

# Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

## Pasqua centres attention on youth learning

Pasqua First Nation held a grand opening to their community's new youth and cultural centre called Sēhtēyēns Wīkawām, which translates to Little Pelican Lodge in Saulteaux. Elders and youth of Pasqua First Nation did the ribbon cutting to officially open the new youth centre.

(Photos by Janelle Mandes)



By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

Pasqua First Nation held a grand opening to celebrate their community's new youth and cultural centre.

It has been named Sēhtēyēns Wīkawām, which translates to Little Pelican Lodge in Saulteaux.

Letisha Kahnpace who is on the youth committee, helps plan activities for the young people to keep them busy. She said the new building is a great opportunity for the youth to be engaged and also a place they can call their own.

"I like it, our youth committee is planning on doing movie nights here because it has a big TV in there," she said. "The centre will definitely help keep the youth out of trouble and it's a place to go especially in the future for younger generations."

Before the youth centre was built, there wasn't much for the youth to do aside from attending dances. Pasqua Chief Matthew Todd Peigan said activities were held at their community hall and the school gym but they felt they needed a facility to call their own.

"The leadership of Pasqua made the decision to build a facility that the youth wanted. The grand open-



ing was that reality," he said. "It's a centre where they can call their own and where they can gather and to learn. It's not going to be place to come and play (but) it's going to be a place to learn."

The elder centre is next door to the new youth facility and Chief Peigan said the elders will be playing a major part of the youth centre.

"First Nations cannot forget their culture, traditions and their language," he said. "This youth centre will incorporate all that. It is a part of the programming that will go into the centre."

• Continued on Page 2



### INSIDE



**SHE'S A PLAYWRIGHT!**  
Frequent Eagle Feather News contributor Andréa Ledding's play, *Dominion*, opens the season at the GTNT. - Page 8



**SKIRTING THE ISSUE**  
In a good way! Tala Tootoosis's ribbon skirts are making a powerful social comment about women. - Page 10



**HONOURING THE CHIEF**  
Former Chief Louis Taypotat is being honoured by an appreciative Kahkewistahaw community. - Page 11



**HELPING HANDS**  
Lorraine Stewart has been lending a helping hand for numerous community organizations. - Page 15



**HE'S ALL BUSINESS**  
Tom Benjoe is a proud and esteemed graduate of the U of R now making his mark in the business world. - Page 17

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

# Coun. Ironeagle led the drive for youth centre financed by INAC and Pasqua First Nation

## • Continued from Page One

Last October, Pasqua First Nation announced plans of the youth centre and celebrated a new journey with a sod-turning event.

Fabian Ironeagle, who is one of the band councillors, put in an application for the youth centre with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

Last summer INAC put a call out for proposals so Ironeagle and two other staff members had three days to grab all the required data to their application together – including a conceptual drawing of a building from Wendell Peigan, owner of WP Construction.

A few weeks later, Chief Peigan broke the news to Ironeagle that they were approved for the youth centre.

Ironeagle and his team put the amount of \$900,000 on the proposal but INAC approved them for \$750,000. Pasqua First Nation put in the rest of the dollars to complete the youth centre.

“It’s a dream come true for us. The youth centre has been at the top of the list out here for years,”

he said. “This youth centre will enhance services for our youth.”

The grand opening started with an opening prayer from the community’s elder and knowledge keeper.

The youth drum group opened with an honour song following with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Everyone was guided inside the youth centre to admire the new facility.

The grand opening event had various guest speakers such as the Federation of Indigenous Sovereign Nations (FSIN) Vice Chief Dutch Lerat and File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) Chief Edmund Bellegarde.

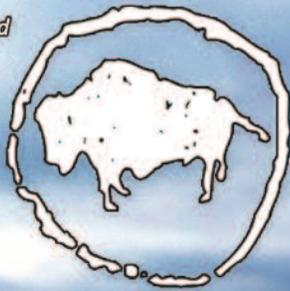
**Letisha Kahnpace who is on the youth committee is happy the youth of her community now have a place to call their own – a place to hold activities and to also learn their culture and traditions.**

(Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)



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# Brave Kisis Cappel made a cultural statement

By Chelsea Laskowski  
For Eagle Feather News

When Kisis Cappel thinks about her Ojibway and Cree culture, she doesn't see any trace of the "savage" or "dirty Indian" insults that her fellow schoolmates at Balgonie's Greenall High School have been hurling lately, both in person and online.

Instead, the 16-year-old from Muscowpetung sees resilience, safety, and, most of all, her own identity, saying her culture "makes me feel proud and it makes me feel like you can be as strong as all our ancestors."



Kisis Cappel wearing her traditional outfit on Oct. 2. (Photo courtesy Kisis Cappel, Facebook) Top Right: Lenae Lerat used the #wearingmyculture to support Cappel, but has been wearing a ribbon skirt to her Regina school for a full year.

(Photo courtesy Lenae Lerat, Facebook)

She was raised on the powwow trail by a family that refused to let others make them feel lesser than. Her father, Kamao Cappel, recently made headlines, saying a Canadian Tire employee falsely accused him of stealing before forcing him from the store.

So, when school started up this fall in Balgonie, a Regina bedroom community

about a half hour from the Muscowpetung reserve where Kisis lives, she was quickly fed up with the racism she was encountering: from kids laughing and mocking Indigenous legends they were learning about in class; to people posting pictures of her and her brother on Snapchat with the label "savage" or "dirty Indian;" to her friend's binder disappearing only to be recovered with slurs like "you're gonna live on welfare" written on it.

She was even more frustrated that teachers were ignoring racist comments being uttered in the halls and classrooms.

At a school where 33 of the 670 students self-identify as Metis or First Nations, Kisis said these experiences stand as a reminder that "this world isn't made for them, that this society is particularly made for white people."

By Oct. 2, she had come up with an idea to take a stand against racial injustices by wearing her traditional outfit to school. That day, when she walked into Greenall High, Jason Weitzel, who is in his first month as principal, happened to be at the front entrance. He recalls that she was "glowing" and when he asked if Kisis's outfit was meant to celebrate anything, she explained herself, that "she is proud of who she is" in spite of the racism.

Kisis later made a Facebook post sharing her story and pictures of her at school wearing the outfit, which resonated with over 4,700 people who liked, shared and commented. The response came as a surprise to Kisis, who had only expected 50 or so likes.

Greenall High was mentioned in the post, and when Eagle Feather asked if Weitzel had felt defensive when he saw it, he said "to be honest I'll admit it hurts, but it's some fuel for us to recognize, 'here we go folks, let's get to work ...' We can't put our head in the sand and pretend that this isn't real."

Kisis, her brother, and her father met with Weitzel in the days following her viral post, and Weitzel said he's committed to educating students on why racist behavior is wrong. The school is planning a KAIROS blanket exercise that explains how colonizers transformed life – often in devastating ways – for Indigenous people, is doing a treaty land acknowledgment at school this year, and Weitzel said he has requested the school division to add a new flagpole to fly the Treaty 4 flag.

To do her part, Kisis and a friend have started a Facebook page titled "#wearingmyculture" and are encouraging schoolkids to share pictures of themselves wearing ribbon skirts and other traditional items to school.

Looking back, Kisis isn't sure what gave her the strength to wear her traditional outfit to school, especially after putdowns from a past teacher shook her confidence.

"I became scared and frightened

to stand up for what I believe in," she said.

But Kisis, who is already a trailblazer as the only female on her school's baseball team, woke up that Oct. 2 morning determined to see her vision through.

"I don't even know what the heck I did. It's almost like running over a hill. It's the best feeling ever to get over something you're scared of, and I think everyone should do that," she said.

Her mother, Coralee Starlight, remembers having her braids cut when she was attending Edmonton's biggest high school growing up, and said she knows how difficult it can be.

"She's got some guts. It's a lot of strength that she has. As a parent, yeah, I'm proud of her," Starlight said.

At the age of 16, Kisis is not only finding her voice as a young Indigenous woman but is using it.



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# Wâseskwan! The sky is clearing

This last month has been full of hope for the future.

September was a month where we honoured residential school survivors with a gala hosted by the Saskatoon Foundation and then all wore our orange shirts with pride and respect for orange shirt day to remind everyone about the residential schools.

And now, early October finds the federal government announcing a settlement of almost \$800 million for victims of the Sixties Scoop, a couple generations and thousands of young people who were taken from their homes by social workers and fostered out to families around the world.

This, like the residential schools, separated children from their parents and robbed them of their cultural upbringing. Many fostered children had terrible experiences in these homes with folks that were unfit to foster children.

Others landed in fine homes with great parents and did alright. Despite the varieties of upbringings, all the children lost the tie to family and culture the impacts of which are deep. Sure, the money does not repair the damage or reconnect the survivors with their families, but it is a good start on addressing the historic abuse and heavy hand of the government and can give the survivors a chance to start healing if they haven't already.

The PotashCorp Saskatoon Foundation Cultural Gala theme was "wâseskwan" which means "the sky is clearing" in Cree. The night of cultural entertainment was a fundraiser for their Community Fund for Reconciliation.

This fund, expected to be

\$100,000, will be endowed to acknowledge the importance of reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Groups that want to do events or services that lead to reconciliation will have a place to go to get some funds to make it happen.

Having a gala themed on reconciliation was a bold step for the Foundation. This is usually a very elite black-tie affair for folks who can afford the \$300 ticket. But at this event it was

Theodore Bison and Charging Bear provided the drum. Donny Parenteau and Andrea Menard performed a beautiful and haunting song. Lancelot Knight, Bluejay Linklater and the Little Prairie Steppers performed. There were interpretive dancers, random yoga folk and cool Indigenous items for auction.

