

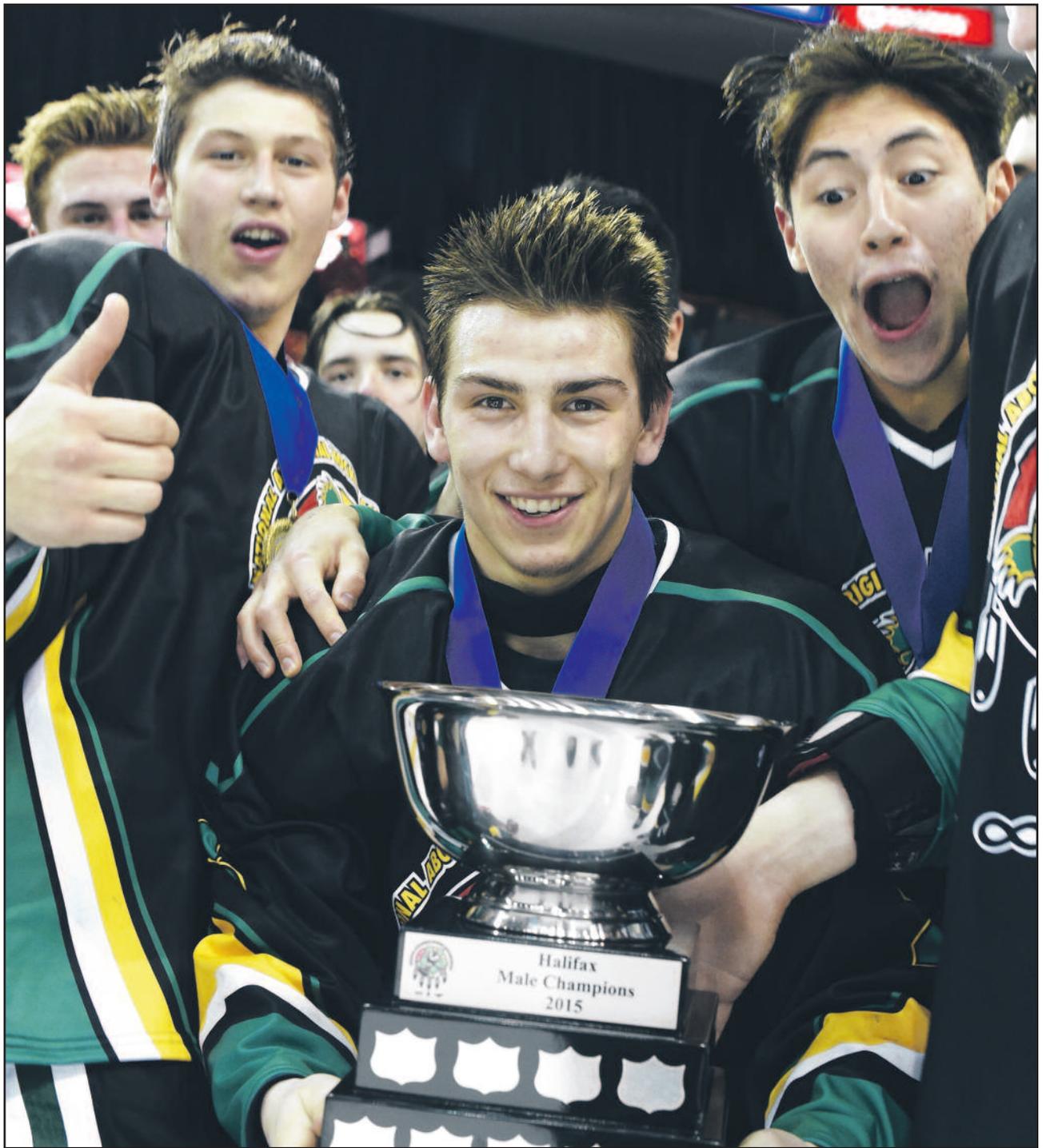
# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Double gold for Team Sask at NAHC

Members of the boys team celebrate their championship at the 2015 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships held in Halifax.

(Photo by Jeff Watson Athletes Image Sports Photography)



### Sask teams take gold for two consecutive years

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

Team Saskatchewan has once again struck double gold at the 2015 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships held this year in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Both the male and female teams defeated provincial rivals in medal round games on May 2.

The tournament features elite level Bantam and Midget players from across Canada.

Saskatchewan also won gold in both the male and female divisions in last year's NAHC tournament in Kahnawake, Quebec.

The male team edged out Team Alberta 4-3 in overtime for the gold on Saturday.

The teams were scoreless after one period of play before Saskatchewan's Reed Gunville broke the ice with a power play goal in the second. Alberta responded with a power play goal of its own before the period was out.

The teams traded off a total of four goals in the second and third periods with Drake Teer tallying for Saskatchewan on a power play and Lantz Hebert adding another.

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Welcome to our  
Sports, Youth & Mining Edition  
Coming In June - National Aboriginal Day Issue  
CPMA #40027204

# Narrow margins, but Sask teams victorious at national championship

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Alberta had two even strength goals before Saskatchewan won the game in overtime on a marker by Connor Navrot at 15:49.

The female team won gold by defeating Team Ontario 3-2 on Saturday.

Saskatchewan had the lone goal in the first period with Hannah Koroll scoring. They added another two markers in the second period with Taylor Gravelle scoring and Kiana Durocher tallying on a power play.

Ontario replied with a goal of its own before the period was out and added another in the third but it wasn't enough.

Alberta and B.C. took silver and bronze respectively in the male side of the tournament. On the female side, Ontario won the silver medal with Manitoba taking bronze.

Both the male and female teams lost to Team Manitoba in the round robin but came back to beat the same opponent in the semi-finals of the playoffs.

Saskatchewan female team head coach Lynn Regnier says it was just a matter of his team being more focused in the playoffs.

"We just got a lot more pucks on net, we were first on pucks and we got a lot more shots on net," he says.

Saskatchewan's Reed Gunville led all male skaters in points in the playoff round with four goals and six assists for



Team Saskatchewan's female team came back from a round robin loss to Manitoba to reclaim the championship.

a total of ten points over three games.

He was followed by teammate Drake Teer who had three goals and five assists for eight points.

Kiana Durocher and Delaney Ross of Saskatchewan led all female skaters in

the playoff round with seven points each over three games.

Durocher had three goals and four assists and Ross five goals and two assists.

Team Saskatchewan was sponsored

by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation.

The NAHC tournament has been in existence since 2002.

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# Cell phone repair idea takes inaugural ShopIndig challenge

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Justin Scott just received a \$4,000 kick-start for his business, Scott Repair, by winning the inaugural ShopIndig Start up Challenge.

Scott beat out another dozen contestants and six finalists to earn some money for the cell phone repair business he has been dreaming of creating, money that will allow the entrepreneur to leverage more funding.

“Winning means I’ve taken the first step to actualizing my dream and now people are aware of my determination and are ready to help me succeed,” said Scott after the win.

“SIEF, Futurpreneur, all these different programs know who I am now and want me to apply. It helps me get my foot in the door of places I need to be so I can get more support and mentorship.”

The ShopIndig Start Up Challenge is the brainchild of entrepreneur Heather Abbey. She participated in many business plan competitions showcasing her website that markets for Aboriginal artisans around the world and she knew the benefit of business plan competitions and the resources they provide entrepreneurs.

“Just giving these entrepreneurs that chance to learn about business, to find a mentor and to win some cash to finance your business is so important,” said Abbey.

“We had great supporters and sponsors for this event and it went very well and several already promised to sponsor next year so we are thrilled. The quality of the pitches was outstanding and that’s what we want to see more of.”

The dozen entrepreneurs that submitted videos received a two day business boot camp where they had access to business mentors and also worked on the five minute pitch. The six finalists, Justin Scott of Scotts Repair, Cate Morris with Scout Financial, Candace Linklater and Mary-Lou Mintram with Littebow-tihk, Terry Tipewan of Belicious Bannock, Brian Dreaver of Iron Buffalo Clothing and Jean McKenzie of Sewing Gene got to pitch their businesses to a panel of judges at a gala banquet at the Dakota Dunes Casino.

Kendal Netmaker from Neechie Gear, Lisa Abbott from Abbott Law, Rhonda Speiss from PotashCorp, John Lagimodiere from Eagle Feather News, and Rick Stefanowski from SIEF were the judges.



**Justin Scott and his idea for a cell phone repair company took the top spot at the ShopIndig Challenge. Scott has several years experience in the industry and wants to turn that knowledge into his future business. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)**

Cate Morris of Scout Financial earned second with her financial literacy business and Candace Linklater and Mary-Lou Mintram, with their fashion line Littebow-tihk, came third.

Justin Scott is now taking his four years experience working for a national cell phone company and he is turning that knowledge into something that will truly be his.

The ShopIndig Challenge certainly opened his eyes to the support out there for entrepreneurs.

“This start up challenge has taught me you need to break into whatever program, system or challenges are available to get yourself noticed. If you do your due diligence and have the experience, these programs and individuals representing these programs will help you, first step is getting noticed by them,” said Scott.

“The best entrepreneurs and business leaders find the best teammates and that starts by sharing your vision with the community.”



**ShopIndig founder Heather Abbey with winners Justin Scott, Cate Morris, Mary-Lou Mintram and Candace Linklater.**  
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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From food banks to festivals, we invest in organizations and events that help make our communities thriving and vibrant places to live.



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**PotashCorp**  
Helping Nature Provide

# Budding scientists among our athletes, teachers

Engaging and supporting First Nation and Metis youth in Saskatchewan has never been more important.

As we speak, almost half of the Aboriginal population in our province is under the age of 20 and this corps of young people face some of the biggest challenges out there .... highest poverty indicators, suicide rate, unemployment, incarceration and the foster care system are all impacting our kids in the worse way.

But there is plenty of reason to be hopeful looking into the future because some awesome people are doing amazing things to pave the way into the future.

Just look at this past month and think of hockey.

Kevin Roberts of Lac la Ronge – who, incidentally is a former member of the Eagle Feather News team from a few years ago – coordinated the FSIN Youth Hockey Championships that saw Jemini Arena in Saskatoon busting with kids and families enjoying the sport and building character.

Roberts' work back in La Ronge is a crucial part of a bustling recreation department that just bought a bus to help transport kids to sports

around the territory.

In mid-April that arena was packed for the Western Canadian Native Championships hosted by Claude Petit. And in early May, Shelley Lavallee helped host the Oskana Cup in Regina.

All events were very successful and showed how much talent we have out there.

The proof of the value in our investment in our kids showed when both the boys and girls teams won gold at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships ... again!

Those smiling faces on this month's cover make us all proud. And thanks, of course, to photographer Jeff Watson of Athletes Image Sports Photography in Ontario for that great image.

We have lots to be proud of and right now, young people are practicing their track and field for the First Nation Summer Games coming soon at Ochapowace First Nation.

Events like this give kids things to

aim for and keeps them focussed.

But sports isn't for everyone so that is why I love going to events like the PotashCorp Mini Science Fair with Saskatoon Tribal Council kindergarten to Grade 5 students.

At this event kids are engaged and put their inquisitive minds to learning about and explaining basic scientific principles.

In our community we have many people in careers like teacher, police officer and social worker, but not a lot in geology and engineering and other science based careers.

Science and math projects are investments we must continue to make. The economy in Saskatchewan is tied into our natural resources and careers are plentiful in the mining industry.

Those two subjects are pivotal foundations for these careers and there is no reason why these three young volcano builders (pictured on the left) can't become engineers like the three

gentlemen on the right.

It just takes time and patience and commitment to the cause.

To strengthen their communities and opportunities for youth, several northern leaders, both political and business, joined with Cameco folks and have headed to Ottawa to meet with federal officials and Ministers to tell them about the progress their communities have made by working together.

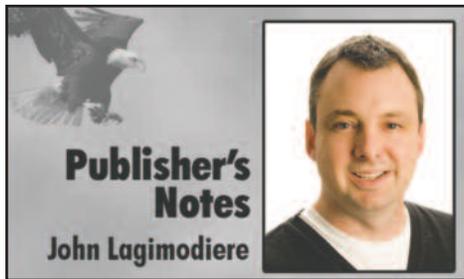
They will also learn how they can leverage training money and opportunities for their youth.

I'm in Ottawa with the Saskatchewan contingent and will be writing about the meetings in the coming days.

This trip is happening as we print this paper so you will have to go to our website to read about it.

Yes we do have challenges, but every single day there are champions and leaders out there working to make the world a better place for our youth.

And if the youth aspire to be the next hockey star like Michael Ferland or a top notch engineer like Matthew Dunn – who just happens to be a world-class athlete, as well as a brilliant scholar – that is a good thing.



Maybe one day Ethan, Ruby and Maya will become scientists or engineers.



Engineers Duncan Cree, John Desjarlais and Matthew Dunn.

**Eagle Feather NEWS**

Box 924 Saskatoon, Sk S7K 3M4  
306-978-8118, 1-866-323-NEWS (6397)

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204

OSSN #1492-7497

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

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**Subscriptions:** Annual Canadian subscription rate is \$25 per year, \$26.25 with GST. Bulk subscriptions are also available, call our office for details. Subscription requests can be mailed or emailed to our office. Forms are available on our website.

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**This issue printed on: May 6, 2015 Next issue to be printed on: June 10, 2015**

# Money sense an important concept for young spenders

Once, on a trip to the local band store, I had a whole 75¢ burning a hole in my pocket.

This was enough money to buy a bag of chips or a chocolate bar, but not both. And I don't know about you, but that is an impossible decision for a chubby six-year-old.

Thus, I was seated outside in the gravel trying to make up my mind.

In the meantime, I invented a game where I buried my coins, looked away for a few seconds and then unburied them. Each time, there was a thrill in uncovering my three shiny quarters.

Until, I buried them too far and lost them to the gravel gods.

This was my first lesson in money management – don't play with your money, unless you're a pirate.

This month's column is about money and youth – but not in a lurid way.

What I mean is that if you are young, you still have time to learn how to manage your money wisely and then enjoy it in your twilight years. (If you're old, it's already too late – so just keep playing the lottery, cheating at cards and cashing your cheques at Payday Loans, Mom.)

