

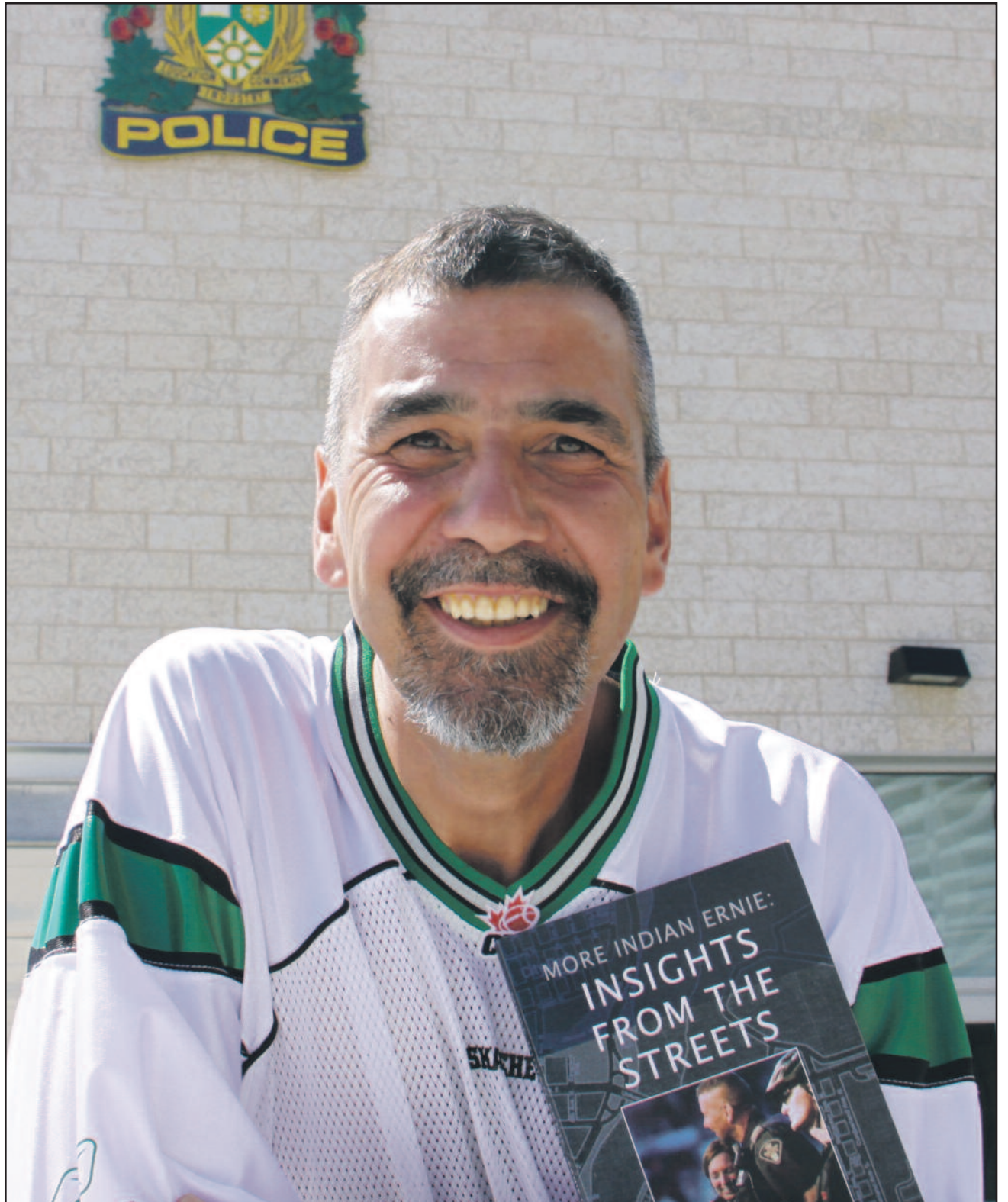
Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Ernie writing his retirement ticket

Ernie Louttit went from being the most well known cop on Saskatoon's west side to an award winning author who just released his second book.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Louttit cuffs himself to a computer these days

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Ernie Louttit didn't waste any time on the streets when he was a Constable then a Sergeant for the Saskatoon Police Service.

He was always on the move, relentlessly patrolling the inner city of Saskatoon and he had the highest arrest rate of any officer. People on the street either loved him or hated him ... and as only the third Aboriginal officer on the force when he began, he quickly earned the nickname 'Indian Ernie.'

Louttit retired a few years ago and traded his uniform and weapons in for a computer and became an award winning writer.

He recently released his second book, More Indian Ernie: Insights from the Streets and this book offers more of the same that made his first book so popular, straight up stories from a street cop's view of the realities of dealing with prostitutes, street gangs, drunk drivers, mental health issues and other justice officials. The fast moving book wastes no words.

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INSIDE



GANG STORIES

Bobby Henry is doing his research, preparing to tell the horrific and revealing stories of gang members. - Page 3



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His thoughts of suicide have subsided now that Chris Moya has gained a new understanding of life. Page 9



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A grieving mother is unhappy with the investigation into her son's untimely death. - Page 10



A GREAT MONTH

Yellow Quill's Gurski sisters enjoyed a month of success on various softball diamonds. - Page 14



SHARING HIS SKILL

Mike Linklater is one of the best basketball players on the globe. Now he's sharing his knowledge. - Page 15

Welcome to our
Justice Edition

Coming In September - Back to School Issue

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Inside Aboriginal gangs: research may improve success of interventions

By Michael Robin
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – They spotted him while he was out with his wife at a Regina mall, five men from a rival gang who start making trouble, chasing him outside and down a back alley. Steps ahead of his pursuers, he ducks into a car.

“So what did he do?” asks Robert (Bobby) Henry, a researcher working to tell the stories of men in Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal gangs.

“I know what I would do; I’d be in the vehicle and I’d be gone,” Henry says. “They had knives; there’s five of them – I’m outta there. Not him. His reputation was on the line.”

Instead, the man grabbed a knife from the car, tied a leather jacket around his arm and turned to meet his pursuers. When it was over, the five attackers were on the ground and he, despite two stab wounds, was still standing – along with his reputation as one of the toughest knife fighters in the city.

Henry has spent the past four and half years working to gain insights about men in Aboriginal gangs – their culture, their behaviour, how they came to be in their situations, and how they got out. He hopes the knowledge can inform interventions to help Aboriginal youth leave gang life or avoid it altogether.

Henry worked closely with STR8-UP, an organization created and run by former gang members to help others get out of gangs.

Although Henry is Métis, from Prince Albert, he said his was very much a middle-class upbringing and it took time to prove himself both to the organization and to the men associated with it. At first, no one would open up to him, having had experience with researchers in the past that would ask their questions, poke into their lives, and vanish.

Henry took a different approach, based on a model of “relational accountability” and a photo voice research method. The men would get cameras and be asked to capture images that mattered to them, images that said something about their lives. The photos, and the stories that went with them, would go into a high-quality, printed book.

The proposal intrigued his prospective research subjects. It would make their stories, real, tangible, something they could own and share. Still, they were suspicious.



