

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Gordon's name back on the marquee

Gordon's daughter Disa Tootosis, great granddaughter Ni'vy, his wife Irene Tootosis and daughter Alanna Tootosis-Baker unveiled the portrait commissioned to honour the late Gordon Tootosis. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Welcome to our Role Model Edition

Coming In November - Veterans and Youth Issue

CPMA #40027204

Renaming gives Theatre company a fresh start

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company is no more.

But do not fear, it has just changed its name to the Gordon Tootosis Nikaniwin Theatre.

The renaming has given the ground-breaking theatre company a fresh start and a way to honour one of its founding members. And it has also given the Tootosis family a sense of closure four years after the acting legend's passing.

Gordon Tootosis was one of Canada's preeminent Indigenous actors and his passion for his craft and for youth came together in the creation of SNTC almost 20 years ago when he joined with Kenneth Charlette, David Pratt and Tantoo Cardinal to realize their dream of a place to provide artistic opportunities for Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan through cultural arts programming.

The birth of the company in 1999 and its impact over the years made Gordon very proud.

"That was his baby. He spent so much time with it," said his daughter Disa Tootosis after the new name was made official at a banquet at the Dakota Dunes Casino attended by over 400 supporters of the Theatre, including 100 members of the Tootosis family.

"When I was growing up I got to travel with him and I often stood at side stage of his plays and I got to watch it all unfold. Him on stage was completely different than him as a person," explains Disa.

"He would completely become the character and to him, to start this theatre, it was himself. This is what he was. Everything that the theatre is doing is who he was. I am proud of what he did but it is him as a person. It is not like he was trying to do it. What he always told us was that our life isn't our own.

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Renaming a fitting tribute to Gordon Tootoosis

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"We have to live for the future generations. Our life has to be of service and purpose of some sort and his completely was, even without trying."

The theatre company was looking for a way to honour Gordon and after consultation with the Tootoosis family and a process of ceremonial protocol, the new name was decided on.

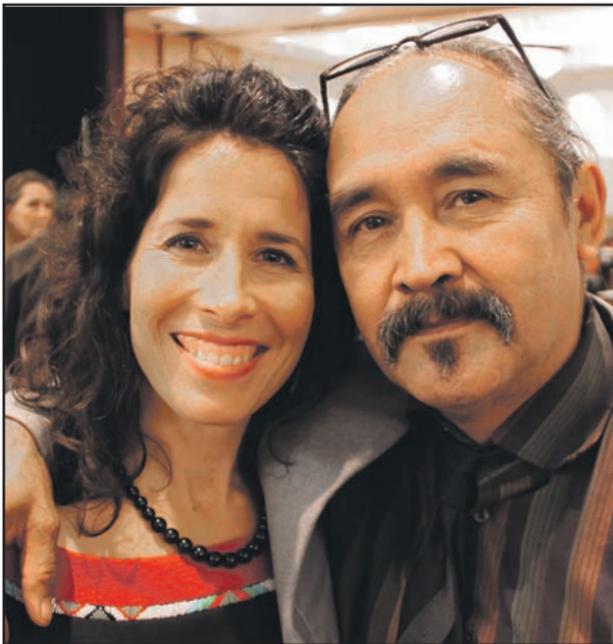
"Gordon was a leader in the community and always had wisdom to share and he was adamant about the importance of instilling pride, cultural identity and artistic expression in Indigenous youth," said Irene Oakes, co-chair of the theatre company board and adopted daughter of Gordon.

"To sum up his legacy, we had to find a word that encapsulated everything he stood for. The word Nikaniwin means being ahead or being in the lead, to excel or leadership. We thought that was very fitting."

In an emotional evening hosted by actress Andrea Menard that included an excerpt from Gordon Winter, the last play Gordon starred in, read by Kennetch Charlette and playwright Kenneth T. Williams, and several video tributes.

A portrait of Gordon by artist Cheryl Buckmaster was revealed. The portrait will be on display whenever the theatre company has a performance.

The Amiskusees Semaganis Worme Family Foundation announced a partnership with GTNT to distribute \$10,000 in arts scholarships over the next 12 months. Prizes range from \$500 to \$2,500 and are for an array of artists and disciplines, but with a focus on Indigenous youth pursuing performing arts training at



Andrea Menard and Kennetch Charlette, old friends who had also worked extensively with Gordon, were on hand for the renaming ceremony that honoured Gordon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

a post secondary institution.

The Tootoosis family also presented the theatre company with a beautiful star blanket to commemorate the honouring.

For Kennetch Charlette, changing the name is a fitting tribute to Gordon, and he thinks the humble legend may be comfortable with it.

"Because he was a quiet, personable kind of guy,

he probably wouldn't say very much about the name but I think he would be very appreciative and I think it is something that honours what he has done for everyone," said Charlette who was the founding Artistic Director of SNTC.

"He created a path for people like me and the ones behind us and the young ones still coming up. So I think that he would be very appreciative of that fact. I am very thankful for everything that he taught me."

Disa Tootoosis, on the other hand, thinks her dad might be a bit uneasy at all the attention and honouring in his name.

"He would not be comfortable at all. I can just imagine him squirming in his chair," she laughed.

"That's what I was thinking when we had the first meeting (about the name change) and I thought about it. This is more for us and for the future. This is us carrying on the powerful spirit that he had. It is for us to hang onto him and to share him with everybody else in the whole world that can be affected by this.

"I am really humbled by everyone that is here and the spirit that is in this room. To me it brings final closure. We had his final feast, and we had a final special at the powwow. But it still didn't feel complete. Once we got into the circle with the theatre and started planning, that's when I started to feel that we had come full circle. Our mourning can finally end and we can move forward with more positive things.

"It reinforces everything that he was about that he lived for in everyday life. It is a good feeling. I finally feel closure and that's the only thing that I really ever wanted."



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Sask youth role models among 2016 Indspire Awards recipients

Kowalchuk, Roy have accomplished much in their young lives

**By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News**

Two Saskatchewan young people are amongst the 2016 Indspire Awards recipients.

Christian Kowalchuk has been selected for the Youth – First Nation award and Zondra Roy for the Youth – Métis award.

The 2016 Indspire Awards Gala will officially take place on February 12 in Vancouver.

Christian Kowalchuk is a member of the Alberta Big Stone Cree Nation and grew up in Saskatoon. At 18, he left home to pursue his dream of becoming a professional baseball player.

The left-handed pitcher got his start in 2007 as a member of the Seward County Saints. Seward County Community College is an American junior college located in Liberal, Kansas.

After two years at Seward, Kowalchuk made the jump to the NCAA Division One Arkansas Razorbacks in 2009. The University of Arkansas is located in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The Razorbacks have one of the top college baseball programs in the U.S. and Kowalchuk is, to date, the only Saskatchewan player to play in the College World Series.

In 29 appearances over two years as a Razorback, he posted a very respectable 2.77 earned run average and a 3-0 record.

Even though it was close to 10 years ago now, Kowalchuk says he remembers well driving down south for his first college tryout and how nervous he was.

“I can always remember when I went down there, the ride with my dad, sitting there thinking, ‘man, I am going to be the worst one here,’” he says. “I felt like I was way over my head. Once I got on the field, I had the confidence but it’s always before you get there you think about, ‘what if all these guys are throwing 10 miles per hour harder than me?’”

Not only was Kowalchuk a top athlete in college, he was a top student attaining first class honours as both an undergraduate and graduate student.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Masters of Physical Education – both from the University of Arkansas.

In the last few years, Kowalchuk has turned his attention to coaching and he will be entering his second season as a full time assistant coach with the Razorbacks this coming winter.

Kowalchuk and his dad Wayne were also involved in a program a few years back that collected new and used equipment so low-income youth could have the experience of playing baseball.

Working with the Saskatchewan RCMP, the equipment was distributed to detachments all over the province and it is estimated as much as \$60,000 worth of gear was collected.

Zondra Roy grew up in rural and remote communities in Western Canada before leaving home at the age of 13.

She was then in and out of trouble with the law for the next few years before starting to turn her life around at 15.

She credits Saskatoon’s EGADZ youth program for helping set her on the right path.

“They have a school program that I attended with other kids who are in a similar situation and Beth (Woroniuk, EGADZ coordinator of educational engagement), she really called me on my manipulative behaviour,” Roy says.

“She said if this is the kind of life you want to live then I can go but if I want to do something with myself then I have to suck it up and face the consequences for what I’ve done and try to make a better life for myself.”

Since then Zondra Roy has never looked back.

Today she is a community activist, spoken word poet, hip-hop artist and event project/facilitator, amongst other things.

Roy is also in the final year of a Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of Saskatchewan.

She is one of the founders of Rock the Vote in Saskatchewan which worked to mobilize disenfranchised populations to participate in the 2011 federal election campaign and attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City as a youth representative.

For her various efforts, Roy has been the recipient of the National Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, YWCA Women of Distinction Youth Award and Queen Diamond Jubilee Medal.



CHRISTIAN KOWALCHUK



ZONDRA ROY



“I wanted to learn more about programming and utilize what I learned in my studies. I knew PotashCorp would be a great company to learn from.”

Justin Bear
Saskatchewan Indian
Institute of Technologies

Nourishing Dreams

Justin Bear is a student, a parent, a musician, a recreational basketball player – and a person with big dreams of a bright future.

This summer, Justin was one of 15 students selected to pursue their dreams as part of PotashCorp’s Aboriginal Internship Program.

If you’re a post-secondary student with a dream, learn about jobs and internships at PotashCorp at potashcorp.com/careers.



facebook.com/PotashCorpaboriginalvoices



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Speaking of role models ... Harper doesn't cut it

The role model issue is always one of our favourites here at Eagle Feather News. We get to celebrate the folks and organizations in our community that are doing extraordinary things that make Saskatchewan a better place to be.

We want to give a big shout out to all the women that organized the Sisters in Spirit walks across the Nation (for sure some guys helped out, but really, it seems most of the time it is the ladies leading on this front). The solemn walks to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women are always followed by community building meals and visits with speeches from dignitaries and family members. People donate money or food and their time and the community unites around a cause ... at least for a day.

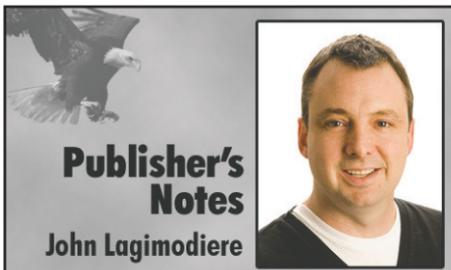
The walk in Saskatoon was led by a group of women drummers. One of those drummers was our old pal Lindsay Knight. We have been fans and followers of Lindsay since way back when we first saw her perform hip hop for some grade school students. It has been a blast to watch her mature into a fine community leader, mother and partner and academic ... and she still puts out the hip hop, recently releasing her album Good Kill.

Now, I missed the hip hop era ... growing up in the '80s we had Trooper, BTO, the Stones and, of all things, Flock of Seagulls. But Lindsay's music and words cross all age boundaries, even impressing me and those much older than me.

As testament to that fact, while we

were at the Gordon Tootosis honouring, Lindsay walked by our table. I pointed her out to my mom and said ... hey, that young lady there is Lindsay Knight. "Oh yeah," she says. "Eekwol." Just like that. My mom is 82 years old. Way to make impressions

Lindsay. And happy birthday mom.



Publisher's Notes

John Lagimodiere

the spin has begun. When you are losing an election campaign badly, cater to the ignorant and they thrive on fear.

Then lying Stephen, in order to bring down front runner Justin Trudeau and his pragmatic policy on marijuana control, outright lied and said that smoking pot is "infinitely worse" than smoking cigarettes.

Mr. Harper must not have read the backgrounder that shows that 37,000 deaths last year in Canada

recently elected FSIN Youth delegates Andre Chavez Bear and Cheyenne Fineday. The FSIN has a long tradition of engaging youth through their Assembly and they have a way of picking future leaders. But actually these youth are leading right now. Next thing you know they will be running in the real FSIN election. For more on that see page 24.

For more on the federal election stay tuned to our website. As of press time the only political party to release its entire Aboriginal platform was the Liberals. So, they are ahead in our books.

The Conservatives don't have a platform on those issues ... but when the NDP does release one, we will have that and much more on our website in the election section. Come read it. And vote.



Hundreds of people gathered in Saskatoon for a walk to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women. These drummers led the way.

(Photo by Willow Lagimodiere)

Election fears and lying Stephen

Leave it to Harper and his gang of shape shifters to try and make the election about Muslim people and pot. What better way to avoid having to talk about Indigenous issues than to muddy the water with a debate over niqabs at citizenship ceremonies (an issue that at present impacts all of two women).

Cue the outrage. Now Facebook is flooded with fearful and hateful posts of Muslims taking over the West and forcing their way of life on us and eventually likely blowing us all up. The reality couldn't be further from their spin, but

were attributed to smoking cigarettes where NONE were directly attributed to smoking marijuana. If he is lying so blatantly about this issue, it makes you wonder what else he is lying about. Also shows his character.

Other kinds of politics

And also due for mentions are the



Andre Bear and Cheyenne Fineday were elected by their peers as the FSIN Youth Delegates for 2015-2016.

(Photo by Shelley Mike Photography)

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We're surrounded by role models every day

When we think of role models we usually think about those people who have reached some kind of greatness in their lives be it in sports, the arts or in politics.

But seldom do we think of the ordinary people we may or may not know who every day do us some small kindness. Like stopping to help us fix a flat tire on a stormy day. The neighbor who cut our grass while we were gone, the person who left a bag of fresh vegetables at our back door, or like my friend Ovide, who heard some people needed financial help to attend an important meeting in the city and gave them \$500.

