

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Flying Dust finds housing solution

Flying Dust First Nation Chief Robert Merasty opened the Toronto Stock Exchange on October 6 to celebrate their partnership with Habitat For Humanity.



By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

FLYING DUST FIRST NATION – History was made in Toronto recently as Flying Dust First Nation Chief Robert Merasty placed his hand on an LCD screen that sounded a siren to officially open the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Chief Merasty was there to celebrate World Habitat Day and to announce a historic partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build an elders lodge in his First Nation.

“Having the chance to ring that bell to open the market made me really proud of our community and what it means for our Elders,” said Chief Merasty.

This will be the first Habitat For Humanity build on First Nation land and will see construction of a 10-Unit Lodge to provide housing to Elders of Flying Dust First Nation as well as retrofit the vacated, underutilized homes to enable young families to realize their dreams of homeownership.

Chief Merasty and his Council had been wracking their brains on how to provide better services to their elders but the issue is fraught with roadblocks.

“Funding is really tight and we didn’t have two nickels to rub together in terms of finding a way to meet their needs. Our elders were saying they needed a lodge and really, it was up to the community to find a solution,” said Chief Merasty.

“I was at a conference in Toronto and someone suggested meeting with Habitat for Humanity. So he set it up and I met Jay Thakar, their National Manager of the Aboriginal Housing Program. We sat down and I said I know that your mandate is single family dwellings. But we have an emerging need with taking care of our Elders. I asked if we can build this \$1.4 mill project with ten units and a 2,500 square foot common area for our elders. They were excited right away.”

The integrated build project represents a cost effective and efficient model that could bring transformative change for many First Nations across Canada where the demand for housing is outstripping resources. Not only will the partnership provide homes for Flying Dust First Nation Elders and young families, it will also leave a legacy of skills and community spirit.

There will be opportunities for youth to get training and skills in building, enhanced awareness on maintaining and managing homes, well built homes and enhanced community pride.

“I think this will be a good thing for the elders,” said elder Betty Matchee.

She is quite independent and likes her own little corner as she says, but she realizes the value for elders to have a lodge.

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Welcome to our
Education & Role Models Edition
Coming In November - Veterans & Youth Issue

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artsandscience.usask.ca/scienceoutreach/kamskenow



A brush with royalty for Whitecap couple

Prince Edward's down home demeanor impressive

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – What started out as a normal day for Gloria Eagle and Elwin Bear turned into a chance encounter and a once-in-a-lifetime chat with royalty.

contributions of the multi-cultural allies who participated in the War of 1812. The statue is near the Farmers Market, just up the block from the landmark statues of



Prince Edward paid a visit to Saskatoon to unveil the War of 1812 Monument.



Gloria Eagle and Elwin Bear had the thrill of a lifetime when they got an opportunity to chat with Prince Edward. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

Eagle and Bear were on hand to witness Prince Edward unveil the War of 1812 Monument.

They have lots of ties to the event since it is their community, the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, that has donated the monument to the City of Saskatoon and their two children, Summer and Shayne were there with their school to sing O Canada for the Prince.

But they sure did not expect to meet the Prince. The experience left Gloria almost speechless.

“Oh my God it was awesome. My husband said, ‘let’s go over here and talk to him’, so I didn’t think we would talk to him at all so we came over,” said Gloria, slightly out of breath from the encounter.

“But he was awesome. I have never spoken to royalty in my life but it was really nice to see him. He was so well-mannered and awesome that he came and talked to us like that.”

Prince Edward arrived at the riverbank in a motorcade and was greeted by Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear and Councillors Frank Royal and Dwayne Eagle and Senator Melvin Littlecrow, local politicians and dignitaries. After some welcoming comments, Prince Edward, Chief Bear, MP Lynne Yelich and Mayor Don Atchison did the final unveiling.

The monument is a donation from Whitecap Dakota First Nation to the City of Saskatoon to recognize and honour the

Chief Whitecap and Saskatoon founder John Lake.

Following the unveiling, Prince Edward went and greeted children from Whitecap who had assembled to sing for the Prince. He then walked throughout the crowd allowing photos and stopping to visit with the occasional fan.

That’s when he spotted Elwin and Gloria and he asked them where they were from. When they told him Whitecap, they certainly got his attention.

The significance of meeting the Prince and the unveiling wasn’t lost on Elwin.

“This monument is special for the Native people of our country and good for the future,” he said when it comes to improving relations in Canada.

The City of Saskatoon has worked hard at encouraging partnerships and inclusion in areas of Saskatoon and Elwin and Gloria are proud of their ties to the area and with Whitecap’s history being so prominently displayed.

“For this event, my kids sang and my mom, Elder Melvina Eagle, she also planted a tree down in this area with a bunch of other Elders a few years ago,” added Gloria.

“We come here all the time to the riverbank and now we can tell our kids this is part of Whitecap now.

“I think this was an awesome opportunity to meet the Prince. And I think he’s handsome, too!”



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You don't have to look far for outstanding role models

One of the benefits of working in the newspaper business is that it allows you the opportunity to meet a variety of people.

There have been several folks, role models we will call them, that we have been following for years that have had some special recognition this month. They represent a wide swath of the community and, special that they are, are just the tip of the iceberg of good folks in our community.

Dr. Carrie Bourassa received a special distinction last month. Dr. Bourassa, a Professor of Indigenous Health Studies at the First Nations University of Canada, has been named a member of the inaugural cohort of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

She joins 90 other colleagues from 51 Canadian universities and the National Research Council and together they represent Canada's emerging generation of scholarly, scientific and artistic leadership. Carrie researches the impacts of colonization on the health of First Nations and Métis people and works toward creating culturally safe care in health service delivery for Indigenous people as well as research in HIV and AIDS among Indigenous women and dementia treatment for Aboriginal people.

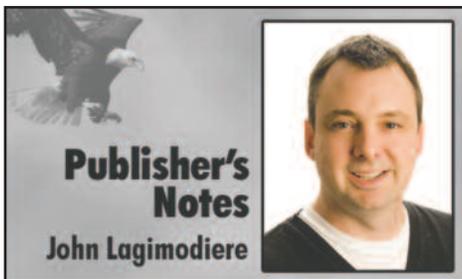
A proud Métis, Carrie is a member of

the Royal College Council and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and a very proud hockey mom of a heck of a goalie.

Our old pal Ernie Scoles was held up (in a good way!) by the community last month. Ernie is an artist, a businessman and a philanthropist. His store, Scoles Fine Art and framing is a go-to place for Aboriginal art and for framing. Ernie is also the first stop for many people looking for donations and support for golf tournaments or basically any function.

Ernie is also the big push behind the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Companies annual art auction. He is tireless and can't say no to requests. Recently his wife, Doreen, had some health issues that have impacted her ability to work. Coupled with Ernie's generous community support, the situation put a squeeze on their finances. The solution? Steak night!

At the sold-out event, you could see the gratitude the community felt about Ernie and Doreen's work. The prizes and donations toward supporting his family were phenomenal. It was fine proof that what goes around comes around because when Ernie needed the community, we



were there for him because he is always there for us.

Business leader Leanne Bellegarde is being recognized this month as a

recipient of a University of Saskatchewan outstanding alumni award. Leanne is the Director Aboriginal Strategy for Potash-Corp. Since taking on the job, Leanne has helped the giant potash producer become an Aboriginal friendly work place and valuable community partner with many organizations including the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Prior to PotashCorp, Leanne was a lawyer for SaskTel, the City of Saskatoon, and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, had her own law firm and also worked for SIGA. Her impressive resume and dedication to moving the Aboriginal portfolio forward in all aspects has surely made her deserving of role model status and an alumni award.

Last but not least the community of Whitecap Dakota First Nation is honouring their Chief Darcy Bear this month. He recently celebrated his 20th year as Chief of the small community just outside of Saskatoon.

When Bear became Chief, he had

more money in his bank account than the First Nation and was better known as the "good looking guy" in my wife's Human Resource class at the U of S. Once he became Chief, Darcy implemented financial controls, instituted partnerships and literally picked up that community and put it on his back.

In 20 years they have created a world-class golf course, built infrastructure and host a casino, established a land management regime that allows home ownership for anyone and encourages business investment and is the only reserve in Canada that is showing immigration. It is amazing what vision, drive and accountability can do. Congratulations on 20 years Chief Bear.

All of these fine folks, role models if you will, lead by example. Whether it is in academics, business, philanthropy or political leadership, these people say what they are going to do and then do it well. Their accomplishments lift up the community and bring a better life for all the people in Saskatchewan.

Successes breeds success and with leaders like this in the community we don't have to look very far for role models because these people are right in our community.

They also inspire us to up our game every single day. I'm grateful to have met them.



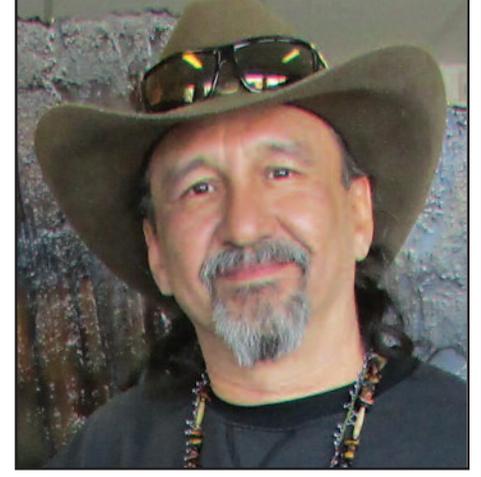
DR. CARRIE BOURASSA



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We have so much to learn from our role models

I have had many role models in my life, some of them very old, some very young. Each one contributed to the child I was and the adult I became.

I have never forgotten any of them. Sometimes they have receded to the very back of my remembering but it has only taken an event, words spoken, and a gesture to bring them immediately into my space to remind me.

I have been thinking a lot about them for the past few weeks as I have been researching and preparing for a keynote address I am giving at a Child Welfare Conference in Ontario this month.

As you all know, we have more children in the care of Social Services than we ever had in residential schools.

And so it is imperative, I believe, that if we are to change those statistics we must stop looking for answers and solutions outside of ourselves, our families, and communities and look inward, to find the strengths, teachings, remembering's and role models to bring us out of this dark and terrible place.

I believe we have the people to do that and the leadership. I also believe we have the courage and determination.

But I do not believe we can make change with the worn out tools the Colonizer passed on to us in his hurry to

assimilate us so he could take our land and resources.

Those tools have not never worked for him. One need only to look at his own countries and those he colonized to see starvation, war, disease and the killing of women and children.

Nothing is worth that.

But we can make change by coming together and finding a new way to move forward. A way to use the common sense that Creator gave us and the knowledge that each one of us carries, from the smallest child to the oldest person.

This means a new way of thinking, of living and doing things and role models can help us do this.

Role models, elders and community leaders who are kind, gentle and tough as nails, people who understand the sickness of colonial history but remember and practice the old knowledge and wisdom. Common sense stuff like building our own homes, for example.

Going into the bush, taking trees like our grandpas did and building good solid sensible houses. We don't need running water, flush toilets or gas furnaces.



Those are things we can get later, when we can afford them. But we need more housing like right now.

Why are we waiting for a contractor who could care less about us, to come for millions of dollars and build us a house that will fall down around us in a few years.

