

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Our 2016 grads are pictures of success

Kasha Bobb and her escort Ethan Bear posed for a classic graduation photo in front of the Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School. The photo caught the eye of our panelists and was voted best graduation photo of 2016. (Photo by Brenna Bobb)



By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

July has finally arrived and graduation season has officially come to end with robes and caps and diplomas tucked away for future use.

All that is left now are the memories and the pictures. And with that, the final submissions have been received for our annual graduation photo contest. This year we received close to 20 entries and they were all great.

Not necessarily because they were great photos, but because it shows a person who has completed some-

thing important and they are moving on with the next stage of their life, the most exciting time of their life too!

Our winner this year was the photo submitted by Kasha Bobb of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

She graduated high school from the Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School and her escort was future Edmonton Oiler Ethan Bear.

"Ethan is actually my uncle. His mom is my kokom," said an excited Bobb when she found out she won our grand prize of \$150.

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Graduation Edition

Coming In August - Justice and Back to Batoche Issue

CPMA #40027204

Grads are focussed on the future

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“Ethan and I grew up together.”

The photo Kasha submitted was taken by her sis-



Michelle Tingley and her son Keastin Morin-Tingley took second place in the photo contest

ter Brenna Bobb right after the graduation at the school. We liked the photo because it mixed traditional and modern imagery, great light on both faces and was in focus.

Second prize went to Michelle Tingley. Michelle graduated from the Edcentre in La Ronge, an online school linked through Northlands College. Now she intends to get her bachelor of social work through university courses in La Ronge.

We loved the addition of her son Keastin Morin-Tingley. What better motivation for school than your kids, eh?

And in third place we loved the photo that Ric Richardson sent in. Ric decided to go back to school as a mature student to study for his social work degree and this summer he convocated from the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada with that degree.

The photo struck a chord because it shows you are never too old to go back to school, or too old to hold a teddy bear in a graduation photo.

So now the fun starts for all of the graduates. Some have a career calling them already while others, like Sasha, are heading off for work and further education.

“My plans for the future are to work and I plan on going back to school to work on my psychology or teaching degree,” said the confident student.

“I want to raise awareness about mental illness.”

Congratulations to all of the graduates of the Class of 2016.



Ric Richardson and his Graddy Bear took third place and showed it is never too late to pursue your education.

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Community plans memorial for Cameron and Bourdages

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

SPIRITWOOD – In 2006, Const. Robin Cameron from Beardy's/Okemasis and RCMP partner Const. Marc Bourdages were fatally shot in Spiritwood while on duty.

The community of Spiritwood has not forgotten them and along with the RCMP have planned a local memorial park to honour their memory.

The project recently received a boost after several donations came in during an emotional ceremony at the park in Spiritwood on July 6. His mother stood in support behind him, as 10-year-old Luca struggled to read a tearful tribute to his father at the 10th anniversary memorial and honouring event commemorating the shooting deaths of his dad RCMP Marc Bourdages and his partner Robin Cameron.

"I just know that he used to talk to me and hold me all the time," read Bourdages as he fought back tears. Luca was just nine months old when his father was gunned down and killed in the line of duty.

"There's an ache within my heart that will never go away."

It was a sombre event filled with tears, laughter and heartfelt tributes to both Mounties who made a deep impact with the communities they served before their passing.

The Witchehan Lake First Nation's Kisikohk School students raised \$2,000 for the Bourdages Cameron Memorial Society, which was matched by the band.

A community fun run and walk was also held that raised over \$3,000 towards two bronze statues of the Mounties which will be erected in a memorial park in Spiritwood at a later date.

"We heard that they were planning on doing something for them, we never knew it was going to be a memorial park," said Diana (Cameron) Laliberte, Robin's younger sister.

"When things got going, they contacted us and asked if it was OK to do it. We all supported the committee from the beginning. They have all been amazing!"

From the fundraiser at the RCMP depot in Regina, to the Regimental Ball in Spiritwood, and everything in between, Laliberte notes they have been working very hard to make things come together.

"We can't wait to see the final outcome," she added.

"We all thought it was amazing. That after all these years, people still want to remember Robin and Marc. What better way to honour their memory than this memorial park."

The family has been involved in the whole process: all the minutes from the memorial society meetings are emailed on, and they have been constantly contacted regarding any big decisions.

"They have our utmost support in the whole thing," she noted.

"We can't say thank you enough to

the community of Spiritwood, the RCMP and, of course, the Memorial Society. On behalf of our family, words will never be able to fully explain how grateful we are for keeping Robin and Marc's memory alive. I am at a loss for words for how much support has been given."

Sgt. Shannon Haggarty of the Spiritwood Detachment noted that the community is commemorating the tenth anniversary with a number of events in July.

Rochelle Duret, chair for the Cameron and Bourdages Memorial Society committee, wrote that the Spiritwood arena had been named the Cameron Bourdages Arena in their honour, but recently a new multiplex centre was built and renamed for a generous corporate sponsor.

"It became clear to a group of us in Spiritwood that our community ... needed a public memorial to commemorate and recognize our own fallen constables," said Duret.

"Our committee's vision is to build a memorial park that is a place of peace, remembrance, pride and gathering for the community.

"We plan to have two life size bronze statues created."

With the support of the Spiritwood detachment, former MP Rob Clarke and RCMP Sergeant, and the town who donated a parcel of land, along with the inclusion and blessing of both the Cameron and Bourdages families, they hope to have the project close to completion this summer.

"This would be such an amazing opportunity for something wonderful to come out of such a dark part of our community's past," said Duret.

The Cameron and Bourdages Memorial Society are still accepting donations, and there is opportunity for signage and advertising in the park.

They can be reached at: candbmemorialinc@gmail.com, Box 460 Spiritwood SK, S0J 2M0.



Students from Kisikohk School raised \$2000 for Bourdages Cameron Foundation.



Const. Robin Cameron's sister Diane Laliberte is pleased the community of Spiritwood is planning a memorial.





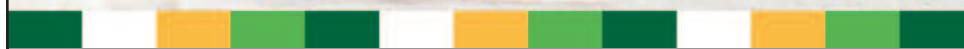
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The real Braden Holtby was more fun

The best time to be in Saskatchewan is July.

Graduates have graduated, the crop is in the field, kids are out of school and the weather is just so good.

Those lucky enough, head out to the lake to camp or tend to the cabin and maybe get some fishing time or a kayak excursion.

It is good to do anything but work. And judging by the slowness in emails and phone calls around the office, everyone in Saskatchewan tends to agree and aren't working.

So before we dash to the lake for the last two weeks of July, time to clear out some mind clutter and share some random observations and summer thoughts.

• • •

You can sit and read a book in the sun, or sometimes even better, on the couch when it rains. Rain in the summer makes things better. Three prime examples or rain making things awesome are Monopoly, cake and sleeping. I rest my case.

Speaking of reading, do yourself a favour and go to the library and get yourself a smaltzy summer book to read and read the heck out of it. Murder mystery, thriller, Stephen King, it doesn't matter.

Treat your brain to some food and read. My secret summer treat is reading anything that is not historical or newsy.

• • •

Funny story. The Saskatoon Blades brought Vezina Trophy winning goalie Braden Holtby of the Washington Capitals to the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon to meet some kids and play floor hockey.

The StarPhoenix photographer and I were waiting in the lobby to take pictures. Then local sports caster Wray

Morrison came in with a guy who looked like Holtby. He still had the playoff beard, but he looked a little thin to be him but he might be him kind of thing.

So they signed in and went into the room. A staff member interested in knowing if he was the guy went and looked at the sign in sheet. It said Braden Holtby.

Perfect, we had our guy. We go in the

how the event is going to go. I go up and shake his hand and tell him about my cousin who knows his mom and blah blah congrats on the Vezina and great year. Just chatting him up. But he is not very talkative.

Finally someone from the

Blades shows up and says, "When Braden gets here ..." The staff member looks at the guy we have been chatting up and he just

Braden. He said he was here for the Braden Holtby event so just signed in as such. Not sure why he didn't correct us early.

Quite awkward. Glad I didn't get the quick picture with him and leave. The real Braden Holtby showed up shortly thereafter and was a great interview and awesome with the kids.

He signed every single kid's autograph or posed for a selfie. Every single kid. Nice to see.

• • •

Another good thing to see was the election of Lee Ahenakew as chair of the Board of Governors at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). Lee is currently leading a development corporation representing the business interests of the Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs member First Nations and was at BHP Billiton during their consultation process with First Nation and Métis groups in that area.

Lee is a member of the Ahtakakoop First Nation. Congratulations Lee and way to go University of Saskatchewan.

• • •

Here are ten fun things you can do with your family this summer.

The Batoche National Historic Site and Friends of Batoche have resurrected the Louis Riel Relay. The event happens the third weekend in August will see the Park hopping with the race and an amazing outdoor concert. Go to the library. Have a water balloon fight. Head on down to the lake/paddling pool/creek/pond for a dip. Golf. Fish. Play tag with your kids/grandkids. Sit and listen to your Elders. Volunteer somewhere. Powwow!

