

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## FSIN Chiefs elect Bobby Cameron

The Chiefs of the FSIN have overwhelmingly chosen Bobby Cameron from a great slate of candidates to be the face of the organization for the next three years. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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*Veterans and Youth Edition*

Coming In December - Newsmaker of the Year Issue

CPMA #40027204

## Ben and Omani left well behind

**By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News**

**SASKATOON** – Bobby Cameron will lead the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations for the next three years.

Cameron handily defeated two other challengers – Helen Ben and Leo Omani – taking just over 80 per cent of all votes cast for FSIN chief at the organization's fall

legislative assembly on October 29.

In other elections, Robert Merasty was elected second vice-chief taking about 47 per cent of the vote.

He defeated Rod Atcheynum and Guy Lonechild.

Kimberly Jonathan and Dutch Lerat were also formally acclaimed as first vice-chief and third vice-chief respectively.

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## Chief Cameron pledges to get FSIN's financial house in order

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Cameron will have little time to enjoy his commanding victory before he will have to roll up his sleeves and get to work. Financial statements presented at the FSIN assembly show the organization posted about a \$335,000 deficit this fiscal year. The FSIN also has a net debt of about \$1.1 million dollars - about \$270,000 greater than last year.

"We have to learn to do more with less," adds Cameron who says he would like to talk to the new government about reinstating transfer payments to previous levels.

With a new Liberal majority government in Ottawa, the FSIN leader hopes to access top-level officials as soon as possible in order to get any number of files moving.

In the recent election, Prime Minister-elect Justin Trudeau said he wants to pursue a nation-to-nation approach with First Nations governments and pledged to remove the two per cent funding cap on transfers to Indigenous communities, which has been in place since 1996.

Cameron says he is certainly eager to work with the new federal government.

"Today marks the beginning of a new era," he says. "What I mean by new era - Prime Minister Trudeau and his comments about working with Indigenous people on a nation-to-nation basis, based on our inherent and treaty rights. For the first time in a long time, the federal government has committed that and we're happy to hear those (words), now it's just a matter of time of getting these



**The FSIN executive includes third vice chief Dutch Lerat, second vice chief Bobby Merasty, first vice chief Kimberly Jonathan, Chief Bobby Cameron and fourth vice chief Heather Bear. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)**

meetings set up so that we can get them to commit in writing based on our inherent and treaty rights."

First Nations leaders in Saskatchewan, as was the case across the country, had an acrimonious relationship with the previous Harper government, which resulted on little movement on a number of issues including education.

Even though Leo Omani only managed to garner 69 votes, he took the loss in stride and with a bit of humour.

"I'm like a Timex (watch), I take a licking and keep on ticking," he told the assembly jokingly.

The FSIN elections were also not without controversy.

Four different potential candidates who were running for vice-chief positions allege they were unfairly disqualified from seeking office by the clerk of the FSIN assemblyron says he has no plans to get involved in the allegations and will let the organization's appeals process take its course.



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[irene.elliott@wanuskewin.com](mailto:irene.elliott@wanuskewin.com)

# Leaders optimistic about Trudeau's new cabinet

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

There is a new Liberal regime in Ottawa and Indigenous leaders are hopeful this will mean a new and improved relationship with Canada's government.

Aboriginal leaders had what can only be called a rocky relationship with Stephen Harper's Conservative government over the last 10 years.

Whether it is the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, Bill C-45 or the Idle No More movement – Indigenous groups often found themselves at odds with the Harper government.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his new cabinet were officially sworn in on Nov. 4 and expectations are high.

If opening ceremonies are any indication, it appears the Liberals intend to conduct their business in a very different way than their predecessors.

At the swearing in ceremony in Ottawa, Trudeau and his ministers were led in by the traditional Cree drumming of 13-year-old Theland Kicknosway.

This was followed by Inuit throat singers Samantha Metcalfe and Cailyn DeGrandpre, both 11.

The ceremony was then rounded out by the Prairie Fire Métis Dancers which includes twins Riley and Hunter McKenzie, their brother Jacob and Jaime Koebel.

There was also acknowledgement at the ceremony that the cabinet swearing-in was being held on traditional Algonquin territory.

Trudeau pledged and met gender parity in the cabinet, which consists of 15 men and 15 women.

The new prime minister has committed to minority representation in his first cabinet as well and this includes Indigenous representation.

The Liberals elected eight Aboriginal MPs in the last election and two of these MPs have been appointed to cabinet.

Jody Wilson-Raybould is the first Aboriginal person to hold the justice and attorney general portfolio.

The Vancouver MP has an impressive resume, which includes serving as a Crown prosecutor and regional chief of the B.C. Assembly of First Nations.

Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo is Canada's second Inuk to be appointed as a federal cabinet minister.

A former member of Nunavut's Legislative Assembly, he has been appointed minister of fisheries and oceans and Canadian coast guard.

Long-serving Toronto MP Carolyn Bennett has also been appointed minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Bobby Cameron, who is also newly elected, says he was impressed by both how the swearing-in ceremony was conducted and the makeup of the new cabinet.



Cabinet appointments by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have raised the hopes of Indigenous leaders across Canada. (EFN file photo)

"When these ministers came out and Carolyn Bennett, also a long time advocate for our inherent and treaty rights – we were happy with that," he says. "Jody Wilson and Hunter Tootoo, it's very historic because for the first time ever and it's an acknowledgement, a recognition that our First Nations people across Canada saw the importance to vote in this election."

Cameron says he hopes Indigenous people realize that they can make a difference if they get out and participate in elections, like the most recent one, and they continue to be active in the upcoming provincial election, which will be held in the spring.

He says he has worked closely with Jody Wilson-Raybould at the executive level in the past and is looking forward to working with the new justice minister again.

Cameron also notes he has not had a chance to talk to the new prime minister yet but plans are already underway to meet with senior government officials in the coming weeks to get any number of files moving.

One thing that will definitely be on the agenda when the FSIN does meet with the new government is an appeal to get government funding to the organization restored to previous levels.

In a statement, Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde says: "Today marks an important opportunity to embark on a new era of reconciliation and partnership to close the gap in the quality of life between First Nations people and Canadians. I look forward to working with the new federal government in the spirit of trust, respect and a renewed nation-to-nation relationship."

Charles Smith is a professor of political studies at St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan.

He says Trudeau has taken some positive steps in appointing two In-

digenous MPs to major portfolios.

"It's fantastic to see the rise of Indigenous members of cabinet in such senior positions," Smith says.

"I think we can all applaud that as a step in the right direction to reconcile what has been historically a colonial relationship from Ottawa to Indigenous people and having prominent members of cabinet should be able to change the conversation and recognize the legitimate claims of Indigenous peoples around a whole host of things."

