

# Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

## SaskTel Youth Awards carry important message

By Mike Gosselin  
For Eagle Feather News

The 10th Annual SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards were held in familiar territory and delivered a familiar message: the kids are indeed alright. TCU Place in Saskatoon was buzzing with Phantoms, grad dresses and groups of tuxedo-clad boys who couldn't wait to drive the Pontiac G6 they rented together. Even three award nominees were attending their

graduation from Mount Royal Collegiate.

Inside Gallery B, Sky Boyz Singers kicked us off in awe-inspiring fashion and Donnie Speidel got things cooking with his usual grace, wit and humour (more or less); complete with a plug for MNS' latest business venture, 'Rebellion Cologne.'

Awards Committee Chair Colleen Cameron was quickly spotted maneuvering her way through the room offering countless 'thank you's' for making the awards possible.

"We are pleased with the great turn-out tonight," Cameron said on a breather from her rounds, "We love that we were able to showcase our Aboriginal youth through the poster commemoration and to honour, on our tenth anniversary, ten more outstanding youth."

The poster campaign features ten past award winners and was on brilliant display at the back of the room. Shasta Bear won the 2007 Sports Award and feels honoured with the on-going recognition.

"It just feels really, really great to be here. I'm so happy to still be a part of all this."

Not to mention having her face on some pretty jazzy-looking posters plastered all over the province.

Dallas Fiddler provided the evening's youth entertainment by, ahem, fiddling up a storm with his dad Phil Boyer on the guitar. Fiddler is currently working with



Donnie Speidel was the Master of Ceremonies for the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards and is seen here singing an honour song for the youth.

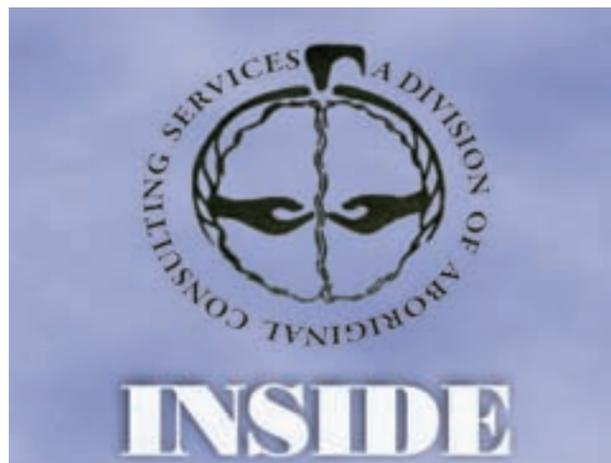
(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

the Master of the Métis Fiddle John Arcand.

"It's absolutely amazing, I see him once a week," Fiddler said after winning the Fine Arts Award. "I would have never believed playing the fiddle would bring me so much."

Fiddler, who's also an established martial artist, has a big summer planned and will be performing at Fiddle Fest and competing at Back to Batoche.

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**MEDAL WINNER**  
It took a few years to get to him but artist Ernie Scoles finally has his Golden Jubilee medal. - Page 8



**DANCING'S DANDY**  
These young dancers have found a new world of pride and self-esteem. - Page 13



**IT'S A WRAP**  
Byron Charles is the winner of MBC's Write a Rap contest. - Page 12



**CUMFI HOME**  
CUMFI has acquired a home of its own and Shirley Isbister couldn't be happier. - Page 14



**A GOOD SPORT**  
Adrianna Morrison is this year's winner of the SaskTel Youth Award for sports. - Page 24



Well, look who went on a trip and came home with gold! Team Saskatchewan won a close 4-3 game over Eastern Door & North to capture this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championship, hosted by the Garden River First Nation with games being played in Sault St Marie, Ontario.

Welcome to our  
Sports, Youth, SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards  
Coming In June:  
National Aboriginal Day  
CPMA #40027204

# Better late than never, Scoles receives Golden Jubilee Medal

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

Have you ever Googled yourself? As an artist with lots of action online, artist and entrepreneur Ernie Scoles often Googles his name to see if there are reviews or things written about him that he should know about.

One search a few months ago caught Scoles' eye.

"I did my usual search and this popped up and I kind of said 'hmmm,'" said Scoles.

What popped up was his name as a recipient of the Queens Golden Jubilee Medal ... in 2002, six years ago. The thing was, Scoles had never received the medal, nor knew that he was so honoured.

After a bit of research and a call to his Member of the Legislative Assembly, Joceline Schriemer, it was set up for him to finally receive his medal from the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, Dr. Gordon Barnhart.

Scoles has been the recipient of many awards and accolades over the years, but to receive this medal, he bought himself his first sport coat.

"I think this is a pretty special medal to receive that is given only to a select few," said Scoles.

"In my area, there are many people that are more deserving than me that are not fully recognized, people who are working behind the scenes. I just happen to be more visible, maybe."

Influenced by the late Isaac Bignell, his mentor and friend, Ernie's work in woodland imagery reflects his Cree heritage and is found in collections throughout Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. In 1992, Ernie was awarded the Governor General's Canada 125 Medal for his contributions to his community, one of his many awards.

Scoles is very active in the community and his art and framing store is a destination for anyone wanting corporate gifts or a great framing job.

Scoles spends much time and energy contributing to the community.

"We do lots of donations, in fact I do not remember the last time we said no," said Scoles. "I like to support worthwhile causes. Youth events and fundraising for cancer are causes close to my heart."

When not working at the store, Scoles loves to golf. He also tries to impart his love of golf on youth. To do so, he hosts the Annual Scoles Fine Art and Framing Golf Tournament which raises money for a youth golf program at the Dakota Dunes Golf Course.

"At our junior golf day we will have



Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart congratulates Ernie Scoles, a recipient of the 2002 Queens Golden Jubilee Medal.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

45 kids from seven different reserves who have never golfed before come for a day of lessons and golf," said Scoles. "Golf teaches you skills to deal with life. It teaches patience, you have to look after yourself, lots of self discipline."

Another event close to his heart is the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards.

Each recipient and sponsor receives a Scoles print that he creates specifically for the event.

"These kids are our future," said Scoles. "We need strong youth to carry on what we do."

"I hope when they grow up, they do the same for the next generation."



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## Tyrell Jake Sinclair wins Outstanding Achievement Award

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With hardly enough time to fill our arteries with a desert of cheesecake goodness, Donnie Speidel kept the program on track and the award-winners were announced.

The 2008 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award Winners are: Raquel Pasap, 10th Anniversary Commemorative Award; Sakewew SAEY, Community Service; Sky Boyz Singers & Sun Rise Dancers, Culture; Tamara Mirasty, Education; Act Now, Leadership; Tessa Accose, Spirit; Adrianna Morrison, Sports; Jessica Hueser, Science & Technology; and Tyrell Jake Sinclair, Outstanding Achievement.

"This is a great honour for me and is a reflection of my community," said Tyrell Jake Sinclair, a member of George Gordon First Nation and Outstanding Achievement Award recipient.

"I'm going to U of R to get my business degree and then hopefully work for my community in management."

And the brilliance just kept on coming.

Tamara Mirasty is a single mother of an 11-month old daughter and Education Award winner. She quickly reflects on the ups and downs of being a young mother trying to finish school.

"With being a mom to my baby girl I had to push really hard to maintain a

97% average."

Need she say more? Preparing to enter her first year of Nursing at FNUC in Prince Albert this fall, Mirasty had this advice to offer young people who may be struggling in life.

"I believe nothing is impossible because 'impossible' in itself says 'I'm possible'."

Chatting with these young folks was quickly becoming an exercise in contemporary philosophy. Speaking of exercise, Sports Award winner Adrianna Morrison admitted to kicking some major you-know-what in wrestling this year.

"I competed in city's and provincials and took first," says the Grade 11 dynamo, "and I placed third in nationals."

And she'll be back. The future teacher then smiled and said thank you, concluding the interview. Adrianna's mom then bombed through the crowd with camera ready to go pleading to have a picture of her girl being interviewed. Adrianna then leaned into the voice recorder and said only two words.

"She's weird."

The glint in her eye said otherwise.

And then it was over. Everyone filed out feeling good about their communities, excited for the future and confident in the leaders of tomorrow.

Norlaine Cameron was overheard



The Sky Boyz Singers and Sun Rise Dancers from the Stuart Community High School in Duck Lake, were the recipients of the Culture award which was sponsored by SIGA. The Sky Boys Singers practise weekly the boys are from Grade 7 to 11 where they place great emphasis on teaching of the drum and learning to earn a place at the drum. The Sun Rise Dancers are made up of eight dancers who began at the same time as the drum group. The dancers perform fancy, shawl, jingle and traditional dances. (Photo by Mike Gosselin)

talking about her family's legacy in the RCMP and their ability to overcome grief to continue achieving goals and dreams.

"Education is first. Before sports, chores, friends," she said after watching two sons get awards for their participation in Sky Boyz Singers and Act Now.

"If you're not doing good in school, you're not doing good period. And there's no negotiating."

Pride beamed from the mother of three SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards all together. Norlaine Cameron's son Hal was a 2007 Spirit Award winner and Poster Campaign participant. He plans to

follow his late sister, Robin, and enter the RCMP after completing a Psychology degree at the U of S.

The Cameron family represents the very essence of Aboriginal Youth Award founders Wicahitowin Foundation and its purpose of nurturing tomorrow's leaders as a living legacy to our First Nations veterans – strong, brave and true.

These words apply to every outstanding Aboriginal youth nominated at the 2008 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards.

Same as every other year. Sometimes repetition is an exercise in inspiration.



The 2008 Award recipient for Outstanding Achievement was Tyrell Jacob Sinclair who is from Gordon First Nation and is in grade 12 and attends schools at Raymore School. Tyrell is an outstanding young man with great characteristics, is a diligent student with over an 80% average, talented athlete, student leader and committed to his traditional teachings. He received his award from SaskTel Chair of the Board Grant Kook and Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

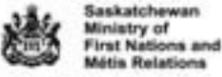


Spring has arrived and students from all over Saskatchewan are preparing to graduate from schools, universities and colleges. Congratulations to all for your hard work and dedication to completing your studies.

Celebrate your achievements, enjoy your successes and remember though your formal schooling may be over, your education continues.

My best wishes to you and your families on behalf of the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations and my colleagues in Government. May you enjoy every success in your future endeavours!

**Honourable June Draude**  
Minister of  
First Nations and Métis Relations





## Office of the Treaty Commissioner



**The Honourable Bill McKnight,  
PC Treaty Commissioner would like to congratulate all  
of the nominees and recipients of the  
SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence.  
Your hard work and dedication to improving your  
lives, and your communities, is admirable.**

*Keep up the good work.*

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## Editorial

### All of our kids need to be safe

This month's themes of Mining Week and Youth, seemingly, are different topics, but really the two topics will be intermingled over the next century in Saskatchewan.

With the demand for Saskatchewan natural resources at an all-time high, the mining industry has never been more profitable, busy, and in such need of great employees.

We are also at a time in our reality where the Supreme Court has ruled that government has a duty to consult with Aboriginal people if development or natural resource extraction is ever going to impact or take place on traditional lands. By the way, all of Saskatchewan was once traditional land.