Robert Henry did his PhD research on Aboriginal gangs. (Photo: Michael Robin)

He explained to them that while he didn’t receive any material gains at the beginning, over time he would benefit from their stories and the knowledge they shared.

“They asked me, ‘so what are you getting out of all this?’” Henry says. “I told them, ‘I get to listen to your stories which will help me to get my Ph.D.’”

Now gathered into a book titled “Brighter Days Ahead,” the images and stories offer a glimpse of a world rarely seen or understood by outsiders.

It is a world of “hypermasculinity” – unrelenting violence, harsh codes of behaviour and punishment, but also of honour. Men spoke of the psychological toll of never showing weakness, of “putting on the face” to look dangerous, to look mean. Let that mask slip and you become prey.

Henry shares the words of a former gang member: “You hear the brothers at night, some of them, you hear them crying in the cells, and when you do, you hear a lot of people saying, ‘Who’s that crying? Who’s that little girl?’ You know, that crying stops. That’s what I mean by putting on the mask to wear, to belong, to be accepted.”

Gang life starts early, Henry explained during his successful defense of his PhD dissertation. Former members spoke to him of abusive home lives and indoctrination into violence from the time they entered school – one took a photo of his former schoolyard to illustrate.

“Here’s where a lot of this started for (gang members),” Henry says. “Not at eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, but at four and five where they were learning how to fight on the school ground because they were getting bullied. So they started to fight back, and that’s how they started to build their reputation.”

Success is possible in the gangs, Henry says, but it is success with limits unfamiliar to most people. A gang member might have tens of thousands of dollars from the drug trade or other criminal activity, but no easy way to spend it. One doesn’t walk onto a car lot with \$50,000 in cash to buy a brand new vehicle, or buy a house and make mortgage payments with stacks of cash but no bank account or visible job.

“You’ll see these guys driving a cheap older car that they bought with cash, then they trick it out with thousands of dollars of accessories,” Henry says.

In some ways, men behave with honour and responsibility that would not be unfamiliar in broader society. Henry recounts how one gang member created his own \$300,000 insurance policy for his wife and child. Facing a jail term of several years, he directed his wife to caches of money in secure locations around the city, set aside to tide them over while he was away.

It is an impulse that perhaps shows one possible road out of gangs: the desire to be thought of as a man, one worthy of respect.

“Prevention and intervention programs must focus on masculinity as a causal factor,” Henry says.

“We have to understand masculinity is one of the main things motivating them. The performance that (gang members) are doing, it’s a specialized, localized performance but it’s something that we need to redevelop for community, or that communities must develop for themselves.”



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Getting out to vote shows we matter as Canadians

Well, the writ has dropped on what will be the longest and most expensive federal election in Canada's history.

The parties have polished up their platforms and elected most of their candidates and all that is left is for them to bore the heck out of us so no one votes and we are left with status quo come October 19.

Unfortunately, Aboriginal people have not been a major factor in past elections. Legally, Indians could not vote prior to 1960 and after that, elections were often seen as 'white mans politics' not particularly impacting your average Aboriginal person.

There are also some misguided activists telling us that a vote in a Canadian election undermines your sovereignty as an Aboriginal person (roll the eyes).

With Aboriginal issues being ignored or brutally pounded on by the current ruling Conservative Party, there is a high degree of interest and necessity in getting Aboriginal people out to vote in this election.

Idle No More has also shown Aboriginal people that government bills and laws do impact the day-to-day happenings on reserve and off.

Leaders are now emerging, promoting Aboriginal voting, none more prominent than Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations. Chief Bellegarde believes that this election can be the one that helps close the gap between Aboriginal people and your average Canadian.

His reasons are legit.

"If we vote in this election we can close that gap ... that gap represents the cap on education, the two per cent cap on overall funding, the

missing and murdered Aboriginal women, the high youth suicide, the children that are in provincial care, lack of access to potable water, black mold and the housing crisis in our communities. When our people come out to vote it shows the Members of Parliament and other leaders that our issues matter."

According to Chief Bellegarde, the Assembly of First Nations will be working with Elections Canada on an education and awareness campaign so that "First Nations that wish to exercise their

own personal inherent sovereignty and individual right to vote, can. You need two pieces of ID. You need to register and so on. It is a challenge for a lot of our people to get through those hurdles. We are really relying on the Chiefs and Councils to get their people out and motivated."

Taking the message directly to the people are the volunteers behind Indigenous Vote Sask, a provincial, non-partisan effort to mobilize the First Nations and Métis vote in Saskatchewan. This small but mighty group has been meeting

for some time, planning how they can help increase the Aboriginal vote.

Next week they intend to hit several First Nation communities and provide voter awareness as well as forms for registering and or getting your ID. They just recently received the OK from Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Interim Chief Kim Jonathan and have members that drove in from La Ronge for meetings. They are serious.

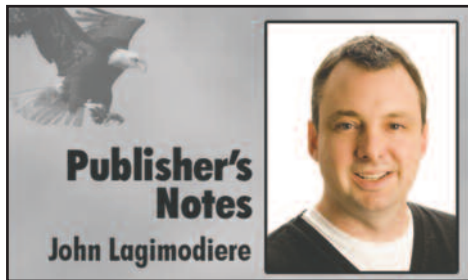
They are also making videos on why you should vote and will be using social media to carry the message and rally the troops. The group is non-partisan and they are encouraging voters to not only vote, but to make an informed vote ... like read the platform of the party, talk to the candidates in your region and know the issues.

The truth is, politicians neglect constituents or ridings that don't vote for them. And our bad track record on voting certainly is reflected in the poor and neglectful policies the government has created. We just haven't mattered.

But Chief Bellegarde says the time is now.

"We need to get the vote out. Our people matter. Our issues matter."

With all of the awareness and energy out there around the issues and voting, don't be surprised if this election is historic, not just because it was long and expensive, but because it was the election when the Aboriginal people finally took their place in Canada and elevated the issues and made a difference in Ottawa by voting.



Indigenous Vote Sask is powered by volunteers including from left Shannon Roberts, CeCe Baptiste, Marcel Petit, Melody Wood, Glenda Abbott and Curtis Peeteetuce. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Talking over coffee can change the world

My father, when he was remembering the great drought of the 1930s, said it was so hot and dry that the grass and the trees crackled in the wind every day and the wind, he said, never seemed to stop blowing.

Well that has certainly been true for the first part of our summer. Not only did the grass and trees crackle but it seemed the wind never stopped and for the first time in my life I saw balls of lightning during one of the spectacular electrical storms we had which produced no rain. As awesome as that all was, it was also frightening.

The North burning up, the evacuation of people from their homes to the cities and the almost minute by minute coverage on radio, television and social media, reminded us every day just how ignorant we are to climate change and, for sure, ill prepared. So ill prepared that it is pretty overwhelming.

I for one know that it's easier to tune out by going out and picking berries than to think of what I can do to change what is happening. But thank goodness for our kids. My youngest daughter called me in the middle of all this and said "Mom, Lorna's having a get together at her house on Saturday and she's inviting all her friends and their moms. Will you come with me?"

"Well sure, but what are we doing?" I asked.

