

Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

Warriors remembered at solemn ceremony

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Twenty veterans bowed their heads in silence at an intimate and emotional gathering held at the Dakota Dunes Casino. As they have for many years, Canadians met in school gyms, town halls, arenas and outside at the local veterans cenotaph for Remembrance Day.

At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day on the eleventh month, millions of Canadians came together to remember and honour their warriors with a bugle blaring the Last Post and a solemn moment of silence.

Ray Sanderson was a Corporal in the Canadian Army and served for seven and a half years on the oc-

cupying force in Germany during the 1960s. He came to the ceremony to remember his family and fellow Aboriginal soldiers.

"This day means a lot. I was in Europe and saw lots of the graves and graveyards. I toured. My grandfather he fought at the Battle of the Somme so I went there and to Dieppe and to the cemeteries in Holland," said Sanderson, a member of the Chakastaypasin First Nation.

"Many of our young Aboriginal men went to war and did not come back. This is an emotional time of the year for me as I had two grandfathers in WW I and my five uncles were in WWII and that is where we lost my dad."

Sanderson was frightened to die overseas when his unit was prepared for the start of World War Three.

"We were ten minutes from the next war during the Cuban Missile Crisis and with the Berlin Wall. It was that close. I was thinking to be buried in a foreign land was my worry. And to see my friends getting hurt or killed."

Frank Tomkins never quite made it overseas but his family certainly suffered from the war.

"When I think of those killed, over 50 million people. That is something to think about during Remembrance Day. When I lay the wreath I think of my school chums. Boyhood friendships that should last forever. When you know you lost real good buddies and you are still here. It is times like this that are very emotional for me."



Frank Tomkins, a Second World War veteran, placed the wreath at the Dakota Dunes ceremony.

Tomkins was too young to enlist and by the time he made it into the army and was headed overseas, the war was finished.

"There were five of us brothers that served in that war, I was the only one that didn't go overseas," said an emotional Tomkins at the ceremony. "Twenty-seven of my extended family were in WWII and we had two uncles in WW I.

"Three of my school chums lied about their age ... one died at age 17 in Ortona. Nov. 11 is always an emotional time for me. I lost school friends, relatives, and a number of others were wounded."

At the ceremony, Petty Officer Second Class Bill Busche played an emotional Last Post.

"The Last Post is an act of remembrance ... so at events like this and at funerals, it means more to me to be able to play some thing. It is an expression of me and you can put emotion into it."

This is the first annual veteran's event for the Dunes.

"Our intention is to honour the veterans," said Dunes marketing manager Craig Wuttunee. "It is nice to see the familiar faces of the veterans. They are at all

the community functions and they add so much to our community."

During separate emotional and powerful addresses, The Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight and Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas both showed their thanks for the veterans.

"Many of our communities had the highest enrollment per capita and they did not have to," said Chief Thomas. "There was pride and commitment in those people. We do little compared to what they did back then."

The Treaty Commissioner was very direct and personal.

"I want to thank you for fighting for me," he said.

The community once wasn't so kind to First Nation and Métis veterans. Tales abound about being denied any benefits like land, cash or education opportunities.

"There were Métis people who were roadside allowance, around 25 veterans, around a lake close to Regina," said Tomkins. "When they went to war, the government bulldozed their houses.

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Welcome to our
Veterans Issue
Coming In December:
Our Christmas Edition
CPMA #40027204



Petty Officer Bill Busche played a solemn last post on his trumpet.

Veterans returned home to face discrimination

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“The Métis people were treated worse than any other after the war. The government has given \$20,000 to Newfoundlanders for having to go and do logging in Scotland during the war. Our guys had their houses bulldozed, no compensation, not enough education to go after their rights and no one to fight for them.

“Lots came from places in the bush, far from agencies. We wound up picking rocks or working the sugar beet industry. Lots of our guys joined the army to get away from the hardship, but got more hardship when they came back. Once we were in the army, everyone was treated the same, but when we came back it was a completely different story.”

The fight for compensation for Aboriginal veterans has been a long and frustrating battle. There was a \$20,000 settlement a few years back, but some did not benefit at all. Using his management skills he learned in the Army, Ray Sanderson acts as the Vice President with the First Nations Veterans Association.

“I look after the northern part of the province and we are still working on getting benefits for some. It is frustrating because we were equal in the army,” said Sanderson.

“I never felt any discrimination in the army, not once. But when I came home and hit Saskatoon, I could feel it right away. In the army, we were all brothers and we had to protect each other.

“I never experienced anything like it here. We have to educate our children and grandchildren to never forget these veterans. It should be taught in the schools. It is very important that we never forget what those veterans did.”

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Indian Métis Friendship Centre celebrates 40 years

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

For the past 40 years, the Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre has been “home fire away from home” for many people.

That was the theme, coined by SIMFC board member Dale Ahenakew, to celebrate the Centre’s 40th anniversary of providing services and programs to Aboriginal people in the city.

“To be still operating after 40 years is a real milestone,” says Executive Director May Henderson, who has been in that position since 1996.

“I sat on the Prince Albert board and never thought I’d be an executive director, let alone celebrate 40 years with one.”

To celebrate the achievement, SIMFC first held an open house and later a banquet. At the open house, a mural covering one entire wall was unveiled that depicts First Nations and Métis culture. It was donated by the Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming. And, in keeping with the theme, those attending the open house sat around a ‘fire’ and shared their memories of the friendship centre.



Elder Mike Maurice is a familiar face at the Friendship Centre.

Lyndon Linklater remembers frequenting a centre in North Bay, Ontario, while he was a youngster.

“We grew up in poverty and growing up in the city, there was nothing for us to do. But they had programs at the friendship centre where we’d go to camp in the summertime, we’d play hockey in the wintertime, we could do gatherings like powwows and feasts.

“It was a vehicle that we used to assist us in our daily struggle growing up in an urban centre.”

Even when Linklater grew up, he didn’t forget about the good times he’d had at the centre. Eventually, Linklater moved to Saskatoon to attend university.

“And, of course, one of the very first places that I came to was the friendship centre. Because for me, the friendship centre was a place where I could meet people that I could relate to.”

Ashley Kayseas, program coordinator at SIMFC, says that’s exactly why having a friendship centre is so important and still relevant 40 years after it

first opened its doors.

“It’s really a first stop for a lot of Aboriginal people coming to Saskatoon from the smaller centres. A lot of people come here wanting to know which services are available, what programs are available,” Kayseas says.

“It’s a way for them to kind of touch base and keep their culture going by joining our cultural activities.”

Elder Mary Roy remembers a time before the friendship centre was there.

“We were always being pushed out of different places. ‘Call the police on them, they’re drunk.’ They didn’t realize what we had to go through when we were younger.

“Even today when I see a person come in right away people figure ‘Oh, he’s drunk.’ But he’s not. He’s probably hungry. He just wants to shake hands.”

The first musings of a friendship centre in Saskatoon began in 1966. The movement for a friendship centre grew until in 1967, five people drafted a proposal for the creation of a centre to help in the transition from reserve to urban life.

SIMFC began developing its programs in the early seventies. Two initial programs involved family workers and court workers programs. The family workers program operates in five main areas: referrals, housing, advocacy, counseling, and providing workshops such as money management and parenting classes.

In terms of the court worker program, court workers helped clients in attaining counseling or legal representation, and if needed, assisted their clients throughout the entire legal process.

Today the friendship centre offers a variety of programs, including restitution program for victims of crime, recreational and cultural programs, and has domestic violence workers and still has family workers from when it initially opened up.

Recently, it has also brought a homelessness researcher on board.

In conjunction with the family violence prevention program, SIMFC also offers workshops, such as Cycle of Violence /Breaking the Cycle, Leaving an Abusive Relationship, Effects of Violence on Children, Self-Esteem, Anger, Drugs/Alcohol, and a Holistic Perspective to Healing.

Jason Albert, chairman of the board of the directors and former youth representative on the board, says he’s particularly proud of the SIMFC’s youth programming.

“Where we have various programs that we offer on a regular basis to our youth and we have a youth on our board of directors, which is pretty significant, and we’ve had that for a number of years now. And have them have a say and have a voice on our board of directors is pretty significant for us.”

There are plenty of activities for the youth, including mini powwows,



May Henderson, Friendship Centre Director and Lyndon Linklater look on as people share their stories around the home fire.

cultural camps, Aboriginal language classes, youth conferences, Christmas and Halloween parties, youth mentor programs, and summer programs.

At the banquet celebrating 40 years, lifetime SIMFC members were recognized. Wilf Blondeau and Claude Petit were honoured for all their work with the centre, as were Mary and Lawrence Roy, both of whom Henderson says have been very active at the centre for a long time.

“Not only do they serve as Elders but they bring produce in every week for the clientele and the Elders.”

Volunteers were also recognized at the banquet, including Rene Tuttle and Joann Lancebe, as well as youth Veronica Keith. Henderson says Keith has been a huge help.

“Just came off the street and offered to help. She came to three or four big events for us. She came and spent all weekend doing FolkFest,” says Henderson.

“We had a youth group, and none of them came out, but she did.”

Henderson says part of what makes the centre so special is that it’s like a

family. She says there are board members as well as employees who are second-generation SIMFC members like board chair Albert and program coordinator Kayseas.

She says there are also people who have worked with the centre for a long time, like comptroller Paul Koo who has been there 29 years and family worker Keith Chilton who has been there around 20.

“You’ve been through our lobby. Every given day there’s 20, 25 people, sitting around, coffeeing, visiting. It’s a welcoming place, and it’s a warm place,” says Henderson.

“And it’s a place where they can reconnect with their family and friends and their culture. I think it’s a needed place. I can’t see the city without it.”

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Editorial

Warriors still making sacrifices

It is always quite an emotional event to cover Remembrance Day ceremonies as a reporter. You are there to pay respect to those passed and those that have served our nation, but at the same time you need to get that perfect photograph and that evocative interview.

It is always very difficult to try and keep your own emotions down and out of the story, but it is impossible to not be moved on Nov. 11.

The wail of the bugle and the bag pipes. The ritual, the barking of orders, the seriousness of it all. These old soldiers lost their friends and family to horrors untold and they gave of themselves selflessly.

For their sacrifice we must remember them. Sadly, we are getting to the point where we are losing so many of them. But the tradition keeps on in their families and new generations of soldiers have come along. It seems as though the years of peacekeeping have lulled us into thinking we don't have war torn soldiers any more, when we do.

I met an old friend the other day, freshly back from his second long stint in Afghanistan. Great family man with Métis roots deep in St. Louis, Saskatchewan. I immediately asked about the experience and how he was. He said they only gave him a short time to decompress after being flown out and was wound up.

He tried to tell me about a bit of his experience but had to stop and compose himself not five seconds in.

Once he was composed he told me about the heat. It was over 50 degrees Celsius and the stifling heat was relentless. Imagine being out in full gear, heavy boots, fatigues, gloves, helmet and 60 pounds worth of gun and supplies on your back. Imagine being in full battle, running flat out and fainting from the heat. It happens all the time.

My friend also told me he coordinated ramp ceremonies for when they were shipping home the body of a fellow soldier.

These men and women are in a full blown war and many are coming back with post traumatic stress disorder, just like their predecessors who fought in the Second World War and the Korea conflict.

These men and women are also coming home as amputees, deaf, blind, mutilated, paralyzed and sometimes dead. And these men and women are coming home as brave soldiers and heroes in our communities and living it.

Remembrance Day is so very important and it transcends one day because we should be remembering the sacrifice of each of those people every day. That is why a tear comes when that veteran gives a speech with trembling voice, or when the snowbirds fly over in the missing man formation, or when the bugle wails that Last Post for that lost soldier who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Very difficult stories that must always be told.

