix Thomas for the positive steps taken under his leadership as Board Chair during the past few years.

# Business mixer shows strength of Aboriginal business

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Six local Aboriginal businesses and support organizations recently shared their experiences and lessons learned along the way in a unique and fun “speed dating”-style business mixer at the Saskatoon Inn.

Hosted by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce and the First Nations and Métis Opportunities Committee, the sold-out event used a bit of a different format from your basic meet and greet business mixer.

“We wanted to make sure that people had a great opportunity to mix but also to make some really strong connections,” said Chris Sicotte of Affinity Credit Union who is also the Chair of the Opportunities Committee.

“The turnout was great and the presenters showed a wide range of Aboriginal business.”

Guest speakers from BHP Billiton, Saskatoon Fastprint, Des Nedhe Development, Clarence Campeau Development Fund and Westwind Aviation were among the the speakers. After they presented, small group discussions took place. After five



**Gary Merasty, President and COO of Des Nedhe Development shared his company’s story with participants. (Right) Aboriginal Opportunities Chairperson Chris Sicotte of Affinity Credit Union opened the event. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)**

minutes, each presenter moved to the next table to meet new people.

The success of the event was encouraging to Chamber Director Kent Smith-Windsor.

“The great thing is we have more success stories to tell. We know we are doing another one of these in the future and will keep working the file,” said Smith-Windsor about the turnout.

“The fact that people said yes, they

are hungry for information around what’s working says we are on to something.”

According to Sicotte, the Opportunities Committee will continue to offer innovative activities to bring access to Aboriginal businesses for all entrepreneurs in Saskatoon.

“This was a very positive event but to me what was best was seeing so many new faces. This sends a message



that Aboriginal business is important in Saskatoon and it is highly encouraging,” Sicotte says.



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**Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation**- Band Office

Mar 26<sup>th</sup> \* April 21<sup>st</sup> \* May 14<sup>th</sup> \* June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Pelican Lake First Nation** -Social Development Office

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> \* Mar 12<sup>rd</sup> \* Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> \* May 20<sup>th</sup>

\* June 16<sup>th</sup> \* July 10<sup>th</sup>

**Thunderchild First Nation** – Band Office

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> \* Mar 25<sup>th</sup> \* Apr 16<sup>th</sup> \* May 11<sup>th</sup> \* June 12<sup>th</sup>

**Meadow Lake** Campus

Monday Assessment Start at 9:00 a. m.

February 9 & 23

March 2,9,16,23 & 30

April 13,20, & 27

May 4,11,& 25

June 1,8,15,22 & 29

Evening Assessment Start at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12,

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Wednesday, Feb. 24.

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# U of R working to embrace Indigenous culture

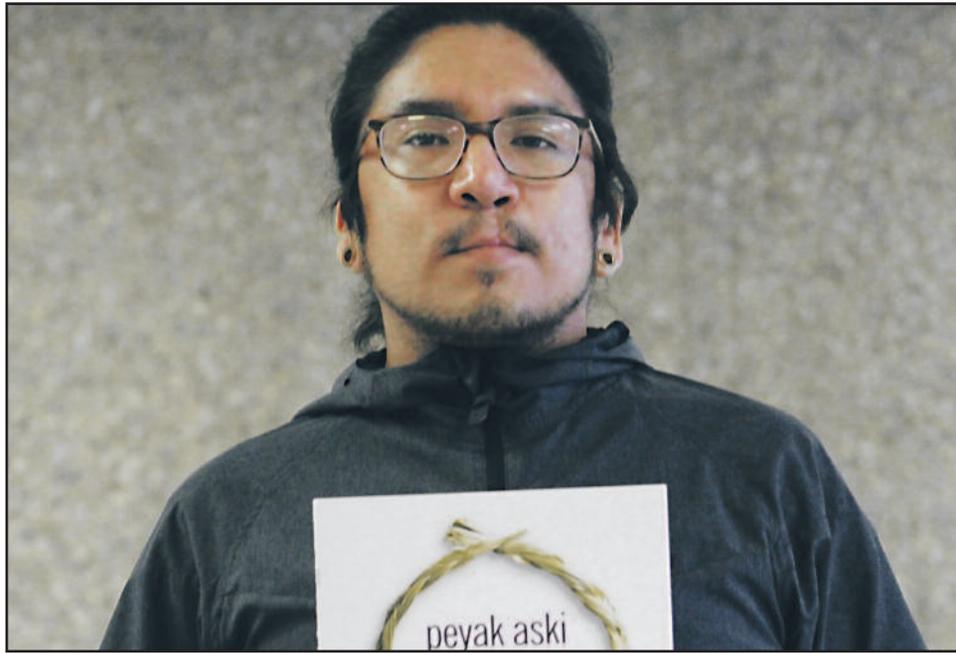
By Jeanelle Mandes  
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – The University of Regina recently released its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, titled “peyak aski kikawinaw” which the school translates into English as “we are one with Mother Earth”.