"Who knows, she laughed but it should but be fun."

So, yes, we can do something about climate change. We might not be able to do it alone but we sure can do it together so go on call your best friend and her mother that's a good place to start.

And it was. We ate good food, had Taro readings, went for a walk, talked about all kinds of things and came away with plans to meet again and organize a water walk and ceremony. I met good women and I got to know another side of my baby girl.

I remember as a young mother in the 1960s getting together with other mothers and having what we called consciousness-raising. Over coffee we educated each other on issues that affected our lives and the lives of our children and found ways to change what was happening.

We were able to get Emergency Crisis Centres, Food Banks, Co-op Housing, make changes to the Indian Act so women and their children would have a better life.

Getting together for coffee, talking, planning and organizing was exciting because we were taking control of our lives. Read *Disinherited Generations: Our Struggle to Reclaim Treaty Rights for First Nations Women and Their Descendants* by Kathleen Stienhauer and Nelly Carlson to find out what getting together for coffee and planning by a small group of mothers was able to do for thousands of people across Canada.

So, yes, we can do something about climate change. We might not be able to do it alone but we sure can do it together so

go on call your best friend and her mother that's a good place to start.

So what else am I doing with the rest of my summer besides picking berries, meeting with some radical young moms and their mothers? Well, I am entertaining my cousin Hilary for a few days. She is arriving this week and that will be a fun time.

I'm taking my great grandson out for a birthday dinner and doing a dramatic reading at John Arcand's Fiddle Festival. Co-hosting a Storytelling Gathering and then, flying to a ceremony in Sudbury, Ontario between some First Nations and Michif people from both sides of the border, who are re-enacting a 125-year-old Treaty ceremony. That should be interesting.

But right now the big deal is dinner with my great grandson who was 10 last week. He is very handsome and smart. He loves me and thinks I am the greatest cook and "most awesome lady" he knows. His words on a note he sent me, I have a similar one sent by his father 25 years ago. I am very blessed and not always deserving of it.

...

Condolences to the family of "aunty" Bella Arcand who passed away in July she will be missed by the many people who knew and loved her. She was, I believe, about 97 or 98 years old. It seems to me she and my father were born the same year.

I have many memories of her, but the most recent is about 10 years old. It is of her arriving at Back to Battoche Days in her little red car with a couple of old ladies and a trunk load of pies to sell.

They were having so much fun that my friends and I just wanted to hang out with them for the whole weekend.

She was one of those hard working, wise, tough gentle women who always had a smile, a hug and kind words for everyone. I'll

miss her.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I'll see you at John Arcand's or somewhere down the road.



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Kurt Delorme, Community Relations Coordinator, Saskatoon Fire

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In the name of justice

How should Canadians react to criminal acts? What does justice demand in a 'criminal justice system'? With a federal election looming, it is timely to reflect upon such questions.

When we elect politicians we are deciding who will go to Ottawa to decide what is best for us. Isn't that what governments do when they enact laws? Of course in Canada it will be remembered, your local MP's views and the views of his constituents count only if aligned with the views of the prime minister of the day.

That is because Canada has the least democratic government system of the advanced modern democracies. The main reason is the centralization of power in the office of the prime minister. So let us start again. When we elect a party to govern, we elect the prime minister whose views will decide what is in our best interests.

The mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) gives us an example of how a government can decide what is good for a segment of the population. The folks residing on Indian reserves did not even have the vote when the Indian Residential Schools were established so there was not even the artificial link to the elector's view on what is good for him.

The government's view was that a

formal system of education based upon the values, beliefs and ways of the English-French coalition that governed Canada then was necessary.

Once that goal was established then the dilemma was how to educate children of families who did not live in the communities 'settled' by the ones who controlled the country and its original nations. The government decided what was good for the First Nations and then went on to decide how to do it.

There is another group of Canadians today that has next to no influence on government decisions about what is good for them: prisoners. Among the results of government decisions about what is good for them and for us are solitary confinement policies and statutory minimum sentences, abominations that shame and disgrace governments that have them.

Well-known victims of the harsh Canadian system include Eddie Snowshoe and Ashley Smith, the troubled teenager who had committed no major crime but was tasered and pepper-sprayed in prison and ended up killing herself in 'segrega-

tion' while prison guards watched.

Eddie, a 26-year-old First Nation man from the NWT hanged himself in a solitary confinement cell in which he had been kept for 162 consecutive days. This type of cruel

torture to social animals, condemned by international standards, would not be tolerated here for dogs.

Or lions, for that matter, if you have been inundated with news flashes about Cecil the Lion. But the current government likes it and keeps it. Why do we seem to care so little for our own species? Is the government acting in our best interests?

Minimum sentencing is another abomination in the name of 'justice'. Some time ago the Australian Northern Territory government adopted minimum sentences that resulted in 15-year-old Aboriginal children being sent to prison for stealing pencils.

I happened to be attending a legal forum in the bush of Arnhem Land near the Arafura Sea about a decade ago when on the first day of the forum a new government was voted in and three delegates from the new govern-

ment came to the forum to announce the death of the minimum sentencing law.

That law had been a major reason for calling the meetings which included Law Men and Women from the district's Aboriginal communities.

Back in Canada I was invited to comment on the Minimum Sentencing bills introduced by the Conservative minority government where I described the problems with that approach, which treats every accused the same, regardless of age or circumstance or blameworthiness.

The bill was quashed by the opposition but was reborn in an infamous Omnibus Bill which the opposition parties did not dare challenge on account of their perceived electoral chances on a confidence matter.

So, in Canada, it is the politicians who decide on the length of sentences targeted for minimum sentences not the judges who see and hear the evidence in court in each case. Why have judges then? Let the pollies decide the fate of individuals from their Ottawa hilltop. They know best what is good for you and good for me and good for every accused.

It is the Aboriginal people, families and communities that are most affected by these approaches to 'justice'. Who should decide what is good for us and our communities?



Comment
Paul Chartrand

AUGUST 16 2015  AUGUST 16

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2015 Community Service Awards

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Tickets can be purchased at the Friends of the Park Bookstore, Grey Owl Center in Waskesiu, Scole's Fine Arts and Framing in Saskatoon, or by calling 306-715-7401.

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Root beer pong considered for inclusion in 2016 Olympic Games.

While golf, sevens rugby and kitesurfing have all officially been added to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, one controversial activity is being considered for a demonstration sport—root beer pong.

Root beer pong is generally played by teams of two. The teams arrange ten 16oz cups in a pyramid-like formation on each end of an eight-foot long table. Each cup is filled with the desired amount of root beer and the teams take turns throwing a ping pong ball

away and the opponent then drinks the contents of the cup. The first team to “hit” all of their opponent’s cups wins.

“Throughout the history of the Olympic Games, it’s been imperative to add popular, cutting-edge sports to ensure the games remain relevant and attract our youth demographic,” said one Olympic official. “Root beer pong hits all of the marks in my opinion.”

The Olympic Games do indeed have a rich tradition of adding popular youth

racing were popular demonstration sports. In 1988, bowling was demonstrated. And in 1992, roller hockey was added to the mix.

