

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Iron moves from hippos to hockey

Clarence 'Chi-boy' Iron will be doing play-by-play for at least six NHL hockey games per season from the APTN studios in Winnipeg. (Photo by Judith Iron)



By Judith Iron
For Eagle Feather News

Clarence 'Chi-boy' Iron has always been famous for being the only person in the North who can say hipopotamus in Cree.

The Canoe Lake Cree First Nation band member is well-known for his debut as one of the play-by-play commentators in an NHL game between the Carolina Hurricanes and the Montreal Canadiens broadcast on APTN in March of 2019.

In collaboration with Roger's Sportsnet, APTN

introduced the first ever game to be televised in the Plains Cree language. Iron was part of history in the making.

He was recognized as a fluent Cree speaking radio voice in the North. A disc jockey for more than 20 years, Iron is currently employed as a Plains Cree radio announcer for Pinehouse radio station CFNK 89.9 FM. Iron says he looks forward to being on the air every day because he enjoys his work and, even more so, the public he works with.

• Continued on Page 2



INSIDE



THE WHOLE STORY

Veteran Saskatchewan journalist Betty Ann Adam is joining Eagle Feather News as a writer and mentor - Page 4



MN-S President upbeat

Glen McCallum was pleased with what happened last year and he's looking for another good year in 2020. - Page 6



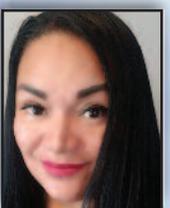
STC SETS A GOAL

The Saskatoon Tribal Council knows what it wants to see in 2020: the return of children to their communities. - Page 7



HIGH HOPES

Saskatchewan athletes are preparing for two big events in 2020 and organizers are hoping for big things. - Page 8



FAIR POLITICAL PLAY

A new law will make it easier for Indigenous candidates to enter the political realm in their communities. - Page 10

The Year in Preview Edition

Coming In February - Health and Wellness Issue

CPMA #40027204

Iron got his start at MBC

• Continued from Page One

In the early 1990s Nap Gardiner of Ile a la Crosse was the CEO of the Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) in La Ronge. Iron worked at MBC with Gardiner who gave him his first opportunity to do play by play hockey in Cree and English when he sent Iron to an all-native hockey tournament in Prince Albert. Soon after, Gardiner sent him to Meadow Lake to do another one.

“That’s how it started. I would announce the game in English, but I would throw in a few Cree words every now and then. That opened doors for me to be recognized by other sports agencies and not just hockey. I even went to Vegas once to cover professional boxing,” Iron said.

Iron’s second claim to fame truly began when it was announced through social media that APTN was looking for Cree speakers for the play-by-play announcing of an NHL hockey game. Iron was contacted by a lot of people who saw the Facebook post asking for Cree speakers to apply to this opportunity.

He was tagged by many who knew him to be capable of announcing hockey games in fluent Cree because he had been doing it informally for years. Friends and family urged him to look into it. Iron was hesitant until he received a call directly from APTN asking him if he would be interested in applying. He did and he got the job.

“I really have to thank and give credit to Nap Gardiner because without the MBC exposure I don’t think I would have had this chance,” said 58-year-old Iron. “Working with APTN and Roger’s Sportsnet is the opportunity of a lifetime and I am really enjoying this experience.”

Iron is looking forward to 2020 and commentating in at least six NHL hockey games per season out of the APTN studios in Winnipeg. When Iron is not play-by-play commentating in the Cree language for APTN and Sportsnet, he will continue his employment as a radio announcer and disc jockey in Pinehouse on CFNK 89.9 FM.

Iron’s next televised Cree play-by-play game will be on January 19, 2020 when the Winnipeg Jets take on the Chicago Blackhawks on APTN.



Clarence ‘Chi-boy’ Iron is a radio announcer and disc jockey in Pinehouse on CFNK 89.9 FM and is famous for being the only person in the north who can say hippopotamus in Cree. (Photo by Judith Iron)

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Bill C-92 offers hope: FSIN

By EFN Staff

Indigenous peoples across Canada, “are on the threshold of a new era of hope,” now that their jurisdiction over Indigenous child welfare has been recognized, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Perry Bellegarde said.

The new law emphasizes the need for the system to shift from apprehension to prevention, with priority given to services that promote preventive care to support families, said Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller.

The Indigenous Child Welfare Act, known as Bill C-92, went into effect on Jan. 1. It pertains to First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

It was created under guidance from the AFN Chiefs-in-Assembly and feedback from the AFN legislative working group from across the country.

“Thousands of First Nations children are suffering in Canada’s discriminatory child welfare system and our energy and efforts should be directed towards the best interests of the child,” Bellegarde said in a Dec. 20, 2019 media release.

“Bill C-92 affirms First Nations jurisdiction over child welfare and that’s what we need to move forward in a good way. We are on the threshold of a new era of hope and opportunity for our children and we do not want to be held back by legal and political manoeuvring.”

Miller has said the new law, co-developed with partners, affirms the rights of Indigenous peoples to determine their laws, policies and practices in relation to Indigenous child and family services. It sets out basic principles that must be followed by every person providing services to Indigenous children.

“The Act demonstrates meaningful implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action, and the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,” Miller said in a prepared statement.

He said it marks a new chapter in Canada’s relationship with Indigenous Peoples and is designed to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous children and youth now and for generations to come.

“Change will not come overnight – the only way to achieve this is to continue to work with our partners through this transition period to make sure the law works for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, and most importantly, for their children,” Miller stated.

The Indigenous Child Welfare Act was introduced on Feb. 28, 2019. It answers the first five Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde says Indigenous peoples across Canada, “are on the threshold of a new era of hope,” now that their jurisdiction over Indigenous child welfare has been recognized in Bill C-92. (EFN file photo)



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A year of change, progress

I think we are ready for 2020. Lots of things are lined up for progress to happen. This situation can be credited to the law of the land and the Calls to Action given to us by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Economically, the duty to consult and accommodate has opened up the door for Indigenous communities across the country to participate in the natural resource wealth that Canada was built on.

No longer on the inside looking out at companies reaping the wealth of our territories, economic development arms and partnerships are taking their place at the table and the big resource developers are encouraging engagement through employment and subcontracting.

Conversely, the duty to consult has also allowed many First Nations to say no to development that they believe will adversely impact their territory. That is their choice. Finally having that choice and jurisdiction is powerful. And that is a good thing whatever side of development you are on.