We also have a young and rapidly growing Aboriginal population that is expected to be the next labour pool. What an exciting opportunity for the entire province to capitalize and realize some wealth for everyone.

With events like the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards highlighting these amazing youth, a person can get excited about the future. Last year's Outstanding Achievement Award winner could not attend the event because he had started at a Cameco mine already the day before. He intends to be an engineer.

There is huge growth up north and Northern Career Quest is working hard to train the future workers. Our education levels are growing, things are positive.

But at the same time there is the young friend of mine that showed up on my front step cranked on cocaine, twitching and decked out in his colours, looking for a ride to the 'hood. He took time to show me the newest stab marks.

I love the kid, but I hate when he has the streets only to live on. Then he gets different, then goes back to jail ... then gets out ... then goes back. Many of us know a young person like that.

They need a safe place like a My Home run by Egadz in Saskatoon. Young people like that need a community to bring them along during this booming economy and keep them safe, oftentimes from themselves. They need love. They need politicians who look out for everyone and not their sons and ignorant not in my backyard folk like Saskatoon city councilors Myles Heidt and Maurice Nault who should resign for being so silly and simple minded.

We have to celebrate the success of our young Aboriginal people and keep them all safe, even the not-so-successful ones.

### What's next, what's new in Eagle Feather

June is National Aboriginal Day and always the much anticipated Eagle Feather News Aboriginal history and trivia quiz. We think it might even be the sixth annual ... or the seventh. Hmmmm ... anyway, a must read edition. See you then.



## Hal Cameron is a fitting role model

To commemorate the 10 year celebration of the SaskTel Youth Awards a poster series of past recipients was created that will be distributed throughout schools in Saskatchewan.

Hal Cameron is a young role model from the Beardy's Okemasis First Nation and he is represented in the series. He is currently enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan in psychology, but he wants to be an RCMP officer.

"I want to follow in my sister's footsteps," he said at the awards gala.

He was referring to Constable Robin Cameron, an RCMP officer who was shot and killed on duty almost two years ago.

"I think of her when I feel down, and it kind of gives me a boost of confidence and energy. It pushes me to carry on and do it for her."

If called, Hal intends to join the RCMP as soon as he can, following not only his sister, but his father, and other relatives that were members of the force.

"You see them and the way they live their life.

"It is a good life to live," said Cameron. "I want that."

As to any tips he had for kids needing some guidance, "Pray," he said. "Find a role model and follow them, see how they live life and do it."

When asked if his sister would be proud he said, "I hope so. She is stubborn," he laughed, "but I don't know." Later that night, two of Hal's brothers were named recipients of Youth awards for their involvement in the community.

Following the award ceremony, their parents were very proud of their sons' achievements. You can bet their sister is, too.

## Family asks for privacy in wake of tragic news

We have searched tirelessly for Amber for the past three years. We have never given up. Today, we reluctantly accept with great sadness that the search for her is over.

Over the past day, it's been with great difficulty to accept the fact that she will never be coming home. In our time of grief and sorrow, we hope to find the strength and courage to cope with the loss of her special soul by better understanding her life and her meaning to us.

Her life may have ended tragically. But she will be forever remembered and honoured by those of us who loved her deeply. To the family, she will always be alive.

For 19 years we have had the honour and privilege to have Amber Tara-Lynn Redman as a daughter, sister, niece, cousin, granddaughter, and friend. She was very special to us.

Young, beautiful, intelligent, compassionate and kind, she loved and was cherished by all those around her.

She inspired a positive difference to those around her. Her heart roused a sensitivity for victims of violence throughout the country. Since she first disappeared three years ago, she has never been forgotten. Today, we may have stopped looking for her.

But she will always be remembered and now she is with her father. The beauty of her spirit will forever shine within all of us.

At this time we would like to thank and acknowledge those who

have helped with the support and search efforts: Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nations Community, Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, Volunteer Search & Rescue teams, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Surrounding First Nation communities for their fundraising efforts, Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP Detachment, Regina Police Major Crimes Unit, Starblanket First Nation Wahpiimoostosis, Native Women's Association of Canada, Saskatchewan Sisters in Spirit, Amnesty International, and finally, all those who prayed for Amber's return and for all those who continue to pray for us.

Finally, we kindly ask reporters to respect the privacy of the family and community as we take this time to make preparations of Amber's journey home.

Details of the funeral arrangements will be made public at a later date.

**On Behalf of the Yuzicappi and Redman Family**



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# A column for all our grandchildren

It is beautiful today the snow is finally all gone, the sun is shining and the crows are calling. If you were here and we could all go for a walk, we would hear the geese honking as they fly to their territory.

We'd see ducks building nests and hear frogs in all the ponds. And maybe we would sit down by the water and we would tell you how our long ago moshoms and nokoms used this time of year to teach us by taking us for long walks to pick duck eggs or to dig the fresh bulbs and stalks of cat tails to be eaten for supper.

As we worked they would tell us about all the creatures who were either just waking up like the frogs and the bears, or the ones who were coming home after a long journey to far off lands.

"Nah to tah, listen," they would say. "That is Ayiikis the frog, he has been asleep for the whole winter and now he is telling us about all the dreams and visions he had while he slept."

The old people would listen and murmur, "Emmm... Huh. Ahhhee, tapwe kah ayimun." Then they would translate to us. "Ayiikis says that this will be a dry summer and times will be hard for all of us."

We would be so impressed and we never forgot Ayiikis, or the cattail bulbs and stalks we'd had for dinner, which were taken from his territory, the pond by the south pasture.

We think of those old mushoms and nokoms often now, we remember their wisdom and depth of knowledge and wished

we had paid more attention so that we would have more stories and teachings to share with you. Stories that would help us all become better human beings on this earth, better relatives to all the creatures who share it with us.

Recently I found a wonderful book called *Wisdom Sits in Places*, written by a man called Keith Basso. He spent nearly all his life with the Apache people and in this book he writes about his life with them.

He tells one story in particular which reminded me of some of the old people I have been privileged to know. This story is like a poem and I think it belongs to the category of "Payatik mamtoonaytah nee kahn." "Think carefully, gently first."

Something my nokom used to tell us as we sat by the water on a spring day. Thinking is good for us, it gives us wisdom and that is what this poem is about. The speaker is an old cowboy called Dudley Patterson.

"The trail of wisdom, that is what I'm going to talk about. I'm going to speak as the old people do, as my grandmother spoke to me when I was a boy.

"Do you want a long life?" She said. "Well you will need to have wisdom if you do. You will need to think about your own

mind. You will need to work on it. You should start doing this now. You must make your mind smooth. You must make your mind steady. You must make your mind resilient.

"Your life is like a trail. You must be watchful as you go. Wherever you go there will be danger waiting to happen. You must be able to see it before it happens. You must always be watchful and alert. You must see danger in your mind before it happens.

"If your mind is not smooth you will fail to see the danger. You will trust your eyes but they will deceive you. You will be easily tricked and fooled. Then there will be nothing but trouble for you. You must make your mind smooth.

"If your mind is not resilient you will easily be startled. You will easily be frightened. You will try to think quickly but you won't think clearly. You yourself will stand in the way of your own mind. You yourself will block it. Then there will be trouble for you. You must make your mind resilient.

"If your mind is not steady you will easily be angered and upset. You will be arrogant and proud. You will look down on other people. You will envy them and desire their possessions. You will speak about them without thinking. You will complain about them, gossip about them, criticize them ...

you must make your mind steady. You must learn to forget about yourself.

"If you make your mind smooth, you will have a long life. Your trail will extend a long way.

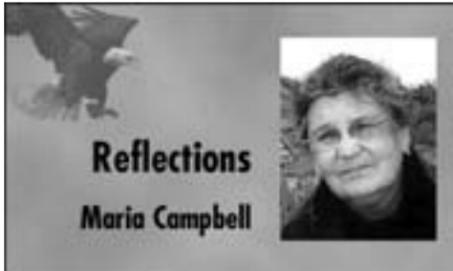
"How will you walk along this trail of wisdom? Well, you will go to many places. You must look at them closely. You must remember all of them. Your relatives will talk to you about them. You must remember everything they tell you. You must think about it and keep on thinking about it, and keep on thinking about it.

"You must do this because no one can help you but yourself. If you do this in your mind it will become smooth. It will become steady and resilient. You will stay away from trouble. You will walk a long way and live a long time.

"Wisdom sits in places. It is like water that never dries up. You need to drink water to stay alive, don't you? Well you also need to drink from places. You must remember everything about them. You must remember their names.

"You must remember what happened at them a long time ago. You must think about it and keep on thinking about it. Then your mind will become smoother and smoother. Then you will see danger before it happens. You will walk a long way and live a long time. You will be wise and people will respect you."

Hiy hiy, merci, thank you and have a good spring.



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**SIAST**

# Saskatoon is a city divided by a river

Sometimes I wonder about leaving Saskatchewan. The place has become so violent, and the future appears so bleak. Mine is a world away from the economic boom the province revels in. I live west of the river where things aren't so nice nor so hopeful.

Saskatoon is a city divided by a river. East of the Saskatchewan River the population is predominantly European Canadian with an aging population. In contrast, west of the river it's not uncommon to see teenage mothers of First Nation ancestry pushing baby buggies with little ones walking along side. The west is increasingly Aboriginal and young.

It was over 20 years ago coming home by train from yet another demonstration in the nation's capital that I was given an important lesson about how change happens in the real world.

A black porter approached me and asked: "What did your people get out of all that fuss?"

I said the government promised to hold more meetings with us. He replied: "That don't mean a thing. You people have to make yourselves a whole lot more babies."

In 1921 there were a little more than 10,000 Indians in all of Canada. Today there are as many in each of Saskatchewan's major cities. We have made a whole lot more babies and we are growing in power.

Conflict is at the heart of social change in Saskatchewan. The old order does not give way easily. They still hold power and exercise control. Their systems will accept us in small token positions as long as we hold the same values and behave as they do.

They want the appearance of change without change. I call it the speckle syndrome.

There was a time when employers said they wanted to hire more Aboriginals but only if we were qualified. Times change and we now have a well educated workforce in increasing numbers. The new denial comes when they say they are looking for employees who are a good "fit" or who are "mouldable".

Another form of denial is when they denigrate the quality of our degrees. I have known Aboriginals with Masters degrees and PhDs who left Saskatchewan to pursue opportunities elsewhere simply because they couldn't find work in this province.

A representative workforce makes good rhetoric but has so far yielded little in the way of substance. Racism in the workforce is very real and ongoing.

There are some places where diversity is not only tolerated but celebrated. New Mexico and Arizona celebrate their Anglo, Latino and Indian cultures.

I was shocked to see Indians in the workforce when I first visited the American southwest in the early 1980s. What should have been normal seemed so strange.

They were 20 years ahead of us.

A friend of mine works as a janitor at the Friendship Center. He was chagrined some years ago when a young kid came up to him and asked him how many community hours he had left to work off.

I may be in mourning for the Saskatoon I knew and loved for over 20 years. My family has drifted around Western Canada from La Ronge, to southern Alberta and Winnipeg. It was Saskatoon where the roots were set and three generations of Cuthands now call home.

I tried moving to St. Paul, Alberta. But Saskatoon kept calling us home. Our stay lasted barely a year. I still return every summer to visit old friends on the Saddle Lake and Good Fish First Nations.

