

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Métis teacher connects with community

Cort Dogniez looks on as CUMFI President Shirley Isbister speaks to Cort's commitment to youth and education as he received a Community Builder Award at CUMFI's 25th Anniversary celebration. (Photo by Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions)



By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News

As you step through the doorway and into the classroom of Métis education leader Cort Dogniez, at St. Michael Community School in Saskatoon, you can tell things are done differently.

In place of desks lined up facing the chalkboard, there are chairs around round tables and in the corner a place that is reminiscent of grandmother's house.

In fact, it is Dogniez's kokum's cupboard, dishes, furniture and family pictures that are central to his Métis Education Resource Centre.

"I try and always do it from a personal perspective," Dogniez said about working alongside teachers

from across Greater Catholic School Division helping them work culture into their curriculum and providing them resources.

"So, when people come in here, it's about learning about Métis people, but it's about me connecting to community again and helping people to do that through our story."

He has worked in education for 40 years and not just with the school system, but also speaking at conferences, workshops and events. It's this work in the community that saw him nominated and named a recipient of the Indspire 2018 Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards.

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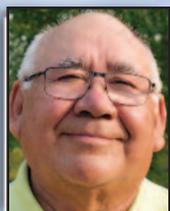
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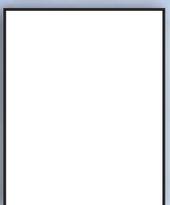
LT.-GOVERNOR'S AWARD
Chaley Morin of Pelican Narrows received an Award of Excellence from Saskatchewan's Lieutenant-Governor. - Page 3



EGADZ ROLE MODELS
Saskatoon's EGADZ has been a place of compassion and caring for years, thanks to the outstanding staff. - Page 8



HONOURARY DOCTORATE
Harry Cook has been a role model in the business world for decades and he'll soon be receiving a doctorate. - Page 9



TEAM BUILDING
Métis culture was front and centre at a very special celebration held in Saskatoon recently. - Page 12



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Five prominent role models talk about the people they respected as mentors in their lives. - Page 14

Role Models Edition

Coming In November - Veterans and Youth Issue

Teacher Cort Dogniez seeing some changes for the better

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“He’s really good, he’s one of our finest Treaty catalyst trainers,” said Brenda Ahenakew, director of educational programs for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, one of the groups behind his nomination.

“People like that deserve recognition, because he goes above and beyond. He’s so passionate and believes in what he teaches.”

“Cort is a proud Métis man who is a leader in teaching Métis culture and history,” said Shirley Isbister, president of the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc, in a text about why they supported the nomination.

“It is always an honour that the people you love, and that you respect, and that you work with are the people who nominate you, that is phenomenal and that what makes it feel so special,” Dogniez said.

Dogniez said he was initially uncomfortable with the recognition, but now sees it as an opportunity to shine further light on the Métis community and on First Nations and Métis perspectives.

And it hasn’t always been easy to share those perspectives. While he can



Cort Dogniez stands in front of his kokum’s cupboard in his classroom at St. Michael Community School in Saskatoon

think of “a million racist things that have happened,” over the years, he doesn’t dwell on negatives from the past because “the resistance comes from people’s lack of knowledge.”

He mentions people refusing to listen during workshops or meetings, even going as far as reading a newspaper. But, that time has passed.

“I don’t see those kinds of things anymore,” Dogniez said, adding that he has seen a significant positive change.

“I think a big shift happened with the mandatory inclusion of Treaty education.”

People were open, wanted to learn and Dogniez never held what they didn’t know against them. He said he still starts

every seminar by saying, “if you don’t know, I won’t judge you,” and that he instantly sees people relax.

Looking back, Dogniez can’t name one moment where he knew things would be different.

“I have had so many of those (moments), where you almost want to cry you are so excited.”



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Chaley Morin (left) was presented with the Lieutenant-Governor's Award of Excellence from Thomas Molloy in Pelican Narrows. (Photo supplied)

Pelican Narrows student Chaley Morin receives Lt-Governor's Award

**By Robert Merasty
For Eagle Feather News**

Lt.-Gov. Thomas Molloy visited six Northern schools in late September.

He travelled to Creighton, Cumberland House, Stanley Mission, La Loche, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Pelican Narrows and during his travels he presented the Northern Student Achievement Awards to top students in those communities.

The achievement awards were established in 1989 by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and the Lieutenant-Governor's Award of Excellence recognizes one student at each grade level from Grade 7 to Grade 12.

The award criteria is based on the student's academic standing, school at-

tendance, and involvement in cultural activities.

Sixteen-year-old Chaley Morin, in Grade 11 from Pelican Narrows, was the lucky recipient of the Lieutenant-Governor's Award of Excellence.

"I felt very ecstatic and I couldn't believe it until the day I received the award," said Morin.

"I was proud of myself and relieved. It's amazing what you can accomplish if you put your mind into it and to believe in yourself."

During the school year of 2017-18, Morin's academic standing was 89.2, her attendance was excellent and she just loved to go camping with her family in the Trade Lake area where she helped

pull nets, clean the fish, go duck hunting and cook outdoors.

It was a no brainer why she was chosen to receive this prestigious award.

"She was an excellent recipient for the award," said Principal Susan Custer.

Morin's teacher, Cheryl Morin, described her as a "a thinker, communicator, organized, and a leader. They are incredibly proud of her accomplishment.

Morin is extremely active in school, at home and in the community.

She is described as being very competitive and enjoys being in the great outdoors in northern Saskatchewan.

"That's why she's a member of the youth voyageur canoe team," said her

teacher. "She likes to compete and go canoeing."

Morin also enjoys singing and dancing and has participated in the Northern Spirit Show Case for Children held in Prince Albert.

She is described as a positive role model and was named a team leader in the "Leader in me team and Peer Group."

The group works together to create fun activities for other students.

She also helps other students develop their own skills.

In the future, Morin plans to attend the University of Saskatchewan and to return home to help develop recreational programs to encourage people in her community to lead healthy lifestyles.

"It's amazing what you can accomplish if you put your mind into it and to believe in yourself."

- Chaley Morin

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Paper guy humbled by award

An intrepid committee of dedicated community people worked for months to pull together a massive event that took over the Western Development Museum for three days. The reasons were several.

First, it was Culture Week. Second it was Orange Shirt Day on the Sunday. And last, it was a way to celebrate CUMFI's 25th Anniversary.

What an easy month to figure out what to write about role models. CUMFI Métis Local rocked the last weekend in September with a wonderful celebration of culture, leadership and honouring of role models.

There is lots written on the event so we will leave you to read that elsewhere in that issue. I want to talk about the banquet they had on a Friday night to honour people in their community. I was humbled and honoured to be included in the bunch, because those folks that joined me that night are a formidable group.

It struck me what they did and that in every First Nation or Métis community or Tribal Council there are people that are like this. Champions. People that do what they do and do it well, barriers and all. And they don't do it for fame. They do it because it is right. Take a look and see if any of these roles are familiar.

These lifetime achievement folk are always impressive.

Of course, there was the former formidable politician that has mellowed and become an Elder and community builder. A real statesperson who has lived the history and tells the story of the Métis involvement in the city and who reaches across all tables to extend a hand in working together. Senator Nora Cummings.

A legend. Just does his business and

is nothing fancy. That business is creating, protecting and teaching music to the next generation and fostering a family for fiddlers. Quiet excellence. John Arcand.

A tragic loss for a family turns a mom into an outspoken activist who dedicates her life to helping those that went like her son and making sure there are

create partnerships and to also inspire the next generation of students to follow their culture and passion ... and also tells a great road allowance story. Cort Dogniez.

A musician who has crossed borders playing professionally for years and comes back to his home town and stays.



From left, Donny Parenteau, Lorraine Stewart, John Lagimodiere, Cort Dogniez, John Arcand, Senator Nora Cummings and Gilles Dorval were all honoured by CUMFI on their 25th Anniversary. The four lifetime achievement winners, John Arcand, Lorraine Stewart, Michael Maurice (missing from photo), and Senator Nora Cummings have spent decades improving the quality of life for Metis people in Saskatoon, and the four community builders, John Lagimodiere, Donny Parenteau, Gilles Dorval, and Cort Dogniez are trying to keep up with them.

(Photo by Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions)

homes and love for them. Lorraine Stewart.

The northern man that was one of the first to urbanize. Contributed at the Friendship Centre, the Métis Local and eventually asked to lead spiritually as an Elder, which he does with grace. Mike Maurice.

And of course the community builders.

The educator that keeps on giving and uses their passion and innovation to

An in-demand talent who turns that charisma and talent into helping kids end bullying. Donny Parenteau.

At one time the only Indigenous guy in a big non-Indigenous government that digs hard in the corners and always keeps his elbows up, opening room for more Indigenous folks to come work with him. Gilles Dorval.