Call to Action #92 also called on all businesses to take Aboriginal awareness training and encouraged employment of Indigenous people and the development of an Indigenous supply chain. This is happening all across the province.

The TRC also called for improvements to the education and child welfare systems. This one wasn't easy, but with Bill C-92 confirming First Nations jurisdiction of child welfare, expect to see more First Nations go the way of Cowessess First Nation by creating their own legislation and taking control of their own children. This one was long overdue.

Day school and '60s scoop settlements are in progress and the survivors of the residential schools, day schools and the Scoop can start or continue their healing paths.

Speaking of children, we are finally seeing equal funding flow to First Nations schools. There is still a long way to go to make up for decades of underfunding but at least we are starting. Innovative curriculum like land-based learning and strong treaty and Indigenous curriculum are helping our children by seeing themselves and their history in our school work.

And non-Indigenous children are

our province. Language revival is taking place in our schools and homes. Language champs like Simon Bird and his Cree Simon Says Facebook page are making those learnings accessible and fun. Powwows, festivals and ceremony are ubiquitous. It makes you feel good.

It is the investment in our children and culture that will allow us to build our people and communities back up all the while participating in



The Birth of a Family documentary by Tasha Hubbard told the story of the reuniting of Betty Ann Adam, third from left, and her siblings Esther, Rosalie and Ben after being separated during the '60s Scoop. After 29 years as a journalist, Betty Ann retired from the Saskatoon Star Phoenix and we are thrilled to have her leadership, professionalism and story telling ability join Eagle Feather News as an associate editor. We look forward to her stories and mentorship of the next generation of Indigenous journalists.

learning more about our communities and history than any other generation in the history of our country. Many kids are now schooling their parents on our issues and becoming allies in this intergenerational change.

It is also impossible to not notice the cultural renaissance happening in

the economy like everyone else.

Thank you, Justice Sinclair, Willie Littlechild and Marie Wilson. And thanks to those communities and individuals that stood up and took the fight to the courts. Thank you all for your vision and for setting us up for



great things in 2020.

Speaking of 2020, it is hard to predict the future, but I can guarantee one thing, Eagle Feather News will solidify its place as the number one media outlet for all of your Indigenous news in Saskatchewan.

To take us over the top, we are thrilled to announce the addition of Betty Ann Adam to our team. Betty Ann has been a journalist for the Star Phoenix for almost 30 years. Prior to that she worked at the Saskatchewan Indian and is, in my opinion, the most respected Indigenous journalist in our province.

She is a member of the '60s Scoop Indigenous Society and the documentary on her story, "Birth of a Family" is a moving and insightful show on the impact of the '60s Scoop. Betty Ann is a member of the Fond du Lac First Nation.

We have recruited her to help us with editing and telling our stories. We have an agreement with the University of Regina Journalism School to publish students' work and to take on two interns in 2020.

Our editor Jeanelle Mandes and Betty Ann we will be mentoring the new generation of Indigenous journalists and freelance writers we are working with so we can ensure that Indigenous stories are told properly in the province. By us and for us.

I am really looking forward to seeing what unfolds in 2020. Stick with us and we will keep you informed.

All the best in 2020.



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C'mon Stormy, shake a paw ... no biting

They say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. However, as it turns out you cannot teach any dogs any tricks if you don't know anything about dogs.

I assumed that I knew dogs because we always had a dog growing up. But our dog didn't know any tricks either, unless you count acquiring record numbers of wood ticks as a trick. (I do. It was an impressive number.)

I got my dog, Stormy, this summer. Sometimes we stare at each other with zero comprehension. He stares at me as I say things like, "Down, down, down." And he's thinking, "Why does she keep saying 'up', 'up', 'up'."

It's like we needed to learn a language to bridge the communication gap and Esperanto just wasn't doing it. (Sorry, by dork law, I have to make at least one Esperanto reference a year.)

Also, in the city, dogs mostly live inside and that means they need to learn house rules. So, I put my dog in puppy training. We started a little late, so he is six months old and twice as large as all the dogs in the class.

Also, all the other dogs tend to walk into a room and lie down by their owner's foot; my dog Stormy lunges on his leash at every other dog if they so much as breath in his direction. When this happens, it is my duty as a conscientious dog owner, to avoid making eye contact with the other dog owners.

All of the dogs in the class exhibit some bad behaviours. Except for a Shih'tzu that is so well-behaved and adorable that I cannot imagine what behavior his owners are working on? Is it like: "We're here to teach

him to take selfies of himself and then post them on the internet.

Because we're so very tired of people asking us for pictures of him."



Stormy and I started off strong in the class. In the first class, Stormy was the teacher's pet. He was used as an example twice. This really helped to improve my and Stormy's confidence because watching him execute tricks – perfectly – showed me that he could be taught. And Stormy found out that humans are capable of more than just staring blankly at him. We left the class feeling that anything was possible.

In the next class, Stormy learned to lay down but it is the quickest lay down you've ever seen. He's down and then up in about two seconds leaving you to imagine if he actually laid down?

Through class, he also picked up the bad habit of barking. It's something I've never seen before (when we go on walks to the dog park, he generally barks zero times. He does yell when other dogs attack him. This happens a lot.)

The trainer started doing time outs with him which means leaving the training area and then keeping him out

for three seconds and then back inside. It helps a bit but mostly it makes us feel like outcasts as we both stare through the glass at the good dogs and the good owners.

However, we still have the power to surprise everyone. In one class, the trainer asked everyone if their dogs knew how to shake a paw. I, the class bigmouth, was like, "Zoe" (I always address the teacher by her name like the teacher suck up that I am.), "Zoe, this may surprise you but Stormy knows this trick."

And then I said, "Stormy, shake a paw." He held out his right paw and I shook it. He also took a quick nip out of my hand and I screamed – which made both of us look like idiots. I tried to play this off like we had planned it: "It's shake a paw and then sneakily nip your owner's hand – a lot more complicated than the regular 'shake your paw.'"

Everyone looked at us with disgust, even the Shih'tzu.

Stormy was really into variations on tricks that day. Later in the class he turned "lay down" into "crawl into another dog's area to try to steal his treats."

Then just to show that I am as big of a fool as my dog, I dropped all of Stormy's dog treats on the floor – the entire bag. The other dogs lunged at the pile while their owners struggled to hold them. Oddly enough Stormy just sat calmly beside me – the disorder appeared to calm him. Which tells me that he really is my dog.