Smith also says he believes the Liberals will move quickly on a number of issues as part of the party's commitment to pursuing a "nation-to-nation" approach with Indigenous communities.



"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](http://potashcorp.com/careers).



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# Suddenly, we're a force to be reckoned with

Take some time this week to thank a veteran. Just walk right up to them and shake their hand and say "Thank you."

It is because of those veterans that we had the right to vote in the last federal election. It is because of those veterans and their leadership that we have any of our freedoms here in Canada. It is because of those veterans that we now have hope as Indigenous people in Canada ... because we finally took advantage of those rights they fought for and we voted like we have never voted before.

That amazing turnout at the polls (congratulations all you first time voters!!!! Thanks for stepping up!) has now positioned Indigenous people in Canada as a political force to be reckoned with.

Prime Minister Trudeau has certainly paid homage to our people by having an amazing swearing in ceremony that honoured all the Indigenous people in Canada and actually helped endear us to our fellow Canadians.

Quite the difference from the old, cold Stephen Harper and his now 'trying to be likeable' gang of Cons isn't it?

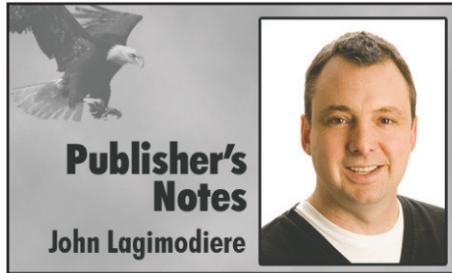
When we vote, people take notice. Now we need to take that political involvement into the future provincial and municipal elections and, darn it, maybe our issues will be front and centre and there will be investment in programs and opportunities for our families and most importantly our youth.

We always blend our November issue with veterans and youth because they complement each other. Most of the men and women veterans you see started out as young soldiers in their early twenties (or in the World Wars in their mid teens in some cases). And there is always that special bond between our warriors and the young people they fight to protect and nourish.

I'm always a bit intimidated around both veterans and youth because of the

veterans experience and ability to tease mercilessly and youth because I am absolutely terrified of them since I never know what to expect (what if they are lippy little buggers like I was?). Many of the veterans have seen and done things we never will. It gives them an edge and also our respect.

And for youth, we need them to be engaged so badly, I get intimidated just being around them because I remember how hard it was to be young and so unprepared for the pressure of taking my place in the community.



problem. Seriously, I have spoken in front of government people, bankers, soldiers, lawyers, professors and cops and also guest hosted the flagship CBC radio show The Current with one million listeners, but

nothing makes my palms sweat and stomach turn like a theatre of teenagers.

Fortunately, once you get past being scared of youth, you find they are like big sponges that want to absorb your knowledge and use it to make change. Despite my anxiety I had a great time in

heckled or booed! Whew.

Times are changing but we still must be vigilant on behalf of our veterans and youth.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association has a membership of 150 veterans, many quite old.

They need services and support. And our youth need nurturing and a strong investment in their education.

So fine friends, we have voted and been heard but our work continues. Engagement as a citizen isn't just spending an hour to vote on election day.

It's about getting into the trenches and doing the hard work day in and day out to make sure our government is accountable on behalf of our veterans and youth.



These veterans were honoured in 2014 with medals from the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. Make sure you thank a veteran this week.

Gladly, I find my fears are usually quite unfounded. When you sit with veterans at the powwow or GDI gatherings, they are pleasant and funny and the teasing they give you actually helps build you up.

With youth, I always have a

October speaking to high school students in Kylemore at the Fishing Lake First Nation youth conference and then was lucky enough to return to my old high school Holy Cross in Saskatoon to speak to almost 400 Grade 8 students at their leadership conference. Not once was I

We need to serve on their behalf.

We have won one battle and must keep on to the next.

Show that tenacity that the veterans have ... and the innovation and heart and desire for change the youth have.

Lest we forget.

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

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

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca**

**ADVERTISING & SALES: Peggy Robillard, peggyrobillard@yahoo.com**

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# Some deadly thoughts about funerals

Whenever I would talk about death when I was a kid, my mom would say, "hush, don't be morbid."

But why can't we talk about death when it's as certain as taxes or that your baby will poop right after you've given him a bath?

I'm not the only who thinks about it: 47 per cent of Canadians believe that they can communicate with the dead while the other 53 per cent wonders how the other half became so gullible. Whether we believe that our connection with our loved ones continues post-oxygen, it's important to ensure that they are taken care of after they die. Its what separates us from monsters.

On my reserve, funerals have changed since I was young. Funerals used to last two days max. There was a wake where the adults would sit up all night and smoke in the band hall while the dark wood coffin stayed open for viewing.

I remember peering in and thinking that the body never looked like the person. But when I'd tell my mom that she'd tell me to "go play outside, you morbid kid."

Throughout the night, people sang hymns, told stories and played cards. A variety of sandwiches were dispersed:

bologna with mustard, bologna with cheese, and bologna with more bologna.

Everyone would take turns visiting the body at their own discretion. I was always waiting for that moment when my Aunt Jo would faint. There would be a lot of scrambling as people tried to catch her before she hit the floor, usually taking down at least two people with her – like a boss.

Then after the wake was done, the next steps were the funeral and the travel to the graveyard. One year, one of my cousins arrived at the graveyard just in time from jail, escorted by two prison guards, travelling, as he described "like a baller with a private vehicle and entourage."

Now as the people in my community return to traditional First Nation ways, funerals are preceded by fire-keeping that starts as soon as a family member dies. This fire is kept going until the body is put in the ground.

At night, family members take

turns feeding it. (Teenagers are ideal at this task because they love staying up and playing with fire) The body arrives the night before the funeral and this is when hymns are sung, prayers are said and smokes are put into the coffin.

For some families, there is a feast one year after the death where we gather again to

remember the deceased, say some more prayers and eat more bologna sandwiches.

Being at a funeral makes you think of your own mortality circling the drain like used coffee grounds. And if you are like me, it makes you think about how you want your funeral to rock.

I heard about a rich Palm Beach lady who wanted her body posed at her funeral. She was wearing her best dress seated on a wicker chair with her favourite cocktail in her hand as she "greeted" her mourners.

That sounds like a great idea if you can trust your relatives. Mine would

probably ignore my request for the Superman-hands-on-hip pose and instead, I'd be sitting there with a finger up my nose.

My own funeral desires are pretty simple. I don't want any hymns sung at my wake (maybe, Amazing Grace but only if people sing it in falsetto.) I would prefer karaoke – '80s Madonna only.