Power movies tell important stories

A great place to be in late October was the Roxy Theatre on 20th in Saskatoon. On the Monday, the Roxy hosted a screening of *Out in the Cold*, a movie that stimulates discussion about the old star light tours where cops drop dudes out of town for a walk.

I was on a panel with Police Chief Clive Weighill and activist Priscilla Settee. The message from the audience was that the police still have work to do on improving their relations with the Aboriginal community and they cited some instances as proof.

But overall, there was much less anger at the police than at any time in the past decade.

Police Chief Weighill certainly heard those voices that night believe me. His repeated mantra was: we don't want bad cops, please report them. Let's work in partnership to eliminate poverty and crime. He was on target.

It was nice to see the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations present the Saskatoon Police Service with an Eagle Staff at their annual pow wow.

The controversial *Out in the Cold* drew almost a full house. Two nights later, Eagle Feather News hosted a screening of the documentary *One of One Percent*, the *Sandy Ahenakew Story*, the story about one of our writers who survived breast cancer.

Not a controversial show, so a much smaller crowd was moved to tears by this touching documentary about cancer and a family. The show was riveting. We will bring it back.

• • •

And last but not least, we have to mention that our friend Andrea Menard recently released her Christmas album entitled *Sparkle*. You can check out a teaser at www.andreamenard.com

Obama a model for our leaders

A campaign that began quietly in Illinois quickly captured America and the world's attention. "Yes we can" became a mantra repeated over and over again and repeated beyond the borders of America and on Nov. 4, it became "yes we did".

Hope and change – isn't that what every generation wants? We aspire to improve and build upon our parents' paths and lay a solid foundation for future generations.

This is part of what Treaties and Scrip were aiming to accomplish. So why were so many people around the world inspired by the message of Barack Obama's campaign?

His message reverberated through the public, captured the attention of a nation and the world, and on Nov. 4 the masses of America chose hope and change over the status quo. The feelings people shared around the world that night will be forever be etched in history – the night Barack Obama defied the odds and became the first African American man to be elected the President of the United States of America.

Barak Obama's message is a great example of bringing people together to create positive change a message that has resonated with Canadian First Nations and Métis peoples.

Canadian First Nation and Métis people were not immune to the excitement, particularly when President-elect Obama included Native Americans in his acceptance speech. His pursuit to engage First Nation and Métis people is well known by his commitment to hiring a special policy advisor on Native American Indians. First Nation and Métis people have also been inspired by his background, determination and humility. The fact that Barak Obama inspired many people to vote for the first time shows that each vote really does count, and that collectively this is enough to change the direction of a country.

Yet, on an honest note, perhaps we were captivated because of the lack of leadership in our own country and backyards. The *Globe & Mail* (hardly a publication representative of First Nation/Métis thoughts) ran a poll on Nov. 4 asking Canadians if they were more interested in the American election than the Canadian and 56 per cent said yes.

Yet we just had an election and, in essence, elected McCain's counterpart and further had the lowest turnout in recent history. Reasons?

Perhaps the messages of Barack Obama were simple and positive. His messages were about hope, unity that could fuel positive change for our future and in addition to doing that he welcomed anybody who wanted to be a part of the process. His campaign utilized old and new techniques that engaged a cross section of people.

By connecting with those grassroots people he was able to start a modern day democratic revolution in which everyone's voice counts.

One comment that stands out was made during a speech he was delivering to a large gathering of people who began to boo when he mentioned John McCain. His response to the booing was, "You don't need to boo, you just need to vote."

Exactly. We need to vote and we need to vote intelligently. Leadership should be about building bridges and establishing relationships and inspiring people. It shouldn't be about the blame game and living in the past. President-elect Obama honoured and respected the past but based his campaign on the future.

Perhaps our leadership should take some tips and do the same.

(Editors Note: This article was submitted to Eagle Feather news by a reader. Unfortunately the author of this excellent piece cannot be identified, but we feel it is worthy of publication)

Remembrance Day

By Kiauna Rose Cote, age 9

Remembrance day is coming soon.

It's time to remember all the veterans who went to war and never come back. We should respect them.

My mushum Tony Cote said the real heroes are the ones who never came back.

Most of our veterans are Elders now.

Now on Remembrance Day people donate change for poppies.

You'll see lots of those donations boxes in stores around Remembrance Day time.

We should respect those who are fighting in the army, air forces, and navy.

When you go to war it's not all about the fighter jets, tanks, guns

It's about freedom and fighting for your rights. So remember, respect, and honor.

Remember the ones who sacrifice their lives.

On Remembrance Day wear a poppy



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Wishing you a kind and gentle Kanokiswinikisikow

Kaskatinowipisim, in Cree, the Freeze Up Moon or as we would say in English, "November", is upon us again with her usual rattling of skirts and bones.

"Hey, hey Tahko tew notokwew," my father used to say, when the Freeze Up Moon came roaring in at four in the morning like she did a couple of Saturday ago.

"Watch out the old woman has arrived."

I don't know why dad called that particular autumn wind Notokwe, but she certainly does remind me of my great-grandmother when she'd had enough of our family's nonsense. There would be a flurry of skirts and I'm sure her old bones rattled as she moved around the house in the early morning and we all knew sure as Creator made little green apples that today was the day we would be cleaning up our act, be it our spirits, our house or our yard.

And all over the community, in all the houses everybody's granny was acting the same way. It was as if they had all had a meeting and said "enough is enough, let's get these kids back on track."

As I laid in bed and listened to that wind I remembered those old grannies who taught us how to survive whether it

was through "Notowe mahchiwin," which means old lady hunting, the snaring of partridge, rabbits and other small game or taking care of and respecting "wakotowin" our family and environment.

And, last but not least, their hard work to make a better world for their grandchildren. Grannies didn't get mad often, nor did they often call meetings of the families and chastised them but when they did, everybody, right down to the babies listened and tried their best to do better.

But, of course, times changed. Putting wakotowin first and listening to old women was not exactly a modern thing to do and so like everything else these important cultural values broke down and the old women were pushed to the background, to the kitchens, the berry patches, to tanning hides and finally the bingo halls. What a loss for all of us.

So perhaps that wild old autumn wind is a reminder to us about the importance of wahkotowin.

Another beautiful Cree word is

"Kanokiswinikisikow." It means the day we "honor the veterans," the men and woman who went away to fight for our country. It is the day my family honors great uncle Gabriel Vandal, uncle Thomas Campbell, uncle Robert Campbell, uncle

Ambrose Dubuque, uncle John Dubuque and uncle Lawrence Klyne. They all came home, some wounded but alive, except for uncle Lawrence Klyne, who was killed

somewhere in the South Pacific.

Great uncle Gabriel or Moshom Gabe as we called him was our granny's brother. He served in both WW1 and WW11 and also spent time in a prison camp. We never knew about his heroic deeds until after his death when we were told that he was one of the survivors of Juno Beach and was a highly decorated soldier.

Neal McLeod, a grand nephew of moshom Gabe, has just published a book about him called Gabriel's Beach, which is available in book stores across Canada. We are very proud of these uncles and we honor them as we honor all the veterans who have served or are serving our country.

Speaking of war veterans, Claude Petit, good friend to many of us, community worker and fighter for the Rights of Aboriginal War Veterans of Canada, has been ill but is resting comfortably at home after a bout in the hospital.

Claude is a veteran of the Korean War. He served with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry enlisting when he was 15. He comes from a military family and is very proud of that history and we are very proud of him.

Send him a card c/o Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre or if you have his number call him and wish him a speedy recovery, we owe him a great deal. He has long been a role model and leader in our community working to make change for our people and in particular our youth. If you're reading this Claude, best wishes to you and get well soon.

And to all the men and women in the armed forces today, I am sure I speak for all of us when I say our love and prayers go out to you. To the veterans of past battles, we know that remembering is often painful and so we wish you a kind and gentle Kanokiswinikisikow.

Creator, grandfather/grandmother spirit take care of all of us and bless our country. hiy, hiy.



Reflections
Maria Campbell

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Circle of Honour Award winner Lana Missens poses with her daughter, Candace Carter, after accepting the award for adult leadership.

Accident victim won't give up

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

She drew loud applause, a standing ovation, and some tears when she wheeled up to the podium with her family. Lana Missens is a single mother of five children ranging in ages from seven to 21.

She was a passenger in a car collision that left her in a wheelchair and in the hospital for three weeks.

However, Missens has never let her disability get in the way of anything she wants to do. She drives herself in a wheelchair accessible van so she can still drive her children to compete in their sports.

Missens credits her children for help-

ing her make the best of a tough situation.

"I just didn't want to give up and have them lose hope in me or me losing hope in them and wanting them to continue on and not give up in whatever they do."

Missens admits she's had some days where things were really difficult, but she says she just prays and asks for a lot of strength to get through those days.

"Just never give up. There's always something to look forward to."

This was the 10th anniversary for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Circle of Honour Awards that celebrate the many achievements of First Nations people in the province.

Gone are the years of living like a muskrat

I'm snug as a bug in a rug. The wife put every last penny of her residential school money into a new mobile home. Gone are the years of living like muskrats. This winter we can relax in toasty comfort.

The old one was pretty much dead anyway. It was made in 1976 in High River, Alberta and had won an award for excellence in design. I thought this distinction should merit a premium resale price but the salesman was not so impressed. We eventually agreed the place had all the appeal of a moldy moose carcass so we took what we could get for it.

No tears were shed when the old beast was dragged off the lot. He said it wasn't worth towing to their home site in Prince Albert. It was tucked into a corner of our acreage instead and so it has sat, insulation blowing in the wind, awaiting a new owner who so far has not appeared. I can only wonder why.

No sooner had we moved the old beached whale when a bunch of relatives wanted to move into it. We said sure but we also told them to quickly scuttle out of the place when the new owner should show up. Our camper was also claimed by more relatives and friends. They all said they couldn't find affordable housing in Saskatoon. A move back to the reserve was also out of the question.

Our place was starting to resemble a Hurricane Katrina refugee camp. Then the cold weather came and they moved off to whatever could be found. My nistow has been commuting from Day Star to work in Saskatoon daily. People do what people got to do.

It used to be said if you wanted to find the chief's place just look for the nicest house on the reserve. These new CMHC homes have pretty much replaced the old Indian Affairs matchstick homes. Today it's much harder but not impossible to find the chief's home. Just look for a sprawling deck with a stainless steel propane barbecue the size of a Dodge minivan.

A long standing cap on funding and a rising population has meant overcrowding and long waiting lists on reserves. Band members are increasingly frustrated and vent their anger unfairly on Chief and council.

I've never had political ambitions and no one has ever driven down my driveway begging me to run for chief. Maybe they just can't find the place or they simply found out I can't even organize a two car funeral. The lure of a free meal and the opportunity to be the center of attention has, however, a certain appeal to me.

The thought of chiefs doing their best to make a difference while their band members (excluding close relatives) detest them just takes the shine off the whole idea.

I like living in the country. It's like living on the reserve without the politics. I don't have the frustration of waiting for a reserve home. We bought our place 12 years ago. We find our acreage is now worth much more than we owe on it. I pity people entering the Saskatoon housing market now that prices are so high. Rent is pricey, too, if an affordable place can even be found.

The Realty people and speculators are awash in coin but the poor people are suffering big time. It's like the old Roy Clark country song, "She got the gold mine but I got the shaft."