The event was produced by the dynamic duo of Carrie Catherine and Dawn Wasacase. Oh yeah, I also got to



Residential school survivors posed for a photo at the PotashCorp Saskatoon Foundation Cultural Gala. The event was held to raise \$100,000 for the Community Fund for Reconciliation.

(Photo supplied by Saskatoon Community Foundation)

heavily Indigenous.

We had elders in regular clothes, some even in camouflage hats! Walter and Maria Linklater gave an opening invocation. Eugene and Lorna Arcand were the cultural advisors. Artist Kevin Peece created a painting on site for auction.

Spoken word poet and all around awesome person Zoey Roy performed.

co-host with my old pal Leanne Bellegarde from PotashCorp.

The power of the evening was introducing so many people to our elders. To our residential school survivors and their stories. TCU Place was decorated beautifully. Each person received a copy of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and a mini Métis sash. There was a full video wall showing



**Publisher's Notes**

John Lagimodiere

running bison and a storm. Survivors gave video testimony of their own stories.

The performance, of many kinds of drums, was intense and emotional. Like make wet things come from your eyes kind of moving.

It would have been impossible to leave that event not a changed person. And, thanks to the Saskatoon Foundation, we now have many allies in the community that have a lot of influence on business and politics in Saskatoon and beyond. I would argue that they have made a big step toward reconciliation for all of us.

And now the Sixties Scoop survivors have something to build on, though we must be patient. It took the Truth and Reconciliation Commission seven years to learn the story and give us a way forward through their Calls to Action.

And lo and behold governments and groups across Saskatchewan are embracing them and the residential schools are a normal part of our conversations.

The Sixties Scoop is not fully part of those conversations yet. This settlement will awaken Canada to the reality of the governments intrusion into the lives of Indigenous people and the impact that is still being felt across the country.

But it has started. wâseskwan.

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# Clowns don't scare me ... but snakes!

IT, a movie about a demonic sewer clown, was released a few weeks ago and everyone I knew was, like, did you see IT?

I don't go to many movies, our toddler has made it clear that movie theatres are for running in the aisles, not sitting, and that the best popcorn is popcorn scavenged from the floor – so, no, I did not see it.

Whether you saw IT or not, people were convinced that IT was the scariest thing ever. I saw the trailers and I was like, “meh.”

Clowns have never been scary to me. More like, weird, dumb and boring. But never scary. Probably the scariest thing about clowns is forcing me to watch them for an entire movie. The mere act of putting makeup on your face makes you not scary – how can you be afraid of someone who takes longer to get ready than Kim Kardashian?

Also, I look at that clown and all I can think of is how that greasy make up must be clogging his pores. He's in for some big cyst pimple action down the road. Maybe in between tormenting kids, he should sneak in a facial. Also, how does he chase people down in those big floppy shoes?

But if clowns are the thing that makes your knees weak, then good for you. Movie makers are always looking for those things that scare the pants off people.

When I was a kid, the scary movies were about masked serial killers targeting horny teens. It was as if the movies were written by a strict parent trying to scare their pants ON their kids.

Those movies taught me that if you're ever chased through the woods by a guy in a hockey mask, don't run wildly with your hands waving in the air, you'll always trip on a tree root and break your ankle. Walk at a quick pace, keep low and if you can, bring along a blonde with an aversion to bras.



Then scary movies got into kitsch and gore leading to treasures like Chuckie who was a child-sized doll with an oversized head that comes to life and is evil. I feel like that movie was only scary to babysitters and hat-makers.

Zombies, whether they are fast or slow, have had a long run (shamble?). Despite their body count, zombies aren't evil; they're just hungry. So, if there is any evil in those movies, it comes from the people being preyed upon ... so perhaps filmmakers are pointing out that humans are the real evil after all? Pretty deep.

There's also movies about animals turned evil – like the Shark in Jaws and the Bear in The Revenant. I feel like that Bear was the physical embodiment of all the supermodel rage directed

at Leonardo DiCaprio for dumping them and they sure gave him an asskicking. That was a truly cathartic scene. Generally, large predators are the ones filmmakers focus on but I feel like it's time that raccoons got their day. Yes, they're cute but they also have claws and they're sneaky.

I'm scared of snakes and heights. I'm not scared of one snake, one snake can be interesting, even beautiful. I'm scared of lots of snakes moving and crawling in all directions.

As for heights, if you're not scared of heights then you're a fool – don't you know people can't fly?

So, with those two fears, you'd think the movie Snakes on a Plane would have given me nightmares. But Samuel Jackson took all the fear out of the movie; ain't nobody need to be scared when Samuel Jackson is around.

Maybe someone should look into a security system with his voice: “Get the hell off my lawn and the f\*&\* out of my neighborhood, you no-account, dumbass mo-f\*cker.”

Generally, scary movies want to get across two points: anything can be scary with the right music and that just when you think that you're safe – then the killer will jump back up and attack again.

This means, if you're ever scared, just put on some elevator music and you should be fine. And, never – ever – turn your back on a clown ... or a raccoon.

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# Grandmothers play vital role in protecting Mother Earth

When I think of role models, the first person who comes to mind is my grandmother, Ruth Cameron.

Grandmothers, and mothers play a vital role in our lives. Women are constantly multi-tasking, taking on all sorts of roles, inside and outside of the home.

Single-family households being led by women and their never ending tireless work gets over looked by these other dominant roles men get to play in society due to the mother of their children, or their wives or mothers or someone else taking care of the children, the home, the cooking and cleaning.

Women today do all this while working and/or going to school and therefore creating a real home for the children of tomorrow. The roles the grandmothers play in our lives, I think many of us know this all too well, they are the backbone, the pillar that holds the homes and community together. Our grandmothers have always been there for us with open arms; no matter what we get ourselves into we can always run to them, especially when the outside world seems to be crumbling around us.

My great grandma Sarah shared unconditional love with me that I will never forget, and is something all children need in their lives. That love I learned from her I am now able to pass onto my children.

Time is precious as we see the elders growing older and as they have always been there for us to lead the way and make sure we always had a safe place to run to, we also have to be there for them; the cycle of life.

We need to go back to our true role models, the ones with the wisdom, language, culture, the knowledge of how to survive through lived experience. They know true patience, have seen pain and overcome it and can still show love.

What I see when I look in my grandmother's eyes is true resilience. She is my true role model in life, the strongest person I know, someone my daughters are blessed to have and call great-grandma (Chapan).

I recently met Dr. Jane Goodall

and she reminded me of my grandmother. Dr. Goodall is a scientist who lived in the wild and studied chimpanzees. She lived off the land, therefore connecting to the land and animals and seeing the world for what it is. Dr. Goodall is now 83 years old and travelling every day from city to city sharing her story and knowledge.

Before her show began, Mayor Charlie

Clark and I were blessed to share some time with her and when he asked her how she has the stamina to do what she does she responded saying, "That there is an urgency to reach as many people as she can in hopes to wake up as many people as she can."

Be the change you want to see in the world. I believe in this and this is why I choose sobriety and to work hard. I am exhausted, but I feel as though I am being taken down this path for my ancestors, through who I am as a Dakota/Saulteaux woman, through my great-grandparents, grandparents and my parents as I am

them, because without any of them I would not be me.

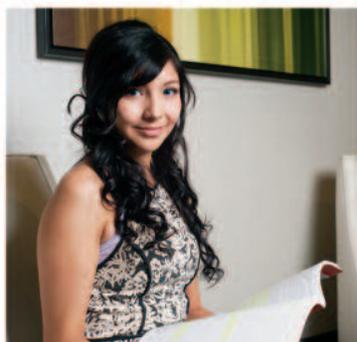
I want to give my children something more than dysfunction or a poisoned world and if right now is the time that we have this window of hope, we need to act now.

With all the madness going on in this world, it is clear that not only is our Mother Earth poisoned but we as a human race are poisoned. If we want peace, happiness and balance we have to start being that change we want to see in the world and never forget about the power we have in numbers.

Perhaps the governmental structures in a capitalistic society play a dominant role in the harm being done to our Mother Earth, our animals and the suffrage of people in society, but if everyone stood up and tried their best to make a difference there would be change whether the institutional structures of society like it or not.

Coming together now and waking up is the voice of our role models. We need to listen now to the wise ones.

We have just been too caught up in a world that was never built for us in the first place.



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# Myo helping to facilitate communication between families and MMIWG

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) can get help and support from the Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU).

Dorothy Myo, the manager of FILU, said the unit is a new initiative where families can seek and gather information about their missing or murdered loved ones. FILU will respond to families that request information through government agencies or institutions such as obtaining information from the RCMP, Victim Services, Municipal Police Services, Coroner Service, courts and from other related offices throughout Canada.

“Sometimes it’s difficult to access information (when) you’re dealing with trauma and grief,” Myo said. “We’re just opening our doors (so) what we’re doing right now is trying to create awareness about this service that we will provide and help families accessing the information.”

FILU is not the only initiative but the unit is set up in other provinces as well and also runs parallel to the national inquiry. FILU cannot resolve complaints, re-open investigations, or provide legal advice but

they can connect families to the right resources to help.

They are also an outlet that can connect families with the National Inquiry and help to tell their stories. FILU will also accommodate families by putting

organizations.

“We would follow all the privacy laws for people to access certain information,” she said.

“We help families find information on what happened to their loved ones.

and their office has been serving a few clients already where the families are requesting information on their lost loved ones. Myo expects FILU to grow from here on as she believes the number of inquiries for the national inquiry will be fairly high in numbers in Saskatchewan.

When FILU retrieves the information, their goal is to transfer it in a respectful and compassionate way to their clients being careful not to re-traumatize their clients but to help them in their journeys of gathering information about their loved ones.

“I think it’s an important part of what our work is about,” Myo said. “We want to clearly communicate to ensure the expectations are realistic in what we can or cannot do. When we talk to families, we make sure that we say that in a good way because we’re not there to set unreal expectations.”