We are still learning to communicate with one another but he's definitely learning what I like. Such as when dogs don't chew on people's glasses. And I am learning what he likes which as it turns out is chewing on people's glasses.

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MN-S President sees another year of progress in 2020

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum has a lot on his plate representing close to 80,000 Métis people across the province. There was lots of progress at the most recent Legislative Assembly and President McCallum predicts good things for Métis citizens in Saskatchewan including the 50th Anniversary of Back to Batoche celebrations. We posed a few questions to him about goals for the MN-S and what to expect in 2020.

What are a few things you are proud of achieving in 2019?

The year 2019 was a remarkably historic one for Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. The MN-S is on firm footing with the federal government, having signed the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government agreement last June. So far, 10,000 Métis residents have registered with MN-S Registry offices in the province and the number increases every day. Those citizenship cards allowed Métis students to access new post-secondary education funding for tuition and supports, introduced by the Education Minister last year at Batoche. Four hundred students enrolled in classes last fall. The MN-S Housing Ministry introduced the First-Time Home Buyers' Program which is allowing Métis citizens to access monies for a down payment and legal fees. The first person through the approval process received the keys to her house in November. Money has also been made available for emergency repairs and renovations

MN-S ministries held a series of engagement sessions with residents from one end of the province to another on matters from constitutional reform to health. The highlights of those sessions were presented by all ministers including the Health Minister and Child & Family Services Minister, to all members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly in November. More engagements sessions are happening already this year.

Rounding out the year, the provincial government inked a deal with the MN-S to fast-track a final Métis harvesting agreement.

What big things can the Métis of Saskatchewan look forward to from the MN-S and your administration in 2020?

One big goal this year is to focus on our MN-S Registry to ensure the number of Saskatchewan Métis residents receiving citizenship cards continues to increase. That can translate into an increase in student post-secondary enrollment and more proud homeowners.

Programs geared toward early learning and childcare are in the works with a goal to assist young Métis families achieve financial stability. The MN-S Health Ministry continues this year to gather data and information through engagement sessions to form the basis of a Métis-specific health and cancer care strategy in conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan.

This marks the 50th anniversary of Back to Batoche. Plans are underway to make this



In December, MN-S Regional Director Penny Hurton, Saskatchewan Environment Minister Dustin Duncan and MN-S President Glen McCallum signed a Harvesting MOU as Justice Minister Don Morgan looked on. President McCallum hopes to fast track a final agreement in 2020. (Photo by NC Raine)

year's event even more memorable than in previous years.

What is the most important issue you want to focus on in 2020 and why? And how do you achieve it?

The most important focus for the MN-S this year is to remain on a positive course for our citizens. That includes zeroing in on self-government legislation, preparing for a big Batoche celebration and continuing to work on the Ile-a-la-Crosse Boarding School file. Inter-government negotiations on self-government with the federal government are ongoing and this administration is committed to fully realizing that 130-year-old goal. MN-S will continue to put all the necessary programs and people in place to ensure the success of Métis residents in Saskatchewan.

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James (Jim) Kerby, Q.C., ICD.D.

With almost 35 years of experience in corporate/commercial law, Jim understands how business and good corporate governance works. Jim also has 30 years of experience working with First Nation, industry, and government clients regarding First Nation economic development, governance, financial administration, trust administration, Treaty land entitlement claims, tax-effective structuring, and by-law development. Jim currently serves on the boards of a number of Saskatchewan-based companies, including for-profit and not-for-profit.



Sarain Lafond

Sarain is a proud member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and a father of four. Sarain has over 20 years of experience in the field of Commercial banking and First Nations Finance. This experience will be of great value in the further growth and development of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Sarain has worked with First Nations across Western Canada on numerous projects and has a wealth of experience and insight to share with the MLCNIMC Board.



Dr. Jaime Lavallee

Dr. Jaime Lavallee is from the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and is an assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law. Previously, she was the Director of Indigenous Governance, Law & Policy with the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council. Jaime has done work in Nation Building with a focus on governance and economic development. She also spent many years working in cultural rights, specifically with repatriation of ancestors and cultural objects, and edited a book about it (Accomplishing NAGPRA). Jaime holds a J.D. from the University of Toronto, and an LL.M. and S.J.D. in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.



Jason Wong

Jason is a proud citizen of the Gitksan Nation, located in BC, and has completed an Executive Master of Business Administration in Indigenous Business and Leadership. Jason has complemented his business education with Indigenous governance & law, economic development, and nation rebuilding. Additionally, Jason has over 22 years of practical business experience, with the past 15 years focusing on Indigenous education, skills training, and community development.

STC pledges to bring children back to their communities

**By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News**

Chief Mark Arcand and the Saskatoon Tribal Council's (STC) priority for this year is clear: "In 2020, the focus is on helping people," Arcand said.

"We want to better the overall livelihood of all people."

STC's top priority this year is child and family services. On Jan. 1, Bill C-92 was implemented, which allows Indigenous governing entities to develop their own child welfare laws or enter agreements with the federal or provincial government.

The bill was conceived as a step towards lowering Indigenous youth in the child-welfare system but does not oblige the federal government to fund the transition or assist First Nations in drafting legislation. The bill received public criticism from both Arcand and FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron.

"Our priority is Bill C-92 and getting our children back home to their communities," said Arcand.

To date, STC has 38 youth coming home to their communities, with potentially another 94 youth that STC would like to see out of the province's care and back with their families.

"We could have 100 kids out of care



Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand hopes to bring more children home in 2020 and to see action from a reconciliation agreement signed with Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark last October. (Photo by Willow Lagimodiere)

by March, and that's the goal – to get as many kids as we can home. We want zero kids in care. We want kids back at home, back to their identities," said Arcand.

"The second piece is getting full jurisdiction to our First Nations communities. Our goal is to work with the province to help us build capacity so our communities

can have the authority lie with chief and council to be in charge of their communities – to where it always should've been."

Also high on STC's agenda will be continuing to work with those incarcerated, giving special attention to youth. In Saskatchewan, 98 per cent of females and 92 per cent of males in the youth incarceration system are Indigenous – a statistic

that Arcand is adamant on lowering.

"That's totally unacceptable," said Arcand. "Whether individuals are in a correctional facility or halfway house, we want to continue to work with them while they're inside, providing them with some education, some potential employment, so they can go back to work and their families."

Land-based education to bring families closer to culture, language, and identity will be another key focus in 2020, he said.

