

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Beleaguered Inquiry made news in 2017

Gwenda Yuzicappi testifies at the MMIWG National Inquiry in Saskatoon with a blanket showing her daughter Amber Redman behind her. The inquiry has been named our news maker of the year. (Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)



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By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

In the end it wasn't even close.

The National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has had so much air time and spilled so much ink this year it was easily chosen by Eagle Feather News writers and faithful voting readers as the top newsmaker of 2017.

Beleaguered from the start, the Inquiry has had a

terrible year that included the resignation of several key staff including Saskatchewan-based Commissioner Marilyn Poitras. In November when the Commission was in Saskatoon for three days of hearings, the Inquiry's lawyer resigned and a staffer's leaked email that stated her priority is to protect the commissioners provided outside distraction from Saskatoon testimony from loved ones and survivors.

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Newsmaker of the Year Edition  
Coming In January - The Year in Preview Issue



# Dyck's efforts made a difference

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The Commission has been roundly criticized for the lack of after care for family members that testify, leaving volunteers in Saskatoon to fill the gap in the community. The Commission also refused to add a Prince Albert date and then cancelled their trip to the Yukon scheduled for the week after Saskatoon. It got worse at the Assembly of First Nations gathering in December where several Chiefs, including Sheila North Wilson, Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, directly asked lead Commissioner Marion Buller to resign. Tough year for those folks. Let's hope for a great ending.

Amazingly this year, we had a three-way tie for second. The '60s scoop settlement announcement has brought some closure to thousands of adoptees who were removed from their homes for sometimes no particular reason other than government policy. Sadly, the settlement leaves out Métis children who suffered the same fate. A group of adoptees including former MN-S President Robert Doucette has formed to lobby for inclusion.

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On left, Marion Buller, lead commissioner of the MMIWG National inquiry is getting calls to resign her position. Above, Senator Lillian Dyck has been a powerful voice for Indigenous women on Parliament Hill.

(Photos by Chelsea Laskowski)

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The documentary *Birth of Family* by Tasha Hubbard tells the story of Betty Ann Adam and her siblings reunion after being taken from their family during the 60's Scoop. The documentary has won numerous awards and received a national airing. (Photo NFB)

# Big year for Hubbard, Linklater

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The documentary *Birth of a Family* by Tasha Hubbard tells the story of Betty Ann Adam and her reunion with her siblings who were part of the '60s scoop. The emotional and powerful film has opened the eyes of many to the long impacts of the policy.

Senator Lillian Dyck also got mention this year. A strong voice for Indigenous women on Parliament Hill, Senator Dyck has advocated on missing and murdered women and has been the lead in amending the Indian Act. The upcoming Bill S-3 that will eliminate the historic gender discrimination and see potentially hundreds of thousands of people get their Indian Status back. Amazing leadership.

Rounding out the News Makers this year is basketball superstar Michael Linklater. Mike has become the #1 3x3 basketball player in North America and was recently named most spectacular player of the 2017 World Tour season. Mike even brought the tour to Saskatoon and rocked downtown with three days of amazing world class basketball.

He is the founder of Boys with Braids, is the 2018 Inspire Award recipient for sports and has just been named the Coaching and Officials Development Coordinator for the Coaches Association of Saskatchewan.

And his home community just named him a "Hero of Thunderchild." Not a bad year. Well done.



Mike Linklater has been named the most spectacular player in the world 3x3 league. The man is tied to his culture and founded Boys with Braids. He will also be the Inspire Awards Sport recipient in 2018. Well done. (Photo Mikes Facebook page)

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# This headline's for you .... tuff one

Christmas, the season of giving and gratitude has begun. This year I am grateful for many different things.

Once you go see the Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre Companies annual Rez Christmas play, the season begins. This year they reprised the Vegas Vacation. Zula, Clare and Sihkos are determined to have a Christmas vacation this year and head off to Vegas to hopefully catch a glimpse of Tom Jones and play the biggest game of bingo ever. This show is a hilarious comedy and it is a must see during the Christmas Season.

A great cast including Mitchell Poundmaker, Corey Dallas Standing, Allana Dorian and Dalton Lightfoot brings the story to life with physical and over the top comedy that hits you right in the gut ... mostly it hurts because you are laughing. The troupe is touring the province north to south and it included a sold out run at the Broadway in Saskatoon.

No one leaves that play without a smile on their face and some perspective on life, love and relationships. Sure, those characters fight and tease each other, but it is all filled with love, just like in a real family.

The gift of laughter these actors give us always send people into the Christmas season in the right frame of mind. Curtis Peeteetuce, the brilliant playwright behind the Rez Christmas series should be repeatedly thanked for sharing the gift of his genius and wit with us each Yule Tide season. It makes me grateful every year for that laughter and good feeling.



Mitchell Poundmaker, Corey Dallas Standing, Allana Dorian are the kohkums this year. They were joined by Dalton Lightfoot who plays multiple characters....guaranteed laughs. (photo supplied)

The play reminds us of the power of family and of giving. But sometimes Christmas can be a challenge and gifts can mean more than a toy. It can mean life. A Saskatoon family understands the impact of family and giving. Everett Bear, a young man barely into his thirties, recently passed away after a slip and fall that gave him a traumatic brain injury.

The family, in their most challenging of times, decided to give the ultimate gift and donated his organs so that others could live. His aunt Francine Bear said it would have been what Everett wanted.

"This was Everett's choice. He always said if anything happened to him he would gift a part of himself to help another," she told me.

"It comforts me knowing he gave the gift of life with his own. He would have been 32 Dec. 10. So, the family is having a balloon release in his honour. My grandchildren want to attach a note on the balloons so he can read it in heaven."

Everett donated his liver and both kidneys. Those organs are going to go to three people and it will change their lives forever. About 70 people in Saskatchewan are currently waiting for a kidney transplant. On average, they will wait 2.8 years for a kidney – that's 437 dialysis treatments per person. One organ donor can save up to eight lives and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of 75 people. What an amazing gift for those those families in one last final gesture of giving.

Others give through leadership like a couple of our news makers. Over 100,000 people will be grateful for the work of Senator Lillian Dyck for her gift of leadership and advocacy to change the Indian Act to



**Publisher's Notes**  
John Lagimodiere



I met Everett Bear, left, a few weeks before he passed. His family made the ultimate gift this Christmas when they donated his liver and both kidneys so that some other families received the gift of life this Christmas.

allow women to have equal access to getting their Indian Status back. Nothing like equality in governance.

And we also have leaders like Mike Linklater who has taken his culture, skill and determination and turned himself into a world leader in the sport of basketball. He uses that platform to inspire young and old about the power of culture and perseverance.

If you ask the GTNT cast of kohkums, the Bear family and Mike and Senator Dyck, bar none they will tell you that family made them what they are today. They are your roots and your guidance and you should be grateful for them and gift them with your time and thanks every single day.

Trinkets and pretty things are nice gifts, but there is nothing better than time with family during this Christmas season. Hold them close and cherish them. That's when I feel most grateful.

And that's the best gift I can get. Merry Christmas.

**Eagle Feather NEWS**

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204

OSSN #1492-7497

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

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

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**This issue printed on: December 12, 2017**  
**Next issue to be printed on: January 11, 2018**

# Relationship worth more than New Year's kiss

I saw a meme being shared on Facebook which basically said, "when your ex is still single and you're not ... so who really had the problem?"