Safe travels.



Uriah Clarke was one of several young fans that were able to spend time with Washington Capitol Braden Holtby, the best goaltender in the NHL. Holtby stopped by the White Buffalo Youth Lodge to speak to the youth, play floor hockey and of course, sign autographs and take photos.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

next room and one of the staff members shakes his hand and talks to him about

kind of shrugs.

She asked why he signed in as

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Let's get back to where we started

When I was 19 and studying for a history final, my friend Derek came out to me. Without any intro, he blurted out: "I'm gay."

"Oh go on," I replied. I didn't believe him and thought that he was just trying to make himself more interesting, like when he claimed to have a gluten allergy or an ability to see in the dark.

Also, it was three a.m. and I thought he might be trying to get out of studying (I still suspect this.)

After my initial skepticism, I was supportive of my friend. We went to gay clubs together and I stood by while he learned to navigate the new waters. I liked the vibe in the clubs; I felt safe and accepted there as a First Nation person. The only downsides were that no guys hit on me, the DJ's played too much house music and also, no women hit on me. (What the hell?)

I didn't understand why it took Derek so long to come out – why would you pretend to be something you weren't? You would just make yourself unhappy and disappoint the people you fooled. Like that year I wore blue contacts and told everyone who asked that they were my real eyes.

Later that summer, Derek and I were in Regina and needed a place to stay. I knew my parents would be in the city as at that time they attended the local casino with the regularity of dedicated employees.

I told him: "I'll call my parents, they'll let us crash at their hotel room."

We showed up and threw our bags on the floor and claimed the TV remote. Then my dad pulled me aside and told me that we couldn't stay. "But why?" I whined.

My dad didn't say anything but I saw his gaze drift to Derek. I was shocked, disappointed and enraged – like when I open the fridge to discover that my boyfriend has eaten all the ice cream. (Again!)



I angrily replied to my dad, "Fine, we'll get our own hotel room – now, lend me a hundred dollars and I'll be on my way."

This may seem insane but it wasn't until that moment that I understood that not everyone was accepting of gay people. My mom had always spoken openly about her liberal views, telling colourful stories about hanging out with her gay girlfriend, her stripper friend and her friend who ran over her husband with a car.

I had thought my dad's silence was tacit agreement with this open attitude. Now I realize he was probably tuning her out and focussing his attention on the hockey game.

Back in the olden days, gay people were known as the two-spirited. They had a special status in communities. But as Christianity crept into First Nation communities and the colonial attitude that heterosexual patriarchy is best began to rule the day – this status was lost.

It's not an accident that this attitude is a part of the

assimilationist agenda. When you're trying to destroy a culture, it's important to discourage acceptance of diversity within it. If you can convince a person that being different is wrong, then it's not hard to get them to believe that they're wrong for being different from mainstream Canadian society.

I should have known that life was hard for gay people on the reserve. When I was kid, I heard gay slurs bandied about as insults. If you were out as a gay person, then your sexuality became your identity, sometimes it was even added to your name as in, "Gay Norman" or "Gay Jean."

I cannot imagine how difficult it was to make the choice to come out: suffer in silence or expose themselves to ridicule, ostracism and often, violence.

Many people chose a third option – suicide among gay Indigenous people is one of the highest rates of suicide in Canada.

Last month, Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation held a gay pride festival. Just an hour north of Saskatoon, band members and leadership marched alongside one another to support and celebrate diversity. They are the first band in Saskatchewan to hold a gay pride event.

I hope that other First Nations soon follow suit. The horror of shootings that took place in Orlando still reverberates through our world and the pain of their families and friends will not and should not be forgotten.

As well, neither should the millions of daily slights that occur across North America.

Homophobia and other forms of intolerance against diversity are painful reminders that we still have a long ways to go to return to where we started.

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Powerful community volunteers to help Wanuskewin

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Wanuskewin Heritage Park has revealed its campaign team in charge of fundraising \$25 million dollars for the renovation and expansion of the Park.

The draw of Wanuskewin and the importance of the project has helped recruit some of Saskatchewan's most influential business and political leaders onto the board.

Esteemed archaeologist and the man considered the founder of Wanuskewin, Ernie Walker, is also on the committee and the others are feeding off of his passion for the site.

"Wanuskewin is transcendent. For 6,000 years First Nations peoples were attracted to this island on the prairies. There are deep cultural roots here," said Walker.

"In a way, Wanuskewin has always been about community through the ages and today we are poised to carry this legacy far off into the future."

Walker spoke at an event at the park revealing the powerful board behind the fundraising. Zeba Ahmad of EY moderated the announcement of her fellow volunteers, a stellar group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders from many sectors.

Committed to the initiative are: Scott Banda, Chief Executive Officer of Federated Co-operatives Ltd.; Chief Darcy Bear of Whitecap Dakota First Nation; L. David Dubé, President and CEO of the Concorde Group Corp.; Blaine Favel, Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan; Tim Gitzel, President and CEO of Cameco; Grant Isaac, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Cameco; George Lafond, S.O.M.; Kelly J. Lendsay, President and CEO of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council; Gary Merasty, President and Chief Operating Officer of Des Nedhe Development; W.

Thomas Molloy, O.C.; Robert Stromberg, Q.C.; Jochen Tilk, President and CEO of PotashCorp; Ron Waldman, Partner of NorthStar Hospitality; and Dr. Ernest Walker, O.C., Archaeologist at the University of Saskatchewan.

Wayne Brownlee, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PotashCorp and Chief Felix Thomas, Tribal Chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council have committed to raising funds as Campaign Co-Chairs.

There is also a steering committee of Leanne Bellegarde, Director Diversity and Inclusion PotashCorp,

pre-cursor to modern-day Saskatoon.

"We owe it to ourselves and our children's children to preserve, develop and embrace this celebration of survival and coming together. This has motivated our entire campaign team and should motivate all of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan," added Brownlee.

Wanuskewin has been a draw for First Nations from around Saskatchewan for centuries.

Gary Merasty is from Pelican Narrows but even his band had ties to the area.



A powerful and dedicated group of community and business leaders have been working diligently in raising funds for the renovation and expansion of Wanuskewin Heritage Park. This is all part of a campaign to achieve UNESCO World Heritage Site Status for the Park.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Dawn Deguire, Director of Communications at the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Keith Martell, Chairman and CEO of First Nations Bank of Canada and Dana Soonias, the CEO of Wanuskewin.

Part of Wanuskewin's exciting vision for renewal is to apply to become Saskatchewan's first United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

"It is perhaps only once in a lifetime that you have the opportunity to become involved with a project that can be 'iconic', not only in Saskatoon or Saskatchewan, but within Canada and the world," said Wayne Brownlee.

"Going back in time, Wanuskewin is one of those iconic places, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime initiative. It is the birthplace of our civilization, and yes, the

culture and language but spirituality as well."

The team has been approaching railroad companies, banks and other giant industries making requests for donations in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and to do that, you really have to believe in the cause. And they do, and all the board members listen to Ernie Walker.

"When we were first figuring out this place in 1984, we had a sweat lodge with many elders," said Walker.

"They all had different reasons for coming to the sweat but one elder said as we were coming out of the sweat, 'We are doing this because it is bigger than all of us.' We have big aspirations here at Wanuskewin. This place has always been about community and what we do here can signal nationally that our community is doing something different."

"We were told that our first Chief was adopted from down the river ... meaning this area here. This place is for all nations and it shows our interconnectedness," said Merasty.

"When we see the bison come back and that energy they have. It will lead to a revival in not only

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Confident O'Watch is a voice for students

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

OKANESE FIRST NATION – Twenty-one year-old, Heather O'Watch, from Okanese First Nation, has just come home from a successful trip to Ottawa.

The First Nations University of Canada (FNUC) student is currently enrolled in the, Indian Communication Arts (INCA) program and is pursuing a career in journalism. Meanwhile, she is taking on leadership roles to serve her fellow students.

“The media release that you received is about my new position in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a national organization for post-secondary students,” said O'Watch.

O'Watch attended the CFS national annual general meeting where she was nominated to represent all Saskatchewan post-secondary students, Indigenous and non-indigenous.

“It's a national platform of student movement and I was recently elected as a National Executive Saskatchewan representative,” she said.

O'Watch says after she graduated from high school in 2013, she started attending FNUC and has never taken a break. She's been active with the student movement and takes part in the FNUC student association.

“I'm the Vice President of communications at the FNUC and I see that we are localized and part of CFS, a national platform that allows students to come together, to work together; to bring these issues and campaigns and motions to light,” she said.

She said there are two other students from FNUC that were elected into the CFS.

“Not only am I the Saskatchewan representative for



First Nations University of Canada student Heather O'Watch has been elected to the Executive of the Canadian Federation of Students.
(Photo by Tiffany Head)

the national executive, we also have a business student, Larrissa Wapooseyan, who was elected as Saskatchewan chair person on the provincial component, and we also have Chasity Delorme, national executive for the Aboriginal representative,” said O'Watch.