Look at some of the houses our people built long ago, some of them are still standing and with some work, we could probably live in them again. I know because with some work I have lived in one of those old houses for nearly 40 years.

I have been able to do that because someone role modeled for me, that it could be done and also reminded me that I was raised in one of those houses and came out a healthy person.

I have had electricity for 20 years, but I still have no running water, I haul it from Rosthern. I have wood heating and a lovely outhouse with a warm seat for your bum on cold days and a bookshelf should you want to read while you're sitting there doing your business.

It didn't hurt my children, they

worked hard and contributed to the well-being of our family by hauling wood, melting snow to bathe and shoveling it to get us out of the driveway on stormy days.

And today my grand and great grandchildren look forward to visiting as do my friends, so they can do the same thing. (Lol. For a weekend that is)

I didn't do it for nostalgia or believe me, to show off. I did it because I had very little money and I didn't want my children to grow up on welfare. I was like many single moms, in a desperate place. I don't need to explain what it feels like to be on the verge of homelessness.

One day I read a story in a native newspaper about a woman who was looking after her ill and crippled father and had no home because her band, not considering her a priority, refused to give her housing. Her father had been a builder of log homes on the rez before Indian affairs houses so she decided she would, with his help, just build it herself.

She started with an axe, an old Swede saw, a hammer and a bucket of rusty nails she pulled from old boards she salvaged at a nearby dump and together, with her determination and strength, his knowledge and wisdom they built a home for themselves.

• Continued on Page 17



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Apparently even Dirk has a heart

On the morning of September 3 something incredible happened.

I had a heart attack.

The Dirkster has a heart? And it was attacked? Why, yes, smartass, he has and it was. And it could be the best thing that ever happened to me, next to my babies and grandbabies, and the extraordinary women I got to meet on this fabulous journey, of course.

When the doctor informed me what was happening, as it was happening, a part of me went all calm inside.

I thanked the Creator for having blessed me with a fantastic life, even the rough bits. Of course I told him, "Y'know, I don't think I'm quite done loving yet. Y'know that, right?"

Having said that, I put myself in a meditative state and made myself ready to meet my maker.

Apparently the Creator wasn't quite ready for the ordeal of meeting me yet because I found myself punted back downstairs.

The crew at the hospital did their part too.

Upon staggering into the emergency room a doctor sprang into action and I was hustled into a room with a small platoon of doctors and nurses, plus several machines ... one of which went

"Ping" every now and then.

An hour and a half later I found myself in a recovery room blinking at the ceiling, thinking "Holy crap, now THAT was interesting!"

I was awake the entire time, even for the surgery.

So I thanked the Creator, of course, and the crew at the hospital. But I also thanked myself, which some people may find an odd and arrogant thing to do.

Some context might help: I've always known of my families' history with heart disease.

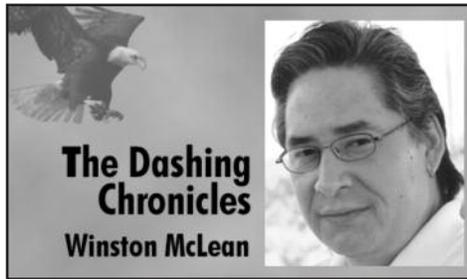
So, six years ago, I joined a gym. In part, I wanted to lose the flab around my gut, make myself attractive to the ladies, and perform better in the sack.

I also wanted to stave off what might be the inevitable.

It is ironic that my heart attack started at the gym.

But only a moron would conclude that the gym caused the attack.

Get a trainer and know your limits and you'll be fine, and you'll get more



action from your woman along the way too.

Going to the gym all these years is what improved my chances.

What else helped? At the time, I hadn't a clue what was happening.

I thought I was having a sudden, hellish cold – fire was burning across my chest and up my throat, the sweat almost raining off my skin.

I got off the treadmill, showered and was on my way home to guzzle a bottle of cough syrup!

A little voice nagged. And my car somehow veered to the hospital instead of my apartment downtown.

I don't recall making that decision but I reckon I was being steered away from a dreadful and tragic course of action.

Cough syrup. Really?

Three days later, as I checked out of the hospital, the head nurse remarked to a handful of student nurses, "Now this patient is just truly remarkable."

Of course, I had to reply, "I see my

exes have been bragging about me again."

Titters and giggles filled the room.

So, I had several things going for me, and to say that I am grateful is an understatement that borders on the absurd.

Prior to the attack I had been learning, on my own and with Dirk's Board of Guv'nuhs, about men, our vision and our missions, about what our women want from us, need from us.

But I was stalled. Settling for second best in my own life, and feeling the hypocrite.

Its clear Life had grabbed me by the short and curlies and said, "Listen up!" - though why Life would grab me there and ask me to listen up has me wondering if Life needs a lesson or two about the male anatomy and how the lads really work.

The doctors have cleared me. Not to resume my life, that would be a mistake. But to make sure the next dozen or so chapters are exceptional.

Stay tuned. We're going to have a blast.

Dirk says, When she asked, are you ready to be tortured in a way only a woman can torture a man? I said, yes. She ate half my chips.

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Walking With Our Sisters gaining traction

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

SASKATOON – October 2 was the first anniversary of the six-year tour of Walking With Our Sisters (WWOS), an installation of beaded vamps (moccasin tops) that originated as an inspiration when Métis artist Christi Belcourt was travelling Highway 17 towards Ottawa from her home in Espanola, Ontario.

Belcourt, lead coordinator on the WWOS National Collective, says she hoped for a few hundred, maybe as many as 600, when she put the callout. Now there are over 1,800 beaded pairs of vamps ceremonially representing and honouring missing and murdered women and girls. The installation itself has become a memorial to honouring those interrupted and unfinished lives, from those left behind. Each set of vamps is an act of labour and of love.

From the beginning the entire project has been “crowd-sourced” on social media sites. To date, there are almost 16,000 people on the national WWOS Facebook webpage, where vamp pairs are displayed and updates on preparations, installations, and related topics are shared. As an Indigenous-led process, WWOS has become much more than an art exhibit, involving hundreds of volunteers in each location.

Glenda Abbott, one of the lead coordinators for the Saskatoon installation, and Visitor Services Manager at Wanuskewin, where WWOS will open on Oct. 31, spoke about the love, attention, care, and intent embedded in each vamp by the creators, and how you can actually feel the energy. There have been many community conversations, activities, and teach-ins leading up to the installation.



Each pair of vamps represent a missing or murdered woman.

Volunteers will be needed for not only the installation October 27-30, but the 21 days following, and the de-installation November 22-25. Firekeepers for the sacred fire during this time are also being asked for, which will involve a callout for all men – traditional teachings will be provided.

Winona Wheeler, head of the Native Studies Department at the University of Saskatchewan and one of the WWOS “Keepers” on the local organizing committee, shared traditional teachings at one of the many “community conversations” held in Saskatoon, noting that “all people” are invited, speaking to the one of the guiding principals: everyone is welcome to come, participate and help, or attend.

Elder Linda Young, one of the grandmothers the committee has turned to help guide the process, has led activities such as taking youth sage picking, and prayers

at many of the community conversations.

“We are 100 per cent non-political and non-partisan,” explains Belcourt of the guiding principles behind each installation. “We invited everyone equally and ask everyone to leave their careers at the door. There are no political speeches because this is a memorial.

“So we are always reminded to approach everyone with gentleness and kindness, understanding that we all carry experiences of hurt or grief. We are all volunteers, and no one makes any money from this project.”

WWOS is a collective of hundreds of volunteers and as a non-political and non-partisan project does not have a position on a national inquiry, instead preferring to take the lead from families themselves. Saskatoon has a long history of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Right now the Douglas Hales trial is continuing for Daleen Bosse Muskego’s murder. Statistically, Saskatchewan is per capita one of the highest provinces for murdered and missing Indigenous women.

At the annual Sisters in Spirit walk at Osakayak, there was repeated call for a national inquiry, and there have even been suggestions that a local inquiry would be a welcomed start.



Vamps created by people around the world will be on display at Wanuskewin.

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J has all the qualities of an outstanding role model

“Captain my captain.”

This is a line from one of my favorite movies Dead Poets Society and for me a description of my role model, my nephew J.

What is a role model? I think a role model is a person who is honest, kind-hearted, positive, respectful, passionate, generous, open-minded and humble. I believe that at any time we can find ourselves surrounded by people who possess these qualities.

Role models don't necessarily have a halo around their heads, or wings on their back but they are good, kind people who set an example for the rest of us.

My role model has all these qualities. J has been battling cancer for the last eight years of his 23 years on this earth and he has done so with quiet dignity and courage.

He has been in remission a few times, been through many surgeries and treatments and still he has maintained a positive attitude and a love of life like no other person I know.

He is wise beyond his years and he is my role model – my hero!

Years ago I was also diagnosed with cancer and I remember it being the scariest time in my life.

The blessing that I received from my diagnosis was a real, true appreciation for life, love and laughter. I start my days being grateful for everything that the Creator has given me.

Someone once said, “I may not have everything that I want, but I have everything that I need.” Tapwe!

I have heard a cancer journey being referred to as “Riding the Dragon”, an accurate description for sure. J is a professional dragon rider, a role model for many cancer patients and healthy people alike.

He embraces all that life has to offer and is living his best life every day.

Recently the doctors told J that the cancer is back and that there is nothing more that modern medicine can do for him.

The chemotherapy is not working and they cannot treat him with radiation anymore.

Most people would crawl into a hole or stick their head in the sand but not J! He married the love of his life this past August and recently moved into a new



Sandee Sez
Sandra Ahenakew

apartment with his new bride.

He is getting on with the business of living and making good memories with

his wife, family and friends.

J gives new meanings to the phrase, “don't sweat the small stuff”. Let me share with you one of his recent posts on Facebook. “Every day I wake up and think that I am the most blessed person in the whole world, even though I might have one of the hardest lives, all that goes away because I get to wake up every morning next to the love of my life, Sarah.

“I might wake up with pain or just not enough sleep, but still have a smile on my face because this woman is beside me.”

Dude made me cry! At his young age J knows the beauty of life and love, he embraces each moment and I am so proud of the man that he is.

One year at a youth conference, J was asked to get up and speak and tell his story.

People say you could have heard a

pin drop at the conference as J spoke about his life. Imagine a room full of teenagers and everyone was quiet! That in itself is a miracle.

J is a miraculous wonder and a gift to our family and all who know him. He encourages the youth to live a drug and alcohol free life.

He is a true leader in our family and community. There are some truly awesome youth out there and J is one of them.

There are many people among us who are committed to making this world a better place. People like J who in his own small way, tries to bring about a positive change.

He has had to overcome many adversities in his short time on this earth and has done so with grace and humility.

Thank you, J for showing me how to live my best life, thank you for the love and kindness you show and share every day, thank you for teaching some of us how to ride the dragon.

Thank you for your emails and letters.

You can write to me at Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 St Main Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

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Bitter feuding leads to Métis Nation defaulting

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan has been placed in default of its funding agreement with the federal government.

The organization will lose its funding effective November 1, 2014. Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt has sent a letter to Métis leaders across Saskatchewan explaining the reasons for the government's decision.