When you're young, it feels like the money train will never end but it's important to have a cushion to fall back on if things take a sudden turn for the worse.

Like if your roommate moves out because your chinchilla bit him or if your chinchilla has an unplanned pregnancy or if your chinchilla requires sex-change surgery because he feels like he's been living a lie.

Here's my first tip – never tell anyone how much money you make. Or how much money you have in the



bank or even how many gold teeth you have. Even if you think it'll be safe to whisper your net worth after midnight during a thunderstorm – it isn't.

No matter how quietly you proclaim your income, when you wake up, there'll be a relative standing on your doorstep with an "aw-shucks" story, ready to parlay your sympathy into a long term, no-chance-of-ever-getting-it-back loan.

Until your saving goals are met, say no to unnecessary purchases. And, as to determining what is an unnecessary purchase, just ask yourself, could I find some way to steal this?

Another tip: teach yourself how to invest your money. This is called making your money work for you or "big pimpin'." To become a good investor, study the markets and don't jump in unless you feel comfortable with the level of risk.

However, sometimes you have to go with your gut. Like normally I would say, "no bingo-related loans." But what if Mom is on a hot streak? Well, then maybe you have to go with it.

Be clear with her though – you expect a 15 per cent return and she must pay up immediately if she wins. (That's the hard part of investing – learning how to shake down

your mom.)

Don't put all your money in one place, especially if that place is your mouth. Somehow I got to the age of 25 before I learned you weren't supposed to put money in your mouth.

It had always been a holding area for coins until a friend pointed out that on any given day at least 10 people touched a single loonie before it found its way into my mouth and at least one of those people was a habitual ball-scratcher.

"It's a wonder you don't have ten different kinds of cholera," she added.

Ironically, I have always been suspiciously healthy.

I know you young people must think I'm some sort of old fuddy-duddy taking all the fun out of getting to throw money around for the first time.

I know what it feels like to be young and free – my first month on my own, I only ate grapes. This was an act of rebellion against my mom who used to always say, "grapes are too expensive, just dip your raisins in water."

So when I had control over the grocery budget I bought as many grapes as I wanted. So what if my power got cut off? I proudly ate my grapes in the dark.

It's important to remember that money is what people pay you in exchange for your time. And you don't get an unlimited supply of that.

It's like that movie "In Time" (great movie except that it starred Justin Timberlake) where people get paid in time credits. Once your time credits run out, you die and then Justin Timberlake holds you in his spindly arms and makes squawking noises in an attempt to cry.

It's pretty unpleasant and to avoid that – respect your dollar bills, y'all.

## Romp 'n' READ Camps For Parents and Preschoolers

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**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



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# Thoughts on hockey ....

I remember when I was a little boy. Yes I was a little boy once.

I watched the Stanley Cup playoffs on television. It was my first experience watching this new invention. It was the 1955-56 hockey season and I was watching TV in the gym at the Oblate residential school where I was trying to avoid studies and learn to play hockey.

Montreal Canadiens won. They beat the Maple Leafs which only the late Father Guy Lavallee cheered for. Everyone else was a Montreal fan including yours truly.

If you have not yet read the children's book 'The Hockey Sweater' by Roch Carriere you must get it now and read it. You will immediately get the flavour of what it was then to be a Montreal hockey fan.

That season was the start of the incredible five-year domination of the Stanley Cup champion Canadiens. The roster was an array of unforgettable characters and hockey legends including 'Rocket' Richard, his little brother Henri, Jean Beliveau, Bernie Geoffrion, Doug Harvey, Dickie Moore, and others.

The hockey barons changed the penalty rule to allow the penalized player back on the ice after a goal is scored to stop the Montreal onslaught with the man advantage.

That was a long time ago and I rarely watch 'ice hockey' any more.

I missed many seasons while I lived in Australia from 1974-82 and when I came back the game had changed to something like roller derby on ice.

No more fancy stick-handling and passing plays: just dumping the puck in and chasing it, with lots of cross-checking, interference and high-sticking.

That grated on my referee's nerves, I having taken to officiating to earn money to go to university and then ending up as the Referee-in-Chief for Australia, where the game was a very minor sport played mostly by Canadian ex-pats.

I see that the game has made a good comeback, with the players being bigger, stronger, and faster than 'back in the day', a fact that I will not admit in the depths of my soul.

Back then, it was commented that 'Moose' Vasko, a defenceman for Chicago Black Hawks, was too big to play hockey at 205 pounds.

Today many forwards are much larger than that.

Another development is body protection equipment that seems to have been designed for tank warfare. I am puzzled not only by the hard elbow pads that make great weapons but especially by the helmets that seem designed to ensure concussions rather than prevent them.

Recent scientific studies have shown what was plain to ordinary folks like my good friend: the helmets are next to useless because they have no absorption quality but simply transfer the blow to the head.

Why not use softer helmets that absorb shock? Try this test: put on a helmet and bang yourself on the head. When you wake up you will

be convinced something is amiss.

A round of applause for young Sequoia Swan, Anishinabe Pee Wee player who made the Western Selects roster that recently played in an international tournament in Europe.

Sequoia is the grandson of friends Jenn and Darcy Wood and a member of Cape Croker First Nation, all of whom live in Winnipeg where Sequoia is the star player for the local elite Rebels team.

Proud parents are Jenn and Darcy's daughter Shylo and Clint Swan of Peguis First Nation.

The Selects won all five first round games but were stymied by a hot Finnish goaltender in the quarter-finals.

A polite 'congrats' to our friend Milton Tootoosis for his work in promoting hockey in Saskatchewan. Keep up the good work Milton! Sports need more people like you.

## Commercial Break

Your humble scribe (aka 'ink-stained wretch') has been called to the Bar in Manitoba, which means I have joined Boudreau Law a firm specializing in Aboriginal Law in Winnipeg.

I have not, however, thrown away my goose quill, having resolved to work part-time at a law practice while writing books on legal subjects, a task which local friends and Saskatoon publishers Purich Publishing keep reminding me about when I lag behind schedule!

## Last word

Speaking of the NHL playoffs it appears that a flock of Ducks recently downed some Jets in the Winnipeg area, leading to a great gnashing of teeth by fans who had not tasted Stanley Cup playoffs in many years.

*(Editor's Note: Congratulations, Paul!)*



**Comment**  
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**Eagle Feather NEWS**

# Junior Achievers in La Loche – talk about success!

By Ray Penner  
For Eagle Feather News

**LA LOCHE** – It would be hard to find anywhere in Canada where there are better Junior Achievement success stories than those of La Loche, Saskatchewan.

“I’m so proud of these students,” says Theresa Huntley, the JA Company Program instructor and high school career transitions teacher at La Loche Community School.

“Many of them went far beyond the program expectations with the businesses they created, and showed their true talent as entrepreneurs.”

Huntley helped launch the Junior Achievement Company Program last fall. Her class had 15 students who created six companies. Over a four month period, students had to decide who they were going to work with, what product or service they were going to provide, and what to call the company.

They then had to go through all the stages of manufacturing, marketing, and managing the company to show a profit. A typical JA student company might generate only a very modest profit of a few hundred dollars. In comparison, even the least successful La Loche JA venture showed a profit of close to \$500, with others tallying profits in the thousands.

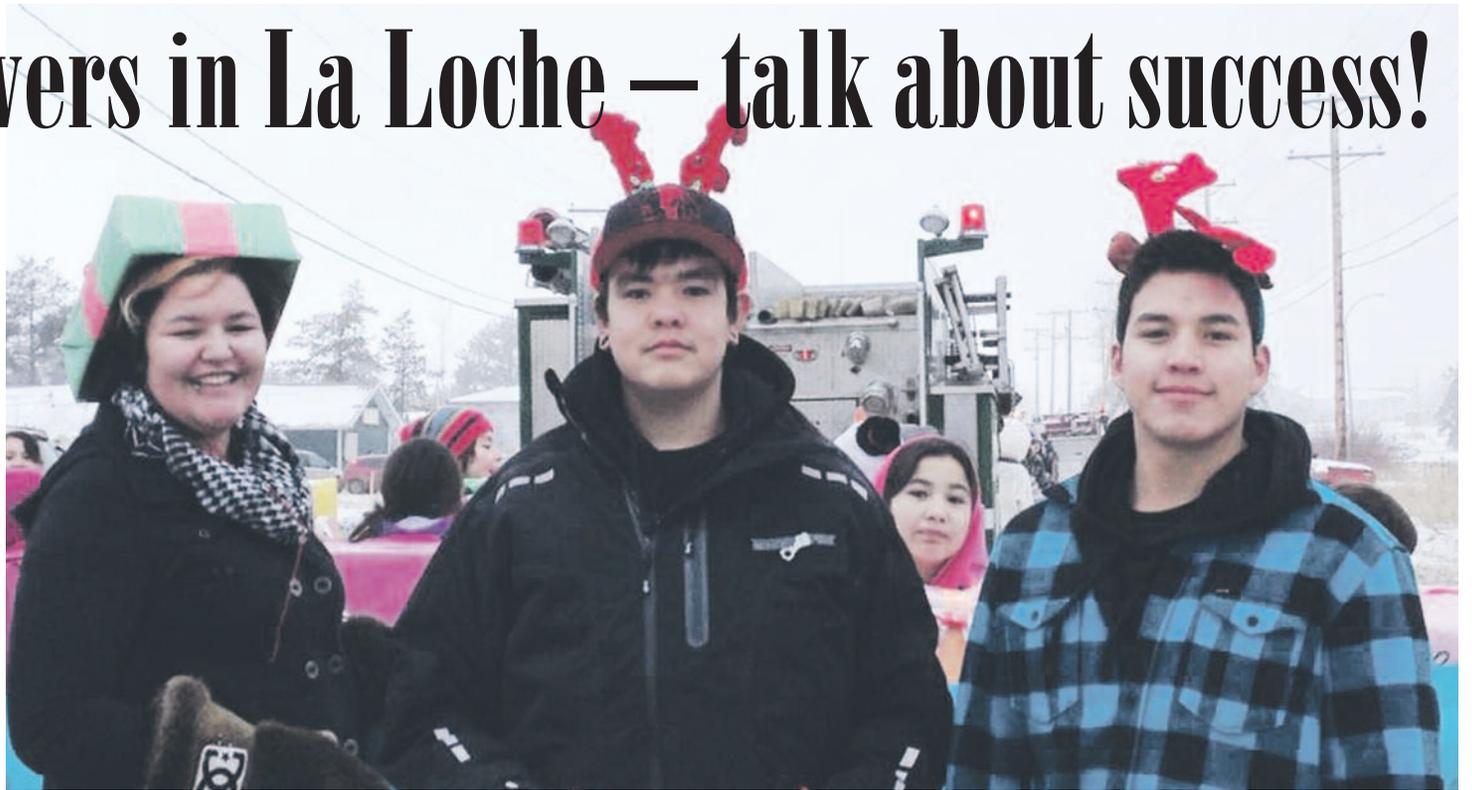
One of the high flyers was Beadwork by Curbee, started by students Curtis Fontaine and Mytaya Lemaigre. They secured a contract to create and supply 150 pairs of beaded earrings as gifts for all participants in a provincial volleyball tournament in La Loche.

“I learned the importance of balancing out payments, and the importance of the economy while in the JA program,” notes Fontaine.

Collin Montgrand, a student who created Montgrand’s Photography, says “I learned that you can achieve your goal by believing in yourself and working hard through the business you’re trying to build.”

Montgrand showed what he means by securing a contract to do all the grad photos for the school, and most recently a contract to do the photography for the mayor’s upcoming federal election bid.

The spirit of Junior Achievement was demonstrated in many ways during the past winter. Students in Jacked Up Coffee put in 10 to 12 hours a day selling coffee at a weekend tournament, impressing the provincial organizers to the extent that they donated a commercial coffee maker to the school. The com-



Junior Achievers Amber Fontaine, Dylan Janvier, and Preston St. Pierre showed their own version of “corporate community involvement” at the La Loche Santa Claus parade.

pany now sells coffee and tea at the school during afternoon breaks, bringing in more than \$500 a month.

Not to be outdone, Taste for Tea was also an “instant hit” at the tournament and also operates during the afternoon breaks. There’s a competitive spirit in these Achievers, to be sure, but also a sense of teamwork and dedication to their community.

For the La Loche Santa Clause Parade, all the JA companies joined together to create a float and handed out candy canes.

The community is an important factor in the success of the JA companies in her Program, says Huntley.

“Home-based and small businesses can do very well in a place where people have money, but not a lot of places nearby where they can spend it,” she explains.

“La Loche supported our JA companies in many ways because they liked not only what the students were doing as young people, but also the goods and services they were offering. Junior Achievement helped to prove that you can start a venture in your northern home community and do well.”

That’s why Huntley does not hesitate to recommend JA to other northern teachers.

“It’s relatively easy to start a JA Company Program. Junior Achievement gives you lots of support, and everything is clearly laid out.

“Most importantly to me, though, is they also provide scholarships and other incentives to help our students reach their true potential. It’s a very rewarding experience for everyone involved.”

*I learned that you can achieve your goal by believing in yourself and working hard through the business you’re trying to build.”*

–Curtis Fontaine

# Getting to know Jack

By Kris Foster  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – A lot of people know Jack Saddleback. They know he is a Cree man studying sociology. They know he is a two-spirit, transgender gay man. And as of March 26, they know he will be the new University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) president.

But there is more to Saddleback than that.

He's the third First Nation, but first transgender USSU president. Saddleback is the third Aboriginal president in a row, following Jared Brown and Max FineDay.

"It's important to celebrate these milestones as a campus community," said Saddleback. "I happen to be First Nation and openly transgender, but we are all diverse and unique individuals."

Saddleback says he almost didn't run for president

"It took me quite a while to decide. I come from a number of marginalized groups and have faced a series of barriers, both external and internal. I was afraid and wasn't sure if the campus was ready for a First Nation, two-spirit, transgender president," said Saddleback, who was vice-president of student affairs this past year.

In the end he ran, and won. "Everyone has an identity. Mine just happens to be rarer than most. People didn't see me as a First Nation man or a trans man; they saw just a skilled, experienced and passionate individual."