Delorme is an alumnus and successfully elected in her second term. She represents all the Indigenous and aboriginal post-secondary students across Canada.

As a national executive O'Watch says she wants post-secondary students to work together in communicating with the federal, provincial and regional governments about their issues.

“My reason for running was I felt confident to do

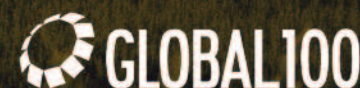
so and I wanted to take on the opportunity, being successful in that, I can go forward and campaign and really be a voice for all post-secondary students across Saskatchewan, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous,” said O'Watch.

She said that being a part of the CFS allows students to have support locally and nationally from other constituencies and caucuses; to be able to voice their opinions and concerns.

O'Watch says she does not have any duties at the moment as she is newly elected but she says to be on the lookout as the students will definitely have more involvement with CFS within their own campuses.



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Walk Their Roots takes several positive steps

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The people of Saskatoon turned out in droves to Walk Their Roots and support survivors of the Indian Residential schools.

In a gigantic act of reconciliation, almost 3,000 Saskatonians of all ages, races, creeds, colours hit the bank of the South Saskatchewan River in an amazing show of community unity and love.

Even though they were prepared for it, the turnout was a pleasant surprise to organizers.

“We we all over the board on how many people would actually come but we thought for sure over a thousand,” said Gilles Dorval who is the Director of Aboriginal Relations for the City of Saskatoon and was co-chair of the committee in charge of the event.

“But we planned for 3,000 of everything and we are glad we did. Out partners really turned out. The Intercultural Association and the Open Door Society tied reconciliation into their language instruction for new comers to Canada and they brought all their students and we had the churches come out and the schools.

“It is good to see the diversity. We really emphasized diversity today so that people showed their own culture. It

turned out really good.”

In response to the TRC Calls to Action, the City of Saskatoon, Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Metis Federation Inc., along with over 30 supporting organizations, planned a month-long series of events to promote Reconciliation in Saskatoon. The events educated, engaged and inspired citizens on what it means to reconcile and find their own call to action and culminated in the walk.

Participants celebrated their unique cultural heritage by wearing or holding symbols of their culture or organizations during the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation.

The walk went from 19th Street and Avenue F, downtown to Friendship Park and then looping back to Victoria Park. The walk passed by the War of 1812 Monument where drummers and dancers performed.

At Friendship Park, Dallas and Phil



Elders, survivors and organizers led the way for the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation alongside the river in Saskatoon. Almost 3000 people took part in the reconciliation event that took over Victoria Park for the entire day.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Boyer played the Red River jig for half an hour straight as the walkers strolled by. The walkers were then greeted by a Saskatoon Police Service officer playing the bagpipes at the John Lake and Chief Whitecap statue at the bottom of the traffic bridge. Along the way there were messages of hope and reconciliation on sign boards.


The Day of Reconciliation continued with activities and entertainment in

the park. In the spirit of Reconciliation goals, participants had an opportunity to listen to the stories of survivors and their families; learn about our history and about residential schools, in a safe, open and accessible environment; show-up to support Reconciliation in our community; and to share their personal responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action.

• Continued on Page 9

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Hopeful signs for change says Dorval

• Continued from Page 8

The walk was powerful and showed the unity of the city.

“The day is beautiful. Our hope and prayer was that we could offer our children hope for their future and hope for the survivors so that their children and their grandchildren would live a better life than we ever did,” said Lorna Arcand, the project coordinator.

“We hope that our grandchildren can take their place in society, which is why we enjoyed sharing this journey with the settler community in Saskatoon. The turnout is wonderful. It brought joy to all of our hearts. This was in our prayers.

“We did all the protocol that we have been taught through the Elders and I believe the Creator blessed us today. I think having 62 survivors join us for the walk was outstanding. It showed they will still walk with us any time we need them.”

The massive show of support bodes

well for the future of Saskatoon.

“The turnout tells me that our community is ready. People have committed from their personal perspective and they have brought their families and they are talking about what they can do about reconciliation in their organizations,” added Dorval.

“I think the climate is right for us to make change in Saskatoon. Not just as a municipal government but the NGO’s and faith based groups are getting more people working together to increase the quality of life for people in the Aboriginal community. We want to focus on the positive.

“So when I saw that long lineup of people, and the diversity in the crowd and the reaction of the media that’s going to send our message to the wider audience of Saskatoon that didn’t get a chance to participate, I became really happy and very hopeful.”



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Saskatoon Tribal Council Vice Chief Mark Arcand posed for a photo with a future leader at National Aboriginal Day in Saskatoon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

National Aboriginal Day brings out thousands

With Treaty Day payments and free soup and bannock for National Aboriginal Day, people descended on Victoria Park in Saskatoon in droves to take part in the action. With festivities being moved from Friendship Park to accommodate construction and the Jazz Festival, the beautiful bowl and vast stretches of space for tents and activities in Victoria Park made for a great location to spend a day celebrating culture. The closeness to the Riversdale neighbourhood was noted as people could hear the drums as far away as CUMFI and St. Mary’s Community School drawing people to the event. With a big Grand Entry and many sponsors, the event has grown to actually need the bigger park as a home. This year they estimate close to 4,000 people came to the park and it was reflected in the long lineups at the Treaty annuity tent. The afternoon was spent with entertainment including singers, and jiggers and dancers. The theme was Reconciliation.

Notice of public hearing



The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a public hearing on the application by the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) to remove the hold point for Phase 2 of the Gunnar Remediation Project. The Gunnar site, located in northern Saskatchewan, is being remediated by SRC under a CNSC waste nuclear substance licence.

Date: September 22, 2016
Place: CNSC public hearing room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON
Time: As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date

The hearing date and location may change. Check our website for the latest details. The hearing will be webcast live and then archived online for 90 days.

SRC’s licence includes a regulatory hold point that requires it to receive approval from the Commission before proceeding with Phase 2 of the project. Members of the public who have an interest or expertise in this matter, or information that may be useful to the Commission, are invited to comment in writing on SRC’s application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Secretariat by August 22, 2016, online at nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/intervention or via the coordinates below. Pursuant to the *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, the request to intervene must include a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission and the requester’s name, address and telephone number.

Personal information, such as address and telephone numbers, is essential for linking the submission to its author. Please submit your personal information on a separate page if you wish to ensure its confidentiality. It should be noted that all submissions are available to the public upon request to the Secretariat. SRC’s submission and CNSC staff’s recommendations will be available after July 22, 2016. These documents are not downloadable. To obtain them, a request must be made to the Secretariat at the address below or directly from the CNSC website. Further information on this hearing or the public Commission hearing process is available at nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

For more information, contact:
 Senior tribunal officer, Secretariat, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
 280 Slater Street, P.O. Box. 1046, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9
 Tel: 613-996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284 Fax: 613-995-5086
 Email: cnscc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

nuclearsafety.gc.ca



Innovative educator earns Indspire Award

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

Pauline McKay came up with the one-month block system of classes when one of her own kids was short a credit and had to take summer school: now she's won an Indspire award for Innovative Practice.

"I said to my son, you took this same course in six months, and you got this credit in 24 days. How did you do that?"

He said, "I just told you, it was fun, the teacher concentrated on one subject, and if I needed help he was right there, he didn't worry about the bell ringing and us off to the next course. It was just the teacher and us for the whole month."

She was sitting at the kitchen table with educator Ruth Ahenakew, now deceased, and the two of them lit upon the same idea at once: why not teach all high school classes that way?

With 25 years of teaching already under her belt, she knew the current system was failing First Nations youth for many reasons, and this idea had potential. With the intensive focus on one credit at a time, bumps in the road meant students only lost one credit, not five or six from an entire term where a whole year's work could easily be lost leading to discouragement.

But overall, it turned out that classroom youth were able to stay on top of their credits no matter what was going on in their lives, because of the supportive and focused teamwork atmosphere created by the immersion.

They designed a curriculum that got better every year as they learned from trial and error, and now McKay helps other reserve schools imple-

ment the system which results in almost 100 per cent graduation rates.

"We started it that fall and I would have 30 students in Grade 12, and at the end of the month I'd have 30 students that got that credit. That had never happened to me before," notes McKay, who is Swampy Cree from Cumberland House and has her B.Ed from ITEP and her M.Ed from the U of R.

"This is the way to go for our kids. They need us as educators to be risk takers and be willing to change — who says the semester is the perfect system?"

The block system has since worked for reserve schools such as Sturgeon Lake, Carry-The-Kettle, northern reserves in Manitoba, and reserves in Alberta, graduating thousands of youth successfully.

Nominated by Belinda Daniels for the Indspire Education Award a year ago, McKay wasn't expecting the phone call for the award this spring, but welcomes it for one reason.