As stated in the plan, the main emphasis, along with sustainability, is to “Indigenize” the university through priorities including student success, research impact and commitment to our communities.

Roman Young, a U of R student from Shoal Lake Cree Nation, thinks the university is not doing enough to Indigenize the campus. For starters, when Young looked at the Strategic Plan, he noticed a problem with the Cree version of the title.

“As a teacher assistant for the Cree language program at the First Nations University, one of the first concerns I had was how they misspelled a lot of the Cree words,” he says.



University of Regina student Roman Young has some questions about the new strategy to Indigenize the University. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

*“It makes us look bad teaching fundamentals of the Cree language and they can’t even utilize the Cree language the way it’s supposed to be used.”*

– Young

“It makes us look bad teaching fundamentals of the Cree language and they can’t even utilize the Cree language the way it’s supposed to be used ... especially when they know that there’s experts in the Cree language,” says Young referring to the First Nations University of Canada.

Young says one of the letters didn’t have a macron over it and the words “peyak aski” should have been hyphenated. He says the way it’s spelled doesn’t make any sense when it’s translated into English.

“Peyak aski is one month or one year,” added Young who is a fluent Cree speaker and also a teacher assistant.

Shauneen Pete, the Executive Lead on Indigenization for the U of R, says elder Noel Starblanket played an important role in the strategic plan naming process.

“He never did that work alone. He took that tobacco to a ceremony and he offered it to another elder and that name came open,” says Pete.

Aside from the phonetic emphasis on the strategic plan title, Young says another

area that is often overlooked within the university is the lack of acknowledging other Treaty territories within the university.

“(The university) is too exclusive with only focusing on southern communities ... they need to understand there are more reserves out there besides (Treaty 4 reserves) such as northern Saskatchewan,” says Young.

“If they really want to Indigenize the campus, they really need to start working with First Nations University,” he adds.

U of R President Vianne Timmons says the new plan is going further with Indigenizing the university.

“It’s a big challenge ... we’re going to try to integrate in particular sustainability and Indigenization into our thinking and decision making. There will be a cultural change on this campus,” says Timmons. “We’ve achieved so much with the last plan.”

*“There will be a cultural change on this campus ... we’ve achieved so much with the last plan.”*

– Timmons

Timmons says the university met the expectations in the last strategic plan on the focus of Indigenization.

“We’ve expanded the Aboriginal Student Centre, we hired an Aboriginal leader to advise the president, we put money into Aboriginal bursaries for Aboriginal students and we set up the Aboriginal Advisory Circle,” says Timmons.

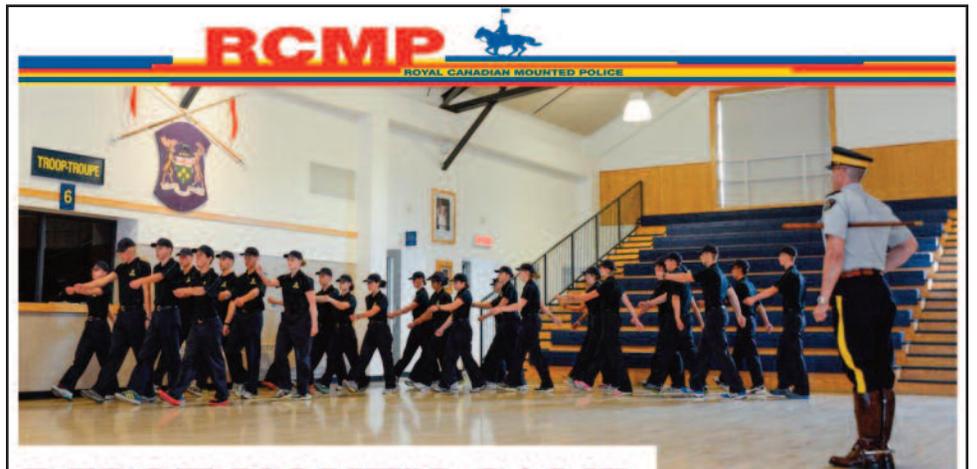
The Aboriginal Advisory Circle contains Aboriginal faculty and staff on

campus to advise the President with recommendations to ensure the campus meets the needs of the university’s Aboriginal students, staff and faculty members.

