

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Business leaders exchange knowledge

Australian representative Witiyana Marika received a Métis sash from Senator Nora Cummings at the World Indigenous Business Forum.

(Photo by Leona McIntyre/WIBF 2016)

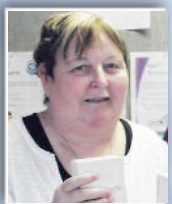


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Elders shared their vast knowledge of the world around them and their culture at this annual event. - Page 3



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ANSWERING THE CALL

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Back to School Edition

Coming In October - Role Models Issue

CPMA #40027204

Important for First Nations to build relationships: Chief Robert Louie

SASKATOON – Some of the best Indigenous business minds in the world descended on Saskatoon in August to talk economics and culture.

The World Indigenous Business Forum attracted some 900 participants from several countries including New Zealand, Chile and the U.S as well as homegrown

business leaders such as Edmund Bellegarde and British Columbia's Chief of Westbank First Nation, Robert Louie, who stressed the importance of strengthening relationships among First Nations.

Our coverage of this major international event begins on page 9.

PotashCorp helps kids get packing for school

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The demand for school supplies some years can outstrip a parent’s ability to purchase or even comprehend why they need a particular amount of a particular supply.

Why, for example, do they need four glue sticks? Why four? And each year it gets more expensive.

To help alleviate some of the stress of back to school, the Saskatoon Tribal Council distributes backpacks full of school supplies to children and youth from Saskatoon’s inner city neighbourhoods. The giveaway always coincides with the annual family gathering and carnival hosted at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge. And demand for the backpacks keeps on growing.

“Last year’s backpack giveaway was a huge success and that was only 500 of them,” said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

“Hundreds of families showed up for the carnival and received these backpacks and supplies. We’re happy we can support more families this year.”

People were entertained by bouncy houses, fun games and a visit from the STC Mascot, Journey who had a very busy day high fiving kids who stood almost two and a half hours in line to receive their backpacks. This year over 1,000 were given away to anyone who came regardless of their race or financial situation.

The giveaway was made possible by a \$25,000 donation from PotashCorp.

“These backpacks and school supplies help kids



STC Mascot, Journey, (below right) was kept busy by all the children at the annual carnival. Over 1,000 backpacks were given away by STC through a sponsorship from PotashCorp. (Photos by Saskatoon Tribal Council)

feel good about going back to school,” said Leanne Bellegarde, Director Diversity and Inclusion for PotashCorp.

“That’s important because there are so many opportunities available to young people who are committed to sticking with school and seeing where it can take them.”



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Shoal Lake elders share their traditional knowledge

**By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News**

SHOAL LAKE CREE NATION – Every year the Shoal Lake Cree Nation have their annual family camp a week or two before school starts.

The families set up camp in their traditional hunting and trapping lands known as “WildCat,” 20 minutes away from their community.

Elder Harry Young said the camp teaches the children how to work together and everything is done collectively as a family and as a community.

“I like that we still show the young people, to help each other, to have fun together,” he said.

Harry’s wife Dora Young said that when they were really young, they never really knew school. “We camped, fished and trapped, that was our school, before everything changed.”

Dora said the families camped differently now than how they did it back then, but that they do teach the younger generations some of how the old methods were done.



“We sometimes wait for the fire to get low and sometimes play cards, have tea and visit,” said Keyna. She said that at home she would usually have seven hours or so of screen time on her phone or television.

The family camp gives everyone a chance to reset their clocks after a busy summer of staying up late and having too much screen time on their gadgets as well as learn how to live without technology.

Shoal lake Elders Dora Young and Harry Young were among the elders participating in the annual family camp. (Photo by Tiffany Head)

ticed over the years that not everyone visits each other anymore in the community, not even close family members.

“I think that’s what they said at the general assembly we’ve lost contact with family members, technology has taken

Keyna Whitecap crouching near the fire pit at her family’s campsite. (Photo by Tiffany Head)



“Long ago, our people would dig a hole in the ground and use wood around it, to make an underground fridge to keep their meat cool, they made it really good and they covered it,” said Dora.

In a conversation/interview with elementary school teachers Ida Cook and Theresa Whitecap, they said that during camp everybody gets back into their sleeping routines.

“It gives us that routine to go back to school and the students are calmer when they return to school,” said Cook.

Whitecap said that the camp teaches the children, “how to live in the wilderness, instead of relying on technology to be able to cook from an open fire.”

Cook and Whitecap have also no-

over our lives and we don’t want to leave our houses,” said Whitecap.

They said that the camp also gives everyone a chance to reconnect again before the school year starts as well as giving the teachers something to ask the students to write about in their journals.

“What did you go do at family camp? This is usually the main topic, or how was your summer? It is usually that or the fair that the students write about,” said Cook.

Grade 10 student Keyna Whitecap 15, said that being at camp teaches her responsibility, going to sleep early and waking up early. She said that it also gives her family time to visit and tell each other stories around the fire instead of being on her phone.



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A story with a happy ending

Thanks to MD Ambulance, the Saskatoon Police Service, City of Saskatoon Director of Aboriginal Relations Gilles Dorval and some thieves with a conscience, there was a happy ending after two international visitors who were in town for the World Indigenous Business Forum lost their passports and some very important personal belongings in a theft.

The two women were religious representative of the Mapuches First Nation of Chile and had gone to watch the Saskatchewan Indigenous Folk Festival after a day at the WIBF. When they returned to their car, their leather bags that contained their passports and religious materials were missing.

They were with Andrew Carrier who is the chairperson of the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, the hosts of the WIBF. His backpack and clothes were missing too.

They found some homeless people nearby who actually had their bags ... but not their personal contents. They

tried to purchase back their goods but it didn't go well. The next day Gilles Dorval saw the visitors were upset and heard their story through an interpreter.

They did not want to go to the police because they were scared. In their country the police are not to be

trusted. But Dorval convinced them to go to the police.

He spoke with Sgt. Keith Salzl in the Cultural Resources Unit and they arranged for a private room for an interview as well as a translator to come to the police station.



From left, Gilles Dorval, Director of Aboriginal Relations for the City of Saskatoon, the Mapuches religious representatives and Andrew Carrier of ILDI posed for a photo after a stressful event. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



As they settled into the room at the police station to make the statement on the theft, Andrew Carrier's phone rang. An MD Ambulance crew had found their bags on the corner of 20th and 4th Avenue downtown, a nice public location where it could be found with Andrew's business card sticking out of it.

The clothes were missing, but the passports and spiritual items were intact.