I would also like my funeral to be packed. I've made arrangements with one of my friends to stack the event with professional mourners just in case.

Along with looking sadder than a Donald Trump supporter at an IQ test, my mourners also have to call out sincere messages like: "They broke the mold with her!" or "Now, who will fill our days with joy and laughter?!" and "Jesus you're so lucky!"

After the funeral, I'd like to be set on fire like Drogo in Game of Thrones. Fireworks would also be a nice touch.

Finally, I'm planning to set up a test to prove if there is life after death. Send me your email addresses and if there is an afterlife, I'll send you all an email saying, "Wish you were here ... I mean, not right away, but, like, eventually."

I know at least half of you will be expecting an email. (Please remember to check your spam folders)



That's What She Said

Dawn Dumont

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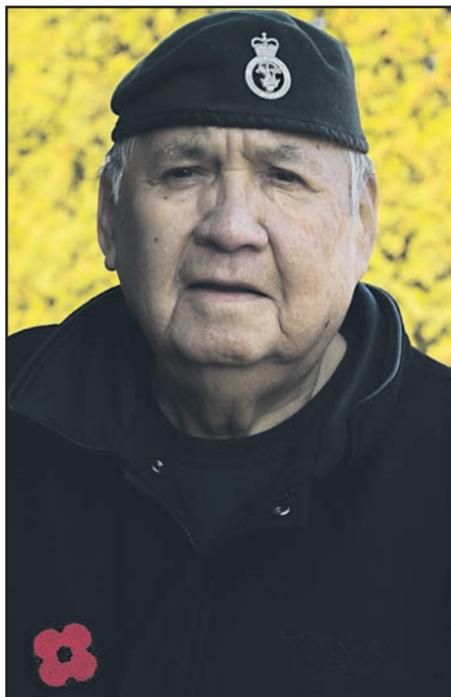
## Faces of Saskatoon

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 Cold War veteran Ray Sanderson about his experiences. Below are his unedited words.

My name is Ray Sanderson, and I'm from James Smith First Nation.

At a very young age I went to residential school, like so many of our people, and I suffered in there.

I remember the loneliness, being lonesome for home. I suffered like this all of my life, and even while in the army, I was lonesome and couldn't ever figure



RAY SANDERSON

it out. I spent 12 years at residential school, and this is how it affected me.

At 17 years of age I joined the Canadian Army, joining a regiment called The Black Watch of Canada. Right after basic training,

I went overseas to Germany. One experience I'd like to mention was being an honour guard on the 20th Anniversary commemorating a battle that took place in Dieppe, France.

The Dieppe Raid was a famous, ill-

fated attack on a small French town that was controlled by the Germans, and the Canadian Army went in there thinking they might catch them off-guard.

Somehow they found out, and many Canadians were killed in action, wounded and taken prisoner. On the 20th Anniversary, I was part of these ceremonies, and the French people thanked us.

As I walked around, touring the cliffs where the bunkers were, I could see how they outmanoeuvred the Canadian army.

They slaughtered them.

Those experiences that occurred during that raid against the Germans, valuable lessons were learned and were put to use in June 1944 to be successful on D-Day.

Going back to early army years, I eventually came back from Germany and transferred to PPCLI. Again, I was shipped to Germany.

Another experience, in West Germany was in 1966. They were commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Battle of the Somme, and I went as an honour guard.

It was a major battle in France during the First World War. Again, so many war graves.

One of the regiments that fought that battle was the Newfoundland regiment, that one morning when they went over the top to go into battle (when they come out of the trenches, walking towards the enemy they call it "going over the top").

Seven hundred men went over the top, walking towards the Germans and again, they were slaughtered. The next morning, at roll call, some 67 or so men answered from the 700.

These were very young men from Newfoundland, and most of them 16, 17 or 18-year-olds.

# It's important to teach school children about contributions made by First Nations veterans

Two graves were of 15-year-old men. Can you imagine?

They made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and gave up their lives. Absolutely amazing.

What I found interesting about this experience, was that my grandfather fought in the Battle of the Somme, his name was Patrick Brittan.

He survived the war, came home, and was very quiet. We used to ask him, "what is war?" and he would say, "It's something dirty, and I don't want to talk about something so dirty."

On his return home from WW1, he walked to see the Indian Agent, and asked about his benefits.

They told him, "don't worry about it, you don't qualify anyway."

I know I spoke to you about my Uncle Roddy Sanderson earlier, he fought in WW2, and after his return home at some point he found himself in Melfort, Sask., on a cold winter night in 1955.

He thought he would walk to the Legion, and ask for something warm to drink until he could find a ride home.

He was turned away, and was told

Indians weren't allowed in the Legion. They said, "Go home Indian, you don't belong here."

My uncle drank a lot, and we didn't know he suffered from PTSD. I looked after him for a time, and during the nights, he would scream in the dark from bad dreams.

One night, he was killed while walking in a winter storm. How could they treat him like that?

Being in the army taught me discipline, how to look after myself, and be careful in how you treat people.

I've learned through War, Elders, and going back to my culture, that whatever you do to someone will always come back to you.

I believe it is important to also teach school children what First Nation's veterans have contributed to our country, those of us that went to war. Some didn't come back, and they gave up their lives for this country.

The people of Canada have to know we contributed a lot to this country; we went over and were prepared to give up our lives so that we could all enjoy this peace today.



### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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

The total amount of funding available is \$987,651 under the HPS Non-Designated Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream, to fund projects between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

**The closing date for receiving applications is December 4th, 2015 by 4:00 PM at the following address:**

Provincial Métis Housing Corp.  
#37-901 1st Ave N  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1Y4  
tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net

For an application package or more information, contact:

Tenille Thomson  
Email: tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net  
Phone: (306) 343-8240 or  
toll free 1-844-396-7933

### APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS

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

Le montant total du financement disponible est \$ 987,651 dans le cadre du (SPLI) non désigné Le Volet de Financement Itinérance chez les Autochtones, pour financer des projets entre le 1 août, 2016 et le 31 mars 2017.