ROBERT DOUCETTE

"It is my understanding that as of September 30, 2014, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan has not been able to hold a properly and duly called Legislative Assembly due to ongoing internal governance issues, and as a result is in default of its funding agreement as of October 1, 2014.

"Therefore, the federal government is holding Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to the terms and conditions of their Basic Organizational Capacity agreement and halting all payments to Métis Nation-Saskatchewan as of November 1, 2014," Valcourt said in the letter.

The letter was long in coming. A divisive rift between members of the Provincial Métis Council has led to no Provincial Métis Council meetings being held. No Provincial Métis Council meetings mean no Legislative Assemblies can be called. No meetings, no governance, no funding.

MN-S President Robert Doucette insists he has tried to call repeated meetings since this summer and has provided audits and other information requested but to no avail.

"It is sad that it has come to this," said Doucette. "At the end of the day, Métis citizens are impacted the most when their

leaders don't work together. I am attempting to convene a PMC meeting next week. I hope the majority of them will attend."

Darlene McKay, Area Director for Western Region 2 disputes Doucette's assertion that they won't meet.

"We have invited him and the executive to several meetings where we had quorum but they didn't show up," said McKay from her office in Prince Albert.

"And Robert insists on calling a meeting with one agenda item, an MNLA. But how can us as a Council go to an MNLA when we have not had proper reporting for years. We want full documentation on several different topics including the taxes owed at Batoche. We are responsible for this."

The MN-S has 12 Regions, each with an (unpaid) Area Director and an estimated 130 Locals, of which, according to a report made by consulting firm Deloitte, only 30 Locals actually fit the Constitutional criteria to qualify as a Local. The governance struggles and lack of progress have been public and very frustrating for Métis people.

The funding cut would directly affect the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan executive and staff but beyond that the average Métis citizen shouldn't be impacted and



BERNARD VALCOURT

may even be welcoming of some change. The feud and struggles at the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan have been running for years and some see this as a breaking point.

"There may be no impact at all in the community," said Murray Hamilton, an educator and former Vice President of the MN-S.

"It has come to the point that the Métis Nation has no significance on our daily lives and is almost irrelevant. I would worry about Batoche and our affiliates, but I ask you this. Are you going to miss your Area Director?"

Habitat for Humanity helps community meet elders' needs

• Continued from Page One

"Some of the housing is getting run down and this lodge can bring the elders closer together where they can visit," said Matchee.

"The elders can keep an eye on each other and they don't have to worry about snow removal or yard work. I hope the youth come and visit the elders."

Habitat for Humanity Canada's Aboriginal Housing Program began in 2007. Aboriginal families living in rural and urban areas have been the primary recipients of safe, decent and affordable Habitat homes. But since signing an agreement with the Assembly of First Nations in 2011, Habitat for Humanity has also been working with Aboriginal communities to find ways to serve families living on settlements and reserves, while respecting the unique land regime challenges associated with traditional territories.

"Habitat's Aboriginal Housing Program has made significant strides under the leadership of Habitat for Humanity Canada's Aboriginal Housing Program Manager, Jay Thakar," said Vivian Pengelly, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Lloydminster.

"Habitat Lloydminster is incredibly proud to partner with Flying Dust First Nation to address housing needs on First Nation land."

The project will be funded in most part from the Bands trust, but because of the partnership and unique building, there will be other savings.

"Habitat for Humanity brings to the table the profile and credibility in terms of a big project and they have the administrative expertise to bring together our volunteers and fundraiser and procurement committees that we need to form," said Chief Merasty.

He also pointed out that having the elders all together will save them money in heating, water and electricity as well as allow for more efficient delivery of health services.

"The best part of working with the Habitat people is the synergy and enthusiasm. This project is bringing the community together to meet the needs of our elders. This is about our elders. We are saying we are going to take care of you. Don't worry. This lodge will be more than just a building. This builds community engagement and pride."

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Bellegarde makes it official; he's in the running for Chief of AFN

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

WANUSKEWIN – Playfully exposing the worst kept secret in First Nation politics in Saskatchewan, Perry Bellegarde stepped to the microphone at Wanuskewin and cleared the air on his political future.

“I am here to formally announce my intention to run for Chief of the Assembly of First Nations in Winnipeg in December,” said Bellegarde to the media and several supporters as he was backed by Elders, Chiefs and Councillors from across Saskatchewan.

“The reason I am running is simple. It is having the ability to make a change. My life has been dedicated to this. I know what it takes to make change.”

Bellegarde certainly has the experience. He has led at almost every level of First Nation government. He has been Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations for a total of seven years, a position he currently holds. He has been the Saskatchewan Regional Chief with the Assembly of First Nations. Previously he was the Assistant Tribal Council Representative, and then the Representative for the Touchwood-File Hills-Qu'Appelle Tribal Council for 12 years and he has also held local responsibilities as a Councillor and then Chief of Little Black Bear First Nation.

The only position missing on that resume is Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, a post he barely missed out on five years ago after losing out on an eighth round ballot to Sean Atleo.

Knowing full well the budget cuts to Aboriginal Government Organizations and the recent public struggles of the AFN have shaken the trust of grassroots peoples and called into question the relevancy of these political organ-



FSIN Senator Margaret Keewatin from Okanese First Nation was witness to Perry Bellegarde's announcement to start his campaign for Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

izations, Bellegarde asserted the importance of the work.

“First, the issues haven't changed. We need housing and education and health services and protection of our rights. And yes the AFN must become relevant and responsive,” he said in a media scrum.

“We have to stand up for Aboriginal rights and title. We have to stand up for Treaty rights. There is always a need for a collective voice.”

With over 600 First Nations in Canada, and the long running divisions between Treaty First Nations and bands with Aboriginal title, candidates have to find a fine line of politics and a way to reach out to every band in one way or another and then unite them.

Bellegarde has already garnered support from local leaders like Chief Robert Merasty of Flying Dust, Chief Todd Peigan of Pasqual First Nation and Chief Rick Gamble of Beardy's and Okemasis and from leaders across Canada including Chief Roger William of the Xenigwet in First Nation in B.C., Chief Marianna Couchie of the Nipissing First Nation in Ontario and Chief Ken Barlow of the Indian Island First Nation in New Brunswick.

“The Assembly of First Nations is at a pivotal point in its history,” said Bellegarde. “AFN must be relevant, responsive and respectful because creating positive change for First Nations – in our homes, at our jobs and with our families – is essential. Our people need and deserve effective leadership that is based on extensive experience and an exceptional degree of focus. I am committed to delivering exactly that.”

The election will be held in Winnipeg from Dec. 9 to Dec. 11. The only other formal candidate so far is Ghislain Picard, an AFN Regional Chief from Quebec. He is currently the acting Chief at the AFN.

Bellegarde won't know the rest of his opponents until nominations close in early November, until then, to keep within the \$35,000 AFN election budget, Bellegarde said he intends to get in front of assemblies and tribal councils.

“I'm just trying to meet as many people as I can and tell them my plan,” said Bellegarde as he prepared to leave for a flight to Toronto.

“After that it is in the Creator's and First Nations leader's hands.”

Candidates declared for FSIN's Vice-Chief positions

SASKATOON – The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation's Credentials Committee recently announced the candidates for the Office of Second Vice Chief and the Office of Fourth Vice Chief.

The Candidates, in alphabetical order, for the Office of Second Vice Chief are:

Cameron, Robert (Bobby) - Witchekan First Nation and Fourhorns, Jeremy - Piapot First Nation

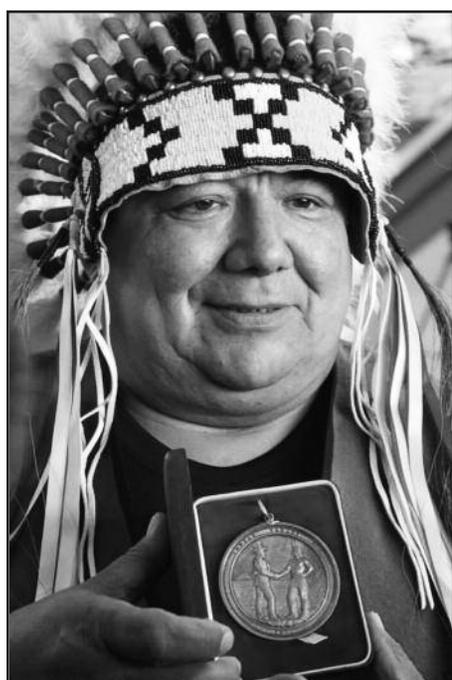
The Candidates, in alphabetical order, for the Office of Fourth Vice Chief are: Bear, Heather - Ochapowace First Nation and McLeod, Robin - Lac La Ronge Indian Band

The elections for Second Vice Chief and Fourth Vice Chief will take place during the FSIN Legislative Assembly on Oct. 29 and 30 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

For information on the candidates go to www.eaglefeathernews.com

The FSIN represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan. The Federation is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of Treaty, as well as the promotion, protection and implementation of the Treaty promises that were made more than a century ago.

Historic Treaty Four Medal returns



Chief Barry Kennedy displays the Treaty 4 medal.

(Photo by Cherish Francis)

REGINA – On Monday, Sept. 29, a long-lost Treaty Four medal, one of only 21 original medals presented to each Chief who entered into treaty on September 15, 1874, returned to Treaty Four territory.

The Treaty Four medal was in a private collection amassed by the late Robert D.W. Band and was consigned for sale with Jeffrey Hoare Auctions on Sept. 20, 2014. After learning about the sale of the Treaty Four medal, Paula Acoose and her husband, Ray McCallum decided to use their own personal funds to purchase the medal for the people of Treaty Four. They flew to the auction in London, Ontario and were successful in acquiring the medal.

“On behalf of the Treaty Four First Nations, we express our deep gratitude to everyone who played a role in assisting Treaty Four in bringing the medal home,” says Treaty 4

“Understanding the historical and spiritual significance of the medal, Wendy Hoare, from Jeffrey Hoare Auctions offered to personally deliver the medal to Treaty Four territory,” added Spokesperson Chief Lynn Acoose.

Treaty Four Elders, Leadership and Membership conducted a reclamation ceremony when the medal arrived at the Regina Airport.

The Treaty Four Trust and Treaty Four Council of Chiefs will be undertaking a fundraising campaign to repay Paula and Ray, and the medal will be collectively held as a legacy for all Treaty Four people.

Pelican Narrows youth make memorable trip to mountains

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

PELICAN NARROWS – A trip of a lifetime for 42 youth from Pelican Narrows was made possible by hard work, sacrifice and community commitment.

When Weldon McCallum was a youth worker for PBCN Health Services he and a friend had a conversation about how awesome it would be to take youth camping to the Alberta mountains ... especially kids who have never had the chance to experience such a sight and adventure.

“That night I went to bed I said to myself ‘I’m going to do it! I’m going to take 40 kids camping in the mountains.’ Boy did I ever have my work cut out for me,” admitted McCallum.

He did research on the Internet about cost and gathered up a team of community volunteers to work alongside the Pelican Narrows Youth Council to help make this trip a reality. Their first fundraiser didn’t go so well.

“The following next month we held a Truck Fish Derby as a fundraiser. We were successful but not as much as we wanted, we made a total of \$435. Throughout the year we did fish derbies, Canteen Fundraisers, Community Radio Bingos, and however else we could fundraise, and with the help of PBCN Local Council and Community School we

managed to raise \$33,000.”