“The next step in my mind is to standardize the rules globally,” added the Olympic official. “Rules vary wildly depending on where you play this exciting game. Death cup, bouncing, island, redemption, all of these need to be standardized and regulated as to ensure an equal playing ground for every competitor and country. After



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The search for justice

There are many definitions of justice and many will depend on where you live and where you fit into the pecking order of Canadian society; criminal justice, street justice, poetic justice.

The term justice is often used with the word "fairness." In any situation, be it in a courtroom, at the workplace or in line at the local bar, we all want to be treated fairly. We shouldn't be judged more harshly because of our skin colour (but we are), we shouldn't be paid any less because of our gender, and we shouldn't have to wait longer for a drink because of what we're wearing or the colour of our skin. We all deserve equal and impartial treatment.

In order for there to be a just society we must have leaders that support the fair and equitable treatment of all citizens. There is a saying, "For whom much is given; much is expected." To our leaders we expect you to find ways to ensure that the laws of the land are just and administered justly. Protect our rights and punish wrongs using fairness.

Of course, history is littered with examples of governments that were unjust to some citizens. One such example would be the era of residential schools in Canada. First Nations people weren't given the same rights as white people, and still aren't. In the early nineties, The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples made recommendations on "fixing" the inequalities- we're still waiting for those recommendations to be implemented.

More recently, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission provided their recommendations but nothing can happen until Canadians see the value of First Nations people.

Such an example raises the question of what's to be done when an injustice is committed. Over the years, many Indian people have asked the government to make restitution for the years of unequal treatment that their ancestors received.

It took many years for the government and churches to apologize to First Nation people for the treatment of their children in those schools. News flash – money doesn't fix all problems!

When any crime or abuse is committed, we want justice, both for the offender and for the victim. For the offender, justice means that crimes don't go unpunished, but also that the punishment fits the crime. We all want to see the bad guys get what's coming to them.

We treat a 13-year-old who stole a pack of gum differently than we treat a grown man who commits homicide, so justice has some flexibility in its administration (unless you happen to be First Nation). For a victim, justice may be seeing a criminal put behind bars, or it may be monetary – the goal is to make the victim feel equal again – Indian people are a long way from feeling equal in many parts of Canada.

Indian people are the majority in Canadian prisons. Indian children are taken from their families and put into foster homes. Indian women are murdered and missing. Where is the justice for Indian people?

We all have a responsibility to ensure that our communities are fair and just. Let's all do our part to build and maintain safe and healthy communities. Change can happen but it takes time and dedication.

We all have an opportunity this coming October to voice our concerns with the way things are done in this country. Make your voice count this October and vote in the upcoming federal election.

Make sure you register to vote and get the identification you need. Be ready when the polls open. Ask candidates what their views are on First Nations issues? Employment, housing, affordable day care, safe drinking water; what's important to you and your family?

There is a great video on YouTube call Justice for Aboriginal Peoples – It's Time - check it out.

Thank you for your letters and emails. It is my hope that all of you reading will choose to take care of your health and make good choices. Be kind to each other.

I enjoy hearing from you. Contact me at Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News, P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4. sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew



Artist Lionel Peyachew's sculpture will be installed in front of the Saskatoon Police Services building.

Peyachew's winning sculpture inspired by grieving mother

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The monument to be placed in front of the Saskatoon Police Service building honouring missing and murdered Aboriginal women was inspired by a mother's words describing how she best remembers her now deceased daughter.

"The central icon is inspired by a victims' mother in a penned statement shared with the Leader-Post, where she recalled her daughter's artistry and beauty as a fancy dancer, with her shawl as her wings, her arms gliding like an eagle in flight, and her light footwork as if she was dancing on clouds, said artist Lionel Peyachew whose sculpture was chosen after a community consultation process.

Monica Goulet of Saskatoon Police Services explained that the community consultation process had praise for all three but was a definite nod to Lionel's work. Goulet describes the work as inspiring.

"When you look at Aboriginal women we've been stereotyped in a very negative way. Part of reclaiming our identity is to elevate ourselves as Indian women, as Aboriginal women, rather than being seen in a negative stereotype we should be creating images that show a beautiful Aboriginal woman that's proud of her culture."

She describes powwows as a moment of cultural pride.

"Because you see people in all of their glory – dressed up in beautiful regalia, dancing,

moving in a circle and in harmony. It does something to you. Indigenous women should be seen as beautiful talented women. We're beautiful, strong, kind, pipe carriers, healers, gifted – look at all the work we do – we're oriented to helping our communities."

A life-size bronze sculpture will be installed at eye level onto the existing concrete pad in front of the police station. The concept is designed to attract visitors to interact with the central figure and eventually reading the informative panels surrounding the site.

The area inside the panels will provide a circular area surrounding the dancing figure to accommodate a vigil or a space for hand drummers. This project will be built to support the community; to provide a safe place to gather, to pray, a place for meditation, a place to begin and end marches, walks and vigils.

"I want to show a proud maternal image that led a beautiful life filled with positive experiences as a mother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece and auntie to all who loved her.

"A number of victims participated in all aspects of traditional practices and danced to be a part of the sacred circle and were exemplary role models before their lives were tragically cut short," said Peyachew who is a professor at FNUC.

He also repeated the call for a national inquiry, commending the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatoon Police Services, and the Provincial Government who partnered to propose this project.

Moya finds life worth living

Moe Morin is a freelance writer and photographer and the co-founder of Humans of Saskatoon. She photographs and interviews people and tells their stories on her highly popular Facebook page. She caught up to Chris Moya and interviewed him for Eagle Feather News. Chris came to self-realization through Str8-Up and has set out to walk and raise awareness about domestic abuse. Here are his unedited words.

A major eye-opener and a pivotal moment in my life happened last year when I was introduced to Str8-Up. The very moment that really changed my life, opened my eyes and made me want something different for myself. I was in a relationship with this girl and I was her first boyfriend. I brought a lot of issues that I was carrying from my past into the relationship, so I was very violent and controlling. I was very sick.

She looked past everything, and remained hopeful. I continued to manipulate and harm her, and put her through so much crap. She started getting tired of it, the manipulation, the alienation and grew tired of me. Finally, the last time we were together was in December 2013. I had a jealous thought, and I started to choke this girl. Her family found out, and the police were called, I took off and they caught me.

I remember thinking and feeling, "what just happened?" It was like it was nothing to me. I felt heartless, and I was sick of myself. It didn't kick in for a week, I was thinking about it for a whole week till finally I thought, "Oh my god, I'm a bad guy, I need help."

We kept emailing one another, and I emailed daily but her responses were lengthy in-between. I started to experience and putting myself through the hurt and pain I carried. I started to feel what I was doing to myself, and I wanted to get of that, and it was at that very moment I wanted to change. I knew I was losing her, and our baby wasn't even born yet. I didn't know I was hurting our child either, and I was uneducated about pregnancy.

By March, I wanted to see her again, and it was hard for her to trust me. We were in a cycle of abuse, I made promises, and I would come back and hurt her. It grew worse. For about a month or so, every waking moment of every day, I woke up with thoughts of suicide tormenting me. "I lost her, and I'm never going to see her again, life is worthless."