And me. The paper guy. I got emotional at the podium. I could speak for eight hours to 30 people about Indigenous

neck bones of any meat and left the judges no choice but to name him champion. Formidable. Mayor Clark was a close second.

I panicked under the pressure of the spotlight and attacked my neck bones like a rabid coyote. Fail. Cut my face, meat spilled everywhere and I had a meat heart attack when I jiggled right after the contest. Lesson learned.

Got third out of five. Shame. Almost had to give my plaque back.

issues, but give me a plaque and a gift and say good job John and I puddle.

Anyway, it was awesome to be surrounded by passionate and persistent people.

That Métis kitchen party that lasted

for three days at the WDM was one of the most fun weekends I've had in 2018. The music was amazing, the culture and youth engagement was inspiring and I also got to be in a neck bone eating competition the next night.

Now, that might sound like a good time to most, but it is actually dangerous and terrifying. Had to sign a waiver even.

I thought I had a good chance. The other contestants were Mayor Charlie Clark, Police Chief Troy Cooper, Fire Chief Morgan Hackl, Don Stewart from the Saskatoon Foundation and me. Chief Cooper was obviously the biggest threat. Métis. From the North. Sharp teeth.

Besides those folks that CUMFI honoured, my new role model is Saskatoon Police Chief Troy Cooper. He cleaned those

neck bones of any meat and left the judges no choice but to name him champion. Formidable. Mayor Clark was a close second.

I panicked under the pressure of the spotlight and attacked my neck bones like a rabid coyote. Fail. Cut my face, meat spilled everywhere and I had a meat heart attack when I jiggled right after the contest. Lesson learned.

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Mural paints an important message

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

Métis artist Christi Belcourt and Anishnaabe artist Isaac Murdoch have created, with the help of students, a new mural at the University of Saskatchewan.

“We wanted to give something relevant today ... water protection,” said Murdoch.

“Historically, the Indian Act in our communities has forced our people off the land. This is where our people are, so this message is to get people back into the territories, to start protecting the lands and waters. Because right now we’re facing a massive ecological collapse. And that’s our message.”

Murdoch noted that despite colonial structures, everything is Turtle Island and that Indigenous peoples aren’t just a part of history, but of the present and the future. The mural is meant to inspire passersby.

“I want people to feel like they can make a difference, that they can get out there and help Mother Earth,” added Murdoch.

“Let’s protect the lands and waters like we’re supposed to.”

The mural is in a busy passageway which connects the arts tunnel to the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre and the Health Sciences tunnels. It features blue and green panels with black figures, and animals, birds,

and fish. Belcourt and Murdoch have done about a dozen murals across North America so far, with the funds going towards a language camp in Ontario.

“It was a two-day project, and our goal is to get a selfie station where people can stand and take a picture of themselves as a water protector, to get people engaged with the issues of protecting the waters,” said Belcourt.

“Because, in this era of climate change, we need to protect the waters. We need everyone to stand up and do that. The UN has just come out saying we have about 12 years left before we get into irreversible climate change.”

She wants to ensure our children, grandchildren, and all species have a planet that is inhabitable, not one destroyed by pipelines, tar sands, and climate change.

“We need to get into action, and we need all of us to do that. Indigenous people, we have a spiritual connection to these lands, to this Earth, and we have a lot of knowledge and wisdom to share on how to live in balance with Mother Earth,” said Belcourt.

Gabriella Lee, an active third-year student in Indigenous Studies and Chemistry, got involved through her passion for food sovereignty and related issues.

“Working with Isaac Murdoch and Christi Belcourt is literally a dream come



U of S student Gabriella Lee helps apply finishing touches on the mural while artists Christi Belcourt and Isaac Murdoch pose for photographs.

true. I’ve always wanted to collaborate with these amazing artists, everything that they do is with really intense purpose, that is the ideal of how to impact and think about community,” said Lee, adding they have a globally relevant message.

Jacqueline Ottmann, Vice Provost, Indigenous Engagement said she was really excited to have Murdoch and Belcourt gift the mural to the community,

and to put their creative energy into a space that really wasn’t sharing a story until now.

“And so, within this particular tunnel we have a story, we have a very strong and powerful message of relationship and of stewardship. and the responsibility that we have not only to each other, but to Creation,” said Ottmann.

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Mistawasis Bridge opens in a spirit of reconciliation

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Chief Mistawasis Bridge opened in Saskatoon on Oct. 2, connecting Wanuskewin Road and the north end of the city with north-east suburbs such as Evergreen, Willowgrove, and University Heights.

The bridge's name, which was chosen through committees and extensive community consultation as an act of reconciliation, was celebrated by the community of Mistawasis in many ways, including a lance run by youth from Mistawasis to the bridge over two days and 110 kilometres.

"We thought and debated about which name would be the best one to recognize this time we're in of reconciliation," said Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark.

"And in the end, Chief Mistawasis Bridge best captured this. He was one of the lead negotiators of Treaty Six, was a key player with a vision for the future, and now his name will be forever associated with the city of Saskatoon."

The day began with a pipe ceremony on the riverbank led by William Duquette, using the Treaty 6 pipe. As a crowd gathered, horse riders, wagons, dignitaries, the youth lance runners, and a semi-trailer bed full of dancers with a drum group descended directly from Mistawasis led a parade across the traffic bridge to kick off the official opening ceremonies.

Premier Scott Moe, Clark, Saskatoon Tribal Chief Mark Arcand, Mistawasis Chief Darryl Watson, Central Urban Métis Federation President Shirley Isbister, and Residential School survivor Frank Badger were among the dignitaries who spoke, along with MC Eugene Arcand.

Partners alongside the City of Saskatoon included the Province of Saskatchewan and the federal government, which was completed by Graham Commuter Projects on-time and on-budget.

"It's truly an honour to be here today. It's a celebration of answering a call to action. But as I look around, I think it's a celebration of Saskatoon," said Isbister, after noting that the youth and children were the most important guests, as the generation that is poised to change the future of our city and the world.

"When you look around at the people beside you and all the diversity, that has to make us proud. We're interacting, we're moving forward, and in the spirit of reconciliation, this is just one part of what we're doing."

She acknowledged the contributions of the late Elder Walter Linklater, who took the name to ceremony before passing on, and Elder Maria Linklater has continued to support the long journey of the project and process, which tied the names to the TRC calls to action.

"When you look at the (Treaty 6 and Métis) flags hanging there on the bridge, those will hang there forever," added Isbister.



Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand addressed the crowd at the bridge opening.

"Everyone has a story to go home and tell, that these young people from Mistawasis took it upon themselves, for their language, their culture, their identity to do something significant," said Arcand gesturing to the youth in front of the stage, as the lance-carrier raised the lance.

"If you want to know what that lance means, come and ask, they'll gladly share. We need to celebrate days like this. Saskatoon is leading the way in reconciliation."

Chief Watson commended the 18 Mistawasis youth for continuing their run in adverse weather, and

noted to applaud "at some point down the line we're going to see a First Nations person lead this country, as part of true reconciliation."

He added that proper infrastructure was key to helping First Nations communities – health, education, housing, water – and that would continue to be a huge part of true reconciliation as well.

"Chief Mistawasis was a visionary, in the sense he knew what was going to happen 142 years down the future," Watson added.

Commemorative Treaty 6 and Métis medallions were handed out after the ceremonies.



18 youth did a lance run from Mistawasis to Saskatoon over two days and 110 kilometers to help open the Chief Mistawasis Bridge in Saskatoon. (Photos by Andrea Ledding)

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Abundance of role models at EGADZ

By NC Raine

For Eagle Feather News

Role models don't have to be in the spotlight.

As evidenced throughout this issue, those who often make the most significant impacts in our lives are the ones in the background, providing support, doing the little things.

EGADZ, Saskatoon's 28-year-old community service centre, is full of these very sorts of unsung heroes who have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place.

Megan Hetherington, Amara Hoffman, Gloria Paul, and Jackie Schell are four of the many role models on staff at EGADZ, although it's clear each of them is somewhat reluctant to furnish themselves with that title.

Their jobs demand a high degree of humility and compassion, with little room for conceit. Paul is the Family Engagement Liaison, connecting parents or children with resources, as well as providing a listening ear. Schell works in Operation Help, an outreach program working with sexually exploited individuals. Hoffman is the Drop-In Centre Supervisor, running events and providing basic life necessities to the centre's walk-ins. And Hetherington works on the Street Outreach team, who provides everything from nutrition to counselling for people who are struggling to meet

their needs.

"If anyone needs someone to talk to or to guide them, I can be that person. I'm kind of the kôhkom in EGADZ now," said Paul, a 22-year vet of EGADZ. "I get a lot of youth, as well as parents, who are really looking for someone to talk to."