Or the woman who, one hot afternoon a few weeks ago, stopped to help a mom and her two little kids who were struggling to carry several bags of groceries. Or the landlord who not only waived a month's rent but also purchased a return ticket for a single mom whose mother was dying in another province. Or the cop who gave some rowdy teenagers a good talking to and bus tickets to go home.

These are just some of the kindnesses I saw and heard about this past year and I know there are many more people out there who could give more examples.

Sometimes it's hard for some of our people to feel visible or that they matter in a world that is often difficult and dehumanizing. But a kindness or in Cree, miyotahwin or kisiwatisiwin can change all of that in a matter of seconds. In our old way, kindness is one of the seven teachings and one of the main ingredients in not only making medicine and in healing but also in changing attitudes and lives.

So, this year let's honor those people who with their gifts of kindness given every day, role model for us how we should live together in family and community and remind us how to be good human beings.

The other topic this month is, of course, the coming election. My, my, we are going to have to dig very deep to find kindness for Indian country in the big bundles of promises being carted around by those men who are promising everything, to everybody but us.

But it is important for us to vote. Voting in huge numbers lets them know that we got it and even if we don't get

the party we voted for, our numbers will make them pay attention.

Your vote is power and that's what they understand, so give them lots of votes and take all your relatives to vote as well. And here are some questions to reflect on as you go about your business of preparing yourself for this big day.

- Which government made war on us in 1885 and hanged Riel, nine First Nations warriors and a War Chief?
- Which government introduced the Indian Act?
- Which government introduced the Pass System?
- Which government tried to impose the White Paper in 1969?
- Which government invited the Multinationals (Uranium mining companies, Forestry) into our province?
- Which government turned us out and burned our homes to the ground?
- Which government introduced and passed Bill C51 and which party supported them?

All very important markers in our history and useful to know so that you are very clear about where these parties

are coming from. I can't tell you who to vote for but I can tell you, whom I am voting for and why.

It's Elizabeth May and the Green Party.

Why? Because I think she is very smart, she has a great sense of humor, and a genuine love and concern for the land. Too bad she won't win but I am voting for her anyway.

I was seriously thinking of Trudeau when he first announced he was running for leadership. Not because I am a Liberal but because he is young and I thought maybe. I changed my mind when he voted for Bill C51 and if I was a bit hesitant I really changed my mind when he did not stand in support of Elizabeth May to take part in a national debate.

If he and Mulcair won't support another party leader to take part in something as basic as a debate, which is what is supposed to happen in a democracy, then how tall are they going to stand for us.

And changing the subject, there is a great new book in the bookstores. The Reason You Walk by Wab Kinew. I am almost finished reading it and its great. Be sure to go out and buy it.

Happy Election Day and I hope your candidate wins.



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Bob Merasty for FSIN
Second Vice Chief

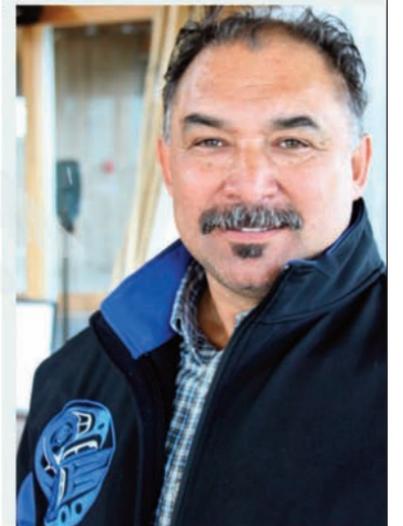
Leadership that you can count on...

When we lead with our traditional teachings such as **Wichitowin**, respecting and helping others, we have the tools to become a strong nation.

On **October 29th** with the support of our First Nations leadership, I am confident that my experience and knowledge will strengthen the collective and unified voice of the FSIN.

We can work together for the betterment of our people and our future.

One Vision,
One Nation,
One Team...



C:306.240.9465 E: robert.a.merasty@gmail.com Bob Merasty

The overconfident parent

When I got pregnant, I knew I wasn't going to be a Pinterest Mom.

For those who don't spend half their lives on the Internet, a Pinterest mom is a mom who feeds their kids only organic, stress-free chicken; dresses them in clothes made from free range, gluten-free cotton; and ensures all their toys are handmade by a 90-year-old artisan from Guelph, Ontario.

I go through life with messy hair, my car is always the dirtiest one in the parking lot and I'm more likely to change my number than listen to my phone messages.

So I knew perfection was not possible for me. But I thought maybe I could shoot for perfection-lite.

Like maybe, not the best mom in Saskatchewan, but in the top three, for sure.

Alas, reality has shown the error of my optimism. Here are some of the ways that I have fallen short of my goal.

First off, I intended to be a breastfeeding pro. Legends would be written about the quantity and viscosity of my milk.

People told me about infected nipples and engorged mammary glands but I figured, hey my boobs haven't failed me yet.

My breastfeeding would also serve a social justice purpose. I was really gonna get up in people's faces.

I was going to nurse in all places where breast-feeding was frowned up on like churches, bars and strip joints. My boobs would be filled with equal parts scrumptious milk and spite.

I was going to start a YouTube channel where I would pontificate about breastfeeding while breastfeeding – I was going to call it "Breast Intentions" or "The Milky Way."

But breastfeeding went downhill quickly. I had no milk after the kid was born.

And then when I got milk (which was admittedly a cool experience) it was only enough to feed a sparrow, never mind a ten-pound Native baby.

And it's not a genetic thing cuz my sister gave me a breast-feeding tutorial and squirted her milk across the room like a pro.

We could have used her to keep pigeons off the balcony.

I kept trying but after two weeks of marathon nursing sessions, followed by supplementing with formula, I threw in the breastfeeding towel.

My breastfeeding activist career ended without so much as an iPhone video. I did breastfeed in front of a waitress once but instead of being

annoyed she just told me how cute I was.

Secondly, I expected my infant to sleep through the night within weeks of birth. My theory was that I am lazy and therefore, I would have a lazy child. I had this confidence despite the fact that I was told by many parents to say goodbye to sleep.

"You won't sleep!" my coworkers would yell at me as I passed them in hallways. And I would shout back, "Oh yes I will."

Because, I had so far up to that point in my life, slept through everything: eight hours of sleep a day, with a half hour nap in the afternoon.

Then along came baby. He wakes up twice a night to feed and even though my partner and I take turns, we're still averaging about four hours a night.

We did have this one-week halcyon period in which he slept from ten to four but that was a fake-out.

He was lulling us into a false sense of security – then BAM! Three months of sleeplessness.

It ends at some point people have told me but I refuse to believe ... hope is a luxury for the well-rested.

Part of the fun of being a parent is getting to dress your kid like a doll. I have a decent sense of style – or at least I can Google pictures of people good at fashion. So I thought I'd nail this part of parenting.

But boy clothes are boring. Also everything has stripes on it, which is why my son always looks like a package of lifesavers.

There is cool stuff but it's expensive and when the baby wears his clothes for two weeks max (he's five months old and currently wearing 12 to 18 months), why would I waste good Starbucks money on cute clothes?

At this point, my goal is to make sure his clothes are moderately clean and if nothing matches, well, then baby is just having an eclectic day.

One thing I thought I would suck at, but I'm actually not bad at is changing diapers.

I use wet wipes with surgical precision. No feces are getting past me. In the diaper arena, I'm like a gladiator.

I've dodged tiny urine geysers and faced down poo-namis and lived to tell about it. Maybe I should post my diaper changing skills on Pinterest?

Nah, I don't want those other moms stealing my moves.



That's What She Said

Dawn Dumont



Working for a better Saskatoon.



Sheri Benson

FOR SASKATOON WEST

SheriBenson.ndp.ca

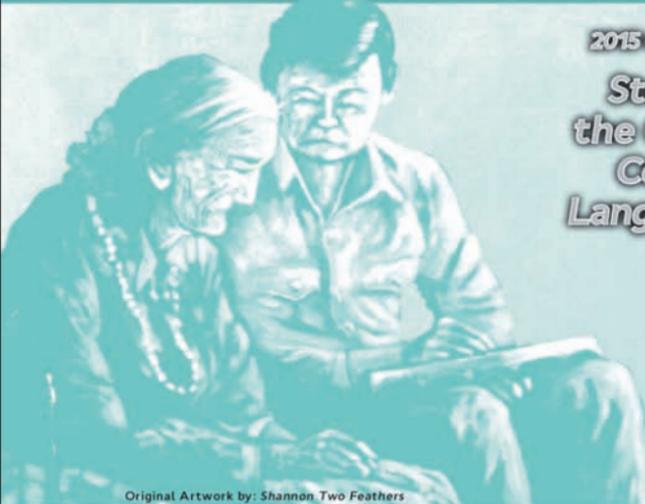
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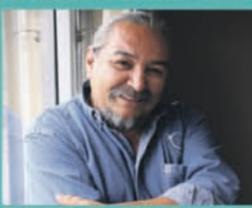


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Organizations working hard to get Aboriginal vote out on Oct. 19

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

One of the most interesting things to watch come October 19 is what the Aboriginal voter turnout will be in the federal election.

Typically, Aboriginal people have tended not to participate in either federal or provincial elections but there are reasons to believe this time around things might be different.

Whether it be missing and murdered Indigenous women, the Idle No More movement, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Supreme Court rulings on duty to consult with First Nations, natural resource exploitation on traditional Aboriginal lands or government failure to uphold their end of treaty implementation – Indigenous issues have dominated media headlines in recent years.

At the same time, the Harper government has had a very acrimonious relationship with Aboriginal leaders over the past four years.

The Conservative government did earn itself some capital with Indigenous communities as a result of the residential schools apology in Parliament in 2008 but things have not gone well since.

Whether it is Bill C-45 which makes significant changes to First Nations land and water rights, the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, the Harper government's repeated refusal to call a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women or disputes over federal funding of First Nations education – Indigenous communities have often found themselves at odds with the Conservatives.

All of these things combined have led some observers to predict that the Aboriginal vote may indeed increase on election day.

Glenda Abbott and Melody Wood are the co-creators of a grassroots volunteer-driven group called Indigenous Vote 2015.

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Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas says they intend to have people go door-to-door in their seven communities to make sure people are enumerated and are also organizing drivers for voters on election day.



RESPECT, HONOUR AND HUMILITY

I am deeply honoured and humbled to have travelled to all 74 First Nations serving as the Second Vice Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Executive. Our Traditional Knowledge Keepers have given great direction, guidance and advice on Treaty Implementation. Respecting our teachings, culture and traditions will be a big part of my journey forward to continue leading our First Nations people of Saskatchewan with humility and respect. I will be the voice for our First Nations People and Treaty Protector for our Inherent and Treaty Rights.

TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

Will continue to help implement our Inherent and Treaty Right to hunt, fish, trap and gather. Will continue to hunt with other Treaty Indian hunters to provide wild meat to food banks and homeless shelters in the five major cities where many of our Indian people reside.

TREATY PROTECTION

Will continue to work on Treaty Protection like the recently signed Treaty Right to Education Agreement which ensures that jurisdiction to Education remains with each Chief and Council and their membership.

This is a first of its kind agreement in Canada and the first in the history of the FSIN.

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Committed to push for a national inquiry into our missing and murdered indigenous women. Will work closely with the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission and other indigenous women's groups in Saskatchewan to ensure they continue to have a powerful voice and the support needed to improve the lives of all First Nation women.

RECONCILIATION

Will continue to advocate for the implementation of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation recommendations much like my presentation to the Canadian School Boards Association this year. I strongly urged the association to act upon the recommendations sooner rather than later.

STRONG LEADERSHIP, PROVEN RESULTS

ELECT BOBBY CAMERON FOR FSIN CHIEF



LIVE TREATY, BREATHE TREATY AND DIE TREATY

Public Notice

Submissions to the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review

The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013 of Saskatchewan is currently being examined by a Committee of Review (COR).

The Committee will review all matters concerning the Act, its regulations and administration.

Public involvement is critical to the success of the Committee's review. The Committee, therefore, is requesting public submissions on issues relating to the administration of *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013*.

You're invited to submit your opinion, concern or experience with the workers' compensation system to:

The Workers' Compensation Act - Committee of Review
c/o 300 - 1870 Albert Street, Regina SK S4P 4W1
306-798-0227 (Regina) 1-855-868-0960 (Toll Free)
Fax: (306) 798-5190 Email: cor@gov.sk.ca

For more information please visit the COR website:
<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/haveyoursay>

Submissions must be received by November 17, 2015.



saskatchewan.ca

Group trying to remain non-partisan

• Continued from Page 7

The two women started the non-partisan organization in response to the Harper government's Bill C-23, which some critics believe was drafted by the Conservatives in order to make it more difficult for Aboriginal people to vote.

The bill introduces stricter voter identification requirements, such as a driver's licence, as a means of proof of address.

Also gone is the practice of one voter being able to vouch for another as an option for proof of address.

The fear is that Aboriginal people living in urban centres, who tend to be more transient, will show up at the polls lacking proper identification documents and not be allowed to vote.

Vouching has also been a common practice on First Nations reserves where formal street addresses are less common.

Yet still, there is also the concern that Indigenous people will hear through the grapevine that more stringent rules have been put in place but not be aware of exactly what they are and then be more inclined to stay home on election day.

As a result, Abbott and Wood have been logging countless hours over the past nine months traveling to Aboriginal communities across the province to inform people of the types of documentation they will need to have on hand in order to cast a ballot in the election.

