

# Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

# Dunes opens early ... let the games begin

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CPMA# 40027204

**Eagle Feather News**  
**Justice Issue**  
*Next Month - Education  
& Back to School*



Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear and Councilor Dwayne Eagle welcomed visitors as over 4,000 people took part in opening night festivities at SIGA's new Dakota Dunes Casino. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

## Early and under budget

BY DARLA READ

**E**ven before Dakota Dunes Casino had its grand opening on Friday, August 10, the newly finished building was bustling with activity.

Security kept a close eye so nobody could even take a peek inside the casino, and prospective and new employees chatted during smoke breaks outside. The freshly painted maze of hallways and offices behind the games room teemed with people making last minute arrangements.

Originally the casino was slated to open in September. Planners over-estimated how long it would take to build, and that, combined with good weather, led to the casino opening ahead of schedule and under the projected budget of \$61 million.

Perched on a hill near the Dakota Dunes golf course, the casino overlooks the Whitecap Dakota First Nation near Saskatoon. Before opening, it employed 370 people, not including the Graham Construction workers.

Eighty per cent of those employees are First Nations.

Employment could reach as high as 440 people once business gets rolling in areas such as security, surveillance, slots, live and table games, custodial, food and beverage, finance, administration, guest services, and the cage (banking system).

Each of the managers and supervisors went through three-week training. They then trained their employees for five weeks.

While the outside is stunning and expansive, the casino's general manager, Gary Daniels, hopes people are just as impressed by the inside.

"When people walk in, we want them to be wowed and we think that will happen."

He says there has been a lot of built-up anticipation throughout Saskatchewan.

"There's a lot of excitement in general from everyone in the province, especially a lot of Native communities."

• Continued on Page 10



### ME TA WE TAN

Youngsters Taylor (left) and Ryan (right) peer into the teepee that they helped construct along with a handful of other children at the Optimist Park in Saskatoon on August 7. The children are participating in the City of Saskatoon's Me Ta We Tan program. This year is Me Ta We Tan's 20th anniversary. The program teaches children in all parts of Saskatoon about First Nations and Métis culture. Children learn to set up a teepee, hoop dance, and jig; listen to pow wow music; and make crafts. The program consists of a 'travelling van' that has four travelling van leaders, usually two First Nations and two Métis, who visit three parks or spray parks a day for all of July and August. The leaders are different every year, and they are often students who will return to their studies in the fall. Dawn Mentuck is one of the leaders this summer. She says she has lived on the west side for years, and sees a lot of kids there who aren't exposed to Aboriginal culture, so she wanted to be involved in teaching them.

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# Leadership struggle at Métis National Council

BY DAVID SHIELD

According to the Métis National Council Board of Governors, Clement Chartier is no longer president of the organization.

Métis presidents from four out of five provinces voted to remove Chartier during a meeting held earlier this month. With the exception of Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand, the provincial presidents replaced Chartier after stating that his term had expired.

Bruce Dumont, President of the Métis Nation British Columbia, will act as interim president until elections are held at the MNC Annual General Assembly in October.

The move comes after a controversial decision made by the Board of Governors to extend Chartier's term in 2006. Then, two provincial presidents (David

"The reason why four out of the five presidents decided to make this move was because Mr. Chartier's term had run out. It had run out a year ago. And so the Métis National Council Board of Governors decided that, because his term was up, that they would follow the rules of the Métis National Council.

"And the rules state that if there was a vacancy, and there was in this instance, that they would appoint somebody from the Board of Governors."

However, that's not how Clement Chartier sees it. He says the Board's action was illegal, and that only a Métis National Assembly can remove a President from office. As a result, he says he's still the President of the National Council.

Chartier says he will definitely be running for President in the upcoming election. Chartier says he proposed moving the National Assembly to early September as a compromise to appease the board. However, the board refused. Meanwhile, Chartier says the Board of Governors is acting illegally.

"They set the date for October 13 and 14, so that's two and a half months, but that's a long time for a government to operate that may be operating on a basis of illegitimacy."

Meanwhile, Chartier says he's considering taking the issue to the courts.

"There is a strong possibility of course, because that would be the only conceivable option, I believe, that is there, at this time to address this. I can't see any other option."

However, the threat of legal action doesn't frighten Doucette.

"I can't speak to that, but all I will say is that Mr. Chartier will do what Mr. Chartier thinks is in his best interest."



CLEMENT CHARTIER

be telling you that it was the Métis people that decided to extend his term, when it was only two members of the Métis National Council."

Chartier says the current Board of Governors is attempting to stack the cards against him by adding more National Council delegates from Ontario and British Columbia before the next assembly.

However, Doucette says these changes are fairly normal.

"At every board of governors meeting, as I under-



ROBERT DOUCETTE

Chartrand and then-Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Dwayne Roth) voted to extend Chartier's term until an MN-S election could be held. The rest of the presidents either abstained or withheld their vote in protest of Roth's participation.

Robert Doucette, current President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan says by removing Chartier, the Board of Governors was just following the rules.

**"There is a strong possibility (of legal action) of course, because that would be the only conceivable option, I believe, that is there, at this time to address this. I can't see any other option."**

*- Clement Chartier*

Doucette also says the decision to extend Chartier's term was not made by a Métis National Assembly, weakening his case.

"One (Provincial President) abstained and two weren't participating. So I don't know why they would

stand it, there's this discussion over Ontario and British Columbia making the request for more delegates to the assembly, and that's not a new thing."

The Métis National Council will hold its meeting October 13-14 in Ottawa.

## Buckle up.

Whether you're travelling in the city or in the country, everyone in the vehicle needs to buckle up.

Life is a gift from the Creator, respect it. Always wear a seatbelt and use the right safety seat for kids.

## Life is a gift.

Please respect it.



Original feather illustration by Gary Natomagan.

**SGIII**  
Take care out there.

# Aboriginal women have to be extra careful

The sad news was made public on July 19. The body found near 33rd Street in Saskatoon was positively identified as Marie Lasas.

Marie was a beautiful 19-year-old woman who disappeared on Sept. 21 after she left a friend's home on the 600 block of Avenue H South to walk home. She was never seen alive again. The discovery of her remains meant the police could move her from the missing list to, tragically, the murdered list.

Marie had worked with my wife at the Riversdale Business Improvement Office. A young mother and responsible older sister, she was proud to get a paycheck to help the family out. She cared for her younger sisters, because her mother had passed on when they were younger.

She had, at times, a tough life but had many friends in the My Home program and was a real role model of a girl who faced challenges head on. Her disappearance was a shock because she was usually a safe and smart young lady. This leads to the theory that she was jumped or met up with someone she knew. Both prospects are terrifying.

If you talk to First Nation and Métis women who walk in downtown or in the hood in Regina and in Saskatoon, they will tell you tales that would curl your hair.

Being chased by three white teenagers in a sports car from downtown Saskatoon to Avenue H through alleys yards and across busy streets. Having suspicious cars circle

back time after time making people find an open store or house as sanctuary.

Having garbage thrown at them, banana peels, racial slurs, pick-up lines and worse. Imagine the horrors that the poor women who are forced to work the streets must face. It is much, much worse.

## Editorial

Now we have either open season on Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan, or we have a serial killer. It is dangerous out there so we warn all women who walk by themselves, no matter what neighborhood you are in, please get a walking buddy, man or woman to accompany you. If you are in a situation where you have to walk somewhere at night alone, stay to lighted streets, keep your head up and your eyes open and never, ever accept a ride. If an odd car even stops near you always have a planned escape route.