"I was really excited because now my work will get exposure, because I believe in my work so much, but I just don't have the time to get it out there," said McKay.

"Hopefully that's going to influence other principals and administrators to say, 'this works, we've got to try this.'"

She notes that current statistics show a First Nation youth leaving the education system every 10 seconds: change is necessary.

"We as educators have to make the difference and it's us, nobody else — our people have to help themselves, and that's the message."



Pauline McKay came up with a program that is helping more First Nation youth graduate than ever before.

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World Indigenous conference brings business leaders to Saskatoon

**By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather New**

SASKATOON – The City of Saskatoon will host 1,000 people from around the world for the 2016 World Indigenous Business Forum in August.

Already signed up are attendees from Turkey, Norway, Chile, Australia, Guatemala, Morocco, New Zealand, and of course, Canada and the United States.

“What am I excited for? Seeing all these Indigenous people from all of those countries under one roof,” said Milton Tootoosis, chair of the WIBF 2016 planning committee.



MILTON TOOTOOSIS

He doesn't stop there.

“I'm excited to learn about New Zealand and the Maori and how they conduct business,” he said.

“I look forward to hearing about the Sami people.”

He listed three or four others before coming to back to the Indigenous delegation coming from New Zealand.

“They have put their culture and language as the number one building blocks,” Tootoosis said.

They have proven you can participate in the Western economic system, without giving up identity, he said they are, “fiercely proud and protective of Indigenous culture, but also move forward to create an economic livelihood.”

There is more than a month before the event that runs August 23 – 25, but already 800 people are confirmed.

Tootoosis suggests people go online and sign up to avoid missing the opportunity to hear from Indigenous business leaders from around the world.

Some of the highlights he mentions include Ernesto Sirolli, who will talk about how all development is Indigenous and how Indigenous economies need to be allowed to flourish without outsider involvement.

Ivan Makil, from Arizona, was elected as a three-time president of Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, which is a nationally recognized model for successful business enterprises, land use planning and economic development.

Tootoosis also talks about Chief Gordon Planes, from Vancouver Island, who

is engaged in using alternate energy sources, including a new solar project.

“These are some of the top notch leaders,” said Tootoosis, adding that the committee looked to bring in international, national and western Canada flavours.

A number of representatives from Saskatchewan will speak as well including Zane Hanson of SIGA model and Scott Banda from Federated Co-op.

“It's going to be in an exciting time in Saskatoon, lots of people from all over the world are excited to come here,” said Rosa Walker, president and CEO of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute Inc., the organization that supports the World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF).

It is the first time the WIBF has come to Canada, since its 2010 inception as an addition to the World Business Forum in New York City. According to Walker, the bid put forward by the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network and the City of Saskatoon, beat out competition from Australia, Norway and New Zealand.

Conference attendees will participate in some distinctly Saskatchewan experiences. The week leading up to WIBF starts with a golf tournament at the Dakota Dunes Golf Links and then on Tuesday afternoon delegates will have the opportunity to go to Wanuskewin Heritage Park to



CHIEF GORDON PLANES

see the Cultural Celebration and Powwow. The committee is also providing post-conference tours of Batoche, Fort Carlton and a bus tour to the Battlefords and Poundmaker First Nation to visit the site of the 1885 Battle of Cutknife.

There are a number of special additions to the conference that sets the 2016 WIBF apart; there will be at least one person from every habited continent in attendance, there is the deliberate inclusion of the next generation of leaders, those not yet 40, and this year will see a music festival launched to complement the business components.

The Saskatchewan World Indigenous Festival for the Arts will open to the public (swiffa.ca).

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The Saskatchewan World Indigenous Festival for the Arts is a not-for-profit music festival that creates a nurturing environment that ensures performance excellence, celebrates creativity through artistic expression, and stimulates community by engaging and inspiring listeners to hear and see the world with a fresh perspective.

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Pride parade on Beardy's and Okemasis historic

By Morgan Esperance
For Eagle Feather News

BEARDY'S & OKEMASIS FIRST NATION – A Two Spirit Pride Festival hosted by Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation is the first reserve in Saskatchewan to put together such a memorable event.

The crowd was praised for “coming out” to the beautiful celebration. Out Saskatoon and Trans Sask. also showed their support by making an appearance with floats and enthusiasm. The Willow Cree Health Services purchased food and contributed their day to make it great for everyone.

Hal Cameron, Brighter Futures Co-ordinator at Willow Cree Health, explained the beauty in having a pride festival in a First Nations reserve, a smaller community where the people can gain more confidence to step out and be accepting of who they really are.

“Maybe we started a new event where other First Nations can follow us and do this kind of event in their communities to help their members who are battling with this. To get more First Nations to get behind with what we did,” said Cameron.

Cameron felt the positivity in how the community is helping people feel comfortable in their own skin and feel confident enough to come out the day of the festival or afterward. He was proud of the number of people that showed up and supported the event.

The festival had its own royalty as Beardy's & Okemasis member, Giselle Gotti-Chanel, who holds the lifetime title of Miss Gay Ottawa. Chanel described her emotions as a young person living in her reserve and her return with her title. She was treated like true royalty and enjoyed her day at her home fire. Chanel sat on the float created by the Willow Cree Health Services, followed by the rest of the Health Services team members and community supporters.

Two spirited people are considered helpers of the community to their people. Organizer and a member of the Council Kevin Seesequasis offered this explanation: “Two spirits were commonly in our community and have traditionally been the helpers ... the gifted ones, and to see that spirit on display helping our community

to understand ... to learn about what it is like to be LGBTQ or to be two spirited.”

The difference with two spirited people and the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning (LGBTQ) community is the worldview. Traditionally they have always been around it is not anything new; everyone has their own personal views of themselves as some are simply considered happy.

Kevin Seesequasis expressed his gratitude to his home community that supported and offered the help of the parade with no challenges, although there is still progress to be done, the acceptance and embracement is heartwarming to Seesequasis as he is a member of the LGBTQ community.

“We're all different and unique. And that's what is similar about all of us is we're all unique. We have to celebrate that uniqueness, that diversity, we have to accept it.

“Everybody is different in their own way and that's one of the common things that we share,” said Seesequasis.

Beardy's & Okemasis is 87 kilometres north of Saskatoon.



The Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation made history in June when they hosted the first ever on reserve Two Spirit Pride Parade in Canada. Organizers were thrilled with the turnout and the reception from the community.

(Photos by Morgan Esperance)



Community Impact

“ My position at the City of Saskatoon provides me with the opportunity to work where my heart is; making a direct positive impact on the Aboriginal community through sport and recreation. ”

Alicia Worm-Littlewolfe, Aboriginal Program Coordinator



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Red Files evokes poetic emotions

**By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News**

Lisa Bird-Wilson's second book, following her award-winning short story collection *Just Pretending*, is a collection of poetry inspired by Residential School archival photos.

"I had some photos that had been passed along to me by my uncle and an auntie. The photos contained family members who had gone to Residential School. All of the photos in my possession included the names of the people in the pictures – pretty much all the kids were identified," explained Bird-Wilson.

"Much later, when I saw photos from both the church and national archives I realized there was a significant difference. The archived pictures make no attempt to identify who are the kids in the pictures. That was disappointing and revealing – I guess in that moment the anonymity of the children just became so apparent to me."

She wanted to dissect what was at the core of a colonial structure and system that could see the identity of so many children as unimportant or even interchangeable.

"While the collection started with the photos, it expanded over time to include documents, maps, treaty records, scrip accounts, diaries, government reports, regional histories, geographies, and so on. I spent a lot of time in the archives, reading and combing through documents."

She chose poetry because it was more immediate and conveys an emotional response.

"These braids remember the women," is the beginning and ending line of her first poem, *Mourning Day*, which deals with the chopping of hair.

"I wanted to say something revealing or respond in some way – like an offering – this was the thing that I could do, as an artist," she explained, adding that there are lots of poets in her writing group, *Viz Ink*.

"So I was inspired by them, and I love that poetry is so boiled down and beautiful and revealing."

The title was actually the last part of the long process, but it tied into the research.

"Late one night I was thinking about when I went to Ottawa to do research at Archives Canada and what the files actually looked like and what it felt like to be there. Some of the physical files had the words *Red* or *Black* on them in handwriting," she explained.

"There have been many classification systems, series and sub series since then, but those were the earliest. I thought there was something ironic in the red series title, and suggested this. It must have resonated with the publisher because here we are with a book called *The Red Files*."

The Red Files, published by Nightwood Editions, is available online and in bookstores.



Lisa Bird-Wilson has released her second book. *The Red Files* is a book of poems inspired by the residential schools. (Photo by Declan O'Reilly)



NOTICE: MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN CITIZENS

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan ("MN-S") will hold a Legislative Assembly ("MNLA") followed by a General Assembly on the following dates:

Delegate Registration	July 29, 2016	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
MNLA	July 30, 2016	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
MNLA	July 31, 2016	9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
General Assembly	July 31, 2016	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Gallagher Centre
455 West Broadway St.
Yorkton, SK

30 days notice of this session of the MNLA as required by the Constitution of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan will be sent to all delegates of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. For more information visit www.metisnationsk.com, contact your respective local Regional Director listed on the website, or contact Evan Shoforst (Ernst & Young) at (306) 649-8242.