There were lots of nerves the day before the trip but they were able to take a total 42 youth and children along with 10 chaperones camping in Banff National Park. En route they stayed in Calgary to tour the Calgary Tower but when they hit Banff, McCallum knew it was going to be special.

“Before we checked into our campground ... the looks on the youths’ faces was priceless. Their eyes were glued to the window just in amazement,” he said.

“We camped in Banff for two nights. Waking up in the outdoors to see the surrounding mountain was breathtaking. In Banff we got to go up Sulphur Mountain and walked the trail which is where the group picture was taken.

“En route to Jasper we got to tour the Glacier Sky Walk which was a new tourist attraction that opened this year. That experience alone was both scary and made your heart skip a beat standing over a 2,000 foot drop on Plexiglas on the edge of a mountain.”

Throughout the rest of our trip the youth enjoyed the scenic sights of Jasper National Park and a night in Edmonton and spent a whole day in West Edmonton Mall.

“On the way home from our trip I have to admit I was a bit sad that it was all coming to an end, and in a way I felt



It took the cooperation of the entire community to raise enough money to enable a group of 42 young people from Pelican Narrows to make a trip to see the Rocky Mountains of Alberta. But seeing the incredible sights and creating memories along the way made all the hard work worthwhile.

relieved that it was over and that I have accomplished one of the biggest goals I set before my young life in taking these kids on this trip,” added McCallum.

“We couldn’t have done it without the sponsors, though. We have to thank Angela Merasty and our chaperones Betty Highway, Mary Jane Michel, Helen Morin, Harolda Merasty, Rapheal Linklater Jr., Lindy Michel, Preston McCallum, and Myrtle Ballantyne. Also

thanks to our sponsors Pelican Narrows Education who allowed us to use their bingo license for fundraising and to Pelican Narrows Local Council for their sponsorship of the bus that we rented from Prince Albert Northern Bus Lines.

“I would also like to mention that this trip was a challenge ... but not impossible, if people from Pelican Narrows could do it for their youth, anyone, anywhere can do it.”

Proceeds support White Buffalo Youth Lodge programming and the STC Home Fires Foundation



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Lieutenant Governor visits North to present seven student awards

Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield has visited seven communities in the North to present awards student awards.



Harris Tinker Jr. Received the Grade 10 Northern Student Achievement Award from Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Scofield.

The Northern Student Achievement Awards were established in 1989 by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence recognizes one student at each grade level from 7 to 12. The award criteria acknowledge academic standing, school attendance, and involvement in cultural activities.

The lieutenant-governor made stops and presentations at Creighton Community School, Taylor Kryschuk, Grade 11; Charlebois School in Cumberland House, Acagos Carriere, Grade 7; St. Pascal School, Green Lake, Hannah Anderson-Ross, Grade 8; Minahik Waskahigan School, Pinehouse, Harris Tinker Jr., Grade 10; Hector Thiboutot Community School, Sandy Bay; Churchill Community High School, La Ronge, Kacee Worobey, Grade 9; Rossignol High School, Ile a la Crosse, Dakota Laliberte, Grade 12.



Acagos Carriere, a Grade 8 student at Charlebois Community School in Cumberland House with Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield (left) and Lily McKay-Carriere and Clifford Carriere.

Cameco 

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Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc.

**28 years of Growing the First Nation Entrepreneurial and Business Spirit
by being leaders in providing innovative financial products and services.**

Established in 1986, Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc. (SIEF) offers commercial and agriculture lending and business consulting services to First Nations businesses in Saskatchewan. Our offices are situated in Saskatoon (Head Office), on the Asimakaniseekan Askiy Reserve and a sub office in North Battleford.

In the early 1980's, the need to establish a lending corporation was identified by the First Nations of Saskatchewan. These 75 First Nations now make up the membership of SIEF. At the time, The First Nations, Federal and Provincial Governments and the business community realized that a key component needed to generate economic development and jobs in the First Nation community was access to capital. Traditional business financing was not readily available for many First nation people nor was it available to many First Nation Bands. SIEF came from concept to reality in 1986 to fill this business financing need and to serve a niche market of First Nation entrepreneurs.

SIEF was the first Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI) of the 59 AFI's currently across Canada. It is also by far the largest in terms of the number of loans provided. SIEF has lent out more than \$62 million to First Nation Entrepreneurs creating more than 3,200 businesses and generating approximately 7,000 jobs over 28 years of operations.

In 2003, SIEF underwent significant restructuring. There was a need to balance expenditures, streamline operations and expand the corporation's ability to compete in the lending and investment market. As a result, the Saskatchewan Indian Loan Company (SILCO) and Inpro West Investment Corporation (INPRO) were then amalgamated into SIEF. The overall goal of the amalgamation was to increase operational efficiency, formalize investment strategies, increase membership control, and improve communications and marketing and to improve access to current and new capital markets.

SIEF has always been committed to developing a strong economic base among First Nations in Saskatchewan. SIEF continues to assist in the creation of jobs and to foster economic growth for Saskatchewan First Nations people. SIEF currently has 11 staff. These well qualified and business minded individuals are dedicated to providing exceptional business lending and consulting service for our clients. In addition to lending and business services, loans management, SIEF is now the delivery office for the Federal Equity Contribution grants.

2014 marks our 28th year. Our story says it all. We believe in our members, our First Nation Communities and our way of life. SIEF is part of the future for the First Nations of Saskatchewan. It is up to us to grow our future. We look forward to serving the First Nations of Saskatchewan with increased enthusiasm and strength.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SIEF is governed by a board of directors that consist of 7 members. The directorship is made up in the following manner; (2) two members appointed by the FSIN; (2) two members representing the business sector; (2) two members representing the agriculture sector; (1) one member representing the financial services sector. The current members of the Board are:



Lucy Pelletier
Chair of the Board
(Business Sector)
Cowessess First Nation



Trevor C. Acoose
Sakimay First Nation
(FSIN Appointed)



Everette Bear
Muskoday First Nation
(Agriculture Sector)



Terry Kremeniuk
(Agriculture Sector)



Juliano Tupone
Sweet Grass First Nation
(FSIN Appointed)



Ray Gamble
Beardy's and Okemasis
First Nation
(Financial Sector)



Audrey Ahenakew
Ahtahkakoop First Nation
(Business Sector)



SIEF now provides EQUITY CONTRIBUTION GRANTS through the SIEF Contribution Program

The SIEF Contribution Program is a needs based program with a mandate to create jobs and to increase the economic well-being of First Nations people. The program is designed to support: business start-ups, business acquisitions, or expansions to existing businesses.

Funding for projects is completed in a two stage process. Stage one is the application form to determine eligibility. Stage two requires a comprehensive business plan to be submitted for further consideration; that demonstrates the long-term viability of the proposal and the ability to create jobs.

The SIEF Contribution Program is in the form of a non-repayable financial contribution up to a maximum of \$99,999.99 of total project costs for individual applications and up to a maximum of \$250,000.00 of total project costs for community or band owned enterprise applications.

To be eligible for the program, clients must be located in Saskatchewan and: a registered Status Indian, a majority owned First Nations business/financial organization, or a development corporation.

All applications require a minimum 10% equity contribution from the client. The SIEF Contribution Program assistance supports Business Development Capital and Operating, Marketing, and on-going Business Support costs. The combined equity of the applicant and SIEF Contribution Program, for capital project normally cannot exceed 50% of total eligible project costs.

To be eligible for individual application support, the applicant should be involved full-time with the proposed business in a management capacity.

The following business activities are ineligible for support:

- Direct alcohol production, marketing, distribution or sales
- Tobacco production, marketing, distribution or sales
- Games of chance operations, casinos, bingo halls, small scale gaming operations, etc.
- Sexually exploitive materials, services, products, marketing, distribution and sales, including any web-based activities
- Pawn shops, cheque cashers, finance companies and others, making small, short-term, high interest rate loans that go by a variety of names: payday loans, cash advance loans, cheque advance loans, post-dated cheque loans or deferred deposit cheque loans, and
- Passive investments (real estate) or any other activity where the applicant is not fully involved.

SIEF if pleased to have played a part in assisting over 40 business startups. SIEF congratulates two First Nation Entrepreneurs, TATANKA Boutique and COBS BREAD who are making a difference.

Thank you for your continued support and congratulations on your willingness to be a leader in creating First Nations success.



Joely Bigeagle, owner/operator of TATANKA Boutique located in Regina, Saskatchewan offers First Nation creations from the best First Nation artisans.

Tatanka Boutique is a retail space selling art, jewellery, clothing, footwear and star blankets made by First Nations and Métis artisans and it is located in the trendy neighbourhood of Cathedral village in Regina, SK.

Joely BigEagle-Kequahtoway is from the White Bear First Nation and is the sole proprietor and owner of Tatanka Boutique. Joely is an artist and obtained her civil engineering degree from the University of Calgary in 2004. Her passion has always been in designing clothes, creating star blankets and most recently she has begun to try her hand at painting. Joely opened the boutique April 4, 2013 with the financial assistance of the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation and the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan and attributes her success to the financial and business support she receives from both organizations. Tatanka opened its doors with only 30 artisan's works and currently has over 100 artisans showcasing their work within the boutique, with the majority from Saskatchewan artists.

Her greatest lesson to share on what she learned in the past year is - starting a new business takes a lot of planning and although she rewrote her business plan twice within one year, it was a great opportunity to take a realistic look at how to lay out your dreams on paper and strive to achieve financial goals to set out for your business. Having a business plan helped Joely to obtain the business loans she needed to start the business but the plan was also there for her to use as a measure of success or where she needed to make changes to the business in order to move past stumbling blocks and rewrite the plan. The business plan is always evolving and it should be an organic document that you actually use to enhance your business.

Tatanka gives back to the community in various ways through supporting local artist entrepreneurs by either purchasing their product for sale in the boutique or by consigning their work and showcasing it in the Singing Winds Gallery space within the boutique. Tatanka also provides gift donations and door prizes for a number of local charities, organizations and individuals fundraising for good causes.





Entrepreneurial Spirit Award



Chairperson of the Board of Directors Lucy Pelletier presents the 2013 Entrepreneurial Spirit Award to Ken Athchenum of McKenn Contracting at the SIEF Annual General Meeting. Thank you for your continued support and congratulations on your willingness to be a leader in creating First Nations success.

Do you know a First Nation entrepreneur who is deserving of recognition? We encourage you to go to our website and nominate your favorite entrepreneur for the Spirit Award. Details can be found at www.sief.sk.ca

Mike Jackson is a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation located in Alberta and is the sole owner of the COBS Bread location at Lawson Heights Mall in Saskatoon. COBS Bread is a Canadian franchise that operates in over 75 locations that promise to bring you the freshest, highest quality baked goods every day.

Mike has numerous certificates and diplomas in the IT sector and spent the majority of his working career in the Northwest Territories. He moved to Saskatoon in 2012 with his wife and children. During his time in Yellowknife he owned and operated a local restaurant that he sold in 2006. This no doubt gave him his first taste of owning a business and led him to consider this latest venture based on that experience. Mike says he got the idea on a family trip to the west coast where he noticed many COBS Bread franchises already operating. He and his family liked the product, but also found the social values of COBS Bread something that he thought added value to the communities they operate in.