Marie Lasas knew the dangers out there and had lost friends to the street, leading her to help create the Annual Day of Mourning on August 14 in Saskatoon, a day to

remember and honour people who lost their way and their lives to the street.

Her legacy will live on through the event and she will not be forgotten. You will learn more of Marie in a profile in our October Role Model issue. If you have any information on the disappearance and murder of Marie Lasas, no matter how insignificant it may seem, please call the Saskatoon Police Service at 975-8300.

Justice must be served here. It isn't fair that our women must live in fear. There are far too many missing and murdered First Nation and Métis women in Saskatchewan. It is time to put a stop to it.

## Correction

Mr. Lagimodiere:

A clarification on the some information that was in the July 2007 issue article on the Chief Pasqua Pictograph. The United Church, Saskatchewan Congress and United Church Head office contributed \$20,000 toward the purchase of the Pictograph and not the Anglican Church as was written in the article.

Thank You,

Lorne Carrier, Manager

Aboriginal Tourism Association of Saskatchewan Inc.

## What's next in Eagle Feather News

Well, we have had a bit of an addition to the staff at Eagle Feather News. Winona Priscilla Faith McLean joined the team on August the 3. She comes in at a healthy 8 lbs 3 ounces, and 20.5 inches tall and will be on paper delivery as soon as she can walk.

Mom Faith and baby Winona are doing well. According to some sources, after the birth Faith looked at her baby and said, "I'm a lucky woman" and Dirk Dashing responded "And I'm a wonderful man."

Way to go Faith and Winston and best of luck with the new baby.

• • •

September will be our education and back to school edition. We will look at

innovative partnerships and programs that are meeting the needs of business and industry in Saskatchewan.

The judicial recount for the Secretary position at the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is supposed to happen on Sept. 5. We will have those results and a complete list of those

elected in the recent election. Due to publishing deadlines we could not bring

you the entire story of the Dakota Dunes so we will have details from the project team on how they pulled such a massive project together and finished two months

early to boot. It is also the tenth anniversary of the Johnny Arcand Fiddlefest and we will bring the entire story and some pictures to boot. And of course all of our great columnists will

contribute. Make sure you check it out.

We also want to steer you to our web site that has been rejuvenated so it does not stink or waste your time any more.

On the web site we will also be putting stories and photos that we could not fit into our monthly paper so there will always be something new and interesting to check out online.

Also, every one of our papers from the last year and the ones into the future will be available on our website in full colour for your reading pleasure and convenience. Go to [www.eaglefeathernews.com](http://www.eaglefeathernews.com) let us know what you think.



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No. 40027204  
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Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce  
SREDA

ISSN #1492-7497

Printed by

**Transcontinental**  
SASKATOON

#### Proud Sponsor of:

2000 First Nations Winter Games, 2001 First Nations Summer Games, 2002 First Nations Winter Games, 2003 First Nations Summer Games, Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, FSIN Pow Wow

Eagle Feather News is published monthly (12 issues yearly) by ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services, P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.

Subscription rate is \$25.00 per year.

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Canadian Publications Mail Agreement Number 40027204.

#### Eagle Feather News

Contributing authors agree to indemnify and protect the publishers from claims or action regarding plagiarism.

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# Traditional teachers were kind and generous

We see the signs “Tobacco is Sacred” all over the place these days. It’s a good traditional teaching now used in stop-smoking campaigns. It’s catching the attention of a lot of young people who are asking questions like “what’s so sacred about Players Light cigarettes or rolling tobacco?”

I can understand where this question is coming from, having visited a tobacco farm once where I watched the production process from harvesting to packaging. No prayers are made when the seeds are planted or when the leaves are picked. After the leaves are dried they are shredded and floor is covered with tobacco that people walk all over.

And although I never saw it myself, some even say that highly addictive chemicals are added to the mixture before packaging. When most people smoke manufactured tobacco they seldom have prayer in mind. So really, there is not much that can be considered sacred about manufactured tobacco UNTIL it is actually used for ceremonial purposes.

The sacred tobacco that I learned about is not laced with unhealthy chemicals and sold in manufactured pouches. The making and use of traditional tobacco begins and ends in prayer. Natural plants are respectfully harvested, dried, and mixed for ceremonial purposes. So when did we start

using manufactured tobacco instead of our traditional tobacco?

Manufactured tobacco was first introduced to us by the Hudson’s Bay Company. The superior tobacco came from Brazil. By the 1750s it was a very popular trade item and was preferred over the English roll and Virginia leaf tobacco. The Brazilian tobacco consisted of dried tobacco leaves twisted into long ropes which were rolled into balls. The HBC sold it in one or two foot lengths called “twists.” In the early fur trade years, Indians

to 20 years ago the old people only expected a pinch of tobacco – enough to fill a pipe for prayers. Today, there are still a few who will accept a pinch or a few cigarettes, but now there seems to be a standard rate and I have even heard an Elder say, “you want to give half a pouch of tobacco, I’ll give you half a ceremony,” or “if you can afford cigarettes for yourself you can afford to give a pouch of tobacco.”

Over the past 10 years or so many young people and adults have shared personal stories about encounters with

did not learn these things because their parents and/or grandparents did not teach them. Now that they are trying to learn they should be encouraged and supported with kindness and generosity. Not preached at or talked down to.

Our traditional teachers were kind and generous, they did not act like preachers or residential school teachers. The teachings they were offering were based on love and respect, not fire and brimstone.

The same holds true for our languages. Before we criticize anyone for not speaking their language I think we need to first ask ourselves if our own children and grandchildren speak the language. For non-speakers of traditional languages there seems to be a double standard at play. We sometimes hear people say things like, “the culture is the language” and “if you don’t speak your language you are not an Indian.” I think if these were really true then parents and grandparents would make special efforts to teach the language, to make sure it is spoken in the home. How important is the language to you if you did not teach it to your own children?

I think a lot of the problems can be addressed if we strengthen the value of teaching. If something is important enough then we need to make the effort to pass it on to our children. If something is important enough to teach then we need to teach it in a good way, with kindness and respect.

## Introspection

*Winona Wheeler*



sometimes received a gift of tobacco and a shot of rum to encourage them to continue trading with the HBC rather than trade with a competing fur trade company.

It is important for young people and adults who are learning the old ways to understand why things are done certain ways. Another question I hear is: “Why is an entire package of manufactured tobacco now required when approaching an Elder?” Fifteen

Elders that have left them feeling ashamed, intimidated or unworthy. I don’t intend any disrespect to anyone but I think it is important to be honest about this stuff.

Many of our people have grown up not learning about traditional ways or learning their languages, and many feel marginalized by their own people because of it. Instead of looking down on them for “not knowing anything” we need to remind ourselves that they



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# The cautionary tale of the crazy drunkards camp

The story goes there was a band of crazy violent drunkards camped in the Moose Mountain area of south eastern Saskatchewan sometime in the early 1870s.

They left a trail of dead as they traveled northwest through the late spring and summer. This mixed band of Cree, Assiniboine and Saulteaux finally camped by Goose Lake near present day town of Rosetown. A thunderstorm came and blasts of lightning bolts flashed to earth, utterly destroying their camp. When the storm passed only two people were left alive. One was a man and the other an old woman they had kept as a slave.