On the subject of country music, my friend and yours, Ivan McNab has released a CD of vintage, little-known-to-me country music. It's the old twangy stuff from the fifties when singers sang through their nose and bore such names as Buck, Rufus and Lou Ann. The CD is appropriately called, "It's about time."

The liner notes are quite interesting. Ivan was at one time the grand prize winner in a province wide music talent search. This I did not know. His talent still shines and he remains in constant demand. Well done Ivan and family.

I remember as a kid staying up to watch Bonanza because someone named Ivan McNab was going to be acting in an episode. The show was on for quite sometime before a bunch of Indians rode up to the Ponderosa and were met by old Ben Cartwright, Little Joe and Hoss.

The chief got down from his horse, spoke something forgettable, then walked back to his horse and was handed the reins by none other than Ivan McNab. They then rode off and Ivan and the Indians were no longer seen again. This brief shining moment was memorable because there were very few Aboriginal actors back then. There was no APTN and no "Dances with Wolves."

While most white folks were talking about a man landing on the moon we were talking about Ivan McNab landing on Bonanza.



Attention Residential School Survivors

Former Residential School students who suffered sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or abuse that caused serious psychological effects may be eligible to apply for compensation under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) through the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

If you, or someone that you know, are planning to apply for compensation under the Independent Assessment Process, then this information is for you!

Things You Need to Know

- IAP compensation is available to survivors in addition to the Common Experience Payment from 2007.
- The IAP is the only way a former student may pursue a sexual or serious physical abuse claim, unless they have opted out of the Settlement Agreement.
- To apply, former students will need to complete a detailed and lengthy application form.
- If accepted, most IAP claims will be dealt with at a hearing conducted by an adjudicator or neutral decision-maker.
- Survivors will be required to participate in these hearings.
- The IAP process is complex and it is recommended that former students retain a lawyer to assist them with the application and hearing process. There are many complex legal issues and procedures that can be difficult to work through.
- The compensation award is up to a maximum of \$275,000 and the adjudicator decides what award amount is appropriate.
- The Federal Government will contribute 15% of the settlement award towards the survivor's legal fees.
- Lawyers are not permitted to charge more than 30% of a survivor's compensation award and any amount beyond the 15% covered by the Federal Government must be reviewed by an adjudicator to ensure the fee is appropriate.
- The deadline to submit an IAP application form is September 19, 2012.

Support Is Available

Completing the application can be a very painful process and help is available. The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program provides the following services:

- professional counselling
- emotional support provided by Resolution Health Support Workers
- cultural support provided by Elders
- assistance with the cost of transportation

Contact Info

Independent Assessment Process **1-877-635-2648**
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada **1-866-879-4913**

Counselling, emotional and cultural support for survivors
Saskatchewan Region **1-866-250-1529**
(Monday to Friday 9:00am—5:00pm)
24-hour support crisis line **1-866-925-4419**

For further information about the Independent Assessment Process go to website www.irsad-sapi.gc.ca.

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Students win big from SIGA

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) recently announced the 2008 winners of the SIGA First Nation Scholarship Awards. A total of \$25,000 was available to First Nations students in Saskatchewan for the inaugural scholarships.

"The SIGA First Nations Scholarship Awards program provides opportunities to encourage education and continued learning. It also helps students successfully achieve career goals within SIGA and the broader community," said Zane Hansen, President and CEO, SIGA.

"SIGA developed the scholarship program to address fields that are traditionally challenging to recruit in."

Two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to students in Information Technology, Commerce or Hospitality and Tourism Management. In addition, two \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to students studying Communications or Electronics; ten \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to eligible students in any other field.

"As a single mother, this award will help me offset some of the costs of attending the Ed-



Jennifer Campeau receives a scholarship cheque from SIGA CEO Zane Hansen.



SIGA CEO Zane Hansen presents Gabrielle Scrimshaw with the SIGA cheque.

wards School of Business MBA Program at the University of Saskatchewan," says Jennifer Campeau, a member of the Yellowquill First Nation and recipient of a \$5,000 SIGA Scholarship.

"This is a testament of the support from SIGA with respect to fostering Aboriginal Business Education. I would like to show people that there can be success in our communities no matter what obstacles we are faced with. The Aboriginal business community in Saskatchewan is rapidly expanding and with each passing year is becoming more successful, and I would like to be actively involved in the expansion and promotion.

"This award serves as a form of validation that I am on the right path."

The SIGA scholarship selection committee focused on the student's commitment to the chosen field, level of community participation within cultural events and volunteerism and the individual's financial needs.

"Being awarded the SIGA Scholarship is truly an honor. It solidifies my hard work and efforts over this past year, making the late nights and early mornings worth it," said Gabrielle Scrimshaw of Duck Lake.

"It pays homage to the fact that you get out of life what you put into it. The scholarships will greatly benefit the other recipients and myself over the next upcoming year, making life as a student pass much more smoothly."

SIGA operates five First Nations casinos in Saskatchewan. As a non-profit organization, 100 per cent of the profits are returned to the company's beneficiaries. Recently, SIGA was the recipient of the ABEX award for Job Creation and was also named one of the top 15 employers in Saskatchewan.



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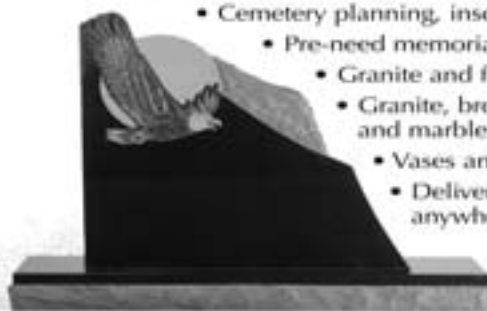




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Nursing changes life of student and others

What drew you into pursuing a career in the health field?

I like the feeling of helping people, and I genuinely care about others. I had a friend ask me once why do you care so much and really all I could say is I just do, how can we live our lives and watch people suffer and not want to help. Also I find the content in the nursing program interesting, learning about anatomy and physiology as well as the determinants of health and the cause and effect relationship of the choices people make and therefore being able to help them make better healthier choices. This career also has the ability to take you anywhere and these professions will always be in need.

What is the most challenging aspect of your studies?

Time management is definitely challenging, there never seems to be enough time in the day to get everything done, class, studying, work and extra curricular activities. This leads to stress and sometimes you forget to take care of yourself so it is really important to take breaks.

As well stress leads to making mistakes which is not good especially when you are in clinical. It is important to have a way to deal with stress appropriately so you do not become run down and have a breakdown. Although time is an issue it is important to make time for physical activity to keep your body and mind in shape. Money is also a huge issue and adds to stress, with prices going up it is getting harder to survive (basic needs) let alone live (have time for extra curricular activities.) And even if you do have spare time you sometimes can't afford to do anything.

What supports do you have in pursuing your career?

My family and friends have been very support-

ive of me, always encouraging me, especially when I have felt down and at times even (felt like) quitting. However, they always find a way to help me see the light at the end of the tunnel. Also NAPN/M has been an amazing support for me in every way, academically, emotionally and spiritually. I was not raised with my Métis culture so NAPN/M has helped me to reconnect, teaching me to smudge, making me part of the sweat lodge family and assisting me to learn as much as I can about my culture.

What do you do in your spare time for fun and balance?

The Saskatoon Nursing Students' Society takes up a lot of my time but I enjoy doing it and I am also very proud to be the first Aboriginal President of the Saskatoon Nursing Students' Society. We have council meetings every Monday and plan many social events for nursing students so we can interact with each other and take time to relax and de-stress.

Also I like to spend time with my family and friends but I also feel it is important to spend time alone to reflect and to just have some quiet time to calm my mind. Also I have been trying hard to fit in physical activity because it is so important and I feel so much better and refreshed after.

Any tips for up and coming students who want to be a nurse or doctor or any sort of health professional?

Study hard and never give up even when you feel like you can't get through because you can, you always can. Take your life experiences, good and bad, and use them to motivate you and give you strength to push forward in life. Nursing and Medicine are very challenging but possible and extremely worthwhile, you not only have the opportunity to make a change in your life but to change the lives of others.



Nursing student Nicole Marshall

Pharmacists play key role on front lines

What drew you into pursuing a career in the health field?

I have always been passionate about all realms of health and wanted to make a positive difference in the health of others. My original plan was to become a physician, however, a friend of mine opened my eyes to pharmacy as a profession, which is what I am currently studying (in my third year of the program).

• Continued on Page 9

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Native Access Program to Nursing/Medicine

Sihtoskatowin

* supporting one another *

The *Native Access Program to Nursing/Medicine (NAPN/M)* is a support and retention service for Aboriginal students enrolled in or interested in the following nursing and medicine programs in Saskatchewan:

- *Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS)* is a four-year baccalaureate program offered collaboratively by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAT), Nursing Division, and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), College of Nursing, in Saskatoon and Regina. **NEW DEADLINE: January 15, 2008. Applications available online.**
- *NEPS Second Degree Entry Option* is a baccalaureate program offered in Saskatoon, collaboratively by SIAT and the U of S, College of Nursing, with completion in less than two calendar years. A completed baccalaureate degree or at least 90 credit units from a post-secondary institution recognized by the University of Saskatchewan is prerequisite.
- *Master of Nursing Program*, University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing.
- *Post Registration BSN Program* is a 12-month program offered by the University of Saskatchewan, College of Nursing.
- *Practical Nursing Program* is a 65-week certificate program offered by the SIAT Nursing Division in Regina, at Wascana Campus and in Saskatoon, at Kelsey Campus.
- *College of Medicine M.D. Degree Program* is a four-year undergraduate medical education program offered by the University of Saskatchewan.

The advisors at NAPN/M work with Aboriginal nursing, medicine, and pre-health science students to achieve success and excellence through academic and personal advisement, tutoring, mentorship and culturally appropriate counseling. NAPN/M is available for support and advocacy with childcare, housing and funding concerns. As well, computers with Internet access are available to students working on papers and assignments. NAPN/M also posts a newsletter and builds community through activities such as luncheons, and meetings with leaders and role models in the Aboriginal community.

For more information please contact any of the following NAPN/M locations:



College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan
107 Wiggins Rd, Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5
Tel: (306) 966-1480
Fax: (306) 966-6703
SK Toll-free: 1-800-463-3345

Nursing Division, SIAT Wascana Campus
4500 Wascana Parkway
PO Box 556, Regina SK S4P 3A3

Tel: (306) 798-4007
Fax: (306) 798-0809



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• Continued from Page 8

Pharmacists are the most accessible health care professionals with an extremely vital role in patient care and health promotion, which I figured will provide me with the perfect opportunity to put my passion for health into action.

What is the most challenging aspect of your studies?

I would not say any specific part of the pharmacy curriculum is most challenging; however, it is practicing excellent time management to allow me to participate in all my extra-curricular activities, part-time work and family and personal life and still keep good grades. I currently volunteer on the pediatrics ward at the Royal University Hospital here in Saskatoon, with SWITCH (Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health), and I volunteer as an Aboriginal Health Science Student Role Model/Mentor at the Aboriginal Students' Centre on campus. Much of my time is spent with professional volunteer work as well, through being a student member of the Interprofessional Health Collaborative of Saskatchewan (IHCS) Working Group to push for interprofessional health care and primary health care teams, and also for the past three years as being a representative for the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI), which I am currently the National President-Elect of. Efficiently balancing all my involvements and my studies is my greatest challenge.

What supports do you have in pursuing your career?

