

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

K+S celebrating potash mine opening

Terrance Littlelent performed a hoop dance at the grand opening of the K+S Canada Potash Bethune Mine, Saskatchewan's first new potash mine in over forty years. (Photos by K+S Potash)



**By Julie Ann Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News**

Five years after breaking ground, K + S celebrated the grand opening of Bethune Mine, Saskatchewan's First new mine opening in 40 years.

Over 700 guests attended the opening on May 2, including Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, and numerous local government dignitaries, representatives from suppliers, and company employees.

On the occasion of the ceremony, Dr. Ulrich Lamp, President and Chief Executive Officer of K+S Potash Canada (KSPC) recalled the friendly welcome from the beginning.

"We were welcomed to Saskatchewan with open arms, and we are proud to be here. The change from "Legacy" to "Bethune" honours a community that has shown our company outstanding support over the last years. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this great project," said Lamp.

During the ceremony, the mine was officially handed over to the operations team. The five-year construction phase has been successfully completed and the first tonne of marketable potash is expected to be produced in June.

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Robert Tebb's family owned business recently broke new ground at a site near Regina. - Page 9



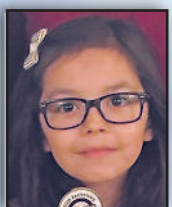
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Sports, Youth & Mining Edition

Coming In June - National Aboriginal Day Issue

Whitecap two steps from self-government

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION – The Government of Canada and the Whitecap Dakota First Nation achieved a major milestone in their journey toward reconciliation and renewed relationships by signing an historic Agreement-in-Principle. This is a key step on the path to self-government for the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

“Strong governance and sustainable economic development go hand-in-hand in realizing our community’s vision to thrive outside of the Indian Act,” said Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear.

“This Agreement in Principle is a milestone along that journey. We look forward to working with Canada to complete negotiations and achieve self-governance for our members.”

The Governance Agreement-in-Principle paves the way for continued negotiations toward a final agreement that will fundamentally redefine the relationship between Canada and the First Nation. This is the second of four steps that lays out a new governance structure for Whitecap Dakota First Nation that will replace the Indian Act.

A final self-government agreement will bring the Whitecap Dakota First Nation out from under the Indian Act and ensure the First Nation has greater control over the decisions that affect its community.

“We need to move at the speed of business,” said Chief Bear. “We wouldn’t have the casino if we didn’t have our land code. We have a real property tax and a goods and services tax in our community. Like any government, we need to generate our own revenue. Getting



Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear signs the self government agreement as Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs looks on. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

out from under 25 per cent of the Indian Act has allowed us to grow. Self-government will take us farther.”

Next steps include a Final Agreement and then Implementation. The community gets the final vote on the go ahead. They expect to finish in 2020.


“This is a significant step to strengthen our nation-to-nation relationship and advance reconciliation with Whitecap Dakota First Nation. Through these historic talks, we are setting the stage for the First Nation to build on their successes, moving out from under the In-

dian Act and charting their own path toward a bright and prosperous future,” said Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.


Under self-government, First Nation laws will operate in harmony with federal and provincial laws. Third parties or non-member residents on First Nation lands will have input into laws that directly affect them.

To date, Canada has signed 22 final self-government agreements with 37 Indigenous communities.

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Monument honours memory of murdered Indigenous women

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A monument to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was unveiled in an emotional ceremony held outside the Saskatoon Police Service headquarters building.

Created by artist Lionel Peyachew, the life-sized bronze sculpture depicts a woman named Wicanhpi Duta Win or Red Star Woman, a fancy dancer with her shawl as her wings.

The sculpture was chosen in 2015 following a vote on several different submissions. The project is funded by the STC, the Province of Saskatchewan and the SPS.

The monument was unveiled in a public ceremony that drew around 300 people on a hot and sunny day. Prayers were put down by the Elders and then an



Artist Lionel Peyachew and his wife Sandra stand in front of the monument Wicanhpi Duta Win or Red Star Woman, created to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

honour song, the Métis anthem by Krystle Pederson and O Canada in Cree and English by the students from Confederation Park Community School opened the event.

The dignitaries from many levels of government spoke on the importance of embracing our women and stopping the problems that have led to so many women and girls losing their lives.

“The Saskatoon Tribal Council has been working with the Saskatoon Police

Service, the City of Saskatoon and the Province since 2015 to acknowledge the tremendous importance of focusing on our murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls,” said Tribal Chief Felix Thomas.

“This monument exemplifies the serious impact even one Indigenous murdered or missing woman or girl has on our community, not just our First Nations, but everyone the city, the province the country this is a problem that affects us all.”

In collaboration with the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), the City of Saskatoon, the Province of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS), the statue honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls was created. The statue will have a permanent home in the plaza area in front of the building, near the main entrance. Benches will soon be installed around the monument.

“The Saskatoon Police Service is honoured to be the home for the monument to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls,” said Police Chief Clive Weighill.

“It is our hope that the monument represents not only a place of reflection and peace, but also represents the strong partnerships our Service has with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, the families of victims of violence, the province of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon.”

Carol Wolfe also addressed the event with the help of her translator.

“The families now have a starting point for walks and vigils and also a place to reflect,” said Wolfe.

She knows the pain as she lost her daughter Karina several years ago.

“We can come here and find peace and hope or just a place of calm from the grief we all carry. This monument carries their spirit and they will never be forgotten. They are loved.”

The vision for the statue came to Peyachew as he was researching the issue in newspapers. He came across a story in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix that stuck with him.

“I was looking at old newspapers and I found an article that was very inspiring. They were interviewing a family and the mother was describing her daughter and the way she used to dance as a fancy dancer,” said Peyachew.

“She described her as very light on her feet like she was flying like an angel on top of a cloud. I got to work and I started drawing and this is what I came up with. I would like to share some words with the families and mothers.

“Never give up. It is a long way to get to what we want but I know things will get better. But don’t ever give up.”



Monica Goulet holds up a shawl she was gifted with after the unveiling of the monument to MMIWG as Chief Felix Thomas, Chief Weighill, Mayor Clark and a citizen look on. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Curriculum is finally catching up

Man, I wish we had educational opportunities when I was young like they have today.

Imagine where we would be if curriculum taught the true story of Aboriginal people. Canadians would be less ignorant and Indigenous students would have been inspired and engaged and even graduated on time and employed like other Canadians.

In my line of work, I deal with the impact of what we all missed every week.

First, in our Aboriginal awareness sessions, we actually get paid to teach adults about the residential schools, the Indian Act, the actual story of the Métis resistance in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and other truthful history that was conveniently ignored in Canada's curriculum.

The lack of knowledge left a deficit of understanding that has led to resentment from Canadians towards Indigenous people today.

It also left us Indigenous students feeling not so good about ourselves when we saw how we were reflected in that curriculum.

Themes taught that we were lesser folks, savages, people who got in the way of Confederation. It rubbed off on us and impacted self-esteem and world view. We dropped out. We failed (were forced) out.

Well, curriculum has caught up and our awareness seminars will be obsolete in time. They are teaching all those things now and the kids are getting it.

I figure we still have some job security as we catch up the three generations that didn't get the proper education, though.

And the improved curriculum and cool things they do in schools now has helped lift up and inspire a whole new generation of Indigenous

students. I had the pleasure of attending the Saskatoon Regional Youth Heritage Fair earlier in May. It was a packed house in the Western Development Museum as booth after booth showed off the research projects the students completed.

One display caught my eye.

Amaya Munoz-Fiddler, a Grade



Amaya Munoz-Fiddler, a grade six student at John Lake School in Saskatoon, won the Saskatoon Regional Youth Heritage Fair First Nations History and Culture Award sponsored by the FSIN. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

6 student at John Lake School in Saskatoon stood in front of her display on residential schools.

There was a name tag on her display. It said 'Hello my name is 36'.

I asked her what that meant. She explained to me that they didn't use the names of students at residential school and this student was referred to as number 36 all the time.

As I examined her display, I recognized the photos of her relatives in the schools and figured out I knew her mom and dad and Moshum. I asked her about the impact on her family.

"I learned all the trauma that

residential school students had to experience. The impact on my Moshum. He struggled, but adopted my mom and he has three sons and did well," she said.

Later, I talked to her mom Rachel and she was glad Amaya took on the project.

"I wanted her to focus on



in the 1980s.

Amaya did well and won the First Nations History and Culture Award sponsored by the FSIN.

That same week I went and photographed a group of students from Westmount School touring the SIIT Aviation Centre.

The students toured the downtown campus and met staff and students, then came to tour the hangar and see cool planes and helicopters.

The tour was spurred by a questionnaire.

The teachers had asked the kids where they saw themselves after high school.

Shockingly, most did not see themselves in post secondary and several saw themselves on welfare.