In those days people freely chose which band they belonged to. Chiefs attracted followers who believed in their ability to provide, protect and give wise counsel. Kinship ties were important.

Among the many bands who entered Treaty Six, the one with the largest following was the camp with over 600 followers under Chief Ahtahkakoop. He must have been a great leader. History does not recall who, if anyone, led the crazy drunkards' camp. Perhaps it was Jim Beam.

The story of the drunkards does not make for a romantic history. It may even be offensive. A romantic history has a definite purpose for it shows an

ideal world well worth striving for. History, warts and all also has a purpose. Human failings can provide lessons well worth learning.

Aboriginal gangs are the latest insane reincarnation of the drunkards camp. They, too, are violent and leave a trail of dead. If people die as they live then it is the fate of many gangsters to

Big Bear. They spoke in Cree of days long passed. Every once in awhile they kindly interpreted in English for my behalf. Buller produced an old archive photo of Big Bear and his leading warriors taken at Fort Pitt in 1884. He laughed and called the photo "Big Lie Day". This famous photograph has a story behind it very few people know.

not spoken of but the happy times are most often recalled. The thought of the great Chief Big Bear wearing a women's hat is akin to the Prime Minister wearing a dress. Some may laugh or be outraged. Within a few years all those in the photograph were imprisoned, executed or in exile in Montana.

Some years ago I worked in Drumheller Institution. A young Blood Indian would drop by and visit me whenever I came by. He used to talk matter of factly about his violent past. He had stabbed a lot of people and beat a lot of women. In short he was as sick and twisted as it gets.

One day I came back and noticed he didn't come in to visit me as was his custom. I asked where he was and the inmates told me he had been murdered.

His big mouth got him in trouble with the other inmates and he was stabbed 18 times. He was swearing as he died from loss of blood.

There is a small grave yard behind Drumheller Institution. It is the last resting place of inmates who die without anyone claiming their remains. It is a sad place and aside from a memorial service once a year it's pretty much left alone.

It seems to me where there is no love there is no hope. People don't have to die but like the people of old we all must choose how we live.

## Common Ground

John Cuthand



meet a violent and sudden death like the Indian camp of old. What goes around comes around.

In contrast, I remember old man Four Souls who died peacefully in a high mountain meadow surrounded by wildflowers on the land he loved. He lived a good life and met a beautiful death. Those old people loved one another.

When I was a kid I went with my father to visit old Solomon Buller in North Battleford. Buller was the grandson of Four Sky Thunder, a prominent warrior in the camp of Chief

Old man Buller said when they arrived at Fort Pitt the head trader offered them blankets if they would have their photograph taken wearing women's hats. He was making fun of them hence the phrase Big Lie Day or April Fool.

In the photograph the trader is displaying hides while Big Bear and his men wear their new blankets and fancy feather plumed ladies hats. This revelation may be upsetting to some, hilarious to others. My dad and Buller chuckled.

The suffering of the past is often

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HHRI is based upon a Health Canada plan dealing with Aboriginal healthcare issues.

### List of Health Careers

**NOTE:** *The following list of health career options doesn't necessarily reflect the program options available in all regions. Please contact your Governing Members to determine which ones have been selected for funding in your region.*

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Dietitian  
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General radiographers  
Headstart workers  
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Health educators  
Health information technicians  
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Home health aide  
Medical laboratory technicians  
Medical record transcriptionists  
Medical technologists  
Mental health workers  
Midwives  
Nurses -  
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# Dating in your forties isn't fatal ... or is it?

If you thought dating in your teens was tough - try dating in your forties, especially if you're an Aboriginal woman looking for a good Aboriginal man.

I asked a few folks where you would go to meet someone. Where did you meet your spouse? I was surprised by some of the answers. One lady said she met her fella at an AA meeting and yet another said the treatment centre.

I'm guessing that these women exhausted all other options for finding a date.

Some women told me they met their guys at the bar, lounge or nightclub ... I'm sensing a theme here and perhaps these are not the best places to look for a date. The computer savvy ladies have said that they met guys online in internet chat rooms, Facebook and other online dating sites.

I'm so old school I still prefer to meet the guy in person. I have one girlfriend who married a fella she met online - I thought she was nuts but it's been over five years and she's still married and still happy, so this may be an option. A few of the Aboriginal women said they go to round dances and pow wows when they want to 'snag'. The non-Aboriginal sisters say they go to grocery stores, parks, museums and libraries to meet men, and they were dead serious.

I gather that there are many places that you can meet someone but the trick is finding the good one. Most men in their forties have been married, have

children, or want more children. Most women are independent and not looking for anyone to take care of them; they don't want to have anymore children and they don't want to have to take care of their spouse.

So where does this leave us? I spoke with a couple of Elders and asked for their wisdom.

## Sandee Sez

*Sandra Ahenakew*



"You have to love yourself, be good to yourself. You cannot love another person if you don't love yourself," they said.

Think about what you want in a partner and look

What do you think? Are there any good, healthy, single Aboriginal fellas out there?

In the interest of fairness I also posed the same questions to some of my male friends. They don't seem to stress about dating in their forties and some aren't even interested in trying anymore. One friend is content to live alone - he can watch all the sports he wants, eat what he wants when he wants, go where he wants, and golf anytime he feels like it.

He is quite content to pay someone to come in and clean his house and no nagging is guaranteed.

In the end we are all searching for the same thing - someone to share our time on earth with. When you are lucky enough to find that special person - build your relationship on honesty, trust, love and respect. Let these traits be the foundation of your relationship - can't hurt to give it a try.

...

Have you had your yearly physical with your family doctor? Check-up with the dentist? Eyes checked? It's important that we make time to take care of ourselves.

Make regular check-ups with your doctor, dentist and optometrist a part of your regular routine. I enjoy hearing from you.

Email your questions and comments to [sandee2says@yahoo.com](mailto:sandee2says@yahoo.com)

or send them snail mail to Eagle Feather News c/o Sandee Sez P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.

*When you are lucky enough to find that special person - build your relationship on honesty, trust, love and respect.*

for those qualities when you meet people. One woman I spoke with just said she has stopped looking because there are no good, healthy, single Aboriginal men.

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**Jennifer Lejan**

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# Program prepares students for leadership jobs

BY SOPHIE LITTLECHIEF-MARNER

A new and innovative program at the First Nations University of Canada is giving students training and experience in intercultural leadership, which participants says helps them in their personal and professional goals.

The Intercultural Leadership Program (ILP) is drawing students who want to work for Saskatchewan's Crown corporations, and other organizations that value diversity.

Cassandra Opikokew is a third year communications student who completed the introduction to leadership courses last year and will complete the advanced leadership courses, leadership culture camp, leadership project and internship this year.

"I recommend that everybody take this leadership program, because we all need to work and interact with people who are different from ourselves, and we need training and experience to do that well," Opikokew says.

Penny Smoke is new to the ILP program. "I want to develop my leadership skills and to be able to put the ILP certificate on my resume. I also want to be able to get a job with a Crown Corporation, and this program will help me to do that," said Smoke.

A major objective of the ILP is to train people for management positions at the Saskatchewan Crowns, including SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, Saskatchewan Transportation Corporation, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, Saskatchewan Water, the Saskatchewan Development Fund Corporation and Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan.