They have also been involved in organizing community forums that discuss the issue of Indigenous participation in the election.

With election day now only a few weeks away, Wood says they are working on helping to organize vehicle picks ups for Aboriginal people who may need a ride to the polls.

However, she stresses that the group's efforts are all about encouraging Indigenous people to vote and not telling them how to vote.

"We try to take a non-partisan stance," Wood says. "So, we of course encourage people to get out there and do research on each and every single one of the major parties, if not more, so that when it comes to election day, they are able to make the best informed decision on which party to vote for.

"I really think that's the best approach because if we just say, 'don't vote for this party or vote for that party,' that is almost making people's decisions for them."



Indigenous Vote Sask is powered by volunteers including from left Shannon Roberts, CeCe Baptiste, Marcel Petit, Melody Wood, Glenda Abbott and Curtis Peeteetuce.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Felix Thomas, the Chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, says the STC is in the process of hiring people who will be going door-to-door in the various communities and offering help to get people enumerated, if they are not already, as well as organizing drivers to take voters to the polls on election day.

Chief Thomas also says the tribal council will have advocates at polling stations to help First Nations people assert their right to vote if they are having trouble doing so.

He acknowledges there is, at times, the issue that comes up where some First Nations people chose not to participate in either federal or provincial elections based on the belief that the treaty relationship is directly with the Crown and not any particular government.

However, Thomas says he does have a counter argument.

"There is a relationship with the Crown but at the same time we've had democratic processes like the Indian Act elections, tribal council and grand council elections, FSIN elections and even AFN elections that were foreign to us 30, 40 years ago but we made them ours," he says.

"This is just another election that we can make ours because it does influence us as well."

Ken Coates is the director of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development at the University of Saskatchewan.

He says it remains unclear whether Aboriginal voter turnout is likely to increase in this election or not.

Coates says a lot of it will have to do with how much Indigenous issues come into play, if at all, as the parties battle it out during the final weeks of the campaign.

He says he has been disappointed thus far that Aboriginal issues have had

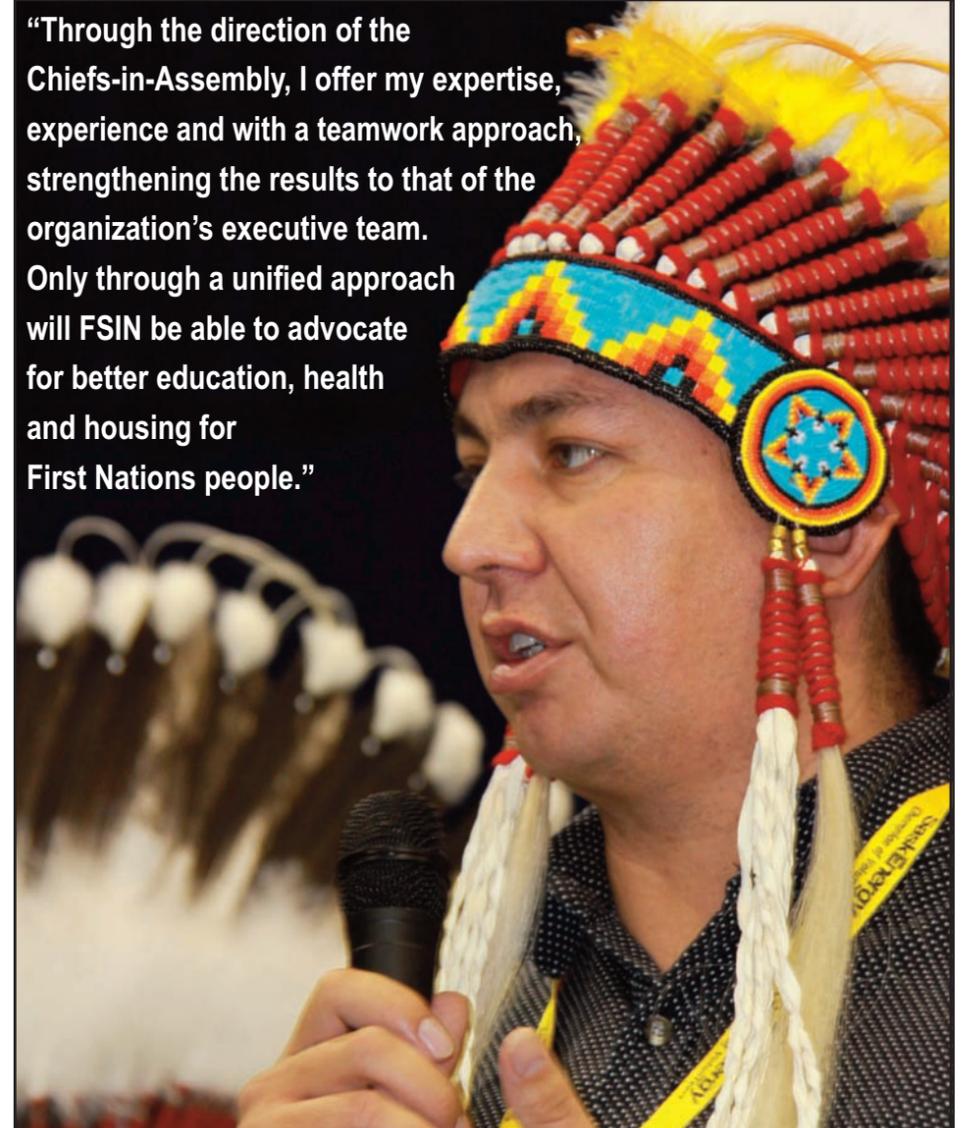
some prevalence on a regional level over the course of the election but received very little attention on the national stage.

One thing Coates says he is not concerned about is the new voter identification requirements having much impact on the ability of Indigenous people to cast ballots.

"Most of the Aboriginal population

is still located in either small towns or villages," he says. "Half the population is still on-reserve and if you don't have your ID on you, it's not very hard to go home and get it.

"And, you are also not going to have lineups of 8,000 people to vote at most of these constituencies. It's a barrier but it's not a huge barrier."



"Through the direction of the Chiefs-in-Assembly, I offer my expertise, experience and with a teamwork approach, strengthening the results to that of the organization's executive team. Only through a unified approach will FSIN be able to advocate for better education, health and housing for First Nations people."

GUY LONECHILD
 1-306-222-7532
 glonechild@gmail.com

LONECHILD FOR FSIN SECOND VICE-CHIEF

Lots of good reasons for getting out to vote

“Change will come, it might not happen today, it might not happen right away but it will come.”

“So have faith brothers and sisters, a change is coming and we can either watch change come or participate in it ... we got a choice.”

Wise words from American President Barack Obama.

October is breast cancer awareness month. October is also a time to remember the murdered and missing Aboriginal women through Sisters In Spirit vigils across Canada. October is also your opportunity to vote in the federal election and elect a government that will respect Aboriginal people. This October 19, 2015 go and vote.

What does your Canada look like? What would Canada look like if every Aboriginal person went to vote? Every citizen of Canada has the right to participate in our democracy by casting a ballot on election day.

In a world where rights are trampled on and people die fighting for the right to vote, why would any Canadian willingly not exercise their right to vote.

Voting connects us to one another as citizens. By taking part in an election and by expressing our point of view, we help our democracy work. By agreeing or

disagreeing with our leaders we show that the political system can accept differing points of view and can resolve them.

Voting helps choose our leaders (those who share our views or those who may inspire us).

The simple act of marking a ballot tells our leaders what we think about decisions that affect our lives, such as such as health care or the environment, or recognizing Aboriginal rights in Canada.

We vote for what we think is most important. The best way to make sure the things you care about are actually reflected in society is by actually supporting those things at the polling station. If you don't vote for what you believe in, no one else will do it for you.

Your tax dollars (despite what the majority of Canadians think – Aboriginal people do pay taxes) are used to fund the programs and policies that elected governments create so why not tell them how you want them to use your money?

If you don't, your money will be used to fund the priorities of other people

without you ever having your say.

Last but not least, don't forget you live in your community and have a say in how it's shaped. Even if you don't speak up, others will so you might as well get your say, too.

Vote because every election matters.

Vote because the choices you will make matter. What is important to you?

Go online and do some research before you go vote. Ask candi-

dates where does your party stand on Aboriginal issues?

The reality is that if we want to make changes to policy or any legislation affecting us we need to step up and participate in municipal, provincial and federal elections either by voting or actually running as a candidate.

There was a time when everyone participated in the running of our communities. Today many in society could care less; how can they care about who wins an election when they worry about what they will feed their children for dinner or how they will pay the rent for the next month.

Well, we have to care! Look at some of the countries where people are starving and their country is at war – these people still participate in their elections, they still believe in the possibilities of change and so can we.

We can make a difference. There was a time when Aboriginal people were forbidden to vote in an election. Imagine what a change we could make to this country or this province if we all vote in the next election!

Voting matters. When voters don't turn out to choose their local and federal governments, they receive a government that doesn't represent them. Vote for the safety of your community.

Voting is an important way of having your say on the issues you care about. October 19, 2015 Canadians will be going to the polls to vote for our government and make sure your voice is heard.

Go to www.Elections.sk.ca and register to vote. Call your band office and find out where you go to vote.

Thanks for your emails and letters, it's great hearing from our readers.

Send you questions and comments to Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News PO Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4, or you can send me an email Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

Away or busy on October 19?

You can vote in advance.

If you're ready to vote early, you can vote at your advance polling place between **October 9 and 12, from noon to 8:00 p.m.**

Or you can vote at any Elections Canada office across the country any day until **October 13** at 6:00 p.m.

For all voting locations, check your voter information card, visit elections.ca or call **1-800-463-6868** (TTY **1-800-361-8935**).

Elections Canada has all the information you need to be ready to vote.



Ready to Vote 
October 19, 2015



It's silly season with a vengeance

John L.: For First Nation people in Saskatchewan, October is silly season. First up is the federal election, to be followed by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations election at the end of the month. Here to comment is Eagle Feather News' senior political correspondent, the Astonishing Dirk Dashing.

Dirk: John, I have no clue where to start. It's like my brain thingy is having multiple organisms there's so much material to fondle and ogle.

John L.: Well, let's make it easy on you Dirk and start with the federal election. What do you make of the parties when it comes to First Nation issues?

Dirk: I can verify that it is possible to reason with Stephen Harper on what's good for Indian people.

John L.: Alright.

Dirk: Of course, I've often reasoned with hamsters and got the same delightful results. I kid of course ... hamsters at least pretend to smile, whereas it's a little alarming when Harper attempts it. He's almost life-like.

John L.: What about the issues?

Dirk: If there is one thing I've learned about this federal election is that everything boils down to hair. Who's

got it? Is it all in the right places? And is it ready? Canadians do not want hair that is not ready.

John L.: Um, well, I'm not sure that ...

Dirk: And, from what I gather, voters feel Justin has nice hair, Mulcair may have too much of it, and entire segments of Canadian society are ready to get rid of that hair thingy that Harper is wearing. "It is," I quote, "far too Peruvian", whatever that means.

John L.: I was hoping for some deep political insights, based on the parties' positions on Aboriginal issues.

Dirk: Which is exactly what you are getting, John. If there is one thing we Aboriginal-types know, its hair.

John L.: Sure, but what's that got to do with ...

Dirk: Hey, did you know famed Indian-lover, Jim Pankiw, has entered the race because he feels voters are ready for the mop on his hypnotic shaped head. His focus? An inquiry into whether in fact Dirk Dashing was indeed breast fed by rainbows.

John L.: Ok, this is getting us nowhere.

Let's switch topics and discuss the upcoming elections for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Dirk: John, when it comes to Indian politics I find myself thrust – THRUST I TELL YOU! – into the position of where I must engage in rumour control. For there are several vicious – and viscous – stories about the contestants for the big chair of the Federation.

John L.: When it comes to rumours we have to be careful, Dirk.

Dirk: That's correct, John, and yet I feel responsible, obligated, and terribly, terribly thrusty that something must be said in their defense. So, instead of naming names we'll use code names, like Cameron, Ben and Omani. Wait, that might be too obvious, so let's go with Bobby, Helen and Leo, just to keep their identities safe.

John L.: Um, ok. As we are quickly running out of time and space, what are the rumours to be controlled?

Dirk: For starters, it is not true that

one of them read a study conducted in Regina that showed ripple chips promotes ass-leak, and now they want to take it to the next stage and apply it to humans. Second, each of the candidates have never used the word "fantasticar", which, as we all know, means to be both fantastic and ballsy. By the way, John, that's how people refer to my column.

John L.: Yeah, sure they do.

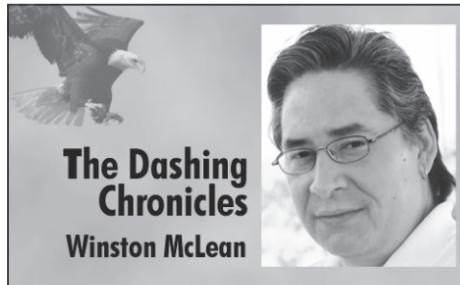
Dirk: The third rumour, I have to clarify, is true – one of the candidates did work at a helium factory, but quit because they did not want to be talked to in that tone. And finally, John, each of the candidates have sworn that, yes indeed, Dirk Dashing was in fact the man sired by sunshine, cradled by moonlight, and breast fed by rainbows.

John L.: Well. That was of no help whatsoever, Dirk.

Dirk: What's that, John? Why, yes, Levi's does pay me to wear these jeans!

John L.: Ladies and gentlemen, that's all we have. I'm sorry I did this.