Myo’s expertise is developed through a combined First Nations traditional and academic learning.

She is the former President of the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre (SICC) and led a team dedicated to the preservation, protection and promotion of First Nations language and culture.



**Dorothy Myo is the manager of the Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU). The unit was created to assist families with finding information about their loved ones for the National Inquiry into Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.**

(Photo EFN file)

them in touch with Elders, local counsellors and other supports including emotional support from partner agencies and

We, as staff, will work with anyone who asks for help.”

There are four members in the unit

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# Ledding play explores power, rules and belonging

By NC Raine

For Eagle Feather News

Inspiration for Andréa Ledding's play came unexpectedly when covering a historically significant event over seven years ago.

"I was covering the residential school apology at White Buffalo Youth Lodge (in Saskatoon). One of the elders, who is now deceased, said that it was 'like being locked in the bathroom of your own home,'" explains Ledding.

"I thought that that was really powerful. That was the starting point for something. It stayed with me. So, I started to write a play."

The product of that inspiration became *Dominion*, the first play from Ledding, which opens the 2017/18 theatre season at the Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre (GTNT) in Saskatoon. *Dominion* tells the story of two new homeowners who find the previous two homeowners literally locked in the guest bathroom. Through this setup, Ledding explores themes of power, rules, and the struggle to belong.

"The elder (during the residential school apology) was talking about the apology specifically, but to me, he was talking about the history of Canada," said Ledding.

"It meshes with everything I had watched both growing up and the things I covered as a journalist. So, from that the play was developed."

The play, which takes audiences on a journey through time from the first settlers in the 1800s all the way to present day, is a "dark, honest, and sometimes ridiculous" look at Canada's history and reconciliation. It aims to look at some of Canada's most serious issues in a not-exclusively serious manner, says Ledding.

"It's a sort of tongue-in-cheek look at Canada as a construct," she says. "To look at some of the absurd things that have happened in our country, I think theatre can help a paradigm shift and help people see things with a new perspective."

And Ledding's play has taken a journey of its own, being workshopped at the University of Regina and the University of Toronto, workshopped in Regina for a festival, and a small segment performed in part of

a nine-play tour with Canada 300.

After a couple years in break, Ledding is enthusiastic about *Dominion* receiving a full-run at GTNT, and is confident in those now taking the reins.

"The production is going to be amazing. It's one thing to write or read a play, but to actually see it performed (is special). The programmers, the direction, and the production are bringing so much to it," says Ledding.

In tackling issues like social hierarchy and reconciliation, Ledding hopes that audiences of all ages, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are entertained by its humour but also connect with it in deeper way.

"I hope audiences take away a renewed sense of purpose, dignity, and hope, that we can all live together in good relationships rather than dysfunctional ones," she said.

"And people are encouraged to come up with their own solutions as to how they can do that."



Rehearsals for *Dominion* at Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre, L to R: Wanita Bird (black), Andrea Folster, and Anna Mazurik. Above: Playwright Andréa Ledding



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**Catherine Blackburn**

(Photo by Tenille Campbell of Sweetmoon Photography)



**Kenneth T. Williams**

(Photo byStefen Winchester)



**Lisa Bird-Wilson**

(Photo by Julie Cortens)



**Michel Boutin**

(Selfie)

# Indigenous artists well represented in list of Arts Awards nominees

**ByAndréa Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News**

The 2017 shortlist of nominees for the Saskatchewan Arts Awards features a record number of Indigenous contenders.

In the Artistic Excellence category, two out of three nominees are Indigenous: Kenneth Williams of George Gordon First Nation and Floyd Favel of Poundmaker Cree Nation are being recognized for their contributions to live performance, writing, production, and theatre.

Favel is currently working on a film project, while Williams has penned numerous plays and is a past artistic director at Gordon Tootosis Nikaniwin Theatre. He now teaches at the University of Alberta where he was the first Indigenous graduate of the MFA in playwriting.

In Individual Leadership, Michel Boutin of Prince Albert, who identifies as Quebécois Métis, is representing.

“I’m pleased to see that two members of IPAC (Indigenous People’s Artist Collective) are in the running,” said Boutin at the official announcement held in Saskatoon.

Boutin co-founded IPAC in 2005, and IPAC colleague and Dene artist Catherine Blackburn is one of three nominated RBC Emerging Artists. She is in good company with Lisa Bird-Wilson, an award-winning Métis author who was aboard a ship as a writer-in-residence in the Northwest Passage at the time of the announcement but responded by email.

“I’m humbled and honoured to be on the shortlist for the emerging artist award category of the Saskatchewan Arts Awards. There are some talented artists included who are obviously doing exceptional and inspiring work,” wrote Bird-Wilson, adding that it was an honour to be included with so many amazing artists, and validating to have literary arts included with the other more visual arts.

“I’m pleased and impressed with all the Indigenous artists on the shortlist as well. A healthy recognition of all the great Indigenous artistic production and resulting recognition for our work is critical.”

Blackburn was equally pleased to represent.

“It is a huge honor to have been both nominated and shortlisted for this year’s Saskatchewan Arts Board RBC Emerging Artist award. I am thrilled and humbled to be standing amongst such strong voices and talents in this category,” noted Blackburn.

“As a person of Aboriginal ancestry in the arts, I find it my duty to represent a strong voice, not to speak collectively, but to support and encourage dialogue.”

Blackburn says that art has allowed her to explore her cultural identity and create a space to address more encompassing themes.

“My aim is to use this growing platform in help-

ing to create a safe space for important conversation; a space that welcomes the dialogue of Aboriginal experience in Canada for those that are ready, willing, and supportive,” Blackburn added.

Her visual art includes beadwork, painting, and textiles and her work is part of many presti-

gious collections.

The winners in each of the five categories, along with a lifetime achievement award, will be announced and presented at a gala at the new Rемаi Modern Gallery in Saskatoon on October 26.

Tickets are \$100, or \$30 for self-declared artists.

## Tootoosis wears ribbon skirt with confidence

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

Tala Tootoosis has overcome a lot in her life, from addictions to assaults, and now works as an Indigenous social worker and motivational speaker, as well as spoken word artist and ribbon skirt maker.

“When my father passed away this year, I felt like I didn’t know how to make myself feel better again,” said Tootoosis at a recent ribbon skirt walk, noting that it was people from the streets that came to her and encouraged her.

“They said to me, please don’t give up. They said when we sober up we want someone who got off drugs like us and is doing better – we don’t know anyone like that who doesn’t judge us.

“You have to keep going. When we want to get better, you’re our window. We don’t see any other way, we need people like that, please don’t give up.”

Her uncle also encouraged the family at her father’s funeral, saying he had been a leader who served his people.

She believes that it’s important to accept people who are trying to find their way back to cultural and ceremonial ways, and to stop the shaming and judgement that she associates with a colonial mindset. This includes what she terms skirt-shaming for women who are trying to find their way back to culture and blockading their access.

“People’s journey is with Creator.

So many times when I was going to school I didn’t have a skirt and I would just grab a blanket or pillow to cover my legs so I could be there.”

She has since gone on to teach other women and children to make their own skirts.

“There are many women here in this crowd today who are sober and have their degrees,” noted Tootoosis, contrasting that with the bleak realities that the media often portrays.

“Always remember how powerful we are. They tried to murder us, they tried to commit genocide. We’re going to school, we’re sober, we’re taking care of our kids, we’re beading, we’re making these skirts.”

She wears and makes the ribbon skirts to centre herself in her culture.

“It’s more than just a skirt, it’s protection. It’s me saying I can create life and I’m sacred so I’m powerful so no, you can’t touch me.”

She makes ribbon skirts for others, and recently led a ribbon skirt workshop presentation at Frances Morrison Library. On Oct. 5, she was awarded the Angeline Roberts Memorial award at the Golden Eagle Awards on her mother’s home reserve of Sturgeon Lake.

She continues to raise her children in Saskatoon while working, and has created a social media campaign to raise awareness around missing and murdered



**Tala Tootoosis addressed the audience at a community event as Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clarke looked on.**

(Photo by Andrea Ledding)

Indigenous women and girls.

The campaign focuses around posting a picture with a kohkum scarf and citing two facts about MMIWG2S.

“I wanted to raise awareness and

maybe even create prevention – that young girls would learn not to walk or take cabs alone, for example.”

She will be giving out a ribbon skirt and some beadwork to one lucky winner.



Photo credit: Adrien Williams, 2017

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The KPMG & Rawlco Radio Free Admission Opening Weekend at Remai Modern will give visitors access to the inaugural exhibition, *Field Guide*, and special programming throughout the building. Be sure to catch Maria Hassabi’s live installation, *STAGING (2017)—undressed* from 1-5 PM. While admission is free, tickets are required. Visit [remaimodern.org](http://remaimodern.org) for details and to reserve your tickets.

### **OPENING NIGHT PARTY**

Sat., October 21, 8 PM – 1 AM

Remai Modern Opening Night Party  
This social event offers after-hours access to exhibitions (8-10 PM), live programs, food and drinks. DJs Mr. Fudge & Dr. J will keep the music playing all night. This event is for ages 19+ and tickets cost \$25. Tickets are available at [remaimodern.org](http://remaimodern.org).

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# Kahkewistahaw shows its respect and appreciation for four decades of service by Chief Louis Taypotat

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

Kahkewistahaw First Nation recently honoured their former Chief, Louis Taypotat, with a celebration of his service as their community leader for 39 years.

This summer the community held an honouring for his retirement at their annual rodeo event and the family made a Break Away Ropers special with a saddle as the trophy with the inscription ‘In Honour of Chief Louis Taypotat Retirement’ on the saddle.

The Taypotat family made a rodeo special for the former chief in conjunction with a community barbecue and a dance which featured country singer Armond Duck Chief from Siksika, Alberta.