This annoyed the crap out of me because there is nothing wrong with being single. Just like there is nothing wrong with not being single. Also, there is nothing wrong with being single and really, really, really wanting to meet someone special but not meeting that person.

And, there is nothing wrong with being single and not wanting to meet anyone at all. All that matters is that if you do meet someone that they improve your life because y'know, d'uh.

Why would you be with someone if being with them is the relationship equivalent of chewing aluminum foil?

According to a Canadian statistic, 53 per cent of adults are single. For one of the first times in Canadian history, single people outnumber the coupled up. So, if you are single, you are the normal one.

Those people who sit on the couch together watching Netflix in between raiding the fridge and blaming the other one for sneaking farts – they are actually the freaks.

If you are young, it may feel like everyone but you is in a relationship or at least dating someone. This is because you are horny. And that's normal.

When you're young, your hormones are stronger than your brain which makes you think that a dude with perfect abs is basically a god, when he's just a moron who loses his I.D. every other weekend.

Or that girl with the nice boobs who made eye contact with you in the elevator - that one time - is the future mother of your children.

Not that older people don't have hormones making them act the fool but it's just more rare.

Generally, if you see someone over the age of 40 acting in an over-sexed manner, it's more ego than anything else and if you actually took them up on their open invitation, they would start to sweat like a bear in a sauna.

Which brings me to another point – do not get into relationships

because you are bored and you crave some drama in your life.

Mary J. Blige said, "no more drama" and she was not kidding around. Studies say that drama is the number one cause of embarrassing Facebook posts.

And no one is immune. I was once in a relationship that was so messed up that the last thing we did every night after a date was to race to our computers to delete the other one on Facebook. I wish I was kidding.

I'm sure right now you're like, "whatevs, I'm not down with that cray-cray b.s." If so, then ask yourself the following:

1. Have I ever thrown a cellphone?
2. Have I ever gotten so into a text fight so intense that I drove through multiple red-lights?
3. Have I ever asked a friend to decipher the meaning of a two-word text?
4. Have I ever asked another friend to decipher the interpretation of the above friend's explanation?

5. Have I ever spent more than 15 uninterrupted minutes describing my relationship to someone?

The worst part of being in a crazy relationship is that the longer you stay, the crazier you get. Like you could start out being a wee bit troubled. Then a month later you're Googling, "best techniques for keying a car."

Nobody emerges from a dysfunctional relationship unscathed. Not even your poor friends who have to carefully choose their words when describing your partner – never knowing if you will be with them from week to week, "Is he/she coming to dinner? Or is he/she still the human equivalent of a slop-pail? Just checking in – no judgment."

Everyone has had a nutty relationship but the difference is how long you put up with it.

Just don't stay in a relationship just for the sake of having someone to kiss on New Year's Eve; that is not worth your time and it's not even guaranteed anyway.

Cuz I've been in a relationship for a few years now and I haven't had a single New Year's kiss – mostly because one of us is usually asleep waaaay before the clock strikes midnight.



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# Timmy's finds a home on Sakimay's urban reserve

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

Regina's first and only First Nations owned Tim Horton's recently opened on urban Treaty land outside of the city. Sakimay First Nation held their official grand opening in mid November.

The idea of this well-known coffee shop coming to urban Treaty land was an opportunity for single mother Keri Ponace to not only to train as a supervisor but to work for her First Nation.

"Working on my own (band) land, to me, it's exciting. The franchise is just getting larger and I wanted to be apart of that," said Ponace who hopes of one day becoming their manager.

"Everybody loves Tim Horton's coffee so I thought it would be an interesting endeavour."

Sakimay First Nation partnered with Doyle Hospitality to create the new development in the Saulteaux Crossing Business. Chief Lynn Acoose said the Tim Horton's opening is a combination of the dreams of her community's members.

"Years ago, our members had always told us that we need to build a Tim Horton's on our land in Regina," said Acoose. "This initiative came from the idea of the members to own our own Tim Horton's."

Chief Acoose wanted to ensure there was Indigenous participation as employees, supervisors and management.

"It's very important. We want to create opportunities for our people to have work on-reserve so they can enjoy the benefits of being a Treaty person and working on Treaty land," she said.

The grand opening started with an opening prayer



Dignitaries helped celebrate the grand opening by pouring a cup of coffee. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

and song with many federal and provincial politicians who attended such as Regina Mayor Michael Fougere, CEO of Four Horse Developments Pat Fiacco and Member of Parliament Ralph Goodale.

"This is another enterprise that Sakimay First Nation and Four Horse Developments have been working on. A very interesting (and) exciting network of business developments that are coming together," said Goodale.

Mayor Michael Fougere said the newly opened franchise is about economic development and a partnership with the City of Regina.

"This is an important way to develop our community by cooperation and working together with In-

igenous peoples," said Fougere. "It's wonderful that we're seeing development on Treaty 4 land and also on Sakimay land as well."

Four Horse Developments is a limited partnership that is mandated to create economic opportunities for Sakimay First Nations. Former Regina Mayor Fiacco said prior to the development, they made it their mandate to have First Nations employees.

"Seventy-five per cent of the Tim Horton's staff in this location are Indigenous peoples ... eventually they will be managing the store as well," said Fiacco.

The Tim Horton's is located off Pinkie Road on Regina's west entrance with the First Nation's urban gas store attached to the franchise.

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# Respected First Nations lawyer, Poundmaker member, Paul Favel appointed a federal court judge

**By Chelsea Laskowski  
For Eagle Feather News**

When Paul Favel is appointed a judge at Canada's Federal Court on Dec. 11, he will bring with him the well wishes of a number of his former colleagues.

As a sessional law lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, teaching First Nations economic development, Favel and professor Marilyn Poitras have known each other for a long time. She said although Favel is a humble man, this appointment is worthy of celebration.

"The fact that we have an Indigenous man, a Poundmaker Cree man at one of the highest levels of court in our country is fantastic. And that he is of community and is respectful and respected is fantastic," Poitras said.

"What you're getting is a calm, thoughtful judicial appointment who has

got a great mind as a lawyer and a complete understanding of the Indigenous experience, the Indigenous professionalism and the Indigenous community development."

Favel has led a distinguished career up to this point, most recently as a partner with McKercher LLP's Saskatoon office and as a Deputy Chief Commissioner with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC).

Coincidentally, the first time SHRC's Chief Commissioner David Arnot met Favel was on Favel's home reserve. They were at an early '90s conference that introduced judges from across Canada to Aboriginal culture, spirituality and issues – Arnot attending as a provincial court judge and Favel as a fresh-faced summer student who was working towards his Dalhousie University law degree. It was years later, when Favel was acting as legal counsel for the

FSIN during treaty talks where Arnot was Treaty Commissioner, that the two met again.

"It was really clear that Paul was a bright young man and to me he seemed to be grounded spiritually and culturally. He was a very grounded person," Arnot said.

Favel joined Arnot on the SHRC in 2011, and was a band Councillor for Poundmaker between 2012 and 2013. Throughout their time together, Arnot said Favel has shown a high degree of integrity, strong sense of fairness, and a keen skill for listening and understanding the perspectives of others that will serve him well as a judge.