Dirk says, Just because I imagined it does not make it any less true.



Why I Vote

Jennifer Dawn Bishop

Age: 30

Did you vote in the last federal election?
Yes

What is the most important issue to you in this election?

It would have to be a mix of the lack of job opportunities for young people and affordable housing. When I was younger and on my own, I was able to live in a nice building for under \$500, now most 1 bedrooms cost over \$800. How can anyone pay for that if no one is given the chance to work and for a decent wage? And, like anyone else, equality, and that's pretty self explanatory in itself.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to vote?

I hope to encourage other indigenous people to vote. My mother always made sure when I was old enough that I would vote. Back then I never wanted to vote. I didn't care about politics at all and that I had nothing to do with it. I thought it won't make a difference.

But my mom told me it's our right to vote, and it's something that can never be taken away from us. Each vote makes a difference and can impact us all. I never really understood it but as I got older I can see changes happening to all of us and even though I still can't stand politics, I understand the importance of my vote, that if us as indigenous people want true change and for our voices to be heard, we need to come together as a community and family. We matter, our vote matters.





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Enhance your photography skills with the following evening courses:
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The evening courses will be held at Saskatchewan Polytechnic Prince Albert Campus.

For more information, contact Garry Whitley at 306-765-1772 or garry.whitley@saskpolytech.ca, or Rita Mills at 306-765-1768 or rita.mills@saskpolytech.ca.

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Sunn overcame obstacles, turned life around in an award-winning lifestyle change

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Jorgina Sunn has survived the nightmare of foster homes, addictions and gang life.

The lessons learned in those difficult times have made her a better person and now she dedicates her life to helping people change for the better. Recently, Sunn was awarded the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) Aboriginal Order of Canada in recognition of her outstanding work.

The accomplished musician and activist works with STR8UP 10,000 Little Steps to Healing and her work there caught the eye of Kim Beaudin, President of the Coalition of Aboriginal Peoples Saskatchewan and who also works with Sunn. He nominated her for the prestigious award.

“I was really struck with the life struggles she had overcome and as I got to know her more and thought ‘wow this person has really overcome a lot’ and she can certainly send a positive message for Aboriginal people to understand when you hit rock bottom, you can get up and you can make a better life for yourself,” says Beaudin.

Sunn started this path when she began her own healing. She leads an alcohol and drug-free life and is going onto her fourth year of sobriety. When she heard that she was going to receive the award, she felt overwhelmed and shocked.

“From where I’ve been in my life having gone through addiction, through the foster care system, experiencing abuses and dysfunction in my childhood to being incarcerated ... it’s a great honour.”

Since then, she’s been focusing her time working with many non-profit organizations such as STR8UP, Riverbend Integrated Community Ministries as well as focusing on her greatest passion, music. She incorporates her songs into her community presentations to inspire others to pick up a lifestyle of healthiness.

Her performance at the FSIN Strength of Spirit awards left many in the audience with tears in their eyes. She intends to release an album in late spring with all of her own songs on it.

“I really strive to attract people to the idea that in order to be successful, you have to be successful in your own life,” she says. “You can change your life, there is help and there are people out there who understand and will absolutely help you if you ask for it.”

Beaudin says he comes across people who struggle each and every day that Jorgina tries to help and that is why he believes Sunn was a great nominee for the award.

“I believe she’s going to move on to even better things down the road.”



Jorgina Sunn has put her past into perspective and doesn't let it define her present. She uses that knowledge now to help others.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Elect Helen Ben

Candidate for FSIN Chief

One Voice! Strong Nations!

“Individually we can make a difference, we can do whatever we can to try to help our Nation and to try to help each other but, collectively, we are strong!”

Former Tribal Chief of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Helen Ben is an educator, an innovative leader and inspiring individual from the Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation near Loon Lake, Saskatchewan. Helen has dedicated 12 years endorsing First Nations education in the capacity of teacher and principal. Because of her dedication and commitment in promoting education, she was nominated and elected Chief of Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation in 2004. In 2006, she was elected Tribal Chief of Meadow Lake Tribal Council where she served for a period of five years. During her term as Chief and Tribal Chief, Helen continued her quest in promoting education, health, self-government, economic development and self-sufficiency. Helen was also appointed as the FSIN Chief of Staff and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in 2012. Presently, she is an Education and Policy Development Consultant for the Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation. She is also completing her Masters of Northern Governance Development program at the University of Saskatchewan. Helen is very approachable, down to earth and is very proud to speak her Cree language fluently. Her integrity, effectiveness and respect for people has earned her a place in society that will help her bring about positive and productive change.

One Voice! Strong Nations!

Together we can be strategic, innovative, united, advocates for our rights yet focussed on priorities & solutions.

- ❖ Our **Inherent and Treaty Rights** must be the forefront and cornerstones of our innovative strategies!
- ❖ We must bring back the **FSIN** to the original mandate of the late John Tootoosis - unity and a strong voice of advocacy! Leadership must open doors of opportunity and build Nation to Nation relationships.
- ❖ Our **Treaty Rights** such as **Health, Education** are slowly being eroded. The time is now to offer solutions!
- ❖ Our **Lands, Resources and Economic Development** are a win win solution provided we become involved strategically. We need to **strengthen our own economies and land base. Partnerships with Industry** but always with sustainability and environmental stewardship in mind!
- ❖ **Our people need our leadership working together!** Child & Family Services! Missing & Murdered Women and First Nations people! Our young people, the fastest growing demographic in Canada, need to feel optimistic and hopeful! Our communities need more than substandard housing!
- ❖ The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) can be the most prominent and powerful political organization in Canada, if we work as one. Together, with One Voice, anything is possible. With your support, we will be a united Voice!

I humbly ask for your support on October 29, 2015.

Campaign to Elect Helen Ben Phone: 306 837 7775
Email: ben4fsinchief@gmail.com
Website: www.helenben.weebly.com
Twitter: @HelenBen4FSIN



Year to remember for Wanuskewin Heritage Park

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A visit by UNESCO has topped off a fantastic year for Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Wanuskewin hosted the event to draw attention to Saskatchewan's remarkable historic and cultural landscape, as well as to share information about the renewal plans that will elevate Wanuskewin on the world stage.

"UNESCO's founding intention is that cultures should discover and learn about each other. This aim is very much at the heart of what Wanuskewin represents," said Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, Chair of Wanuskewin's Board of Directors.

"We are delighted to share Wanuskewin's incredible history and renewal with our distinguished guests."

If Wanuskewin can achieve World Heritage Designation, it would be a great boost to the Parks renewal plans and long term sustainability. Dana Soonias took over six years ago as CEO of the Park and inherited a bit of a troubled institution. But six years of hard work and strengthening relationships has Wanuskewin on the cusp of greatness.

"It has taken many years to rebuild the foundation of the Park with our stakeholders and community. The rebuild required a review of all systems, processes and procedures, internally and externally," Soonias says.

"We brought back our Elders and had many meetings with them on all aspects of our programming and services. We worked to bring back the cultural integrity that had been removed for various reasons and began to listen instead of talk," he said.

"Great things can happen when you open your



These dancers and drummers had the once in a lifetime experience of appearing on the Amazing Race Canada where they taught and judged the contestants the hoop dance. (Photo Wanuskewin)

mind to the voices that provide direction, advice and guidance. I feel our successes lay in our ability to learn from the past, listen to our traditional knowledge keepers and maintaining an open and welcoming environment for everyone."

Since October 2014, Wanuskewin has seen some amazing events ... and races. Over 1,000 people attended the Walking With Our Sisters exhibit and they also set attendance records on National Aboriginal Day and for the Blood Moon Eclipse Viewing by welcoming over 1,400 visitors combined. But the big boost for the Park came in welcoming the contestants from one of Canada's most popular TV shows, The Amazing Race.

"This is the number one show in Canada and you could see it in our web statistics and the amount of phone calls and amount of well wishes to the dancers and singers went through the roof. We were really proud to be a part of it and Wanuskewin represented really well," said Andrew McDonald, Wanuskewin's sales and marketing manager of the show that had an estimated 2.6 million viewers.

"The impact on the Park was great and to be able to go into that many homes and to be able to share images of Wanuskewin and the traditions, history and dance is so wonderful and a real positive for us."

The extra publicity and enhanced capacity bodes well considering the ambitious renewal plans in place for the Park. The renewal plans include enlarging the Interpretive Centre to allow for new state-of-the-art interpretive exhibits and expanded educational programming and an art gallery. Externally, the visitor experience will be enhanced through extending trails, reclaiming native prairie grasslands, and returning bison to the Park.

The work has just begun to ensure the long-term protection of Wanuskewin and the lands surrounding the park.

"The UNESCO designation is a long term plan and through partnerships with the City of Saskatoon, Province of Saskatchewan and the federal government, we hope our dreams will be realized. We are building a legacy for future generations and we need our communities' support to ensure it is built in a manner that is authentic, welcoming, open and respectful to all who walk through our doorways," added Soonias.

"Despite some challenges along the way, we all feel great satisfaction as we all have a purpose here and the successes of the past year are only small examples of the good work coming our way. Wanuskewin is about our people and their sacred relationship to the land – and land is life."



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Alvin Claypool, Human Resource Consultant



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Author Wab Kinew walks with reason

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Wab Kinew learned a lot about his dad and himself during the writing of *The Reason You Walk*.

The Winnipeg broadcaster and musician decided to spend a year reconnecting with the accomplished but distant man who'd raised him after his dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

In that time, Kinew revisits his own childhood in Winnipeg and on a reserve in Northern Ontario and he learns more about his father's traumatic childhood at residential school.

The book was quite the revealing and different process for Wab Kinew the journalist who is used to shorter mediums like songs, documentaries or news clips to tell his stories.

"It (writing a book) is a deeper dive. It took me like a year to write the book including the editing process. That's the longest I've ever spent on one medium," said Kinew before he read parts of his book at The Word On The Street Festival.

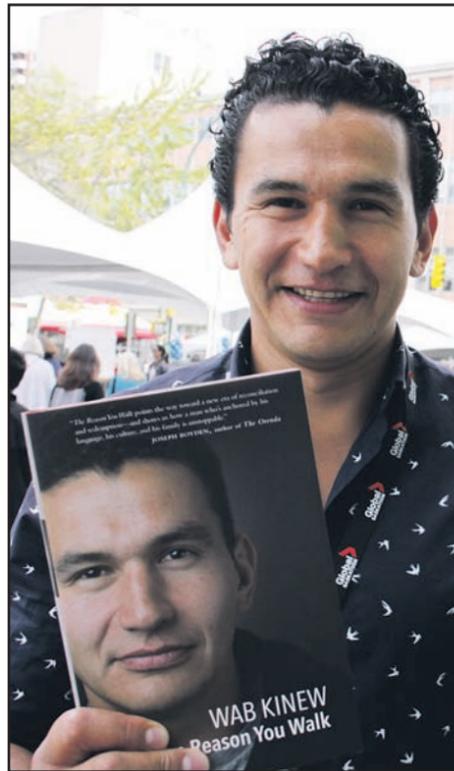
"It is a much deeper dive and the medium of print allows you to explore things more wholesomely and to articulate really quickly ... even in 8th Fire, we were limited by the amount of

words you can get out in a 44-minute episode but this has probably about 75,000 words in there so I got a chance to speak my peace."

The powerful book chronicles his dad's last year of life and the relationship the two men have together. His father, Tobasonakwut, was both a beloved traditional chief and a respected elected leader who engaged directly with Ottawa.

Internally divided, his father embraced both traditional native religion and Catholicism, the religion that was inculcated into him at the residential school where he was physically and sexually abused.

In a grand gesture of reconciliation, Kinew's father invited the Roman Catholic bishop of Winnipeg to a



Wab Kinew was at The Word On The Street Festival to read from his first book, *The Reason You Walk*.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Sundance ceremony in which he adopted him as his brother.

Kinew writes of his own struggles in his twenties to find the right path, eventually giving up a self-destructive lifestyle to passionately pursue music and martial arts. Since then he has quickly grown to be the voice of a new generation of Indigenous people that are wired in and politically savvy.

But he is still working on himself. The process of writing the book opened Kinew's eyes to who he is personally.

"What I learned that in writing about my father in residential school and then about how my father was a parent

to me, I recognized a lot of myself as a father towards my sons and how I make them feel," said Kinew.

"Probably make them uncomfortable. Being too quick to anger. Being too much of the disciplinarian. In my heart and my mind I know I want to be the perfect passionate supportive dad who is cultivating resilience but I know there is still some part of me that is a hangover of the residential schools.

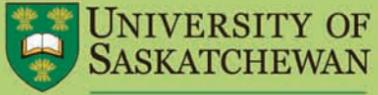
"So that's probably the most important thing I learned to address that and be more patient. It's hard right. Kids are acting crazy and talking back and not listening, it is hard to be Ghandi or Nelson Mandela in those moments, but I'm trying."

Once this book tour is finished, Kinew will likely be back out on another one. Next up is something a bit less intense.

"Thankfully the next project is more light hearted," said Kinew. "It is a children's book and will be a celebration of different Indigenous heroes from across North America but for a young audience so we can teach people and kids of all backgrounds to celebrate indigenous leaders and athletes."

Just like how his first book, *The Reason You Walk*, celebrates his hero, Tobasonakwut.