“It really warmed out hearts that we had so many people come together to celebrate with us,” said Lois “Chooch” Taypotat, daughter of the retired chief.

“We are quite honoured that the current Chief and Council wanted to honour our dad that way. It really (brought) everybody together. Our community is moving forward and that is what (our dad) wants to see.”

Louis Earl Taypotat’s traditional name is ‘man who stands strong’. He turned 79 on Sept. 26. He was born to Allan and Emily Rose Taypotat. He has one brother named Joseph Tayptotat who is older by five years. He’s been married to his wife for 57 years with a total of ten children. They have 14 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Lois said her family shares their dad with many people as he adopted many people throughout his life.

In the early ‘60s, Louis worked for Agricultural Canada which was the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) back then. That’s when he began roping and treating cattle – it was also when he started competing in rodeo. In 1981, he became the Manitoba Rodeo Cowboys Association Calf Roping Champion and was given a calf roping trophy saddle for that achievement.



**Kahkewistahaw First Nation community and family honoured their former Chief Louis Taypotat with a retirement celebration for his service as their community leader for 39 years held at their annual rodeo event.**  
(Photo supplied by family)

\$94.6 million settlement for the reserve’s 1907 specific land claim to the First Nation which is held in a trust fund to support economic development, land purchases and community infrastructure.

Taypotat was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 and the Saskatchewan Centennial medal in 2005.

Today Taypotat still ranches, bales and runs a tractor.

He won’t ride horses as much as he used to but he will swing the rope and be out there watching and supporting his family at events.

In 1987, he founded the Prairie Indian Rodeo Association and founded the International Indian Finals Rodeo (IIFR) in 2004 with the first IIFR being held in North Battleford a year later. Afterwards, he became the senior advisor for both associations promoting the rodeo to Indigenous athletes.

Under Taypotat’s leadership, along with his councillors over the years, they were responsible for the construction of the Kahkewistahaw Petro Canada convenience store located in Yorkton on their reserve land.

Typotat was very instrumental in the successful negotiation agreement between his community and the federal government on a

Typotat was very instrumental in the successful negotiation agreement between his community and the federal government on a



Retired Chief Louis Taypotat (left) and Charlie Bear presenting saddle to the Final 4 Tie Down Roping Champion, Curtis Taypotat.  
(Photo supplied by family)

**“I liked going to Sask Polytech because the classes were smaller, so I was able to get one-on-one time with instructors.”**

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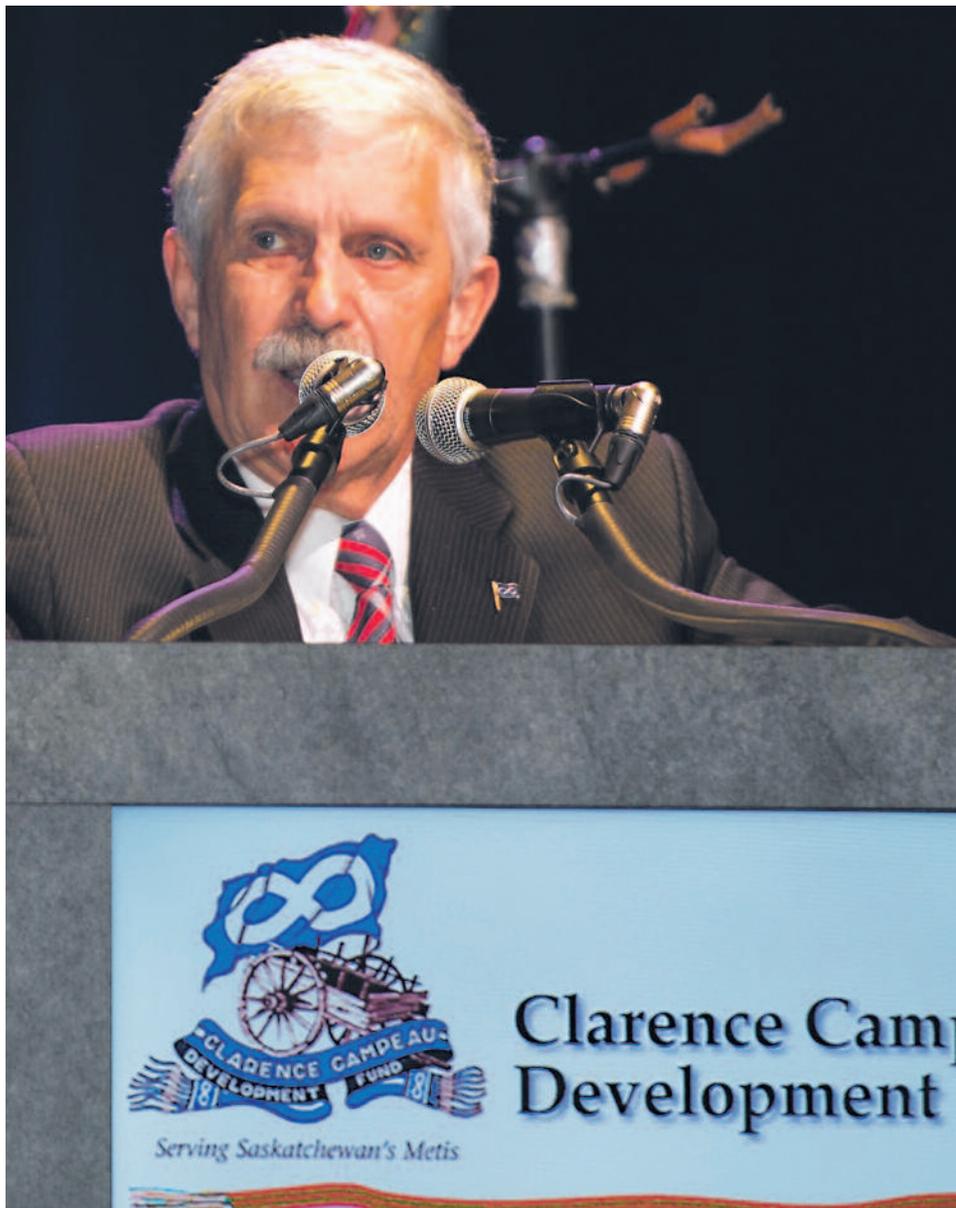


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Roland Duplessis led the Clarence Campeau Development Fund for most of its 20 year history.



Dallas Boyer and his father Phil played for the Creeland Dancers.

# CCDF celebrates 20

By Chelsea Laskowski  
For Eagle Feather News

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund had its 20-year anniversary this summer, and has left those who helped build it looking back at its humble beginnings.

The Fund was established in 1997 through an agreement between the Métis Nation and the Province of Saskatchewan to provide equity and financing for Métis entrepreneurs and communities.

In July of 1998, Roland Duplessis was hired as the CEO and began working from a small office in the Métis Nation building. Duplessis and the board immediately began developing and delivering programs that were responsive to the needs of the Métis business community in Saskatchewan.

After working for 12 years in economic development with the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corp. and seven years as the Economic Development Advisor for the Métis Nation of Alberta, Duplessis was well-equipped to understand what was required to support economic development for Metis people and communities in the province.

"I simply told the board that there is a serious lack of equity capital in our communities. Our people have the technical skills to operate businesses, they just don't have the money required to attract conventional financing. They need business planning assistance and business support and training."

Duplessis was a perfect fit for an organization that had a mandate to "improve the economic circumstances of Saskatchewan's Métis."

In 2001 the Fund was legislated under the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporations Act and a new operating "Agreement" was signed in 2002 between the Métis Nation and the Province. CCDF is now a Crown Agency for the purpose of the Provincial Auditors Act. The Fund is recognized as Canada's leading Métis Financial Institution.

The CCDF has come a long way from when Duplessis started. It now has two full offices in Saskatoon and Regina with 13 staff. A 20th anniversary gala in mid-September brought together some of CCDF's pioneers with the Métis communities and entrepreneurs it has helped guide over the years.

Among them was current CCDF CEO Pam Larson, who took over from Duplessis in January after working there for seven years, most recently as the director of finance and administration.

The money they invest has a 15-fold economic and social benefit, Larson says, "meaning it improves the living standards of the Métis people, health services, edu-



Master fiddlers Brian Sklar and Donny Parenteau had the entertainment also included Phil and Dallas Boyer and th

## Eagle Feather NEWS



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## Clarence Campeau Development Fund on your 20th anniversary!

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# 20 successful years

ational opportunities and community services.”

CCDF has been essential to groups like Pinehouse Business North, a civil and earth-moving contractor with the uranium mining industry. After Pinehouse Business North – the economic arm of the northern village – accessed CCDF’s interest-free loans their business relationship continued on, says president Mike Natomagan.

Duplessis considers CCDF to be a “cradle to grave” organization, where they offer financing, business planning, research and development, and even help clients fill out forms and paperwork.

Most importantly for Natomagan, who is also Pinehouse’s mayor and President of Kineepik Metis Local, they’ve been able to create more employment in a community that Duplessis says has really turned things around over the years.

“They mean everything to us. That’s one of the things, as a proud Métis, that’s one of the flags that we can wave, is CCDF,” Natomagan says.

Pinehouse and eight other Métis communities are

part of a five-year pilot project that Duplessis is heading called the Métis Community Capacity Strategy, which started this January. The idea is to work with each community to do governance training, identify potential economic projects, and do feasibility analysis together rather than the past process of relying on each community to do that themselves.

The strategy’s work has gone unfunded by the federal government, despite the Supreme Court’s Daniels decision which recognizes Métis people as “Indians” and puts more responsibility on the federal government to treat them as such. Larson says in response to the ruling, Canada is choosing a government-to-government relationship where they provide money directly to Métis Nations and from there the current priorities are health, education and housing -- not economic development.