Nitanish Halkett from the Prince Albert Campus was present with her mom Brenda Masuskapoe, and her four-day-old son Allen. (Photo by Andréa Ledding)

SIIT celebrates 40 years of graduations

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies is not only celebrating 40 years of excellence, but the graduation of over 200 Indigenous students.

And 72-year-old Cora Keshane has a challenge for other Elders: go back to school.

“If I can do it, they can too,” she said to reporters after the graduation at Prairieland Park, where she was given a shout-out for being the eldest graduate, bringing home a certificate for Community Services - Addiction.

She noted that her younger classmates had been incredibly supportive, and her family had always been behind her.

“Get out there and go for it, you can do it.”

There were many stories of perseverance, as noted by graduation ceremony master of ceremonies Zoey Roy. Several students addressed the crowd including Prince Albert Campus’ Rhonda Thomas, Chrissy Labrash and Sundance Kinequon from Regina Campus, and Cassandra Konotopski from Saskatoon Campus.

Along with greetings from SIIT President Riel Bellegarde and other dignitaries, there was a moment of remembrance for those who were no longer walking in this world.

And then there was non-stop applause, cheers and photo ops as certificates and diplomas in Business Administration, Human Resource, Information Technology, Community Services - Addiction, Educational Assistant, Health Care Aide, Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, Power Engineering, Process Operation Technician, Addiction/Mental Health, Home Visiting Applied, and Carpenter, Electrician, and Welder Certification were handed out. Graduates proudly held them aloft during the final victory song.

Many of the graduates’ families were present as well. Health Care Aide graduate Nitanish Halkett from the Prince Albert Campus was present with her mom Brenda Masuskapoe, and her son Allen — who is four days old. Halkett, from Little Red Reserve, hopes to go on to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and study at the P.A. Campus.

“She spent some days studying with a garbage can in front of her,” noted her mom when asked if a first pregnancy was challenging to balance with coursework and exams.

“But she did it.”

And that was the resounding theme of the graduation: despite obstacles and challenges, despite exams and armloads of textbooks, despite all the everyday life challenges that get in the way, including morning sickness — they did it, with support from their teachers, their families, and their proud communities.

Evelyn Fisher from Sapotawegak Cree Nation in Manitoba posed with her husband Eddie, son Jonathan, and daughter Janaya before describing how awesome she felt.

“Two years went by so quickly — it was lots of fun,” noted Fisher. “I’m excited to help my community.”

Congratulations SIIT graduates of 2016. From 72 year-old Cora Keshane, to four-day-old Allen Halkett’s mom Nitanish, you are making a difference in your lives, your communities, and in our world.



Group pictures were all the craze as everyone wanted to get that keepsake photo of classmates. (Photo by Andréa Ledding)



Cora Keshane celebrated her graduation at age 72 and urged people to “Go for it.” (Photo by Andréa Ledding)



Traffic Management Needed

Yancoal Hears You

Yancoal recognizes that there will substantially more traffic as a result of the project on Highway #6 and on the remainder of the access route to the core facility (currently, anticipated to be Grid Road 731, also known as the Strasbourg Grid). Traffic volumes during the construction period will be of utmost importance. Peak traffic volumes will occur over 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening with congestion being highly likely during these times. In addition to ensuring road design and maintenance requirements meet or exceed standards, Yancoal will develop a traffic management plan to further increase safety. Yancoal anticipates this plan will include measures stipulated by Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and Transport Canada, as well as requests from the communities. The plan will control the timing and circulation of the traffic to the extent possible, provide a code of conduct to drivers, outline a corrective action plan for drivers that do not comply with this code, provide incentives to encourage carpooling, have a closed construction camp, and outline additional safety measures required (e.g., extend the lowered speed zone through the Town of Southey).



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Together we can build something to be proud of.

SIMFC organizer thrilled to see number of graduates climbing

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Bill Mintram has seen the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre Annual Graduation Gala from both sides and is pretty impressed with what is happening. He’s seeing more and more Aboriginal graduates each year.

“All I can say is that the community is really behind this event and it has grown because of it,” said Mintram, the Executive Director of the Friendship Centre and a Saskatoon grad who attended this event many years ago.

Now in its thirty-second year, the event is more popular than ever.

“Just five years ago we had 200 people and 50 graduates. Now, this year we had 700 people and 179 graduates. And we are just barely meeting the demand. It is a great event where the community as a whole stands up and honours our grads.”

Maggie Eastman was one of those graduates. She was one of 75 grads from Oskayak High School that could attend the event. And to her surprise, she was voted as valedictorian.

“I was real honoured when I found

out that other graduates voted for me to be their valedictorian. During the event it still didn’t hit me that it was actually happening and I was that much closer to graduating,” said the outstanding student and current FSIN Powwow Princess.

“Well, I’ve been going to Oskayak since Grade 9 and it was probably one of the best decisions I ever made. I feel like you won’t get that type of ‘at home’ feeling anywhere else. Biggest highlight of my night was just seeing all the graduates look so proud and happy to be who they are.

“The Friendship Centre hosted a really awesome event that I won’t ever forget.”

The event is made possible through the support of key sponsors including Affinity Credit Union, the Dakota Dunes Development Corp and BHP Billiton. A highlight of the night is the handing out of over 25 scholarships.

“The money can really impact those students’ lives,” added Mintram.

“And we honour each individual no matter their grade or if they received a scholarship. This is an important milestone in their lives and we are honoured to share this time with them.”



Maggie Eastman was voted the valedictorian of the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre Aboriginal Graduation Gala. She joined over 170 fellow grads at the celebration.



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Each year we gather as a community to honour, recognize and empower our Aboriginal Grade 12 Graduates. This year the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre hosted with excellence the 32nd Annual Aboriginal Graduation Gala at Prairieland Park. To encourage lifelong learning and post secondary education, 24 scholarships were handed out. We were honored to have 179 Graduates and 700 people in attendance. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and scholarship providers.

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Métis flag raised at Westmount

Westmount Community School has proudly raised the Métis national flag in front of their school.

The flag raising was held at the beginning of the Métis Cultural Day celebration at Westmount, a day-long celebration of cultural activities and learning more about Métis history.

Principal Nicola Bishop-Yong welcomed students and dignitaries to the ceremony on a calm Monday morning. Dignitaries addressed the children and language elder Norman Fleury spoke to the importance of speaking and preserving the Michif language. Veteran Frank Tompkins was on hand to handle the honour of raising the flag.

Westmount is home to the Saskatoon Public School Division's Métis cultural program.

Celebration and flag raising mark Cree program's 10th year

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The tenth anniversary of the Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture program at Confederation Park Community School was marked with a special celebration and the raising of the Treaty 6 flag.

The celebration, held just days before National Aboriginal Day, included dancing and a demonstration of new regalia. Students, staff, families, partners and program supporters were on hand to honour the anniversary and proudly raise the Treaty 6 flag which will be a permanent fixture at the school.

Pete Chief, Vice Principal at Confederation Park School, sees the raising of the flag as one more step in making the school a welcoming place for young people to learn their language.

“My grandmother always told me to never lose my language and that the day you lose your language is the day you are lost,” said Chief.

“My grandmother always told me to never lose my language and that the day you lose your language is the day you are lost.” - Pete Chief

“I never really understood what she meant by that until I left the reserve where I spoke the language all the time and came to the city for school. Everything we have is connected to our language.

“So it means so much to have these kids speak Cree to me at this school in the hallways and in the classroom.”

The Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture program is a bilingual/bicultural program that is offered for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5 students at Confederation Park. The program, which began in the fall of 2005, is a joint project of the

Okicīyapi Partnership involving Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. and Saskatoon Public Schools. Students from across Saskatoon can attend the program, for which free busing is provided.

Several dignitaries were on hand for the celebration of culture and the flag raising. After several dance performances, drummers and elders and dignitaries gathered around the flag pole for the ceremony.

The flag was gifted to the school by the Mistawasis First Nation and Chief Darryl Watson was on hand to offer the flag. He also wore the Treaty Medal his Chief received at the signing of Treaty in 1876. Veteran Phillip Ledoux, also of the Mistawasis First Nation officially raised the Treaty 6 flag.

“Back when I started with the division, there was only a handful of Cree speaking teachers and now we have at least 12 in this school alone. And for us to raise the Treaty 6 flag acknowledges that relationship and this place where we are teaching the culture, history and language of our people,” said Chief.

“To have this flag here in front of our school just seems fitting.”



Chief Darryl Watson of the Mistawasis First Nation and Veteran Phillip Ledoux helped raise the Treaty 6 flag. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Filmmaker Marcel Petit shared his expertise with students at Senator Myles Venne School in La Ronge. Here, Petit (left) stands with the other presenters and some of the students in front of the student photo exhibit at the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre.