**La date de clôture pour la réception des demandes est le 4 décembre, 2015 par 16h00 à l'adresse suivante:**

Provincial Métis Housing Corp.  
#37-901 1st Ave N  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1Y4  
tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net

Pour un dossier de candidature ou plus d'informations, veuillez contacter:

Tenille Thomson  
Courriel: tthomsonmetishousing@sasktel.net  
Téléphone: (306) 343-8240 ou  
toll free 1-844-396-7933



# Remembering Louis Riel and Métis Veterans By Karon Shmon

Louis Riel Day, November 16th, marks the day in 1885 that Louis Riel was hung. Both the morality and legality of what led to this outcome will be discussed for years without consensus. Most can agree that to lose your life for a cause is the ultimate sacrifice. Standing up for the rights of the Métis cost Riel his life. Some non-Métis assume November 16th is Riel's birthday or the date of a remarkable victory in our history. They are somewhat taken aback to learn it is the date of his execution, a day we commemorate Riel's courage and commitment to the Métis. Remembrance Day is a similar day, commemorating Canadians who died in service to Canada from the South African War to

current missions. It is held every November 11. Métis fought bravely to defend their families, lands and rights in 1885, in both World Wars, the Korean War and still defend Canada in current conflicts. We remember their sacrifice as well.

Recently, I had the privilege to be at St. Peter's Mission in Montana, the place where Louis Riel and his family lived while he was teaching school there. It is also where Gabriel Dumont and a small delegation of Métis went by horseback to urge Riel to come, once again, to help the Métis defend their rights. Being on site made me realize what a challenging decision Riel had to make and what a sacrifice

it was for him to agree. It is a place surrounded by natural beauty. I can only speculate, but I wonder if Riel thought to himself, "My family is safe here. We live peacefully among our relatives and I am doing work I love, work which enables me to provide for my family. Should I go back to an unknown future? Should I risk losing the good life, *la bonne vie*, I am currently living?" I am sure this is a question which many soldiers have asked themselves as they enlist.

For me, Louis Riel Day and Métis Veterans Honour Day is always a mix of solemnity, solace, and celebration. It is always hard to recall our losses, especially of our loved

ones. We can take some solace that they will always be remembered. Personally, I am touched that we continue to pay homage to Riel and the Métis veterans who fought in 1885, as well as those in every instance ever since in which they were called upon to defend Canada and other countries' rights and freedoms. We must always remember the Métis, their courage, and their sacrifice. Louis Riel Day is also a time to celebrate that our culture is thriving because some of our heroes stepped up to protect it. I like to think Louis Riel and all Métis veterans would be pleased to know we will always remember them.

The beaded poppy pays tribute to Métis, First Nations, and Inuit veterans in a long overdue act of recognition, remembrance, and gratitude as we continue to pay the same respect to all veterans. Many Métis, First Nations, and Inuit veterans were denied benefits on their return from service. For many, it was as late as the 1970s until they were allowed to enter the Royal Canadian Legion branches. If you wear a beaded poppy, you are encouraged to continue to contribute annually to the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Campaign which places the proceeds in a trust fund to be used for the benevolent support of veterans and their dependents. Please wear a poppy to remember the bravery and sacrifice of all veterans.



On November 16, 2015, *Louis Riel Day*, the Gabriel Dumont Institute will pay tribute to Louis Riel and Métis veterans with a display at the Gabriel Dumont Institute Museum and Gallery, 2-604 22nd Street West in Saskatoon from 9 am – noon and 1pm – 4 pm. You'll have the opportunity to see our museum and special collections too!



# First Nations Veterans looking forward to better relations with Ottawa

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatchewan's First Nations veterans are hopeful a new Liberal government in Ottawa will mean new and improved relations.

Veterans, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, had, at times, a tense relationship with the previous Harper Conservative government.

They were not happy when the Conservatives decided to close eight Veterans Affairs offices across the country, including one in Saskatoon, in early 2014.

Not long after, Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino was forced to apologize after showing up more than an hour late for a meeting in Ottawa with veterans, getting in an argument and then abruptly leaving.

Emil Highway is the president of the Prince Albert branch of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association.

He says the association is hopeful the Liberals will re-open the Veterans Affairs office in Saskatoon.

"Any help that a veteran can get, because most of them are retired, they live on a fixed income and they can't really travel long distances and pay for gas and hotel rooms and so on," Highway says. "So, when they closed that office in Saskatoon that was another hardship that veterans had to endure, in particular, Native veterans."

The First Nations Veterans Association has an active membership of about 150 across the province.

In the new year there are plans to work with the First Nations of University of Canada in Regina to put in a place a display that recognizes the contributions of Indigenous veterans and erect a monument for the same



**Rocky Redwood receives an award and ceremonial blanket for his work on behalf of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association as Emil Highway (far left) and Vice-Chief Heather Bear (far right) look on at the fall legislative assembly of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in Saskatoon on October 28.**  
(Photo by Fraser Needham)

purposes at Wanuskewin Heritage Park outside of Saskatoon.

Aside from these plans in the near future, Highway says there is always the long term plan to get the federal government to formally recognize the contributions First Nations veterans have made to Canada's military efforts while at the same time acknowledging they did not receive the same benefits as non-Aboriginal veterans.

He says he met new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at an event in Wainwright, Alberta a few years back, they discussed various issues and Highway believes he

had Trudeau's ear.

"Hopefully he (Trudeau) remembers what we spoke about in Wainwright and that his government will at some point acknowledge the contributions that First Nations veterans made in the armed forces in the most violent century known to mankind which was the twentieth century.

"A lot of Native men died overseas and hopefully this Liberal government will in some way acknowledge that."

The new Liberal minister of veterans affairs is Alberta MP Kent Hehr.

**MUSKEG LAKE CREE NATION**

*Lest We Forget*

**Pte. Okemasis, Joseph: 1 Canadian Infantry Division, (MG) Bn (KIA) - Italy died December 07, 1943**  
On December 6, 1943 the SLI was providing mortar support for the Hasty P's (HPE) infantry, who were leading an attack across the Moro River to the town San Leonardo on the Adriatic side.  
The Canadian 1st Division took the objective San Leonardo, by December 10, 1943 - though had suffered many casualties.  
Buried at Moro River Canadian War Cemetary - Italy