It's a sentiment shared by each of these role models – a willingness to engage personally with their clients.

"I think being able to engage with the youth is important, to build trusting relationships," said Hoffman.

"Being able to break down the barriers they face, and be someone who they can go to with no fear of judgment and help guide them a bit."

This unspoken element of their jobs is what make them role models to many of the hundreds of lives they encounter a year.

"We are able to help so many people navigate the system. They look to us for support, so I could see them looking to us as a role model," said Schell.

"But it's just something I do. I'm grateful to be in the position I'm in to help people."

"I told myself if I ever got the opportunity to be a role model, that I would do absolutely all the different things in the areas that I didn't have the best experiences growing up. So that's kind of my mantra," added Hetherington.



L to R: Gloria Paul, Megan Hetherington, Jackie Schell, and Amara Hoffman in the EGADZ Drop-In Centre.

"Take the time to listen, don't automatically think that they got themselves in that situation. You'll be so surprised how one little thing like that will open up a whole relationship."

Each of these strong women have countless heartbreaking stories – Paul recounts times she drove clients to funerals, or spent hours talking to someone considering self harm. It's often an emotionally exhausting line of work, but it's worth it, they say. Particularly when they see first hand the lives they've helped transform.

"It makes all the tears and frustration worth it," said Hetherington.

"It's a great feeling when you see clients in all their glory of their new situation. I get this butterfly feeling that hasn't gone away in the four years I've been here."

"I have a lot of kids coming back to me, saying (how I helped them), even kids' when I started working here in 1996. They are still coming to see me to this day," said Paul.

"That's where my biggest reward is."

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As a team with a collective approach We will open doors for all of our people

U of S to honour Chief Harry Cook with doctorate

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

A northern entrepreneur from Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) will be awarded a University of Saskatchewan honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Former Chief Harry Cook will receive the highest honour the U of S can bestow to acknowledge worth and unique contributions that people have made in their communities.

"I was quite honoured when I found out the news that I would be receiving this (honour)," said Cook who served as LLRIB Chief for 18 years.

On Oct. 27, Cook will be accepting this prestigious honour in front of hundreds of people and they will hear the amazing work he has done throughout his lifetime.

Cook was born on his family trap line in 1943 in Stanley Mission in Northern Saskatchewan. Following his education in residential schools, Cook became a journeyman welder and worked for Westank Willock in Regina for 13 years. He then progressed to shop steward and then shift foreman, supervising 80 employees.

Although he was successful in his path of work, Cook wanted to give back to his community. It was then that he decided to move back home and was elected as Chief in 1987. As his community's leader, he advocated for his membership, and ensured the band's directors operated their programs effectively and efficiently.

During this time, the LLRIB became known for its economic development initiatives, which Cook lists as one of his proudest achievements.

The Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership (KMLP) performs the economic development activities of the LLRIB which includes transportation, road construction, insurance, environmental, hospitality, mining and agriculture. This business arm held 14 portfolios including hotel management, organic food processing, catering, insurance and a partnership with Northern Resource Trucking. KMLP was known internationally for exporting wild rice and mushrooms, and Cook travelled to world trade shows in Europe and Asia to help market their products.

"I wanted to make a living the way that I wanted for my family and I," said Cook who has been married over 50 years.

"I give a lot of pride in what I do with some of the things we accomplished as a band."

Cook, who only has a Grade 10 education, holds his language and cultural traditions close and encourages others to learn and speak their Indigenous language. He also expressed his pride in the upcoming graduates and hopes their education will take them far in life.

"The ones who will be graduating from the U of S (have) a great gift in terms of getting an education for themselves, their families and society at large," he said.

"I believe we need a quality education in this world to survive. Through knowledge and education, a person can go a long way."

Expert innovator and entrepreneur, Brad Wildeman, will also be receiving an honorary degree with Cook during the U of S Fall Convocation ceremonies.



Harry Cook, who served as LLRIB Chief for 26 years, is an accomplished leader who paved the way for many opportunities for his band and is to receive the highest honour from the U of S. (Photo supplied by U of S)

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"As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow..."

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Even role models have their imperfections

This is a reminder that nobody is perfect. We are all human and we all make mistakes.

What matters is what we do after those mistakes are made. If we choose to accept responsibility for our actions and learn from them, that is what counts.

People can judge and people can talk all they want but that will not change who we are and the choices we make to do better for ourselves, our families and our people. All that matters is that in your heart you know the truth and that you are a good, giving and honest person who can accept responsibility for your actions.

That alone says a lot about your integrity and who you are as a person.

There are many people in our lives who simply show us what kind of life we do not want to live but it just so happens that we end up internalizing some of these unhealthy coping habits and it becomes a cycle in our own lives.

Then eventually we role model that to our own children and there you have ongoing intergenerational trauma, or unhealthy cycles being passed down.

It is important to feel and acknowledge your feelings and let them pass through you. Instead of denying those feelings and letting it all ball up until it explodes. Denying your feelings through

unhealthy coping mechanisms never really has positive outcomes.

People and our youth need to know it is okay to cry sometimes. We're only human and we cannot be strong every single day. Crying is not weakness, crying is being human, emotions are natural, feeling is normal, and allowing those feelings to pass through you will allow you to keep moving forward.

Have you ever loved an addict, whether it be a parent, a sibling, a friend, a lover, your child or a relative?

It is not easy watching someone poison themselves and the ripple effects that it has on the family that people seem to try and deny.

I have seen it, I have lived it and I am trying my hardest to overcome it.

I feel like I am drowning sometimes in a sea of people who don't want to admit reality.

You see it how people are so quick to judge others but yet cannot even admit what is going on in their own backyard. People will be quick to crucify you when you make a mistake but so many cannot even admit their own.

That is the type of world I feel like I am living in sometimes.

It is every person for themselves, a competition they pit everyone against each other through the media, through their mechanisms that easily brain wash the masses we all see it and know it but yet so many people keep falling for it.

What I am trying to say is that as a society that stems from settler colonialism we are quick to deny the reality that is happening and ongoing and quick to chase reality away through substances and consumerism.

With my imperfections I am doing my best in the only way I know how right now and that, for me, is being over five years sober and giving my children a safe, loving home.

The system has been dismantling families from the very get go, Residential Schools.

Healthy lifestyles, people, families and communities, now that is going against the system.

I can only speak for myself, and this is something I would say to my younger self that I am going to say to

you,

I know you been through a lot, I know it is not easy to carry on every day and pretend like everything is okay.

I know it is not easy to go into all these colonial spaces where you are outnumbered and your either not accepted or feel social anxiety or feel you have to conform to something you are not in your heart.

I have been there I tried so hard to fit in I lost the real me.

I grew up thinking functioning alcoholics was normal. I grew up in a society that held the stereotype that Indians were "drunks" and the bad guys in society.

That label, that stereotype was internalized and pretty soon I was so far gone thinking you want a drunk Indian, I'll show you a drunk Indian.

The reality of all this is that was never me, I was never being true to who I am.

I am finally able to see everything I have gained from the traumas I went through.

Personally, as a mother of two daughters in this big unpredictable and downright scary world especially to be an Indigenous woman I just cannot find myself okay with putting myself or my babies at risk, ever.



Sisters in Spirit vigil stresses love

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

The 12th annual Sisters In Spirit vigil and walk commemorating missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls drew hundreds to the downtown Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre in early October.

The walk commenced just after 6 p.m. and was led by smudge and drummers, followed by a large representation from family and friends of missing woman Ashley Morin who is from the North Battleford area.

"This beautiful girl beside me in this picture, this is my best friend, Ashley, and that's her big family who loves her, and we've been searching for her since July 10," said her friend Krista Fox after the march, when various spokespeople for families addressed the gathering.

"I never thought a year ago, I'd be here doing this. A year ago we were talking about going to Jamaica. She's such a beautiful person inside and out."

She said they were continuing their search for her and were not going to give up the search.

"We've done all kinds of fundraising so that we can put out a reward for her," said Fox. "Our community of North Battleford has helped in so many ways. Everybody knew her."

She thanked all the supporters, attendants, and organizers of the vigil, telling everyone to love and hug their family and friends tonight and every night.

Morin, 31, was last seen wearing grey sweat pants, a black T-shirt with white writing, and a black hat in North Battleford; she is 5 ft.2" with dark hair and brown eyes.

Carol Wolfe addressed the gathering via a sign language interpreter on behalf of her deceased daughter, Ka-

rina, located after missing for several years.

"I remember seeing those words, missing and murdered Indigenous women ... wondering what does that really mean, and it was shocking to me to realize how profound those words were," said Wolfe.

"Five and a half years after my daughter went missing, they found her body."

Wolfe has three sons. Karina was her only daughter. She thanked the police for working so hard and not giving up on her beautiful daughter, who loved art and writing and whose life ended so tragically at age 20.