Telling stories through photos and film

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

LAC LA RONGE – Images tell stories. Through photos and films, students at the Lac La Ronge Indian Band’s Senator Myles Venne School recently shared their stories with their classmates and the public at the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre.

As part of the Communications Media 10 course, students participated in a PhotoVoice project and had the opportunity to create films.

“I like students to be exposed to as many art strands as possible,” says Lacey Eninew.

Eninew is concluding a two-year assignment at the school, researching the use of arts-based methods to enhance health. For this latest project, she was joined by Janice Victor, formerly with First Nations University of Canada, and now with the University of Lethbridge. In addition, for two weeks in June, Saskatoon filmmaker Marcel Petit shared his expertise and guided the students in the production of four short films.

“I love being an artist,” says Petit, adding, “I love exciting people about art.”

Before the students got behind the camera, however, Petit went through the “boring stuff” about film – where it comes from, how it started, the history, and all the rules.

Then Petit told them to break all the rules – “No matter what I tell you.”

Working with limited time, and some rainy weather, the students paired up to create four films: a horror film called “One Night”, a re-creation of a scene from the movie “Reservoir Dogs”, a dramatization of a legend, “Wihtigo and the Wolf Spirit”, and a documentary on the behind-the-scenes making of the student films.

Petit assisted with the editing and fine-tuning. The challenge was “keeping it theirs, without making it Marcel’s,” he says.

PhotoVoice is a research method that uses photography as a medium for people to communicate and share something important about their community or life to others. It is a way for people to tell stories about their lives without using words, says Victor.

Students were given digital cameras and asked to take photographs on two themes: “A Sense of Place” and “A Good Life”. From the photos they took, five broad themes emerged: the land, culture, family, sports and feeling good.

For the exhibit, each student showcased three photos, two of their favourites, and a third chosen by the facilitators.

Kiana Bird had already had an interest in photography and filmmaking before enrolling in the course. Last December, she purchased a Nikon camera, but since the course, she has noticed that her photos are more professional.

“We learned about a lot of things that I did not know,” says Bird. “The rule-of-thirds, lighting, composition, shading.”

Bird had also experimented with film, creating a

video about her school which she posted on YouTube. For this project, she played many roles – directing, filming and acting.

Eninew also invited Felipe Gomez, an independent filmmaker, to speak to the class. Gomez encouraged the stu-

dents to “reach for the right people to ask for their advice and help, so that the learning curve is not so steep.”

“I was really impressed with the content they developed,” said Gomez. “I wish I was that aware at their age.”

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NorthWinds Bus Lines owner wins Women in Business Award

**By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News**

LAC LA RONGE – Perseverance and dedication have paid off for Anne Calladine.

Calladine, owner of NorthWinds Bus Lines in La Ronge, was the recipient of the inaugural Indigenous Women in Business Award presented by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) in Halifax a few weeks ago.

Nominated by Community Futures Visions North, she was selected from among 10 finalists from across the country.

“I was on top of the world,” says Calladine, as she recalls the welcoming atmosphere of the banquet and awards ceremony.

“It was such a positive, positive experience.”

A member of the Montreal Cree Lake Nation, the 40-year-old Calladine has overcome a number of challenges to achieve the success she now enjoys.

“When I was growing up, I did not make very good choices,” she admits.

She was into drugs and alcohol, and didn’t graduate high school. Now married to Jason, the mother of two daughters explains that she made the choice to deal with her addictions because her family was important to her. She returned to school after her first daughter was born, earning her GED, Office Education certificate, and, eventually, a Bachelor of Education degree.

In 2008, the opportunity arose to purchase La Ronge Bus Lines, which provided bus transportation for the three local schools in the Northern Lights School Division, and a commercial waste disposal service. Calladine had done part-time bookkeeping for the company for a number of years and saw the potential.

“I was very familiar with how things ran, and I knew that we could be

successful,” she says.

Still, it wasn’t an easy decision.

“It was so scary! We knew we would have to give this company 110 per cent.”

office, storage and repair shop.

Technically, Calladine owns 90 per cent of the company, and her husband, 10 per cent.

“I could not do this business with-

out him and his support. Our partnership is what makes us successful,” says Calladine, but she also credits their “amazing” employees – bus drivers, truck drivers, mechanics, and maintenance and office staff. The company has grown from 12 to 25 employees. From two Aboriginal staff when they took over, there are now 12.

Bill Hogan, general manager of Visions North, notes that NACCA was impressed, not just with Calladine’s business success, but how well-rounded she is.

“It was about ‘What does she give back to the community?’” says Hogan.

In addition to running the company, she is a spare driver for the school buses, and because she has a relationship with the students she transports, she supports many youth organizations in the community.

She personally volunteers with the Lac La Ronge Food Bank, and offers bus transportation for elementary students so that they can volunteer, as well. Realizing that some of those students rely on the Food Bank for their meals makes it all the more meaningful.

“That’s why I do it,” says Calladine.



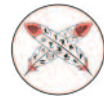
Rather than giving their school buses numbers, NorthWinds Bus Lines gives them names. In addition to running the company, Anne Calladine is a marathon runner. Here, she stands next to Old Yeller, just before heading out on a training run. Calladine was awarded the Indigenous Women in Business Award by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association.

(Photo by Linda Mikolayenko)

Both she and Jason quit their jobs, and with a business plan, financing, and a name change to NorthWinds, they proceeded to work long hours to put their unique stamp on the business.

They set discipline on the buses as a priority, as well as safety for their workers. They upgraded their shop and office space and their equipment, seeking out more efficient ways of operating, particularly on the disposal side.

Over the years, they added school bus contracts in Beauval, Patuanak and Turnor Lake, along with adult transportation for Northlands College in La Ronge. Construction has already begun on a new, two-story 12,000 square-foot



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Good eats on the powwow trail

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

There is nothing like hot, fresh food served at pow wows in the south of Saskatchewan, with a concession of soft ice-cream, candy apples and popcorn to take care of that sweet tooth.

Sixty-five year-old, residential school survivor Marlene Moise-Hansen, daughter of 105-year-old Philomena Moise-Hansen, had gone back to school to pursue her dream.

And after she had accomplished that dream with a high average, she proudly uses her skills to serve her own people.

"I went into commercial cooking and graduated, 30 years ago. I like pow wow and I wanted to serve a good product out to my people at the pow wow," she said.

She has owned a food truck with an all stainless steel kitchen for 13 years now, a big 48-passenger purple bus which she named Minnies Grill, after her own nickname.

"Luckily, I have a good husband who fixed it up for me. We salvaged the stainless steel and fixed it up ourselves, our trailer is custom made," she said proudly.

Over the years she has provided employment for single mothers and others who have had a rough time, getting jobs or life in general.

"I have eight employees. I give them jobs and train them in food handling techniques," said Moise-Hansen.

With a big heart for her employees and elders, she makes sure to always feed breakfast to the elders and their helpers with the pipe ceremony and flag carriers.

She says there are so many good memories in her bus, which is a happy place with a lot of laughter and all of them enjoy their work.

Moise-Hansen said they had once driven on a flat tire unaware.

"I didn't even know I had a flat, until someone flagged us and stopped me, you have a flat".

As an initiation, workers who start there, usually find out that there are some low areas in the bus where you have to bend down to pass.

"Normally when we get new workers to train, they bump their heads somewhere, and that's how we know they are going to be with us for a long time," she said.

Moise-Hansen said she is the bannock maker and works beside her employees.

"Once my bannock, one of my taco shells, comes out looking like a face and we compared it to one of my workers, we he had a good laugh over that. It's a lot of hard work, dedication and the most I worked is 18 hours in there. You need a lot of motivation and I love it, it's my passion," she said.

Not only is she teaching young people who have never had any experience in the kitchen, she is motivating them to find their own paths, some which follow her path in the love of cooking.

"There's one young lady I trained that is going into cooking, she's finished some courses already and she mentioned to me that this job motivated her," she said.

She said there is a lot of investment in the business which requires dedication and motivation because it is a lot of hard work, "If I can do it, anyone else can do it".



Marlene Moise-Hansen says her husband Terrance built her an excellent bus for her food service business that works the powwow trail every summer.

Through all weather, they are there, serving fresh soup, bannock burgers, Indian tacos, fries and poutine and all sorts of other hot food for their customers.