Federal Court judges rule on disputes that are in the federal domain which often touch on the existing aboriginal treaty rights and federal relationships with Indigenous people. For example, earlier this year a federal court



**Lawyer Paul Favel will become a Federal Court judge on Dec. 11. (Photo submitted on behalf of Paul Favel)**

judge heard about an election dispute between Lac la Ronge band members and the band. The Federal Court's 2013 finding that Metis people are considered Indians under the Constitution was later affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Favel's appointment is a bright spot at a time where lawyers across the country are disappointed by the prime minister's failure to appoint an Indigenous lawyer to the Supreme Court. Poitras said that is "hugely disappointing," and is partially a result of not enough Indigenous judge appointments to lower levels of court within the provinces.

In Favel's case, Poitras said he brings expertise in Indigenous law that makes him beyond-qualified for the position.

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Rosalind Ferguson enjoyed her free haircut and style experience at Miyosiwon Salon Spa after someone anonymously donated to the elder gift card promotion. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

## Elders get the royal treatment at Regina hair salon and spa

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

A beauty salon in Regina is giving back to the community by offering free haircuts and hairstyles to seniors and elders for the holiday season.

Jennifer Dubois, owner of Miyosiwon Salon Spa, and her team came up with a promotion by selling gift cards at a discounted rate of \$25 where people can purchase a styling for an elder of their choice or donate it anonymously.

“Our elders do things for their families. They’re the pioneers of their family so when we lose one of them, we lose a lot,” said Dubois. “This is a way to give back and to get in the Christmas spirit.”

It’s not too often you hear of a hair salon offering such service. But word is getting out fast of this great promotion. So far, Miyosowin Salon Spa has sold over 25 gift certificates and will be selling them throughout the month of December. The gift cards have no expiration date and can be used at any time.

Rosalind Ferguson from Regina received a free haircut and style and was very happy with her experience.

“It was a wonderful surprise. I wasn’t aware of it. (My son) Jada told me about it. I feel very honoured, very pleased and I loved the experience,” Ferguson said. “I think it’s wonderful. It would be better if more (hair salons) did this. I absolutely love the idea to pay it forward.”

Dubois said another senior came in for a haircut recently after he inquired on

Facebook where to go for a haircut. Many people recommended him to the Miyosowin Salon Spa but he wasn’t aware of the holiday promotion.

“At the end of the service, I told him about the promotion that is going on and that his haircut was free. He was so happy and said ‘this is my lucky day,’” Dubois said.

“He loved it. It was a nice feeling to give back like that. He didn’t expect it. He left here happy and I was very happy with that.”

The staff at the hair salon made the gift cards and purchasers can write a special note for the elder and senior. Dubois is encouraging different Chiefs and councils to purchase some gift cards for their community’s elders. Once they have collected enough, they will be going out to certain organizations such as the Grandmothers group and offer the elders free haircuts and styles for the work that they do.

“Everybody’s very appreciative that we’re doing something like this and they fully support it. Their grateful that we’re offering this,” said Dubois.

“Next year we will see a lot more participation in this. We definitely have to give back to our elders.”

Miyosiwon Salon Spa will be celebrating their one-year anniversary of its official opening in February. This year is the first time they started the promotion but it’s something they want to do every year with hopes that it will gain some momentum.



“The people I work with and the family atmosphere are the reason why I love coming to work. I have the best job!”

Kurt Delorme, Community Relations Coordinator, Saskatoon Fire

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# Career change felt just right for massage therapist

**By Andréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News**

Marilyn Osecap has opened a massage franchise in Saskatoon that is already building an excellent reputation via word of mouth.

Massage Experts can be found on 8th Street behind the Shoppers and Grainfields locations, facing Traxx Footwear.

Osecap began getting into holistic health and healing about seven years ago. After two decades as an accountant, she says massage is one of the most beneficial ways to address overall health. Her pathway to physical therapy through touch was a gradual one, obtaining various accreditations in healing areas and doing her practitioners work around her day job at first.

“I started a side business doing energy healing while doing accountant work. I was doing it to help people and telling everyone they should be getting regular massages, not just for relaxation but because they’re so beneficial for your mental and emotional and physical health.”

Emotions get stuck in our bodies in cellular form, she notes, and massage helps with processing that for better health all around. So, when the opportunity came for her to make a change in careers, she decided the most beneficial

way to positively impact people’s health was to open a massage business.

After doing extensive market and entrepreneurship research she made the decision to go with a franchise for the help, guidance, and support to begin her own business.



**Marilyn Osecap went from being an accountant to opening Massage Experts.**  
(Photo by Andréa Ledding)

“I did my research and decided Massage Experts fits best with my beliefs – the people who started the franchise are

a family of massage therapists who really truly care about their clients,” she explained, adding it’s not about making piles of money but about providing essential services that improve lives.

The beautifully appointed location, in the middle of Grosvenor Mall on 8th

months. Osecap hopes that once the word really gets out, she will have between 12 and 20 registered massage therapists within the year with their varying shifts of morning, afternoon, and evening.

Other benefits of the Massage Experts franchise beyond massage itself, which will attract customers, is that they also offer Air Miles, and direct billing to insurance companies for those who have coverage.

“Direct billing is a big draw for most people. Even with benefits, people don’t like to pay out of pocket and submit the paperwork, but we direct bill, we do that for you,” explained Osecap.

Massage Experts not only relaxes you by the hour, but eliminate as much stress as they can in their daily operations.

You can also access membership for special discounted rates, and there is an introductory massage rate of \$59 for your first massage, which is a great deal or would make for a great stocking stuffer!

Weekdays the options are currently nine until nine, with weekend options on both Saturday and Sunday until five p.m. People can either phone 306-652-5318 for an appointment, email grosvenorpark@massageexperts.ca, or even simply book online or with apps at www.massageexperts.ca.

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## Doucette upset Métis left out of feds Sixties Scoop settlement, files complaint

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

Métis survivors of the Sixties Scoop were discriminated against by the federal government when it left them out of a multi-million-dollar settlement, says a Saskatoon man.

Robert Doucette, a Sixties Scoop survivor and former President of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) filed a complaint on October 27, 2017 to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Doucette argues that Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) violated Charter of Rights when Métis people were left out of an \$800 million class-action settlement which compensated Indigenous Sixties Scoop survivors.

“It’s a smokescreen so they don’t have to deal with the Métis people right now,” said Doucette during a press conference, Tuesday. “She sent the wrong message to the Métis people of Canada, and that message is ‘you don’t matter.’”

Doucette, who was taken from his family and placed in a foster home in 1962, says he wants Métis survivors to be granted the same compensation that was accorded to Inuit and First Nation survivors.

“Once again, the federal government have failed to defend the rights of one of the Indigenous peoples of this country, betrayed the trust of my family and thousands of other Métis Sixty Scoop foster/adoptee survivors across Canada,” Doucette said in the complaint.

On Oct. 16, 2017, Doucette sent a letter on the ex-



Robert Doucette (centre) during press conference at Central Urban Metis Federation office, alongside Senator Nora Cummings (left), and Allan Morin (right).  
(Photo by Nathan Raine)

clusion of Métis from Sixties Scoop settlements to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all members of Parliament. He did not receive any response, with the exception of NDP MP Georgina Jolibois.

“I would like to see Prime Minister Trudeau acknowledge and state publicly that he believes Métis people have outstanding rights and titles and that he is going to stand by Métis people and defend those rights,” said Doucette.

“I would also like an apology from Minister Bennett for again leaving us out of a major announcement and agreement,” he added.

Bennett’s office issued a statement, Tuesday, stating “the current agreement in principle represents the

first step in resolving this issue. We know that there are claims that remain unresolved, including those of the Métis,” it reads. “We remain committed to working with all Indigenous peoples affected by the Sixties Scoop to resolve remaining litigation.”