Finally, STC would like to see meaningful progress in reconciliation in the province. In late October, STC signed a formal agreement with the City of Saskatoon to meet goals over the next five years. Arcand wants to ensure that in 2020, there is action behind the talk.

"I want to enact all these agreements. They're not just for show. Because to be honest, I see a lot of people talking about reconciliation but are they really doing something different?" he said.

"I want to see more First Nations people being employed, I want to see more people educated and working in good professions, and I want to limit the amount of people incarcerated. We can be a leader in 2020 in the city, province, and country in making a difference in peoples' lives."

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High hopes for Winter Games, NAIG

By Julia Peterson
For Eagle Feather News

Saskatchewan's young Indigenous athletes are going for gold as they gear up for two major sporting events in 2020.

In mid-April, over 4,000 athletes from across the province will arrive in Prince Albert for the Tony Cote Winter Games. Then, in May, Saskatchewan is sending a delegation of 520 athletes and coaches to Halifax to compete in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

Tami McKenzie, manager of the Tony Cote Winter Games, says that while the team rosters have not yet been decided, she and the organizing team are already working to iron out the logistics and ensure the games go smoothly.

"We're setting our own stage of what we are going to prepare the games to be, and how we want to see the games," she said. "We're doing everything from making sure that our venues are rented, ordering medals, making sure everyone has accommodations, security – everything."

This year, the Tony Cote Winter Games will feature hockey, volleyball, broomball, basketball, badminton, curling and table tennis. McKenzie, who competed in the Games for over a decade as a hockey, soccer and softball player hopes to recreate her positive experiences for a new generation of athletes.

"As soon as you make the team, you know what to expect; coming to the games, representing where you come from and your community, playing against everyone else from Saskatchewan," she said. "It's just something you look forward to all the time."

Athletes are also looking forward to representing

their communities at the NAIG. Seventeen-year-old lacrosse player Annakah Ratt, who competed in NAIG 2017 as well, is particularly looking forward to getting to know her new teammates better.

"I'm really enjoying getting to know the girls," she said. "They're really great, and I think we're going to be really great together."

Although NAIG is months away, Ratt and her teammates are already training hard.

"About once a month, we have a practice where we'll all get together and develop our skills together," she said.

"Other than that, I'm personally training and getting my body in shape – and, as always, playing lacrosse in the meantime."

According to Darcy Ratt, one of Team Saskatchewan's lacrosse coaches and Annakah's mother, women's lacrosse was almost left off the roster at this year's games.

"When the 2020 games came out, I watched carefully to see if there was going to be lacrosse, and when the announcement came out that there was lacrosse but there was no female lacrosse on there, I got on the phone," she said. "And then all of a sudden, I got a message ... that said 'OK, they've said that the games will have female lacrosse.' So just having the ability to have the females there to play is exciting."

Darcy Ratt and her fellow coaches have entered their NAIG teams in provincial tournaments taking place over the next few months, so the players can get used to competing as a group in a fast-paced environment.

This year, Team Saskatchewan has partnered with Craven Sport Services in Saskatoon to provide training



Mike Tanton, returning Chef de Mission for Team Saskatchewan, hopes to keep TeamSask's record of excellence intact in 2020. (EFN file)

regimens and physical development for the athletes. Mike Tanton, returning Chef de Mission for Team Saskatchewan, hopes this partnership and the longer training season the teams have debuted this year will help the athletes continue Saskatchewan's long legacy of success at the games.

"We have big shoes to fill on all these teams – we have never done worse than second place overall at the North American Indigenous Games," he said. "Finishing first or second every time, it puts a high standard and a high expectation of success on our teams."

Smart Meters to Cut Costs for Businesses

*Paid advertorial

SaskPower is offering a new program that could help cut power costs for businesses. The new smart meter program is a helpful tool for businesses to track their power use. The company is offering 1,000 smart meters to selected small- and medium-sized business across Saskatchewan in the coming months.

Here's how it works: interested business owners can go online to apply. If you are selected, SaskPower will send out a technician to replace your existing power meter with a smart meter. SaskPower provides these meters at no cost. The smart meter will automatically track your power use. SaskPower then bills for the exact amount of power a business uses each month. This means no more estimated bills between actual meter reads.

Smart meters track data points every 15 minutes. Business owners can see this data online. This access to power use data can help businesses cut costs. How much a business saves depends on how much action they take. Businesses in North America that use smart meters have been able to save 2% on their power bill just by having better data. No-cost or low-cost actions can help increase these savings up to 15%. These actions include

"No one is excited about paying bills, but this is one bill we're looking forward to."

improving your heating/cooling schedules and having staff be more conscious of power use.

According to the US Department of Energy: Federal Energy Management Program, some businesses with smart meters have noticed savings up to 45% on their power bills. This happens when

business owners combine tracking their power use with long-term procedure changes. Changes can include upgrading equipment or changing operating procedures.

Safety is another key feature of the new smart meters. All meters have passed third-party testing. They've also passed harsh condition tests, which means that business owners can rely on them during Saskatchewan's toughest weather.

One business owner who has taken advantage of this offer is Alan Dougherty, owner of the Orpheum Theatre in Estevan. The Orpheum opened in 1914 and is a landmark of the community. "The theatre, being this old, has a lot of power consumption," says Dougherty. "The boiler uses it, the air conditioning, the projectors. It has limited insulation because of the brick building. It definitely consumes a lot of power." He was drawn to the program because he wanted to avoid true-



Dougherty inspects smart meter with SaskPower technician. Photo courtesy of Scott Goodwill.

ups and estimated bills.

For interested business owners, installing a smart meter is easy. Contact SaskPower online at www.saskpower.com/smartsignup to sign up. Quantities are limited. If chosen, SaskPower will contact businesses to schedule their free installation. "It was a very simple process," says Dougherty. "[The technician] came and talked to me about what the procedure was—shutting off the main power to the building. It only took two or three minutes. It went very smoothly."

For Dougherty, the smart meters are a

welcome improvement to his business. He's looking forward to seeing his power usage in real time. "No one is excited about paying bills, but this is one bill we're looking forward to."



Nick Crighton, Director of Indigenous Engagement at SCC, and Steve McLellen, SCC CEO

Chamber of Commerce hopes to engage Indigenous business

By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is looking to champion one of Saskatchewan’s biggest economic opportunities – Indigenous business engagement.

On Jan. 21, the Chamber will launch the Indigenous Engagement Charter. The charter will provide business with tools to achieve engagement and assist the business community in the role it must play in reconciliation.