I wanted to end my life.

I ended up walking around, seeking help in Saskatoon, looking for Elders, leaving my card and number. Nobody was contacting me, so I asked the Creator, "why aren't I getting the help I need." So I cursed the Creator, "why? why?" I was getting angry at myself, my life, blaming and kept thinking about all the hardship I went through. I kept thinking, "Is my life worth it?"

I came across Core Neighbourhood, was about to walk by and met a gentlemen by the name of John Sugar. I started talking to him about needing help because I overheard them talking about a sweat ceremony. So I asked, "I want to come. I need help. I need a sweat ceremony." He said I was welcome to come but didn't have room for me.

He introduced me to Stacey Swampy who was a Str8-UP member which I didn't know. We ended up driving to Indian Hill in Whitecap, and I started to pour out what was happening to me. I started to tie my childhood into that, the violence, the abandonment issues, the abuse, the neglect, and I cried. Stacey asked me if I had ever been in a gang, and I told him yes. He told me about Str8-UP, and 10,000 Little Steps to Healing.

I eventually attended a presentation with Father Andre. Everything went in one ear and out the other until Father Andre spoke about the female. I started to cry, and I started to realize I wasn't a good father. I realized I was abusing my spouse and child which opened my eyes. I've been committed to Str8-UP ever since, and now I've been trying to give back what I've taken from women all of my life.



Chris Moya is committed to giving up the gang lifestyle and turning his life around.

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Family looking for answers in teen's death

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – It is always hard to lose a loved one. It is especially heartbreaking when a parent loses their child, a grief so beyond any natural feeling.

Grieving mother Richelle Dubois is searching for an explanation of what happened to her 14-year-old son, Haven Dubois, who died May 20, 2015.

Dubois remembers her son as being a soft, kind-hearted person. He was empathic to others around him and looked for ways to help people. He wanted to learn more about the world around him and watched shows from the history channel and discovery channel.

He was a good dancer and liked to listen to hip hop music though he would also listen to old country classics, such as songs by John Fogerty because they reminded him of his mother. He was an excellent swimmer and was in the pool every chance he got and was also taking Tae-kwon do classes when they lived in Alberta. He also played a bit of hockey.

Dubois received a call from the high school he attended and was told he was not there so she went looking for him. She had gotten a tip of where he was last seen and she went there.

"I found him twenty after twelve that lunch time. It was in broad daylight, it was a sunny day. It was a busy area, right by Victoria and Fines Drive below Pilot Butte creek there," said Dubois.

His mother found him lifeless. Dubois says the creek that she found her son in was shallow and is in a high traffic area, with kids going back and forth to school and home. He was sent to the hospital but it was too late.



Richelle Dubois with her two sons. Haven is on the right.

Media development officer at the Regina Police Services, Les Parker, says that the police found that Haven Dubois' death was not suspected to have any criminal nature and it now belongs to the chief coroner Kent Stewart to determine the cause of death.

"You need to have evidence of criminal wrong doing. There was no evidence, so there was no basis to come to conclude that it was criminal, and I wouldn't be able to speak on that without revealing more about the investigation on our end," said Parker.

Dubois, on the other hand, feels quite differently and very strongly feels that her son's death was suspicious because of all his things going missing: his wallet is still missing, although his cell phone was eventually returned.

"So for his things to go missing and show up a couple of days later, (people) are handing them in, like that right there should be suspicious enough because he had those items on him that day," said Dubois.

She also said that her son was tall and the creek was very shallow and wonders how it could be possible for him to drown in it. Though others claim that the bottom is quite muddy and it can be like quicksand if anyone ever went into the creek.

Dubois also says she moved him a couple of times to different schools for his safety and was constantly worried for him.

"I had moved him to a few different schools because of bullying and peer pressure. He got along more with girls than he did boys, he was such a good-looking kid that the girls surrounded him and a lot of boys didn't like that about him. I know he was being threatened and bullied for that reason," said Dubois.

She says there were threats made to him through social media and believes there is someone out there that knows the truth. She and her family have begun their own investigation and use social media and have contacted other news outlets to send out her message for more information about the death of her son.

It will take a few more months before the results come back and until then no one knows for certain if the death of Haven Dubois was criminal or not.

Parker says that once the results come back, the new information would be considered as they always welcome new information.

"If the information revealed any wrong doing, of course the investigation would be re-opened," said Parker.



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Gangs and drugs behind crime stats says Louttit

• Continued from Page 1

Each chapter and the stories within are captivating. Some of the crimes are familiar and contain lots of detail and after each tale, there is a lesson ... either what Louttit learned or what a fellow officer or justice official or bad guy should have learned.

He isn't afraid to admit mistakes in the book.

"I am a strong believer as a leader checking your ego at the door allows you to lead more effectively. I know I had flaws and made mistakes. They only remain mistakes if you do not learn from them," said Louttit.

"I just wanted to be forthright about my experiences and there were always things I could have done better."

With many sensitive cases and people talked about in the book, Louttit was challenged with finding a way to tell the stories and teach lessons without exactly identifying a fellow officer or an offender. He did a great job with several memorable cases and if you knew the case, you knew the people but Louttit never once names anyone.

"I did not name people in the stories criminals, lawyers, judges, and police officers because it would have taken away from the stories," said Louttit.

"Shaming, praising or naming

people would not have changed the intent of the stories. People will recognize themselves in the book and hopefully come away with a different perspective."

Now that he has two books under his belt, Louttit is in high demand as a public speaker to groups, classes at every level of education, educators, police trainees, and more across Canada. He has also become a media go-to guy for commentary and insight on current justice issues.

According to Louttit, much of the trouble on the streets in Saskatoon and inside the jails can be blamed on gangs.

"The current situation at the correctional centre is scary. I am sure the stress level for everyone except the predatory inmates is high," said Louttit on the current uprisings, overcrowding and escape attempts at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

"Gangs and drugs are the main reasons why there are so many prisoners at the centre. If it were not for them we would probably be operating at or below normal levels. As I said in the book, 2013 would have been a zero murder year in Saskatoon if not for gangs and drugs."

Louttit is candid in the book about the physical and emotional toll that policing has had on himself and his

family. Being witness to so much violence and adrenaline bursts left Louttit suffering anxiety and wild sleeps.

He details the impact of a particular car chase and crash that killed an innocent married couple on Valentine's Day as particularly difficult, waking his wife as he went through the high speed chase in his nightmares. He has never been officially diagnosed with post traumatic stress but he admits that he is only about 70 per cent all right with what he has seen and been a part of.

Trauma aside, Louttit loved policing and does recommend that young Aboriginal people pursue it as a career ... but for the right reasons.

"Policing has many facets but the main one is and will always be to protect people. This has always been the traditional role of the warriors in so many First Nations cultures," said Louttit.

"For any young Aboriginal person wanting to try a career in law enforcement I would suggest you are adopting a traditional and valued role by doing so. It can be a tough and sometimes thankless job but by accepting the challenges you can make a difference.

"There is a need for a reflective police force and being part of it would honour all of us."