This showed the deficit the students have by their parents being robbed of a proper education. Hence the tour, where they get to see possibilities ahead for them.

They got to see professional Indigenous people and students and maybe even see themselves there. And they got to sit in a helicopter. When I was a kid we toured a blue jean factory. Once. Lots of sewing machines there.

Anyhow, the whole idea is the investment we are making in our youth today is awesome. We are inspiring them by teaching about our community, history and heroes.

We show them opportunity and people and places that can make them proud. We engage them in sport and the arts.

Seeing the youth be inspired and confident and educated makes me kind of regret what was lost in our generation, but gives me, and the youth, so much hope for the future.

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Ach begorra, in another life I must have been Irish

I am in Dublin, Ireland tonight.

Tomorrow I come home and although I am looking forward to seeing my babies, planting my garden and doing all the work that has to be done, there is a part of me that doesn't want to leave this beautiful place.

There must be a hundred shades of green here, another hundred each of lavender and grey and everywhere, the intoxicating smell of flowers and the sea. If there is such a thing as reincarnation then I was here for sure in another life.

Maybe a long, long time ago I was one of those Irish people whose land was taken away by the Reformed armies of an English Empire. Maybe I fought back, was killed and reborn in Canada to a people who were also displaced and dispossessed by the same empire.

I spent most of my time in West Cork, which was like stepping back a hundred years. The landscape was very different from my childhood home but everything reminded me of homeland, my old people, aunties and uncles, history and stories. It was amazing how similar so many of the stories were to those we tell here.

For instance, I was told that when the English armies came to Ireland, led by Cromwell, they brought with them

chain laden surveyors who conducted the 'first detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world.'

Ireland was measured, the Irish booted off and the land distributed to adventurers, English soldiers, and others thus securing the "planting" of new settlers and dispossessing a people.

Their language and cultural things were forbidden and for a time the language was almost gone, but, like here, the old people hung in, never gave up and today Irish is spoken almost everywhere. There is a wonderful play written by Brian Friel called Translations, that tells of the Irish people teaching, in secret, their language to their children. So much sounds so familiar.

The people are warm, friendly and generous. They are storytellers, singers and dancers and again, these things are familiar. I am also sure it is the most magical place on earth. Seriously, I would not blink an eye if a Leprechaun, or as we call them here, a Memequaysees (little person) stepped out of a hedgerow with a fiddle, played a wild song and

expected me to jig.

Anyway I love it here, I made good friends and I am coming back. If you're looking for a holiday place go to Ireland, I promise you will love it.

Now I am back home at the Crossing, chasing the mice out of the house, scrubbing floors, washing windows and getting ready to move in and it's so great to be here. I can hear geese overhead, Coyotes were singing last night.

And today those darned squirrels are greedily watching me as I walk around my garden and flowerbeds all, I am sure thinking, "What good stuff is she going to plant for us this spring. Mmm we can hardly wait for it to come up so we can pig out."

"Well guess what you nasty critters, I have a cage and I am catching you and displacing you all. Like I am taking you up the highway to PA and you can live there on the road allowance!"

OMG I can't believe I just said that. So much for being full of history, spirituality and revolutionary zeal but what can I do to get them to leave my garden

alone? Does anybody know?

I can't shoot them; I tried. I sat for an hour I am sure with squirrel in sight but just couldn't pull the trigger. My higher self wouldn't let me do it so he and his family ate up all my egg plants.

Oh well, I guess I will put tobacco down again and tell him about my neighbor's great garden and ask him to please relocate, maybe, just maybe, he will listen, take his family and go.

I also attended the Suntep graduation on Saturday evening, 13 graduates, what a beautiful and handsome bunch! Congratulations all of you, we are so proud of you, and congratulations to your families and the people who supported you. I know you are all going out there with your heart full of dreams to make a difference and to build a good road for future generations.

They told me in Ireland when I was leaving, "may a gentle wind always blow on your back," and so that's my wish for you. If you're ever in my territory stop in I'll always make you a cup of tea and if you're lucky I might even have some galette, if you have time, I will whip some up for you.

Have a good spring everybody and if any of you has any advise on squirrels I'll be happy to try it.



CHILDREN'S



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Nine candidates vying for MN-S presidency

By Julie Ann Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News

The candidates have been announced, polling stations have been declared and the race to election day has officially commenced.

After a rocky start, and some unforeseen delays, the MN-S election is getting closer to becoming a reality. On May 27 Métis people across Saskatchewan will cast their votes to choose a new team of leaders to move the Métis agenda into the future.

Ric Richardson hopes that Métis people take advantage and exercise their right to vote in this election.

“This is the most important election the Métis have had in Saskatchewan in a long time. It is concerning that it was delayed until after the Métis National Council election, but now we have to vote,” said Richardson who is the Mayor of the Northern Village of Green Lake.

Presidential candidates posed after the Saskatoon Candidate forum. From left are Bruce C. Flamont, Steve Fraser, Alex Laurent Maurice, Lorna Docken Ledoux, Karen Anne LaRocque, Charlene Lavallee, Mike Tanton and Dale McAuley. Missing Glen Hector McCallum.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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For polling times and locations please visit:

www.mnselection.ca

or call your Regional Returning Office (RRO)

Métis Election information has been posted in each community on
BRIGHT YELLOW FLIERS

ADVANCE POLLS - MAY 20

Cumberland House
Duck Lake
Glaslyn
Ile-a-la-Crosse
La Loche
Leoville
Lloydminster
Melville
Pinehouse
Regina
Saskatoon
Swift Current
Tisdale
Weyakwin
Weyburn

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE

Suite #11, Market Mall
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MOBILE POLLS - MAY 20

Bear Creek
Black Pointe
Cole Bay
Dore Lake
Frenchman Butte
Hafford
Humboldt
Jans Bay
Outlook
Patuanak
Pierceland
Ponteix
Porcupine Plain
Shaunavon
St George's Hill
St. Walburg
Stoney Rapids
Wilke
Wynyard

MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN ELECTION Polling Locations

REGULAR POLLS - MAY 27

Archerwill	Lestock
Assiniboia	Lloydminster
Battleford	Maple Creek
Beauval (RRO)	Meadow Lake (RRO)
Big River	Melfort
Biggar	Melville
Buffalo Narrows (RRO)	Moose Jaw (RRO)
Carlyle	Nipawin
Chitek Lake	North Battleford (RRO)
Christopher Lake	Pelican Narrows
Creighton	Pinehouse
Cumberland House	Prince Albert (RRO)
Debden	Regina
Duck Lake	Rocanville
Esterhazy	Rosetown
Estevan	Sandy Bay
Glaslyn	Saskatoon (RRO)
Green Lake	Shell Lake
Hudson Bay	Spiritwood
Ile-a-la-Crosse	St. Louis
Indian Head (RRO)	Sturgis
Kindersley	Swift Current
Kinistino	Togo
La Loche	Turnor Lake
La Ronge (RRO)	Watrous
Langenburg	Weyburn
Leask	Willow Bunch
Lebret	Yorkton (RRO)

RROs ONLY (no polling station)

Denare Beach
Watson

Most important election the Métis have had in a long time: Richardson

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“We have issues like the Daniels Decision and the Manitoba Land Claim to negotiate and we have had no one at the table for many years. We have been promoting the various forums that are happening around the province and I’m also telling people personally to vote. But it could go either way for turnout.”

Hector McCallum and Mike Tanton.

Vice President candidates are: Darren Deschambeault, Cheryl Fiddler-Agren-Reed, Louis G. Gardiner, Miranda Moran, Gerald Morin and Wayne Whitford.

Secretary candidates are Tammy Louise Mah-Fiddler, Lisa McCallum and Ashley Norton.



Electoral staff members are busy preparing for election day on May 27.

Candidates for President are diverse and include retirees, former northern mayors, and several individuals from different occupations. Ages range from mid-thirties to some in their seventies. Every single candidate has been involved in Métis politics in one way or another.

Candidates running for President include: Bruce C. Flamont, Steve Fraser, Karen Anne LaRocque, Charlene Lavallee, Lorna Docken Ledoux, Alex Laurent Maurice, Dale McAuley, Glen

Treasurer candidates are May Henderson, Roxanne Marie Kennedy and Mary Ann Morin.

A bustling team of committed people occupy the Electoral Office located in Saskatoon at Market Mall, taking calls, offering advice, training elections officers and preparing for the big day. The hope is that this election will engage as many Métis people as possible. The turnout for past elections has been getting thinner each cycle.

“With early voting in the Regional Returning Offices, Advanced Polls and Election Day Polls, the Métis people have many opportunities to make their voices heard through this democratic process,” said Chief Electoral Officer Loretta Metzger.