Larson says in her new position, she will be lobbying for the feds to see the economic benefits and self-reliance that CCDF’s programs have for Métis people. In CCDF’s future, she sees an opportunity to match outgoing business owners with entrepreneurs who can buy the company, to spread the word about what CCDF has to offer to Métis people, to train Métis businesses on how to bid on contracts, and to host forums for Métis entrepreneurs.

After an initial 20 years in business that has consistently been full of growth, she says CCDF shows no sign of slowing down anytime soon.



Pam Larson, a seven-year veteran of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund was named CEO in January.



Our fiddlers blazing at the CCDF 20th Anniversary Celebration. The Creeland Dancers. (Photos by C and S Photography)

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# New school honours Chief Whitecap

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

A new elementary school in Saskatoon will bear the name of one of Saskatoon's co-founders and most important figures.

Chief Whitecap School, located in Saskatoon's Stonebridge community, is the product of a partnership and collaboration between Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Saskatoon Public Schools, and the federal and provincial governments. The new school consists of students in grades 5 – 8 from Whitecap Dakota First Nation, and Kindergarten to Grade 8 students from Stonebridge.

"We believe (naming the school after Chief Whitecap) is a big step forward in reconciliation and moving forward," said Dalyn Bear, a councilor at Whitecap Dakota First Nation, at the grand opening of Chief Whitecap School.

The history behind the school's namesake is important for the kids to connect with, explained Bear.

"It's all about partnership and working together. Moving forward with partnership hand-in-hand as a community, and work together as one nation."

The school will provide the community and city a greater understanding of Dakota culture and history, as the federal government contributed \$2.7 million to create a Dakota Culture Room. The school, which shares space with St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School, will act as an important community hub in also offering multipurpose facilities and a childcare centre.

"Chief Whitecap School is the embodiment of community," said Ray Morrison, Board Chair of Saskatoon Public Schools.

"(When choosing a name) we agreed this was a chance to set a tone for the students walking through these doors. We wanted names that demonstrated our schools' values: respect, excellence, joy, and responsibility. As a co-founder of this city, Chief Whitecap understood alliance and the benefit it could bring to us all."

The occasion also marked a joint learning project between Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Saskatoon Public Schools in effort to educate students on Indigenous history, culture, and language.

This curriculum will be introduced at Chief Whitecap School, and will be available to teachers throughout the division.

Chief Whitecap School displays some of these histories, including the legacy of Chief Whitecap, on its interpretative walls in the school's entrance and culture room.

Students from across Saskatoon will be invited to come to learn about Dakota history and the Indigenous history of the Stonebridge area. The project was made possible with a contribution from Canada 150.

"Our school is unlike any other in the province as we bring together the communities of Stonebridge and Whitecap Dakota First Nation in this innovative learning facility," said Harold Robertson, Principal of Chief Whitecap School.

Chief Whitecap School can accommodate up to 850 students and is one of four new schools introduced in Saskatoon this month.

"We are on a journey as a city towards building a good society – building on the work that has come before us and the work that goes ahead," said Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clarke at the school's grand opening.

"This school, where we bring communities together and build relationships and become leaders together," said Clarke.

"It's going to be wonderful to see the life of this school unfold."



Students from Chief Whitecap School and dignitaries participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the school. (Photo by NC Raine)

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Entrance of Chief Whitecap School.

(Photo by NC Raine)

# Stewart has been a tireless community worker in Saskatoon

By **Andréa Ledding**  
For Eagle Feather News

Lorraine Stewart was recently recognized for her decades of work in the community, specifically by CUMFI (Central Urban Metis Federation Inc.) and PLWA (Persons Living with AIDS Network of Saskatchewan).

"We are gathered here today to honour Lorraine's work," noted her granddaughter Kelly. "Family has always been her number one priority."

But alongside raising her own family, Stewart worked tirelessly in the community as well. She worked with City of Saskatoon Race Relations in the early 1970s, and was involved with organizations such as Native Outreach, Saskatoon Food Bank Executive Director, and past president of PLWA where she continues on as a volunteer and board member.

A mother of eight and eldest daughter of nine, she lost her youngest son, Donald, to HIV/AIDS and that inspired her to continue to advocate for a better quality of life for others. Stewart House, a house for moms living with HIV, is named for her. She has been recognized with awards such as the Golden Jubilee and Canada 125 medals.

Shirley Isbister of CUMFI thanked her and noted this mother, grandmother, and great-great-grandmother was still making a difference to people around her.

"Thirty-seven years is a long time to stay in this community," noted Isbister, calling Stewart "a lifer" dedicated to others. "I know this is just one stop on your journey and now Creator has a new path for you to move forward and still be in the community and with your family."

Her dedication, commitment, and continued advocacy were also praised. Born in Saskatoon in 1933 to Lawrence and Verna Pritchard, founding members of the



**Lorraine Stewart has played a major role with a number of Saskatoon organizations over the years.**

Métis society, she married Bill, a Korean war veteran, in her late teens and continued the Pritchard family example of activism and advocacy for others.

Stewart thanked everyone, noting that beyond being a wife, mother, grandmother to great-great-grandmother, and supported by family in everything she's done, many people from the community have also been supportive in this work near and dear to her heart.

Members of the HIV advocacy committee presented her with a giant card signed by dozens of individuals. They said they considered her family, joking not only is she a mother and grandmother figure they love, but she also has earned her no-nonsense nickname, "The Warden"

for her take-no-prisoners approach to getting jobs done.

Advocating for prevention as well as a good quality of life and wellness for those already diagnosed with HIV, Stewart only stepped down as President and Chief Executive Officer this past June. She continues her involvement with the board and as a volunteer.

"I hope this work has done as much for everyone else as this work has done for me," said Stewart after the luncheon, held at the CUMFI offices, offering her philosophy when asked if she had any thoughts to share.

"You have to make the most of what life gives you. Just keep one foot in front of the other and keep positive."

*thank you*

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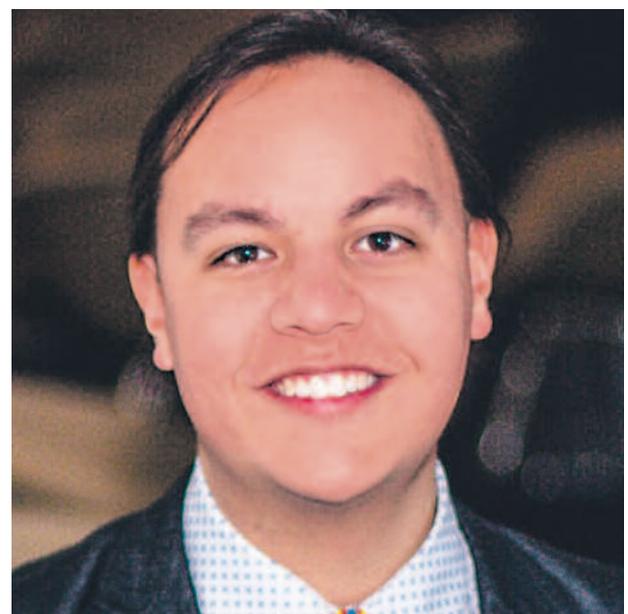
CeCe Baptiste



Harry Lafond



Marie Battiste



Max Fineday

# U of S's Canada 150 Citizens find themselves in esteemed company

By Angela Hill  
For Eagle Feather News

For CeCe Baptiste, being recognized as one of ten University of Saskatchewan's Canada 150 Citizens means bringing more awareness to the work she, and others, are doing.

"I think it's really important because it underlines the importance of recognizing Indigenous leadership, but I really don't want to be about me. What I really hope is that it brings awareness to all the good work that I am trying to support in the community," said Baptiste, a couple of days after the announcement on Sept. 8.

"To me, it's about, let's celebrate volunteers because it inspires more volunteers and that's what we need to make the world a better place."

Baptiste works at the university as a strategic planning advisor but she sees her biggest impact as in the community – she sits on many non-profit boards including the United Way, she founded the Saskatoon Aboriginal Professionals Association and has hosted a Jane's Walk at the university.

Making sure the Aboriginal perspective is being elevated at leadership levels is an important part of the work Baptiste does, she said. While she was growing up, her parents led by example showing her they were focused on helping in the community.

"The philosophy of using your voice has been ingrained in me since the start," she said.

Baptiste said the reception for the U of S Canada 150 Citizen honourees was one of the pillars of her career so far.

"I walked in and I was like 'how am I sitting with all of these amazing people,' it's just sort of astounding to me."

The ten were honoured for their significant con-

tributions towards making Canada diverse, inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

Those recognized include: education professor Marie Battiste; law student Siera Bearchell; energy conservation co-ordinator at Saskatchewan Environmental Society and U of S graduate, Angie Bugg; public policy professor and Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation Ken Coates; former assistant dentistry professor Dr. Alyssa Hayes; pathology professor and faculty representative on the U of S Board of Governors Dr. Jay Kalra; executive director of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and U of S graduate Harry Lafond; PhD candidate Naheda Sahtout.

"I'm a big fan of the U of S. I had five good years at the University of Saskatchewan," said Max FineDay, co-executive director at the Canadian Roots Exchange and U of S graduate.

He was recognized for his leadership in connecting Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

"It felt good to be recognized by some place that is very much home, that feels like family," he said.

During his time at the university, FineDay received a political studies degree and served two terms as president of the U of S Students' Union.

FineDay said he sees there are so many young people doing so much work towards reconciliation.

"I'm humbled that they felt I was doing work that was worthy to be recognized."

Like Baptiste, FineDay sees this recognition as not for himself but for the work that he is doing.

The U of S is engaged in several initiatives under U of S Canada 150 Project, which looks at the university's history as well as looking to the future and asking questions reconciliation, innovation and sustainability.