The actions of the police, MD Ambulance and Dorval led to the city receiving a few thank you emails from the organizers of the WIBF and a memorable trip north for our friends from Chile.

Good to see the City of Saskatoon host the world so well. The WIBF was outstanding and the City and the local organizers deserve a big pat on the back. Way to be great hosts.

Columnist's words were hurtful, discouraging

Re: The Dashing Chronicles EFN August 2016 Issue

"Who's doing the most of the damage? Its boyfriends and husbands" page 12 #MMIWG

This letter to Eagle Feather News is to address the one of the misconceptions and myths about who are committing crimes against indigenous women and girls on the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. According to columnist Winston McLean in the August issue he makes reference to indigenous men as being the ones responsible for those cases that have missing, missing-then-found-murdered by people in our own communities.

The previous Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Canada Bernard Valcourt made similar remarks stating 'lack of respect for women and girls on reserves', to the outrage of our leaders around the country and the flawed RCMP Report, yet its true to some degree that some of our indigenous brothers have behaved with violence but how do we as indigenous nations reconcile non-indigenous serial killers that targeted our sisters, Shawn Lamb, Robert Pickton, Bobby Jack Fowler, and John Crawford to name a few ~ I recall don't have treaty status, or membership in any First Nations band in Canada. Needless to say McLean's off the cuff tomfoolery is way off from being correct.

As our group read the issue of August upon our co-leaders of Iskwewuk

Ewichiwitochik (Women Walking Together) return from Ottawa on August 3, 2016 to attend the Launch and we read first six pages cover the launch of the National Inquiry with pride – only to be appalled by the attempt to simplify and make joke of the serious experiences families experience in MMIWG at the latter pages of this August issue.

It was hurtful, discouraging, deflating, and basically reckless to have the Editor go along with reviewing, authorizing, and publishing this particular piece. It comes at a time where our current Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Carolyn Bennett relies on the leadership of the Saskatchewan families, concerned citizen groups, and indigenous governments

that worked hard the last decade to address and make sense of the ongoing tragedy. Let's not make a mockery of that headway.

We hope that in future issues of EFN as the National Inquiry begins its work and the face to face visits with communities that the Commissioners don't have to pick up a local newspaper to find these kinds of incorrect sentiments. In addition the upcoming Reconciliation and the Media to be held at the U of S on October 4 and 6, 2016 will ensure that even indigenous columnists and journalists look inward to their own practices of writing that requires fact finding and sincere research on this issue.

Iskwewuk Ewichiwitochik
(Women Walking Together)

Eagle Feather NEWS

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204 OSSN #1492-7497

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ., P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4

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This issue printed on: September 8, 2016 Next issue to be printed on: October 12, 2016

Baby climbed his first mountain ... whew!

I was listening to a friend pontificate about his upcoming foray into parenthood: "We're going to stay the same active people. Baby will just come along with us. In one of those bag-thingies"

He was referring to a baby carrier and I remember thinking something similar before I had a child. My baby would not change me. My life would be the same, just with the addition of a couple of thick shoulder straps and a cute head peeking over my shoulder.

But, of course, I was wrong. While never a particularly busy person (I get overwhelmed by an evening featuring dinner and a movie), in the last few months, my partner and I have taken being homebodies to a new level.

Our couch dents are deeper than the Qu'Appelle Valley. This summer's highlight was when Netflix released Stranger Things. There are a few reasons for this. We both work full-time, we've moved three times in the last year and our baby has the energy level of a tiny hurricane. We deserve a rest but we also needed to break out of our rut.

We headed to Banff for a vacation. I was a bit nervous, because we hadn't planned anything and on vacation, our goals are rarely in sync. I want massages and walks with a latte in hand. My boyfriend wants hikes deep into the woods where only mobsters would go. With a baby, we'd have to find some kind of midway.

Our first day trip was a bust. We headed to Lake Louise. My partner brought our red hiking baby carrier, a gift from one of his outdoorsy friends. I wanted to bring the stroller but was overruled, "It'll just get in the way."

We put the baby into the backpack carrier in front of the hotel. He hated it immediately. His cries suggested

that it was a medieval baby torturing device. People stared at us, openly concerned. Other parents passed us with babies in backpacks, their babies smiling and waving.



Our baby refused to be talked into it. We gave him high fives and I held his hand but he still cried. After a very tense ten minutes of listening to his cries echo across Lake Louise, we gave up and released him. The baby toddled towards me, his legs slightly bowed from the carrier.

From that moment on, he would only let me carry him. I glared at my partner over his shoulder, thinking of our fancy stroller sitting idly in the hotel room. I could already feel my back muscles tightening up like a snare-drum as sweat poured down my face.

The next day trip was to Sulphur Mountain on the gondola. There's a trail up there, a network of wood walkways linked together with stairs. The first time I went to Banff, when I was 11, the trail was a dirt path. I guess they built this walkway to prevent tourists from falling off the side of the mountain and sliding down its slate surface. Because that leaves a terrible footprint on the mountain.

I saw the top of the mountain in the distance and

when my partner started walking towards it with the baby, I thought he was joking. I came to the top of the mountain to have dessert. A hundred years ago, being on top of a mountain would normally mean that you were going to die. That's why eating dessert on top of a mountain is the ultimate "screw you" to nature. By me eating cheesecake I'm basically "owning" this giant hill.

But my partner has a different perspective. He wanted to reach the toppity top of the mountain to prove that parenthood was not holding him back. Not today.

We didn't have the backpack of cruelty. We had only our arms. But baby wasn't interested. He walked ahead of me, his little paw in his dad's hand.

People walked past and smiled at this tiny, determined person. His father smiled proudly, I looked into their eyes, searching for confirmation, "Is this okay? Can toddlers climb mountains?" This is the problem with being a new parent, always wondering if what we're doing is right.

Right or wrong the baby continued up the mountain. He took a break near the top and his dad carried him. But then he wanted to be put down again.

We reached the top of the mountain, which is not a flat surface. It's a real mountain top with rocks sticking out of it. (For my future visits, I'd like the Banff people to pave it over.) I took a picture of the two of them up there. The baby looks unimpressed, almost as though he wished there were more stairs but his dad looks happy. And tired, which is the natural by-product of parenting.

Oddly enough on the way down, we encountered babies coming up from every direction. Some in carriers, some on foot. It would appear that babies are holding no one back and in fact, perhaps we are holding them back.

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Application deadline: September 19, 2016

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James Smith demands answers from Husky

By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News

JAMES SMITH CREE NATION – It's been well over a month since 250,000 litres of oil from a Husky Energy pipeline break leached into the North Saskatchewan River, and the James Smith Cree Nation is still waiting for answers.