Mike was able to start his business with assistance from the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Contribution Program. He officially opened on May 23, 2014.

Mike's current location has set sales records to date for North American COBS Bread franchise operators, and he now employs over 30 staff, both full and part time. COBS Bread has gained local notoriety and support, based on the superior products offered. COBS Bread has been able to give back to the community as all leftover bread is donated to local charities. Mike has sought to support and provide this service to many other local charities that would like to make use of this pledge and looks forward to doing so in the coming years. SIEF congratulates Mike and is proud to have been involved in his success.

The Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation is pleased to provide the venue and sponsorship for the annual "Entrepreneurial Spirit Award". This award is given to a First Nation entity that is a business, corporation, individual or First Nation that exemplifies forward movement and involvement to creating sustainable economic development for the First Nations of Saskatchewan.

It is an honor that we were able to present the third Entrepreneurial Spirit Award to Mr. Kenneth Atcheynum of McKenn Contracting Ltd. Kenneth Atcheynum is a member of Sweetgrass First Nation.

McKenn Contracting began 5 years ago when Kenneth talked to local farmers surrounding the community of Sweetgrass to see what their needs were in the construction industry. He was able to get started with a rented caterpillar to do brushing and started work for local farmers as well as the Sweetgrass First Nation. His quality of work was impeccable and by the end of the first year of business he had received substantially more work so that he had to purchase his own caterpillar and back hoe. He was then able to fulfill contact work for SaskTel. This opened the door for further work and opened more opportunities for this First Nation Entrepreneur. Work with the City of North Battleford was secured and more man power was needed to complete the contracts. Kenneth was able to hire First Nation workers who were willing to learn. Again more equipment was required. He added a track hoe to his list of equipment.

Kenneth's work ethic was starting to be known and more work was being done with water and sewer in Red Pheasant and Sweetgrass First Nations. He continued to add to his equipment and was now in the process of acquiring a grader and gravel truck that would be needed to service the First Nation communities, as houses were being built and gravel was needed to be hauled to construct roadways. Kenneth has been able to keep all his equipment steadily working and is proud to have been able to employ several First Nation workers. Kenneth takes pride in his work and we are told that he goes the extra mile to ensure that the work is done with a friendly attitude in a very professional manner.

Kenneth is thankful for the support he has received from the First Nation communities. It is important that the First Nation community celebrate our own. It is important to raise the standard of business success within the First Nation provincial economy and it is important for us to recognize the hard work and devotion of these First Nation entrepreneurs.

SIEF AGRICULTURAL LENDING

SIEF's agricultural loan portfolio is made up of approximately 150 clients. Several agriculture sectors are represented but the majority of our agriculture clients are livestock producers with a mixed farming operation. Operations vary in size from start-up farms with 10-25 cows to the larger producers with 75-350 breeding cows. The average farm size is 1,100 acres with the average capital investment of over \$250,000.00. Financing of the operations is primarily contingent on the value of their livestock herd, which is used as our main source of collateral on the loans. Livestock used for collateral are branded with a registered SIEF brand reducing administrative costs in monitoring our security.

With the increase in First Nations land base due to treaty land entitlement claims, the resurgence of the grain industry and a strong livestock industry we anticipate an increase for agriculture financing and training for developing First Nation farmers.

As a developmental lender, our relationship with our clients is unique and includes services and after care that offers access to information and training to encourage growth and support for continuous improvement in management and production skills. Many of our farmers are in the process of building equity and increasing the size of their operations to attain long term viability. We create networks between our clients, government programs, tribal councils, livestock specialists, local veterinarians and auction marts to ensure our clients have access to resourceful information and services that will help grow their operations. Training programs and demonstration projects have resulted in improved production and management skills, better quality and condition of livestock herds, equipment longevity due to maintenance programs and ultimately higher returns on investments for the producer. SIEF is proud to assist in the development of First Nation farming and livestock production.



SIEF COMMERCIAL FUNDING

Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation Inc., a non-profit financial organization established with the primary focus of lending to First Nation individuals, Business Corporations owned by First Nation individuals and First Nation bands in Saskatchewan. First Nations experience more income inequality and social outcomes than other Canadians. First Nation businesses in the province are being left out of industry expansion for one primary reason; lack of capital.

Developmental lending is difficult to qualify and it may be suggested that developmental lending is the main ingredient for First Nation individuals to experience income equality. People living on reserves lack attachable collateral and have limited credit history. Conventional lenders consider Aboriginal people to be high risk and have no interest in financing new or existing businesses unless they are one hundred (100%) percent secured and have access to their security.

SIEF has provided commercial lending support to a number of business sectors within the boundaries of this province including but not limited to; transportation, energy, construction, service, retail, manufacturing and forestry. There have been a number of successful businesses established with SIEF financial support over the years.

One business that stands out is a forestry harvesting business that employs in excess of one hundred First Nation band members and from all reports this business will be around for years to come. SIEF has provided startup capital to a large number of new entrepreneurs in the energy sector over the past years. The majority of these band members have enjoyed the rewards of being self-employed with supportive earned income.

Encouragement is given to new as well as existing clients to have monthly or at a minimum quarterly financial reporting; including income and expense statements along with corresponding balance sheets. The days of the "Shoe Box" method of managing a business are over; properly prepared financial statements are the only management tool that can assist in providing the required management direction for a business.

Financial lenders including developmental lenders will not finance one hundred percent of project costs; therefore it is important to have prospective clients prepared to invest in their projected business. This investment is called equity and SIEF may require a cash investment of up to twenty percent of the project cost.

Entrepreneurs wishing to start a new business or expand an existing business should engage a qualified and experienced business plan writer. It is very important that individuals getting business plans prepared take an active role in the preparation. Individuals must be aware of the business plan contents and how these segments pertain to the viability of the business plan.

To minimize confusion and create a strong one-on-one relationship, SIEF strives to have just one point of contact for clients.

SIEF operating as an AFI operates within a controlled frame work to safeguard assets and mitigate risks with competent and qualified staff that have clear lines of authority and approval procedures.



Attention!

CHIEFS
& COUNCIL
EC DEV

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, 2014
to attend the

SIEF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre - Saskatoon, Sask

This event will feature a keynote address by Mr. Paul Martin and a luncheon address on building sustainable First Nation communities. Paul Martin is well known and has worked closely with Saskatchewan's First Nations as a founding board member of the First Nations Power Authority, a founding investor in Pronto Airways and a member of the SIIT President's advisory committee. You don't want to miss this powerful and motivational symposium presented by the

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Speakers emphasize importance of trust and self-sufficiency

WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION – The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network hosted an exceptional roster of speakers at its 3rd Annual Forum in September at Dakota Dunes Casino. Leaders such as Treaty Commissioner George Lafond talked about the importance of relationships and trust and FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde, stated that “you can’t talk about self-determination until you talk about economic self-sufficiency”.

Some of the highlighted business successes were the Peter Ballantyne Group of Companies, which has grown steadily through gas bars, pharmacies, hotels and other ventures to a current net worth of \$34 million. Muskowekwan Chief Reg Bellerose spoke of their ground-breaking efforts to build a multi-billion dollar potash mine on First Nations territory; and Robert Morin from Enoch Cree Nation told the crowd how they attracted \$245 million worth of investment to its world-class resort and casino in Edmonton.

Participants also learned about ‘branding’ and communicating their communities; business planning and financial literacy, and were offered a host of new opportunities for SFNEDN members such as a mentorship program and complimentary investment readiness assessments.

Title sponsor Federated Co-Operatives Limited invited



Milton Tootoosis, Vic Huard-FCL, Russel Constant-Economic Development Coordinator for OCN, William McGillivray chairman-OCN and Treaty Commissioner George Lafond. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

participation in their Cooperative Innovation project.

New awards honoring leaders in First Nations economic development were introduced at the Forum. Vern Bachiu, formerly of MLTC and BRIDG and currently CEO with Muskowekwan Resources, was named the 2014 Saskatchewan First Nations Economic

Developer of the Year for his more than 30 years of service and leadership.

Whitecap Development Corporation was named the 2014 Saskatchewan First Nation Community Economic Developer of the Year for its tremendous growth, progress and vision over the past two decades.

Work on house reminded old men of the value of helping others by stepping up: Maria

• Continued From Page 5

It was a wonderful and inspiring story. I have forgotten her name, but I remember she was from the Red Pheasant First Nation.

I decided if she could do it so could I. My late father, still living at the time, had also been a log builder but he was no longer able to work. He was, however, able to direct us. My oldest daughter and I completely gutted and rebuilt a 100-year-old house with salvage from the Rosthern dump. There was lots of good stuff in that dump, doors, windows, lumber.

Then one morning, sleeping late because we were all nearly worn out trying to beat the winter, we woke up to people laughing and talking in Cree at the front of the house. Some old men had come over with their tools to help us finish building a porch and a deck, enabling us to beat the first snowstorm by a day.

I would never have been able to do this or believed I could live without all the amenities we have come to rely on without that woman and her old father to role model for me. And our work on that old house reminded those four old men of the value of helping others and they stepped up.

We learned, the old men and myself, by comparing notes during tea breaks that we also were relatives. Laugh if you want but most of us don’t really know who our extended family is anymore, something that was not only important in olden times but was foundational to the good health of our communities.

I no longer live in that house in the winter months but I still live there from April to October and each spring when I open the house and smudge it, I remember that woman and her dad at Red Pheasant and the inspiration they gave me and the beautiful gift of power they gave my children.

Yes I believe role models are important people and we are truly blessed because we have so many of them.

Sponsorship Acknowledgement

The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (“The Network”), would like to extend our gratitude to the following 2014 Sponsors for supporting the 3rd Annual *Māmawicīhitowin/Working Together For Great Ideas – Developing Diverse Economic Opportunities* forum:

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network

SFNEDN announces inaugural Economic Developer of the Year Awards

Business leaders were acknowledged at the 3rd Annual Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Forum held in September. Held at the Dakota Dunes Casino on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, the awards were given to Vern Bachiu and fittingly the Whitecap Dakota First Nation economic development team.

“An independent selection committee made the very difficult selection as there were many worthy nominations” said Milton Tootoosis, Chair of the SFNEDN.

Category: Community Recipient: Whitecap Dakota First Nation

The Whitecap Dakota First Nation is best known for its world class casino and golf course, home of the PGA Tour Canada SIGA Dakota Dunes Open presented by SaskTel. What many people do not know is that the Dakota Dunes Golf Links clubhouse construction is under way with completion date of June 2015.

The Whitecap Business Park (40 acres) is currently being developed with an additional 160 acres to follow. The Whitecap Industrial Services division is a partnership with a variety of corporations to service the industrial and resource sectors and will be officially announced in October adding to the current partnership with NCSG Crane and Heavy Haul Services Ltd.

In addition there are ten residential lots that have been leased to an outside developer who is currently building on those sites. Finished homes will be rented or sold to Whitecap Dakota First Nation members, non-members, or anyone interested in living out at the Whitecap community. Whitecap Dakota First Nation is also a partner with local high schools and the business sector building RTM homes for the community.

“There is a need to celebrate the success stories in our community and it is exciting to learn about a growing number of First Nations communities and economic development professionals that are making a difference.” added Tootoosis.