Saddleback is putting his passion, experience and skills behind a four-point platform that won him the election with more than 47 per cent of the votes.

He stressed the importance of creating a mental health strategy for the campus. "Mental health is a huge passion of mine and through my own experience with depression and suicide, I consider myself an advocate for change." Last year, he was named a Face of Mental Illness with the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health, and shared his struggles and stories about mental illness across the country.

The U of S is one of the last U15 universities without such a strategy. "There are gaps and we need to bridge those gaps so that no one falls through and that means faculty and staff too. Our success as students relies on the wellbeing of the faculty and staff."

Another major issue for Saddleback is creating a sexual assault policy. "This is a huge issue across Canada and we are no different."

He wants to create concrete steps that can be followed by those reporting assaults and those receiving the reports. "We need to make it clear what steps will be taken and what the procedure



Albertan Jack Saddleback became the new University of Saskatchewan Students' Union president on May 1.

going forward."

Saddleback's final two platform planks were about engagement, both with the student body on campus and the broader community off campus.

"We need to engage with students at all levels to find out what issues we can address." As for community engagement, he said he wants to make sure students know what funding is available to them to do even more community work.

He likes Huskies more than all cats ... except one

"I grew up with a wolf-husky cross named Princess," said Saddleback, who was raised in Samson Cree Nation in Maskwacis, Alberta. "I definitely like dogs more than cats, except The Lion King is my favourite movie."

Not only did he grow up with a princess, he also met the Queen

"Not a lot of people know that I met the Queen. I was one of a few people who got the chance to present her with some artwork at a cornerstone-unveiling event at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights."

Joining Saddleback on the USSU executive are: Gabe Senecal, vice-president of academic affairs; Kehan Fu, vice-president of student affairs; and Ata Merat, vice-president of operations and finance.

"The exec is filled with amazing people with great skills. It's going to be a well-rounded team and I'm really stoked to get started."

The USSU president has a seat waiting for him on the U of S Board of Governors and he is looking forward to occupying it. "But the board is like Las Vegas: what happens there, stays there," he said with a laugh.

Saddleback assumed the role of USSU president on May 1.



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# Look out bullies ... the good guys are coming for you

Bullies beware. Last month there was a Pink Shirt campaign crossing Canada.

From coast to coast provinces are taking a stand against bullying.

The "pink shirt" movement began in September 2007 in Nova Scotia when two Grade 12 students decided that the bullies had crossed the line when they targeted a fellow high school student by shouting homophobic insults at him for wearing a pink shirt to school.

Travis Price and David Shepherd organized a protest with their fellow students to wear pink and to support for their bullied classmate and the pink shirt anti-bullying movement was born.

The protest spread from school to school and eventually around the world. These two students were so successful that many provinces in Canada have dedicated one day a year to anti-bullying campaigns. The United Nations declared the official UN Anti-Bullying Day to be May 4 in 2012. The U.S. and British schools also celebrate on this day.

Bullying is a major problem in our schools, communities, workplaces, homes and on the Internet. According to a new Angus Reid poll three in four Canadian adults said they were bullied while in school. Nearly half of the parents polled said their children have been bullied at some point.

There are many risks attached to social media sites and cyber bullying is one of the large risks.

Bullies have become more vicious since the introduction of the Internet. These days it is common to hear people speak of "cyberbullying".

Unlike physical bullying, electronic bullies can remain virtually anonymous using temporary email accounts and different names on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media venues.

If you are a victim of cyber bullying tell your parents, report it to the police because it is a crime.

Let's all send a message to bullies to think before sending or posting cruel rumours that will damage reputations and end friendships. Don't disclose people's personal data on websites. No name calling or excluding people.

Don't make up stories and spread gossip. There is an old saying that if you don't have anything good to say then don't say anything at all.

Be a leader in your school or community and promote inclusion, respect and empathy; let's put an end to bullying behaviours. More and more we hear about

young people committing suicide because they were bullied. It's sad to say but sometimes it's the parents that are bullying their own children. Tapew!

Some parents want their children to excel in academics or sports and push their kids so hard that that it takes the fun out of learning and participating in

organized sports.

Have you ever witnessed some parents at a hockey game yelling at their kid for missing a goal or failing to pass the puck? Imagine what that poor kid is going through at home.

Have you ever heard a couple having words in the grocery store or Wal-Mart aisle? I have and it's horrible.

You can see the physical changes in a person's stature when they are being belittled; their face may turn red maybe they stare at the floor; their shoulders are slumped or they lag behind their partner like a dog following its master. Not a pretty sight.

Bullying happens in the workplace; it can come from coworkers or supervisors or even the clients that your company serves.

I think that many of us have at least one memory of either being bullied or bullying someone but it doesn't have to be that way for future generations.

The anti-bullying movement has gained momentum. More and more people have cell phones and they are recording acts of violence and bullying behaviours that they witness. You just have to watch the news to see that even police officers and security guards are guilty.

There are materials available to educate parents, teachers and the public about cyber bullying.

We all need to pay attention and let the bullies know that we won't take it anymore, nor will we stand by and watch someone else get bullied.

There is goodness in all people. Respect, humility, generosity, integrity and honesty; we can't go wrong if we remember these teachings and make them part of our daily lives.

I encourage all of you to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a community will not tolerate bullying anywhere in any form.

Be kind to one another.

Thank you for your letters and emails.

You can write to me Sandee Sez CO Eagle Feather News PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK or send an email to Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



**Sandee Sez**  
Sandra Ahenakew



Have you always wanted to LEARN to play keyboards, guitar or african drums? Wanna LEARN hip hop & modern dance? Have you ALWAYS DREAMT of performing on stage in front of a live audience? If so, here's your CHANCE

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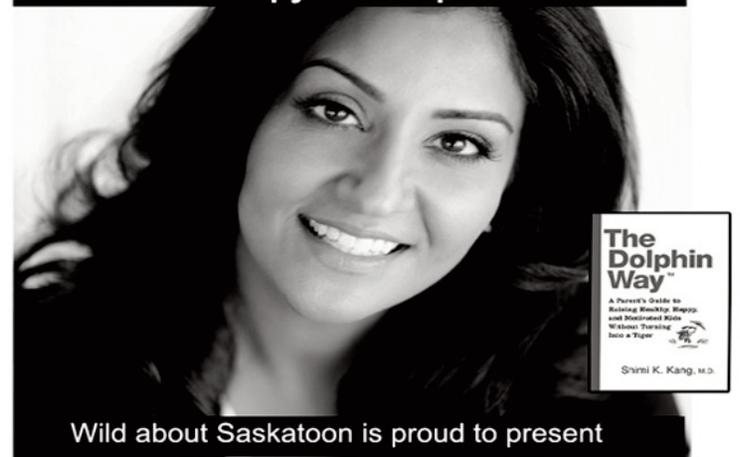
**Classes are FREE— supper & transportation provided.**

ANHTA runs Monday thru Wednesday from 5-7 pm. at the YWCA - 1940 McIntyre St. Supper from 4-5pm.

For more information please visit contact the Artistic Director Monica Fogel at 306-205-7333. Check out our website [www.anhta.org](http://www.anhta.org) or like our Facebook page for daily updates.

This project is supported by Urban Partnerships (UP) Program, Saskatchewan Lotteries, the Saskatchewan Community Initiatives Fund and the City of Regina.

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Michelle LaVallee was the curator for the book *7: Professional Native Indian Artists Inc.* The book swept several awards at the Sask Book Awards last month.

## Dumont among Book Award winners

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

The 22nd annual Saskatchewan Book Awards once again sported a strong Indigenous representation.

Dawn Dumont's *Rose's Run* was nominated in four categories and won the Regina Book Award, while *7: Professional Native Indian Artists Inc.* curated by Michelle LaVallee swept the publishing categories as the year's big winner.

"It was so exciting, it's the best feeling when you write something because there are so many distractions out there, and to have someone to notice, it's not like you're yelling into a tornado, it's a great feeling to have people reading your work," noted Dumont.

"People will sometimes write to me or send me private messages and every single message I'm so grateful they took the time to read the book, and then to write me."

While her primary goal was entertainment, she also hopes her fictional truthfulness will either spark recognition or bring deeper insights into First Nations culture. An avid runner herself, Dumont's character Rose is very much a different person who initially appeared to Dumont in a dream about a woman from a reserve running a marathon.

"That feels like a goal for an upper class lady – not something others consider when they're down and out, because they're already running one every day and so it adds to that layer of difficulty – for this woman it was a way of pulling herself out of her problems, and grew from that idea."

When Dumont was notified, both about the nominations, and later the win, she was thrilled and is both grateful and encouraged as she works on a sequel ... and awaits the birth of her first child.

"Every little bit of attention your book gets can increase your readership," she noted, expressing gratitude for Thistledown Press and her team, including talented editor

Donald Ward who not only won a national CBC fiction competition, but read all her columns to get a sense of her writing style.

"This is my second book and it's amazing how much you learn with each book."

"We are very honoured and surprised to have received a Saskatchewan Book Award," noted Angie Caron who with her father Ken Caron received the City of Saskatoon Book Award for Manny's Memories.

Ernie Loutitt received five nominations and took home the Aboriginal People's Writing Award for *Indian Ernie: Perspectives on Policing and Leadership*, published by Purich Press.

Michelle LaVallee says she wasn't expecting any of this let alone all three publishing awards.

"It's always good to get recognition for work you've done, even a nomination, so the McKenzie Gallery had a few publications that were up for awards. So that was really great, we were really excited about that," said LaVallee.

"It's pretty validating when your work is recognized by organizations, awards, and your peers."

"It was a huge project with lots of people involved in production and publication," LaVallee said, noting not only did she work on it during her maternity leave, having already spent seven years researching, but there were seven other established colleagues from various areas who contributed scholarship to the catalogue, including her maternity leave replacement Hilary Knutson, designer Russ Portico, and three of the feature artists themselves.

Like others in attendance, she found the event and awards beautiful, exciting, and humbling.

Or in Dumont's words: "Writing is like labour – you never know how it's gonna go but you know the end result is going to be a part of you – a part of you that the world gets to hear screaming on the plane."

# Cree protocol for ceremony

*Part Three of a four part series by Louise Halfe*

Tobacco ties are made for particular ceremonies such as the shake-tent, a vision quest and other ceremonies.

They are generally not used by the Plains Cree to be presented to an Elder to gather information or for the more common sweat lodge. It is more honorable to present a pipe or pouch of tobacco rather than a pinch, as this indicates the respect of accumulated knowledge the Elder has earned over the many years of discipline, reflection and gathering.

This tobacco is used to enter ceremony with spirit, to receive and learn how to share what is being asked for. It is advisable for the recipient to gift the Elder in *nâcinêhikê*, in return for gathering information, knowledge, stories, songs, medicine, or ceremony. *nâcinêhikê* suggests that "there is a valuable exchange for his/her request" and "it is not for nothing."

One must remember that these Elders have earned their knowledge through many years of ceremony, sacrifice and humility in their own quest for understanding.

A "bundle" is another term that is often confused. The Elders say a true bundle – *nayâhcikan* – contains hair and the clothing of a deceased person. Sweet grass and tobacco are wrapped in prayer cloth along with these personal remnants. This bundle must go through ceremony to be honored, blessed and to carry on the memory and teachings of the deceased.

To accept the responsibility of a bundle is a life-long commitment that requires the correct protocol and the participation in the Ghost Dance and other related ceremonies. Recently, the beautifully created moccasin vamps honoring the missing and murdered aboriginal women are symbols, a remembrance of their lives.

The vamps are a bundle in their own way. Creating them was a commemorative reminder of their complete absence. They are unique bundles, not to be confused with the original *nayâhcikan*, but worthy of having their own ceremony and protocol carefully developed through a community consensus.

In the *nêhiyaw* community *iskwêwak*, "women," are asked to refrain from participating in most ceremonies when they are in their moon. This is not because they are dirty and unwanted. On the contrary, it is because it is a power time.

"When Creator called for the universal energies to come together in that sound, that vibration, what came were the universal energies to create Mother Earth. It is those universal energies that came together that manifest the physical form of her behavior in women.

"We emulate everything that she teaches the universe must be. So it isn't just Mother Earth, it is how we are connected."

Creator, Mother Earth, Women's ability to bring new life; this places women as intermediary between earth and the spiritual world. The potential to help a new soul transform, to cross from the other world into this world, is the heart of feminine potency. Regardless of one's gender identity, they will never forget body form they came in at birth. That was the beginning of their story.

In *nêhiyawêwin* birth is referred to as *mamahtâwisiwin*, "arriving from a spiritual place filled with medicine powers."

The arrival of women's period is sometimes referred to as "her grandmothers have arrived" which insinuates the innate wisdom- *kiskêyitamowin*, she possesses. Wisdom in Latin and in Greek means to "taste life." In *nêhiyawêwin*, *kiskêyitamowin* loosely means "the sacred things I know from which my heart has eaten."

Mathew Fox, a theologian writes "... There are two places to find wisdom: in nature and religious traditions ... Nature is a powerful source of wisdom."

Some Elders believe that not every woman is a grandmother and it is only through pregnancy and childbirth that this right has been earned.

*(Next month Cree concepts of ceremony and protocol)*



LOUISE HALFE

# High achieving Peepeekisis student off to El Salvador

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**PEEPEEKISIS** –Tiarra Bigsnake-Keewatin’s dedication to her community and her culture has earned her a place in the 2015 Global Citizen Youth Leadership (GCYL) program and a trip to El Salvador.

The Grade 11 student from the Peepeekisis Pesakastew School was nominated by her teachers for her exemplary attitude towards her studies and for being a model of hard work and determination.

Bigsnake-Keewatin didn’t just get in based on the letter from her teachers though, the application process was quite involved.

“There was wicked criteria for this,” she said. “I had to write out an essay and then we had an interview. I found out three days later and I was crying. I was bawling my eyes out.”

The Leadership program is an opportunity for nine Saskatchewan youth to visit and connect with Saskatchewan non-governmental organizations working in El Salvador. In El Salvador, youth participants will meet with staff and volunteers from local organizations, as well as community members who have been impacted by international development efforts.