“We have under-utilized the opportunity of our Indigenous population in terms of skills, work readiness, and entrepreneurial activity. We have not brought that opportunity together with the individuals, companies, and communities. It’s well over time that we’ve done it,” said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Chamber.

McLellan said training across the province is job number one. From there, the goal is to have businesses create their own plans that will include internal staff training, procurement with Indigenous business, as well as attracting, hiring, and retaining Indigenous workers.

“Companies, by signing on to the charter, will commit that they are moving their company forward in all these areas in a staged and strategic way,” said McLellan.

“It’s going to mean more companies are Indigenous ready. The biggest benefit will be to those non-Indigenous people who will learn more and engage more. We’ll be better companies, better employers, better individuals, and better Canadians because of it.”

A task force to create the charter was organized after a 2011 report by University of Saskatchewan professor Eric Howe, who wrote that bridging the Indigenous education and economic gap is a \$90 billion opportunity.

McLellan said the charter may also help on-reserve Indigenous business and individuals.

“There are people with great skills who live in First Nations that are remote or northern. Companies need to start saying, ‘Is there any reason we couldn’t have one of our tech people on a First Nation and dialling-in from there?’” he said.

“We want to make sure that we do things smarter and do not limit opportunities just because someone lives on a First Nation.”

Milton Tootoosis, Chair of the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network, said that the charter may provide Indigenous business with increased opportunity to develop and network.

“A charter represents structure, formality, organization, and a commitment to Indigenous business,” said Tootoosis.

He hopes that in the mid-to-long term more First Nations will become members of their local chambers of commerce.

“The vast majority are not members of their local chamber. If they’re not linked into their networks, they could be at a disadvantage because they don’t have that information they require to make more strategic business decisions,” he said.

“This will hopefully encourage them to network, collaborate, and get information. It will build relationships and trust, so this is a good thing.”

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce will launch its Indigenous Engagement Charter in Regina on Jan. 21 and in Saskatoon on Jan. 22.

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Janna Pratt in front of the Saskatchewan Legislature. (Photo submitted by Janna Pratt)

Janna's Law will mean fair play for Indigenous politicians in Sask.

**By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News**

A coming change to Saskatchewan's Employment Act, dubbed Janna's Law, recognizes a Treaty Four woman who fought for equality for First Nations on-reserve leaders.

When Janna Pratt ran for council in the George Gordon's First Nation's 2013 election, she found that she might not be granted a leave of absence from her job with SaskTel.

"If I wanted to run for band election, does my job get held for me?" said Pratt, a customer representative with the Crown corporation for over 15 years. The union told her, "It's protected if it's a municipal, federal or provincial election but band elections aren't covered."

"I went to my union and got involved, thinking this was a labour issue. I've been working on this since 2012 to get First Nations elections covered the same way as municipal, federal and provincial elections," she said.

Pratt did obtain an approval for a leave of absence and started campaigning. She didn't get elected, but she was still bothered that other First Nations workers couldn't be guaranteed leaves to enter on-reserve politics as all citizens are allowed off-reserve.

"I was happy (when) I knew I influenced a number of collective agreements across the country as well as in my own local," she said.

Pratt was invited to conferences to talk about the issue and found many others who related to it. She even called her MLA, Glen Hart, when she received backlash and was questioned about why she wasn't involved when the govern-

ment was redoing the Saskatchewan Employment Act in 2008.

"Well, I didn't know it at that time," she said. "Their questioning threw me back and that is what prompted me to join the labour movement."

In 2016, Pratt took the issue to Saskatoon NDP MLA David Forbes, who saw the exclusion in the Employment Act of people running in First Nations or Métis elections.

"That to me made a lot of sense right away. It was a very wrong thing and we needed to correct that right away," Forbes said.

He wrote to Labour Relations Minister Don Morgan stating this was a concern that needed to be addressed and consultation was needed.

An amendment to the Saskatchewan Employment Act was introduced in the October 2019 throne speech.

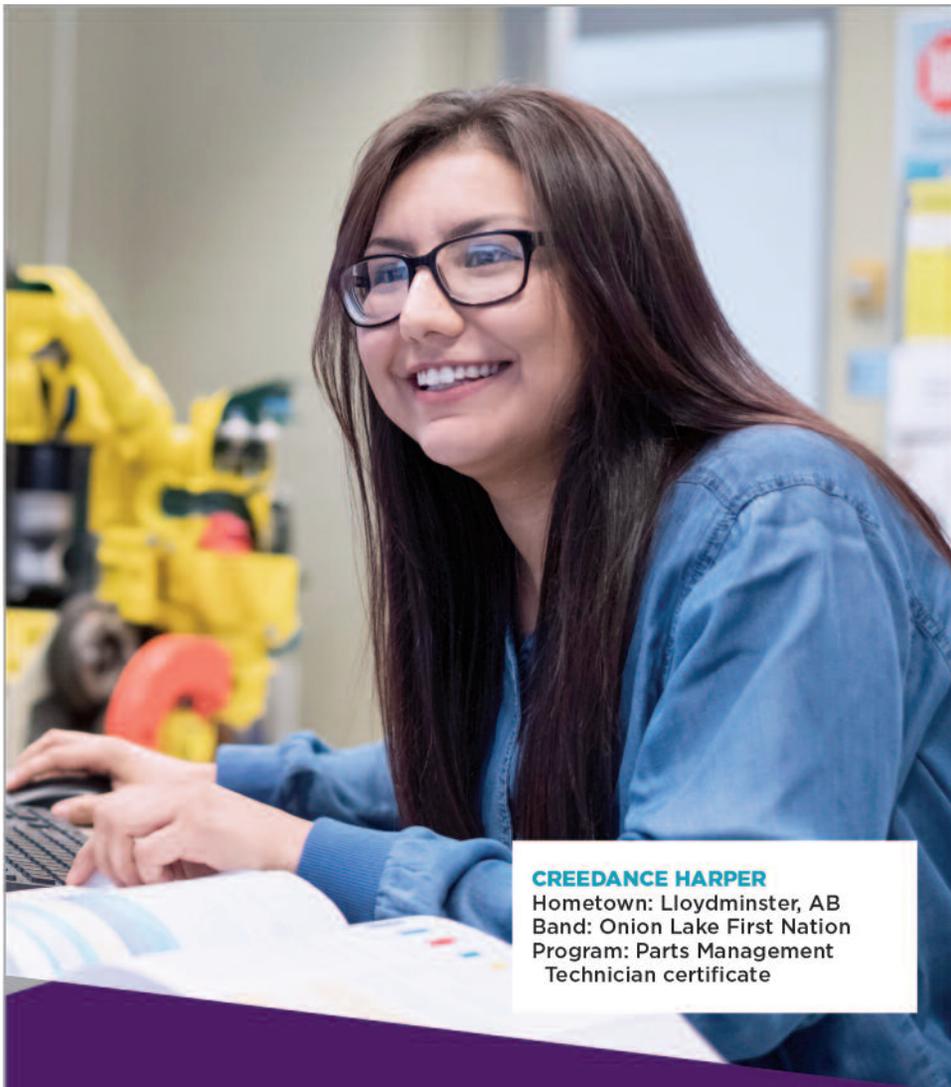
"I am honoured to be part of this process ... so I am referring it to Janna's Law," Forbes said.