The annual forum will include an opportunity for more nominations and recognition of leaders that are doing what it takes to improve the livelihood of First Nations communities.

Information about the Network and awards can be found at www.sfnedn.com



Milton Tootoosis, Chair of SFNEDN (second from right), presents to Whitecap Development Corp. Jackie Pilon, Darryl Balkwill, Chief Darcy Bear, Frank Royal

Category: Individual Recipient: Vern Bachiu

Vern has more than 30 years of experience working with First Nations in Saskatchewan and is widely regarded as one of the first to execute the concept of wealth creation as a basis for economic development within communities. He has served as interim CEO for Muskowekwan Resources Ltd. helping to move their \$2.9B on reserve potash project forward. He helped to launch the BRIDG Program with Westcap Mgt. Ltd. BRIDG became one of the most



Vern Bachiu and Milton Tootoosis, Chair of SFNEDN

successful investment readiness programs ever undertaken in Canada helping 17 communities in Saskatchewan work through development of governance structures, strategic planning, launching a successful development corporation and completion of their first multi-million dollar investment transaction. Perhaps what he is best known for however, is the 20 years he spent with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) where his impact was felt with investments like the Meadow Lake Sawmill and OSB plant, launching Mystic Management and purchasing West Wind Aviation – of course all very successful businesses and all still in operation today.

Vern spent 10 years with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. He subscribed to the nation building approach highlighted in the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

Vern has a Master of Education from the University of Saskatchewan.



Success

“My Dad worked for the City for 25 years and I have continued our family service for another 20 years now. I went from temporary Labourer to Plant Operator and the City paid for my training. I love the people I work with and I love my job!”

Corey Fisher, Plant Operator, Wastewater Treatment Plant



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BHP Billiton Canada President Alex Archila, Fishing Lake First Nation Councillor Sheryl Kayseas and Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation Chief Rick Gamble sign the Opportunities Agreement at Wanuskewin.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



COUNCILLOR SHERYL KAYSEAS

Fishing Lake First Nation is hoping deal with potash giant will help build a new school

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Councillor Sheryl Kayseas has hopes that potash will build her community a new school. Kayseas hails from Fishing Lake First Nation where their school is a ramshackle gathering of disconnected portables with exposed above ground gas lines.

But because of an agreement signed with BHP Billiton in Saskatoon recently, Kayseas sees a brighter future for her community's children.

"It is good to be here with BHP Billiton, the largest mining company on the planet," said Kayseas at the signing ceremony.

"Their goal is to maximize profit for their shareholders. I represent Fishing Lake First Nation and our goal is to maximize the health and well being of our children. So what do we have in common? A non-renewable resource called potash that is located in our traditional Treaty 4 territory."

BHP Billiton, Fishing Lake First Nation and Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation have signed an Opportunities Agreement for First Nation participation in the Jansen Potash Project. The Opportunities Agreement, which is the second to be signed by BHP Billiton and Saskatchewan First Nations, creates mutually beneficial opportunities in employment, business and community development arising from BHP Billiton's Jansen Potash Project.

The agreement includes commitments to capacity-building initiatives in education, training and labour force development. The agreement will also assist in the building of the First Nations

business capacity by outlining a process for entrepreneurs and community-owned business development corporations' access to project-related business opportunities for the Jansen Project.

"We at BHP Billiton have a strong commitment to sustainability. This commitment includes ensuring we create and maintain meaningful, long-term relationships with the communities in which we operate and around our projects," said BHP Billiton Canada President Alex Archila.

"In signing this agreement, we believe that it will ensure the members of these First Nations can participate meaningfully in the opportunities that arise from the Jansen Project and will enrich the work we do together now and into the future," he added.

"Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation appreciates the opportunity to work together with BHP Billiton to ensure our community will benefit from the Jansen Project's development and planned operations. We are satisfied with the process undertaken by BHP Billiton to engage with our community for a mutual understanding, and the commitments we've all made," said Chief Rick Gamble.

Kayseas openly invited the media to come to Fishing Lake to see the condition of the school to understand the goals and needs of their children.

"As we see the wealth from our territory being removed and exported, we seek to achieve something from this," said Kayseas. "We are here today to sign an agreement which formalizes our relationship, and healthy relationships are built on principles like respect. We have a real opportunity now to build and

develop a fruitful relationship to ensure real benefits from the Jansen Project are realized. Now the work begins."

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le 19 novembre à 18 h

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CAREER PRESENTATION

November 19 at 6 p.m.

SIAT, Kelsey Campus, Room 312
Idylwyld and 33rd Street, Main Building
Saskatoon, SK

PRÉSENTATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES*

le 19 novembre à 18 h

SIAT, campus de Kelsey, salle 312
Idylwyld et 33e rue, Immeuble principal
Saskatoon (SK)

* Veuillez noter que ces séances seront présentées en anglais.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Muskowekwan First Nation and Canada North Camps representatives posed for this historic photo after signing their partnership agreement.



Muskowekwan First Nation signs to work with Canada North Camps

The Muskowekwan First Nation and Canada North Camps have signed a 50/50 partnership agreement to build work camps in Saskatchewan that

will provide camp and catering service to industry building heavy construction projects.

The announcement was made by Chief Reginald Bellerose of the Muskowekwan First Nation and Tyler McCracken on behalf of Paul McCracken, President of Canada North Camps.

“With the signing of this partnership Muskowekwan First Nation will position itself to take full advantage of the economic opportunities that are emerging in Saskatchewan such as the construction of potash mines and the building of facilities related to the resource industry” said Chief Bellerose.

“There is much construction activity occurring in Saskatchewan right now, and we want to become an active player in the service side of such developments. This agreement will be job opportunities for our members and could also create opportunities for members who are entrepreneurs.”

Canada North Camps is honoured to enter into this 50/50 partnership agreement with the Muskowekwan First Nation, said McCracken.

“Canada North Camps has a similar agreement in place with the Bigstone Cree Nation in Alberta and we believe such agreements benefit both First Nations and Canada North Camps. Saskatchewan presents some unique economic development opportunities and partnering with Muskowekwan provides Canada North Camps with a strategic approach to move forward in partnership here in Saskatchewan’s booming resource economy.”

Canada North Camps is a family owned and operated camp and catering company that has operated open camps throughout Alberta for a number of years servicing industry. As well, Canada North Camps also operates contract camps for oil field and government agencies.

Accommodation and food services along with other services are provided at the camps by Canada North Camps.

Muskowekwan First Nation and Muskowekwan Resources Limited, the economic development arm that is wholly owned by the First Nation entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with Encanto Potash Corp to develop a potash mine.

Regina couple lands \$50,000 business prize

REGINA—An entrepreneurial husband and wife team from Regina have won a \$50,000 prize to help develop their innovative concept to help First Nations become more efficient.

Cecile Brass and Trevor Schleele created First Systems Filing Inc., a full-service record and information management company developing tailored solutions for First Nations communities. Some of the services First Systems Filing Inc. provides are training for employees, archival, audio/video services, proposal writing for funding for implementation and policy development.



CECILE BRASS

She is from Peepeekisis First Nation but she and her husband reside in Regina.

“I am very proud of the First Nations communities across the country and believe that we have the potential to be a great economic leader,” said Cecile.

“In a small way, I believe that facilitating Bands to better manage historical records will help to ensure sovereignty and autonomy of our communities.”

A Reserve, like any government body,

is required to manage multiple portfolios of information—from general population governance (deaths, births, and locations), to housing and infrastructure, to financial stewardship, to corporate agreements and partnerships. Cecile recognized years ago that the ways in which Bands tracked this information varied greatly. She wanted to use her skill-sets to increase Bands’ ability to track information consistency and accurately, while also contributing to her community.

In partnership with Spin Master Ltd. and co-financing partner the Business Development Bank of Canada, Futurpreneur Canada (formerly Canadian Youth Business Foundation) encourage Canada’s next group of highly innovative young entrepreneurs who are ready to take their businesses to the next level.

These young entrepreneurs each receive a start-up package of up to \$50,000 in financing from Futurpreneur Canada and BDC, and a hand-matched mentor from Futurpreneur Canada’s industry-leading mentoring program.

When asked how Futurpreneur Canada helped her business, Brass said, “It has given me the confidence to move forward as a new entrepreneur and providing me with the invaluable resource of having a mentor which has guided me to a path of future success.”

The First Systems Filing software is currently going through final testing. Check them out on line www.firstsystemsfilings.com.

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Caregiver duties include:

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Skills and Abilities

- Maintain a safe and healthy environment
- Full responsibility for household
- Read to children, help with homework

Credentials

- CPR
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- Bondable

Work Setting: Own home
Children: 8 yr old girl & 1 yr old boy
\$10.75/hour, 40 hrs/wk minus \$250 room & board

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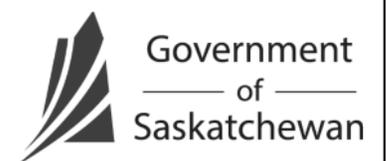
1. To provide one-to-one counseling services and the delivery of traditional ceremonies including, but not limited to, the sweat lodge and pipe ceremonies up to 30 hours per week.
2. To deliver a two week program to be facilitated monthly (up to 80 hours per month) that will focus on the role of First Nation and Metis women in a cultural context.

Send resume to:

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 Phone: 306-953-3107

Closing date for these competitions is: October 20, 2014

saskatchewan.ca



Leask's drum awakens culture in school

By Roberta Cross
For Eagle Feather News

LEASK – Silence. That's all you could hear in the Leask School gymnasium, as 80 students sat during the first Cree cultural ceremony ever held at their school. Their silence carried their respect and the importance of the day.

Leask School's first Cree student enrolled in 1953. Today 98 per cent of students, from pre-K to Grade 12, come from nearby Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Mistawasis First Nation.

that they were serious. He himself had not made a drum in over seven years. After a few meetings, he realized teaching students to build their own drum was the right thing for him.

Arcand is now regularly at the school, comfortable in the industrial arts shop, where



Left to right sitting around the drum are Randall Strongarm, Raiden Arcand, Austin Arcand, Jesse Kreese and Chis Pechawis.



In the back row of the drum are Randall Strongarm and Community Liaison Chris Pechawis. Front row Austin Arcand, Raiden Arcand and Jesse Kreese.

(Photos by Roberta Cross)

After the pipe ceremony, 26 men, youth and boys gathered around two drums, and the silence was replaced by the powerful sound of their singing and drumming. The circle included the principal, a four-year-old, and a Grade 5 boy called by the drum to join in at the last minute.

The drumming fed Leask School's drum in the autumn season, and Kihiw Waciston School on Muskeg Lake Cree Nation brought their drum for it to be blessed and initiated. Elders, community members, teachers, administrators, Saskatoon Tribal Council representatives, band and city councillors attended.

There are three drum-keepers at the school, students Zane Arcand and TJ Thomas, and Chris Pechawis. Pechawis' job title is community liaison, and he's deeply dedicated to the students.

"We're trying our best to do what's right," says Pechawis. "And to bring people, everybody, together."

Pechawis started at Leask School at five years of age, and now he's spent the past ten years working there.

"I've heard about bringing culture to the school for years and years," says Pechawis.

Talk finally turned into action when Kendra Worman, Music Director of the Prairie Spirit School Division, offered to fund the cost of a drum.