<p><b>World War I (1914-1918)</b> Arcand, John B. Arcand, John Malasyppe Arcand, Louis Arcand, Louis O.S. Flamend, John Greyeyes, Louis Ledoux, Isadore Sanderson, William B. Tawpisim, Alexander</p> <p><b>World War II: (1939 - 1945)</b> Arcand, Albert Arcand, Clement Arcand, Collin Arcand, Francis X. Arcand, George Arcand, Joseph Arcand, Joseph Thomas (J.T.) Arcand, Louis O.S. Arcand, Patrick Maurice Greyeyes (Steele), David Georges Greyeyes, Esther (Mowat) Greyeyes (Steele), Flora J. Greyeyes, Gertrude (Lloyd) Greyeyes, Josephine</p>	<p>Greyeyes, Mary (Reid) Greyeyes, Stanley Greyeyes, Thomas Greyeyes, William C. Greyeyes, William R. Lafond, Albert Lafond, Beatrice Ledoux, Vincent Longneck, Felix Sanderson, Francis X. Sanderson, William Tawpisim, Alexander Venne, Beatrice (Lucier) Venne, Emile Venne, Harry</p> <p><b>Korean Conflict: (1950 - 1953)</b> Arcand, Arthur "Gabby" Arcand, Clement Arcand, Patrick Maurice Lafond, Albert</p> <p><b>Vietnam Conflict (1959 - 1975)</b> Lafond, Stanley</p>	<p><b>U.S. - Iraq War (2003 - 2011)</b> Sgt. Ledoux, Aaron - 173rd Airborne, US Army, Vincenza, Italy. OIF I-OEF V</p> <p><b>U.S. - Afghanistan War (2001 - 2014)</b> Sgt. Ledoux, Aaron - 173rd Airborne, US Army, Vincenza, Italy. OIF I-OEF V</p> <p><b>Canadian Forces:</b> MWO Greyeyes, Grant - PPCLI (Afghanistan and currently serving) Cpl Wolfe, Kelly, PPCLI (Afghanistan) Capt. Pryor, Walker, 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (Afghanistan and currently serving)</p> <p><b>MUSKEG LAKE CREE NATION also acknowledges those who have served during times of peace.</b> Cayen, Pat Greyeyes, David W. Greyeyes, George Greyeyes, Marcel Greyeyes, Richard Greyeyes, Robert Lafond, Roderick Lafond, Frederick "Sonny" Wolfe, James</p>
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Photo courtesy of Carol Lafond

## Faces of Saskatoon

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 Afghanistan war veteran Hilliard P. Kahpeaysewat about his experiences. Below are his unedited words.



HILLIARD P. KAHPEAYSEWAT

# Veteran has new role as a role model

My name is Cpl. Hilliard P. Kahpeaysewat, and I'm the first Afghanistan war veteran from Moosomin First Nation which is near North Battleford, and served in the 1st Battalion, PPCLI. On Sept. 1, 2009 I was shipped to Southern Afghanistan, close to the Pakistani border in the Panjwai district, but we moved around a lot. I left and came back to Canada on April 15, 2010.

The fifth day after I arrived in Afghanistan, an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) was shot at me, and blew up right next to where I was standing. I remember that there were kids close by, and that this was a war zone but something they lived with everyday. It makes an individual really think, and to see that this is something that they live with everyday of their lives.

The last person to conquer these people was Alexander the Great. The Afghanistan people dream about being Canadians, and the Canadian soldiers worked hard to build a trust with them. We walked with young women and girls to school, to ensure they could attend school on a daily basis. The Taliban didn't allow women to attend school, so we walked with them.

Being a soldier has taught me to be more accepting of people, and I didn't experience any type of racism during my tour. Other non-Aboriginal soldiers often smudged with me. For us it was a safety thing. We smudged together so that we could be granted a safe patrol, and we did this to have a sense that the Creator was watching over us.

Any tour of duty is a humbling experience, and it becomes a journey. Each of us has to go through a journey. When I joined the army, I was 35 years of age, and a very bad alcoholic. I had seen a lot of trauma, and experienced a lot of trauma at home, too. I basically woke up one day and decided I needed to change my life. Enlisting changed my life. Enlisting saved my life and if you're an alcoholic, the Army will assist you in conquering your addiction.

I also seen poverty while I was in Afghanistan, real poverty. I've seen poverty here but nothing like I seen while in Afghanistan. There is no clean drinking water, no plumbing to speak of and there was lots of malaria. I experienced loneliness there but chose to stay.

One of the things I did on my return in 2010, I went south to California and trained Americans. I would like everyone to remember, especially the children that we veterans went and fought for our country. Your country. It is my hope that Canada remembers us, and appreciates the sacrifices we have made so that all can be free, and to live the way the Creator intended us all to live.

When I returned home, I didn't believe I was a veteran but the Elders pulled me aside, and said that my role now; a role model. My journey isn't completed, and I'm also called Eshaw-key-hew; Yellow-Eagle.

I went to Afghanistan to free other people but I also went to free myself.

# We salute our veterans.



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# Economic summit hears business offers opportunities through reconciliation

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

**LLOYDMINSTER** – With the powerhouse Onion Lake Cree Nation just up the road and with Little Pine First Nation owning a large urban reserve that will likely soon host a SIGA casino, First Nations business is set to explode in Lloydminster.

To facilitate the growth and business relations, events like the recent Indigenous Economic Partnership Summit are helping to smooth the way for better relations and for reconciliation through business.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner, the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lloydminster hosted the 3rd annual Summit in October with a theme of reconciliation through business. Participants heard panels on partnerships and reconciliation as well as keynote addresses by Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Dr. Wilton Littlechild and Osoyoos First Nation Chief Clarence Louie.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has a specific section in the Calls to Action for business to help in the process of healing our country.

“Business has a unique opportunity because of its independence in a way but

and powerful message to the delegates and youth in attendance.

“It is important to make reconciliation an everyday word,” said Harry Lafond. “What you receive, you can also give.”

And Chief Clarence Louie is a strong proponent of how business relations can help change communities. His Osoyoos First Nation is very successful with a number of businesses that employ hundreds of people from surrounding communities. He says working together unites people and we have a lot of history in doing so.

“In my research, the original treaty relationship was a business relationship. Our people were self sufficient, independent and had our own economies,” said Chief Louie in a humour filled speech full of quotes to live by.

“I have been told it is the economic horse that pulls the social cart. What I see is when native people create businesses and hundreds of jobs and when natives are working side by side with non-natives you have that business relationship. It is a two way street. That’s reconciliation in a good way.”

Lloydminster Mayor Robert Saunders has spent time recently meeting with Little Pine Chief Wayne Semaganis,



From left, Reverend G. Scott Pittendrigh, entrepreneur Devon Fiddler and Office of the Treaty Commissioner Executive Director Harry Lafond spoke on reconciliation through business at the Summit. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

also the really important way it makes community relationships,” said Dr. Littlechild.

“So we (the TRC) called on corporations to through their staff, learn more about treaties and the Crown relationship we have and also learn more about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). We think these are important solutions.

“Sometimes treaties and the declaration are mischaracterized as problems. Instead they provide solutions. If we use the declaration and the treaty as a framework for reconciliation, then it improves our business relationships in a much quicker way.”

Reconciliation was discussed during a panel consisting of entrepreneur Devon Fiddler, Anglican Reverend G. Scott Pittendrigh and Office of the Treaty Commissioner Executive Director Harry Lafond and they delivered an emotional

Onion Lake Chief Wallace Fox as well as SIGA representatives about future business in his community.