Other speakers included Peggy Daniels, on behalf of her murdered niece Courtney Johnstone, Darlene Oke-maysim-Sicotte on behalf of organizers Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik, and Troy Cooper, Saskatoon Chief of Police. Opening and closing prayers were led by Maria Campbell, who also shared a few words.

"My family has lost three loved ones over the years. We have many stories. Two of them were sisters, and you never get over it," said Campbell, wishing love and gentleness to those grieving a loved one.

"For those who have found closure, your strength and courage is really important to all of us. We need to be kind to one another, that's really important."

Campbell added that violence often begets violence. Or not knowing what to do with all the pain, but we all have to make better choices so the world will be better for our younger generations, with courage, wisdom, and honesty at the forefront.

"We can do it if we help each other. We can lead the way as role models so that our children don't have to live with violence, fear, and anger that many of us have grown up in. We can spread lots of love around, and gentleness."



Author and respected elder Maria Campbell was a speaker at the Sisters in Spirit vigil.

**VOTE WAPASS ON OCTOBER 25
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ELECT *Delbert Wapass*

Tanisi - I am Delbert Wapass, member of the Thunderchild First Nation in Treaty 6 and am seeking the position of Chief of Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations. I received my Masters in Education from the University of Saskatchewan and have been Chief of my community for 12 years.

I am ready to be part of the leadership of FSIN that makes significant change in our communities and our Treaty territories, that allows for our differences to be celebrated and for our voice to be heard at provincial and federal levels.

I am a firm believer that moving forward is about asserting and providing support on Economic Development, by asserting our Treaty & Inherent right, by sharing what is going on by being accessible and transparent and most importantly by continuing to rely on our Elder's teachings and our ceremonies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our success lies in the ability to develop and own our economic development, achieving this requires strong leadership to clear the path. Understanding the government processes in concert with the corporate world is critical to seizing our opportunities.

I have had first-hand experience in my community building strategic partnerships that positively influence Thunderchild now and for the future. Building those relationships took effort, focus and understanding, I was able to balance the needs of the community while advancing our rights.

Working with Husky and Enbridge we were able to develop a relationship that respected our rights and traditional territory and identify areas to support and bolster like our Elders. As leadership we pursued a unique opportunity of education for our youth, a partnership that pulled the best out of the Western system and elevated our language and culture for our youth. We are thriving as a result. It was about listening, seeing and being part of the community we did these things and it is critical that the leader of the FSIN be not only well-versed in building relationships but understanding how to motivate these relationships for the Chiefs in Assembly.

INHERENT RIGHTS

Our inherent rights come from our ancestors who survived and thrived before us, they practiced good governance and Nation building. We need not ask what can we do or how can we do it, it was done. We need to get back to that type of strategic, thoughtful, confident leadership.

TREATY RIGHTS

Signing Treaty was about securing a future for two Nations, it was about partnership. There is no doubt we all know that is not what played out. We can get back there, we are secure in our Inherent rights and our Treaty rights. Another lesson on what Treaty is or isn't is not needed, leadership is needed.

Understanding the needs of our communities is key, understanding the language of our ancestors is critical and finally being able to articulate is necessary. Whether it be to each other, to government or to corporate Canada there needs to be a clear, consistent, capable voice.

ACCESSIBILITY

There is accessibility on two levels - being accessible to our people through listening and reflecting and "opening doors at the government level" both incredibly important. Through my role as Chief of Thunderchild and former Vice Chief at the FSIN I know how important it is to listen to learn and ensure the voice is amplified when needed.

TRANSPARENCY

Knowing what is going on is imperative, ensuring communications systems are fully utilized to share information not only with Chiefs and Councils but with membership as well.

**we are
stronger
together**

DELBERT WAPASS
306.845.8169
d.wapass68@gmail.com

CUMFI celebrates 25 years of service to community

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

Saskatoon's Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) has celebrated 25 years of contributions to the city and residents, and at the end of September, held a three-day Métis Cultural days celebration at the Western Development Museum for the community to enjoy.

"CUMFI is a community organization, we work in pretty well all the challenges there are in the core area of Saskatoon, with addictions, homelessness, HIV/Aids, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), poverty and we want to help families have a better quality of life," said CUMFI President Shirley Isbister.

"Education is huge for us and I think one of the biggest things that CUMFI does is supported living and the coming home program. We move Indigenous moms into these homes and their children are returned from foster care. Since we've started, we've brought over 1,200 children home from foster care."

She added that the safety of children combined with reuniting them with their parents has always been a goal for CUMFI, and in general the mission statement includes self-determination and self-reliance, improved social and economic conditions for Métis people, and improved quality and standards of life.

The CUMFI mandate also includes the promotion of the heritage, cultural, economic, educational, and social well-being of Métis people.

"We also have a home for single moms, single dads, two-parent families, and one home for moms living with HIV/AIDS so their children can be returned home," she said, listing additional homes including a transition house for men recovering from addictions, and Hessdorfer Home for those living with cognitive disabilities.

"For me, the 25th anniversary of CUMFI was all about celebrating community. We do a lot of work in reconciliation, as well."

Isbister lists some of the many accomplishments of CUMFI over 25 years: Infinity House, the high-risk home which was the first home to open in March of 2002.

"And all of the supported living homes, all of the programming that we do, we have the most amazing staff, staff that have been with us many man years. Those are some of our highlights, as well as being involved in reconciliation," said Isbister.

ments with both of them to move Métis culture education language and history forward. St Michael's School has been designated a Métis school," said Isbister, adding this means Métis programming, education, culture, and the Métis flag are all present. A similar partnership exists

so that eventually children can be bussed from all over the city to maintain the Michif language.

"We're hoping to bring the Michif language back into Saskatoon and having it taught. That's our challenge, finding Michif teachers, Michif speaking teachers," Isbister said.

"We also have Kohkom's house, when you need a break from your children, our moms and dads in our homes have that same opportunity, kids can go and visit their Kohkom while their parents have a break."

The focus is on family as well as the youth, and the present as well as a future which honours the past. Other services include grief and loss counselling, affordable housing, economic development programming, residential and commercial landscaping/yard care services, and many other initiatives and partnerships in the community.

"We're now preparing for Louis Riel Day, and then Christmas. There's always something going on," laughed Isbister.

The Culture Days were a great success, drawing thousands over the course of the three days, and the banquet on Friday night honoured four lifetime achievement winners: John Arcand, Lorraine Stewart, Michael Maurice, and Senator Nora Cummings and four community builders, John Lagimodiere, Donny Parenteau, Gilles Dorval, and Cort Dogniez.

"CUMFI celebrated 25 years by recognizing a remarkable group of community builders," tweeted Saskatoon Mayor

Charlie Clark. "The combined impact of this group on Saskatoon is incredible."

Gilles Dorval, present Director of Aboriginal Relations for the City of Saskatoon, was both honoured and humbled by the recognition, and praised CUMFI contributions over the years.

• Continued on Page 13



Youth from schools across Saskatoon participated in the CUMFI Metis Days at the Western Development Museum. Some played, some danced and all were entertained. (Photo by Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions)



CUMFI has leveraged federal and provincial funding into a vast array of real estate holdings in the City of Saskatoon. Their safe, affordable and drug and alcohol free buildings is welcomed by their renters.

(EFN File photo)

"And being community. I keep saying that because when I think of CUMFI that's what I think of. That we're all about community."

Isbister said part of the strength of CUMFI also comes from their solid partnerships, such as the strong partnerships with the Saskatoon Public and Separate School Boards.

"We have partnerships and agree-

with Westmount School.

"In both schools this year we have partnered with school boards to have Métis teachers and language in both school systems. There are fiddle and jiggling programs in St Michael's and jiggers in Westmount, and the children are taught language."

Future goals include having the Michif language taught in both schools

Métis Cultural Days a tribute to CUMFI

• Continued from Page 12

“CUMFI in the celebration of Métis Days, really brought forward the pride in the Métis community, building on all our relations with the diverse community of Saskatoon,” said Dorval, crediting the hard work of the committee.

“CUMFI does a lot of work for the people – affordable housing, support services, people with children in care, those types of initiatives – and the programs and services they provide for the people of Saskatoon really have created a better quality of life for the whole community.”



Left, emcee and entertainer Maureen Belanger shows off her trophy for winning the neck bone contest. And above, young people had a great time at Metis days.