Pechawis and principal Gord Smith agreed that their students needed to lead, and build their own drum.

Smith and Pechawis began looking for a drum-maker, learning about protocol as they went. They were introduced to Rick Arcand. At first, Arcand was not sure

students work on drum frames and hides, beading, and making traditional designs in wood. At lunchtime, any male student, regardless of nationality, is welcome to drum with the group.

Building the drum, drumming and singing has woken something at Leask School.

"It's been life-changing, spiritually, emotionally, and physically," said Smith of his own experience.

Kihiw Waciston principal Connie Regnier is surprised at the strong effect the Leask drum has on her students.

"They're interested in

leaning to drum," she says. "And we need the practice, because it's difficult to teach culture, values and protocol without it."

The Leask drum is taking the group places they hadn't imagined. They were invited to Prairie Spirit's fall professional development day, giving Pechawis the opportunity to share his story about working with indigenous students to 800 teachers and administrators. He's now known as the "grow-some-balls guy" in the Division.

The Leask drummers were first on the stage at a multicultural event in Saskatoon on Sept. 27. When Pechawis invited the crowd for a round-dance, only a small group joined hands. Slowly, more and more people, mostly newcomers in traditional dress, began to join hands. Finally, the drummers and the drum, and the voices of the singers, called the circle to completion.

"This is about working together, about being together, about believing together," says Pechawis. "We're not the best drum group ever, but we are trying our hardest to make this happen for our school."

Celebrating Our Story Warriors



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Catholic Schools addresses education challenges

By Roberta Cross
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Low literacy rates and a need for innovative programming for First Nation and Métis children has been a challenge for educators across Canada.

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools have put that challenge in the hands of their Superintendent Gordon Martell, and Cornelia Laliberte, Coordinator of First Nations and Métis Education. They are responsible for implementing the First Nations and Metis Education (FNME) Plan.

The Plan takes responsibility for students in all grades from pre-K to twelve.

“Our goals are to maximize potential for children in all areas, especially literacy,” says Martell. “It’s also about belonging, and engagement, and providing opportunities for children to experience their family, community and culture at school.”

Language learning, wellness, and improved teaching resources complete the plan.

Math literacy is improving with two innovative programs. Math Coaching provides one-on-one math tutoring for students in grades three to six. The program has a 90 per cent success rate, with students rising two grade levels in one academic year. There are now two full-time math coaches in two schools.

Math Warriors is an after-school inquiry-based teaching program at three elementary schools, including wellness and cultural activities followed by a family dinner.

“It’s very rewarding to show up for a Math Warriors celebration,” says Martell. He describes a gymnasium full of families honouring their children’s math accomplishments in traditional ways.

“Developing and maintaining language is a big part of our strategy to support children,” explains Martell. He characterizes Saint Frances School bilingual Cree language program as the “cutting edge of literacy education.”

It has grown steadily for five years, now with 400 students from pre-K to Grade 8.

“It gives me a lot of pride because families have to make a choice to engage in language education,” he says. “So many things are going right there for students in literacy and math.”

The Health Disparities report in 2006 “was a wake-up call for everyone that learning and wellness grow up together,” says Martell. GSCS partnered with Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), and the Central Urban Métis Federation (CUMFI), to create Saint Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre, bringing wellness to where the students and families reside. Other partners include Cameco, Potash-Corp, and the University of Saskatchewan.



Students at St Mary’s Wellness and Education Centre have access to various programs aimed at improving health and literacy.

“When you want to know how the rubber is hitting the road, we start with family,” says Katrina Shawchuk, Principal at Saint Mary’s, a school located in the poorest part of Saskatoon where 98.9 per cent of her students are First Nations or Métis. She meets all the families and explains their options, sometimes visiting door-to-door. Saint Mary’s school offers GED programming and have a goal of all parents reaching at least Grade 10.

“Literacy and the zest for learning travels back into the community,” says Cornelia Laliberte, explaining the FNME plan’s commitment to engage and respond to community.

Teachers and teaching practices are key. Martell works with principals and teachers, because: “As we improve professional practice, we see better results with the students.”

The number of First Nations and Métis teachers is increasing. Shawchuk works to make Saint Mary’s welcoming and a place where interns and new teachers want to remain and be role models for students.

She also encourages the enthusiasm and responsiveness of the Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers.

“Our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten validates what our elders and families have been modelling for millennia,” says Martell. “Elders say that it is akin to how they were raised when they were young.”

At Saint Mary’s School, interaction with the natural world is emphasized. There are quiet reading corners as well as stimulating workshop areas. Young students are respected for their natural curiosity, and are invited to investigate and explore their interests.

One kindergarten student was asked: “Do you like school?” “Yes!” she replied. “Why?” was the next question. In response, she let rip a loud, cheerful laugh.

“We are standing on the shoulders of giants,” says Shawchuk, explaining how the Board arrived at this point. She credits people who started years ago, consulting and visioning how to invest in First Nations and Métis children, and building partnerships with people, organizations and community. Shawchuk includes Martell in her list.

Martell has been an educator for over 27 years, most of it with the GSCS. Starting as a teacher, he has served as a Coordinator and now Superintendent, always working towards better outcomes.

“This used to be a kind of lonely endeavor,” says Martell, “and it’s now everyone’s priority.”

A shift came when the provincial government desegregated testing data to see education outcomes for First Nations and Métis students. “These tests showed our huge responsibility as educators to do something about it,” says Martell. While there are different motives, there is agreement among decision-makers that First Nations and Metis students need a strong identity, and certain skills, including math and reading.

Martell is committed to the youngest students.

“It’s our job to make sure students have every skill at every step, so that at age 23 they have what they need. Then they can realize what their Elders have imagined for them.”

Career Opportunity

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Salary: \$11.00 per hour less \$250 per month room and board

Location: Hampton Village, Saskatoon

Duties include:

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Requirements:

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To apply email: carmen.bilagot@yahoo.ca



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- Saskatchewan’s first ever **Education Savings Sign-Up** event on Thursday, November 20th from 2-6 p.m. at Station 20 West. All parents are welcome to attend. Please bring ID to the event.

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Métis achievers honoured by Wiichiwayshinawn

By Sandra Ahenakew
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Great things happen when Métis women get together.

Wiichiwayshinawn which is a Michif term meaning “We are Helpers” is an excellent description for the three Métis women: Samantha Racette, Ashley Norton and Jennifer McGillis, founders of The Wiichiwayshinawn Foundation Inc. The organization was created to recognize the accomplishments of Metis people in Saskatchewan and to highlight their contributions yearly at the Métis Awards.

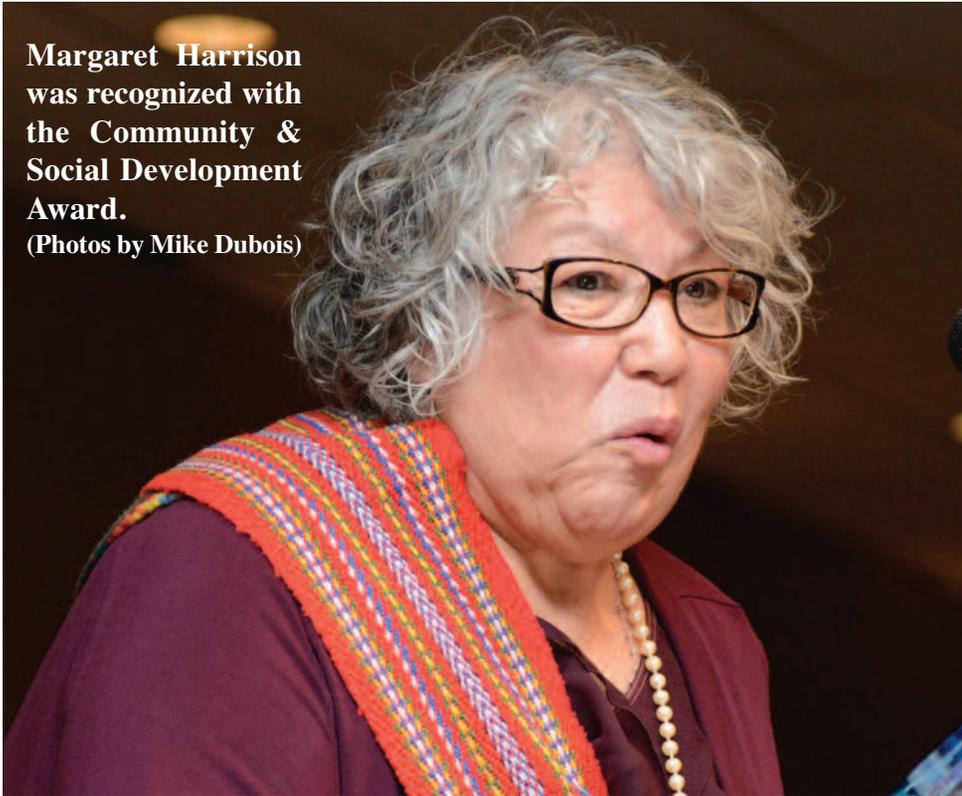
Awards Ceremony. Special guests included: actress/singer Andrea Menard, Phil and Dallas Boyer – Métis fiddlers and emcees Keon and Sean of Bionic Bannock Boys.

The awards acknowledged and celebrated those who had made a positive impact on another individual, community and/or organization with an evening of great food, entertainment, stewardship and wonderful company.

“I am pleased to be here honoring the dedication of individuals in the Métis community, who by their very nature are hard working,” Andrea Menard, the



Jayde Goodon received the Arts Award.



Margaret Harrison was recognized with the Community & Social Development Award.

(Photos by Mike Dubois)

That’s exactly what happened Saturday, Sept. 27 in Regina. Métis people in Saskatchewan were honored and recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions to their community at the 3rd Annual Métis

keynote speaker said.

“Their accomplishments will assure their place as roles models and instill the promise of a brighter future for generations to follow.”

This year the organizers announced the creation of an Award and Bursary program for Métis women in southern Saskatchewan.

“We could not have created this bursary without the help of our community thank you to all who continue to support this event,” said Ahsley Norton.

Co-founder Samantha Racette was overwhelmed to learn that her grandmother, Dorothy Fayant, had been nominated for the Portrait of Honour for this year’s award.

“I was so full of emotion when I heard that my grandmother had been not only nominated but chosen for the award. It was a beautiful evening.”

The Métis nation is a distinct people with a rich and important language, culture and history. Louis Riel said, “We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future.” Great job Wiichiwayshinawn Foundation you truly are helping make a difference in the lives of the Métis people in Saskatchewan.

The Wiichiwayshinawn Foundation Inc is open to anyone who may be inter-

ested in celebrating the Métis culture and leadership. The Foundation organizers are currently looking for Board members and Selection Committee members for the 2015 Metis Awards. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity please contact Samantha Racette (306) 502-3932.

The aware winners included:
Social Justice - Janette Reinson
The Arts - Jayde Goodon

Most Honorable Métis Woman - Liz Paradzik

Youth - Hanna Dunnigan
Community & Social Development - Margaret Harrison

Journalism - Kelly Provost
Portrait of Honour - Dorothy Fayant
Education - Alison Kimbley
Health & Wellness - Kari Herbert
Lifetime Achievement - Herb Norton



Herb Norton received the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Wiichiwayshinawn Foundation Inc.

would like to thank our generous sponsors, contributors, entertainers and volunteers for making this year’s Métis Awards a success!