Western Canada has a host of social problems but none outside of Winnipeg appear so daunting as Saskatchewan.

Here is a litany of woe. Consider Saskatchewan has the highest incarceration rate, the highest incidence of teen pregnancy, the highest suicide rate, violent crimes and the highest incidence of intravenous drug use (all on a per capita basis).

Things are not so rosy as the economic boom nor the Chamber of Commerce would indicate.

It is no longer a question of how well the people of First Nation ancestry can fit into the larger population. It has now become a question of how well two peoples can find a wholesome accommodation with one another.

I would like to see a healthy diversity celebrated like the peoples of the American southwest.

In order for that to happen the Aboriginal peoples must overcome their bitterness and the European Canadians must overcome their arrogance. It is one very tall order.

For now I stay.



Doug Hyndford prepares the barbecue with one of his staff, Sherry Perillat of Yellowquill First Nation.

## Wanuskewin open for business ... and food!

Although construction has been temporarily suspended at Wanuskewin, pending a successful review of the revised application to the federal government's Cultural Spaces Program, there is loads of activity at Wanuskewin.

Summer interpretative guides have been hired and they are very excited about the programs they will be offering to the hundreds of school children who will come to the park over the next few weeks to walk the trails, make pottery the traditional way, play traditional First Nations' games, and maybe even do a bit of bead work.

The exhibits have been refreshed, and visitors to the park will be able to take a walk through time and seasons while they learn more about the fascinating and creative ways the people lived on the land for thousands of years. Honoring cultural resources and enhancing Aboriginal awareness is a huge part of the activity at

Wanuskewin. New programs are being developed and will be offered this summer and fall.

Meanwhile, not only is the restaurant at Wanuskewin open, a new Executive Chef has been hired. Doug Hyndford, a member of Peepeekisis First Nation, studied under European trained chefs at the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts in Vancouver, and brings over 25 years of experience in the food industry to Wanuskewin.

They are very excited about offering customers new menu items. These will range from the traditional Three Sisters Chili to house-made Bison Burgers, smoked goose tapenade, roasted buffalo hump and a variety of local food, including barbecued duck and pearl onion skewers, and cedar-planked Diefenbaker Rainbow Trout.

Not everything is changing. The world famous Wanuskewin Baked Bannock is still on the menu.

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# Saskatoon celebrates National Aboriginal Diabetes Awareness Day

In 1999, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine proclaimed the first Friday in May as National Aboriginal Diabetes Awareness Day.

The event is aimed at bringing Aboriginal communities together in order to create awareness of the prevalence of diabetes within Aboriginal community. The Saskatoon Community Diabetes Outreach Program hosted a diabetes community walk in on May 2, in conjunction with National Aboriginal Diabetes Awareness Day.

The day began with prayers by Elder Evelyn Linklater, who also discussed how she has made positive lifestyle changes in order to manage her diabetes. The 3.5 km walk began at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge,



Shaylan McKay joined 80 other walkers for a stroll around some of Saskatoon's most scenic parks to raise awareness of diabetes.

(Photo and story by Faith McLean)

over to the beautiful Victoria Park and along the trail of the Saskatchewan River. About 80 people were in attendance for the day's events with Pleasant Hill School as well as White Buffalo Youth Lodge students participating in the walk.

CHEP provided a healthy snack of fruits and veggies. The community diabetes outreach program is a health initiative aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of the risk of Type 2 Diabetes and to encourage healthy behavioural changes relating to nutrition and physical activity.

The program is offered in partnership between the Saskatoon Community Clinic, Saskatoon Health Region, Kinistin First Nation, Central Urban Metis Federation Inc, White Buffalo Youth Lodge and Switch.

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# The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Fear-mongering by an extremist minority government

By Paul L.A.H. Chartrand, I.P.C.  
For Eagle Feather News

On Sept. 13, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly, at its annual meeting in New York, adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The satisfaction that may have been generated by the adoption of this historic document amongst indigenous peoples and human rights advocates was considerably dulled, especially in Canada, by the ill-considered and aggressive campaign waged by the current minority Conservative government.

The adoption of this statement of the human rights of indigenous peoples and the duties of states came after more than 20 years of discussions between 'states and indigenous peoples' representatives at the headquarters of the UN human rights system in Geneva.

I have participated in these discussions since the 1980s and had seen the ups and downs of Canada's support and opposition to the draft declaration. Just before the Harper minority government took over, Canadian officials supported it and lobbied for its adoption. This had been an historic change because we had been battling the bureaucrats' interpretations for many years. We knew our arguments were right.

When Warren Allmand, the former federal attorney-general headed the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Montreal he used to attend the sessions where the Canadian Aboriginal and state representatives used to debate the meaning of the text. Allmand had been a hockey player and he said to us, "You guys are winning 10-0."

On its way to the UN, the Declaration had first been adopted by the Human Rights Council in June 2007 where it was opposed only by Canada and Russia. Canada was one of only four states that voted against the Declaration at the UN General Assembly and since then, Australia, which was one of the notorious four, has decided to support it.

The federal minority government obstinately continues to make demonstrably false statements in support of its indefensible 'reasons' for opposing the Declaration, and has gone to the lengths of opposing the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights and Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples and making it clear he is not welcome.

Jim Anaya, an American Indian law professor, just recently was appointed to the post, making Canada's position doubly humiliating.

What motivates the current extremist views of this minority government?

Recently the Parliament of Canada expressed its official support for the Declaration, showing that Harper's extreme views do not reflect the attitude of Canadians. It is hard to resist the interpretation that the minority government is saying things that are thought to appeal to the most ill-advised of its constituents who believe in the politics of opposition and division.

The Declaration itself is deeply committed to universality and human rights and expressly encourages "harmonious and cooperative relations" between states and indigenous peoples. Nine preambular paragraphs and 15 operative articles specify consultations, cooperation or partnership between indigenous peoples and states and the whole text must be "interpreted in ac-

cordance with the principles of justice, democracy, and respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith."

The Declaration is not even a legally binding instrument; it only exhorts states to follow its minimum standards.

This is not an anti-Conservative diatribe. It is written by someone who looks critically at the Aboriginal policies of all political parties. It would be fatuous for anyone who is not a committed ideologue to suggest that Conservatives are always wrong and Liberals or Democrats are always right or that Liberals will always support Aboriginal rights and Conservatives will always oppose them.

Stephane Dion the current Liberal leader is on record as having expressed strong opposition to Aboriginal rights. Conservative governments can and have on occasion done more than centrist or leftist governments. An example may be the Mulroney government of the '80s and '90s. Liberal governments generally are better at spouting rhetoric in favour of the rights of indigenous peoples but sometimes the action does not extend far beyond the boundary of rhetoric. On the other hand, Conservative governments can be silent or oppositional but at the same time quietly go about doing the right thing without the kind of rhetoric that would risk alienating their voting base.

Witness the government of Ralph Klein in Alberta. It is difficult to generalize without error in this regard, and it must be recognized that all parties do what they think they must do to gain and then to retain power.

Looking narrowly at international is-

sues it is notable that the most enlightened approach to indigenous issues in Canadian history was taken when the Liberals were in power with Lloyd Axworthy as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ron Irwin as Minister of Indian Affairs. There was a big debate about self-determination as a right of all 'peoples', and the text required an 's' on peoples to include indigenous peoples. I recall Ron Irwin at the time telling me in his own inimitable way, "I don't care if they put three 's's on it."

Check the agenda of your favourite federal party before the next election.

I am writing this from Canberra in Australia and I can assure you that many people who care about the human rights of indigenous peoples are saying uncharitable things here and elsewhere about Canada's actions in regards to the Declaration.

In the past Canada had acquired a reputation as an international 'Boy Scout'. This reputation was in part generated by the work of Canadians like professor John Humphreys who penned the first draft of the UN Declaration on Human Rights in the 1940s, and particularly by the work of Prime Minister Lester Pearson who received the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in promoting international peace.

The present attitude of Harper's government is a long way from Pearson's bipartisan foreign policy based on a philosophy of internationalism.

One thing is clear. The current minority government's oppositional stance on the UN Declaration has put mud on Canada's international Boy Scout image. Subsequent federal governments will have a challenging job to clean the mud of the Boy Scout's international face.

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The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company is proud to present the Saskatoon premiere of Yvette Nolan's Annie Mae's Movement.

This important and powerful play explores what it must have been like to be Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, a woman in a man's movement, a Canadian in America, an Aboriginal in a white-dominant culture at a time when it felt like Aboriginal peoples could really change the world.

Dying under mysterious circumstances, it is still not clear whether she was killed by the FBI or by members of the American Indian Movement (AIM). What really happened to Anna Mae back in the late 70's cannot be truly known.

Facts are lost in disinformation and denial, in misinformation and memory. Instead of recounting cold facts, this play looks for the truth by examining the life and death of this remarkable Aboriginal woman.

According to SNTC Artistic Director Alanis King, "Given the proximity of Saskatchewan to South Dakota, areas with similar terrain and of course the powwow trail as a great link, I feel that people in Saskatoon will have a strong connection with Anna Mae and her heroic story.

"I thought there would be a lot of interest in a very relevant play that brings her back to life, allows audiences to meet her and see what she stood for...what could have been for Indian women.



Michelle Thrush plays Annie Mae Pictou Anaquash and Glen Gould is cast as Dennis Banks in Yvette Nolan's Annie Mae's Movement. Not pictured from the cast is Mitchell Poundmaker who also has a role in the play.

(Photo by SNTC)

Native Earth Performing Arts and has since been produced by Hardly Art Theatre in Yukon, Winnipeg (with Red Roots Theatre) and Halifax (at Eastern Front's On the Waterfront Festival) and Native Earth Performing Arts in 2001.

In March 2006, Native Earth presented a workshop production of the revised play at Factory Theatre, which showcased the the play's artistic growth and change.

According to Ric Knowles, editor for the Canadian Theatre Review: "The story of Anna Mae Aquash is huge. It's as important to Canadian, US, and First Nations cultures as those of Louis Riel, Sitting Bull, Sir John A., or any of our "leading men."

Yvette Nolan has taken on this story with courage and conviction in a powerful presentation in which politics, gender, commitment, and betrayal loom large. It's a must-see."

Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company presents the important and powerful human drama with the production of 'Annie Mae's Movement' at the Grey-stone Theatre, U of S May 10-17, 2008.

# SNTC presenting play based on life of Annie Mae Pictou Aquash

"The beauty of theatre is that it allows us to showcase the hardships, triumphs and values of heroes that have passed on and keeps their memory and ideals alive, and that's inspiring."

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# Working together to improve health care

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

The face of improving Aboriginal health is changing. The Saskatoon Health Region has partnered with the Kinistin First Nation as well as Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. to make Aboriginal people living on and off-reserve healthier.

Last month the three held a joint press conference to announce they are going to develop a health strategy that will look at what is important to the Aboriginal community. That will include changing how services are delivered, such as increasing accessibility, as well as recognizing and incorporating Aboriginal culture and spirituality.

Kinistin First Nation Chief Felix Thomas says the need for a partnership came out of what can be seen at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon on a daily basis.