(Photo by Claire Letendre, Bang Up Productions)

*Thank you from all of us at
the Metis Cultural Days 2018*

CUMFI
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY



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Today's role models didn't just happen ... they were mentored

By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News

Role models are difference makers. As such, Eagle Feather News spoke with leaders from around Saskatchewan – athletes, politicians, activists, and musicians – to hear who made the biggest difference in their lives. Here are five role models talking about their own role models:

Donny Parenteau – Singer-songwriter



Role model number one, first and foremost, are my parents Wilbur and Hazel. These are the people who shaped me into who I've become. They taught me what respect means. To live my life with that word. Something that I strongly believe is missing today. Respect your elders. Respect yourself for who you are. Love yourself for who you are. Because if you don't have that in your life, how are you going to respect anything else around you? Is there one role model? No, I've had lots. A role model is someone who can help you get to the next level. You might have lots in your life, you might have just one. But they're the ones who reach out that hand and pull you up.



Mike Scott – Motivational Speaker

I look up to people like my family members. I also I look up to Michael Linklater. He's actually one of the first people I heard speak. He did a presentation that set me on this journey of wanting to follow this path of motivational speaking. He inspired me to do better. I talked to him that day, one on one, and he showed me a technique on trying, on how trying isn't real – you either do something or you don't. The choice is up to you. You have to remember what kind of person you want to be. Someone who is negative, talks down to people, belittles people, spreads gossip and hate, or you can be a positive role model, uplifting people, helping them smile and get through their day.

FIGHT FLU **Population and Public Health**
Flu Immunization Begins October 22, 2018

Prairieland Park – 503 Ruth Street West - Hall A	
Friday, October 26	12:30 - 7 pm
Saturday, October 27 & Sunday, October 28	9 am - 4 pm
Monday, October 29	12:30 - 7 pm

Newly Designed Family-Friendly Space

<p>Monday, October 22 Station 20 West 1120-20th Street West 12 - 6 pm</p> <p>Tuesday, October 23 St. Mary's School 327 Avenue N South 12 - 6:30 pm</p> <p>Vincent Massey School 1001 Northumberland Avenue 2 - 6:30 pm</p> <p>Monday, October 29 Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre 202 Avenue C South 9 - 11:30 am</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 30 C.U.M.F.I. 315 Avenue M South 11 am - 2 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, November 7 Westmount School 411 Avenue J North 2 - 6:30 pm</p> <p>Tuesday, November 13 Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre 202 Avenue C South 9 am - 12 pm</p>
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- Free vaccine offered through public health clinics across the province, some physician and nurse practitioner offices and local pharmacies. New - pharmacists can vaccinate children 5 years and older.
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Jade Tootosis – Social Activist

My late Grandma Brown. She was my great grandmother, and my first best-friend growing up. When she passed away, it was my very first time dealing with loss and experiencing death itself and the impacts it has on me. As I started to grow up, I heard more and more about her as an individual. One story I love is about the time her, my dad, and a lot of my relations occupied Alcatraz Island in San Francisco back in the 1960s. Seeing pictures of my grandmother occupying, reclaiming space, and being so proud, it's one of those images that sticks in my mind.



A lot of the stuff I have experienced in the last year, she's one of the people that comes to mind to give me courage and strength to be an advocate, to speak out, to reclaim space, reclaim energy, to be proud of who I am.

I hope with everything I'm doing today, she'd be proud of me. I like to imagine that she's right there beside me when I take a stand.

Michael Linklaer – Basketball player/ Motivational Speaker

My role model is the man who raised me, Walter Linklater. He is my great aunt's husband, but he was the man I called 'Dad' until he passed a few months ago. The love he gave me – he was a residential school survivor and was not necessarily given or shown that (love) as a child himself, yet he was still able to provide it for me. He knew his struggles, that he had to get over his addictions, and turned to his culture and ceremony. He was able to start sharing and teaching the ways of our people, so seeing him dedicate his entire life to helping other people was something that was very profound to me. He was a shining example for what we should be, not only as men, but as human beings. Him being drug and alcohol free is another example he set for me. Not once have I experimented with drugs or alcohol because that's what he showed me.



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Mary Culbertson – Treaty Commissioner

I don't have just one because I've been formed by so many people. I always admired and looked up to all the people who were single parents around me. I had an aunt who raised four girls by herself. And my mom, having to do what she could when her and my dad weren't together. A lot of the single parents, having to do double duty, and still get through school and put food on the table. The people who shaped me are the people like my Mom who had to survive by doing what they had to do. I had to survive and do what I had to do to get through school and raise my kids. If I didn't have those people (as examples) to know sacrifice, then I wouldn't have been able to do what I've done.

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SIGA to lease large piece of Muskeg's urban reserve

By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News

A sod turning ceremony took place at the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation 30th Anniversary to celebrate the construction of the new headquarters for the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA).

The two-storey building will be constructed on Muskeg Lake's Asimakaniseekan Askiy urban reserve, and will be entirely occupied by SIGA staff.

"This is a new opportunity to bring everyone from SIGA together and centralize locations. To bring better performance and better efficiency, so the end result is more revenue going back to our communities.

"That's our goal," said Reginald Bellerose, SIGA board of directors chair.

"It's a big accomplishment today. We are all looking forward to more growth in the future."

The new building will be 50,630 square feet, and will include a head office for SIGA's new Slot Management program. The future SIGA headquarters will bring Muskeg Lake Cree Nations' total developed space to over 185,000 square feet.

"SIGA has been a staple tenant with us for over a decade," said Murray Westerlund, board chair of Muskeg Lake Investment Management Corporation.

"We are ecstatic with the decision they have made to expand their new head office (on the) urban reserve."

According to Westerlund, the new development will bring \$14 million worth of value to the urban reserve, bringing a total asset value of the urban reserve to over \$130 million.

"We've had a relationship with SIGA since 2003 in our urban reserve here. A smaller footprint, of course," Westerlund told reporters.



MLA Eric Olauson, Murray Westerlund, Board Chair of Muskeg Lake Investment Management Corporation, Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, Muskeg Lake Councilor Paul Ledoux, SIGA Board Chair Chief Reg Bellerose and SIGA Ceo Zane Hansen officially broke dirt to commence the building of SIGA's new head office on the Muskeg Lake Asimakaniseekan Askiy urban reserve.

"We are slowly running out of land. We have less than 10 acres left now to develop."

SIGA has over 1800 employees, 65 per cent of whom are First Nations or Métis people. Their organization is a testament to how a company can help move a province and workforce forward, said Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark.

"This is one of the largest social enterprises in Canada. And so many of the profits from SIGA go back into the communities.

"Not just First Nations communities, but all of the

communities that surround. We as a whole community of Saskatoon benefit tremendously from that," said Clark.

"It's a tremendous vision that is something that we can really build on when we think about the province we want to become, and the city we want to become, where everyone has a shared opportunity to rebuild, shoulder to shoulder, a future together," he said.

Westerlund hinted at another large project at Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, one of about 65,000 square feet, to be announced in the near future.

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First Urban Reserve in Canada reaches 30-year milestone

Mayor Charlie Clark, Heidi Gravelle of the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Muskeg Lake Councillor Paul Ledoux and the CEO of Muskeg Lake Investments Mike Ison stand in front of teepees that the economic development corporation is donating to Reconciliation Saskatoon, the White Buffalo Youth Lodge and the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation as part of the 30th year celebration. “The theme behind it was the same theme behind the whole anniversary – celebrating the urban reserve development with the City of Saskatoon, working in collaboration. And we wanted to tie in a youth portion to those celebrations,” said Mike Ison.

**By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News**

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation celebrated its historic 30th Anniversary recently, marking the occasion with their business partners and collaborators in the City of Saskatoon.

In 1988, Muskeg Lake became Canada’s first commercial urban reserve.

“This 30-year relationship has been very positive, not only for our community, but the many communities that have (been involved) in these developments,” said Paul Ledoux, Councillor at Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

“It gives us the opportunity to be part of that economic drive that we all need in our First Nations communities.”

Muskeg Lake was formed thanks

in part to collaboration with both the federal government and the City of Saskatoon through the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Trust, and the Asimakaniseekan Askiy agreement. Through these agreements, Muskeg Lake acquired urban and agricultural lands, fostering economic development and entrepreneurial growth for their communities.

“The agreement that was signed in 1988 broke a lot of barriers that existed, where First Nations could acquire land. And it set the tone for the negotiations that followed that ended up with the (TLE),” said Harry Lafond, Executive Director of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Saskatoon has benefitted, said

Mayor Charlie Clark, from increased economic activity, job creation, and a closer relationship with Muskeg Lake.

“This is something we can be proud of in Saskatoon. We want to lead the national conversation about how to create a more resilient, inclusive community that is working together with First Nations partners toward reconciliation. I would like to offer my largest thanks to everyone involved for making these past 30 years so successful,” said Clark.

Muskeg Lake now owns and manages over 35,000 urban and rural lands, which are used for community living, recreation, business, and agriculture. Community members total 1,848, with 367 living on the urban

reserve. They have established a board of directors to oversee their economic interests.

“Our board is building a successful future, a board that is independent and has created stability for business and investors,” said Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Kelly Wolfe.