"The river runs right through my community and affects us all," said Chief Wally Burns.

"We always fished, we always hunt. We're affected in that way because harvest season for big game is now and we don't know what kinds of animals are good from that river."

While Husky deployed booms downstream from the Maidstone-area break and the website details their work at shoreline cleanup, Burns said those efforts haven't been seen in their community, 60 kilometres east of Prince Albert.

The First Nation set up their own booms to catch what has been floating downstream and they are regularly sending samples away for testing, but as numerous news updates posted to their website shows, they are frustrated.

While the spill occurred on July 22, the first Husky representative arrived on the reserve Aug. 25 to speak to the community.

"They didn't even have the answers to our questions," Burns said.

A release after the meeting detailed their request: "We want acknowledgement from Husky Oil that they are responsible for this spill. They have clearly acknowledged to the Cities of North Battleford and Prince Albert, and even Melfort was acknowledged by Husky that this spill was their (Husky Oil's) problem and re-

sponsibility," it read.

"We, as First Nation People, the first people in these lands, the keepers of the sacred waters and lands, are not given the common courtesy of being acknowledged."

In an email to Eagle Feather News, James Smith Cree Nation councilor Stephanie Constant detailed what it meant for them on a practical level.

A big piece of her portfolio is engaging youth in the community through nature walks and going fishing, she wrote.

"We are trying to bring back our cultural ways and keep them going but with the river contaminated, we aren't able to do as much as we would like."

A recent camping trip, based around teaching youth survival skills in the wilderness wasn't fulfilled because they couldn't go fishing, swimming or hunting.

She said that she saw Chief Burns turn an Elder who was trying to go swimming away from the river because they had no idea what was going on.

Burns talked about the elders' attachment to the North Saskatchewan.



Leaders at James Smith Cree Nation are asserting that the Husky oil spill is killing wildlife in the river that runs through their reserve. (Photo supplied)



"We fish, we hunt by the river, we boat, everything that is pertaining to our culture," he said.

He describes the effect on the river, "to me it's like an oil," he said, "on your hand it's like ... a sticky feeling."

The crayfish are turning up dead, and it used to be that there are dragonflies, butterflies "but now there is nothing there," Burns said.

He is also concerned about the lake sturgeon spawning grounds that are there.

The community has been working with the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, Emergency Management and Fire Safety, and Government of Canada representatives, Burns said. Robix Environmental Technologies is doing their continued water testing.

In a letter to the community that came after the Aug. 25 meeting, Husky Energy offered funds for a ceremony, "but we didn't ask for that," Burns said.

An email from Husky Energy spokesperson, Mel Duvall, said "We met with the James Smith Cree Nation last Thursday. We have committed to further meetings and we will continue the dialogue."

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City signs long-term, \$1 lease with Wanuskewin

**By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News**

SASKATOON – Part of Wanuskewin’s vision for renewal to become the first United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site in Saskatchewan has fallen into place.

The City of Saskatoon and Wanuskewin Heritage Park have entered into an agreement to lease a tract of public land for \$1 per year for 99 years.

“Wanuskewin links our past to the present,” said Mayor Donald Atchison. “We are planning for the future of the Saskatoon region, which includes aligning the City’s cultural strategy with innovative approaches like the Wanuskewin UNESCO project. We must protect this unique part of history and promote our cultural heritage.”

In support of that vision, the City developed a long-term lease agreement for approximately 152 hectares (375 acres) of adjacent City-owned lands for \$1 per year for 99 years.

“From the beginning, the City of Saskatoon has been a key partner,” said Wanuskewin Board Chair, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty.

“Like Wanuskewin founder Dr. Ernie Walker has always said, Wanuskewin will be to Saskatoon what Central Park is to New York. With the renewal of a 99-year lease, the City has

once again demonstrated visionary leadership to preserve and protect this extraordinary historic Indigenous gathering place for future generations of Canadians.”



Front row left to right Elders Mike Maurice, Edward Baldhead, Maria Linklater, Walter Linklater, Melvina Eagle and Mary Lee. Back row from left City Councillor Randy Donauer, Wanuskewin CEO Dana Soonias, Mayor Don Atchison, FSIN Vice Chief Heather Bear, Wanuskewin Board Chair Candace Wasacase-Lafferty and City Councillor Zach Jeffries. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Wanuskewin’s renewal project is multi-faceted and involves preserving the ecology and biodiversity of the site, expanding the land base to meet UNESCO’s buffer criteria and returning a small herd of Plains bison to its native prairie habitat. The land in this lease will be the bison’s home.

“If ever a legacy exists, the story of the Indigenous peoples of the North-

ern Plains is one that must be told in a manner respectful of the millions that were here before us – in culture, spiritual integrity, and the environment,” said Wanuskewin CEO, Dana Soonias.

Indigenous art in Canada; dedicating additional green space and grassland reclamation; and increasing Saskatoon’s reputation as a global tourism destination.

“The City of Saskatoon recognizes the significance of Wanuskewin’s revitalization vision and the benefits the development will bring to the city, the region, and our entire province,” added City Manager, Murray Totland.

On June 17, 2016, Wanuskewin publicly revealed a team of exceptional community leaders who have committed to help Wanuskewin realize its ambitious plan, led by both Wayne Brownlee, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer of Potash-Corp, and Felix Thomas, Chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, aims to build intercultural understanding through the protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity.

There is a stringent application process, which is managed in Canada by Parks Canada.

Inscribing a site on the World Heritage List is not the end of the story; site managers and local authorities continuously work toward managing, monitoring, and preserving World Heritage properties.

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Annual Treaty 6 gathering at Stoney Hill celebrates spirit of cooperation, friendships

By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News

STONEY KNOLL – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people gathered at Stoney Knoll on Aug. 23 to build relationships and commemorate 140 years since the signing of Treaty 6.

“Today is a big day for us,” said Neil Sasakamoose, executive director of Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs and the MC for the day.

He said it is important to celebrate the signing of Treaty 6, but the gathering also provided a chance to openly talk about past wrongs, current issues and remember the work of people who have passed on.

“It’s good when people can be candid, can talk and laugh. That’s what builds friendships ... you need that laughter and candid talk and good conversations and understandings of each other, and culture. You need those. It has to give you hope,” Sasakamoose said.

The location of the gathering, a hill in the middle of the prairie near the community of Laird, was not a coincidence; it provided a meeting place for the former owners of the land, the Young Chippewyan, and those who now occupy it, Mennonite and Lutheran farmers.