My number one supports are my family members. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to remain liv-

ing at home while studying pharmacy, which takes a large amount of stress off my shoulders, both financial and emotional stress. I am also very lucky to have incredibly supportive classmates. We are always making our own study groups, typing study guides and e-mailing it to the class for extra help, and any student in my class is always available for help – I do not know if I could ever find a more amazing class. My professors, colleagues, and the people at NAPN/M (Native Access Program to Nursing and Medicine) are always available for support and continue to let me know how proud they are of me – I find them all to be a huge support. Finally, God is an incredible support for me in pursuing my career. I have a plaque on my wall, given to me by my older sister, which reads: "With God all things are possible. - Matthew 19:26." I use this plaque as a constant reminder that God will always support me.

What do you do in your spare time for fun and balance?

Spare time? I don't think I understand the question! Believe it or not, I do find spare time. I love visiting with my family and heading over to my sister's house and playing with our two puppies and cat. When I can, my most favorite thing to do is go out for supper, which is usually followed by going to a movie. As a perfect end to every day, before I call it a night, I watch an episode or two of Friends on DVD - I own the entire series! That show puts me in a great mood and relaxes me to fall asleep. I highly recommend it.

Any tips for up and coming students who want to be a nurse or doctor or any sort of health professional?

You have to work for it. There are many opportunities, resources and programs out there to help you find



Pharmacy student Jaris Swidrovich

what career may be the best for you. How can you get to where you are going if you do not know where it is you want to be? Once you decide on a career, do everything you can in order to get yourself there. Get involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities/volunteering/organizations that will help you get closer to your goal. Keep a close support group and never be afraid to ask for help. A career as a health care professional is very demanding and can be very stressful at times, so you can expect the journey leading up to becoming a physician, nurse, pharmacist, etc, to be just as demanding and stressful! Consider any 'falls' along the way to be a 'slip,' and keep on going. You will get there.

Hard work, balancing time essential for medical student



Medicine student Jennifer Johnstone

What drew you into pursuing a career in the health field?

Nothing, it was actually my peers and mentors in my life that thought I would make a good doctor and told me to try it out. Fortunately they were right! I really enjoy the medical field and can't imagine myself anywhere else! Should I mention that I'm actually a high school drop-out (which explains the spelling) so how the heck did I end up in medicine? Well ... look what happens when you have the support and the will to apply yourself!

What is the most challenging aspect of your studies?

Managing/balancing my time. I have to find time for school, work, my children ... and me!!! Sometimes the me falls by the wayside. My childhood friend that I live with, drags me out of my study corner to find myself every once in a while.

What supports do you have in pursuing your career?

I live in a hippie commune so child care is usually not a problem ... No, seriously ... I live with my

friend (some Northerners would refer to as 'sister') she is a single mom and professional as well. By living together we can balance childcare, bills, affordable housing, and making meals; packing lunches ... I could go on. Basically we have each other's backs! There are times when I doubt myself, too ... my friends that I have made at school have been an amazing support for this. Sometimes we find solace in panicking together just before a big exam!

What do you do in your spare time for fun and balance?

I don't have a whole lot of spare time but I try my best to be well rounded. I'll spend a lot time

with friends outside of medicine, with my children and my friends in school (but preferably not in a medical setting). I have a couple friends that I like to do crazy stuff with ... like bungee jumping! Remember when mom said "If your friend jumped off a cliff would you, too?!" Well ... yeah! I have and I will again!

Any tips for up and coming students who want to be a nurse or doctor or any sort of health professional?

Work your li'l bum off! Show up every day and trust your friends and family that believe in you even when you don't. Go where you are celebrated ... and of course ...when in doubt, pick 'C'.



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
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ABORIGINAL ACCESS

Ten percent of the first year class (9/84 for 2009 entry) are reserved each year in the College of Medicine for persons of Canadian Aboriginal descent. To assist students enrolled in pre-medical studies, the College of Medicine offers scholarships annually of \$1000 and \$2500 for entering and continuing Aboriginal students registered within the College of Arts and Science in pre-medical studies.

The College of Medicine Mentorship Program provides Aboriginal students an opportunity to meet medical students, doctors and other health care professionals, and to experience first-hand the kinds of work they perform.

For more information, please contact:

Heather Mandeville
Admissions, College of Medicine
A204 Health Sciences Building
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon SK S7N 5E5

Email: heather.mandeville@usask.ca
Website: www.medicine.usask.ca
Phone: 306-966-6143



Deep heating benefits of saunas renew the body

By Terry Wasylow
For Eagle Feather News

We hear a lot about detoxification these days. One would almost think this is a new discovery. But, here again, there is “nothing new under the sun” De-toxing methods have been a part of many cultures over time and throughout the world. One of the oldest and most widely used remedies is the sauna.

Hippocrates said, “give me a chance to create a fever and I will cure any disease.” Archaeological evidence shows saunas being used in the Stone Age, a Russian historian “Nestori” wrote about them in 1113 A.D., and today, in Finland, where the word sauna originates (pronounced ‘sowna’), one in seven people own their own.

In this part of the world, Aboriginal peoples developed and benefited from the “sweat lodge” or “medicine house”, using it to purify the body, soul and spirit. Sweating is about renewal, it is about getting rid of toxicity, unclogging pathways and disposing of waste on every level.

The skin, known as the body’s third kidney is believed to be responsible for eliminating up to 30 per cent of body waste. With today’s technology in the Far Infrared Sauna the body can generate two to three times the sweat produced in a traditional hot air sauna, this helps to remove and eliminate toxins trapped in fat cells, connective tissue and the brain.

The deep heat also helps blood vessels dilate, the heart works harder and metabolic rate goes up, providing the benefits of continuous exercise. Infrared rays gently warm the muscles, allowing for greater flexibility and range of motion, they trigger “feel good” hormones, and provide a comfortable environment for relaxation and stress relief. So even though, you may want to “never let ‘em see you sweat” it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t!

Terry Wasylow is an owner of Boutique BeYouTeFul in Saskatoon

Get serious about diabetes

Diabetes is a serious condition that is affecting many Aboriginal people. In fact, diabetes rates for the Aboriginal population are three to five times higher than the general population.

One of the problems is that many people have diabetes and don’t even know it. Diabetes is also the cause of several complications such as heart disease, amputation and kidney disease.

Kidney disease rates are about seven times higher in the Aboriginal population. So, an important thing to remember is to get tested. The earlier you find out the better chance you have of preventing complications.

Evelyn Linklater, an Elder living in Saskatoon offers many wonderful and positive messages about diabetes.

“I have diabetes but I don’t let it control me,” is the attitude she has towards living with her diabetes. She has learned to manage her diabetes and is a role model to others.

She is proof that making healthy choices keeps you healthy and helps prevent complications.

Another message Evelyn offers to people when it comes to medications and diabetes is “It’s OK to go on the needle (insulin), it helps to control your sugars so you don’t lose a leg or have kidney problems.”

The message is a good reminder that there are many tools that can be used to keep blood sugars in a normal range, which is the key to preventing complications.


November is Diabetes Awareness month and there are several programs that may be of interest to those living with or at risk for diabetes or kidney disease.

For more information about Diabetes programs in Saskatoon, contact Don Bear at (306) 664-4310.

To learn more about Kidney disease and programs that are offered in Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan contact Krista Loessl (306) 655-5417.



Evelyn Linklater is a role model to others with diabetes. On November 6, 2008, The Community Diabetes Outreach Program hosted the Diabetes Health and Nutrition Fair at the White Buffalo Youth lodge. Getting tested early is the most important thing to remember when dealing with diabetes. If left untreated or improperly managed, diabetes can result in a variety of complications: heart disease, kidney disease, eye disease nerve damage and problems with erections (impotence). The displays stressed the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles. Things such as having your blood pressure checked, adopting healthy diet practice, education, physical activity, and weight control help to prevent diabetes. Get tested.



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Rebel Blast a blast

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Dakota House is kind of a big deal at Stobart High School in Duck Lake. House was in the house for the third annual Rebel Blast, an event put on by Stobart students to inspire and motivate the youth about their future and themselves.

The former North of 60 actor had the crowd eating out of his hand as he gave a message of focus and hope that reverberated through the youth.

"Dakota House was great," said Brittany Seesequasis, a Grade 12 student at Stobart High.



BRITTANY SEESEQUASIS

"I liked how he wanted us to get the negative energy out."

In a feat of mind over matter, House had a student who weighed over 200

pounds stand on his belly as he balanced between two chairs. After a moment of focused breathing, he did it to the amazement of the young people in the audience.



BRANDON THOMAS

House was one of many presenters brought in for the day to satisfy the youths' curiosity over topics ranging from the

media, to martial arts, skateboarding, First Nation cultural teachings, boxing and making organic skin lotions. The diversity and energy is all a part of the hook for the day that sees over 300 youth from ten different schools come visit.

"It is great for school spirit," said Craig Schellenberg, the principal of Stobart High.

"It gets our kids pumped up and it gives our students leadership opportunities. They coordinate it from front to back. They survey their friends as to what kind of sessions that they want and what kind of speakers they would like to come out. It is very student driven.

"The goal is to bring cultures and community together. We think of it as a way to build bridges with the other schools in the area. It is a big deal."

Brandon Thomas was one of coordinators.

"It took us a year to put this all together. The process was interesting and fun and the turnout was awesome."

He attended the First Nation section and the small group session with Dakota House.

"I have learned more about my First Nation culture, learned how to box and how to jab, right hook, left hook.

"And then I went to Dakota House and listened to him talk about self esteem and empowerment. He explained his life and experiences. We can all succeed in anything we put our minds to. Dakota said that. I got it."

So with this Blast put to bed, the school can rest for a bit before they plan the next one, but



Brett Seesequasis, Waylon Scott and Keestin Robinson with Dakota House, who showed the power of mind over matter.

the effect of the day will live on in the memory of the students.

"Taking away one thing?" asks Brittany Seesequasis. "You know the karate and boxing were fun, but as a young First Nation woman I am scared about the future, I do not know what I want to do, but looking at my options, events like today help me figure it out."

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Surviving in the city

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

A new survival guide for Aboriginal students has hit the streets. The guide was made available by a group that wants to see Aboriginal students succeed.

"This is a tool to address the gap between aboriginal and non aboriginal participation in post secondary education," said Mitch Villeneuve a Métis University of Saskatchewan student originally from Meadow Lake. "When you come here from a rural setting, things are different. This is a resource to help young Aboriginal people come to Saskatoon to succeed in post secondary education."

The book was compiled with input from students that attend many different institutions in Saskatoon. The information inside is applicable if you are at the U of S, SIIT, FNUC or a business college.

"All of our issues are alike," said Villeneuve. "It is a big adjustment."

"Not having anyone to rely on, the independence can be a shock. This book discusses how to get your cable, power and phone hooked up. It helps with budgeting. We also provide information on culturally relevant things that are specific for Aboriginal kids. It is a really handy resource."

The survival guide is being made available to every on reserve Grade 12 student. It was paid for through advertising and sponsorship.

The group is also promoting the Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge (AYIC). A province wide business plan competition for youth age 16-35 who will compete for tens of thousands of dollars in prizes. The judges will be bankers and business people who will help guide the potential business people.

"The idea is to create a whole new generation of entrepreneurs so this province can succeed in the 21st century," added Villeneuve. "Look at the demographics. The key to Saskatchewan's success is Aboriginal success."

For those that did not get a survival guide, the information will be online shortly at: www.steppingstonessaskatoon.ca

Young entrepreneurs are moving the goods

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Elias Shepherd and Chanel Parisier stuck out like sore thumbs as exhibitors at the recent FSIN Election Assembly. Used to seeing the same booths and people, it was a surprise to come across two very young energetic people who are hustling careers at a tender age.

The Ocean Man residents and Stoughton High School students scored some seed funding from their band for a start up business.