Ernie Louttit is still dealing with the trauma of being a hard-nosed, dedicated cop.

(Photo courtesy Saskatoon StarPhoenix)



A message from the President & CEO of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA).

SIGA is now entering its 20th year of operation in the Province of Saskatchewan and it has been a remarkable journey. Two decades after its successful launch, SIGA continues to expand at an impressive rate of growth. The organization currently employs approximately 1,900 people of whom 66% are First Nations.

Right from Day One we took on the challenge, and all of our leaders and management came into place. We developed our own capacities and grew organically as the market grew in the province. SIGA consciously chose not to bring in advisor-type companies to run our daily operations, instead we chose to provide opportunity to local people in the province. We are always looking for opportunity where we can generate a return to give back to our shareholders. We are seeing now after 20 years, some added maturity in the last three or four years. We really are looking at how we maintain our customer base and stay relevant with them while becoming more efficient at the same time.

As a First Nations person from Saskatchewan, I had always observed SIGA as it started out here in the province. What resonates with me and our employees is supporting the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) for the purpose the company was founded upon and represents.

As a non-profit corporation, 100 percent of SIGA's profits are distributed to its beneficiaries in the province. SIGA is a company owned by the First Nations of Saskatchewan, and it fully reports its financial and operational performance to its shareholders and the public.

Profits generated from SIGA's operations are administered by the Province of Saskatchewan.

- 50% is shared with the First Nations Trust, which is distributed to Saskatchewan First Nation communities;
- 25% is shared with regional Community Development Corporations (CDCs), which are situated in the casino locations for local initiatives;
- 25% is shared with the Provincial Government's general revenue fund.

In June of this year, we reported revenues of \$256.5M and a profit of \$84.1M for 2014-2015 fiscal year. This represents an increase of 4.85% over the previous year's net earnings. Out of our profits, we've had four years now where our net income has eclipsed the \$80M mark. We've really taken things to the next level in that way.

Gaming is such a unique industry, like a few others in the country. There is a stringent level of regulatory control, but given the cash-flow intensive nature of it and how the wider society participates, it's more than proven to be very much needed as is evidenced by the positive economic results it has had on countless communities from coast to coast. We have been able to really develop the gaming markets quite well when we compare ourselves to others across the country.

We have always recognized the need to establish a robust foothold while overcoming numerous barriers in an industry that is known to be heavy with regulatory compliance matters. I credit many people with moving the initiative forward, including political leaders from 20 to 25 years ago who

cut through substantial bureaucratic red tape and recognized the bigger picture and meaningful vision of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

We would like to thank our patrons, shareholders and stakeholders throughout the province. Our vision comes alive through the SIGA employees who sincerely believe in their work and the difference they are making in their communities. I would especially like to thank our Board Members past and present for their remarkable work.

Respectfully,

Zane Hansen
President & CEO
Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority
250-103C Packham Ave., Saskatoon, SK,
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SIGA.sk.ca

Play Responsibly.

Corporations step up for northern communities hit by fire

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

LA RONGE – Saskatchewan's Northern communities are still grappling with the aftermath of one of the worst forest fire seasons in the province's history.

After evacuating as many as 13,000 people from their homes for several weeks and with \$100 million spent fighting forest fires, the wild fires of 2015 will be top of the record books for a long time.

Damage to the surrounding area in a number of Aboriginal communities in the North is extensive and although all evacuees have been back home in their communities for a few weeks, it will be quite some time before they have fully readjusted.

The Lac La Ronge Indian Band was one of the First Nations worst hit by the wildfires as about 7,000 people in the surrounding area had to be evacuated from their homes.

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson says never before has the La Ronge band had to deal with such an extensive crisis situation caused by the forest fires.

"This is the first time we have had all our communities evacuated either by direct threat of fire, because we had Sucker River, Grandmother's Bay, Hall Lake, Siskichew Lake and Clam Lake Bridge and La Ronge that were in direct threat of fire," she says.

"We also evacuated Stanley Mission and Little Red (River) because of smoke – so all of our communities were impacted."

She also says although people are certainly happy to be back in their communities after being displaced from their homes for weeks on end, the readjustment process is ongoing.

"I think it's pretty hard on people. It's such a long time for people to be evacuated. You think it's just going to be a few days, then it turned into a week and then two, and three ..."

To help with the transition back home, corporations have been coming forward with much needed resources.

So far, PotashCorp has invested \$100,000 to assist evacuees with their ongoing needs. Company spokesperson Randy Burton says although PotashCorp does not have company operations in any of the communities affected by the fires, they felt it was important to get involved and help because of the extent of the crisis.

"We felt touched by the need," he says. "We get forest fires in this province every year but the scale of the devastation on this was much higher than we've seen in years. In, particular, the number of communities and the number of people who were forced to evacuate I think is unprecedented in Saskatchewan.

"So, we saw in our own community here (Saskatoon) thousands of people in the soccer centres and other facilities having a tough time and we thought, 'you



Kitsaki Management CEO Russell Roberts (left) and Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson (right) at the Potash Corp/Kitsaki food drive.

know, we can help at least by easing their transition back home."

Of the money invested, \$50,000 was put toward the food needs of the returning evacuees.

As part of this effort, PotashCorp partnered with Kitsaki Management out of La Ronge which put in another \$50,000 and in the last two weeks of July, Kitsaki-owned Northern Resource Trucking delivered 5,000 food hampers to 20 different communities in northern Saskatchewan affected by the wildfires.

"In some cases, such as Pinehouse, the power was out for more than a week so obviously people's freezers and fridges are out of action and people would be facing a mess with that when they got home," Burton says.


Russell Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of Kitsaki, understands the importance of the transition back home.

"We operate across the North, and know that people are going to need short-term help to get re-established. Not only are we pleased to make this \$50,000 contribution from our group of companies to encourage others to help, we are very proud to participate with our companies, like Northern Resource Trucking and Athabasca Catering, to help collect and transport food to northern communities."

As the community continues with the clean up and economic recovery, Cook-Searson says she thinks it will be necessary to conduct some sort of public review in order to determine what worked and what didn't in terms of how various agencies dealt with the forest fires.


However, she has said more fund-

ing is needed to provide First Nations people with training and equipment to fight forest fires at the local level before they rage out of control.



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OK campers, here are some timely tips for you

When summer rolls around each year, I feel the pressure to conform to North America's obsession with sleeping on cold rocks and animal feces (seriously, where do you think they go to the bathroom?).

My idea of camping – like my ideal idea of camping – is a hotel room with two TVs, both of them playing HBO.

Why two? So that I can watch Game of Thrones and Veep at the same time, duh.

Despite the hardships that sleeping in mosquito territory bring, people like the camping lifestyle. It doesn't help that marketing makes it look so fun when in reality, camping is cold jaunts across damp grass to the bathroom at four a.m. because the hamburgers weren't cooked all the way through.

So, to express my feelings (as well as a truthful outlook) on the topic of camping, this is what it would look like if I wrote for that bastion of roughing it: the Mountain Equipment Company catalogue.