The criteria to vote are quite simple. You must identify as a Métis citizen, be at least 16 years of age, not be a registered member of a First Nation or any other Aboriginal peoples and be a Resident of Saskatchewan. To vote for a Regional Representative, you must be a resident of the Region. If you have a drivers license or SGI ID you are good to go. Or you can bring two other pieces of ID or someone can vouch for you.

And with several advance and mobile polls and nearly one hundred polls across the province, there will be lots of opportunity to vote for one of the most

hotly contested elections in MN-S history.

Richardson is concerned about voter apathy but hopes he’s wrong.

“Some people are just not willing to participate anymore and say they are getting along well without the MN-S. The infighting left a bad taste in their mouth. And that’s too bad. We need those people and their voices,” said Richardson.

“My hope is people will vote because it is so important to have our voice at the table right now to talk hunting rights, land claims and education. Now is the time for leadership.”

Information about how to cast a vote on election day, or during advanced polls can be found on the Métis Nation Election website at www.mnselection.ca

For continued coverage of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan election check out www.eaglefeathernews.com

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For more information about the election and poll locations please visit: www.mnselection.ca

VOTE **MARY ANN MORIN**
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 SASKATCHEWAN
 TREASURER

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MARY ANN MORIN
 C.P.A., Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager
 Citizen of MNS & PA Métis Local 7
 CAMPAIGN MANAGER: SHAUNA SAYESE

CONTACT:
morinm_a@hotmail.com 1-306-960-9650

K+S potash mine will create 400 permanent jobs

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“We’re delighted to welcome a very good corporate citizen, K+S, back to Saskatchewan as it begins operations at a mine that will create more than 400 permanent jobs and generate taxes and royalties for years to come,” Wall said.

“The Legacy project strengthens Saskatchewan’s position as the world’s leading potash producer and is another indicator the province’s diversified and resilient economy is weathering economic uncertainty. We’re thankful for an investment that creates jobs and opportunity in Saskatchewan.”

The new mine development offered the opportunity for a new supply chain to emerge, particularly in the Indigenous business sector. The development of a thriving Indigenous supply chain has been the commitment that Terry Bird, Lead Advisor has made over his five-year relationship with K + S Potash Canada.

Starting with a clean slate, Terry Bird set out to work on building relationships with local First Nations and Métis communities and individuals to look for ways to create opportunities that provide sustainable benefits from the development of the new mine.

“For K + S Potash Canada, it was more about the deliverables, and less about talking about what “could” be



Terry Bird, Lead Adviser for K+S worked hard to include Indigenous involvement in the project. (Photo by K+S)

done. We believed that we needed to present opportunities, and commit to finding workable solutions,” said Bird.

“It was incredible to see during the construction phase of the Legacy project. At any one time, you could visit the site and see Indigenous people working on all four corners and in the middle of the development. This is what Legacy is all about, ensuring that inclusion happens in all phases of the mine’s lifecycle.”

The development of procurement and human resource policies inclusive



Dignitaries gathered for the cutting of the ribbon to officially open the K+S Potash Canada, Bethune Mine. (Photo by K+S)

of Indigenous people were fundamental for the organization. During the construction phase of the Legacy project, over \$350 million worth of contracts were procured with Indigenous contractors and their business partners. In the initial phase, the company employed over 344 self declared Indigenous people, and contracted 14 Indigenous contractors, entrepreneurs and joint venture companies.

“At the end of the day, it is about results. Participation from local communities and people is what will make us leaders in our industry. Local people want to work for us, and because of our commitment to them, they will be the anchor that ties us to success,” said Bird.

When asked about the approach that K + S has taken to achieve their goals, Bird suggests that relationships and trust are what make things work.

“You have to get out to the communities. Really take the time to develop a deep understanding of who they are and how they fit in the business equation. Our company’s approach went beyond checking a box as a supplier that identifies Indigenous content.

“We made it our business to get out and meet with these companies and make sure that they walk the talk. It’s not enough to have an armchair deal to get your foot in the door.”

Commitments in the areas of profit sharing, education and training and capacity development have become common requirements when suppliers are being considered for contracts.

“We plant the seed with all of our contractors to be inclusive, and for those that do, we are there to offer support and direction to help them succeed in those efforts.”

Looking to the future, Bird sees the next steps as supporting the growth of a new workforce.

“We will work towards finding so-

lutions to ensure that a representative workforce is present and inclusive of Indigenous people for operations. We have a good base of Indigenous people working for us now however we are looking to see more of them as we head into operations.”

K + S is shifting its focus to production and operations and will continue to reach out to Indigenous people who

may be interested in working for them.

“We have already developed our human resource metrics and track our successes,” added Bird.

“This is how we measure the impacts we have not only on the profitability side of our business equation, but on the quality of life for those people, communities and businesses who have connections to our operations.”



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saskatchewan.ca/fire



Xtended family business breaks new ground

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

REGINA – An Indigenous-owned and operated manufacturing shop had a ground-breaking ceremony outside Regina in mid-April.

Robert Tebb is the owner and president of Xtended Hydraulics Inc. a full-service machine shop that specializes in hydraulic cylinder repair. Tebb said, over the years, the company was sold and renamed until he eventually bought it.

“We chose extended because that’s what hydraulics cylinders do (is) extend and retract and make motion out of different things,” he said.

“We kind of figured the name was fitting and when we applied for the name, Saskatchewan legal name register said it was too much of a generic name and to make it more specific. We dropped the ‘e’ and just call it Xtended Hydraulics and they said (it) would work.”

He has always prided himself on the history of his family that goes back six generations in Saskatchewan. Tebb said his family founded a small town, now a ghost town, back in 1836 which is why he always had deep roots in the province and has deep ties to Indigenous communities and his Métis history.

“When we bought the business, one of our biggest goals was to make

sure we trained and hired Indigenous people,” Tebb said.

“We were able to just focus on Indigenous employment. The guys I’ve hired, trained and given opportunities to (are) the hardest working and the most loyal, dedicated employees I’ve ever hired.”

On the ground-breaking day, Tebb had an elder attend to cleanse the ground. A smudge and ceremony followed with the first shovel in the ground to celebrate the start of construction. Tebb was surprised that a couple hundred people showed up.

“It was pretty moving. There were people from the Ministry of the Economy and (people) from Economic Development Regina Inc. It was very good turnout,” Tebb said. “The ceremony (the elder) started was very emotional. I felt it was very windy day but it was a very emotional time when he did it,” he said.

Right now, they are at 14 Indigenous employees and they are hoping to double their staff by the time they open in 12 months.

“We really wanted to focus on the fact that we are here to help (Indigenous) people gain self-worth,” he said.

“By creating some careers where people can help feed their family and give them step up. To me that’s the biggest thing.”



Robert and Katherine Tebb break ground at the new site for their family owned business Xtended Hydraulics where their machine shop specializes in hydraulic cylinder repair. The Métis owned business employs fourteen Indigenous employees. (Photo supplied)

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4 Souls Cleaning employees are polishing their image

By Julie Ann Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Some 956 days and counting, that's how long 4 Souls Cleaning Inc. has been providing cleaning services for K + S Potash since its inception in July of 2014.

The company provides 24/7 cleaning services to the mining giant 365 days a year. In doing so, they have created strong relationships and have had the chance to showcase their competencies in delivering high quality services.

William Lavallee is the owner and operator of 4 Souls Cleaning Inc., which he created to realize his dream of employing First Nations people, and giving them a chance.

"There is a stigma attached to First Nations people in the workforce, that they are inferior, they are going to steal, sleep on the job. I know that's not true," said Lavallee.

"There are good reliable First Nations people with a strong work ethic out there who should be given a chance. In this industry, as a First Nations person, you need to work harder, faster and do a better job and it's still not good enough."

With a professional background in heavy equipment operation, Lavallee recognized a void that needed to be filled and looked outside the box to create a company that didn't require investing large sums of money to get started.

"I knew that a key factor in the success of a company was building a strong foundation."

Taking from his own career experiences, he set out to build an organization that strongly incorporated safety and processes. He prepared a business plan by determining the rates, schedules, shifts and mileage that would be required to operate.

"You have to have some good people to rely on to

help you and to provide direction."

A core value of 4 Souls Cleaning is a safe work environment for people to come to. When he started out, he purchased two vehicles out of his own pocket and transported the bulk of his workers to and from work. He offered them a good salary and did what he could to create a positive team spirit and high morale for his staff.



William Lavallee Speaking with Vern Bachiu at the SMA Forum 2017. (Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)

"You have to be the change you want to see. I didn't build this to be a millionaire."

Even when purchasing safety gear William sees an opportunity to invest in things that can lift a person's self esteem, like shirts, ball caps, back packs. He believes that when people feel their best, they have the chance to do their best.