The youth will learn more about the work being done in partnership with Saskatchewan non-governmental organizations and their international colleagues, and how they can continue to be involved in international development, locally and globally. Youth participants will be accompanied to El Salvador by experienced staff from The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, The Committee Against AIDS (Co-CoSI), and the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC).

Bigsnake-Keewatin’s teachers were effusive in their recommendation. Her work ethic was praised as well as her involvement in extracurricular activities at the school. But her tie to her culture really sticks out.

“Tiarra has always been immersed in her culture and proud to showcase her talents performing in many powwow celebrations across the province. Tiarra has spent many hours in creating her dance regalia from the sewing of the dress, stitching of her moccasins and of course doing her own intricate beadwork for her outfit.

Always proud to represent her Cree/Blackfoot heritage, Bigsnake-Keewatin has taken great interest in acquiring the Cree language and learning the history of her Blackfoot ancestry as well as her Korean lineage from a great-grandmother on her father’s side of the family. Tiarra has always been proud to share her beautiful mosaic of culture with many of her peers and younger students in and around the community.”

Bigsnake-Keewatin credits her success to her mother Jacqui Keewatin and her grandparents Ruth and Gilbert Keewatin.

“My mom got me into the powwow circle and taught me how to live and be nice to people and have the right attitude,” said Bigsnake-Keewatin. “My grandparents would always take me to powwows.”

She is excited for the trip but is going in there with full knowledge that it will be difficult. “I want to come back and change the way I look at what we have here. El Salvador is the second poorest country in the world. I believe it will make me grateful for what we have here.”

She also expects the trip to change her life.

“I want to see the effects in this country but I also want to help them in any way I can. I want to teach them about my culture but also learn lots about their ceremony and protocol,” added Bigsnake-Keewatin.

“I don’t know what I will get out of this trip, but I do know that it will be good.”



foto: glneda

Tiarra Bigsnake-Keewatin’s respect for her culture is demonstrated through her powwow dancing.

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# PCS science fair piques students' interest in science and math

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Exploding volcanoes, plant projects and booger blobs were all on display for an esteemed panel of judges to deem best in show for the 4th annual PotashCorp Mini-Science Fair.

K-5 students from Saskatoon Tribal Council First Nation schools had their best ideas put forward from what they learned through research and built displays explaining their projects.

The students took part in robotics demonstrations and other science presentations and also explained their projects to judges from PotashCorp, the University of Saskatchewan as well as the Tribal Council. It wasn't about winning, as all the students receive prizes, it was more about inspiration.

"This event creates new opportunities for the students and an awareness of their talent in science and math. We need to develop those talents," said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

"They are naturally curious right now and if we can get them interested in some of the non-traditional employment areas, like engineering, it is good. Universities have done a great job in developing nurses, and teachers and social workers but we have to work on the natural sciences," says Thomas.

"We are starting to get there in terms of dentistry and medicine but we need to get better.

event. Even though these future scientists are far away from the labour market, they will be the employees of the future.

"We need to inspire the next generation of geologists and engineers and subjects like math and science are basics needed in those fields. In the long run, we need to do more of this for young people."

Marie Wolfe from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation did a classic experiment with a stalk of celery.

"We put food colouring in the water and the plant drank up the water and changed colour," said Wolfe who really enjoyed working on computers for research and creating her story board. But her favourite part was lunch.

"I love pizza. It is my favourite food because of the cheese."

The students worked hard on their projects and were duly rewarded with pizza and their own individual science kits to take home, and again, according to Tribal Chief Thomas, the science fair had the desired effect.

"The big thing I see is not so much the experiments, but how the kids are engaged.

"Doing this and seeing stuff that they don't necessarily see in their class back home that creates some excitement and hopefully they build their own robot or science experiment and just be interested.

"That's the big thing."

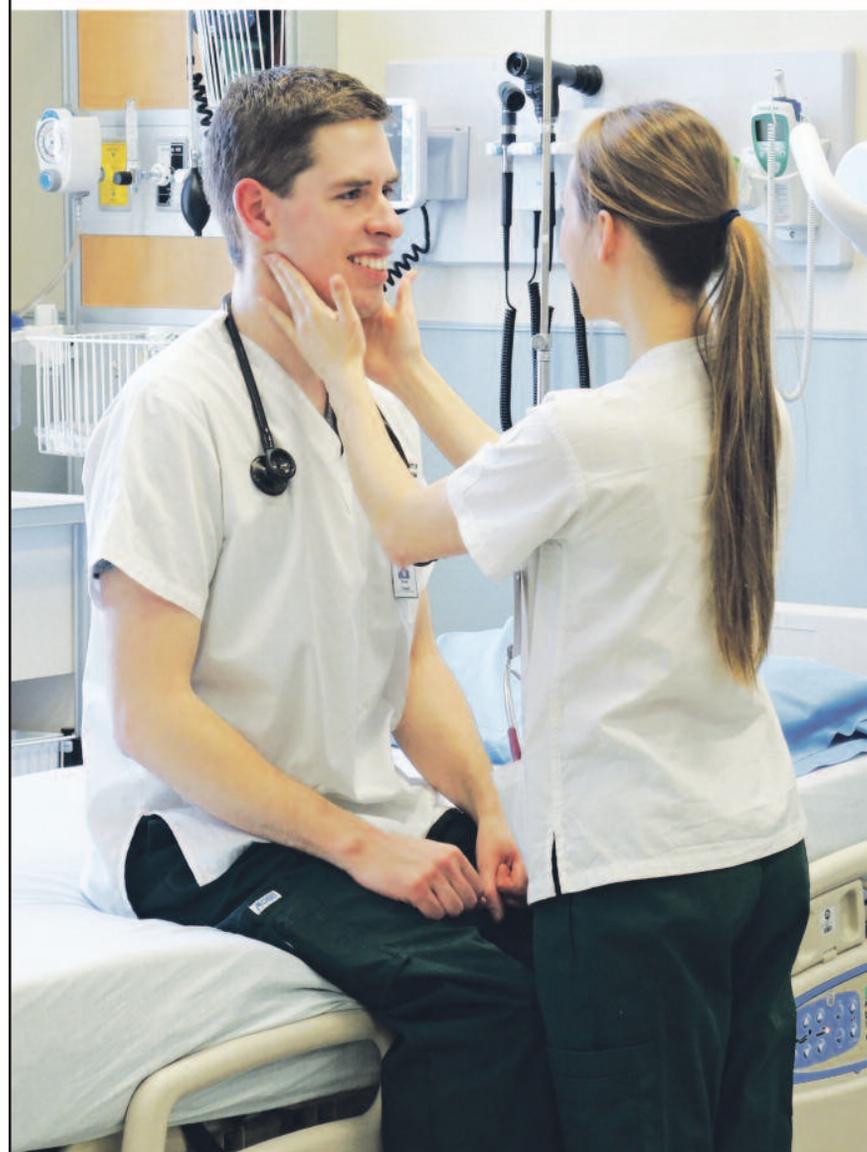
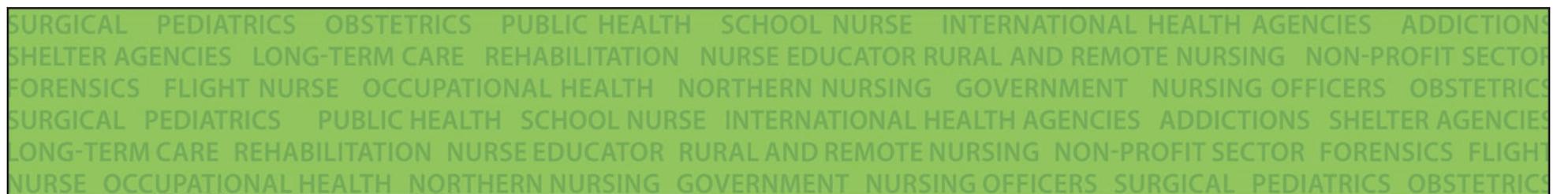


Marie Wolfe from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation found her experiment interesting.

"We need to be in all industries like economics or science and these students are certainly capable of that."

PotashCorp sponsors the yearly

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# Northern youth role model hoping to inspire others

By Linda Mikolayenko  
For Eagle Feather News

**ISLAND LAKE FIRST NATION** – “Education, to me, was always number one, and always will be,” says Simon Crookedneck of the Island Lake First Nation.

Crookedneck is one of four young people from northern Saskatchewan featured in a series of posters recently produced and distributed by the Northern Healthy Communities Partnership (NHCP). With his passion for education, it is appropriate that on one of those posters, he is pictured in front of the Island Lake First Nation School, with the quote, “I work with youth to get them involved in sports and activities to keep them in school.”

The posters are one component of a Northern Youth Role Model Campaign initiative of the Building Vibrant Youth Action Team of NHCP, an interagency coalition of almost 20 partners representing various sectors including First Nations, government, health, education, community outreach and recreation.

The campaign began just over a year ago in April 2014, with a call for youth role models in northern Saskatchewan, says Amanda Frain, Population Health Promotion Coordinator at the Population Health Unit. After a selection process, in addition to Crookedneck, three other youth and their mentors were chosen to participate in the project.

They were Claude Bridges and mentor Darrell Sewap of Sandy Bay; Summer Michel and mentor Angie Merasty of Pelican Narrows; and Shay-Lynn McAuley and mentor Jenna O’Connor of La Ronge.

“The mentors and chaperones have been phenomenal in their support,” says Frain.

Crookedneck gives credit to his aunt, Melissa Martell, for the role she

played in his life, especially after he lost his father at the age of 15.

“One of the reasons I became who I was in high school was because of my aunt, who mentored me after my father passed away,” he says, noting that he never missed a day of school, played sports, and participated in extra-curricular activities such as movie nights and dances.

Already a well-rounded individual, Crookedneck says he benefited from the events of this initiative and a highlight for him was a team-building workshop in La Ronge.

“They taught us how to be better presenters, how to project ourselves – to be a true role model,” he says.

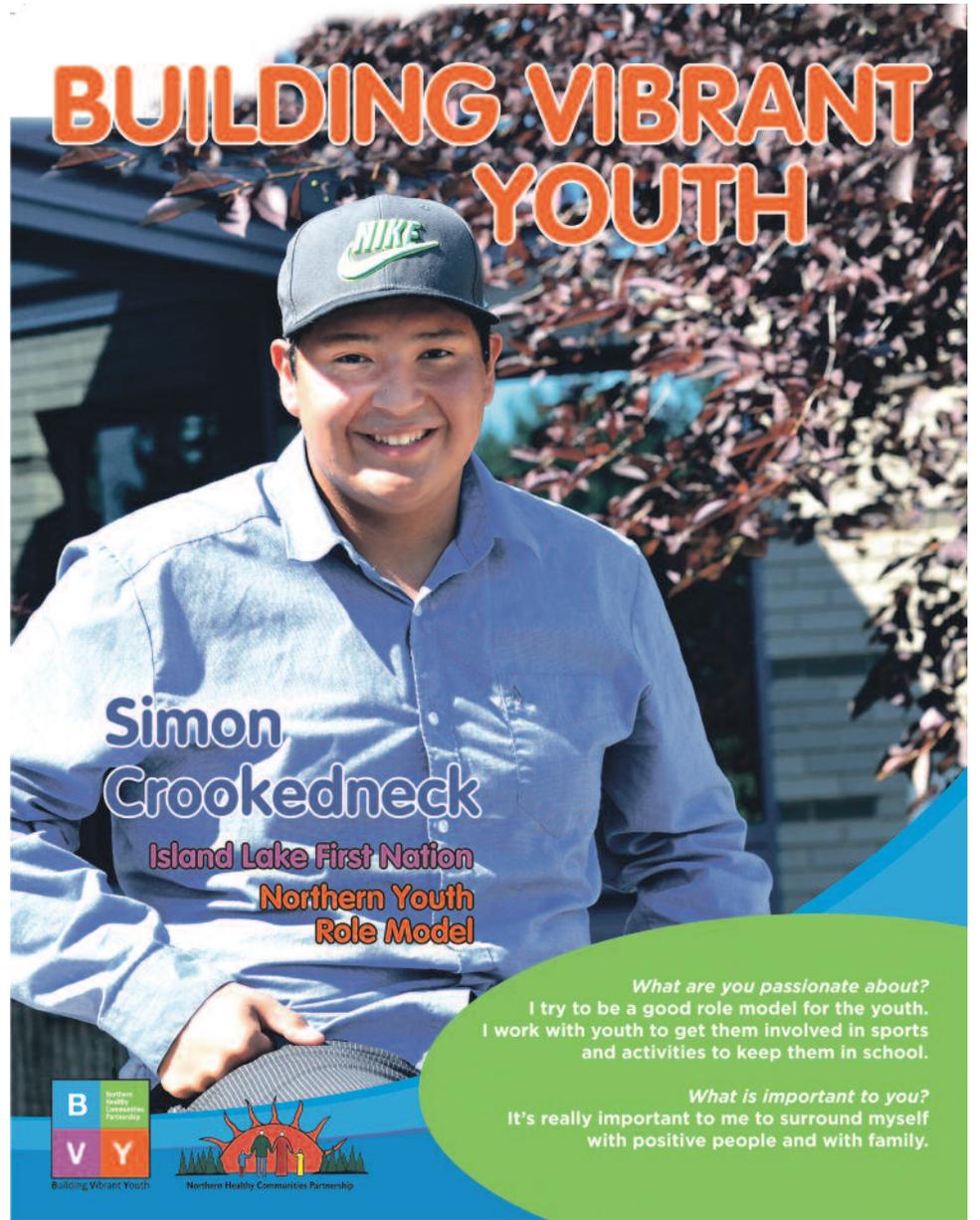
As part of the campaign, some of the role models presented leadership workshops for other youth in Fond du Lac and Pelican Narrows, and each of the four youth had access to \$1,000 to plan and execute a project in their own community, says Frain.

Crookedneck chose to organize a half-day “Gym Blast” at his school. Students formed teams and played a variety of games for points, including wheelbarrow races and a pudding eating contest.