SURGICAL PEDIATRICS OBSTETRICS PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL NURSE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES ADDICTIONS SHELTER AGENCIES LONG-TERM CARE REHABILITATION NURSE EDUCATOR RURAL AND REMOTE NURSING NON-PROFIT SECTOR FORENSICS FLIGHT NURSE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NORTHERN NURSING GOVERNMENT NURSING OFFICERS SURGICAL PEDIATRICS OBSTETRICS PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL NURSE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES ADDICTIONS SHELTER AGENCIES LONG-TERM CARE REHABILITATION NURSE EDUCATOR RURAL AND REMOTE NURSING NON-PROFIT SECTOR FORENSICS FLIGHT NURSE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NORTHERN NURSING GOVERNMENT NURSING OFFICERS SURGICAL PEDIATRICS OBSTETRICS PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL



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Business forum stresses Aboriginal participation

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The development of natural resources has made Canada one of the richest countries in the world. Historically though, that wealth was not shared with Indigenous communities whose land held those resources.

But there is a move underfoot for Indigenous businesses and people to take their place in resource development.

To help facilitate that, Whitecap Industrial Services and community partners gathered on Whitecap to host the Developing Saskatchewan's Resources Aboriginal Business Forum. Over 150 industry representatives and Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses gathered to network and learn more about opportunities to participate in business. And according to the Forum Chair Darrell Balkwill, the time is now.

"With the uncertainty in many of the markets right now we are seeing a slowdown. Now, that may not be the best thing, but it is giving industry time to settle down and make sure they are doing things right, and that includes Aboriginal engagement," said Balkwill who is also Chief Executive Officer of the Whitecap Development Corporation.

"There is increasing capacity being developed by Aboriginal communities and entrepreneurs to provide goods and services to the resource industry. Bringing together Aboriginal suppliers with industry purchasers is an important step in maximizing the economic benefits for everyone in Saskatchewan."

The forum focused on opportunities in mining, oil and gas, pipelines and the utilities sector and included presentations and panel discussions. To discuss procurement opportunities a panel was held with Grant Ring, Vice President of Business Development at SaskPower, Lyle Neis, Director Project Advancement and Public Affairs at Enbridge and Terry Bird the Lead Advisor First Nation and Métis Initiatives at K+S Potash Canada. All three speakers explained their company's commitment to Aboriginal engagement and talked about opportunities present for businesses to get into their supply chain.

Between the three businesses, there has been close to \$4 billion in economic spending in Saskatchewan over the past few years, lots of which went to Aboriginal suppliers.

These opportunities have led to industry partnering with First Nation economic development arms in order to have a better chance at securing work. Whitecap has secured at least five industry partners and they hope to break into the business across Canada, but also build opportunity in their home community with head offices and shops taking up residence in their planned industrial area.

"We support forums like these because we all



(Left) Grant Ring, Vice President of Business Development at SaskPower, Lyle Neis who is Director Project Advancement and Public Affairs at Enbridge and Terry Bird the Lead Advisor First Nation and Métis Initiatives at K+S Potash Canada discussed opportunities for Aboriginal business at the Aboriginal Business Forum at Whitecap Dakota First Nation. (Above) Saskatchewan Polytechnic President and CEO Dr. Larry Rosia was on hand to discuss a potential training institute in partnership with SIIT.

strive to develop meaningful relationships and quality businesses so we can all achieve our goals," said Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear.

"We look to communities, industry and governments to work together to maximize these economic benefits for Aboriginal people as we develop Saskatchewan's resources together."

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and Saskatchewan Polytechnic took the opportunity at the gathering to present a proposed industrial skills training institute to be built right on the Whitecap community.

"This will strengthen our ability to respond to industry needs," said SIIT President and CEO Riel Bellegarde who was joined by Dr. Larry Rosia, President and CEO of Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

The proposed joint venture institute will be built on Whitecap and simulate life in a work camp.

"This is an ideal opportunity for us on the ten acres of land in Whitecap's industrial park. It will also offer a great community for the families of our students."

The proposed institute is still in the feasibility stage and they intend to make recommendations to their respective boards early in 2015 on whether to go ahead or not.

The intended goal of the forum was to promote Aboriginal business development and capacity, connect Aboriginal businesses with potential purchasers and to generate funds for Aboriginal education and training.

Considering the amount of networking going on and the final cheque presentation of \$15,000 by Darrell Balkwill to SIIT President Riel Bellegarde for scholarships, it seems like a forum well done.

Career Opportunity

Looking for a nanny to care for a child under 6 months in age.

Salary: \$12.50 per hour

At least 40 hours/week. Workday and work hours vary for we work on shifts.

Work in private household located in Hampton Village, Saskatoon.

Duties include but not limited to: feeding, bathing, and other aspects of child care, housekeeping, laundry & meal preparation

First-aid, bondable and references.

To apply email: xugarae@yahoo.ca

The Canadian Depression Research and Intervention Network invites you to the launch of *First Peoples - First Person*

The Indigenous hub is the first of its kind playing a central role in research, policy and knowledge dissemination based on Indigenous intelligence. First Peoples - First Person will connect with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples with lived experience of depression, suicide, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

First Peoples - First Person mental health research hub is led by Métis researcher Dr. Caroline Tait, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan.

The launch is October 21st and 22nd. Day one is a research day from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM with presentations by leaders in Indigenous mental health from across Canada. Day two is a reception from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All events are open to the public and we encourage everyone to attend.

RSVP to the reception before October 15th at ryan.jimmy@usask.ca

Career Opportunity

Looking for a full time caregiver for a one year old and a 12 year old.

Salary: \$12.50 per hour

The position is 40 hours/week and workday and work hours may vary.

Work in private household located in Hampton Village, Saskatoon.

Duties include but not limited to: feeding, bathing, and other aspects of child care, housekeeping, laundry & meal preparation

First-aid, bondable and references.

To apply email: carmenwu88@yahoo.ca

Saskatoon making progress on inclusion front

**By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News**

SASKATOON – The City of Saskatoon is moving ahead with plans to improve Aboriginal engagement and inclusion.

Late last month, city council was presented with recommendations from the 2014 Kitaskinaw Project and Urban Aboriginal Community Gathering.

Kitaskinaw, which means “our land” in Plains Cree, is a collaborative project between the City, Saskatoon Tribal Council, United Way and Gabriel Dumont Institute.

The goal of the project is to better understand Saskatoon’s Aboriginal community in relation to programs and services.

The Gathering was organized by the City, STC and the Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated and took place in June 2014 with about 132 people in attendance.

Its goal was to seek input from the Aboriginal community, within an open forum, on how programs and services can be improved in the future.

Recommendations from both the Kitaskinaw Project and Gathering comprise six areas including cultural and anti-racism education, Aboriginal employment, participation in sports, culture and recreation programs, inclusion of Aboriginal people, culture

and history, transportation and attainable housing.

The City has set a goal of having a 14 per cent Indigenous workforce.

The Kitaskinaw report notes that as of July of this year, close to nine per cent of the City’s workforce self identifies as Aboriginal, which is an increase of 1.2 per cent since 2014.

In terms of sports, culture and recreation programs, the goal is to make such programs either free or low-cost for low and low-middle income citizens and include accessibility for Indigenous seniors.

Recommendations include partnering with STC and the Saskatoon YMCA to determine how best to leverage resources to improve accessibility to community recreational facilities and potentially collaborate on a new joint-use city centre recreation facility.

The Kitaskinaw report also recommends working with Aboriginal communities and governments when implementing recreation programs.

One recommendation to enhance the inclusion of Aboriginal culture and history is to increase the number of city streets, subdivisions and parks named in recognition of Indigenous peoples’ and their contribution to the Saskatoon.

Other recommendations include

seeking further input from Indigenous people on how to improve Saskatoon transit and addressing the housing needs of Aboriginal people living in the core communities.

Gilles Dorval, the City of Saskatoon’s director of Aboriginal relations, says the City is moving forward on Indigenous engagement and inclusion but there is always room for improvement.

Aboriginal employment is one such area.

“The bulk of people we are hiring is in the seasonal labour positions because of the different education levels,” he says. “So we’re trying to work on training, pre-employment partnerships – with SIIT, heavy equipment operators, in the building custodian area.

“So sometimes we are able to put lots of effort and get one person in a higher level position, like in a professional or technical position.”

He adds the reason the city is pouring so many resources into improving Aboriginal engagement and inclusion is for both moral and economic reasons.

“They (reports) all talk about the cost of not doing business with the Aboriginal community. We don’t have the luxury of waiting anymore. If we’re going to be a world class city as far as providing a good place to work, live and



GILLES DORVAL

play, then we need to make sure that we’re inclusive of the Aboriginal community in economic development, in providing services – our Aboriginal citizens need to be feeling as comfortable as everybody else in our community.”

Recent Indigenous engagement and inclusion initiatives include a \$150,000 grant to the upcoming World Indigenous Business Forum, the naming of Chief Darcy Bear Park and a \$17,000 contribution to a CUMFI project for an affordable elder’s residence within a residential care home.

The City, United Way, Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Health Region and other organizations will also be hosting the Mawe Wicheetowin – “Working Together” – conference in November to build on local Aboriginal engagement in service delivery.

ABORIGINAL BUSINESS FORUM

PRESENTED BY:

“The contacts I made are solid opportunity leads that I will follow up with”

Forum Attendee

Developing Saskatchewan’s Resources

Thanks to our sponsors, presenters, participants, and steering committee for making our first Aboriginal Business Forum a great success!

The day provided valuable information for 150 participants on how to share in the economic benefits that the resource and utilities sectors in Saskatchewan provide.

We also raised \$15,000 for scholarships for aboriginal people to further their education in these fields.

Cheque presentation to SIIT

A big thank you to our amazing sponsors and steering committee members

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Her 4 Directions is comprised of from left Candace Atcheynum, Marylou Mintram, Devon Fiddler, Helen Oro and Tori-Lynn Wanotch.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Her 4 Directions coming together

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

Five Indigenous women who own their own fashion businesses have created a fashion incubator to inspire others to start their own product, creative, and fashion-based companies.

Devon Fiddler, owner of SheNative Goods Inc., is the president and leader of Her 4 Directions. The fashion incubator members include Helen Oro for Helen Oro Designs, Little Bow-tihk by Marylou Mintram and Candace Atcheynum both from Nisichawayasihk, Manitoba, and Tori-Lynn Wanotch from First Intimate Apparel.

Three of the businesses are at an early stage and they will be hosting business launch parties in the upcoming year.

Her 4 Directions was first established at a local business planning competition called the Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge. Three of the four businesses were in the competition which SheNative placed first and Little Bow-tihk placed second.

“Marylou and I were collaborating on some accessories at the time. During one of our meetings, I shared the idea of wanting a studio to share with other like-minded entrepreneurs,” says Fiddler.

Each thriving business offers a variety of goods and products from clothing to beaded sunglasses. Fiddler, from Waterhen First Nation, sells handbags and accessories. Oro, from Pelican Lake First Nation, is a fashion designer specializing in clothing, designing beautiful heels and beaded sunglasses. Wanotch designs intimate underwear and pajamas based on a platform to promote healthy sexuality. Mintram and Atcheynum incorporate a Northern Cree influence in their designs and a lot of their designs are traditional and contemporary couture.

The Little Bow-tihk business partners say it’s empowering to be working with successful entrepreneurs.

“We’re always there for each other and we can move forward effortlessly and successfully,” says Atcheynum.

“I think because we’re all entrepreneurs and Indigenous women and all in fashion, we understand each other. We motivate each other and talk to each other a lot about what our goals are and we try to encourage each other to meet those goals personally and professionally,” adds Mintram.

“People think fashion ‘oh it’s just designing and clothes. Well it’s actually a lot more than that because you need models, hair stylists, make-up artists, photographers and event planners. There are so many different elements to fashion.”

The five entrepreneurs worked on a grant together and a few months later they’ve obtained a space and started hiring staff.

“The purpose of the studio is to give us a place to be creative, support one another, collaborate easily, and bring other like minded entrepreneurs up with us as well. We all have so much knowledge of different facets of the fashion industry or the business side of things. We thought it would be a great idea for all us members to share our knowledge with each other and with the community,” Fiddler adds.

The five women would like to see Her 4 Directions become self sustaining and larger, to go beyond just fashion but be more of a support to women entrepreneurs, crafters and artisans.

The four women hosted their soft launch last week at the “Two Twenty” building in Saskatoon where they provided their guests with refreshments, an introduction to the fashion incubator and also a chance to purchase items from each designer.

“It was really amazing to see (the turnout), not just our family and friends but other community members attend in knowing they support us,” says Mintram.

“We got to talk about what other things that we bring as a collective and understanding the world of fashion and all its dynamics.”



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For more info: 306-657-4881
www.clarencecampeau.com



Tina Johnson feeds hay cubes to Rain Dancer (left) and Sammy. Alicorn Stables currently has one stallion, three geldings, two mares and a filly foal born this spring – the first horse born in northern Saskatchewan in about 60 years. In addition, Alicorn is boarding five horses for other owners.

Bitten by horse bug, La Ronge couple building stable business

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

The boreal forest of northern Saskatchewan is not exactly known as horse country, yet Tina Johnson and her husband, Cliff, have established Alicorn Stables near Rabbit Creek, about 20 km south of Lac La Ronge.

Johnson says she was bitten by the horse bug when she was 11 years old, living in Dalmeny, near Saskatoon.

“Every day, I would muck out barns after school, so I could ride on Saturday,” she says.

Her teen years were spent in La Ronge and she had only occasional opportunities to ride when the family made trips south, so when she left home at 20, she had no intentions of coming back.

However, several years ago, there was turning point. At the time, she and Cliff owned ten horses and were living in Spruce Home. After the death of her 18-year-old daughter, Johnson says they were looking for a change of scenery, and a family member offered them access to 22 acres on a Crown Land lease.