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Multi-Purpose Room  
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12 - 6 pm

Tuesday, October 24  
WP Bate School  
Community Room  
2515 18th Street West  
2 - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 25  
Vincent Massey School  
School Gym  
1001 Northumberland Avenue  
3 - 6:30 pm

Thursday, October 26  
C.U.M.F.I.  
315 Avenue M South  
11 am - 2 pm

Friday, October 27  
12:30 - 7 pm  
Saturday, October 28  
Sunday, October 29  
9 am - 4 pm  
PrairieLand Park  
Hall A  
503 Ruth Street West

Friday, October 27  
Friday, November 3  
Saskatoon Food Bank  
& Learning Centre  
202 Avenue C South  
10 am - 12 noon

Wednesday, November 1  
Pleasant Hill School  
School Gym  
215 Avenue S South  
2 - 6 pm

Thursday, November 2  
Friday, November 3  
Lakewood Civic Centre  
1635 McKercher Drive  
12:30 - 7 pm



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# U of R honours business grad

**By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News**

Thomas Benjoe has been recognized for turning his education into a successful business career.

Benjoe received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the University of Regina at the 2017 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards in October.

“I am truly honoured and humbled to be able to accept this award,” said Benjoe in his acceptance speech.

The awards are about recognizing and acknowledging the U of R’s alumni by celebrating their milestones and achievements. Peggy Macdonald, the U of R Director of Alumni and Community Engagement, said the awards is an opportunity for the university to bring the alumni back to showcase their accomplishments.

“Every year its very difficult because the University has some very distinguished Alumni. We are really thrilled that they could accept this award for us,” said Macdonald.

“We have brought together five people who make us very proud. Some of our most distinguished and accomplished alumni who help us tell the story of the University of Regina.”

The Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards have been ongoing since 1993 with a rigorous process to select the recipients. The awards committee collect nominations from faculty, professors and the community and a jury is put together where they have a tough job of deciding who to present the awards to. Benjoe’s Outstanding Young Alumni Award adds to his rap sheet of achievements.

He is currently the president and the CEO of File Hills Qu’Appelle Developments Ltd (FHQ Develop-

ments). In 2011, he graduated from the First Nations University of Canada with a Bachelor of Administration Degree. After graduation, he had numerous job offers and joined the RBC team in the Aboriginal Banking unit. His career was growing and it grew even more after he accepted his current leadership position with FHQ Developments.

He was recognized with other awards from the Canadian Red Cross earning the Young Humanitarian award and was also one of the acknowledged recipients of CBC’s Future 40 that recognizes various leaders throughout the province.

He said achieving all this success wasn’t easy. He endured a lot of struggles from eating noodles as a student, working ten to 12-hour shifts and returning home to his family. Benjoe recalls going through some devastating situations in his family but he acknowledges the University was there to help him through those difficult times.

He believed in giving back to where he earned his education from. Benjoe helped to develop the FNUniv entrepreneurship camp for Indigenous youth that gives them the opportunity of what the business field has to offer.

“I am constantly thinking of the youth and creating more opportunities for them. That’s always in the back of my mind is how do we continue helping our youth coming up,” Benjoe said. “Everything that I do is based on that. I hope that some of our First Nations youth follow the path that I’ve taken.”

Benjoe thanked and acknowledged the support of his wife and three children, his relatives, friends he made in university who he now considers his brothers and sisters and his mentors in the business world.



**Thomas Benjoe received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the University of Regina Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards held at Hotel Saskatchewan on Oct. 5. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)**

“The amount of people I met on my journey through university continues to expand and build upon making me better and understand life in a more positive way,” Benjoe said.

“Another big special thank you to my grandfather. He’s been by my side since I was small and played a very big part in my life.”

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# ABEX Awards for Cook-Searson, Gay

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson embodies the combination of strength, grace, cultural pride and proven success.

It is no wonder that she would be honoured as the first recipient of the 2017 ABEX Community Leader of the Year Award. Sponsored by SaskEnergy, the new Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce award recognizes someone who has made a positive contribution to the community through volunteerism and philanthropy and has taken a lead role in developing solutions to social challenges in Saskatchewan.

As the first female Chief, Cook-



Geoff Gay

Searson has been working for Lac la Ronge Indian Band since first being elected to council in 2005. A hands-on leader, she has gained trust and respect by staying grounded in her roots and proud of her culture.

An avid marathon runner and expert trapper, Cook-Searson also serves as the President of Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership. The corporation invests in sustainable business in the areas of mining, agriculture, environment, hospitality, transportation, road construction and insurance.

Cook-Searson's heart for her community took centre stage during the 2005 northern forest fires as she worked tirelessly to provide leadership to the responders and volunteers who helped fight the flames, but also in her valuable and timely updates through news and social media for the families who were directly impacted by evacuations. Her voice served as a reminder of the capabilities that local members possessed to assist in the efforts to control the flames. She also gave hope by highlighting the impacts of what happens when people come together and work in partnership.

Cook-Searson received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in 2006. In 2012, she was also presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contributions and committed leadership.

"It is a pleasure to award Chief Tammy Cook-Searson the ABEX Community Leader of the Year award. The commitment she has to her communities and her exemplary professional life is an inspiration to the people of this province," said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

The 2017 Business Leader of the Year Award, Sponsored by Sask Polytechnic will be received by Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development, an investment company owned by the seven communities of Hatchet Lake, Black Lake, Fond du Lac First Nation,

Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids, Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake, Northern Settlement of Uranium City, and Northern Settlement of Camsell Portage in the Athabasca area. The company was established to maximize local community participation in the opportunities in the mining industry.

As CEO, Gay continues to follow the original vision of the Athabasca leadership and is responsible for evaluating new opportunities and monitoring existing investments and operations. The company has grown to include complete or partial ownership in twelve companies providing a wide range of services, has appeared in the Top 100 Saskatchewan Companies list, won the inaugural Skookum Jim award by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, and was recognized as the 2014 Business of the Year by SaskBusiness Magazine.

"It is an honour to award Geoff Gay as Business Leader of the Year. The work he has done and continues to do in northern Saskatchewan is truly remarkable. Saskatchewan has – and will – continue to benefit from his efforts," said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson and Geoff Gay will be presented their awards The Saskatchewan at the 2017 ABEX



Tammy Cook-Searson

Awards on Oct. 21 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.



## THE WORLD'S FIRST NATIONAL ABORIGINAL BROADCASTER SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS

Are you looking for an opportunity to guide, shape and influence a world leader in Aboriginal media? Would you consider bringing your skills to the national board level? Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) is seeking applicants to serve on its board of directors.

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For complete application details visit [aptn.ca/boardofdirectors](http://aptn.ca/boardofdirectors).

Application Deadline: October 31, 2017 - 5:00 p.m. CT



STC Industrial Contracting (STCI) is soliciting interest from qualified individuals to join its Board. STCI is a small, First Nation owned, industrial contractor that is expanding and growing its Saskatoon based business.

Please submit your resume and cover letter by October 19, 2017.

Only the candidate(s) that are selected will be notified.

For additional information and selection criteria, contact:

Doug Porter, Corporate Secretary, STC Investments, [dporter@sktc.sk.ca](mailto:dporter@sktc.sk.ca)

# Water works well for career water experts

**By Angela Hill  
For Eagle Feather News**

Clean water created long careers and healthy lives for Darren Pooyak and Edgar Wright. Now they are using their knowledge and training to ensure communities across Saskatchewan have access to the resource.

“Something that is always needed is clean water,” said Pooyak from his home on Sweet Grass First Nation.

“Without clean water, life is difficult.”

He has been working in water and wastewater management for more than two decades. Wright, from Moosomin First Nation, has a similar story working in a number of places before taking a job at the City of North Battleford’s water treatment plant. It’s where Pooyak and Wright met and became friends.

The two have gone on to positions with SaskWater as Circuit Rider Trainers, visiting First Nations to work with the operators of the community’s water treatment plants.

“We go out and help the operators run their water plants,” said Wright.

A lot of work is done over the phone, with water plant operators calling and troubleshooting with the circuit rider trainers. Pooyak and Wright each have seven communities assigned to them – they try to visit each one at least once a month.

“We’re just there to help train the operators with proper procedures, proper testing issues,” said Pooyak.

“We’re there to provide technical support.”

It’s not always easy since some communities don’t have the funding to pay for everything that needs to be done, or give the operators a fulltime wage, he says.

Sometimes, the trainers find that not all the safety measures are in place. In these cases, they work with the operators to report the issues and sometimes they go above that.

Pooyak mentions lending his own safety equipment, or in some cases they call for outside help. Pooyak says he realizes these are more costs for the often already cash-strapped on-reserve water treatment



**Edgar Wright and Darren Pooyak enjoy their careers as Circuit Riders with SaskWater, helping First Nations have clean water.** (Photo supplied)

plans, but “I’d rather see somebody else do it safely.”

While they work with communities, Wright says they are able to continue to learn more information to share.

“The more we see in these water plants, the more we can give recommendations.”

He credits the strict regime in North Battleford after a cryptosporidium outbreak for teaching him a lot.

“And we just carried it over to the reserves. Everybody needs safe, healthy water even First Nations communities,” he said.

Pooyak’s training started even before that. He said he attended the first Indian and Northern Affairs Canada water and waste water training program.

“So, in my eyes, I’ve come a long ways to where I am no longer the student, I am now the teacher, I guess you could say,” he said with a chuckle.

Both have been called role models by others, but both are modest when it comes to their accomplishments.

“Give it a try, don’t be shy, don’t hold back,” said Pooyak, when talking about what he says to youth, including his own four children.

He spends a lot of time in the community, volunteering, coaching soccer in the summer and hockey in the winter. He’s also been at the last eight First Nations Winter and Summer games as a coach.

On what success looks like, Wright says he’s out there working, contributing and helping other communities. One of his biggest accomplishments has been raising his three kids. He wants to see all three graduate high school – something he didn’t do.