"The band helped us with money for us to buy supplies," said Elias Shepherd, the front man of the duo.

"Now it is up to us to keep it going and hit the trade shows. We are excited because we just got invited to another conference."

The two sell crafts that they have created. Items range from traditional earrings and jewelry to ark work painted onto various mediums.

"Chanel uses only gold and silver for the jewelry so people don't get allergic reactions or have their ear turn green," said Elias of his business partners work.

"I do the paintings. One piece took me over five days, so in our spare time and at school we are working on our crafts."

Chanel has taken her Elders advice to heart. "My grandmother is the eldest Elder in our society. She taught me what dreamcatchers meant and my mom taught me how to do them and we do them together," said Chanel.

"For jewelry, they taught me that back in



Chanel Parisier and Elias Shepherd are selling their crafts at trade shows and conferences.

the day style and I learned some new stuff for beading too. The best thing is creating new pieces and ideas and meeting new people."

The two business partners showed some gumption by moving their booth to an abandoned but better location at the Assembly, a shrewd move at that.

"Setting up and taking down the booth is certainly the hardest and worst thing about what we do," laughed Elias.

"But like everything, you get better every try. The more you keep going in business the better you get."

"If you do have a bad day in business, tomorrow is a better day. Keep it going and don't give up. If you make a mistake fix it. Don't give up right away."

Wise words from a couple of rookie business people. The future bodes well for them.

If you would like to order some great and inexpensive products, you can email Chanel at c_parisier@ymail.com

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Tony Cote to receive Saskatchewan's highest honour

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart announced the names of eight recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit recently. The Order of Merit is the province's highest honour. It recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the province and its residents.

Tony Cote, the driving force behind the creation of the First Nations Summer and Winter Games was one of those names.

"I was very shocked when I was notified," said Cote during an interview. "I never thought that type of award would be given to me. It is a great honour, but I just live day to day and never thought no one noticed."

It is hard not to notice this gentleman's deeds. A few of his accomplishments include being heavily involved in the birth of SIIT and SIFC and he helped initiate the Yorkton Tribal Council. As Chief of Cote First Nation, his band flourished with the development of the Cote Recreational Complex, recreation programs for all ages, the first all-Indian Junior B Hockey Club, a minor hockey system, a girls fastball team and a sport facility. In 1974, he founded the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games, a sporting event available to every First Nations youth in the province.

"I was proud of those Games," said Cote. "When I became Chief, we had no

programs for the youth. First we started the Games, and then they went provincial and all the bands wanted to participate.

"Lots of support from the FSI, and INAC but the province kept saying we were a federal responsibility. But we kept at them. I went to Premier Blakeney at the time and said we are here to apply for a grant for our recreation centre because you promised to pay 25 per cent of any center in any community in Saskatchewan.

"I asked as a Saskatchewan resident. He said that I had a point. We got our money."

A member of the 25th Infantry Brigade, 81st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Cote joined the Canadian Forces in 1952 and served in Korea. On his release from the Army in 1958, he worked as a supervisor/recreation director at residential schools in Alberta. In 1968, he returned to Saskatchewan and began working for the Cote First Nation. He was elected Chief of the Cote Nation in 1970 and the rest, as they say, is history.

"I always maintain that the leadership I learned in the army, the discipline and ability to recognize people for what they were, that got me a long way. When I was Chief I realized we need to keep our young people occupied and busy and not in trouble.

"There is still a real need everywhere for kids to be occupied," added Cote. "Today the bands are lucky. I wish I had

the SIGA funds when I was a Chief. We could have done more."


The 2008 recipients are:

- Edward D. Bayda, Dr. Eli Bornstein, Dr. Elizabeth Brewster, Antoine (Tony) Cote, Mrs. L. Irene Dubé, Mr. Leslie D. Dubé, Mr. Bob Ellard, Architect, Mr. Gavin Semple. Including the eight new members, there have been 156 appointments to the Order of Merit since its inception in 1985.

The 2008 recipients will be invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in a ceremony to take place on November 19 in Regina.



Tony Cote (above) can be found spending his days as a Commissionaire at the First Nation University of Canada. (Photo by Cassandra Opikokew) This 1955 photo (left) sees Tony resting at Camp Gagetown in New Brunswick. A year returned from Korea, Cote spent the spring and summer in one of those tents in the background and then headed off to Germany for two years. (Photo supplied)

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WE REMEMBER

Sharing Success



November is a month for remembering

All Canadians unite this month to remember our war veterans; those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who returned to their families. For Aboriginal people, the remembering of war heroes in November has unique features.

On Nov. 16 we remember the date Riel was hanged as a martyr to the political ambitions of the prime minister of the day, one named Macdonald, born in Scotland. November is a good time to remember our Michif war heroes: the legendary war hero Gabriel Dumont; the ones who perished in the struggles that accompanied our people's defense strategy and diplomacy in Manitoba and along the Saskatchewan River in the 19th century.

Our memories go back to those who served in victorious battles such as 'Seven Oaks' near present-day Winnipeg in June 1816. In Canadian history books this is known as the 'massacre of Seven Oaks'. Michif translation: 'Decisive victory for our side.'

Hear the unforgettable verses of Pierrich Falcon's victory song: "The English who came to steal our country... you should have seen them stumbling as we chased them away..." in English translation.

This is a song that was sung and boosted the spirits of Michif soldiers at Fish Creek and in the rifle pits at Batoche. It is the historic Michif

National Anthem, an anthem older than that of Canada or the United States. So is our Métis flag.

In Manitoba, the legislature has set November 8 as Aboriginal Remembrance Day. The MC at the Grand Entry at the Manito Ahbee pow-wow on that day noted that Sitting Bull's people were the only ones to capture the American flag. He said this at the same time as American Indian war veterans, which included the MC, were being honoured.

Similarly, in our own country, Métis and Indian war veterans have served with great distinction, exemplified by the story of the decorated Tommy Prince from Brokenhead First Nation.

Our memories embrace also the First Nations men who died in the "troubled times" along the Saskatchewan in the 1880s; the ones whose names are inscribed in the memorial in Batoche cemetery; the eight Cree men hanged in Regina, Mistahi Musqua (Big Bear) and Poundmaker, veterans who died from mistreatment and imprisonment.

We remember One Arrow, also imprisoned in Stony Mountain federal prison near Winnipeg whose body was

exhumed from St. Boniface cemetery and returned to his people last year.

I grew up in St Laurent, the old Michif community along the southeast shore of Lake Manitoba. I was born during the Second World War and I remember the many veterans who were a part of our everyday community. I remember the man who walked with a

cane on two wooden legs. One eye was shut on the side his head was caved in a bit and it was said he had a metal plate in his head. He always whistled softly and was kind to everyone. I heard people saying "he came home on the train in a basket ..."

A few of the veterans had been in Japanese prison camps. They had one story about a guard who was called a nickname related to the unusual look of his pants. One story was about one of our men who was taken away one day and was never seen again.

There were real characters among these men. It was easier then to appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans. It is harder today when most of our young people do not have direct daily experiences to act as reminders.

It is good to remember our veterans well. The government has not always treated them well. Even in recent years

a federal minister of Veteran Affairs, an immigrant himself, said some outrageous things to excuse his department's failures to respect and protect our veterans.

Nothing matches the closing speech of Jim Sinclair at the end of the 1987 First Ministers Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Reform. Rebuking the premiers, he noted that B.C.'s premier, Van der Zalm, came from the Netherlands and did well here and now refused to support a better deal for our people, while our war veterans who saved his country are buried all over Europe.

On the positive side, it is well known that the returned Indian war veterans were influential in getting the federal government to remove, in 1951, some of the worst excesses in the Indian Act, such as those outlawing ceremonies and teaching children the faith of their ancestors.

November remembering unites us all as Canadians. It honours Métis and First Nations people who died in the service of our peoples before Canada was born or against the young, immature Canada of the 19th century. It honours Métis and First Nations people who, since then, have fought under the Union Jack and under the Canadian flag.

Our remembering is true to our peoples and true to our country. Perhaps the duality of our remembering can be a step on the road to reconciliation.



Honouring our Veterans

Lac La Ronge Indian Band
WE REMEMBER
Chief, Council & Band Membership Would Like to Thank All the Veterans for their Bravery During Times of War and their Service to the Country

THUNDERCHILD FIRST NATION
The Thunderchild Chief and Council wishes to acknowledge their soldiers for their bravery and service during times of war:
For THOSE WHO SERVED

- Late Donald Angus
- Late Peter Hope
- Late George Horse
- Late David Jimmy
- Harold Jimmy
- Late Burt Meetoos
- Late Lawrence Meetoos
- Late David Moyah
- Late Edward Okanee
- Ken Okanee Sr.
- Crystal Paddy
- Late Andrew Paddy
- Late Archie Paddy
- Charlie Paddy Sr.
- Late William Paddy
- Late Percy Sangrey
- Late Ed Thunderchild
- Late Gordon Thunderchild
- Late Robert Awasis-McCoy

Message from the Minister
First Nations and Métis have a long, proud history of serving Canada in our military and peacekeeping efforts. This is particularly notable since First Nations are exempt from conscription in times of war.
Please join me in honouring the brave First Nations and Métis men and women past and present, for their unwavering service to our country.
Their courage, contributions, sacrifices and accomplishments leave a legacy of freedom and peace for all Canadians.
Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Saskatchewan Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations

THIS REMEMBRANCE DAY SASKATOON FIRE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES RECOGNIZES THE SACRIFICE MADE BY CANADIAN VETERANS

Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services encourages applications for positions in our department from the aboriginal community.
For more information contact:
Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services
Community Relations
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Written by: CURTIS PEETEELUCE Directed by: ALAN LONG

December 5th - 11th

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While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



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Province signs Aboriginal employment agreements

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Aboriginal Employment Development (AED) initiative is focused on bringing the largely untapped First Nations and Métis workforce into Saskatchewan's growing economy.

Through workplace audits, existing AED employer and union partners identify jobs into the future that will need trained employees. Educational institutions can then develop and offer programs to give First Nations and Métis people the skills they need to compete successfully for the open positions.

All AED partners work to identify and address barriers to training, hiring and retaining First Nations and Métis employees. Led by Saskatchewan's Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations, AED has as its overarching goal to see First Nations and Métis people achieve representation in the provincial workforce at all occupational levels in proportion to their population numbers.

Looking ahead, the City of Swift Current and three union groups recently joined with Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Relations to sign an Aboriginal Employment Development Partnership agreement focused on jobs and the city's future workforce. Working through AED, the partnership will prepare the municipal

workplace to welcome more First Nations and Métis employees in order to meet the same challenge faced by many Saskatchewan employers – finding the trained workers needed to meet current and future requirements.

Signing the agreement were the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 183, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1318, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2067. As the city hopes to recruit, hire and retain more Aboriginal employees, these unions will be welcoming new members coming from the province's First Nations and Métis communities.

The City of Prince Albert also signed on to the agreement.

"I am pleased with the partnership document and the direction that City Administration is moving," Prince Albert Mayor Jim Scarrow said.

"The City is a large employer and needs to continue to take a leadership role in opening doors to Aboriginal applicants. The partnership agreement is a strategy that will help ensure we move toward a representative workforce."

Whitecap Dakota First Nation, already known for economic development initiatives, such as the nationally-recognized Dakota Dunes Casino and Resort, is facing the same challenge as many Saskatchewan employers – finding enough employees. So, recently, the First Nation signed an Aboriginal Employment Development partnership agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan focused on helping them recruit the people they need for their current and future economic development initiatives.