“We handed out prizes. They really enjoyed it,” says Crookedneck, who has since graduated from the school and is now 19 years old and pursuing pre-electrical studies in Meadow Lake. He hopes what he is doing now will inspire other students.

“Not a lot of people from here go into the trades,” says the young role model.

Crookedneck also has a message for adults. That message is one that will be airing on MBC Radio, also an NHCP partner, for the months of May and June: “My advice would be – never give up on your kids. Be their number one supporter and never give up on them.”



Simon Crookedneck of the Island Lake First Nation is featured in one of a series of posters as part of the Northern Youth Role Model Campaign.

(Poster courtesy Northern Healthy Communities Partnership)

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# Delorme finds his purpose as powwow dancer

By Janelle Mandes  
For Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – Cadmus Delorme is one of the hundreds of dancers that took part of this year's First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) 37th Annual Powwow held in Regina's Brandt Centre.

The former FNUUniv student completed his first year of powwow dancing and hosted a men's prairie chicken dance special on the first night of this year's powwow as he was danced into the circle.

"This year will mark one year that I started dancing on the dance floor," says Delorme. "It is kind of a protocol for every dancer to be welcomed into the powwow family," he adds.

Delorme always wanted to dance but no one in his immediate family dances powwow so last March he told his wife, Kimberly, that he planned to begin dancing. With the help of one of his friends he was able to get a men's chicken regalia.

At last year's FNUUniv powwow, after receiving his powwow outfit, Delorme recalls he was so excited he was going to dance that he showed up early on the first day.

"I was sitting there watching other dancers putting on their regalia ... I felt like a little kid (because) I didn't know how to dress up," Delorme says laughing.

A few of the other dancers helped him get ready by adjusting his regalia before he danced in his first grand entry.

"A whole new Cadmus came out at the grand entry. I can't believe I never danced before. That's the kind of feeling I got," Delorme says.

"It's a feeling you can't explain, people are dancing with you in a spiritual way. You get so much energy, power and happiness to be Indigenous."

Richard Missens, chair of the FNUUniv Powwow for the past 10 years, says the students are a huge part of the event.

"This is the time of the year that students are on their last papers, last exams or they're convocating so this is a good time to powwow," Missens says. "They are an important part of the celebration."



Cadmus Delorme was one of the dancers at this year's First Nations University powwow in Regina.

The FNUUniv powwow committee consists of faculty, staff and students who volunteer their time all year round to organize what is called the kick off to powwow season.

The committee starts their planning eight months prior to accommodate close to 7,000 people that show up every year. They do a lot of fundraising including taco sales, raffles, and steak nights but heavily rely on sponsorships such as Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA), K+S Potash Canada and other organizations.

Many guest speakers are invited including Saskatchewan MLAs, First Nation Chiefs and even AFN's National Chief Perry Bellegarde who address and acknowledge the crowd.

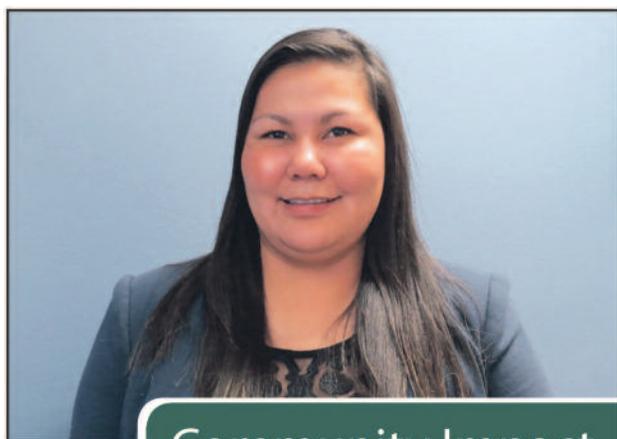
"It feels great to be back home here in Treaty 4 territory, so this is like coming home," says Chief Bellegarde.

"I remember years ago, it was a time to help support the students at SIFC (now FNUUniv), it was a chance to lift each other up and to celebrate our culture and our language and I'm pleased it's still going after 37 years," he adds.

The powwow was started by the student body to encourage the continuation of their educational paths and to celebrate the culture and powwow ceremony.

Delorme, who is currently FNUUniv's student recruitment officer, says if you want to dance just do it.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help if you are wanting to try it. I was so shy, I didn't know what to do," Delorme says. "I have a purpose and I just found it."



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Alicia Worm-Littlewolfe, Aboriginal Program Coordinator



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# First Nations University of Canada



## POW WOW

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We are grateful for the community involvement; from dance specials in commemoration of those who passed, initiations into dance and the pow-wow lifestyle, to honouring Elders and traditional knowledge keepers.



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# U of S Aboriginal students organizing 2016 business competition

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Two Aboriginal students at the University of Saskatchewan are playing lead roles in organizing a major undergraduate business competition that will come to Saskatoon next year.

Twenty-four-year-old Brett Lendsay is in his third year and 18-year-old Emily Martell in her first year at the Edwards School of Business.

Lendsay is the vice-president of corporate relations and Martell vice-president of events on the planning committee for the 2016 JDC West Business Competition.

The JDC West Competition will take place next January and is expected to bring about 600 people from all over Western Canada to Saskatoon.

Lendsay says because of the size and scope of the competition, it takes several months to plan.

“This is a very big competition so there’s a lot of preparing,” he says. “It’s about a year in advance you have to get started.

“We have different positions ranging from marketing, events, gala, corporate relations, finance, athletics, debate, academic cases – so really there is an immense amount of work put into this, all run by students and recent alumni of the U of S.”

The four-day competition consists of four key components with challenges in the areas of academics, debate, athletics and social responsibility.

The academics component contains competition in 10 core areas including accounting, entrepreneurship, finance and not-for-profit business strategy.

The debate portion is based on a parliamentary style of debate where four students split into government and opposition teams and argue the merits or flaws of a specific proposal.

In athletics, students compete in one or more sports which for the 2016 competition will be ringette and dodgeball.

Martell says some consider the social component the most strenuous part of the competition.

“The social aspect of JDC West is definitely unique,” she says. “It’s about 48 hours of an intense competition testing your limits. There’s different types of competition with that, maybe they’ll have to eat some things that you wouldn’t normally want to eat – they’re tested physically, emotionally and mentally through 48 hours.”

JDC West also costs a significant amount of money to put on and requires the organizing committee to manage about \$650,000.

As vice-president of corporate relations, this is where Lendsay comes in.

He says his job is to hit up corporations for sponsorships and convince them it is a good idea to have their brand on display at the competition.

“We need an immense amount of money to rent out facilities and run the events, ensure we have hotel rooms for all of the 600 students, judges and corporate sponsors. So there’s a lot of great opportunities for the sponsors to come in and connect with tomorrow’s business leaders and young, driven passionate business students.

“So it’s a fantastic opportunity for all these sponsors to meet, greet, recruit and get their brand out there.”

As vice-president of events, Martell’s job is to ensure all venues for the competition are booked and ready to go come next January.

She says her role also entails showing visitors from out of province what Saskatchewan, Saskatoon and the U of S have to offer including the province, city and university’s unique Aboriginal heritage.

“Just welcoming them to Saskatchewan as a whole. Lots of people have never been here and they don’t necessarily know what the U of S has to offer necessarily. So I think just showing them our passion as students and definitely welcoming them with open hands.”

Although helping to organize JDC West will require literally hundreds of volunteer hours between now and next January, both Lendsay and Martell say they have no hesitations about making the commitment because of the tremendous opportunities the competition provides.

The first JDC West Competition was held at the University of British Columbia in 2006.

Over roughly the past 10 years, the competition has raised about \$1.2 million for charities.

The theme of the 2016 JDC West Competition is “Achieving Excellence” with the three basic pillars being connections, prosperity and technology.

The competition is expected to bring in about \$1.5 million in direct and indirect economic impact benefits to both the province and Saskatoon.



Emily Martell and Brett Lendsay are playing key roles in the JDC West Business Competition.



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# Students learn about wildlife conservation

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**PRINCE ALBERT** – A group of Saskatchewan First Nations high school students had the opportunity to learn about ecology and animal conservation as part of a trip to the Prince Albert National Park in late March.

The 11 youth are from the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation.

As part of the trip, they were taken on a tour of wolf prey sites throughout the park.

Over the course of the past two winters, Parks Canada officials have been tracking the hunting movements of wolves within the park to see what effect this is having on the bison population.

Roughly six wolves in two different packs were initially captured, outfitted with global positioning system collars and then released back into the wild.

Through the GPS collars, park staff is able to track the movements of the wolves via computer.

Seth Cherry is the wildlife ecologist at the Prince Albert National Park who led the trip.

He says they want to show the students what the park has to offer and at the same time teach them about the importance of ecology and conservation.

"The reason we're interested in bringing youth out is first of all to get them out in the park and expose them to some of the research we're doing and some areas they maybe haven't seen before," he says.

"But also to teach them about bison conservation and bison ecology. I think a lot of individuals, some members particularly from the Ahtahkakoop First Nation, hunt that bison population so they do have an interest in bison conservation."

Cherry adds a lot can be learned from examining a wolf prey site.

"We're going out to investigate those sites to see what's there, to see what they're eating. And get an idea of how many bison they're eating but also how many moose and elk and deer they might be taking and how that changes from year to year.

"The idea is we can figure out how many bison are wolves taking, how many bison are hunters taking, how many we lose to disease and get an overall idea of what the population trend is going to look like in the future and possible management actions."

After a kill, the wolves don't tend to leave much behind – usually some hair, bones and stomach contents.

At one kill site, the students were part of an investigation of what ended up being a moose.

They examined the rumen (stomach contents) and took samples of both teeth and bones.

The teeth can be used to determine the age of an animal and lipid from the bone marrow to determine how healthy it is or if it is suffering from disease.

Cherry says park officials have noticed over the past decade that the plains bison population has declined by as much as 50 per cent.

In the first winter of the study, he says they tracked nine bison killed by wolves but this past winter just one.

This may have to do with the fact that this year's winter was milder and with less snow making it more difficult for the wolves to track the bison.



Above, several students headed to the woods to learn about wolves. Left, Preston Smallchild from Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation removes incisor teeth from moose calf remains for sample testing.

Tim Peekeekoot served as the chaperone for the students from Ahtahkakoop First Nation.

He says the community believes it is important to make the youth aware of the various environmental factors that are playing a role in the bison population and their declining numbers.

"There's only a few remaining live buffalo in this world and I thought it would be a blessing for them to know this count," he says.

The youth were also introduced to a Masters student from Germany who is using motion triggered cameras placed at strategic points on the west side of the park to capture images of the wolves to determine more information about their travel patterns and composition of packs.

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# St. Louis teen builds on proficiency in karate

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**ST. LOUIS** – Brayden Caron has built upon a high achievement level in the martial art of karate to gain success in other areas of sport, academics and community activity.

The 15-year-old Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation member holds a second-degree black belt in karate achieved after a decade of hard work and training.

He is also SRC president at St. Louis Community School and a member of the Student Voice Club for the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.

In terms of sports, Caron is member of his school volleyball, badminton, basketball, track and softball teams. He also participates in hockey and curling.

Caron has placed both first and third in school public speaking contests and has been nominated for Prince Albert's "Badge of Respect and Peace Award" three times for work done on behalf of the Prince Albert and Area Community Against Family Violence.

And he has done all this while earning top marks at school and holding down a part-time job.

The Grade 10 student says for him karate is much more than a sport.

"Karate teaches discipline and it gives you a lot of confidence in yourself," he says.

At the same time, Caron says although pursuing karate to the level he has does gives him a high level of expertise in the martial art, these skills must be used responsibly.

"The dojo kun is seek perfection in character, be faithful and ever respect others and refrain from violent behaviour. So, it's like a guideline to how to present your karate or yourself outside the dojo."

This means the martial art can only be used in self-defence.

He adds that he thinks a lot of younger people start with karate but don't stick with



**Brayden Caron's skill in karate carries over to success in other areas of his life.**

it because of the increased contact in sparring that comes with pursuing higher belts.

As a result of his high level of training, Caron is a member of both the ISKF Canadian National Karate Club and IKD Shotokan Karate Club.

He has participated in a number of provincial and national tournaments and received various medals for his efforts.

This summer, Caron will compete at his second world tournament.

Preparing for this tournament requires him to train twice a week at the St. Louis Dojo Club as well as practicing at home.

Caron's mother Gloria Merasty says she is happy to see her son participate in a variety of activities as long as he keeps on top of his schoolwork.

She says she does worry from time to time about him getting hurt in tournament competition but there is not much she can do in terms of holding the teen back.

Contact is supposed to be limited in sparring but not all competitors always display complete control.

Also, because of limited numbers of competitors his age at the provincial level, it is not uncommon for Caron to have to spar against men at tournaments.

"At the tournaments I really don't like watching him in the kumite – the sparring part," Merasty says.

"He has been competing in the men's category during the provincial tournaments because there's not many boys his age – maybe one or two – to compete with in the provincials so they just put them with the men and the men are big guys."

At the same time, she says she is very impressed with the discipline and confidence karate has given her son to be successful in other activities.

In July, Brayden Caron will travel to Toronto to compete in the IKD World CAMP/CUP.

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**KEN COATES**

**By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News**

Resource revenue sharing with First Nations continues to be a hot topic after a new report that says governments should seriously examine the proposal.

Governments in provinces such as Alberta and Saskatchewan currently take in billions of dollars in royalties each year from development in the natural resource industry which includes oil and gas, uranium and potash.

A number of First Nations leaders and advocates have long argued resource revenues should be directly shared as a way of truly honouring the treaties and leveling the economic playing field between First Nations and non-First Nations people.

However, governments have been reluctant to consider the proposal.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall has said on a number of occasions that resource revenue sharing with First Nations is not open for discussion.

Yet, a new report, First Nations and Natural Resource Development: Advancing Positive, Impactful Change, says this is exactly what governments should be doing.

A five-member working group wrote the 40-page report that was commissioned by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Assembly of First Nations.

The report's mandate was to identify ways First Nations people and communities can fully share in the benefits of natural resource development.

The working group spent over a year extensively studying natural resource projects and gaining feedback from both industry and First Nations leaders.