The ILP is offered in partnership between the First Nations University and University of Regina and receives its funding

from the Crown Investment Corporation (CIC). ILP coordinator Annette Ermine says students are excited about the program because it gives them an opportunity to explore and experience leadership at all levels.

"This fall, students will take part in field trips to the Saskatchewan legislature, the FSIN legislative assembly, the Treaty 4 Gathering, a city council meeting and a student council meeting," says Ermine.

Perry Bellegarde, Vice President of Labour and Aboriginal Initiatives Division, CIC, says the program is provided for all youth in the province of Saskatchewan, and will prepare them for the private and public sector.

"The program not only benefits students who learn about various leadership models and the diverse perspectives that exist globally but also the Crown corporations, as it gives the employers the chance to learn about cultural diversity," says Bellegarde.

Students obtain a certificate in Intercultural Leadership by completing 30 credit hour of courses that include five specialized leadership classes and five electives. As well as traditional university students, the ILP is attracting people who already work in Crown corporations, the school boards and provincial agencies.

Courtney Garrett, the Training Coordinator at SaskEnergy says the program will give the employees more of an advantage through the students' internships and work placements.

"They will be trained leaders who are ready to go into any Crown Corporation and the Crowns see that as a definite advantage," she added.

A more diverse and representative workforce will contribute to a workplace that re-



Cassandra Opikokew is a student of the Intercultural Leadership Program.

flects Saskatchewan's diversity.

ILP student Thomas Roussin is benefiting from the classes.

"The leadership program gives us the tools to become a successful leader and team player," said Roussin.

"I was interested in learning about intercultural team building and was also impressed by the fact that it looked at both aspects of Aboriginal and European ways of thinking."

Opikokew says the program expanded her perspective of other cultures.

"It gave me skills to work with people of different cultures than my own, to help understand, and to learn about different cul-

tures. In terms of my personal life I want to learn how to talk and listen and get along."

Ross Pratt is completing the ILP at the same time as he does his Business Administration degree. This summer he is interning at SaskTel.

"It's not just First Nations or Indigenous Peoples that have issues to solve," says Pratt. "I understand that people have different views and I can learn from that."

"And then we can work together – whether it's an individual, group, organization or business."

To register for fall, contact Annette Ermine at (306) 790-5950 extension 3233 or e-mail her at [aermine@firstnationsuniversity.ca](mailto:aermine@firstnationsuniversity.ca)

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Elder Edward Baldhead, Dunes General Manager Gary Daniels, Elder Joe Crowe, Senator Melvin Littlecrow, and Elder Peter Nippi help cut the ribbon in front of more than a thousand eager guests on opening night at the new Dakota Dunes Casino.

# Casino will enhance thriving First Nation

• Continued from Page One

“Every time I go somewhere, people are always asking when we’re opening.”

Daniels thinks a lot of the excitement is because no one has seen the inside until the grand opening.

The casino, which will be open seven days a week, features 630 slot machines, 12 live game tables, and four poker tables. The slot machines are the most up-to-date in slot machine technology: rather than coins or chips, the machines spew tickets, which can then either be put back into the machine or redeemed for money at a cashier or terminal similar to an automated teller machine.

There is also a multi-purpose room that holds 500 people with tables and more than 700 with just chairs. There will be live entertainment on weekends and the casino plans on featuring larger acts roughly every quarter.

Whitecap is already well-known for its golf course. Dakota Dunes Golf Links was named Best New Canadian Course in 2005 by Golf Digest, which was the first time a Saskatchewan course won any award from the publication.

An already-prospering First Nation, the casino will only add to that.

“Its great for Whitecap with 400 people coming and going, to and from work everyday,” says Daniels. “They’re using the grocery store, getting gas.”

And that’s not counting all the people who will come and play the slots. Daniels is expecting it to be busy right away, just because of all the anticipation.

Daniels himself has been busy constantly since last September when he came on board. He is responsible for getting all the necessary equipment, such as the slot machines and chairs, the majority of which are from Las Vegas; the game tables from Ontario; the chips from Las Vegas; as well as any supplies needed for the offices and kitchen.

• Continued on Page 11

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# Daniels expects a busy three months

• Continued from Page 10

Before coming to Dakota Dunes, Daniels was the assistant general manager at the Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton, and he worked as a project officer prior to that at the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

Daniels, who is from the Mistawasis First Nation, got into the business by coincidence. He moved down to Las Vegas to play hockey and played across the southern states before deciding to go to

university. He had to take a program that neither the University of Saskatchewan or Regina offered, otherwise he would have had to move back to go to school. He decided on Hotel and Casino Administration because it was a different program.

Daniels expects at least the next three months to be as crazy as the last year. The casino is open Sunday to Wednesday from nine a.m. until three a.m. and Thursday to Saturday until four a.m.

# Awesome facility didn't disappoint

With great anticipation and much fanfare the grand opening of the Dakota Dunes Casino came to be, early, under budget and awesome. A real treat to the eyes.

After weeks of training, the staff welcomed over 3,000 friends of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations family on August 8 and on August 9 welcomed over 4,000 more friends to witness the cutting of the official ribbon and for the first time the public could finally see the inside the world class casino that will bring millions of tourist and gaming dollars into Saskatchewan.

The people were not disappointed. The casino was put together with attention to every detail. Marble floors. Luxurious carpet. First Nation symbolism interwoven throughout the design of the walls, lights, carpet, games and ceiling. A big area for shows and banquets, and games, plenty of games.

The Dakota Dunes Casino, another one of those Saskatoon shouldas ... shoulda been downtown with the arena ... will make SIGA, the Tribal Council and the city of Saskatoon proud, and a lot of money, for the next many years.

Let the games begin!

- John Lagimodiere



Pat Cook, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for SIGA and Lionel Tootosis, Dakota Dunes Development Team Phase Leader in front of the signature blue wall that greets all visitors to the Dunes.

# More Dunes coverage coming in next month's edition

Due to publishing deadlines, we were unable to bring you the complete story of the Dakota Dunes Casino. Next month we will bring you insights from Wilma Isbister, the President of STC Casino Holdings and Doug Porter, Corporate Secretary, two of the leads on the project for the Saskatoon Tribal Council. They attended over 400 meetings during this project and have some stories to tell. We are also interviewing Elders so we understand their role in the casino development. We will also tell stories of the opening night, insights from Chief Darcy Bear and details on this amazingly beautiful building that will put Saskatoon and the Whitecap Dakota First Nation on the international stage when it comes to gaming and hospitality.

Editor



It was standing room only on opening night at the Dakota Dunes Casino on August 9.

Member of Parliament,  
Blackstrap,  
**Lynne Yelich**  
congratulates the Saskatchewan  
Indian Gaming Authority,  
the Saskatoon Tribal Council &  
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on the  
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Premier Lorne Calvert presented the giant check for \$834,136 to SNTC General Manager Donna Heimbecker and John Lagimodiere, a member of the Theatre Company's board of directors and the publisher of Eagle Feather News.

## Province sets the stage for major renovations at Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company

Aboriginal performing artists in Saskatchewan will soon enjoy increased access to professional opportunities with an \$834,136 Building Communities Program investment from the province of Saskatchewan. The funding will go to the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company for renovations at the Black Box Theatre in Saskatoon.

"It is important that artists in Saskatchewan are able to pursue viable careers," Premier Lorne Calvert said. "The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company has enabled young performing artists from all over Saskatchewan to realize their dreams and work in a supportive and professional environment."