Lafond said that the collaboration with their partners and city will continue to be important for Muskeg Lake.

“Looking to the future of the potential of this land really depends on continuing that strong relationship to ensure that we hand over to our children and grandchildren a way of living together to create wealth, a better quality of life for our communities, and to be an example,” said Lafond.

Scott Moe and the
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Kahkewistahaw breaks ground on new venture

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

What looks like a nice pasture near Saskatoon's airport to some, is actually a piece of land that the Chief and Council of Kahkewistahaw First Nation (KFN) envision as a place to create economic development and wealth for their young people and elders for years to come.

The piece of land covers almost 40 football fields in Saskatoon's Hampton neighbourhood and the community of Kahkewistahaw chose a cool day in September to release their plans to the public.

Nothing is set in stone yet, but a hotel and conference centre connected to a multiplex hosting a championship calibre hockey rink with two other rinks available and a field house are high on the wish list for Chief Evan Taypotat and his Council.

The First Nation wanted to establish a community economic vision that will yield long-term benefits for KFN members on their path to a healthy community and economic prosperity.

"Economic development is the

pathway to a better life for the people of Kahkewistahaw. We will build Eagles Landing into a powerful economic horse which will not only benefit the people of our First Nation, but to the people of Saskatoon and the surrounding area," said Chief Taypotat.

It is the intent of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, the City of Saskatoon and nearby property owners to establish a collective vision for the Hampton Village area in which the KFN lands are located.

The First Nation has had talks with the developer that owns the lands nearby and have also met extensively with City of Saskatoon staff.

The economic development arm of the First Nation is building relations and courting investors.

"We hope to have development in three to five years," said Chief Taypotat.

Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark was on hand for the ceremonial ground breaking as he welcomed the Kahkewistahaw investment in Saskatoon.

"We lead Canada in the development of urban reserves," said Clark as he asked for patience and pointed out the



Youth representatives Gunner Kaysaywaysemat and Kahkewistahaw 2018/2019 Princess Elliana Mckay and elders Joan Robillard and Wendy Alexson were asked to do the ground breaking for the Kahkewistahaw First Nation Eagles Landing Business Park development. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

area did not have services like water and sewer yet.

"The City is on the front lines of developing partnerships with First Nations and we have a positive track record. This site and future development create opportunity for Kahkewistahaw and the whole community. The more you have a common vision, then everyone benefits."

Sharing the event's agenda was Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat, Charlie Clark Mayor of City of Saska-

toon, Vice Chief Heather Bear of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nation and Rob Harvey, Regional Director General, Department of Indian Affairs, Saskatchewan Region representing the Government of Canada.

Prior to the initial purchase, the KFN leadership devoted a significant amount of time and effort to consult with its membership in a round of meetings in Saskatoon, Regina and in the community of KFN.

• Continued on Page 19

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Little Pine, Poundmaker training peacekeepers

**By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News**

Classes started for 20 students from Little Pine and Poundmaker First Nations on Oct. 9 to mark something bigger for their communities as they work towards local, Indigenous policing.

The 20 recruits will spend seven weeks training at Little Pine First Nation in the community safety officer induction program.

"We've been working on this for the past three years," said Little Pine Councilor Richard Checkosis, who holds the reserve's justice portfolio.

"There are a lot of barriers that we have had to overcome trying to get this program started."

The first component of the training is an introduction to Cree culture.

"They need to understand stuff before they go on duty," Checkosis said.

When the students complete the program, they will qualify for special constable appointments, said Elder Jacob Pete, the program facilitator and technical consultant.

"As far as I am concerned they are peacekeepers,

that's what they will be called peacekeepers, not security guards, not special constables, but peacekeepers within our community," said Pete, a retired RCMP officer.

Once those students receive further screening from the province and are designated special constables, they will be entitled to additional training in the future, said Pete.

Eventually they will be able to stop traffic and they'll actually be able deal with summary conviction offenses, he said.

"To put this thing together is a lot of community effort. We've been having community meetings here for the last three years," Pete said.

It all comes in response to concerns from community members around safety on reserve. According to documents shared by Pete from a meeting with RCMP in January, one of the biggest concerns is with police response times – how long it takes an officer to respond after someone in the community calls 911. In other cases, community members reported negative experiences with the calls, which has led to many people no longer calling for help.

The community wanted to work with RCMP to have greater security on-reserve. Little Pine started security patrols in February this year.

Currently they patrol only at night, but Checkosis said they want to expand it to being a 24-hours-a-day program.

He adds that along with the special constables being trained in the program they will need a building, dispatchers, a police chief and funding to make it all work.

A local number to call police will address the long wait time.

"With this system, what we've got is a local number and our people can be there within minutes," Pete said. "This is a step in the right direction to start this community safety program."

While 20 participants are expected to graduate the community safety officer induction program, Little Pine is only looking to hire eight. The others will go on to work at Poundmaker, or any community looking for public safety officers, Pete said.

"When they get appointed it makes a safer reserve for those communities," Checkosis said.

"It will be a win-win for all of our applicants."

KFN Chief Taypotat lauds partnerships

• Continued from Page 18

KFN leadership received overwhelming support from members to move ahead with the purchase of the property. Since then, KFN Leadership has been working with its Trust and Land's department on a reserve creation process. It is expected that Eagles Landing Business Park will obtain reserve designation by the spring of 2019.

"Economic development is the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people. Eagle's Landing is the start of that process for Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

"A process which will provide us with the ability to form partnerships, generate wealth and create employment opportunities for our members and Saskatoon citizens," said Councillor William C. Kaysaywaysemat.

"We are thankful for the previous Kahkewistahaw leadership that have initiated this process with the vision of a prosperous future and better quality of life for our members for generations to come. We honour them through our commitment to develop this property and realize their vision."

Chief Taypotat envisions starting the development with a gas bar but has high hopes to fill the entire area with retail and leisure options. But it won't come cheap.

"We have done the studies and seen what Saskatoon needs and what they want. There's a lot of potential jobs here. This is bigger than the \$14 million it took to buy the land. It's another \$10 million in infrastructure. You have to have a strong bankroll," said Chief Taypotat.

"We are fortunate to have good finances and we know we can build what we want to build. In a perfect world we would do it alone but we don't have \$100 million dollars.

"Eventually there will be investors and people that want to own businesses on this land. We made this announcement because we want Mayor Charlie Clark to keep working on our behalf and to light a fire under our butts to work on it."

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Solar energy shining in Pheasant Rump

A small First Nation in southeastern Saskatchewan recently celebrated a green energy milestone for its community.

The Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation, located near the Village of Kisbey, 180 km southeast of Regina held a feast and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of solar panel systems on all their community buildings.

Chief Ira McArthur said this project was the brainchild of the Elders.

“During community discussions they continually raised the concern of ‘how do we leave a better world for our grandchildren and the generations yet to come,’” he said in a media release.

“Through this dialogue the recurring concept was to lead by example, and a solar project for our community buildings seemed to be an obvious and achievable goal.”

Fifty-six panels forming five systems totaling 16.8kw installed on five different buildings brought this initiative to life, forming a base average replacement comparison ratio of 110 per cent for each building’s consumption. Panels were provided and installed by TruGreen Energy of Emerald Park, Sask.

President and CEO of TruGreen Energy, Miguel Catellier, said they are grateful to partner with Chief McArthur and the forward-thinking and progressive people of Pheasant Rump Nakota Nation.

“There’s free energy falling from the

sky and all you need to do is catch it. Pheasant Rump is now a green energy producer that’s protecting our natural world and saving thousands on their energy bills for decades to come,” said Catellier.

“At the end of the day, everyone wants cleaner, cheaper, power.”

Although not large in scope, this project represents a huge step forward for the community of 444 members, with less than 130 members residing on-reserve, and from their perspective it also represents a huge step forward in doing their part to reduce the carbon footprint of the community as a whole.

With community members in attendance ranging in age from infancy to elderly, five-year-old Avra Beaudry cut the ribbon as Pheasant Rump Nakota Council and community members, TruGreen and SaskPower representatives cheered.

Joined by Wavell Starr, an Indigenous liaison for SaskPower, Chief McArthur stated this project was truly dependent on the partnership of various institutions.

“Taking advantage of SaskPower’s net-metering program made this project affordable and a wise business decision. Who wouldn’t want to consistently reduce community operational costs?” said Starr.

FSIN Chief candidate Bobby Cameron said projects and investments like these are leaving a safe healthy vibrant path for future generations.



Wavell Starr, SaskPower - Indigenous Liaison; Chief Ira McArthur, Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nation; Miguel Catellier, President and CEO for TruGreen Energy; and Bobby Cameron, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief candidate.
(Photo submitted)

“Pheasant Rump is a prime example of our Inherent and Treaty Right to a healthy environment,” said Cameron.