Wendy Whitebear, U of R staff member and Chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Circle says she is happy with the newly released strategic plan.

“The main theme is Indigenization and sustainability ... there are specific things in there that will further Indigenize the university for our Indigenous staff, faculty, students and the future students,” says Whitebear.

“I’m looking forward to the next five years and implementing the U of R’s strategic plan ... the Aboriginal Advisory Circle is a dedicated group of people who volunteer their time to move both strategic plans forward,” added Whitebear.



## DEPOT YOUTH CAMP

The Depot Youth Camp is a week-long summer camp for students 16-19 years of age.

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### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Student selection will be based on academic achievement, fitness and interest in a career in policing. While at camp, students will be issued parts of the RCMP uniform to wear and will be expected to act as a troop in training. They will be required to wake up early, keep dorms clean, and behave as a professional representative of the RCMP.

August 10 to 14, 2015 Open to Everyone  
August 17 to 21, 2015 Aboriginal Focus

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  - > troop graduation
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**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2015 SESSIONS!**

Deadline for application : Tuesday March 31 2015



# What women want

John L.: According to notes provided to me by Dr. Dirk "Feel Good" Dashing ... I swear to God, that's what it says here ... according to Doc Dashing, Valentine's Day was created in the mid-16th century to honour the memory of St. Valentine who predicted the rise of greeting card companies in the 19th century. Dirk, are you sure you got your facts right on this?

**Dirk: And yes, it is good to be back, John. Thanks for noticing I was not available for the January edition of Eagle Feather News. And yes, I was busy slaying dragons, liberating lost dwarfish kingdoms, and getting busy with elfish princesses, thanks for asking.**

John L.: ...um, ok. No one really

noticed you were, um, missing. But now you mention it, Hey! So glad you're back! We missed you buddy. Now getting back to my question, I don't know where you did your research on Valentine's Day...

**Dirk: I don't know if you know this, John, but research can be used to prove almost anything that is remotely true. Myself, I prefer the sage wisdom of strangers I meet at Cher and Taylor Swift concerts for my take on reality, history, and quantum physics. And thanks to my investigations I now know exactly what women want.**

John L.: That's incredible. I am sufficiently intrigued, and a little confused, so lay it on me. What the fork do women want?

**Dirk: John, ever since the dawn of iPhone, man has looked to the stars, peering into the brilliant points of light for answers, for guidance, anything that will help him better manage and satisfy the mystery of women. And did Brad Pitt, Sean Connery and Bender from that show Futurama have the answers?**

John L.: I don't know, Dirk. Lay the truth on us. We only have so much space for your column...

**Dirk: It's called drama, John. I'm building suspense to underscore ... highlight if you will ... the scale and significance of a truth that will lay waste to the myths, misunderstandings and general groinal crampiness that has placed mankind in a gooey, caramel-like darkness of, um, not-knowingness.**

John L.: Ok. It's big, this answer of yours. It'll change the world. What is it?

**Dirk: That's right, John. Change. It's on its way. Our world, even other dimensions, will never be the same.**

**So vast is the hugeness of the answer that all textbooks, all religions and television programming will have to be rewritten. Nothing will remain of our previous understanding of things.**

John L.: Got it. Everything will change. What do you got?

**Dirk: John, did you know that the word "television" is actually a combination of Greek and Latin? Tele means "see" in Greek, while the root word for vision in Latin is "see". So when we talk about watching a television what we're really saying is we're watching a see-see. True story.**

John L.: Not that interesting or relevant, Dirk. You claim to have the answer for what women want. What is it?

**Dirk: I need to be clear, John. What I am about to unleash is not for the faint of heart, and some men could suffer a complete menatal ... menatal? ... complete mental breakdown. Scientists call this a state of being where all things mental can, you know, break, and in a downward fashion.**

John L.: Alright. Menatal, I mean mental breakdowns are possible. What is this truth you have uncovered?