Doucette says he will file a Statement of Claim if the Canadian Human Rights Commission does not rule in their favour.

“This world and this country has to know what the government is doing to the Métis people,” he said.

The settlement, announced on Oct. 6, ruled compensation for status Indians and Inuit people who were adopted or made wards of the government between 1951 and 1991, excluding Métis and non-status Indians.

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# rRemail mModern

# Sen. Dyck played key role in bill amending Indian Act

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

On Dec. 4, Bill S-3 was passed in the Senate. The government bill is an Act to amend the Indian Act (elimination of sex-based inequalities in registration) by restoring status to Indigenous women and their descendants who lost their status by marrying a non-Indigenous man.

“It’s gotten rid of that inequality where the men had an advantage,” said Sen. Lillian Dyck who had a role in the resolution.

She said she felt tremendously relieved and happy when she heard the news the bill had passed.

“When we heard the bill (was) passed, the leader of the government and the other leaders turned to me and started clapping,” said Dyck who was in the chamber at the time.

“I got another standing ovation. It was really overwhelming. I’m very thankful that I’m in a senate and was able to play a key role ... (along) with the Aboriginal Peoples Committee.”

Dyck, the chair of the Aboriginal Peoples Committee, said almost a year ago they received the bill and saw it as being flawed. They had a choice to either attempt to kill the bill but instead they returned it back to the government and told them it wasn’t good enough because they failed to include the pre-1951 group.

When the bill came back to the

Aboriginal Peoples Committee, it was still seriously flawed. Dyck asked around to members of the committee for someone to contact Sharon McIvor and Pamela Palmater to get them to draft an amendment that will cover that people who lost their status prior to 1951.

McIvor and her group wrote the amendment that was tabled by Sen. McPhedran. It went to the House of Commons and the government took it out so it came back to the Aboriginal Peoples Committee in June with a broad amendment taken out.

“We let it be known that in the Senate we would not be satisfied with that and so the government chose not to proceed and they then went and asked for another extension,” she said.

Over the summer the bill was worked on and it came back to the committee with a new improved bill in which they included the pre-1951 group. The pre-1951 group, which is those from 1869 to 1951, is now included but it won’t be implemented right away but likely within the next one and half to two years.

According to Dyck, the parliamentary budget officer estimates about 270,000 will apply which is less than what the government estimated at two million people.

Bill S-3 will impact women who were denied status. They will be able to apply and be reinstated as well as their

descendants up to three generations.

Dyck said she received tons of messages from people thanking her for her part in the passed resolution but also received a few negative comments from those who are disappointed that the pre-1951 group won’t be included right away.

“The people that wanted that done right away, of course, were understandably upset and disappointed,” she said.

“The vast majority of people are happy. It is an historic event, it is an historic bill. One of their first bills dealing with Aboriginal issues and we sent it back to them saying this isn’t good enough and do better. That in itself is historic.”

The senator’s mother lost her status in 1943 but Dyck regained her status in 1985.



Sen. Lillian Dyck worked hard to make sure original bill was improved.

*Season's Greetings*



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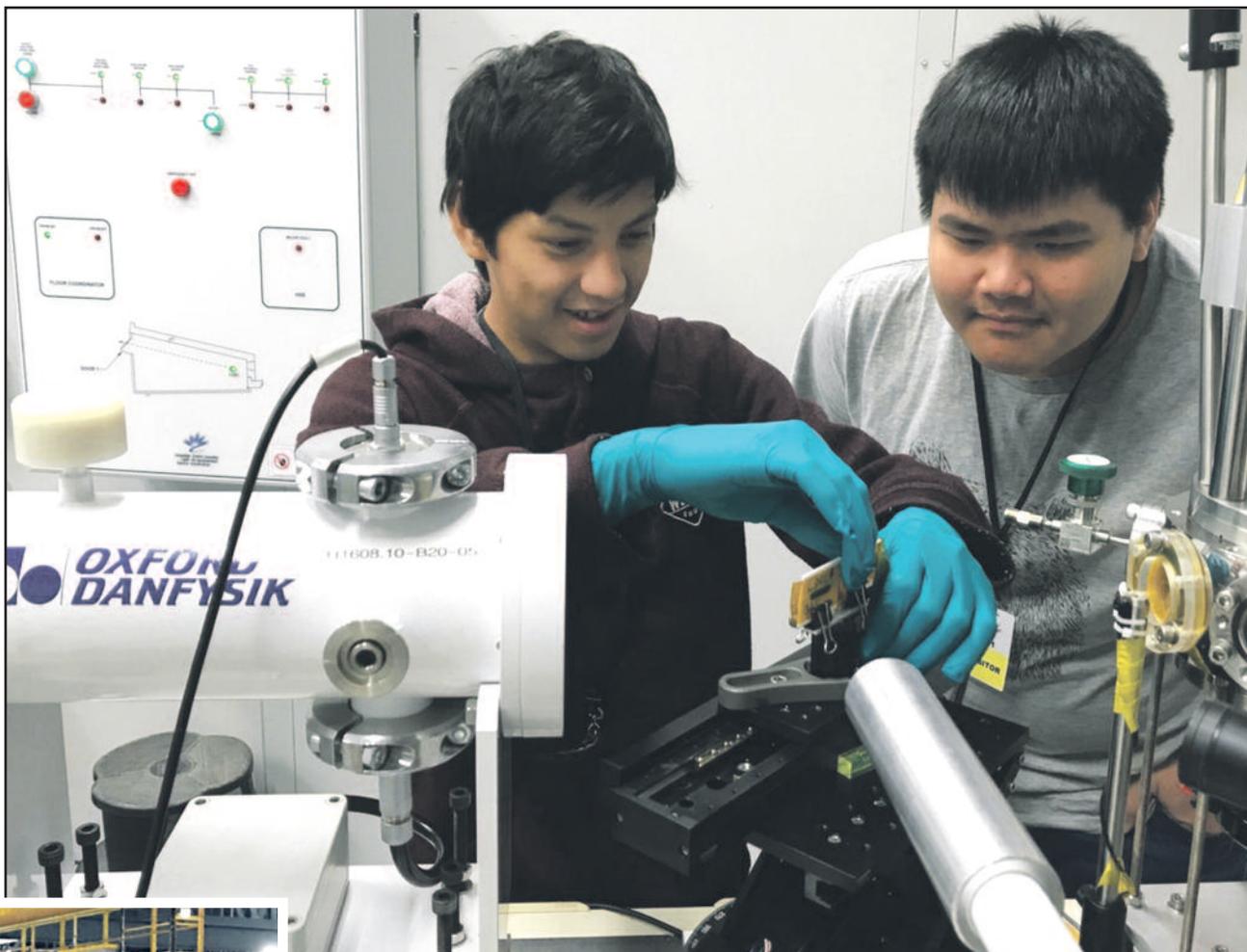
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# Eager Paskwa students see the light at Synchrotron

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

One of Canada's premier science facilities is encouraging Saskatchewan youth to get excited about science.



(Left) Chief Paskwa Students tour the Canadian Light Source. Dr. Robert Blyth conducting experiments with students from Chief Paskwa School.

(Photo by Nathan Raine)



The Canadian Light Source (CLS), also known as the Synchrotron, located in Saskatoon, is offering a light source student experience, in which high school students may conduct experiments at CLS using soil or food samples collected by the students themselves. The hands-on experiments aim to motivate young minds to start thinking about science in new ways.