“I told Cliff I wouldn’t come back here unless I could bring my horses, and he said they had to earn their keep,” she says.

They set up the business offering trail rides in 2012, deliberately keeping prices low, so that they would be affordable for more families. While response from the community has been good, it barely pays for the feed, and feed is one of the challenges of their northern location. With no pasture, they need to feed the horses year-round. Every Sunday, they head south for a load of hay.

They also discovered, the hard way, that horses love to eat poplar bark. A shelter and rail fence Cliff built out of poplar, have been almost destroyed, so

he is now working on building a barn. When it is completed, it will provide more protection for the horses.

“Horsefly season up here is unreal. It’s bad for the people, but about 30 times worse for the horses,” observes Johnson.

While their original plan was only to offer trail rides, Lionel Brideson, former principal of Gordon Denny Community School in Air Ronge, approached Johnson last year about offering a six-week “empathy” program with ten students. It was very successful, and now Johnson is exploring options for becoming certified as an Equine Assisted Learning leader, and building a riding arena to facilitate the program.

Johnson says she loves sharing her horses, and, in particular, she loves seeing how children respond.

This past summer’s fire season triggered a chain reaction of generosity that Johnson won’t soon forget.

A Grade 1 class from Hall Lake had planned a year-end outing at Alicorn at the beginning of June, she recalls, but then they had to cancel because they were evacuated. When they were able to return to the community, they advised Johnson that instead of rescheduling, they would donate the money they raised to a family who lost its home to the fires in nearby Sikachu Lake.

“It kind of touched my heart,” she says, “so we let them have their class trip anyway, pro bono, and they had so much fun!”

Several weeks later, when they feared road access to the south and their source of feed would be cut off by the fires, the Johnsons ended up having to evacuate with their horses, where they, in turn, were the recipients of donations.

For now, the couple are both employed elsewhere, but their goal is to make Alicorn Stables their full-time endeavor.



SHERYL KIMBLEY, Big River First Nation Arts & Entertainment; CECE BAPTISTE, B.COMM, CPA, CMA Little Pine First Nation Business; KAREN RABBITSKIN, B.ED Big River First Nation Culture & Spirituality; DR. KIM MCKAY-MCNABB, PH.D. PSYCH George Gordon First Nation Education; JESSICA GORDON Pasqua First Nation Environment; DR. SHANNON GATRELL, B.Sc., O.D. Ochapowace First Nation Health & Wellness



ELEANORE SUNCHILD, B.A., J.D. Thunderchild First Nation Law & Justice; MARY LOU GLORIA CHOCAN Onion Lake Cree Nation Leadership/Advocacy; SHARON VENNE, B.A., L.L.B. Muskeg Lake First Nation Lifetime Achievement; SHANA PASAPA White Bear First Nation Sports; VALYNIA SPARVIER White Bear First Nation Youth

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Partnership investment improves Athabasca Basin cell service

SASKATOON – SaskTel has announced that the new cellular towers serving the communities of Wollaston Lake and Fond Du Lac First Nation are fully operational and residents can now enjoy the benefits of SaskTel wireless service.

The extension of wireless cellular service to these northern communities was made possible through a partnership between SaskTel, Athabasca Basin Development and Huawei Canada.

This partnership is based on SaskTel's Community Participation Model, which encourages communities to raise funds to assist in installing cellular infrastructure where it may not otherwise be economically feasible for SaskTel to do so.

Announced in November 2013, Wollaston Lake and Fond Du Lac First Nation are the first two of a total of four announced communities to receive this service. The partners have also committed to extending wireless service to the communities of Black Lake and Stony Rapids, with an anticipated completion date of year end 2015.

"I am very happy to see this improvement in cellular service for the members of our community," says Chief Bart Tsannie of Hatchet Lake First Nation, which is located directly next to the community of Wollaston Lake.

"One of the most significant challenges for our area is accessibility, and these towers will help improve connectivity to the rest of Saskatchewan. Initiatives like these serve as an important step in building a better future for our residents, and I see this as a significant and vital investment in our community."

"SaskTel customers experience a level of connectivity that is rare in other sparsely populated parts of the world because of the ongoing commitment



Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development says the improved cell connectivity will help individuals and improve the business climate in the Basin region.

SaskTel shows to connecting our rural and northern communities," said Jim Reiter minister responsible for SaskTel.

"In addition to this important initiative, with support from the Connecting Canadians Program,

SaskTel is also working on extending and increasing broadband Internet speeds to an additional 26 northern communities."

"We are pleased to be part of this exciting initiative that brings such a real and lasting impact on the Athabasca communities," says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development.

ABD had provided \$249,000 towards the \$6 million project.

"Now that two of the towers are operational, the increased connectivity will lead to many benefits for the people and the business climate in the region. I'd like to thank SaskTel and Huawei Canada for their efforts and commitment in getting this vital initiative going, and for giving us the opportunity to join them in this partnership to benefit the Athabasca region."

"This is a great day for the residents of Wollaston Lake and Fond Du Lac First Nation who can now enjoy high speed connectivity, and we are proud to have supported this initiative," said Sean Yang, President of Huawei Canada.

"SaskTel's leadership in connecting the rural areas of the province demonstrates a commitment to ensuring northern communities have access to the latest wireless technologies available in the world."

Huawei contributed \$385,000 in funding and telecommunications equipment.

"We've been looking forward to the towers becoming operational since this was announced, and we are excited that the day has come," says Darryl McDonald, CEO for Fond Du Lac First Nation.

"Up until today, we've had little to no cellular coverage in Fond Du Lac, and the impact these towers will have on local business development, safety, and the lives of our residents will be tremendous.

Federal election day is Monday

Are you ready to vote?

If you're a Canadian citizen, 18 or older, you can vote in the federal election.

Your voter information card tells you when and where to vote.

If you didn't receive your card, you can still register and vote at your polling place.

To find out where to vote, and what ID to bring, visit elections.ca or call **1-800-463-6868** (TTY **1-800-361-8935**).

Elections Canada has all the information you need to be ready to vote.



Ready to Vote 
October 19, 2015



Legal Eagle

Murder, She Wrote ... bad idea

By Dawn Dumont
For Eagle Feather News

I have a law degree though I've only used it to make myself sound smart on online dating profiles. In this column I'll be answering legal questions that people (mostly my cousins) have asked me.

Here's a question that I had from a couple comedian friends (let's not think too hard about why they wanted to know): What does Second Degree Murder mean? Is it worse than normal murder?

There is more than one kind of murder because our system of justice wants to recognize the different circumstances that may result in another person's death. The justice system has attempted to capture murder resulting from negligence, blind rage and of course, just cruel intent.

There are different degrees of murder. When you accidentally touch a stove and burn yourself, you may have given yourself first, second or third degree burns. As we all know, third is the worst, second is pretty bad and one, you're just being a suck.

But when it comes to law, second degree actually is less bad than first. (Murder is always bad, but you know what I mean.)

First Degree murder is murder that is premeditated and intentional. A guy – let's call him Tim – wants to kill his neighbor because his neighbor blows bagpipes every night after eight.

So Tim decides to use a crossbow and orders one online.

After it arrives, he waits for his neighbor to go into his backyard and then uses it to shoot him. That is First Degree murder.

First Degree also includes murder that may not be premeditated or even intentional – if it happens while you were doing other bad shit that society is very much against: like terrorism or kidnapping.

Also, killing a police officer is automatic First Degree murder because we don't want society turning into Columbia during the reign of Pablo Escobar.

The automatic penalty for First Degree murder is life. Yup. You'll always have that sentence hanging over your head.

But you'll have a shot a parole after 25 years. That means you don't get to think about parole until a quarter of a century has passed. Although with good behavior, you might be able to work your way up to a nicer prison.

The definition of Second Degree is all murder that is not First Degree murder. (That is seriously a bad definition, like saying that magazines are all printed words that are not books)

But basically second degree is murder that was not planned.

Let's imagine a murderous person – we'll call him Tim – wants to kill his neighbor because he stole his secret recipe for sweet and sour meatballs.

So he goes over to his neighbor's house with a crossbow (that he already owns), stands outside and when he sees his neighbor, he shoots, misses and hits a repair guy who was innocently peeing into a mug.

Tim did not intend to kill the repair guy but he should have realized that was a risk. The penalty for Second Degree murder is minimum ten years in prison, which means you could get more time but you definitely can't get less.

To make things even more confusing, manslaughter is thrown into the mix. Manslaughter is murder that occurs "in the heat of passion" or when you were intoxicated or otherwise impaired.

It also refers to situations where you kill someone but you didn't intend to – like punching someone out in a bar and they hit their head and die.

After reading dozens of cases like that in law school, I remember being very afraid of getting into a fight, one wrong punch and you could end up going to prison! (Not that I was ever the fighting type, I'm a card-carrying chicken-shit.)

There are no minimums for manslaughter and sentences are dependent on the facts of the case. Unless you committed manslaughter with a gun, then that's automatically four years.

Because Canada does not want people using guns to commit crimes; shooting geese is okay though.

So my advice to you – and I cannot legally advise you because I am not a lawyer – is to not kill anyone.



Another new house for Whitecap

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

E.D. Feehan High School students recently handed over a house to the leaders of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation as part of their school construction program.

The students earn apprenticeship hours in the summer program and skills like electrical, plumbing and carpentry that apply on any construction site. The house then goes to Whitecap where it is placed on a foundation and made ready for a family.

Jordan Umpherville believes she is now ready for a career in the trades.

"This hands-on experience is so important and gets you going," she said. "I know it has got me to where I want to be."



Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear, students Alyssa Vidmar and Jordan Umpherville, Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board Chair Diane Boyko and John Povhe of Superior Cabinets in front of the house the students built for Whitecap.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



CALL FOR PROPOSALS to Address Homelessness in Saskatoon



The Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) invites eligible organizations operating in the city of Saskatoon to submit proposals for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream. To be eligible, proposals must address one or more of the priorities of the Saskatoon HPS Community Plan (2014-2019) to implement the following initiatives:

- **Housing First Support Services** – for chronically and episodically homeless individuals.
- **Support Services** – for homeless individuals and those at imminent risk of homelessness that are not part of a Housing First Program
- **Capital Investments** – transitional housing, permanent supported housing or non-residential facilities that serve homeless individuals and individuals at imminent risk of homelessness;

Aboriginal organizations will receive priority in the assessment of funding, as per the funding directives.

Projects must take place within the city limits of the city of Saskatoon.

Submission requirements and instructions are included in the Application Guide.

For further information and application packages, you are invited to attend an information session on Thursday, October 15th, 2015 at 9:30am at 220 20th St. West, Saskatoon, SK (2nd Floor Board Room)

APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS pour adresser l'itinérance à Saskatoon

Le Partenariat des initiatives de logement de Saskatoon (SHIP) invite les organisations admissibles qui œuvrent dans la ville de Saskatoon à soumettre leurs propositions de financement à la Stratégie des partenariats de lutte contre l'itinérance (SPLI) Itinérance chez les Autochtones volet de financement. Pour être admissible les propositions doivent adresser une ou deux des secteurs ciblés par les priorités du Plan communautaire SPLI de Saskatoon (2014-2019) afin de mettre en marche les initiatives suivantes:

- **Logement d'abord avec services de soutien** – pour les individus en situation d'itinérance chronique et épisodique.
- **Services de soutien** – pour les individus sans abri et ceux à risque d'itinérance future qui ne font pas partie d'un programme de Logement d'abord
- **Investissements** – logement intérimaire, logement stable avec services de soutien ou des installations non-domiciliaires qui soutiennent les individus sans abri ou ceux à risque d'itinérance future.

Les organismes Autochtones seront priorisés dans l'évaluation des propositions, tel qu'indiqué dans les directives de financement.

Les projets doivent avoir lieu à l'intérieur des limites de la ville de Saskatoon. Les conditions de soumission et les directives sont comprises dans la trousse de demande. Pour plus de renseignements et pour obtenir une trousse de demande, veuillez prendre connaissance d'une séance d'information qui aura lieu le jeudi 15 octobre à 9h30 au 220 20^e rue Ouest, Saskatoon, SK (salle de conférence au 2^e étage).

Deadline for Applications

October 22, 2015 4pm CST

Paper applications must be received at:
Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership
203 – 220 20th Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0W9

Please direct questions, requests for application package, and electronic proposal submissions to:
Dionne Miazdyck-Shield, Mgr Community Dev.
dmiazdyck@shipweb.ca or (306) 979-6706

Date limite pour la réception des propositions

22 octobre 2015 à 16h00 (HNC)

Toute proposition doit être envoyée à:
Partenariat des initiatives de logement
de Saskatoon (SHIP)

203 – 220 20^e rue Ouest, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0W9
S'il vous plaît adresser vos questions, demandes de trousse de demande, et la soumission de propositions électroniques à Dionne Miazdyck-Shield,
dmiazdyck@shipweb.ca ou (306) 979-6706

Sask. college signs education agreement with local communities

**By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News**

A college in northeastern Saskatchewan is moving ahead with plans to make its campuses more Indigenous friendly.

Cumberland College has campuses in Melfort, Nipawin and Tisdale.

Last month, the college formally signed an Indigenous Educational Protocol agreement with a number of local First Nations and Métis communities in the region.

The protocol agreement is based on the Colleges and Institutes Canada agreement that was signed with the Assembly of First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations in December 2014.

The CICan agreement seeks to address the learning needs of Aboriginal people and support self-determination and socio-economic development of Indigenous communities.

Some of its principles include implementing intellectual and cultural traditions of Indigenous people in the curriculum and a commitment to increase the number of Aboriginal employees.