The timing was important too, with the racism being seen around the province after the shooting death of 22-year-old Colten Boushie on a farm near Biggar.

“2016 is really important, it’s the 140 year celebration, but with what’s been going on in this province, this summer, it’s good to meet with non-native people right now,” Sasakamoose said.

The meetings at Stoney Knoll began 10 years ago, when the late Stoney Knoll Chief Ben Weenie called Leonard Doell to see if they could commemorate the 130 anniversary of the Treaty 6 signing together with Lutheran and Mennonite settlers.

Doell, coordinator of the Indigenous Neighbour’s Program for the Mennonite Central Committee, talked about the history leading up to that point, starting back in the 1970s.



Everyone was smiling as they shared in the feast at the Treaty 6 gathering. (Photo by Angela Hill)

“There was an attempt to talk to local farmers about the Young Chippewyan connection to this land. This created a lot of fear and anxiety in the settler community and the Young Chippewyan who came to this land hoping to build some understanding and empathy to their situation left frustrated by the experience,” he said.

However it was the starting point that had people take the initiative to learn about the land where they lived, Doell said.

It was the action of chief Weenie that “began a journey of reconciliation,” he said.

“It is here that we met, learned to know, respect and to trust one another.

“Through gatherings like this, relationships have been started and nurtured that help in breaking down the racism and prejudice that we have witnessed again recently in our province.”

The work of chief Weenie was remembered by many during the event. Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief (FSIN) Bobby Cameron spoke about Weenie as a role model and inspiration

for those who were following a cultural and ceremonial path.

“He had a big impact on many lives, including mine,” Cameron said.

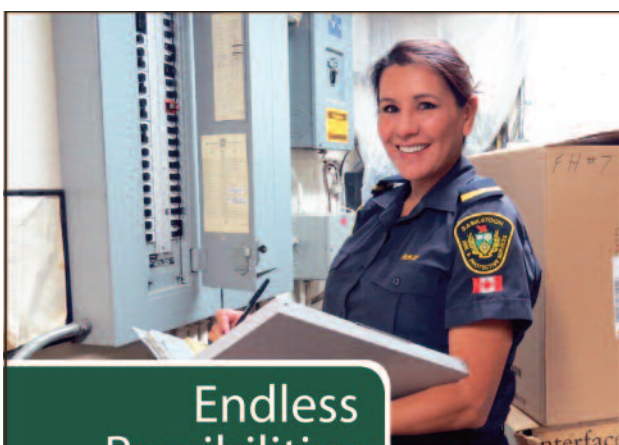
“He did what he could in the best way he knew how – all heart and soul.”

The Treaty 6 Gathering provided a place for a renewed commitment to honour the covenant between our people, seek justice and create a healthy space to move forward, Doell said

“We’ve heard a lot of good things, we’ve heard a lot of hope,” said Harry Lafond, Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) executive director.

After a shared feast, the OTC provided each person in attendance with a replica Treaty 6 medal to remind them that everyone is treaty and there is a responsibility that comes with it.

“It’s really important for us to keep it alive and make sure that those little people that are wandering around on the grass over there inherit a world that is a consequence of us taking our responsibility seriously,” Lafond said.



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Young innovators wow at Indigenous Business Forum

**By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News**

SASKATOON – Young, Indigenous innovators working to make a difference were front and centre during the World Indigenous Business Forum in Saskatoon, Aug. 23.

A lunchtime panel brought together a pharmacist, political leader, photographer and Princess Shop co-founder with newly elected Cowessess First Nation chief, Cadmus Delorme, as the moderator.

Delorme asked each panelist to explain their personal slogan.

Tenille Campbell is the photographer behind Sweetmoon Photography and creator of Tea & Bannock, a blog for Indigenous storytellers and artist to share their experiences. Her slogan is “no regrets.”

“Sometimes you’ll fail, but what you learn in failing is important. We’re meant to fail, we’re meant to be humble. So every time that I fail, and trip – and it’s often – I think what will I learn?”

Be the change, is the slogan of Jaris Swidrovich, the first self-identified First Nations doctor of pharmacy in Canada. It’s also his tattoo.

“What am I doing myself to be that change? I have to do what I want to see a difference,” he said.

Through his role at the U of S he talks about Indigenous people and health inequities, and he works to help Indigenous health science students to feel welcome.

“And feel like becoming a doctor or pharmacist or nurse is not something extraordinary, but it’s something normal that should be as normal to us as anyone else even though it is an extraordinary achievement,” Swidrovich said.

Jack Saddleback is an executive member of the

everything happens. Just (have an) open heart, open mind.”

He has advice for future leaders.

“We should be unapologetic about who we are. We should be unapologetic about being Indigenous, about being a different romantic orientation, about being a different gender identity,” he said.

“We should be able to celebrate who we are because as we know ... there are no closets in teepees.”

For Chantel Hounjet, co-founder of the Princess Shop and the CEO of Fresh Living, it’s about going for goals.

“She dreams, she creates, she believes, she conquers. It’s coming up with those ideas and dreams and turning them into something real and believing in yourself and conquering those and not looking back.”

The Princess Shop ensures girls have the opportunity to go to their graduations in a beautiful dress – and over the past nine grad seasons they’ve helped 755 graduates get into dresses. Of those, 72 per cent have self-identified as Indigenous.

“We get them with the dress, but it’s so much more than the dress,” Hounjet said.

They’ve developed a mentorship and scholarship program.

Building on this, Delorme had advice for current leadership.

“A lot of youth have great ideas about giving it forward. Sometimes as leaders, as ones who have the ability to empower, sometimes we find reasons why it can’t be done. We have to change our own words as leaders and how can we empower this to be done.”



The Young Indigenous Innovators Panel, Presented by PotashCorp included from left Tenille Campbell, Jack Saddleback, Chief Cadmus Delorme, Chantel Hounjet and Dr. Jaris Swidrovich. They were joined by Leanne Bellegarde, Director Diversity and Inclusion, PotashCorp.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) and he was the first transgendered USSU president.

“I think my slogan would be everything happens,” he said.

“I’ve been couch surfing at one point in my life, I was homeless, things like that and I’ve gone to other things, such as presenting artwork to the Queen herself. Not the drag queen, sorry, the Queen of England ...

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Australian David Williams is the Co-Founder and Director of Gilimbaa, a multi media and marketing company. He is also a world class didgeridoo player and entertained at WIBF and SWIFFA with one he bought for \$40 at Ten Thousand Villages after the airline lost his.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – It was three days of inspiration, success stories and economic knowledge sharing during the 2016 World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF) in Saskatoon.