“We want to inspire students to go into science,” said Dr. Robert Blyth, Science Projects Manager at CLS.

“Rather than us simply taking their samples and analyzing them, which isn't a lot of fun, students are able to do a lot of hands-on stuff at one of the most exciting science facilities in the country.”

Students get first hand knowledge on practical information like how human activity might affect the chemistry of soil, or how soil composition might affect the chemical composition of coffee beans.

And for First Nations students, the scientists at CLS believe Indigenous students offer a special perspective valuable to the world of science.

“From our perspective, science is a big problem-solving exercise,” says Blyth. “You want people who have a different perspective, a different way of looking at the world, different languages, and different cultures.”

With so few Indigenous students entering a science related post-secondary field of study, Blyth says a whole worldview is missing in science.

“Any First Nation that practices a lot of traditional culture, students develop pretty much all the

hand skills one needs to be an experimental scientist,” he says. “We'd like them to become part of this great human endeavour called science, and bring their way of looking at the world.”

Grade 9 and 10 students from Chief Paskwa School at Pasqua First Nation were treated to a full tour of the facility and opportunity to conduct experiments on soil brought from their First Na-

tion.

“It doesn't seem as complicated as it did to me before,” said Jordan Redcalf, Grade 9 student from Chief Paskwa School.

“It's more fun doing hands-on experiments, and helps me remember what we learned.”

The students from Pasqua First Nation were also given a peek into the office of Dean Chapman - Science Director at CLS and member of Cheyenne and Arapaho First Nation – a discovery which a couple of the students called “inspirational.”

“That was one of those very special moments,” said Blyth. “You can almost see people's view of the world change right there.”

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# Christmas reminders

As Christmas time approaches and life gets expensive and hectic, as well as exciting to have some days off, we need to remember what Christmas is really about. It is about family, community and giving and a time to be selfless.

Christmas can be a hard time of the year, especially on the bank accounts. A lot of people feel they cannot afford Christmas but it isn't just about gifts.

Christmas is about spending your time with the people who matter most, your grandparents, your parents, your children, nephews and nieces.

A memory can last forever and materialistic objects are usually tossed to the bottom of the toy box, soon to be forgotten.

If your children are only thinking about the gifts, here is a tip to remind them to give back.

Perhaps, if you have overflowing toys and clothes, teaching your children to give to those who need during this time and in return receiving something special from Santa on Christmas day.

I remember as a little girl my Kungsi Rose (grandmother in Dakota) every single year, right up until her last year she was here, as she has now passed on. She had a gift for every one of her grandchildren and there are a lot of us.

I have big family on my dad's side and a lot of cousins and every year at Christmas, and for every holiday, my grandma would have us all over and cook for all of us and no one has ever made a meal like my Kungsi.

She was known for her cooking throughout the community and we all miss and love her and that is exactly why we need to come together as family and try to put any differences aside and remember where we come from.

Sometimes it is hard to reach out to family, especially if it has been a while, but this is the time when someone would love to hear from you and see you, with a little Christmas magic in your favour.

Christmas also turns into a time where a lot of adults are drinking with Christmas parties and holidays and drinking and driving also becomes an issue.

As a victim of a drinking and driving accident where I had nearly lost my life, let me tell you it is not worth it. There are many other ways to get home safe, so be responsible.

There is definitely no need to take a life or lose yours or harm somebody or yourself with irreversible consequences.

As well as minding your drinking so you are not letting down someone young who looks up to you and creating memories that are irreversible for someone who does not deserve it, if you are not going to show up do not say you will. Period.

As my daughters get older I worry about the let downs I have experienced and no child deserves to be lied to and feel the emotions that come with being let down.

This year has been a big year for me as I started law school at University of British Columbia in the fall. I did a quick switch around and have been attending law school at the University of Saskatchewan after the first three weeks, because of some unforeseen events that seem to happen far too often in our complicated First Nation lives.

I had another awakening during this time of transitions and realized the true importance of family and community and how important it is for my children to have their uncles, papa, nana, kokos, kunsis, chapans, and community in their lives supporting us, while I continue reaching for the stars and chasing my dreams.

Go home, remember who you are where you come from, be grateful for life, do not waste precious time and moments on things and people who do not matter as much as the people who truly love and adore you and have had your back through thick and thin. Family.

A little Christmas reminder to make it through the holidays, do not forget our people's seven sacred teachings of wisdom, love, respect, courage, humility, honesty and truth.

Be true to who you are and things will fall into place. If you are feeling alone, remember our ancestors walk with us as our people always prayed to the seven generations and it is never too late to turn things around.

Take care of yourself, love and respect yourself and treat yourself and those around you how you want to be treated.

Happy holidays and please be safe out there.



**Comment**  
Alyson Bear



Dec. 10 was the 5th anniversary of the phenom known as Idle No More. Sylvia McAdam, Jessica Gordon, Sheelah McLean and Nina Wilson awoke people young and old, Indigenous or not to the environment and rallied around defeating Stephen Harpers omnibus Bill-C45. The movement was embraced in the Indigenous community and round dances in malls and protests were aplenty. Because of the awareness, more Indigenous people than ever voted in the 2015 election and a new generation of politically savvy people has been ignited.



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# In case you missed it ....

## Partnership for power on the river

The City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Tribal Council are taking a major step towards renewable energy with an announcement to develop a hydropower station at the Saskatoon Weir.

The development will include both a hydropower station and a new pedestrian bridge in a partnership between the City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC). Mayor Charlie Clark and STC Chief Mark Arcand signed the agreement during the First Nations Power Authority (FNPA) 2017 Western Canadian Indigenous Renewable Energy Forum.

The project would cost between \$60 million and \$65 million, paid for by the STC and private sectors, which will be offset by revenue generated by the hydropower station and funding. The development aims to provide benefits including opportunities for First Nation employment, training, and education.

Mayor Clark said the agreement between the city and STC is an opportunity to put the concept of reconciliation into action.

"As we talk about reconciliation and as we talk about what we're going to do in the future, to try to build a society that will still be healthy and thriving for generations to come," said Clark during the partnership announcement.

"I think the opportunity that reconciliation provides is a way to figure out how to do that in a way that is more sustainable," he said.

Clark spoke on how important sustainability is for both the STC and the city.

"In producing power, we draw on the resources of Mother Earth," he said. "In the past, as a society, non-Indigenous society in particular, we know the way we've been doing that has been unsustainable. We know we have to change the way we do things."

Arcand agreed that the project is a step forward in the spirit of reconciliation.

"When we talk about the hydro-projects, and equal ownership model, it exemplifies the true spirit and intent of reconciliation," said Arcand.

"I believe the City of Saskatoon is the leader in reconciliation in the province of Saskatchewan, but also across the country. I think the city of Saskatoon has to be acknowledged for the work that they're doing, because they are making a difference," he said.

## ABS growth in 2017 not going unnoticed

Athabasca Basin Security celebrated another milestone in October after being selected as one of the Top 5 Finalists for the prestigious ABEX Award in the area of Growth & Expansion.

The award is given to a business that has made significant changes in their business, such as investment or job creation that has resulted in growth or expansion.

Established in 2002, with only 14 employees, Athabasca Basin Security today has grown to employ a workforce of 340 employees with half of these residing in Saskatchewan.