MEC Hybrid Sleeping Bag - \$135.00

Excellent for temperatures up to minus 20 Celsius so would be perfect for that camping trip in Banff with your outdoorsy boyfriend except that you broke up with him before you actually made the trip. (Next time rent equipment before buying, idiot.)

Still the sleeping bag can be used on the bed when you're too lazy to do the laundry. Sleeping in a sleeping bag is a lot like climbing back inside of the womb particularly when you're having one of those sad drunks. Warning: Don't eat in it; crumbs are impossible to get out.



Patagonia Better Sweater Full-zip Hoody - \$127.00

Wind resistant, warm and lightweight, you bought it with the intention of becoming one of those winter runner people. The first minus 25 day royally screwed up that plan because no amount of fleece can keep out winter's cruel claws.

After five minutes outside, you were back at your front door, your hands so frozen you could barely get the key in the lock. It took five hours to get back full feeling in your face.

Instead, you wear the expensive hoodie while watching illegally downloaded movies on your computer. Cool: The front zip chin guard helps to keep popcorn from falling down your shirt.

Black Diamond Viper Hammer - \$199

So you decided to learn about ice climbing because you heard that hot guys were into ice climbing and went to buy some climbing equipment except the MEC employees with their rosy cheeks and dockers intimidated you and instead of asking for help, you pretended that you knew what you were doing and that is why you have a Viper Hammer and

no idea what the hell it's for.

Then you decided to learn about climbing by watching 127 Hours and what seemed like a helpful tool now looks like the exact instrument that you will use to cut off your own limbs. (If an experienced climber lost one, you will definitely lose at least two)

You leave it on your bedside table and use it to scare away (or climb?) any intruders. Can also be used as a nutcracker or hammer in a pinch.

MSR Dragon Fly Stove - \$118.00

You don't like camping; your family likes camping. But you decided to be a good sport and went along. You figured a cute little stove would make up for the fact that you can't booze it up because everyone is bringing their kids.

And drinking around adorable, inquisitive children is a major buzzkill.

S'mores, you thought, will make this whole shitty trip worthwhile. But when you unpacked it, you realized this stove was more complicated than getting a stalker blocked from your cell-phone.

You spend two hours trying to figure it out while your nieces and nephews poke you with their melted marshmallows on the end of their sticks. You give up – because honestly, anything to do with propane scares you.

You head to bed. Later that night, it begins to rain and you do not bother to get up to rescue the MSR Dragon Fly Stove, preferring instead to mumble from your sleeping bag, "Suck it stove, it's your fault for being so complicated."



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Notice of participation at a Commission meeting

Canada's Nuclear Regulator



The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a meeting from September 30 to October 1, 2015 during which CNSC staff will present the *Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium and Nuclear Processing Facilities in Canada: 2014* and the *Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada: 2014*.

These reports summarize the CNSC's safety performance assessments of uranium and nuclear substance processing facilities, as well as uranium mines and mills, for 2014. At this meeting, the Commission will receive a safety and compliance update on these facilities.

Dates: September 30 – October 1, 2015

Place: CNSC public hearing room
14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario

Time: As set by the agenda published online prior to the meeting date

The meeting date and location may change. Check our website for the latest details.

The public is invited to comment, in writing, on these meeting items. Written submissions must be filed with the Commission Secretary by August 31, 2015 online at nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the_commission/intervention or at the coordinates below. Please include your name, address and telephone number. You may submit your personal information on a separate page to ensure its confidentiality. All submissions and CNSC reports are available to the public on request to the Secretariat.

The meeting agenda will be available online after September 15, 2015 at nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

For more information, contact:

Louise Levert, Secretariat, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9
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Canada

Residential school survivors score big for lacrosse team

By Tiffany Head

For Eagle Feather News

STANDING BUFFALO FIRST NATION – A lot of money and time goes into sports, but the rewards are always so much greater for the families and the communities that invest in a certain sport.

The Standing Buffalo community was introduced to the sport of lacrosse by teacher Russ Matthews seven years ago, and since then, has reaped the benefits both on and off the field.

“At Standing Buffalo, we believe in the power of sport, we believe in the power of recreation. We know that sport is good for children, for families, for the community, we just wanted to give the community something to hold on to together and something that we could all strive for together as a team, as a community,” said Matthews.

This year they have three teams, pee wee, novice and bantam that have been competing in the Queen City Minor Box Lacrosse (QCMBL) League for a few years. The bantam team has been together for six years since they were in their novice years.

They have never had a corporate sponsor but the parents hold fundraisers and the Chief and council have invested the band’s money into the team.

“Were looking for a corporate sponsor to come in and help us. We always say we won the biggest lacrosse tournament in the world that’s been around for 39 years. We do not have a box or hockey rink in Standing Buffalo, and for us to have all that success practising in the gym or outside, we would like to get a corporate sponsor to build a box in Standing Buffalo,” said Matthews.

This year they have been blessed as 65 residential school survivors from the community contributed their Residential School Education program credits, which was \$3,000 from each survivor.

“The honourable thing in it was that there were many programs where the survivors could have gotten the money right back into their own pockets but these 65 people awarded their credits to the lacrosse program, knowing that the children were going to get the benefit,” said Matthews.

Not only have they invested money into the children in their community, these selfless survivors also volunteer their time coaching, taking turns driving, cooking pre-game meals for the children and so many other ways.

The residential school survivors have been a motivating force for the team and make the program a success.

Rosebel Goodwill is one of the survivors who donated her credits to the lacrosse team. She is the eldest of the group and also the lacrosse team elder, and she smudges and prays for the team on their travels and games.

“I saw a lot of changes in the community, people are talking more, getting along better, have things going on and having our community participate in it, so I think its OK. I see changes,” said Goodwill.

Their kindness has created a beautiful relationship with the community members. They are giving the families and the community members something they have never experienced themselves growing up in residential schools.

Matthews said there were 102 teams at the tournament and they were



Tournament MVP goaltender Brandon Yuzicappi stands with his mother Larissa Yuzicappi.

the only First Nations team in which the survivors group paid for everything that involved the Lacrosse team.

“The survivors paid for the registration for all three teams in the QCMBL this year. They paid for all 45 players to have new sets of equipment. They paid for all the transportation. They paid for all three teams to go to Calgary, hotel rooms, tournament registration, they paid for everything,” said Matthews.

The pee wee and novice did not make the medal standings, but the bantam team went all the way and won gold in their division. On August 7-9 the community of Standing Buffalo held a powwow in honour of their residential school survivors and the lacrosse team.

It is the hope that players from the lacrosse team will make it into American colleges on scholarship; they have had long term plans for the future of the children who participate in the sport.

Gurski girls have a good month!

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

YELLOW QUILL FIRST NATION – Sisters Megan and Rebecca Gurski have had a heck of a month. The avid softball players both won championships making their home community of Yellow Quill First Nation very proud.

Megan was a member of Team Canada at the Pan Am Games recently held in Toronto. There, Megan played in front of the loudest fans she has ever heard as they helped Team Canada to Gold in Softball over the United States.

“The home crowd was awesome and sold out. They were cheering all the time and just awesome. They were very enthusiastic,” said Megan who was one of the youngest on the team and the only Aboriginal player. Megan was a pitcher in college but for the Pan Am Games was the designated hitter who took the at bats for the pitchers.