"If you go into the dialysis unit in there ... it's one of the areas we are over-



Kinistin First Nation Chief Felix Thomas, Shan Landry Vice President Community Services with the Saskatoon Health Region and Shirley Isbister, President of CUMFI Local share a laugh before they sign the partnership agreement.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

represented in mainstream society. We're disrepresented there. Probably 80, 90, upwards to 95 per cent of the patients, or in the case, victims, are Aboriginal people. This is why we set out to try and improve initially the health status of our own members."

Thomas says he looked to see if the SHR had programs or services that could help his people, and the partnership grew from there.

Shirley Isbister, President of CUMFI, says poverty plays a big role in the health of Aboriginal people, so the

partners are going to look at more than just conventional health issues.

"The types of foods that we're able to provide sometimes to our children aren't the type of foods that prevent diabetes ... working towards a reduction in weight, you know a healthy lifestyle, exercise, things like that," she explains.

"You walk into a home that's really rundown, kind of like a slum place. Like how do you get healthy in a place like that? It adds to your illness."

Two Aboriginal Health Coordinators, one First Nations and one Métis,

have been hired to begin working on the strategy. All partners agree it's important to have both nations represented because the two cultures are unique.

Vice-President of Community Services for SHR, Shan Landry, says the health region understands it needs to do things 'with' people, not 'for' or 'to,' and says that's why the partnership works.

Thomas echoed that, applauding SHR for respecting their ability to make their own decisions and making sure each of the three has equal say on the strategy.

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# Young dancers feel a sense of pride

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

Delegates at this year's Awasis conference heard about the power dancing has to transform young people's lives.

Nine members of St. Mary's Dancers performed for over 100 delegates at one of the breakout sessions and then spoke about what dancing means to them.

Victoria McDermott told the crowd she grew up in and out of foster homes until she moved in with her grandmother.

"My grandma took me in and introduced me to dancing. I started off jingle dress dancing, and I loved it. We went to powwows everywhere, and I placed, and I just remember how proud I felt to be Aboriginal and how proud I felt to show people my culture," she recalls.

McDermott says when she moved to Prince Albert, she started hanging out with the

wrong people and got into trouble. Marlene Bear, the dancers' teacher, invited her to try dancing again.

McDermott did, and she still remembers her first recital.

"I was really nervous because you're dancing in front of your peers. And being a teenager, it's really hard to get up in front of everybody and be proud of who you are.

"I remember being so scared that my friends were going to laugh at me or they were going to boo or show discrimination," she recalls.

"But when I got that applause, I felt that pride all over again, and I remembered that was why I wanted to dance, and that's why I was here."

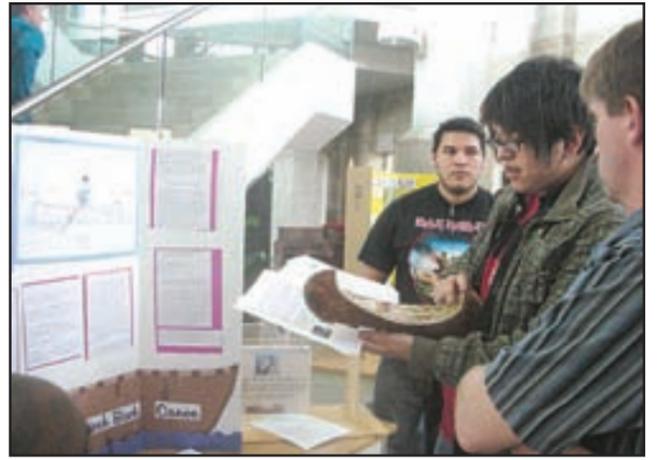
Bear says not only are the girls reclaiming culture they may have lost, but they have all gained self-confidence and pride in themselves.

She says many would have never had the courage to dance or speak in front of a crowd prior to taking dance.



Participating in dance builds pride and confidence in these young girls.

# Science connects with traditional knowledge



Wehkees Durocher, holding the canoe and Lorne McIntyre in the Iron Maiden shirt mixed tradition with science and realized that they are both tied together.

(Photo by Darla Read)

Students from the Meadow Lake Tribal Council tested the hypothesis that Indigenous knowledge and science can mix, and their hunch was correct.

The result was the first annual Aboriginal Science Fair at the University of Saskatchewan. There was representation from each of the First Nations that are members of the MLTC.

One of the 22 exhibits was by Grade 10 students Wehkees Durocher, Geron Paul, and Lorne McIntyre from Beauval. Their booth explained the science behind making and paddling a birch bark canoe.

"We wanted to do something that connects us back to our ancestors to show there is science involved in making a birch bark canoe, and our ancestors knew how to do it, they had science, and they understand it," explains Durocher.

Grade 9 student Jordan from the Clearwater River Dene Nation made a

surprising discovery with her science project.

She tested a variety of substances and objects to see how well or poorly they absorbed oil. She tried cornstarch, cat litter, sand, and moose hair.

She thought moose hair would be one of the least absorbent, but it actually absorbed the best.

Jordan hopes environmentalists give that some thought when they are cleaning up oil spills. Her concern for the environment was why she did her project.

"There are a lot of oil sands companies going up north, from La Loche, where I live, and I'm just worried about the environmental damage and stuff." Organizers are hoping for 50 exhibits next year, and their ultimate goal is to have representation from every First Nation, Métis, and Dene community in the province. - Read



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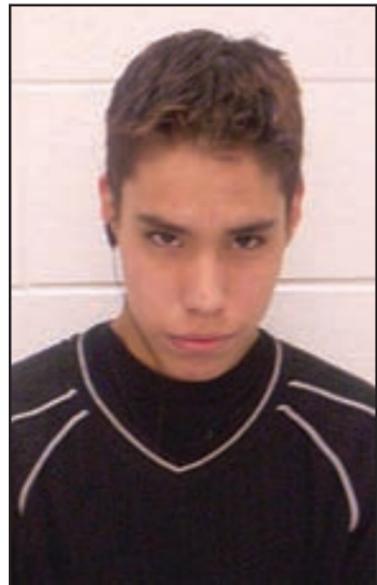


# 'A Brand New Life' wins MBC's Wrap contest for Byron Charles

Open any major newspaper on any given day and there'll be a number of stories devoted to covering Aboriginal youth and their activities – as long as they're stealing cars, robbing people or selling drugs.

What you won't read about in the pages of, say, the Star-Phoenix, are stories about people like Byron Charles, a 15-year-old aspiring rapper from Beardy's who recently won the Write A Rap on Aboriginal Potential (WRAP) contest staged by the Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC).

"When I heard (he had won WRAP), I was shocked and felt shaky inside," Charles stated from Const. Robin Cameron School. "I felt very emotional because I never thought I would take it (rapping) this far."



BYRON CHARLES

Winnings include a \$2,000 electronics package, a school concert featuring Blu, his lyrics for the winning rap 'A Brand New Life' recorded on Blu's next album and radio air play from MBC.

"The best part was winning a recording session with Blu. It's going to be great when my song is being played on the radio and I'll be featured on his album."

Not bad for someone who started studying his craft only three years ago.

"My brother was the main inspiration because he wanted to do music for a long time. Not to be a rapper but a music producer," Charles explains. "I've been studying since I was 12 years old on how people rap to beats on popular songs. It really paid off!"

It sure has. Now Charles is set to embark on what he hopes may become his livelihood.

"Who wouldn't want a career in doing something they love? I always dreamed of something like this because it's a passion of mine."

And passion goes a long way. One need not look any further that the likes of Eekwol and Info to get a clear picture gangsta rap is fast becoming a thing of the past in Saskatchewan. Words that empower youth, like 'A Brand New Day', have meaning beyond the shoot 'em up, pimp daddy lyrics spewed into the ears of our youth for too many years.

Raps like 'A Brand New Day' simply require real talent to write and don't need expletives to make it sound good. Although I'm sure his street cred is non-existent here, Will Smith was one of the first to rap swear free after his granny told him 'only fools use those words.'

Byron Charles doesn't stop with an inspiring rap. When asked what he would say to youth needing support and guidance, Charles' answer is direct, honest and familiar.

"Stay away from drugs, alcohol and gang violence. Stay in school and get an education. It's the first stepping stone to getting somewhere in life."

Const. Robin Cameron School Principal Andy Debray applauds Charles for his hard work and attitude at school.

"Like most teenagers, Byron is a young man that has experienced many ups and downs in his life. He has a good sense of humour and maintains an 'upbeat' attitude. Mr. Charles is a pleasure to have as a student at CRCEC High School."

As far as rap goes, Debray feels any artistic expression is valuable.

"I definitely feel that all forms of music can positively contribute to our youth and their education. We have shared the words to 'A Brand New Life' with all

teachers for use in their classrooms. All songs are a form of poetry and may serve as a relevant educational teaching tool."

The concert at Const. Robin Cameron School has not yet been finalized but Debray says it'll be the end of May or early June. As far as 'A Brand New Day,' MBC reports the beat has been laid down and will be released as a single in June and featured on the Friday Night House Party.

As for Byron Charles, he's just trying to take it all in.

"It's like a dream come true to be recognized for my writing skills. I always had doubt but it became real."

"Hey native, be anything you wanna be. Trust in this rap, and walk with me. Give me your trust, and I'll gladly take it. A brand new life, it's how you're gonna make it."

(Words from 'A Brand New Life')

**This 'n' that:** Isn't it about time **Donny Parenteau**

stopped hogging so much space in this column. Oh as if, just kidding! The country superstar had another amazing night at the **Saskatchewan Country Music Awards (SCMA)** in mid-April; taking home a stack of hardware to add to his already impressive collection. This time he won for Fans Choice Entertainer of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, Single of the Year (Postmarked Heaven), Song of the Year (with Gil Grand) and Aboriginal Artist of the Year.

Country music band **Wyatt** also had a good night at the SCMA's, picking up the Rising Star Award and Group of the Year. These guys are riding the wave of fame so catch 'em while you still can – they're busy performing all over Western Canada this summer: [www.myspace.com/wyattmusic2](http://www.myspace.com/wyattmusic2)

The Saskatchewan Arts Board recently announced **Jeremy Morgan** has been reappointed as Executive Director. Morgan has held the post since 1999, making the longest-serving Executive Director in the Board's 60-year history.



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# Airo Wear promoting language with style

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

While in university in 2005, Tim Lewis created Airo Wear, a clothing company that promotes the Plains Cree language through non-traditional avenues on everyday clothing apparel.

Airo Wear is fast becoming a hot commodity in the fashion world of Saskatchewan.

The apparel specializes in Cree greetings in both syllabics and Standard Roman Orthography.

"The idea came from university," said Lewis who graduated from the Edwards School of Business with a degree in marketing.

"I was walking down the arts tunnel and saw other cultures promoting their language and thought why couldn't I promote my own language. Most responses I receive about Airo Wear is 'It's about time.'"

So far Airo Wear promotes three words: Tansi in Standard Roman Orthog-



**Airo Wear designs are not only colourful and comfortable, they're promoting the Cree language in a unique fashion.**

raphy; Got Bannock? – in Syllabics; Peace – in Syllabics.

Lewis got the idea for the name of his clothing line from the past.

"Airo is my modern version of 'arrow.' Long ago First Nation people used the arrow for their livelihood. Airo Wear is my arrow that will sustain me," added Lewis.