It notes that between 2008 and 2012 governments took in \$30 billion in natural resource revenues and the industry accounts for roughly 1.8 million direct and indirect jobs.

The natural resource industry is also the largest private employer of Aboriginal people at 8.3 per cent.

It is estimated over the next decade Canada's investment in the natural resource sector could reach as high as \$675 billion.

Amongst its various recommendations, the report says a national discussion should be convened between government, industry and First Nations stakeholders which would examine resource revenue sharing as a best means of eliminating socio-economic disparities.

Current Assembly of First Nations Leader and former Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde has long advocated for resource revenue sharing with First Nations.

He says the proposal's time has come.

"It's a concept, whether you call it resource revenue sharing, greater participation in the economy or equity ownership in major projects, it's all about getting involved," he says.

"And getting First Nations involved on every step of the way of major projects from start to finish. It's

# Time has arrived to share resource revenue: report

value added."

University of Saskatchewan professor Ken Coates is another big proponent of resource revenue sharing with First Nations.

He says industry has taken the lead on resource revenue sharing and it is now time for governments to get on board.

"There's 260 resource revenue sharing, or impact and benefit, agreements across the country right now," he says.

"And if you had actually suggested that ten years ago, people would have said, 'Oh, we might have five.' So, something is actually happening really quickly and it's happening on the corporate front faster than the gov-



**PERRY BELLEGARDE**

ernment front."

The report also says the natural resource industry; employers and unions should work with government and First Nations to create a targeted strategy to address First Nations' employment needs.

It adds a plan needs to be developed that facilitates meaningful involvement in natural resource development for First Nations including the environmental and land management process.

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# Aboriginal Rights, Mining of Natural Resources and You

## What does it all mean?

By Peter Moroz and Bob Kayseas

What are Aboriginal rights, title and land claims?

They are complex concepts because of the way that diverse sets of peoples view the world differently. Simply put, one may describe Aboriginal rights as a comprehensive collection of all rights that have to do with the ability to pursue, preserve and protect traditional activities, culture and knowledge after the experience of invasion or colonization.

For the near 500 million Indigenous people across the world, these moral rights are almost uniformly held at an ecological and collective level and have to do with the right of ethnic and racial survival.

Aboriginal title is actually a sub category of Aboriginal rights. Considering the above, it is a bit of a misleading term, as 'ownership' in Western terms is not applied to it. Aboriginal title represents the natural and collective bond of Aboriginal peoples to specific lands upon which they live, characterized by principles such as stewardship, control and 'home'.

What this means is that Aboriginal peoples who have title to land (have hunted, trapped, fished or used it for any other social or spiritual purpose in the past), should have a say in how it is used. This is especially so when development may interfere with or deteriorates any historical or current traditional usage of that land.

Thus Aboriginal title differs from mainstream (Western) views of individual ownership in that Aboriginal title is held as a distinct form of collective trust that resides exclusively with Aboriginal peoples.

Aboriginal rights and title not only exist outside of Canadian law, but are recognized within it. Under Canadian law, negotiations between our forefathers produced agreements whereby, the sovereign government, or Crown, would, in exchange for the use of lands, provide certain rights and benefits to Aboriginal people by entering into a fiduciary relationship through mutual agreement. A fiduciary relationship is one in which one party is put in a position of trust over another and has rights and powers to be exercised for the benefit of that party.

These agreements were protected under the British North America Act (BNA) and then extended to the Constitution of 1867. It does not matter as to whether or not Aboriginal nations entered into treaties or not, the fiduciary relationship and obligations held by the Crown remain the same to all under the Constitution. This Constitutional recognition of distinct and inalienable rights (that is, they exist outside of the relationship with the Crown and its legal systems) held by Aboriginal peoples have been translated into Western concepts of 'property' under Canadian law.

Very small parts of the lands once occupied by Aboriginal peoples were thus converted to reserve

territories in this manner and held in trust or 'owned' by the Crown. To gain Aboriginal title beyond a reservation, a community must prove through the Western legal system that traditional usage has existed in the past on lands held by the Crown. This is where it becomes complicated.

Breaking down the above, Aboriginal rights are the rights to collectively and uniquely exist and prosper as a defined and distinct people, Aboriginal title is the right to have collective say (or control) on how the land is used, and the Constitutional rights upon which reserve lands were created represent an 'ownership interest' of a specific geographical parcel of land within the mainstream western system.

Notwithstanding these concepts above, from a Government perspective, the treaties signed with many First Nations effectively extinguished Aboriginal title to the lands, but from a First Nations perspective, the spirit and intent of their participation in the treaties was misinterpreted or ignored.

Another mitigating factor relates to the lack of an implementation process following the signing of

Saskatchewan? What we have observed to date is that progressive First Nations leaders have realized that they have more to leverage than they have ever had before when it comes to exercising 'control' on reserve lands, but also on traditional lands as well.

Examples of on reserve initiatives are seen through the actions of White Bear First Nation and others in their spearheading of the First Nations Oil and Gas and Money's Management Act (FNOG-MMA) in order to gain direct control over resource production and benefits, the creation of a joint venture by Muskowekwan First Nation to one day build a potash mine on reserve lands, and the enterprising spirit of Onion Lake Cree Nation with respect to the creation of its own natural gas utility, each harnessing the resources of their lands for the direct benefit of their people.

There has also been a movement away from modern treaties toward signing contractual agreements with industry, such as Impact Benefit Assessments.

Examples of contractual agreements signed to legitimize control of traditional territories can be evidenced through historical partnerships between English River and highly progressive companies like Cameco leading to the creation of Aboriginal owned corporations such as Des Nedhe Developments, which continues to grow and have a significant impact on the Saskatchewan economy. These contractual agreements also strengthen the argument for Aboriginal title as corporations are treated as an extension of the Crown.

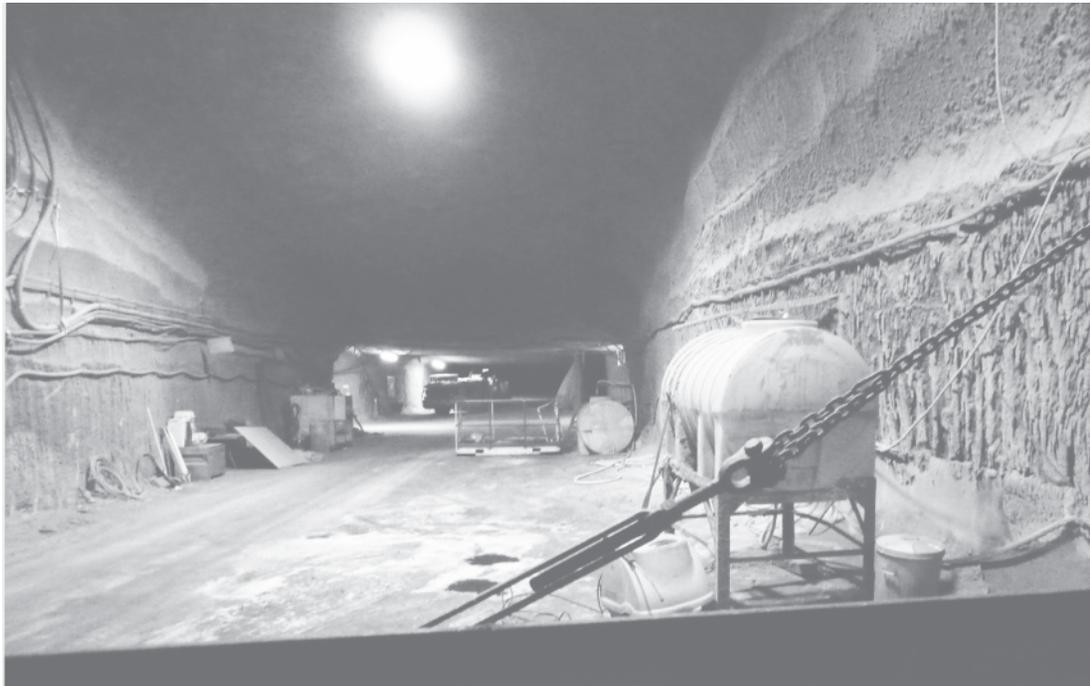
So, the recognition of Aboriginal rights and title is highly important to corporations and governments keen to accessing the resources upon which First Nations communities sit upon, or have the

potential to control. While having leverage is a good thing, it is neither sufficient nor significant if communities or corporations negotiate in bad faith, refuse to bridge their differences, or attempt to stake out higher political ground.

The economic capital vested within the lands held under Aboriginal rights and title cannot be leveraged for the benefit of all if cultural capital (speaking the same language), bridging capital (reaching out to partners for necessary resources) and bonding capital (the political solidarity of First Nations leaders and their communities) are not invested in first.

First Nations peoples must continue to hold their leadership accountable for assuming more and more of the Crown's obligations while building the capacity, governance systems and institutions required to legitimately act in the best interest of all Aboriginal peoples.

First Nations must continue to build and share knowledge about the process of leveraging their rights in order to participate in the mining and resource economy in a sober, sustainable and staged manner, for the benefit of all.



the treaties, there has never been an interpretation of 'little red schoolhouse' or 'medicine chest' for example. The lack of an implementation with clear definition of terms within the treaties creates even more challenges when dealing with land management – all of which, today, occurs within the Indian Act.

Only until recently, has there much attention and recognition of the concepts of Aboriginal rights and title. This started in 1965 with the Supreme Court Cases R v. BoB and White relating to rights, Haida Nation v. British Columbia (2004) and Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Minister of Canadian Heritage (2005) relating to the Duty to Consult, up to current day with Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia (2014) relating to title in situations where no treaty agreements with the Crown stand in force.

The 'Duty to Consult' has put the onus on government and industry to ensure that all First Nations who have probable cause for Aboriginal title are duly included in any development plans for Crown lands beyond their own reservations.

So how does this relate to mining and natural resource extraction for First Nations communities in

# Forum brings aboriginal supply companies to forefront

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Most mining companies in Saskatchewan have developed advanced policies and relationships with First Nation and Métis economic development groups and businesses across the province.

This has helped strengthen their supply chain and provided access to good employees. At the recent Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum in April, suppliers to the industry heard the message loud and clear that the big companies expect their suppliers to have some sort of Aboriginal strategy that brings Aboriginal business to the forefront.

The event discussed current mining operations and projects in Saskatchewan and the related supply chain opportunities for manufacturing and service businesses. It also provided practical information on how to be a preferred supplier to the mining industry.

“Industry wants suppliers to be part of increasing their Aboriginal involvement. They are asking suppliers to consider ownership, joint ventures, training, employment and other means to develop the Aboriginal portion of their industrial activities,” said Alun Richards Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining Suppliers Association.

“The larger suppliers and those serving the northern Saskatchewan mines are used to this. Small and medium size suppliers generally understand the issue and are seeking means to meet these goals within their capabilities.”



**DERRICK WENISCH**

Several suppliers that are interested in joint ventures or succession planning and Aboriginal economic development groups and businesses ready to get to business had the opportunity to participate in a day-long session on Aboriginal supplier development the day prior to the forum.

Presentations were made by First Nations Bank CEO Keith Martell, Des Nedhe Development President and COO Gary Merasty and former Cameco CEO Gerry Grandey and suppliers also heard about Aboriginal procurement from PotashCorp’s Leanne Bellegarde, Terry Bird from K+S Canada, Sean Willy from Cameco, Ken Smith from BHP Billiton and Carolanne Inglis-McQuay of Areva.

Derrek Wenisch, a manager at WESTLUND/EMCO Water Solutions knows that times are changing and their biggest clients are asking for change.

“We have heard they are putting more emphasis on Aboriginal content, not only in their business, but in their suppliers as well,” Wenisch says.

“It is important for us as a company that supplies products to various companies in the province to make sure that we engage ourselves and move forward in the direction of having that Aboriginal involvement in our businesses,” he added.

EMCO does have Aboriginal partnerships in other parts of Canada, so they have some experience. That experience taught them to do it right.

“We need to find a viable model that is not only good for the Aboriginal community but can also be profitable and successful into the future. We are looking at various ways to start putting a better foot forward to the demands of our customers.

“There is a sense of urgency. But again, this is not a process that happens overnight. It is about building relationships not only for short term, but to continue to foster for several years.”

This move by industry could potentially open the door for some lucrative business opportunities and Alun Richards knows it won’t be easy for his members, but it is important to start.

“The question from smaller suppliers is often how to start. They need sources of information and contacts within industry and Aboriginal organizations as well as training to help them out. In the end, they will have to develop something that works for their particular circumstances,” added Richards.

“The opportunities are significant for both groups and will depend on developing relationships that work for everyone involved.”



Mining companies and suppliers got acquainted at the Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum.



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# SMA works with students, teachers to generate interest in mining careers

**By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News**

The Saskatchewan Mining Association is working closely with both teachers and students to give them a snapshot of what a career in the industry might have to offer.

In the third week of April, SMA visited schools in Fond du Lac, Black Lake, Wollaston Lake and Stony Rapids as part of the "Flying in Career Fair."

The career fair is put on by Keewatin Career Development Corporation and other participants included Cameco, Areva, Northern Resource Trucking, Points Athabasca, Athabasca Catering, Northlands College and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology.

In the SMA portion of the career fair, students were given a quick introduction to mineral resource exploration including how to use maps to search and drill for mineral deposits.

They also had the opportunity to ask questions about what sort of career opportunities there are in the mining sector, the salaries these careers offer and the education required to pursue various post-secondary programs in related fields.

underground potash mine and a tour of an open pit coal mine.

The tour also makes stops at the Potash Interpretive Centre and T-Rex Discovery Centre before wrapping up on August 21.

"It gives the teachers a really good view of the resources that we have in Saskatchewan as well as mining processes, the safety, the environment, the processing of these resources," Grapes Yeo says.

SMA also provides educators with lesson plans and kits on the mining industry that can later be used in the classroom.

Earlier this year, SMA participated in the "The Future Is Yours" career fair in Saskatoon which specifically targets Aboriginal youth. Over 800 students attended.

Last month, the organ-

ization also attended the Saskatoon Tribal Council's Science and Culture Camp working with 80 Grade Four students over three days.

In May, SMA will be visiting schools in the File Hills/Qu'Appelle area.