"The renovations to the Black Box Theatre will provide a permanent and stable venue for emerging and professional Aboriginal artists."

The Premier made the funding announcement in Saskatoon at the Theatre Companies venue at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival. The renovations at the Black Box Theatre include an upgrade to health and safety standards, increased accessibility for the public, expanded seating capacity by nearly 100 per cent and specialized lighting and technical equipment for professional productions. The renovation is expected to raise the profile of Aboriginal performing arts in the province and broaden the scope of the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's operations.

The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company is the only Aboriginal-owned and operated professional theatre in Canada. Their mandate is to create, develop, produce and present innovative cultural and artistic experiences that develop and promote the richness and diversity of Aboriginal artists and cultures.

"Developing healthy and vibrant communities through the arts is the cornerstone of our work," Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company general manager Donna Heimbecker said. "To meet the increased demand for our programs and services major renovations and equipping of our existing facility is needed. This contribution moves us significantly closer to realizing our goal."

"It represents increased capacity to further our commitment to continue to provide programs and services such as our youth empowerment, professional theatre arts training and outreach initiatives as well as community and professional theatre productions."

The Building Communities Program is providing \$100 million for cultural and recreational infrastructure over three years, beginning in 2006-07. The program seeks to ensure the sustainability of cultural and recreational infrastructure in communities throughout the province.

## Merasty leaving politics

OTTAWA—Gary Merasty, Member of Parliament for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, announced recently that he will resign his position as MP on August 31, 2007, to pursue an opportunity in the private sector.

"It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation from the Parliament of Canada today," said Mr. Merasty. "I regret to be stepping down at this exciting time of renewal and revitalization for the Liberal Party."

"That said, family considerations are paramount for me at this point in my life," he added.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion thanked Mr. Merasty for his tremendous contributions to the Liberal Caucus, his constituents and all Canadians.

"During his time as an MP, Mr. Merasty has been an extra-ordinary representative for his constituents in Northern Saskatchewan. His commitment to improving the quality of life for Canadians in Aboriginal and Northern communities is outstanding.

"He has contributed greatly to raising awareness of the challenges facing these communities and working towards solutions, including through his impassioned defence of the Kelowna Accord," said Mr. Dion.

Elected in January of 2006, Merasty served the Liberal Caucus as Associate Critic for Indian Affairs and Special Advisor on Aboriginal Outreach.

He also served on several House of Commons committees, including the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-

Food and the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

He most recently sat on the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

"I have enjoyed working with our Leader Stéphane Dion, and I am confident that his integrity, his passion and his steadfast commitment to Canada will inspire Canadians to choose him as their next Prime Minister," said Mr. Merasty.

Merasty also thanked his colleagues in the Liberal caucus.

"In particular, I would like to thank Ralph Goodale for providing an excellent example of service to Saskatchewan."

Dion wished Merasty well in his future endeavors.

"I wish Mr. Merasty and his family all the best in the future."

"I know that his passionate commitment to public service will lead him to continue to serve the people of northern Saskatchewan, while he pursues new opportunities and spends valued time with his family."

There has been some speculation that Merasty will wind up working for Saskatchewan uranium giant Cameco.



MP Gary Merasty

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"On behalf of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus, I'd like to recognize the many contributions and accomplishments Aboriginal people have made in the province, and thank them for all they've done to make Saskatchewan great."  
**-Brad Wall**

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# Aboriginal History Month an idea that gained acceptance quickly

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

When the Regina Aboriginal Professionals Association set out to have June proclaimed as Aboriginal History Month, they didn't really expect it to be this June.

"We achieved this in record time," said RAPA president Joely BigEagle.

"We started the campaign on May 1 and on May 30, we got a call from (Advanced Education and Employment Minister) Warren McCall saying that he wanted to support the initiative."

According to BigEagle, Minister McCall and Maynard Sonntag, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations, worked together to make Aboriginal History Month a reality in Saskatchewan. The province made the proclamation on June 11, 2007.

"We were just surprised that it all happened so quickly," said BigEagle.

"Getting the proclamation and some national attention was way beyond anything we expected."

BigEagle got the idea to lobby for an official Aboriginal History Month after seeing ads for Black History Month on MTV. Each February, the music-gear station features a month-long campaign of edgy and engaging ads featuring pop icons and other esteemed African Americans whose personal and professional triumphs are inspiration to youth of all races.

"Seeing that, I thought that's what we

should be doing," said BigEagle. "We should be recognizing our aboriginal superstars whether they're in music, politics, business or treaty development."

Two-hundred-and-seventy-five copies of a letter asking for support for the month were sent to First Nations councils and chiefs, tribal councils, the City of Regina, MPs, MLAs and a number of private businesses.

The letter campaign was bolstered by an email blitz that started with BigEagle and RAPA's network of contacts and then spread nationwide.

RAPA proclaimed June as Aboriginal History Month at the start of their campaign and, soon after, Regina Mayor Pat Fiocco proclaimed the month for the City of Regina.

On May 30, NDP Aboriginal Affairs Critic Jean Crowder (MP Nanaimo – Cowichan) brought a motion to the House of Commons in support of a National Aboriginal History Month.

At the campaign's start, BigEagle kept her expectations in check.

"We just thought 'we'll start it, even wait until next year, but we'll proclaim it, have our launch on June 1 and see if anyone else jumps on board'," BigEagle said.

"From the overwhelming support we received, we're wondering why we didn't do this sooner.

"It's happening now, that's the important part."



Joely BigEagle was thrilled to learn that the Province has designated June as Aboriginal History Month.



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# First Nation police service is province's first

BY MORGAN BEAUDRY

Policing history is being made right here in Saskatchewan. On May 25, 2007, Chiefs representing the Bands of Little Black Bear, Star Blanket, Carry the Kettle, Peepeekisis and Okanese First Nation signed a five-year policing agreement with federal and provincial governments and the File Hills Board of Police Commissioners to create Saskatchewan's first-ever self-administered First Nations police service.

File Hills First Nations Police Service's main offices are located on Okanese First Nation. Okanese Chief Marie Anne Day Walker says that the new police service will provide more than law enforcement to the five communities that the men and women of the seven-officer force will serve.

"To me, community policing means engaging with individuals and families and working towards gaining trust," said Chief Day Walker. "That's what policing is about; not driving by or only coming out to the community when there's been a call."

Five of the seven officers, including the service's police chief, former RCMP Staff Sergeant Ralph Martin, will police the Okanese, Peepeekisis, Little Black Bear and Star Blanket First Nations and two officers will police the Carry the Kettle First Nation.

Like a municipal police service, officers have the authority to make arrests and conduct investigations but while the force itself is subject to the Police Act and the regulations set out in the Saskatchewan Police Commission, the service is answerable to a five-person police board representing the five First Nations the new force serves.

"We have an objective to resolve local issues using local processes," said Martin. "The board will provide direction to the police service so that we can get a better grasp of the local issues."

Martin said the board is eager to see a more restorative approach to law enforcement rooted in a deep respect for tradition and traditional justice methods such as community sentencing circles.

In addition to seeking the board's input, the service has an Elder/advisor who Martin turns to for insight on cultural policy.

The police service office, located in the health services building, also has access to a room that acts as a sacred space for smudges and other traditional ceremonies.