He is targeting all aspects of society for his clothing line, not just limiting to the

First Nations community. He is also donating a percentage of his revenues to non-profit organizations that help Aboriginal people.

To start his business Lewis received help from the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation and has plans to take his business to a new level.

"I want more words printed on the clothing and plan to distribute in certain stores," said Lewis. "I am currently updat-

ing my website and currently creating new designs for clothing, plus I plan to also sell caps, hoodies and other clothing accessories. The new items and designs should be out this summer."

*If you want to check out some of these awesome designs go to [www.airowear.ca](http://www.airowear.ca) or email Tim at [sales@airowear.ca](mailto:sales@airowear.ca)*

*You can purchase clothing online or at the 8th Annual Painted Hand Casino Powwow.*

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# CUMFI quietly became a force in the community

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

From humble beginnings, CUMFI Local has evolved into a large political, economic and social force in the city of Saskatoon.

Representing over 5,000 members, the Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated has entered into business with work ready programs like Bobby's Birches, but more importantly as a landlord ... a landlord to many at risk people and single mothers who need safe affordable places to live.

The growth of the Métis local has facilitated the need for this economic powerhouse to get itself a building to house its many programs and approximately 40 staff. The dream of the board and members finally came true in late April.

"I was totally ecstatic when I arrived at our new building," said Shirley Isbister, president of CUMFI. "Yesterday we got the keys and the signs went up. I came here and to see this place, our place ... I was overwhelmed. Tears were rolling down my face. It has been a vision of the board of directors for ten years. To finally have it is overwhelming."

Ten years ago, Bob McLeod became president of CUMFI Local and Isbister became the vice president until she took over as president last year when McLeod became area director. The Local was not in good shape and was carrying some debt.

"We decided to build relationships with government," said Isbister as she showed off the new building during a tour. "Those relations have now become very strong. The government now approaches us to facilitate programs for the community."

"We did not get here overnight as it has been a build with hours of volunteering, writing proposals and networking. Now we are at the point to have the capacity and financial ability to purchase this building."

The building used to house a Department of Social Services office and was also a family centre. With CUMFI as the owner, all of their approximately 40 employees will move in as will employees from the Kinistin First Nation urban office. It is a good fit as Kinistin and CUMFI recently signed a partnership agreement with the Saskatoon Health Region to develop a health strategy. Building Health Equities is also leasing space. This is a very welcome addition, says Isbister.

The building is located at 315 Avenue M South, right in the city's core and close to some of CUMFI's other real estate holdings. CUMFI has quietly become a multi million dollar organization, currently holding the deeds of six apartment buildings mortgage free. The impact of this new community based and benevolent landlord has not gone unnoticed in the city.

"Frankly, Bob McLeod, Shirley Isbister and the entire crew at CUMFI have done a tremendous job," said Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison. "Whenever I am at a housing event and speak, I speak of their experience. After they bought the three buildings on Avenues T and U, we saw a reduction in the crime rate in those locations of 99 per cent. People said it couldn't be done, but they did it and they improved our neighbourhoods. They need to be commended."

Police Chief Clive Weighill agrees.

"What a good outfit," said Chief Weighill. "They certainly reduced our call load to that area and they really do provide an essential social service to the youth."

That service is safe affordable housing. The six buildings that CUMFI own range from providing services to single moms to women and men in transition. The buildings are unique from many inner-city apartments as they are drug and alcohol free and they have security cameras all over the place.

Colleen Palmer knows the benefits that CUMFI housing provides to the community. She works at McLeod House, a CUMFI building, as a Senior Case Manager working with men with addictions. She is also a tenant on Avenue P.



CUMFI President Shirley Isbister shows off the sign recently placed on CUMFI's new home in Saskatoon's Riversdale neighbourhood. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

"My place is amazing," said Palmer. "It is drug and alcohol free and as a single mom of four children I find it safe. No drunks, no needles around and security. My kids even play outside with no worries. There are security cameras and thugs and dope dealers stay away."

The money Palmer has been able to save by living in affordable housing has allowed her to get all four of her children into hockey.

"I would not have been able to do that, if I did not live here."

CUMFI has certainly made its mark in housing and Isbister anticipates that impact growing with the new facility.

"We see this place as a community resource centre, where people can come and access information or just visit. This will be the place to come. It is nice to provide services to the inner city where many of our members live," she said.

The building is truly a Métis community endeavour. It is funded by National Homelessness and the rest entirely by Métis affiliates.

"The Clarence Campeau Development Fund and SNEDCO played such a major role in this," said Isbister. "They helped us through all the paper work. We had to be quick to put up a non refundable deposit ... it was like 'oh my God', but I have to tell you there was no panic. They stepped up to the plate and made sure that this building belongs to the Métis people ... no banks are involved at all."

Roland Duplessis, manager of the Campeau Fund knows a good thing when he sees it.

"By providing a unique financial package consisting of equity and debt, CCDF has been able to assist CUMFI Local in realizing a long term goal of owning its own building," said Duplessis.

"This building will provide the Métis community in Saskatoon with a permanent base for the delivery of the critical programs and services CUMFI provides."

Kevin Karakochuk with SNEDCO appreciates the community spirit.

"This project is a testament to the volunteer spirit and cultural pride at CUMFI. They are a strong voice in this city and it was a pleasure to work with them."

And volunteer they do. Hundreds of unpaid hours go into operating and growing CUMFI, but Isbister has a solution to that.

"As a non-profit grass root organization, we always have capacity issues to grow and we are constantly looking for funding. We do not receive core dollars. We are fundraising, writing proposals and most importantly we are always looking for partnerships," said Isbister, the community activist turned reluctant politician.

"You know, I also have family and grandchildren and they always come first. I do not like the political part of my job. Honestly, it has never been my strength. I want people to get along."

"Partnerships are the way. Everything we have is in partnership. And now we can house our partners under one roof ... with us."

## Clarence Campeau Development Fund

Serving Saskatchewan's Métis  
[www.clarencecampeau.com](http://www.clarencecampeau.com)

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 email: [info@clarencecampeau.com](mailto:info@clarencecampeau.com)  
 2158 Airport Drive,  
 Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6  
 (306) 657-4870  
 Fax (306) 657-4890  
 Toll Free: 1-888-657-4870



**Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.**

**The Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated (also known as CUMFI) provides culturally relevant programming, tools, and support to Aboriginal people in the City of Saskatoon.**

**INFINITY HOUSE**

A safe and welcoming transitional home for Aboriginal mothers and their children.

**MCLEOD HOUSE**

A transitional home for men recovering from addictions.

**CUMFI WELLNESS CENTRE**

A cognitive disability mentoring project.

**YOUTH JOB READINESS**

A life skills and employment readiness program designed for Aboriginal youth.

**YOUTH DRUG STRATEGY PROJECT**

In October, 2008 a web game titled "Boundary City" will be showcased. It will offer players the opportunity to make choices when confronted with drugs and alcohol.

**ABORIGINAL PROGRAMMING**

A sport culture and recreation program designed to enhance Aboriginal participation.

**BOBBY'S BIRCHES**

An employment readiness program providing lawn care, tree cutting, and yard maintenance.

**COMMUNITY JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Registered to work in mediation and restorative justice.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

94 units including bachelor, one, two, and three bedrooms ranging from \$375 to \$575. All units are alcohol and drug free.

**CUMFI SMALL BUSINESS LOANS ASSOCIATION**

Economic development.

**AWCHIMO.NET**

An interactive website designed for children to learn about their history, culture, and language.

**STRENGTHENING THE CIRCLE**

A partnership with Kinistin First Nation and Saskatoon Health Region to develop an Aboriginal health strategy that targets important issues within the community.

**URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY**

Capacity agreement holders for Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

**CENTRAL URBAN MÉTIS FEDERATION INCORPORATED**  
 315 Avenue M South, Saskatoon SK S7M 2K5  
 Ph: 306-975-9999, Fax: 306-975-9156  
 Email: e.trotchie@sasktel.net

**Urban Aboriginal Strategy Saskatoon  
 Call for UAS Steering Committee**

You are invited to submit your application to become a member of the Saskatoon Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) Steering Committee. The UAS Steering Committee for Saskatoon has equal representation of Métis and First Nations people. The UAS Steering Committee mandate is to distill and identify opportunities for action in Saskatoon in order to support the achievement of Aboriginal Capacity building and to close the gap in life chances between Urban Aboriginal people and mainstream population.

**Committee Qualifications:**

- Ideally, candidates for the UAS Steering Committee should demonstrate:
- ▶ recognized commitment and leadership in the Saskatoon community
  - ▶ integrity and vision;
  - ▶ knowledge and understanding of First Nation and Métis cultures and ability to lead in a manner consistent with their values;
  - ▶ action oriented and expertise in partnership development, program service delivery;
  - ▶ knowledge and understanding of complexities of First Nation and Métis government organizations and institutions;
  - ▶ knowledge of Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government, structures and granting processes;
  - ▶ knowledge and understanding of community-based programming and service development and implementation;
  - ▶ demonstrated experience in financial, administrative and program planning skills. This will include formulating and administering budgets; and
  - ▶ experience with staff supervision, training and development.

**The role of Committee Members is to:**

- ▶ respond more effectively to the needs of Aboriginal members in the community;
- ▶ develop urban Aboriginal capacity;
- ▶ full engagement of Aboriginal people in planning, priority setting and ongoing coordination of the UAS Collaborative Community Model;
- ▶ engage in sustainable community solutions through partnership development and ensuring process of inclusion within the community.

**As a Committee Member you must:**

1. Be a resident of Saskatoon
2. Commit to attending at least one meeting a month that will be approximately 3.5 hours long.
3. Commit to attend an orientation/planning session and do your best to attend conferences, workshops, and events that the Committee members are invited to attend.
4. Commit to sharing your opinions and ideas about serving the urban Aboriginal community of Saskatoon.
5. Promote the work of the UAS in a positive manner.

**Committee Term:**

The term for Steering Committee members will be one-year, with option to renew. Calls for new members will be made in March of each year, selections will be made by May with new members starting in June.

**Nomination of Committee Members:**

Nominations for the committee members will be done by the following organizations with appointed community selection committees. You do not need to be a member of the organization to apply.

1. The process for the Métis representatives is through appointment from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. The MNS region will appoint four members and two alternates and one youth.
2. The process for the First Nations representatives is through appointment from the Saskatoon Tribal Council. STC will appoint four members, two alternates and one youth.
3. The process for Inuit and other representatives is through appointment from the Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre. SIMFC will appoint one member and one alternate.

*Note 1: Youth is defined as individuals 16 to 24 years old.*

*Note 2: An Elder is present at all meetings but does not vote.*

*Note 3: Individuals who do not wish to affiliate with MNS or STC may apply and direct their application to SIMFC.*

Individuals that are interested in participating in the selection process, but not sitting on the Steering Committee, must submit a Letter of Interest attention to: Dwayne Docken or Crystal La Plante at the UAS office located at 315 Avenue F South or by email: dwaynedocken@sasktel.net or crystallaplante@sasktel.net

**Application Process**

Please forward a resume and three letters of reference to one of the following appointing entities. Deadline for Submissions: May 23, 2008

First Nations	Métis	Other
Attention: Joe Quewezance - Tribal Chief Saskatoon Tribal Council Suite 200 - 335 Packham Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 4K4	Attention: Bob McLeod - Area Director WRIIA Métis Nation Saskatchewan 219 Robin Crescent Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8	Attention: Claude Petit - President Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre 168 Wall Street Saskatoon, SK S7K 1N4

# Aglukark tells literacy conference education is the key to achieving goals

By Darla Read  
For Eagle Feather News

Inuit singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark wants all Aboriginal youth to know they can reach their goals if they stay focused on their education. Aglukark was one of the keynote speakers at the Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum last month. She spoke at the Saskatchewan site in Regina, where the theme was Aboriginal literacy.