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Boyer boys making Métis music

By ThatConradGuy
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Phil and Dallas Boyer are well-known Métis musicians living in Saskatoon. Phil, the father, began singing at age five. His musician roots come from both sides of the family, his father's father played fiddle, although most musicians were from his mother's side.

He remembers old-time dancing on the weekends as a child. Phil's first talent show was Prince Albert's CKBI TV Tiny Tot Talent Show when he was around five years old. From then on the family joined the celebrations at Back to Batoche Days and have been participating in the annual event for the past 40 years.

At the time of Phil's father's death they hadn't attended for a couple years since they were so used to being there with him.

Phil's son, Dallas, proudly boasts a Métis fiddle and some of his music influences at Back to Batoche were John Arcand and Darren LaVallee, Donny Parenteau and JJ LaVallee. Dallas first danced the Red River Jig and Square Dance but was more interested in playing the fiddle which he started at age six. His first gig was when he was around eight years old at a Co-op Folk Fest. Another memory Dallas recalls is attending the Olympics as a youth musician alongside

about 300 others.

Phil's singing career dates back about 45 years and one of his more memorable events was performing at The Aboriginal Peoples Music Choice awards in 2012 where Dallas was nominated for an award.

On a different night, Dallas recalls opening for Michelle Wright in 2010, which remains a memorable event in his mind. His signature event would be Back to Batoche Days, though, and he enjoys returning each year. They thoroughly enjoy visiting and singing with friends and family at campfire sessions.

At Back to Batoche in 1985 Phil won the talent show which got him a recording session in Winnipeg. His experience working with Terry Leslie, Clint Dumais, Ness Micheals and Craig Farthingham at Sunshine records was awesome. After the CD took off Phil met his wife, Gail, and began a family. He then took a 20-year break from music to support his family.

After awhile Dallas played more and more fiddle so Phil began playing for him. The itch then came back and now

they play in many different communities and events.

Over the years both Phil and Dallas have taken



Dad Phil (left) and son Dallas are keeping traditional Métis music alive in their family and on stage.

Dance, Fiddle & Jigging Event, The Dallas Boyer Métis Festival is what he may call it.

Their long-term goals as Métis musicians is to keep putting music out. Phil knows one can't get rich but still loves to play at senior homes and small venues and says if you love doing something, stick to that and make it your dream and you will always be happy.

Dallas is going to continue concentrating on his music and raising his daughter, Mya. The Boyers would like to thank everyone who supports their music and to continue that support, music can make you sad and can make you happy it always brings you back up!

pieces of different memories from each gig, both even playing with broken bones a time or two! They both agree one needs a good mindset to continue to entertain and perform.

They are now currently working on their second CD each with Jay Ross in studio. Phil is planning on including 20 originals while Dallas is doing his 2nd Volume of Metis Music. Dallas is also working on a dream to have an annual



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Dawn Dumont

Book Launch

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of *Eagle Feather News*
and poet **Lindsay "Eekwol" Knight**

Rose Okanese, mother of two, is relentless as she battles a rapacious, old spirit woman to save her teen daughter, while training her out-of-shape and tired body to face down the reigning marathon queen of the Rez.

Dawn Dumont is the author of *Nobody Cries at Bingo*. She writes a monthly column for *Eagle Feather News* called "That's What She Said."

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Troll emerges from basement to home of her own

For the last couple of years I have lived in my sister's basement, like a troll or a secret family. Living down there was dark and cold but I never felt lonely as I could hear people's footsteps above which reminded me that people existed and that if I chose, I could skulk up the stairs and stare at them through a crack in the door.

While being one of the "downstairs people," I enjoyed cheap rent, lease-free living and access to all the spiders I wanted. I tried teaching them to write things in their webs but these were all moron-arachnids. One of the downsides was that when it came to family events I could not host any of the dinners because my sister-landlord refused to let me have a hotplate down there.

The family dinner host/hostess position is a hot ticket item amongst the lady-folk, with the exception of myself. As someone who dodges all responsibility, I don't understand why anyone would choose to invite our entire family over, never mind attempting to satisfy their prodigious appetites.

In our family, a ten-year-old child can eat as much as a fully grown adult. And an adult in our family could probably eat a ten-year-old child – two, if they were coated in chocolate and had a peanut butter filling. You may think I'm exaggerating – if so, then please invite us over and we will blow your mind – and your food budget.

My sister and my sister-in-law currently compete over the rights to Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and whatever other holidays/excuses-to-pig-out are out there. I stay out of the controversy because I don't care where I'll be stuffing my face. Also, no matter where I go, my offerings of a can of corn and a bag of chips will



be accepted with the same rolled eyes and exasperated sigh.

Then things changed. I moved out of my sister's house. Or rather was tricked out of it. She pulled the ole, "Hey I'm thinking of selling my house, and my Realtor thinks that your shoe and empty wine bottle collection will bring the value down."

So I moved on. Actually I just continued drinking wine and watching Netflix, until one of my friends found me a place to live. My new apartment is modern, sleek and full of glass. There's a metal staircase that leads to a loft where I have an amazing view of the city's power lines. My apartment looks like the kind of place where a Miami drug lord would get gunned down. I love it!

However, having my own place means that I now have no excuse for not hosting family events. So I (was forced to) decided to host a barbecue. I bought a selection of things that can be grilled and even made a foray into the meat section at the grocery store. Normally I'm intimidated by this section as I'm pretty sure I'm the type of person to cross-contaminate meats and create a Listeria/Ebola hybrid.

My guests arrived in groups, each one louder than

the next. My family has large, boisterous litters and they soon filled up the cavernous concrete building with their voices, laughter and farts.

The parents congregated in the living room to see if I had any fancy channels as their young dispersed throughout the building. The more independent kids (and the ones with opposable thumbs) headed out the door into the hallway to play "hide and seek," or so they told me. From the sounds I heard, I suspected that it was a violent game of shoving one another and screaming like banshees.

The younger kids headed up the stairs to the loft bedroom where the smallest one kept jumping at the glass dividing him from safety and finding out that he could not fly.

I ran up and down the metal stairs more times than I could count, each time, growing more sweaty and haggard as the parental laughter in the living room grew more gleeful and abandoned. I began to get the sense that the laughter was directed at me.

A child began crying as she had been cut somewhere in the apartment but as the apartment is 90 per cent glass, it was impossible to tell how it happened. One guest commented airily, "Y'know it's probably a good idea to make your place more child-friendly."

Nobody would dare say such a thing to a Miami drug lord.

As my guests left, I murmured something about, "I'll have to have you guys over again soon ..." but I carefully avoided eye contact while saying it.

Time to start looking for another underground bunker!

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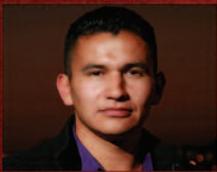
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Versatile brothers from St. Louis are phenomenal athletes and role models

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

ST. LOUIS – Two step-brothers from St. Louis competed together in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) this year and both won hard earned medals in athletics.

Jerran Vandale and Calvin Napope are both 14 years old in Grade 9 and attend the St. Louis Public school together.

Vandale won three gold and one silver medal at NAIG in discus, shot put and javelin. Napope won six gold medals in high jump, long jump and discus.

Napope has been active in sports since he was in Grade 4 playing school track and softball. For the past two years, he competed in the Saskatchewan Indian Summer and Winter games. He says he trains by himself and sometimes with his brother Jerran.

Both athletes look up to their coach, Rick Ronning who trains them during and outside of school.

“I have been these two boys’ track and field coach as well as basketball coach for over two years. Since the boys were between Grade 6 and 7 I have been working with them,” says Ronning. “In basketball, they are stars,” he adds.

Ronning says both boys have competed for Saskatchewan this year at the Western Canadian Track and Field Championships where Vandale won the silver medal in shot put being edged out by six centimetres. Napope won gold in long jump, silver in high jump and a bronze medal in discus.

Aside from their coach, the boys have role models that they look up to help that fuels their drive for success.

“My school has a history of good athletes like Richard Pilon who went to play in the NHL. And another guy named Colton Parenteau who is holding the world record for bench press right now,” says Napope. “There are other people out there that tell me what to do and what not to do, like my grandma,” he adds.

Vandale’s inspiration doesn’t come from other athletes but someone in his family who is close to his heart.

“I look up to my grandpa as my role model because he’s never really mad, he’s always happy and he’s a hard worker,” he says.

Vandale doesn’t see himself going further with his interest in sports. He hopes to work in the mines after he graduates high school.



Calvin Napope (above) and Jerran Vandale have yet to meet a sport they don’t excel in. Both boys are exceptional track and field athletes, winning several medals at last summer’s NAIG in Regina. They also star on the basketball court and Calvin is an elite level softball player.

His message to the youth is simple but straight to the point.

“Never give up on your dreams,” says Vandale.

Napope hopes to attend university in Ontario to become a teacher and come back to his homeland to coach for his community school.

His advice to the youth is to continue trying hard in your abilities.

“Don’t give up because you never know what you’re going to do in your life,” says Napope.

The St. Louis brothers have dreams of reaching further whether if it’s sports or career-wise, no wonder they are looked at as role models in their hometown.

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By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A lot of kids out there are running from issues at home or dealing with addiction and despair.

The Saskatoon Downtown Youth Center Inc., also known as EGADZ, always has an open door for those youth to come through. Dealing with young people with a myriad of different needs always puts a strain on the organization to provide innovative services and support on a very tight budget and they rely heavily on community support to go above and beyond in helping children.

This fall, just in time to help with back to school, the Dakota Dunes Men's and Ladies Golf League showed up with a cheque for \$4,000, EGADZ' share of the proceeds from the League's annual charity tournament.

"Money like this, unfortunately there is never a shortage of demand," said Bill Thibodeau, the Executive Director of EGADZ.

"Back to school always is costly so we help with lots of kids. Money like this fills the gaps and is really important and timely."

Ernie Scoles is president of the League and as a local businessman and philanthropist, he sees the needs in the community.

"We used to raise funds and donate it

back to the Dakota Dunes youth golf program," said Scoles. "But this year we approached EGADZ to see if they wanted our support because they do important work with youth and they could use the

met are just as valuable.

"The partnerships help because it spins off awareness as more people become aware of what we do in certain areas and it leads to a lot of contacts and in-kind

and that's the kids."

This year the men's and ladies champs were Kelly Bitternose Jr. and Linda Ellington respectively, but the League is about more than just golfing. It is also about



Geselle Doell of Egadz accepts a \$4,000 cheque from Chrissie Quewezance, representing the Dakota Dunes Casino Men's and Ladies league as League President Ernie Scoles and EGADZ Executive Director Bill Thibodeau look on. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

money."

EGADZ helped run the tournament and the money is important, but Thibodeau says the networking at the tournament and new organizations they

services," said Thibodeau as he listed several services they receive from companies that want to support them.

"That allows us to free up funds so we can invest the money into where it is needed

friendships and giving back. For Scoles, picking EGADZ this year was a no brainer.

"They help single moms and kids and if you can help that one person, great. If you can help ten, better."

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