When Pratt heard what the legislation would be called she was surprised as she didn't expect it to be named after her.

"I haven't been so happy, but I wasn't doing it just for me, I was doing it for every educated First Nations person that has a job but who wants to go back to their home communities to work for their people," she said.

Over the winter months, the government and the opposition will be talking to people about the amendment. The legislature will resume in March when the bill is expected to be passed and come into law.

"I think this is all done in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation," Forbes said. "I am very proud of this and very hopeful the government will deliver on this."



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Looking forward in 2020

Personally, 2020 is a big year for me. I am going to graduate from law school this year so long as I continue to push through.

I am proud of how far I have come, especially while being a single, Indigenous mother and having the odds stacked against me, and for finding sobriety and taking back control of my life. This has led me to make it through my first degree in 2017 and now so close to my second.

Time has flown since having my daughters in undergrad. Being sober has allowed me to be present in my children's lives while being a role model for them and doing all I can to help them grow into the beautiful, intelligent and strong little girls they already are. No matter what life hands us we are a team and we will get through it together. That is what it means to be family.

I share because I want people to know that they can overcome their darkest days. I want people to know that being sober doesn't make you any less, or mean you are missing out. I have more control over who I am and determining my future. I can feel my spirit more at peace than ever, even

though I still have a lot to work on. This is only the beginning.

A degree is not just a piece of paper for me. I have worked extremely hard for this. Education has freed me so I can get to a place where I am independent. It has been its own institutional colonial torture at times but it takes self-discipline and sacrifice – something I can relate to through ceremony. I have chosen my classes wisely, all geared to do research on discovering the truth of this country and my people.

My identity was lost and my purpose was buried, but through this work I have begun to find who I am and my purpose in life. The truth will set you free. It is not easy to step back and dissect ourselves and our lives so we can rearrange the chaos and take back control, one day at a time.

The system has us playing victim in our own minds when our spirits know we have what it takes within us the whole time. The more our youth

see our people overcoming obstacles, the more they can believe in themselves and know there is a way out. The answer is not in someone handing it to you, it is from our own souls, from knowing our ancestors were hard-working warriors and that is the blood that flows through our veins.

I started this year wanting to be toxic-free, so I began by addressing my past traumas that are unhealed because I have been coping through keeping busy. I can admit I am a workaholic. I would rather put in the work daily and be addicted to succeeding than self-sabotaging, as I was doing before I got sober.

I know my kids will benefit from my hard work. As head of a single-income home, I need to make the sacrifices and put in the work so I can give my children lives with opportunities. It is not easy to actually tend to your wounds instead of masking them and

allowing them to build until you break.

Toxic free, what does that mean for me? It means continuing to work on setting boundaries because other people's choices are out of my control. Therefore, to prevent toxicity from leaking into my life and my children's lives, I need to be aware of what to distance myself from, which are situations that would likely bring dysfunction into our lives. It is like risk assessment; does this add or take away from our life?

I started this process when I became sober and I noticed right away that people, who were only connected to me through unhealthy habits, started to vanish. I have become aware of the things and people that drain me through manipulating me to think I am not good or worthy enough to achieve what it is I am so close to achieving now.

There is so much work we need to do for ourselves so that we can put in the work necessary for the bigger picture.

Globally, 2020 should be a big year for making decisions and finding solutions when it comes to climate change. That is another truth we all need to think about today for all our children.



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Little progress in Sask. year after Sixties Scoop apology

By Betty Ann Adam
Of Eagle Feather News

One year after Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe apologized for the Sixties Scoop, little has changed.

This anniversary falls two weeks after Christmas, with its gatherings of friends and relations. Movies and songs tug at heartstrings with themes of reunions and memories of Christmases past.

For many adults who were children of the Sixties Scoop, the season's reminders of family evoke only painful realizations of their own lack of that precious resource.

It is true that many Indigenous children, who were taken from their families and communities and placed with white foster or adoptive parents, experienced enduring love, belonging, safety and encouragement.

But many had far less ideal childhoods, with varying degrees of deficit in each of those elements of nurturing.

Sixties scoop children raised in white families were completely disconnected from their birth families. Most birth families had no legal rights to see or know about the children.

The children knew only what the surrogate parents told them about their

birth families and that was often based on half-page descriptions provided by social workers who had never met them.

The children grew up between two worlds: neither white, like the families in which they lived, nor feeling like they belonged among indigenous people.

Many scooped children were raised amidst casual or malicious racism. They had no one to whom they could confide the hurt of being a person one was taught to look down upon.

Many children internalized disdain for their own people.

Many were treated like second-class family members.

Many of the adults, who attended Sixties Scoop sharing circles last year in advance of the government apology, described emotional, physical and sexual abuses.

Far too many children suffered the soul-destroying trauma of being moved from home to home. They were expected to call the adults mom and dad and to fit in and be happy children.

When the trauma of losing family was repeated, sometimes as many as 15 times, the children lost the ability to trust or bond with people who were supposed to care for them. They were described in their files as sullen, angry, attention seek-

ing or kids who simply cried for no reason.

As adults, some of the Sixties Scoop children still maintain relationships with their adoptive or foster families and still celebrate the holiday with them.

A great many of the adoptive and foster relationships have deteriorated or disappeared entirely.

Many also have sought out their birth families. Reunions have had mixed results: some people renewed their family ties and now celebrate Christmas with them.

Others have been disappointed, having hoped for the unconditional love and support they imagined family could provide, but finding that lifetimes spent in different worlds made them strangers with meager common experience and little to see them through the trials of day-to-day realities.