"Whitecap Dakota First Nation has been a leader in economic development and that has included creating jobs for its members and reaching out to create employment



Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude and Swift Current Mayor Sandy Larson formalize the AED partnership agreement while representatives from CUPE Local 183, IBEW Local 2067 and IAFF Local 1318 wait to sign on. (Photos courtesy of FNMR)

opportunities for First Nations and Métis people in neighbouring communities," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said.

"With this partnership agreement the Government of Saskatchewan can support this on-going work as well as an expansion of training and recruitment efforts."

The First Nation initially established a target of 700 jobs and to date has hired more than 500 people, most in the hospitality and tourism sectors. Now starting to diversify to other sectors such as manufacturing, they will look province-wide to recruit employees with the skills they need.

"We are working together to create diversified employment opportunities in a variety of industry sectors at Whitecap," Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear said.

"And at the same time, tapping into the talented pool of young First Nations men and women looking to establish careers."



Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear and Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations Acting Assistant Deputy Minister John Reid at the October 23 Aboriginal Employment Development Partnership signing.

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre presents:

First Nations Language Keepers Conference

December 3, 4, 5, 2008 - Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, SK.



This conference is an opportunity for teachers, language instructors, developers, local community educators, Elders, academics, linguists, leadership, and others to gather and learn from one another through informative workshops and plenary discussions focused on the issue of First Nations language revitalization in Saskatchewan.

The theme of this conference, "First Nations Language Keepers," will allow participants to explore innovative approaches to language revitalization and to network successes.

Book Launch

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre would like to invite you to attend the launch of our new children's books:

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Reception at 6:00pm

Saskatoon Inn

For more information contact:

Delores Musqua at (306) 244-1146 or delores.musqua@sicc.sk.ca

Donna Paskemin at (306) 244-1146 or donna.paskemin@sicc.sk.ca



Canadian Heritage
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Saskatchewan wages and low unemployment continue to lead nation

Saskatchewan people continue to benefit from living and working in Saskatchewan with continued increases in the average earnings of paid employees and decreases in the number of residents receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, according to a release from Statistics Canada.

The average earnings of paid employees in Saskatchewan for August 2008 were \$760.46 per week,

up 1.0 per cent from the previous month. Saskatchewan recorded the largest year-over-year increase among provinces with 4.9 per cent, well above the national average of 2.8 per cent.

In Saskatchewan, there were 8,860 people receiving EI benefits in August 2008, a drop of nearly ten per cent from the same month one year ago. This is the largest drop in recipients of EI benefits across Canada.



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Sealed responses will be received up to 2:00 P.M. C.S.T. Friday, December 12, 2008 in the office of Procurement & Material - Centralized Contracts Group, 2nd Floor, 2133 - 1st Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan at which time the RFP will be privately opened.

Request for Proposal packages may be obtained from Procurement & Material - Centralized Contracts Group - 2nd Floor, 2133 - 1st Avenue or by phoning (306) 777-3675, or by faxing your request to (306) 359-3724. Please refer to RFP-08-114 when requesting packages.

For questions pertaining to the Project Specifications, please contact Ron Single (306) 777-2746 or Lorne Kirzinger (306) 777-5025. Should any questions arise regarding the Commercial Terms, please contact Holly McDonald at (306) 777-3675.

SaskTel procurement policies and procedures are designed to maximize the use of Saskatchewan suppliers of goods and services, and the Proposer shall identify all aspects of Saskatchewan content in their RFP Proposal.

SaskTel reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Sam Chernoff
Director - Corporate Services
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Metis Nation - Saskatchewan

Under the **Powley Initiative**, the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan is seeking a strong team player, of Metis Ancestry, committed to quality service to carry out objectives of the Registry and to provide a range of service as the **Director of Communications**. This full time position is based at the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon, SK, with the possibility of travel throughout the province.

Reporting to the CEO, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, you will:

- Communicate and distribute information to the MNS, stakeholders, media, and the public.
- Inform the citizenship and stakeholders about MNS initiatives through various media, including print, radio, television, brochures, public meetings and workshops.
- Update and maintain the MNS website to provide current, accurate information
- Ensure quality of content, production, and delivery of all communicated information.
- Be responsible for press releases and public service announcements; design of advertisements and materials for internal and external distribution; data basing electronic and hardcopy files; organization of existing photographic files which include repair and manipulation and attending events and function in the capacity as photographer and reporter.
- Provide presentation and graphic design services to create advertisements and other public relations materials, for print and other media, for internal and external use.
- Photography/digital image capture and processing for publication materials produced, include post processing
- Adapt and catalogue existing photographic images, public relations and promotional materials for purposes of creating new digitized media for use in multimedia products.
- Fulfill all other responsibilities as determined by the CEO.

Minimum Qualifications

- Degree in journalism, public relations, or communications and/or a minimum of 3 years experience working on strategic communications and marketing planning and implementation, including employee communications, media relations, government affairs, community relations and event management.
- Proven ability to manage and implement media relations strategies
- Command of Microsoft Office software, particularly Microsoft Word, as well as graphic and layout programs including but not limited to: Publisher, Quark Xpress, PageMaker, and Adobe Photoshop.

Must possess a valid driver's licence and reliable vehicle with appropriate insurance.

Requirements

- Exceptional written, oral and interpersonal skills both internally and externally
- Proficiency with Computer Programs
- Must be able to work as part of a team and independently with minimal supervision
- Knowledge of Metis history, culture and governance.
- Strong orientation toward serving the citizenship
- Knowledge of journalistic standards that include creating source, fact checking, copyright and trademark laws.

Under the **Powley Initiative**, the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan is seeking a strong team player, of Metis Ancestry, committed to quality service to carry out objectives of the Registry and to provide a range of service as the **Genealogist**. This full time position is based at the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon, SK, with the possibility of travel throughout the province.

Reporting to the Registry Director, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, you will:

- Ensure that all genealogical research activities are conducted in accordance with established policy and procedure
- Ensure that the genealogical research supports the objective of a secure, efficient, standardized and objectively verifiable process.
- Obtain detailed knowledge of the MN - S bylaws with regard to definition of Metis, citizenship criteria, applicant eligibility and application documentation requirements and supplemental MN - S policies and procedural guidelines.
- Identifying and obtaining proof of significant genealogical milestones of the applicant's life: date and place of birth, date and place of marriage, and (For ancestors) date and place of burial - plus information about family (citizens and significant recorded events (Baptisms, Christenings, Death Certificates, Obituaries, etc.) and copies of research that may already have been done.
- Researching family histories, collected genealogies, source materials (Abstracts and transcriptions of records), local histories, and other printed materials such as newspapers, reference works and directories (City, telephone, trade and professional), and manuscripts.
- Work under the direction of the Registry Director.
- Fulfill all other responsibilities as determined by the Registry Director.

Minimum Qualifications

- Considerable experience (Minimum 3 years) in the techniques applicable to genealogical research.
- Knowledge, skills, and initiative to pursue a variety of avenues and means to prove or disprove, conclusively, the existence of family linkages that would determine an applicant's claim to citizenship of the MN - S.
- Ability to prepare research reports, detailing searches made, explaining results achieved, logging all sources searched, and providing copies of all pertinent documents identified.

Must possess a valid driver's licence and reliable vehicle with appropriate insurance.

Requirements

- Excellent written, oral and interpersonal skills are required. The incumbent must have the ability to present lucid arguments for or against the granting of citizenship
- Knowledge and ability to maintain meticulous records of all genealogical research conducted.
- Proficiency with Computer Programs
- Must be able to work as part of a team and independently with minimal supervision
- A high degree of problem solving skill is required. Complex decisions have to be made on an ongoing basis regarding operational logistics, requiring the ability to prioritize and make adjustments.
- Responsible for direct management of staff which requires the ability to provide guidance, monitor and evaluate performance.

We thank all applicants for their interest, but wish to advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Preference will be given to a Metis candidate

The Metis Nation - Saskatchewan reserves the right to hire under an exemption from the Human Rights Commission

Interested and qualified persons should apply

no later than 5:00 pm November 28, 2008 to:

**Human Resources Committee
Metis Nation - Saskatchewan
219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8
Via Fax: 306-343-0171
Email: reception@mnsask.ca**

Under the **Powley Initiative**, the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan is seeking a strong team player, of Metis Ancestry, committed to quality service to carry out objectives of the Registry and to provide a range of service as the **File Maintenance Officer**. This full time position is based at the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon, SK.

Reporting to the CEO, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, you will:

- Develop standardized filing policies and procedures
- Establish and maintain an organized, accessible, and current filing and record keeping system in accordance with applicable standards, policies, and procedures
- Draft policies and procedures related to records management for review by supervisor
- Maintain the security and confidentiality of documents
- Develop a thorough knowledge of any existent policy or guidelines for the protection of personal information.
- Maintain confidentiality and security of information and materials according to established policies and procedures
- Dispose of obsolete files in accordance with established retirement schedule or legal requirements
- Ability to provide staff with files and other related information in a timely manner.
- Fulfill all other responsibilities as determined by the CEO.

Minimum Qualifications

- Minimum 1 year experience in administration and office management with a background in drafting and recommending policies and procedures relations to records management
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

Ability to maintain confidentiality and work with appropriate judgement, discretion and adherence to policy.

Requirements

- Ability to communicate effectively with staff
- Ability to process a large volume of documents quickly and organize records in a logical manner
- Exceptional organization skills

Under the **Powley Initiative**, the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan is seeking a strong team player, of Metis Ancestry, committed to quality service to carry out objectives of the Registry and to provide a range of service as the **Information Technology Manager**. This full time position is based at the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon, SK. With the possibility of travel throughout Saskatchewan.

Reporting to the CEO, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, you will:

- Direct, manage, supervise and coordinate the activities of the Information Technology Department at the MNS
- Obtain knowledge of Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, its philosophy, policy, objectives, and programs
- Develop and maintain an operational plan for I.T. coordination and sustainability.
- Procure and manage Network Infrastructure Software and Desktop Application Software. Manage/Loise relationship with provider of Custom MNS Application Software and databases.
- Responsible for security and confidentiality of database applications and corporate data
- Manage changes to system hardware and software
- Recommend and manage a policy and plan regarding repair or replacement of hardware, desktop software and infrastructure software.
- Develop, implement, and maintain computer hardware, software, and corporate data disaster recovery plan.
- Fulfill all other responsibilities as determined by the CEO.

Minimum Qualifications

- A post secondary degree or diploma plus 3 - 5 years experience in Computer Systems Technology
- 2 - 3 years management experience
- Knowledge of Information Technology related disaster prevention and recovery procedures

Requirements

- High level of confidentiality
- Team player and professional with a positive attitude
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills to effectively consult with vendors and service providers
- Ability to prepare evaluations, reports, correspondence, and material for presentations and seminars.
- Excellent verbal, listening, and communication skills to effectively consult with and provide guidance to all levels of Metis Nation - Saskatchewan personnel.

Under the **Powley Initiative**, the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan is seeking a strong team player, of Metis Ancestry, committed to quality service to carry out objectives of the Registry and to provide a range of service as the **Registry Director**. This full time position is based at the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon, SK, with travel throughout the province.