Saskatchewan Mining Week is May 24-30.



**SMA Education Outreach Coordinator Kate Grapes Yeo (far right) talks with students in Black Lake about career opportunities in mining.**

(Photo courtesy of KCDC).

Kate Grapes Yeo is the education outreach coordinator for SMA.

"The whole idea behind the hands on activities was to give them a bit of a taste of what it would be like working in that career," she says.

Although the SMA activity focused on mineral exploration, Grapes Yeo says the mining industry offers a wide variety of different career choices.

"One of the things that I tell the students is that there's over 120 different careers that mining companies hire. Anywhere from engineers, geologists, geophysicists. We look for office staff, welders, electricians. So it's people of all different educational backgrounds."

In mining camps, other career opportunities include catering, health care and cleaning related jobs, she adds.

"We don't just work underground. We're not just miners – there's nurses who work with mining companies, everybody in the front office also works for mining companies. So it's not just looking for people to work actually on mine sites."

The SMA also works specifically with educators as part of the Geoventure Program.

The idea behind the program is to help teachers incorporate the most up-to-date information on mining into their curriculums.

Beginning in mid-August, a group of 24 educators will be flown into northern Saskatchewan for a site tour of uranium mining and milling operations.

Other site tours include a conventional surface and

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An English River First Nation Company

# Ronald McDonald House room dedicated to Edwin Boneleye

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Edwin Boneleye was a person dedicated to the North and his home community of Black Lake.

When he was diagnosed with cancer last year, Athabasca Basin Development, Team Drilling, West Wind Aviation and Points Athabasca contributed \$25,000 each for a total of \$100,000 to Saskatoon's Ronald McDonald House named after Edwin in honour of his battle with cancer.

Boneleye had been on the board of Athabasca Basin Development for several years and was also a Chief and Councillor at Black Lake. Unfortunately he lost his battle with cancer.

His name will live on at Ronald MacDonald House in Saskatoon. The



Leaders from businesses owned by Athabasca Basin Development pose with Helen Boneleye and her family at the dedication at Ronald McDonald House.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

that view the room.

“To have the Edwin Boneleye Room at the Ronald McDonald House is important to the Athabasca people, as it ensures there is a spot for the families of sick children that are hospitalized, providing them with an inexpensive alternative for accommodations.”

The northern region of the province has been the second biggest user since 1995 with over 1,400 families accessing the facility.

Artwork was donated and hung in the room. Some of these items were a pair of beaded leather gauntlets hand crafted by Lena Adam of Fond du Lac and donated by Scott's General Store in Stony Rapids.

These gauntlets were framed in a display case by Points Athabasca. Other artwork depicting a Aboriginal culture or theme was donated by Westwind Aviation, Athabasca Basin Development, Team Drilling, and Cameco. Black Lake Chief and Council also donated a plaque to be hung at the head of the bed in recognition of Edwin.

“I'm happy about it that they recognized my husband,” said Helen Boneleye, Edwin's widow.

“My late husband did many things for people of the North.”



Ron Hyggen, CEO of ABS, Muskowekwan Chief Reginald Bellerose, Kawacatoose First Nation Chief Dennis Dustyhorn, and Day Star First Nation Chief Lloyd Buffalo sign an MOU to provide security services at BHP Billiton's Jansen site.

## ABS signs security agreement with BHP Billiton

**SASKATOON** – BHP Billiton has signed an agreement with Athabasca Basin Security (ABS) to provide security services for its Jansen Potash project.

ABS has partnered with local First Nations through the Kawacatoose Daystar Muskowekwan (KDM) Business Development Corporation, for the training and employment of band members by the Saskatchewan-based security firm. The MOU signing between ABS and KDM took place on Friday, April 24.

“BHP Billiton is pleased to be able to provide this opportunity to ABS and KDM through our current level of activity at the Jansen Project” says Alex Archila, President of Potash, BHP Billiton.

“This is in line with our Local Procurement Plan which seeks to make a broader economic contribution that helps to continue building the business capacities of local, Saskatchewan, First Nations and Métis businesses.”

The contract will supply 40 jobs to the area. KDM will be responsible for security training and ABS will provide pre-employment requirements and jobs across Western Canada for the people who meet them. The First Nation becomes the sole provider of training for the company in the region.

“We are very excited about this agreement, as it's a win-win for everyone,” says Ron Hyggen, CEO of Athabasca Basin Security.

“As an aboriginal-owned security company, we take pride in providing a top-tier service to our clients, as well as providing meaningful career opportunities with transferrable skills for aboriginal people. We look forward to working with KDM to provide employment, training and a stellar industrial security service to BHP Billiton.”

In October 2013, BHP Billiton and Kawacatoose Day Star, and Muskowekwan First Nations signed an Opportunities Agreement for the Jansen Potash project. The agreement with BHP Billiton included mutually beneficial opportunities in employment, business, and community development for the three First Nations.

“The agreement we signed with BHP Billiton has led to this current partnership with Athabasca Basin Security,” says Chief Reg Bellerose of the Muskowekwan First Nation.

“We believe that collaboration through the creation of strategic alliances is the key to successful workforce development for our membership as well as for the collective business pursuits of our three First Nations, and this agreement is a good step towards our goal to provide people in our communities with access to education, training, and employment in a long-term, meaningful career.”

room dedicated to his name was recently filled with art by Aboriginal artists from across Saskatchewan.

“The decorating of the room and the spiritual ceremonies to bless the room were performed in honor of all those that will use the room, and will provide comfort and a sense of belonging to the Aboriginal families that will stay there,” said Glen Strong, Community Relations and Training Coordinator for Points Athabasca.

“As well it will provide an education about the culture to all those

We began as 7 northern communities working together towards a common goal. We now have ownership in 12 companies providing a wide variety of services.

As we grow, we look for opportunities to invest in the future of our shareholder communities; opportunities such as reliable dividends, donations, Northern tours, and active participation in local economic development.

We're a proud aboriginal success story, and as we look forward, we'll continue to grow, building a future through investment.

[athabascabasin.ca](http://athabascabasin.ca)

# SAS building on dreams, skills of three founders

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – SAS Construction is a general contracting company that does projects anywhere from carpentry to industrial pipefitting. The company was formed by Royan Stewart, Dwayne Stonechild and Jay Ahenakew, three friends that grew up together in Prince Albert.

A conversation as adults turned to the labour shortage in the province and the untapped opportunities there were for the Aboriginal community. That small talk saw them conceptualize the creation of an Aboriginal construction company that had all Aboriginal employees, from carpenters, to engineers and owners.

“Our vision from day one was to have this company that was all Aboriginal workers. We know the demographics aren’t going to change and our community is underutilized as a labour force,” said Dwayne Stonechild of the company’s plan to employ and support First Nation workers.

“We want to leave a mark on the Saskatchewan landscape so that First Nation people and their kids can drive by a landmark building and say that they built it.”

Each one of the friends had something important to contribute to the start-up business. Royan Stewart has over 20 years of construction and scaffolding ownership experience. Dwayne Stonechild is a practicing lawyer and Jay Ahenakew has been consulting on First Nations business for years. Their combined experience and knowledge of industry and the community has proven invaluable.

“We all saw the trends in construction with our clients having an Aboriginal strategy and with everyone really struggling to find workers, we knew we had to do something and we were the right group to do it,” said Stewart whose company, Brek Scaffolding is 33 per cent owner of SAS. Besides hitting the community to find workers, they have taken on student trainees from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology.

Most importantly they have also secured contracts with PotashCorp to do scaffolding at the Lanigan and Alan mine sites.

“Leanne Bellegarde and the people at PotashCorp have met with us many times and reviewed our work and given us feedback. I have been in construction for 20 years and I have never received feedback like I have from PotashCorp. That speaks to how well developed the relationship is,” said Stewart who added that their crew was 100 per cent Aboriginal on the Alan mine site job.

As the supply chain in the mining industry diversifies, partnerships and companies like SAS Construction catch the eye of Leanne Bellegarde, Director Aboriginal Strategy for PotashCorp.

“The changing demographics of Saskatchewan dictate that we have to start including Aboriginal people in all aspects of the economy,” said Bellegarde.



(Left) Jay Ahenakew, Royan Stewart and Dwayne Stonechild are the owners of SAS Construction. (Above) Joel Garr is a mentor to many up and coming scaffolders.

“SAS hits the PotashCorp criteria as suppliers, not just because of their Aboriginal ownership and

employment, but because they can do the job well, on time and safely.”

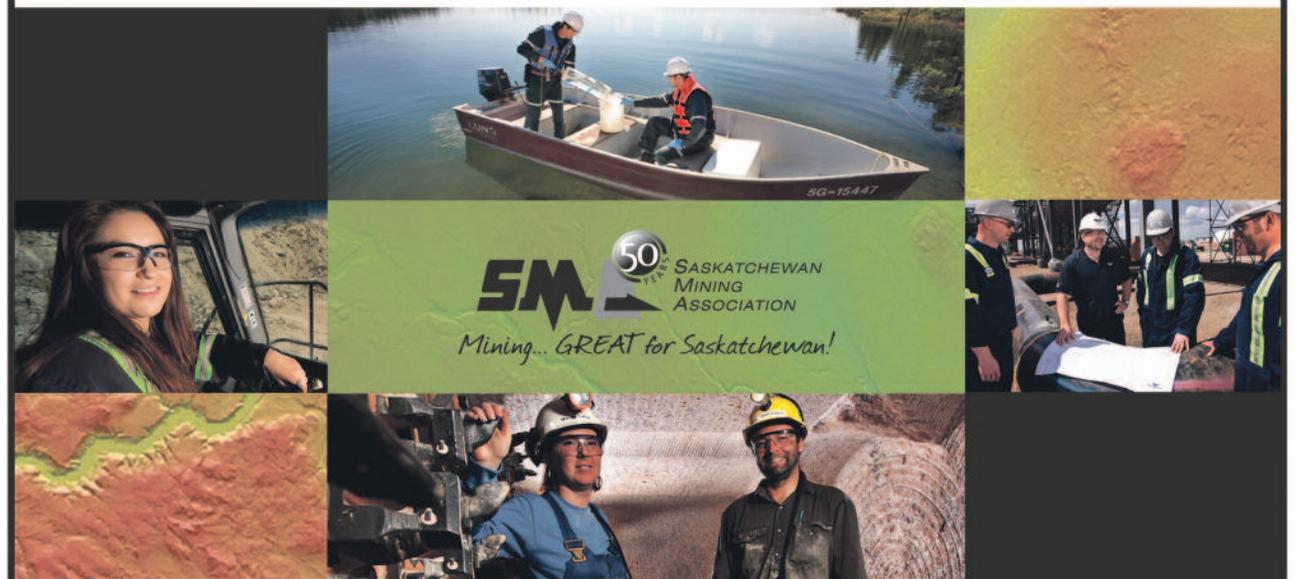
To help with retention, SAS runs smaller crews and pairs each new worker up with a mentor. Joel Garr is one of the SAS supervisors and after 14 years in the scaffolding trade, this journeyman knows what it takes to keep a guy on.

“I always hook them up with guys who want to teach. Our crew leaders are patient. Back when I started, we were just told to go get them stuff. But now, they really want to teach the younger apprentices what to do,” said Garr who is a member of the English River First Nation.

“We try to get ahead of the challenges like being late or showing up. It starts with the mentoring and giving them a good teacher. They learn what you teach them.”

“Lots of guys in our community just need a chance to learn and from what I have found, these guys have been above and beyond what a first year worker is supposed to be.”

## MINING: Fertile Ground for Careers



# Q & A with Cameco's Joslin Sanger

*The mining industry offers dozens of different career paths and not every one of them requires moving rock or being at the mine site. An important part of the mining industry is community engagement and corporate responsibility. Joslin Sanger is a junior specialist, Corporate Responsibility at Cameco's corporate office and it is her job to work with the communities on behalf of Cameco. Raised in La Ronge, Joslin is a member of the Fond du Lac Denesuline Nation and a graduate of the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan. We caught up with her to find out what a career in mining is like for her.*

## What compelled you to apply for this job at Cameco?

During university, I worked as a summer student at two of Cameco's mine sites which I really enjoyed and thought that Cameco was a great company to work for. Being a northerner, I was interested in a job that allowed me to travel throughout the North and to work with northern communities. When I saw a job opening in corporate responsibility, I saw it as an opportunity for me to have a meaningful job that could allow me to be part of positive change.

## What is the main role of your job?

I assist with Cameco's community engagement programming and corporate responsibility reporting. A big part of my role is to support Cameco's engagement initiatives. I work directly with our community partners and assist with the planning, coordination and facilitation of on-going engagement initiatives in northern Saskatchewan. I also work directly with our community partners where we provide updates and discuss the company's northern Saskatchewan operations. I travel a lot in my role, but for the most part, I go north and visit northern communities. My role is more of a generalist so I support the corporate responsibility team whenever I can and do a variety of other tasks at the office, such as compiling and entering data for the corporate responsibility reporting.

## What is the most rewarding aspect of your work so far?

I enjoy meeting people from the North and being able to visit different communities as part of my job. I've been home to La Ronge a number of times for work meetings and have had the opportunity to visit Fond du Lac, as well as many other communities that I might not have otherwise been able to visit. I feel that the North has a lot to offer and in the future, I would like to be a part of the initiatives that Cameco's partnerships with these communities can bring. To me, there is nothing more rewarding than being able to help others.

## Was there an adjustment period getting used to working in a cor-

## porate head office?

There definitely was an adjustment as I was used to being in an environment with more people my own age, where at this position I am working with people of all ages. Being one of the younger employees, it was a bit intimidating at times, but I have really been able to learn from others' experiences. I think there is probably an adjustment period in any position, but I believe that learning to adapt to the different work environments will benefit me throughout my career.

## Who would you say are your role models?

This is a hard question to answer since I cannot identify any one specific role model I've looked up to throughout my life. There were many people in my life, including friends, family and teachers that made me feel confident in pursuing my goals that included getting a post-secondary education. I look up to people who are positive, hardworking and are able to succeed while remaining true to themselves. Having these people in my life who I admire has helped me to overcome some of my fears and inspired me to grow as a person.