In the past 18 months, Athabasca Basin Security LP has expanded their portfolio to include contract medical services through Athabasca Basin Medical and through the purchase of All Peace Protection in Grande Prairie Alberta earlier this year.

In June they were recognized as a Finalist in the Mission Zero Awards program in the Large Company Category for their strong commitment to safety in the industry.

## SIIT offers another place for career building

SIIT celebrated the Grand Opening of their new campus on Nov. 23, welcoming trades industry, media,



Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark (left) and STC Chief Mark Arcand sign the memorandum of understanding between City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Tribal Council



and fellow students to a facility that will expand resources and supports offered to students.

"It's great to celebrate this new facility," said Riel Bellegarde, President and CEO of SIIT. "The new facility and the programming (upgrades) the ability for us to work with our learners."

With campuses in Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon, SIIT offers programs in a variety of trades, industrial, business, technology, health, and community studies, as well as adult basic education.

They service more than 2,400 students annually, and that number is likely to continue to grow with the new trades facility. Bellegarde says that seeing a student's success through to the end is a priority at their institution.

"We believe that when we start a journey with one of our learners, we will continue to ensure their success, and that we will be there all along the way, and see them into the work force," he said. "This facility allows us to do that."

The new Trades Training Centre is over 5,800 square feet, and provides students with common areas for group or individual study sessions, a bright classroom area, and kitchen space.

The carpentry shop is twice the size of SIIT's previous location on Millar Avenue. There is also multi-use third bay, currently being used for a variety of educational programs.

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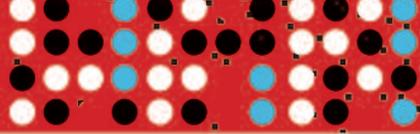
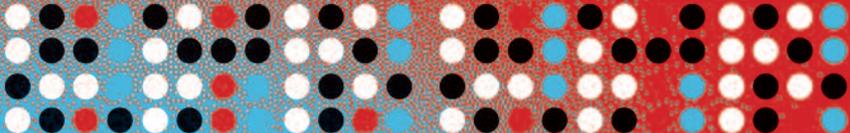
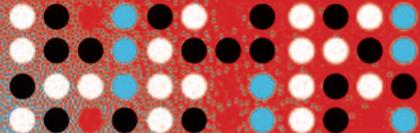
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<b>THE REFINERY</b>	<b>SPIN</b> BY EVALYN PERRY <b>IN CASE WE DISAPPEAR</b> BY VANESSA SMYTHE		CO-PRESENTED BY  <b>FREE BIKE VALET</b> BY SASKATOON CYCLES AT ALL SPIN SHOWS 
<b>EMMANUEL CHURCH</b>	<b>TIM HECKER</b>	A SPECIAL EVENING WITH <b>CLOSE TALKER</b> VISUALS BY STEPHANIE KUSE	<b>BEGONIA</b> WITH JEN LANE
<b>LOUIS'</b>	<b>DELHI 2 DUBLIN</b> WITH DJ KHANVICT	<b>RED FANG</b> WITH SHOOTING GUNS	
<b>COSMOPOLITAN SENIORS HALL</b>		<b>HEAVY BELL</b> BY GRAND CENTRAL STATION I SAT DOWN AND WEPT	<b>STEVE VON TILL</b> WITH RESPECTFULCHILD
<b>AMIGOS CANTINA</b>	<b>MO KENNEY</b> WITH TOO SOON MONSOON	<b>PARTNER / DUCHESS SAYS</b>	<b>CHAD VAN GALEN</b> WITH MAUNO
<b>VANGELIS TAVERN</b>	<b>FOAM LAKE</b> WITH WAITRESS	<b>TODAY IS THE DAY</b> WITH ADOLYNE	<b>GUANTANAMO BAYWATCH</b> WITH RAEBURN
<b>THE BASSMENT</b>	<b>CROSS CANADA FIDDLE FEST</b>	<b>LINDI ORTEGA</b> WITH TAYLOR JADE	AN EVENING OF STORIES AND SONG <b>TOM WILSON</b>
<b>LA TROUPE DU JOUR</b>	<b>RAYANNAH</b> WITH ETIENNE FLETCHER	<b>VENUE</b> <b>SUNDAY JANUARY 21</b>	
			

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# SCYAP creates a theme of reconciliation

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

SCYAP recently celebrated the completion of a \$50,000 Heritage Canada grant Canada 150 Mural Project by displaying the top and winning murals.

The top design by April Doepker was installed outdoors this year at 206 2nd Ave South for all the Saskatoon to see, although originally it was going on the SCYAP building itself at 253 3rd Ave South, so the show was called “Change of Plans.”

When the owner of the SCYAP building changed his mind, they found a second location nearby.

“This is a theme of reconciliation,” said Doepker, describing her winning piece of an Indigenous woman holding colourful people in her palms.

“The little people are the young people, and she’s like the mother. The people are coming together and sharing their ideas.”

Art makes the whole city look better, noted Doepker, who has worked at SCYAP for nine years and does graphic design, usually implementing other people’s visions.

It was exciting to be able to put forth one of her own when past participants of SCYAP’s Urban Canvas Project and friends of SCYAP were invited to submit. She was surprised and happy to be chosen.

Three other finalists also executed large panels to

be installed across the city, but Doepker’s was the winning design executed on an entire building wall several stories high.

Doepker posed in front of a framed print of her design, and visited with Mayor Charlie Clark and other attendees at the celebration, including several other artists who took part in executing her mural and the other finalists’ murals.

Silvana Shamo was a 2011 participant of Urban Canvas who works at SCYAP as an art instructor, and her executed wall mural is slated to go to a local non-profit organization. She says art helps her with life and self-esteem issues, and feels a lot of happiness in passing along art skills to others while making the world a more beautiful place, inside and out.

Her enthusiasm for the program is shared by Lisa Lam, a SCYAP Urban Canvas grad from two years ago, whose design ultimately wasn’t chosen but she still learned a lot in the process of submitting one.

“I had so many ideas and only one canvas, so I put all my ideas together – it was a really good thing to learn, to blend it all together and put it into one,” said Lam, adding that SCYAP is a lot like that process – artists, writers, organizers, instructors all come together to make a wonderful program.



Mayor Charlie Clark and artist April Doepker at the opening.

“I loved doing it,” said Chris Scott, another finalist and former SCYAP Urban Canvas graduate.

“I was playing with apps and filters and ran a couple of reference layers through and smashed everything together, then threw a starblanket into the background.”

Scott loves creating art and returns to SCYAP to create because he loves it, bringing his family along as well – one of his young sons was looking forward to an open art studio event they regularly attend.

Scott’s large wall mural will also be displayed at a Saskatoon organization.

# Language Keepers Conference hears of repatriation efforts

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

Hundreds attended the twelfth annual Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC)’s First Nations Language Keepers Conference at the Saskatoon Inn in November.

The theme was “Resurgence: Reclaiming Indigenous Knowledge Systems” and the keynote speaker, Dr. Robin R.R. Gray, spoke about repatriating song.

Gray, who is Ts’msyen from Lax Kw’alaams British Columbia with Mikisew Cree and Dene roots from Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, shared her academic papers and experience on reclaiming and repatriating Indigenous song from archives and copyright while asserting Indigenous laws.

Laura Boulton, hired by the National Film Board in 1941, collected cultural material which she then sold to American universities as if it were her own property, in the 1960s for \$10,000 a year, making nearly \$200,000 before she passed away in the 1980s, while Columbia University considered themselves the owners of the collection and shared with Indiana University and the Library of Congress.