Her softball career has taken her around the world and to events like the Canadian Open and the World Cup but this victory is tops so far.

“The ultimate was winning gold. At the last out we were so excited we just ran out onto the field. It was an amazing feeling. We were all screaming and there

were girls crying.”

Rebecca won herself a championship this month too. As catcher for the Saskatoon Tigers, Rebecca caught six games in three days to help her team win the Provincial title. But she doesn’t want to stop there.

“I’m tired and sore but that’s how it goes. My goal is to someday play on Team Canada with my sister so I just have to keep working at it,” added Rebecca.

The love of softball was passed on to the girls from their parents who played and the family life revolves around ball and the travel that comes with it.

“I love the travel. You get to play around the world. We went to watch Megan play in the Czech Republic and we’ve been to the States and B.C. You get to see a lot,” added Rebecca.

Megan now starts her job as an interior designer and hopes for softball to get back into the Olympics by 2020.

“I hope I can stick around that long,” says the humble star.



On the left is Rebecca Gurski, 20 years old and a back catcher for the Saskatoon Tigers softball team and they won Gold at the provincials. On the right is Megan Gurski, 21 years old. Megan returned home to Saskatoon Monday from the Pan AM Games after her softball team won the Gold defeating the United States 4-1. The sisters are members of Yellow Quill First Nation.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

In the meantime, Megan and her sister offer advice for those that want to excel in sport.

“Of course you have to work hard at your game, but put family first, then academics then your sport. If you aren’t doing well at school you can’t play ball.”

Linklater looking to give back

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Mike Linklater became a basketball star because he has an uncanny ability to elevate his game on the big stage.

Plus he is wicked good and a great leader. Now that he has made his name on the big stage including a national CIS championship and countless trophies from tournaments around the world, Linklater wants to give back to the sport that has given him so much.

He recently launched Prime Basketball Development, skills camps that will run across Saskatchewan coached by Linklater and several other high level players who have been teammates with Linklater in the past.

“We want to raise the level of play out there,” said Linklater at his business launch inside the Mount Royal gym where he became a much sought after college recruit.

“It is apparent that we are a hockey and football dominant province and we want to get basketball up to those. There are other programs out there that do basketball, but I think with our coaches and pros and the experience we have winning at the top level, that will separate us.”

Using the extensive network of basketball pros he has played with, Prime’s coaches include several past Huskie champions, college champions.

“The motto: “champions training champions” is fitting because amongst the coaches there are a combined seven championships won at city, provincial, national, international, and professional levels,” added Linklater.

Linklater recently has made his name internationally in 3X3 basketball, a very fast game that looks to become an Olympic sport in 2020. He is ranked in the

world’s top 20 and has the eye of Canadian officials.

“As a player and as a coach, Michael possesses three ingredients: experience, knowledge and patience. The same ingredients that helped make him a champion as a player will certainly help him to become a champion coach, while developing the next generation of champion athletes,” said Ron Yeung, manager of Domestic Development with Canada Basketball.

Prime is offering one camp this summer and will offer several more in the fall with the goal to be all around the province next summer. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to “Give Kids a Chance Charity” which will help youth get involved in extracurricular activities through the Dream Broker Program.

“We want to grow slowly and will offer a variety of camps from old guys who want to sharpen their games or who are getting back into the game to the next generation of high level players to kids that may not get the chance to play. Each camp will have a similar curriculum and excellent coaches that know how to win,” said Linklater who is keeping his job as Program Sports Recreation Fitness Coordinator at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

Linklater’s mentor, pro baller Willie Murdaugh



Mike Linklater and fellow coach Willie Murdaugh believe Saskatchewan is Prime to take basketball development to the next level.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

has been playing with him in high level tournaments since Michael was in Grade 11 and he has witnessed Linklater’s coming of age on the court and into business.

“We were playing in a tournament in the United States against college players, division one players at that,” said Murdaugh who came to Saskatoon to play for the Saskatoon Slam several years ago.

“I was cramping up so we just kept feeding the ball to Mike and he kept pounding it down. A Grade 11 against division one players! I was laughing so hard.

“But he is tenacious and paid close attention to every detail when we were coaching him. Now I’m proud to be working with him to bring basketball to another level.”

For more information visit www.primebasketball.ca or email info@primebasketball.ca

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Lance makes its journey from Muskoday to Ochapowace

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

Through harsh weather of rain, sun, and wind, dedicated athletes carried the sacred summer games lance from Muskoday First Nation to Ochapowace First Nation.

The lance run is a very sacred tradition that has been around for hundreds of years; it is only since 1996 that the lance run was initiated again.



Edmonton Oiler draft pick Ethan Bear participated in the lance run. (Photo Tracey Dunnigan)

On the journey there were 12 people from Muskoday and 12 people from Ochapowace who were chosen and honored with the responsibility.

Three elders, Sandra and Henry Felix from Muskoday and Ross Ellery from Ochapowace, supervised the journey. They smudged and prayed each morning for safe travels.

The Chief of Ochapowace Margaret Bear, Councillor Shelly Bear and five chaperones looked after the 16 athletes who would take turns carrying the lance.

Ruthie Henry, 15 from Ochapowace, who will be competing in the summer games in softball, was excited to be a part of the run and meet new people.

"It's awesome, I like it. There's nothing really difficult about it, it's pretty easy and fun, everyone makes it fun, we all take turns and we don't have to push ourselves as hard," said Henry.

Hayden Primeau, 13, a shy boy from Muskoday First Nation was said to be very quiet and did not talk much during the start of the journey but has since come out of his shell.

Primeau said he joined the lance run so he could have the experience and be proud of it.

He will be playing soccer in the summer games for PAGC. He has enjoyed meeting new people on the lance run and has said interesting things have hap-

pened on the expedition.

"Every since we started running, we had a hawk follow us; the elders say it's cool," said Primeau.

The athletes have also got to meet Ethan Bear who had joined the run from Regina and finished the journey with them to Ochapowace.

Tracey Dunnigan, a Regina police officer was asked to participate, every since she had started the journey she has been in awe of the athletes and the other participants.

"They never complained, always a smile on their faces, never complained when they had to get up in the mornings and every one of them saying that it's been fun and hasn't been challenging when they've had to push themselves," said Dunnigan.

Some runners had sustained some injuries but they kept on going because they knew the importance of getting the lance to Ochapowace.

Dunnigan says the lance run has brought people together and the communities together.

The youth were very distant with each other when they had started but now you could see the difference of how united they have become.

She also states that she wanted to be a part of this opportunity to promote the positive of the youth who have showed much determination and strength because far too often the youth are seen in a negative light.

"This Run has been a chance to really let these

youth shine and I am proud to witness it," said Dunnigan.

The lance run is a celebration of achievement and reaching goals. It would take 13 days to reach their goal of having carried the lance to its destination.

The 2015 Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games will be held at the Ochapowace Nation August 9-15.



Youth from Muskoday and Ochapowace as well as Elders and special guests brought the lance to Ochapowace to open the Games.

(Photo by Tracey Dunnigan)



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