"I want people to be proud of who they are. For me, working and giving people the opportunity to work is

more important than being rich. I knew I had the competency to deliver high quality services. What I needed was a chance to showcase this. I approached industry saying, 'I'll do a better job,'" said Lavallee.

Looking at an opportunity that came about through K + S Potash, Lavallee threw his name in the hat and began taking meetings. He faced barriers entering the industry, but didn't let it stop him. His ability to adapt to his new work environment, overcome challenges and persevere was critical to making his company a trusted service provider.

"I don't think just anyone could have done it."

Lavallee has a sense of pride for the people who learn new skills and then move on to new opportunities.

"This work teaches structure. You learn to have the drive to get to work."

Past employees stay in touch and let him know of the successes they are having in their careers. "Some even come back and work in a new field at the same site, and they are so proud to tell people about how they started out here cleaning."

When asked what others can do to be the change, Lavallee says, "Give somebody a chance that isn't in the circle you are used to dealing with. Maybe it's good to create some new competition. K + S Potash took a chance.

"Now I have 37 people working that are providing for themselves and showing their children this is what it takes, this is what you get when you go to work," Lavallee explains.

"We are very self sufficient people. It's in our genes. When you give an opportunity, it gives people a chance to take that and excel, exceed and make it their own. In any field. We have the capacity, we now need the chance to showcase our competency."

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Tribal Council's investment in STC Industrial Contracting a step towards reconciliation

By Julie Ann Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A company's strength in its core values can serve to enhance opportunities and ultimately boost profitability.

This was the driving force behind the Saskatoon Tribal Council's (STC) recent bold move to acquire 100 per cent ownership of STC Industrial Contracting (formerly Lynco Eagle).

"This is another step for the self-determination movement of STC and will ensure that benefits are realized for the tribal council's member communities," says Brad Darbyshire, President of STC Industrial.

With its head offices and shop located in Saskatoon, STC Industrial Contracting services the Saskatchewan industrial sector through construction and maintenance specializing in mechanical, piping, electrical, and instrumentation contracting as well as offering steel fabrication services.

Often First Nation owned companies form partnerships to gain access to capital for growth, or build strength in the areas of bonding for large scale project, and capacity to increase project size. Some may even seek out partnerships to assist in getting their foot in the door in the local industrial sector.

Tribal Chief Felix Thomas sees inclusion with industry as a call to action.

"Really, what we are talking about is what we can do with industry to work towards reconciliation. These relationships are part of the reconciliation process."

Partnerships can be very beneficial if both partners are aligned in terms of vision and values. Changes to the economy and other external pressures can, in some cases, cause shifting priorities that can affect expectations among partners.

The main driver to take on 100 per cent ownership of STC Industrial Contracting was based on the desire to embed STC's culture and values directly into the corporate mission and vision of the corporation. STC has also been strengthening its interest in positioning itself to create future prosperity.

"We are focused on moving forward with the values of providing high quality, dependable services and solutions for our clients, while developing opportunities that create jobs and generate profitability.

"Ultimately, it's about the grassroots support of the STC communities and the local broader community," said Darbyshire.

STC Industrial Contracting is assembling a strong team of long term Saskatchewan residents to build a company that possesses a strong safety culture, with high quality processes and good governance. The corporation will be working closely with STC Employment Skills and Training for its recruitment, training and retention needs.

STC Employment Skills and Training works in partnership with various education and training institutions such as SIIT, Sask Polytechnic, the University's of Saskatchewan and Regina as well as the various community colleges across the province to identify and draw



Brad Darbyshire, President of STC Industrial Contracting and Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.
(Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)

from the most qualified and available Indigenous people for career opportunities.

STC's Industry Relations Manager Cliff Tawpisin says that this type of relationship "goes hand in hand with the broader quality of life initiative that has been a priority for STC. It's about sharing resources, developing partnerships and working collectively to ensure that our young people have as many opportunities as possible."

For the 12,000 individual members of STC, opportunities can be limited. Recognizing this, Cliff sees this as a way to create success for both the newly acquired corporation and individual members. "Partnerships are hard," says Tawpisin, "We have learned through experience that whatever we develop, it has to be with the intent to improve the lives of our members."

Knowledge of the Saskatchewan business environment and the move to-

wards diversity and inclusion provides an advantage to STC Industrial Contracting for future development opportunities. "We understand that as a Saskatchewan First Nations wholly owned company, we are aligning ourselves better with the inclusion initiatives of many of our clients, including Potash Corporation and SaskPower. Fifty years ago, many of the robust, strong Saskatchewan grown companies we know today had to foster relationships to grow," said Darbyshire. "Today there is a new requirement to include Aboriginal content. As an Aboriginal business, we are looking for that same support to ensure the success and viability of our business development goals. We are optimistic about our future and we're working to bring people in to take on new roles to advance our growth plans. We know if we stick to our roots, we will be a competitive choice in the Saskatchewan market."

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Aboriginal hiring commitment “the right thing to do”

**By Katie Doke Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather News**

The Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining Suppliers Association Inc has made a commitment to promoting Aboriginal employment and support for Aboriginal communities.

The organization published its first Aboriginal Inclusion Guidelines in early April. The guidelines are meant to help its member companies “plan and enact their efforts towards including Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan economic opportunities.”

“There’s a moral reason, it’s just the right thing to do in the first place,” said Eric Anderson, SIMSA’s executive director.

SIMSA’s members are Saskatchewan-based companies who supply services to the mining, oil and gas industries. According to its website, SIMSA’s membership represents over \$3 billion in annual revenues.

Anderson started with the organization in September and began working on the guidelines in October. The guidelines make four main recommendations: an increase to Aboriginal employment, mentoring and training Aboriginal talent, community-investment in Aboriginal service and programs and subcontracting to companies that are inclusive already.

The guidelines also applaud Aboriginal ownership of companies that is 50 per cent

or greater. Anderson realizes this might not be possible for some companies but he hopes including it in the guidelines will get them asking the right questions.

“If the Aboriginal ownership of a company is less than 50 per cent ... is that ownership really about trying to build First Nation lives and social issues and economic power or is it just to get a checkmark in that box on the procurement contract?” he said.

“What is that ownership causing, is it generating economic participation and stability? The goal is to build sustainable economic and social programs and assistance, not just see cash fly around.”

Anderson consulted with Leanne Bellegarde, director of diversity and inclusion for PotashCorp Saskatchewan, on the guidelines. PCS’s inclusion strategy has been in place for several years already. The corporation requires Aboriginal Inclusion in its procurement policy. Since 2011, 11 per cent of PCS’s new hires have self-declared as Aboriginal.

SIMSA’s membership includes a lot of PotashCorp’s suppliers. Bellegarde was pleased when Anderson reached out for advice.

“We (said), ‘We’re going to share what we’ve learned with you, not because you have to do exactly what we’ve done but because if like us you’re really trying to figure out how to start doing this thoughtfully and build meaningful rela-

tionships and have a meaningful impact, here’s our story,’” she explains.

PCS offered Aboriginal awareness training and shared its emerging supply chain strategy in meetings with SIMSA.

One of SIMSA’s members is also pleased with the guidelines. Robert Tebb is president of Xtended Hydraulics & Machine in Regina. His is Métis and says his family has been living in Saskatchewan for six generations. Half of his employees are Aboriginal and many apprentice at his shop so they can get the training they need to get their Journeyman’s licenses.

Tebb is excited about SIMSA’s new strategy and said companies need to consider the future of their workforce. He said with a shortage of labour in the trades and a larger percentage of Indigenous children and youth set to graduate in the coming decade, it just makes sense to hire Aboriginal employees and engage with their cultures.

“So if we can create inclusion and give those people the opportunities and make them see that there is a brighter future out there than what they’ve seen in the past, I think it’ll create stronger communities,” he said.

“I think it’ll create better quality of living for everyone in Saskatchewan and because these resources are coming out of Saskatchewan, shouldn’t Saskatchewan people benefit from that?”



SIMSA Director Eric Anderson hopes the new Aboriginal Inclusion Guidelines will help their members embrace Aboriginal investment and employment. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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La Ronge

A
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Tanya LaRose staging a successful career as a top selling Saskatoon Realtor

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Tanya LaRose is Saskatoon's only self-proclaimed Indigenous woman Realtor® and she is making her name known as one of the city's busiest real estate professionals.

"It's kind of surprising when you think of the ratio because there's 650 agents so that's one to 650 and when you think of the number of First Nation population in Saskatoon and surrounding area, there's definite underrepresentation there," said LaRose, the three year Realtor® who hails from Sweetgrass First Nation.

"It makes me happy that we have some (Indigenous) representation because I know it can be a very cutthroat industry because there's a lot of risk and liability."

In 2013, LaRose spent five months completing courses from the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors® to be licensed in commercial, residential, and farm real estate. A year later, she was recruited to work with RE/MAX – one of the city's largest agencies. LaRose was named to the 100% Club in 2016.