Engaging First Nation youth is high on the list of priorities for the fledgling force. Martin hopes to continue the cadet program, started last year. The program, run in partnership between the police service and the Peepeekisis School, promotes healthy activities and life-choices for youths between the ages of 10 and 18.

The police service's transition to becoming fully self-administered began in 1993 when federal and provincial governments and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations signed an agreement for the policing of First Nations in Saskatchewan that provided First Nations with input into policing in their communities.

The \$968,200 annual budget is cost-shared 52/48 per cent by the federal and provincial governments respectively, and will be negotiated each year and adjusted for inflation and operating costs.

"It's our hope that in five years the agreement be renewed again," said Murray Sawatsky, executive director of Law Enforcement Services Branch with Saskatchewan Justice.

While File Hills First Nations Police Service is the first self-administered First Nation police service in Saskatchewan it may not be the last, Sawatsky says.

About 40 Saskatchewan First Nations contract their policing services through Community Tripartite Policing Agreements (CTAs). CTAs give First Nations the power to direct and shape how police services are delivered in their communities and can be a step toward establishing an independent, self-administered police service.

"Some First Nations are looking at the option of being fully self-administered. Certainly, we're working with those communities to see whether we can make it happen for them," said Sawatsky.

According to First Nation Chiefs of Police Association, there are about 40 self-administered First Nation police services in Canada, most of which are in Ontario and Western Canada.



Police Chief Ralph Martin and Const. Melanie Meade of the File Hills First Nation Police Service.

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# Caron house opens at Batoche

The Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue joined Ronald Caron to untie a Métis sash to officially re-open the Caron Home at Batoche National Historic Site of Canada, just prior to Back to Batoche Days.

“Canada’s New Government is proud to support the efforts of the Métis to help conserve this unique 1896 home,” said Skelton. “The newly restored home and the programming that will be provided by Métis elders and others will ensure that all Canadians have the opportunity to experience and appreciate this vibrant community.”

“We are thrilled to see this component of our heritage brought to life. It is important for others to see this place not only as a symbol of Métis identity and pride, but as being representative of Métis family, community and cultural values as well,” said Karen Shmon, administrator of the Cultural Artifact Repatriation Program at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, a partner in the Caron Home Restoration.

In 1872 Jean Caron Sr., his wife Marguerite (nee Dumas) and their children first settled in the parish of St Laurent de Grandin north of Batoche. In October of 1881, the Caron family moved to Lot 52 at Batoche and began construction on a new home, which was completed by 1885. General Middleton’s forces burned the Caron home on May 9, 1885, the first day of the Battle of Batoche. The North West Field Force set up their zareba or military encampment on his land during the battle. The Caron family built the present day house between 1891 and 1895 to replace the one destroyed. An addition was constructed in the 1950s. Descendants of Jean Caron Sr. lived in the home until 1970.

At Back to Batoche, the organizers took time to recognize two couples as Mr. and Mrs. Batoche. Cliff and Loraine Hessdorfer, of Saskatoon and Leo and Blanche Slater, of Prince Albert. Unfortunately Mr. Slater passed away on July 23 at the age of 73 after 55 years of marriage to Blanche.

## CUTTING THE RIBBON

Ronald Caron and MP Carol Skelton cut the ribbon to officially open the Caron house at the Batoche National Historic Site.



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This four-week training includes employment readiness and practical trade skills to pre-qualify First Nation participants for upcoming temporary and permanent employment within SaskEnergy and TransGas throughout Saskatchewan. These positions are responsible for performing a variety of manual and semi-skilled tasks associated with installing, operating, servicing, maintaining and repairing the gas system.

October 9 – November 2, 2007

SIIT Trade Training Center  
501 – 23rd Street West, Saskatoon

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- Grade 12 or equivalent
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- Resume with cover letter

SaskEnergy/TransGas may require the following for offers of employment:

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Submit Applications to:

Admissions Department  
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology  
229 – 4th Avenue South, Saskatoon, SK S7K 4K3  
Fax: (306) 244-1391 E-mail: arcandd@siit.sk.ca

For more information contact:  
Sharon Muller at (306) 244-9204

Application deadline is August 24, 2007  
Interviews will be scheduled the week of  
September 10, 2007



### Nēhiyāwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program

The Nēhiyāwiwin Cree Language and Culture Program at Confederation Park Community School is accepting Kindergarten to Grade Two application forms for the 2007-2008 school year.

This unique oral fluency language and culture program is for any Kindergarten, Grade One or Grade Two student wishing to learn the Cree language. The Kindergarten program is morning only.

Application forms can be picked up at your neighborhood public elementary school, Saskatoon Tribal Council or the Saskatoon Public School’s main office. For further information call 683-7180.

Please forward completed forms to Confederation Park Community School.

Confederation Park Community School  
3555 J.A. MacDonald Road  
S7L 4R9

### Okiciyapi Partnership

Saskatoon Tribal Council  
Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.  
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## CERTIFICATE IN INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP



# Communities, residential school settlement recipients consider financial planning to protect their payouts

BY ANNETTE ERMINE

In Saskatchewan, thousands are set to receive their portion of the Indian Residential School Settlement by the end of this year, and what to do with the settlement money is a concern for many.

Jeremy Fourhorns from Piapot First Nation is waiting for his Common Experience Payment. He spent four years at the Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School also known as Whitecalf (Wahpi Moos-toosis) Collegiate.

"This money is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Fourhorns. "I am concerned that people are not thinking long term. A brand new car is only new for awhile and then what?"

Fourhorns is thinking about his future. He has already determined a viable business venture that will provide him with a sustainable future.

Fourhorns first learned of the Indian Residential Settlement Agreement when he accompanied his Kokum to a meeting at the Piapot Band Hall. He noticed the group of attendees were older and assumed the meeting did not apply to him, so he left.

When Fourhorns learned later that he was eligible to receive compensation, he began thinking of how best to spend this money. Fourhorns, a recent graduate from the First Nations University of Canada, says that while thousands of dollars will not erase the atrocities faced by our people at Res-

idential School but we can make the best of this.

The 27-year-old believes many people who are set to receive similar payments are not thinking long term.

"Some people are living dysfunctional lives and the money is only going to fuel their situations," said Fourhorns.

An estimated \$400 million will be paid to thousands of residential



school survivors in Saskatchewan by the end of this year. Many people, as well as the First Nations where they live, are concerned whether this windfall of money is a blessing or a curse. Communities are helping their members prepare for the coming windfall.

Cowessess First Nation is preparing band members by offering information, hosting workshops and keeping members up-to-date on the status of the

payments and when they will be issued. The community also hosted a Kokum and Moshum tea and information session that attracted more than 100

participants, including people from nearby Sakimay, Kahkewistahaw, Ochapowace First Nations.