As a result, many former children of the Sixties Scoop walk alone.

Many have children who don't know any grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins to visit on Christmas day.

It's one thing to avoid family gatherings, it's another to have no family to gather with.

Survivors in six Saskatchewan lo-

cations told the government last year that they appreciated the sharing circles organized by the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan.

In the circles, they found fellowship and solace, often for the first time, among people who understood their experience and they said they wanted more such circles in more locations.

The Minister of Social Services told the Society that the government wanted to continue working with them and indicated they liked the sharing circles model.

Last year, Premier Moe apologized, saying the province failed survivors. He promised to "honour and respect (their) experiences," and to learn from them.

He then listed ways the government is trying to improve current day child welfare, but seemed to throw up his hands in relation to the Sixties Scoop survivors.

"There is nothing we can offer that will fully restore what you have lost," Moe said.

As survivors, we know that's true, but there are things the government can do to help.

It's time to start by funding regular, dedicated Sixties Scoop support groups throughout the province.

Sask Health Records Now Available Online

**Paid advertorial*

A new feature of the Government of Saskatchewan website allows Saskatchewan residents to access their medical records online. MySaskHealthRecord is a partnership between eHealth Saskatchewan and the provincial government. It gives Saskatchewan residents access to their health records with their Saskatchewan.ca account.

Residents of Saskatchewan now have access to their own personal health information. They can see lab test results, medical imaging reports, and their clinical visit history (like hospital stays). Users can also add more information to their MySaskHealthRecords account. Doing so allows them to set medication and appointment reminders, upload information from health devices, and track and generate their own health reports. More features will roll out in the future.

To access their health information online, residents can sign up at eHealthSask.ca. To do so, you need to be over the age of 18, have an active health card, and a piece of SGI photo ID. For increased security, a PIN code will be mailed to you. Once you receive

it, enter it online at eHealthSask.ca to fully activate your account.

Safety and security are eHealth's top priority. The highly personalized login ensures users are protected. The site uses firewall technology along with extra internal security. Users can trust that their information is secure.

Dr. Fourie, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, is excited about the benefits for the patients of Saskatchewan. "I think a lot of patients are ready to take charge of their own health," says Fourie. "They just needed this opportunity to get their information in hand." He hopes MySaskHealthRecord empowers patients. "By looking at their own results, they can be part of the team that manages their care."

Fourie also encourages healthcare providers to sign up. "The reason that I want to sign up, is not only to take care of my own

“In the end, I think all of us will be better off with this.”

health care, but to learn the system so that I can know what [my patients] are looking at." He predicts that MySaskHealthRecord will im-



prove doctor's relationships with patients because they'll have a better understanding of their health.

One thing Fourie wants patients to remember is that they should still talk to their doctor to understand their medical reports and results. "It's going to be important to have the discussion that even though they are seeing the results for themselves, it is still important they follow up with their physician and have that discussion on context," says Fourie.

Overall, eHealth expects MySaskHealthRecord to greatly benefit the province of Saskatchewan. Patients will get their results faster, be prepared for travel, and be informed on their health. Says Fourie, "It's an enhancement to the care that we deliver."



Dr. Philip Fourie, Deputy Chief Medical Officer.
Photo courtesy of Scott Goodwill.

Moon Time just got a little easier for Indigenous girls in the North

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

A non-profit organization is helping to keep Indigenous girls in northern Saskatchewan in school by providing free menstrual products.

Moon Time Sisters received a \$10,000 boost last year when founder Nicole White was named a finalist in the L’Oreal Paris Women of Worth campaign.

White started Moon Time Sisters in 2017 after reading about girls in northern Saskatchewan who were missing school because they didn’t have access to feminine hygiene products. White decided to take on the issue.

“We do a big collection drive in the spring-time and we get all the products to the northern communities,” she said. “Our mission and mandate are to serve La Ronge and communities north of it.”

White chose Moon Time Sisters as a name because she wanted to honour girls’ sacred time.

“Unfortunately, menstruation has become shrouded in shame and spoken of in the shadows. Honouring our moon time is about recognizing young girls’ sacred power during our time,” she said.

“I thought it was an apt name to recognize the sisterhood that has come together to tell young girls in the North that we honour them and we have their backs.”

“We have heard from some moms whose

daughters received the menstrual products from us,” said White.

“I (received) a great call one time from a mother who has three teen girls at home and she cried because she never had the opportunity to provide her girls with products where they used socks instead,” she said.

Moon Time Sisters works closely with schools in northern communities where staff identify what the students’ needs are for menstrual products.

“We always listen to what the community says they need. We don’t question or judge. We are here to lift up and support and reduce a barrier to a young girl completing her education,” White said.

The organization receives donations of pads, tampons and even menstrual cups at collection points throughout the province to add to the big distribution, which occurs in the spring to coincide with International Women’s Day.

“Every year we average between 80,00 to 90,000 products that are sent to northern communities. I imagine this year will be bigger because of the L’Oreal Women of Worth contribution,” said White.

Last year, White was one of 10 women from across Canada who received \$10,000 to amplify the work of their organizations after she was nominated as one of the L’Oreal Paris Women of Worth.



Volunteers at the Moon Time Sisters shopping for menstrual products to give out to young Indigenous women in northern communities in the spring. (Photo courtesy of Moon Time Sisters)

BOOKS & SLIDES BOARD GAME

48	49 <small>You watched TV instead of doing your chores.</small>	50 <small>Sing your favourite nursery rhyme.</small>	51	52 <small>Your favourite book and why?</small>	53 <small>You played video games instead of doing your homework.</small>	FINISH!		
47	46	45	44	43 <small>What is something you are working to improve?</small>	42	41	40 <small>List five words that rhyme with cat.</small>	
32 <small>Name a place you want to visit and share why you want to go there.</small>	33	34	35 <small>Oops, forgot to put your laundry away!</small>	36	37	38	39	
31	30 <small>What's your favourite vowel, I, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y? Why?</small>	29 <small>Oops, forgot to brush your teeth!</small>	28	27 <small>Share one thing you learned today.</small>	26	25 <small>Share one thing you learned today.</small>	24 <small>You didn't return your library book on time.</small>	
16 <small>What is something you are working to improve?</small>	17 <small>Forgot to make your bed.</small>	18	19	20	21	22	23 <small>You didn't return your library book on time.</small>	
15	14	13	12	11	10 <small>Can you roll your tongue? Cross your eyes? Wiggle your nose? Show your classmates.</small>	9	8	
START!		1 <small>Count down from 18 to 1.</small>	2	3	4 <small>Share your favourite family story.</small>	5	6	7