Reporting to the CEO, Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, you will:

- Ensure all Registry activities conform with internal and external policies and procedures
- Develop and implement standardized Registry policies.
- Develop policy statements for Registry procedures and create an operations manual.
- Develop a policy to identify Metis in Saskatchewan and maintain the Registry database.
- Develop and implement plans, policies and procedures for the delivery of Registry services
- Recruit and train 20 - 30 Registry staff to process citizenship intake applications.
- Ensure that established policy is followed in every aspect of citizen registry.
- Ensure that federal, provincial, and municipal laws, regulations, and policies are followed.
- Perform administrative duties such as monthly, quarterly, mid-term, and final reports, etc.
- Work under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Fulfill all other responsibilities as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

Minimum Qualifications

- Post secondary education in Business Administration, and/or minimum 3 years experience in public administration, policy development, strategic planning, and executive-level decision-making.
- Experience managing financial resources, planning budgets, creating projections, and conducting analysis and expenditure control.
- Must possess a valid driver's licence and reliable vehicle with appropriate insurance.
- Requirements
- Conflict resolution skills
- Problem solving skills
- Strong knowledge of Metis traditions, culture, genealogy and history
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency with various Computer Programs
- Experience in the design and implementation of databases for the purposes of mass collection of client information
- Must be able to work as part of a team and independently with minimal supervision
- Ability to provide guidance and training to employees and monitor and evaluate performance
- Ability to overcome criticism
- Experience in working with volunteers in a non-profit environment
- Willingness to travel

Out in the Cold much better than expected

Heading to the Roxy Theatre in late October for the Saskatoon premiere of *Out In The Cold*, I was in a cynical mood and didn't expect much from what I was about to see. I had heard from people it wasn't very good and not what they were expecting – strange, since it starred Gordon Tootoosis, Erroll Kinistino and Matthew Strongeagle.

After lengthy introductions, thank yous and back stories from producer Sarah Abbott, my restlessness to get the show in gear had me jumping the gun and already writing a scathing review before the curtain even rose from the stage.

Thirty minutes later I found myself inspired, entertained and excited for what had been accomplished over four excruciatingly cold nights last winter. *Out In The Cold* tells a story loosely based on the infamous 'Starlight Tours' – which I think by now needs no explanation.

Strongeagle's character, Thomas, is dropped off on the outskirts of town by the police and left to fend for himself. Drunk, underdressed and weary, Thomas passes out, only to be 'recruited' by *Cold As Ice*, played by Kinistino. *Cold As Ice* and *Soft As Snow*, played by Tootoosis, debate about what to do with Thomas. *Cold As Ice* wants him to stay there and die like them while *Soft As Snow* wants him to survive and get back to the city to tell their story.

Wonderfully written by Cheryl Jack, *Out In The Cold* manages to take viewers on an unimaginable journey into what can only be described as hell with snow and ice. She was able to weave in timely humor and wit as *Cold As Ice* and *Soft As Snow* banter back and forth about what to do with Thomas, highlighted by *Cold As Ice*'s question 'why were Indians here first?' To which all three characters reply in unison 'because we had reservations.'

As I sat there afterwards, I was excited to stick around and chat with all involved ... then the panel discussion began. Thinking we'd be discussing the film and the history of the issues it explored, I was shocked as question after question was hurled at Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill about everything from police officers questioning innocent people who matched suspect descriptions to what the police were going to do about Aboriginal people getting equal wages to what they were earning in a different city.

And the cynicism returned. But not before I decided

Out In The Cold was one of the best films I have seen this year.

A Veteran's Story

My grandpa was a Second World War veteran, a mechanic stationed in North Africa who kept the Lancaster war planes ready for action. As a young lad, I was amazed with my grandpa the war hero and would constantly bug him to tell me stories. And he would.

But instead of describing what it's like to be bombed, shot at and raided, he told me stories of the friendly locals, charming kids who called him 'Muhammad' and the heavenly sunsets he watched in the desert plains.

I never displayed my disappointment with his stories, they seemed to make him happy telling them. Over the years I helped out more and more around my grandparents home, always doing the jobs and chores that required a ladder or being on the roof – my grandpa hated heights.

When he passed away in 2003, I confessed to my uncle I was disappointed I never had the guts to ask him why he was scared of heights ... and my uncle told me.

When a bombing was scheduled, the Lancasters would fly almost no matter what – sometimes even with mechanical problems. Often times the hoppers that dropped bombs would jam up and need to be fixed. If there was no time to repair them, the mechanics were required to drop bombs out of the plane by hand, thousands of feet in the air, while laying down in the wings.

With no idea how many lives he may have ended, it was no wonder my grandpa never wanted to share his war stories with me. I am, however, extremely grateful he was able to share stories that allowed him to feel human in such a horrible time.

Please, never forget the sacrifices and atrocities our veterans experienced then and still experience today. It is our duty.

A Rez Christmas Story VII: Life Is Wonderful

A Rez Christmas Story VII is set for another run this holiday season. This time we'll find out who'll be crowned 'Elder of the Year' in Kiweet-



inook. The Kokums will surely lift your spirits with another hilarious edition of what has become a holiday tradition around SNTC.

It runs from December 5-11. Tickets available by contacting the SNTC box office at (306) 933-2262.

Mispon Coming to Saskatoon

Mispon Aboriginal Filmmaking Festival will be held at the Roxy Theatre in Saskatoon from December 5-7. Remember, admission is free, so get out and support our filmmakers.

For more information, the event schedule or to volunteer, email: mispon@email.com

Saskatoon Aboriginal Employment Network
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Myrna LaPlante at 477-9217 or lplante@saen.sk.ca

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Email: awasisconf@sasktel.net

Call for Presenters

The Awâsis: Aboriginal Education Council is calling for presenters for the upcoming annual conference. The Awâsis Education Conference 2009 is scheduled for April 29, April 30, and May 1 at the Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The council's primary goal is to ensure and to assist in the continued growth and improvement of Aboriginal education. The council's mandate emphasizes the commitment to deliver information in a 'wholistic' approach consisting of four strands: wellness, spirituality, culture, and education. A variety of proposals for adult and youth oriented workshops which are geared to meet any of these strands are encouraged.

Log on to the website address below to retrieve the 'call for presenters' application form. Note that the deadline for applications may be extended if deemed necessary.

Website: <http://ssc.stf.sk.ca/awasis/>

Sask Book Awards have Métis flavour

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Book Awards recently released the shortlist for their awards and Métis publishers, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, had four of its books qualify for the prestigious award.

Nominations were pared down from the all time record breaking number of 113 titles totaling 261 entries to a shortlist of 54 titles and 80 nominations in 14 categories. In total, there are 60 authors and editors and 29 publishers nominated for the 56 titles in the running.

Karen Shmon Publishing Coordinator at Gabriel Dumont Institute is very proud of their success this year.

"We are pleased that the work of the Elders, artists and writers are being recognized in such a good way. These awards contribute to making the Métis cultural base larger.

"Every one of our books we entered made the shortlist. And some, like Medicines to Help Us, by Christi Belcourt, are in several categories."

Not only has GDI cornered many nominations, they are also heavily involved with providing Métis flavour to the Award gala.

"We offered to help make the book awards a Métis event," said Shmon. "We are sponsoring, bringing in John and Vicki Arcand to perform, while Maria Campbell reads from her book Stories from the Roadside Allowance.

"We are also gussying up the tables with miniature red river carts and other

Métis cultural symbols. It will be nice to see Métis literature recognized in such a way."

The Book Award organizers were thrilled to work with GDI to bring the Métis theme to the Gala.

"It all came from a conversation we had with Darren Prefontaine from GDI who is also on our board," said Sue Stewart, a member of the board of directors of the Book Awards.

"They offered to help contribute materials like red river cart decorations and the inclusion of John and Vicki. This is great. The Métis community is important and GDI is a leader in publishing. The growth of nominations has been taking off in the Aboriginal community."

GDI had four books make the list. Stories of Our People / Lii zistway di la naasyoon di Michif: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology, Medicines to Help Us: Traditional Métis Plant Use, Story of the Rabbit Dance, and Better that Way all garnered nominations, with Medicines to Help us receiving the nod in three categories.

"We created a field guide and study prints that came from a large painting that Christi Belcourt made," said Shmon.

"The project contains the parts of her painting of the plant, as well as a real photo of the plant, how the Métis used it originally, and the name of the plant is listed in common English, Latin, Cree, French and Michif.

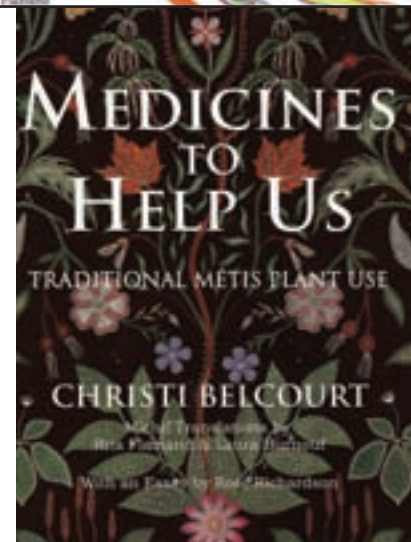
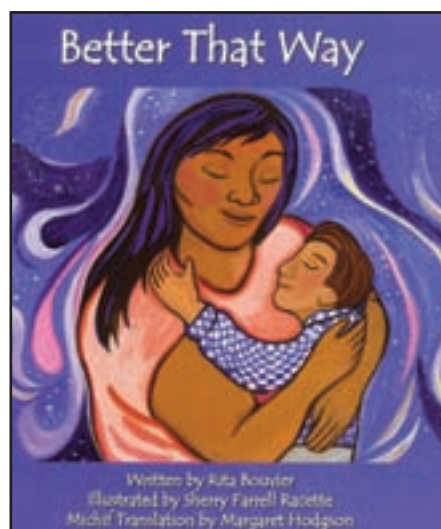
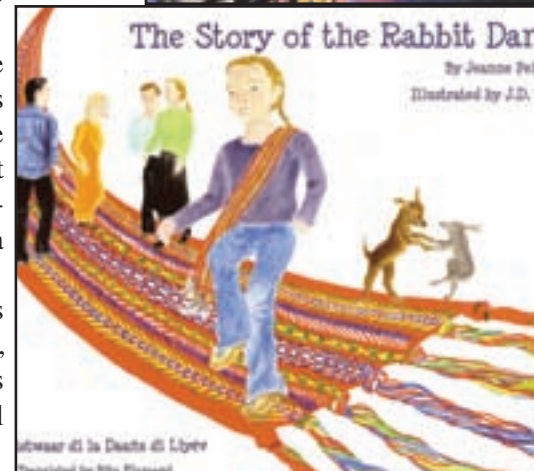
The plant card can go in the field with you or you can hang the visual in the school. It is a beautiful book."

Stories of Our People: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology is a bit different than the usual GDI book.

"I had so much fun working on this project," said David Morin, Curriculum Developer at GDI. "We took a folklore project that had five great stories from the Elders. The artist Carrie Saganace did a different style for each one. One was even hand drawn.

"What better way to share these stories with teen readers than the graphic novel style. The stories start out as fun, but get darker as we learn about the Rugaroo and the devil and it gets a bit scary."

The 16th Annual Awards Gala will take place on Saturday, Nov. 29 at Regina's Conexus Arts Centre, when the winners of all 14 awards will be announced.





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- Extensive training and management experience in human resources, facilities operations and health organizational policy development
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of primary health care models, team development and comprehensive health information systems
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to provide effective leadership in a developing organization

Individuals interested in applying for this position should forward their resume, including a clear CPIC (original or certified true copy required) to:



Ms. Lena May Seegerts,
Human Resources Manager
Athabasca Health Authority
P.O. Box 124
Black Lake, Saskatchewan
S0J 0H0
Phone: (306) 439-2200 Fax: (306) 439-2187
Email: lseegerts@athabascahealth.ca

**Applications for the position will be accepted until
4:00 PM, Friday, January 16, 2009.**




GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

of Native Studies and Applied Research





The Gabriel Dumont Institute congratulates the authors, storytellers, illustrators, and Michif translators who contributed to our shortlisted titles for the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards.