Through live video feeds broadcasting in real-time, cities and the small community of Arviat, Nunavut, where Aglukark is originally from, were connected so hundreds of delegates across Canada could watch keynote speakers throughout the day from different locations.

Aglukark was keen for her hometown to hear her address because she says she understands what it's like to come from a small, remote place and think you aren't good enough to go after your dreams.

"And it's those ones who sometimes fall through the cracks. And those are the ones I hope hear that everybody has a fighting chance," she says.

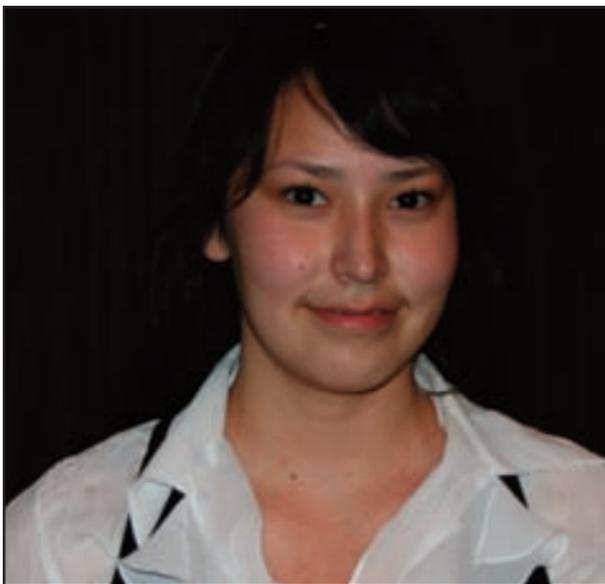
"Anybody who sets their mind and heart on the goal that they've set for themselves, whatever dreams they have, if they work hard enough, all circumstance and situation set aside, you stay focused on your goal, get your Grade 12 diploma, move onto some kind of post-secondary program, you can do anything you want to do."

Aglukark says she's been able to achieve success by letting go of what she calls self-imposed fears. She says then she fixed any issues she could and let go of the ones she couldn't. She also says she learned the power of reading a good book.

This is the first event of its kind held in Canada where technology linked communities across the country. Aglukark says that goes a long way because it shows people living in Nunavut that their concerns are just as valid as those of people living in Regina or Toronto.

"The biggest thing and the biggest accomplishment that we should set for ourselves is watching these again self-imposed walls slowly come back down, break them down," she explains.

"This is what gatherings do. It helps us realize you're no different than I am, I'm no better than you are, I want a better life for myself, what do we share so that we can help each other accomplish those goals."



## Nominated for SaskTel Youth Award

Remi Poitras was up for the Fine Arts Award at the SaskTel Youth Awards. Although she didn't win, this Grade 12 student at Winston Knoll Collegiate in Regina is one to keep your eyes on. She has appeared on Renegade Press as 'Ruth' and worked on The Englishmen's Boy as an extra. She appears in school productions and absolutely loves musicals, citing she'd love to one day write plays.



Inuit singer Susan Aglukark takes time for a photo with a young fan.



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

### GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**THE OPPORTUNITY:** A Masters/Doctoral graduate student is being sought with financial support from the Advanced Foods and Materials Network (AFMNet, [www.afmnet.ca](http://www.afmnet.ca)) and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. The research thesis topic area will focus on: a) the development of a food and bioproduct science-based curriculum from an aboriginal perspective, targeting youth in Grades 9-12; b) implementation of the developed curriculum within the classroom – as a pilot module; and c) an assessment of the impact on student learning. The position will be based within the College of Education with a close affiliation with the Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences within the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The applicant must be highly motivated to pursue a career in science-based education with interests in curriculum development and agriculture (food and bioproducts). The ideal candidate will have: a) proven ability in working with Aboriginal students, b) possess a strong awareness of Aboriginal historical, cultural and economic issues, as well as knowledge of traditional protocols and practices, c) understand science, and be able to work with knowledge experts on food and bioproducts, d) the ability to work collaboratively and e) be well organized. Preference will be given to students of aboriginal ancestry. The ability to communicate in both English and an Aboriginal language will be an asset. Interested individuals holding a Bachelor's of Education must have a minimum average of 70% within the last two years of study, before considering submission of an application. The successful candidate should also be willing to travel within Canada to appropriate AFMNet supported events. A successful application to the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Saskatchewan will be required. Information on the College as well as graduate application forms and procedures can be obtained at <http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/>.

**STARTING DATE:** The program is to commence immediately once a suitable candidate has been identified.

**STIPEND:** The standard University graduate stipend for the successful candidate is available, at a maximum value of \$18,000 per year for 3-years.

**SUPERVISION:** Drs. Nicholas Low and Michael Nickerson (Department of Food and Bioproduct Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources), and Janet McVittie (College of Education), at the University of Saskatchewan, will be joint supervisors. For further information on the project, please contact Dr. Low at [Nicholas.Low@usask.ca](mailto:Nicholas.Low@usask.ca), Dr. Nickerson ([Michael.Nickerson@usask.ca](mailto:Michael.Nickerson@usask.ca)) or Dr. McVittie ([janet.mcvittie@usask.ca](mailto:janet.mcvittie@usask.ca)),

**HOW TO APPLY:** Send your covering letter, transcripts, curriculum vitae, along with a one-page self-assessment of your qualifications for this position and send to the contact person identified in this advertisement. This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. Please send applications to:

Graduate Secretary  
Department of Curriculum Studies  
College of Education  
28 Campus Drive  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7N 0X1

# WAYES works to connect youth and the business sector

By Mike Gosselin  
For Eagle Feather News

The First Annual Women and Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium or WAYES took place April 30-May 1 in Saskatoon.

Canada, and more specifically Saskatchewan has a fast changing working demographic. As the non-Aboriginal baby boomers of this province age and retire, there is a fast growing ready-to-work young Aboriginal population.

This will open the door to a variety of opportunities in the coming years. It is a great time to be young and Aboriginal in this province!

The province is in high need of skilled workers and Aboriginal people face high unemployment rates. It is time that our leaders and youth come together and find ways to help us fill these gaps

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations started WAYES as a means of promoting the variety of opportunities that are readily available. The idea is that women and youth will gather to showcase their businesses. WAYES will also become a place where youth can obtain the valuable knowledge of experienced trainers and presenters who have already had success in the business world. WAYES also helps the youth open their eyes to many entrepreneurial opportunities that are out there for those committed to hard work.

Attendees were given full access to the adjacent trade show, along with a variety of guest and motivational speakers.

There were also three workshops which were based on economic development, market housing, and green economy. There the individuals were able to talk directly with a variety of organizations on business plans, financing their ideas, and developing their very own marketing strategy. All while networking with a who's who of the local business community.

## She's just 19, but ready to take over the family farm

Kristin Paquachan has been around animals her whole life. She found that she was closer to them and often chose to hang out with her animals rather than join the local kids fun and games. As a five-year-old girl on her family's farm, she asked her parents for a pet cow, while most kids her age were running around with animals such as a dog or a cat.

It was this early love for animals that drew her to the industry and has helped her succeed in the prominently male dominated cattle industry. She studied the tricks of the trade while watching her father Allan and her grandfather Giles and the way they worked with the cattle.

Life of a cattle farmer she says, "is not an easy one, lots of things can go wrong ... water bowls can break, tractors can break, and it can get expensive real fast."

Add to this the fluctuating market, and the value of cattle constantly rising and falling. It can make it frustrating for even the most patient of people.

"Yeah, there is a lot of risk to it, but if you love something, it is important to stick with it."

Lately the price of cattle has been really low and it has been a struggle to make a profit. Her grandfather Giles says: "the last couple years, they have been pretty close to the break even point, but that they are hopeful that within a few years the prices will start to rise."

He also added that it is very important to keep your finances in order and watch how you spend your money.

He credits Kristin with having great bookkeeping



Kristin Paquachan is an entrepreneur who is in the cattle business. She got her start with a loan from Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation. She presented at the WAYES Conference as well.

(Photo by Blue Pelletier)

skills and her ability to stay on budget.

However it isn't just the books she is good at. She enjoys the daily grind of getting out there and getting her hands dirty.

Kristin also has a Border Collie business, in which

she trains them to help with her own as well as other cattle herds. She says that "one good trained Collie can replace the work of three or four workmen." Kristin is set to takeover her family farm within the next few years and seems to have a very bright future in the industry.

### 2008-2009 PROGRAMS

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

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LOCATION AND START/END DATES	PROGRAM	TUITION	BOOKS/ RESOURCE FEES
<b>SASKATOON CAMPUS</b>			
August 18, 2008 – December 19, 2008	Office Management Certificate	\$1400	\$225/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies I	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies II	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Accounting Year 3	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology I	\$2800	\$1000/\$415
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology II	\$2800	\$1000/\$415
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Education Assistant	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Community Services Addictions I	\$3400	\$1000/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Community Services Addictions II	\$4300	\$1000/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Health Care Aide	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
August 18, 2008 – April 30, 2009	Adult Pre-10	\$2200	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – June 30, 2009	Adult 10	\$2200	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – June 30, 2009	Adult 12	\$2200	\$450/\$365
September 2, 2008 – January 30, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
January 19, 2009 – June 19, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
<b>REGINA CAMPUS</b>			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology I	\$2800	\$1000/\$615
August 18, 2008 – December 19, 2008	Office Management Certificate	\$1400	\$225/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies I	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies II	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Adult 10	\$2200	\$450/\$365
September 2, 2008 – January 30, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
January 19, 2009 – June 19, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
<b>PRINCE ALBERT CAMPUS</b>			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Information Technology I	\$2800	\$1000/\$415
August 18, 2008 – December 19, 2008	Office Management Certificate	\$1400	\$225/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies I	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Management Studies II	\$2800	\$450/\$365
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Education Assistant	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
<b>NORTH BATTLEFORD</b>			
September 2, 2008 – January 30, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
January 19, 2009 – June 19, 2009	Welding	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
<b>MEADOW LAKE</b>			
September 2, 2008 – May 1, 2009	Process Operation Technician I	\$3000	\$1000/\$365
September 2, 2008 – May 1, 2009	Process Operation Technician II	\$3000	\$365
<b>ONION LAKE</b>			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	First Nations Child Care	\$2800	\$800/\$365
<b>FORT QU'APPELLE</b>			
August 18, 2008 – May 29, 2009	Health Care Aide	\$2800	\$1800/\$365
September 2, 2008 – February 13, 2009	Welding (MTL)	\$2200	\$1000/\$365
<b>YORKTON</b>			
August 18, 2008 – June 30, 2009	Adult 12	\$2200	\$450

Start dates may vary. Program availability subject to enrolment. Tuition subject to final approval.