“I just would like to see my kids succeed, especially with the rate on-reserve of the kids not graduating,” he said.

“I’m hoping to go three for three; if I go three for three, I’ll be a happy man.”

His son graduated this year and his daughter is set to be a 2018 grad.

Wright said his kids saw him work hard to get where he is, saw he had to travel 60 kilometres each way to get to North Battleford from home.

“A lot of gas, a lot of travelling, a lot of late nights,” he said.

He wants that ethic to rub off on his kids.

“You guys can have an awesome life, it’s up to you guys.”

## CO-OP listening, learning and expanding

By Julie Ann Wriston  
Of Eagle Feather News

This month marks one year since Cooperatives First opened its doors with sights set on engaging Western Canada about the value of the cooperative model and how it fits into today's economic reality.

What began with a change in leadership to Federated Coop Incorporated in 2011 led to new CEO Scott Banda starting the conversation around how cooperatives were viewed in the context of a rapidly changing demographic and shifting shareholder expectations within the traditional business model.

Cooperatives First Board Chair Vic Huard recalls that the time had come to "challenge the assumption that everyone knows how coops work, and loves them. It was a time of self-reflection, and the accepting of the notion that the value of the coop brand wasn't passed down through the DNA of the next generations parents."

In late 2013, the Saskatchewan Centre for Cooperative Research engaged in an arms length analysis through the University of Saskatchewan that approached rural and Indigenous communities across Canada to ask the question "how much do people know about cooperatives?"

Huard recalls that the research "validated our findings that there was work to

be done to have more in-depth conversations about how cooperatives could serve to help us get to where we are going as a society."

Modeled closely after research done by the Plunkett Foundation out of the UK, Federated Coop Limited committed \$5 million over five years to engage a team who would be tasked to define how coops could provide impact to communities above and beyond gas stations and grocery stores.

"We set out with the viewpoint that this would be a multi-generational project. It is going to take time to think, learn and apply the cooperative model in communities where it is the right fit, you can't rush something like this," said Huard.

Executive Director Audra Krueger has learned a lot over the last year gaining a sense of the level of knowledge of what a coop is.

"We have been working diligently to take what we have learned and build a suite of products that will offer a variety of tools that are practical and useful. We know that we will be reaching out in different ways to educate and equip a diverse group of people to build functional solutions, at the community level, to meet their needs.

"This will only come if we take the time to build honest, trust-based relationships with communities who share



Sharing a laugh in a community engagement at Pelican Narrows.

(Photo courtesy of Audra Krueger)

similar values," suggests Krueger.

A strong focus on Indigenous engagement is a priority for Cooperatives First, as the values of control over economic security and improvement to the quality of life are at the forefront for many Indigenous communities.

"We can see that jobs, safety, economic development and capacity building are central drivers for many communities," Krueger said about the first year of engagement.

"Our goal is to coach and support communities through needs assessments, idea prioritizing, with a focus to build lasting skills and capabilities that stay in the communities for the long term. Ultimately, the impact for a community to take this on is one of future benefit and sustainability.

"The cooperative model helps to

keep profits and decision making local, which is what makes it distinct and appropriate in the context of community development."

Going forward, Cooperatives First hopes to have "developed a network of well equipped economic development officers who have undergone workshop training who can bring the coop ecosystem back to their own communities and implement it into daily functions," says Krueger.

Support and partnerships will be an area of increasing focus as well.

"We hope to start to align with like-minded organizations who see the value in this initiative and are looking to contribute in an authentic way."

To learn more about Cooperatives First, or to see how you can get involved visit, [www.cooperativesfirst.com](http://www.cooperativesfirst.com)



DAVID  
PRATT for

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations

2nd Vice-Chief

Cell: 1-306-230-2351

E-mail: [david.pratt.whp@gmail.com](mailto:david.pratt.whp@gmail.com)

Aniin,

I am a member of the Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation, my parents are the late Bill and Isabel (Cote) Pratt and I am the youngest son of fifteen brothers and sisters. I am alumni of the University of Saskatchewan where I obtained a Bachelor of Education Degree with Distinction and received an award for Leadership.

I humbly ask for your support as I seek the office of 2nd Vice-Chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. I have consulted with my family, my leadership and elders and I realize the opportunity to work for our people is now. We live in a historic time where many changes are occurring across our territories and the issues that are impacting our people require action.

My priorities will be focused on reaffirming control and sovereignty over our lands based on a Nation to Nation Treaty Relationship with the government, which will help our communities prepare our youth for the future.

I pledge to work tirelessly to ensure the collective voices of our peoples are respected and heard at every level of government.

Respectfully,  
David Pratt

**MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER**

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Education Reform    Justice Reform    Nation Building  
Treaty Based Economy    Language Revitalization

# 4 ways businesses based on the co-op model are better for remote and rural communities



The CO-OP store is a familiar institution across the prairies. While best known for gas stations and grocery stores, what is not widely understood about the brand is that it's not a franchise or chain of stores. Each store belongs to an independent community-

based co-operative business, and that co-operative is a member of a federation of co-operative businesses.

This federation manages the CO-OP brand, provides wholesale, manufacturing and logistical support, operates an oil refinery and is the largest business by revenue in Saskatchewan (\$8-10 billion per year). By forming Federated Co-operatives Limited, these independent co-operative businesses have been able to survive in small markets and compete with large corporations.

### Why should I care?

A CO-OP grocery store is not like Sobeys. Despite similarities in product and service delivery, the economic, social and community benefits of the co-operative business model are generally much greater for rural and remote communities than a typical investor-driven corporation from out east.

### What's the difference?

1. Owned and controlled by members of the community
2. More profits and wealth stay in the community
3. Services and products reflect community opportunities and interests
4. Operate where government and large investor-driven corporations often can't or won't

### Okay, but how?

A co-op is a different – and sometimes better – business model. Community members who choose to become shareholders in the business own and control it, and profits from the business remain local, benefiting the community beyond the jobs created and service or product delivered.

In fact, profits are often used to support things like university scholarships, local sports or play structures at community schools.

### Give me an example.

Not long ago, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon, an isolated northern community of about 300, had one grocery store, which was run by The Northern Store (The Northwest Company). Profits from the store went to the company's head office in Winnipeg, service was poor and prices high. In 2014, Northern Store left. To replace this vital service, a group of community members decided to start their own business. And, in 2015, with the support of the Nation and Arctic Co-op, a growing federation of 32 co-operative businesses in the Arctic, they did.

Today, Old Crow Co-op does over \$2 million in sales in a year; the business serves the community as a store, hotel, post office and bank; and a local community member manages the business. Plus, profits from the store can be used to support local initiatives, like a scholarship fund or much needed infrastructure.

### Great! Where do we start?

Start by talking to us. Co-operatives First has the resources, tools and network to get the conversation started and ideas flowing. And we provide this support for free.

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# CONSIDER A CO-OP



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Learn more at [CooperativesFirst.com](http://CooperativesFirst.com).



## co-operatives first

# SUNTEP'S benefits measured in the billions

By NC Raine  
For Eagle Feather News

A new study from the University of Saskatchewan outlines the benefit SUNTEP graduates have had on the province.



**Dr. Earl Cook, Chair of Gabriel Dumont Institute Board, speaks during the SUNTEP Sask. Prosperity report at the Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

(Photo by NC Raine)

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Program (SUNTEP), offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon, results in billions of benefits to the province, according to Eric Howe, pro-

fessor of economics at the University of Saskatchewan.

"SUNTEP graduates are worth over ten million dollars each in bringing about a prosperous future for our province, literally worth their weight in gold," said Howe. "SUNTEP's very existence helps guarantee the prosperity of our province."

The SUNTEP program provides education in First Nation and Metis history and culture, examines issues facing students today, and gives students classroom and teaching experience. Of the 1,200 SUNTEP graduates, each is worth over ten million dollars each in securing a prosperous future for Saskatchewan, according to Howe.

Collectively, their social benefit is even greater. The report shows that just by being Indigenous people with university degrees, they have provided a total social benefit of \$7 billion to the province, the principle benefit being when the students go on to teach.

Of the SUNTEP grads, 978 have become teachers, providing a total of 14,187 person years of teaching, says Howe. The total social benefit is shown to be \$40 billion in the high-scenario, \$20.2 billion in the medium, and \$13.6 billion the low-scenario.

"The purpose of the report is to

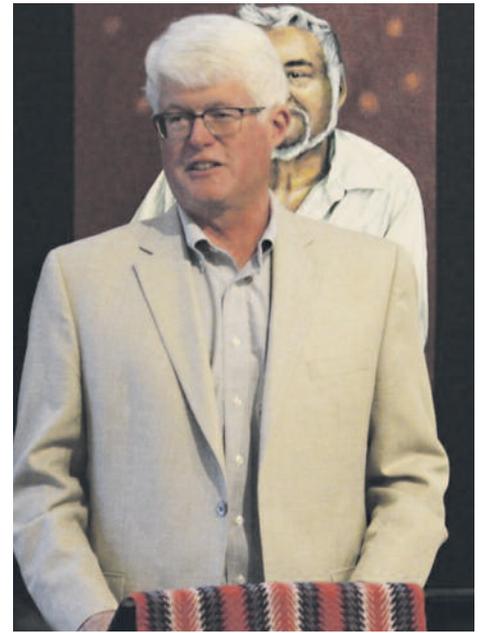
point out that a brain is an extraordinarily expensive thing to waste," said Howe. "Education increases earnings, it decreases unemployment rates, it increases labour force participation rates, so it makes (the province) better off."