That means she earned commissions between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in the calendar year. That means she's busy.

"The award was a huge validation for me but I am on call almost 24 hours a day and constantly on the move," said LaRose.

"But I work hard to be a mom first to my son Diesel who is six. On a daily basis, I have to check myself and ask if I am being a good mother. He is more important to me than my job."

LaRose is a realtor in Saskatoon but she has provided consultations to her clients in other cities such as North Battleford and has also provided real estate consultations to First Nations people and leaders from different communities in Saskatchewan. Her client list is



Tanya LaRose has added a staging company to her business a move that helps buyers in their decision making process.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

growing because she makes an effort to get out in the Indigenous community and seek out potential home owners and educate people on the value of owning property.

Within her time as a Realtor®, her clients had entrusted to her over \$50-million dollars of their real estate.

"I'm proud to be able to offer my services to other First Nations people and confidently give them top of the line service that they deserve," she said.

"I want to see that same prosperity in terms of real estate with my own people."

LaRose doesn't focus her clients only on Indigenous people but other cultures as well. In her first year as a Realtor®, she recalls selling a tiny house to a woman who immigrated from Congo. It was a moment that she never forgets.

"When she took possession (of the house) she just cried tears of joy," she said. "That's one of the examples why I love my job."

LaRose launched a staging company two months ago called Upstaging Interior Designs where realtors stage a vacant house to make it more appealing for sale.

"Staging definitely sells houses so I thought it was important to offer that service and it's going well," said LaRose.

This year, LaRose created a community outreach program for Saskatoon clients called Crystal's Gift. The program was named after her late sister Crystal who passed away awhile ago.

Often her clients are looking for someone to donate used furniture to. LaRose takes that furniture and makes sure it serves a good purpose.

"Crystal always had a passion for helping single mothers of all types. This is to keep her vision alive," she said of her community work. "Those (refurbished) items can be re-homed to improve the lifestyles of the children of single mothers."

People can find out more about LaRose at www.tanyalarose.com.

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Community-building the key for Kalk

By Katie Doke Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather New

SASKATOON – When it comes to leadership, Morgan Kalk has done and learned a lot over the past year.

Kalk, who is 25 and originally from Buffalo Narrows, has just finished her term as president for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and is finishing up her last class of the semester: Calculus.

“That’s always fun,” she laughed.

While calculus may not be her favourite class, she is enjoying her program. Kalk is a business student and just completed two years at SIIT. She will transfer to the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan in the fall. Right now, she’s looking back on a full year of study and success.

During her term as president, Kalk and her leadership team created the first LGBTQ awareness week at SIIT, arranged for the Mayor of Saskatoon to visit with students and advocated for a student representative on the school’s board of governors. They also pushed for SIIT to change the word “Indian” in its name to “Indigenous.”

The list goes on. Kalk is working on getting gender-inclusive bathrooms on campuses and she personally worked on a free-breakfast program that was implemented across all SIIT campuses in the fall.

When asked what her motivation is, Kalk has a simple answer: community-building.

“SIIT was already and has always been a very, very close-knit community but definitely there is and always will be a chance for building that community even stronger and acting as a voice for students who may not have that ability,” she said.

Kalk leads by building friendships, admiration

and trust. She said her biggest motivation comes from seeing how happy people are when she helps them resolve their problems or questions.

“That’s the energy that feeds me,” she said. “I’m not a negative person ever, ... I like to make people feel positive and just create a positive atmosphere no matter where I go. It’s just something that I’ve always been about.”

Kalk’s interest in business started when she was young. Her mother owned and operated a cafeteria in Saskatoon. Kalk was responsible for the vending machine.

“I would restock and fix any issues that there may be with it,” she said. “My payment was the profit from that vending machine. I called myself the owner and operator ... it just started from there and built on.”

When Kalk started at SIIT in 2015, it wasn’t long before her peers and instructors encouraged her to run for president. At first she didn’t know if she was qualified, but she said she developed helpful skills in her first year.

Now she plans to pass on what she’s learned to the incoming leadership.

“Leadership is definitely shared and part of being a leader is not only where you’re going but where your followers are going,” Kalk said.

“I think we’ve created a momentum here and that all these new leaders are going to come around and they’re going to add their piece to it and bigger and better things are going to come out of it,” she said.

Kalk has been nominated for CBC Saskatoon’s #iamSK community-builder contest. She will be working for the Aboriginal Career Start Program at the U of S this summer.



Morgan Kalk has finished her two-year business program at SIIT and her last year as SIIT Student President. Now she is on to the Edwards School of Business.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Bittersweet ceremonies for NORTEP grads

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather New

LA RONGE – After four decades of providing unique learning opportunities for northern students, and a turbulent year of uncertainty, the last graduation for the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) and the Northern Professional Access College (NORPAC) was held on April 29, in La Ronge.

Daleny Clarke describes the theme for the decorations at the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre as “Mardi Gras, and like, the last hurrah.”

“I was pretty emotional,” admits Daleny.

On the one hand, there was the sense of accomplishment. Four years ago, she, along with her two sisters, Desiree Clarke and Loni McCuaig, moved from Buffalo Narrows to La Ronge with some trepidation. Soon, all three will receive their Bachelor of Education degrees.

At the same time, she could not help but feel sad for the staff who were very helpful to her throughout her studies.

“It’s what kind of broke my heart about everything, knowing that they have nothing to look forward to in the fall time,” she said.

Desiree, in her valedictory address on behalf of Education grads, also reflected the bittersweet nature of the occasion.

“We never thought this day would come,” she said, but added, “now that it’s here, I’m sorry it is, because it means leaving friends who inspired me, instructors who are mentors, and so many people who have shaped my life, and my fellow classmates’ lives, forever.”

The students recognized at NORTEP-NORPAC’S final celebration were those who have met, or are close to completing, degree requirements for convocation from either the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina. One student, Janine Hansen of Beauval, received a certificate for both a Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts. Nine other students were recognized as Bachelor of Education grads, and seven



NORTEP-NORPAC’S final Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts graduating classes were honoured at ceremonies on April 29. Pictured left to right, are: (Front Row): DebraDee Charles, Loni McCuaig, Linnie Crookedneck, Rielle Desjarlais, Cathy Hansen, Janine Hansen, Gabrielle Marsh. (Back Row): Megan Morin, Desiree Clarke, Mikaela Greuel, Katie Merasty, Katherine Fosseneuve, Daleny Clarke, Suzanne Ratt, Samantha Cook-Roberts. Missing: Janet Alcrow, Derek Sanderson

others for a Bachelor of Arts. In addition, the ceremonies acknowledged five students who completed the first year of pre-nursing, pre-pharmacy and pre-nutrition studies in Arts.

Mikaela Greuel was the Arts valedictorian. She said that the uncertainty of the future of students’ education made focusing on their studies more difficult than it should have been.

“But because we were still able to complete the year through all the protests, disappointments, and frustrations, I really believe that we will be able to handle anything thrown our way in the future,” said Mikaela.

Graduation means many changes. For Daleny, it means looking for a job, and a new place to live for herself and her two children. Before the provincial government decided to transfer the funding from the edu-

cational institution, she had planned to stay in the NORTEP apartments and return for another year of studies to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree. Although Northlands College plans to offer a university program in the fall, she would have preferred the continuity that would have come with maintaining the same faculty.

“We were a family, and they just kind of broke us up,” she said.

McCuaig, too, must find a new home for her family by the end of June. A member of the Birch Narrows Dene Nation, she is hopeful that she will be able to pursue her additional degree in Arts at Northlands. In addition to teaching, she says this will open the door to opportunities in administration in the future. “

“I have a voice,” she said, “and I want to make a difference.”



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First Nations Veterans make emotional visit to Vimy Ridge Memorial

By Julie Ann Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association (SFNVA) went overseas to join thousands at Vimy Ridge this spring to commemorate the centennial of the battle that some say defined the start of Canadian identity.

The events that unfolded on foreign soil 100 years ago significantly impacted Canada in becoming an independent nation. Many First Nation communities in Saskatchewan sent their family members there to fight on behalf of Canada.

SFNVA Grand Chief Steven Ross joined 20 other veterans and family members at Vimy and said it was one of the most impactful journeys he has ever taken.

“When we arrived, we realized there was a lot that we didn’t know, things that the textbooks don’t tell you. There were so many people that died in this battle, it was overwhelming to see.”

The Saskatchewan group was kept very busy with events and tours of the area. While there, they located and performed a ceremony for fallen soldier Sergeant Harvey Dreaver from Mistawasis First Nation.

“We wanted to honour the sacrifice that he made for us and recognize that he rests there on foreign land so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today,” said Grand Chief Ross.

“It was a well marked gravesite and those who attended made comments and paid their respects. It became very emotional.”