From Aug. 23 to 25 approximately 900 delegates from around the world – Canada, Chile, Papua New

Guinea, New Zealand, United States among them – came together to learn and share their culture.

“One of the bigger highlights, (is) the affirmation of the common world view that indigenous peoples have when it comes to economics,” said Milton Tootosis, chair of the WIBF 2016 planning committee, when the final honour song had been sung.

“We hear a lot of messages about sustainable development, about sharing, about

World Indigenous was an inspirat of culture, econo

helping one another.”

The sharing of information brought Anne Dennis, member of the Gamilaraay Nation and the deputy chairperson of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, all the way from Australia.

She said they want to see what other Indigenous Peoples are doing around land use and delivering services.

“Just look at the similarities and differences and figure out what we can do to make it more sustainable into the future, building an economic base, creating employment and addressing social issues for Aboriginal people in New South Wales.”

Indigenous people want to be stewards of the land, not just milking it all today, but thinking seven generations ahead, said Cadmus Delorme, chief of Saskatchewan’s Cowessess First Nation. While he is not looking to start a company, he said there was a lot to be gained at the conference.



File Hills Qu’Appelle First Nation Chief Edmund Bellegarde speaking about improving “I

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Dr. Marie Wilson

Dr. Marie Wilson was one of three Commissioners of the ground-breaking Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. She has worked as an award-winning journalist, trainer and senior executive manager. In July 2016, Dr. Wilson was appointed to the Order of Canada.

Chief Darcy Bear

Chief Darcy Bear has provided leadership to the Whitecap Dakota First Nation for 25 years. Whitecap enjoys a reputation as one of Canada’s most successful communities in investment attraction and job creation.



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... Tribal Representative ... addresses the WIBF ... "Brown" governance.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"Business has many aspects to it, it's not just making money, there's economic, political, governance and that's exactly what I got out of this," he said.

"As a politician we spearhead a lot of the policies, the laws, make sure efficiencies are happening. So now I can go home and debrief with our leadership and my directors to see how Cowessess fits in the economic sphere."

In particular Delorme appreciated the presentation by Edmund Bellegarde, tribal chairperson of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FQH) as he spoke about the importance of good governance.

Working with the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy they created an intensive eight day professional program that many of their senior managers, chiefs, councilors and CEOs have graduated.

"We're looking at rebuilding nations with good governance, that underpinning," he said.

Building relationships, like the one between FQH and the public policy school, was a central focus of the



The delegation from Papua, New Guinea included from left Managing Director of Zai na Tina Organic Centre Nanette Tutua, Managing Director of Hamdei Mines Malai Ila'av, Community Leader Jennifer Baing-Waiko and magazine publisher Amanda Donigi.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

World Indigenous Business Forum.

Chief Robert Louie of British Columbia's Westbank First Nation talked about the importance of relationships between First Nations and how both parties improve.

"By helping you, we learn as well ... we are always willing to learn and that is very, very valuable," he said.

"We can all learn from one another which makes us strong as indigenous people."

Sean Willy, vice president of Des Nedhe Development and relationship coach with Creative Fire, spoke about the importance of shared-value relationships with companies and the government.

A community wants employment opportunities, a company wants a good story and the government wants

a tax base, so each party gets something out of an agreement—that's a shared value, he said.

He said if companies and community work together, their joint arrangement can have clout with the government to pull more funding for infrastructure or education.

"Strong, shared-value relationships drive reconciliation," Willy said.

Other highlights of the event include David Williams, from Australia, playing the didgeridoo, the New Zealand Delegation performing the Haka, a keynote by Ernesto Sirolli, the Indigenous Young Innovators Panel and the Elders' words and prayers for the forum.

The 2017 forum is set to be in Chile, with New Zealand lined up for 2018.

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WIBF participant follows in the footsteps of his activist father

Moe Morin is a freelance writer and photographer and the co-founder of Humans of Saskatoon. She photographs and interviews people and run their stories on her highly popular Facebook page. This month she talked to Australian activist and senior leader Witiyana Marika after he was presented a Métis sash at the WIBF by Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Senator Nora Cummings.

I received the sash from Senator Nora Cummings at the World Indigenous Business Forum at TCU, as an honour.

I had mentioned I was the son of "The Father of Land Rights", Roy Daynga Mirika.

My father fought for land rights, and was involved in a famous court case, *Milirrpum v Nabalco Pty Ltd.*, (big mining company).

We are now still fighting for the rights, and my father lost this battle back in the late sixties, and early seventies. He (my father) was fighting for land in the Northern Territory against the Australian government along with his brothers, and they lost this battle.

Back in 1970 in Australia, my father was presented with a sash, and again when he arrived back into Ottawa, Canada in 1990.

Senator Cummings gave my father the sash back in 1990, and she called him a diamond because of the things that he did, fighting for our people and land now she has presented me with one.

A lawyer by the name of Wilton Littlechild met with my father back in the seventies in Australia because he had heard my Dad was a fighter. My father wore this sash very proudly, and in 1993 he passed away.

My name is Witiyana Marika, and I am a senior leader, and here representing my clan, chosen by the Elders to represent our nation.

Back in Australia, I do as my Elders tell me. I was a former rock star, and founder of Yothu Yindi, the first Aboriginal band that hit Australia that hit the stage in 1990, debuting a song called "Treaty".

In the contemporary world, I do work that needs to be done (I work for the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation) but in our world, I do what I am told through traditional ceremony and ceremonies guided by my Elder's.

Nelson Mandela was a winner, and a freedom fighter; he fought for everything and he was a champion. He was victorious.

In the 1990s, a group of South



Australian representative Witiyana Marika was an active participant in the World Indigenous Business Forum and in the Saskatchewan World Indigenous Folk Festival.
(Photo by Moe Morin/Humans of Saskatoon)

Africans toured in the area of Darwin, and the group was called Amandla!, they toured through the country; they protested around the world (anti-apartheid songs).

They had a beautiful sound. If only Nelson Mandela could have stayed a little longer, and would I have loved to meet him.

Back in 1992, we toured in America and were filming a documentary about "Tribal Voice" our new song and album.

John Trudell toured back with us in 1988, and he was a poet, activist (American Indian Movement), Yothu Yindi, and Midnight Oil; we were protesting the Bicentenary year in Australia, and we boycotted that celebration.

We then took a trip, the songs and made a tour into the big mountain (North America). John Trudell was not only a poet, a fighter but a rock star.