Cumberland College President Tom Weeger pioneered the North East Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Advisory Council shortly after he began employment at the college in 2013.

He says the formal signing of the education protocol is just one step in a process that has been ongoing over the past few years.



(Back L to R) Tom Weeger, President Cumberland College, Councilor Orvin Thomas, Education Portfolio, Kinistin Saulteaux Nation, Vice Chief Robert Whitecap, Red Earth Cree Nation, Chief Justin Burns James Smith Cree Nation, Councilor Eldon Crane, Education Portfolio, Muskoday First Nation, Honourable Scott Moe, Minister of Advanced Education. (Front row left to right) June Draude, MLA, Kelvington-Wadena, Darlene McKay, Director, Métis Nation, Western Region II, Councilor Theda Lathlin Education Portfolio, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, Helene Johnson, Director, Métis Nation, Eastern Region II and Nadine Wilson, MLA Saskatchewan Rivers. (Photos courtesy Lynette Gerski)

recent years to make its campuses more Indigenous friendly and incorporate Aboriginal culture into the curriculum.

He also says the college is currently looking closely at a number of its programs to see how it may improve Aboriginal student retention and success.

However, there is always more to be done.

“I would love to implement an elder-in-residence kind of program

suits the needs of Indigenous students is offering more and more university level programs through the college’s campuses.

For example, Cumberland’s Nipawin campus, in conjunction with the University of Regina, now offers a Bachelor of Education program so

students that want to become teachers can remain close to their home communities.

“This way they’re closer to home and they don’t have that far to travel, so this way they can finish their studies and have a support structure right there,” Chief Burns says.



These two young dancers were on hand for entertainment and to help celebrate the historic protocol agreement. (Photo by Lynette Gerski)

“It was really about us sitting down and honouring the fact that we are embarking on this significant and historic partnership to better work together and better incorporate Aboriginal and Indigenous perspectives and world views and that sort of thing,” Weeger says.

The Cumberland College president says the institution has worked hard in

where we would have an elder available for some days of the week to meet with students, and faculty for that matter, and talk about issues of relevance to Aboriginal learners,” he says.

The James Smith Cree Nation is one of the signatories to the educational protocol agreement.

Chief Justin Burns says one of the things Cumberland College is doing that

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Northern students earn Lieutenant Governor's Awards

Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield recently visited six communities in the North to present student awards.

The Northern Student Achievement Awards were established in 1989 by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. The Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence recognizes one student at each grade level from 7 to 12.



(Above) Award winning students at Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake with Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield and at left is recipient Amy Boyd. (Photos Lieutenant Governor's Office)

The award criteria acknowledge academic standing, school attendance, and involvement in cultural activities.

Lt.-Gov. Schofield also handed out Governor General Academic awards to two students. Riel Fidler of Ila a la Crosse received both medals.

She is currently a pre-med student at the University of Saskatchewan.

Award of Excellence student recipients are: Janine Naskathey, Ben McIntyre School, Uranium City.

Shaeya Toba, Birch Narrows Dene Community

School, Turnor Lake.

Amy Boyd, Minahik Waskahigan School, Pinehouse Lake.

Lieutenant Governor's Award recipient, Rayni Mae Fontaine and Governor General's Academic Medal Recipient: Rayona McKenzie, La Loche Community School, La Loche.

Jonah Koebernick, Twin Lakes Community School, Buffalo Narrows.

Lieutenant Governor's and Governor General's Academic Medal Recipient, Riel Fidler, Rossignol High School, Ile a La Crosse.

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Faces of Saskatoon

Scribe made a promise to Mooshum

Moe Morin is a freelance writer and photographer and the co-founder of Humans of Saskatoon. She photographs and interviews people and runs their stories on her highly popular Facebook page. This month she talked to educator Chris Scribe, Director of ITEP at the U of S about First Nation education. Below are his unedited words.

One of the most important things in Indigenous Education to look at is our history, and the realities of what the education system is in regards to Indigenous people, and more specifically First Nation people. The education system that we know of as Western Education that exists was never built for Indigenous students to succeed. It was built for our assimilation, our colonization, it was built to “kill the Indian in the child” and that was the purpose and intent.

They didn’t build universities with the idea that Indigenous people would be there, it wasn’t a place of inclusion for us, and it was built for non-Indigenous people and mirrored in that image for them to succeed. When we talk about Indigenous Education, we can’t talk about anything unless we discuss and understand what happened in 1972 in response to Trudeau’s “White Paper”.



CHRIS SCRIBE

Our Indigenous people across Canada came together, and replied with the “Red Paper” which included Indian Control of Indian Education. What does that mean, and what is the significance of that? We have schools in our First Nation communities that are supposed to be operating under that mandate of Indian Control of Indian Education. Whether they know it or not, they operate under Indian Control of Colonial Education.

We come to the schools, and we deliver a system thinking the perfect

example of what a school should be is in the town located ten minutes away; a provincial school which actually fails Indian kids at 70 per cent so it’s important to understand what Indian Control of Indian Education means and is – it’s the fight to have identity, culture, language and traditions (relevant to the community that you’re teaching in), and have that be the heart and soul of your school. Make this first and foremost.

We tend to have a colonial education system as a foundation and we try to sprinkle language, culture and traditions and make it fit into that and it’s impossible. It doesn’t work, and the numbers prove it. Our children are failing in our schools and moving into the prisons. Our people are filling the jails, and this needs to change. We know how to make our children succeed, we know what they need, and the reality is, we’re never going back to living off the land. We live in this world, and have to know this world but it shouldn’t be at the expense of who we are as Indigenous people.

When I started my professional path, I made a promise and a vow to my late grandfather who was a hunter, fisherman and trapper in northern Manitoba. He only had a Grade 6 Industrial School education but this man was a PhD level biologist, astronomy teacher, environmentalist, and ecologist. He understood everything there was about the land.

He came into Manitoba schools worked for the Native Education Branch of Manitoba, National Indian Brotherhood, sharing indigenous knowledge through stories, model kits of trap lines, and used numerous other tools that he acquired from his indigenous education growing up. My grandfather passed away when I was three years old, and I never had the opportunity to sit down to speak to him about education, or have insight into his world view.

He will one day greet me when my time ends here, and what I want to say to him “Mooshum, I did everything I could for our children to succeed. I did everything I could for Indigenous Education to be important.” I want to say that to him, and that means including true Indigenous Knowledge as the base of everything we do.

If I continue on, and do the same thing we’ve been doing all this time in education, I can’t have that conversation with my grandfather.

Métis flag flies at St. Michael School

The Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated (CUMFI) and the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools are in partnership to improve the learning opportunities for Métis students attending Catholic schools.

This year they launched a Métis education program at St. Michael Community School.

The goal is to have all teachers working to include Métis content in their classroom programs and to see Métis ways encouraged throughout the school.

Many new resources have been

brought to the school to be used by teachers and they are looking for ways to involve Métis people in supporting Métis culture at the school.

In recognition of this program a Flag Raising Ceremony was held at the school on Sept. 9. Representatives from CUMFI and GSCS were on hand to participate in the event.

Senator Nora Cummings provided a prayer and then was assisted by CUMFI President Shirley Isbister with the official raising of the Métis flag while students and staff sang the Métis national anthem.



Claire Bazylak, Yvonne Gardipy, Cort Dogniez, Shirley Isbister and Maureen Belanger were on hand for the historic Métis flag raising ceremony at St. Michael School in Saskatoon.

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Wednesday, October 21, 2015 Mayfair United Church 902 33 rd Street W. 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Thursday, October 22, 2015 Saskatoon Field House, Lobby 2020 College Drive 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
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*Open-house style events. No formal presentations will be given.

Learn more and get involved at www.growingfwd.ca

FSIN gears up for October elections

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Three candidates are vying for the top job at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Helen Ben, Bobby Cameron and Leo Omani have all officially declared their intentions to run for chief of the FSIN.

Nominations closed on September 28 and the election for chief will take place on October 29 during the fall legislative assembly in Saskatoon.

All three candidates come from strong backgrounds in both politics and education.

Helen Ben is a former chief of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council who is currently doing contract work for her community of Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation.

She is also a teacher by training and is working on a Master's of Northern Governance at the University of Saskatchewan.

Bobby Cameron is also a teacher who hails from the Witchehan Lake First Nation.

He currently serves as an FSIN vice-chief and holds the education portfolio.

Leo Omani currently serves as the Chief of the Wahpeton Dakota Nation.

He also holds a doctoral degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Saskatchewan.

Whichever candidate ends up winning the FSIN

election for chief will take over the organization during a time of both significant challenges and adversity.

In early 2014, the FSIN was forced to lay off most of its staff and elected officials took a pay cut as a result of a close to \$2 million funding cut from the Harper government.

This spring, chiefs and band councillors agreed to make up some of the existing shortfall by transferring roughly \$1.95 million in gaming revenues to the organization but it remains unclear whether this was a one time transfer or if this new funding will be ongoing.

The current Conservative government has said the reason for the funding cut is because it would like the FSIN to focus on service delivery and get out of political lobbying.

Even if there is a government change as a result of the federal election on Oct. 19, it remains uncertain whether this funding will ever be restored.

The tough financial times have renewed a serious discussion amongst Indigenous elected officials across the province as to what the FSIN's role should be.

Perhaps to further complicate the matter, it appears many elected officials would like the organization to get out of service delivery and focus on lobbying the

federal government to ensure treaty implementation.

This of course would appear to be the exact opposite of what the current federal regime wants in terms of providing funding to the FSIN.

There is also no doubt that whoever gets elected will have to deal with the current funding gap for on-reserve education.

Some estimates say schools in First Nations communities are funded by as much as 50 per cent less when compared to provincial schools.

The Harper government's controversial Bill C-33, First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, currently sits in limbo after failing to gain the support of a number of elected chiefs across the country.

The bill proposes \$1.25 billion over three years for First Nations education beginning in 2016.

Bobby Cameron has been a longtime advocate for funding parity between on and off-reserve schools.

The FSIN signed an educational

Agreement as a means of discussing with the province some sort of plan where First Nations would see more financial benefits from natural resource exploitation than they currently do.

In years past, multiple candidates have run for Chief of FSIN as opposed to the three this time around.

Ken Coates, who is the director of the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development at the University of Saskatchewan, says he believes the fewer number of candidates seeking the FSIN's top job has less to do with the current instability of the organization and is more likely the result of the FSIN not being as attractive to Indigenous leaders as it once was.

Moreover, Coates says with so much happening at the local level in Saskatchewan First Nations communities, many potential candidates may just feel their time is better spent in their own backyard.

"The action is pretty hot at the local level," he says. "When you look at people in years past who might have said that,

'boy, we're going to have Darcy Bear (Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief) running to be Chief of FSIN...' Why would he want to do that?

"He's running a remarkable community and he's done an amazing job in terms of economic development. So what does the FSIN have to offer him? He has a lot of work to do at Whitecap still."

Two candidates have been acclaimed for vice-chief – current Interim FSIN Chief Kimberley Jonathan and current Vice-Chief Dutch Lerat.

When contacted for an interview for this story, Leo Omani provided a written statement that says he will be unveiling a campaign platform in due course but is not providing media interviews at this time.

The candidates, in alphabetical order, for the Office of the Second Vice Chief are:

- ATCHEYNUM, Rod – Sweetgrass First Nation
- LONECHILD, Guy – White Bear First Nation
- MERASTY, Robert (Bob) – Flying Dust First Nation

First Vice Chief Kim Jonathan and Fourth Vice Chief Dutch Lerat have been acclaimed.

protocol agreement with the province in late August but it will be the federal government that will have to make up the current shortfall if funding parity is to be achieved.

"We have to have a plan based on our growing population, based on the cost of education nowadays as compared to 1996 when the cap was first imposed," Cameron says.

"Obviously investing in education now is going to have a positive impact for all of Saskatchewan and Canada, for that matter."

Helen Ben says she is optimistic the FSIN can work with other Indigenous organizations to get a serious education funding dialogue back on track with the federal government but says Ottawa must use a much more consultative approach than has been the case with Bill C-33.

"What they were looking at came from a top-down approach and that doesn't work," she says. "It has to come from the grassroots. It has to be something that they consult with the First Nations."

Both candidates say the FSIN should focus on treaty implementation as opposed to service delivery and that quality and accessible on-reserve housing continues to be a major issue.

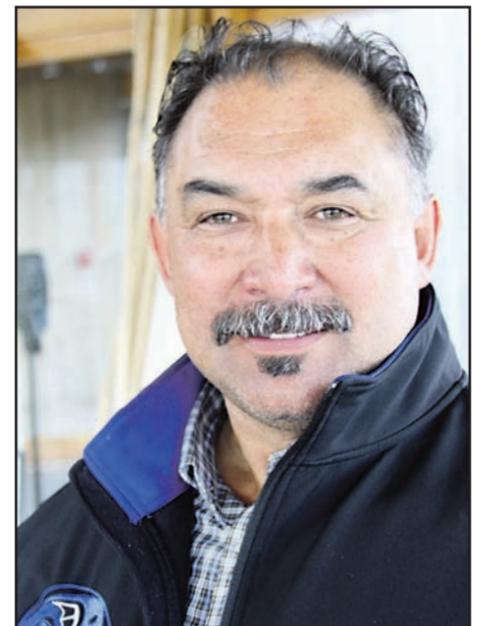
Cameron says he would also like to revisit the Natural Resources Transfer



HELEN BEN



GUY LONECHILD



ROBERT MERASTY



BOBBY CAMERON



LEO OMANI

Canoe Lake hockey star is a record breaker

**By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News**

Ever since she put on her first pair of skates at an early age, she has loved the feel of the ice.