“Ts’msyen were not consulted or informed,” noted Gray, adding there was no consultation or consideration of the due process and protocol, explaining that copyright law was claimed by Boulton rather than the proper Indigenous laws which should actually supersede property laws.

“This represents one of the colonizing properties of Western property framework, especially in a settler colonial society where Indigenous communities are hyper-researched, where Indigenous knowledge is hyper-represented in the archives even though the people and their laws are not.”

The information provided was very

what the content actually was along with her community, as they worked to repatriate the songs and information: what she called oral resuscitation.

“It is interesting to me that in museums and archives, the labels for each individual item often tells us more about what the institutions do not know, even though they imply otherwise,” noted Gray.



Doctor Robin Gray and President of SICC Wanda Wilson at the SICC annual First Nations Language Keepers Conference. Dr Gray is a leader in repatriating Indigenous songs.

(Photo by Andrea Ledding)

scant, and so Gray had to do her best to muddle through titles like “Indian Song” and “Folk Song” and try to figure out

She has worked with over 300 Ts’msyen of all ages to date on these songs in listening gatherings and trans-

lation workshops, along with discussions about law within talking circles.

“Indigenous repatriation is an opportunity to right historical wrongs, to remedy settler colonial violations, and to build new nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples.”

In 1942 there was no protection, but now it is an act of reclamation, despite the way Western law upholds itself.

“Institutions that hold Indigenous cultural material must not only be open to potential repatriation cases, they must also be prepared to give up control of Indigenous cultural heritage if that is what the source community wishes,” said Gray.

“Indigenous laws must be understood as precedent for ownership, access, and control of Indigenous cultural heritage.”

“Language isn’t just words, it’s concept and worldview,” said SICC President Wanda Wilson in the opening greeting. “It’s not just a right but a responsibility to take care of that role.”

After Gray’s keynote to over 600 attendees, Wilson noted that she had heard her at another conference and hastened to book her.

The conference included numerous workshops, an Elder’s panel, youth panels, speakers on the Nakoda language, and the winner of the language book award, Bronte Big Eagle - a youth who wrote a children’s book in Nakoda entitled “The Legend of the T-Rex’s Short Arms” which was then published by SICC.



## “Most beautiful gallery in Canada” leaves visitors in awe

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

If you haven't been to the rRemai Modern Art Gallery yet, make sure to put it on your list of Christmas things to do. Positioned on the riverbank of the South Saskatchewan River beside the Persephone Theatre, the 130,000-square foot rRemai Modern museum features 11 galleries on four levels, with a permanent collection that includes about 8,000 pieces.

“Excitement has been building during the years of constructions, and now we're looking forward to welcoming crowds to celebrate with us,” said Gregory Burke, rRemai Modern Executive Director and CEO.

“The building is just mesmerizing. It is the most beautiful art gallery in Canada,” said Burke.

The first many thousand people through the doors would agree with Burke on that. Visitors have been left in awe by the beautiful building and the vast array of art. Perhaps the gallery's foremost attraction is the 406 linocuts and 23 ceramic works by famed artist Pablo Picasso, making rRemai Modern the world's largest collection of Picasso linocuts. The gallery also features five permanent collection galleries, which will evolve regularly, said Burke. The ground floor alone is roughly equivalent in size to rRemai Modern's predecessor, the decommissioned Mendel Art Gallery, of which one permanent collection gallery is named.

Citizens and visitors to Saskatoon were eager to see the \$100 million gallery, as all 7,000 free tickets for opening weekend were quickly reserved through online registration.

“I think the gallery will have quite a significant impact (on Saskatoon) both in quality of life and in terms of having experiences, but also a significant economic impact,” said Burke. “We expect to pull in a lot of people from outside the province.”

Prior to its Oct. 21 opening weekend, rRemai Modern announced that philanthropist and museum namesake, Ellen Remai on behalf of the Frank and Ellen Remai Foundation, have pledged \$1 million a year for art purchases for the next 25 years.

Additionally, the Foundation will match eligible donations to the museum up to \$1 million a year for the next 25 years. The donation is one of the largest to the arts in Canadian history. Remai's previous major gifts to the museum include \$16

million for the building, \$15 million for international programming, \$2 million for acquisitions, and a \$20 million purchase of Picasso linocuts.

“What makes her gifts over the past several years even more incredible is that beyond the major support of construction, she had the foresight to provide Remai Modern a guaranteed income to support programming and acquisitions over the next 25 or more years,” said Burke.

Burke stated in a release that he believes this puts Remai Modern on a secure financial footing, regardless of the changes in the global economy. Earlier in the week, Mayor Charlie Clark spoke on the concerns of the cost of the gallery, as it's expected to cost \$5.4 annually.

“We've tried to be transparent all along – that this is going to have an impact. It's 3.5 times larger (than the Mendel) and the budget is not 3.5 times larger,” Clark told reporters earlier in the week.

Unlike the Mendel, which offered free admission, Remai Modern hopes to recover some costs by charging an admission fee of \$12 per person. Access to the museum's ground floor is always free though, including the Connect Gallery and the light-filled atrium which hosts art installations, readings, and performances. Rawlco also sponsors six days throughout the year where admission to the entire gallery is free for everyone.

The gallery aims to include art and artists representative of Saskatchewan and our heritage. The grand opening included traditional Indigenous performance and a display in the lobby exhibits a welcome message in six different Indigenous and Metis languages.

“It's important for us to recognize our placement here on Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Metis, and to reaffirm in the spirit of reconciliation our relationship with one another,” said Burke.

“Remai Modern is intended as an inclusive place, and we want everyone to feel comfortable entering this space.”

The Remai Modern art gallery also features a restaurant, learning studios, a 150-seat theatre, rental spaces, a rooftop patio, gallery lounge, and underground parkade. The opening exhibit, 'Field Guide' features artists from Saskatchewan and around world, is a 'consideration of a network of issues and questions impacting art and society today.' It runs until February of next year.

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## Thanks to Felix Thomas and Wayne Brownlee, Wanuskewin Is Thundering Ahead.

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Thanks to campaign co-chairs Felix Thomas and Wayne Brownlee – and the generosity of donors – the plan is moving forward and Wanuskewin will soon reach its full potential.

For their leadership and passion, Felix and Wayne were recognized with Honoured Supporter Awards at the Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Day Awards.

We congratulate them on this richly deserved honour – and thank them for making our community a better place to work and live.



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# Beautiful music at St. Mary's

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

St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre was selected from across the province and nation as an educational partner with the Gryphon Trio/Listen Up Saskatoon cross-Canada program – and it's a big deal!

Professional musicians, poets, artists and composers, along with partners like the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO), work with the students towards a year-end showcase that will take place in Saskatoon on May 4.

"What has struck me so far is how this has piqued our students' natural curiosity," noted St. Mary's principal Katrina Sawchuk.

"I was sitting by a kindergarten student at the last concert where the conductor asked them to listen for animals and she queried, 'Do you think they are playing butterflies?'"

"The musical composers Carmen Brayden (from Yellowknife, NWT) and Paul Suchan (Saskatoon) have been so inspiring."

Students are learning that ideas can be portrayed by words which can turn into lyrics, these lyrics can then turn into songs, and then these songs can be performed by both voices and instruments, noted Sawchuk. They are learning to express themselves artistically and musically in a variety of ways.