**Dirk: John, it's not that I "uncovered" the truth as much as I endured it, much like the mighty Hercules who had like seven herculean tasks before he was, like, done stuff. Numerous were the challenges. And they were seven. Not four, not five, and not six challenges, unless one proceeded to a seventh challenge ...**

John L.: In fact they were Twelve Labours of Hercules. We need the answer, Dirk.

**Dirk: If I had proceeded to an eighth challenge, then I would have gone too far. Unless, of course, I had stopped at seven, where seven challenges would have been the ideal. Not more. Not Less. Seven being the magic number.**

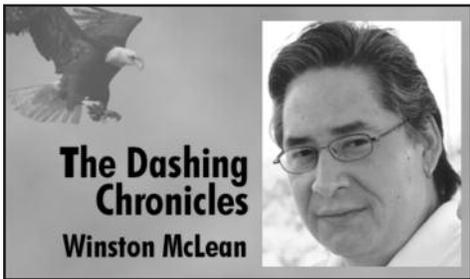
John L.: You really got nothing do you Dirk?

**Dirk: Um, I forgot what I was talking about awhile back.**

John L.: Well thanks for wasting our time, Dirk. That's all the time and space we have for you this month. Ladies and gentlemen, I apologize. Next month Mr. Answer Guy will be here to answer your questions.

**Dirk: Wait! I remember now...**

*Dirk says, If it weren't for marriage, husbands and wives would have to fight with strangers.*



## Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Police Board appointments announced

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC) recently announced the appointments of Colleen Cameron and Heather Kuttai as Commissioners. The Government of Saskatchewan made the five-year term appointments through and order in Council.

Cameron is an accomplished executive with policy-making, strategic planning and communications experience in the telecommunications industry. She



CAMERON

Heather Kuttai is an author and writer with a focus on disability issue such as inclusion, service provision and maternity. She is a three-time Paralympic medal-winning athlete who lives in Saskatoon.

Cameron and Kuttai join Chief Commissioner David Arnot, Paul Favel, Janice Gitlin, Barry Wilcox and Nassir Malik as commissioners for the SHRC.

Two new people have also joined the

Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners. Carolanne Inglis-McQuay and Darlene Brander have joined Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison and councillors Charlie Clark and Darren Hill to form the board. They replace educators Gord Martell and Vera Pezzer whose terms had expired.

Brander brings experience in the Aboriginal community in her role as a human resource specialist at a variety of organizations. Inglis-McQuay also has extensive experience working with the Aboriginal community.

Saskatoon's Board of Police Commissioners plays a large role in the planning and consultation for the Saskatoon Police Service. Commissioners have a voice in the strategic direction of the Service and work hard to ensure the Service has a budget in place to make the changes happen.

Board meetings are open to the public at noon on the third Thursday of every month, except for July and August.



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FREE PUBLIC EVENT

THE LONG ROAD THAT  
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Conversation with Leisha Grebinski, host of  
Saskatoon Morning on CBC Radio One  
7:30 p.m.  
Convocation Hall  
(Peter MacKinnon Building)  
105 Administration Place, Saskatoon

artsandscience.usask.ca  
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## Matthew Dunn takes the helm of Aboriginal Engagement Strategy at College of Engineering

By Kate Blau  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – With the hiring of Matthew Dunn as the new Indigenous peoples' initiatives co-ordinator at the University of Saskatchewan College of Engineering, a number of important initiatives are moving forward under the college's Aboriginal engagement strategies.

At the top of Dunn's list of priorities is establishing an Indigenous Students' Centre in the college. Currently, that task is at the stage of renovations, managing costs and looking at layout options. He expects it will be March 2015 when the centre opens.

He has also been working with students to establish an Engineering Indigenous Students' Association at the college.

"Right now we're dealing with paperwork, ratification and finding executive members," he said.

A number of other initiatives lie before him, but getting these initial activities off the ground successfully is critical to achieving further plans, he explained. He is looking forward to the opportunities related to the recent hiring of Duncan Cree, who joined the college faculty from Ontario's Queen's University engineering faculty in November.

Growing up primarily in Watrous, Dunn developed an early interest in becoming an astronaut. A NASA brochure with information about aerospace engineering helped him decide to pursue a degree in engineering. When he chose to study at the U of S to stay closer to home and to attend university with many of his friends, he chose mechanical engineering as the closest thing to aerospace engineering that was available.