Seventeen-year-old Delaney Ross from Canoe Lake First Nation has been playing hockey since she was five years old.

“When I was little my dad took me out to skate and I’ve always loved it, so then it grew on me and it stuck with me,” Delaney said about her hockey career.

At the age of 12 she joined the Midget AAA North Battleford team before moving to Alberta to join the AAA Lloydminster Steelers.

In 2013 at the Macs tournament in Calgary, Ross, a forward, played in four games in which she tallied seven goals and six assists for 13 points. Lloydminster won three of those four games while the female division was ultimately won by the Westman Wildcats

“We didn’t do so well, but I did well,” she says of her awards and recognition for her individual contributions to the team’s efforts. She was presented with several honours.

That same year, she set new records in her league with the Lloydminster Steelers as she broke the

league record of 68 points, beating it with a whopping 90 points.

Last year her and her family moved to Lloydminster, where she joined the Warner Warriors in the Junior Woman’s Hockey League (JWHL).

“She was voted on to the league all-star game where she was chosen as first star. Her team also won the final league game which was played at the Buffalo Sabres arena. She was also the most offensive player after leading the league with most points,” says proud dad Marty Ross.

Ross has had some remarkable years in hockey. She hopes to continue to break records this coming hockey season.

“I’m ready to go back and do it all over again,” said Ross.

She will be doing her Grade 12 this year and though she does not know yet what she plans to do career wise, she will always want to play hockey.

“I just want to really play hockey and play in a university or college league. I’m not the smartest but I know school is very important in order for me to continue,” Ross said.

Ross hopes to one day play for Team Canada and possibly play hockey with an NCAA team in the United States.

“The Team Canada coach comes to lots of our games so hopefully this year I get an invite,” Ross said.

She will still be attending Warner Hockey School this fall because she

wants to excel in hockey. Ross says she will continue to work hard and do her best for her family, to succeed as much as she can as they have invested in her and supported her passion for hockey.



Delaney Ross has been ripping up the ice in Lloydminster and has hopes to one day play in the NCAA and eventually for Team Canada

Why I Vote

**Merelda Fiddler
Mother and Journalist**

Did you vote in the last federal election?
I did vote in the last federal election, and the provincial one and the city elections.

Will you be voting in this election?
I will most definitely be voting in the upcoming election.

What is the most important issue to you this election?

There’s not just one issue for me. For instance, as a person who can see climate change it’s the environment. As a mother it’s health care and education. Addressing poverty is also very big for me. And then of course there’s justice. All of these things and many more matter.

Why is it important for Indigenous people to vote?

Here are the two things I always think of when I think about voting. 1. Veterans. My own relatives who fought in the war and ALL veterans. They fought for the rights we often take for granted. They fought so we can have the right to have a say in our country’s future. It’s not a perfect place but we don’t realize how lucky we are.

Second - when I was working on a documentary years ago a Métis man said to me, “People tell me all the time they are not political. I don’t understand that everything in your life is political.”

That goes back to the previous question. If we were all more engaged in our education, health etc. maybe we could really make the difference we all keep looking to others to do for us.



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O'Watch has her sights set on World Games in Brazil

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

Heather O'Watch from Okanese First Nation will be competing in the first ever World Indigenous Games to be held in Palmas, Brazil on Oct.23 to Nov. 1.

The archery athlete first found out about the World Indigenous Games last year and she made it her mission to contact the Canadian organizer and express her interest in participating in the games.

"I officially found out I would be representing Team Canada in July of 2015. My first reaction when I found out I was ecstatic. I had hoped to be able to be a part of this opportunity and was determined to contact and try to make the team, and when I found out that I officially made the team I was super happy and grateful that my dream was achieved," she says.

O'Watch first picked up a bow and arrow in May of 2013. She participated as an athlete in archery for the Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games 2013 held in Muskoday First Nation where she placed in her age category.

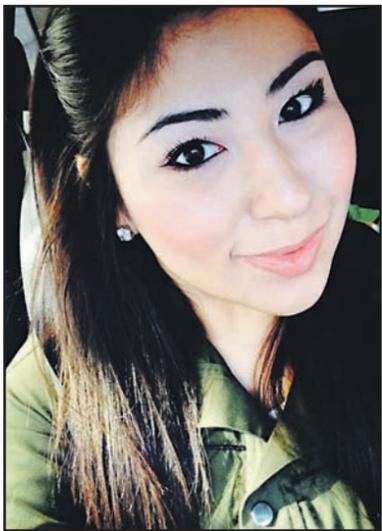
She didn't stop there. O'Watch competed for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) last summer which she placed 5th for Team Saskatchewan. She also competed in the Saskatchewan provincial 3D shooting competition 2014 and placed gold in her age category for traditional shooting.

Through all her achievements, O'Watch couldn't have done it without her role model, her mother. She is proud to say her mother is her main supporter.

"She is hard working, caring, and has always encouraged me to follow my dreams. She raised all four of my siblings and I, by herself and her strength is reflected in all the many achievements she has. It is really important to have a support system in achieving goals."

O'Watch's future plans are to finish her degree in journalism and to travel. Her interests are in international relations and has hopes to obtain a career within an international organization. Currently, O'Watch is in Colombia in South America on a four month internship.

Her advice for any youth who would like to participate in the next World Indigenous Games is to keep a close eye on them through their social media pages to look out for the opportunity.



Heather O'Watch

"You never know if you don't try. I myself didn't know if I would make the team but I didn't give up on trying to find out about this opportunity. I emailed and called almost ten different

Canadian and International contacts before finding the actual organizer. I didn't give up on trying," she says.

The World Indigenous Games is premiering this year for the first time ever with over 30 different countries around the world participating. According to O'Watch, Brazil alone will be representing 24 different Indigenous tribes.

Athletes from each country are delegated to represent in the games and an estimated 2,000 participants will be playing in 11 different sporting categories.



Heather O'Watch is aiming for the first ever World Indigenous Games happening this month in Brazil.
(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)



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Troupe set for World Indigenous Games

**By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News**

In just a few weeks, 18 participants from Saskatchewan will travel to Brazil for the first World Indigenous Games.

The troupe is made up of six singers and 12 dancers who will be part of a contingent of 50 making up Team Canada.

The first responsibility of the troupe is to showcase Saskatchewan's unique Indigenous culture.

They are then free to participate in various events, which are a mix of Aboriginal and Western sports including trunk racing, wrestling, canoeing and archery.

Team Canada will be part of a group 2,000 athletes from 30 different countries from all over the world.

Aside from Canada, some of the other countries traveling to Brazil for the games include the Philippines, Russia, Australia and Japan.

Lorna Arcand is the troupe coordinator for Saskatchewan.

She says the games take care of the cost of food and accommodation for the athletes but they must cover all other expenses out of pocket.

The athletes have already come up with \$2,000 each and now need to raise about another \$1,300 per person before the games.

In order to come up with the

remaining funds, various group fundraising events are being held including a steak night, which took place at Sports on Tap in Saskatoon on September 30.

"The participants have all paid two-thirds of the trip themselves and the remaining is incidental costs," Arcand says. "We have a couple of days in Sao Paulo and we're hopefully going to offset those costs for them because they've gone through quite a long journey of fundraising and I think this will really help them out to have a positive experience."

She adds the focus of the event is on culture rather than athletic competition.

"It's a celebration; there are no winners or losers at the World Indigenous Games. Everyone will receive a medal that attends the games. It's not about winning or losing in the Indigenous community. It's about the participation and the sharing of culture."

Deanna Ledoux is one of the Saskatchewan dancers who will be making the Brazil trip.

A member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, she will be displaying women's traditional northern dance.

Ledoux says she is really looking forward to the broad cultural exchange that will be possible at such an international event.



Eugene and Lorna Arcand are going to the World Indigenous games in Brazil with almost 20 dancers and singers to showcase Saskatchewan's Indigenous culture.
(Photo by Fraser Needham)

"I've been all around the world to most of the continents but I haven't been able to engage with a lot of the local Indigenous peoples," she says. "It's like having one big giant reserve for the 10 days that we're there. Indigenous people from all over the world are going to be in one space."

The World Indigenous Games take place in Palmas, Brazil from October 23 to November 1.

The games were founded by Cree Alberta lawyer Wilton Littlechild who also founded the North American Indigenous Games that were first held in Edmonton in 1990.

GORDON TOOTOOSIS
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S.I.G.A. Theatre Season**

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Music, play and lyrics by Tomson Highway
November 20 – December 6, 2015
Remai Arts Centre Backstage Stage
100 Spadina Cres East

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RECLAIM
By Marcel Petit
March 11 – March 18, 2016
Studio 914, 914 20th St West

A story exploring Aboriginal Justice centering on a man's path to vindication, told through stories of his life. This multi-media one act play is themed on Indigenous justice and politics. Performed by and featuring members of the 2015/2016 Circle of Voices program.

POPCORN ELDER
By Curtis Peeteetuse
May 19 – May 29, 2016
Studio 914, 914 20th St West

A co-production with Dancing Sky Theatre. Inspired by the Arizona sweat lodge incident of 2009, the theme of this provocative play is the practice of plastic shaman and elders in the Indigenous community.

tawāw. Welcome to Gordon Tootosis Nīkānīwin Theatre...

Nīkānīwin (pronounced nee-gaa-nee-win) is a Plains Cree expression for 'leadership.' In consultation with the Tootosis family and after a process of ceremonial protocol, Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) has renamed our organization. Our new name, Gordon Tootosis Nīkānīwin Theatre, honours Gordon Tootosis, a Cree and Canadian icon and one of the founding members of SNTC.

When Gordon Tootosis (Poundmaker First Nation) began working in theatre, there was a noticeable void of Aboriginal actors. He set out to fill that void by creating a platform for the development of young, burgeoning and experienced Aboriginal actors. In doing so, he has had a profound impact on both the Aboriginal and wider theatre community in Saskatoon and across the province and made an indelible mark on Canada's theatre scene.

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Phone: 306-933-2262 Box Office: 306-384-7727

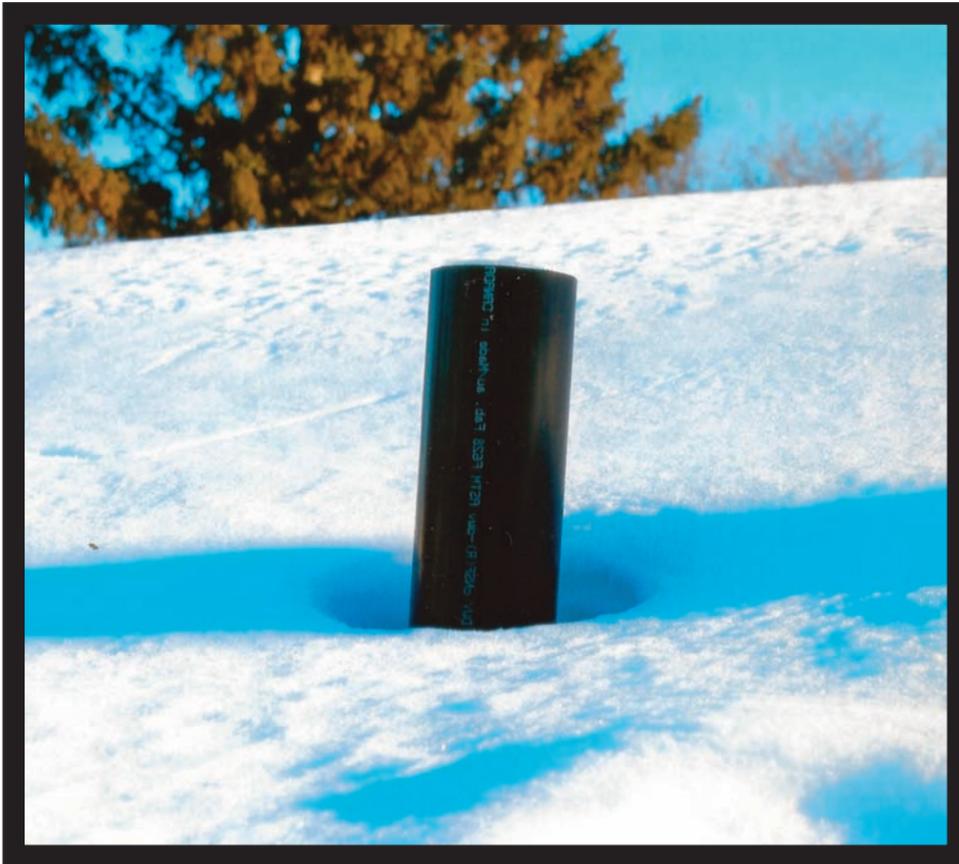


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The Almightyvoice Education Centre Business Club is a group of One Arrow First Nation high school students who are learning about starting a business. The Club's goal is to build a legacy that will be successful into the future. To reach this goal, the Club had to find a product to help the community and themselves succeed. This product is the Residential Rooftop Sewer Vent Extension Kit - it is needed by people who live in snow around the world and can be made by people in the community.

The Club has worked hard to create a business plan, pilot project and marketing plan. They have pitched the Residential Rooftop Sewer Vent Extension Kit to investors and industry. The result of this hard work is a product ready for market with 300 units already sold!

We have been strongly advised to apply for a product patent. To date, we have met with a patent lawyer and made a formal Patentability Search Application. The results of this search are good and the next step is the formal Patent Application which will give the product "Patent Pending" protection status. Future earnings will be used to pay for this Application.



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