Part of the footage can be seen in on "Into the Mainstream" back in 1988. In the clip, in not only shows Australia aboriginals but indigenous people of the world.

My nation's totem is the King Brown (snake), and we will be attending the next Indigenous Forum in Chile with more representatives, including dancers. (The Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation represents the Rirratjingu people - who are the Indigenous Traditional Owners of Land on the Gove Peninsular – Facebook Page)

Arts Board Deadlines

The Saskatchewan Arts Board announces the following deadlines for applications to programs that support the work of Saskatchewan artists and arts organizations:

Independent Artists
October 1

Indigenous Pathways Initiative
October 15

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October 19

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November 1

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November 1

For applications, visit: saskartsboard.ca

APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

(306) 787-4056 (Regina)
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Partnership provides cell phone service to northern communities

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

BLACK LAKE – A unique partnership between SaskTel, Athabasca Basin Development and Huawei Canada has brought cell phone coverage to the northern communities of Black Lake First Nation, Stony Rapids, Wollaston Lake and Fond Du Lac First Nation.

The project was recently celebrated with a visit to Black Lake by the partners to witness the impact of the cell towers on northern communications.

This partnership is based on SaskTel's Community Participation Model, which encourages communities to raise funds to cover the shortfall when it is not economically feasible for SaskTel to finance a new cellular site alone. Athabasca Basin Development provided \$249,000 and Huawei contributed \$385,000 in funding to the almost \$6 million dollar project.

This was the first project of its kind for Huawei Canada. With a small footprint in Canada, this Chinese company is the third largest wireless cell phone company in the world.

"This was really a very special project for Huawei," said Scott Bradley VP Corporate Affairs, Huawei Canada.

"We have 650 employees in Canada and we do lots on the research side. This project was very special to us that in part that we can make this donation. This is significant to our company globally. Our motto is Building a Better Connected World. Globally we have 170,000 employees and we want to tell this story to them."

The community is enjoying being connected and it has allowed business of the North to move at a quicker pace.

"These cell towers are very important communication wise and for emergencies for sure," said Black Lake Councillor Trevor Boneleye who used to drive two hours to get cell service.

"It would be better if we had wider connection. Sometimes if you go fishing you can't get coverage. But I can reach my coworkers just like that when I need to."

Representatives from Huawei Canada, SaskTel and Athabasca Basin Development went to Black Lake for a tour of the communities. At the lunch, Huawei donated 50 cell phones for the First Nation and the health centre to use as they saw fit. The day was topped off with an afternoon on the lake, fishing for trout. The tour was caught on video and pictures and will be shown to all of Huawei's employees and will also be on their social media platforms to be seen around the world.

The cell capacity is helping in preparing for the development of the Tazi



Scott Bradley VP Corporate Affairs, Huawei Canada presented cell phones to the health centre staff and to the First Nation.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Twé Hydroelectric Project that is expected to generate over a billion dollars of activity in the region.

Councillor Boneleye hopes that the new connectivity will lead to better training opportunities for the young people in his community so they can benefit from the jobs and economic development that is coming. He knows the young people are connected already.

"You see even a ten-year-old kid with a cell phone now. Being able to call is good, but the Facebook and social media is a problem," said Councillor Boneleye.

"There can be lots of drama and negative people. But other than that, the kids are now learning more from the Internet and I don't have to run back to the band office for a phone call."



Claudia Ju who does International Media Affairs and Corporate Communications for Huawei Technologies accepted a drum and some moccasins from Black Lake First Nation Councillors Delbert Bouvier on left and John Toutsaint, right.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Thursday, October 27, 2016

Media examining coverage of Indigenous stories

By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Planning is well underway for a conference that wants to change how news organizations cover Indigenous issues.

The Reconciliation and the Media Conference is designed to answer the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

“People will leave inspired to make change,” said Betty Ann Adam, journalist and one of the committee’s co-chairs.

Adam, alongside the other co-chair, and editor of Treaty 4 News, Mervin Brass, took part in the Decolonizing Media panel at the University of Regina in November 2015.

“I left feeling that it was a pretty good discussion, but I left feeling that more should be done,” Brass said. So he reached out to his media counterparts in Saskatoon and together they started planning the conference that will take place at the University of Saskatchewan on Oct. 4 and 5.

The end goal is to have reporting that has greater understanding of Indigenous people and how history, including residential schools, has had a lasting legacy in the Aboriginal community.



MERV BRASS

“I do feel in Saskatchewan, at this time, there is still a lot of ignorance to the underlying causes, underlying influences of what’s been happening,” Adam said.

“It’s important to have a good understanding of the background.”

Along with reporters, the conference targets editors, news directors, managers and media owners in the province.

“The people deciding how the resources of the newsroom will be used,” Adam said.

By targeting the people at the top, the committee hopes to create lasting change within news organizations.

“So they can buy into it and they’ll push it,” Brass said.

Now is a good time for a conference like this, said Adam. She said when she talked to her editor, the feedback was positive; the editor said to Adam, “I am so hungry for this.”

The program will meet the needs of their target attendees, Brass said. Eugene Arcand is set to be the morning keynote speaker, and will talk about what it was like in residential school and what it has been like talking to Canadians about that experience.

Commissioner Marie Wilson, from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will speak as the afternoon keynote speaker.

“Any person with compassion will be moved by these speakers,” Adam said.

There will also be conversations about financial gains through better Indigenous coverage, said Brass, as well as how to access Indigenous contacts to be able to better write stories.

Brass founded Treaty 4 News because he saw there was a need that wasn’t being met.

“I want to be in the communities and telling their stories because their stories are not being told by the mainstream media,” he said.

It’s more than just the stories that are missing. Both Adam and Brass said they want to see more Indigenous representation in news, from reporters to managers to sales.

“The voices of these people that perspective needs to be reflected in the staff ... the people gathering the information,” Adam said.

If all goes according to plan, Brass sees this conference as being the first of many – with other regions being able to adapt their model and content.



MARIE WILSON



BETTY ANN ADAM

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For application instructions or scholarship information, contact our La Ronge office at (306) 425-6880.

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f t YouTube

Racism rears its ugly head but there is some hope out there

John L.: The slaying of Colton Boushie, allegedly at the hands of Gerald Stanley, revealed the dark side of Saskatchewan. A Saskatchewan where racism is alive and, from all appearances, doing well. Here to comment is Eagle Feather News' Dirk "Don't Taze Me Bro" Dashing. Dirk, is racism alive and well?