While at the university, he was involved in Huskies Track and Field as a jumper, pole vaulter and ultimately, a pentathlete. While he confesses that pole vault wasn't his strength, that was where he met his wife, Adrienne Vangool. Sports continued to be an important part of Dunn's life, leading him to competitive bobsleigh and skeleton. He was on the Canadian national skeleton team and attended World Juniors in bobsleigh in Europe.

"It kept me busy, active, out of trouble," he noted. This past July, he was head coach for track and field at the North American Indigenous Games in Regina, his first coaching experience.

His focus on sports, alongside working at March Consulting in Saskatoon and pursuing his MSc in mechanical engineering kept him busy from the summer of 2004-10.

After completing his masters, Dunn worked for eight months in Fort McMurray for a construction services company. While glad to have experienced it, he decided the work, together with the commute from Prince Albert, where his wife was working as a physiotherapist, wasn't for him.

At that point, both found jobs in Saskatoon, Vangool as a physiotherapist and Dunn at Potash-Corp, where he spent two-and-a-half years.

He was looking for something different when he became aware of the Indigenous co-ordinator position at the college. The opportunity offered him the chance to do something he had thought about as a student: support the development and growth of an Aboriginal community in the college.

"When I attended school at the college, I didn't have a sense of there being an Aboriginal community here, but I've definitely found it here, now."

**Matthew Dunn is the new Indigenous people's initiatives coordinator for the University Of Saskatchewan College Of Engineering.**

(Photo by Jeff Drake)

### Mohawk prof joins College of Engineering

With the arrival of Duncan Cree, who joined the faculty at the College of Engineering in November 2014, another important step has been taken to implement the college's ambitious Aboriginal engagement priorities.

Cree came to the college from the engineering faculty at Queen's University, where he was the first director of that school's Aboriginal Access to Engineering program. He will use that experience to help get a range of Indigenous initiatives off the ground at the University of Saskatchewan.

As a faculty member, he will also have teaching and research responsibilities. For the duration of 2014-15, he **DUNCAN CREE** is helping out with lab instruction and expects to be teaching first and fourth-year engineering students starting September 2015.

On the Indigenous initiatives side of his role, Cree is busy meeting with key people and learning about what has taken place already at the college across areas like student recruitment, support mechanisms for current students, and community outreach activities.

He is working closely with the Indigenous Peoples Initiatives Coordinator, Matthew Dunn, who started at the college in May 2014.

Cree, who is of Mohawk ancestry, grew up in Kane-satake, Quebec, which is adjacent to the village of Oka. For a complete profile of Duncan Cree, go to [www.eagle-feathernews.com](http://www.eagle-feathernews.com)



There is still more time to apply for **Personal Credits of up to \$3000** for educational, language or cultural programs.



Individuals who received a Common Experience Payment under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement are eligible for up to \$3000 in Personal Credits for education programs and services.

These include courses at universities, colleges, trade or training schools or for programs and workshops provided by community-based groups or cultural centres for activities related to Aboriginal language and culture. Personal Credits can be used by a Common Experience Payment recipient, shared with up to two family members or pooled for group education services.

The deadline to apply has been extended to **March 9, 2015**. Help with completing the Personal Credits Acknowledgment Form is available.

**Find out more at [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca) or by phone:**

- Main information line: **1-866-343-1858**
- Assembly of First Nations: **1-866-869-6789**
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Iqaluit: **1-888-646-0006**
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvik: **1-867-777-7092**
- Makivik Corporation, Quebec: **1-418-522-2224**



Scan with your mobile device

# Métis Nation could be headed to court

## President wants early legislative assembly

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – It appears the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan is headed back to court.

In December, a judge ordered the MNS to hold a provincial council meeting by Jan. 23.

That meeting happened January 16 and the provincial council voted in favour of holding a legislative assembly in mid-September.

However, President Robert Doucette says that is not soon enough and he held a press conference to address the issue.

He says without federal funding, the MNS office in Saskatoon won't be able to keep its doors open much longer and he will be filing a court application to hold the assembly as soon as possible.

"There won't be any organization left in eight months just in terms of the office," he says. "There will always be a Métis nation but the organization as it exists within the parameters of this building and the relationships that we have with all of the governments and non-government agencies and the varying groups that we've worked so hard for over the last seven years will be gone. And that's very sad."



GERALD MORIN

Federal funding to the organization has been cut since November for failure to hold a legislative assembly over the last two years.

Doucette says since funding has been cut, the MNS office has struggled to provide basic services such as processing citizenship applications.