## Mining and safety go hand in hand

The month of May sees two very important information weeks. National Occupational Health and Safety Week and Mining Week both occur and it is handy to talk about them together as, according to the Mining Association website, Saskatchewan's mining industry has a strong commitment to safety and consequently is one of the safest industries in the province.

For the past 15 years the industry has averaged about one lost time accident for every 200,000 hours worked. This would be equivalent to an individual working for 100 years before he has a lost time accident.

That is an amazing record when you consider most of the work is with huge, heavy machinery and most of the time occurs hundreds or thousands of meters underground.

Every year the Mining Association has mine rescue competitions where rescue teams are put to the test in different events like first aid, fire extinguishing and mine rescue.

In the mine rescue, the rescue teams enter a darkened tunnel that simulates blackout conditions underground and they have to do a certain amount of tasks. The best team at the end wins.

No one should ever go to work and wind up being killed, but it does happen with dozens of workers dying yearly across Canada. Remember, when you are at work that safety

comes first.

Fast facts from the Saskatchewan Mining Association website

- Saskatchewan's mining industry spends more than \$2.5 billion annually on wages, goods, services and many other taxes and fees which all go to support government programs and services.

- Saskatchewan's mining industry pays in excess of \$500 million in royalties and many other taxes and fees which all go to support government programs and services such as education and health care.

- Saskatchewan's mining industry creates direct and indirect employment for approximately 21,000 people.

- The average mining employee earns more than \$60,000 annually (including benefits).

- Saskatchewan is a significant player in the global mining scene contributing to Canada being the world's largest producer and exporter of both potash and uranium.

- Canada, despite its global recognition in mining expertise, is only the world's leading producer of two mineral commodities – potash and uranium.

- Saskatchewan is Canada's only producer of uranium accounting for 28% of world production.

- Saskatchewan has the largest high grade reserves in the world for both these commodities.

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worksafesask.ca

# Athabasca Basin Development wins Skookum Jim Award

By Mike Gosselin  
For Eagle Feather News

Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership has been accumulating some mighty impressive accolades of late. Chairman of the Board, Glen Strong, recently made the trip to Toronto to accept the first ever Skookum Jim Award.

Strong admits he was expecting a small-scale awards ceremony hosted by the Prospector's and Developers Association of Canada.

"There were 740 people there at the Royal York Hotel ... it was like being at the Grammy's."

In many respects Athabasca Basin Development won Group of the Year. Skookum Jim was one of Canada's first prospectors and the award to bear his name recognizes Aboriginal excellence in the Canadian mineral industry.

"I had to do an acceptance speech and everything. It was a pretty big deal," Strong said over the phone recently.

Athabasca Basin Development originated as a non-profit training organization in 1998 and has developed into a diversi-

fied investment and operations company with a focus on the mining industry. Seven northern communities govern and own Athabasca Basin Development including: Black Lake, Camsell Portage, Fond du Lac, Hatchet Lake, Stony Rapids, Uranium City and Wollaston Lake.

nership has seven holdings from road construction to security and janitorial."

The economic benefits to the North have exceeded expectation but Strong points to the communities as the major success story.

"I think the unity of the seven com-

after contracts together."

Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership was formed in 2002 and for the first time paid 3% dividends of total equity back to the communities in 2007. According to Strong it's an indication of things to come.

"We've recently created a drilling company and plan to go international soon."

Even over the phone Strong's enthusiasm is infectious. With jobs, booming industry and Aboriginal people behind most of it, things can't get much better for Athabasca Basin Development. A recent project confirms it.

"Our construction company (Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd.) recently did some work on the highway (905).

"We completed the 30k we were supposed to do and had some money left over in the budget so we did 15k more."

The roadway into the Athabasca region is crucial in realizing the mining potential in the North.

"We're telling the province we can conduct business without a paved highway.

"Just imagine what we can do with a paved one."



Recipients of the Skookum Jim Award include: Don Deranger, President, Points Athabasca Contracting Ltd.; Geoff Gay, General Manager, Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership (ABDLP); Anne Robillard, Vice-Chair, ABDLP Board of Directors; Napoleon Mercredi, ABDLP Board of Directors; Glen Strong, Chair, ABDLP; Glenn Nolan, Co-Chair, PDAC Aboriginal Affairs committee.

Strong looks back ten years in disbelief.

"This whole operation started with a \$60,000 grant from INAC. Now the part-

nership is what really makes this worthwhile. Before, each community would work their respective contracts independently, now everyone is involved in going

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## Getting a Roof Over Saskatoon's Housing Crisis

A Community Conversation to Discuss the Solutions

Wednesday May 21st, 2008 - 7PM to 9:30PM

St. George Parish Hall (20th Street and Avenue M)

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

**JACK LAYTON**, Leader of Canada's NDP;

**RYAN WALKER**, Assistant Professor, Urban Planning and Geography, U of S;

**MARLA HARTMAN**, YWCA Crisis Counselor and Board Member of the Saskatoon Overnight Shelter Inc; **CHARLIE CLARK**, Saskatoon City Councillor, Ward 6.

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**Jennifer Lejan**

## Project Coordinator Position

Dizaines for Batoche Development Co-operative Ltd. is Saskatchewan's newest co-operative and we're looking for a dynamic and innovative individual to join our team. Dizaines is committed to preserving, promoting and protecting the Métis history, creating economic opportunity for aboriginal people and ensuring the Batoche Historic Site is a visitor destination.

As the Project Coordinator you must be able and willing to take responsibility for the further development and implementation of our objectives.

You will be a high-energy person with excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. You must have the ability to take initiative in community networking and possess strong community development skills. You'll need stellar organizational and time management skills and be able to exercise good judgment in problem solving and decision-making as well as demonstrate strong analytical, strategic planning and project management skills.

This position requires some travel. Candidates are expected to have their own vehicle.

If you're interested in this exciting position kindly provide your resume, including appropriate references, to:

**Dizaines for Batoche Development Co-operative Ltd.**  
fax - (306) 369-4142 email - [sagehill@sasktel.net](mailto:sagehill@sasktel.net)

Your resume along with a cover letter must be received by our office on or before May 21, 2008. We appreciate all responses, however, only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

Preference may be given to Métis candidates.



SIEF Business Services Office



# BIG PROJECT?

We're here to help.

URL: [www.sief.sk.ca](http://www.sief.sk.ca) T: (306) 955-4550  
E: [info@sief.sk.ca](mailto:info@sief.sk.ca) F: (306) 373-4969

## AMI Memorial Counsellor

AMI Memorials is pleased to announce that Dan Pelletier has joined the company as a Memorial Counsellor. Mr. Pelletier has built his reputation for exceptional customer service and relationship-building during his career in automotive and insurance sales.

AMI Memorials is the premier Aboriginal-owned and controlled firm in the memorial industry in Canada. Contact Dan Pelletier to learn more about AMI Memorials's unique, culturally sensitive products and services.

Treaty Four Governance Centre  
Fort Qu'Appelle, SK S0G 1S0  
306-332-4551 (Toll Free: 1-866-408-6264)  
[dan.pelletier@ami-memorials.com](mailto:dan.pelletier@ami-memorials.com)  
[www.ami-memorials.com](http://www.ami-memorials.com)



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Saskatoon, SK S7K 3V4  
Or Fax 306-931-4296

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest but only those being considered will be considered, no telephone phone calls please.

## RBC



**Doris Bear**  
Vice President  
Aboriginal Banking  
Manitoba, Saskatchewan &  
NW Ontario

Royal Bank of Canada is pleased to announce the appointment of Doris Bear to the position of Vice President Aboriginal Banking for Manitoba, Saskatchewan & NW Ontario in Commercial Financial Services. Doris will lead a team of Commercial Account Managers who are specialized in meeting commercial banking needs for our Aboriginal clients and markets.

Doris is a business professional with more than 15 years experience working with First Nation and Aboriginal communities. Prior to this appointment, she was a consultant who provided professional business advisory services to First Nations and Aboriginal clients in the area of financial and business management. Doris also enjoyed her work for the Assembly of First Nations as Executive Director of the Fiscal Relations Secretariat, the Treasury Board of Canada as an Estimates Analyst, Program Analyst and Sr. Contract Advisor. She began her business career in Winnipeg with the Toronto Dominion Bank where she worked for 8 years in a number of management positions, finishing as a Commercial Account Manager.

Doris is a member of the Peguis First Nation and holds a Masters of Business Administration degree from Queens University, a Business Administration diploma from Red River Community College and Certificates in Mediation and Negotiations from Harvard University. Doris joined RBC Royal Bank® in April 2008 and is looking forward to re-establishing relationships with First Nations and Aboriginal communities across this geography.

RBC® has a long history of partnership with First Nations and Aboriginal communities and is dedicated to supporting access to financial services, educational programs and community development through donations and sponsorship. The appointment of Doris to the role of Vice President Aboriginal Banking demonstrates a strong commitment to meeting client and community needs and opportunities. Doris and her family look forward to living in Winnipeg and enjoying all that the surrounding communities have to offer.

Royal Bank of Canada (RY on TSX and NYSE) and its subsidiaries operate under the master brand name of RBC. We are Canada's largest bank as measured by assets and market capitalization and one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies. We provide personal and commercial banking, wealth management services, insurance, corporate and investment banking, and transaction processing services on a global basis. We employ approximately 70,000 full- and part-time employees who serve more than 15 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients throughout offices in Canada, the U.S. and 36 other countries. For more information, please visit [rbc.com](http://rbc.com).

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# Learning partnership helps meet growing demand for skilled labour

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Dumont Technical Institute have partnered to ensure Métis people have training opportunities that will allow them to share the benefits of the province's thriving economy and meet the demand for skilled labour.

Through this partnership, Dumont Technical Institute has established a mobile classroom at a Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure facility in Prince Albert. Space inside the facility's shop is used as a lab for hands-on experience and demonstrations.

"This is an example of how a ministry can be innovative to help meet the current economic demands for skilled labour and have even more people benefit from our robust economy through partnership opportunities," Corrections, Public Safety and Policing Minister and Prince Albert Carlton MLA Darryl Hickie said on behalf of Highways and Infrastructure Minister Wayne Elhard.

There are currently 11 students enrolled in February in the pilot Heavy Equipment, Truck and Transport Applied Certificate program, which is offered through

Dumont Technical Institute, accredited by SIAST and taught at the Ministry facility.

"We approached the ministry because we wanted to offer this course, but didn't have all the necessary resources to offer a full learning experience," Gabriel Dumont Institute executive director Geordy McCaffrey said.

"Thanks to this partnership with the ministry, we can now do that and give Métis students the knowledge they need to compete in today's labour market."

When students finish the program in June, they will have completed their first year of training to become apprentice heavy-duty mechanics. They will have the skills necessary to seek apprenticeship opportunities, while the ministry will have an opportunity to recruit new employees.

Established in 1992, Dumont Technical Institute serves the educational and technical needs of Saskatchewan's Métis as the adult upgrading and technical training arm of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research.



Paul Morin of Prince Albert, who is originally from Sandy Bay, is one of the current 11 Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) students enrolled in the pilot Heavy Equipment, Truck and Transport Applied Certificate program. (Photo courtesy of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure)

## SIIT signs training agreement with Enbridge Pipelines

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies recently announced the formation of a skills training program designed to maximize the participation of Aboriginal people in the construction of Enbridge Pipelines Inc. projects, primarily the Alberta Clipper project.