It's always a busy season, but when pow wow season is over, she's back in her home community of Muskowekwan First Nation, cooking just as hard at the Youth Civilization Centre for troubled teens.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS



The group photo has Hatchet Lake First Nation counselor George Tsannie, AREVA Resources Canada President & CEO Vincent Martin, Athabasca Basin Chief Negotiator Diane MacDonald, Cameco president and CEO Tim Gitzel and Hatchet Lake First Nation Chief Bart Tsannie. The blankets are gifts from the chief to Vincent Martin, Tim Gitzel and Diane MacDonald. (Photo supplied)

Agreement signing brings benefits to northern communities

BLACK LAKE – The Athabasca communities, Cameco and AREVA Resources Canada Inc. have announced the signing of a collaboration agreement that builds upon an enduring partnership in the develop-

ment of uranium resources in the Athabasca Basin. The Ya'Thi Néné (“Lands of the North” in Dene) collaboration agreement confirms the continued support of the communities historically and traditionally associated with the Cigar Lake, McClean Lake and Rabbit Lake uranium mining operations.

“The renewed partnership agreement gives the Athabasca communities certainty, to help ensure that the companies operate sustainably, bringing positive

changes for the future generation,” said Diane MacDonald, the lead negotiator for the Athabasca communities.

The comprehensive and unique agreement builds on the existing relationships and commercial arrangements between Cameco, AREVA and the three First Nation communities of Black Lake, Fond du Lac and Hatchet Lake, and the four communities of Stony Rapids, Wollaston Lake, Uranium City and Camsell Portage.

Aboriginal people out \$1 billion per year

SASKATOON – A new study says that if First Nations and Métis in Saskatchewan had an equivalent educational attainment and income level as non-Aboriginal residents, their earnings would increase by \$1.083 billion dollars per year.

The Saskatoon Aboriginal Employment Partnership (SAEP) has released a report entitled ‘City of Bridges: First



SREDA President and CEO Alex Fallon presented the SAEP report that showed Aboriginal people are missing out on over \$1 billion in economic activity. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



The Provincial Métis Housing Corporation (PMHC) is a not for profit organization mandated to develop and institute housing programs for low-income and Aboriginal people. In 2013-2014 PMHC became the Community Entity for the Aboriginal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS program provides funding to prevent and reduce homelessness and poverty and address the challenges of the chronically and episodically homeless. PMHC provides the administration for the Aboriginal HPS program that is funded by the Government of Canada.

The Administrative Assistant-Data Clerk will assist with delivery of the HPS project and will report to Program Manager. The responsibilities for this position include, but not limited to:

- Coordination and communication of activities for the Aboriginal Homelessness Advisory Board (AHAB) and the Provincial Metis Housing Corporation (PMHC)
- Preparation of reports to the AHAB and PMHC and ESDC.
- Developing and executing a communications platform for PMHC and the HPS program.
- Review of all HPS sub project documentation and coordination of service delivery to ensure compliance with HPS directives.
- Coordination of reports from Recipients and review of claims by Recipients
- Monitor sub-project activities and assist financial monitoring of projects
- Providing support to sub-projects to ensure progress and completion dates,
- Data base management and web site development
- Responsible for engaging with internal and external stakeholders to obtain support, develop partnerships and promote data collection activities.
- Other duties/responsibilities as determined by the Program Manager.

Skills Required:

- Good written and oral communication and computer skills
- Experience in web site development an asset.
- Experience with Word, Excel and the use of PDF files
- Knowledge of federal HPS and Housing First programs an asset.
- Knowledge of financial and data administration an asset.
- Cultural sensitivity and a knowledge of homelessness and homelessness programming an asset.
- Experience in developing and submitting reports to federal and provincial governments and providing presentations to various groups as requested.

The term of the position is from August 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 with possibility of extension. Mandatory three-month probationary period.

The deadline for applications is July 22, 2016 at 4:00 PM. Please send resume to #37 – 901 1st Avenue North, Saskatoon S7K 1Y4, fax: 306 343 1700 or e-mail: metishousing@sasktel.net. For more information please call 306 343 8240.

PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR



The Provincial Métis Housing Corporation (PMHC) is a not for profit organization mandated to develop and institute housing programs for low-income and Aboriginal people. In 2013-2014 PMHC became the Community Entity for the Aboriginal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS program provides funding to prevent and reduce homelessness and poverty and address the challenges of the chronically and episodically homeless. PMHC provides the administration for the Aboriginal HPS program that is funded by the Government of Canada.

The Program Coordinator will assist with delivery of the HPS project and report to Program Manager. The position responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Coordination and communication of activities for the Aboriginal Homelessness Advisory Board (AHAB) and the Provincial Metis Housing Corporation (PMHC)
- Preparation of reports to the AHAB and PMHC and ESDC.
- Providing executive summaries of application to AHAB in a fair and transparent manner
- Review of all HPS sub project documentation and coordination of service delivery to ensure compliance with HPS directives.
- Coordination of reports from Recipients and review of claims by Recipients
- Monitor sub-project activities and assist financial monitoring of projects
- Providing on going support to sub-projects to ensure progress and completion dates, including all reporting requirements
- Administrator of HERIN and collection of HPS data
- Other duties/responsibilities as determined by the Program Manager.

Skills Required:

- Good written and oral communication and computer skills.
- Experience with Word, Excel and the use of PDF files
- Experience in financial administration.
- Experience of working with government agencies and not for profit organizations.
- Cultural sensitivity and a knowledge of homelessness and homelessness programming an asset.
- Experience in developing and submitting reports to federal and provincial governments and providing presentations to various groups as requested.
- Knowledge of federal HPS and Housing First programs an asset.

The term of the position is from August 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 with possibility of extension. Mandatory three-month probationary period.

The deadline for applications is July 22, 2016 at 4:00 PM. Please send resume to #37 – 901 1st Avenue North, Saskatoon S7K 1Y4, fax: 306 343 1700 or e-mail: metishousing@sasktel.net. For more information please call 306 343 8240

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nations and Métis Economic Development in the Saskatoon Region' that delves into the education and employment gaps between Aboriginal people and other Canadians. Their results are clear and there is a huge disparity.

"The education and employment gaps are the issue," says Alex Fallon, the President and CEO of the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority.

"If we close that gap, everyone wins. Many things have happened in Saskatoon to move us forward with urban reserves and many partnerships but we have a long way to go for equality. That will only improve if we work together in the community."

SAEP was formed to support greater employment opportunities for Aboriginal citizens in the Saskatoon Region and is a committee comprising of numerous stakeholders including Aboriginal training and education institutes, industry, the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Regional Intersectoral Committee.

Fallon also noted that in this era of reconciliation, there is no better time to move forward together.

"What we have going on with SAEP ties into the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action. These are not recommendations," he said.

"These are calls to action and that's what we intend to do."



SARCAN going into the North

BUFFALO NARROWS – People living in the province's North now have a place to take their bev-

erage containers, paint, and electronics. The new SARCAN recycling depot, located in Buffalo Narrows, will serve approximately 9,000 people from the communities of Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Beauval, La Loche, Dillon, Birch Narrows, Clearwater, and surrounding areas.

Its official grand opening celebration was held at the end of June. Decorated with recycled beverage containers, there was a Canadian flag, a Métis Nation flag and G-R-A-N-D O-P-E-N-I-N-G spelled out in cans hanging across the ceiling.

Dignitaries joined the community for the event including: Buckley Belanger, MLA for Athabasca; Jackie Derocher, Buffalo Narrows Deputy Mayor; Bonnie Aubichon, Buffalo Narrows Economic Development Corporation Manager; Dean Villeneuve, Clarence

Campeau Development Fund Business Development Specialist and Amy McNeil, SARC/SARCAN Recycling Executive Director.

In addition to providing recycling services to that part of the province, there have been employment oppor-

tunities. Seven local jobs were created.

SARCAN says it is important as a company to hire Aboriginal people whenever they can. It already has two depots, Fort Qu'Appelle and La Ronge that are staffed and run entirely by Aboriginal people.

The depot will be quite large, as over three million beverage containers are projected to be returned to



Amy McNeil, Executive Director of SARC/SARCAN Recycling; Buckley Belanger, MLA for Athabasca; Chris Campbell, SARCAN Depot Supervisor; Jackie Derocher, Buffalo Narrows Deputy Mayor; Cheryl Chartier, SARCAN Recycling Technician, Chantelle Diakuw, SARCAN Northwest Regional Manager; and, Cindy McCallum, SARCAN Cashier.

the new depot every year. And in fact, the depot has already far exceeded any expectations that were set out before it opened. In just three and a half months, the depot already collected two million beverage containers.

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Another visit with our beloved Indigenous centarians

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

Two years ago, Eagle Feather News was on the search for Saskatchewan's oldest Indigenous person and we introduced you to Sarazine Aubichon, Philomene Moise and Flora Weenonis. This year, we decided to follow-up with the three incredible women and to hear more about their lives. Here are their stories.

Sarazine Aubichon, from English River, celebrated her 104th birthday last month. She was born June 12, 1912 in Patuanak, Northern Saskatchewan.

This year, her community celebrated her birthday in conjunction with their annual Treaty Day celebrations organized by the community health station.

"Over 100 attended; relatives from Beauval and Île-à-la-Crosse came and celebrated the day with her," says great-niece, Mary Aubichon.

"The community celebrated it with a big cake. Some local guys played music, the people danced and the kids played a variety of activities followed with a traditional food barbecue."