“Business impact from Aboriginal people is growing. We have brought together Chiefs, councils, business leaders and youth here. Each year we bring greater awareness and give the opportunity for connectivity and sharing success stories so we get to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses in order for us to share some common goals,” said Saunders.

“We heard a powerful message from Willie about reconciliation through business. Most business partnerships are based on mutual understandings of respect for each other. We are working on that.”

The purchase of the urban reserve has stimulated quite a bit of business growth in the Saskatchewan side of town.



Lloydminster Mayor Robert Saunders welcomed Osoyoos First Nation Chief Clarence Louie and other dignitaries to Lloydminster for the Summit. Delegates were welcomed to town with a banner flying over a main street in the downtown area. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

“When I first came to Lloydminster, all of the businesses were on the Alberta side. Since we bought the land on the east side of Lloyd, you see the new hotels, apartments buildings, gas stations, restaurants and everything has opened up so we have certainly caused an expansion of business and a lot of people are seeing the benefits of working with First Nations,” said Little Pine First Nation Chief Wayne Semaganis.

Chief Semaganis is eager to get to work and get caught up on their urban reserve where they have plans for a casino, hotel, restaurants and a 3,000 seat hockey arena.

“This is a wide open market and the City of Lloydminster leadership has been very accommodating and the Chamber of Commerce and economic development people have done everything they can to make sure that business grows in the right way in our new partnership,” said Chief Semaganis.

“People want things to happen and want opportunities too. My relatives and members, they want something good to give to their children as well. Like everyone else the wants, needs and desires for a healthy and happy family.

“They want to take part in the opportunities coming.”

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4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

\*Open-house style events. No formal presentations will be given.



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

# New agency aims to showcase Indigenous arts talent

**By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News**

**SASKATOON** – Geraldine Carriere wants to wake people up to Saskatchewan’s thriving Aboriginal music and arts scene.

This is why she founded Wanska Talent, which in Cree literally means, “wake up.”

Carriere founded the new talent agency along with Danny Mirasty and Robin McLeod.

All three are from northern Saskatchewan – Carriere from Cumberland House and both Mirasty and McLeod are members of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

Mirasty is also the drummer for the band the “Black Eyed Creez” and the founder of the grassroots “RISE UP” Violence Against Women March.

McLeod is the treasurer and operations manager for the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association and has also worked in a financial capacity for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Prince Albert Grand Council and Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Carriere has worked as a CBC journalist, documentary host of the 2013 North American Indigenous Games and is a multi-talented artist.

However, she says her real desire lies in the promotion of Indigenous artistic talent.

“For me personally, I sing and I dance, I am a writer and I think all of us, somewhere along the line someone told us, ‘you can’t do that, that’s not going to make you money,’” Carriere says.



**Jonathan Daniels of Pukatawagan, Manitoba performs at the Wanska talent show in Saskatoon.**

“Each of us were told at some point, ‘that’s too frivolous.’ When we turn our backs on ourselves we lose that fire inside. I personally have always wanted to give Aboriginal youth that opportunity that I never got to develop that skill that I really wanted to develop.”

Wanska Talent is split into three different areas of Music – entertainers, musicians and vocalists; Fashion – models, designers, photographers and Comedy – comedians, stand-up, motivational speakers and role models.

On Oct. 28, Wanska Talent hosted its first show at the Saskatoon Inn with about 700 people in attendance.

Performers included Marty Ballentyne and The Instant Band, Blackrain, The Rez Boyz, The Creez and The Country Rock Company.

“We (Aboriginal artists) are unrepresented in the mainstream media and the arts,” Carriere says. “I think now is the time to rise up and show yourself which is why we say, ‘Wanska,’ which means ‘wake up.’ So it’s all of us who have been hiding themselves, hiding that side of yourself which you wish you could be or do and it’s giving everybody the permission to step forward and do those things that you always wanted to do but never allowed yourself to do.”

Carriere says Wanska Talent plans to open an office in Saskatoon in the coming months as well as showcasing Indigenous talent at a number of other events including tradeshows.

She also says the company has national ambitions.



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# Cumberland House, Creighton champs of Northern Football

**PRINCE ALBERT** – The Cumberland House Islanders and the Creighton Kodiaks are the champions of the 2015 Northern Saskatchewan Football league.

The finals were held at the Max Clunie Field in Prince Albert in late October with the 1A game seeing the Cumberland House Islanders playing the Green Lake Spirits for The Ralph Pilz Trophy.

Green Lake had a quick start with Jaydee Laliberte scoring two touchdowns for a 12-0 lead.

Later, Laliberte sustained an injury that put him out of the game and the tide turned in the Islanders' favour as Bailey Carriere scored three touchdowns, followed by two each from Brandon Fiddler and Glenn Thomas as the Islanders defeated the Spirits by a score of 52-37.

Later in the afternoon, the Creighton Kodiaks took on the La Ronge Lakers in the 2A championship.

It was a defensive game with the

only scoring in the first half being a field goal by Kodiaks Dean Rainville. It wasn't until 2:42 left in regulation time that Chris Reynolds scored a touchdown and gave the Creighton team a 9-0 win over La Ronge.

Though the two teams went on to lose in the provincials playoffs, league coordinator Mark Williment says it was a great year for northern football.

"We have continued in our growth and player development in our third season and have almost 200 young people playing on ten teams.

"Football has provided an opportunity to build skills for life," said Williment who is also the Superintendent of Education in the Northern Lights School Division.

"We are grateful for all of the work put in by coaches, officials and volunteers who have made the football program so successful. Thanks to all the families for their support."



#22 Brandon Fiddler and #30 Glenn Thomas of the Cumberland House Islanders hoist The Ralph Pilz Trophy as 1A champions after being presented by Mark Williment. (Photo by Fabian Ratt)



The Cumberland House Islanders gathered for a team photo after a very successful year in the Northern Football League. (Photo by Fabian Ratt)



#12 Tyler Williamson of the Creighton Kodiaks hoists The Ralph Pilz Trophy as 2A champions while his team looks on. (Photo by Fabian Ratt)



The Creighton Kodiaks and their fans and coaches took the opportunity to capture their historic win with a group photo. (Photo by Fabian Ratt)

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# New TRC research centre opens at University of Manitoba

By Fraser Needham  
For Eagle Feather News

**WINNIPEG** – The goal of a new research centre at the University of Manitoba is to ensure the stories, memories and dark legacy of Indian residential school survivors are never forgotten.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation officially opened at the Winnipeg-based university on Nov. 3.

The new centre contains hundreds of photos, countless hours of video, government documents, church records and thousands of testimonial statements from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The research centre will also be the new home to the Bentwood Box which contains various items including a broken brick from a residential school, Saskatoon police hat and miniature birch bark canoe.