## Any tips for grads about to enter the workforce?

I would tell new grads to be prepared to work hard and to be patient. You might not find your dream job



Joslin Sanger was raised in La Ronge and educated at the University of Saskatchewan.

right away but remember that all work experience is valuable and there is always something to be learned. It may not always be easy, but surrounding yourself with the right people who will motivate and support you along the way will make it much easier.



## EXPORT

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**Are you looking for work or opportunities for your business?**

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**Exportdata.ca**



# Job readiness program helps Sask Aboriginal people enter pipefitting trade

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

Ten Aboriginal people from Saskatchewan will soon embark on careers as pipefitters.

The group represents the first graduates of a new job readiness program created by CIMS Limited Partnership, the Saskatchewan Piping Industry Joint Training Board, Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatoon Tribal Council and Saskatchewan Building Trades.

As part of the program, they spent about eight weeks in the classroom and are guaranteed jobs in the industry immediately afterwards.

The graduates will then need to spend about three to four years on the job upgrading their skills and education before they become fully certified.

Todd Verbeke, general manager at CIMS, says the pipefitting trade offers a variety of well paying jobs in the oil and gas, pulp and paper and coal, uranium and potash mining industries.

Once fully certified, unionized pipefitters can earn as much as \$45 per hour.

However, there continues to be a skill shortage in the industry and Verbeke says the partners figured rather than depend on temporary foreign workers to fill the gap, why not tap into the wealth of Aboriginal talent within the province.

Eighteen-year-old Gage Scott of Kinistin Saulteaux Nation is one of the graduates of the job readiness program.

He says after high school he tried his hand at carpentry but believes he is better suited for pipefitting and is willing to see where the trade takes him.

Scott says he thinks a lot of young Aboriginal people are likely unaware of the opportunities a trade like pipefitting can offer and just need a bit of help to aid them in getting a foot in the door such as the program offers.

“They don’t really have the proper guidance to take them there,” he says. “Me, I had my parents and they guided me to go where I wanted but they let me choose what I wanted and I really thank them for that. Finding this pipefitting really puts my

mind at ease.”

Verbeke says CIMS and the other partners hope to continue offering the job readiness program once a year.



The first graduating class of the pipefitters job readiness program gets together for a photo.

“We’ve all heard about foreign worker programs and this and that,” he says. “Yet, we have a labour pool right here in our province that’s willing, able and needs an opportunity for these positions. And they’re not lower level positions, they’re career opportunities.”

The Saskatoon Tribal Council has taken an active role in the job readiness program by recruiting and screening a number of candidates.

STC Chief Felix Thomas says he has had a number of conversations with both industry and the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour as to why Aboriginal people have been unable to break into well paying skilled trades jobs.

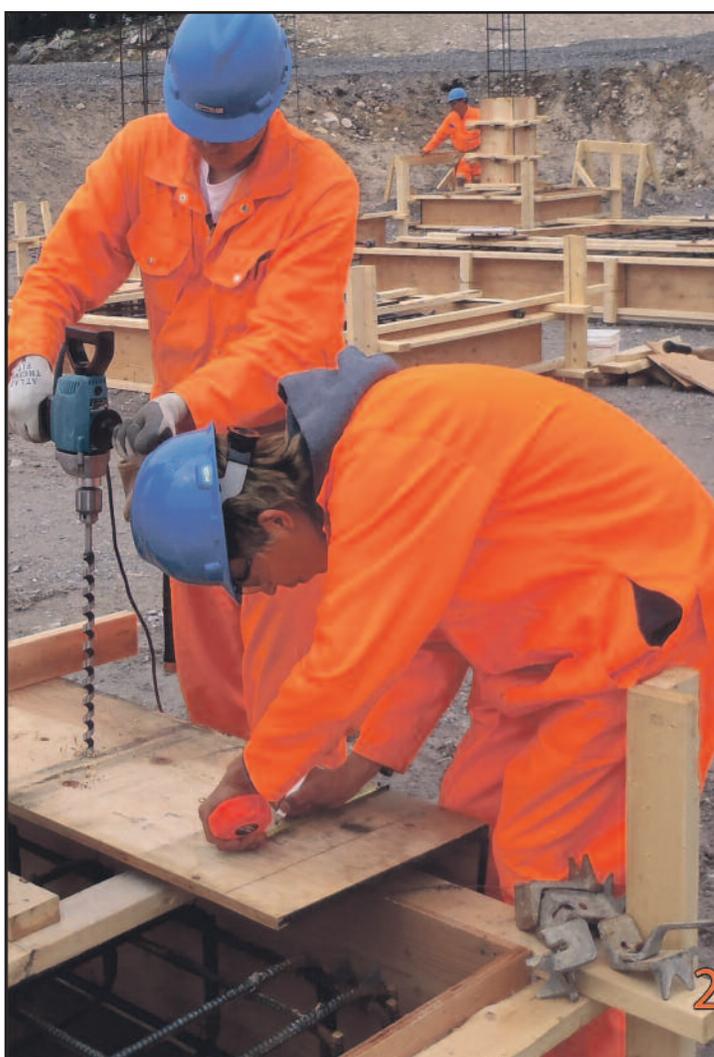
He says the program enables Indigenous people a chance to get a foot in the door in the unionized building trades.

“One of the big barriers is that a lot of these kids don’t have a way into the different jobs as a lot of our people aren’t as established in some of the union halls,” he says.

“So, they can’t mentor, they can’t provide opportunities for their kids, or their cousins or their nieces and nephews.”

Thomas adds one of the best things about the job readiness program is that it offers immediate employment after a short period of training.

“It gives them hope in the future but it also gives them hope to complete. A lot of people need that future door to be opened for them and this just gives them that motivation.”



## BUILDING THE FUTURE

Tron has been a significant player in Saskatchewan's mining industry for over 25 years. We are deeply committed to investing in Aboriginal training and development and are well positioned to offer top-quality services to mining and construction developments across the province.

An English River First Nation Company

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Whitecap Industrial Services partners exhibiting at the Mining Supply Chain Forum held in Saskatoon. L-R Left to right: Jonathan Stringer - Black Diamond, Cory Rosenau - Black Diamond, Boyd Adamack - NCSG, Jackie Pilon - Whitecap Industrial Services, Gren Ritter - NCSG, Christian Boyle - Whitecap Industrial Services, Sandra Sutter - PTW Energy, Darrell Balkwill - Whitecap Industrial Services.

## Whitecap group of companies offers wide range of complementary services for resource industry partners

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**SASKATOON** – Saskatchewan is a busy place these days. The world needs the resources found both above and below its fertile soil.

It takes a lot of work to produce those resources and there is great opportunity for those service providers who can help facilitate that work as safely, sustainably, and efficiently as possible.

Ultimately every service provider is as good as the tools, talent, and ideas that they possess and partnerships are the catalyst that allow them to do more with the resources they have. That's the idea behind Whitecap Industrial Services, a group of companies working together in partnership to become greater than the sum of their parts.

Whitecap Industrial Services is a partnership between the Whitecap Development Corporation and six companies who provide a broad range of services to the resource industry. The Whitecap Development Corporation, the investment arm of Whitecap Dakota First Nation has developed a reputation for creating successful partnerships. That reputation brought opportunities to expand into the resource sector.

"Our partners were looking to connect with aboriginal businesses in Saskatchewan, and we were looking for ways to access the resource sector," says Darrell Balkwill CEO of Whitecap Development Corporation.

"We felt it would strengthen our offering if we could present those partnerships as a team of complementary services rather than a series of one-offs.

"The idea behind these partnerships is that we work together to provide opportunities for each other, as majority owners we are doing our part by actively marketing the services Whitecap Industrial Services provides and developing strategies to connect Whitecap members, and all First Nations people with training and employment opportunities," explains Balkwill.

The partnership features the services of some of the largest and most respected service providers in the resource industry. Current partners are Whitecap Haztech Industrial Services, Whitecap NCSG Crane and Heavy Haul Partnership, Whitecap Allnorth Engineering Partnership, Whitecap Black Diamond Partnership, Whitecap PTW Energy Partnership, and Whitecap RCS Energy Partnership. The services they provide include engineering, environmental services, crane operation, specialized hauling, work-camp construction, project management, electrical and control system installation, and safety/health care/security services. Each partner shares core values regarding safety and service.

"All of our partners have been recognized in their respective industries for their commitment to safety, management, and customer service," said Balkwill.

"These are some of the top service providers in Canada".

Whitecap Industrial Services is committed to accessing and developing the First Nations labour force in Whitecap and Saskatchewan.

"Industry places great value on providing training and employment opportunities for First Nations people and one of the major focuses of this partnership is to ensure that Whitecap members will get access to those opportunities," said Chief Darcy Bear, President of the Whitecap Development Corporation.

The partnerships are also looking to bring training and employment opportunities to other Saskatchewan First Nations.

"Ultimately it comes down to developing a team of partners that share our values," adds Bear.

"There is real strength in that."



## BUILDING A STRONGER SASKATCHEWAN FROM THE GROUND UP

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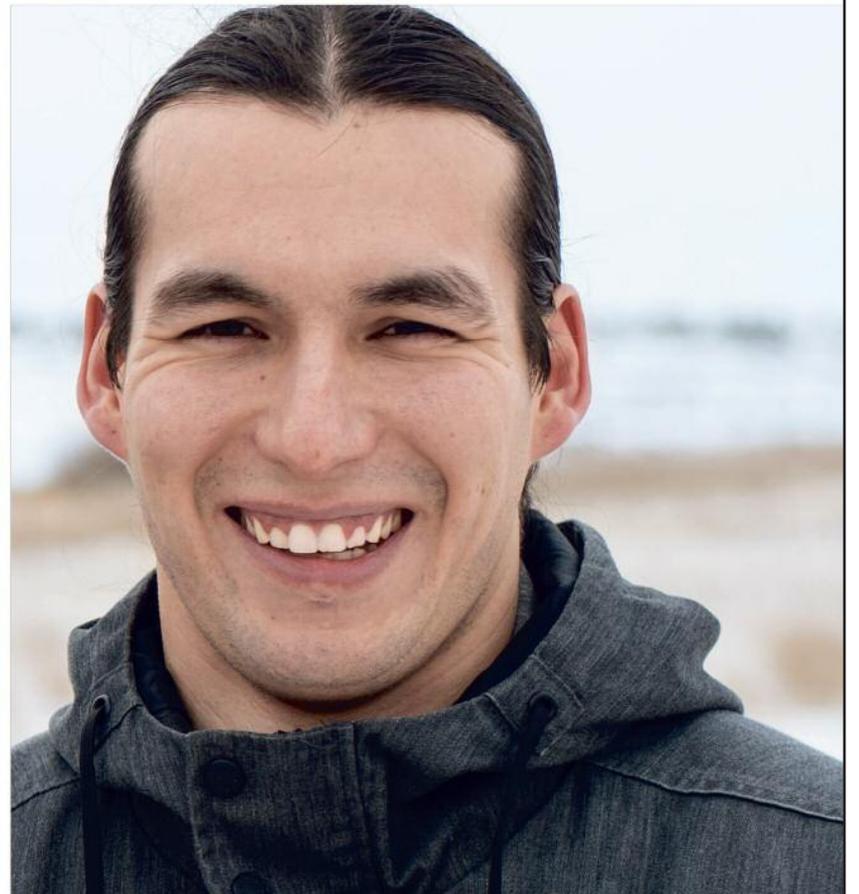
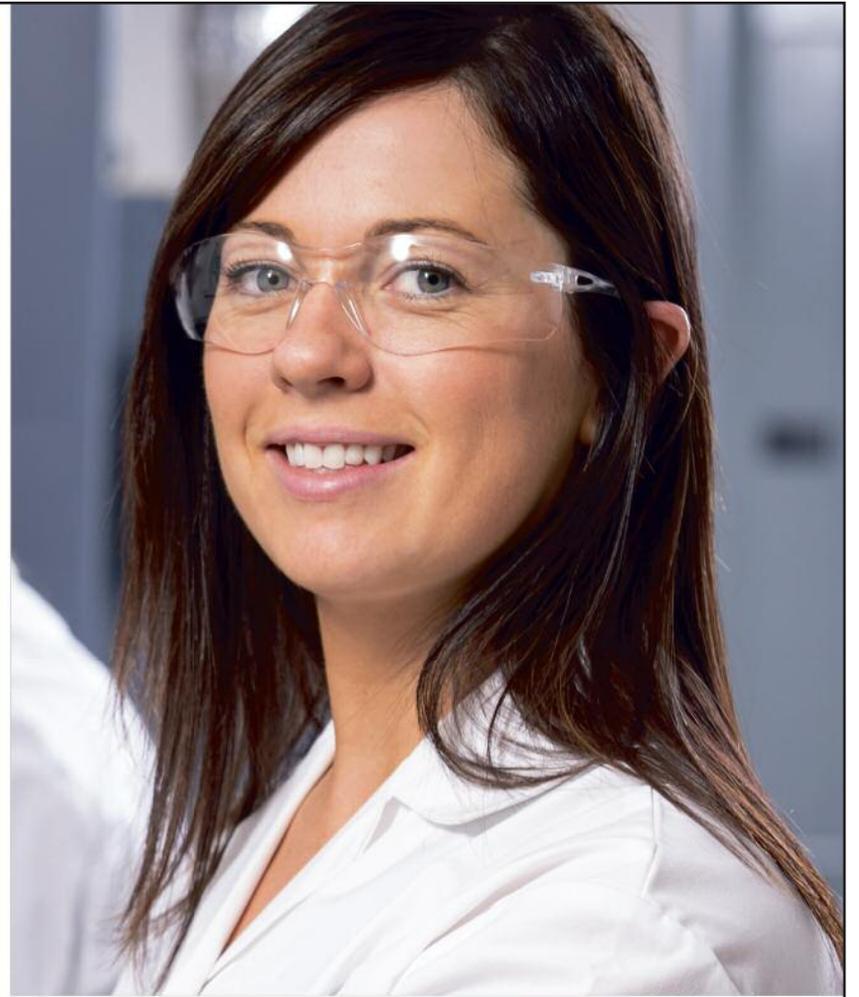
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