The touring group stopped for a photo at this monument at Juno Beach. (Photo credit SFNVA)

As they toured the area they were able to find other First Nations soldiers from the south who have rested in the same cemetery for a century.

The event itself was extremely large including attendance by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other world leaders. Ross wishes that there would have been more support offered by the federal government to make the trip a reality, but says “I am glad we were able to do it on our own. We had a lot of support and I want to sincerely thank all of the people who provided donations and sponsorship to make this happen,” said Ross of the countless fundraisers that were held to pay for the trip.

“We see it as very important to acknowledge the role that First Nations people have played in shaping our country. We have to continue to do this.”

The SFNVA is in talks to build a healing facility in Saskatchewan for returning veterans.

“A lot of them come back with a lot of pain, they need to have access to professional help. We are working this and requesting assistance from the federal government,” added Ross.

“I believe that in time, we will succeed.”


For more information about Vimy Ridge, or to view a video of the centennial event visit <http://www.vimyfoundation.ca>



(Above) Barry Brass on left and SFNVA Grand Chief Steven Ross hold the Associations flag during the ceremony to honour Sargent Harvey Dreaver from Mistawasis First Nation. (Photo credit SFNVA)



(Left) CWO Joel Pederesen, Bold Eagle Coordinator Sergeant Chris Bird, Royal Regina Rifles, Canadian Army and veteran Norman Henderson. (Photo credit SFNVA)



CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY
NIB Trust Fund

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR INDIVIDUALS

DEADLINE: June 2, 2017 5:00 p.m. EST

The NIB Trust Fund is accepting applications from First Nation and Métis individuals to support education programs aimed at healing, reconciliation and knowledge building.

All First Nations and Métis citizens over the age of 18 and with a valid social insurance number are eligible for funding through a competitive application process. Preference will be given to former students of residential schools and their family members.

The NIB Trust Fund allocates funds in accordance with the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement of 2007 – the largest settlement agreement in Canadian history which provided compensation to survivors for their experiences at residential school. The NIB Trust Fund offers a new opportunity separate from Indian residential schools compensation packages.

For more information please contact the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund directly. Toll-free: 1-888-268-0520 E-mail: info@nibtrust.ca

Applications are currently available online at www.nibtrust.ca

I wonder what Ivanka knows about daycare challenges

I was leafing through Ivanka Trump's latest project, *Women Who Work*, a book with tips on how to be a successful working woman.

Oddly enough the first one was not, "being born the daughter of a wealthy narcissistic monster" or "being able to look pretty while your father systematically destroys the rights of the middle class, minorities and women."

Ironically, she says she wrote the book to "empower women."

But not to have the same rights and benefits of an old rich white guy but rather to ensure that they have the full right to work hard in "every aspect of their lives."

That just makes me sweat thinking about that. Every aspect – so women are expected to be financially, physically, professionally, and maternally successful – and looking beautiful at all times, too, of course. Even worse than its crazy expectations, Ivanka's book glosses over the huge advantages that she has as a wealthy one per center.

I am a working mom and to maintain my harried day to day existence, I rely on the help of my partner, our parents and my daycare. Daycare – I always hated that word. So what am I – as the child's mother - night-care? That sounds uncomfortably close to nightmare.

Like most reasonable people, I assumed that by the time I had kids that I would be a multi-millionaire with a driver, maids and a full time nanny. Kind of like Ivanka, actually.

As it turned out, I did not accomplish the Ivanka Trump lifestyle (I'm barely a Tiffany Trump) because you need a team to do that. Just getting good childcare was a battle in and of itself.

First off, I do not have a full-time nanny like good ole Mary Poppins. Though I don't know if Ms. Poppins and I would get along in real life. While I applaud the use of magic, I'm wary of people who sing for no reason. And I find her wisdom suspect, a spoonful of sugar



helps the medicine go down ...

Seriously lady, have you not heard of Diabetes?

When I was kid, I remember announcing to mom that when I had children, that she would be my nanny in a rather Ivanka Trump-ish entitled tone. I even imagined her in a starched white apron with a little doily on her head. She responded that she'd have much better things to do than look after my kids.

I asked my friends how they had handled the childcare situation. How long did they stay on maternity? Where did they put their kids when they came back to work? Did they consider sneaking them into work with them? (They all did.)

Most women stayed off the year after giving birth which Canada's maternity benefits allows for (now you can take 18 months off but you get the same amount of money as you would for the year so ... that's probably not a valid solution for many.)

But it could always be worse. I also asked a girl-

friend in the States about her situation. She said that she stayed off work for three months because, "Thank god, I had maternity benefits through work."

Yikes. Knock wood that we never end up being infected with America's "exceptionalism."

So as work loomed, I printed off the Saskatchewan list of daycares and called every one of them. There were no spots available so I went on dozens of waiting lists. Out of desperation I even called the French daycare. The lady answered the phone in French and I awkwardly said, "uh... what?"

Then I explained that I was looking for a daycare spot. She replied, "but you know that this is a French daycare, right?"

I thought I would blow her mind and summoned up all seven years of French classes I'd taken and replied, "Oui, je pense...quoi." Which I later remembered meant, "Yes I think...what?"

But there were no free spots so the Sunday before work, I called up my mom. She agreed, because as it turns out, grandchildren are like crack to kokums. And vice-versa.

Our arrangement worked until my dad's health complicated things. But I got lucky again and a daycare space opened up near work. My son's daycare is full of toys and adorable, busy toddlers.

It's not ideal, it's not my dream arrangement and many days I feel like I failed as a parent. Like it's my fault that we didn't win the Home Lottery – and his dad's too, of course, because he didn't win either.

But there are ways to adjust – like I don't even call it daycare anymore – I say "where the nannies are," which makes me feel better.

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FHQ, Regina renew solemn agreement

By Katie Doke Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – An agreement made between the City of Regina administration and the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council has renewed a ten-year-old commitment of recognition, partnership and respect.

Mayor Michael Fougere and FHQ Tribal Council Chief Edmund Bellegarde, along with community Elders, city council and the Regina Treaty Status Indian Services Board of Directors took part in a pipe ceremony at The Gathering Place in Regina.

The mayor and chief were invited to speak before and after the pipe was passed around. In the circle, Bellegarde explained that the ceremony is a sacred covenant and mirrors the one made when Treaty 4 was signed in 1874.

The ceremony was followed by a formal signing of a protocol agreement by the mayor and chief. Before the signing, Fougere said that Bellegarde's words during the pipe ceremony resonated with him.

"I'm learning a lot each and every time I do this," he said about the ceremony.

"I was humbled by the words of Chief Bellegarde and the Elders that are with us, speaking of their sacred ceremony (as) a covenant. That word is very powerful for me and I think that's quite important. The documents we're going to sign are a symbolic gesture by the non-Indigenous city here.

"That is our way of saying we want to work together, but the ceremony we just went through is more profound and has more deep meaning to me than just the paper we're going to be signing."

Bellegarde said the City's participation in the ceremony was an important recognition of how the Indigenous people of Treaty 4 conduct and govern their affairs, something he said doesn't happen enough by Western forms of government.

"So this is a good day," said Chief Bellegarde. "The signing of this agree-



Mayor Michael Fougere and FHQ Tribal Council Chief Edmund Bellegarde renewed a protocol agreement at The Gathering Place in Regina on May 10.

ment will cement the relationship that we promised one another in the pipe ceremony in this room minutes ago."

The City and Tribal Council signed the original protocol agreement in 2007. In 2016, the City made a commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action for municipalities and a committee has been meeting with RTSIS to update that protocol agreement.

"Today has been a long time coming," said Erica Beaudin, executive director of RTSIS.

"We looked at not only renewing but looking and seeing exactly what the Indigenous citizens and the City of Regina needed to work on together."

The protocol includes two committees that will be formed. A Governance Committee will include Mayor Fougere, Chief Bellegarde and members of council and a Technical Com-

mittee will include RTSIS staff and city staff. Fougere said the Technical Committee will start meeting shortly to discuss concerns that RTSIS and the Tribal

Council have, and the committee will develop the agenda. Those concerns include access to affordable housing, healthcare and education for Indigenous citizens in Regina. Bellegarde acknowledged the City's help with housing, tax abatement for property development and its support of the TRC's Calls to Action. But he said that Indigenous people do not have the same quality of life as their non-Indigenous neighbours.

"That's a disparity that needs to be addressed through public policy and a federal, provincial and municipal level," he said. He's hopeful that the partnership with the City will be fruitful.

"Our traditional teaching is to always have hope for that future, to always invest the time and energy and the honest commitment to building that relationship and that peaceful co-existence with our treaty partners," he said.

For Beaudin, the renewed protocol will be followed by action.