Dirk: Racism is indeed alive and well in this province, John. But before we delve into that subject I want to acknowledge the class of the Boushie family. When most of us would spout rage and maybe even entertain dark thoughts of revenge, the family responded with gestures of peace. Classy, John.

John L.: By everyone's account Colton was a decent, hardworking young man, and respected in his community and by everyone that knew him. And you're right Dirk, the family took such a courageous stand, and chose to honour his memory.

Dirk: Had I been in their shoes, John, I would have gone down a dark path, spewing colourful descriptions of racists as pitiful, evil creatures.

John L.: Wait. What?

Dirk: Personally, John, I would have literally blown the last fuse in my massive, computer like, um, brain thingy that controls sensibility and diplomacy. I can feel it now...

John L.: Dirk, please, you're not talking

about a repeat of the Helsinki Incident are you?

Dirk: That's right, John. I would have described the senseless shooting as an act arising from pure, seething rage. And rage-aholics are so freaking small, what with their shallow, dark, glazed eyes, and low, slanting foreheads so ideas like compassion, foresight and common sense are more likely to slide safely away from their diminished brains...

John L.: Alright Dirk, ease up there, buddy.

Dirk: ... for theirs is a world of easy, empty answers, where their failed miserable lives are never their fault even as they conceal in their hearts dark, malevolent fantasies of righteously righting imagined wrongs, of being heroes in the style of Hitler, Trump and the boring, helmet-haired Harper.

John L.: Dirk. I need you to, as the youngsters are saying today, "chillax."

Dirk: Dude, you just made yourself old just now. But I did not go there. I did not say those things because, John, I am a peacemaker. I'm a lover not a fighter.

John L.: Thanks Dirk, I think. At the risk of opening up the same can of worms, what do you make of the legions of Face-

book "Likes" that Gerald Stanley after he was accused of killing an innocent First Nation man?

Dirk: Y'know, the wonderful thing about our people is our embrace of technology. Screen shots of all the people Liking the act were taken. And all the hate-filled, vile and adolescent supporters of the killing of First Nation

people were captured for eternity. Their places of employment are being notified, creating unease and unwelcome consequences.

Sweet justice, John. Sweet.

John L.: I suppose there is some justice in that, and people are being held accountable. But is the situation really that bleak? Is racism that rampant in Saskatchewan?

Dirk: John, I talked with none other than Winston McLean, a first rater cross cultural awareness trainer. He tells me, that in his 20 years of doing his thing, he only encountered three instances of blatant racism. When audiences learn the history why things are the way they are, they come around.

John L.: Winston McLean? Salt of the earth? Humble? Shocking good looks?

Size 12 shoes? Drives a Mazda?

Dirk: The same, John. A Mazda 6, I might add.

John L.: Personally, it is good to hear there is hope. Perhaps, as more and more people learn we will create a safer and sane Saskatchewan. Perhaps that's part of the legacy we should help create for the Boushie family.

•••

Dirk's last column, "Men and the Missing and Murdered Women's Inquiry", created a stir. There were complaints.

Dirk was glib. Dirk was insensitive. Dirk was inappropriate. Dirk was many things.

For the offense created, Dirk and his writer, Winston McLean, regret the bad feelings.

But it is true, many instances of abuse are domestic in nature, and that shite is not right! It is also true abuse is delivered by the hands of privileged white perpetrators – this will be a subject for a future column. Abuse is also "available" at the hands of new Canadian predators – yet another subject for a future column. Dirk is not done with this topic.

Still, Dirk, for all his alleged insight, he makes mistakes. Write me.

Dirk says, My father was a simple man. My mother was a simple woman. You see the result standing in front of you, a simpleton.

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The Pine Grove Correctional Centre in Prince Albert is looking for a motivated, energetic individual(s) who can provide Cultural Advisory Services to female offenders at the Centre.

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Deputy Director of Programs
Pine Grove Correctional Centre
P.O. Box 3003
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1

Your cover letter and resume must clearly demonstrate the training, knowledge and experience you have acquired that will meet the requirements to provide the services listed above. **Applications will be accepted until September 26, 2016.** We thank all those who apply. Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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Big Brothers, Big Sisters accepts TRC's call to action

**By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News**

SASKATOON – Big Brothers and Big Sisters Saskatchewan are embracing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

"We have learned that the journey to reconciliation starts within the framework that is outlined in the Calls to Action. Reconciliation is not an event. It is a process," noted Regina Area Executive Director Ash Noureldin.

Annie Battiste, from Potlotek Mi'k-

maw First Nation in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, is the Saskatoon-based Indigenous Relations Director at Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Special emphasis has been placed on two core commitments of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Calls to Action #7 and #92 focus on developing a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians and adopting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework applied to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples, lands, and resources.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in Saskatchewan

came together almost two years ago to begin to engage in how to ensure Aboriginal youth in our programming felt safe and comfortable within our programs," explained Battiste, adding that she was hired as a result, and many of the agencies had become involved in Reconciliation events prior to that.

"Since starting this position six months ago, I have had the opportunity to chat with a lot of people about what Aboriginal mentorship could look like and look forward to chatting with more people."

Those chats have shown a need for more Aboriginal mentors within Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs to address the many Aboriginal youth that partake in programming. The Saskatchewan Indigenous Mentorship Project is a reconciliation initiative aimed to provide meaningful and relevant need-based

service delivery to Aboriginal youth across the province.

"Although we are actively involved with Aboriginal youth throughout our province agencies, the process of reconciliation was a powerful opportu-

nity for us to take a reflective look at our current practices and programming," noted Kim Megyesi, Saskatoon Area Executive Director.

"The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Actions give myself and the organization the framework to be able to create meaningful and authentic programs and space for all youth in the province."

All staff members have undertaken Cultural Awareness Training and are aware of the complexities of Reconciliation.

"I personally believe it is important for organizations to make their commitment public and well known that reconciliation is a priority for their organization. The organization recognizes that reconciliation is not an end itself but a process of change that is needed in our province," noted Battiste.

"We recognize the need to begin conversations, relationships, and partnerships with the Aboriginal community and organizations to ensure we are creating culturally appropriate services and we are absolutely open to hearing where we should start, who we should chat with, and how to ensure the best possible programming in Saskatchewan that is mindful of the vibrancy of Aboriginal culture and history in our province."

For more information see www.saskbbbs.ca.



Annie Battiste is helping Big Brothers and Sisters Saskatchewan implement the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action. (Photo by Andréa Ledding)



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Historic cultural exchange highlights festival

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – To mark the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, the Regina branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress engaged in a first-ever cultural exchange with the Aboriginal community. The Year of the Saskatchewan-Ukrainian Festival held on August 13, 2016 on Treaty 4 land at Regina’s Victoria Park featured a wide range of talent from both cultural traditions.