Its database is also accessible to anyone across Canada via the centre's website.

Ry Moran is the director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and he says the hope is that the extensive number of records the centre holds will spur academics to further investigate the broader ramifications of the residential school system.

"Researchers are going to be very important," Moran says. "Both at the community level and from academic institutions at further exploring both the documentary and oral history of the residential schools. And

also digging deeper into the record and finding out what else was said in there beyond just what was said about residential schools.

"Because there is a lot of information in there and survivors often talked about other effects that being a subject of an aggressive colonial state had on them."

While the goal of the new centre is to provide as much information on the Indian residential school system as possible, Moran says at the same time they have been very careful to protect the privacy of survivors while being cognizant of the sensitive nature of the material.

He says the documents that are currently accessible at the centre are the ones where survivors decided to go public with their statements.

Private statements are another matter and these stories will only ever be made public if these survivors indicate they wish this to be the case, Moran says.

He adds although the centre contains countless documents and other materials, there are many other records still out there and it will be an ongoing process of collecting them.

Moran also points out that the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is not only for residential school survivors and their families but is there to educate the broader non-Aboriginal public.

"We are working on a number of exciting partnerships, we've got a number of great partners working alongside of us including universities, Aboriginal or-



Ry Moran is the director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba.

ganizations and a variety of other partners," he says.

"And we are going to be looking to those partners to help us spread the word and take up the cause of sharing this information to ensure that as many Canadians as possible have access to this collection."

A number of prominent Aboriginal activists attended the opening ceremonies of the new centre including former Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Phil Fontaine and Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society Cindy Blackstock.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's database can be accessed at <http://nctr.ca>.



Several youth participated in the National Treaty Meeting at the First Nations University of Canada. The youth present pledged to host the next gathering in 2016 at Wanuskewin. (Photo by Jamin Mike)

## Youth play key role in national conference on treaty issues

By Jamin Mike  
For Eagle Feather News

**REGINA** – Some 200 people from across Canada participated in discussions about Indigenous sovereignty and Treaty alliances on a nation-to-nation basis at the National Treaty Meeting in Regina in October.

Grand Chiefs and youth from various Aboriginal organizations were in attendance discussing the issues First Nations people are facing, including treaty relationships, sovereignty and youth empowerment, as well as some radical ideas that got the young leaders in attendance thinking.

The event started with a youth forum.

"The youth are starting to rise up," said Clayton Tootoosis, who has worked with youth for many years.

"They are starting to find the knowledge and they are beginning to seek it out. It's often unilaterally imposed as if us young people don't know or understand. But from what I have seen here, the best speeches and best action plans come from the young people."

Throughout the conference, hosted at the First Na-

tions University of Canada, the youth were encouraged by Elders, Chiefs and leaders, who reminded them that they are the future leaders.

Leah Gazan, who is from the Wood Mountain Lakota Nation in Saskatchewan and teaches in the faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg, facilitated the forum and took notes on everyone's thoughts in attendance.

"(The) youth voice is not just important," said Gazan. "I think they have valuable wisdom that they have to share with all of our nations in terms of giving good guidance and direction."

Gazan says there are difficult challenges and it is important to create a united front to deal with them.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) agreed and used science as an example.

"Are we going to look to our young scientists, to help us find a new way to live effectively and efficiently with sustainable sources of energy?"

Chief Nepinak wants to move forward and take ini-

tiative by implementing ceremonies as a foundation for these meetings.

"This forum is rooted and grounded in the right way," he says.

It allowed people at the Treaty Gathering to speak openly in a transparent way.

Honorary visitors like Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) and his wife Joan Phillip were very pleased with the outcomes of this meeting.

"I think that our young people need to get involved," he said. "They need to understand that being Indigenous carries serious responsibilities."

He also pointed out that these types of movements are important for the existence of Indigenous rights.

Although the conference was intended to focus on Treaties 1 to 11, the youth brought up the topics of self-determination and Indigenous connections with the land.

The youth in attendance have committed to host the next National Treaty Meeting at Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Treaty 6 territory in May 2016.



Emily Bear joined elders Walter and Maria Linklater at the Saskatoon Health Region's Health Summit to discuss improvements for health care delivery for Aboriginal people.

## Summit examines progress of health strategy

**SASKATOON** – Saskatoon Health Region staff, community partners and patients recently gathered for the Aboriginal Health Summit to review how far the Region has come since the 2010 Aboriginal Health Strategy was implemented. The strategy sets out a plan aimed at improving health outcomes and care experiences for First Nations and Métis people within Saskatoon Health Region.

“The Aboriginal Health Summit provides us with the opportunity to ensure that the services and approaches throughout the Region are sensitive to culture,” Dan Florizone, President and CEO of Saskatoon Health Region, said at the summit.

“We want to make sure that each and every day all of our patients, including First Nations and Métis people, can say with confidence, ‘I felt welcome. I felt cared for. That place was like home.’ Together, we’ll work toward this aim.”

Participants took the opportunity at the summit to review the strategy and share their experiences.

“Yesterday, I had the opportunity to be in the birthing area at Royal University Hospital,” said Shirley Isbister, President of the Central Urban Métis Federation (CUMFI).

“My husband and I are the proud grandparents of a baby girl, and I want to tell you that our daughter and her husband had the most excellent treatment. The staff was welcoming, and I thought this is how it should be in every unit in every hospital, so that you feel good about being here.”

At 2:30 a.m., a short time after her granddaughter was born, Shirley received a frantic call from her daughter, saying the baby’s blood sugar levels had dropped, and her baby had been taken away. Shirley’s daughter later learned that her baby had been taken to the neonatal unit for treatment.

“That’s one of the challenges in our community,” Shirley said. “If nurses and doctors make decisions, and they don’t sit down and explain them, our young girls will carry on without knowing.

“If there’s a language barrier, it makes it even worse, and then people sit there and guess. To be able to have this Aboriginal Health Summit is something we’ve needed for years, so I commend the Health Region for working so hard on it and presenting it so well.”

Dory Cook, a patient advisor on the Aboriginal Patient Advisory Council, who also spoke at the summit, said she is appreciative of the service provided to her by First Nations and Métis Health when she was hospital-

ized in 2013.

“I wasn’t aware that this service even existed before I went through the doors of the Health Region,” Cook noted. “I’m thankful for that experience, because I looked into all the services that were available, and I utilized those services. I’m now an advisory council member, and I’ve learned so much.

“The more I learn, the more I can give back and can help my community. I think I was supposed to go through the doors of the Health Region, that was part of my journey, and I will continue to work as hard as I can.”