He says the organization simply doesn't have the money to employ the necessary staff to process the applications in a timely manner.

"More and more the education institutions such as SIAST, the U of S and the U of R are asking that if they (Métis students) declare they are Métis, they



**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette chaired the court ordered Provincial Métis Council meeting that wound up setting a distant date for a Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. The time lapse may mean a shutting down of the Métis Nation.**

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

actually prove it through a card or a letter from this office. And if you don't have the staff here – and we don't because we haven't received a dime in registry money this year – that impacts our ability and ability of our people to access opportunities."

At the Saskatoon meeting, council voted in favour of having provincial council meetings in March, May and July before holding a legislative assembly in Yorkton Sept. 11-13.

Another provincial council meeting will also be held in conjunction with the assembly.

Doucette says a faction on council, led by Vice-President Gerald Morin, is delaying the legislative assembly because they are afraid of losing power to rank and file local presidents in the decision making process.

"The only time that Métis get an opportunity to tell their regional directors and the executive what to do is at an MNLA."

However, Morin makes no apologies for wanting to wait eight months before holding a legislative assembly.

He says Métis people need more information from the executive on financial matters and more time to properly prepare for an assembly.

"We're not going to have an early legislative assembly just to satisfy the federal government," he says. "Our primary responsibility is to ensure that we satisfy our people. Métis Nation Saskatchewan was created to represent the interests and rights of Métis people in this province and if we're going to have a legislative assembly, let's ensure we have all the information."

Morin also says the organization still needs to straighten out which officials legitimately hold portfolio positions on the executive.

"We're hoping to get all this information and we're hoping we will be able

to straighten out the portfolio system, who's responsible for what positions and so on, and hopefully we can access all the information, make some decisions and go to our legislative assembly this fall and make some recommendations to our local presidents and move forward."

In an emailed statement, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt's office says funding will continue to be cut to the

MNS for failure to hold an assembly.

"We continue to hope that the members will come together to effectively and efficiently give the Métis People of Saskatchewan the governance that they deserve - one which is transparent, accountable and democratic," Valcourt's statement said.

The MNS's remaining money is expected to run out by the end of February.

# 2015

## Saskatchewan Aboriginal Indoor Track & Field Championships

Feb. 27 & Feb. 28, 2015 - Field House, Saskatoon, Sk.

Entry Fee:

\$60

per athlete

Includes:

Meet T-shirt & Registration (up to 4 events)

Early Bird Registration: Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline

Registration: Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> deadline

Eligibility:

First Nations, Metis or Inuit Ancestry

Age Classes:

Pee Wee (Born 2004 or later)

Bantam (Born 2002 or 2003)

Midget (Born 2000 or 2001)

Youth (Born 1998 or 1999)

Open (Born 1997 or earlier)

Contact:

**Derek Rope**  
Phone: (306) 292-5277  
Fax: (306) 664-6761  
Email: registration@saskatf.ca

**Jordyn Burnouf**  
Phone: (306) 291-6948  
Fax: (306) 664-6761  
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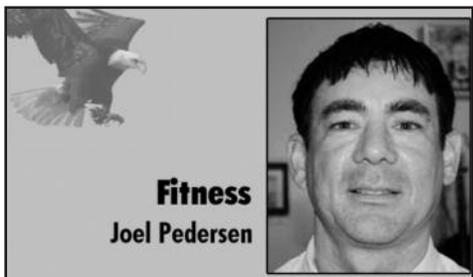
This event is proudly supported by:

[www.saskatf.ca](http://www.saskatf.ca) for online registration & info

# Tips for staying fit and healthy

This month we want to give a shout out to Black Lake First Nation where over 750 youth and adults participated in 41 sessions including the community fun run and walk last month.

Jackie Robillard, Gerald MacDonald and Luke Symons assisted with the week of Functional Fitness programming and the training was supported by NSCRD, Transwest Air, RCMP, SAS.



performance both in your training and in your life. Eating small healthy meals makes it much easier for your body to metabolize. Eat some bannock and raisins to help keep your energy constant, not chips and candy.

5. Get the correct information on applying training principles and programming. Find a resource that you trust, there are lots of open source info on the Internet and

Health and training tips for this month ...

Sometimes injuries happen during sport, recreation and just walking down the stairs. Bruises, bumps, scars, general ouches, most of us have had them at some point, maybe even this week. So what can be done to help us to stay healthy and injury free?