The community has a lot to be proud of their respected elder as she has accomplished a lot in her life. Sarazine was married to Frank Ratt who died a long time ago. They never had any children but she raised her nephew, Velmore Aubichon who is in his late 60s.

Velmore's son, Erwyn resides with Sarazine taking care of each other. She had five sisters and five brothers.

Sarazine attended residential school in the early 1920s in Beauval. That's where she learned how to speak French, Latin, Cree and Dené. As a multi-linguist, Sarazine taught Dené syllabics at school in the '70s.

"Sarazine has never had a flu shot and has always refused it. She never drank before so has always abstained from alcohol and stopped smoking cigarettes in the '60s. That's what kept her going."



Sarazine Aubichon, shown with Bobby Cameron, recently celebrated her 104th birthday.

Back then, her hobbies included making moose hide, berry picking, making traditional dried meat, and helping out with the priest by volunteering her time by cleaning and cooking. Her diet consisted of her favorite traditional foods such as dairy, fish,

moose, and duck. To this day, she continues to bead and sew on the sewing machine.

A few weeks ago, Sarazine received an honorary mention at the House of Commons by NDP Georgina Jolibois for the Desnethe-Missinippi-Churchill riding about her turning 104.

"This is a positive thing for Canada to look at our Aboriginal people that live a positive lifestyle. It felt good because it would be the first time someone from our home community being mentioned so it was a positive awareness," she says.

"We're so grateful to have her with us still and to have her in our community – it's an honour."

Mary describes her great-aunt as a remarkable little lady and admires her ability to live this long.

•••

Philomene Moise, from Muskowekwan First Nation, turned 105 on July 11. She was born in 1911 in Gordon's First Nation. Every year, the family plans a big celebration to honour her birthday but unfortunately, Philomena started to develop dementia so this year's celebration will be small.



Philomene Moise of Muskowekwan First Nation is now 105.

At a young age, Philomene attended residential school and enjoyed her experience.

"She liked it there because she learned how to sew, cook, clean, and she got a lot of skills that later on helped her be a good wife and mother," says daughter, Marlene Moise who is 61 years old.

"However, my mother worked as a seamstress at the residential school for many years. She made our own clothes out of flannel."

Marlene recalls a time when her mother struggled when she was young. They were so poor that they had to survive on prairie dogs. Which is why she never took food for granted and always ate wild meats, soup bannock, porridge and other traditional foods.

"She had the most beautiful garden and grew everything from corn to carrots. We lived off the garden," she adds. "She would have bacon once a week as a treat."

Philomene liked picking berries, smashing chokecherries and making desserts out of it. She was a real good cook, Marlene recalls.

Because of her lost eyesight, she has been in the Lestock care home for almost

nine years. Marlene's 68-year-old brother, Douglas Moise, visits his mother on a daily basis to feed her breakfast, dinner and supper which he has been doing since she was admitted.

When Marlene lived with her mother, she remembers it as a memorable time in her life.

"We'd go out and pick berries together. Go shopping together and make meals together. That was the most enjoyable time that I can remember," she says.

"She brought up many children in her life, two families other than her own. She had a heart of gold and even though there was no money coming in, she still took care of them."

Marlene says her mother Philomene is the most inspiring person because she taught her and others to work hard and don't quit.

•••

Flora Weenonis, from Big River First Nation, turned 104 earlier this year. Her late husband, Thomas Weenonis, passed away years ago. Together, they had about ten children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"She's the oldest kokum in our family on my mother's side," says the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Chief Bobby Cameron.

"She was a hard worker all her life. She's a survivor. Any time you live to be a 104 years old, you survived a lot of changes

in life. She's definitely the backbone in our family."

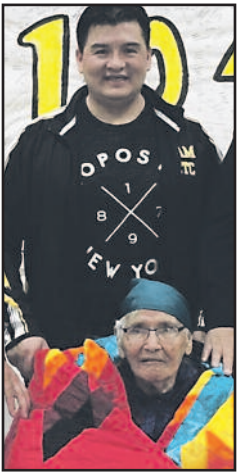
Two years ago, Flora was living alone with a few of her grandchildren but nowadays, she resides with her daughter.

"Her memory is still sharp and she still has lessons to teach every day. She's not shy to voice her opinion when she sees something wrong," says Chief Cameron.


This year, the family celebrated Flora's birthday with a feast, visiting amongst each other and sharing stories.

"She shared with us some of the life teachings, and how she wanted us to live life and raise our children. All the good teachings that kokums brings to us," he adds. "We thanked her for all the years of love, teachings and discipline so we can teach our children the same thing that she taught us."

Flora continues to speak her Cree language and practice her culture, eating traditional foods like wild meat and still refuses to eat fast foods.



Flora Weenonis from Big River is now 104 years old.



Not Taking an Unlimited, Clean Water Supply for Granted

Yancoal Hears You


Environmental sustainability is Yancoal Canada's vision for the Southey Project. Yancoal Canada wants to reassure local residents that water quality and water usage is recognized with the utmost importance. We all use it, therefore, we all benefit from protecting it. At the time of production (estimated at late 2020 or early 2021) the Southey Project will use water from Buffalo Pound Lake, which is part of the Upper Qu'Appelle Sub-Watershed and fed by Lake Diefenbaker. The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency's assessment identified the system as having the capacity and reliability to provide water to the mine for the next 65 to 100 years. Yancoal Canada knows that this lake is the source of drinking water for the Cities of Moose Jaw and Regina, and in the near future will be the water source for the Legacy Project near Bethune. This system is a vital water source and Yancoal Canada recognizes the need for monitoring to track changes in water quantity (flow, water levels) and quality is critical.

In 2014 alone, Yanzhou Coal (parent company) contributed over 19 million Canadian dollars to ecological and environmental improvements. Yancoal Canada plans to show the same respect to the people and environment that support their local operations. At the time of production, a plan of action will be developed in consultation with local authorities (e.g., Water Security Agency), First Nations, Metis Nations, and local communities to contribute to the development or continuation of regional environmental monitoring, remediation or protection initiatives.

Yancoal Canada Resources

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Email r.kusch@yancoal.ca



**By Jessica Iron Joseph
For Eagle Feather News**

PRINCE ALBERT – Close to 100 people set out to walk from the Senator Alan Bird Memorial gym in Prince Albert to Stanley Mission in June as a way to heal from the traumatic effects of residential schools and to remember loved ones who were not as fortunate to survive.

The walk was organized by several people. Sallie McLeod, Nancy Mirasty and Tom Roberts felt that it was time to let go of past hurts and move forward with their lives by having a commemorative walk.

“My friend Nancy said we should be doing something to leave that part of our lives in the past and go forward and maybe we should walk home,” said McLeod.

“We started talking about it and put this idea together. It took awhile but it was kind of like wishful thinking way back when. Today we made it a reality. A lot of people came out from different communities.”

Not everyone walked the entire journey to Stanley Mission, but everyone who registered walked to the John Diefenbaker Bridge, and some continued on to the Nesbitt Campground just outside of the city. It was a hot day and the heat added another element to an already challenging endeavour.

“The walk across the bridge was very emotional for a lot of us because we each carried a stone that we picked up



outside the Alan Bird Memorial Center,” said McLeod.

“The stone was to signify somebody who’s not there with us anymore or is unable to be there, and as we crossed that bridge, we dropped the stone into the water for them.

“A lot of the other survivors had put little names on the rocks in memory of their loved ones that are no longer with them. So I think that part, crossing

the bridge, for them was very emotional, and letting go of some anger,” McLeod says.

“I’m not quite sure how else to say it because personally speaking, I still have my siblings with me, and three of them walked with me today,” said McLeod.

“The walk today was very uplifting. I was amazed by all the people that came out to support and walk with us.”

Although the walk was successful, McLeod does not anticipate that this will be an annual event. Given the magnitude of planning, with the purpose of moving forward, this was most likely a one-time event.

McLeod hopes that this walk inspires others to leave the past in the past, and move forward toward a brighter future.

“Hopefully our children will learn from this and go forward, too.”

The University of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce Debra Pozega Osburn as our new vice-president university relations.

At the U of S, we are extremely lucky to have a strong community of passionate, dedicated supporters, from our faculty, staff and students to our donors, alumni, partners and neighbours. We know our relationships are a big part of what makes this university great, and we are excited to welcome a leader who feels the same way.

In her new role, Debra will strengthen existing relationships and build new connections with the people of our province, our alumni and our donors. She will lead a strong team dedicated to telling the university’s story and encouraging donors to support the U of S.

Debra was previously the vice-president university relations at the University of Alberta, and has also served in leadership positions at Michigan State University, as a partner at a communications consulting firm and as a journalist in roles ranging from reporter to city editor. She will bring her rich background and experience to the U of S when she assumes her position on October 1, 2016.

The U of S draws its values and aspirations from the people of Saskatchewan, and is proud to call this province home. Congratulations Debra, and welcome to the U of S.





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