Chief McArthur noted that, although no representatives were in attendance, funding for this project was provided to the community by Enbridge Pipelines.

Jamie Honda-McNeil, Manager of Community and Indigenous Engagement for Enbridge, stated that natural resources and green spaces are precious to every community and they recognize that the way they care for their land, air and water matters to everyone.

“It is particularly important to the Pheasant Rump Nakota Nation. At Enbridge, we take responsibility to environ-

ment seriously, and when the Elders, Chief and Council approached us to support retrofitting community infrastructure with solar panels, we knew this was an initiative that aligned with our core values,” said Honda-McNeil.

“We want to congratulate Pheasant Rump for their vision to capitalize on renewable solar resources and to realize tremendous savings in energy bills over the next 20 years, and invest those savings in other community priorities.”

Enbridge is happy to be a partner with the Pheasant Rump Nakota Nation and to have played a role in helping them realize these positive outcomes, added Honda-McNeil.

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Bag Service 6500, La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0
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~ Please note that any applications received without the proper documentation will not be considered.~

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Senate committee critical of Sask's federal prison system

By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News

The Senate Committee on Human Rights was in Saskatoon recently as part of its Canada-wide study of conditions in federal prisons.

The senators toured the Regional Psychiatric Centre and the Prairie Region Correctional Learning and Development Centre to examine issues related to basic human rights, rehabilitation, and systemic and institutionalized discrimination.

Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard said several major themes have emerged from their study, one of which is the lack of opportunity for inmates in Saskatchewan to engage in meaningful rehabilitation.

“What we’re hearing from Saskatchewan prisoners is that there is no emphasis on rehabilitation,” Bernard said.



Saskatchewan's prisons, including the Saskatchewan Penitentiary, house a high percentage of Indigenous inmates. (Photos courtesy The Senate Committee on Human Rights)



Senators Jane Cordy and Wanda Thomas Bernard tour correctional facilities in Saskatchewan.

“The emphasis is very much punitive – the emphasis that used to be on rehabilitation is gone.”

Bernard said the inmates she has spoken to often complain about having little to do. Prisoners report a lack of access to computers and educational programs, feeling like they are being “warehoused”, she said.

“The post-secondary skill development in a lot of places is just not available,” she said. “To be in an institution for a long period of time and not have the opportunity to do things that contribute to their rehabilitation, that is hugely disadvantaging to people.”

Both inmates and prisoners have reported missing work farms, said Bernard, which allows inmates to engage in meaningful, healthy work and acquire transferable skills.

Another well-documented theme found in the Senate’s study is the extreme over-representation of Indigenous people in Canada’s prisons. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit make up one-third of Canada’s prison population.

Further, according to the most recent Statistics Canada data, 76 per cent of admissions to Saskatchewan jails were Indigenous people, which far exceeds the 14 per cent of Saskatchewan people who are Indigenous. Once incarcerated, Bernard said that Indigenous prisoners are more likely to report discrimination.

“If you look at the statistics, the people who have spent more time in segregation (isolated confinement) are more likely to be Indigenous,” said Bernard.

“In the classification system, an Indigenous person is more likely to be classified as maximum, and it takes longer to cascade down to minimum.”

Conversely, Indigenous people are under-represented in prison staff, said Bernard, particularly those in management positions.

“We have heard this may relate to the Prison Industrial Complex – prisons bring employment to some communities across the country, and some of those federal prisons are in small, isolated communities.”

The number of Indigenous women in prisons has more than doubled in the last

ten years, making them the fastest growing prison population in the country. In Saskatchewan, 85 per cent of female prisoners admitted in 2016/17 were Indigenous.

“What I do know is that many of the women coming into prison, there’s trauma. An unnamed, unresolved history of trauma,” said Bernard, who added there’s a lack of resources to help inmates cope with mental trauma. Many of the mental health professionals have limited hours, sometimes leaving those with special needs unattended.

“(Multigenerational trauma), if that history is contributing to you being in prison, and it isn’t being dealt with, what happens to you when you get out?”

The Senate continues their cross-Canada study, following their Saskatoon visit with a public hearing of expert panelists in Winnipeg.

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Griffith turns athletic success into mentoring role as a coach

By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News

A recent study on the psychological and social benefits of sport conducted by the National Institute of Health, which collected data from 3,668 youth, determined what we all pretty much assume; sports are good for you.

The most common reported benefits were improved self-esteem, social interaction, and lower rates of depression. Tara Griffith, who has been too busy dominating Saskatchewan basketball to comb through these health studies, has arrived at essentially the same conclusion.

“What basketball and sport has done for me: it’s where my self-confidence comes from. My self-respect, my respect for others, my commitment and responsibility,” said Griffith.

“Sport instilled these in me from a young age, and I’m carrying them in my life currently.”

Griffith, a point guard out of the Okanese First Nation, has had the sort of success on the basketball court that might make the likes of Carmelo Anthony jealous. The girl simply just wins. At the Masters Indigenous Games in Toronto this summer, Griffith and her Turtle Island team added a silver medal to her heaping collection.

Growing up in Regina and playing basketball at Balfour Collegiate, Griffith and her squad won the city championship



Tara Griffith (far left) and Turtle Island teammates at the Masters Indigenous Games in Toronto.

every year of her high school career. In her senior year, they didn’t lose a game, including tournament play in Alberta and B.C. She fielded recruitment from universities in Saskatchewan, Regina, Victoria, and McGill, opting ultimately to accept an offer from Lethbridge College, where she won one national title, was named All-Canadian, and was listed in the top five for Player of the Year.

But for Griffith, her excellence on the court comes secondary to how she can use athletics to benefit those around her.

“I think there’s a lack of inspiration for young people. There’s not enough role models for young girls to say ‘hey, she’s do-

ing it. So, can I.’ That’s what I want to do going forward – share my story to hopefully encourage young people to chase their goals,” said Griffith.

While Griffith hasn’t hung up her sneakers yet, she’s turned her primary focus to coaching, where her uncanny success has followed her. At her first coaching effort, the Under 14 girls at the North American Indigenous Games, Team Saskatchewan won bronze – the first medal of its kind for Saskatchewan in 21 years.

“Since then I caught the coaching bug,” said Griffith, who acknowledges she initially wasn’t expecting to be looked up to by her young athletes.

“Early on, I was challenged at the fact that being a coach means you’re automatically a role model. These girls weren’t just looking up to me because I was good at basketball, but because of the life I was living and choices I was making,” she said.

“It was a challenge to accept the role of being a role model, a coach, sometimes even a big sister. But I needed to (take that on) to help me where I am today. It’s only made me stronger.”

Griffith now works daily to improve the mental and physical health of youth in Sports and Recreation at File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council. This summer, she worked for the Toronto Blue Jays Care Foundation on a rookie league development program, which is designed to help youth with skills, experience, and role models to help overcome obstacles.

Going forward, Griffith hopes to engage First Nation communities across Western Canada through the Indigenous Fitness Leadership Program, utilizing both traditional and contemporary games to inspire young minds.

“There’s a lot of diabetes and obesity now, and I feel like it’s often due to a lack of knowledge and history,” said Griffith.

“It’s important to connect back to our history and hopefully those young people can learn to make healthy changes in today’s society.”



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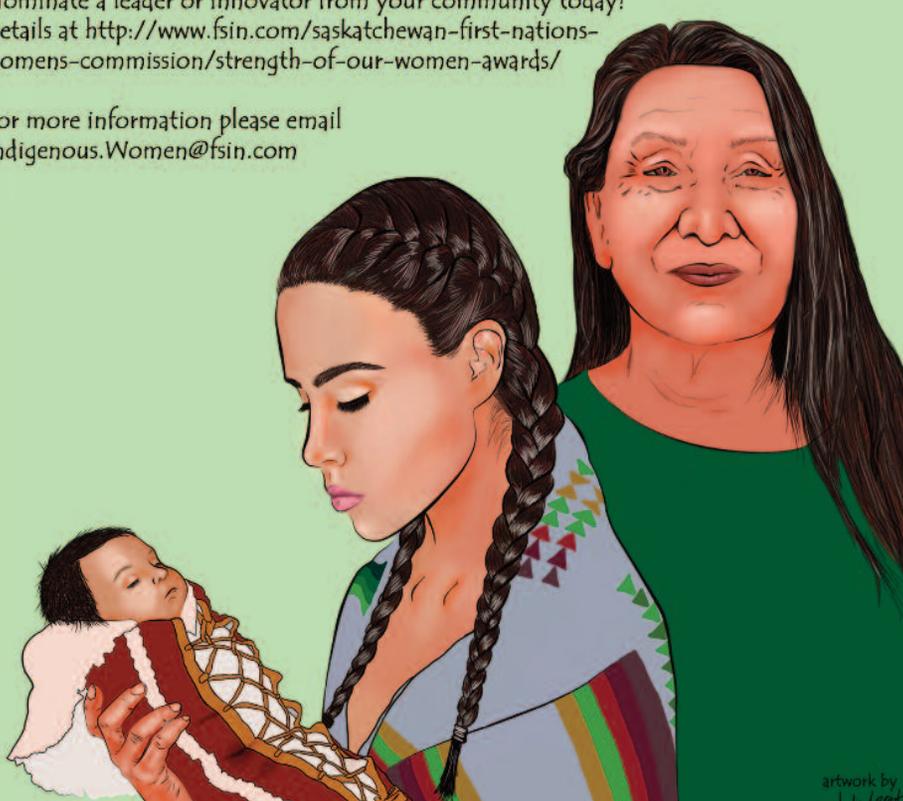


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artwork by
Judy Leat

Volleyball coach nets a sense of belonging

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

Although Coach's Week has passed, it's never too late to acknowledge the work and dedication of the coaches who made an impact in many athletes' lives.