Christina Transberg, Community

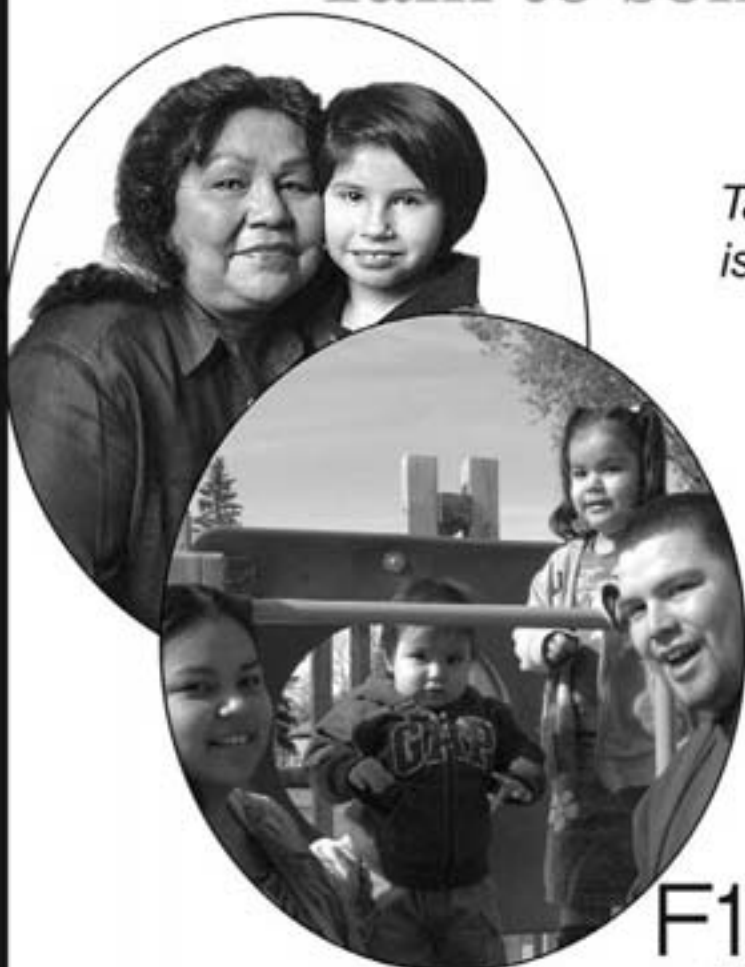


Wellness Coordinator at Cowessess, said many people at the Kokum and Moshum Tea workshop raised concerns such as when the payments would arrive and what the impact of the new injection of money to the community would be. Cowessess First Nation continues to develop programs to ensure their band members are informed of potential risks that may arise from the release of the money.

Members can also turn to federal programs such as those created by Health Canada. The Indian Residential School Mental Health Support Program provides support services to residential school survivors who are resolving claims against the Government of Canada through the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process or through the litigation for abuse suffered while attending Residential School.

*Part of the healing journey...*

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Agency Chiefs pee wee soccer boys put their best foot forward for the Eagle Feather News photographer. Agency Chiefs Tribal Council went on to win the overall title. (Photos by Blue Pelletier)

## Agency Chiefs take Games crown

The Agency Chiefs Tribal Council was the most improved team at this year's First Nations Summer Games, increasing their point total by 311 from the previous games.

Their total of 1,033 points was also good enough for first place in the overall team standings.

The Agency Chiefs is composed of individuals from the following First Nations; Ahtakakoop, Big River, Pelican Lake, and Witchekan.

Competing for the first time at the Summer Games, The Woodlands Tribal Council was able to make a major impact and finished 5th overall.

The results are; ACTC 1033 points, MLTC 919.5, STC 672, PAGC 643, Woodland 630.5, BTC 615.5, TATC 573.5, FHQTC 543.5, OLFN 340, SET4TC 276.5 and YTC 197.5

## Wuttunee steering Red Pheasant down the right path

It's only been a couple years since he became Chief of Red Pheasant, but Sheldon Wuttunee said that "winning the bid and hosting the Summer Games here at home was a goal of mine right from the start."

The last few years there have been major changes on the reserve.

"The effects of these games will last for years and will be enjoyed by the youth around here for a long time."

Wuttunee spoke about how critical it is to have sport as an outlet, using it as a positive tool to help kids gain self-confidence and pride in oneself.

• Continued on Page 19



PAGC and Meadow Lake Tribal Council squirt girls shake hands after a Prince Albert win at the 2007 First Nations Summer Games.

## Saskatchewan Credit Unions and You

### Attention – Indian Residential School Survivors and their Families

#### Being Prepared

With the approval of the Residential School Settlement, survivors and their families will finally be able to get some closure for the abuse that was suffered so many years ago. But for those receiving compensation, there are a lot of things that need to be taken into consideration.

If you have a family member or loved ones who will be receiving a settlement, please take note of the following information and pass it along.

With settlement cheques set to be sent out this fall, ensuring you have a sound plan in place is very important. If you don't already have one, one of the first things you should consider is to set up an account ahead of time with a credit union or financial institution of your choice.

Setting up an account is important, as you will want a safe place to keep the money that you will be receiving.

#### Why should I set up an account?

- Having a large amount of cash around is dangerous in terms of increasing your chance of being victimized by fraud or theft.
- Cheque cashing businesses will charge a large fee for cashing any and all cheques
- Financial institutions do not have to cash government issued cheques over \$1,500 without an account at that financial institution
- Financial institutions do not carry a lot of cash on hand unless they know in advance that cash is going to be needed for a specific reason
- Having cash readily available makes it too easy to make spur of the moment purchases
- All deposits you make at Saskatchewan credit unions are 100% guaranteed and available to you whenever you want to have access to them
- Monthly statements will help you keep track of and manage your money
- You will have access to a variety of additional financial products and services
- Avoid line-ups – faster service
- You can also receive your payment through Direct Deposit, which will speed up the process and puts the money straight into your account

The biggest reason for setting up an account is for your personal safety. By placing the settlement in an account, it will remain in a safe place until the funds are needed.

#### Opening an Account is Easy

When you are opening an account, you should find a credit union or financial institution that best meets your needs, is close to where you live, has low service fees, and convenient hours.

You will want to visit or call your local credit union or financial institution and ask them about the different kinds of accounts they offer.

#### What do I need to open an account?

To open an account, certain legislative conditions must be met. You will be required to:

- Provide your name, address and date of birth
- Complete account opening documentation
- Provide two pieces of identification, one of which must be a driver's license, social insurance number, provincial health card, birth certificate, Indian Status Card or similar identification
- You may open an account regardless of your employment status

Depending on the type of account, you can pay bills, cash cheques, and you may qualify for a debit card, which would allow you to pay for things directly from your account.

#### Saskatchewan Credit Unions and You

Please contact your local credit union for more information on the products and services they offer and they will help you select the type of account that is best suited to meet your needs.

Watch future issues of Eagle Feather News for more information on Saskatchewan credit unions or visit [www.saskcu.com](http://www.saskcu.com). If you have questions about the credit union system or their products and services, you can contact us at [communications@saskcentral.com](mailto:communications@saskcentral.com).

# SPARC-ing interest in policing for Aboriginal people

BY HEATHER RUSSELL

All police services are looking for the best and brightest to join them. But recruiting need not be a competitive venture.

The Saskatchewan Police Aboriginal Recruiting Committee (SPARC) is proving that by working collaboratively to attract First Nations and Métis people to careers in policing, there is a benefit to all law enforcement and to the province.

The RCMP is a member of the working committee of SPARC, along with the Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and File Hills Police Services and Saskatchewan Justice. Although each service has its own recruiting strategy, they come together for recruiting events targeting Aboriginal people. Most bring along an Aboriginal role model police officer to make sure the audience can relate to policing and see themselves in the career.

"Ask us our challenges, ask us our successes and pick our brains," RCMP Constable Monique Cooper recently told a recruiting session in Fort Qu'Appelle. "We are here to help you be successful. Our people need you (because) you are the protectors and you are the peacekeepers."