"As words can turn into stories well told, our songs can be well sung! After Christmas, the students will be turning their words into visual art, and practicing their songs for our finale on Thursday, May 4."

From January to March they will focus on visual art, having already focused on poetry and song this past few months, and from March to May they will receive the completed works from the participating composers. They will rehearse and perform at their May concert, open to the public.

This latest partnership is a real coup for St. Mary's school, but their new building houses all kinds of fantastic initiatives.

"I was listing partners and single-spaced it took up more than three pages," noted Sawchuk of the tremendous support their school has in the Saskatoon and provincial/national communities.

Having a pediatric wellness centre right in the school isn't the only cutting-edge initiative St. Mary's has undertaken, and they are becoming renowned for their ability to partnership. This national musical program is yet another example.

The school received a visit from internationally renowned Inuit throat-singer Tanya Tagaq on Nov. 17, and on Dec. 1 musicians from the SSO performed Christmas carols for the student body. They will also be receiving a visit from Indigenous cellist Cris Derkson in the new year, along with their ongoing partnership with the SSO, the Gryphon Trio program, and the composers.

Grade 5 students expressed their enthusiasm about working together to write songs, or learning about the individual instruments like the cello and tuba.

"I like how all the instruments make it sound like people talking," noted one student, while others highlighted enjoying the Star Wars and Zelda themes being played by the symphony, or the experience of hearing their poem about magic feathers being sung in the Far North on video by composer Carmen Brayden.

SSO executive director Mark Turner loves the partnership with St. Mary's, too, as do members of the SSO who were enthusiastically sharing Christmas carols on Dec. 1.

"The reason that this program was so meaningful for the SSO is that we are based on the idea that music is a basic need for everyone – it's how we as humans underscore our lives and emotions," noted Turner.

"There's so much written about the impact of music education that the topic is almost overwhelming, but for us we wanted the students at St. Mary's to have the chance to explore their musical and artistic sides.

"We wanted it to be about giving the kids a chance to create, as well as a chance for us to bring live music to them."

The partnership has been met with enthusiasm by everyone involved, from staff to students to the musicians and artists themselves. Turner notes that all the musicians in the SSO first began as children and youth whose love of music and interest in it was nurtured and mentored by other musicians, thanks to exposure to music programs at a young age.

"The spark of our life-long love of music happened in elementary school when someone took the time to share their love of it – and hopefully this sparks a life long journey with music for the kids at St. Mary's," observed Turner.

The Saskatoon Symphony performed at St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre.



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# Lacrosse playing Thompson brothers stress importance of dedication and perseverance

**By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News**

The Thompson brothers are using lacrosse as their platform to make their mark on Indigenous youth in Canada.

Prior to the Saskatchewan Rush exhibition game on Nov. 18, the four Thompson brothers from Syracuse, New York, were honoured at the Sasktel Centre with a special ceremony and powwow. Lyle, Miles, and Jerome Thompson, players for the Georgia Swarm, were in town to play brother Jeremy, star player for the Saskatchewan Rush. The brothers hail from the Onondaga Reservation in New York.

Over 1,000 community members attended the event, including 700 individuals driving in from seven different First Nations in Saskatchewan. The

brothers were gifted a special buffalo robe blanket by the Saskatoon Tribal Council and Chief Mark Arcand.

Each Thompson brother then addressed the youth in attendance, highlighting the importance of dedication and perseverance.

“I can honestly say that we got here through hard work and dedication, but it wasn't easy. I had hardships and roadblocks along the way,” said Jeremy Thompson.

“Lacrosse has been a vehicle to give myself an education. And it's a vehicle for us to give back,” he said.

The brothers also spoke on many of the struggles that youth in Canada and the U.S. face, including drugs, alcohol, obesity, and education.

They cited the importance of family



**The Thompson brothers have a huge following in North America of lacrosse fans. The Saskatoon Tribal Council brought in hundreds of people to meet and honour the brothers as role models for Indigenous youth.** (Photo by Nathan Raine)



**The College of Kinesiology, Huskie Athletics and the Saskatoon Tribal Council have teamed up to launch a sports program in support of Indigenous youth. From physical sport testing to strength and conditioning, nutrition and skill development, participants will be given the opportunity to reach their goals in sport and develop as leaders and role models in our communities. Close to 70 young athletes ages 10-14 have been recruited by STC to participate in the Youth Leadership Through Sports Program that will be offered at various times throughout the year under the guidance of experts from the College of Kinesiology and Huskie Athletics. Here the two mascots give the thumbs up for the program.** (Photo University of Saskatchewan)

and culture as path forward.

“One thing I want you to take from me and my brothers, the respect we have for the game and for everything around us,” said Jerome Thompson.

“Respect is the big thing in Indigenous culture. And the other thing is pride. I'm proud of who I am and where I came from. I'm proud, every time I step on the floor, who I represent.”

The powwow included STC Chief Mark Arcand, several flag bearers from

Saskatoon and nearby First Nations, as well as the Thompson brothers and youth from across the province.

Later that evening, the Saskatchewan Rush, in their first home pre-season game, successfully held off the Georgia Swarm in a 24-9 victory.

The Rush's regular season has just begun as they aim to get back their championship after a heartbreaking loss in last year's final to the Swarm.

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## RON DEITER

*Electrician*

"AS A YOUNG PERSON... if you can work toward being a tradesperson – training on the job and picking up knowledge in the classroom – it just makes sense."



### *Ron Deiter: The key to a lifelong career*

Shortly after completing high school, Ron Deiter was handed the keys to a rewarding and fulfilling career.

"I was living in Regina, and Sun Electric was down the back alley. I inquired about a job, and they told me that their truck driver was sick, and they needed somebody to deliver all the material to different job sites. I accepted the job," Deiter said. "Eventually, there was an opening to be an apprentice electrician, and I jumped at the opportunity."

For Deiter, this apprenticeship was the start of a successful career as an electrician, in which he has served as a labourer, safety supervisor and foreman.

"Electrical work is pretty interesting. It's a very good thing if you can be passionate about your job," said Deiter. "When you learn a trade, you always have something to fall back on. If somebody needs their house wired, you will have that skillset."

Deiter appreciated the opportunity to learn on the job, which allowed him to pick up valuable skills while still collecting a paycheque. He spent two months every year for four years studying at the Saskatchewan Technical Institute (now known as Saskatchewan Polytechnic) to achieve his journeyman status.

"As a young person, you're going to have to work for a large period of time, so if you can work toward being a tradesperson – training on the job and picking up knowledge in the classroom – it just makes sense," said Deiter. "You're always going to be making more money because trades are always going up in wages."

During his career, Deiter has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2038, which he said has helped ensure he's never short on work. Not only does IBEW dispatch workers to local job sites, but it also works with the national network to connect workers with employers who are short staffed.

"If there's a big job in the Tar Sands and they don't have enough people in Edmonton, they can phone offices in Saskatchewan to find workers," said Deiter, who has worked on job sites in British Columbia and Alberta.

Beyond helping him find work, Deiter said his union membership has given him a sense of "protection and security."

"The union ensures that you know your responsibilities as a worker and also protects your rights," said Deiter. "Your wages are set for you, and you are subject to a wide range of benefits, including health coverage and a pension plan."

Deiter is 64 years old and is looking to retire soon to spend time with his four children and 11 grandchildren. He notes that a lot of younger people don't think about saving for the future, but it becomes vital later on in life.

"The union is truly behind you all the way," Deiter said.



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