For ordering information or to order online:
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Keeping language fun and accessible

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre plays a valuable role in the protection and promotion of First Nation languages in Saskatchewan. In December, at their annual Language Keepers Conference, the SICC, on top of its regular language work, will be launching and promoting two children's books.

"Our work here for the past 36 years at SICC has mostly been in the backroom working furiously on language, and now it is exciting to launch these two new books and generate excitement," said Dorothy Myo, The executive director of the Centre.

"The focus of our conference is to bring together various interests to highlight best practices in language preservation and rejuvenation in Saskatchewan and nationally.

"With these people, we want to figure out how to facilitate instructors and communities to assume ownership and responsibility in revitalizing language.

"These books can be one tool to help us fulfill our mandate."

The goal is to get the books into the community, accompanied with a teachers guide and resource. The books will be available in all eight language groups in Saskatchewan.

Darryl Chamakese had a lead role in getting the books published.

"nipapamohtan sakahk is the name of my book," said Chamakese. "The little girl is named 'iskwesit' but it is based on my youngest daughter, Tyra, my inspiration."

The story is based on a young girl

from northern Saskatchewan going out and discovering the many sights and sounds in her own backyard. From an educational standpoint it teaches different animals and the actions they perform.

The second book was written by Regina Shingoose and it is loosely based on her grandson and tells of a young boy and the things he does when he wakes in the morning.

Joi Arcand brought the characters to life with her remarkable artwork.

A key job for the SICC is to provide language material for teachers.

"In everything we do, we have two pillars," adds Myo. "Language and culture are inseparable in our work and everything we do. Teachers are overwhelmed.

"We have to make it easy. The books return to the basics and that is family, how we are related and about kinship."

The kinship theme will run deep through the Language Keepers Conference as there will be a high level of storytelling and focusing on how First Nations share.

"We have made sure that there will be workshops from all language groups delivered by the Elders," added Myo. "And the stories the Elders tell will be about kinship and how we are related."

Other features of the conference include how to transfer knowledge using technology as a group from the States is bringing up their phraseolator that helps preserve phrases and also helps people learn through audio.

There will also be international experts on Indigenous Knowledge and how to protect it.



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- Choosing the Best Bank Account
- Getting and Managing Credit
- Investing Money
- Preparing a Will and Effectively Deal with an Estate
- Starting a Business

The workshop includes hands on exercises, lunch and take-home resources for participants. Its aim is to support all survivors and all community members impacted by residential schools.

Also ask about the **Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow Program**, a five day workshop designed to build personal, business and leadership skills.

For information on hosting this free workshop contact:



Mark Brown, CESO Regional Manager
PH: 306-384-7858
EMAIL: mbrown@ceso-saco.com
www.ceso-saco.com

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Cooperative in Regina at (306) 757-8818, check out
mispon on Facebook, or email mispon@email.com.

White Bear First Nations is a progressive tourist community located near Moose Mountain Provincial Park and the town of Carlyle, Saskatchewan. The community operates several business entities including the White Bear Lake Golf Course, White Bear Lake Resort, White Bear Oil & Gas, Four Nations Care Lodge and White Bear Holdings. To support the achievement of the community's vision and goals White Bear First Nations is seeking an experienced leader to direct its administrative and operational functions.

Apply in confidence to:

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Senior Manager, Advisory
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Regina, SK S7P 0J3
E-mail: yvette.battistolo@mnp.ca
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Executive Director

Reporting to the Chief and Council, the **Executive Director** is the senior executive and key management representative responsible for overall management of operations. This key management position ensures the goals, objectives and directives of the First Nation are carried out in a professional, efficient, and prompt manner.

This opportunity will be of interest to individuals with a demonstrated ability to:

- Work collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes.
- Provide leadership in the development and implementation of business strategies, economic development initiatives and action plans.
- Direct finances in a prudent manner.
- Lead the prudent operation of all programs and business entities.
- Maintain good corporate and economic governance practices.
- Lead a supportive, positive and productive work environment for staff through effective leadership practices.

This opportunity will be of interest to individuals with:

- Strategic senior-management level knowledge and business acumen relating to finance, human resources, economic development and governance.
- An ability to work collaboratively, build positive, trusting relationships and demonstrate respect for people at all levels.
- Effective organizational, planning, priority and time management skills.
- Well-developed interpersonal communication skills and the ability to build and maintain strong relationships.
- A minimum of five years management level experience.
- A bachelor's degree with a major in business, finance, management and/or field related to First Nation governance and administration.

If you are an experienced senior level manager interested in supporting White Bear First Nations in achieving its goals we encourage you to apply by November 20, 2008.

Big River boxer a knockout in India

It was Stuart Twardzik's farthest trip away from home. And if that is what it takes to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal, he will gladly make the effort again.

Twardzik travelled to Pune, India to compete in the World Youth Commonwealth Games. He defeated the hometown hero Satinder Satinder 5-0 to win the middleweight boxing gold medal.

Growing up, boxing was in his blood. Not only did his brother push him, but his father became his coach. Dad is still in the corner along with John Devison of the Hub City Boxing Club.

Twardzik used his pinpoint accuracy and defence to win his matches. He said that a lot of fighters would throw flurries but land few shots and that he sort of picked his spots.

In his first match he defeated Tyson Whalley from New Zealand and then Keiron Harding of Wales in his second bout.

Twardzik was confident throughout the tournament and expected to win. Once he got to the final he says he "was confident and knew he was going to win."

In the future, Stuart hopes to box with the Canadian National Team and earn a degree from one of Saskatchewan's post-secondary schools.

Sad effort in Riders

last game of the year

Whether you travelled to watch the game in Regina or sat back at home, nothing about the Riders pathetic display in the Western Conference Semi-Final sits well with you.

The team's first quarter debacle was horrendous to witness. Turnover after turnover forced the defence to keep them in the game. I swear Michael Bishop was throwing passes directly to BC Lions because no receivers were anywhere near his passes in the first half.

The ball seemed to just go towards the Lions as they seemed to have been made of metal and the ball was a magnet.

It was not all Bishop's fault, or maybe it was. But the whole team seemed to not show up in the second half. Play after play of bad timing, lack of execution and outright carelessness led to the Riders demise.

I usually praise Rider management but after watching Saturday's game I'm left thinking that Marcus Crandell wasn't all that bad.

And maybe we were spoiled by the Grey Cup win last year. But if we are trying to build a consistent winner here in Saskatchewan, efforts like we watched on Saturday are just unacceptable.

Blades streak all the way to first

The Saskatoon Blades rode an eight game winning streak all the way to first place in the East Division.

The Blades sit atop the standings tied with Swift Current Broncos.

Recently the Blades have been led by the stellar play of Braden Holtby between the pipes. Derek Hulak is having a good year with 21 points in 21 games and Burke Gallimore is leading the team with 11 goals. Stefan Elliot has been solid on the blue line and has also pitched in with 16 points for the year.

The Blades are currently in the midst of an 11 game home stand.

Lavallee's stellar career honoured by Hall of Fame

Jackie Lavallee was recently inducted to the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

Lavallee was a two sport star during her five-year career with the Saskatchewan Huskies.

She excelled at both soccer and basketball. She patrolled the midfield on the soccer pitch and was a three-time Canada West all-star and an All-Canadian in 1999. In basketball she was also a three-time Canada West all star and All-Canadian in 2001-2002.

She received the Tom Longboat award which recognizes outstanding ability by a First Nations Athlete and was also a recipient of the Sylvia Sweeney Award in 2002.

Lavallee would also play for Team Canada three times in her career, twice at the World University Games. And would later play Division 1 basketball in Germany

following a glorious career with the Huskies. Lavallee has now returned home to Saskatoon where she is currently teaching at Oskayak High School.

Random thoughts

Detroit gets Allen Iverson and loses Billups and Mcdyess, hmmm ... I think the Pistons got the best of that one, Joe Dumars for Executive of the Year? Other NBA Predictions for you, NBA Finals Lakers over the Celtics 4-1 ... MVP Chris Paul, Rookie of the Year Derrick Rose (kid is for real) ... Woohoo the Phillies won the World Series, did anyone really watch any of those games? ...Westside Warriors are back!



The staff at the Clarence Campeau Development Fund are all Riders fans ... well, except for one who happens to be a wayward Bombers fan. After the Riders destroyed the Bombers on Labour Day, as punishment they dressed the poor guy up in the proper Green and White colours. He took it exceptionally well. Now that both the Bombers and, sadly, the Riders are done for the season, the jerseys can go back in the closet for the next seven months until the season opens up next June.

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CONTACT

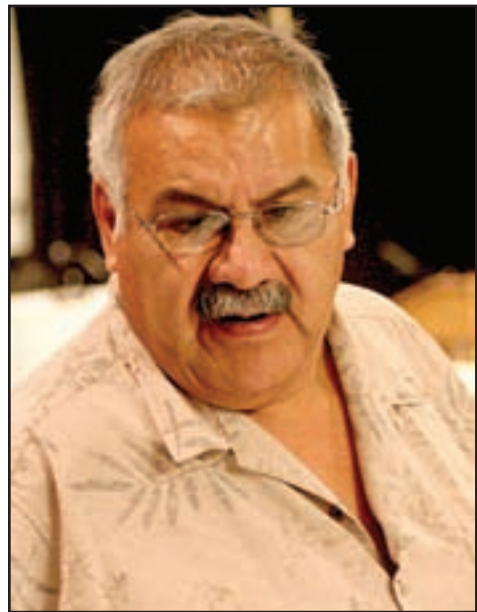
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Wapass back in executive

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A familiar face has rejoined the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) executive. Former Vice-Chief and Chief of Thunderchild First Nation, Delbert Wapass, rejoins the FSIN as the Second Vice-Chief following his victory at last month's fall legislative assembly.



RON MICHEL

"I was humbled last election when I didn't get in," Wapass admits. "A lot of times people confuse arrogance with confidence. Let me tell you that because I am passionate and I feel for what I do, please don't confuse that with arrogance because that is confidence.

"When I have my Elders and I have

you, chiefs and councilors, behind me, behind us as an executive, we feel that we can do anything."

Former Executive Director of the Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society, Ted Quewezance ran against Wapass as well as former Chief of the White Bear First Nation, Bernard Shepherd.

Wapass acknowledged his two opponents, saying he will call on them during his term, and says First Nations leaders need to make better use of past leaders because they have something to offer.

"I know that with the knowledge and the experience that both Ted and Bernie have that I'll be able to go to them and I will. And ask for their advice, ask for their guidance, and ask for their input in how we should move ahead.

"Many a times in elections there are people who are defeated and we forget about them. I don't think we should be operating like that as First Nations people."

Wapass suggested getting Elders more involved as well.

"Where's our Elders council? We need to bring our Elders council to help our Senate. I've heard many chiefs talk about that. I've heard many councilors talk about that. I've heard many Elders talk about that."

Wapass also wants to make sure First Nations people are benefiting from any development happening on their lands.



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph welcomes Delbert Wapass to the fold.

"Why are the Métis people claiming traditional territory? They came after and yet they are claiming rights. We have to be very aggressive, and I agree we have to be a team at the federation."

The vote went to a second ballot, with Quewezance dropped after the first round. Wapass beat Shepherd by a vote of 434 to 316.

In other elections, the Saskatoon Tribal Council elected Felix Thomas as their new Chief. He will be backed up by Geraldine Arcand who was elected Vice Chief.

In Prince Albert, Ron Michel held off Roy Bird to keep his spot as Grand Chief of the Prince Albert Grand Council.



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