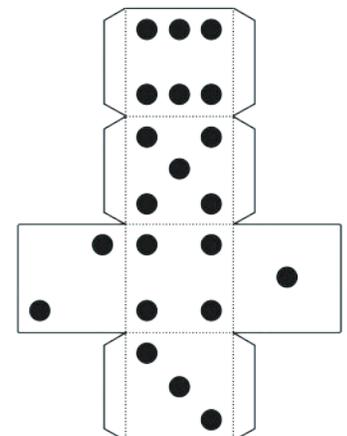
YOU’LL NEED:

- Game pieces (use your imagination!)
- Scissors • Tape • Two to six players

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make the die with your friends or family. Cut out the die, fold on the dotted line, and put together with tape.
2. Find and place game pieces on the START square.
3. The person who has the earliest birthday in the calendar year rolls first.
4. Move the game piece forward the number that is shown on the die.
5. If you land on a book, answer the question or do the activity.
6. If you land on a slide, you must slide back down the gameboard.
7. The first person to reach the FINISH wins!

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RCMP mentors with youth participants take part in a team building exercise at RCMP Academy, Depot Division in Regina January. (Photo by Brad Bellegarde)

Indigenous youth get to see the other side of policing

By Brad Bellegarde
For Eagle Feather News

Indigenous youth in Grades 9-12 from across the country converged at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy, Depot Division in Regina, for a one-week leadership workshop.

Fourteen youths were selected to participate in the workshop to create community action plans focused on issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, boredom and drinking and driving.

Once completed, the youth will start implementing the action plans at home with their local RCMP detachment.

“I wanted to see what it was like to be on the other side,” said 15-year-old, Isaiah Daniels, from Swift Current.

“I wanted to see what it was like to be a good kid and not be as bad as I once was,” said Daniels who is in Grade 10.

Daniels is a member of One Arrow First Nation and grew up in Prince Albert before moving to Swift Current for his high school years.

He admitted to having run-ins with the law throughout his younger years, but spending time with his RCMP mentor has changed his perspective about police.

“I didn’t really like them,” he said. “I just thought that cops were bad guys and you shouldn’t be around them then I met (Const.) Curti here and he talked to me like a regular person. It changed my perspective (about) a cop.”

Const. Tony Curti is a 17-year veteran of the RCMP and serves as the high school resource officer. He says the biggest thing is to make connections with the youth.

“Without connections we’re going to be treading water, we’re going to be lost,” he said.

“Most communities have problems with drugs, it’s a supply and demand (issue),” he said. “We have to get rid of that demand.”

“We can’t just keep pointing our fingers, saying drugs are bad because kids aren’t going to buy in to (just) that.”

Curti said that if officers were more engaged with the youth, it could change the current situation with drugs and alcohol use among teens.

Both Curti and Daniels agree that there is a need for mutual respect from community and law enforcement.

Colin Mitchener, 16, who made the journey from Inuvik, NWT, said he wants to create a plan that tackles the root cause of drug and alcohol use.

“The main issue is boredom,” he said. “There’s not

a whole lot for teens to do around the community.”

Mitchener said that a lot of kids his age are involved in school sports and when the school year ends there is nothing to occupy their time.

“I think if there were more things in general to do there wouldn’t be a big (drug and alcohol) problem,” he said.

Throughout the week participants heard from the founder of Pink Shirt Day, toured First Nations University of Canada and listened to a keynote address from by North America’s first professional transgender athlete, Harrison Browne



Constable Nick Mysko (centre) and Isaiah Daniels (right), take direction from Louis Zuniga, manager, RCMP National Youth Services during a team building exercise at RCMP Academy (Photo by Brad Bellegarde)

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Dream became reality as Peepeekisis Cree Nation turns over herd of 22 buffalo to Zagime Anishinabek

**By Julia Peterson
For Eagle Feather News**

There were cheers and celebrations at Zagime Anishinabek First Nation earlier this week as 23 buffalo leaped off a truck and ran single-file into their new enclosure.

The buffalo are a gift from Peepeekisis Cree Nation, drawn from the hundred-strong herd Peepeekisis has raised since they received a gift of 22 buffalo from Alberta rancher Ron Steckly in 2014.

“I really feel that some of the prayers and some of the help that we asked from the spirits and our ancestors in our journey to self-determination came true,” said Zagime Anishinabek (formerly Sakimay) First Nation Chief Lynn Acoose.

“I think our ancestors and our spirit helpers were there. They were part of the process to help us see this dream become a reality.”

Acoose says the new herd will also help ensure food security and sovereignty on the reserve.

Many children were present to watch the buffalo arrive and Peepeekisis headman Alan Bird says their reaction was a joyful sight.

“That day, with all those kids there, I was standing at the front ... and I yelled: ‘Are you children happy? The buffalo are home on your land.’ And they were all yelling and cheering, and it

made me feel really good. I know the feeling, because it happened to us five years ago.”

Steckly was inspired to gift the buffalo six years ago by members of Loko Koa, an organization of Christian Samoan-Canadians headed by Lima Nanai.

“Lima (Nanai) asked, how can we serve the people?” said Loko Koa board chair Wayne Johnson.

“What is the area where we can help bring back their identity in a practical way? And after praying, his heart told him ‘I want to give a herd of buffalo.’”

Johnson then approached Steckly and asked if he would consider gifting a herd of buffalo to Peepeekisis Cree Nation. Though he originally asked for 10, Steckly decided to give 22.

“It has been a very good experience,” Steckly said. “We’ve made a lot of good friends, and I would do it all over again. If someone else feels that they’re led to do this, I say, don’t hesitate.”

Acoose is already planning to pay the gift forward once Zagime Anishinabek’s herd has grown.

“We’re going to start reaching out to local First Nations right away,” she said. “We’ll start trying to locate who we want to provide these buffalo along to, and we’ll help get them prepared. They’ll learn along with us.”



Alan Bird and Blain Pinay of Peepeekisis Cree Nation look out over part of their buffalo herd. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Johnson)



Ron Steckly (L) and Lima Nanai. Nanai’s organization, Loko Koa, facilitated Steckly’s original gift of 22 buffalo. (Photo courtesy of Wayne Johnson)











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