SIIT will meet with the pipeline contractors to explore opportunities to enhance First Nation's participation in the project.

The need for a training plan was identified early in the proposed projects and Enbridge selected SIIT as the institute to best deliver training. Securing the interest of First Nations is especially critical given that 23 First Nations were identified by Enbridge as

being potentially impacted by the construction of the two pipelines.

Construction is expected to begin in August on the Alberta Clipper Mainline Expansion Project, portions of which are planned to take place in Saskatchewan. The project involves the construction of 1,590 kilometres (Canadian portion is 1050km) of new pipeline and associated infrastructure extending from Hardisty, Alberta to Superior, Wisconsin. That line is alongside the existing Enbridge mainline with the exception of 65km of new pipeline.

Randell Morris, President of SIIT is excited about the agreement and is looking forward to working with Enbridge.

"This will be our first pipeline project

and it will test our abilities to build crews that can work over a vast geographic area.

"Our first step in the project is to assess what types of workers are required. We will also begin to get to know the mainline contractors – these will be the companies that will open the door to employment. We will have our work cut out for us but taking advantage of this opportunity to allow our people to gain skills in the trades is critically important," Morris says.

"Given the retirements and effect of demographics we need to be encouraging companies to invest in First Nation development-both employment and business development," he adds.

"Enbridge is confident this agreement

will mean more opportunities for Aboriginal people to become involved in our pipeline projects," said Leon Zupan, Vice President, Operations with Enbridge Pipelines.

"This model should assist SIIT students in their growth, development and training. The need for skilled workers in industries such as ours has perhaps never been greater."

Over 6,000 SIIT students have found both work and access to apprenticeship training in the construction sector through projects such as this one. SIIT feels confident it is the training model that will help engage First Nations people in pipeline employment. The institute is expecting to have a program plan in place in several months.



### Mentorship Program CALL FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

We are seeking visual artists as mentors and trainees for a mentorship program from September 2008 to June 2009. Eight trainees will work one-on-one with experienced mentors. The program develops professional practices and support mechanisms for evolving artists and includes professional development workshops and group meetings. The time commitment for mentor and trainee consultations is a minimum of seven hours per month plus group meetings. Trainees are expected to commit additional time to the production and development of their art practice. Mentors must be experienced, professional artists. Trainees must be adults and not registered as students. Mentors and trainees must be Saskatchewan residents. Payment for mentors is \$2200; trainees are paid \$275 for material expenses. Some travel is required.

Deadline for applications is July 15, 2008.  
Call (306)522-978email  
mentorprograms@carfac.sk.ca  
or see www.carfac.sk.ca

This program is supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport and The Saskatchewan Arts Board.



Government of Canada  
Gouvernement du Canada

## New Horizons for Seniors Program Call for Applications

The Government of Canada is accepting applications for *Community Participation and Leadership* funding under the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

The Program funds community-based projects that encourage seniors to play an important role in their community by helping those in need; providing leadership; and sharing their knowledge and skills with others.

The deadline for applications is **June 13, 2008.**

1-800-277-9914  
TTY 1-800-225-4786  
www.hrsdc.gc.ca

Canada

# Team Sask good as gold at National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

The men's team from Saskatchewan won a close 4-3 game over Eastern Door & North to capture this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championship.

This year's event took place from April 27-May 3 and was hosted by the Garden River First Nation with games being played in Sault St Marie. In total Saskatchewan took about 45 players, male and female. Along with the players went a large contingent of coaches, trainers, chaperones, and definitely some boisterous fans.

The girls played hard all tournament and finished a very respectable sixth place, losing a heartbreaker 2-0 to a tough British Columbia squad in the quarter final.

Team Sask representative Courage Bear was proud of the effort shown.

"Overall both teams played extremely well, and were great representatives of the province and their communities."

## Muskeg Lake wins FSIN hockey title

Saskatoon was the host to this year's FSIN Hockey Championships during the weekend of April 18-20.

The province's top Senior Aboriginal hockey players were showcased and the games were all hotly contested.

This year's event had four divisions: Senior Contact, Recreation, Legends, and the Ladies.

Each team was comprised of player's from a particular First Nation. Below is a list of the results:

- Muskeg Lake Ladies 1st Place
- Ahtakakoop Chiefs 1st Place Recreation Division



Onion Lake Border Chiefs 1st Place Legends Division  
Beardy's Blackhawk's 1st Place Senior Contact Division

## Westside Warriors make season debut at SlamFest

It was a triumphant return to the Native Basketball Circuit for the Westside Warriors as they traveled to Leask, Saskatchewan and captured the 2008 SlamFest tournament. Mike Tanton was named tournament MVP as he dismantled defenses and set up his little bro Mason Medynski, who was on fire from behind the arc!

• Continued on Page 23



The Westside Warriors continued their winning ways with victory at the 2008 SlamFest in Leask.



### Urban Aboriginal Leadership Coordinator

(Recreation Technician)

#### Community Development Branch

(Temporary for approximately two years; may become permanent)

Posting No. 235(59)

The Urban Aboriginal Leadership Coordinator must be a person with background knowledge of Aboriginal culture and heritage, leadership training and skills and a keen interest and experience in working with communities to enhance opportunities for leadership and participation in sport, culture and recreation.

The Urban Aboriginal Leadership Coordinator will report to the Neighbourhood Program Consultant in the Community Development Branch and liaise closely with the section manager, recreation programmers, grants coordinator and marketing supports.

#### Leadership development:

- Identification of leadership opportunities in sport, culture and recreation for involvement of Aboriginals at the community level.

#### Community analysis and profiling:

- Assistance in developing a profile of the Aboriginal community that tie demographic elements to levels of physical activity.
- Assistance in creating appropriate messages and incentives regarding physical activity for the different segments of the community.

#### Grant delivery support:

- Promotion of City funding opportunities for groups belonging to or involving the Aboriginal community, in particular the opportunities presented by the City of Saskatoon's Urban Aboriginal Grant program.

#### Liaison between the City of Saskatoon and its Aboriginal community:

- Implementation of the communications strategy for Aboriginal programs.

#### Liaison between the broader community and the Aboriginal community:

- Promotion of collaboration between local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders and organizations for sport, cultural and recreational activities.

Hours of Work: Shift work and weekend work are involved.

Salary: \$3,788 to \$4,177 per month.

Closing date for applications is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2008



For complete employment details, go to [www.saskatoon.ca](http://www.saskatoon.ca), visit us at Human Resources - City Hall (222 Third Avenue N), or call 975-3261.



While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



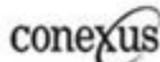
The Oskana Minor Hockey Development Inc. Board of Directors would like to thank the following sponsors:



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• Continued from Page 22

The Warriors battled fierce competition all weekend and in the end they beat the Legend Killers out of Regina.

A special thank you goes out to all teams who made out to Leask Friday and returned safely on Saturday. The roads and that blizzard that hit all of us is definitely one to remember.

## Brabant brothers making basketball a family affair

They started out on the courts of Riversdale, and this summer they all will represent Team Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games.

Kyle 19, Calvin 18, and Kaile 16 are all products of the White Buffalo Youth Basketball program and along with their cousin, Sheldon, and best friend, Jonathan Couillonneur will make up the core of the juvenile boys team.

They all credit Mike Tanton as being a major influence in their lives. And as they told me of times he helped with their homework, took them to play 3 on 3 all around the city, and provided fatherly advice, I felt the respect and love they have for him.

Together they have had major success in both the high school and Saskatoon Minor Basketball Leagues.

Look for them to continue that trend



Kyle, Calvin and Kaile are members of Team Saskatchewan's basketball team for the North American Indigenous Games.

as they travel to Cowichan as not only friends and family, but now as teammates.

**Random Thoughts .....**

I'm not making any more predictions about the NHL Playoffs now that the Sharks are out. I'm just saying I knew that

Pittsburgh was going to win it, I just didn't think it would be so soon! Some good news for local football fans ... Marcus Crandell, the Roughriders starting quarterback, was in Saskatoon recently at my kid's school doing some great work for our community ... Some bad news for

local football fans ... Marcus Crandell is the Roughriders starting quarterback! Congratulations to Dylan Barker of the U of S Huskies being the first overall pick in this year's CFL Canadian College Draft.

Good luck in Hamilton!

# PRIDE LIVES HERE



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Adrianna Morrison received her award from Gord Lang, President of SaskSport, Board of Directors, and from Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart.

(Photo by Mike Gosselin)

## Regina wrestler winner of SaskTel Youth Award for sports

The 2008 award recipient of the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award of Excellence in Sport is Adrianna Morrison, a Grade 11 student at Miller High School in Regina.

Adrianna has too many sport achievements to name them all, but here are few: She was the gold medalist at the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games (wrestling), 2006 City Champion in Wrestling, 2006 City Champions in Soccer and to date she has received 19 awards in her athletic career.

Adrianna exemplifies self-determination, self-motivation and discipline and supports her teammates. She provides leadership on and off the wrestling mat. She is a strong sportswoman gracious in victory and defeat.

Adrianna sees the large picture of sport – she sees sport as a tool in developing her into the best possible person. Adrianna also gives her time to the Jean Vanier swim volunteer program that assists special needs. As well she is a supervisor at her job at Tim Hortons.

Adrianna is a strong student in her academics with over an 80 average and has excellent attendance. She is proud of her Métis heritage and has enhanced her identity through Métis dancing with the Riel Reelers.

Adrianna's goal is to attend University to obtain a degree in education.

A poster for the 'Archives &amp; You 08' conference. The top part features a photograph of a vintage car on a track. The text 'archives &amp; you 08' is prominently displayed. Below the photo, it says 'May 24, 2008 Regina, Saskatchewan'. The main text reads: 'Attention Aboriginal &amp; Métis students The Canadian Council of Archives is holding a conference in Regina on May 24, 2008 www.archivesconference.ca.' It lists themes: 'Aboriginal Records', 'Native Studies workshop', 'Aboriginal Genealogy', 'Residential School photos that features Tyrone Tootosis', and 'Luncheon speaker is Doug Cuthand, Producer, Blue Hill Productions.' At the bottom, it states: 'The University of Saskatchewan is sponsoring the attendance of 25 Aboriginal / Métis students. They will be accepted on a "first-come first-served" basis. call George toll-free at 1.866.775.1816 to register.'

An advertisement for Bennett Dunlop Ford's Easy Auto Credit Program. The background is a photograph of a man wearing a black cowboy hat and a white t-shirt, standing in a field. The text is overlaid on the right side. It reads: 'The credit you deserve.' followed by 'Bennett Dunlop Ford's Easy Auto Credit Program'. Below that, it says: 'We'll help you find just the right vehicle, help you save thousands and help re-establish your credit, no matter what your current situation. Get the credit you deserve. Call Jill at 1 866 618 3501 for complete details. Or visit us 24 hours a day at www.easyautocredit.ca for easy pre-approval.' At the bottom, it says: 'Bennett Dunlop Easy Auto Credit' with a logo of a blue dollar sign. The address and website are: '770 Broad Street, Regina • 522-6612 www.bennettdunlopford.com'