Tara Arcand from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation volunteers her time in Saskatoon to coach volleyball players at all levels.

She grew up playing the sport in high school but due to lack of supports, the passion wasn't there. Years later, she reignited the interest and got back into playing volleyball by joining adult leagues. It was then that she was asked to start coaching the sport to youth. The passion for the sport took off from there.

"I realize how limited the kids were. They didn't have a lot of supports especially with sports development," she said. "When I jumped on, I literally had every single team to try to develop."

Arcand started off coaching at the winter and summer games and was later asked to coach in NAIG. Ever since, she absolutely loved being apart of that process for that event.

"It had such an impact on my life since I started coaching, I changed my lifestyle," said Arcand who is a youth worker at White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

"Everything about coaching changed my life. It has led me to my passion in life."

Coaching volleyball is more than volunteer work for Arcand, it's about being that person to influence the others.

"For me, it's creating that setting where it's a place where we can learn and create a sense of be-

longing," she said.

"Winning wasn't my priority. It was just making sure that the kids had that support to create that sense of belonging and a sense of purpose. It's really important that the kids have the space to build that self-confidence. Over the years, I noticed I'm not the one empowering them but them empowering each other."

This summer, Arcand was asked to participate in DiGGit volleyball summer camp in Saskatoon. There were more than 300 participants, mostly non-Indigenous. She is hoping, with help from other coaches, to build something similar for Indigenous youth.

"There were some Indigenous kids in that camp but not enough," she said. "I know that's an asset. Our Indigenous kids are assets to these mainstream teams and I'm hoping to bridge that gap with other kids."

"We're not building them up enough to be comfortable in that setting. I want to work with other coaches and maybe build another camp like DiGGit for our Indigenous kids."

"Coaching is one of the best things I've done in the last 10 years," she added.

Arcand looks up to Marc Longjohn and Natalie Lukiw who have helped Team Saskatoon Tribal Council during big competitions like NAIG and the Tony Cote Games. Longjohn introduced Arcand to Lukiw to each other years ago, and since, she has learned to create coaching opportunities.

"They were both willing to share so much knowledge with me," she said. "The work they do with youth is very inspiring."

Arcand is also a full-time student at SIIT in her second year studying mental health and wellness.



Tara Arcand has found her passion in coaching the sport for over five years. (Photo submitted)

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BY KIM SENKLIP HARVEY

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Northern Lights powwow honours those who didn't make it home

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

The Northern Lights Casino powwow is always a huge attraction for singers, dancers and spectators and this year, a new dance special was introduced to honour those who did not make it home.

"They danced for those who did not make it back to their communities," said Richard Ahenakew who added there were over 20 pairs who entered the dance special.

"I was pretty nervous but it turned out really good."

Ahenakew, the general manager of the Northern Lights Casino and also the powwow chair, said over the last year he came up with the idea of holding a generational special where grandparents danced with their grandchildren on behalf of the individuals who did not make it home from the residential schools, the Sixties Scoop and women who are missing and were murdered.

Ahenakew's parents are residential school survivors and a lot of his staff have lost family members who disappeared and had never returned home. It was an idea that was more fitting to introduce this year.

"When we started our planning for the powwow, I thought we should do something to honour those that didn't make it back. It was an idea of mine and

with a lot of help, it became the special that it is."

The 19th Northern Lights Casino powwow celebration is also known for the men's fancy dance spotlight special where spectators fill the seats in the crowd. It was something that was missed by many when the NLC did not host their annual powwow last year.

Ahenakew said the casino has switched up how they host its powwow. Instead of hosting the celebration every year, the powwow is now held every two years. It was worth the wait for the committee, dancers, singers and spectators.

"The community here in Prince Albert embraces this powwow. When we didn't have it last year, I know a lot of the people and businesses missed it. When we had our first powwow meeting, to hear everybody talking and laughing, it was to see how much everybody cared about (the powwow)."



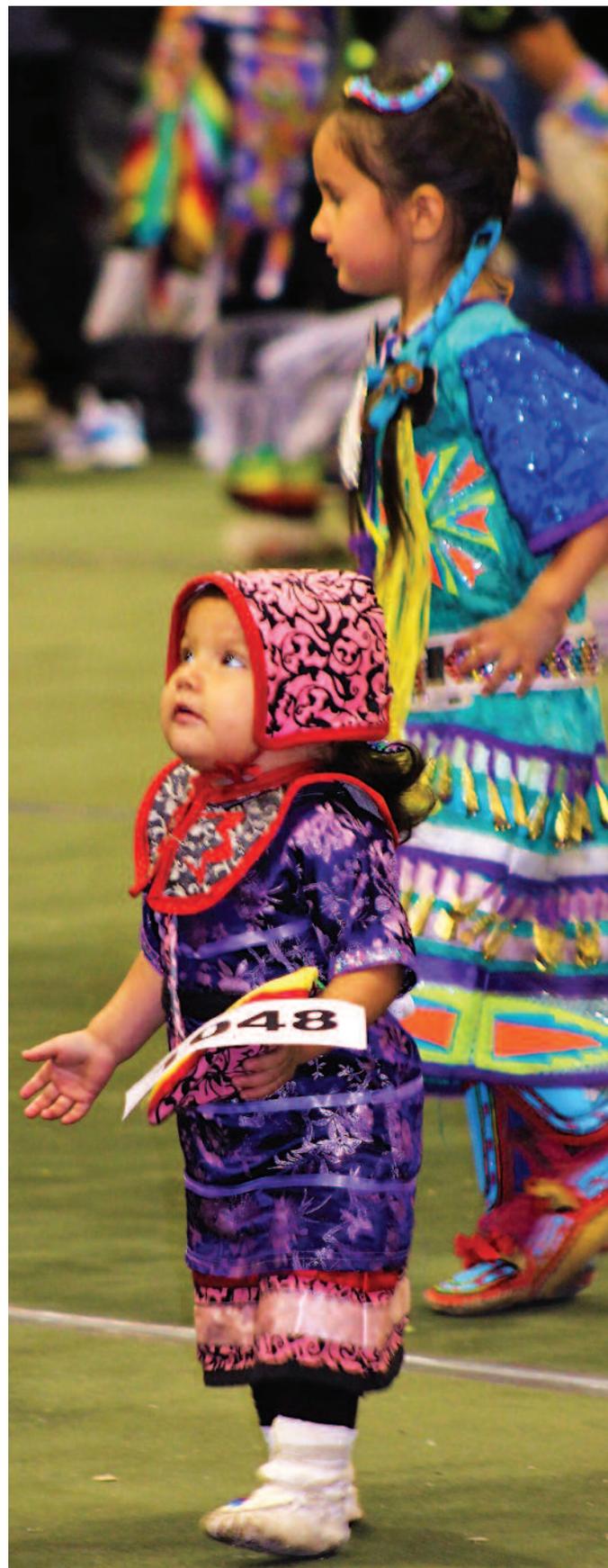
Grandmothers danced with their granddaughters during the Generational Special to honour those who did not make it home from residential schools, the Sixties Scoop and victims of missing and murdered cases.

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)



Flag carriers during the first grand entry at the NLC casino.

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)



Tiny tots dance at this year's 19th NLC powwow.

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

There were fewer registered drum groups than there were in the past but the number of dancers was slightly above average. The overall attendance was above 2,800 people but it's the various dance specials that drew the crowds over the Thanksgiving long weekend.

It costs a significant amount to host the powwow, over \$180,000. The powwow committee consists of over 30 people which is made up of elders, community members and employees of the Northern Lights Casino who gathered to help put on a successful powwow.

"There's so much positive about it. You look at the children out there spending time with their grandparents and their families there," said Ahenakew. "It felt so good."

In 2020, the NLC will host their 20th powwow celebration at the Art Hauser Center.