Howe also looked at the benefit to the province if Indigenous individuals had the same educations as their non-Indigenous counterparts. Lifetime earnings for non-Indigenous males who earn a bachelor's degree or higher are \$1.8 million for males and \$1.7 million for females. Indigenous people with the same level of education earn approximately \$100,000 less over a lifetime. Métis men, on the other hand, have the highest potential lifetime earnings at nearly \$2 million with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Métis women who drop out of high school fare significantly worse, earning about \$1.5 million less than Métis women with a post-secondary degree, Howe's research shows.

"In our economy, an uneducated male does not have the opportunity of an educated male, but an uneducated male has more opportunities than an uneducated female," he said.

Howe's research shows that the benefit to Saskatchewan of raising the number of terminal Indigenous high school diplomas to be the same propor-



**Professor Eric Howe presents his SUNTEP Saskatchewan Prosperity report at the Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

(Photo by NC Raine)

tion as for the non-Indigenous population is \$21.9 billion.

"This research report shows that SUNTEP has been a game changer," said Dr. Earl Cook, Chair of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board.

"We can see the importance of continuing this program because of the financial and social benefit. It can't be overstated," he said.

## Sir John A. Macdonald, Canadian Adolf

*John L.: Recently we have seen calls from the Indigenous community to have Prime Minister John A. MacDonald's face removed from our currency. This has prompted some reaction from members of mainstream society, saying this is political correctness gone too far.*

*Here to comment is Eagle Feather News' columnist voted most likely to. I give you Sir Dirk Unabashedly Dashing. Most likely to what, Dirk?*

**Dirk:** You name it, John, and it's likely to go down. But let us not digest and get straight to the heart of the matter: Should Canada revisit honouring some of its national heroes on Canadian currency, national buildings, highways, and butter tarts?

**John L.:** According to radio personality Murray Wood, the push to recast national figures like MacDonald, Nicholas Davin Flood, Edgar Dewdney, and Duncan Campbell Scott as villains is asking too much of Canadians. In fact, Woods described this as a knee-jerk reaction on the part of First Nation and Métis People.

**Dirk:** That is an interesting way to describe the situation, John. You would have to have some pretty weak reflexes for something that happened over a hundred years ago to prompt a physical reaction today. Nerves either react now, or they don't, and Mr. Woods'

nerves seem to be quite touchy on this subject.

**John L.:** So what do you make of this? Are Indigenous people of Canada going too far?

**Dirk:** Well, John, lets take a look at a similar situation that occurred in Germany.

There was this dude, Adolph Hitler who had a dream. Pursuit of his dream

meant destruction of certain people and their way of life so the "Chosen Ones" could claim their rightful inheritance.

To assist him, Hitler had the aid of Heinrich Himmler, Joseph Goebbels and Joseph Mengele.

**John L.:** I sense you are about to wade in some controversial waters here, Dirk.

**Dirk:** Let's start with that sweetheart Himmler. He was the chief architect and enforcer Hitler's of purification of Germany policy. In pursuit of MacDonald's grand design in Canada we have Edgar Dewdney. Goebbels was Hitler's public relations monkey, whose function was a lot like that of Duncan Campbell Scott for MacDonald: to promote the hell out of the

leader's agenda, only Scott had a direct hand in making Canada's assimilation policy, while Goebbels was content being Hitler's fart catcher.

This leaves us Hitler's "Doctor of

Death", Joseph Mengele. This bad-ass dreamt up the concentration camps and supervised medical experiments on the undesirables of Ger-

many. This was pretty much the job of Nicholas Davin Flood. And yes, there were experiments on Indian children in Canada.

**John L.:** That is a pretty harsh comparison. I'm not sure the match-ups align though.

**Dirk:** True, by Nazi Germany standards the Canadian approach to its Indian problem was a tame, boring experiment. But the Nazis had a decade or three to perfect MacDonald's mission: instead of waiting patiently for his undesirables to die or assimilate, Hitler had furnaces.

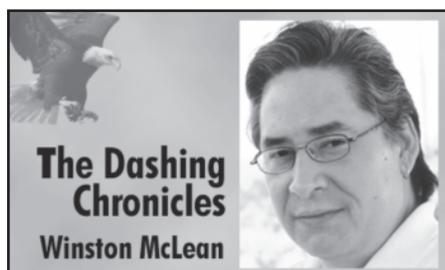
**John L.:** Alright, Dirk, what do you make of the those who say First Nation and Metis people are going too far in tearing down national Canadian heroes.

**Dirk:** John, I get that the Murray Woods of Canada are weary. Many Canadians are shocked about residential schools, land swindles, repression, and are conflicted when seeing Indians getting so many freebies. When will it end so we can all be equal? On the other hand, there are some others in the mainstream who realize, yes, "stuff" was messed up in the past, but I didn't do anything to the Indians. It's like all white guys are always wrong, and that's not fair. And, on the third hand, there are still others who truly idolized the likes of MacDonald, Flood, Dewdney and Scott and others as beacons of pioneering progress. Realizing now they have been misled must be traumatic. Who do you believe in now?

**John L.:** So there is a sense of fatigue in the mainstream. What do you say to those who resist the tearing down of these national heroes?

**Dirk:** Well, John, if after you do your own personal research in these customers' dark histories, and you still feel their names and faces should be festooned on Canadian currency and buildings, then that says a lot about who you are. That's right John, I said it. Festooned.

*Dirk says, "Ok, here I am. Now what are your other two wishes?"*





Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation Chief Roy Petit along with five leaders from neighbouring rural municipalities gathered in Rosthern for a Friendship Agreement signing ceremony. (Photo submitted by Kevin Seesequasis)

# Communities working on a friendship agreement

By Jeanelle Mandes  
Of Eagle Feather News

Chief Roy Petit of the Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation joined local municipal leaders from the towns of Rosthern, Hague, Hepburn, Duck Lake and the Village of Laird as the first step in a Friendship Agreement signing ceremony.

On Sept. 30, the parties gathered together to discuss a future initiative called First Nations – Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Project" (CIPP) through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Chief Petit said back in February a meeting was facilitated by the FCM discussing information on the CIPP which is a federally funded program designed to help First Nations, rural municipalities or towns to work together.

"They came out here and we sat together with four towns and RMs from this area," he said.

"It was mostly about looking at a solid waste management project and coming together. The initial talks were just getting to know each other learning about each other sharing histories."

They also discussed the different issues the First Nation and towns faced and found some similarities in terms of the infrastructure area.

"It was a good first meeting. That agreement, it's not a binding agreement. It's just saying that we're going to be working together or we will work together if we ever have an opportunity.

"I had said it was kind of honoring

the intent of Treaty 6, to work together with our nation and the other nations or people," said Chief Petit.

"We have to start somewhere at rebuilding that relationship to push reconciliation across Canada. It came at opportune time."

Mayor of Rosthern, Dennis Helmuth, said the friendship agreement will establish a base line of an agreement as an indicative friendship agreement.

"While that's a non-legal binding agreement it does represent a willingness to get together and have conversation together on a very basic level that indicates a willingness to cooperate," Helmuth said.

"It was a wonderful event to have participation from various municipalities and of course from Chief Petit and his family, an elder and a dancer present.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to sign an agreement...celebrate and have soup and bannock after the event.

"The skies were blue and the geese were migrating overhead as we held it outdoors. It was a very memorable and encouraging event."

It isn't known when the neighbouring communities will get together again to discuss but they all plan to keep working on the issues of solid waste management with hopes of collectively coming up with a better solution.

"I just look forward to working with all these communities and hopefully creating better relationships be-

tween ourselves and the people who live around us," said Chief Petit.

"It's a good step forward in trying to reconcile with our closest neighbors."



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## GALE GEORGE

*Boilermaker*

**"YOUNG PEOPLE should get involved in trades if they have a particular interest in one of them. The apprenticeship tuition costs don't come out of your pocket, which is a great benefit."**



### *Gale George: Trading in the briefcase*

Before joining the trades, Gale George said he had a "cushy office job." Then, he reached his boiling point.

"The job was a higher stress one with a lot of deadlines," George said. "I knew that I needed a change from where I was in life and I love working with my hands, whether it be work or just through my personal interests."

George, an Anishnaabe Ojibwa from Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation in southern Ontario, didn't exactly have a background in the trades. He studied police foundations and law and security at a college in Ontario, later attending the University of Calgary to study business commerce. However, his older brother, Neil, was a boilermaker and member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 555 (Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario) at the time.

George, who has lived most of his adult life between Calgary and Saskatoon, decided to join the union and begin his apprenticeship. Four years into his career as a boilermaker, he couldn't be happier.

Boilermakers have a wide variety of job descriptions. They construct, erect, test maintain and repair steam boilers, gas boilers, boiler house auxiliaries, tanks, heat exchangers, fired heaters, reactors and various other pressure vessels.

"Each job is memorable in its own sense because you're working with a different group of people all the time. You get to see old friends and make new ones," he said. "You're always learning and testing the skill set that you already have with each job you encounter."

George said he has worked for a government organization and non-union employers in the past and being a member of the union and seeing what workers should be entitled to has been an eye opener for him.

"I enjoy the brotherhood that the union represents. I appreciate that the union speaks collectively for the best interests of the worker, making various agreements that have to be followed when on the different types of jobs we do. There is always a union shop steward on each job that is the middle man between the employer, employee and represents the union. The union has some of the best benefits and pension plan compared to other industries."

When it comes to his career change, George knows he made the right decision. He encourages any young person who is passionate about the trades to pursue their dream career.

"Young people should get involved in trades if they have a particular interest in one of them," he said. "The apprenticeship tuition costs don't come out of your pocket, which is a great benefit. I would also encourage them to join a union because unions will have your best interest without you having to worry."

When he's not working, George likes to keep busy.

"Most of my spare time is spent with my family doing various activities," he said. "When I get time, I do love playing almost all sports, such as golfing, and doing anything outdoors."



## Saskatchewan Building Trades

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