"What has given me hope today is the fact that we have a recommitment by the top two political leaders for the City of Regina and for the FHQ Tribal Council and so it'll be a lot easier for us people who have our moccasins or boots to the ground (to) work together," she said.

This Mother's Day, let's all take the opportunity to thank those women who are leading the way for the next generation.

When we support women, incredible things happen.

Happy Mother's Day!



Sheri Benson Member of Parliament // Saskatoon West
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f: sheribensonndp // t: @sheribenson



Notice of public hearing

Canada's Nuclear
Regulator



The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a public hearing to consider an application from AREVA Resources Canada for a 12-year renewal of its uranium mine operating licence for the McClean Lake Operation, located in Saskatchewan. The current licence expires on June 30, 2017.

Dates: June 7–8, 2017

Place: Kikinahk Friendship Centre, 320 Boardman Street, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

Time: As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date

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

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 on AREVA's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Secretariat by April 21, 2017 at nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/intervention or via the coordinates below. Requirements for these requests are available online or by contacting the Secretariat.

AREVA's submission and CNSC staff's recommendations will be available on request from the Secretariat after March 24, 2017. Find out more about the hearing process at nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

Contact information:

Secretariat

280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B, Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Tel.: 613-996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284

Fax: 613-995-5086

Email: cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

nuclearsafety.gc.ca



Canadian Nuclear
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Canada



McKenna Fineblanket with her mom, Brittney Olsen (left) and Pauline Favel, president of the FNPSB. (Photo by Jule Ann Wriston)

Eight-year-old spelling whiz earns third place at national competition

**By Julie Ann Wriston
Of Eagle Feather News**

For many eight-year-olds, setting personal goals include things like how many play dates they can have or how much screen time they can negotiate with Mom and Dad.

McKenna Fineblanket is no average eight-year-old, so it's no surprise she doesn't set average goals.

McKenna just proved that being a champion is a goal that can be attained. She is back with a big third place overall win, having just competed in the National Spelling Bee Championships, representing Saskatchewan in Toronto.

To get there, McKenna won first place in the Primary Category in the First Nation's Provincial Spelling Bee competition that was held at the end of March in Saskatoon. Over 150 kids from across the province competed to win a chance to travel to the big T.O. and take part in the annual National Spelling Bee.

She started studying her first 400 words last fall, which was how she won in Saskatoon. After the celebrations and fanfare it was right back to focusing on the next 400 words, this time with less than a month to prepare.

"This experience has allowed McKenna to obtain pride and confidence in herself, and expand her vocabulary."

says McKenna's proud mom Brittney.

"I've always told her that she can do anything she sets her mind to and I believe that with the right guidance, love and support she has the capability to succeed in life."

The competition at the National level was fierce, consisting of five rounds of spelling practiced words, and then an intense 13 round nail biter consisting of tie breaker words that none of the kids had heard before. The word that kept McKenna from the first-place win was "participation", however she shouldn't be discouraged, as she is one of the first ever Indigenous participants to place in the top three in the Canadian Nationals.

Brittney is impressed, but not surprised that her daughter was able to make it as far as she did. For her, it's more than just a trophy,

"This sends a strong, positive message and breaks down stereotypes about First Nations kids and education in Canada."

McKenna already has her sights set on getting back to Toronto next year to compete.

"She is so determined to try again."

Next year McKenna will be in the Junior Category, and there's no doubt she will be a tough competitor with her eye on a win. Congratulations McKenna!

CNIB SEEKING SASKATCHEWAN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Life is a beautiful, complex and wonderful thing. Life for people who are blind should be no different. To deliver on this vision and help us change what it is to be blind today, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) is inviting applications/nominations for spirited, determined leaders to join our new CNIB Saskatchewan Advisory Board.

CNIB is turning 100 years old in 2018. With almost a century of success under our belts, we want to take our work to the next level – smashing barriers and empowering our remarkable clients to live their dreams. The role of this new Advisory Board is to provide leadership to CNIB as we build a client-centered program strategy, strengthen our partnerships and engage more people than ever before in our work. Advisory Board members will be enthusiastic ambassadors for the organization and our mission, building our reputation with clients, partners and donors.

If you are a high-energy business or community leader who feels passionately about changing what it is to be blind today, and want to play a critical role at a transformational moment in CNIB's history, we want to hear from you. To ensure this new Advisory Board brings a diversity of perspectives, skills and relationships to the table, we are seeking representatives from across Saskatchewan's cultural landscape and from the following professional sectors: Arts, Culture, Retail, Construction and Design, Agriculture, Media and Technology, Sport/Recreation and Culinary Arts, Legal and Professional Services, Government and Financial Services/Banking, among others.

To explore this dynamic Advisory Board opportunity in detail, please contact:

CHRISTALL BEAUDRY

Executive Director, CNIB Saskatchewan

Phone: 306-565-5424

Email: christall.beaudry@cnib.ca

A detailed copy of the position profile will be provided to all qualified candidates under consideration.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2017

NAIG PROFILE: Triston Tinker - Lacrosse

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

Fifteen-year-old lacrosse player Triston Tinker will be competing in his first North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in July.

The Saskatoonian has been playing lacrosse for six years, a passion that began after playing in school with a few of his friends. Tinker represented his province in a national lacrosse tournament in Vancouver four years ago but he's even more pumped to represent Team Saskatchewan at this year's NAIG.

"I'm pretty excited to go to NAIG. There will be some good competition there," he said. "I'm

hoping there's some scouts there to watch."

Tinker practices lacrosse once a week and plays for three other lacrosse teams when he's not training for NAIG. His biggest role model is Reagan Harding who was drafted in 2015 by the



Saskatchewan Rush lacrosse team.

Tinker is indecisive on what he wants to do after high school but has hopes of earning a scholarship in lacrosse.

"It's hard because I play box lacrosse and there's not many options. As for field lacrosse, there's more options (so I) see myself playing little bit more field," he said. "Playing for Team Saskatchewan is kind of hard because we don't have the population like Ontario does and so when we play them sometimes we take a hard loss."

Even through a hard loss, Tinker encourages youth to get involved in the sport, keep practicing and most importantly – have fun playing.

"Just do it because it's good chance to represent and it will be a fun time to make new friends."

NAIG PROFILE: Tiara Buffalo - Basketball

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

Tiara Buffalo Calf is a multi-sport athlete and will be competing in this year's North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in basketball.

After playing in different sports, Buffalo Calf discovered her passion in basketball – a sport that she has been playing since she was in grade 5.

"I went into (Steve) Nash camp in Maple Creek and got interested in the sport. That's where I started playing it," she said.

This year will be her second time competing in NAIG – she took home a bronze medal from the last games held in Regina four years ago. It was an unforgettable experience as she describes and can't wait for another NAIG experience.

"It was really fun and it was a unique experience because I got to meet other girls that were (Indigenous)," she said. "I collected pins and traded. It was a great way to meet other athletes. I'm looking forward to seeing other teams and how competitive they are."

She trains everyday throughout the week with the exception of Wednesday and Thursday to build up her skills in basketball.

The Grade 12 student plans on going to either Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) or St. Mary's University located in Calgary to take psy-



chology. Buffalo Calf overcame some challenges throughout her life mainly with school and keeping up with practices.

"You have to be really good at time management and making time for your family and friends," she said.

"I got stressed out throughout the years but I made it work...that's the only main thing."

Her message for the youth is don't care what others think and to get out of your comfort zone.

"A lot of times there's going to be older girls that you're playing with or same age or something that seem better, but you just have to be confident in yourself. Be your own motivation."

NAIG PROFILE: Tessa Desnomie - Softball

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

Tessa Desnomie is a 15-year-old in Grade 9 from Saskatoon and is one of many Team Saskatchewan athletes who will be competing in this year's North American Indigenous Games

(NAIG) on July 16-23 in Toronto.

Desnomie will be playing U16 softball as the pitcher and short stop. It's a sport that she's been playing for six years and it will be her first time competing in NAIG.

"I felt really excited and proud of myself when I found out I made (it for the) NAIG," she said.

"I'm excited and nervous to play ball somewhere big and competing at a high level."

Desnomie practices once every two days by playing catch with some of her family members to prepare herself for the upcoming games.

Growing up, she suffered from bad anxiety and playing ball has helped her overcome it.

She looks up to her aunty, Vera Tourangeau, who played in the First Canadians as the pitcher in the early 1980s.

Desnomie hopes to play college ball after she graduates high school and then become a neurosurgeon.

"Working on the brain (seems) pretty cool and interesting," she said.

Desnomie's advice to the young and upcoming athletes who wish to compete in NAIG is to follow your passion and to never give up.

"Just try your best and keep practicing," she said.



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Dragons slay Saskatoon team for first win

By Chelsea Laskowski
Of Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – The Prince Albert Dragons have an increasing number of Indigenous teen athletes learning rugby from a man whose native country is deeply tied to the sport.