Both Elders and youth were also present at the summit.

“We know the foundation for good living comes from the practicing of our traditional spirituality, things like smudging, sweat lodges and ceremonial practices,” said Elder Walter Linklater. “I would like to recommend that traditional Elders be invited to workshops with staff in the health system to learn the traditional ways of our people. It’s not to try to convert anyone to our ways; it’s just for a better understanding.”

“It’s good for the upcoming generation to see what services are out there or what’s lacking, especially for students who are training to become helpers,” said Emily Bear, a student with the Community Addictions Program at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology.

“Having conferences like these gives us tools in our kit to help other people help themselves.”



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**Dorthea Swiftwolfe**, Missing Persons Liaison Officer, SPS and **Vernelle Swiftwolfe**, Building and Grounds Labourer

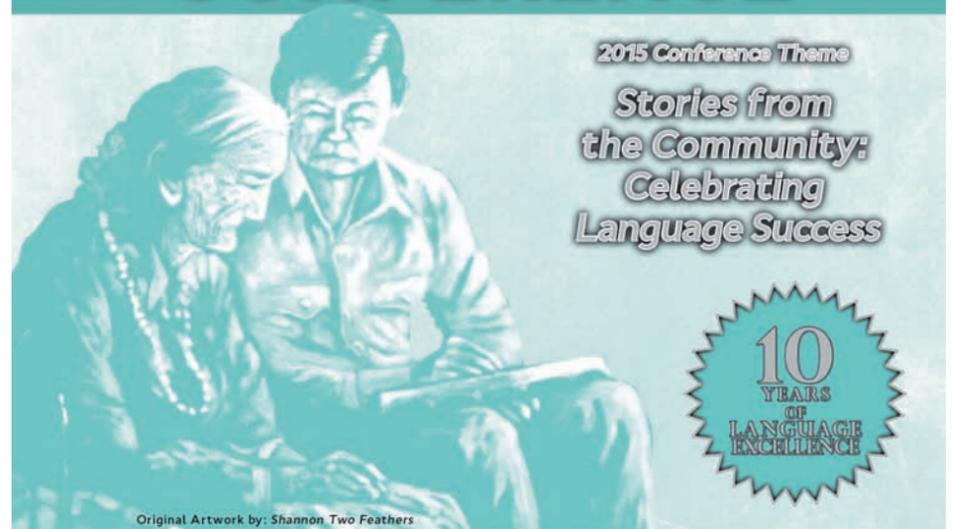


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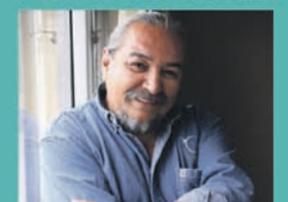


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# Red Earth's new youth centre will honour memory of Christian Head

By Tiffany Head  
For Eagle Feather News

**RED EARTH CREE NATION** – The community of Red Earth Cree Nation has been the victim of negative and positive media attention in the past year. The community has struggled to overcome tragic deaths caused by alcohol related incidents and has recently passed a bylaw that prohibits drugs and alcohol in the community in an effort to prevent more deaths and keep their youth safe.

To keep the youth busy and distracted, Richmond Head, who was recently elected as the Youth Chief of the Red Earth Youth Council (REYC) had presented a motion that the REYC had written up to the Chief and council and community members in a general assembly asking for a youth centre.

“They said they liked our idea and we had their full support, we knew what would happen with the drug and alcohol ban, we knew we needed a place to go, to distract ourselves,” said Youth Chief Richmond Head.

They were given a temporary youth centre for ten months in an old laundry mat until a new permanent place was done being renovated in the old elementary building.

“We’re in the fundraising stage right now to get ready to move into the new youth centre as we would have to pay for our own power and internet bills once we are in there,” said Youth Chief Head.

Even though the new youth centre will not be open until next summer, they anticipate a grand opening soon in memory of the late Christian Head. The opening was supposed to be on Christian's birthdate in October, but a wake in the community has pushed back the date. Christian Head had been a former youth sector rep in the REYC and has always shown leadership in his community.

Hi mother, Sabrina Head said she and her husband were pretty emotional and overwhelmed when they were asked if it was ok with them if the youth center was named, “Christian Head Memorial Youth Centre”.

“He enjoyed being a youth sector rep and helping youth see their futures instead of their past. I believe the youth centre will be a success as his name will be on there,” said Head.

Sabrina and her husband Elias will be cutting the ribbon and they will also be hanging up the sign to the building that was custom made for the youth centre.

“After the grand opening ceremony, we will be having a candle light vigil and a balloon releasing at the place he passed on and then there will be a feast to follow for the whole community to celebrate,” said Head.

The REYC will also working with the First Nations National Child Benefit Reinvestment Initiative (NCBR) program co-ordinator and elders in the community in making a schedule that would also have cultural initiative programs for the youth.

“The elders are concerned that the youth are losing their cultural identities and are out of control, which is why they want to work together and have us run the programs,” said Youth Chief Richmond Head.

For now they have scheduled programs, such as cooking, music and art classes, along with tutor nights and sports nights on the weekends. On Friday nights they will also be opening their youth centre until 2 a.m. and Saturdays will be used for fundraising events.



Elias Head, Montana Head, Hannah Head, Sabrina Head and Richmond Head with the sign for the community's new youth centre.

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**HEAD STAFF**

<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Howie Thomson Eric Tootoosis Sanford Strongarm	<b>Drum Judge:</b> Ivan Lonechild
<b>Arena Directors:</b> Ron McNab Bobby Badger	<b>Whip Man:</b> Sheldon Wuttunee

**DANCE AGE DIVISIONS**

Golden Age Men & Women (55+)	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$1000	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$600
Senior Men & Women (35-54)	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$800	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$400
Junior Men & Women (18-34)		
Teen Boys & Girls (13-17)	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$500	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$300
	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$400	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$200
Junior Boys & Girls (6-12)	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$250	3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$150
	2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$200	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$100
Tiny Tots (5 & Under)	No contest. Must be registered and dancing in pow wow regalia	

**SINGING COMPETITION**

1 <sup>st</sup> - \$8000	5 <sup>th</sup> - \$3000
2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$6000	6 <sup>th</sup> - \$2000
3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$5000	7 <sup>th</sup> - \$2000
4 <sup>th</sup> - \$4000	

The FSIN and Pow Wow committee are not responsible for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind to participants or spectators resulting directly or indirectly in the participation of this event.  
No drugs and alcohol or the use of will be allowed on premises!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
Phone: (306) 665-1215 E-mail: [powwow@fsin.com](mailto:powwow@fsin.com)

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