Constable Cooper and the other police recruiters at the event talk to the young people in attendance about their life policing and the obstacles they have overcome to get there. Constable Carol Thomson of the RCMP tells the youth she was a 29-year-old single mother of two living on the Carry the Kettle First Nation when she decided to become a police officer. Because of her shyness, she took public speaking classes to get more confidence. She is now proud of an 18-year career so far which included a stint in the Major Crimes Unit dealing with homicides and other serious crimes.

"The third time was the charm," says Constable Horace Ratt of the Prince Albert Police Service, talking about writing the exam to join the police. Growing up at Pelican Narrows, a Cree community in northern Saskatchewan, Ratt did not learn Eng-

lish until later in his childhood. Although he had a difficult home life, sports kept him out of trouble and he persevered with the police exam and to achieve his dream of being a police officer.

But getting admitted to Police College was not the last hurdle. His struggles with English meant he was in danger of failing a criminal law class. The instructors let him take the exam orally and prove he knew the material.

"Things aren't easy but reach for your goal," he advises young people. "The job is the greatest job there is."

The passion with which Ratt speaks of his career in policing is echoed by all of the presenters. Sergeant Grant Obst of the Saskatoon Police Service may not be Aboriginal, but he certainly has a passion for policing which he brings to the recruiting event.

"(We all have) the same passion, the same commitment, the same honour and the same integrity," he says of his fellow officers, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike.

"No one in policing does it for the money because other occupations make more, but the motivation is the passion."

The presenters in Fort Qu'Appelle were realistic with the potential applicants, telling them that passion alone is not enough. It takes hard work to become a police officer. Many of the speakers emphasized the need to get Grade 12 and to stay out of trouble.

"There is a lot of peer pressure to be involved in things like drugs and alcohol," says Corporal Jim Pratt of the Regina Police Service. "You have to put those aside if you are interested in policing."

"If you are looking at being a police officer, it starts now," adds Chief Ralph Martin of the First Nations self-administered File Hills Police Service, noting many occupations do background checks, and not just police.

Martin also talks about his own 30-year policing career with the RCMP before joining File Hills. Policing is in the family for Martin. All three of his children are currently members of the RCMP in Saskatchewan. But even they had to work to get in. His two sons both

failed on their first attempts.

"Even though they were a cop's kids, it proves there is no back door to get into a police service," he says.

At SPARC events, the police officers all talk about their own experiences and what it takes to get into policing. Then each gives a short "plug" for their police service, talking about training opportunities, advancement and different benefits. But getting applicants interested in policing in general is the goal. The services know some will choose them and some will choose another police agency, but everyone gains by getting more diversity in policing in the province.

"If I were in your shoes, I would apply to every police service," Constable Kelsey Bighetty of the Prince Albert Police Service advised the crowd. "That's how much I wanted it and, if you want it, go for it."

Saskatchewan Justice is co-ordinating the efforts of SPARC. They have seconded Corporal Audra Young of the Regina Police Service as co-ordinator. She tells her own story of a lack of support in her home reserve for her career choice and her decision to ignore that and fulfill her dream.

She summed up the night for the First Nations youth at the Fort Qu'Appelle event with her philosophy: "If you have a good mind, a good heart and you



Const. Kelsey Bighetty says it takes a lot of determination in order to enter the field of policing.

want to help people, policing is an easy job to do."

The young people seemed inspired by the presentations with almost all staying for nearly an hour to visit one or more of the recruiting booths and take Constable Cooper's advice to "pick the brains" of the recruiters on hand.

SPARC will continue to travel the province reaching out to First Nation and Métis people and selling the message that policing is a viable career and a positive way to make a difference.

Almost ten percent of our sworn officers are  
Aboriginal men and women.  
We would like you to join them.



Saskatoon Police Service  
Recruitment Information Session  
Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

The information session will be held at the Saskatoon Police Service headquarters located at 130 4th Avenue North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Everyone is welcome, registration is not required. Please register to write the entrance exam and take the physical abilities test by submitting your full name, date of birth, address and phone number to:  
recruiting@police.saskatoon.sk.ca or call (306) 975-8282.  
www.police.saskatoon.sk.ca

The next written Entrance Exam is scheduled for  
Wednesday, September 19th at 8:00 a.m.  
POPAT September 20th at 10:00 a.m.



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SPORTS



Woodlands 10 and under boys soccer team hangs out between games.



Fans would do anything to stay cool in the plus 35 Celsius weather.

### Next up, Onion Lake

In 2009 the Summer Games will take place on the Onion Lake First Nation, which is located near the Saskatchewan - Alberta border.

The organizers plan on incorporating traditional inspired events such as archery, canoeing, and stick games.

These will be demonstration sports, but the hope is that they will be added on as regular scheduled events for future games.

“By giving kids an idea of where they come from and who they are we are also giving them an identity,” said Grant Whitestone, chair of the 2009 Games committee.

### Some random thoughts

I first met Kohlton Parenteau at the North American Indigenous Games in Denver last summer and he made quite an impression on me. After taking home three gold medals (100m, 200m, and long jump) and adding two silver (javelin and 4 X 100m) he only added to his reputation as one of our provinces best athletes.

The Prince Albert Grand Council and Wahpeton resident stated: “The games experience was very enjoyable and I met a lot really cool people”.

When I asked him what his plans were the rest of the summer, he responded, “Start training for NAIG trials (in September)”.

How any of these kids stayed out there in the heat is beyond me. I was just walking around and it was unbearable. The temperatures were at or near 35 C and with the humidity it was just ridiculous.

A thank you must go out to all the volunteers who helped make these games the tremendous event it was. Those who worked the security, food prep and servers, cleanup, organizers, coaches, managers, chaperones, and all of you I forgot ... Chief Wuttunee, the Red Pheasant First Nation, and all the games participants and attendees applaud your efforts. I would like to say how nice it was to just be a part of these Games. The people who helped me find my way from facility to facility were very helpful. The games were very well organized and the atmosphere was second to none. Great job Red Pheasant and hopefully Onion Lake learned a thing or two and does an even better job at the next Summer Games ... Our kids deserve it!



Red Pheasant Chief Sheldon Wuttunee took time to pose with the leaders of tomorrow.

**Women's Texas Scramble**  
**August 20, 2007**  
**Dakota Dunes Golf Links**

**Date: August 20, 2007**  
**Entry Fee \$620.00**

Includes:  
 Green fees, Cart, CP's, LD and Supper  
**Shotgun @ 12:00 noon**

This scramble is in support of the Cultural Celebration and Pow wow (Honoring Our Residential School Survivors) which will be held on October 19,20 & 21, 2007 at Credit Union Place. We look forward to having you participate in this day of golf at the beautiful and challenging Dakota Dunes!

Cheques can be made payable to FSIN Pow Wow Committee  
 250-103C Packham Avenue Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 4K4

For more information please contact:  
**Pat Cook 477- 7777 or Bettie Paley @ 477-7352 or visit our website www.siga.sk.ca**

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 11 PM MARTY GRAMBO  
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SATURDAY  
 AUG 18TH  
 10:30 PM



SATURDAY, AUG 18TH  
 MIDNIGHT

PLUS: JESSICA LORIN (SAT 2:30 PM) • DARLENE TULETA (SAT 4 PM) • ROB MUNRO (SAT 9 PM)

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