The first Ukrainian settlers in the province were vastly under-prepared for the conditions that awaited them, said Holly Paluck, Festival Committee Chair.

“First Nations people shared knowledge that helped these earliest settlers in a new and foreign land, a significant achievement despite significant language barriers,” said Paluck.

Inviting the Aboriginal community to be part of the celebration of this milestone year was an obvious choice, said Paluck, and she was delighted when Chasity Delorme of the Rainbow Dance Troupe came on board as a cultural planning partner.

“As we met and planned over the past few months,” said Paluck, “we realized through our discussions that we had many common cultural practices.”

The result of the planning was a day filled with ceremony, music, singing, dancing, stories, displays and a showcase of contemporary fashion designs from both cultures. The food concession served bannock as well as perogies.

At an event like this, however, some of the most significant moments are not staged or scripted.

As someone of Ukrainian-Canadian heritage now living in northern Saskatchewan, I had the privilege of collaborating with Elder Hazel Dixon. Dixon, who lives

in Regina, is of Ojibway/Mohawk ancestry from Ontario. We are both passionate about oral storytelling and had the opportunity to share legends and tales from our respective traditions, both on the main stage and in the tipi on the grounds.

For example, Dixon told the story of how the turtle got its shell. I told the legend of how the sunflower came to be.

We engaged in dialogue with each other and with those attending. Two encounters with gentlemen by the name of Tony stand out.

Tony Mazyn approached us after our first session in the tipi. His grandmother had arrived in Canada in 1906 when she was only six years old. Her family homesteaded in the Hafford area. Mazyn recalled his grandmother telling him that the Aboriginal people who came through the area were extremely helpful to the new immigrants, including pointing out which mushrooms were safe to eat, and sharing local remedies.

“That’s how they survived,” said Mazyn.

Tony Cyr casually sat on the grass beside us near the tipi while we were in between two sessions and struck up a conversation.

When he mentioned that he knew a story about sweetgrass, I invited him to tell it. Dixon and I were enriched as he eloquently shared the story he first heard told orally six years ago. We shook hands, and Cyr moved on to another part of the festival.

Against the backdrop of the formal cultural exchange and an entertaining show for the general public, were many such private exchanges of a few words and a handshake.

Fittingly, the program concluded with an open invitation to join hands, form a circle, and participate in both the Kolomeyka and the Round Dance.



Storytellers Linda Mikolayenko in her red boots and Elder Hazel Dixon in her moccasins told stories from their respective traditions as part of the cultural exchange at the Year of the Saskatchewan-Ukrainian Festival. (Photo by Norbert K. Iwan)

Partners in education

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Stanley Mission wins inaugural Louis Riel Relay

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

BATOCHÉ – According to the Stanley Mission Rave spokesman Felix Merasty, the paddlers were the difference in their victory in the 1st Annual Louis Riel Relay Days competitive relay.

Merasty and his experts handily won the team event on a hot and cloudy day at Batoche.

The handpicked group had experts in every aspect of the race.

“We usually run marathons, three of us anyways,” said Merasty. “She is an archer. Our coach’s wife is a paddler. When I was younger I heard about this race all the time so we decided to put in a team.”

“I knew we could win. The difference was the paddlers. They are pros, eh. And the biker. His chain came off twice but he persevered. The archer, she hit five out of five targets. I did the packing. And now we rest.”

The Louis Riel Days covered a busy weekend at the Batoche National Historic Site. Day one included pie eating contests, artisans, storytelling, banock making, canoeing, site tours, kids fun including a petting zoo, pony rides and inflatable’s as well as several traditional Métis activities and a concert with Aaron Pritchett, Julian Austin and Donny Parenteau.

Day two had the competitive relay, a recreation relay event, an individual adventure race and a 5K fun run.

Hosting the event was a joint effort between the Park and the Friends of the Park. Adriana Bacheschi, Visitor Experience Manager at the Site, knows the history of the event.

“The Relay was a very successful event in Saskatoon for many years and there was a strong emotional connection. It was a big event,” said Bacheschi.

“We have been approached for many years to have the relay on our site. Everyone thought it was a great idea. It is a big sporting event that is culturally appropriate to a site that deserves it.”

Phil Harman won the individual relay. His day included four pack runs hauling 40 pounds, a several kilometer kayak, archery and a 2.5 kilometer run. He joined because the race looked fun.

“My wife saw it and the race is close to us. We like to stay in shape but this was the first ever event like this,” said Harmon who is from Rosthern.

His wife came second in the race. “The race was a challenge. The hardest part was the pack run. Four legs of it. It was heavy. There was no running. But we are for sure coming back next year. My highlight was finishing. I hurt.”

The recreation relay event in the afternoon had several teams and was quite



The Stanley Mission Rave won the inaugural Louis Riel Relay at the Batoche Historic Site. The team included front row from left Norman McKenzie-Paddler, Felix Merasty-Packer. Back row from left Monique McKenzie-Paddler, Ken Thomas-Runner, Montana McLeod-Ballantyne-Archer and George Roberts-Biker. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

the wild and short event. A dash from the start to the canoes was mayhem and one canoe wound up tipped (to the delight of the crowd).

Participants and spectators lined the finish line as exhausted runners crossed to cheers and high fives. The enthusiasm of the people who came more than made up for the smaller crowds. But the event was just a start according to Adri-

ana Bacheschi.

“The race is a great way to showcase the site and to also introduce people to the culture and history of the Métis people. We want a flag ship event for the region, one that grows over time with our partners in the region.

“Events like this are hard the first time. We learned lots this time and we adjust next year.”






FSIN Youth Volleyball Championships

November 4-6, 2016

Prince Albert, SK.

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ENTRY DEADLINE:

- 12:00 pm, October 21
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Kevin Roberts 420-7529
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The Farm Land Exemption that Yancoal Canada requested and received is not about being able to purchase 60,000 acres (94 sections), but rather as a non-Canadian entity being about to purchase more than 10 acres (> 1 section).

Yancoal Canada is listening to your concerns, it is imperative that all the productive land and soil within the province be protected. On a landowner by landowner basis Yancoal Canada will pursue opportunities for leasing the land needed for the well field. In respect to purchasing agreements, Yancoal Canada will make every reasonable effort to accommodate sale conditions such as honouring existing lease agreements and first right of refusal to the previous owner/leasee.


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