Tuks Ratuki moved from Fiji to Prince Albert a year ago, and started volunteering with the Dragons' coaching staff this season.

In Fiji, rugby is huge – think soccer in Eastern Europe. Ratuki has been playing since he was three, and said his cousins play rugby on the national scale. His great-grandfather also played at a high level.

“Now it’s kind of culture to us, playing that kind of sport, it’s like a big thing,” he said. “Over here (in Canada) it’s a little bit slow.”

Ratuki thinks on the high level for the kids he helps coach, too. He shows different techniques he’s picked up over the years “because one day you never know, they might play for Canada.”

Players like Royce Brittain, a four-year high school rugby veteran, aren’t thinking too far ahead, although he is interested in continuing on with a city adult team or a provincial team once he graduates from Prince Albert Collegiate Institute (PACI) this year.

Brittain and 13 other Dragons play-



Dayton Bennett tackles an opponent during a May 4 game in Saskatoon.
(Photo by Chelsea Laskowski)

ers are Indigenous. With half the team comprised of First Nations and Metis players, the Dragons have much stronger representation than any of the province’s other high school teams.

Some of this is attributable to assistant coach Jim Woodcock, a PACI staff member who invited Brittain and others to give rugby a try.

Brittain is already involved in a

number of sports, but said rugby has taken priority over the years.

“It keeps me motivated to see that I can do greater things as getting a try or getting a basket like in basketball, a touchdown, anything. Just getting that in that moment feels just amazing. It’s like you’re going somewhere, you’re succeeding,” he said.

What appeals to him most is simple: the camaraderie and the leadership role he’s taken with newer players.

Fellow PACI Grade 12 student Dayton Bennett is also attracted to the teamwork component of rugby. Like Brittain, Bennett came to the sport through Woodcock’s recommendation, and has a goal of improving his fitness level throughout the year.

In early May, the Dragons played and won their first game of the season in

Saskatoon.

That was Bennett’s first-ever rugby game and when speaking right after the physical match, he was left with a good impression.

“It’s great. It provides a new experience and is not at all what I expected. And it just shows me what I can work on as a rugby player,” he said.

As the team continues to grow, Ratuki said his family is keeping tabs. Some of the players have been eager to get to know about his family, so they’ve made video calls and learned the word “bula.”

“Now all these kids know how to speak hello in my language,” he said.

For Ratuki, coaching is a chance to stay connected to rugby, and to his home.

“I make my family proud because I continue what I love to do,” he said.

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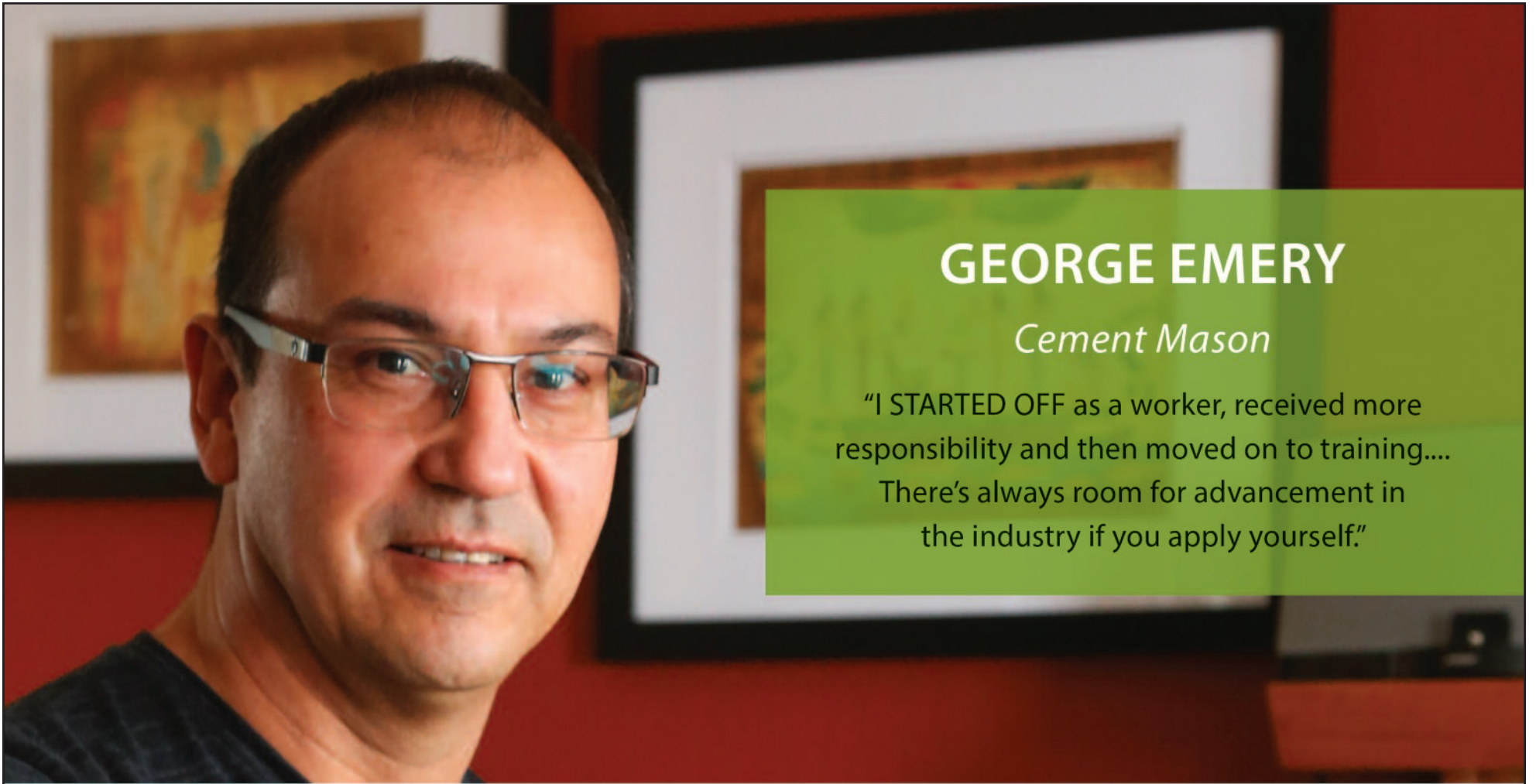
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George Emery: *Firing up the next generation*

Sometimes, you never know where a career in the trades will take you.

Just ask George Emery. For years, Emery was employed in various capacities as a plasterer/fireproofing. Now, he's helping train the next generation of workers.

"At the end of the day, I would have never dreamed in 100 years that I would be where I'm sitting at now," he said. "I started off as a worker, received more responsibility and then moved on to training. It just goes to show that there's always room for advancement in the industry if you apply yourself."

While Emery's grandparents came from Onion Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan, he was born and raised in Kehewin Cree Nation in Alberta. In the early 1980's, he became a member of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 222 (which services Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and began his apprenticeship.

Through his work, Emery helped rendered commercial and industrial structures proof against fire or incombustible materials. Part of this work involved applying a certification listed fireproofing system to certain structures, which allows them to have a fire-resistance rating. As Emery explained, this gives firefighters a set amount of time to control a fire before major structural damage happens to a building. After achieving his journeyman status, Emery spent nearly 20 years as a supervisor on job sites.

"It was quite rewarding work. It's not the kind of work where somebody else will notice your results, but when you finish a job, you are proud of what you accomplished," Emery said. "It's certainly a unique trade. People would ask what I did, I'd explain it to them and they would walk away a little bit bewildered."

When Emery began in the trade, there were less than 100 workers in Alberta. By 2003, he said that number jumped to over 300. He said the industry began to realize it needed a formal training program to deal with the influx of workers. Emery worked with members of the union to form a training program. Since 2005, the union has been offering certified plasterer/fireproofing apprentice training and also offers training to cement mason members.

"I thought, 'I know the job and I've been at it for so long, so maybe I'll take an attempt at it,'" Emery said. "We're now the only school of its kind in North America. It's been going great and we now have close to 1,000 fireproofers in Alberta."

When he's not training the newest batch of recruits, he still finds himself instructing. Emery, who lives in Edmonton, has spent the past three years coaching his grandson's hockey team. Beyond that, he likes to kick back and relax.

"My biggest hobby is working around my yard. I have quite a nice yard with plants, a fish pond – like a Zen type of yard," he said. "I enjoy having a nice comfortable home and peace of mind."



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Labour Development Strategist

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"IT WAS QUITE REWARDING WORK. It's not the kind of work where somebody else will notice your results, but when you finish a job, you are proud of what you accomplished," Emery said. "It's certainly a unique trade. People would ask what I did, I'd explain it to them and they would walk away a little bit bewildered."



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