While injuries will always happen, we can lessen the blow by taking some simple precautions. The following is a list of seven steps to put the odds in your favor of staying free of injury.

1. Stretching prior-to and after training – Stretching should always be done to keep the body limber and loose. 10-15 minutes, twice daily, of full body stretching should be enough.
2. Proper nutrition and supplementation – Some people treat their animals better than they do themselves. Proper nutrition and supplementation is important for all of us on the go.
3. Drink eight glasses of water (eight ounces each) per day. Your body is made up of more than 70 per cent water. Drinking pop, energy drinks, coffee and other dehydrants will not replenish the proper hydration our body needs. Many injuries and potentially life-threatening diseases can be attributed to even a one per cent or more decrease in one's hydration levels.
4. Eat five to six meals a day with the proper calories to fuel your body for peak

blogs. A coach, or teacher, personal trainer or fitness leader, and ask them for help when designing a fitness and exercise program.

6. Sleep eight to ten hours a night based on your training loads. For some of us this is not always possible. Realize that your immune system kicks into high gear when you are asleep. This is when your body receives the real results and gains that you are looking for. You are not going to find that gaming or watching TV all night.

7. Always work on developing your mental strength. It is the inner strength that at times is what brings that balance into our life that we require. Ask any wise elder and they will tell you what it was like, their stories can be a step for you in the right direction. Making the proper investments into the development of your education, and your mental attitude is the best investment that you can make toward your personal fitness and living your healthy lifestyle.

February Fitness 2J2 is continuing with Functional Fitness sessions in Saskatoon at St. Mary's Health and Wellness Center in Pleasant Hill. Still no-cost except for some dedication and sweat! Open to all levels. 3-2-1-Go! Check it out on Mon, Weds, Thurs 6-7pm a second session on Thurs 7-8pm at St. Mary's. Read Joel's fitness and health columns on our website every month.

www.eaglefeathernews.com

# MMA fighter inspires other youngsters

• Continued from Page One

"We sold squares for an Xbox and we had a merchandise bingo, an Indian taco sale, on the Facebook page, we are doing an art auction, we're also going to be having steak nights, and we opened a 'Go Fund Me' fundraising page," she says which racked up to \$1,030 in four days.

"There's no can't, we'll reach our goal," she adds.

The determined parents have four children age ranging from 14-years old to two-year old twins. Sarah and Jason phoned around Regina to find Leah a martial arts training centre and found Spirit of the Dragon.

After some Aboriginal communities learned that Leah will be competing in an international competition, people have been reaching out to the family asking for Leah to speak to the youth in their communities.

"One Arrow wants her to go and speak on the 19th at their school and another reserve has contacted my mother (to ask us) to speak at their school," she says.

Her advice to parents is to support and dedicate your time for your child to reach their dreams even with the loads of work that comes with it. Leah's advice to the youth who want to pursue a passion for MMA is to reach for what you want.

"If people say you can't do it, don't listen to them, they don't really think that anybody can do anything," she says.

Brian Parks, one of the head instructors at Spirit of the Dragon, says Leah started in the fall of 2008.

"She has fire, she can turn it up and she's very motivated and she likes to compete hard," says Parks.

Parks says Spirit of the Dragon will be taking nine competitors to the championship. Their ages range from an adult category to Leah being the youngest.

"We wish her the best, one of our coaches will be going with her making sure she's well taken care of and looked after ... from a student point of view," he says.

"We know she will do well, we hope she has fun there and is able to bring out some of that fire in her," he adds.



First Nations Power Authority of Saskatchewan™

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If you are a Saskatchewan First Nation interested in power generation or a company involved in the power generation industry and interested in partnering with a Saskatchewan First Nation.

Call our office or visit our website to learn what membership can do for you!

Contact: Tracey Pascal, Membership & Communications Manager @ 306.359.3672, tpascal@fnpa.ca

Visit our website [www.fnpa.ca](http://www.fnpa.ca)

The Pathway to Powerful Opportunities™

# Family in motion Day February 16th



[www.in-motion.ca](http://www.in-motion.ca)

There are so many things you can do together on Family in motion Day (and all winter long)!

- Go skating, tobogganing, swimming or bowling
- Take a winter nature hike
- Play games in the snow & more!

#familyinmotionday

How will you spend Family in motion Day?

Send us a story or picture of how your family was physically active by February 22nd to:

[inmotion@saskatoonhealthregion.ca](mailto:inmotion@saskatoonhealthregion.ca)

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